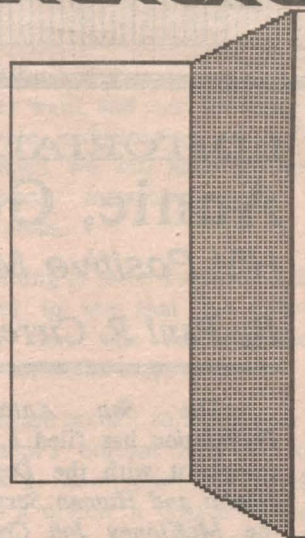


BarTalk



Vol. 2 No. 1

The River City Empty Closet

January 24, 1991

A publication of RCEC Communications, Inc.

San Antonio, TX

Lead Story

Richards Assumes Position

Promises a new Texas

By Donald B. Carter

Texas OUR Texas

For a few days the city of Austin became the site of an invasion of people from all over the state, from all walks of life. The event was the inauguration of our new Governor, Ann W. Richards.

The People's March

For over 20,000 people the principal object was to participate in the march up Congress Ave.

For countless thousands more it was a Monday evening gala that terminated with one of the many inaugural balls.

As the People's March approached the Capital grounds, it was met by Mark Weaver and his followers with their banner reading "Gay Is Not Good" and anti-abortion placards. The followers, who, with the right opportunity, would force their will upon us, camped out all night in order to reserve this choice, public seating area.

The good news is that no one voiced support for them. Repeatedly, large groups passed by chanting "Choice."

A group of Gay men and women arrived at this point to stop and counter-chant "We're here, we're queer, we're fabulous, get used to us!"

A New Era

A legacy for all Texans began January 15th with the swearing in of Richards as Governor of the State of Texas.

Governor Richards ran for office as a representative of the people, not bureaucracy. Her support was wide spread and diverse. Her inaugural address promised a continuation of support for all Texans.

In her remarks (See full remarks in *Richards' Address*, this issue) Richards welcomed us to a "New Texas" reclaimed for "the people of Texas; a new administration different from any of the past."

She spoke of the "possibilities that can be when the barriers fall," and of a "Texas where the government treats every citizen with respect and dignity."

In reference to remarks made by John F. Kennedy, we were reminded that "life is not fair...but government can be...Government must stop telling people what they want...and start listening to ...what they need."

Richards continued with her dedication to heading an administration which serves the taxpayers.

As thousands of people watched, applauded and screamed their approval, each must have been thinking along the same lines; this will indeed be a new era.

Richards announced the appointment of an ombudsman who will serve as advocate to help represent citizens having problems with state government.

We can only hope that this new ERA is defined as Equal Rights Ahead.

The first item, and possibly the most important, we will be watching is the Texas Sodomy Law, 21.06. If she holds true to her campaign statements, she will oppose any effort to reinstate the now unconstitutional penal code entry.

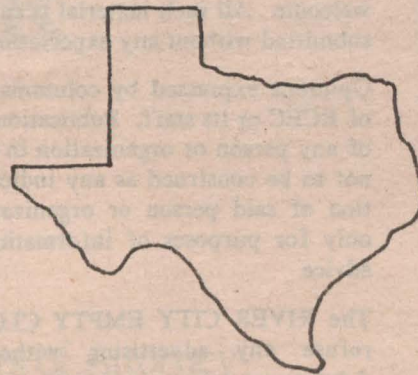
On a personal level, I should note that our new Governor is personable and charismatic. When she speaks, it is with force but not lacking in sincerity and genuine warmth. Ann W. Richards is more than a Governor, a woman, a mother. She is a Lady in all of the descriptive definitions. When it comes to doing business with our new Governor, you can forget political rhetoric and posturing.

She has begun to fulfill her campaign promises to appoint people from all walks of life, be they male, female, rich or poor social status and without regards to ethnic social status. Willingness and ability are the apparent criteria and apparently will include alternative lifestyles as well.

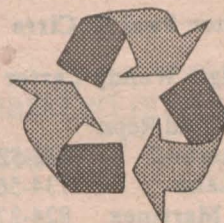


Ann W. Richards, Governor of Texas

Governor Ann W. Richards is a tenacious individual with only one aspiration: a better Texas. Given the support of the legislature, she is going to be a great Governor. Her expansive smile is contagious and should radiate throughout our state as she progresses in the leadership of Texas; OUR Texas.



[Ed. Note: We are indebted to Gene Evans, Publisher of *BarTalk* for loaning us the talents of Mr. Carter for this article.] ♦♦♦



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EDITORIAL

Annie, Get Your Gun!!

HIV Positive Man Denied Training

By Paul R. Cirre, Editor

The San Antonio AIDS Foundation has filed a civil rights complaint with the Department of Health and Human Services against the McKinney Job Corps Centers near Dallas.

The complaint results from the dismissal from the training program of an individual apparently because the person has tested positive for the HIV virus.

"Papa Bear," SAAF president calls the job center's actions "utter stupidity on the part of administrators."

The dismissal letter also directed the client to contact Papa Bear at the foundation and indicated that he (Papa Bear) would assist him with job referrals and medical assistance.

The McKinney Job Corps Center is a Texas state resident program established during the Johnson presidency to strengthen basic educational skills and provide vocational training for unemployed young men between the ages of 16 and 22.

The job center's handbook promises "medical, dental and family planning services" and "equal opportunity without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or handicap."

"I am outraged and disgusted that not only this could happen, but that our system perpetuates it," said Papa Bear. "This young man only wanted an opportunity to better himself and attempted to do this by utilizing one of the most respected training programs in the state.

Unfortunately, he did not realize that this same respected training program would discriminate against him."

The dismissal letter, signed by Vivian Duren, the center's health services administrator, stated "With the center physician and mental health consultant, we are granting you a medical termination from the McKinney Job Corps Center." It concluded by stating "Job Corps does not assume responsibility for medical expenses or any other expenses after your termination. If we may be of further assistance, please notify me."

FURTHER ASSISTANCE?????

How does Ms. Duren figure she has already been assisting this man--by removing an opportunity to become self-sufficient?

By sending him "home" and telling him someone else will take care of his problems?

By telling him that he is no longer welcome to study because he is infected?

I think this young man needs no "FURTHER ASSISTANCE" from this bureaucratic stoneheart!

I wonder how she would feel if she (God forbid!) were suddenly diagnosed as having ovarian cancer and was told that people with cancer can no longer work for the center?

I'm sure she would like to do as this young man must surely want to do: tell them all to place their

ASSISTANCE where the light of day is never seen.

Papa Bear says, "it's not like he was aware of his medical condition when he went in..."

That is not the issue. It should not matter whether he was aware of his illness/positive testing or not. The question is one of discrimination based on health status.

I would be very surprised to find out that the entrance material for the center states: "Non-perfect people need not apply."

What outrages me is that the actions of the center reinforce the belief that being HIV positive is equal to eventual death.

Why else would they not want to prepare someone to be self-reliant and a productive member of society? Apparently, they believe that if the person is going to die, what use is there in teaching him/her anything?

As a PWA counselor, I reject this non-productive, destructive and inhibitive thinking.

It is indeed discouraging to find that people in higher places of administration are still so ill-informed about the realities of testing HIV positive.

Obviously, the center wants to train only those individuals who are "obviously healthy" or who expected to live a full life into their seventies.

I must assume that includes the young Hispanic woman who is unaware she has a malignancy growing in one of her breasts; I must assume that also includes the young man

who just began training, has smoked three packs of cigarettes a day since he was 12 and will soon find out that he has throat cancer; I assume that includes the healthy young stud who is nearly finished with his training and will be killed in an auto accident as he turns his view from Interstate 35 at 65 m.p.h. to kiss his fiancée.

I assume, none of these people would be eligible for the center's overwhelming compassion either. None of them will be around very long.

The point is, no one knows how long ANY of us apparently "healthy" people will be around.

But the young man who has recently tested HIV positive, has much more of a chance for survival than any of them.

The center's knee-jerk reaction to the plight of this young man is just another example of a government agency that is supposed to be there "for the people." Obviously, Governor Richards has a lot of work for her ombudsman Annette LoVoi.

The time has come, Annie. Get your gun! What can you do for this young man???

Is this the kind of new Texas you want for all of us? Is this the kind of Texas you want that young school child you spoke so eloquently of, to remember?



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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

PUBLICATION DAY IS THURSDAY

Next Issue February 7th

(Deadline date: Saturday, February 2th)

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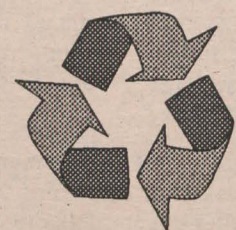
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State

Richards' Inaugural Address

Note to the reader:

[Governor Richards frequently deviates from her prepared remarks.]

"Welcome to the first day of a New Texas!

And welcome to the official representatives of thirty-five countries and the governors of the four Mexican border states who have joined us today.

I want to thank all of you for being with us. I hope we will see you often in the capitol. We look forward to working cooperatively with your governments and to excellent relationships with your people.

Bienvenidos, mis amigos!

Eighteen months ago, I stood with many of you a few hundred yards from this platform and announced my candidacy for governor.

If you were there, in fact or in spirit, on that hot June day, if you gave your time and your energy to our campaign, if you held your ground and continued to believe when the odds seemed long and the outcome uncertain, my gratitude to you is profound.

Today is a day of celebration.

Today we marched up Congress Avenue and said that we were reclaiming the Capitol for the people of Texas.

We say proudly that the people of Texas are back.

That statement will be given meaning by our actions during the next four years.

Today, the historians will record promises that a new administration, different from any in the past, began.

Twenty, fifty, one hundred years from now, school children will open their textbooks, or perhaps, switch on their video texts, and they will see a picture.

They will see us standing proudly on this bright winter noon. And looking through the eyes of a child will seem as distant and ancient as portraits of our ancestors seems to us.

Those children will read that on January 15th, 1991, a woman named Ann W. Richards took the oath of office as the 45th Governor of Texas.

That much is certain.

Today, the headline has been written, but the pages that follow are blank.

Tomorrow, we begin filling in the pages, writing line by line the story that will be told long after the joy of this day is forgotten.

Like the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., who was born on this day, we have come this far on the strength of a dream.

Our challenge is to transform that dream into reality, to fill the pages of history with the story of Texans who came into office envisioning a new era of greatness, and breathed life into that vision.

Today, we have a vision of a Texas where opportunity knows no race or color or gender, a glimpse of the possibilities that can be when the barriers fall and the doors of government swing open.

Tomorrow, we must build that Texas.

Today, we have a vision of a Texas with clean air and land and water, a Texas where a strong economy lives in harmony with a safe environment.

Tomorrow, we must build that Texas.

Today, we have a vision of a Texas where every child receives an education that allows them to claim the full promise of their lives.

Tomorrow, we must build that Texas.

Today, we have a vision of a Texas where the government treats every citizen with respect and dignity and honesty, where consumers are protected, where business is nurtured and valued, where good jobs are plentiful, where those in need find compassion and help, where every decision is measured against a high standard of ethics and true commitment to the public trust.

Tomorrow, we must build that Texas.

The people of Texas are back, and they are waiting and watching anxious to see if their government can rise above personal interest, rancor and division and get on with the business of building a Texas where the people come first.

Years ago, John Kennedy said that, "Life isn't fair."

Life is not fair, but government must be.

And if tomorrow, we begin with the understanding that government must stop telling people

what they want, and start listening to the people and hearing what the people need, we will make government mean something good in people's lives.

Nothing is more fundamentally important to me that the understanding that this administration exists to serve the taxpayers.

Because service to the people is government's bottom line, we are creating a new position in the governor's office: a citizen's advocate who will cut red tape and bureaucratic stonewalling, who will report to me those agencies who fail to meet the test of the highest quality of service, efficiency and financial management.

The oath I have taken today is mine, but the responsibility, the trust we have sought and been given belongs to all of us.

And I hope that as we invoke the blessing of God on this adventure, we will all ask, in the words of the old gospel song, that the Lord lift us to higher ground, and that we will be wise enough and strong enough to do what we have set out to do.

Because when my time in office is finished, I want us to be able to look back together and say we, not her, not she, not me, but WE came to this moment with a vision worthy of a great heritage, and WE realized that vision in a way that was worthy of a great future.

And as we turn to the corner on a new millennium, I want us to be able to look forward, to see a small child with a textbook, thumbing through the pages, coming upon a picture of a group of people standing on the capitol steps, looking out at that child across years and changes that we cannot even begin to imagine.

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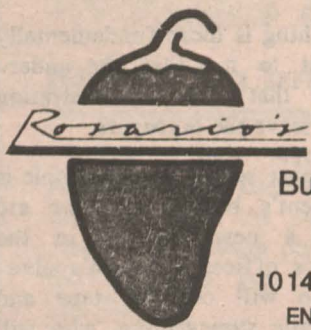
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- Sun** - Howdy Hour 12-7PM
BEER BUST 7-9PM
BBQ 7-10PM
10PM Show: Jo-Anna, M.C.
Out of Town Guest Performer

I want us to be able to read words beneath that picture that say that on this date in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one a new era began in Texas.

And I want us to know that what we started here will reach out across time to that child, and do us honor.



State

Richards Appoints Consumer Advocate

Annette LoVoi Chosen

Governor Ann Richards announced Tuesday that she had named Annette M. LoVoi to serve as an ombudsman in the governor's office.

Richards announced the creation of the new post during her Inaugural Address Tuesday. For the first time in Texas history, the governor's office will have an ombudsman, a citizen's advocate who would cut red tape and report directly to the governor.

The ombudsman will help those citizens having problems with state government and make government more responsive to citizens and represent citizens in government proceedings. (See Editorial, this issue)

The ombudsman will also serve as an internal whistle-blower, receiving public inquiries about executive agencies and investigate citizen complaints.

Richards said Tuesday that the appointment of a citizen's advocate in the governor's office underscored her commitment to opening doors to all citizens of Texas.

State

TGRA Benefit at Choices, Corpus Christi

Mr. & Ms. Cupid '91 to be chosen

Choices of Corpus Christi will be hosting a benefit for the TGRA of Corpus Christi. The benefit will be held on Valentine's Day and promises to be more than just the exchanging of Valentine's cards. Mr. and Miss TGRA Cupid for 1991 will also be chosen.

The contestants will be judged in three areas: interview, talent and dress. The Dress segment will be more than the standard evening wear since the contestants will be dressing in theme.

The winners will be the "Love Gods" for the night.

Joanna King will MC this special event.

There is a fee and if you have any questions, you should call

On the Lighter Side

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There's a new product on the market some of you may have already heard or even seen.

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"I expect the ombudsman to be my eyes and ears in the state government and to not only help citizens resolve problems with the bureaucracy, but also to advise me on how to make government work more efficiently," Richards said.

LoVoi currently serves as president of the Texas Consumer Association. She is also president of Annette M. LoVoi Consulting Services, and has conducted projects for the city and state government as well as non-profit and private concerns.

A 1974 graduate of Oklahoma State University, LoVoi also earned a Master of Public Administration from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs in 1980.

"I am thrilled about taking this historic position in the governor's office," LoVoi said. "By creating the ombudsman's office, Governor Richards has demonstrated her strong commitment to returning government to the people."



Choices at 882-0259. Proceeds will go to TGRA Corpus.

TGRA Corpus is also have a raffle to raise funds. Two prize packages include: a dinner for two at Frank's Spaghetti House, hairstyle/cut at BelAire Barber Shop, gift certificate at Choices, floral arrangement from Currio's, steak dinner from the Hidden Door and more.

Tickets are \$1 and can be purchased at Choices. The drawing will be held at Choices on February 14th in conjunction with the Mr/Miss TGRA CUPID contest.

TGRA Corpus meets the first Sunday of every month at MCC Corpus, 1230 Brownlee.



accidents such as another Saddam Hussein!" This is not a joke. It's for real. The new items come in a clever little display stand and are a bit pricey but fads have to reap their financial rewards quickly before the fad "leaks" to other entrepreneurs. Check out your favorite shop. Sales have begun to balloon...



State

Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby Sets Agenda for 1991

Provided by LGRL

Listed below is the 1991 LGRL Legislative Agenda for the 72nd Legislative Session. The agenda was adopted by the Board of Directors of LGRL at their last Board meeting. Mike Nely and Dara Gray serve as the ALGPC representatives to the board. With the election of many pro-Lesbian and Gay officials, it should be a little easier to pass some of our legislative agenda. However, it does not mean that our community will be unopposed in attempting to accomplish these goals.

While some of our biggest enemies, such as Rep. Brad Wright, did not seek reelection, there are always others willing to take up the fight to stop us. The fight should also be made a little easier now that the Lobby has hired its second staff person, Laurie Biserloh. Laurie came aboard in November and her role will be to encourage community involvement and to assist in the lobbying effort. If you would like to assist in any way with LGRL's legislative agenda, please call either Laurie or Glen Maxey at 474-5475.

1991 Agenda

Code for the following:

[1] LGRL would be lead and/or only major lobby group on the issue

[2] LGRL would be a lead lobby group with one or two others

[3] LGRL would be active in a coalition effort

[4] LGRL would merely play only a supportive effort

A> Rights/Anti-Discrimination Law
based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations (amending current sections of anti-discrimination laws).[1]

B> Repeal of Sec 21.06 of the Penal Code which criminalizes homosexual conduct.[1]

C> Prohibit the use of sexual orientation per se to be used in determining custody, adoption, etc.[1]

D> Hate Crimes statistics/training/penalties law to deter violence based on race, religion, sex, disability, age or sexual orientation.[2]

E> Clarify laws relating to funeral arrangement decision making[1]

F> Refinement of power of attorney laws, if necessary[2]

Health Care/Social Services

A> AIDS
1. Increased funding for the HIV Services and Education Grant programs.[2]

2. HIV Medication

a) Adequate funding for the HIV Medication grant program.[2]

b) Access/availability to HIV medication in the Medicaid Drug Vendor Program.[2]

c) Drug pricing issues.[3]

3. Removal of requirements of discussion of criminal laws (including 21.06) and the homophobic statutory language dealing with education of those under 18.[1]

4. Directing state agencies to target the unique issues of women in AIDS services and treatments, access to therapies.[1]

B> Expansion of Medicaid eligibility and adequate funding.[4]

C> Reimbursement issues for nursing homes, hospices, etc.[4]

D> Reproductive Issues

1. Clarify any of the laws dealing with artificial insemination.[1]

2. Oppose any attempts to impose restrictions on abortion.[2]

3. Support mandates for sexuality and reproductive education, including public health clinics, schools, etc.[2]

E> Lesbian health issues, i.e., funding for and direction to the appropriate state agencies to deal with the higher incidence of cancer among Lesbians.[1]

F> Insurance

1. Work in coalition with other groups concerning insurance reform.[3]

2. Fight attempts to weaken HIV protections adopted in 1989.[2]

4. Adoption of state-mandated health insurance for all employees.[3]

5. Funding through state appropriations for those who have private COBRA insurance and who become indigent through illness.[3]

G> Economic Issues for Minority groups and women

1. Supporting comparable worth and pay equity programs.[3]

2. Funding for battered women's shelters and programs.[3]

3. Child care issues, including day care, early childhood intervention, etc.[3]

H> Violence issues: Rape, harassment, abuse, battering, incest, childhood sexual assault, etc.[3]

Work in coalition with Texas Council on Family Violence, TWPC, NOW, etc. on funding for these types of programs.

I> AIDS Discrimination/Disability Law

1. Conform state law with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.[3]

2. Adopt "perception of disability" as a part of the state definition.[3]

3. Expansion of state protections beyond the ADA;

J> Prohibiting the blockage of a clinic or health care facility.[2]



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State

"QUEER NATION" Chapter Formed in Austin

TEXAS QUEERS ORGANIZE QUEER NATION CHAPTER

A Christmas Day afternoon holiday party turned into the organizational meeting of *QUEER NATION / Republic of Texas / Austin*. The chapter's first meeting is set for Sat., Jan. 12th at 7PM in Austin where the group will set goals, plan Direct Actions and encourage organization of local chapters throughout the state, reports Thom Prentice, organizer.

"I had been in touch with the *QUEER NATION* folks in California, Denver and New York, and was waiting until after the first of the year to get moving," Prentice said. "But everyone was enjoying Christmas fellowship, celebrating Ann Richards' election as Governor and expressing profound outrage at the abuses heterosexual society visits on Gay men and Lesbians. I had just received a letter from *QUEER NATION / San Francisco* about 'Intro-National Year of the Queer 1991' and passed it around. People said, 'Yeah, let's do it.'"

QUEER NATION tribes from all corners of the globe are uniting to proclaim 1991 the "Intro-National Year of the Queer"; a year long celebration of the "QUEERIFICATION" of our culture and the continuing fight to eliminate homophobia, heterosexual privilege and queer invisibility.

"The focus is to introduce *QUEER NATION* and individual *QUEER PEOPLE* to the dominant

culture and media with as many provocative local events, protests and invisibilities as we can possibly arrange," Prentice said.

He noted that the various national chapters are exploring the first international *QUEERSTRIKE*, when *QUEER FOLKS* and their supporters will withhold their work, services, creativity and ideas from the dominant culture for one day.

The group will explore ways to support the legislative agenda of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby during the January to June session of the Texas Legislature. Direct action ideas successfully used elsewhere in the country by *QUEER NATION* chapters will be explored, such as a Kiss-In at various County Clerk's offices to protest violation of [Gays'] right to get married, *QUEER-INS* at area shopping malls ("We're here, we're *QUEER* and we're not going to do any shopping"), outreach to homophobic churches and other heterosexual institutions, and Kiss-Ins at heterosexual clubs.

Austin and Central Texas Queers interested in *QUEER NATION* can call Thom at 479-0788 for information about forming local chapters.

The first Direct Action everybody can do," Prentice said, "is to hold hands in public with your lover, boyfriend, girlfriend or date to increase *QUEER* visibility. And yes, the group will have T-Shirts."

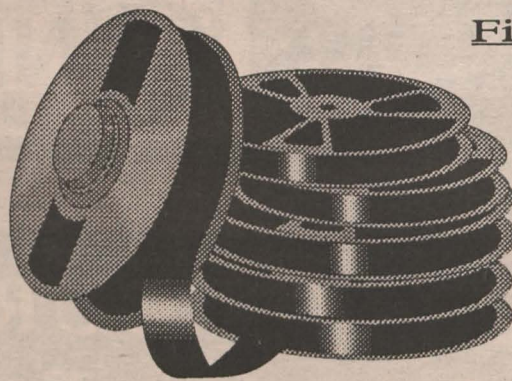
[Ed. Note: This news release was provided by Thom Prentice, *QUEER NATION* chapter organizer]



Film

A View From The Balcony

By Bill Burns



The holidays have long since passed and are only a pleasant memory of good times and food shared with family and friends, of gifts wrapped and given after much care and thought and of cards and gifts received from those we hold so dear.

The New Year has dawned all bright with promises of new and better things in store for all of us. This is the best time of year to sit by a warm fire and make all the plans to make the coming months ahead better than the one that just passed.

It is also that time of year when we must pay the piper for all the good times and start thinking about the bills that are arriving daily from the department stores, the credit card companies and of course the checking account statement whose pages tell us where it all went.

The yearly greeting that all of us get without failure or delay has come from the I.R.S. and lays in wait on the hall table to be joined by

those yearly W-2's that tell us how much or little that we made in the past year for all those long, long hours of toil.

They also remind us that it is time to start getting all those receipts, paid bills and tiny pieces of paper together and add them up and get everything ready to go to the tax preparer as soon as possible.

We swore last year that we would not delay and put it all off until the last second as we have every year before. Then dashing to the Post Office with seconds to spare before the clock strikes Midnight.

Then there are still the tank-you notes that need to be sent, along with notes to those who sent cards, but you forgot and of course, all the bills that need to be paid with checks to be written and accounts to be balanced. Sitting down with good intentions, the newspaper catches your eye and the entertainment page seems to unfold before your very eyes with movie advertisements that

call to you and a sudden craving for hot buttered popcorn hits you and you faintly hear Scarlet O'Hara saying, "I'll think about it all tomorrow! Tomorrow is another day!"

MISERY, Rated R, Drama/Terror, Columbia Pictures.

Stars: James Caan and Kathy Bates

This Columbia Pictures holiday release is still holding its own at the box office on the first run circuit and won't probably hit the dollar theaters until February.

This is Rob Reiner's ("Meatball" from All In The Family) first attempt at directing a suspense/horror film, although he has already well-established himself as a director with another adaptation of a Stephen King tale, "Stand By Me." What started as a joke in Hollywood and was later quoted in "People" just may be true. Reiner may just be "the new Jewish Alfred Hitchcock."

He and screen writer, William Goldman, ("Marathon Man" and "The Princess Bride") have softened Stephen King's very unpleasant tale of an extremely successful writer of serial romance novels, (Caan), who intends to kill off his fictional heroine, Misery, and dedicate his talents to serious literature.

A sudden blizzard, an icy mountain road and resulting auto crash, suddenly place his battered and broken body in the hands of a tender and caring nurse, (Kathy Bates) with a Dr. Jeckle and Ms. Hyde personality.

She carries him through the storm to her isolated farm house where she holds him captive. She is also his biggest fan and has made a shrine devoted to her favorite author and all of the "Misery" books that he has written up till now.

Besides the shrine her parlor contains her scrap books that contain her own terrible secret and claim to fame and a tattle tale ceramic penguin.

He makes the very big mistake of allowing her to read the recently-finished and unpublished manuscript of the final "Misery" and Florence Nightengale turns into Ms. Hyde who then forces him to resurrect his slain character from the grave and write a new novel expressively for his hard to please captor.

She is one writer's editor who uses a needle, fear and a sledge hammer to make copy changes and see a deadline is met.

HAVANA,

Rated R, Universal Pictures
Stars: Robert Redford and Lena Olin

I mentioned this film in the "Sneak Previews" section of my last column and I would like to only add this:

One of the most successful actor/director teams Robert Redford and Sydney Pollack are teamed up again on the film "Havana" and it looks like Universal Pictures has a box office hit and a number of Academy Award nominations.

The holiday releases saw top contender "Rocky-V" KOed at the

box office by two sleepers from 20th Century Fox, "Home Alone" and "Edward Scissorhands." In fact, the champ has already gone to the ropes and become a co-feature at the Dollar Theaters and is taking a pounding from Paramount's "Ghost" which was released last July and is still haunting the box office grosses in the black.

In "Havana" Redford plays an American gambler who visits pre-Castro Cuba in the late 1950's and falls in love again with a former Hollywood movie star now married to a Cuban revolutionary.

While Redford and Olin are by no means Bogart and Bergman, and "Havana" is not an updated version of the classic "Casablanca," it is still a very tender and touching drama. It is a film you will want to see on the big screen and one that you will want to add to your video library to watch time and again.

SNEAK PREVIEWS

OSCAR, Comedy, Buena Vista Pictures, March Release

Stars: Sylvester Stallone, Tim Curry, Don Ameche, Kirk Douglas and Yvonne DeCarlo.

Sly Stallone gives comedy a try in this comic romp about a petty hood from the wrong side of the tracks who strikes it rich and invades high society.

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA

TURTLES-II, Adventure/Comedy, New Line Cinema, March Release

Stars: Jodie Foster

A very grim thriller about a harried female F.B.I. agent seeking help from a convicted murderer to stop a serial killer.

The F.B.I. thought it had enough problems when it recently discovered that one of its top agents was Gay! Now there is a movie featuring a woman and a convicted killer coming their aid. The whirling sound you will hear in the background is not the projector, but old J. Edgar himself spinning in his gravel



Travel New Orleans The City That Care Forgot

By Howard Wohlgemuth

Most San Antonians don't realize that we've got one of the world's great tourist attractions right in our own back yard. New Orleans ranks in the top five of all tourist destinations for both domestic and international travelers.

I heartily recommend New Orleans for a COMPLETE vacation. Especially on a first visit, if you can possibly do so, don't plan on going over for a week end as so many Texans do. After all, if millions of people think nothing of traveling across oceans to New Orleans as a destination, so can you from right next door.

Preferably, don't drive! This is

one city where your wheels are a definite hindrance.

If you plan on being there on week end days, you will need to make reservations at least a month in advance or else stay way out in the boonies on those days. By all means stay at a B & B (Bed & Breakfast) rather than at a regular hotel or motel. There are about fifteen Gay-owned and operated B&B's whose clientele is 100% Gay, all located either in or immediately adjacent to the Vieux Carre, plus many, many other Gay-owned/operated B&B's which are totally acceptable but do not guarantee an all-Gay clientele. Prices for B&B's are much less than at hotels and in most cases they are much nicer and far friendlier.

Once there in the "City that care forgot," do get Bourbon St. out of your system—walk it from one end to another and once done, concentrate on all the rest New Orleans has to offer.

First and foremost, of course, is the rest of the Quarter. Royal St., with its excellent quality shops; Charles St. and its wonderful off-beat stores; Decatur St. with its delightful aromas and street cafes and the French Market.

If you're a jazz buff, there are literally hundreds of great bars where one can hear it, but if you don't feel like spending all your time in the bars, you can hear great jazz right outside at Jackson Square almost any day after Noon and frequently on a blocked-off section of Royal St.

The Quarter currently boasts about twenty Gay bars catering to every conceivable taste. For a list of these I would suggest picking up a copy of the local Gay Guide published weekly, known simply as "GUIDE" at any Gay bar.

My favorite place is "Good Friends" at 740 Dauphine St. because its bartenders and, yes, even its patrons, tend to be so very friendly and helpful.

If you want to do so, you can eat all the great local cuisine you can possibly handle without ever entering a [non-Gay]-owned establishment. One such Gay-owned/operated restaurant I can personally recommend is "Petunia's" at 817 St. Louis St., just off Bourbon. Plan on about a two hour wait even on weeknights. They do take reservations. Just stop by and leave your name and come back when the person at the door tells you a table will be ready; do the bar

scene or street scene in the interim. The cuisine there is as haute as there is in the city. Customers tend to be mainly [non-Gay] but this is because the food is go great (as is the ambiance). But this is only one of many fabulous dining choices.

Do not limit your stay to the Quarter. Take at least a full afternoon to do the Garden District, known to the locals as "Uptown." Hop a St. Charles Ave. trolley to get there. If you're an antiques fan, the shops along Magazine St. are as great as any in the world. And if you simply want to groove on the marvelous Anti-bellum architecture, you can get your fill walking the various neighborhoods of this district.

Try not to miss taking one of the Riverboat Tours even if you pride yourself on not being a tourist-type. These last anywhere from one and a half hours to four hours in length are absolutely terrific; just plain fun and immensely instructive and historical (or as a friend of mine says, "hysterical").

Above and beyond all the zany qualities of this city these days spoken of as "the Big Easy" I would defy anyone to set foot in it and not be ware of the aura of sexuality that virtually seems to drip from its balconies and cornices. The art of cruising is practiced there as no place on this Earth. This is not to say that you should go by yourself rather than with your lover or partner. Just being in the mist of it is a thriller.

Most bars are open 24 hours a day. You can grab some Z's at any time of day or night and then amble over to a bar for a drink and some good conversation on a round-the-clock basis.

As you can readily imagine, a vacation in the Big Easy can be an exhausting experience. You may well be in need of another vacation on your return to the sanity of Texas.

[Howard Wohlgemuth is an expert on travel, having visited all fifty states and fourteen other countries. He lived in Seattle for nine years and in various West Coast locations (mainly California) for twenty years. He has recently moved to San Antonio after spending nearly three years living in a small mountain town in Mexico. He welcomes your questions.]



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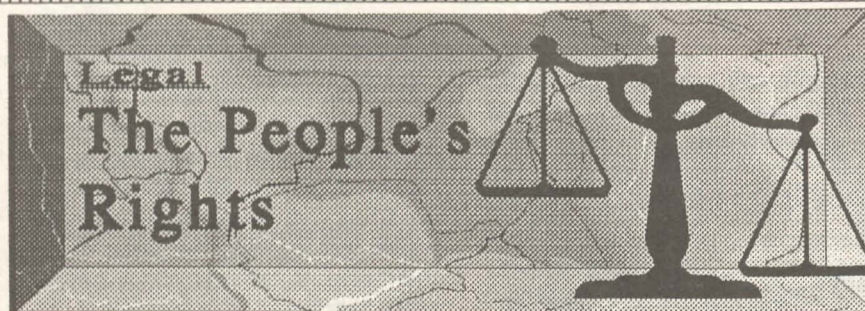
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By Martha Fitzwater

Attorney & Counselor At Law

While I am well aware that Texas laws do not fully support the privacy issues important to our community, there are a few simple steps each one of us can take to protect one of our most precious right: choice of health care.

I strongly urge everyone to consider, as part of her or his estate plan, the execution of a *Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care* along with the *General Power of Attorney*, the *Declaration of Guardian in the Event of Later Incompetency* and *Need of Guardian*, and the *Directive to Physicians*.

Durable Power of Attorney

Each unique in its power, the necessity and significance of these documents should be discussed openly when developing your estate plan with your attorney. I will focus on the *Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care* in this issue in hopes that this information will promote foresight and prevent problems.

The *Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care* designates your agent who will make any and all health care decisions for you if you are unable to make your own decisions. It also enables you to restrict what decisions that agent will make and it does not take effect unless your physicians certifies in writing that you are unable to make the decisions for yourself.

Along with designating someone to act in your behalf, it allows you to name alternate individuals, who may, for whatever reasons, take the place of your first designated agent. This option is important if, of course, you and your agent are incapacitated at the same time or if your agent is unable to serve because she or he is emotionally or physically incapable of acting on your behalf.

Qualified Witnesses Needed

It must be witnessed by two or more qualified witnesses. In other words, you can't have the person you have designated as an agent serve as your witness nor can your health or residential health care provider or an employee of your health or residential health care provider.

Anyone who would benefit from your death cannot sign nor can creditors or people who have a claim against you for any reason.

Guidelines

Once you have executed a *Durable Power of Attorney*, there are some important guidelines to follow. The gist is: communicate with your colleagues, your family members and your physicians.

First, talk to the people with whom you work each day. Let the appropriate person know who to call in the event that you need

emergency medical attention due to illness or injury at work. Disclosing who to contact in an emergency does not mean disclosing any particular facts or circumstances surrounding that power; it simply means that your employer or co-workers should have the name and daytime telephone number of your agent, as well as of your alternate.

I realize the open minds and hearts of co-workers will be largely responsible for their actions, but I further believe that if you present the fact that you have designated an agent should an emergency arise, that they will respect your desires.

Secondly, let your family members know who you will depend upon to make health care decisions for you. Choosing to discuss information about your relationship with your partner is a very private choice and should be made on a case-by-case basis dependent upon your family dynamics.

The extent of the information that you share is entirely up to you, in consultation with your partner.

A good rule is that the fewer surprises to your family in a medical emergency, the better the response to you and your partner's needs.

Remember, when we feel that we are losing someone that we love, we have many different feelings, not the least of which is anger.

A calm, candid discussion of your health care decisions planned long before those choices become an issue will benefit you greatly when you need the support of your family the most.

Although Texas law does not currently provide for conventional marriage between adults of the same sex, your *Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care* will empower your life partner with the ability to act for you when you are incapacitated.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, communicate with your physicians. Take upon yourself the obligation of investigating which doctor or doctors meet your health care needs. There are various resources to help you and asking questions about board certification, training and experience is entirely appropriate.

When you find a doctor you trust, let her or him know whom to call and depend upon in a health emergency. The doctor is bound by the physician/patient privilege, so except in special circumstances, she or he must maintain your medical information in strict confidence.

"You cannot control the world, only your reaction to it." My father's words follow me like footsteps still. *Execute a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care.* Help yourself: talk to your colleagues; talk to your family members; let your doctor know the choices you have made. While you are able to think and act reasonably and rationally, take the available steps to empower yourselves. ♦♦♦

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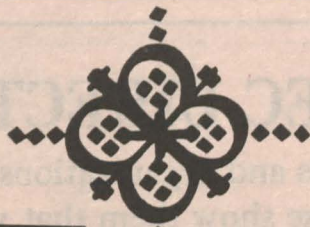
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Religion

On The Positive Side

By Rev. Linda Bynum



Question: Have you ever wondered where some people get their constant steadiness - the ability to be joyous and peaceful even as they plow through circumstances that you know would sink you in a minute?

Question: Do you ever find yourself wishing you had the exuberance and confidence that others seem to have? Do you sometimes feel like your life is about the same as it was two years ago, no big thing, just kind of rocking along but not very exciting? Are you ever hungry for some adventure, a way out of the "rut"?

The writer of the *New Testament* book of Hebrews reminded his readers that the fullness of life they were seeking could only be found in Christian maturity. (Hebrews 5:11-6:3)

Such maturity appears to proceed in three stages: **Infancy** (when one learns the basics of faith and experiences the growth of Christ-likeness in one's character, attitudes and abilities as Jesus says "Get Ready" and **Maturity** (when one responds with those attitudes and abilities to the needs of a hurting, broken world) and accepts the command of Jesus to "Go!"

When we're infants in faith, we kind of shelter in loving arms, gather warm fuzzies, sing the songs, learn the basics of prayer, the how-to's of worship, the value of community and the organization of the church.

During the "Get Ready" phase, the young Christian believer is supposed to gather and understand the basic doctrines mentioned in the reading: repentance, baptism, laying on of hands, faith in God, resurrection of the dead and eternal life. And the believer soon discovers that maturity is never simply a matter of personal attributes but rather the developing of attitudes and the ability to accomplish the task which Christ left to the church.

The third phase of Christian maturity, that of **ministry** or **mission**, was given to the apostles and also to us. We are called to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, economic, political and human needs of all humanity; a whole gospel to the whole person in the whole world. There is never any evidence that this is an either/or command: soul saving or social action...both are part of the great plan to touch every human need with the power of Christ.

No time for "lollygagging" around or for the individualism that denies our interrelatedness as parts of the Body and our interdependent functions within that body. We are called to come, get ready, and then to Go! The world around us is hurting, blind, ignorant, oppressed, imprisoned, sick, alienated, in spiritual darkness and without God or hope. We are to be partners with Christ's Spirit in us to touch those needs, in proclaiming the new message of forgiveness and hope and empowerment.

And the consequences when we choose not to mature? Powerless people, a revolving door syndrome and mere spectatorship are the results in a church when members are not serious about the maturity of their faith and when visitors aren't greeted with and introduced to an atmosphere of challenge, nourishment and anticipation.

A one-hour dish of faith on Sunday or the forty-five minute variety on Wednesday will never stimulate and provide growth sufficient to survival, much less health and maturity.

Conclusion: Being saved is only the beginning. If you want the abundant life Jesus promised, you've got to put forth the effort, the willingness to let the Spirit have its way with you. Expose yourself to the Word, digest it, ponder it. Study, pray, watch the world around you, listen to other Christians. Find your spiritual gifts, begin to develop and experiment with them. Look for a special niche in the church body. Allow the Spirit to guide you and to do the weeding and pruning in your inner life so that you will begin to produce those fruits of the spirit and your life will become both meaningful and productive.

Don't settle for just a sliver. Go for the whole thing. Hear and respond to the invitation: "Come." Now knuckle down and learn all you can. That's the Get Ready part: transforming that knowledge from head knowledge into experience.

And third, hear and obey Christ's command: Go! Discover your own gifts and where they can be best used to promote the whole gospel to the whole person in the whole world.

Each of us has been uniquely created and gifted to contribute to God's proclamation of compassion, acceptance and grace. Isn't it time that many of us, like those ancient Hebrews, quit settling for mere milk and go on to solid food so we can grow and mature?

If you've been looking for a place or a people where this is happening, I'd like to invite you to become a part of **Metropolitan Community Church of San Antonio**, 1136 W. Woodlawn. Services are **Sundays** at 9:30 and 11:30 AM and **Wednesdays** at 7:30PM.

We're not perfect, but we've been forgiven and many of us are growing up and reaching out, making a difference in the world around us, because Jesus Christ has made the difference in our lives. What He's done for others, He'll do for You!



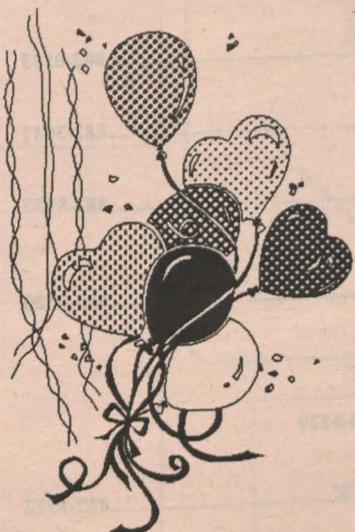
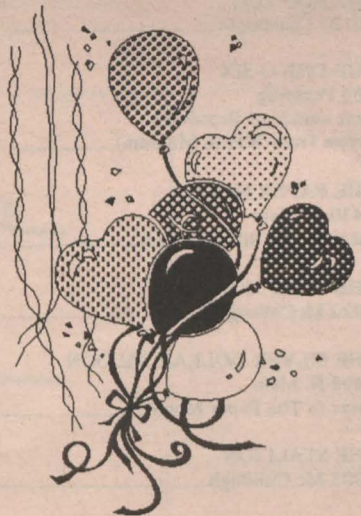
Most commonly heard joke this week...

Question: What do Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Bagdad have in common?

Answer: Nothing...yet!

Jim and Michael
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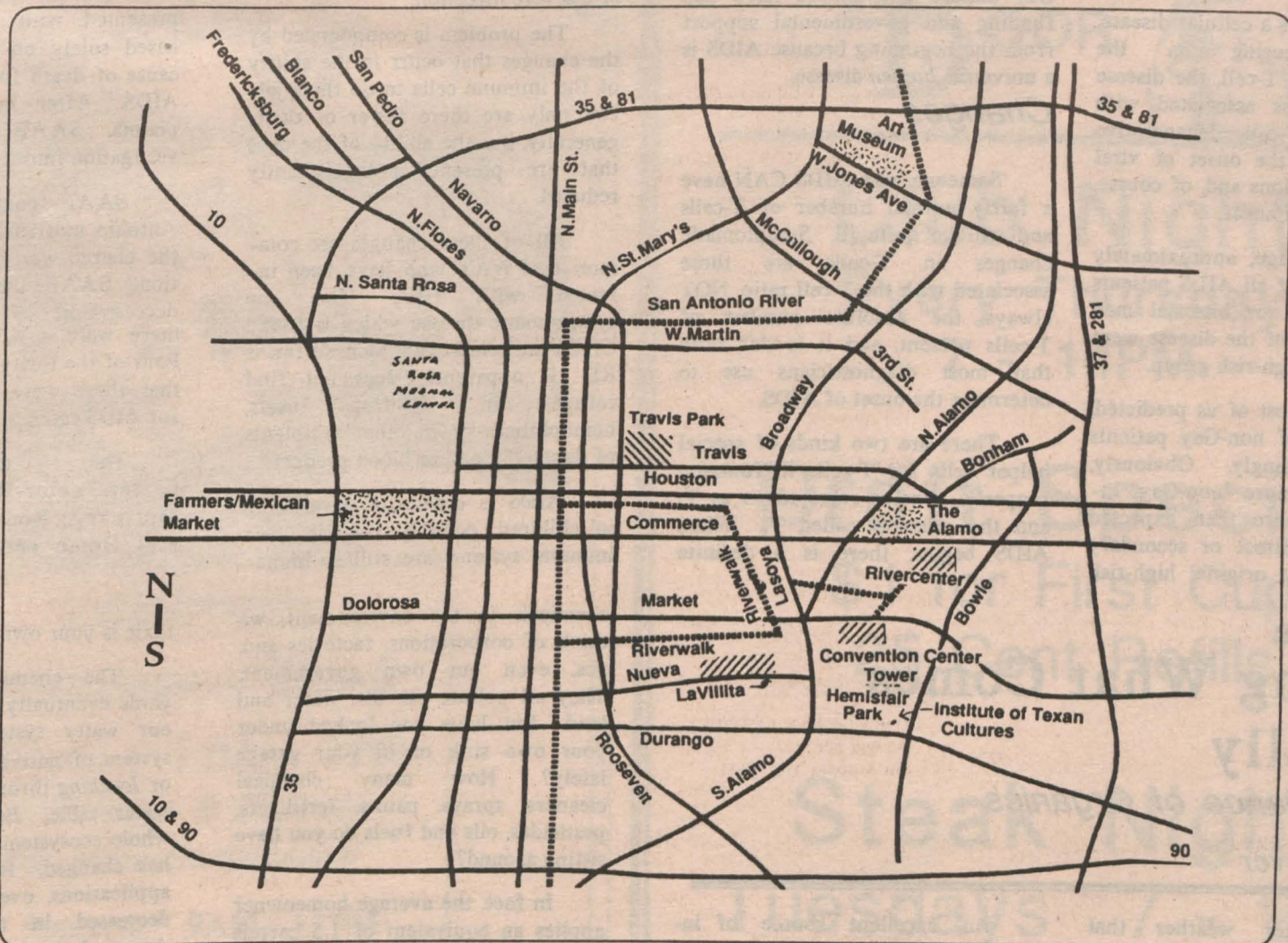
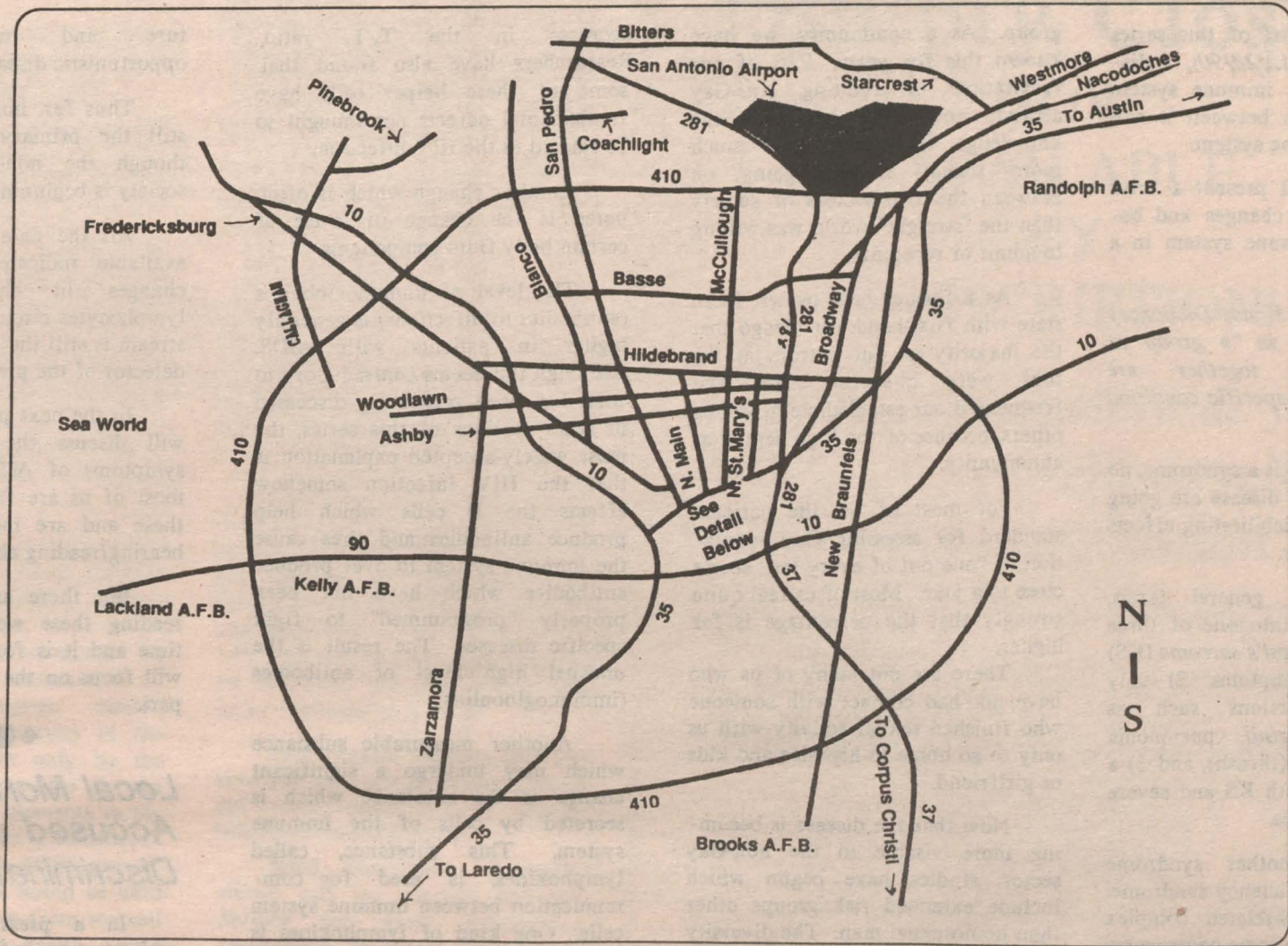
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Health

Survival

Specific Changes Indicate HIV Infection



In the last part of this series (See Vol.1 N.9, 12/28/90), I discussed the normal immune system and the difference between it and the acquired immune system.

In this part, I present a brief discussion of the changes and behavior of the immune system in a Person With AIDS.

The *Random House Dictionary* defines syndrome as "a group of symptoms that together are characteristic of a specific condition or disease."

Because AIDS is a syndrome, no two victims of the disease are going to experience the debilitating effects in the same manner.

However, in general terms, most PWA's fall into one of three categories: 1) *Kaposi's sarcoma* (KS) and no other symptoms, 2) only opportunistic infections such as *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP) or *Candida* (thrush), and 3) a combination of both KS and severe opportunistic diseases.

There is another syndrome which is also a deficiency syndrome. It is called AIDS-related complex (ARC) and there is some controversy about whether ARC is a separate syndrome which is totally different

ARC patients eventually develop AIDS. Generally, the symptoms of ARC are much less severe than with AIDS.

Individuals with ARC may experience the symptoms for months or even years and never develop AIDS.

Since AIDS is a cellular disease, specifically focusing on the functioning of the T-cell, the disease exhibits symptoms associated with several other T-cell degenerative diseases such as the onset of viral and fungal infections and, of course, various forms of Cancer.

Four years ago, approximately seventy percent of all AIDS patients were homosexual or bisexual men and most studies of the disease were done using this high-risk group.

Today, as most of us predicted, the percentage of non-Gay patients is rising alarmingly. Obviously, there are a lot more "non-Gay" individuals out there than expected who have had direct or secondary contact with that original high-risk

group. As a community, we have known this for years. Part of our frustration in fighting anti-Gay attitude and AIDS has been the knowledge that there was much more sexual activity going on between the two sectors of society than the "straight" world was willing to admit or recognize.

As a former bath owner, I can state with first-hand knowledge that the majority of our patrons at the tubs were bi-sexual men who frequented our establishment, among others, because of the high degree of anonymity.

For most of us, the national standard for assessing Gay population of "one out of every ten" seems close to a joke. Most of us feel quite strongly that the percentage is far higher.

There are not many of us who have not had contact with someone who finished sexual activity with us only to go home to his wife and kids or girlfriend.

Now that the disease is becoming more visible in the non-Gay sector, studies have begun which include extended risk groups other than homosexual men. The diversity of new information is already helping researchers to move closer to the key for containment of the disease.

This is not the first disease where much was done too late for so many due to societal prejudice. Attitude is always the controlling factor in situations of disease control. But the non-Gay sector is finding it more difficult daily to refuse to admit what most of us have known for years. This is not a Gay disease and should have had funding and governmental support from the beginning because AIDS is a universal human disease.

Changes

Someone with AIDS CAN have a fairly normal number of T-cells and still be quite ill. Symptomatic changes in T-cells are those associated with the T-cell ratio, NOT always the absolute number of T-cells present, and it is this ratio that most diagnosticians use to determine the onset of AIDS.

There are two kinds of special helper cells for T-cells to function properly. One is referred to as T_4 and the other is called T_8 . When AIDS begins, there is a definite

decrease in the T_4/T_8 ratio. Researchers have also found that some of these helper cells have fundamental defects not thought to be related to the HIV infection.

Another change which is often noted is the change in levels of certain body fluid components.

The level of immunoglobulins (antibodies to infections) is generally higher in patients with AIDS. Although this seems contradictory to what has been previously discussed in other sections of this series, the most widely-accepted explanation is that the HIV infection somehow affects the B cells which help produce antibodies and thus cause the immune system to over produce antibodies which have not been properly "programmed" to fight specific diseases. The result is the unusual high level of antibodies (immunoglobulins).

Another measurable substance which may undergo a significant change is the substance which is secreted by cells of the immune system. This substance, called lymphokines, is used for communication between immune system cells. One kind of lymphokines is called interleukin-2 (IL-2) and it causes disease-fighting cells to divide and multiply when fighting an infection. This is one reason why so many PWA's receive IL-2 injections at some time during their medication therapy.

The other kind of lymphokines is one which most of us are familiar with: Interferon. This substance is found circulating in the blood of many PWA's indicating the presence of a severe infection.

The problem is compounded by the changes that occur to the ability of the immune cells to do their job. Not only are there fewer of them, generally, but the ability of the ones that are present is significantly reduced.

All of these changes are common to PWA's who have been infected with HIV. The one symptomatic disease which is found ONLY in homosexual men, so far, is KS. It apparently does not find refuge in IV-drug users, hemophiliacs or in other recipients of donated blood or blood products.

AIDS is especially devastating in children, possibly because their immune systems are still so imma-

chemicals in the environment, we think of corporations, factories and, yes, even our own government. They all pollute our air, water and land. But have you looked under your own sink or in your garage lately? How many chemical cleaners, sprays, paints, fertilizers, pesticides, oils and fuels do you have sitting around?

In fact, the average homeowner applies an equivalent of 1.5 barrels of oil per year to his landscape in the form of oil-based fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, fungicides and other chemical preparations.

A higher concentration of toxic chemicals is used on home lawns than on agricultural crops. What do all these chemicals do to soil? How

ture and unresponsive to opportunistic diseases.

Thus far, homosexual men are still the primary target of AIDS though the non-Gay segment of society is beginning to catch up.

All the data that is presently available indicates that detectable changes in the numbers of lymphocytes circulating in the blood stream is still the most reliable early detector of the presence of AIDS.

In the next part of this series, I will discuss the basic signs and symptoms of AIDS. I realize that most of us are fairly familiar with these and are most likely sick of hearing/reading about them.

But there are those who are reading these words for the first time and it is for their sake that I will focus on the basics in the next part.



Local Mortuaries Accused of Discrimination

In a press release sent to various state and local publications, the *San Antonio AIDS Foundation* announced that it was filing a complaint with the *Texas Division of Consumer Affairs* about discrimination against People With AIDS at several San Antonio mortuaries.

According to the release, several of the foundation's clients and/or families complained of discrimination at local mortuaries. These clients and/or families were presented with additional charges based solely on the fact that the cause of death for the deceased was AIDS. After hearing these complaints, SAAF initiated an investigation into this matter.

SAAF contacted thirty San Antonio mortuaries and asked what the charge was for a direct cremation. SAAF then stated that the deceased dies of AIDS and asked if there were any additional charges. Four of the thirty mortuaries replied that there were additional charges for AIDS cases.

The mortuaries of Carter-Taylor-Williams, Collins Mortuary, Rodriguez ME Funeral Home and Southside Fun-

toxic is your own back yard?

The chemicals used on our yards eventually find their way into our water system and the water system of native wildlife by runoff or leaching through the soil into the water table. Because of this our whole ecosystem and soil compound has changed. Because of chemical applications, overall soil health has decreased in the United States. Accumulation and use of poisonous chemicals in your soil must be stopped.

The key to healthy soil and plant material lies in understanding natural processes, not in a bottle of pesticide or a forty pound bag of fertilizer.

→ P.13

Gardening

Growing What Comes Naturally

The Importance of Organics

By Scott Stover

The warmer weather that Spring brings will soon arrive in San Antonio. It is time to think about planting those new Spring gardens by concentrating now on the preparation of the garden soil. It is important to have a healthy garden soil and it is imperative to utilize organic landscaping techniques to ensure a truly healthy soil.

An excellent source of information on organic planting and maintenance techniques can be found in J. Howard Garrett's manual entitled *Organic Landscaping*. It is available at several book stores including the *Book Stop* for about seven dollars.

When we think of toxic

This is the basic idea behind organics. Before World War II, chemical applications to gardens was non-existent. The first pesticide, DDT, was developed during the war but later proved so dangerous to man that its use was restricted.

All gardens were maintained organically including the great gardens of Europe and China.

But we, as a population, have forgotten those techniques and have become dependent on chemical usage.

In the United States, the "rebirth" of organics was initiated by Robert Rodale in the mid nineteen fifties. He convinced people to use organics and natural mineral fertilizers to establish healthy soils. The organics movement has grown substantially since then, but only in the past several years has interest become widespread.

Soil is made up of fifty percent air and water in varying amounts; forty-five percent minerals; and five percent organic matter.

Nutrients are obtained by plants through the interaction of minerals and organic matter. Therefore, the productivity of the soil is measured not only by the elements present, but also by the availability of these elements to the plants. Organic matter is essential in the soil to promote plant growth. Without it, nutrients would be hard for a plant to retrieve from the soil and thus, the plant health would suffer.

Chemical applications can damage the community of soil

organisms. Chemical fertilizers are basically salt compounds. When the plants absorb the nutrients they need from these compounds, all that is left is salt. A good example of this is in potted plants. You may have noticed that after a period of time, a white, chalky substance forms on the pot and the soil rusts. This is built-up salt formations due to fertilizers. This build-up can happen in your garden as well. Salt builds up after continued fertilizer applications and the soil can eventually poison the plant. This salt build-up can also kill, for force to leave, those beneficial soil organisms mentioned above.

Fertilizers are also high in nitrates which are proven carcinogenic, and nitrates are now showing up in our drinking water because excess nitrogen not used by plants is washed away and ends up in streams, lakes and aquifers.

There are available organic fertilizers and techniques to use to control pests and disease. These will not destroy our environment by killing off healthy soils and poisoning ourselves or our wildlife. You will find that not only will your soil be healthier, but your plants will enjoy the benefits as well.

And organic healthy soil can save you as much as twenty percent off your water bill as organic landscapes use less water.

Read the book mentioned above; call the County Extension Service for more information. Gardenville Products here in town is another good source. They have extensive supplies of organic products and literature and the staff can get you started on the road to organics.

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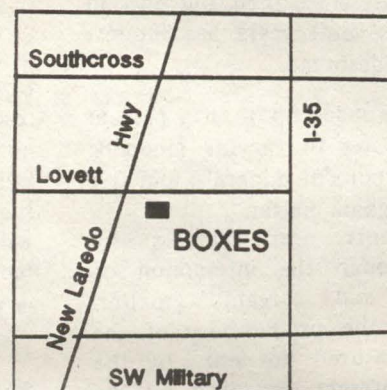
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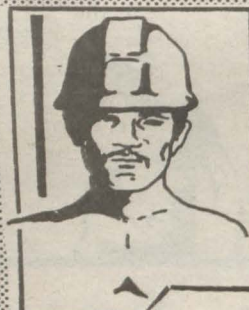
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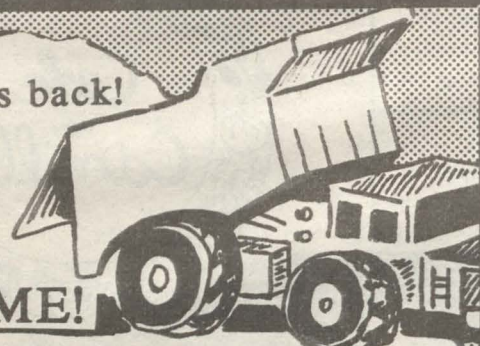


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Advertiser complains that ad gets no results

Publishing a Gay paper in San Antonio is not an easy goal to reach or maintain.

The *Closet*, *BarTalk*, *WomanSpace* and others are dependent on our advertisers for our continuing growth and existence.

Though these papers are for the same Community, we serve different interests and we often approach the same potential advertisers.

Recently, one of our clients complained that she wasn't getting any results from her ad. We didn't want to lose her patronage. We named several individuals whom we know had indeed done business at her establishment because of one of her ads.

Unfortunately, these individuals did not tell her or her staff that they were there because of her ad in our paper. So she assumed that her advertising dollars were wasted and non-productive.

This is a problem common to all publications.

Aside from the debatable question of Community support is the very real problem of how to assess whether a client's money is well spent. The only way is for that client to know that you, the reader, is reacting to the client's message.

So, please, no matter where you see the ad, if you are responding, let the advertiser KNOW that you are using his/her services, buying her/his products BECAUSE you saw their ad in a GAY publication, and tell them which one.

Not only will they be appreciative knowing that their dollars are well spent but so will we publishers who depend upon their patronage so dearly.

Business Suffer Financial Crunch From Crises

Area business which rely heavily on Gay trade are feeling the financial crunch imposed by the Gulf Crisis.

One local gay bar reported attendance, and thus revenue, down by nearly 30%.

If you have recently visited any one of our many "watering holes" you've probably noticed that they aren't as crowded as usual.

Although this condition is fairly consistent for January and the first part of February, it appears a bit more than the usual and one can only hypothesize that the Gulf War has taken a larger number of participants from our Community than we had realized.

Apparently, the Military didn't have to send all those warning letters after all.

Bar Anniversaries

Three local businesses will celebrate anniversaries in the very near future.

Memories will host their second, **The One-O-Six** off Broadway will celebrate its fourth year and the **2015 Place** will revel in its eight years of success.

Donna and Sue from **Memories**, 6402 Callaghan is throwing an 8:30PM "Anniversary Bash" on February 15th with food, champagne and lots of other goodies.

Bill Cox at **The One-O-Six**, on Pershing is celebrating on the 2nd of February with a free buffet, drink specials and a show hosted by Alexis for his patrons. Their festivities begin at 6PM.

Dick from the **2015** tells us they'll be celebrating with drink specials and a buffet around the 14th (he didn't have a firm date as we go to press; look for his ad in our next issue).

We've all seen many bars come and go, usually from mismanagement. It's a tough business to be in and frankly, most people think it's an easy way to make money. Far from it. It means long hours, riding the waves of fads, heavy insurance premiums and the very difficult task of building a loyal clientele. Obviously, these bars have been successful in all these areas and they deserve our praise and congratulations.

So, if you're in a partying mood, drop by these bars and share the celebrations and wish them well. Our bars play a great part in supporting this Community's various goals. They are rarely, if ever, thanked for all that they do. Now's a good time to let their owners know you care.

Happy Birthday to Donna and Sue, to Bill and to Dick. Many more to come!

Buddy Program Continues to Grow

The reasons for the success of the **Buddy Program** are SAAF's volunteers. **San Antonio AIDS Foundation** volunteers are able to perform the challenging task of being Buddy volunteers with kindness and enthusiasm. In turn, their efforts are rewarded with the friendship they form between the buddies and themselves.

The **Buddy Program** is a way for a volunteer to provide a variety of services that meet the physical and emotional needs of a Person With AIDS.

These services include providing emotional support tasks of daily living. The **Buddy Program** can be a learning experience for both the volunteer and the PWA. Through the program training, any qualified person can become a care giver to a PWA. All one needs is an open heart and a desire to help.

Unfortunately, the need for volunteers is increasing. As more people experience the effects of AIDS, the need for volunteers grows.

To take advantage of this unique opportunity and to help the fight against AIDS, contact **Jeff** or **Christina Shively** at the **San Antonio AIDS Foundation**, 3530 Broadway, San Antonio, TX 78209 or call (512) 821-6218.

Chorale's Plans Include March Festivities

Now that the holidays are over and all the decorations are packed away, **The Alamo City Men's Chorale** has begun the second half of their 1990-91 season.

Plans and rehearsals have already begun for the **Chorale's** annual **Spring Concert** which is scheduled for **March 30** at the **Church Theater**. Director **Robert Tadelman**, has prepared a light musical program based on love and relationships in song, definitely a spring theme.

The **Chorale** is also planning to perform at a concert in **Austin** on **March 16**. **Chorales** state-wide will be performing at this event in commemoration of the **March on Austin** scheduled for the following day. Tickets sales for this event are available through the **Capital City Men's Chorale** in **Austin** (512) 477-7464. Plans are also in the works for the **Annual Pride concert** in **June**.

The **chorale** is excited about its plans for the upcoming season but they need your support. Most importantly they need both singing and non singing members. Just because you may not be able to carry a tune in a bucket, doesn't mean you can't carry the bucket. The only real qualification for membership is commitment.

Commercial Memberships are also available to businesses who wish to be a part of this type of community activity. For more information please call 822-6325 and plan to attend their next general membership meeting on **Tuesday February 5**. They look forward to hearing from you soon..

Hearthrobs For Valentine's Day

Only \$10 gets your message in throbbing color to your special someone.

"**Hearthrobs**" are messages of fifty words or less to be printed in red in our next issue. Make it passionate, make it funny, make it anything you want—just don't make it pornographic! We'll devote a full page to "**Hearthrobs**" in our next issue, **February 7th**, so get yours to our office no later than **February 2nd**. Payment must accompany message. Send to **Hearthrobs, % RCEC Communications, Inc., Box 15558, SA/TX 78212-8758** or drop it off personally at our office at the **Bonham Exchange Corporate Offices Building, 411 Bonham, Mon-Fri, 10AM-5PM**.

Here's your chance to warm him or her up ahead of time!

Jump-Start Schedules "Frenchmen"

Jump-Start Performance Co. presents a new work by **Dennis Poplin**, titled **why do Frenchmen** beginning **January 18th** and continuing on the **19th, 20th, 25th, 26th** and **27th**. Performances begin at **8PM** at the **Jump-Start Theater, 1035 South Alamo** in the **King William Historic District**. Suggested admission is \$7 general and \$5 discount.

why do Frenchmen is the story of one man and his place in the world. This original **Jump-Start** production follows this mysterious man on a haunting journey through memory, reverie and crime. Under the direction of its author, **Dennis Poplin**, the sustained and disciplined movement of the play creates a stillness that allows the audience to enter into a secret and

interior life.

Designer **Daniel Geisler** has divided the stage into isolated compartments, placed an actor on a precarious perch twelve feet above the ground, and put scenery and sound operations on stage in full view of the audience. Lighting designer, **Steve Bailey**, has wrapped the stage in light from unexpected sources including the bodies of the performers. Performers in this work are **Kim Corbin**, **Jesse Valadez Lopez** and **Chuck Squier**.

This production is funded in part by the Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of San Antonio. **Jump-Start Performance Co.** is partially funded by The Texas Commission on the Arts, The Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of San Antonio, The National Endowment for the Arts and the Funding Exchange/National Community Funds.

For more info, call: 227-JUMP

Gulf Crises Mail

A recent article on the Gulf War in the *Express-News* began, "War has started in the Persian Gulf, but the delivery of mail to those serving overseas continues as usual."

As far as news reports indicate, "usual" means slow.

Most of us have a friend or family member involved in this most recent example of the human penchant for self-destruction. If you are not a regular reader to this city's non-Gay publications, you probably don't realize they regularly publish information on how to keep in contact with someone participating in the war.

The following information was garnered from the *Express-News*, **Saturday, January 19, 1991**. What follows is not complete and if you need more specific information, I suggest you buy a copy of one of those publications for more complete information.

A standard-size letter only requires a regular twenty-five cent stamp. It will take between eight days and two weeks to reach the soldier.

Packages cannot exceed seventy pounds in weight. Remember that ALL packages have to pass Saudi customs. Since the religious standards of the country are so restrictive, don't send anything that you wouldn't send to a Priest or Nun! And then, remove anything else which photographically shows more than a face. Saudi's don't wear all that garb for reasons of style. Showing anything else is forbidden; so no Playboy, no sports swimsuit special, no International Male catalogues! And certainly, no pornography. Don't give your serviceman or woman more trouble than they already have to deal with.

If you want to write to ANY soldier from Texas, including Fort Hood or Fort Bliss, address your letter to the individual, **Operation Brave Heart; C/O Operation Desert Storm; APO New York, 09848-0006**.

To ANY member of the **41st Combat Support Hospital** at **Fort Sam Houston**: (name); **1st Medical Group; 41st Combat Support Hospital; Operation Desert Storm; APO New York, 09657**.

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eral Home all discriminated against PWA's by charging an additional fee for cremations. In fact, Collins Mortuary advertises in the Yellow Pages for AIDS cases. The additional "AIDS" charges from these mortuaries range from \$75 to \$250 in additional charges.

According to the release, there were no apparent reasons given for the extra charges.

With the complaint filed with the Texas Division of Consumer Affairs, SAAF is working to correct the discrimination against PWA's, both living and deceased.

Body Refused

From a personal viewpoint, I have had an even worse experience with a San Antonio mortuary.

When I first began counseling PWA's and HIV positive individuals for SAAF back in April 1990, I met with a young man who faced making the funeral arrangements for his lover.

I sat astounded as he told me that he and his lover's family had contacted a funeral home and were told that unless he and the family were willing to have the body "sealed" in a closed casket for the "viewing," the funeral home would refuse to accept the body. Unfortunately, I cannot remember the name of the funeral home.

Even after pleading with the director of the home, he flatly refused to permit an open casket. The reason given was that the deceased died of AIDS.

I was stunned, as was my client's lover, who lay dying in his hospital bed without the solace of

knowing that his final arrangements would not be a burden to his partner and his family.

Fortunately, one call to Papa Bear later, the family was put in touch with a congenial and compassionate funeral director.

I suppose that funeral directors are like any other business. They have the right to reject a person's business if they want to, but I am sure there are certain guidelines both governmental and through the funeral directors' association of this locality. Certainly, refusing arranging the burial of a deceased simply on the grounds that the individual dies of AIDS is not within the realm of compassion and service that funeral directors like to promote to the public.

Personally, I cannot imagine why there would be extra charges for someone who had died of AIDS, especially when cremation was the means of choice.

This is discrimination pure and simple and at its most ugly presentation.

The fact that someone must now die of a socially-acceptable cause before he/she can be assured of a decent and compassionate burial is hideous and certainly does not agree with the ethics of directors I have had as friends or have known through participation in community activities.

A copy of this article is being sent to both Larry A Farrow of the Texas Funeral Commission, to Robert Smiley, president of the Texas Funeral Directors Association and to the office of Ann W. Richards, Governor of Texas for their comments.

**TRAVEL
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Looking for someone to share cabin on RSVP Cruise. Strictly travel arrangement. Cruise: June 29th - July 6th. Leave from French Canada. Call John at (512) 855-6271 for more info.

**EMPLOY-
MENT
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Gay couple relocating to San Antonio, late January/ early February.

Both Texas Certified security officers with armed commission; One TIPS certified. Other experienced with property management. gen office exp. also. Also need furnished one bedroom apartment. Reply to: G.B., PO Box 1021, DTS, San Ant., TX, 78294-1021 or call 736-9133 to leave message.

(MAIL CONT'D)

There are more specific addresses available either through the Express-News, or through one of the following twenty-four hour numbers which have been set up to answer questions for concerned friends and family members:

ARMY: 1-800-626-1440

AIR FORCE: 1-800-253-9276

NAVY: 1-800-732-1206 (general info) and 1-800-255-3808 (for immediate family members only)

MARINE CORPS:
1-800-523-2694

COAST GUARD: 1-800-263-8724

Kelly AFB: 1-800-253-9276
(general info for family members)

Gay Pride '91 Plans Formed

Plans are now underway for Pride '91. Rhonda Chase, Special Projects Coordinator for SALGA has scheduled the next meeting for January 19th at 2PM.

The Pride '91 event is a complicated affair to organize and everyone who attended last year's picnic at San Pedro Park will appreciate the effort that made this "first" in San Antonio such an enjoyable experience.

This year's event will require just as much work, if not more. This is but another way that YOU can become involved in YOUR community.

If you would like to help out in any capacity, Rhonda is the person to contact. You can reach her at 821-6131. Show your pride during Pride month. Become active!

Run Applications Available Now

FIESTA is quickly approaching (April 18th - 28th) and now is the time for those of you who enjoy such festivities to consider the annual *Alamo Run*, hosted by the members of the River City Outlaws and the Tejas M.C., Inc.

Those that attended last year's run (yours truly with lover in tow, included) will remember it well, especially that gut-wrenching mixture that was served out of a gas-can-made-punch-bowl during the now-famous celebration at the Circle J! The Mr. (Leather) Alamo Run contest was a treat for those appreciating cod pieces and shapely buns (I was frankly exhausted by time the Miss Alamo Run contest got under way) and the next morning at the One-O-Six was a sight never to be forgotten!

If you've never been to a "run" well...

This one was a bit mild by comparison to most, but still very, VERY enjoyable.

I don't know what the two groups are planning this year but their application promises "This Alamo Run is going to be different from all of the previous ones." If "different" means "hotter" (and I'm sure it does seeing that Boss's name is included as a reference for the event) then you won't want to miss this one.

For those of you who haven't been to a "run" in San Antonio or anywhere else, for that matter, you should be aware that it's similar to going into your first Gay bar. You know, when you thought everyone

would attack you and do weird things to your body!

Well, get rid of the fear. These events, like the bars, are fun experiences and no one forces anything upon you. And, like the bars, what you do and with whom and if you choose to do anything at all, is always left up to you.

Sure, there are individuals who enjoy themselves in somewhat different ways than most of us, but you can find that diversity anywhere. Runs are great opportunities to meet new people (there are usually a large number of visitors from other cities; leather clubs enjoy a better networking system than most Gay communities do) and the atmosphere is always friendly and "stimulating."

The "show" that is presented with the run dinner is not quite like anything you've probably seen before and is always a collection of off-beat satirical and comedy pieces that will leave you howling, especially if Boss and the gang do the Ester Williams bit again!

You don't have to be "into leather" to enjoy a run, however, some interest can make for a more pleasing experience. If you're at all curious about the leather scene and all the various facets of this much-maligned segment of the Gay community, a run is where you can get several different opinions and explanations—certainly enough to help you make your decision.

But even better, you'll have the chance to experience the camaraderie of being in a club and how intense this loyalty is to brother and sister members.

Unfortunately, most of us perceive MC/Leather clubs as dens of sado-masochism, power struggles and aberrant sex. That has NEVER been my experience (darn it!) and I have belonged to a club and have gone on a run or two over the years.

That is not to say that there are no clubs which have sex as their focus. There certainly are. You might even find one or two around this area—even non-Gay ones, too. But in general, these clubs are formed for the brother/sisterhood; the club is like a family.

The empty closet will soon be doing a few articles on "leather" in response to several inquiries and requests on the subject.

For now, if you would like to find out for yourself and really have a great experience at the same time, the Alamo Run is right here in your own back yard.

Registration Required

You must register to be part of the festivities. If you belong to a club already, you register as a representative of that club. If you don't enjoy membership yet, you can register as a GDI (a Goddamned independent!).

If you register before April 1st, the cost (and it usually includes all the parties, a full meal, the show and more) is only \$45, add ten dollars more for after April 1st.

You must also sign and certify that you are at least twenty-one years of age and that you will abide by the rules and regulations of the run as defined by Tejas and the Outlaws.

These are two great groups who put enormous time and effort into making sure you are going to have a

animal house

We Care as much about your Pets Good Health as You Do!
That's Why We Carry The Best!

Hand Fed BIRDS
Fresh & Salt Water FISH
AKC PUPPIES
\$2 pick-up & delivery
Boarding for Birds



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(Starting Feb 14th)
Grooming
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\$3 OFF GROOMING WITH THIS AD

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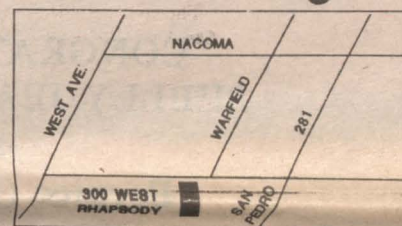
8446 Fredericksburg
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Sun 12-4:30

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Repairs-American & Foreign

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Restaurant and Bakery

Open: Mon-Fri 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Sat 7:30 - 3:30 PM

2520 N. Main

Catering

737-2710

Private Parties

Buy any Sandwich, or
Entree with Drink
and Receive a
FREE Dessert

SUNDAY
BRUNCH

11:00 - 3:30

very special and entertaining experience. The cost is well worth it.

For more information, you can write to the run at PO BOX 23548, San Antonio, TX 78223 or if you're adventurous, call "Boss" at 223-6620 and if you don't get him to answer right away, have a little patience; he's probably washing his toys....but that's another story!

Magnolia Gardens Site of Conference

SALGA (San Antonio Lesbian Gay Assembly) has scheduled a general membership meeting & conference on Thursday, February 21st at Magnolia Gardens, 2520 N. Main. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:30PM. (Look for our food review of Magnolia Gardens

in our next issue.)

Organizations are requested to send at least two representatives to the meeting.

Among other agenda matters, the nominations for new Board members will be accepted. Terms for Board members are staggered with seven seats available in February 1991 and eight in February 1992.

SALGA is making the announcement nearly a month ahead of time to give everyone ample opportunity to consider attendance at the meeting.

Unfortunately, many members of this community are still not aware



Terry & Donna Neyland
Owners

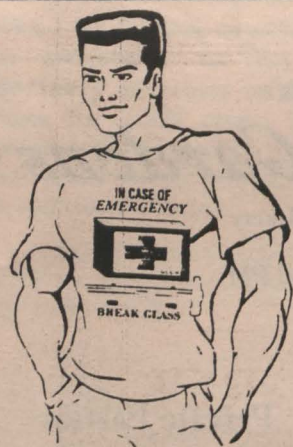
321 Fredericksburg
San Antonio, Tx
735-2903

Rick Houston
V.P. & GM

Mon: \$2 first draft beer - Refills 5 cents 2-11PM
Tue: 50 Cent Lg. 14oz. Draft 2-11PM
Wed: 25 Cent Draft - FREE Pool 2-11PM
Thu: HOT HOT Male Strippers @ 10PM
(With The 1st Lady of Just Us - Donna)
Fri: NO COVER 7-9PM 10 Cent Draft,
Live DJ 8:30 - MIDNITE
Sat: NO COVER 7-9PM 10 Cent Draft
Live DJ Amateur Show - \$25 for 1st Place
Sun: NO COVER "BEER BUST"
10 Cent Draft 2-7PM
25 Cent Draft 7-11PM

Coming Soon: *RISING STAR SHOW*
Call Bar for Details or Call 532-5875

CONGRATULATIONS
SHELLY JEAN, Miss Just Us
-and-
Bernice (Runner Up)



Emergency Condom T-Shirts

ONLY \$12.00

DON'T BE CAUGHT WITHOUT ONE

To Order Call: 821-6218, ask about the
Condom T-Shirts

All Proceeds Benefit the San Antonio AIDS Foundation

of this organization's efforts and goals. If you have questions about the organization, the February 21st meeting is an excellent opportunity for you to get your questions answered.

If you are a member of a Gay-supportive organization, you have plenty of time to ask your administration to consider membership in SALGA. I believe SALGA will become a strong advocate of Gay/Human Rights in this Community and will certainly benefit by all of our participation. (Membership is FREE!)

The assembly has purposely adopted a somewhat slow, but

deliberate, plan for community action noting the importance of basic organizational needs first before action.

It is my understanding from an interview with Kay Ford, published in our Maiden Issue (Vol. 1, N 1, 9/06/90) that the main concern of the organization is to become a sort of clearing house center in hopes of promoting better networking within our community by our many Gay-supportive organizations.

If you have gripes, ideas for community benefit, or other personal expressions of concern, SALGA can be an excellent way to participate in community action since so many organizations and individuals already belong.

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

1/24

2/6

THURSDAY - 01/24

San Antonio Art Institute: Charlotte Robinson, oil on canvass/oil on wood, lecture @6:15, 824-7224 for info.

FRIDAY - 01/25

24th Street Experiment Theatre Co.: *Hello and Goodbye* 8PM, 435-2103 for info.

SATURDAY - 01/26

Jump-Start Performance: *why do Frenchmen*, curtain: 8PM, \$7 & \$5

SUNDAY - 01/27

Jump-Start Performance: *why do Frenchmen*, curtain: 8PM, \$7 & \$5

MONDAY - 01/28

Turner's All-Night Drugstore: *Ed's Poet Society*, 8PM, 733-6969

TUESDAY - 01/29

Carver Cultural Center: *Bluesman*, \$10, 8PM 299-9694
Majestic Theater: Robert Goulet, *The Fantasticks*, 8PM, 226-3333
Trinity U./Laurie Auditorium: *Henry Kissinger*, 7:15, FREE, 736-8406

WEDNESDAY - 01/30

The Circle: Support Group for partners of people in military, 8PM
Majestic Theater: Robert Goulet, *The Fantasticks*, 8PM, 226-3333

THURSDAY - 01/31

Majestic Theater: Robert Goulet, *The Fantasticks*, 8PM, 226-3333

FRIDAY - 02/01

Guadalupe Theatre: *Cine Festival*, 271-3151 for info
Majestic Theater: Robert Goulet, *The Fantasticks*, 8PM, 226-3333
Jump-Start Performance Co.: *The Troublemakers*, series, 227-5867

SATURDAY - 02/02

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Guadalupe Theatre: *Cine Festival*, 271-3151 for info
Majestic Theater: Robert Goulet, *The Fantasticks*, 8PM, 226-3333

SUNDAY - 02/03

Majestic Theater: Robert Goulet, *The Fantasticks*, 8PM, 226-3333

MONDAY - 02/04

TUESDAY - 02/05

The Circle: Tuesday Night Discussion Topic: Poetry Reading

WEDNESDAY - 02/06

The Circle: Support Group for partners of people in military, 8PM
42nd Annual San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, 2/6 thru 2/17, 224-3000 for info.

THURSDAY - 02/07

NEXT ISSUE OF THE "CLOSET"

SALGA Board Meeting @ Checkers Restaurant, 7:15PM
Abs Westernaire: The Dena Kaye Show, 8PM
Gallery at UTSA: Alberto Rios, personal reading, 7PM, FREE
42nd Annual San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, 2/6 thru 2/17, 224-3000 for info.

Committees Formed

The *Legislative/Governmental Affairs Committee* was formed and has already met twice. The committee is working on a survey to present to City Council members for the upcoming election as well as surveys for other local, state and federal offices.

The *Military Affairs Committee* will be a board committee which will attempt to establish rapport with military bases and work with other such committees from various organization in San Antonio.

For more information, you can reach SALGA at PO Box 12614, SA/TX 78212

In Memoriam

The stage is empty, the foot lights are dark and the curtain has fallen on his final performance on the stage of life.

DOUG ("Miss Kitty"), RICHARDSON passed away quietly in his sleep on the morning of December 27th, 1990, at his home

in San Antonio, Texas after a long and extended illness and hospitalization.

He was the well-known and liked owner of *The Crew* for nearly sixteen years and would have celebrated another year of ownership of the bar on April 1st. Like the generous, talented and kind-hearted owner of *The Long Branch Saloon*, Miss Kitty of *Gun-smoke*, that he so resembled, he was a real trooper and gave generously of his time, talents and self a thousand-fold at *The Crew*, on the stage of countless benefits over the years and as a moving force and officer of the *San Antonio Tavern Guild* and *B.O.A.T.*

He will be missed greatly by his family, employees, countless friends and the entire community. Yet he will be long-remembered in all our hearts and there will be many stars in his crown in Heaven.

In loving memory Bill Burns, Richard Gomez, his Family, Employees and Friends.

MEMORIES

6402 Callaghan
Open Daily 4PM - 2AM

STRETCH YOUR BUCK ON
SAT!

\$1.25 LONGNECK
\$1.75 WELL
\$1.75 CUERVO GOLD
ALL DAY-ALL NIGHT

DJ Cyn

NO COVER

SUPER BOWL BASH!

4PM FREE Hot Dogs
Happy Hour throughout game and show
Ms. Rickie & Super Bowl Show
8:30PM

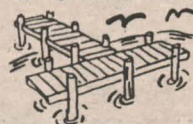
FEB 15TH 8:30PM
**MEMORIES 2ND YEAR
ANNIVERSARY BASH**

DONNA & SUE say a
"Big Thank You to Our Customers"
Food, Champagne, Drawings

340-1241

UNDER THE BOARDWALK

Balloons • T-shirts • Cards • Gifts



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VALENTINE CANDIES
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Artesania Rinconada Custom Jewelry
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NEW HOURS:

SUN: 11:30 - 3PM

MON: Closed

TUES - FRI: 10 - 6PM

SAT: 10 - 5PM

The Circle

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(512) 341-2818

FEBRUARY IS SWEETHEART MONTH AT THE CIRCLE!
FRIDAYS - NO COVER

Longnecks, Margaritas, Schnapps & Tequila - \$1.50

FEB 17th Community Talent Show

Great Entertainment & Prizes - SIGN UP NOW!

SPECIALS EVERY NIGHT

TUE:

Tuesday Night Topic (every other Tues) 7-9
Country Music Night 9-2AM (Dance Lessons)

WED:

Oldies but Goodies & Variety Music

THU:

GRILL Night - Even through the Winter!

FRI & SAT:

The place to be for the best variety dance
music, contests & fun!

SUNDAYS:

Shows & Live Entertainment - Call for
Schedules or check this paper's "CALENDAR"

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*A Live Visual and Vocal Impressionist
Recreates Marilyn Monroe and Other Famous Legends*

MC - BUBBA McNEELY

SHOWTIME 11PM

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Buffet 8 - 11PM

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