

METRO TIMES

Volume I, No. 22

February 5, 1981

Channel 4 to air news series on gay community

Marlend McClinton and Dick Johnson are more than just a couple of pretty faces. Besides anchoring the five o'clock news for television's Channel 4 in the metroplex area, they are also putting the finishing touches on another project - a three-part series on the gay community of Dallas.

According to Johnson, the series will be run during the ten o'clock news for three evenings - with February 11, a Wednesday, the first part, the second part set for Thursday, February 12, and the final part marked down for Friday, February 13.

Part one will deal with the overview of the gay community locally and progress it has made. The next night's segment will deal with problems faced by the community, including such diverse situations as police harassment and coming out. The series will close on the third night with coverage of the power and influence of the community and the benefits it provides the area.

The series will deal with a variety of aspects of gay life in Dallas. Johnson alone has spoken with (among others) Don Baker, Rev. Don Eastman and Rev. Lisa Berry, Richard Longstaff, Terry Tebedo, Steve Wilkins, Campbell Reed, Al Caulken, Devvie Shaffer, and Bill Beauchamp, representing the Dallas Gay Political Caucus, MCC-Dallas, private enterprise, GAUNT, National Gay Task Force, and others. He has filmed the Oak Lawn Symphonic Band, Gayline, and the Dallas Alternative.

Channel 4 is an affiliate of CBS, remembered for its outrageous series presented last year, which gave coverage to bad or negative aspects of the community nationally and twisted information in an attempt to editorially discredit gay people. Johnson promised Metro Times that this presentation will be presented as honestly as is within his power. Readers are urged to watch for the program and send appropriate letters of appreciation (or otherwise) to the station to encourage future favorable broadcasts.

Vandals attack vehicles

"Let's go bust some queers," was the battlecry of four beard-sporting, Cowboy hat-attired rednecks Saturday, January 31, as they descended on one of the Dallas gay bars.

A witness to the event told Metro Times that the four went down the street near the bar, checking each parked car to see if the door might be unlocked, and, in some cases, jumping up and down on top of the cars. He also stated that he had seen objects thrown at the cars, both parked and passing by, and in one case had witnessed one of the four actually jumping onto the hood of a passing car.

According to the witness, two of the four live in the neighborhood of the bar and delight in turning their large dog loose on persons passing by.

Police called to the scene showed up in a remarkable 20 minutes (good for a Saturday night), but they only drove through the bar parking lot and left.

The Metro Times urges all gays to remember to lock their car doors for safety to the vehicle and its contents, wherever the car may be parked. The Metro Times will also arrange for the testimony of the eyewitness, who can identify the vandals, for any person whose car was damaged Saturday night and who wished to press criminal or civil charges.

As is our practice, because of the universality of attacks against gay people and their property, the location of the incident is not being named here.



Penthouse catches Majority's Falwell

Rev. Jerry Falwell, the star of the Moral Majority and its fight against the evils inherent in the way of life in our great country, may not be too happy at the way his message got across to a large segment of male readers this month. It seems a pair of free-lancers managed to charm the poor dear into an interview on his points of view and, after getting it all down in black-and-white, sold it to Penthouse. That's right - there, just to the left of the young lady about to fall out of her outfit's top, is the cover grab-line: "Exclusive Interview with Reverend Jerry Falwell". (Sorry, we peeked at the cover again and see that the title is at the reader's right and the model's left.)

Falwell, having condemned Carter for his Playboy interview, at least has the excuse of being able to pass the buck and say that he didn't know where the interview was destined. We personally think it's a riot.

For those interested in perusing the illogic of Rev. Falwell's theology of hate, the interview is now available on your favorite newsstand, and we hope you will take the time to read it. Of particular import, however, is the introduction to the interview, which gives some interesting information about the financial clout of Falwell's "ministries" and about the alleged power behind the throne, the person ultimately at the helm of the Moral Majority. We urge any literate readers interested in making any serious forward (as opposed to the backward strides offered by Falwell and his ilk) in the gay community to make it a point to read the interview, maybe even to write to Penthouse to thank them for the piece.

Personally, we enjoyed finding Falwell, self-righteousness girded up to his overused jaw, packed in between naked women and wicked correspondence, including a letter to Xaviera Hollander describing an orgy in the woods, along with other explicit tales of wild and abandoned sexual exploits.

It couldn't happen to a nicer - well, to a more deserving - guy.

UCC pastor celebrates first anniversary

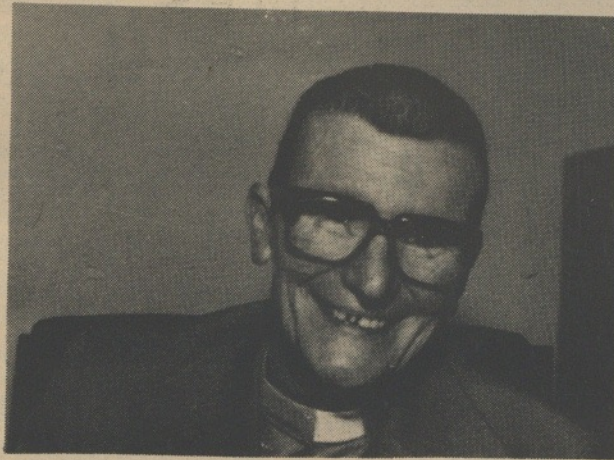
February 10 marks a double anniversary for Rev. C. Shawn Farrell, pastor of United Community Church, located at 4402 Roseland in Dallas.

On that date, Rev. Farrell celebrates not only her birthday (56, she admits without hesitation) but also the first anniversary of her call to serve as pastor of the local congregation.

A former assistant pastor of MCC-Dallas under the controversial Rev. Jim Harris, Rev. Farrell had left the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and was serving as pastor of Cascade Community Church in Akron, Ohio, when she was called back to serve in Dallas at UCC.

According to Rev. Farrell, she was called back to pastor a church which was, to some of its members, a "religious social club", with membership by invitation only. She still finds the effects of the closetedness then prevalent weighing heavily on the church's image today, as visitors tell her they had never known there was another "gay" church (a term she and other pastors despise) in Dallas.

Under her leadership, the church celebrated its third anniversary with increased visibility and a steadily growing membership roll. Work is underway in the direction of establishing rapport with other community organizations and expanding the scope of services offered by the church. One accomplishment of which Rev. Farrell is proud is the placement of 13 Cuban refugees last summer. Another very visible outreach were two benefit shows for Pat Cherry, who had run up heavy bills during a mysterious illness.



Membership has more than doubled, and actual participation has increased, both in attendance and in service. Part of this may be due to the "family" concept - namely, that anyone entering the church is part of the family, member or non-member.

Emphasis has been placed on co-sexual leadership and participation. Rev. Farrell expressed concern over community division and urged gays and lesbians to celebrate their differences and not fear them.

The one disappointment in Rev. Farrell's first year has been the reluctance of the "family" to come up with adequate financial resources to facilitate the goals of the church. However, such trends as the planned Sunday School and Gay Parent Support Group (for gays who are parents) make her hopeful for the future.

UCC is not a closet church anymore and Rev. Farrell is looking forward to an active place in the community that UCC is happy to serve.

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Dear WW:

As the breadwinner and head of the household, this is certainly possible and to your advantage. For tax purposes, your lover's daughter would be considered as your own daughter so long as you and only you provide more than half of her support. In fact, so long as you are head of household and an unmarried child not supported by her natural parents lives the entire year in your home, you can claim this credit. If the child were married, he/she would have to be your dependent for you to take the credit.

In the event that you are legally married and filing jointly with your husband, you would also be able to take advantage of the credit.

Because of the complicated structure of the tax laws and individual differences from case to case, we strongly recommend that you talk over any questions regarding particular cases with a professional tax consultant for your own protection and peace of mind.

DGPC/Theatre 3 present Gertrude Stein times 3

Gertrude Stein Gertrude Stein Gertrude Stein (as in "a rose is a rose is a rose") "ranks among the best solo theatre pieces offered over the past decade", says Variety. Another critic praises Pat Carroll for the performance which makes the audience feel "actually in the presence of Gertrude Stein."

"Pat Carroll is wonderful wonderful wonderful", raved yet another. Time Magazine, never one to give out with excess verbage, advises that "Pat Carroll triumphs as Gertrude Stein."

The winner of the 1980 Outer Critics' Circle Award and the 1980 Drama Desk Award will offer a preview performance February 17 at 8 P.M. at Theatre III, benefitting the Dallas Gay Political Caucus.

The Broadway success will only be in Dallas for seven performances, making the preview a very special evening for the gay community.

Tickets to the performance are available at just \$20.00, with checks, MasterCard and Visa accepted. Prepayment is required, with tickets being sold on a first come basis. Information is available from the DGPC office by calling (214) 528-4233.

Individuals familiar with the series of champagne previews benefitting the DGPC in the past have learned to anticipate with pleasure the kind of experience these programs provide.

Individuals interested in purchasing tickets for this performance are encouraged to do so promptly while seats remain available for the benefit preview of this award-winning, poignant, funny presentation of Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein.

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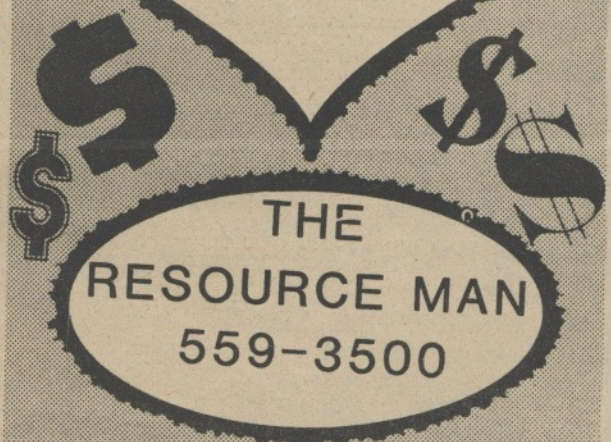
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Book falls short of promise

The Boys in The Mail Room, by Iris Rainer. Warner Books, paperback, \$2.95.

We found the "Boys" first in New York, at which time we passed the book off as yet another novel posing as a Hollywood expose. When we spotted it a few days ago in Century Books' gay section, however, we realized that it was time to look closer. As is the case with most paperbacks, there was a lurid cover to mislead the unwary and get them to pick up the book and take it home.

Obviously, the interest we saw in the book came in the back cover's description of one of the four main characters: "Barry - who loved the wrong sex". Eyecatching, isn't it?

Barry Golden, the character to whom the blurb refers, is a disturbed young man whose story only aids in the preservation of several questionable myths. At the usual age, he begins to get interested in girls. We have a seduction scene involving an older boy. Good old wishy-washy Barry goes along with it. Then an older man and he have a nice affair until his very Jewish family learn of it and his mother declares him dead. So he heads for California to get away from his shame. Now, we were just about to grant our forgiveness to Miss Rainer when she produced a nice young man for our Bareliah and settled them down in a very delightfully domestic state of bliss, even if she gives more detailed descriptions of the lovemaking of the straights than the gays, who would be lucky to steal a kiss while "on-camera".

But Miss Rainer isn't going to let us get away that easily. Before we know what has hit us, she has - with one easy swoop - knocked off Barry's wonderful

lover. Another cliché - what did we do to deserve this? And, to add insult to injury, she then gives our boy an introduction to a nice girl. We won't ruin the story for you by expounding on it further; Miss Rainer beat us to it.

As a contribution to literature with gay individuals as main characters, the best thing we can say for "Boys" is that the love between Barry and his gay lover is never looked down upon, except by a few of the other personae, whose derogatory thoughts are presented in such a way that they, and not the lovers, suffer for their disapprobation. During the relationship, and when Barry is "widowed", the true friends he has tend to be very sympathetic and supportive. One even has a brief guilt trip for not having behaved differently toward the couple after the accident.

Rainer's presentation of Barry convinces us that she is capable of a better, more realistic presentation of gay people in fiction, and we hope to have the chance to review at a later date a book from this writer which gives an ending both gay and happy to a major homosexual or lesbian person.

In a word, promising - but with much to still be desired!

Antigen screening set

NEI Blood Plasma Center has advised Metro Times that individuals interested in having their blood checked without charge for the Hepatitis B antigen may do so Monday, February 9, during the DGPC meeting at MCC-Dallas, 2701 Reagan.

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The other hostages: When will they be free?

Editorial comment:

Maybe I'm callous. And maybe I'm not the one who's callous. Everywhere I look, I'm seeing yellow ribbons flying, tied in neat bows, sagging from the abuse of the weather, all welcoming home the victims of a nation turned kidnapper under the leadership of religious fanatics and fools. Certainly, I'm glad to have the hostages back.

I'd be a lot more ecstatic, and be out tying an unprecedented number of ribbons (probably lavender, but that's beside the point) around anything that would hold still, if we could free those other victims of fanatical kidnapping and false imprisonment.

Whatever happened to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness"? Far more Americans are suffering the agonies of prison - in fact, far more have probably died, if we but had the statistics - today because they were gay than every were held prisoner in Iran.

Some of these are in prison because they chose to express their love with someone important to them. Others, lacking someone special and significant in their everyday lifestyle, fell victim to religious prejudice and hatred when they sought sexual release outside a private relationship. And yet others, sent before the judges for crimes indirectly related to sexual activities, received greater sentences because their homosexuality was exposed in the course of the trial.

Come on, would anyone like to convince me that Lynn Trout would have received the same sentence had his victim been a female prostitute? Look how many

times Cullen Davis has slipped away scot-free; and let's not forget dear, straight Candace Montgomery, who axed her best friend Betty Gore to death with an overabundance of deadly chops. But then, what's a little murder between friends, so long as they're not (whisper it) queer!

Let's take into consideration the victims of the uncounted robbers and assailants who have attacked our community's members of late. How long do you think it will take Wesley North to pay off the bills from his run-in with "Bubba" and "Sissy"? Do you think those police whose salaries we pay really care what happens, when the victim is gay? When little Alicia was shot riding a city bus, the police came gung-ho, looking for the dastardly sniper. We're glad, since that's their job. Where are the police who ought to be picking up the so-called "track team" gang and the group of Chicanos who have been preying on persons in the Oak Lawn area for the past several months?

Where are our brave officers when the gay and lesbian members of the Dallas community encounter the kind of trouble we pay the police to solve or prevent? In bars, busting or harassing gays, of course. Look at the figures. If enforcement is equal, about 40% of all public lewdness arrests should be female. The statistics show it's simply not the case. It's the gay males who fall prey to the religious prejudice of our fine, upstanding officers.

Yeah...it's great that Iran finally accepted our bribe to release their illegal prisoners. Now, when are the American people going to release their own sisters and brothers and let us live the lives that the very Constitution of these United States promises us the rights to live. Let's free all the hostages. But we need your help - or you might be next!

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Whatever became of Cupid?

Whatever happened to love?

We remember, when we were younger, a cute little naked boy flying around with a bow and arrow, which he used to interest people in other people, at which time the two victims were irresistibly drawn to each other and lived happily afterwards.

In straight and gay world alike, the great dream of the one true love seems to be biting the dust. It seems a shame. Straight marriages are falling apart like defective jigsaw puzzles (perhaps a very apt parallel), and their gay counterparts are doing no better.

Within the past ten or so years, the rise of the Metropolitan Community Church and others like it has made it easy for gay lovers to create their own ceremony mimicing the straight wedding. These services usually fall into two categories - one is the sincere worship service, in which two individuals seek the blessing of their God on their union; the other is a replica of the way "they" do it.

The simple fact is that, at present, there is no good reason other than one's religious faith to have a religious ceremony. Texas simply does not accept a union between two men or two women as legally binding. It refuses to issue licenses for such cases. Sad as it may seem, the flair for flashiness that leads some to have an ornate service is often a symptom of the immaturity which will bring the relationship involved crashing onto the rocks before much time has passed.

Despite the precautions which should be taken in comparison of straight vs. gay relationships, there are certain similarities which make it possible for gay men and women to profit from the experience - and errors - of their straight counterparts.

1. A cardinal rule for any kind of relationship, romantic or otherwise, is not to rush into it. Our own feeling is that straights and gays alike have abandoned the old-fashioned courtship pattern which gave a couple a chance to know what they were getting into before tying the knot, as it were. Ministers of MCC have told us of couples who, meeting in a bar and being inebriated, possibly checking it out on the old casting couch hastily, have actually called in the wee hours, dragging the preacher out of bed, asking to be "married" before they even knew the other's surname. It's as stupid as trying to build an A-bomb after finishing an article on the subject in Reader's Digest!

2. Know and accept the limitations of your new partner and of yourself. Promiscuity is very much the in thing these days. Many gay men (and women, we regret to say, are getting into the same rut) are in the habit of changing partners like a game of musical chairs, and the acclimation to variety sets in. This means, in short, that your settling down with one partner may well get monotonous. The lack of variety may become stifling. But, on the other hand, we have been raised with the monogamous way of life, without cheating on that special person. So, instead, we just break up.

Well, Mr./Ms. Special may be having the very same problem, or may be having this problem while you do not. What can you do? We suggest you analyze the situation beforehand. Talk it over and decide if your relationship will - or even can - be monogamous (which our prejudices still favor) or must be open. It has

Continued....

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METRO TIMES

Editor & Publisher

ROY G. HALL

The Metro Times is published every two weeks as a service to the gay communities of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. It is our intent to maintain a high level of accuracy and to cover as much news as possible. Reader submissions are encouraged and, if they are to be returned, should be sent with a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Appearance of the name of an individual or group in this paper should not be taken to indicate the sexual orientation of such individual, group, or group members.

The Metro Times is locally owned and operated. We are presently in need of help. Experience is helpful but not absolutely necessary.

Rates for display advertising are available upon your request. Telephone for details.

We welcome reader letters. Unless otherwise indicated, letters shall be considered as being presented for publication at our discretion. We reserve the right to editor for length and objectionable content and to rebut views which disagree with our official view.

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Cupid -concluded

been discovered by some couples that an open relationship often ends up monogamous because the partner in doubt merely needed the reassurance of the option being available to him/her.

3. Don't confuse sex and love. Love, if anything, often makes sex less and less necessary.

4. Communicate if you want that relationship to last. If you can't talk to your partner - or don't - before settling in, don't expect to after the "knot" is tied. Beforehand, talk about what you both expect, and afterwards, talk about changes and fulfillment. And both of you must communicate, which means each must talk and each must listen. It's a two-way street.

5. A written contract helps. If nothing else, it verbalizes things. In case of joint property, have a will for protection. That loving family today may decide to scalp your lover when you're gone. Don't let them do it. And, in case he/she thrown a tantrum when you get caught with that blond, be safeguarded so you keep what's yours and no more and no less.

Love's wonderful. Protect it, recognize, and exercise it. You don't have to be the statistic of heartbreak; hard work can make your love a success.

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A Valentine goody for our readers



Mimoso, a local photographer for some time, has done it again. Kelly Carter, shown above, is shown in ~~more of a revealing pose~~ on page 94 (upper left of the page) of the current issue of Numbers. Other mimoso models are shown elsewhere.

Photography by Mimoso, featuring area models, is seen frequently in Numbers and other magazines of a similar nature.

Friendly blond Kelly is a photographer in his own right, and Metro Times readers may have the chance to enjoy some of his work at a later date. Wow!

And you thought you knew Joe Elliott!

When she was 13, she had a torrid affair with a straight woman she seduced, who was on the same softball team. At 17, she wore her softball cap and blue jeans to bed on her wedding night after marrying her best friend's brother to get close to her best friend. After the annulment, the two women started dating.

Joe Elliott is 48 years young and a madcap, wild and wonderful Scorpio woman. Is it true that Scorpios are oversexed, we asked her. "Well, I am," was the prompt reply.

Joe found out about the gay scene and came out in the WAFs, and after a year she moved to Dallas in 1953. About 12 years ago she got her first bar, the Cackle Shack on Maple. Previously to the Cackle Shack, Joe had worked at Trader Vic's, a gay bar, and after she left the Cackle Shack, she travelled briefly with an exotic dancer, at which time she began "strapping down" to conceal her breasts. "Everybody called me 'sir' anyway, and I was getting where I was walking hump-shouldered trying to hide them."

After the dancer, Joe went to work at the old Highland Lounge, subsequently purchasing it. From the Highland, she moved to Joe's Other Place, sold it, and retired...for about ten months. "It's in my blood," she says, and she bought Jugs.

Her appearance is that of an attractive man a few years younger than she actually is. "I have always had the queens flirting with me, before I strapped down, before I did anything." Male friends used to delight in parading her through the old Villa Fontana to see others try to grope her, pushing her out of the way at the crucial moment. One time, she recounts, a dress code was passed requiring women to wear dresses or shorts. When she appeared in Bermudas, however, she was quickly exempted from the general rule.

With the new liberation of women and the move to a feminine appearance among lesbians, Joe has run into some hassle from her gay sisters. "If I felt more comfortable with long hair, I'd do it. I think everybody should be theirself. A lot of people condemn me because I do look so masculine. I don't condemn them for looking feminine." Elliott says the women haven't changed, only their appearances have differed. "I flirt with 'em all," she grins. What does she do if they flirt back? "I love it!"

"If I had long hair," she points out, "I'd still be butch. As far as I like to be the aggressor. I like to be dominant. I like to do for whoever I'm with. I guess that's what you'd call butch." (We told her that if it was, we were butch.)

"These new ones come out don't know how easy they've got it," she tells us. Fifteen to twenty years ago, you would get picked up on the street on a vagrancy charge for being gay. You could fight it and even win, but eventually the nuisance got to you. The police would ask for warrants for ridiculous reasons and raid private homes and apartments, then take in the resident for vagrancy.

One such time, Joe was enjoying a stay as guest of the city and got into a hot affair with the matron at the jail. In fact, she refused to be released when they tried to turn her loose. The jealous matron put her in a cell with a straight woman, who was elated to be (she thought) thrown in with a man, and made a date with Joe, which Joe never kept. The matron then moved Joe. When the matron went off duty, she would drug Joe with sleeping pills to keep her from flirting, and this was her undoing, since the groggy Joe was taken from the jail by anxious friends before she realized what was happening.

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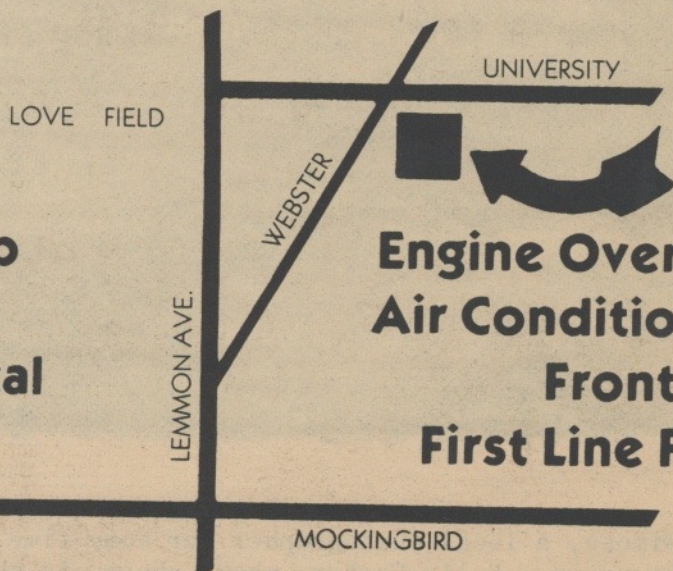
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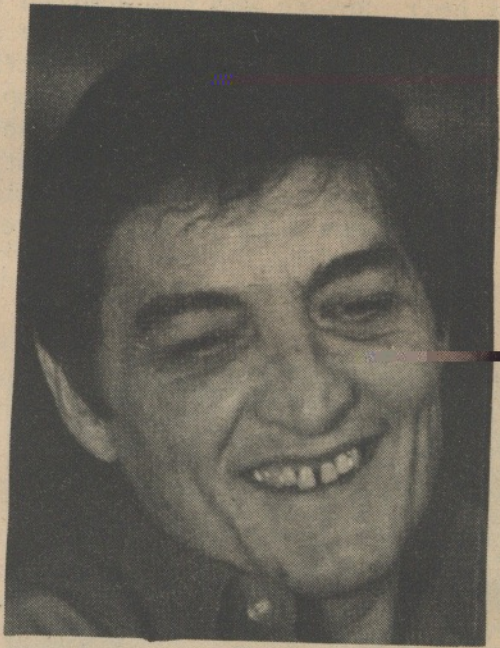


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If Joe could travel back through time and visit one place and spot in time, it would be the Highland Lounge. "That was the most fun bar in town. Everybody came in and relaxed, let their hair down. A lot of girls used to be scared to come in there; but once they came in, they loved it. I mean, we drive motorcycles through it. It was fun."

What about the people who got thrown through the plate glass windows, we ask. "Not a person got thrown through the plate glass windows," she answers. It

seems one woman threw something onto the pool table which bounced and broke the window. Joe had it put back in two pieces. A straight man who had been kicked out threw something and hit just right to get both pieces of the window. Joe put it back as three.

Joe mentions that one of the excuses police would use to get a harassment warrant against her and other gays would be for drugs. How does Joe feel about the drug scene, we wanted to know.

"I don't like it," she said vehemently. "everybody I know smokes pot. It's the going thing. I have tried it, it is something for me, I might do it... As far as all these pills and (expletive deleted) that float around and stuff, I've seen it ruin too many good people. And when it's somebody I really care about, I will bitch, bitch, bitch!" Drug possession is the one thing which will bar a person from Joe's bars for life.

If Joe had to pick some nonbar business and was able to choose any other business to go into, she'd like to run a bait shop.

Her dreams are greater cooperation between gay men and lesbians, which she sees the Landing bringing true, and acceptance of gays by straights, which she says already has passed anything she ever expected.

In a good life, the best thing which has happened to her is her partnership with Gary Monier of Landing fame. When Gary walked in, we asked her: Is there anything funny you can tell us about Gary? "Gary is funny," she quipped. "Evil, too," he added.

A closing thought? "I just wish everybody'd be themselves...like people for themselves...not what they have or what they look like, just..." "What they are," suggests her long-time friend, Billie. "Period," says Joe Elliott.

"Amen," says the interviewer!

Homophobic infighting: The "Moral Majority" attacks itself

Homophobe James Robison has egg on his face this week. Robison's "1981 James Robison Bible Conference" (what is a James Robison Bible, anyway?), which opened Wednesday at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth, had scheduled Dr. Curtis Hutson, editor of Sword of the Lord, a Tennessee-based national weekly fundamentalist journal, as a speaker for his conference.

Unfortunately for Robison, Hutson became aware of another speaker scheduled for the conference, Ms. - er, make that Mrs. - Phyllis Schlafly, noted anti-feminist and anti-ERA spokesperson, and refused to appear on the same program with Schlafly because Schlafly is a Roman Catholic who, Hutson assumes, "does not believe in the fundamentals of the faith."

In an interesting side note, Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell, in an exclusive interview which was published in the March 1981 issue of Penthouse, has hearty praise for the Pope, stating that he feels the pontiff does believe in scriptural inspiration and in the fundamental, conservative issues which Falwell himself supports, such as anti-abortion, anti-gay, and others in the same line.

Rev. C. Shawn Farrell, pastor of United Community Church in Dallas, commented on the situation, pointing out that the schism within the ranks of the so-called Moral Majority was predictable, dating back to the Reformation and earlier. Rev. Farrell expressed a concern that individuals representing themselves as leaders of America's religious community would resort to infighting rather than attempting to reconcile the differences which have separated them for so long. She also indicated that such quarrels within the homophobic group could well mark the beginning of the end for the organization.

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If you happen to be one of those individuals who have a problem with an excessively bent elbow, good news: Fort Worth now has a Lambda (gay) Alcoholics Anonymous group. The central 24-hour AA hotline can refer you to the group; that number is 332-3533. We have been told that we cannot give out more info, as AA doesn't go in for advertising. Now, at least, you know it's there if you need it.

If you're gay and Jewish, check out the Gay Jewish Exploratory Association by calling Jacob at 363-3070 in Dallas.

Hold onto your hats: The winner of the Tarrant County Mining Company's jockey short contest a week or two ago was *not*, as might have been expected, the hunkiest guy entered. No, the winner was wearing no jockey shorts, either. A bra, yes. The winner was - oh, the shame of it all - a female. "She was the best one," commented an observer, and that was the reason she carried away first place. Isn't this just possibly carrying women's lib a bit too far?

Well, if you get hooked on your hair stylist and return one day to find him gone and the shop not in the mood to tell you where to find him, you can now call (214) 369-4346 (if he's registered) and learn which of around 3,000 salons has claimed him (oops, it could be a her - sorry). (This was a tidbit we got in the mail from a new referral service which was too cheap to run an ad...or something like that. We know we had a pet stylist who kept pulling a series of disappearing acts. Where were they when we needed them?)

Speaking of hair, anyone who has admired the job Mr. Dennis did on our own jungle can have the same kind of performance on their own head by trotting over to Midnight Hair, next to the Girls' Boot Camp. The hours are certainly right, and until Valentine's Day you can bring a friend and get that second cut half price. Deal? (Who said we were tacky? We didn't make a single "clip joint" joke in this entire plug.)



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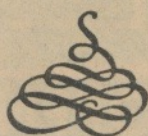


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Last issue we commented on Tiger Lil's kicking down the mirror ball at the Split Image. Finally, we met the lady in person (on her way to drool over the dancers at the Eighth Day, she told us). She advised us that kicking over the mirror ball was probably a fortunate incident, as she often kicks over drinks, tables, patrons sitting too close, and so on. Is there such as thing as a malpractice insurance for large queens?

We're still anxiously looking for a Fort Worth general representative, someone who wants to see a paper with all the Tarrant County news printed, and able to work diligently toward that goal...for money, of course, but most of all for dedication. Where are you?

We did make a special trip to cover the Miss Other Place contest (and February 26 we'll be back to hit the Miss Fort Worth contest). We wish they had been gracious enough to provide a table and chairs for the TWT photographer (where does TWT get all these cute photographers?) and myself. (If Al likes sitting on the floor fine; I prefer a table, and I get better pictures, so I print more, for better publicity. Is that a hint? It is, to say the least.)

Anyway, we managed to get some presentable pix of the contest. The Downtowner's Miss Ricky (Empress II de Fort Worth) was Miss Congeniality (as anyone who knows her could have predicted); we never saw her look better. Brooke Elliott delighted us with her arrival on a platform carried by scantily clad guys, stretched out with an apple in her mouth. That's style. The judges gave her second runner up. We liked her. A performer we never heard of, Vanessa Loren, walked

away with second place (first runner-up), and Bette Sheba's latest impression, Dolly Parton (are we ready for this?), stole the judges' hearts. We're waiting for Bette to come up with Maria Callas and Mrs. Miller - in the same night. (If you don't recognize Mrs. Miller, be grateful.)

REFRACTION WE GOOFED RETRACTED

Yes (sob), we did goof. Last issue we said that Lynn Christopher, as new Miss Split Image, would be in the Miss Gay Fort Worth Pageant. Boy, were we dumb. Lynn was Miss Gay Fort Worth before Lindsey Love, and she can't hold the title twice. Lynn called this to our attention at the Miss Other Place contest, asking us to try not to make any tacky remarks. Tacky? Us? Boy, did she hurt our feelings!

Okay, Lynn, it's retracted. Satisfied? Good.

Rev. Jeanne Leggett of the Church of Christian Faith in Houston will be guest minister Sunday morn, February 8 (11 A.M.), at United Community Church in Dallas. We're told this is one you'll want to hear. Those who don't know where UCC is should take note: It's at 4402 Roseland, one block off Ross Avenue, between Peak and Carroll (not far from the former MCC location, for those who remember). Be there.

Suggestions for catchy closings to this column are encouraged. Send us your ideas...please? One of these days we'll run a never-ending way to our office line column and end up stuck at this typewriter. Help!



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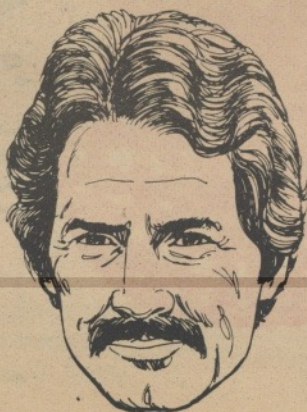
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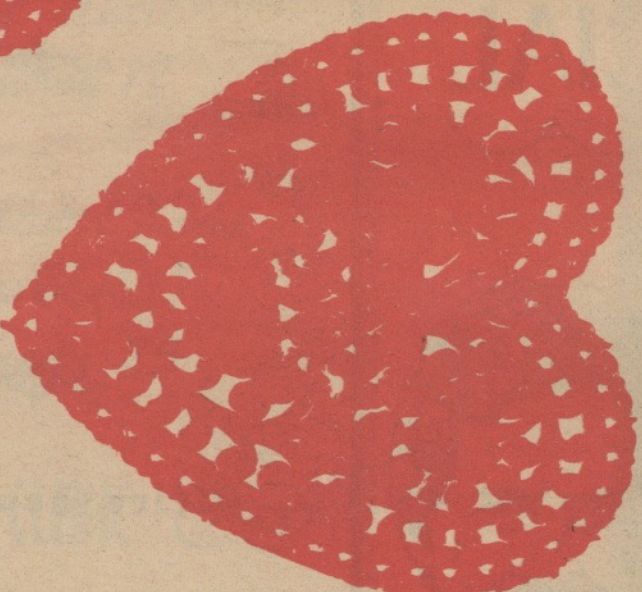
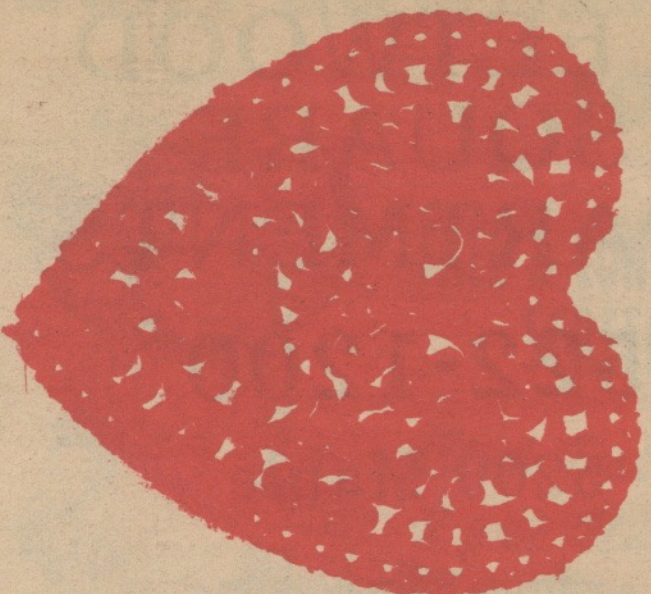
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TIMES

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