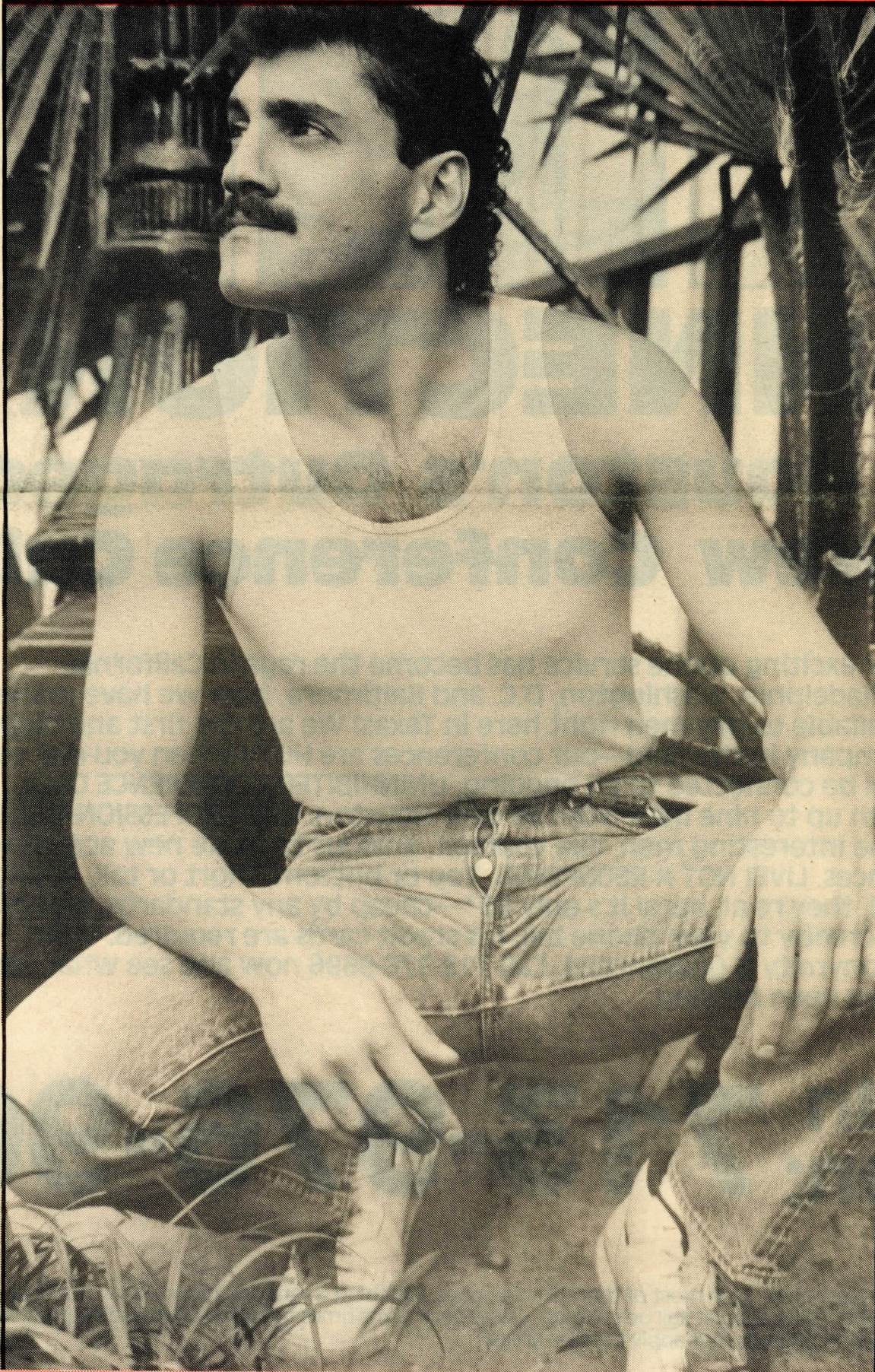


Volume 3, Number 9

H O U S T O N FORUM

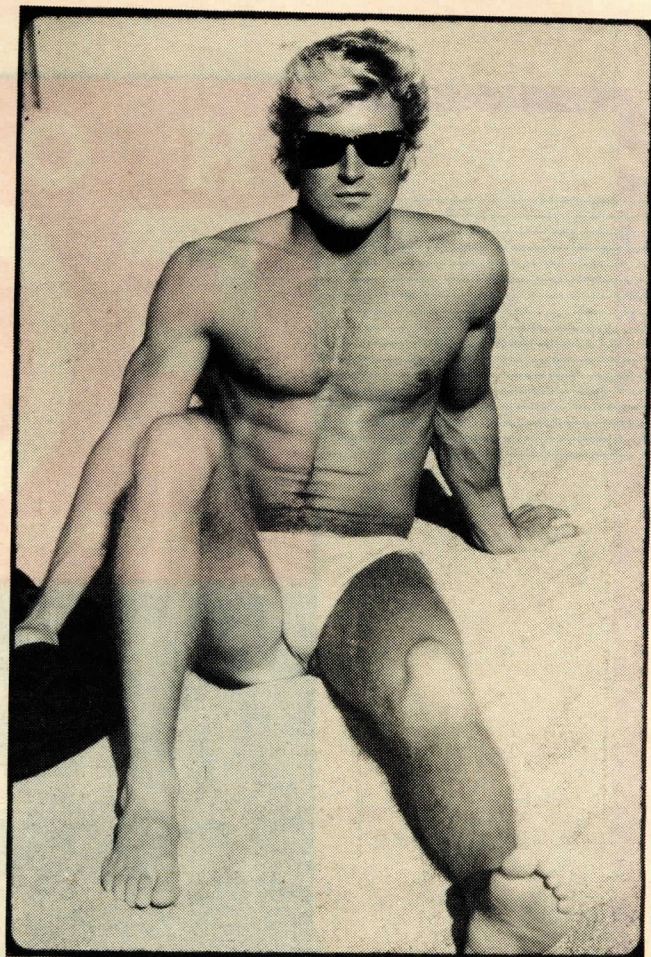
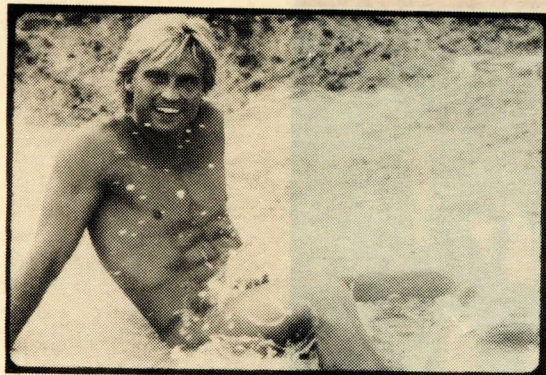
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STEVEN MONTANINO



February 27, 1987

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LET'S GET REAL

"Happy Birthday To Me"

By Randy Brown

Thirty-even years ago today, my immediate fore-mother brought forth into this world—me. That's right folks, light the candles, throw confetti, pull the stops out, it's today.

Or, to put it more appropriately, it's my birthday and I'll cry if I want to.

Remember when you were a kid and birthdays were these incredible occasions where you got toys and cake and songs and ice cream and a party? And best of all, you were *one year older*, which automatically made you a better person somehow. Your best friend's birthday may have been just one month away, but for that month, you were a full year older than he was, officially. That was a great feeling, wasn't it?

Where the hell did that pride at being one year older go? I don't know about you, but I think I lost it with my hair. My hairline is not what it used to be. My waistline is not what it used to be. Then there are all these other lines that I never had before. I have all these things that used to be cute crinkles when I smiled; now, I don't even have to smile to see them. In fact, I *don't* smile when I see them.

But what can I do about it? I'm not about to get a hair transplant. I saw a man on the beach last summer who had had a hair transplant. When the wind blew through his hair, it looked like rows of corn had been planted in his forehead.

On top of everything else, my eyesight is not what it used to be, and I have to wear glasses. Okay, that's not such a big deal, because I can just get contacts, but it's one more crack in the sidewalk of life.

So, I'll get contacts. So, I'll go on a diet. But I know that the battle with my waistline will probably be lost. I've thought of moving to the moon where gravity couldn't re-

arrange my body the way it's doing here on earth, but I've been told there are no gay bars up there, so I've ruled it out. As an alternative, I've decided to sleep upside down like a bat. Not only would that be a great gravity fighter, but it might stimulate my scalp, if you know what I mean.

Where the hell did that pride at being one year older go? I don't know about you, but I think I lost it with my hair.

Another disheartening thing is that I keep running into people who were *born* in the sixties. You can't say to people like that, "Boy, I'll never forget where I was when John F. Kennedy was shot, will you?" The only way these people know about Kennedy's Camelot is from studying it in school. In *history* class. What's worse is that these people are older *now* than I was *then*. While I've been fiddle-farting around, a whole generation of people has grown up. Face it, I was much too young to vote for Kennedy back then (especially since the voting age was 21 at the time), but at least I was *alive* when all that was happening!

And music! What about music! There are people now who only know Frank Zappa because he's Dweezle and Moon Unit's father. There are people who can name every disco diva in existence, but stare at you blankly if you mention Judy Collins. There are people who will tell you that they're pleased as punch that "old

guys" like the Monkeys are doing so well these days. Help!

I have a friend who was in a record store a while back, and heard some people discussing Paul McCartney. One of them turned to another and said, "Wasn't he in some other group before Wings?" This *really* happened.

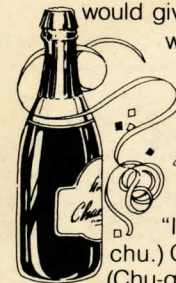
And, all of a sudden, people have started to get too pretty. There was a time when no one could be *too* pretty. But now, I look at people and I think, "They're just *too pretty*." Where the hell do these people come from anyway? I'll bet they don't know where they were when John Kennedy was shot.

But, what the heck. It's my birthday. I'll probably have a good time despite it all. I should count my blessings. I'm healthy. I have good friends. I have a decent man who's stuck by me for years. I have my own teeth. I have a staff of fine writers, who more or less, some of the time, get their copy in by deadline. I might even get some ice cream and cake (the diet can wait, as usual).

But, you know what I really want? What I really, really would love for my birthday? What would make so happy that I would skip over the cracks in the sidewalk of life? What would make me forget the moon and sleeping upside down like a bat? What

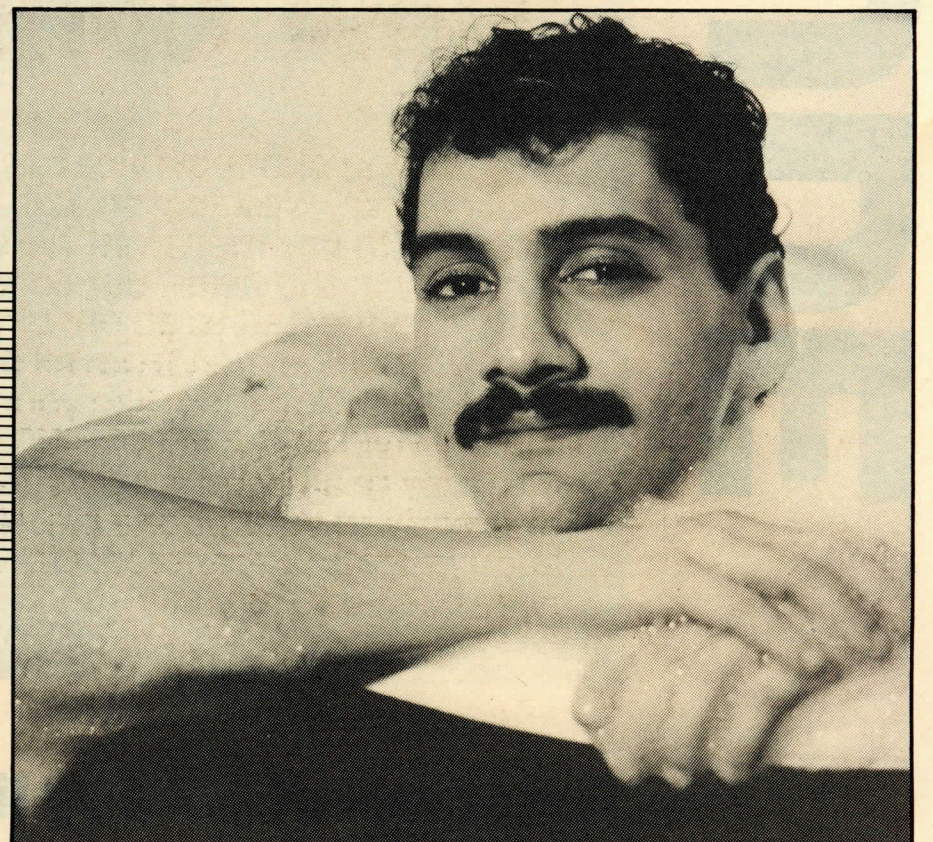
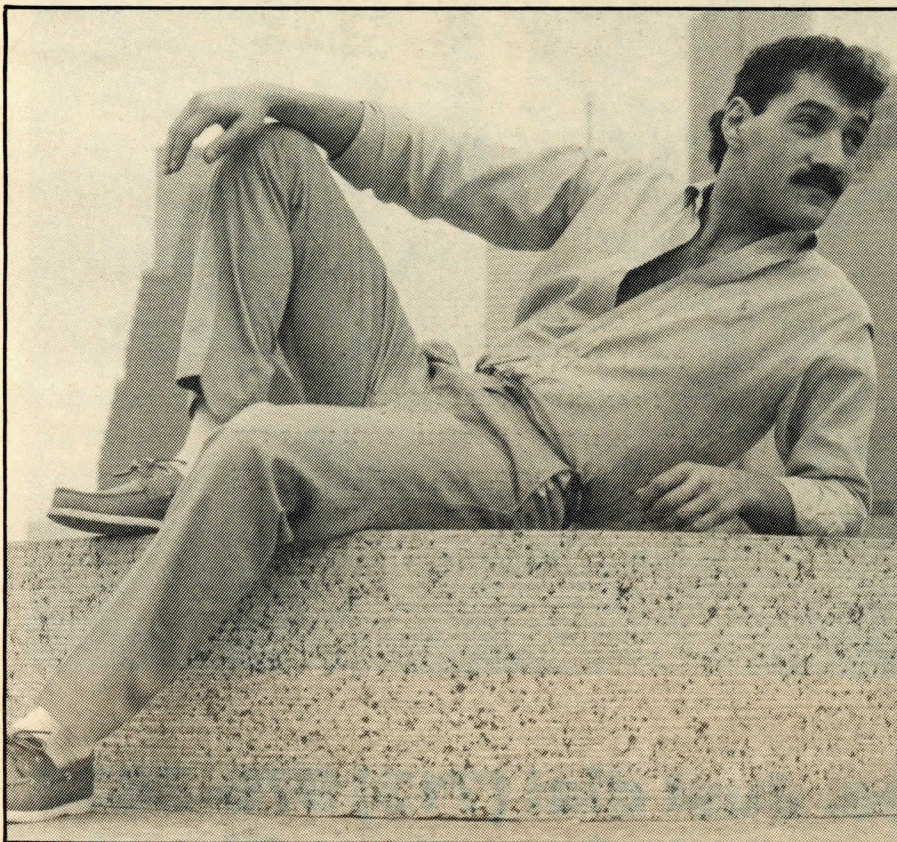
would give me tolerance for people who are too pretty? I don't need gaily wrapped presents or party hats. No. What I want is ad copy. And, please, enclose the check.

Now everybody sing! "It's my birthday! (Chu-ga, chu.) Gonna have a goodtime! (Chu-ga, chu-ga, chu.)"



BEHIND THE FRONT COVER

STEVEN MONTANINO

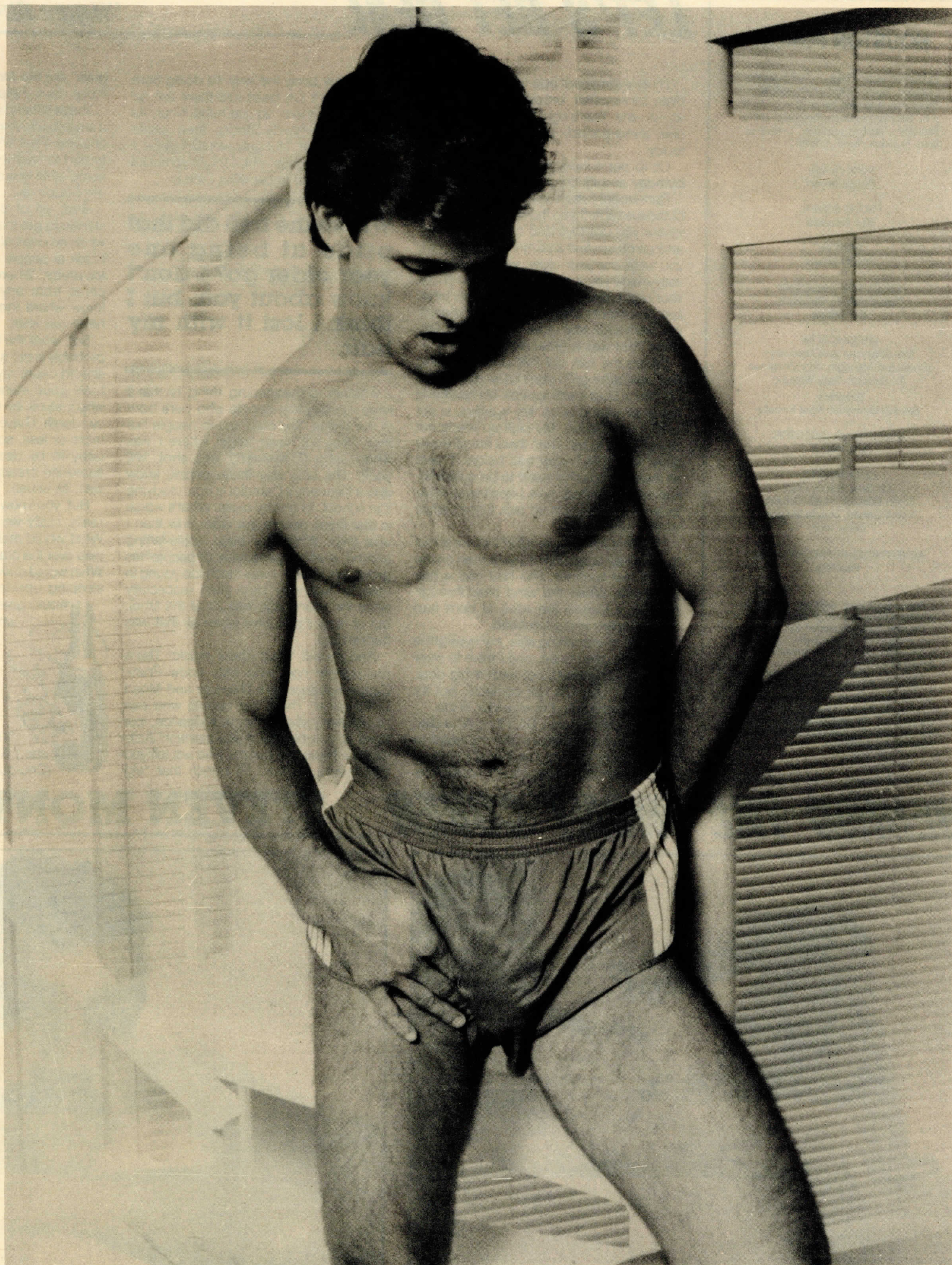


Occupation: Self-employed caterer.
Born: 11/22/50 in N.Y.C.
Lived in Houston: Seven months.
Height: 5'11".
Weight: 150 pounds.
Hair: Brown.
Eyes: Blue.

Favorite kind of man: Good looking with a sense of humor.
Hobbies: Cooking, landscaping, collecting, camping, deep sea fishing, boating.
Favorite bar: The 611.
Current projects: Establishing his business.

Favorite activity: Hosting dinner.
Future projects: Successful business.
Favorite thing about Houston: It's comfortable and friendly.
Favorite color: Red.
Message to readers: Enjoy life, carefully, to its fullest.

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CAN WE TALK?

by Bar Wilson

Hi Kiddies!

Thank God for men. Of course, as my dearest girlfriend, Mrs. Wonnacott says, "You can't trust one of the suckers with more than \$2 in his pocket, but they sure can be fun."

I do hope everyone is ready to party. Finale Festival 1987 and "Let Us Entertain You Weekend" is next weekend and I hope everyone is getting ready for it.

For those of you who don't know, "Let Us Entertain You Weekend" is a long-standing tradition taking place in Houston each year after Mardi Gras ends. Fifteen years ago, Fanny Farmer with the Texas Riders and Mary's started this fun-filled annual event that lures thousands to Houston after the New Orleans debauchery is over. In 1979, three other clubs joined the Texas Riders as official hosts for the events: The Colt 45's, the Mustangs and the American Leathermen, forming the Houston Council of Clubs. In 1980 the Sundance Cattle Company joined the group as did the Texas Renegades in 1985. The Mustangs and the American Leathermen are no longer active clubs.

Since that time, every January has seen posters and notices go coast to coast to alert people to this entertainment. The event has proved especially popular with, besides Americans, Germans, Australians and Canadians. Some people just fold their tents and move right on to Houston Ash Wednesday, but many attend who actually bring themselves to forego Mardi Gras.

Projections this year are for a record attendance. The schedule of events are:

Friday: 12 a.m. till 1 a.m., cocktail party hosted by the Texas Riders at Chutes.

Saturday: Late registration, 9 a.m. till noon at the Barn. Breakfast 10 a.m. till noon at the Barn. Cocktail party hosted by the Sundance Cattle Company 10 a.m. till noon at the Barn. Bar tour: 12-1 p.m. the 611, 1-2 p.m. Ripcord, 2-3 p.m. Cousins, 3-4 p.m. Crystals, 4-5 p.m. Mary's, 5-7 p.m. free time. 7-8 p.m. cocktail party hosted by the Texas Renegades at the Barn, 8-10 p.m. dinner hosted by the Barn. 10-11 p.m. cocktail party hosted by the Ripcord. 11 p.m. till, free time.

Sunday: Breakfast 12-1 p.m., BRB. 12-1 p.m., cocktail party hosted by the Colt 45's, BRB. 1-5 p.m., T-dance at the BRB, followed by an early steak night.

Concurrent with "Let Us Entertain You Weekend" is "The Underground Event of the Year" Mardi Gras Finale 1987.

Starting on Saturday, 10 p.m., at Parkway Athletic Club with an open bar till 2 a.m., you can party till well after dawn with deejay Michael Fierman of the Saint and Paladium (New York City's loss, children). At 8 a.m. the party moves to church at Heaven with services conducted by deejay Doug Bryson (Jewels, New Orleans).

Concurrent with the Mine's opening (deejay John Sims), is the opening of the midway with outdoor games, food concessions and draft at noon.

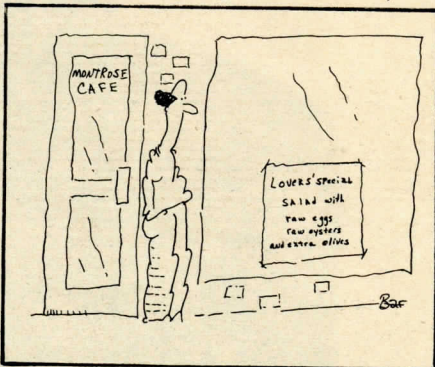
In the afternoon, Pacific Street Amphitheatre opens to present national recording artist, Robin Stanley and dynamic, Uptown, followed by New York City's underground wit, Alan Lozito (also known as the "Drag-Goon").

Finally, the talent of the age, Ms. Grace Jones hits the stage, and babies—best to be prepared. Grace likes to party! Get on over to JR's and get your tickets!

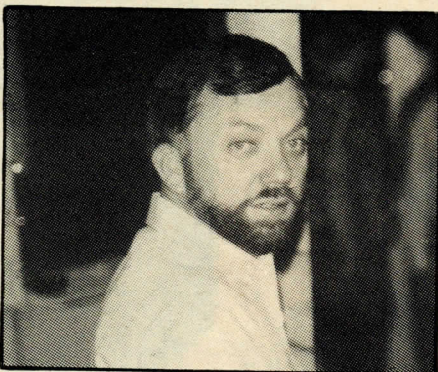
Anyone remember a guy by the alias of Paul Falcone?

A confidential source tells us that he is now in the Philadelphia area and guess whom he is now impersonating? Well, let's put it this way—will the real Vince Janice of the Ripcord please stand up? At any rate, since there are warrants out for his arrest in Pennsylvania, we can all hope that he gets the shock treatment that he needs. (My personal hope is that he gets a cattle prod right in the — well, never mind.)

Alan Pierce of the BRB tells me that the clinic is looking to sponsor classes in CPR. If interested call Tom Audette at the clinic. Alan also tells me that with Rodeo and Mardi Gras, the BRB is gayly decorated even to a big clown on the dance floor with moving hands. Not speaking of clowns, Miss Beau informs us that her "lucky" stool at the Barn was just that for the fourth week in a row? (COWBOY ALERT! COWBOY ALERT! Beau's going for the record!)



Bandanna B-Day at the BRB (EPAH) in observance of Washington's birthday was a real good time and although there were no wooden false teeth in evidence some folks now know why the father of our country's monument is a huge phallic symbol.

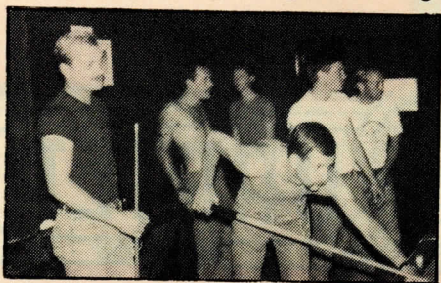


Alan Pierce, BRB.

Up at K.J.'s/Dirty Sally's Northside, Kim tells me that since everyone is on probation they're renting a bus to take a bar tour of Montrose. A personal to Miss Rod of K.J.'s: Honey, we hear you're real pretty, what with an orgy, a fight, running into Ma Bell and knocking a cash register into a wash sink all in one weekend! But just what does "This is Rod between your legs" supposed to mean besides that you were just a little twisted? Girlene! I think I'm scared of you!

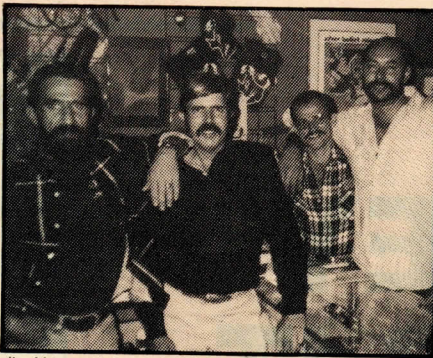
Chutes is hosting the *Drummer* magazine premiere of the Texas Tough Customer edition this Saturday. Representatives of *Drummer* will be at Chutes to meet you and to distribute copies of Texas Tough Customer. *Drummer* hopes to meet all the folks who posed for photos at Chutes last year. Ted says, come and see your pictures.

A special note; the Chuters finally won a game—I understand that the chalkboard has been varnished reading: 611 prime 5/ Chuters 10. It's been a long time coming.



Jeff and Mike playing pool, Chutes.

Miss Rogers is singing again, "Here Kitty, kitty, kitty, kitty" and I understand that Earnistene is now a Florida orange grove land heiress.

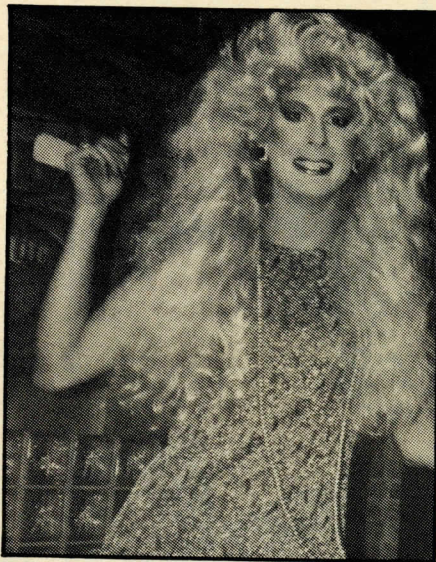


Jim Moss and the men of Eagle Leather.

Jim Moss, internationally-known photo-journalist will be in town to select models for two national publications for men. For information on your being selected you can call 520-6664.

The Ranch has dance lessons on Tuesday and Thursday nights with a beer bust from 6 p.m. on—I think they are the only bar that has Miller Lite on tap.

Randy Smith's birthday party was Thursday (he turned 32 just like his waist line). Vanna White does have an arm on her (!) and wasn't Miss Randy real pretty.



Vanna—the girl knows how to throw!

Honey, how many dates did you have? Girlene, was it six or seven? How many were named Michael? (I guess when you are as old as you are it does make it easier to remember when you're saying "Oh baby.")

Don't forget the live Dixieland Jazz Band on Saturday night for the Mardi Gras Party at the Galleon, or that Strip finals are March 9.

Cutie-pie cow trainer (also known as Ron Mays) at the 611 tells me that the Breakfast Club is hosting a Spring Bake Sale on the second Saturday of March benefiting the Omega House. She also



Kitty Key, The 611.

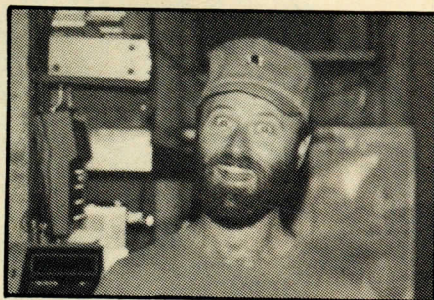
tells me that Miss Kitty Key (also known as Don Walley) has a new lover—Rick—5'8", brown hair, green eyes and cute!—Ron says that he is real proud of her—something about, "Not bad for an aging actress." While Kitty says that Patsy and Ron are just jealous and will have to take notes, that she can teach them a thing or two. (Don't I remember an old saying about those that can't do—teach?)

Pickles tells me that Whelma is in charge of Party Gras at Mary's. Party starts at 8 p.m. with a costume contest at 10 p.m.

Just a reminder—The Crabs-Are-Us folks at Baylor are still shelling out cash for your crabs. You can call Jay at 799-6137—why not? It's better than Raid.

Handsome Mr. John of the Pot Pie tells me that Lola (the Puerto Rican Princess) and Studly (Mr. Ron) will be working their booties off because of a new after hours special: two eggs, two pancakes, two slices of bacon and two sausages all for \$2.69, from 11 p.m. till 7 a.m. (Sounds like an after the bars party to me.)

The Barn is featuring the Red Riders this Friday from 8 till 12 p.m. and Sunday afternoon. I understand that Saturday night there will be a Miss Pattie La Belle look-alike contest at the Dome—Buzz and 19 others are all going to be dolled up. Walter tells me that everyone is welcome to come in for some casual bridge sessions—they have the space, tables, cards and score pads—and to those of you who have never played bridge, don't get excited when you hear that someone won a rubber, it's not that kind.



Local Stud, the Barn.

At the Alley Theatre, *Normal Heart* has only one more week to run. Reservations are recommended, so call the box office at 228-8421. Tuesday evening after the performance there will be an open discussion that the audience is welcome to stay for.

On March 5, *Immigrants*, Mark Harlebi's true story of Russian Jewish immigrants entering the port of Galveston, starts its run till April 5, on the large stage.

Till next week.

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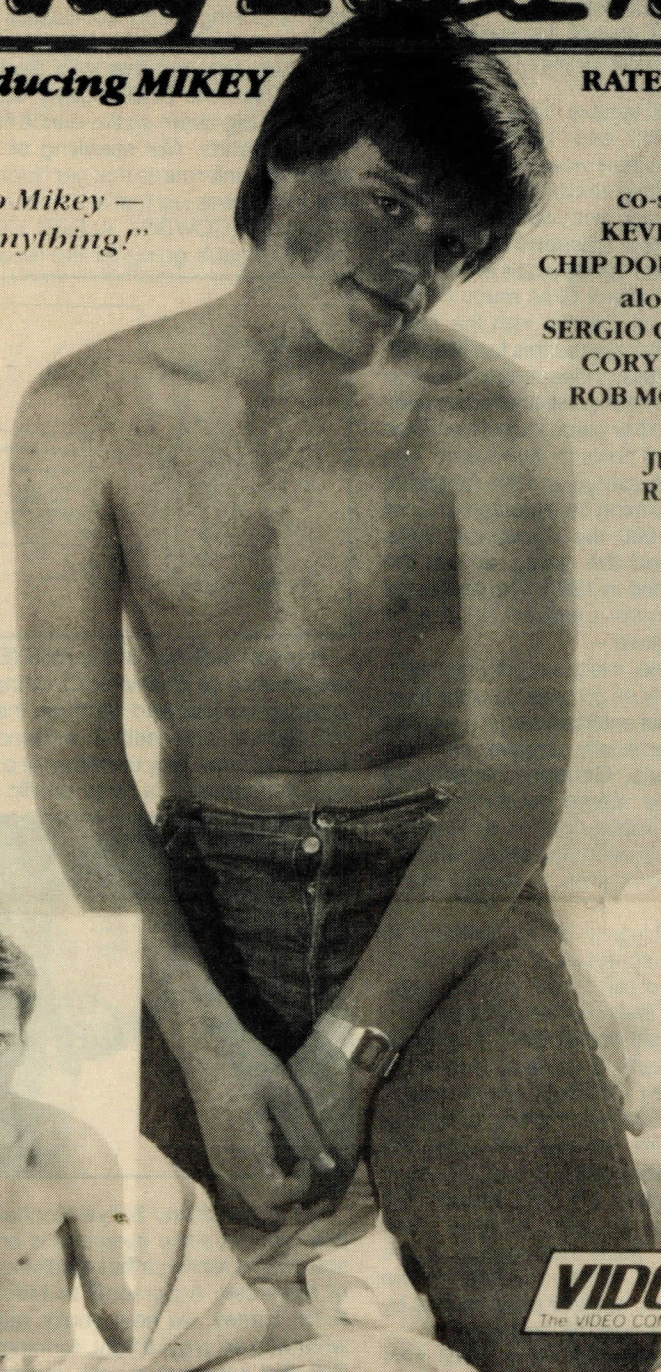
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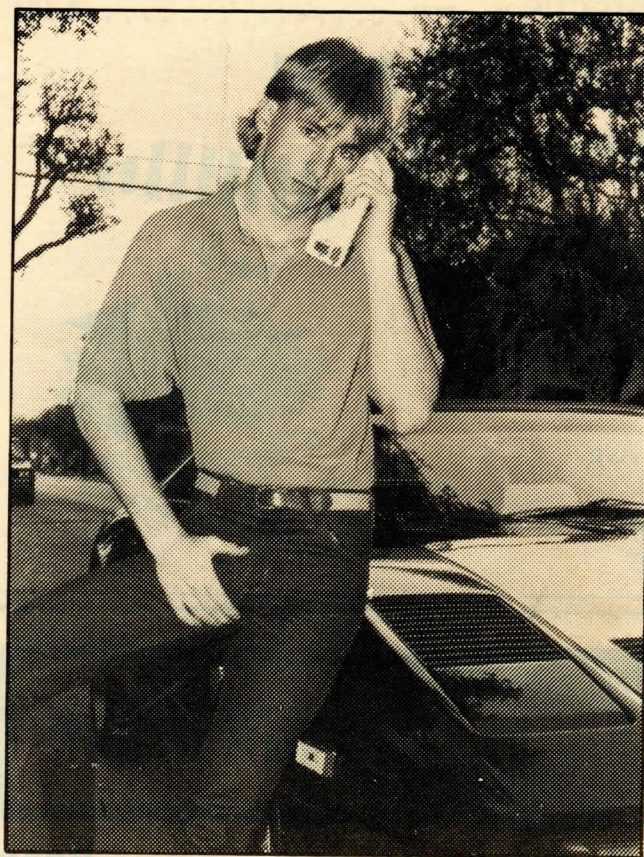
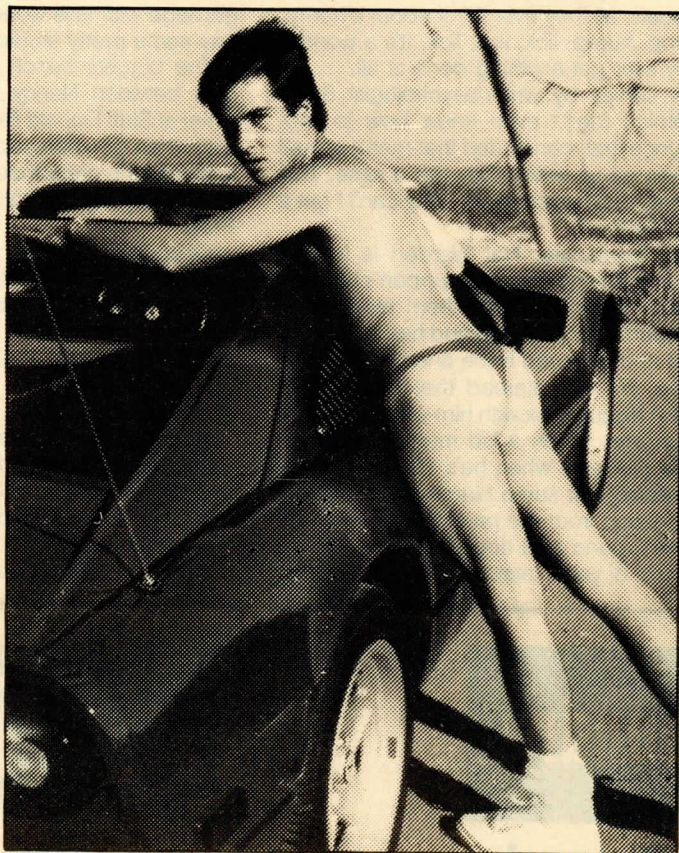
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Death In The News

Andy Warhol, most everybody's favorite pop pagan, has squeezed his last tube of paint. Warhol died of a heart attack while recovering from a gall bladder operation. He should never have had that operation; it was his gall that most people loved.

David Susskind, popular pontificator and producer, also died of an apparent heart attack the day before he was to enter a hospital for tests. It would have been better if he had entered the hospital for heart problems and died of a gall bladder complication. Now that Warhol and Susskind both bit the big one so close together, I'm waiting for The Third, you know what I

mean?

In other famous death news, the trial continues in the death of Vic Morrow and two children who lost their lives while filming a segment of *The Twilight Zone Movie*. John Landis, the prosecutor who questioned him on his acting abilities, trying to put the notion in the jury's mind that Landis' quavering voice and teary eyes were nothing more than an act. Come on, even actors have hearts, except for one certain person at Stages who took my number when we met at Warren's and has never called. But back to the *Twilight Zone*. The one person who has been granted immunity from prosecution is the guy who has

admitted that he set off the last two explosions—the ones that caused the helicopter to crash—prematurely. So, now that he's off the hook, I guess they have to convict Landis.

But the stupidest death in the news this week is that of Jorge B. Blanco who was shot to death by Mario Alberto Reyna over a quarter for the jukebox at a lounge at 2109 Houston Avenue. Blanco refused to give Reyna the quarter, so Reyna had no alternative but to kill the guy, I guess. I wonder what he wanted to play. Probably a love song.

Sex In The News

Well, well, well, the yuppies of Rice Village will have to go elsewhere for their porno movies and orgies, the Village Theatre has been closed, with its last two offerings being *Nibblers* and *Taste of Money*. That's the problem with those darn heterosexuals, all they ever think about it hump, hump, hump, lick, lick, lick. It's a wonder they ever get anything done at all.

A survey by writer/psychologist Sully Blotnick (don't even know how to pronounce that) concluded that men's sexual drives go up when they get a raise. This survey took seven years. Why can't I get a job like that?

In Tennessee, Hal Warden is having trouble paying his child support out of his \$10 a week allowance from his mother. Warden is 16 years old and has been married and divorced twice and has two children. He complained that his parents didn't discuss sex with him when he was a youngster. When a kid marries his pregnant girlfriend when he's 13, you can legitimately put some blame on the lack of education from the parents, but when he turns around and does the same thing a couple of years later, you have to suspect

By "Perfectly" Frank Carello

that he should have figured out a little cause-and-effect there.

Michelle Royer is the third Miss Texas in a row to win the Miss U.S.A. title.

This concludes **FAST COPY's** look at the weirdness of non-gay sexuality.

Garbage In The News

Houston police are ticketing garbage truck drivers for hauling too much trash. I have an idea. Why don't they just stop picking up the garbage from in front of the houses of Houston cops? That should cut down, don't you think?

Of course, the police can't get anyone to listen to *their* problems, because the counseling staff who guide our Boys in Blue has been depleted and no new people can be hired under Kathy's hiring freeze. Maybe they can set up group therapy sessions with city garbage collectors who had pay cuts and are now trying to pick up more garbage with less workers, and having to pay some pretty stupid tickets.

The biggest bunch of garbage is the spat between Nancy and White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan. Nancy got in a tiff when Don hung up on her (twice) and leaked to the press that they were having a feud. That should light a fire under the Pres.

Of course, it's no surprise that the Pres. can't remember whether he authorized the Iran-Around Contra-very arms deal or not. I don't think he's lying. And I think that's pretty scary. What is he going to forget next? Whether he pushed the button or not?

And why was the story of a Houston preacher who has fired for having an adulterous affair with one of his parishioners (female) put on the front page of the *Houston Post*? Who cares?

It's all garbage. It's all garbage.

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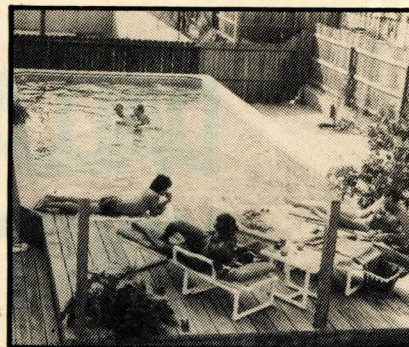
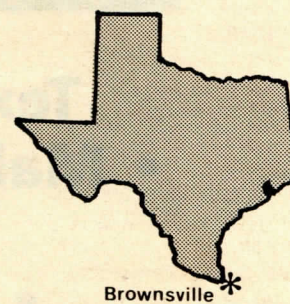
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By Amanda B. Recondwith
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Well, Dear Fans, Amanda has spent the past week getting her thoughts about Houston and its place in the rest of the world figured out. Living in such a place as Houston, we are put in the position of looking around us and wondering if there are sunnier pastures and brighter rays of hope. After all, losing the Democratic Convention to Atlanta was a horrifying experience. Letting Pennzoil rape Texaco certainly won't help our unemployment problem. There are a dozen rather dreadful things going on that just don't seem to make Houston the delightful place to live. In fact, our reputation abroad is becoming tainted!

While in California recently, we were appalled at the amount of derision being thrown upon Houston. Out there, the entire organized gay community is hopping with glee over the fact that Houston is coming apart at the seams. There is this almost ecstatic thrill in California about Houston's recent bad times, and we fear it stems from some rather complicated sources.

"How do you call a Texas Oil Baron?"

"How?"

"Waiter!"

That joke brought on peels of laughter in a chic little Hollywood hotel, Dear Fans.

"What's the difference between a Texas Oil Baron and a seagull?"

"What?"

"A seagull can at least make a deposit on a new Cadillac."

More laughter, Dear Fans.

Mind you, Amanda chuckled at these jokes, because they were rather witty, and we have always understood humor (especially regional humor) to be rather inward-directed anyway. We know that our California friends are nervous about their



... wearing our Dale Evans ruffle skirt with Trigger-Happy Horse Hide ten gallon hat at the Rodeo Roundup at the Brazos River Bottom ...

impending destruction. They may not talk about it at parties, but when we are alone with them in more intimate surroundings, they all express anxiety about sitting in traffic under overpasses or working in very tall buildings or living on the side of cliffs. They know they're going to get it someday, and the geological stability of Texas attracts their wrath.

Then again, Dear Fans, we must come to the realization that for many years, Texans flaunted their wealth around the world. Our politics, our outrageous and gaudy lifestyles, and our general leaning toward Big Business is against everything intellectual or artistic in the world, and those artists bitterly complained about it for decades. Now that Texas is down, they

take great pleasure in kicking and grinding us into dirt.

Frankly, we were quite appalled by the arrogance and hedonism of L.A. We were even more surprised to learn that salaries out there aren't so great, because employers know that "everyone" wants to live in California. Well, we do love California, you know. It's one of the few places where we can ski in the morning and see sunset on a semi-tropical beach in the afternoon. But after getting our Bentley dented several times on La Cienega, having our purse snatched at the tar pits on Wilshire Boulevard, being laughed at for being a Texan at the Bel Aire Hotel and sliding down a sudden earth fracture in Palos Verdes, we decided that an occasional hurricane and tornado are definitely preferable. We were most pleased to be back in Houston wearing our Dale Evans ruffle skirt with Trigger-Happy Horse Hide ten gallon hat at the Rodeo Roundup at the Brazos River Bottom with all our dear EPAH friends. It did our heart good to see Dr. Jack and R. Appleby (C.P.A.) chatting with the likes of Barry (in new bronzer), Danny (in his infamous Billy Idol Western Tear outfit), Tank of the Pearls, Skipper in his Rodeo rape sequined boots and Kevin in his Oxford cloth button down collar Yuppie Cowboy chaps with the little Volvos stamped into the leather.

With all this creativity and intellectual life, Houston has nothing to fear, Dear Fans. Los Angeles will always be bigger, but perhaps never better. We would, however, like to know where the hell our Dear Mayor Kathy Whitmire has been these days. We need some leadership at the helm—not an accountant in the back room!

NETWORK

"Will Yuppies Live Forever?"

By Jeff Bray

The commercial was rather surprising. It was encouraging us all to watch a certain television news documentary on how Yuppies are going to live to be 120. In the background you could hear a tennis ball bouncing around, and then a young man's voice came across, saying he was 98, and a young woman's voice said, "I'm 102!" It wasn't such a bad idea, really, but what irritated me was that their voices sounded like they were about my age, and I couldn't help thinking that the medical industry had better get to work if they're going to prolong my life at 31!

There is a real dichotomy going on these days. On one hand, we are told that our life expectancy is growing by leaps and bounds every year. On the other, we are threatened with horrible disease and new viruses and infections which defy all known medical treatment. What are we supposed to think?

Personally, I wouldn't mind living until 200, if my life was healthy and happy. So far, it's been a pretty good life, but I'm told every day that my standard of living is dropping, and that I'll never reach the affluence my parents had. In fact, because of certain uncontrollable factors, my life could be cut short at any moment—but then, those problems have been with mankind since time began. The only real difference is that we now have a very aggressive media information system that tells us every day that we are doing better and getting worse at the same time.

When you start to manipulate the information to give a clear one-sided message, you end up with propaganda. However, when you inundate the general population with conflicting information for information's sake, you get utter confusion.

Last week, a world ecology organization

issued a report stating that in another 10 years, if things aren't drastically changed, the earth will no longer be able to rejuvenate itself. The result will be ecological disaster. The weather will change for the

On one hand, we are told that our life expectancy is growing by leaps and bounds.

worse, the soil will erode hopelessly, the atmosphere will dwindle, letting deadly ultra-violet rays penetrate and burn everything up. It read like one of those 50's science fiction thrillers, but unfortunately, it was actually written up in the nation's larger newspapers. Instead of Victor Mature staring stupidly at that horrendous page, it was little old me! And the most horrifying thing about it was that I immediately skipped the rest of the page and went straight to the comic section. In the old movies, Victor Mature would have crumpled the paper in rage and started a great nationwide movement to save the world before it was destroyed. We know better, I'm afraid.

So, we're told we'll live to be over 100, and that our health will improve, and we'll all be good looking until the day we die. No more shriveled up little hunched over bundles like we see everyday downtown. You know the ones. The little old men and ladies who are curled up in their layers and layers of filthy clothing among piles of garbage. Of course, they're the mute ones who don't tell us that when they were our age, they were promised the New Deal or the Great Society. What ever happened to those promises? Time went on, wars were

waged, plans were put aside for arms and industry, and suddenly, the promised ones found themselves in the streets; sick, hungry, cold tired, old and very very ugly.

What is really odd is the fact that us Yuppies are aging rapidly beyond our years. The pressure of daily work, as well as the stress of living in a noisy, dangerously overcrowded and polluted world, makes us nervous and anxious. We see therapists and psychologists in amazing numbers. We frequent specialists' offices for tumors, nervous disorders, ulcers, and countless other problems. We can't even have sex anymore without the threat of sickness and death.

And this is the generation that is supposed to live to be 120? Come on! The next time I hear that myth, I'm going to laugh, because, as we all know laughter is probably the most healthy (and increasingly rare) prolonger of life.

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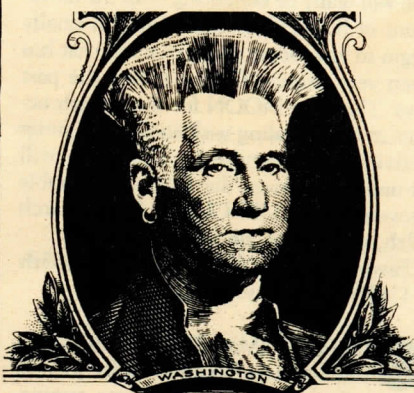
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NEWS BITS

Universal Threat of AIDS Reiterated

Researchers attending a three-day conference on AIDS in children, young people and heterosexual adults in Atlanta stressed that AIDS is no longer the "gay plague" and that the threat to the general public must be stressed.

According to the CDC, 30,839 people in the United States have developed AIDS, with 17,728 reported to have died of the disease. These figures do not reflect unreported cases or cases that have been misdiagnosed.

Although the disease has hit the gay community the hardest, with interavenous drug users coming in second in number of cases, non-gay sexual transmission of the disease is becoming more frequent. Some

researchers want to stop labeling certain groups as "high-risk" and concentrate on a broad-based educational effort aimed at the population at large.

ABC Bends On Condom Spots

Although the network still refuses to accept advertisements from condom manufacturers, ABC has agreed to air public service announcements that mention condoms as a part of a safe sex program.

However, NBC and CBS have decided to allow stations owned and operated by the networks to decide for themselves whether or not to air condom ads. WCBS and WNBC, both in New York, have announced that they will begin running the ads. New York City has the highest incidence of AIDS in the United States.

Suspect Held In Montrose Arson

After contacting Houston Fire Department arson investigators, Robert Eubanks (a.k.a. Roger Nance) was charged with arson and held without bond as a suspect in the torching of a house at 203 Westheimer on Feb. 9.

Eubanks is also being questioned about several other blazes that have occurred on lower Westheimer in recent months.

Hill To Push For Gay Convention In Houston

Community leader, political activist and prison reformer Ray Hill has announced plans to organize a national convention of gay men and women to be held in Hous-

ton just before the 1988 National Conventions of the Democratic and Republican Parties.

Hill had first envisioned the convention 10 years ago, but shifted from organizing the convention to working on the March on Washington. Reactions from the Greater Houston Convention and Visitor's Council have been favorable.

Confirmed Cases of AIDS In Houston Still Rising

The Houston Health Department has reported that there have been 1,036 cases of AIDS in the Houston area, with 677 reported deaths. These figures do not reflect deliberately unreported cases, misdiagnosed cases or cases in which the person left Houston.

H O R O S C O P E S

by Jack Marvin, AMAFA

The New MOON occurs just after sunset at 6:55 p.m. tonight in the sign of PISCES. This signals the beginning of a two-week period where projects should be begun in order to become successful. Unfortunately, because of the retrograde MERCURY, we may not be able to clearly put together a project that we feel can succeed. Luck shifts houses on Monday when JUPITER enters ARIES. This means that this particular area of your life will be greatly enhanced. This particular aspect will be discussed in this week's horoscopes. Incidentally, this particular aspect will last for one year. So prepare for lots of luck. VENUS enters AQUARIUS on Tuesday. This will also be favorable to our value system and our romance.

Notes: Today will be a triple whammy with the SUN, MOON, and MERCURY all joining together at 7 p.m. Don't take anything you hear too seriously or personally. Think before you speak. You will tend to say things from an emotional instead of an educational viewpoint. Sunday you could be argumentative and Tuesday will be a great day for sex and romance.

QUESTION: "Recently, I've been attracting AQUARIANS, 2-7-1963 and 2-5-1965. Why is this? Will 2-7-63 and I have some type of affair in the future? Why does 2-5-65 contradict everything

ARIES (March 21-April 20): With this triple whammy occurring in your house of secrets and enemies, guard what you say this weekend. Keep anything you hear to yourself, and, above all, don't spread gossip. You could tend to put on a few additional pounds during this next year, but you will also become luckier than you have been during the depressing previous year. The next 12 months will certainly be more to your liking and enjoyment. You will become attracted to AQUARIANS romantically.

* Favorable Days: 27th, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th
* Unfavorable Days: none

TAURUS (April 21-May 20): Your career will take a turn for the better which could also indicate additional funds. You will really be benefiting from the movement of JUPITER because you will finally begin to have some peace of mind that has been very fleeting for you during the past year. The New MOON for this month occurs in areas dealing with social ties, group activities, and friendships. These areas will be under some stress due to the unfavorable movement of MERCURY. After March 12th, your social life will improve.

* Favorable Days: 30th, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th
* Unfavorable Days: none

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Goals that you have been setting for yourself during this past year will become attainable. This next year, with your renewed confidence, you will attract many more and exciting friends. Incidentally, a romantic encounter is favorable with someone from a different background, culture or country. You should enroll in night school to increase your higher level of knowledge of the world around you. This New MOON will indicate the beginning of a new career. If you were going to change careers or ask for a raise, do it now.

* Favorable Days: 27th, 28th, 1st, 3rd
* Unfavorable Days: none

CANCER (June 21-July 20): A promotion or advancement in your career will occur sometime during this next year. JUPITER is traveling through this area and will bring luck and good fortune. A sexual attraction could turn into something more than a one-night-stand. Before you get involved with someone however, make sure that your best friend is yourself. The next two weeks indicate that learning about places and people that are currently foreign to you will help you later in your career and romance. This will be a very favorable New MOON for you.

* Favorable Days: 27th, 2nd, 5th
* Unfavorable Days: 28th

LEO (July 21-August 21): A new sexual cycle for all of you LEOS will begin with the New MOON occurring in your house of sex. This also begins a new cycle of financial cooperation between you and your lover. The next month will be a truly romantic time with you finally becoming involved with a lover or partner. Higher level education is favored as well as distant traveling. For the next year, JUPITER will transit the area dealing with foreign travel. This will be most favorable for you.

* Favorable Days: 27th, 28th, 4th
* Unfavorable Days: none

VIRGO (August 22-September 21): Until March 12th, this will still be a difficult time for you communicating due to your ruler MERCURY going backwards. New romances and love affairs are favored. If you are currently attached, then now is a very favorable time for you to renew your vows and commitments. This new year will be very favorable sexually for you and you will also receive a large and unexpected legacy. Work and health will be excellent during this next month.

* Favorable Days: 1st, 3rd
* Unfavorable Days: 27th, 28th

I say? I was born 9-2-1964, 11:05 a.m. in Honolulu. I've never written an astrologist and asked advice before." R.P.

ANSWER: First of all, we are ASTROLOGERS not astrologists. Your SUN is in the 10th house in VIRGO indicating that career, status and reputation are very important to you. You have SCORPIO rising with NEPTUNE on your ascendant. This indicates that you can be very secretive and have a strong interest in the occult. You have a great ability to shield yourself behind an opaque curtain and only let others see what you want them to see. Your SUN conjoining URANUS can make you extremely independent and erratic at times. Your retrograde MERCURY can make you be misunderstood often (especially now!). As to the AQUARIANS that you are interested in, I would avoid both of them. They were both born with natal "T"-squares which indicate they are both under stress of some form or another. 2-7-1963 can have a problem with alcohol or drugs and could tend to idealize situations. 2-5-1965 has an ego problem. Your attraction to these is because you feel they would make the ideal person for a great home life. Wrong. You should date more and quit trying to get "commitments" from people (your SATURN in your fourth house). You have at least six years before you will find Mr. Right. J.M., AMAFA

LIBRA (September 22-October 22): This New MOON signals a new period and beginning in employment and health. Communications dealing with your job will be somewhat confused, but this will clear up by March 12th. Your yearly job cycle will begin with this New MOON. During this yearly transit of JUPITER through your house of marriage, you will become attached or form a partnership. Obviously, this will begin with a romantic dating cycle that will begin this week. This will be a very lucky time to speculate and gamble. Join the Parkway Athletic Club and get the body in shape for the coming summer.

* Favorable Days: none
* Unfavorable Days: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

SCORPIO (October 23-November 22): During this New MOON period, you should gamble or speculate because of the favorably aligned planets. But, you should study exactly what you are doing because the backwards MERCURY could confuse you. Your employment and health should be excellent for the next year because of the lucky JUPITER transit. VENUS entering your home life spells romance. This will be an excellent time for pleasurable pursuits and hobbies.

* Favorable Days: 27th, 28th
* Unfavorable Days: 4th, 5th

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 20): For the next year, take chances in all the lotteries that you can. Also enter the Post contests or any mail order contests as you are sure to be a winner. Meanwhile, this New MOON occurs in your home, indicating that now is a very favorable time to purchase a new home (or at least make a major move), but not until after March 12th. Romance is indicated in your near neighborhood. Look around the corner or around your apartment complex. Mr./Ms. Wonderful may be living nearby.

* Favorable Days: 1st, 3rd, 5th
* Unfavorable Days: none

CAPRICORN (December 21-January 17): The emphasis is about to switch from yourself to your resources, but the New MOON favors your family and neighbors. Take some time off and visit your neighbors and friends. Have you been neglecting them lately? Your home life will be favored in the next year. The planetary alignments indicate that you will make a very good investment in a home. This month will be very busy with communications (some unfavorable due to the backward MERCURY), and frequent and short trips.

* Favorable Days: 2nd
* Unfavorable Days: 28th

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18): This New MOON will affect personal income, belongings, gifts, bonuses, profits and losses, purchases and financial dealings with banks, wealthy people, etc. Be careful and study your investments. Make no commitments with your money until after March 12th. Everything happening with your neighborhood will be excellent during the next 12 months while JUPITER transits this area. Romance will occur with a whole new beautiful you during the next month. Emphasis is on the outer person. Get a hair style, buy some new clothes, make-up, etc.

* Favorable Days: 3rd
* Unfavorable Days: 1st

PISCES (February 19-March 20): Your popularity will be at its peak during this coming month, so take advantage of your new attractiveness and meet new and exciting people. Incidentally, someone that you thought was an enemy will turn out to be a friend. This will be the best time of the year for you to begin new projects or ventures. Financial problems will ease somewhat during this next year because of the transit of lucky JUPITER through your house of finances and assets.

* Favorable Days: 27th, 28th, 3rd, 4th
* Unfavorable Days: 1st

If you have any questions, address them to JACK MARVIN, AMAFA, 1238 West Bell, Houston, TX 77019. Phone number: (713)520-5206. Please include your birth date, birth time, and birth place, if known. If you are asking a compatibility question, please include the above information for the other person, if known. Your questions will be answered as time and space permits. Personal consultations made by appointment only: Natal, progressed, transit, and comparative horoscopes. If not in, leave message on recorder. JM

PEOPLE'S FORUM

Dear Forum:

I would like to respond to a letter written to you in last week's edition entitled "Lesbian Mother Speaks Out." First, let me say as manager of Crystal's, I was quite appalled to read such a letter. I took the letter as personally directed toward Crystal's. Obviously the woman who wrote the letter found it easier to tell your readers than to come to me with a complaint. My door is always open to discuss good or bad, business or personal.

I have the utmost respect for Marion Coleman. I have worked with Ms. Coleman on several occasions and have found her intelligent, charming and diligent in her efforts towards the gay community. Yes, she is a pillar in our society; a woman who has earned the gratitude of every gay woman and man. However, Ms. Coleman is not the only business owner who sacrificed everything to do something she believed in. Every business owner, be they straight or gay, bar or otherwise gives their all and then some. Crystal's was no exception. We are but an infant. We will do nothing but improve to be the best and give the best to our customers.

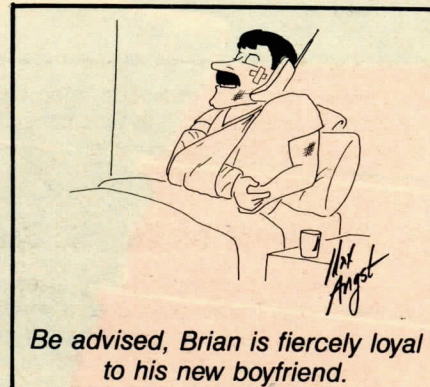
Crystal's has an excellent staff; a group of individuals who do their best to provide a safe, fun-loving, friendly, and courteous environment for our customers. Neither

myself nor my staff would ever do anything to degrade women (or anyone else for that matter) in the disguise of entertainment or for any other reason. I find it insulting to think as a gay woman that I would degrade a part of our society that I have built my life around.

The entertainment that Crystal's is providing has been done for years in bars for women on both coasts and recently in Dallas and Austin. They are professional and have done countless shows that benefit our gay charities. Webster's Dictionary defines artform as a recognized form or medium of artistic expression. I assure you if these women felt it was demeaning they would choose another form of expression.

In these times when gay people are fighting for their lives as well as their rights it is up to each and every one of us to educate our straight brothers and sisters. It is not the different types of entertainment that bars offer their patrons that will make a difference. It is how we interact with each other that will make us strong and united. It is past the time we quit being so bias towards each other. We must accept each other for our preferences not because of them. Then and only then can we gain the freedom that we so truly deserve.

Cindy Ewing
Manager, Crystal's

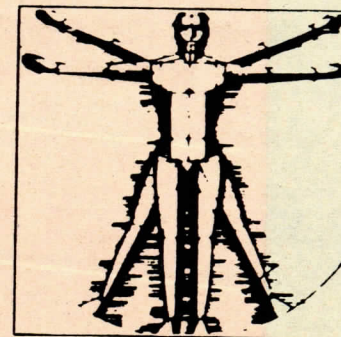


Be advised, Brian is fiercely loyal to his new boyfriend.

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MONA

Dear Mona:

A friend of mine is black, and I was thinking of going out with him. I like him alot, but when I think of dating him, I worry about what my friends would think. They're always saying things about white guys who date black guys, and I just don't feel very comfortable. My black friend is really pushing for a relationship, and I think he deserves it. But I'm scared to do it. Am I being racist? I don't want to be. What should I do?

Signed: Southern Belle

Dear Belle:

Yes, you are being racist. Yes, your friends are biggoted. Yes, you are wrong to let your friend's color get in the way of a relationship. Do you realize that, genetically, there is almost no difference between whites and blacks? The only human difference is color. Period. However, if you feel that it would create problems, I strongly suggest that you do one of two things. 1) Stop the relationship before it goes any farther, because, with your fearful attitude and prejudices it could never work out, or 2) Tell your racist friends to bug off and don't worry about how others feel, because if you love this man it shouldn't matter what color he is.

Dear Mona:

Ever since Shirley MacClaine's TV movie came out, I've been approached by a dozen people, talking to me about meta-physical stuff. I don't even know these peo-

ple. They just appear on the street and start conversations, then get into the subject. I'm beginning to wonder if something isn't trying to reach me, and it's kind of scary. What do you think? Is it something real, or am I just imagining all these encounters as being important?

Signed: Mystified

Dear Mystified:

You are afraid of something in these people. I think you should look inside yourself and see if you can't discover what it is that you're afraid to encounter when these people talk to you. Self discovery is sometimes brought on by outside coincidences, and it's always rather frightening. You may want to see a counselor at the Montrose Clinic, or maybe attend some services at Unity Church. I encourage you to talk to people who will listen, then you can decide whether you are discovering something "real" or not.

Need advice? Having a particularly hard time of it all? Write **Mona**, care of the **HOUSTON FORUM**, 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas 77009.

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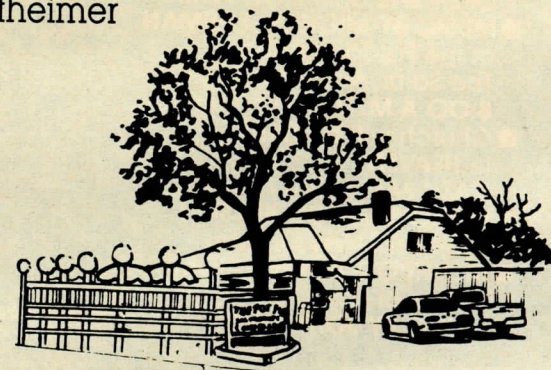
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CASH BAR opens at noon

■ MUSIC BY DOUG BRYSON

of Jewels, New Orleans

■ MONTROSE MINING COMPANY

opens at noon

■ MUSIC BY JOHN SIMS

DAY 2

■ SUNDAY MARCH 8

■ MIDWAY OPENS AT NOON

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