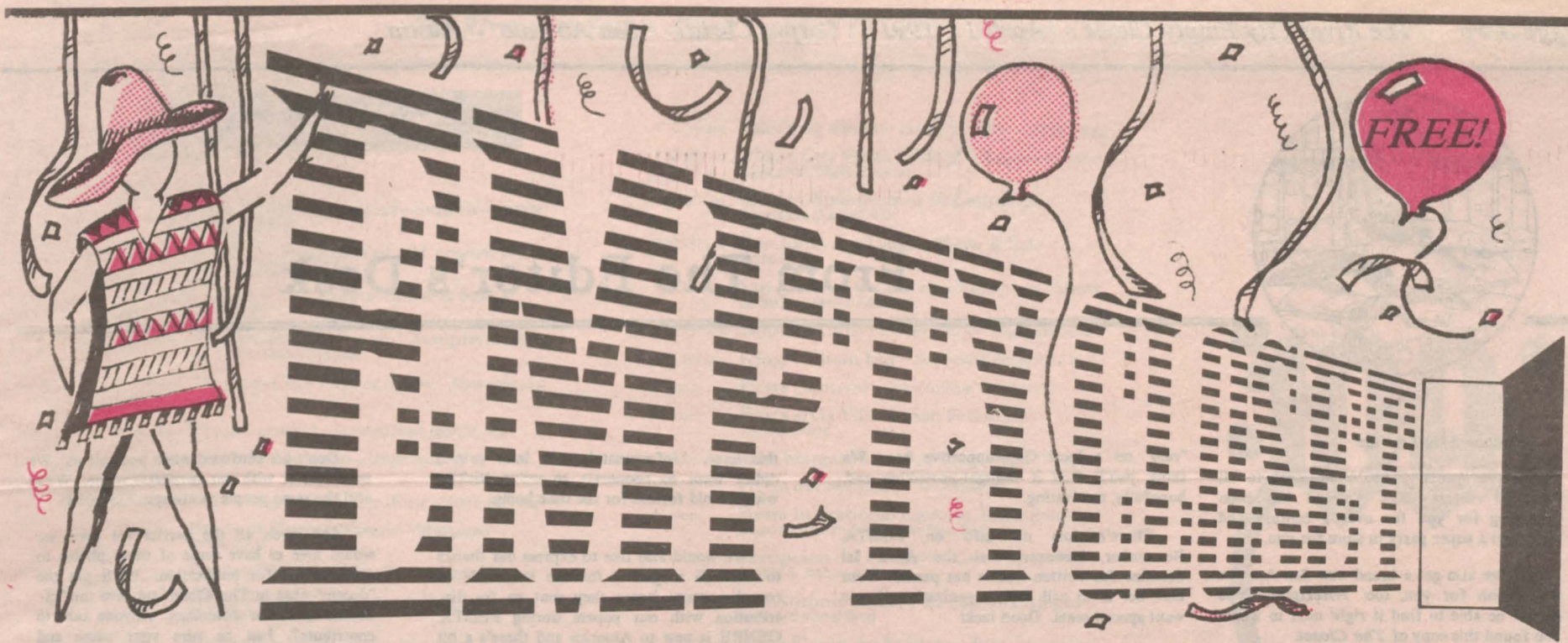




Vol. 2 No. 7

The River City Empty Closet

April 17, 1991

A publication of RCEC Communications, Inc.

San Antonio, TX

San Antonio, Austin & Corpus Christi

FIESTA 1991 TICKET INFORMATION

Texas Cavaliers River Parade

Monday, April 22
\$12, \$10, \$8, \$7, \$6
Texas Cavaliers,
(512) 22-RIVER

Night in Old San Antonio (NIOA)

Tuesday, April 23 thru Friday,
April 26
At gate, \$6, pre-sale \$5
(512) 226-5188

Coronation of the Queen by the Order of the Alamo

Wednesday, April 24
\$30, \$20, \$15, \$8

Battle of Flowers Band Festival

Thursday, April 25
Box Seats, \$6, Reserved, \$4,
Gen-Ad, \$3, Students, \$1

Battle of Flowers Parade

Friday, April 26
Alamo Grandstands, \$10, Cenotaph
Stands, \$10, Park Bleachers, \$8,
Maverick Bleachers, \$7, Plaza
Bleachers, \$6, Broadway Bleachers,
\$6

Fiesta Flambeau Parade

Saturday, April 27
Alamo Grandstands, \$10, Cenotaph
Stands, \$10, Park Bleachers, \$8,
Maverick Bleachers, \$7, Plaza
Bleachers, \$6, Broadway Bleachers,
\$6

Street Chairs Along Parade Route

(Other than grandstand and
bleachers)
Seating Coordinator
(512) 227-5191

Additional Information:

Fiesta San Antonio Commission,
Inc.
1145 East Commerce
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205
(512) 227-5191

Centralized ticket location also
at CENTRAL PARK MALL

Other visitor activities,
facilities, etc.:
SA Convention and Visitors
Information Center
(512) 299-9155



**FIESTA
CENTENNIAL
1891-1991**

Another Excuse to Revel

*Menger Once Again
The Place To Be During
Parades!*

If you're new to San Antonio and you want to view the parades, the bleachers and grand-stands are fine. But if you want to hoot, holler, carry on like crazies, THE place to be is still in front of the Menger Hotel.

For years, the front of the Menger hotel has long since passed away. Gay revelers for FIESTA parades continue to meet in front of the historic building.

As the saying goes, "You can carry on like white trash" (no matter what your skin tone) and be right at home! See you at the Menger for both parades. Be sure to bring your FIESTA BONNET - it's a tradition!

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

- * 8:00 am American Red Cross Fiesta Golf Tournament - Sonterra Country Club
- * 9:00 am Fiesta 100th Anniversary Exhibit - Institute of Texan Cultures
- * 10:00 am Centennial Celebration Viva Fiesta People Parade - Will converge on Alamo Plaza
- 10:00 am Mexico - Splendors of 30 Centuries - San Antonio Museum of Art
- * 10:00 am Randolph Art League Show & Sale - Hemisfair Park
- 10:00 am Zoo Fiesta Art Show - San Antonio Zoological Garden & Aquarium
- * 11:45 am Reenactment of the First Battle of Flowers Parade - Alamo Plaza
- * Noon Centennial Celebration Opening Ceremonies - Alamo Plaza
- * Noon Fiesta del Mercado - Market Square
- * Noon Fiesta UTSA - UTSA Campus, Central Plaza
- * 1:00 pm Centennial Celebration Festivals - See center panel
- 5:00 pm Fiesta Spring Jam - Our Lady of the Lake University
- 5:00 pm Fiesta de Tejas - UT Health Science Center Courtyard
- * 6:00 pm Fiesta Carnival - Dolorosa Street, near City Hall
- * 6:00 pm Fiesta en la Villa de San Fernando - 115 Main Plaza
- * 8:00 pm Centennial Celebration Festivals - Headliner entertainment 8:00 pm
- * 9:25 pm Centennial Celebration Finale - Downtown San Antonio

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

- * 8:00 am Baptist Memorial Hospital System Fiesta Wildflower 100 Bicycle Challenge Tours - Scenic hill country
- * 8:00 am 10k Walk/Run Caminada de Fiesta - Medical Museum, Fort Sam Houston

- * 8:00 am Fiesta Mission 10k & 2 mile run - Mission County Park
- * 8:00 am Fiesta Women's Soccer Kick-Off - Retama Polo Center
- * 9:00 am Fiesta 100th Anniversary Exhibit - Institute of Texan Cultures
- * 9:00 am Fiesta Intra City Relays - Central Catholic High School
- * 10:00 am Alamo City Fiesta 7's Rugby Tournament - Brooks Park, 3606 Goliad Rd.
- 10:00 am Fiesta Arts Fair - Southwest Craft Center
- * 10:00 am Fiesta River Art Show - San Antonio Riverwalk
- 10:00 am Mexico - Splendors of 30 Centuries - San Antonio Museum of Art
- * 10:00 am Randolph Art League Show & Sale - Alamo Plaza
- 10:00 am Zoo Fiesta Art Show - San Antonio Zoological Garden & Aquarium
- * 11:00 am Fiesta Carnival - Dolorosa Street, near City Hall
- 11:00 am Fiesta Oyster Bake - St. Mary's University Campus
- * 11:00 am Fiesta Para Los Ninos - Bowie and Market Street
- Noon A Taste Of New Orleans - Sunken Garden Theater
- * Noon Fiesta en la Villa de San Fernando - 115 Main Plaza
- * Noon Fiesta del Mercado - Market Square
- 12:00 Miss Margaret's House Tour - 409 E. Guenther
- * 2:00 pm Girl Scout Shoebox Float Parade - McCreless Mall
- 6:00 pm San Antonio Jaycees' La Semana Alegre - Bowie and Market Street
- 6:30 pm El Rey Feo XLII Reception - St. Anthony Hotel
- * 7:30 pm Investiture of King Antonio LXIX - Alamo Plaza

- * 7:45 pm Patriotic and Historical Ball - La Villita Assembly Building
- * 8:00 pm Fiesta Charra - Convention Center Arena (Free but ticket controlled)
- 8:00 pm Victorian Gala - Menger Hotel

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

- * 8:00 am Fiesta Grande Bicycle Race - Fort Sam Houston
- * 8:00 am Fiesta Women's Soccer Kick-Off - Retama Polo Center
- * 9:00 am Fiesta 100th Anniversary Exhibit - Institute of Texan Cultures
- * 10:00 am Randolph Art League Show & Sale - Alamo Plaza
- 10:00 am Zoo Fiesta Art Show - San Antonio Zoological Garden & Aquarium
- 11:00 am Israeli Festival - Agudas Achim, 1201 Donaldson
- Noon A Taste Of New Orleans - Sunken Garden Theater
- Noon Fiesta Arts Fair - Southwest Craft Center
- * Noon Fiesta Carnival - Dolorosa Street, near City Hall
- * Noon Fiesta del Mercado - Market Square
- Noon Mexico - Splendors of 30 Centuries - San Antonio Museum of Art
- Noon Miss Margaret's House Tour - 409 E. Guenther
- * Noon Fiesta en la Villa de San Fernando - 115 Main Plaza
- 1:00 pm "Day in Old Mexico" - San Antonio Charro Ranch - Mexican Charreada at 3:00 pm
- * 1:00 pm This Hallowed Ground - Alamo Plaza
- * 5:00 pm Fiesta Quadrangle Ceremony - Fifth Army Quadrangle, Fort Sam Houston
- 6:00 pm San Antonio Jaycees' La Semana Alegre - Bowie and Market Street
- * sundown Fireworks - Arthur MacArthur Field, Fort Sam Houston

*Indicates No Admission Charge

(Continued on next page)



From The Editor's Desk

Welcome FIESTA time!

And a special FIESTA welcome to all FIESTA visitors. San Antonio has been preparing for you for over a century and we've got a super party in store for you.

We've also got a brand new San Antonio publication for you, too; *Nitetimes*. You should be able to find it right next to where you found this copy of *The Closet*.

Nitetimes is a bit different than *The Closet* and is devoted to entertainment, leisure, erotica etc. Although the Premiere Issue is a bit tame, within a few months, you'll want to hide it under your mattress!

Our lead story is an interview with one of the three DOD employees arrested in a recent

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There's lots of info on FIESTA. Remember, however, that the April 1st deadline for written tickets has passed. Your best bet is to call each organization if you want special seats. Good luck!

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We would also like to express our thanks to *GENRE* magazine for the thousands of complimentary issues they sent us for distribution with our papers during FIESTA. *GENRE* is new to America and there's a bit more on the magazine later on in this publication.

We've got another dining review for you; this time Little Naples Italian Restaurant owned by two of this Community's biggest supporters from outside our Community. Great food, great people.

Don't get confused when you call us. We now answer with our corporate name. We're still the same people as always. 733-1058.

And when all the parties are over, we would love to have some of those photos to choose from for publication. We'll put the "decent" ones in *The Closet* and save the "indecent ones" for *Nitetimes*. Anyone care to contribute? Just be sure your name and phone number are on the back of each photo.

Have a GREAT FIESTA!!!

PS: Sally Jo from Alamo Business Council: NO MORE CONFETTI! Our new offices are a mess!!!

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- * Noon Air Force at the Alamo — Alamo Plaza
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CAFE CAMILLE.
BATTLING
DOUBLE CHEESEBURGERS,
POOL HALLS AND
ALL-U-CAN-EAT BBQ
ON A DAILY BASIS.



MON-FRI 11AM-11PM / SAT 5PM-11PM / SUN 9AM-11PM
517 EAST WOODLAWN AT NORTH ST. MARY'S
(512) 735-2307

FIESTA,
SIESTA,
THEN COME SEE US!



GRASSHOPPER

"uniquely more than a plant store"

Photographic Art, Metal Sculpture,
Tropical Foliage, Bromeliads,
Orchids, Epiphytic Ferns

4026 McCullough
826-7800

Mon - Fri: 8am - 6pm
Sat & Sun: 10am - 6pm
Closing at Noon April 26th

Local

"There is a disease in the Community"

A Personal Account From a Department of Defense Employee Arrested in a Recent "Raid"

As reported previously in this paper, there was a "raid" on one of the Gay-supportive bars that services our Community. In our last issue, we reprinted the police report from that "raid" which clearly states that the arresting officers went to the bar "to assist the military police in locating personnel who were frequenting" the bar. The police report directly contradicts previous information that we were given that the "raid" was intended to "search for minors." Obviously, it was not.

Since the time we published that information, we were contacted by one of the three individuals who were arrested.

This person is eager that the Community knows exactly what happened. Because he is fearful that there may be repercussions from this interview, we cannot state any other identifying information about him. He does work for the Department of defense. He asked that we do not divulge anything else about his work or status with the military. We will call him, "Hal."

EC: You asked if you could make an opening statement.

HAL: The first thing I want to say is that there is a disease in the Community and I've heard different dialogues going on, not only in your newspaper but among many friends that 'why don't we just drop it—that we're taking it too far.'

When you have a disease, you just don't quit after one treatment if it doesn't work. You try an attitude that will work. I've debated for a long time whether to do this or not. I'm doing this because the Community has to know what is going on.

EC: You are a member of the military?

HAL: Yes, I am.

EC: What happened the night you were arrested?

HAL: I was in [one of the local Gay-supportive bars] and the SAPD and the military police entered and the SAPD approached me, first and—

EC: Hold it, did they come directly to you?

HAL: They stood back and they watched me for a minute; they said something to one another and then they came up to me.

EC: Did you have the impression that they were looking for you personally or that they just picked you out of the crowd?

HAL: I thought it was the SAPD looking for minors. The SAPD approached me first. I did not see the military person—he did not make himself entirely visible at first, so I could not see his badge. He was at such an angle that I could not see he was military police. Then he [the MP] asked me to show him my identification.

EC: Let's get this straight. Was the SAPD in uniform?

HAL: Yes.

EC: Was the MP in uniform?

HAL: Yes, he was wearing a jacket, but as I said, it was hard to see his badge since he was standing a little behind the SAPD officer.

EC: OK, did you show them your ID?

He did NOT say, "DO you have a military ID?"

HAL: Yes. I showed him my Texas driver's license and he looked at it and they [the two officers] said something to one another again, and then he said, "I want to see your military ID." He did NOT say, "DO you have a military ID?"

EC: Did you think it odd that he asked you for your MILITARY ID?

HAL: Yes, but as far as I knew, this place had not been declared "off-limits." So, I showed it to him.

EC: What happened then?

HAL: As soon as I showed it to him, he placed me under arrest and they put me in a SAPD police car for about 45 minutes to an hour.

EC: Was the police car stationed in the parking lot?

HAL: Yes. And then they transferred me to an MP police car and we sat there for a while.

EC: "We"?

HAL: At this point there were two other people arrested who were also in the MP car. Then they took us downtown.

EC: Downtown?

HAL: We went to the MP downtown station.

EC: What happened during the trip downtown?

HAL: I can't remember the arresting officer's name, but on the trip, he said to the other officer in the car that he really loved his job.

EC: This was the MP officer?

"...hopefully, with the cooperation of the SAPD, they...would be able to close them down completely"

HAL: Yes. He said that hopefully, with the cooperation of the SAPD, they [the Military Police] would not only be able to declare all establishments that catered to homosexuals off-limits but they would be able to close them down completely.

EC: Can you swear that that is what they said?

HAL: That is the truth, I swear it.

EC: Did he say anything else?

"You should not be singled out just because you have short hair"

HAL: Yes. He said that the reason why I was singled out was because I had short hair and anyone who had short hair was to be singled out for military ID's.

EC: How do you feel about that?

HAL: In my opinion, you should not be singled out just because you have short hair.

EC: That's going to make a lot of men who have short hair very nervous! What happened next?

HAL: When we got downtown, I heard them discussing that Col. Lambert had been in this establishment, himself, undercover. They said that they [Military police] had gone in one night under cover and had discovered that there were a [number of cars in the immediate area] that they noted to be cars of Department of Defense employees, whether they be military personnel or civilians.

EC: Did he say how they knew that those cars belonged to DOD employees?

HAL: Stickers. You have to register your car when you're on post. And you get a sticker for your car.

"Lambert threw a fit" (Continued on next page)

(DISEASE Continued)

EC: So how did Col. Lambert get involved?

HAL: They said that when he heard about the cars, he went in there [the bar] himself and noted all the people with short hair, and, according to the arresting officers, "Lambert threw a fit" and said that he would have all of them declared off limits.

But when they did declare [certain bars] off-limits, they did not let the ARMY know. They let the Air Force know; they even published it in the Airforce publication. But they did not post the off limits establishments until the next day.

In my opinion, Col. Lambert wanted to declare these places off limits but did not want to embarrass his own forces and have any Airforce personnel arresting during a "raid."

EC: Are you sure these declarations were not posted?

HAL: I know it for a fact.

"Yeah, we got ourselves a bunch of queers tonight."

EC: What was your treatment like while you were downtown?

HAL: We were treated like zoo animals. The arresting officer said to another officer [who had just come in] "Yeah, we got ourselves a bunch of queers tonight." They finally put us in a detention type room and other officers, as soon as they heard, would look in as if we were on display. I almost felt as if I should ask for peanuts! [He makes a gesture mimicking a monkey.] And there were a lot of comments like "I just hate queers," "I hate fags, don't you?"

...therefore, a criminal.

EC: Were you formally charged?

HAL: They had us review and sign the military version of the "Miranda Rights" and then told us that the charges were "being in an off limits establishment." But the arresting officer also said that he wanted us to know that the fact that the establishment caters to homosexuals would also be included in the charges. The crime, in his opinion, was that he thinks I am a homosexual and, therefore, a criminal.

EC: What happened when you "returned to work?"

HAL: On the next working day, all charges were dropped. One of us arrested was released almost immediately since he was "off duty" at the time. However, I can't say which one of us or even if it was me, was released.

EC: Are you saying that if military personnel is off duty they won't be arrested?

HAL: All I can say at this point is that off duty personnel are released. It's about jurisdiction.

EC: At any rate, charges were dropped?

HAL: Yes, because we [those who were arrested] had not been made aware that the establishment was off limits. The charges that we had disobeyed a legal order [Order #92] would not hold up. The notice was never posted, so they had to drop charges.

EC: Have there been any noticeable repercussions "at work?"

HAL: No, everything seems to be normal.

[Shortly after giving this interview, this employee's work situation WAS affected. We cannot say how far fear of revealing his identity, but he called us to tell us there was a decided change in his work status.]

EC: What are your feelings over this incident? There are those who would say that since conscription no longer exists, you

entered the military freely. You knew the rules when you signed up. If you didn't like the restrictions on homosexual behavior, you didn't have to sign up.

HAL: This is not about being a homosexual. This is an issue of freedom of movement. But even if you want to discuss this as a homosexual issue, to declare a establishment off limits it has to be injurious to health, morale or welfare. I have never seen anything going on at this establishment that I would consider to be endangering my health, morale or welfare.

...are the military going to declare my family off limits?

EC: Apparently the military believes that "intimate contact" is the primary reason.

HAL: What is "intimate contact?" I mean, if hugging a friend is enough to declare a place off limits, then are the military going to declare my family off limits? I kiss my brother hello. Does that mean I'm having intimate contact with him? And what about the florist shop that I go to? Just because there are homosexuals who work there and know me, is the military going to declare that establishment off limits too? I mean, that's probably a purely rhetorical question, but the point is, where is it going to stop?

I am amazed that they haven't raised public hell.

EC: What do you think the reaction of the bars involved in should be doing?

HAL: I am amazed that they haven't raised public hell. They knew that something was going to happen. They received letters.

EC: But the letters they received stated that unless the "conditions" were cleared up, they would be considered for further action. Those letters did not state there would be "raid."

HAL: True, but I think they could have figured what the next step would be. And, besides, that is when they should have made a public outcry.

EC: Your emphasis is on "public?"

HAL: Certainly.

EC: What do you think the bars could have done?

I would yell like hell until something was done.

HAL: If I was a bar owner and the military or anyone else told me that I couldn't cater to a particular minority, I would be enraged. I would take out a full page ad in every publication that is read by that minority. I would yell like hell until something was done.

EC: Are you aware that some bar owners have begun to approach the authorities in an attempt to solve this problem?

HAL: Yes. But I don't understand why they haven't been more public. It makes me wonder...

EC: Do you think they should have posted some kind of notice about the possibility of being off limits?

HAL: I don't think that's unreasonable to ask.

EC: What do you want to see the Gay Community do?

HAL: Raise hell. Do what they can legally.

EC: You contacted the ACLU for help, right?

HAL: Well, I called the San Antonio chapter. There is no San Antonio chapter. There's a phone number, but there is no chapter. All you get is a tape recording that tells you to write to an address if you need help. So I wrote to the address on the taped message. I got no response so I called the New York ACLU. Their only reaction was that I should get a lawyer! I said that was why I was calling.

EC: What was their response.

HAL: They said they were investigating it and would get back in touch with me. So far, all they have done is to contact me to tell me again that they are still investigating it. They did refer me to an attorney in San Diego but couldn't suggest anyone in Texas.

EC: So to date, the ACLU has done nothing to help you?

HAL: Right.

I just want to express my outrage that this community is so passive

EC: Anything else you want to add?

HAL: I guess I just want to express my outrage that this community is so passive about the whole thing. It doesn't matter whether I am Gay or not. This is affecting the entire Community by affecting the places that people who are Gay want to go. There are many of us who are not Gay who prefer Gay bars. They're just a lot more fun. I can't understand why leaders in San Antonio aren't doing more.

EC: In defense of some of them, things are being done, but quietly. I take it you don't think things are being handled right?

HAL: I just think it should be more public.

Certainly, as reported above, there are some real reasons for concern.

- 1.) the recording of license plate numbers of cars with DOD stickers just because the car is parked in the vicinity of a Gay-supportive bar;
- 2.) focusing on anyone with short hair as a means of determining whether that person may or may not be military personnel;
- 3.) the hope, as stated by at least one MP, that the military would be able to close down all Gay-supportive bars;
- 4.) the fact that military officers are entering a Gay-supportive bar for surveillance reasons and that they are doing it "under cover;"
- 5.) the fact that only some branches or bases were notified and others were not;
- 6.) derogatory remarks by arresting and other military personnel which only added insult to an already humiliating experience;
- 7.) ACLU has taken so visible action regarding this person's request for help;
- 8.) the perception that local Gay-supportive bar owners and the Community in general is doing nothing.

We will say it again and continue saying it until this Community responds: Gay Military personnel are a part of this Community just as anyone else is. What affects them, affects ALL of us. Silent action behind the scenes is fine as long as the effects are swift and forthcoming. But when the Community as a whole, or only some members of it, perceives our general reaction to be "doing nothing" we lose the spirit of unity, we lose the commitment, we lose ourselves.

This paper, your bars, your Community organizations, your state and federal representatives and the Texas Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby need to hear YOUR opinion. The next step is everyone's.

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Local

**Community News and
Events**

If your organization would like the 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 publication.

An excerpt from some of the promo material written by Miller follows:

"This performance includes sections from three of my full evening performance works and then some new things too. My dubious goal has been to pull the juiciest, queerest, funniest and most political stuff from five years of work to share with you, dear audience. I do this in the spirit of let's get down to it. Oh Dudes and Dudettes, the big job of knowing ourselves, restructuring society, doing sex, ACTING UP, telling our stories." -Tim Miller

From TGRA

This just arrived from Jeanne:

The San Antonio Chapter of T.G.R.A. wants to know where all the members have been hiding? It has become such a mystery that the state board has decided to come to our next meeting at Ab's Westernaire on this Sunday, April 14, at 2PM.

They want to know if San Antonio has decided to keep up the great work that it strove so hard to achieve last year or are they going to quit when the going gets tough?

This is your organization and your Community. Please let everyone know your decision this Sunday.

Your board desperately needs you!!

Please take the time to tell us where your heart is and how we should concentrate our energy.

Phone 733-5442 if you have questions.

Sadly, TGRA is finding out as other organizations have suffered, that the best intentions of many who want to participate get side-tracked with other responsibilities.

Tickets are \$7 general and \$5 discount, available at the door. More info: 227-JUMP

Circle Plans Arts Fair

On Sunday, May 5th, the second annual **ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR** is being held at The Circle Arts, Entertainment & Cultural Center located at 8021 Pinebrook, from 2pm to 6pm followed by live music.

If you paint, draw, sculpt, do wood, metal or needlecraft, design jewelry, crystals or stones, bake etc., then call 341-2818 and sign up for a table/booth. Please make your table reservations early as space is limited. **NO ENTRY FEE!** Share your talent with the rest of our community! Donations will be accepted for a Silent Auction being held in conjunction with the Arts & Crafts Fair. Proceeds from the auction to benefit Community non-profit organizations.

**Jump-Start Concludes
TROUBLEMAKERS**

Jump-Start Performance Company, recently surviving from a public furor over **OUT OF TIME OF PLAGUE** forges right ahead with an appearance by internationally acclaimed performance artist Tim Miller at the Jump-Start Theater, 1035 S. Alamo.

Miller, one of the infamous "NEA FOUR" group of banned artists, will present **SEX/LOVE STORIES**, an autobiographical evening length manic and pushy performance work which chronicles a young Gay man's journey through a hostile world. The performance begins at 8PM.

**TGRA of Corpus Christi
Presents Checks**

TGRA, Texas Gay Rodeo Association, made a special presentation to the Church building fund of MCC/CC. Throughout the year, TGRA holds fundraisers and at the end of the year, the Corpus Christi chapter has money to donate to non-profit organizations.

This year, they presented MCC of CC and the Bobby Johnson Fund at CBAF EACH with a check for \$650. Congratulations

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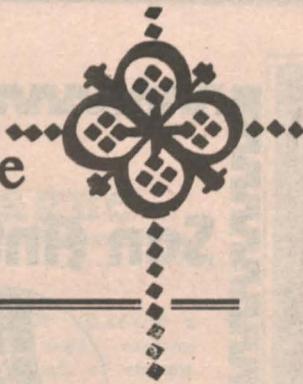
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Religion

On The Positive Side

By Rev. Linda Bynum



The story is told of a doctor making morning rounds who stopped to see a patient who was scheduled for surgery the next day.

Would he tell her, once more, she asked, what it was he planned to do to her?

"Why, Mrs. Smith," he answered, "I've explained this to you several times already. I thought you understood."

"Yes, I know, but the woman who cleans my room told me there's another way to do it."

If you're chuckling at this, then you're probably also recognizing the truth of this story. How many times we listen to "advisors" instead of going to the source of truth itself.

I've had the opportunity this semester to study Existentialism—a philosophy which recognizes the big question of human life, i.e., who am I? Why am I here on this Earth? What's life about, anyway? What is death? Where is happiness to be found? What is the purpose of life or where is meaning to be found?

You know you can pick up a newspaper or drive down almost any street in a U.S. city and find people advertising their willingness to help you find the answers to important life questions.

From astrological charts to Ouija boards and Tarot cards and from science of the mind to witchcraft, crystals and pyramid power. Our world is filled with so-called self-proclaimed "experts" eager to show us their version of the truth. At different times in my life, I've followed several of these paths only to find disillusionment and emptiness.

It seems the "in" thing today is to be accepting and tolerant of everyone's beliefs & practices, to allow everyone to find their own path to the truth.

I don't believe in putting everyone down for having a different belief system than my own. But I do think it's high time that someone say (and be heard to say) that just being spiritual doesn't necessarily mean one is GODLY.

One of the things that sets Christians apart from other faiths is the belief that Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." He didn't say "I'm one of the ways."

When we add all these other tempting possibilities as means to get immediate answers, sure promises, visions of the future or increased personal power, we are diluting our faith and leaving ourselves open for other (than Godly) spirits to work in our lives.

And like the woman patient listening to her cleaning woman, we are setting ourselves up to get bad counsel and poor results.

I've found the best way to clearly discern whether some potential "spiritual" path, guide or technique is of God is to simply ask, "In reality, does this lead me to renewed worship of Christ, dependence on his spirit and selfless service to others in his name?"

My prayer for each of you is that rather than listen to the quacks, you'll seek direction and care at the hands of the great physician, Himself.

GENRE Magazine Hits Where We Live

RCEC Publications Among Chosen Distributors

As you've probably already noticed, *The River City Empty Closet* and *Nitetimes* have been chosen as two of the Spring Premiere Issue distributors of the new national magazine, *GENRE*. A high tech publication with some of the best display ads we've seen in a Gay-supportive publication in a long time, *GENRE* is sure to garnish the leader position in high quality Gay-interest/lifestyle publishing.

As a magazine devoted to Gay lifestyle, it faces a great potential as the only such publication of its quality and kind. We urge you to drop a note to Publisher Richard Settles, suggesting articles of interest for up-coming issues and fill out the reader survey on page 41.

You'll find the article titled "Genital Cover-up" reflective of the kind of pervasive

homophobia that continues to motivate much of the nation.

The magazine really shines best, in our opinion, with the high-ec display advertisements and creative photography. Just take a look at the fascinating solarized, color-intensive treatment of "The Right Bright" — that sure ain't no standard presentation, buckeroos!

GENRE makes a definite statement with its slightly S/M treatment of new ties (the kind that go around your neck, guys) on pages 37-40. Standard material approached with a contemporary view. (Can't wait to see the Summer issue!)

GENRE has a great start. Our best wishes for a super future! We're envious.

Zelda J. Martinez
By
Appointment

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Gardening

Growing What Comes Naturally

By Scott Stover



In the Spring of 1990, President Bush announced the "America the Beautiful" Program with a major portion of the program focused on trees. He has called for "more trees from the rural countryside to the center of our cities" in his State of the Union address in January 1990.

As a result, several US agencies have stepped up programs dealing with the issue of trees. The USDA Forest Service is increasing its community forestry programs, the EPA is showing interest in tree programs, legislation on trees is now on Capitol hill and non-profit groups, industry and business are increasing tree planting efforts, education and tree care.

In 1989 the American Forestry Association survey over 400 hundred communities. The survey showed that there are 60 million planting spaces along streets that are now empty. More trees are dying each year than are being planted. But to fill these empty planting areas and to replace the dying trees would cost between \$6-18 million. Where would the money come from? In addition, 100 million tree planting areas exist around homes and businesses in the US. Planting these trees would greatly reduce the carbon dioxide levels of the environment by 18 million tons a year.

You can make a difference in your community and in the global problem of the green house effect by participating in a worldwide environmental improvement effort - plant a tree, or sponsor a tree planting in your community. Each of us is responsible for creating this mess on Earth, and we should each contribute to the solution.

The Texas Department of Agriculture has established the Trees for Texas Task Force which promotes the planting of trees in Texas to reverse the loss of tree cover throughout

Texas. The goal is to plant 17 million trees by the year 2000. For more information, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture, Trees for Texas, TDA-ONR, PO Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711

We know the importance of trees, but we still do not pay enough attention to their destruction. Since our society changed from an agrarian economy to an industrial one during the industrial revolution, we have mowed trees down in the name of progress. Trees are the largest living creatures on Earth. The largest being the California sequoia. One in California stands 275 feet tall with a 82 foot trunk.

There are sequoias larger than 30 story buildings. There are 850 species of trees and there are more species of trees in the Appalachian Mountains than in all of Europe.

But more species exist in three acres of Malaysian Rain Forest than in all of the US. We cannot plant sequoias in San Antonio, nor do we have as many species as a rain forest, but I can tell you which trees are better for San Antonio and how to plant them.

We should keep in mind that we go through droughts here. Water is in short supply. In California, for example, the entire state is rationing water. They are in their fifth year of drought. We can no longer afford to plant trees that require high maintenance, are poorly adapted to this region or are pest-ridden.

There are many native species available that provide a minimum of care and a maximum of pleasure. The following is a list of recommended trees for San Antonio. For your benefit, there is also a list of trees NOT to use here.

(Continued on page 15)

Welcome to San Antonio's 100th Fiesta



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Jump-Start Rides Into Storm With Out of Plague

From the moment the press releases were received, it was clear that Jump-Start's presentation of Steve Bailey's work, *Out of A Time Of Plague*, would be controversial.

The "do-gooders" of this city, the ones who want to tell everyone ELSE what to do think and say, picked up on the nudity issue immediately. Of course, the issue was not nudity, but freedom of expression, especially the freedom to present a performance which deals directly with AIDS and the harassment and confrontations — both personal and social — that PWA's and those in "high risk" groups must face.

Obviously, the mentality that branded the "NEA Four" is not solely reserved for true metropolitan centers. Our little seat of provincialism enjoys the hypocrisy, too.

Too bad. The average citizen in San Antonio probably has no conception of what is coming our way in terms of the AIDS pandemic. This city apparently still believes, whether intentionally or not, that AIDS is a Gay problem, a Black problem, a Hispanic problem. AIDS doesn't happen to "good folks."

But just in case it might (and probably will, probably has) hit good folks' families, Bailey wanted to show what it is like living with this pall of impending death, disability, doubt and social destruction hovering above us.

Until a few days before the performance, the City Manager's office was considering closing down the production. "Good folks" were calling his office in large numbers. Now, 800 calls (our last count) doesn't seem like a lot until one considers that the amount is a very high response in terms of phone calls. It represents a much larger segment of the population.

But after hurried consideration, city attorneys notified the City Manager that the performance company did, in fact, have a valid and legally-binding contract. So the show went on.

(Obviously, Bailey has learned personally what our Community, as a whole has yet to learn: join the game, play by their rules but learn to play it better.)

OUT OF A TIME OF PLAGUE, a multi-media movement work explores relationships under the attack of extreme adversity.

Bailey describes the work as "a tribute to support and affection."

As the performance begins, a white bed is rolled on stage to a backdrop of white linens and gauze. Sterility of thought, wonderfully captured with the imaginative set creations of Diana Cardenas and John Hernandez. The scene is so vibrant in its lack of color that the mood is immediately set for the rest of the performance.

Deborah Quinos and Loran Pittman's music is hauntingly eloquent. But the stars of the performance are undoubtedly the performers who executed outstanding choreography to present Bailey's message.

The most extraordinary part, however, of the total performance was not the acting, though excellent, not the music, though inspiring and not the choreography.

It was the lighting by Max Parilla. It was through his dimensions that invendo and fact raced across the stage to hit the audience head on. It was his use of subtle but significant streams of cascading light and shadow that focused attention where it should have been. And it was much to his credit that the famous "nude scene," which happens at the end of the performance, was presented with taste and compassion.

OUT OF A TIME OF PLAGUE is unequivocally a coup for Bailey and one of the best pieces of "experimental" theater available. The total ensemble is to be congratulated for their success.

Carol Lee Klose is also deserving of immense praise for having the foresight and commitment to this Community and the arts for her co-funding of the work.

Let's have more, controversy and all.



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MAY 2nd - 5th

Thurs. May 2nd: CCMC Club Night, 7 - 11pm
Anniversary Cocktails by CCMC, Light Buffet

Fri. May 3rd: Silent Auction, 7 - 11:30pm
Reception on the patio, 8pm
B.A.L.L.S. Color Hanging, 10pm
Anniversary Cocktails by B.A.L.L.S., @ Midnight

Sat. May 4th: Anniversary Banquet at Royale Nueces Hotel, 5pm
Tickets \$20

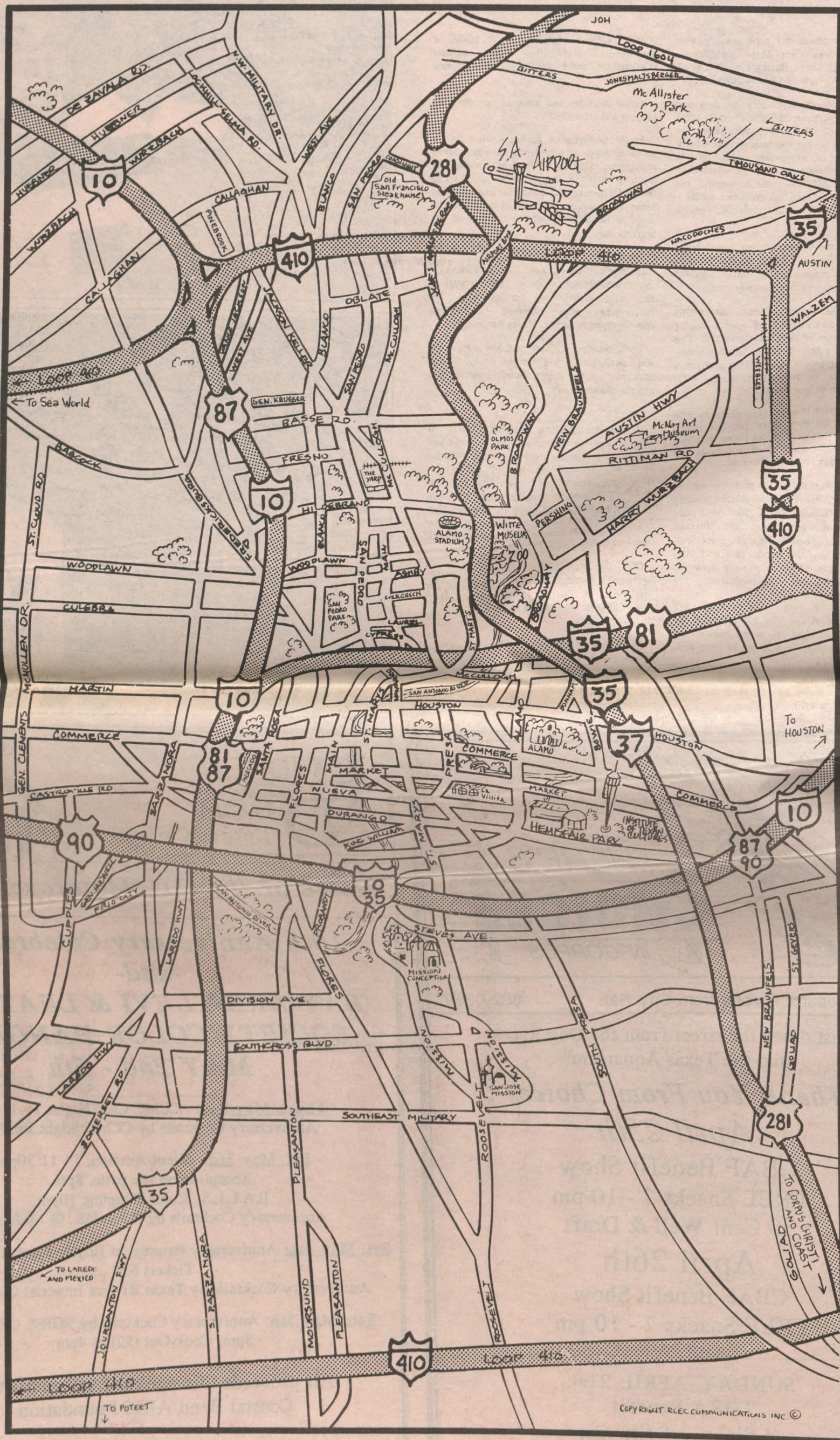
Anniversary Cocktails by Texas Riviera Imperial Court, 9pm

Sun. May 5th: Anniversary Cocktails by TGRA, CC Chapter,
3pm; Cook-Out (\$2) at 4pm

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✓ Adult & Off The Wall Humor
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Lunch Specials

Monday-Saturday
10:30-3:30

Vegetarian \$3.95
Cucumber, tomato, fresh avocado,
Philadelphia cream cheese, fresh sprouts,
and mayonnaise on whole wheat bread.

H.A.C.S. \$4.75
Sliced ham, fresh avocado, Philadelphia
cream cheese, fresh sprouts, and mayonnaise
on whole wheat bread.

Poor Willie \$4.25
Roast beef, mild cheddar, sliced ham,
mayonnaise and dijon mustard on toasted
sourdough.

All served with potato salad and chips
or with fresh fruit.

Sunday Brunch Specials

11:00-3:30

Homemade Chicken and Dumplings \$4.50
Served with a vegetable and fresh garden salad

Quiche Du Jour \$4.25
Served with fresh fruit

Egg Surprise \$4.25
Try this delightful dish topped with cheese and
your choice of ham, bacon, baby shrimp or crab.
Served with an all-butter croissant and our own
wine jelly.

Dinner Specials

Monday-Thursday

5:30-9:00

Friday & Saturday

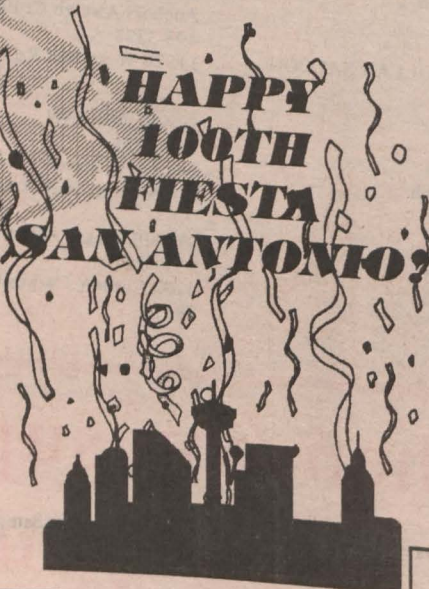
5:30-10:00

Shrimp Fettucini \$6.50
Half a dozen shrimp sauteed in garlic
and butter over a bed of fettucini.

Chicken Parmesan \$5.95
Boneless chicken breast, with fettucini
and marinara sauce.

Lasagna \$5.25
Our homemade three-cheese lasagna.

All served with salad and garlic bread



HIDDEN DOOR Of Corpus Christi Celebrates Tenth Anniversary



Congratulations to The Hidden Door of Corpus Christi which celebrates its tenth anniversary the week end of May 2nd thru May 5th.

As is the custom with anything that goes on at the Hidden Door, not one but MANY events are scheduled for the celebration week end.

One of the highlights will be the "color hanging" of B.A.L.L.S. (Bay Area Levi & Leather Society).

If you've got the week end free, you

might want to consider the activities that mark the Door's anniversary. Here's their schedule:

THURSDAY, MAY 2nd
CCMC Club Night, 7-11pm
Anniversary Cocktails by CCMC,
Light Buffet

FRIDAY, MAY 3rd
Silent Auction, 7-11:30pm
Reception on the patio, 8pm
BALLS Color Hanging at 10pm
Anniversary Cocktails by BALLS
at Midnight

SATURDAY, MAY 4th
Anniversary Banquet at the
Royale Nueces Hotel, 5pm (\$20)
Anniversary Cocktail by Texas

Riviera Imperial Court at The
Hidden Door, 9pm

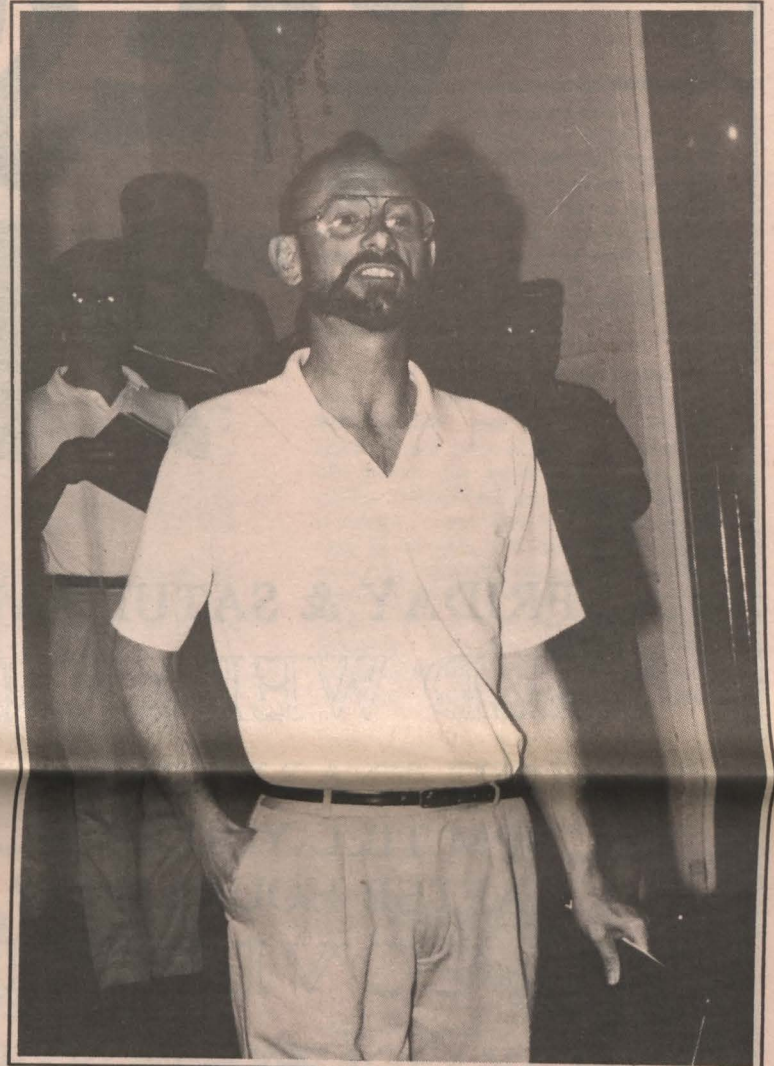
SUNDAY, MAY 5th
Anniversary Cocktails by Texas
Gay Rodeo Asso. of CC, 3pm
Cook-out, \$2/plate at 4pm

All proceeds will benefit the COASTAL
BEND AIDS FOUNDATION.

Again, especially now that the weather has warmed, we urge you to visit our own playground to our South where The Hidden Door, Choices and many other fine bars await to serve you. The people are real

party-goers and friendly, friendly, F-R-I-E-N-D-L-Y! And when things get too hot, take a break and head for the beaches (don't forget the Gay/Nude beach—ask).

Once again, congratulations to Andy, Jerry, Butch and all the fine people at HD on their anniversary.



In Case You Weren't There...

ACMC Fills The Night With Love

By Daniel Castor

The Alamo City Men's Chorale opened its fourth season of song with a Spring concert, "Love's in the Air," Saturday evening, March 30th, at the Alamo Street Restaurant and Theatre.

Set decoration provided by Dennis Zoebel and Beverly Pletz consisted of multi-colored pastel helium-filled balloons tied with lilac ribbon to silk flower arrangements, blending well with the choir's own multi-colored pastel concert shirts. The atmosphere was "festive" and the audience immediately joined in the spirit.

The concert title and theme, developed by the Chorale's new Music Director Robert Tadelman, reflected the Spring season appropriately as members performed eighteen pieces, "...all about love and being in love," Tadelman said.

At times powerful, at times hilarious, this production captured the ups and downs of love found, lost and then rediscovered.

Especially moving was a duet by section leader Steven Wegner and chorale President, Stephen Miller. Their rendition of "Don't Know Much" captured the longest audience response to a ballad, the kind of performance that perfectly blends with the mood of a crackling fire, a loving touch and someone special in your arms.

Balanced with this and other touching ballads were several comedic performances. Most notable was ACMC Recorder/Secretary, Al Martinez' solo, "Daddy."

Draped in white lace and chiffon, Martinez performed flirtatiously drawing laughter and thunderous applause for his "dainty cavortions." Obviously, Martinez has chopped down his closet door with a vengeance and is totally enjoying himself as he prances and brings down the house with his renditions.

Following this, Director Tadelman and member Joseph Ortiz provided an amusing vocal interpretation of 'trouble in paradise' consisting entirely of meow's and hisses.

Also included were two dance routines by Aaron Callies and the chorale debut of female vocalist Suzanne Garza who performed two beautiful solos that reached everyone's soul.

An animated reception followed the concert where complimentary food, punch and a cash bar were provided. During the reception, the original outstanding water color concert poster, designed and painted by Stephen Miller, was auctioned to David Adcock for \$75. Adcock is very fortunate, indeed. The original painting is impressive with the naked upper torso of a man painted with extreme control of this difficult media. Possibly, Miller should make his works more available to the public. Say, at the Gay Pride Picnic? It shouldn't take him too long to sell out; his work is flawless.

As impressive as the chorale's performance of the chosen pieces were the lyrics. If you have a life partner now or have had one in the past, the lyrics to these wonderful melodies reach deep inside you and tug at heartstrings long protected from invading eyes. This reporter was moved nearly to tears by many of the selections. Director Tadelman accomplished with one grouping, what record producers world wide seldom can attain: a cohesive collection of song and words that weave a story that ALL of us can relate to.

If this chorale and its leadership can be considered in their infancy stage now, San Antonio should do everything possible to insure a healthy growth environment. The adult will be a shining asset to this Community for many years.

The next San Antonio performance by the ACMC will be a *Pride Concert in June* but the group is planning a benefit concert in Corpus Christi in late April.





WILD CLUB

Fiesta '91

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
WILD WEEKENDS
DANCE-DANCE-DANCE

9PM TILL YOU DROP...
AFTER HOURS TILL?
NO COVER TILL
1AM

WEDNESDAY
WILD
WEDNESDAYS
MALE DANCERS
11PM
NO COVER

THURSDAY
FREE POOL
ALL
NIGHT
LONG

MONDAY
MAD
MONDAYS
\$1.75 WELL
50 Cent DRAFT

TUESDAY
\$2 TUESDAYS
\$2 WELL
\$2 BOTTLE BEER

SUNDAY
LIQUOR RUSH
6 - 9 PM
(\$5 BUY-IN 25 Cent Well)
LIVING COLOR
7PM
MALE DANCERS
10PM
NO COVER



820 SAN PEDRO

SAN ANTONIO

(512) 226-2620

(GROWING Continued)

When choosing a tree find one that will fit your size requirements where it will have plenty of room to grow to its natural size. As a general rule, evergreen trees should be planted on the North and East sides of a structure to protect against winter winds. As a result, Winter heating bills can be reduced by as much as 30%. Deciduous trees should be planted on the South and West sides, reducing Summer cooling bills by 10-15%.

And closer to the wallet: planting a tree can add \$2000 or more to the value of your home per tree!

To plant a tree, dig a square hole. Fill the hole with water to see how the drainage is. If the water is gone the next day, drainage is

good. If water is still in the hole, find another location as your tree will die from root-rot.

Plant the tree at the same depth as it was before. Backfill the hole with one half of the soil that came from the digging and half with compost. Compact the backfill and water thoroughly. Do not stake the tree as this weakens root development. Mulch the top of the tree ball with three inches of native mulch to help conserve moisture.

You should also keep the tree watered for two growing seasons. After this time, roots will have developed and the tree should be able to survive on its own.

Then watch and enjoy your investment grow. You can feel good that you have not only beautified your home but aided in the re-treing of America and the recovery of planet Earth.

Best Shade Trees

Worst

CHINESE PISTACHE
AFGHAN PINE
PECAN
MESQUITE
OAK
(LIVE, BURR, LACEY
CHINQUAPIN, SHUMARD
RED, TEXAS RED,
MONTERRAY)
CEDAR ELM
BALD CYPRESS
MONTEZUMA BALD CYPRESS
DRAKE EVERGREEN ELM

TALLOW
ARIZONA ASH
MULBERRY
HACKBERRY
SWEETGUM
COTTONWOOD
WEEPING WILLOW
SILVER MAPLE
SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA
SYCAMORE
CHINA BERRY

Plants

LIVING WITH PLANTS

Ivy: the non-existent plant!

By Michael Hopper



[Michael Hopper is co-owner of GRASSHOPPER, a fascinating plant store located at 4026 McCullough in Olmos Park and is a regular contributor to The Closet. Mr. Hopper welcomes your letters, questions and comments. You may write to him % of this paper or

Many thanks to "a reader in H.C." because now I have a topic to expound upon for this week's column.

IVIES!

Besides growing long and spindly with progressively shrinking leaf size, what is there to know?

Plenty!

Vining plants, ivies (not ivories) are great. They take a little extra maintenance to keep full and lush, but the few extra minutes per week are well worth it.

Besides the extremely common Pothos and Cordatum ivies there are a myriad of them from which to select. All do their best under two conditions: either trailing from a hanging basket or climbing up a totem or wall. There are large leaf ivies, small leaf ivies and even varieties one wouldn't recognize as an ivy. Let's knock off the garden/grocery store varieties first: Pothos and Cordatum. They

make full hanging baskets or totems if given regular "hair cuts." Trim off spindly growth, root it and re-plant either in the same pot or start a new one. Feed with every watering a half strength solution of 30-10-10 fertilizer. Allow the pot to dry at least half way into itself between waterings. Lighting: Cordatum does best in moderate to low light situations and Pothos performs best in moderate to bright light.

Want some ivy for a real sunny spot? Grow varieties of Hedera Helix (English Ivy). This will even work in a Western exposure indoors. But be forewarned, Hederas invites mites: both cyclamen and red spider. Since the EPA pulled the only truly effective miticide off the market, mites are now hell on wheels with plants and next to impossible to control once an infestation occurs.

Other moderate to bright light ivy or vining plants which bloom as well as having lush foliage are: columnea (Lipstick Plant), nematanthus (Goldfish Vine), and Ivy Geraniums. Other good ones are many varieties of Episcia (Flame Violets) and, of course, plectranthus (Swedish Ivy), a superb moderate light grower and very easy to propagate. All require evenly moist soil, good air circulation and should be fed a solution of half strength 15-30-15 fertilizer with each watering.

Columnneas, nematanthus and episcia all belong to the gesneriad family, same as the African Violet. They bloom profusely and intermittently throughout the year. However, unlike the African Violet, they prefer the heat to cooler temperatures. Comfortable reading level light is necessary to bring these plants into bloom and keep them full.

The most common complaints about Swedish Ivy are that the leaves become small and hard and that they bare themselves across the top of hanging baskets. Simple problems with simple solutions. The leaves become small and hard when the plant is grown in too much light and heat. They do best in moderate light. The baring or thinning in the top is corrected with fingernails or scissors; pinch the growth back which will force new shoots and thicker display.

Ivy Geraniums are vining varieties of the geranium family. They cascade rather than trail, but they grow beautifully in partial shade.

Early morning or late evening sun is preferable. Keep the soil evenly moist and they perform better if watered from under the foliage rather than through the foliage.

Since they bloom, feed with a high phosphoric acid fertilizer such as 15-30-15, every other watering through mid-summer, then cut back to monthly until the Fall, when you should

step up the fertilizer program again.

Because I have mentioned so many different types of plants that fall into the category of ivy, you might be a little confused. There is really no one plant family that is considered an ivy. The word ivy is more a description than a classification. In other words, there is no such thing as "ivy." Ivies are any plant that by its nature, creeps, crawls or climbs using vining growth pattern.

Finally, but not last by any means, the very tried, the very true, never say die NEPHTHYTIS! And that is its common name! It will grow in soil or in water and will survive for weeks with its roots in neither. Nephtytis will grow in almost full sun or under a 15 watt light bulb. It just doesn't care. It will bush, trail, climb or run. There are at least fifty different hybrids and a half dozen species from which to choose. The hybrid which is most prevalent is White Butterfly. It tends to grow runners. The foliage is so variegated that one might not recognize it as being variegated at all; but it is.

Well, "reader from HC," here's a start for you.

Once again, thank you for your kind letter and inquiry and I hope I have answered some of your questions. Feel free to stop in at Grasshopper the next time you are in SA.

Las Gueras

5930 S. Flores 923-7944

Saturday, April 20th

Munoz Productions Presents

THE OFFICIAL MISS GAY SAN ANTONIO METROPLEX PAGEANT 1991

An official preliminary to Miss Gay Texas

M.C. Miss Las Gueras 1991 Bri Alexander

Sun April 21st

Female Strippers w/Cinnamon Sweet, Showtime: 11:30pm

10 Cent Draft, \$1 Longnecks & Cans

Tues, April 23rd & Wed, April 24th

10 Cent Draft, \$1 Longnecks & Cans

Thurs, April 25

Jam and The Jammers w/Miss Gay Waco, Cinnamon Sweet, Showtime: 11:30pm

25 Cent Draft, \$1 Longnecks & Cans

Fri, April 26th

Dance to the sounds of DJ Alex until 2am after Battle of Flowers Parade

\$ Dash For Cash at Midnight \$

Sat, April 27th

Munoz Productions Presents: The 3rd Official Miss Gay FIESTA Flambeau Pageant 1991

Starring MGFF 1990 - Tamara Foxx

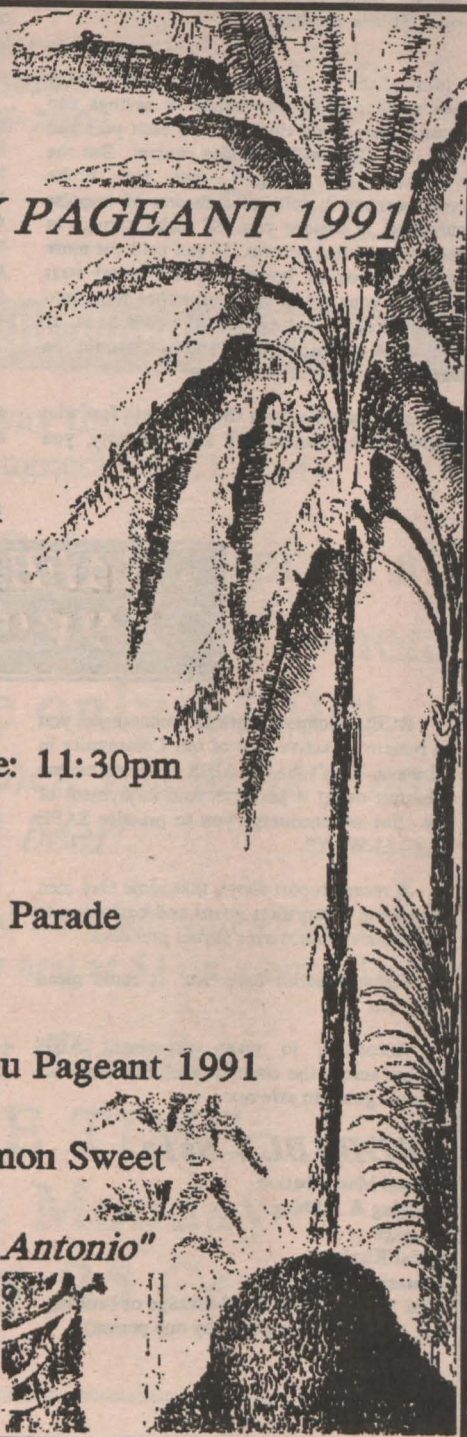
M.C. Miss Las Gueras - Bri Alexander -and- Miss Gay Waco - Cinnamon Sweet

"Las Gueras, Your FIESTA Party Headquarters in the South of San Antonio"

Sun, April 28th:

Female Strippers w/Cinnamon Sweet

10 Cent Draft, \$1 Longnecks & Cans



Financial Planning

Keeping Covered: On Budgeting (Part II)

By Slater Anderson

M. Slater Anderson is a financial planner and is co-owner of Anderson-Zunker Investments and Insurance, located at 1803 W. Gramercy Place, Suite 100.

He welcomes your comments and questions regarding health insurance, life insurance, disability, group insurance programs, employee benefits programs and

Part II on Budgeting

Once you've assembled all the requisite data, fill in the income part of the cash-flow statement and arrive at the total. Be sure to include interest from any other investments you may have.

Next turn to expenses. Divide them into discrete spending categories. You'll probably wind up with between 12 and 20 categories. Be as precise as possible. Include a category for Mystery Cash --the money you spent but cannot account for.

Trying to nail down the exact amounts for variable expenses such as groceries, meals in restaurants and medical bills can drive you crazy. For sanity's sake, analyze your payments for them over the past six months and multiply by two for a yearly total. As for the expenses without receipts that you tracked in the diary of your walk around money, annualize the amounts and apportion them into the appropriate outgo categories. Don't worry about the pennies. Round amounts to the nearest \$10.

When this time and motion study of your spending habits is complete, take a deep breath and add up all your taxes and expenses. Subtract them from your gross income and voila! This is you life.

Ideally, the bottom line will show a hefty cash surplus that you stashed in savings and investments. Keep this habit up each year and your cash flow will be under control. But the worksheet may suggest that you broke even--perhaps in spite of a shower of impulse purchases. Consider yourself lucky, though in need of spending reform. If you paid out more than you took in, however, you'd better start mending your spending. You either went into debt or drew on savings to make ends meet. If you were a corporation, auditors would be warning that you're in the red.

Unless you are among the fortunate few who already save substantially and regularly, you

must find ways to rein in spending. Chances are about 70% of your income is earmarked for taxes, housing and other relatively immutable costs. So you'll have to squeeze the remaining 30%. A few areas are usually ripe: clothing, dining out, spending on electronic gear and CD's, as well as overuse of credit cards with finance charges that can top 18% a year. You'll get more ideas by looking at the cashflow worksheet and comparing your spending as a percentage of gross income with the suggested ranges for people like you.

Mystery Cash is often the most troublesome category to control. If more than 30% of your take-home pay is spent in cash outlays, try writing checks for all purchases of \$10 or more to create a paper trail of your expenses.

You might also find less obvious places to trim. Take a look at your insurance policies, for instance. Raising your auto and homeowners insurance deductibles --the amounts you agree to pay each year before benefits kick in-- might easily save 20% of your premiums.

No matter how sound the spending plan you devise, be prepared to fight temptation. Forgive yourself for an occasional lapse. Techniques for curbing spending include:

Make fewer shopping trips and buy only from the lists you prepared in advance. When you decide to make a purchase, check prices at three or more stores first. Consider the entire cost of an expensive item, not just its retail price. Factor in the interest you'll owe on credit payments as well as any upkeep expenses.

Buying habits are partly driven by psychology, so remember not to let your emotions bust your budget.

Once you have devised a comfortable spending plan, follow it for three months. Then conduct the first of three quarterly reviews. At each, you may want to restore certain luxuries and curtail others. You could also find that some ordinary expenses are not costing as much as you anticipated. For example, your clothing bills may be lower than in the past, allowing you to add the unexpected cash to savings.

After 12 months, your spending habits should be so impressive that you'll need only an annual checkup.

SAFE SEX ADVISORY

RCEC Communications encourages you to remain an active part of our Community in all ways. Don't let the AIDS Crisis make you a hermit or let it paralyze your enjoyment of sex. But we encourage you to practice SAFE SEX--ALWAYS.

A recent report shows that some Gay men are letting down their guard and beginning to lose their vigilance over sexual practices.

Please Practice Safe Sex. It could mean your life.

According to many prominent AIDS groups across the country, the following is a reliable guide to safe sex:

PROBABLY Safe

Mutual Masturbation
Hugging & rubbing
Massage
Social Kissing
Fantasies
Mild S&M without skin breakage or bruising
Sex toys (only when used by one person)

Questionable

Anal or vaginal intercourse using a condom
Deep kissing (French kissing)
Sucking but stopping before ejaculation
Watersports (only if external and only if no skin breaks are present)
Vaginal/Oral Sex (only if external)

Definitely Unsafe

Swallowing any other person's bodily fluids of any kind
Intercourse without a condom
Watersports (internally or where skin breaks are present)
Sharing IV equipment, especially needles
Fisting or rimming
Sharing enema or douching equipment
Sharing sex toys

(Compiled from a similar display ad which regularly appears in The Advocate)

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FIESTA SPECIALS

FRI, APRIL 19th

FIESTA KICK-OFF PARTY, 8-2AM

SAT, APRIL 20th

SWITCH-NITE SHOW, 11PM

MR. FLUFF & MS BUTCH CONTEST

SAT, APRIL 27th

FIESTA SHOW

(AFTER FLAMBEAU PARADE)

REGULAR SPECIALS

MON-SAT

\$1 Beer, 6-10PM

Monday: FREE Pool

Thursday: Gay Pool League

Fri & Sat: Live DJ, Door Prizes, Trivia Contest

Sunday: \$1 Can Beer (All Day)

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HERMES Magazine. Direct from Mexico, *Hermes* is the newest addition to our list of international gay magazines. This informative publication features gay interest articles in Spanish and nude color centerfolds of hunky Latin men. ORDER CODE: M/HE-01. \$5 per copy, plus \$2 S/H.

DE ONDA: A Gay Guide to Mexico and its People. Among Mexican gays, "de onda" is a code expression for "being one of us." Explore what it means to be "de onda" in Mexico: the meeting places, the lifestyle, the customs, the sexual practices. A fascinating personal account. This book also has an extensive list of gay venues to visit. ORDER CODE: B/OG-02. \$19.95, plus \$3 S/H.

OG Magazine. Take a look at some of the most attractive men in the world -- handsome Asian guys to captivate your senses. Presenting OG-8 with sharp articles, inside information on the gay scenes in Tokyo and Taipei, and, of course, the men. ORDER CODE: M/OG-08. \$15 plus \$3 S/H.

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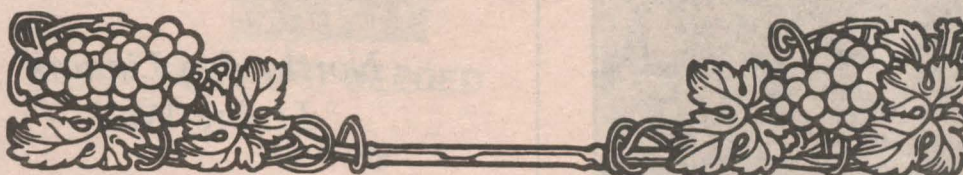
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Dining Out

Big Atmosphere in a Cozy Place

Little Naples Italian Restaurant



Last week, I received an invitation to "eat Italian" and "be with family." I never turn down a dinner invitation.

My host promised a surprise dining experience and her appraisal was well-merited.

Just a couple of blocks from the intersection of Hildebrand, we arrived at *Little Naples Italian Restaurant* on Blanco. The free standing building, with open front doors, hosts a mixed clientele which is thoroughly sold on the Little Naples Dining Experience.

Restaurateurs Ed and Joyce Vervais have combined their talents to produce a down home atmosphere with an above average menu that satisfies the palate as well as the wallet and the soul, thanx in large part to Chef Manuel Perez (whom everyone wants to adopt). Ed, Joyce and Manuel are the kind of folks often referred to as "good people." And they are definitely high profile supporters of this Community.

Little Naples is the kind of place you like to keep secret and only tell your closets friends about. It's a little haven of tantalizing food cuddled in a family atmosphere of warmth and conviviality.

"Naples" is a must for an enjoyable evening with friends or "alone." "Alone" is in quotes because you are never "alone" at Little Naples. Owner Ed Vervais is constantly scurrying around, helping wait staff change tables, assuring your comfort and stopping now and then just to chat. He is like a wide-eyed kid having a wonderful time with life savoring every moment. There is no doubt he is the key to the wide success this restaurant has enjoyed. His friendship is extended to all who enter and he encourages his staff to do the same.

By the way, the wait staff comes straight from Mama's kitchen! They are personable

(Not too shabby in the looks department either!) and VERY attentive. You rarely have to call their attention to one of your needs.

And they smile. They actually talk with you. They are an integral part to the total atmosphere which encourages an easy-going approach.

Don't expect classy decor. This place is simple in its approach to both food and comfort. It's the kind of place you want to stay in for hours, deep in conversation with that special someone or partying with several friends.

Seating is spacious, allowing normal conversation without infringing on the next table's privacy.

Check out the bulletin board at the rear; it's crammed with interesting business cards, notices and bits and pieces of info. Do take a close look at the antique solid nickel hand cash register which rests atop the enormous display case at the entrance. And if you've got a prized hat that needs a better display area than your grandmother's hope chest, do bring it along. There are already several classic examples of chapeaus hanging over the cash register. But enough about the easy atmosphere.

My lovely host immediately suggested that whatever the "special" was, I should order it. She had never been disappointed and was sure I would like the offering.

Unlike most other Italian restaurants, the food here is not heavy and is designed to satisfy the taste buds without making you feel bloated. So don't expect gigantic portions. Do expect excellent service and exceptional food.

We began with the "Antipasto Italiano" (\$3) which is a bit different than the traditional

antipasto but intriguing with its combination of tastes of mushrooms and fried eggplant.

We had no sooner devoured the antipasto and the delectable garlic bread wedges when two more "family" members entered. After greetings, the two women took the table next to ours and we chatted about this and that; just as comfortably as if we were at home.

I took my host's recommendation and ordered the special, a marvelous chicken fillet, sauteed in wine with one or two spices. Very simple and VERY delicious. I found myself sopping up the left over juices with my second order of bread brought by a very cute waiter (Hi, Danny!) with a wonderful smile. (Unfortunately, HE was NOT on the menu...)

My host had her "regular," Spaghetti with meatballs (\$5), and although I've seen her pack it away at other restaurants, I gladly finished what she had left from the more than ample serving.

Little Naples is used to seeing diners pass plates around; it's part of the warmth of the place.

Just before the entre was served, two more "family" friends arrived and wanted to join us. Ed quickly assured us there was no problem in accommodating the additional entourage and before we could even think of being inconvenienced, had adroitly arranged a connecting table to ours.

In addition to the Spaghetti, which can be ordered with tomato sauce, with Bolognese, meatballs or Italian Sausage, there is also a creamy Fettuccine Alfredo and a similar Fettuccine Romano (both \$5.75).

If you'd really like to test Manuel's prowess in the kitchen, you might order the meat or cheese Ravioli (\$4.75) the northern style Lasagna (\$6.50) or the Lasagna Naples

Style (\$7.50). Manicotti and Canneloni are also listed with these Pasta Specialties.

No Italian restaurant is authentic without Veal and when I questioned two other guests on their Veal Piccata (\$9.25), their answer was simply, "Melts in your mouth." There is also veal Milanese and the classic Veal Eggplant Parmigiana (both \$9.50).

But, this is just the surface! Manuel can also cook up a storm of chicken entress (all around \$7.50), a variety of seafood, including Linguini with clams in either white or red wine sauce (\$9) and shrimp scampi (\$8.75).

If you're into something lighter, there are several sandwiches offered only until 5pm and all within the \$3.75 - 4.50 range.

Several forms of Pizza, including a vegetarian version, are equally mouth watering.

This is a great little cozy spot with an ingratiating atmosphere and friendly staff devoted to compelling you to return. If the FIESTA activities get a bit much and you need to get away from it all, do try Little Naples. The experience won't empty your wallet but will fill your tummy.

PS: Do ask Ed for the nightly entertainment seat. (That's an inside joke, but I'm sure he'll explain it to you.)

Little Naples Italian Restaurant

Mon - Fri: 11am-10pm

Sat: 5pm-10pm

Closed Sundays

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Prefer at least 6 months experience with general knowledge of tabloid generation. Computer operation, *Microsoft Word*.

Will consider intense commitment and eagerness to learn in lieu of experience, for "right" person.

PageMaker experience a definite plus but not required. We will train. Applicant should have flexible hours and be able to spend at least 3 half days and 1 full day in office (Fredericksburg Rd.)

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We need your talents. The Closet is about to expand its coverage of local and state events and issues. Contribute to the resource information for 20,000 readers. Call 733-1058 for interview.
(Continual)

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to help plan, contour and plant rock garden and renovate back yard. Four hrs/Sunday afternoon for next 4 or five Sundays. Own tools helpful but not necessary. Call 733-1058
(4/17)

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HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE IN PICTURES!

Nitetimes is looking for models, Male & Female, Couples or Singles, serious or comic for *Nitetimes*' front cover.

Models must be willing to sign a release and "physique" models should be in above average physical condition. Compensation provided. Face shown: \$50, body only or parts: \$25.

We are also in need of models for repetitive "shoots" for use in local advertising or photographic additions to articles and stories. Face shots not needed. Compensation dependent upon dependability.

For initial interview, send Name, day-time phone, height, weight, and a photo (Polaroid, OK) showing you in swim suit.

All photos become the property of RCEC Communication, Inc.

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Nitetimes's classified ads reach 20,000 readers with your message. "Blind Box" arrangements available. Call 733-1058 for more info.
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GENERAL OFFICE HELP GLADLY ACCEPTED

There are many things to do each week end as we put each issue of *Nitetimes* and *The Closet* "to bed." If you can spare a couple of hours on a Saturday morning or Friday evening, just drop in. We'll put you to work! Fun group, personal satisfaction. No experience necessary. Work ranges from simple cutting & pasting to copy editing, typing, filing, answering phones, picking up supplies/deliveries. We're here every Friday until ... and on Saturdays, too. Call us at 733-1058 or just drop in at 1504 Fredericksburg Road.
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