

montrose ★ star

Interview

The Star talks with Gary Von Ooteghem

Would you risk the loss of a \$26,000 a year job and your own home over a principle? Lots of people say they feel strongly about the cause of civil rights and principles, but how many would be willing to give up that much for those principles? Gary Van Ooteghem was, and, in the process, subjected himself to widespread publicity that could have jeopardized his chances of ever finding employment in the Houston area again.

What kind of a person would do a thing like that? And why? In a wide ranging interview, Van Ooteghem spoke with the Montrose Star, and discussed the incident that led to the loss of his job, and what he's been doing since that time.

In January of last year, Gary Van Ooteghem was employed as assistant to Harris County Treasurer Hartsell Gray, with the express job of reconciling various county funds, which had been allowed to fall into an unbelievable mess, and preparing different reports and the daily balance system. Subsequent to his firing, Gray praised Van Ooteghem highly, attesting to the brilliant job he did while employed.

During his employment, however, Van Ooteghem went to Washington, D.C., on a vacation, and there he met with and came to know Bruce Voeller, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, and Leonard Matlovitch, noted gay activist being tried as a homosexual in the armed forces.

It was during this period that Van Ooteghem got a taste of the joy of activism, and, upon his return, decided to "come out."

He had lunch with his boss, Hartsell Gray, and informed him of his homosexuality, then met with his staff and did likewise.

From Gray, there was no immediate reaction, but from his staff there was almost complete support. This encouraged Van Ooteghem to go before the Commissioners Court of Harris County and speak out on the issue of gay rights and announce

his own sexual preference.

It was at this point that things began to go awry. Gray presented Van Ooteghem with the first of two ultimatums, restricting his right to speak before the Commissioners Court. When Van Ooteghem refused to submit, he was dismissed summarily, with the reason given that he had used his office and his employer's time for political activities. Van Ooteghem went before the Court anyway, and by this time the media had got wind of what was up and turned the whole proceeding into a circus.

Much publicity resulted, and then the following events occurred: Van Ooteghem remained out of work for three months, his home was repossessed, and Texas Commerce Bank called for immediate payment of several loans that he had with the bank.

After opening a practice of public accounting (Van Ooteghem is a certified public accountant), Gary hoped for and fully expected some support from the gay community in the way of clients. None was forthcoming.

With all this behind him, what kind of a guy is Gary today?

Just fine, thank you. A lovely new apartment into which he just recently moved in the Montrose section reflects a man of obvious quiet good taste.

Since the events of last year, his practice has improved, and he has launched, or been responsible for helping to launch, the Gay Political Caucus, of which he is president, Montrose Productions, which recently produced the highly successful play "P.S. Your Cat Is Dead" for the benefit of the Montrose Activity Center, still another project of Van Ooteghem's.

In his spare time, he has managed to get elected national co-chairman of the National Gay Task Force (his co-chairperson is a woman) and member of the board of directors of the Gay Rights National Lobby, sort



of a gay ACLU.

The sharpest focus of his interest at the moment, however, is the Montrose Activity Center. Not exclusively gay by any means, Gary states that he wants this to be a center for the community, with initial programs of arts and crafts,

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"Apparently, the vice squads of the Dallas and Fort Worth police departments have decided that homosexuality per se is illegal and they are determined to wipe this 'vice' from the cities," is the way one gay activist described it.

Five customers of the Club Baths of Dallas were arrested Wednesday evening, October 20, and charged with violating statute 2107 of the Texas Penal Code, "public lewdness," a misdemeanor.

According to Chance West, president of the Dallas Gay Political Caucus, two vice officers obtained memberships to Club Dallas about five weeks prior to the incident. "Then they showed up, with their membership cards, obtained admittance, put on their towels, and walked around like everybody else for about half-an-hour.

"They then left, and returned in about thirty minutes, went inside (again posing as members) and waited. About that time several other officers showed up at the front door, showed their badges, and demanded to be let in.

"Club manager Larry Woelick refused to let

Baths and disco raid in Dallas results in gay community fighting back ... demanding rights

them in, saying, "This is a private club, you are not members, and you do not have a search warrant."

They left (leaving their two partners still inside the club, unknown to the customers) and returned a few minutes later with ten additional uniformed officers and again demanded entry, according to West.

"Larry told them the same thing again, about them not being members and not having a search warrant, and therefore they could not come in. Well, they just proceeded to literally break the door down, with the help of the two vice officers already inside."

Altogether, 14 officers were involved.

A short time after that, vice officers entered the Old Planation and began a rowdy checking of ID's. The club turned the lights on. Two people were arrested and also charged with "public lewdness."

The arrest tactics greatly angered the gay leaders of Dallas, prompting the formation of a new rights group, the Dallas Alliance for Individual Rights (DAIR)

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W A R Y S

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HOUSTON

— AND —

GALVESTON



Home of the Houston Motorcycle Club

Baths and disco raid in Dallas results in gay community fighting back . . . demanding rights

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The arrests made the front page of the Dallas Times Herald, and prompted the police to announce that in addition to the arrests, they had also uncovered a "secret map" of Dallas showing places where gay people gather. (The "secret map" is the one of Dallas published each week here in the Montrose Star.)

Gay leaders passed flyers around town Friday, Nov. 5, urging attendance to a rally Monday evening, Nov. 8. Around 800 people showed at the Metropolitan Community Church to give their support, and to donate approximately \$6000 to be used for legal research. DAIR has obtained the counsel of noted attorney Mike Arenson.

Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church chain, briefly flew into town for a meeting with vice squad director D.L. Burgess, Monday afternoon, Nov. 8. Burgess, however, developed cold feet and did not show up for the meeting.

As a result of the publicity of the raids, Dallas gay leaders have been deluged with requests for appearances on various television and radio interview programs.

"As in other cities when the vice squad starts on a hog-wild program of harassment, the actual net result is harmful to the vice squad and helpful to the gay community," one gay leader told the Star. "Once the news media picks up on the story, we are flooded with requests to present 'our side.'"

Chance West appeared for two hours Tuesday evening, Nov. 9, on WFAA radio, the next night on KCHU radio, and again Thursday morning, Nov. 11, in an interview program on channel 8 television. "The response we have received from viewers and listeners, both gay and straight, has been overwhelmingly in favor of our position," West told the Star.

"Oh, a few people have called in quoting passages from the Bible, but Rev. Jim Harris of the Metropolitan Community Church answered those on the air."

West continued, "This incident has united the gay community in Dallas and Fort Worth. We need a united effort across the Metroplex to set these antiquated laws off the books."



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Winner picked in the Star's 'Pictures from the Past' contest; Kim Pitts to receive several hundred dollars in prizes

The Montrose Star received numerous entries last week in our "Pictures from the Past" contest, with two of the entries with perfect answers. We therefore held a drawing with those two names, and our winner is: Kim Pitts of Houston.

Kim receives as his prize: 1) \$100 cash, 2) a night on the house for Kim and a friend at the Old Plantation, 3) a date with Peaches including dinner at the Happy Buddah and drinks on the house at the all new Midnight Sun, scheduled for opening in December, 4) A \$15 gift certificate good at Union Jack Clothing, 5) \$40 in admissions to Club Houston, and 6) a night on the house for Kim and a friend at Sparkle Plenty.

The correct answers to the contest are as follows. Photo #1: Louis Johnston, Dale Layne, Bayou Landing. Photo #2: Bruce Eden. Photo #3: Bayou Landing. Photo #4: Henry (Parker) McClurg, Jim Hollomon. Photo #5: Gene Howle. Photo #6: Lynn Gainey, Terry Railey.

Interview

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theater, and, hopefully later on, drug abuse programs and VD testing capabilities. He strongly requested that people interested in this center contact him at 815 Hawthorne Street, Houston, 77006, or call him at 526-2668.

With all this behind him, and in front of him for that matter, what kind of a guy is Gary Van Ooteghem? Involved, concerned, kindly, is the way he comes across to most people. Ask yourself one question: how would you feel if all this had happened to you? Gary has answered it in his very lifestyle, which could well serve as a model for lots of both gays and straights.

Ed Martinez



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Mother's Column

Muhammed Ali arrives to shoot film; Mother overwhelmed by it all

I fought rush hour traffic (they should call it "bumper hour") to get to Houston Intercontinental Airport last week, and who should I run into but former fighter turned movie star **Muhammed Ali**!

Now I can tell you that not only is he as well known as King Kong, he's also just as pretty! He came to Houston to film parts of his first movie, "The Greatest," the story of his life from childhood to the fight in Zaire (Africa). Obviously his fight with movie star Ken Norton ("Drum") was considered pissing in the wind and not worth mentioning.

Anyway, he was accompanied by a rather motley Hollywood crew including a bald director, his poodle-toting wife, actors **Lloyd Hanes** (Room 222) and **Ernest Borgnine** (Bunny O'Hare). Veronica Lust accompanied me and insisted that Ernest was breathing down her neck during our meeting and he had double-dog breath! Veronica

is Lorna Lust's illegitimate daughter and knows better than to tell people things like that, but Ernest was so drunk he just laughed and sent her reeling!

Anyway, once Muhammed Ali started talking, he would not stop for anything! "I just stopped boxing yesterday and I'm pretty enough to be a movie star! All the movie people are going crazy, because I'm pretty, I can always make up clear and pretty. I'm the champ!" he said, patting his hair.

"This is the most recognized face on earth. No one is as famous world-wide. I'm the world's most popular entertainer. Everybody's after me — not even 35 and they're doing my life story. There will be lines around the corner; it will be bigger than 'Jaws.' Why, if just 10% of the people who came to see me fight, come to see my movies — one billion people saw Norton — if 10% of one thousand million people spend just one dollar each, we'll be



Muhammed Ali: Have you met his boys?

rich!"

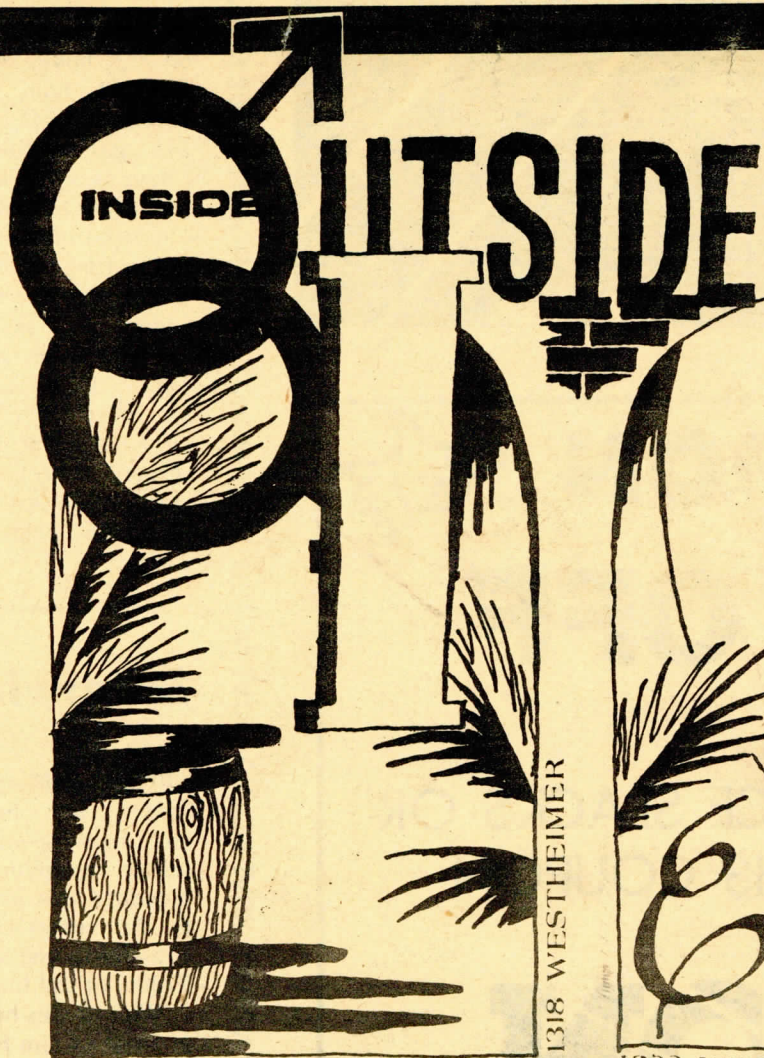
The scripts pouring in from all over the world include a war movie in Jamaica and the story of Hannibal. ("One thousand elephants and I'll be on the lead elephant.") And his acting?

"It makes me feel good when they tell me I'm as good as anyone they know, a natural. They sunk five million into this, they're all pros in their

field. I am truly the world's greatest actor because I was acting all those days with Sonny Liston. I was just acting — remember that first fight with Howard Cosell? I was acting and he was serious!

"I was acting so good in real life, I have people looking for me to play my story. And you're going to be shocked to see what I've gone through!

"I've always wanted to see a black do a Charlton Heston role. The sea opens. Da-dum! And do good movies, like love stories. I'm gonna make some classics, I'm going to be a *bad* movie star. You think Rudolph Valentino was bad. . . Clark Gable, you wait until I get my costumes and my scripts. Countries all over the world are putting up money for my movies. I'm a world star! Jet



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Ernest Borgnine: bad breath and a mean hammer

planes have been writing my name in the sky — just wait until they all see me in a movie.

"I'm gonna whoop all the behinds, whoop the critics, get all the money, do it clean and get out! This will be bigger than all the fights! I'm gonna be big — a super star!"

Then he whooped our behinds and did a scene from the movie in the terminal. Veronica and I were so dizzy we missed our planes. They're filming Ali's draft resistance and his meeting with Wife No.1 in Houston, and "The Greatest" will come out next May.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Honey, I'm more man than you'll ever be and more woman than you'll ever get!" (a queen to a straight in the movie "Car Wash").

EAT MY TOSTADA

I was just getting tired of Saturday night television (isn't that Wonder Woman something . . . she and I are two of a kind) when Marietta Mariweather buzzed me and insisted I go out.

"You shouldn't be sitting at home so much," she bitched, and sent her one special man to pick me up. Sparkle Plenty was bouncy galore and our dancing waiter was too much (Ronnie, first runner-up in the Mr. Club Baths contest). I gave Marietta the physical details on him, and talk about hot and bothered, but we calmed her down and went to Kojak's, where Marietta vanished during a blackout.

By the time we found her we

were on our way to Las Casuelas to make it a real international smorgasbord affair (Greek and Mexican — to die!). Both places are open 24 hours a day, and at Las Casuelas (Lupe Velez would have a stroke!) you can eat your food or sleep in it, as our neighbors in the OD Corner proved. We laughed so much our faces had hard-ons!

And speaking of restaurants, Willa Catheter dared me to check out the Branding Iron on Westheimer, between Kirby and Buffalo. It was no torture — just good food and CHEAP prices. A dollar gets you a double cheeseburger, two a steak dinner with salad and baked potato (with the trimmings brought to you on a Lazy Susan worthy of Sonny Look's).

Many variations available, darling — I dare You to check out the Branding Iron!

WHAT A DUMP

I was one of the lucky ones to see the double Bette Davis at the River Oaks, and it was no imitation, let me tell you. The original Bette, saying "Why ask for the moon when we have the stars?" in the oh-so-poetic "Now, Voyager," and I cried and cried at the end of "Dark Victory."

Bette once said that composer Max Steiner "got carried away in Dark Victory. I hadn't even died yet, but the angels were singing like mad."

Did she ever fall in love with any of her leading men? "Yes, with Gary Merrill. He thought I was Margo Channing, and I thought he was Bill Sampson. It lasted ten years."

Did she really have a feud with Joan Crawford? "Nonsense, we got along fine."

continued on page 8



Bette Davis today: Why ask for the moon when we have the dogs?

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Calendar

Great things this week:
after hours disco dancing
at the Old Plantations in
Dallas and Houston, the
Austin Country,
Depository II, Sparkle
Plenty; Liquor bust on
Sunday at the Inside
Outside; "Marooned" at
the Locker; and the
happiest hours in town at
Mary's, Sally's, Bon Soir,
Our Place, Briar Patch

HOUSTON CLUBS

Fri. night, Nov. 12

City of Houston health department conducts free bloodtests at Mary's, 8-11pm. After hours disco dancing til 4am at the Old Plantation, Depository II and Sparkle Plenty.

Sat. morning, Nov. 13

Happy hour 7am-noon at Sally's.

Sat. afternoon, Nov. 13

Happy hour 10am-7pm at the Briar Patch and 5-8pm at Sally's. Special prices on bloody marys and screwdrivers noon-7pm at the Inside Outside. Bar doubles for a buck at the Locker 1-6pm.

Sat. night, Nov. 13

Disco dancing after hours til 4am at the Old Plantation, Sparkle Plenty and the Depository II.

Sun. afternoon, Nov. 14

Lockers are only \$2 from 8am to 4pm at Club Houston. 50¢ bloody marys, screwdrivers and beer 2-7pm at the Briar Patch. 25¢ bar drinks and draft beer 4-7pm at the Inside Outside I & II with a \$2 cover. 75¢ bloody marys, screwdrivers and margaritas at Sparkle Plenty starting 4pm.

Sun. night, Nov. 14

Beer bust at the Locker starting 7pm with \$1 cover. 75¢ bloody marys, screwdrivers and margaritas continue all night at Sparkle Plenty with free hot dogs 8-10pm. The Old Plantation opens early at 6pm with a beer bust and buffet lasting to 9pm, followed by the Sunday Night Follies at 9:30. Randy Walls' survivors party with hap-

py hour prices goes on at Sally's 9pm-midnight. Nickel beer night at the Depository II.

Mon.-Fri. mornings, Nov. 15-19

Happy hour 7am-noon at the Inside Outside and Sally's.

Mon. afternoon, Nov. 15

Happy hour starting 4pm at Sparkle Plenty, 5-8pm at Sally's, 5-7pm at Mary's, 10am-7pm at the Locker and the Inside Outside. Beer bust at Our Place noon-7pm.

Mon. night, Nov. 15

Bare chest night at Mr. Pepper's Glory Hole. No cover and 75¢ drinks at the Depository II and Sparkle Plenty (with 50¢ beer at Sparkle Plenty). \$1 cover and 35¢ drinks at the Old Plantation.

Tues. afternoon, Nov. 16

Happy hour non-stop at Sally's, 5-7pm at Mary's, 10am-7pm at the Briar Patch, 4-7pm at the Locker and the Inside Outside, starting 4pm at Sparkle Plenty. City of Houston health department conducts free blood tests at the Warehouse Bookstore 3-5 pm.

Tues. night, Nov. 16

\$2 night at Mr. Frizby's Baths. Happy hour continues all night at Sally's and Sparkle Plenty. Free movie, "Marooned," at the Locker. \$1 cover and 35¢ drinks at the Old Plantation. Pool tourney at 8pm at the Inside Outside. Cut-offs night at Mr. Pepper's Glory Hole. Depository skate night at the Carousel Roller Rick on Katy Freeway, 9-11pm.

Wed. afternoon, Nov. 17

Happy hour 5-7pm at Mary's, 5-8pm at Sally's, 10am-7pm at

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the Briar Patch, 4-7pm at the Inside Outside and the Locker. Beer bust noon-7pm at Our Place.

Wed. night, Nov. 17

Beer and bean bust starting 7pm at Sparkle Plenty. 35¢ drinks all night at the Old Plantation with \$1 cover. \$2 cover at the Depository with 10¢ drinks. Buddy night at Club Houston with two lockers for the price of one, 8pm-midnight. Hat & color night at the Locker with half price drinks for all dressed correctly.

Thurs. afternoon, Nov. 18

Happy hour 4-7pm at the Locker and the Inside Outside, non-stop at Sally's, starting 4pm at Sparkle Plenty, 5-7pm at Mary's, 10am-7pm at the Briar Patch. Beer bust noon-7pm at Our Place.

Thurs. night, Nov. 18

Happy hour continues all night at Sally's and Sparkle Plenty. \$1 cover at the Old Plantation with 35¢ well drinks and 75¢ margaritas. \$1 cover at the Depository with 45¢ drinks. City of Houston health department will conduct free blood tests at Club Houston 8-10pm.

Fri. afternoon, Nov. 19

Happy hour 5-8pm at Sally's, 10am-7pm at the Briar Patch, 4-7pm at the Inside Outside, 5-7pm at Mary's, 4-7pm at the Locker.

Coming up later

The Inside Outside says it will have an expanded parking area soon, the largest parking area of any bar its size. Louis Garcia will open the new Midnight Sun disco in December, so keep reading the Star for the exact date.

DALLAS CLUBS

Fri. & Sat. nights, Nov. 12 & 13
After hours disco dancing at the Old Plantation to 4am. The Hayloft shows movies til 5am.

Sun. afternoon, Nov. 14

Happy hour 4-7pm at the Tool Box. Cook out 2-5pm at Club Dallas. Bloody marys and screwdrivers 75¢ 1-8pm at the Bon Soir with happy hour also 3-8pm.

Sun. night, Nov. 14

Beer bust and barbecue starting 6pm at the Tool Box. Free hot dogs and draft beer at the Old Plantation 7-9pm followed by Jann Russell and the Living Dolls at 9:30pm.

Mon. afternoon, Nov. 15

Happy hour at the Bon Soir, 5-8pm.

Mon. night, Nov. 15

15¢ draft beer at the Old Plantation with no cover charge.

Tues. night, Nov. 16

Buddy night at Club Dallas, when 2 can get in for the price of 1, 6pm-2am. Tonight's the night for 90¢ margaritas at the Old Plantation, plus an "all you can eat" dinner at Munchies Restaurant in the O.P.

Wed. afternoon, Nov. 17

Happy hour at the Bon Soir 5-8pm. Discount card day at Club Dallas, where you get a free locker with each purchase of a discount card.

Wed. night, Nov. 17

Half price drinks at the Old Plantation.

Thurs. afternoon, Nov. 18

Happy hour at the Bon Soir 5-8pm.

Thurs night, Nov. 18

75¢ Tequila Sunrises at the Old Plantation.

Fri. afternoon, Nov. 19

Happy hour 4-7pm at the Tool Box and 5-8pm at the Bon Soir.

AUSTIN CLUBS

Fri. & Sat. nights, Nov. 12&13

After hours disco at the Austin Country to 4am.

Sat. afternoon, Nov. 13

Happy hour 5-7pm at the New Apartment.

Sun. afternoon, Nov. 14

Happy hour 3-7pm at the New Apartment.

Sun. night, Nov. 14

Buffet and free beer bust starting at 6pm, along with disco, at the Austin Country.

Mon.-Fri. afternoons, Nov. 15-19

Happy hour at the New Apartment 5-7pm.

Tues. night, Nov. 16

Old movies and a beer bust along with disco dancing at the Austin Country.

Wed. night, Nov. 17

25¢ well drinks and canned beer, 10¢ draft beer, at the Austin Country with a \$2 cover.

Thur. night, Nov. 18

Regular show at the Austin Country, 10pm, followed by disco dancing.

'THE HOUSTON CAUSE'

Sat. afternoon, Nov. 13

"Saturday's Child" rap session at the Metropolitan Community Church, 1214 Joe Annie.

Sun., Nov. 14

Worship services at 11am and 7:30pm at the Metropolitan Community Church, 1214 Joe Annie.

Tues. night, Nov. 16

The Lambda Social Club meets at 7:30pm to play games at the First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin, upstairs, room 12.

Wed. night, Nov. 17

Activist Ray Hill hosts "Wild 'n Stein" on KPFT radio, 90.1 FM, 9-10pm (or thereabouts). For more info prior to the show, call 526-8233.

Coming up later

Gary Von Ooteghem of the Gay Political Caucus will be interviewed on "Pulse" on channel 39 television, Sat., Nov. 27, 8am.

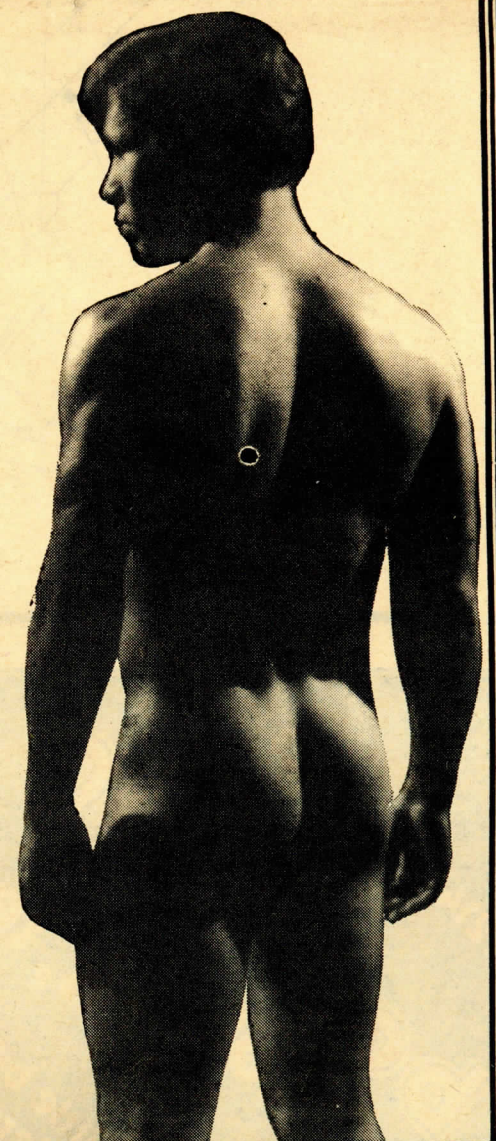
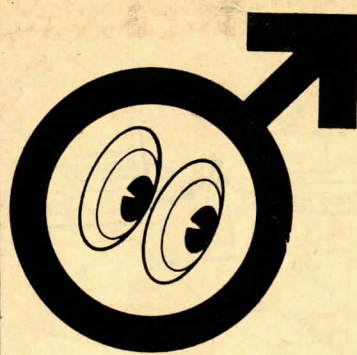
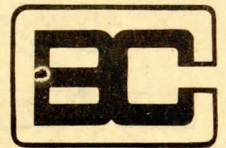
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Mother's Column

continued from page 5

Speaking of nonsense, I saw all these trashy movies last week — but "Bittersweet Love" and "Starlight Slaughters" were the absolute trashiest! I loved them.

In "Bittersweet," Celeste Holm looks like a lesbian butch dyke, Meridith Baxter Birney a chipmunk, and poor Lana Turner! How could they do this to her? She wears a lot of filmy muumuus and one supergown, but when she and Robert Lansing get together it's like a reunion of drag queens. In the film a cute boy knocks up and marries his sister without knowing it (same dad, two moms), Lana (her mom, re-married) tells all and of course everyone worries that the child will be terribly deformed, but it all turns out okay. The nurse comes in, hands Meridith a normal baby boy and says, "Well, should we throw away the turtle?"

Meridith says, "Oh, twins? No, we'll keep this one and eat the other. Honey do you like turtle soup?"

Next week, a synopsis of "Starlight Slaughters," if you're lucky. Irini Starr and I have always said, "It takes two to chainsaw!"

SHOCKED TO TEARS

I have been known to reveal the plot of many movies even before my listeners give up trying to interrupt. (Some people insist on seeing it without my comments, the nerve!) But all I can say about "Carrie" is that it literally shocked me to tears!

It was probably the ultimate freakout of 1976! I would love to know whose perverted fantasies this movie was based on. Goodness, it was like a walk down Psycho Path, the lovers' lane you'll never forget — and I'll never get over "Carrie" (pause for primal scream).

HERE'S THE LATEST:

Lee Radziwill and Truman Capote were spotted at the Crisco Disco in New York City. I hear Crisco is suing the club for a name-change.

Shelly Winters insists that "A Place in the Sun" was her first film, but what about all those pornos, Shelly?

They now have a "disco for the deaf" in Dallas. The jukebox is so loud that deaf people can feel the music vibrations and dance to the beat.

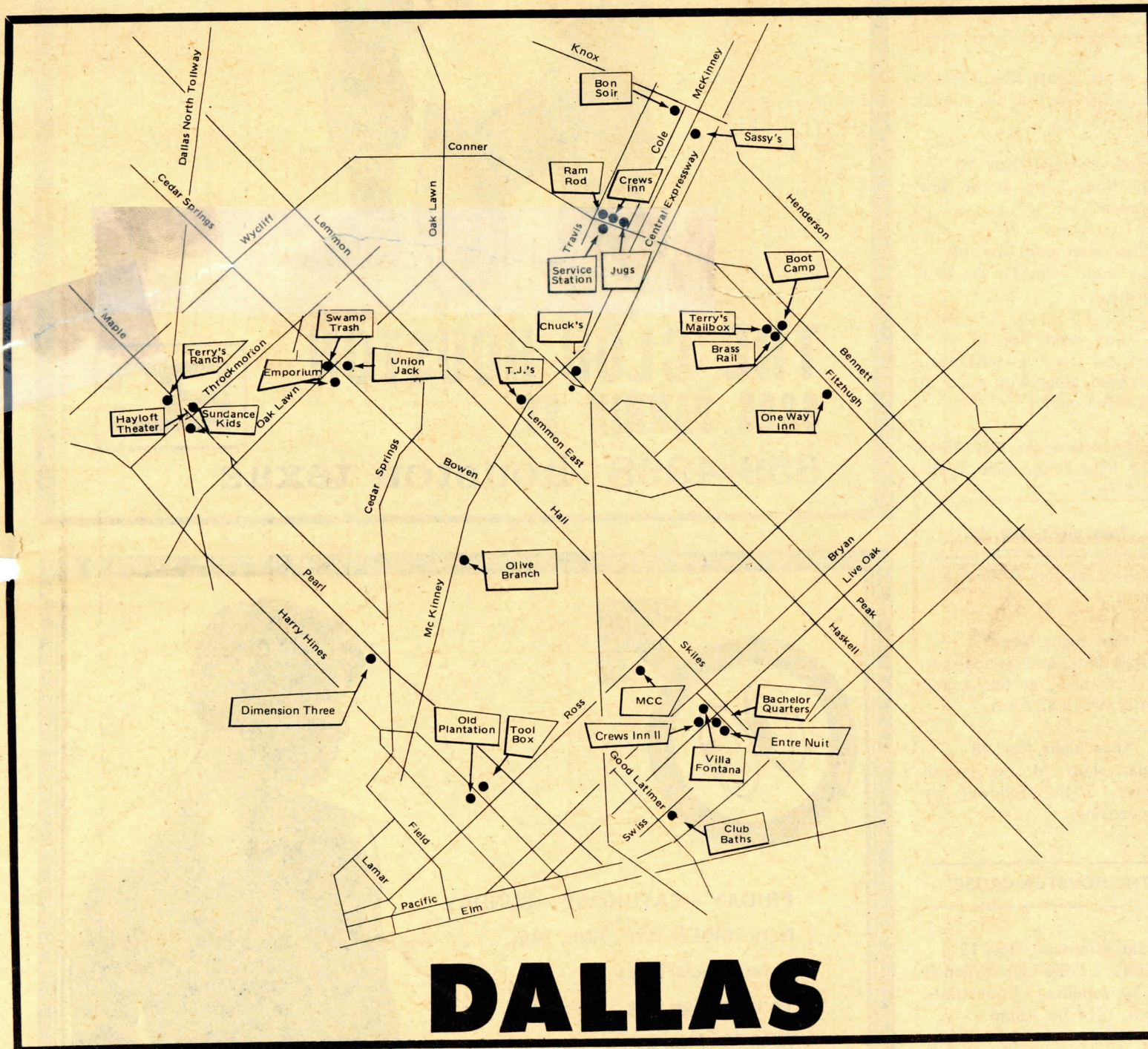
Remember all that hoopla about Hugh Hefner's daughter Christie going to work for Playboy magazine? Well, 23-year-old Christie is now managing a Hefner-owned boutique in the Playboy building. She may not write, but her heart belongs to Daddy.

Henry Winkler (the Fonz) is making a movie called "Heroes," in which a Viet vet settles in Washington and starts a worm farm.

Ava Gardner swears she hasn't had a facelift. "God made me beautiful. It's up to Him to keep me that way."

Amen! Until next week.

Mother



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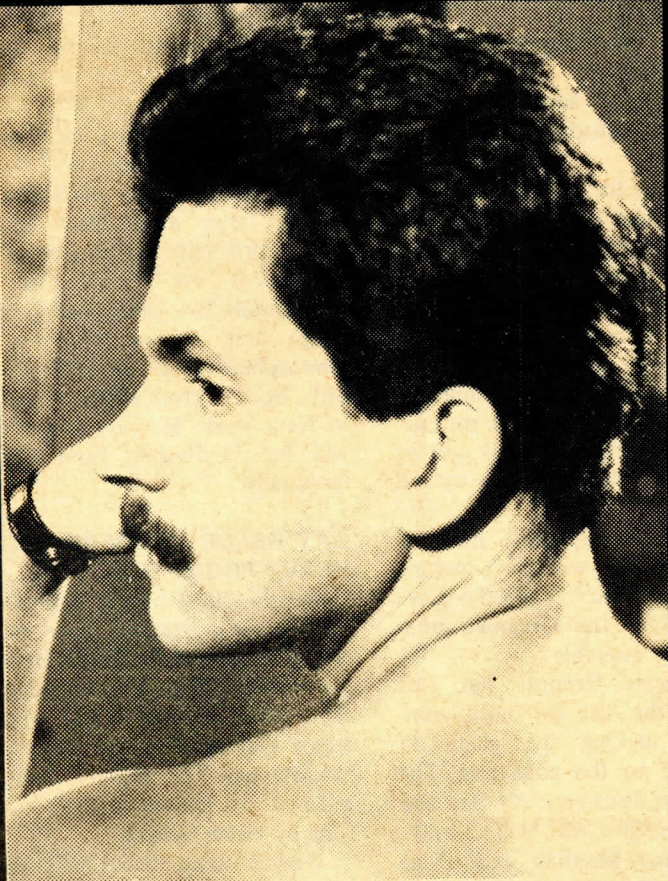
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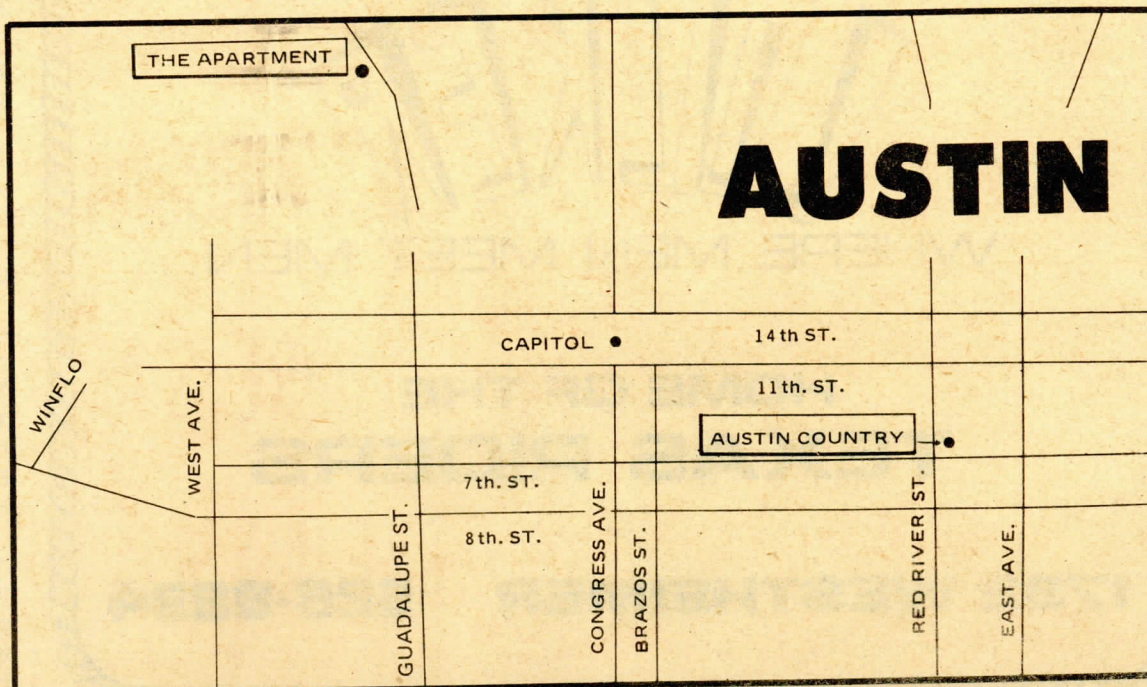
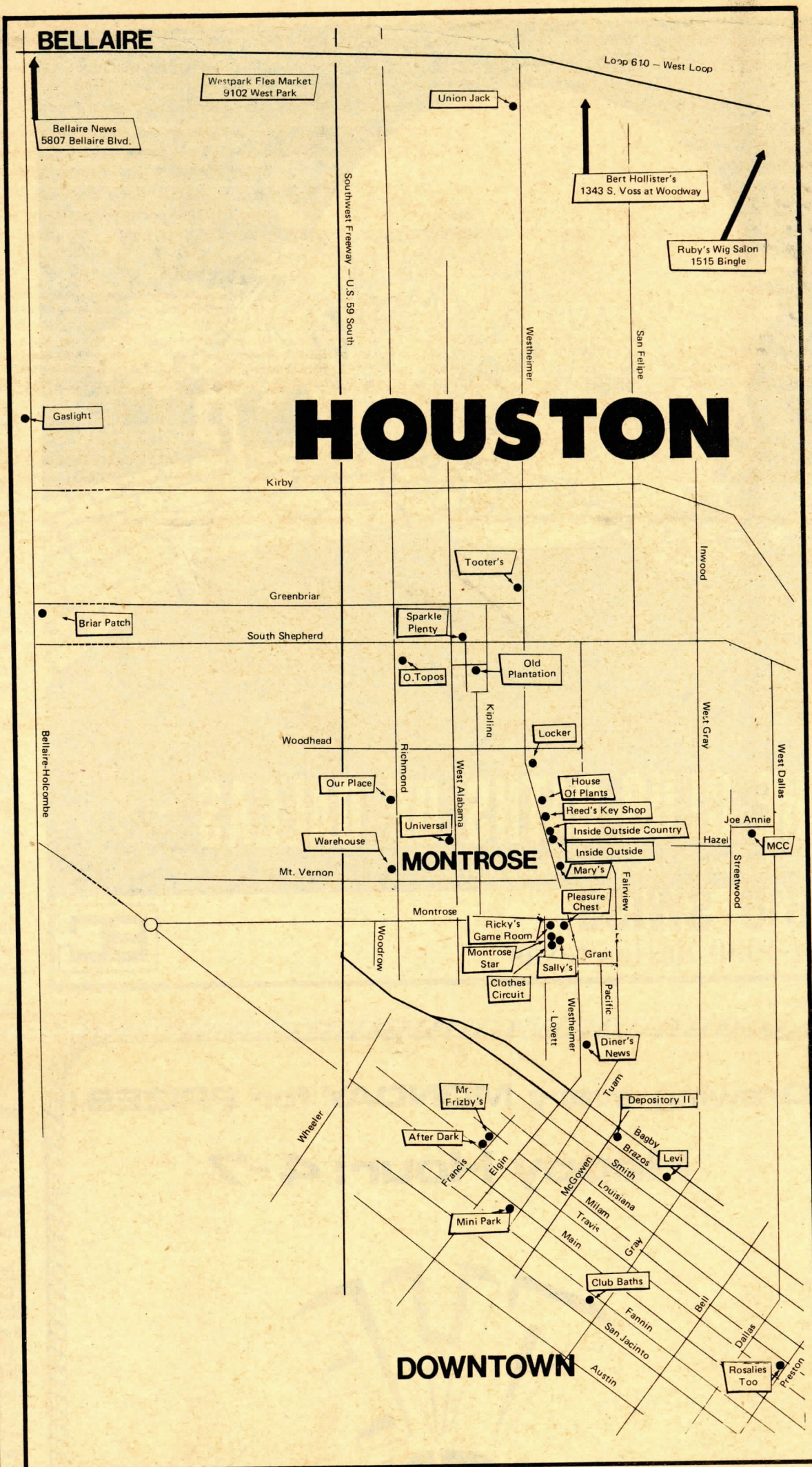
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Music

Motown producers create exciting new album; United Artists has new gay single

Thelma Houston has combined her talents with **Hal Davis** and a handful of other fine Motown producers to create a marvelous album "Any Way You Want It" (Tamla). "Don't Leave Me This Way" is the most spectacular cut on the disc. It starts with a slow pacing rhythm but explodes into a consistent dance jumping beat. The cut, more than five minutes long, was produced by Davis who produced Diana Ross's million seller, "Love Hangover." The track has several other danceable cuts.

Casino Records has released "Elevator" by **Joanne Spain**. The songstress takes a commanding lead with this sensational 45 that is full of rich moving disco instrumentation. It should prove to be a big hit for the new artist.

Paul Mauriat and his orchestra have made a comeback with the 1968s instrumental smash "L'amour Est Blue" ("Love Is Blue"). The song has been re-titled "Love Is Still Blue" and has been added a grinding beat. It's on Free Spirit records distributed by Sal Soul. Watch for the LP sometime in early December.

The **Undisputed Truth's** "You+Me=Love" LP has been delayed until sometime in December according to Warner Records.

"Doing the Feeling" by **Alvin Cash** (Dakar) is finally starting to happen in the area. It's a hard driving, funky number.

Esther Phillips has a new album floating around titled "Capricorn Princess" (Kudu). Here again Esther continues in the traditional re-make routine. "Higher and Higher" is one of the many oldies re-done by the vocalist.

Motown records has announced it will be making the disco disc "Down To Love Town" by the **Originals** commercially available.

Amherst Records has just joined the list of those companies making the giant 45 available to the consumer. The first two discs are "All Day and All Night (We Will Make Love)" by **Laurie Marshall** and "Nice and Slow" by **Santiago**, formerly done by Jesse Green.

Another company entering the disco disc scene is K.K. with the release of "Disco Magic" by **T-Connection**, "Let It Flow" by **Tamiko Jones** and "The Blue Danube Hustle" by the **Rice and Beans Orchestra**. This tune is the antique "Blue Danube Waltz."

Still another disco disc is "When Love Is New" by **Arthur Prysock** on Old Town records out of New York. The fine tune written by Gamble and Huff for Billy Paul has some great arrangements by John

Davis and the **Monster Orchestra**. The song is over seven minutes long.

Finally we have Calla records issuing two discs. "Count The Ways" by the **Persauders** with vocals on one side and instrumental version on the flip. The other one is "Disco Queen" by **Rudy Love and the Family**. Again this one has both the vocal and instrumental versions.

That disco-jazz album "Shoo-gie Wanna Boogie" by **David Matthews** (Kudu) is coming on favorably. Strongest cut is "My Girl."

If you've missed a **Van McCoy** album in the past, don't pass on his new one from H&L records. "The Hustle and Best of Van McCoy." It includes such hits as "The Hustle," "Change With the Times," "Love Is the Answer" and many more.

Also from H&L we have **Vivian Reed**, the star of the Broadway musical, "Bubbling Brown Sugar." She has a powerful voice and album as well, titled "Brown Sugar."

Kool and the Gang have a new single, "Open Sesame." It's from the album by the same name on De-lite.

Sambo appears to be the most exciting track on the new "Brass Construction II" LP. There are other fine cuts on this second package by the well-known batch of musicians.

Two huge disco discs that are surprisingly arousing some excitement are "Love Bug" by **Blumble Bee Unlimited** (Red Greg) and "Cloud Nine" by **Atmosphere Strut** on P&P records. Both of these labels are out of New York. Mercury states it will be distributing Love Bug nationally.

GAY RECORD UNDERGOING HEAVY PROMOTION

Nearly 2000 of the nation's leading radio stations have received a copy of "If That's How Nature Made Him," a gay ballad that circles around a girl who learns that the boy she loves is homosexual. The single is being released by United Artists and sung by **Helen Grayco**.

Grayco sings beautifully in the interpretation. "He kissed me as a brother would, with warmth but no desire, 'cause it would take another man to light that kind of fire. He said it would be foolish to pretend 'cause he and I could not be more than friends."

The chorus has the line, "If that's the way how nature made him, why should I try to change him."

The lyrics were written by **Ben Raleigh** and **Hod David**. UA is keeping a close watch on the outcome of this record.

Ram Rocha

A black and white photograph of two women in 1950s-style clothing. One woman is sitting on a wooden bench, leaning back with her mouth open in a dramatic pose, wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved dress. The other woman is standing behind her, leaning over the bench, wearing a patterned dress and holding a large, light-colored suitcase.



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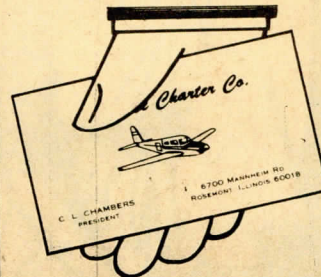
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Cinema

That's right folks,
a sex movie that
is also beautiful

"The Joy of Letting Go," a Summer Brown Productions release. Executive producer, Edwin Scott Brown. Produced by Summer Brown. Directed by John Gregory. Script: Cynthia Holm. Playing at the all new Cinema West, 5819 Richmond, Houston, 780-1827.

Occasionally there is something relatively new under the sun, and "The Joy of Letting Go" is one of them. One of a group of 'good' erotic movies, a la 'Emmanuelle', this one is truly classy, and quite beautiful. It is also completely a sex film. That's right, folks, a sex movie that is also beautiful.

Dominique St. Pierre, a former high fashion model for Courreges and Halston, stars in this flick about the bored housewife that turns to prostitution for kicks and money. The plot will never give *Gone With the Wind* any serious competition, but then it does not pretend to.

The appeal of the film is to the senses, not the intellect, and it succeeds beyond any reasonable expectations.

Directed with great skill and good taste by John Gregory, this movie is intensely erotic. There are the usual obligatory scenes, i.e., the lesbian scene (easily the most beautiful and successful of the whole film), the seduction without words sequence, etc.

Throughout, however, the color, (by Panavision), the music, the editing, the comic relief, are carefully and artistically deployed to give sex a good

shot, and it's about time, isn't it?

This film, first released in San Francisco, is being shown here in Houston even before its New York preview, among other reasons, because a local investor requested it.

Also, however, it is a mark of the level of Houston's cultural sophistication that the producers are willing to take a chance on getting an unfavorable reaction from the people of the area.

Houston is becoming a truly cosmopolitan city, and films like this can be expected to be drawn here more often.

If there is one criticism of the film that should be made, it is in the attitude toward sex of the film. Men treat women like sex objects, and women return the favor to the men, but only between women is there loving, concerned sex that seems satisfying and fulfilling.

True, there is one scene in which the man and the woman seem equally turned on, but again, there does not seem to be that interaction and search for personhood that should accompany good sex.

(And just what the hell is 'good' sex anyway?)

This seems to be a film by and for women of all types, but in the process, men can obviously get some valid insights into what makes women tick.

Let's face it: anyone of *any* sexual orientation that does not find *something* in this film to get off on just isn't trying.

Ed Martinez



Dominique St. Pierre, star of "The Joy of Letting Go," on the runway of a Paris Halston showing before her movie career began.

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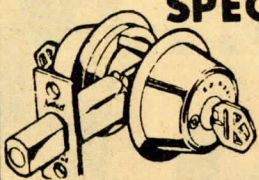
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People

Above is Joseph Holton, winner of a three day Halloween stay at the Parliament House in Orlando, Fla. He won the prize at the grand opening celebration of the Inside Outside Country on Oct. 10. And shown on the bottom half of this page are some of the great clothes and great looking guys at Union Jack in Houston.



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You can also mail classifieds in to the Star. Our address is:

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BLIND BOX CODES can be used when you wish not to put your address or phone number in print. We'll forward all replies immediately, or you can arrange to pick them up at the Star's office at 900 Lovett in Houston. Blind box ads cost an extra 40¢, since it takes four extra words to state the blind box number in the ad.

TO ANSWER A BLIND BOX AD: Seal your message inside an envelope, write the blind box number on the outside of the envelope, put the envelope and \$1 to cover handling and postage inside a larger envelope and mail to the Star at the above address. You may include as many responses to blind box ads as desired in one larger envelope. A single \$1 covers postage and handling for forwarding for the whole batch.

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Houston: Would like to find roommate with own apt. in the Montrose or Galleria area. Needed immediately, no later than Nov. 15th. Very, very serious. Have good stable job, rent no problem. Call 965-9088 or 785-5887. Ask for Larry.

Houston: Would like to meet w/m, 18 to 35, interested in country home and a place to have a horse. S.W. area, close in. Approximate share \$100 to \$150 a month. Call Shawn, 777-4420. If no ans. please call again.

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PERSONAL

Houston: W/m 25, 6', 180 lbs., wants to meet bright guy, 21 to 30, for friendship and good times. Send picture if possible. All letters answered. Also include phone no. Blind box ad 315.

Houston: Good looking w/m, 31, wants to meet attractive intelligent guy, 27-33, for friendship etc. Prefer masculine/athletic type. No fats, fems, S&M or drugs. Please reply with photo to blind box ad 314.

New Mexico & West Texas: Two guys looking for a butch friend. One is 36, 5'8" and 230 lbs. The other is 52, 5'10" and 160 lbs. Interested in active and passive French and Greek. If interested send revealing photo. Married ok if can travel occasionally. Friendship first. Blind box ad 283.

Yes Virginia, there is still a Tejas Motorcycle Club!

Houston: W/m, 20, college student, attractive, intelligent and lonely, would like to meet w/m for sincere companionship. No S&M or dopers. Please write because I'm tired of hanging on a hope. All letters ans. Blind box ad 313.

Houston: W/m, 20, 5'10", 139 lbs., brown hair, hazel eyes, seeks w/m 28 to 39, educated, secure, masculine and aggressive. I am new to Houston and in need of a good job. Also I am ambitious and would like to eventually open a business of my own. If interested call Jason 524-9458. If no answer keep trying. No fems, fatties or S&M's.

Austin: Young male dance student needs a patron to aid in furtherance of training. Contact at 3207 French Place, apt. A, Austin, TX 78722. 474-5608.

Houston: Protege for hire. Can satisfy your every need. 5'10", 145 lbs. Blond, intelligent, refined & under 25. Long term arrangement desired. Live-in & allowance negotiable. All inquiries answered Blind box ad 232.

Houston: W/m 23, 5'8", 155 lbs., would like to meet same for friendship and fun. No S&M or fatties. If interested call after 4pm. Don, 527-8910.

Houston: I am lonely. Looking for young dude to share my life with. Must be under 20, prefer small and slim. I'm 26, tall, slim, affectionate. Leave message for Duane at 526-6711 or write at 900 Lovett, No. 201.

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Houston: 1972 Fiat 850 Convertible, new top, new tires, good body condition, runs good, am-fm-stereo-radio, low mileage. Must sell \$1295.00 or best offer. 526-1481.

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