



A dozen gay men and women (above) gathered at the White House in March, 1977, as one of the highlights in the gay world this past year. Another major event was the campaign in Miami to repeal the Dade County gay rights ordinance. Bob Kunst and Dr. Allan Rockaway (below) led the effort for gay people in Florida. Complete review of the events of 1977 starts on page 6 of this issue of The Star.



The Star

Our
75th
Issue

For
Dec. 30, 77
to Jan. 5, 78



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THIS ISSUE

On The Star's front cover this issue is Robert Jones, popular bartender at Houston's Old Plantation. Robert is a former Mr. Gay Texas. The highlight of this issue of The Star is a review of gay rights news in 1977. It starts on the following page.

1977: Year in Review	6	What's Goin' On	28
Cruising.	20	Houston map.	30
Figleaves	23	Want ads	32
Horoscope.	24	Houston Directory	34
Texas, Louisiana maps.	26		

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1977: The Year in Review

The major events in the gay world in 1977 included the historic White House meeting, the Dade County, Florida referendum, the gay pride marches in most American cities, another Supreme Court "no show," and the lesbian presence at the International Women's Year conference in Houston.

A White House welcome

The National Gay Task Force, a New York-based gay rights organization, coordinated unprecedented Feb. 8 and March 26 meetings at the White House with Presidential Assistant Margaret Costanza, which laid the basis for a series of talks with federal agencies that has already produced significant reforms.

The March 26 meeting was the culmination of months of quiet

planning and negotiating by NGTF, and it was a major step in legitimizing the gay rights struggle in the eyes of the media, the general public and government officials.

America's lesbians and gay men were represented by a delegation of fourteen, which included Houstonian Pokey Anderson, NGTF co-executive directors Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller, Massachusetts State Representative Elaine Noble and Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Church group.

On the government side, Costanza was joined by her assistant, Marilyn Haft; Robert Mulsom, a civil rights specialist on the staff of the White House Office of Domestic Affairs; and Cooki Lutkefедder of the Democratic National Committee.

The three-hour discussion touched on a number of subjects which affect



Elaine Noble and Rev. Troy Perry were among the gay people invited to the White House in 1977.



Hundreds of thousands of gay men and women took to the streets in 1977 following the repeal of the Dade County gay rights ordinance. Protests were staged in Houston, New Orleans, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and other cities.

gay men and women, such as exclusionary practices of the armed forces and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Defense Department policies on granting security clearances, tax provisions and policies discriminatory against singles, same-sex households and gay charitable organizations, treatment of gay prisoners in federal institutions, and possible action against anti-gay discrimination by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission,

the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Government meetings

Earlier in the year, as a result of court decisions declaring that homosexuality is not an inherent index of "poor moral character," the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) revised its policy on naturalization and

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no longer recommends to the courts that gay aliens be deined citizenship.

At their July meeting with gay rights representatives, INS officials declared their intention to review immigration policy as well, under which gay aliens are barred as "psychopathic personalities" and "sexual deviants."

In view of the American Psychiatric Association's position that these terms cannot be applied to homosexuality *per se*, efforts are now under way to persuade the U.S. Public Health Service to recommend a change in INS policy. A meeting with representatives of both agencies is planned for the near future.

With respect to gay prisoners, NGTF and The Advocate are involved in a pending suit against the director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons challenging a bar against all publications that "advocate or support homosexuality." This and other issues were raised in a meeting with Justice Department officials. A meeting with the Bureau of Prisons itself is planned.

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission in August decided that its jurisdiction *does* extend to investigation of discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the administration of justice (that is, by courts, prisons, and law enforcement, probation and parole officers), though not to discrimination in such areas as housing, employment and public accommodations. Gay rights activists have received assurances that official Civil Rights Commission documentation of discrimination against gay people will soon be forthcoming.

The Commission has no enforcement powers but its findings are taken

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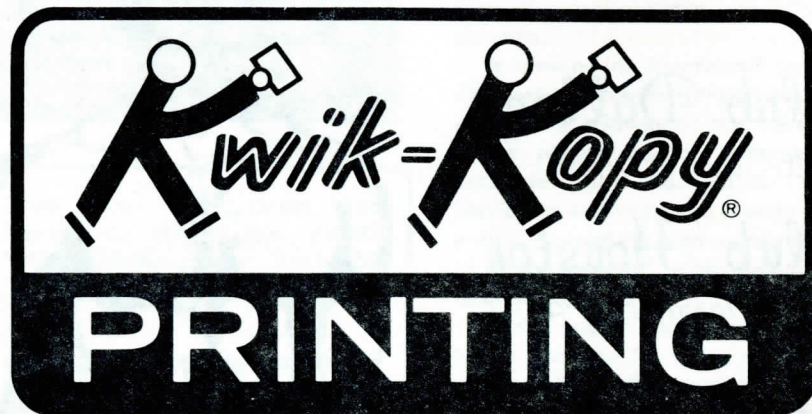
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very seriously both by legislators and the media.

Other federal agencies

In 1977, the Internal Revenue Service, responding to persuasion from NGTF, the Fund for Human Dignity and distinguished tax attorney Stanley Weithome, abandoned its policy of denying charitable tax exemptions to organizations that present homosexuality as a healthy, alternative lifestyle. This policy had greatly hampered fund raising for gay educational and community-welfare activities.

The new policy should help a wide variety of gay groups in 1978. One

beneficiary already has been the Fund for Human Dignity.

Another concern of gay people in 1977 was the Federal Communications Commission's failure to *require* broadcasters to ascertain gay community needs as a requisite for license renewal.

In August, NGTF filed a petition with the Commission asking that it add gay leaders to the list of community representatives whom broadcasters must meet in order to keep their licenses. The FCC should make a decision on this sometime in 1978.

Congress and the courts

As we enter 1978, the outlook for federal gay rights legislation is not

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encouraging. The current lead sponsor of the federal bill in the House, Rep. Edward Koch, will be leaving to assume the position of Mayor of New York City, and a Senate version of the bill has not been introduced.

The Gay Rights National Lobby, a Washington, D.C.-based group, continues to promote a federal bill, and to defeat such anti-gay federal legislation as the McDonald amendment (passed by the House June 27) barring federal legal assistance in cases where gay rights is an issue.

We have, however, already lost one congressional battle, both houses voting to deny single people and gay couples access to federally subsidized housing.

The most lamentable setback on the federal level was the U.S. Supreme Court's refusal to hear the Gaylord and Gish cases (in which teachers were dismissed or transferred solely because they were openly gay). In letting the prejudicial decisions stand, the court set no national precedent, but it did signal its continuing unwillingness to venture into this area, let alone make a forthright declaration that the Bill of Rights applies equally to gay people.

It is important to remember, however, that several lower court decisions have gone in favor of gay teachers in other cases, and we hope that eventually enough victories will be established at this level to create a more persuasive atmosphere for the high court.

A situation which bears watching is whether the Supreme Court agrees to review a lower court decision upholding the right of a gay organization to exist on the campus of the

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University of Missouri. If this decision is left standing it will be clear that the Supreme Court has taken no generalized position on gay rights but has simply avoided dealing with the issue for the time being.

If it agrees to review the cases, chances are good for a favorable decision, since there are numerous lower court rulings supporting the rights of gay campus groups.

Effects of Dade County

Without a doubt, the media event of the year was the Dade County referendum. The heavy defeat was certainly disappointing, but in the long run Anita Bryant Green and her friends may have done us more good than harm. All over the country, gay rights is now being viewed as a major national issue which cannot be ignored.

Gay activist organizations have been busily harvesting the gay (and non-gay civil libertarian) rage Bryant so effectively generates, and many lesbians and gay men who had never before contributed to the gay movement are joining up, giving money, and donating their time and energy in all sorts of productive ways.

Voters in Dade County, which includes Miami, rejected two-to-one a city ordinance that prohibited discrimination in housing, employment and educational opportunities because of sexual orientation.

Despite the setback, the range of gay-rights protections is still increasing on a city-by-city basis. In 1977 the following cities adopted ordinances barring discrimination on the basis of sexual preference or orientation

*HAPPY
NEW YEAR
from
The STAR*

Photo credits this issue:

Front cover: Robert Jones
by Primus.

Page 6: Noble and Perry
by Roy Hall.

Page 7: San Francisco
gay pride march by Gary
Corry.

Page 20: Jerry at the
Locker by Henry McClurg.

Page 36: At the White
House by Bill Bland.

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(three of them after the Dade County referendum): Windsor, Ontario, Canada; Tucson, Ariz.; Iowa City, Iowa; Wichita, Kans.; Champagne, Ill.; and Eugene, Ore.

On the other hand, what looked like a good chance to obtain the first state-wide gay rights statute failed in Massachusetts.

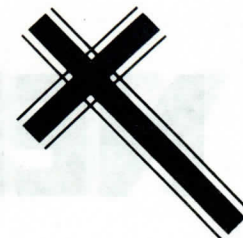
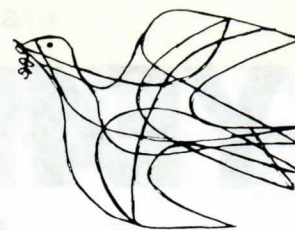
International Women's Year series

Last spring, lesbian Jean O'Leary was among those appointed by President Carter to the National Commission for the Observance of International Women's Year (IWY). The only openly gay person on the commission, she worked intensely to promote and coordinate lesbian participation in IWY, and was able to report in October that more than 130 lesbians had been elected as delegates to the national meeting in Houston and that thirty of the state meetings had passed pro-gay resolutions (more than enough to ensure the presence of a draft resolution of lesbian rights on the national voting agenda).

Resolutions that were passed at the Houston meeting in November will be presented to the President and Congress as expressions of the priority concerns of American women. The strong lesbian presence was a counterweight to the radical right anti-ERA forces who had tried to wreck the conference, and served to demonstrate the community of interest between the women's and gay movements.

1977 was the most progressive year yet in the field of gay rights. The fast pace promises to continue in 1978.

from NGTF's "It's Time"



Thanks to all of Our Place, we are celebrating our Second New Year.

Our main objective here is Love, Peace and the Understanding of all mankind, all walks of life . . . For everyone is welcome at "Our Place."

We would like to share our thoughts with you.

Love and Happiness

Love is your soul and Happiness is what you feel,
Love is your eyes and Happiness is what you see,
Love is your heart and Happiness is what pumps,
Love is your mind and Happiness is what you think,
Love is your hands and Happiness is touching,
Love is life and Happiness is living,
Love is Happiness and Happiness is Love.

(our) Ray Sutton

Happy, Happy New Year to all of Our Place, and thanks for making our year once more possible.



*we love you one and all,
naomi & Kaye*

Our Place

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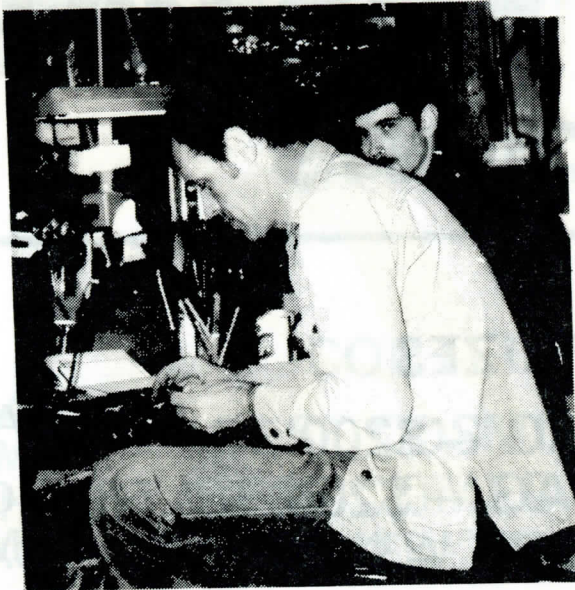


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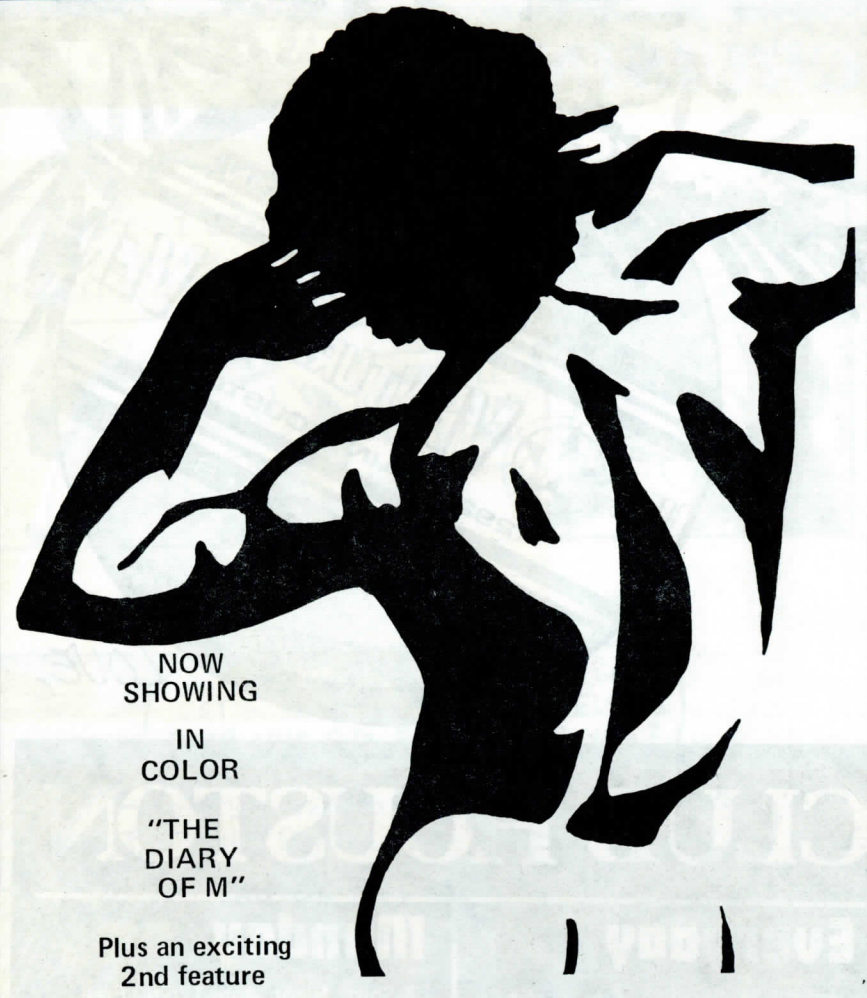
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HOROSCOPE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): That whistling you hear isn't "Dixie," Cap. It's the wheezing breath of Father Time reminding you to keep on taking care of business. As much as you hate to be rushed, you are going to have to keep up with your obligations. Now come on, you stopped and smelled the roses in 1977. 1978 will be time for a little grindstone detail.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Sometimes you are not only pound foolish, Aquari, but you are penny foolish. Why buy two when one will do? Your cupboard is far from bare so fatten up your savings a bit in 78. Week ends with the "clinking" of pennies, dimes and bicentennial quarters into your piggy bank.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The superior person needs no defense, Pisces. Do not try to justify any of your actions with words. Even your most ardent critics will eventually be silenced by observing your gentle and consistently good nature. Seek comfort and cheer from one close at hand in 1978.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Re-trace your steps of the last year, Ari. You have forgotten to do something important to your present project. Secret may be hidden in the obvious. Year of rehashing ends with a sigh, but keep on slinging. The solution is closer than you think.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Others will press for information in 1978, but you must move ever so slowly, revealing only those secrets you are ready to share. A raised eyebrow to overbearing loudmouth will cool badgering. This New Year's weekend

will be good to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "Ship to shore" communications is weak, Gem, so pull in your sails and head for home port. However, a person you weren't able to get through to in 1977 will be ready to answer your signals in 1978. Sometime during first week of 78 clear decks for an SOS that could mean "secret option for sex."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Some "Moon-walking" finds you in old familiar hunting ground this new year. Nostalgia may fill head with poesies and promises but remember you have some home fires to tend and miles to go before you sleep. Beg off with a polite yawn and be on your way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Step out in 1978 to the beat of a different drummer, Leo. It's playing and you need only lift your noble mane out of the hammock long enough to hear. Partner has closed gates to old beaten path so you must look for a new way to go. If possible, fly united.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Watch it this new year, Virg. Your beauty and charm are surpassed only by your occasional lack of tact. A slip of that lovely lip has someone boiling. Remove foot and make amends. Mending a few fences in 1978 can make good neighbors.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): After much steady plodding throughout 1977, you will stumble onto some adventure early in 1978. You will become intensely interested in a person who is full of whimsey, magic and a bit of the blarney stone. Enjoy just enough of this intrigue to have a few beautiful memories. Remember, fascination with the flame has done in

many a good moth, my friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be on the go in 1978, Scorp, so there will be just no sense in a round of "ripping and tearing." Better hurry up before 1978 is too old and come in for an emergency landing. When smoke clears, attend to minor disasters brewing on home front. And do take time out to occasionally play comfy homebody, and you will be rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your birthday and the holiday season are now almost completely behind you so it's time to retreat. Retreat is often not only the best policy, it is the only policy. To the rear, march, Saj, and on the double. Nothing will be gained by venturing further or voicing any more loud opinions. A mind is made up against you and anything you do is more grist for the mill.

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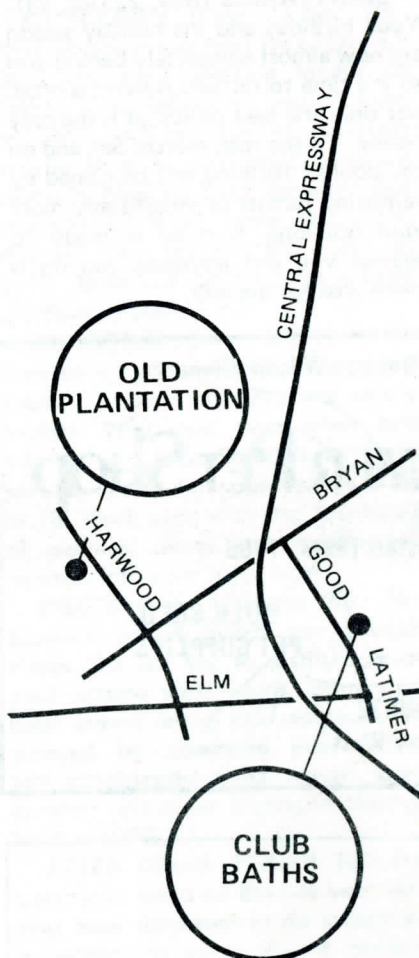
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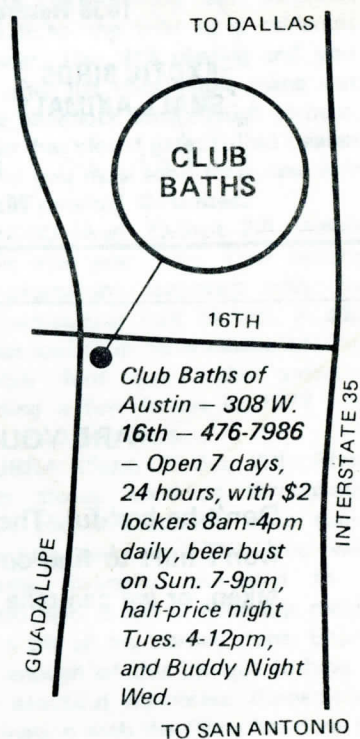
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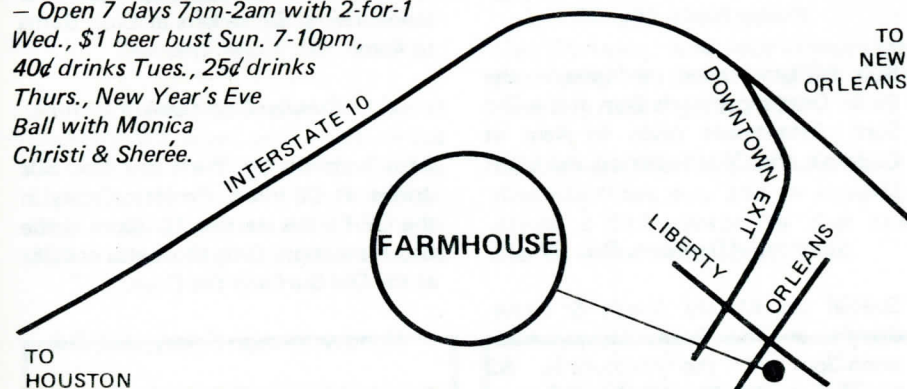
AUSTIN



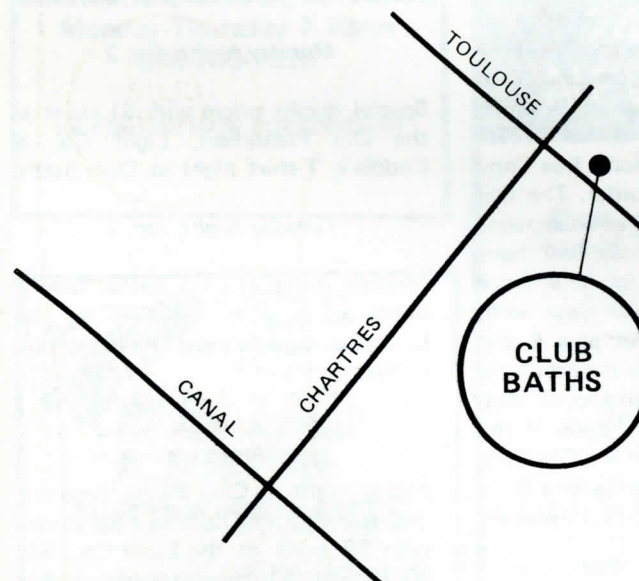
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Club Baths of New Orleans — 515 Toulouse — 581-2402 — Open 7 days, 24 hours, with \$1 lockers Tues. noon-midnight & Thurs. 6:30-7:30pm.

HOUSTON

WHAT'S GOIN' ON

Friday Night, Dec. 30

Bob Williams' band performs at the Exile. Drag show starts 8pm at the Old Surf. After-hours disco to 4am at Cuddle's, the Old Plantation and Light Co.

Saturday Afternoon, Dec. 31

Special on Bloody Marys & screwdrivers at the Barn. Happy hour noon-3pm at the Venture-N. \$2 lockers at the Club Baths to 4pm.

New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve celebrations at all clubs. Cuddle's will have \$100 drawings at 10pm, 11pm and midnight, plus \$600 in prizes for Best Cosmic Drag, Best Comedy Drag and Miss New Year's Eve. The Light Company Disco will have a special show at 10:30pm, \$200 prizes for Mr. & Ms. 1978, and a drawing at 2am for a free Sony Betamax television recorder. The Old Plantation will offer a free champagne brunch. All three discos will have after-hours to 4 or 5am. Our Place will celebrate the new year with champagne and a buffet plus 8 and 10pm shows with exotic dancers (you must have advance reservations). Bob Williams' band performs again at the Exile. Drag show 8pm at the Old Surf. Midnight drawing at the Galleon for a microwave oven and Nautilus memberships.

New Year's Day

Happy hour runs noon-3pm at the

Venture-N. Free buffet at the Barn with specials on Bloody Marys & screwdrivers. \$2 lockers at Club Baths to 4pm.

Sunday Night, Jan. 1

2-for-1 drinks at the Light Co. 50¢ drinks at Cuddle's. Ernestine stars in the OP Follies starting 10:30pm at the Old Plantation. Drag show also tonight at the Old Surf and the Cove.

Monday through Friday, Jan. 2-6

Sunworshippers & bodybuilders special at Midtowne Spa, 8am-8pm. Happy hours 4-8pm at the Old Surf, noon-7pm (except Tues.) at Cuddle's Quiet Bar, 4-7pm at the Barn, 4-6pm at the Exile, 2-8pm at Venture-N. \$2 lockers at Club Baths 8am-4pm.

Monday Night, Jan. 2

Special drinks prices with \$1 cover at the Old Plantation, Light Co. & Cuddle's. T-shirt night at Club Baths.

Tuesday Night, Jan. 3

Chicken night at Club Baths. Special drink prices with \$1 cover at the Light Co., Cuddle's and Old Plantation discos.

Wednesday Night, Jan 4

Buddy night at Club Baths. Amateur drag night at the Old Surf. 10¢ drinks with \$2 cover at the Light Co., 50¢ drinks with \$1 cover at Cuddle's, 45¢ drinks with \$1 cover at the Old Plantation. Drag show at the Cove with Champagne, Dachele, Abby

and a special guest.

Thursday Night, Jan. 5

Jennifer George & We 4 are on stage at Cuddle's. \$1 cover and special prices on drinks at the Old Plantation & the Light Co. "Queen for a Day" amateur drag show contest at the Cove with \$50 in prizes. "Unemployment" night

at Club Baths.

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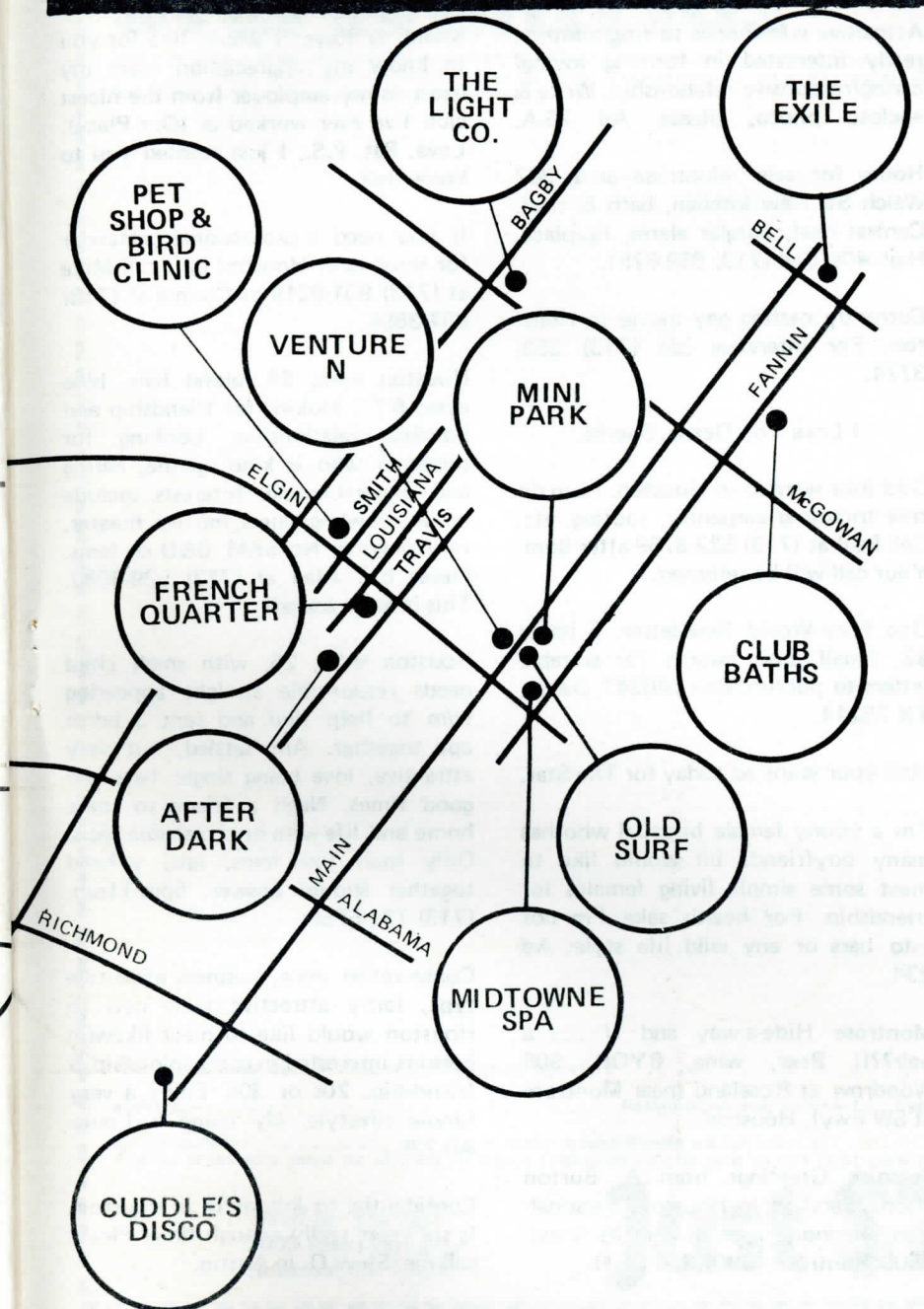
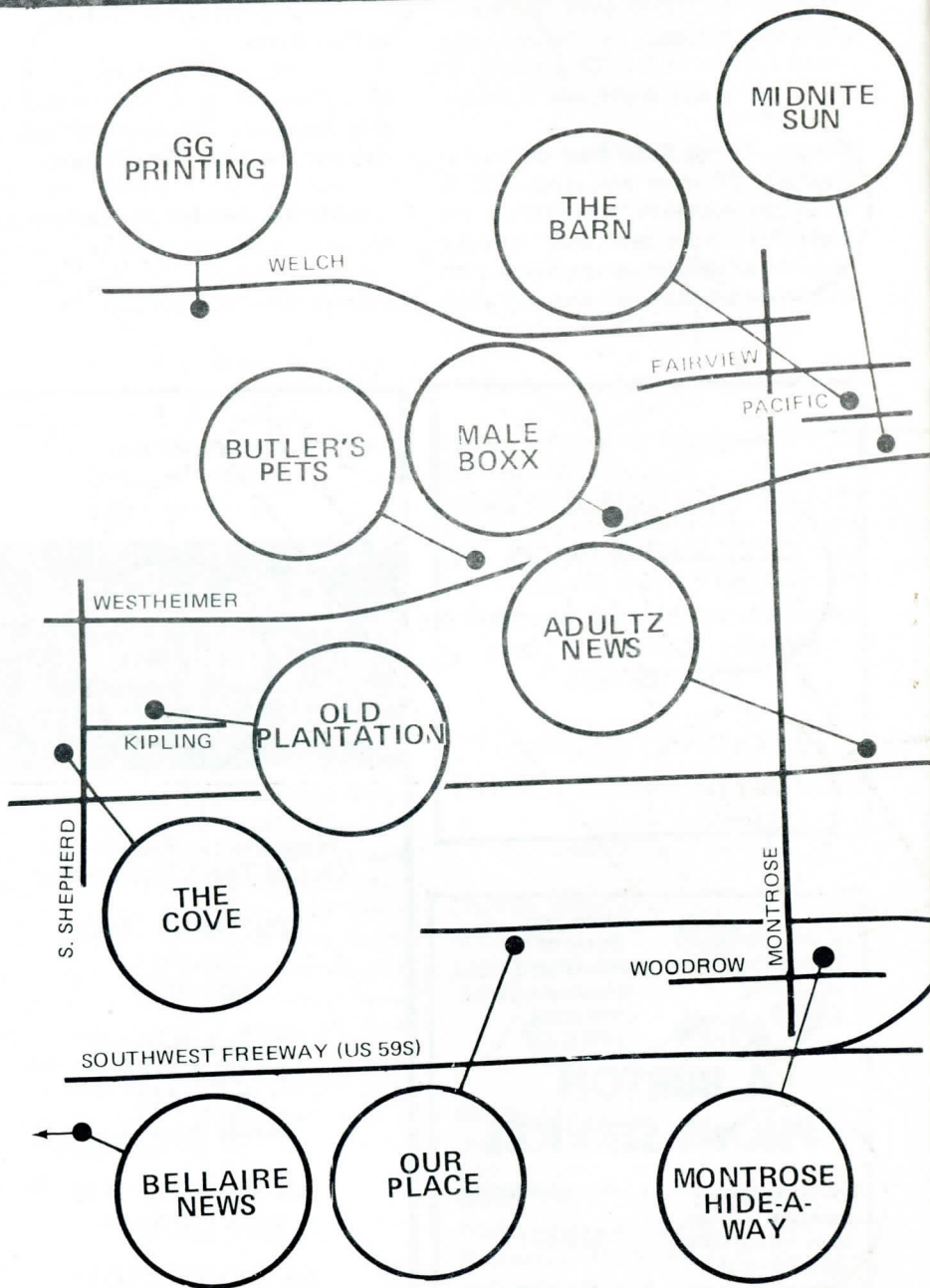
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Mail your want ad today for The Star.

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