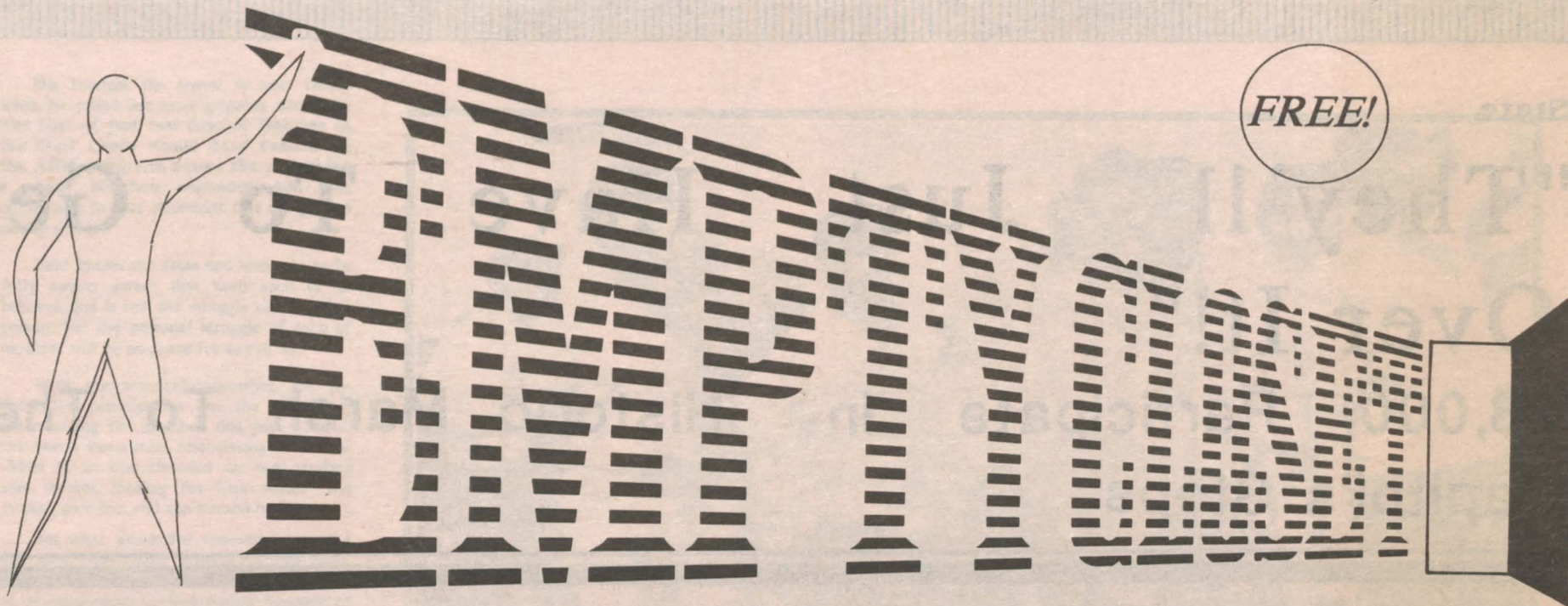




Vol. 2 No. 4⁵

The River City Empty Closet

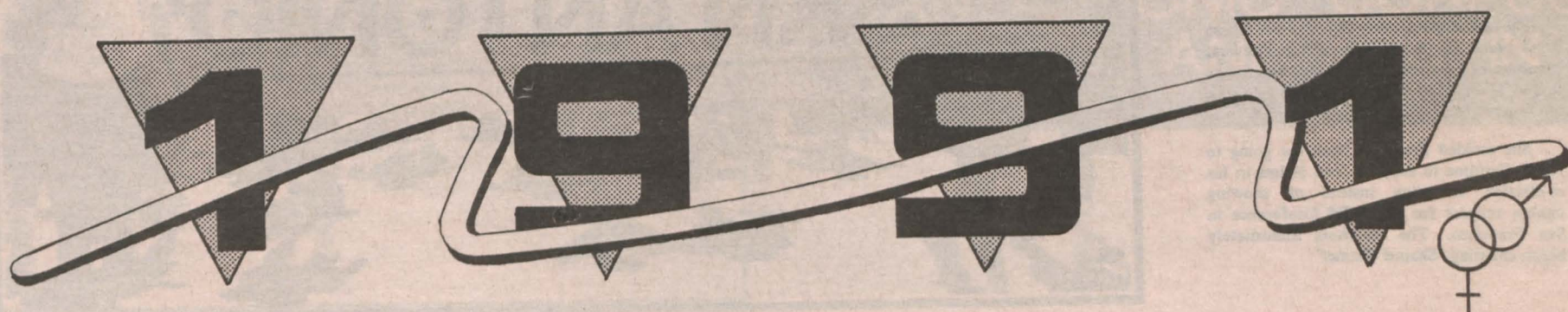
March 7, 1991

A publication of RCEC Communications, Inc.

San Antonio, TX

San Antonio, Austin & Corpus Christi

March
on
Austin



State

"They'll Just Have To Get Over It!"

28,000 Participate In Historic March To The Capitol's Steps

With those words, Glen Maxey, former lobbyist for the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and newly-elected to the State House of Representatives (March 2, 1991) set the tone for the remainder of his public service both as Representative of District 51 and as the legislative leader of Gay Rights in the state.

Maxey, a former school teacher, was introduced to the thunderous applause and cheers of the twenty-eight thousand marchers as the one person most personally responsible for the rapid forward change in the struggle for Gay Rights in the state. He was described as "perfect" in his role as our former lobbyist.

The State Representative spoke about his early years as an emerging Gay male and how he thought everyone else "had the courage" to accomplish steps forward.

His most poignant statement, however, was made while speaking about how the doors of the Capitol are now easier to open. He thanked the Gay citizens of this state for helping him "grease the hinges" of those doors. He denied his special accomplishments and then offered an important bit of advice which has been given by nearly every Gay leader in this country: *we should all make sure that the doors we face aren't barriers which we, ourselves have created.*

His greatest response from the cheering thousands, however, was when he spoke about the various reactions to his recent election as the first openly Gay member of the Texas House of Representatives. In referring to someone's question about other representatives "moving their seats" so that they didn't have to sit near Maxey in the House, Maxey wryly replied: *"I'm effective no matter where I sit!"* The marchers exploded with laughter and cheers as they caught the double meaning.

Maxey is charismatic and one of those "late bloomers" who breaks down the door to his own closet and never expects to stop chopping the pieces into splinters.

He is forward, opinionated and certainly one of the best things that has ever happened publicly to this state's Gay Community.

Vaid Gives Keynote Address

As if Maxey's presence might not be enough by itself to motivate the crowd, the March Committee presented still another "big gun" to arouse the participants and set the tone for the coming year. This "big gun" packs the political wallop of a rhino on the run. She is the nationally famous Executive Director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Urvashi Vaid. And no matter what your physical stature, you don't want to wind up opposing this little package of nitro.

If you ever felt that no one really tells it like it is, you haven't heard Ms. Vaid speak about the injustices to Lesbians and Gays, the homeless, the sick and the ethnic "minorities."

Dripping wet, she can't weigh over a hundred pounds, but in seconds, she took full control of the podium and the cheering thousands, spitting out her message of Gay awareness and emphasizing her "anger and rage" over the injustices we still face.

She stated over and over again that "there is no peace for us" and enumerated several examples of how the Federal Government has turned a near-deaf ear to the needs of Gays, the impoverished, women and minorities.

She scolded President Bush for going to North Carolina to support Jesse Helms in his re-election campaign instead of showing visible support for the AIDS Conference in San Francisco. The marchers immediately began chanting "Shame! Shame!"



Photos
by
JIM KANE



She brought the crowd to near frenzy when he yelled her most gripping statement: The cost of just two days of fighting in the Gulf Crisis would have funded all the AIDS programs across the nation for a year! Marchers responded with such enthusiasm to that statement that the ground nearly shook.

Vaid knows the facts and wants us to be fully aware; aware that until each of us believes this is not the struggle of the other person, but the personal struggle of each of us, there will be no peace for any of us.

With the wonderful weather, the unparalleled participation and the feeling of unity among the marches, this year's March On Austin was a total, unquestionable success.

Most of us who attended are now tending sore throats, looking for "lost voices" and nursing sore feet and sun-burned bodies.

But what wonderful remembrances of a day that truly made history in this state. What a colossal feeling of belonging that each of us experienced as twenty-eight thousand of us marched through the city, proudly chanting, holding heads high, and knowing that none of us are alone unless we want to be. Thanks, Glen. Thank you very much, Urvashi.

And a very special thanks (it can never be enough) to Gilbert Casillas and Dawn Tschabrun, who together with their hoards of organizers, produced a magnificent Gay Rights March; certainly one that will affect the life of every Gay in this state. Their attention to detail, to security, to entertainment was of the highest professional quality and their contribution to this state's Gay Community is immeasurable. Congratulations to both of you.



MASTHEAD

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EDITORIAL

Separatism or Survival?

By Daniel Castor, Political Editor

I've had it, I'm probably going to piss some people off. But I've had it.

The separatism in our Community must go.

I don't care if we have to drag it away kicking and screaming, the separatist attitude and the people who hold it, need to be dumped in the San Antonio River and forever washed from the San Antonio Community

Am I being too optimistic? Is it unrealistic of me to think that we might be able to overlook our differences and concentrate on our common ground?

When I read the directory listings I grin at the number of social and political organizations. Each segment of our Community is represented by an organization. This is wonderful but also dangerous.

As Lesbian and Gay individuals we share an early life of isolation. As children and adolescents most of us never "fit in" anywhere. Many of us experience immediate families that did not understand or appreciate our lifestyles and so we were alienated (some disowned) or we chose to hide our lifestyle and suffer another form of isolation.

When a Gay male or Lesbian first steps out of the closet and into the Community the experience is overwhelming. I, like many others, first found our Community in the bars.

After twenty-two years of confusion and isolation, I walked into a Gay bar and suddenly I "fit in." Now, six years later, I am an integral part of a Community which is more organized, more powerful and ...more separatist than ever.

Due to our history of isolation, we tend to rally behind those who we perceive as most like ourselves. Granted, there is place for social groups which have specific interests that are shared by specific persons. However,

when those specific interests become superior to our shared isolation from the larger society, we run the risk of splintering our organization and our power.

I am speaking to those who would shun women in the boys' bars and those who would do the same to men in the women's bars. This is where the discrimination, I am calling it by its name, is most obvious but it is pervasive in our Community

I have witnessed it in the social and political organizations, especially in the struggle for power or control of a group of our people.

I know what you're thinking.

Yes, there is separatism in our Community; yes, it is pervasive; no, I am not a separatist.

Think again. Think about how important your circle of friends is to you. Think about the last time you used the word "queen" or "dyke."

Think about the last time you heard one of those separatist descriptions and said nothing in defense.

The March on Austin, last week, was a unifying experience. A great diversity of Gay men and Lesbians came together and made a statement twenty-eight thousand voices strong, "we're here, we're queer, we're fabulous!"

We need to bring that unity back to our bars and organizations. We need to strive for unity in order to insure that our common goals survive.

I know that identity is important, but we need to be careful that identity does not become more significant than the laws that make our sexual conduct illegal or prevent us from adopting children or otherwise diminish our rights.

The separatism is there, be aware of it and be intolerant of it.

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Letters To The Editor

Recently, my best friend had his birthday and we wanted to do it up special. We called San Antonio and asked what sort of party favors we could get. But the Paper Moon and the Silver Dollar said they couldn't help. "With the new law we can't give away anything," was their quote.

I then called a friend in Austin and told him of the situation. He [told us] to come up and he would show us how to party.

Later that night, we arrived in Austin and my friend took us to four clubs and three of those four gave us a bottle of complimentary Champaign. Of course, we had to sign for the bottles saying they were given to us—TABC rule. But still, why San Antonio wouldn't or couldn't just doesn't make sense.

One more quick note: why hasn't San

Antonio caught up to the rest of Texas with music? Austin, Dallas, Houston and Corpus have all left the DISCO word and picked up NEW AGE, NEW BEAT, INDUSTRIAL, HI-ENERGY. But San Antonio continues to say and or call their music DISCO. Please leave the 70's and come to the 90's.

Chuck Edwards

Gruene, TX

[Mr. Edwards: Please don't judge all San Antonio by one or two bars. Perhaps the person you spoke to had incorrect information.

According to John Kimble, Manager of the Bonham Exchange, you could have received a complimentary bottle of

champagne at the Bonham. He said they follow the same procedure as Austin (however, if your birthday is on a week end, the club gives you a "rain-check" for any other day of the week.)

As far as our reaction to more "modern" nomenclature, I'm sure you realize that San Antonio is not exactly in a rush to keep up with the rest of the country. We obviously have our own way of doing things which is part of our charm and frustration. But, attention! There are a couple of new clubs about to open; one, WILD CLUB, IS OPENING where "KOLORS" used to be. Word has it it will be "high-tech" atmosphere and music.]

I am a "regular" at the One-O-Six and was quite surprised to find out that it has been declared "off-limits"

I can think of several other bars that should have that status, but the One-O-Six is not one of them! What could possibly be any reason for Mr. Cox's bar receiving such a dubious honor? This is intolerable.

(name withheld)

Shame on you for not including The Crew and The Executive Club on your list of bars that have been designated "off-limits." The One-O-Six has been a steady advertiser [in The Closet] and I can't believe you published their name.

E.L. Warner

The "dispute" that Ms. Ford speaks of in her article [SALGA Responds To Military/Bar Disputes, Vol. 2 No. 4, March 7, 1991] is relevant but I doubt it is a fair representation of the problem. It seems you want to make a simple issue of the Military's right to police its own personnel more than it really is. Your relationship with Ms. Ford has been well-documented through your own words in your paper. I can only conclude that is why this article was given "front page status."

(name withheld)

[I stand corrected in not including The Crew and The Executive Club in our listing. I was told by one of two sources who first verified that list that these businesses "never came to mind" because both "have been on the list for so long, I just thought everybody knew

(Continued on Page 6)



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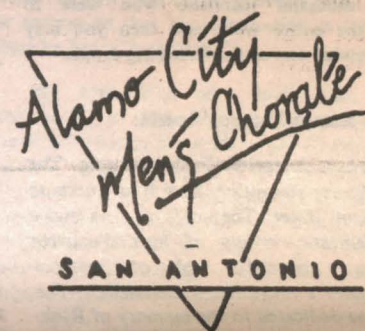
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(LETTERS continued)

that." I didn't, and I believed I had the full list.

As to Ms. Ford's article being "front page" material because of some mysterious relationship between her and myself, I can assure you that is not the case. I respect Ms. Ford because she says up front what she believes. I don't have to play games and read between the lines when she gives me advice, information or states her opinion, which is more than I can say for several other "prominent" personalities in this Community. Yes, I like her. But I also would not hesitate to disagree with her in print just because she is a friend and an advertiser. I trust I will never stray from what I believe is the truth just to avoid offending an advertiser. I'm sure if I do, our readers will rip me a new rectal pore if I do.]

Last September, I received my final diagnosis of full-blown AIDS. I have been doubtful of my future since receiving the news and quite depressed. I saw only uncontrollable debt and no way to pay for it right alongside of pain and torture. I have thought of suicide several times since that time. It seemed the only way.

Thank you for your article on "Affirmative Lifestyles" several issues back. I called the number in their ad and was treated with respect and was given an answer to all of my questions. I haven't decided to use their services yet, but I am seriously considering the offer. Just knowing that this approach exists has taken a lot of worry from my average day. Thanks, again, for the information.

(name withheld)

Where do you get off telling M. Lara that he needs counseling? [See "Letters to The Editor," last issue] Does everyone need "counseling" because they don't agree with what your paper prints?

(name withheld)

[Of course, not. But I think there is reason to conclude that anyone who associates femininity in men with the ability to consider women's issues is a little off-center. Women's issues affect all of us and one does not need to be of a particular personal orientation to support what is right and just and humane.]

Contributions are subject to editing for taste, libel, general grammar and space availability. All letters become the property of RCEC Communication, Inc. and are destroyed after transcription. Publication of submissions is not guaranteed and each submission should contain an address and/or phone number to qualify for consideration. Send all letters to: Letters To The Editor, PO Box 15558, SA/TX 78212-8758. Letters must reach our box by 8:30am on the Saturday before publication to be considered.

State

In Case You Weren't There...

A brief survey of some events

By Daniel Castor

The March on Austin last Sunday drew twenty-eight thousand participants from around the state. If you were one of the several thousand marchers who were in Austin the entire week end then you may have attended one of the following events:

The Names Project/Austin:

Both held receptions Friday evening. The Names Project Reception drew fifty guests to the Radisson Hotel. They enjoyed folk music and a fantastic variety of hors d'oeuvres served on a beautiful table of fresh-cut flowers under a magnificent chandelier. The evening was dedicated to the memory of Rick Rangel, Austin Names Project member, who passed away on December 27, 1990.

The Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby:

The LGRL reception was held at Chances Bar where approximately thirty people enjoyed musical entertainment by Boyd Vance, accompanied by Giovanni. Guests were afforded the opportunity to mingle with Glen Maxey and Laurie Eiserloh, former and present Gay Rights lobbyists, respectively.

The Texas Sing Out:

Held Saturday, at the UT Bass Concert Hall, this performance was a joint effort by the Capital City Men's Chorus, Heartsong, The Montrose Singers, Tapestry and The Alamo City Men's Chorus.

This was an incredible performance!

Each choir obviously rehearsed diligently since their performance was impeccable. The highlight of the evening came when Lynn Weynand, Musical Director of Heartsong, dedicated "The Best of Times" to Glen Maxey who was present and who received a full one minute of resounding applause.

Also powerful was the performance of the Capital City Men's Chorus "I Shall Miss Loving You," which left not a dry eye in the audience.

San Antonio's own Alamo City Men's Chorus was accompanied by The Closet's own Ron Haas (Distribution Manager) whose piano mastery was a fitting equal to the Chorus's stirring renditions. It is interesting to note that while San Antonio is four times the size of Austin, the Austin chorus enjoys four times as many members as ACMC. If you're interested in doing something about this inequity, contact the ACMC by calling Steve Miller, President (please see our Directory for contact information).

Seminars:

All day Saturday, seminars were held at

the Crest Hotel. Included were social, political and religious topics as well as various "how to" lectures. A particularly interesting workshop conducted by Rich Bailey was given by the LGRL and provided information on how the Texas Legislature works and how to effectively lobby for Gay Rights. For example, did you know how strange the legislative process is? Rich Bailey said, "When you begin to lobby the Legislature, you have to throw out everything you read in government class." Bailey was explaining that lobbying entails back-scratching and favor-trading more than the "classic" methods of legislation that are taught in school. It's not what you want done, it's whether you can get your foot in the door.

Bailey explained it is possible to open those doors but it requires documentation, organization and commitment.

The various political and legal Gay Rights groups can provide assistance to anyone wishing to lobby the Legislature.

The week end activities culminating with the March on Sunday set the stage for success for our Community's future.

The March is over but the fight goes on.



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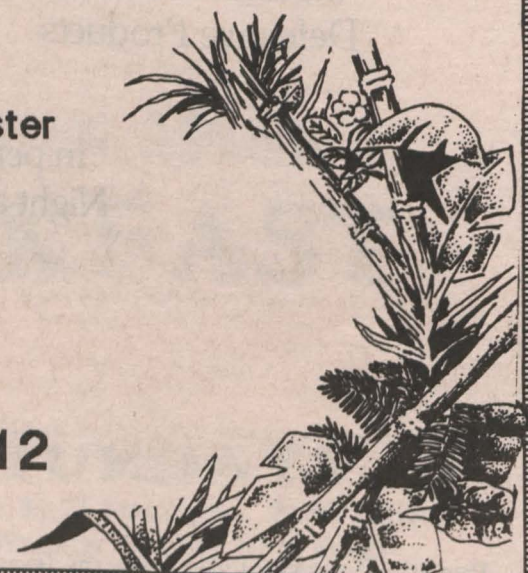
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Military States Reasons

As of this writing, at least eighteen bar owners have received notification from the military that their bar is being considered for additional action (i.e., "off-limits" status).

The following is a copy (reset for visual clarity) of a letter sent by Papa Bear of the San Antonio AIDS Foundation to the Secretary of the Air Force, Donald B. Rice, concerning the dispute.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter delivered to 18 different establishments in the city of San Antonio. All letters were exactly the same, with the exception of the addressee. I am appalled that the Air Force has nothing better to do with its energy and manpower. I would like to state the following facts to you:

1. My wife and I have visited everyone of the establishments that received this offensive letter; and we have never witnessed anything to offend anyone.

2. The San Antonio AIDS Foundation is a highly respected 501(C) community based non profit organization.

3. San Antonio AIDS Foundation has worked extremely close with the Air Force, as attached letters will affirm.

4. San Antonio AIDS Foundation has serviced many military clients. Several officer and enlisted personnel (male and female) have died with dignity in our hospice.

5. A large number of military personnel have received counseling, financial assistance and numerous other services that we provide.

6. The 18 establishments that received these letters have been large financial contributors to the Foundation (see attached financial statement).

7. These letters were delivered by military personnel in full uniform. They were not accompanied by civilian authorities and have, in my opinion, no authority to walk into private businesses off of a military compound.

It is my opinion that you have a loose cannon on deck somewhere on Lackland Air Force Base. Whichever officer instigated this "witch hunt" has to be extremely AIDSphobic and homophobic. My experience is dealing with people who might think this way is that they are usually insecure about their own orientation.

I believe that attack on these establishments is a direct attack at the San Antonio AIDS Foundation and its financial base. What

are the hidden agenda? At this time, I ask under the Freedom of Information Act, all references to the San Antonio AIDS Foundation that are contained in the OSI files of Lackland and Kelly Air Force Bases be released to this office.

You can rest assured I will contact every available source in the leadership and business community in San Antonio regarding this situation. I ask that you take immediate steps to correct this injustice. I would like to see this issue resolved without undue adverse publicity being created.

Sincerely,
Papa Bear
President

The following is a copy of one of the original letters sent to eighteen local Gay-supportive bars. It is the letter to which Papa Bear refers:

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter dated 17 October 1990 concerning certain undesirable conditions reported at your establishment which adversely affect the health and welfare of personnel in the Armed Forces. Information has been received by the Board which indicates that you have not taken adequate corrective action to eliminate these undesirable conditions.

Inspection reports presented to the Board indicate that you are operating a business where homosexual activity is openly displayed inside your establishment. Males have been observed in intimate contact with each other and such activity is either condoned or endorsed by club management and employees. You are advised that it has become necessary for this Board to initiate action to determine whether your establishment should be declared off-limits to personnel of the Armed Forces.

If you so desire, you may appear in person, with or without counsel, before this Board at its next meeting on 03 Dec 90, 2 p.m., Building 9016, Air Base Group Conference Room, Lackland AFB, TX to refute these allegations or to inform the Board of any remedial action you may have taken or contemplate to correct the undesirable conditions.

It is requested that you inform the President of this Board if you plan to attend. Any questions relative to the foregoing may be addressed to the President, Armed Forces

Disciplinary Control Board, 3700 ABG/CC, Lackland AFB, TX 78236-5000, and every effort will be made to clarify the matter for you.

Sincerely,
CLIFFORD E. LAMBERT, Colonel,
USAF
President
Armed Forces Disciplinary Control Board

The Department of the Air Force responded to Papa Bear's request with this letter:

Dear Mr. Bear:

We are responding to your November 7, 1990 Freedom of Information Act request. We received it on November 14, 1990.

We forwarded your request to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations/TM (FOIA), Bolling AFB, DC 20330-6001. They will reply directly to you.

Sincerely,
CAROLYN W. PRICE
Freedom of Information Manager

When we spoke with Papa Bear on March 13th, he indicated that he had been contacted and that there were no references to the San Antonio AIDS Foundation in OSI files. He also indicated that he believes [he and others working on this issue] have made significant progress and feels the matter will be resolved very soon.

Lastly, he stated that there were NO TABC representatives, as previously reported by Ms. Ford ("according to some witnesses") in her article referring to recent "raids" on two local Gay-supportive bars. And he assures us that his information is correct since he has it "in writing."

We also have been told, since the publication of Ms. Ford's article that the "raid" on the bars in question was not targeted against military personnel but, instead, was intended to check for "minors" who allegedly entered the bar. It is our understanding now that those who were removed from the bars were minors and that the action was not against military personnel.

It is clear that rumors in our Community, that have been embellished by individuals' perceptions of what they see or have heard. No one is immune from this human annoyance and only through dialogue can the facts be established and solutions found.

Plants

LIVING WITH PLANTS

African Violets aren't just for your grandmother anymore!!!

By Michael Hopper

Easter is just around the corner and is traditionally the signal that Spring is here. A time for new beginnings and a growing time. So, let's start the "New Year" off with some good ol' Myth Bashing.

There are as many myths about plants as there are plants so it is not easy to decide where to begin.

People will believe a lie more quickly and easily than they will the truth; this is true with everything. We believe the dirt about someone without question, but doubt the truth when it finally surfaces.

Some myths about plants have a basis of merit and truth. However, the majority stem from either ignorance, misjudgment or, in most case, pure profit motivation.

MYTH: Orchids are hard to grow, almost impossible to get to re-bloom and without a proper greenhouse environment, they cannot be propagated.

This tried and true myth was spawned during the 20's and 30's when the orchid growers in Hawaii first started shipping their plants and blossoms to the Mainland.

The reasoning behind this myth was pure profit motivation. In order to increase their profits, they started this campaign to "educate" the American public as to just how dear these plants and flowers are.

There are few rivals to the exotic beauty of an orchid and there are even fewer plants for which care is easier. Orchids can be grown in pots of soil, pots of bark mulch or gravel or attached to a piece of wood. Their care is one of the simplest in all the plant kingdom.

If the orchid is planted in soil or soil-like medium, then allow the pot to dry thoroughly between waterings. Fertilize with half strength 30-10-10 fertilizer every third watering.

Most varieties when not in bloom, should be kept outdoors in a fully shaded spot, protected from extreme heat and cold.

When in bloom, place them in a brightly lit area with good air circulation and lightly mist the foliage and bloom-spikes once every few days. The *Phalaenopsis* orchids, commonly called "Moth Orchids" due to the shape of their blossoms, grow year round indoors and have attractive foliage even out of bloom.

When an orchid is potted in gravel or bark, it should be watered about every third or fourth day, before noon and only if it is a sunny, dry day.

If it is a cloudy, overcast or humid day, ship watering and if you can't water before noon, it is best to wait until the next day.

If an orchid is growing on a piece of wood, water it with a mister bottle every morning that it is not cloudy and overcast. Fertilize same strength as mentioned above but once every two weeks when in bloom and once a month when not.

The important thing to remember about orchids is to insure new growth, because only the new growth will produce flowers. The more new growth occurring during the growing season the more bloom spikes next year.

MYTH: Bromeliads bloom and then die.

Wrong, again! It is true that the bromeliad plant only blooms once in its life, but what a bloom on most of them. Some can last, from start to finish, as long as a year. The bloom represents the prime of the plant's life. Mama won't be the best looking thing in the world after having had dozens of babies, but what woman would?

No, truthfully, Bromeliads can produce literally thousands of offshoots, called Pups, during their life span.

These Pups, grow, mature, bloom and reproduce; this is how the species insures survival. Since reproduction by seed is very iffy with Bromeliads, the seed will only germinate if it lodges in just the right environment.

Another fallacy about Bromeliads is that you water the center leaf only.

A Bromeliad is likened to a small Republican town, each leaf is responsible for itself. Each pays its taxes to support the whole, but if one of them is not catching its share of water and food, none of the others will come to its aid with food stamps and welfare until it can catch its staples.

Water Bromeliads from the top, insuring that each leaf gets a fair share of H₂O. Water the pot only frequently enough to keep the pot upright. Bromeliad roots are like human hair, they grow but it is dead material. Their sole purpose is to attach the plants in an upright position to a host. Bromeliads are epiphytes, meaning they live upon a host, but derive nothing but living space from that host.

They need good, bright, indirect light without any direct sun.

MYTH: African Violets Are Just For Grandmothers.

Wrong! African violets are for everyone. Also, they are very simple to grow and very, very rewarding.

Violets--and there are hundreds of thousands of varieties to choose from--all come from nine species which were found growing in tropical East Africa by a German

explorer named Sankt Paul, hence their botanical name *saintpaulia*.

In South Texas, violets do best in a light airy place: a North or East window. A heavily shaded South window is OK, or even a seventy-five watt table lamp.

I was introduced to the wick-watering system about fifteen years ago and have not top-watered my violets since. Wicking violets takes all the guesswork out of watering them and prevents over-watering and rot.

Violets should be kept root-bound to guarantee that they bloom and grow well. With violets, bigger pots do not insure a bigger plant, it usually guarantees root-rot.

The largest pot a violet should be grown in is a four inch or stretching it, a four and a half inch pot. Plastic is best, too.

When I hear a customer say, "Violets, Oh, I kill them!" I know they have been buying their plants from grocery stores and nurseries. There is nothing wrong with the patented violets, but they are over-potted when you

purchase them and generally it takes two or more years to re-bloom if they survive over-watering due to over-potting.

If you buy them, re-pot them in smaller pots when you get them home. Once, again, profit motivation; bigger pot, more dollars.

One fact about the sexist connotation that violets are a *little ol' lady's plant*, the majority of the large commercial hybridizers and growers of African violets are men and just as many men grow violets as a hobby as do women.

A myth based upon fact: The *dieffenbachia* family, which has a common name "Dumb Cane," gets its nickname because of its toxic property which causes the loss of one's voice if chewed.

Tribal males in South Africa used to make their nagging women chew the leaves, the effect was the loss of voice for a few days and no nagging. Had a fight lately with your other half? What about a nice tossed salad?

(Continued on Page 8)



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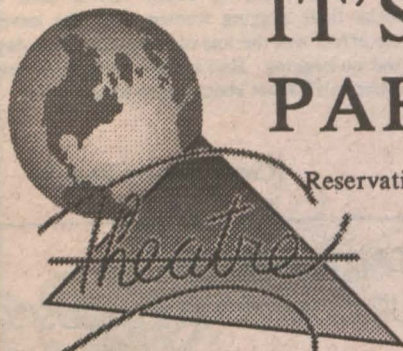
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(LIVING continued)

MYTH: People are always concerned about plants which might be poisonous. The truth is, unless you are growing members of the *Nightshade* family in your home, which I highly doubt, since most are full sun plants, a pet or child would have to eat the **WHOLE THING**, roots and all to do any more damage than a severe stomach ache.

The toxins in most plants are there to discourage herbivores from chowing down, not to kill their predators.

MYTH: *Closet plants* grow in the closet. Wrong, again! The reason I detest common names is because most are misnomers. How lush plants such as the *Spathiphyllum* family ever got the name "Closet Plant" I'll never know. Their botanical name is derived from the type of blossom they produce; that large white flag is called a *spathe*.

They prefer to grow in moderate, bright areas, but will tolerate a low light area for a

while. Their blooming season is from now through Summer, so feed them a mild solution of 15-30-15 fertilizer with every other watering. Keep them root-bound for best performance. In fact, it is better to keep all plants root-bound. This insures better foliage growth and more blooms on flowering plants.

Plants have three priorities: root growth, the *hunter-gatherer* portion of their being, foliage growth, which enables them to convert what their roots find into usable sustenance and thirdly, reproduction, their flowers are their sex organs.

If you can't eat and grow, why have sex?

Although some plants, when under extreme duress, will bloom in an attempt to produce seed, thus insuring the survival of the species. We all want to survive and thrive; we all share this Earth; so get the facts and don't be so eager to accept the dirt as gospel about plants or people, for that matter.



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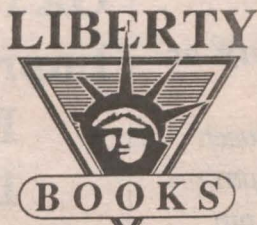
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COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

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Community to know of your events or
news, send the information in the form of
a press release to: CNE, The Empty Closet,
PO Box 15558, SA/TX 78212-8758. Your
information must reach our PO Box by
8:30 AM on the Saturday before publica-
tion.

"Love Is In The Air"

With less than a month to go, the Alamo
City Men's Chorale is working hard prepar-
ing for it's Annual Spring Concert. This years
theme, "LOVE'S IN THE AIR", is a musical
stroll through the trials and tribulations of
finding that special someone and holding on to
him.(or her if the case may be). The concert is
scheduled for March 30 and will begin at
8:00pm at the Alamo Street Restaurant
Theater. Tickets are \$7.50 and can be
purchased in advance at "To-A-Tee", Kevin
Wagners, and On Main. (please see this
paper's directory for addresses). Tickets are
also available through any chorale member or
at the door.

The chorale would like to welcome
Andrew Muniz, Lee Mick, Micheal Miles,
Joseph Ortiz, and Andrew Miller as new
members to the chorale family. Your talent
and commitment are important and greatly
appreciated. Anyone intersted in becoming a
member or supporter of the Alamo City Men's
Chorale, can contact any chorale member, or
call 822-6325 for more information.

APC Convention Schedules Gay/Women's Issues

American Popular Culture will hold its
annual meeting here in San Antonio March
27th thru March 30th.

The APC is a large, diverse academic
association with a vibrant Gay and Lesbian
studies unit.

John Lee, a professor in the Department of
English at the University of Rhode Island,
along with Dana Heller, English, Old Dominion
University, are co-heads of the Gay & Lesbian
Caucus. They have invited ALL members
of the San Antonio Community to ALL
of the caucus sessions.

In honor of John and Dana and other G&L
Caucus members attending the convention,
some academic members of the San Antonio
Gay and Lesbian Community have arranged a
cash bar (no cover) at the Bonham Exchange,
411 Bonham, from 4-6pm, Friday, March 29th.
The Caucus members and friends will need
guidance from locals, so "y'all come!"

For more info, call: Bob at 828-4092 or
write to Bob at PO BOX 15094, SA/TX 78212.

A partial list of scheduled seminars of
particular interest to our Community:

Wednesday, 4:30-6pm

Women's Studies: images of women in
mass media

Gay & Lesbian studies: Cultural Clashes
and resistance

Thursday, 12:30 - 2pm

Images of Men & Women in Advertising

Women: Women and sexuality in films

Gay & Lesbian studies: Open forum on
Tongues Untied

Thursday, 4:30 - 6pm

Women's Studies: roles women play

Gay & Lesbian Studies: Literary
Representations

Friday, 12:30 - 2pm

Women's Open Forum

Gay & Lesbian Studies: Cultural/Gay
Studies

Friday, 2:30 -4pm

Women: Masculine desire and Female
resistance

Gay & Lesbian Studies: Mass
Communication, the Information Society

Friday, 4:30 -6PM

Women: issues of race, gender and class

Gay & Lesbian Studies: Not a Bogus Body,
Thank you

Saturday, 8:30 -10am

Women: Images in Mass Communication

Gay & Lesbian Studies: Sexual Differences
in Jokes and Toons

Saturday 10:30 - Noon

Women: Feminist Politics of Women
Writers

Gay & Lesbian Studies: The Gay Gaze

Saturday, 12:30 -2pm

Gay & Lesbian Studies: Beyond
Heterosexuality, a Performance

Saturday, 2:30 - 4pm

Gay & Lesbian Studies: Differing
Viewpoints

Kaposi's Sarcoma Treat- ment Overview Now Available

Press Realease

The twice-monthly publication AIDS
Treatment News has just released a special
issue devoted entirely to the treatment of
Kaposi's sarcoma (KS). KS is characterized by
tumors composed of abnormally growing blood
vessels, although it is unclear if KS is a cancer.

The issue (number 122, dated March 1,
1991) covers treatments available now, plus an
update on research that could have
far-reaching implications for future anti-HIV
and anti-cancer work. This special issue is one
of the most thorough and up-to-date analyses
in print today on KS treatments.

"As people with AIDS live longer, in-
creasing numbers are having to cope with
complications of KS and lymphoma," according
to journalist Michelle Roland, who prepared
this special report for AIDS Treatment News.
According to a recent study in the British
Medical Journal, KS and lymphomas are an
increasing cause of death for persons with
AIDS. This vitally needed report is available
at no cost by writing AIDS Treatment News,
PO Box 411256, San Francisco, CA,
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COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

AIDS Cure Charged Fraudulent

Press Release

New York State Commissioner Mark Green today charged two companies with violating the New York City Consumer Protection Law by misleading people with AIDS and HIV infection in ads that promise a cure for the disease.

Advertisements for "Immune+Plus" claimed that the "balanced vitamin, mineral and protein product" could restore the immune systems of persons who have AIDS or HIV infection.

The ads also stated that at the end of a 180 day study, none of the patients who took the product "remained in the AIDS category," and that results from its use are "nothing short of miraculous."

"In fact, this ad is nothing short of cruel and fraudulent," said Commissioner Mark Green on filing the unprecedented legal action. "There is no known substance or medication that can restore the immune system or cure AIDS. The ads for Immune+Plus crassly exploit people who are either sick with AIDS or at risk of getting the disease."

"And if people who are HIV positive decide to take Immune+Plus rather than approved medical treatments, the advertisements are potentially life-threatening."

The Department of Consumer Affairs issued "Notices of Violation" to True Health, Inc. of Dallas, Texas and the Hopland Reservation of Hopland, California which are respectively the manufacturer and distributor of Immune+Plus.

This law enforcement action marks the first use of a July 1990 regulation that restricts language in advertisements for so called "immune boosters." Commissioner Green adopted the regulation—the first of its kind in the country—specifically to prevent ambiguity about an "immune booster's" effects on people who are HIV positive or who have AIDS. The advertisements for Immune+Plus appeared in *OUTWEEK*, a New York-based and nationally distributed gay publication, and in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and in several San Francisco-area Gay publications.

In addition to citing the Hopland Reservation for the deceptive ads, Consumer Affairs also charged True Health, Inc. with deceptive advertising for claims made on a promotional videotape for the product.

The videotape features a Texas physician, Terry Pulse, M.D., who claims to have conducted the 180-day test proving the efficacy of Immune+Plus. Pulse, a family practitioner, purports to be an internationally renowned AIDS researcher. But Consumer Affairs investigator George DeStefano found that Pulse is neither a recognized AIDS researcher nor even a physician in good standing. The Texas Board of Medical Examiners in 1989 prohibited Pulse from writing refills for prescriptions and from calling in prescriptions over the phone. According to public records obtained by Consumer Affairs, the Board also ordered Pulse to undergo psychiatric treatment and periodic testing for drugs and alcohol.

The two companies have been ordered to contact Consumer Affairs by March 6 to settle the case. They face fines of up to \$500 per violation, plus the cost of the investigation.

While the Immune+Plus case is the first use of the new AIDS regulation, it is not the

first time the Department has moved against deceptive AIDS advertising. Consumer Affairs also has taken action against: a Brooklyn doctor who claimed to have a cure for AIDS; the manufacturer of a strawberry-flavored spray that supposedly made oral sex safe; the manufacturer of an air purifier that allegedly deactivated viruses; and a company that sold HIV "identification cards" designating their owners as HIV negative.

Wellness Letter Offers Free Issue

The University of California, Berkeley, is the home of the world famous *School of Public Health*, an institution that has trained public health personnel at an exceptionally high level of competence.

This week, the School of Public Health is offering the "Wellness Letter," promoted as "The Newsletter of Nutrition, Fitness and Stress Management. The publication currently enjoys nearly one million subscribers and is highly respected.

Twelve issues cost \$20 and a free issue is offered just for taking a look at the letter. "Taking a look" activate a subscription, however, but you can cancel after receiving that free issue if you don't like the letter. There is a \$5 savings if the ad is answered during this promotion.

Some of the interesting subjects covered in an average issue:

- fish oil supplements: not the panacea once promoted;
 - walking: a long-term regimen of walking can significantly prolong life;
 - breakfast: an examination of the pros and cons and an examination of the high fat and sodium contents of some of the more popular fast-food breakfasts;
 - a short piece on painless bicycling;
 - prescription drugs;
 - cranberry juice: does it really work as an effective treatment for female urinary tract infections;
 - de-alcoholized beers;
 - a report on vegetarian nutrition
- going down hills;
- a warning to sulfite-sensitive readers about possible problems with wine.

The Wellness Letter is an informative resource on today's health issues that can assist you in every day decisions about diet, exercise and nutrition.

Did you know that:

- Some of the highly-touted "light" wine coolers contain nearly three hundred calories per serving?
- Sleeping pills taken at night can affect your driving ability the next morning because residual effects can last up to seventeen hours?
- that "natural" vitamins are no different from synthetic or man-made vitamins because the chemical formulas are exactly the same?
- Mammograms can significantly improve the survival rate for breast cancer yet only twenty-five per cent of all women over age forty regularly get one?

This is a general scope health publication and is not dedicated to AIDS prevention but one which you might like to have access to.

If you would like the free issue and \$5 off your first subscription, write to: University of California, Berkeley, The Wellness Letter, Subscription Department, PO Box 420163, Palm Coast, Florida 32142.



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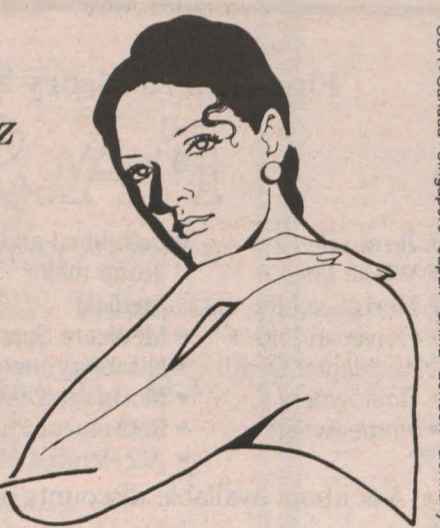
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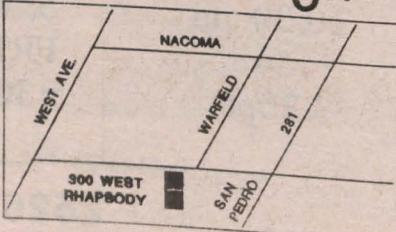
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Travel

Travel: Mexico City

By Howard Wohlgemuth



The biggest apple of them all—it has a population three times that of New York City, about five million more people than the entire state of Texas.

I would recommend a stay of absolutely no less than five days. It takes a couple of days to get used to the altitude of more than 7,000 feet; you need to take things a little slow at first.

During the raining season, May thru September, the pollution is at its lowest. Rainy season there does not mean every day rain or even all day rain but more like a few hours of it every few days. And because of the cool climate the summer is a good time to be there.

Do bring cooler weather clothing. Much as in San Francisco during the Summer, one sees tourists on the street shivering in shorts and short sleeves.

Also, while the Mexicans are far too polite to let you know you're not welcome in very casual wear, the fact is that you will be out of place, especially in the evening if you wear resort wear.

I suggest staying in the section known as "Zona Rosa," which in English is "the pink zone."

This is an area of about twelve square blocks located on the South side of the Boulevard Reforma and East of Chapultepec Park. It contains literally hundreds of hotels, most quite expensive. But for anyone who might want to have easy access to the Zona Rosa but not too pleased with a high room rate, there are many decent hotels in the section called Colonia Juarez, just adjacent to Zona Rosa. Specifically, I can recommend the Hotel Viena at Calle Marsella, No. 28, and also the Hotel Regente at Calle Paris No. 9. Both of these are in the \$25 a day range for a double room, slightly less for a single, as compared to the \$75 and up rates in the heart of Zona Rosa.

I do not recommend staying downtown because while there is no lack of things to do and see down there during the day, it is not where to be at night.

I would suggest an all-city tour for the first-time visitor; these tour offices are located conveniently throughout the Zona Rosa. Such a tour will give you an overall scope of the city and give you ideas about what you might want to see on an individual basis.

In the area of "must see" sights I suggest Chapultepec Park and its Archaeological Museum. Even if you're not a museum-goer and you don't care much about Archeology, this is a don't miss. Absolutely spectacular is the only description for it. I have often seen it described as one of the man-made wonders of the world.

While there in the park, you should also drop by the Chapultepec Castle which was the last residence of the Emperor Maximilian and his wife, Carlotta. It is perched atop a rise in the land and its grand salon with huge picture

windows faces directly down the Paseo de la Reforma. The guides in the castle will tell you that Carlotta had it built that way so that she could watch her husband's procession of chariots coming home from his Government Palace every day and make certain he didn't veer off on a side street to stop for a quickie. The guides will tell you they're not talking about a drink.

By all means, do take the time to stroll up and down the Reforma. It is a sixteen lane boulevard lined with chic shops, hotels and restaurants, grand in aspect as only a few other streets in the world.

Downtown literally contains hundreds of sights worth seeing. It is really a matter of picking and choosing what interests you. The Great Temple (*Templo Mayor* in Spanish) is an excavation of the holiest shrine of the Aztecs and it is located in the heart of the city.

The Zocalo, which is the huge center city square, and the National Palace are immediately adjacent. The National Pawnshop is just down the street. Shopping types will be happy spending a day there.

The Bellas Artes Opera House is near-by and it pays to stop to see what is currently being featured—not always strictly opera. It is the home of the Ballet Folklorico which is certainly worth seeing if it is in town. A rest on one of the steel benches in Alameda Park will give you a chance to observe the passing parade and also browse through a guidebook to decide which of the city's fifty or so museums you might want to take a look at, or which of the specialty mercados (markets) might interest you.

For jumping around from one part of the city to another you might try the Metro, one of the world's finest subway systems. It is well-marked, the stations are gorgeous, and it is smooth (runs on rubber wheels) and it is incredibly cheap—about four cents per trip, including transfers if needed.

Farther out from center city, the floating gardens, known as Xochimilco (pronounced zo-she-meelco) is another worthwhile destination. I would recommend not taking a guided tour but renting a boat with your own gondolier. Just pick up a map of the canal system and direct your own water-taxi driver. It's loads of fun with absolutely beautiful floral sights and not at all expensive.

In the same general part of the city is the fabulous University—very worth seeing both for its stunning modern architecture and sculptures as well as some of its stunning students!

On another day perhaps, but located in the same South end of town is the Bazar Sabado (Saturday Bazaar). Located in the San Angel area, it will reward you with an array of products available nowhere in the world except Mexico. It is only held on Saturdays.

In my next article, I will dwell on where to eat and drink and where to go at night to get a feel for Gay life in Mexico.

Landscaping Watering Alert

By Scott Stover

Since nearly sixty per cent of our readers have their own home, we think the following is very important:

On March 1st the City of San Antonio initiated a new ordinance making watering lawns and landscaping with sprinkler systems illegal between 10am and 8pm year 'round.

If you are a property owner with landscape and lawn areas and are considering watering, especially since it has been getting warmer, you need to pay special attention to this ordinance. Most other cities in Bexar County, other than San Antonio, already have similar restrictions or are planning them.

The ordinance was enacted by the City Council in December. You may water with a hand-held hose, a drip-irrigation system or a water can of five gallons or less at any time of the day.

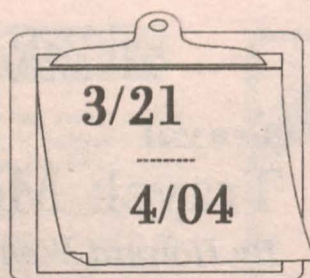
Citizens who violate the new ordinance may be fined up to \$200. In March, however, blue warning notices will be issued. Starting in April, citations and fines will be assessed.

New plantings may be watered anytime of the day unless the city enacts the drought emergency plan when they add more conservation measures.

This ordinance helps with the conservation of water by restricting watering during the cooler parts of the day when evaporation is at a minimum.

By following the basic concepts of Xeriscaping and by utilizing drought tolerant and native plant species in your landscape, you can further add to water savings and conservation.

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS



THURSDAY - 03/21

FRIDAY - 03/22

Texas Conference of Clubs: Activity Weekend at Buzzards' Peak
Jump-Start Performance co.: David Casas, 8pm

SATURDAY - 03/23

Alamo Couples: Dinner at Little Naples 8pm: "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," at Main Avenue Studio at 10pm, 732-3462 for reservations.
Texas Conference of Clubs: Activity Weekend at Buzzards' Peak
Jump-Start Performance co.: David Casas, 8pm

SUNDAY - 03/24

Texas Conference of Clubs: Activity Weekend at Buzzards' Peak

MONDAY - 03/25

TUESDAY - 03/26

WEDNESDAY - 03/26

The Circle: Support Group for partners of people in military, 8PM

THURSDAY - 03/28

FRIDAY - 03/29

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

Jump-Start Performance Co.: Sally Jacques, 8pm

SATURDAY - 03/30

SUNDAY - 03/31

Jump-Start Performance Co.: Word Up! 8pm

MONDAY - 04/01

TUESDAY - 04/02

The Circle: Tuesday Night Discussion Topic

WEDNESDAY - 04/03

New Publication Day:

NEXT ISSUE OF THE "CLOSET"

The Circle: Support Group for partners of people in military, 8PM

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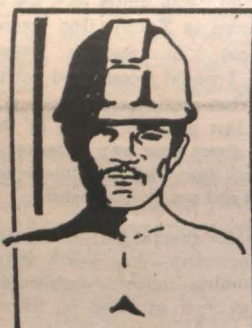
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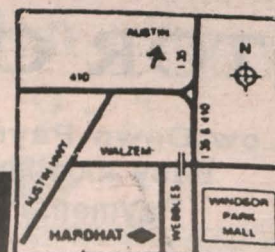
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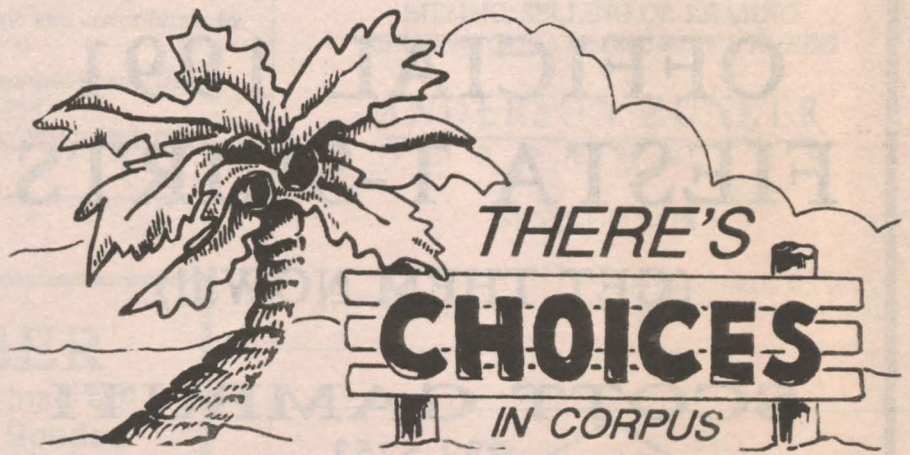
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Fine Arts Calendar



Art Cellar Gallery (226-7448)

"A Little Bit of Texas," a photographic exhibition. Open March 8, through April 6. Also, member works on display

Blue Star Art Space (227-6960) 116 Blue Star
"Revered Earth," opens March 29th

Bright Shawl Gallery (225-6366) 819 Augusta
"The Watercolor Gang," through April 1

Carver Community Cultural Center (299-7211) 226 N. Hackberry
San Antonio Women's Caucus for Art annual membership show, through March 28

DagenBela Galeria 225-0731
Ceramics and watercolors on display, through March 31

Gallery of the Southwest 493-3344 13485 Blanco
"Featuring Fetishes - Wearable and Collectible," animal and bird carvings by Navajo and Zuni Indians through April 12

Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center (271-3151) 1301 Guadalupe.
"Four Women Artists," through April 5.

Institute of Texan Cultures (226-7651, Ext 235) 801 S. Bowie
"Crossroads of Clay," a Texas view of stoneware reflecting European, Asian and African cultures. Also, various multimedia and interactive exhibits of Texas cultural history.

Jansen-Perez Gallery (227-0900)
"Ideas and Images of Mexico," by various artists. Also, photographs, prints and kinetic sculpture.

Locus Gallery (226-6020)
Seventh annual "Latina and Native American Women's Art Exhibit," through April 6.

McNay Art Museum (824-5368)
"Procession," San Antonio's Battle of Flowers 100th anniversary tribute, through May 31. Continuing exhibits: "The Great Goya," and the Margaret Batts Tobin Collection. Opening March 21st, "Bellas Artes de Flores," the McNay collection of artists including Cezanne, Chagall and Picasso. Also flower art from the Garden Club of America.

All events subject to change, we hope to provide a general overview of events and locations. Please call ahead for times and additional information. We regret that due to space limitations, individual artists are not listed. Please send press releases at least two weeks in advance to: Daniel Castor, Arts Editor, The Empty Closet, PO Box 15558, SA/TX 78212-8758.

Mexican Cultural Institute (227-0123) 6000 N. New Braunfels

"History of the Eye," watercolors and graphite drawings, through March 24. Also "Threshold of Configurations," oil paintings.

Milagros (821-5861)

"Larry Graeber: Recent Paintings," human form exploration. Through April 7

National Auton. U. of Mexico (222-UNAM) 600 Hemisfair Park

"Santos y Travesos," Paintings by local artists.

Rattlesnake and Star (225-5977)

"Animals, Gods and People of the Dine Bikeya," a display of Navajo folk art.

San Antonio Art Institute (824-7224) 6000 N. New Braunfels

"Making It Matter," pencil drawings and paintings on paper. Also, in conjunction with the Blue Star Art Space, March 7: "From Art School to Artist: What's Next?" March 8: A Breakfast Reception with Henry T. Hopkins.

San Antonio Art League Gallery (223-1140)

Sixty-first Annual Artists Exhibition.

San Antonio Museum of Art (978-8100) 200 West Jones

"A Sense of Place," a contemporary Texas art exhibition through April 6th. Also marble portraits, glassworks and pottery in the finest collection of antiquities in the Southwest, representing Roman, Greek, Egyptian and Near Eastern eras. A growing Oriental art collection also on display. Coming April 6: "Mexico: Splendors of 30 Centuries."

Sol Del Rio Gallery (828-5555)

Drawings, paintings, raku pottery and sculptures by various artists.

Southwest Craft Center (224-1848)

"Humanitas et quas Nominat (The Things Which Humanity Names)," paintings and sculpture about society's title.

Texas Trails Gallery (227-1541)

"Cowboys and Indians," featuring various works by seven artists.

Witte Museum (978-8100) 3801 Broadway

"The Science of Sports," focuses on the physics, psychology and physiology of sports competition, through April 24th. Permanent exhibits: "Ancient Texans: Rock Art and Lifeways Along the Lower Pecos," an interpretation of an 8,000 year old hunter-gatherer society from Southwest Texas. Also "Texas Wild: Ecology Illustrated," a Texas flora and fauna exploration.

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