



The Houston Gay Weekly Newspaper / Issue 176 / January 31, 1980

SPECIAL FEATURE

Chris Robbin Amo and His Fan Fantasy Story on Centerfold

Family Center Alive and Well; Gay Skating Party Slated

By George Barnhart
STAR STAFF

Family, a Houston based fundraising organization for the gay community is not, "going out of business," says John Schlenger, Family board member.

"If anything we've one of the hottest things going around," he says.

The reason for the speculations regarding family is due to the appearance of 'For Sale' and 'For Lease' signs outside of the leased Family Activity Hall, at 3207 Montrose.

"The first thing everyone

needs to realize is that one of those lease signs are ours," explains Phil Slusser, a Family co-chair. "Through special arrangements with the building's owner we are renting this space out to any community organization that can benefit from the use of the facility.

"All they have to do is contact me or one of the other board members to avail themselves of the space," says Slusser.

Some months ago Family had occupied and decorated the portion of the 3207 Montrose facility.

"That move was precipitated

by a need to move some of our planned activity in off the streets out of the weather and in warm, centrally located headquarters," continues Slusser.

"Our Thanksgiving and Christmas activities out of the way we are not as dependent on a center for our big major functions now coming up. The activity hall is not large enough to accommodate the customary big way we handle fundraising activities in the gay community.

"We have taken quarters in the rear of the activity center on Montrose. The Montrose Patrol is established there and as soon

as their lease runs out in this coming fall the Westheimer Art Colony Association may be joining us," he concludes.

Family is undergoing a very concentrated recruiting process to bring in fresh blood. The organization is inviting representatives of gay businesses or organizations to join Family for its meeting the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Andy Mills, a Family member revealed plans for "Gay Blades" a Valentine Day (February 14) skating party.

"We'll be taking over the vast Galleria ice skating area starting

at 11 PM going to 1 PM," says Mills. Family will handle the beer and refreshment concessions with Gay Political Caucus furnishing the food.

"We've also been told we can crank up the sound system as hot as we want it-and we'll be furnishing our own disco tapes, something you've never seen before at the Galleria." Plans are also in the mill to present a premiere performance of the Montrose Choir at the event.

The Montrose Patrol will be providing security of the event, with the Gay Hispanic Caucus providing advertising posters. •



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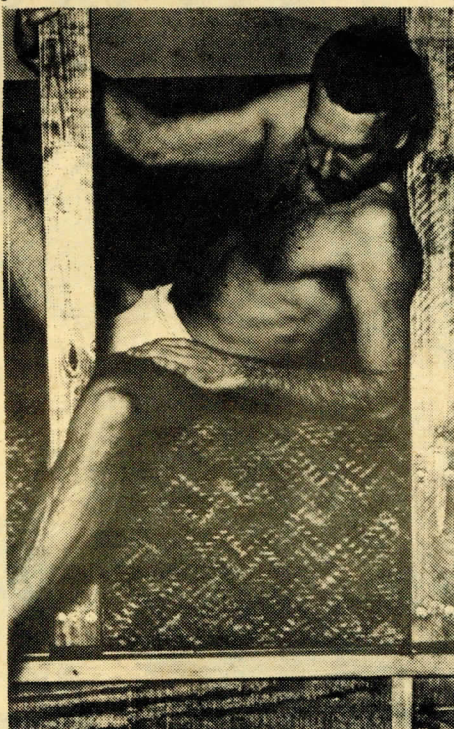
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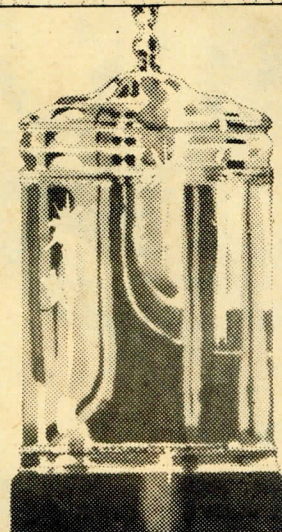
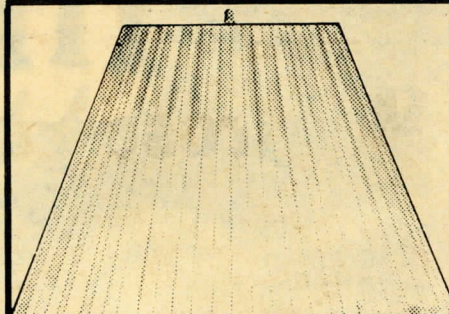
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Montrose Patrol Says New Equipment on the Way

Steve Coates, chairperson of the Montrose Patrol, reported to that organization's board of supervisors the the new FM radios will be ready for delivery next week.

At the January 16 meeting the board of supervisors was told four mobile radios will be issued to Patrol members Barry, Cheek, Peeler and Plemmons. Hand-held units will be issued to Patrol members Bonilla, Coates and Erwin.

At the meeting Supervisor Cheek moved to elect Plemmon and Barry as the sixth and seventh Board members. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board passed a resolution stating that no patrol unit will carry a rider who is not a Patrol member. The problem with non-Patrol members riding involved the legal ramifications.

In other action the Board was told Supervisor Cheek went over to the Silver Pheonix to investigate a repeated incident of broken glass in that area.

Passed unanimously at the meeting was the creation of 12 identification cards labeled A through L to issue on a nightly basis to temporary members, probationary members and to members who do not have their own ID cards with

them.

Discussed was the problem of identification of Patrol members on a larger scale. Proposed was attaching magnetic signs on the sides of Patrol cars or armbands with a logo. A logo is being developed for the Patrol.

The Patrol has announced the organization will cease publishing its own bulletin and will use the established media to reach the public.

The Board OK'd the offer to allow representatives of *The Montrose Star*, *TWT* and *Gay Political Caucus* to sit in on the meeting.

Bering Church Plans 'Community Day'

In an effort to fill the pews to capacity, some members of Bering Memorial United Methodist Church have declared Sunday, January 27th, as "Community Day."

On that day, Bishop Finis Crutchfield will be preaching. "There are people in the Montrose community, both gay and straight, who have been wanting to come to Bering for some time now, but for one reason or another, haven't made it to services yet.

"This day will give them the perfect opportunity to come and see what our church has to offer them," said Mark Gartner, young adult co-

ordinator for Bering.

"Bering has been in the community for over 100 years, and we are currently experiencing a tremendous 'rebirth.' We hope many people will come on the 27th for our worship services, and stay afterward for a time of warm fellowship," said Gartner.

Bering Church is located at 1440 Harold at Mulberry, one block off Westheimer, in the heart of Montrose. Additional information may be obtained about the church by calling Mark Gartner at 864-8899 after 6 PM. Worship services begin at 10:50 AM each Sunday.

MAC-Shak Offers Basic Nutrition Info; Health Products

On February 7 the Montrose Activity Center, at the corner of Holman and LaBranch, will begin a program called 'MAC-Shak.'

Slated for 7:30 PM, the purpose of the session is to teach people the importance of non-junk food and the importance of supplements.

Participants in the MAC-Shak program will also be able to buy Shakley health products at wholesale prices. The profits from these sales will be turned over to MAC. For more info call 524-5489.

MAC-Shak will meet every other week.

Austin March Reaching Out

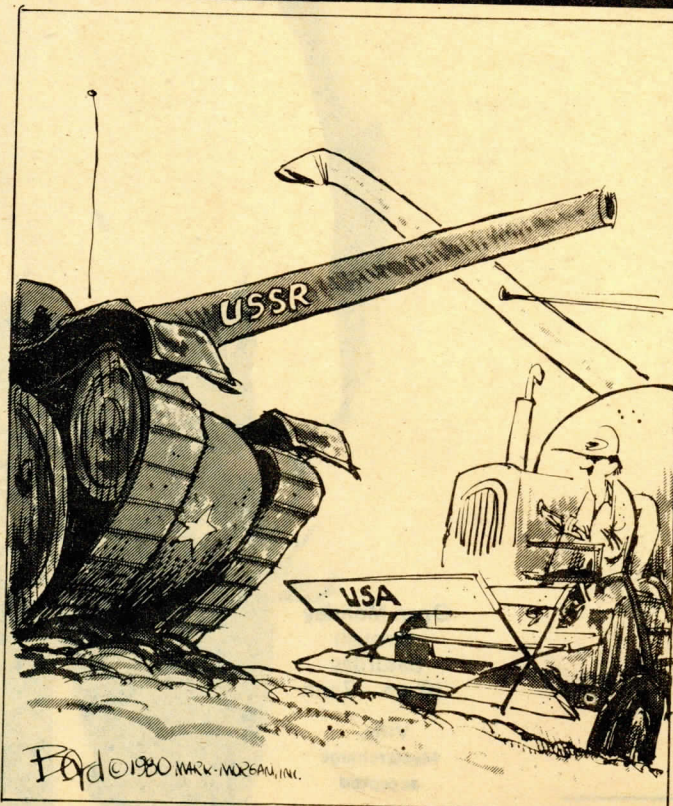
Plans for the statewide conference for the March on Austin are well underway but assistance is needed in reaching all interested groups and organizations.

Any group or organization wanting information

should send the name and address of their organization on a post card to:

March on Austin
1822 Sylvan Suite A
Dallas, TX 75208

A brochure containing time, place, dates, and registration forms will be sent.



Evangelical Outreach Ministries Sponsoring Seminar

Evangelical Outreach Ministries will sponsor an all day seminar in Atlanta, Ga on Saturday March 8th concerning the Church's ministry to the gay community. Featured speaker will be Biblical Feminist and social critic, Letha Scanzoni.

As a professional writer and as guest lecturer at the Kinsey Institute and Elsewhere, she has long been an advocate of women's rights and more re-

cently of genuine understanding for gay people.

One of her seven books, *Is the Homosexual My Neighbor? Another Christian View* (coauthored with Dr. Virginia Mollenkott), and her pioneer efforts in the area of civil rights for all people were recently honored with the national Integrity award. For information about the seminar contact EOM, P O Box 7882, Atlanta, Ga 30357, (404) 351-1943.

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Panel Holds Discussion on Homophobia

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA) — A panel discussion on Homophobia was held as part of the national convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Hilton Hotel.

Most of the discussion dealt with the effect of homophobia on the emergence, or lack of emergence of gay scientists who are willing to come out of the closet.

They declared the penalty for so doing ranges from isolation by colleagues, to loss of promotion, a security clearance or even a job.

Bruce Kiernan, who heads the human rights office of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, voluntarily identified himself as gay, but said others in top positions in Washington are fearful of coming out.

"I know gays in the highest levels of government who go out of their way to keep it quiet and I can't help but think they suffer from it," he said. "Unlike San Francisco, in Washington they still fear having it known."

Dr. Alan Mayln, national chairperson of the Gay Psychologists Association said: "In my judgement homosexuality is not a problem, officially or unofficially. In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association, in what has to be one of the most remarkable mass cures in modern times, by a majority vote, removed homosexuality from the official list of mental disorders. Homophobia is part of the cultural focus, the attitude of the country and

has affected not only the attitude of heterosexuals toward homosexuals but the attitude gay people have about themselves."

"Because of this homophobia, gays are often filled with self-doubt, fear, anxiety and even self-hatred," he said. "They are victimized by belief in the system they grew up with and continue to believe that homosexuality, rather than homophobia is the problem."

Dr. Larry White, founder of the Triangle Area Gay Scientists in the Raleigh, North Carolina area stated gays are no less well-represented in the scientific professions than they are in other professional fields.

"There is simply, however, a much lower awareness among gay scientists of other gays within their own field. Once one begins actively seeking out gays in sciences and provides for them a setting in which they find comfortable people they enjoy being around one finds gays in sciences in fairly representative numbers," White said.

Dr. Sharon Raphael, associate professor of gerontology at California State University said, "I came out in 1971 and suppose I can be considered one of the lucky ones. I still have the same job and work without serious obstacles in the academic pursuits and teaching."

"When you come out you take control of your body. You take the first move and can have the advantage in terms of strategy and preparedness. When you are found out,

you become the victim and are forced to do all the reacting which usually involves some form of denial."

"Coming out involves an attitudinal change from one of thinking, 'I am deviant,' to one of feeling proud of being one's self and a member of the lesbian community," said Raphael.

Walter E. Westman, associate professor of geography at UCLA said the difference between many gay scientists work and their social lives is so great they are victims of 'social schizophrenia' and often drop out of scientific work because of the strain.

A few have little trouble by revealing their sexual preferences but such cases are rare, the panel concluded.

Ad for Police Clerks in Gay Paper

MINNEAPOLIS (IGNA) — The employment recruiter has raised a few eyebrows here by placing an ad for police department jobs in a gay paper, the *GLC Voice*.

However, civil service officials said the ad was not part of any special effort to recruit gays, nor was it meant to help calm tension between police and gays created by a recent raid of a gay bath house. Employment recruiter Robbi Peri said, "It doesn't show anything except that we are in desperate need of clerical help."

Captain Jack McCarthy, head of the police department's personnel department, said that Min-

neapolis police have no written policy for hiring gays. "The only way we know if someone applying for a job is gay or not is if they make an issue out of it. We don't know and we don't care."

He added that he did not know how many gays were on the police force itself.

The ad appeared because Larry Blackwell, head of the city's affirmative action agency, agreed to advertize in the gay paper since the ad was also to appear in *La Voz*, a chicano paper; *Insight*, a black paper; *The Minneapolis Tribune*, and in *Community Times*.

Gay Films Sought

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA) — Frameline, a non-profit gay film collective, is seeking entries for its spring Gay Film Festival.

Films accepted will be screened during Gay Pride Week in June, 1980.

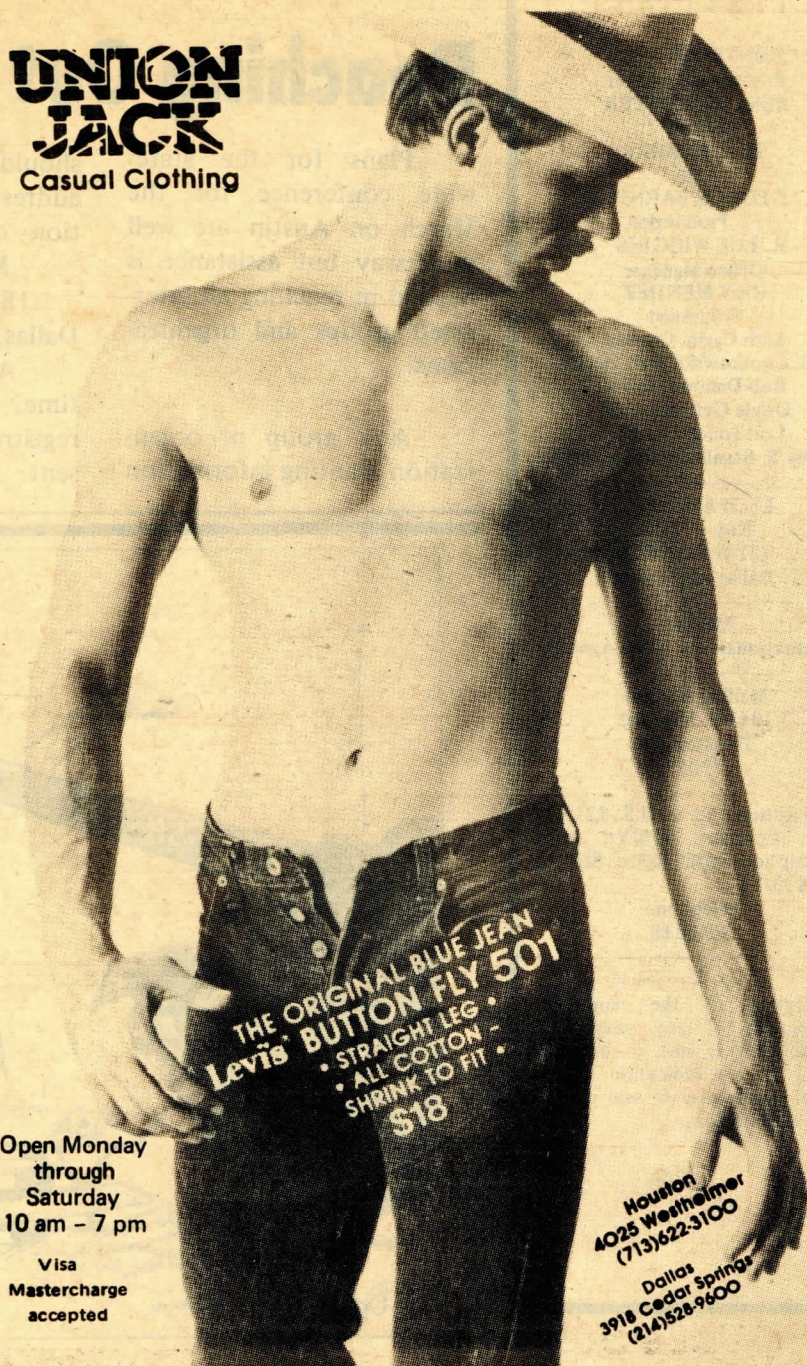
The Film Festival has been established by Frame-

line as a non-competitive showcase for movies by and about gay people.

For applications or more information, write Frameline, 330 Grove St, San Francisco, CA 94114.

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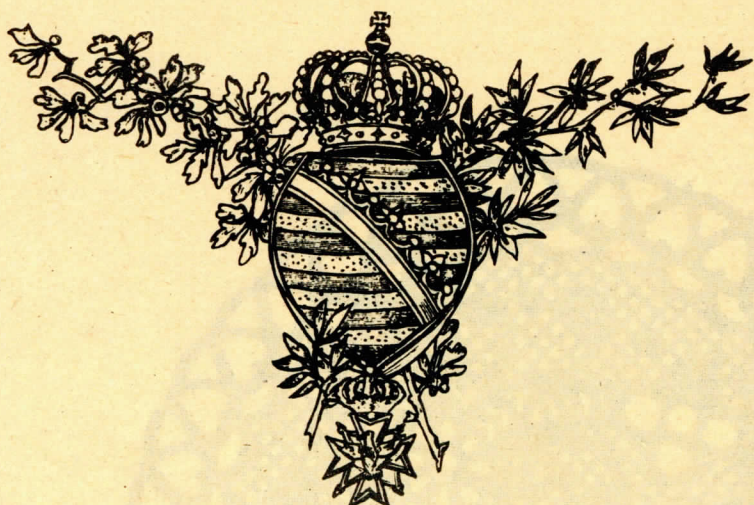
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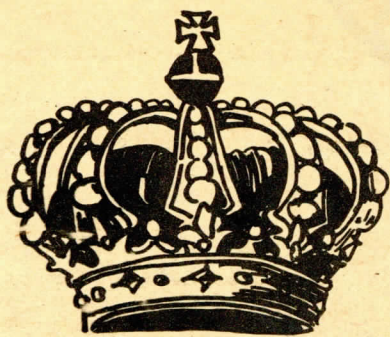
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G/W/M. Actor, Recently returned from two years, live on stage experience in club in Hamburg, Ger. Desires contact with producers of adult films 174-J

Young Gay White Male, 18, looking for friends and more in NW Houston or Humble Area-174-H

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G/W/M, 45, would like to meet someone 27 - 36, interested in older person. Educated, sincere person preferred, Ad 176 - B

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The Montrose Star has recently begun distribution into Montrose Area 'Stop n' Go, U-Totem, and grocery store locations. Distribution is way up, reaching the characteristically diverse Montrose area. Try a small display ad in the Star and see BIG results. 529-8188!

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ORGANIZATIONS

Gay March on Austin!

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MISCELLANEOUS

To answer a blind box ad in the Montrose Star simply write to the advertiser's number, C/O the Montrose Star, 1343 S. Voss Rd. Houston, Texas 77057.

NOTICES

The MONTROSE STAR has changed its mailing address. Please address any correspondence to The Montrose Star, 1343 S. Voss Rd., Houston, Texas, 77057. Our offices are still located in Montrose, of course.

EVANGELICAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES will sponsor Letha Scanzoni, co-author of IS THE HOMOSEXUAL MY NEIGHBOR? ANOTHER CHRISTIAN VIEW in an all day seminar, Sat. Mar. 8. For information contact EOM, Box 7882, Atlanta, Ga, 30357. (404) 351-1943

If you are a SERIOUS AMATEUR MUSICIAN (classical, any instrument, piano or voice) and are interested in getting together regularly to play for enjoyment, call Paul at 713-524-8785 after 6 PM (Keep Trying)

Catholic Commission Endorses Gay Rights

SAN JOSE, Ca. (IGNA) - A Roman Catholic commission has endorsed gay rights ordinances that will be decided in a vote here next June.

The endorsement came from the Social Justice Commission of the San Francisco Archdiocese, which includes Santa Clara County.

The ordinances, which will be on both the San Jose and County-wide ballots, have been opposed by Christian fundamentalists, who claim that the

government is trying to legislate a change in morality.

"We're not talking about morality; we're talking about human rights," said the Rev. C. Moriarity, chairperson of the Social Justice Commission.

The ordinances will be voted on because opponents earlier raised 50,000 signatures county-wide to block implementation of the laws passed by officials of both the county and the city of San Jose. •

PLACE A
SPECIAL
VALENTINE'S
MESSAGE IN
THE STAR.

DETAILS IN
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By Bill Lubing
EDITOR

He dances alone-but not alone. Around him like two giant butterflies or kites twisting in a rhythmic wind or the embracing flutter of a bird his fans sing.

If it were quiet you could hear the 'swish, swish' as they slice the air around him into cones and curly-cues, spirals that spin off the top of his head, cut across his back, under his legs and across his chest.

But it is not quiet at the Parade Disco. The monster sound system pours music into the room. The light show dances overhead, sending an ever-changing spray of light as complex and subtle as the music.

"It takes guts, a lot of nerve to use the fans," tells Chris Robin Amo. "I first got in-

terested in the fans when I saw a group called 'Hot Air' up in Dallas."

Of the three sets of fans Chris owns, he made one set himself, and plans to make more.

Is there a trick to fan dancing? "Not really," says Chris. "You just flow with the rhythm of the music. When the music is slow I tend to want to move the fans slow. When it speeds up my arms want to move faster."

One aspect of fan dancing that first caught Chris' eye, "was the way they changed color as they move, as the light around them changes."

At the Parade it's easy for Chris to lose himself to the lights and music, simply be-

cause both are present in such quantity.

Jerry Menefee, of the Parade, lists some of the mechanical aspects of that fantasy machine of light and sound.

"There is 33½ miles of wire for the light system," tells Jerry. "There are 64 pieces of 8-foot neon in the lighting system. Some of that neon is old, you can't even get it anymore. We looked all over the place for the ruby red and midnight blue colors. We finally found them with an old man that's been in the sign business for years and years."

"There are 72 perimeter lights, 72 single spinners, 36 four light spinners," he says, noting that in all there are close to 400 light bulbs.

"The light system incorporates a computer that was custom built. It still isn't finished. You might say the whole set up is an experiment," he concludes.

The statistics on the sound system are as staggering as the lights.

"There's a total of 19 amplifiers," says Jerry. "Each one of the amplifiers has 3,500 watts of power."

For comparison, a powerful home stereo system has 200 watts of power. The high power of a disco sound system is needed, not only to cope with the heavy music, but because the majority of the watts pumped out by the system are absorbed by the crowd.

The combination of a disco

dance floor and a fan dancer is a pleasing one. "People dance and watch me at the same time," comments Chris. He says the fans translate very well, what is an emotional reaction to the music, into something physical—a tangible display.

"Fan dancing is an art," says Chris. I think a lot of the reason I enjoy it is because I can show people it's an art. I'm not trying to show off. I'm tired of being a pretty boy in a corner. I'm trying to show people there's something new I want to show you."

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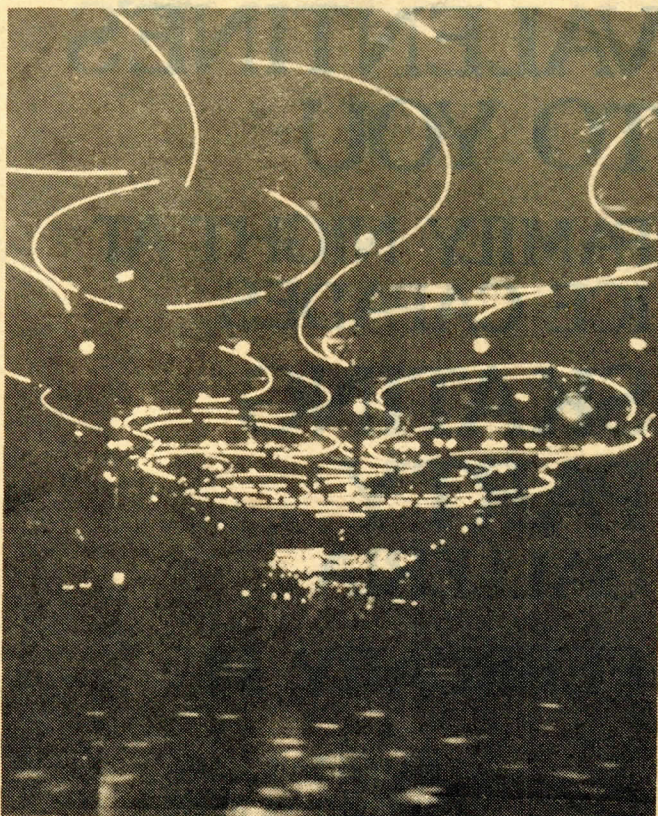
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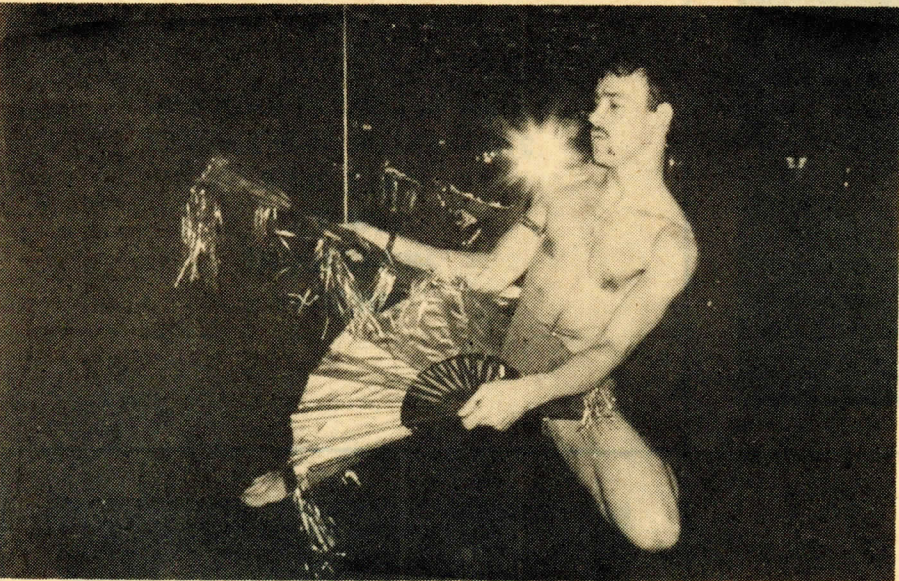
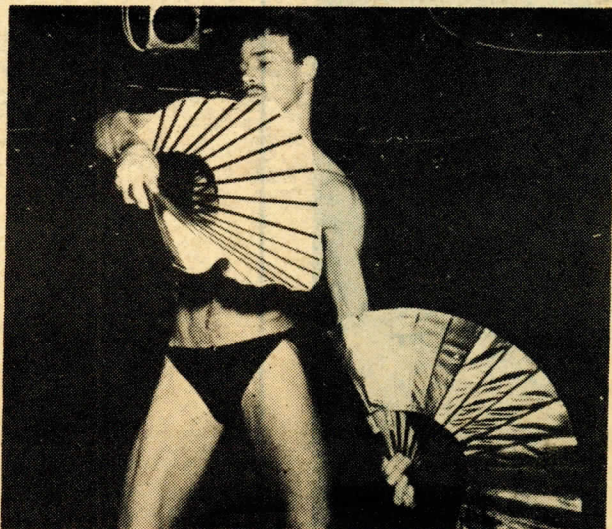
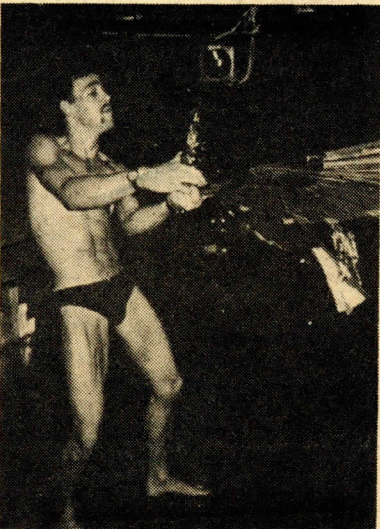
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THE FAN FANTASY OF CHRISTOPHER ROBIN AMO



Photos By Bill Lubing

horoscope:



Astro- Analysis

By Sonia McGinnis

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 27

ARIES [March 21-April 19] - You can look forward to both an active and progressive week; changes that occur in lifestyle now are advantageous. Your ability to get along well with associates and friends helps in attaining aspirations.

TAURUS [April 20-May 20] - A good week to strengthen ties with loved ones, stabilize finances, investments. Give special attention to young people; work out any past communications difficulties.

GEMINI [May 21-June 21] - Travel is appealing to you now; work out the details and do necessary planning early in week. Make contacts with out of town relatives as long distance communicating is prosperous.

CANCER [June 22-July 21] - Your ability to relate to others, share thoughts and ideas puts you in a good position to encounter new opportunity. Be on the alert for prosperous offers, consider new partnership deal.

LEO [July 22-August 21] - Don't waste money on foolish expenditures, a week to exercise caution where personal resources are involved. You get increased public attention now so show good behavior, get along well with others.

VIRGO [August 22-September 22] - Avoid accidents by giving more attention to activities; not a week to make rash or impulsive decisions. Associates are helpful with joint projects.

LIBRA [September 23-October 22] - Mixed planetary conditions can cause some confusion; although there's a tendency to socialize, maintain an active pace, you should use good judgment, keep things above reproach.

SCORPIO [October 23-November 21] - You benefit through close relatives and friends; be willing to divide your time equally this week. A good time to do some home decorating, make improvements and repairs.

SAGITTARIUS [November 22-December 20] - Be assertive about your ambitions; communicate to others, convey your thoughts to those in command. New offers can be a definite career boost now.

CAPRICORN [December 21-January 20] - Be willing to postpone travel plans if budget is strained. Use the week constructively to further stabilize your finances.

AQUARIUS [January 21-February 19] - This can be a highly energetic week; a good time to promote your aims and ambitions. You get good assistance still from mate or partner so don't ignore old contracts.

PISCES [February 20-March 20] - Although artistic abilities are more pronounced you should also find time for outside community work, charitable causes too. Some disagree with your methods but first obligations should be for pisces.

**SPECIAL MENS
SHAMPOO
HAIRCUT
BLOW DRY**

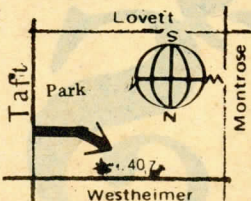
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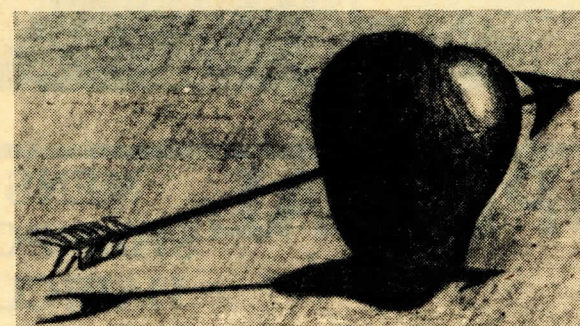
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stanley:

By Stanley S. Stanley
STAR COLUMNIST

Dear Stanley: I'm confused as to what I should wear for church. I was brought up to dress in a conservative suit for church. But now a days, who knows. I see people coming in sport shirts and slacks. Some even come in jeans. This seems too casual. What is correct?

(signed)
JT

Dear JT: Relax! Acceptable dress for church has, changed and so should you.

You go to church to worship God, not present a style show. It is not disrespectful of God to dress casually.

Most important - go to church. God will be more impressed with you the person, not you the style-setter.

Dear Stanley: About a year ago, I met this person about 10 years younger than I and we have become occassional friends. Usually I can expect a call from him. He likes to do something on weekend nights.

But then, if something else comes along, he is off and gone. He seems to think that it is OK to commit to doing something together a few nights later, then not making a show. Should I deal with this dizziness?

(signed)
Treb

Dear Treb: Hell no. Just stop accepting the idea of making plans if this has happened several times.

One is possible. Or a certain situation may occur. But you are a sucker allowing your social time to be wasted by his dizziness - rather his inconsiderate thoughtlessness of you. If you wish to "have something to do" Saturday night, then the best thing to do with this person is make tentative plans subject to committing about an hour before time to be together.

It can be handled politely. Just say: "Thank you, Saturday night seems great, but I have tentative plans, so let me call you Saturday evening, say 6 PM?"

Then, if you get some really stable plans you have

a way to do as you please and not sit home hoping he

will keep his commitment. He may be the one without

something to do Saturday night!

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national:

GGBA Pres Approaches Chamber Book Suggests Freud was Gay?

SAN FRANCISCO — Arhtur Lazere, president of the Golden Gate Business Association in San Francisco, announced that he has sent a letter to Bill Dauer, president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce in an attempt to open up lines of communication between the GGBA and the Chamber.

Dauer has been making highly prejudiced remarks on the subject of the gay community in San Francisco and it is the hope of GGBA that they will be able to create mutual understanding between the two organizations by opening lines of communication.

It is hoped the result will be the end of anti-gay remarks by members of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; especially since so much commerce is gen-

erated from the local and visiting communities.

Lazere has also written to Edward J. Daly, president of World Airways, Inc asking for a prompt retraction of, and an apology for statements made in a memorandum to World Airways employees. Among other things Daly wrote, "This company doesn't need hoodlums, racketeers, and queers. . ."

A dialogue has begun between the GGBA and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce because of Lazere's letter to their president. A meeting was held by several members of GGBA with Mr. Dauer, president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

Dauer claimed to have been quoted out of context. GGBA urged him to phrase his remarks in such a way

as to avoid such unfortunate out-of-context quotations in the future.

Further concern was expressed to Dauer over the lack of minority representation on the board of directors of the Chamber.

The board has no gays, no women, blacks, asians, or latins.

Dauer however, claims to have made strenuous efforts to recruit blacks and women for the board.

Lazere's letter to Edward Daly of World Airways remains unanswered at this time. Others in the San Francisco community have lent support in the effort to communicate with Daly, but he remains unreachable.

The Pacific Center, and National Gay Task Force are taking other action.

IGNA— A recent book called *Why Freud Fainted* by Samuel Rosenberg suggests that Sigmund Freud, the famous founder of psychoanalysis, may have had homosexual experiences.

The evidence, however, is slim:

Rosenberg bases his idea on the fact that Freud and a longtime colleague used to go to secluded spas

reachable only by long and uncomfortable train rides. The two men usually spent several days together.

The writing in the book is almost apologetic and somewhat roundabout, with the reader left to draw his own conclusions.

Perhaps other researchers will investigate this theme in more detail. •

Justice Department Requests Delay on Immigration Meeting

The National Gay Task Force announced that the Justice Department has requested a delay in the meeting scheduled for January 17 to discuss the Office of Legal Council Memorandum on the application of the exclusion provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act against lesbians and gay aliens.

The meeting is now set for January 30, 11 AM. Acting Associate Attorney General John H. Shenefield will be the senior department representative.

"We see this as a positive development," commented NGTF co-executive directors Charles F. Brydon and Lucia Valeska.

"The department is

seeking more time to review the issues being presented by Gay Rights Advocates, our cooperating legal group. GRA executive Director Don Knutson is encouraged by the open and receptive attitude being exhibited by Justice Department officials in Washington.

Both NGTF and GRA want to give the department every opportunity to rectify the situation created by the Office of Legal Council Memorandum."

Action based on the December 10, 1979 Office of Legal Council Memorandum will be deferred until Mr. Shenefield can review the full range of issues being presented by NGTF and GRA. •

Gays Fault Textbook Deletions

DALLAS — (IGNA) — The Dallas Gay Political Caucus attacked the Texas State Board of Education recently for voting to delete references to homosexuality in a health textbook approved for use in Texas public schools.

The Caucus charged that the panel that made the decision "sacrificed sound education for political security."

It added: "We recognize there exist segments in our communities which would prefer that our children be kept in darkness

about human sexuality. It is unfortunate that these extremist groups have pressured the committee on this point."

The committee decided to remove two sentences from *Health and Safety for You*.

They are: "Recently, though there has been a great deal of discussion and study among doctors and psychiatrists about homosexuality. Some now believe that homosexuality is not a mental disorder but is another, less common kind of sexuality."

Other references describing the subject were left intact. Those basically reflect a more traditional view of homosexuality as a malady.

Mary ann Leveridge, chairperson of the textbook committee, is quoted in the *Dallas Morning News* as saying, "We have no objections to the subject of the book, just that paragraph."

She feels there is insufficient evidence to support the statements in the book. •

cookin' Meatloaf: Economical and Delicious

I love to cook and to experiment with my own gourmet creations as I feel sure lots of our readers like to do.

Some turn out well and others flop dismally. But after enough gourmet cooking, I find it refreshing to turn to plain good ol'

food.

And the following is one you may like to try and make a few of your own experimental changes. I serve this meat loaf creation to large groups because it is economical and downright delicious.

Give it a try. I think you will get an "Ummm."

SPICED MEAT LOAF

But it isn't

The Sauce Is

• Two pounds ground beef

• Two slices Pepperidge whole wheat bread, toasted well and crumbled

• One medium white onion, finely chopped

• One cup milk

• One egg, beaten

• Two tablespoons sage

• Some salt & pepper

In a large bowl, crumble toasted bread crumbs into the milk and stir well. Add meat, and remaining ingredients and stir 'til mixed completely.

Form into a pyrex meat loaf bowl and cook at 350 for about 30-40 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool.

Meanwhile, make the sauce below:

• One cup catsup

• Two tablespoons mustard

• Two tablespoons sugar

• One tablespoon nutmeg powder

• A little wine vinegar (1/4 cup)

Mix well.

Spread sauce over the meat loaf. Zippy and piquant. Save some for use on the table. •

A REVIEW:

'Nude Male' has all the weaknesses of feminist criticism

(*The Nude Male*, by Margaret Walters, Penguin Books, \$8.95. Reviewed by Daniel Curzon, whose latest novel is *Among the Carnivores*)

By Daniel Curzon
IGNA

The Nude Male By Margaret Walters is a study of unclothed men in art from ancient Greece to the present day. The book has all the strengths and all the weaknesses of feminist criticism.

If 'feminist criticism' hasn't told you everything you want to know about this study (and you're still with me), let me mention the strengths first:

Walters writes well and has a notable ability to zero in on the limitations of earlier cultures, as in, "The Greeks may have been totally unembarrassed by the naked male body, but they could be very prudish and evasive about the female."

Or in her comment on some late Quattrocento sculptures of Hercules and Antaeus: "The two men are locked in an embrace that is a deadly parody of love, a brutally sexual struggle to death. They say something about the love between men that can so rarely be expressed except through struggle."

To her great credit, Walters seems perceptive in her analyses of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century art, including hard rock music — "hard core rock, if you like, is also cock rock."

"And in that androgynous, but at the same time compulsively macho world, the girl — lacking the essential qualification — rarely dreams of being more than a groupie."

Despite the above quotations, Walters' study avoids the abrasiveness of the first wave of feminist attack, and thus someone who is not a born-again feminist can get through the book without too much difficulty.

I congratulate her for the restraint she does show.

Walters proves that she can be a gracious writer on women's issues and still not feel she's selling out to male dominance.

I also realize that men have been extremely nasty, brutish, and short with women throughout the centuries, and even now plenty of men have barely been touched by feminist ideas. They may pay lip service to them, but they really haven't been altered one iota. Every now and again you can't help encountering these macho assholes. Too often they seem to be everywhere, and your heart must go out to even the most strident feminists.

But the problem with *The Nude Male* is that among its 352 pages, there is quite a bit that is grating, every bit as grating as what unliberated men say about women.

It makes you wonder if the cure isn't as bad as the disease.

For instance, Walters always blames men for everything that has been wrong with the status of women. When she discusses the Nineteenth Century's prudery, she writes: "But it is fascinating to notice how often (women's) discomfiture and disapproval springs from an embarrassed self-consciousness forced on them by the presence of men; alone, their reactions are often far more accepting."

Hey, one is tempted to say, how about singing a new song. How about taking some of the blame, if blame must be placed, yourselves? Women have capitulated to the roles assigned them. It's time they admitted their contributions to their own oppression.

Besides, there's enough puritanism in the feminist movement to make one think that it's not only men's doing if women have been censorious and repressive in the past.

When all is said and done, is female chauvinism really the answer to male chauvinism?

Another limitation of the book is that anything in art that doesn't cater to the feminist perspective is considered uninteresting or bad.

Thus Walters on Rubens: "But if anything, Rubens narrows the expressive possibilities of the female nude — and therefore indirectly of the male nude as well. He gives definitive expression to one potent male fantasy about woman."

"He is concerned with one type, and one type only: young, fair, comfortably padded. Her flesh, so sweet and abundant, is her sole justification; she is natural woman who simply is, who has no need to think or even feel."

Well, yes, it's true Rubens didn't paint any women bank presidents, but it's simply narrowness to dismiss his work this way. No one artist can express every kind of women.

A feminist view, by the way, isn't the whole picture either.

Walters also psychologizes too much. Hence we get: "All Michelangelo's art can be seen as reenacting one primary drama — the boy's struggle against passivity, his fear and his desire for the lost mother."

This is not art criticism; this is reductionism. There is in the book a lot of poppycock (excuse the phallic reference; these things are catching, I guess) about 'phallic mothers' and men projecting "their doubts about the flesh on to the women"

All this sounds as antiquated as discussions of how many angels can dance on the head of a pin.

About homosexuality in particular, Walters reveals what is probably the prevailing liberal attitude. She's 'tolerant,' but beneath the tolerance there's a deep well of disgust, annoyance and misinformation.

"So homosexuality is, in part, a reflection of the belief that the male is all-important, the female hardly worth loving." Aside from the fact such a description ignores female-female love, it simply doesn't follow that because you don't feel sexual attraction to the opposite sex you don't think the opposite sex is important.

It's about time responsible people stopped saying things like this.

The most persistent flaw in this book is the way the author keeps imposing her ideas onto the paintings and sculptures. No doubt all viewers do this and maybe art critics have a license to do it even more, but when they're riding a hobbyhorse at full gallop, as Walters is, the result is interpretations that seem to have little to do with the art work the uncommitted person sees reproduced on the page.

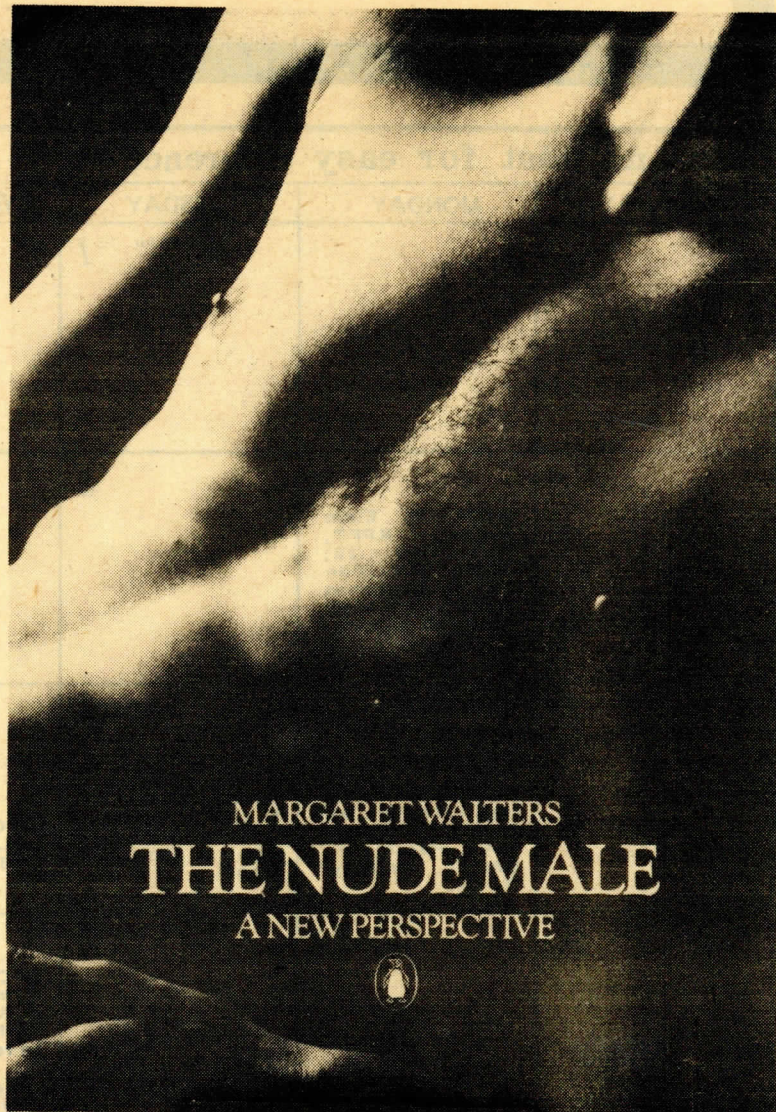
For example: "In each case, the girl is accompanied by the same dark old witch. The two figures hint at Caravaggio's divided feelings toward the mother, toward

women, and at the effect of those divided feelings on his own masculinity."

Here, as elsewhere in the book, the writer extrapolates meanings from the works of art that convince nobody but the already convinced. (As any fool can see, the dark old witch hints at the artist's attraction to older women!)

Feminist criticism may be reaching its apex, as its essential truths begin to turn into clichés and political advocacy. I fear what may be coming.

I see a Macho Renaissance looming on the horizon.



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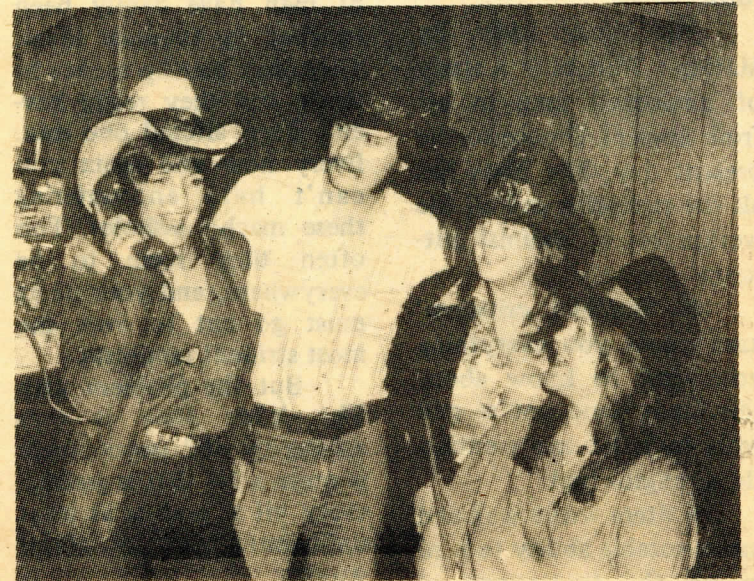
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6	7 Wilde N. Stein Radio -- KPFT, 90.1 10PM - 12; Music Discussion call in questions and answers. Host Ray Hill 526-40- 00 Call Line	8	9	10	11	12 Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas Board Me- eting in Austin. Call GPC for Location. MAC After Hours, \$3
13	14 Congressman Mickey Leland Town Hall Meet- ing, 7:30 PM. at Berling Church, 1440 Harold St. Church Activity Room.	15 EPAH Shamrock Hilton 6:30 PM \$15.50 Dinner Meeting No Host Bar. Embassy Room	16 GPC Gen. Cau- cus, 4600 Main 7:30 PM	17	18	19 GPC/MAC after hours
20 GPC Workshop on Political processes; 7:30, 4600 Main	21 Wilde N' Stein Radio	22	23 GPC Medical Committee CPR at GPC office 7 - 10 PM. Call office to register Community Meeting 7:30 MAC	24	25 Lambda Club, 1st Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin; 7:30, Pot Luck Supper. Bring covered Dish to share	26 Astro Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf and MAC
27	28 Wilde N' Stein Radio	29	30	31	PRESENTED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE COMMUNITY BY...	

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Community Events...
JANUARY 1980

new MAC-SHAK

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The MAC-SHAK staff presents this bi-monthly series called MAC-SHAK. Here's the first installment.)

The trends of the Seventies indicate a significant shift in popular values in the Eighties.

There is increased emphasis on being good to oneself, using nutritional supplements and feeling physically fit.

The preliminary findings of the U.S. Agriculture Department's "Food Consumption Survey" released in Oct. '79 offer important information about what Americans are eating.

The number of overweight adults in America is growing, but only 20 percent of the population gets a significant number of calories to provide the "recommended daily requirements" for many essential nutrients. Much of the calorie intake in America comes from sweeteners and alcoholic beverages.

The average American now eats 129 pounds of sweeteners a year.

Fast food chains continue to thrive on feeding the masses

stomach filling, starchy food as more people opt to eat out because of busy schedules.

While the eating habits of Americans are not expected to change dramatically, more people will be looking for adequate nutritional supplementation.

In light of this American Health Awakening, the Montrose Activity Center has teamed with a national nutritional supplement manufacturer to help financially support the M.A.C. and to provide additional community activities focused on better physical and mental health.

We will have meetings at the MAC, Holman at LaBranch, the first and third Thursdays of each month. We will have exercises and nutrition education classes.

This type of program has never before been attempted, but the initial response has been good.

So, improve your health and help your community by joining us at the MAC. For additional information call, 524-5489. •

LETTER TO THE editor

ABC SHOW BETTER THAN MOST

DEAR EDITOR:

Why is it that some people can never give thanks, only criticism?

In your January 24 issue an article appeared on NGTF protesting the ABC News documentary on Homosexuals. I will follow that format of numbered criticisms that they voiced:

1. Stating that the documentary did not show a representation of lesbian and gay life in a summary form is a matter of opinion. To show an OVERALL portrait would involve the utilization of hours (if not days) of highly expensive television time, which no major network can afford to contribute to the coverage of any minority (especially without advertisers, which there were none).

2. As for lesbians being underrepresented in the documentary, take another look. The MAJORITY of the time was given to the coverage of wo-

men.

The most involved, extensive and informative conversations involved women. The women were also depicted as the most 'natural' in obvious affectations, appearing to be much more 'normal' than their male counterparts.

3. As for the 'maudlin and sentimental score', you shouldn't ever attempt to be a critic.

A very touching combination of contemporary and classical music was combined to create a 'mood' of relaxation and pleasure, rather than a high pitch frenzy.

4. "The film excludes gay experiences of pride and power" must be determined to mean that we as gay people are not to be proud of our participation in major functions (shown) such as Mardi Gras, Gay Pride parades, and other demonstrations. If those don't show pride and power in the gay community(s) then what does or what will?

5. The documentary, delayed from its original screening date because of weather interference with the scheduling of the World Series presentation was aired in an open screening to representatives of the gay community in Houston, at the request of ABC News.

Where was NGTF for this screening, and if they were not contacted directly by ABC News as MANY organizations were, then why was the screening information not forwarded

on to them by any one of many other gay organizations that were contacted far enough in advance?

6. Although this section was their conclusion I will consider it as the sixth indictment. Now, because of what NGTF wishes to define as a bad presentation of our lifestyle in a documentary form, they recommend that "the lesbian and gay community should exercise extreme caution in all contacts with ABC News."

Why for heavens sake? ABC is the only major network that has even given us the time or opportunity to talk to the public. This means of communication is educational, and only through an educational process are we (the gay community) going to be able to show 'straight' society what we are like, that we are not a threat to society, but rather yet one more minority wishing recognition and acceptance along with fair and equal treatment under the law.

Give credit where credit is due. ABC News asked the questions, gave us the time to answer them, and if we didn't answer them to the satisfaction of NGTF, then why blame the news media?

Congratulations to ABC News, and thank you for at least realizing we exist!

A Concerned
Gay Viewer

John H. Schillinger
Houston, Texas

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Special Speaker at Bering

Dear Editor,

On Sunday, January 27, 1980, Bishop Finis A. Crutchfield, presiding bishop of the Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will deliver the sermon at Bering Memorial Church, 1440 Harold in Montrose.

Prior to coming to the Houston area, Bishop Crutchfield was the Bishop

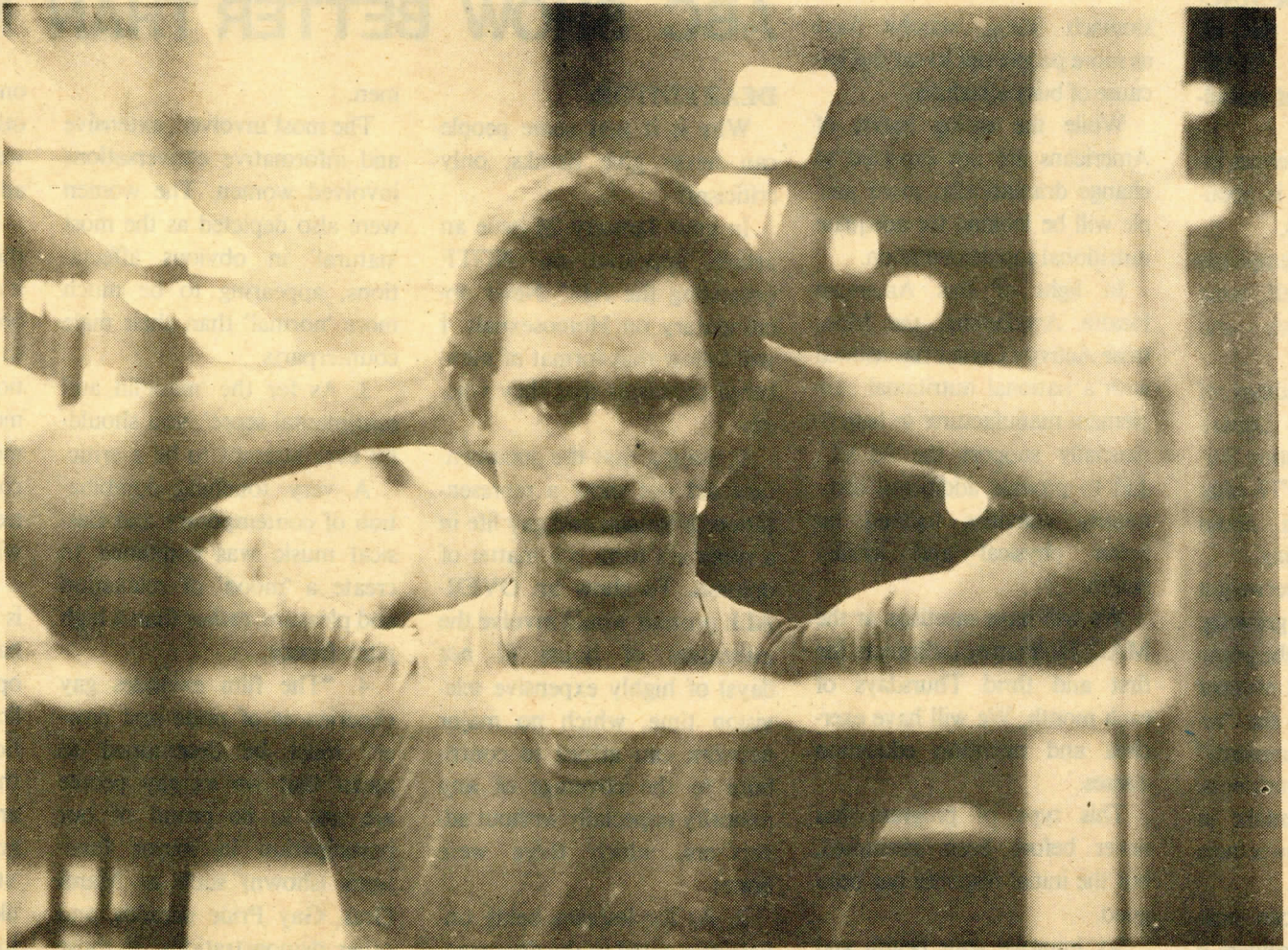
of Louisiana and resided in New Orleans. This is his fourth year as our bishop.

The entire Montrose community is invited to join Bering Memorial Church in extending a warm, Montrose welcome to Bishop Crutchfield on this occasion.

Faithfully yours,
Ronald D. Pogue

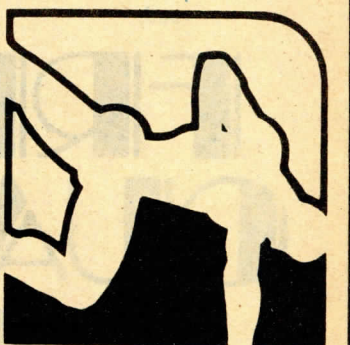
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