

UPFRONT

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HOUSTON, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 1, 1978

Massive Voter Effort

GPC Begins Voter Registration Push

The Gay Political Caucus will shortly begin its fourth voter registration drive. It is the hope of the Caucus to register two thousand new voters and to add an equal number of persons to its mailing list. Thousands of registration forms are being distributed to the Houston gay social centers. In addition, teams of deputy registrars are gearing up to personally canvas these centers during the next month.

The gay community will maximize its political clout by delivering votes to those candidates who favor human rights. All persons in the community should be properly registered and educated to ac-

complish this end. It is a widely held misconception that one must live in the city for a specified length of time before one can register to vote. Not true. One may now register to vote immediately upon moving to Houston. However, it is important that the county receive the application at least thirty days before the election in order to vote. All forms must be in by October 6 in order to vote in this year's election.

A registration form has been included in this issue of Upfront. You may complete it and mail it directly to the Harris County Voter Registration Office. If you need any assistance, call the Gay Political

Cont'd on Page 8

Democratic Party Fun-Fest

The GPC will be participating in the Democratic Party Fun-Fest on Labor Day (Sept. 4) from 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Bavarian Gardens. The Fun-Fest is a carnival bazaar-type gathering that will consist of the various coalitions that make up the Democratic Party.

Booths will be set up by the various organizations to provide for a means of recognition within the party and to raise money for that particular group. Chuck Hickman, who is co-ordinating the GPC/Political Action Committee effort in the event, says a gay lifestyles theme will be presented. The Political Action Committee is currently working on presenting mimes, duet-acting, dramatic inter-

pretation, music, disco sound, literature, gourmet food and recipes, plants and any other ideas which will complement the lifestyles theme and raise money. Any ideas which the public may have are needed. Also volunteers and donations are needed to help carry the theme.

The tickets are only \$1.00, and Hickman is also asking for another \$1.00 donation that will be used by the Political Action Committee so they can continue working within the political process to secure our basic human rights. You can contact the GPC office at 526-2668 or Upfront 526-9719 if you would like tickets or care to volunteer for the event. This should be a fun event and your support is needed.

Sweet Sarah To Succeed Midge?

Informed sources within the Washington headquarters of the United States Agriculture Department recently confirmed the reports that Sarah R. Weddington has been chosen to replace Midge Costanza who resigned last month as President Carter's chief liaison to citizen groups. The 33 year old former Texas State Legislator from Austin is well known throughout the United States as an outspoken advocate of the right to discretionary abortions.

As a private attorney in 1973 Weddington served as counsel for the plaintiff in the landmark **Roe vs. Wade** case. In finding for the plaintiff the U.S. Supreme Court rendered a decision which legalized abortions under certain circumstances.

In 1972 the Abilene native became the first woman ever elected to the statehouse from Travis County. She served as legislator from 1973 until mid-1977, resigning to enter the federal service under John C. White, then Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. White, currently Democratic National Chairman, is known to have recommended her for the

agriculture post and is rumored to be behind this appointment as well.

Following the successful litigation of the Roe case, Weddington headed the National Abortion Rights League, a national organization which advocates indigent women's right to discretionary abortions at government expense. Her close association with this volatile issue is seen in some circles as an ironic vindication of her predecessor. Costanza's outspoken support of abortion rights is said to have been central to her troubles in the White House and in at least one instance brought her into open conflict with presidential aide Hamilton Jordan. What effect, if any, Weddington's stand will have on Carter's opposition to expenditure of Medicare and Medicaid funds on abortions remains to be seen. Carter has never acted to prevent the expenditure of government funds for abortions for women who were not indigent (military personnel and their dependents among others).

Speaking to the Washington Press Club this week, Costanza denied the existence of a White

Anti-Gays Surface In Seattle

Human rights advocates in Seattle are gearing up to fight Initiative 13, set to be included in the November ballot, which would repeal the city's gay rights ordinances. Jill Schropp, head of Citizens to Retain Fair Employment, has formally charged SOME (Save Our Moral Ethics), the anti-gay group, with "deliberate use of deceit to instill prejudice and fear in radio listeners against homosexual citizens." The charges were filed with the commission which governs campaign practices.

According to Schropp, the ads imply that gay people are "child molesters" and that they seek "special privileges." The ads also suggest that employers can be fined or jailed for "firing a homosexual employee for offensive conduct." This was the second instance of such charges being filed against SOME.

House Staff conspiracy against her. She described her parting with Carter as "amicable" and suggested that the real problem lay in the decline of her effectiveness due to the constant reports of

Vice Squad Strikes Again

HPD's Vice Squad officers are hard at work fighting "crime" in the gay social centers again. Channel 2 recently reported arrests at a gay theatre and private sources have informed UPFRONT that bookstore arrests are also being made, generally in the afternoon or early evening.

When visiting the bookstores or theatres avoid contact with anyone who seems to be acting suspiciously or to be out of place. Avoid initial genital contact; while you could miss a good time, your chances will be much better of missing a visit to Riesner Street. If arrested be aware that if you have held the same job and lived at the same address in Houston for six months you may be entitled to be released on your own recognizance, though you must request this, according to Ray Hill. Always cooperate fully with police officers. Contact GPC at 526-2668 or MAC at 526-9719 for information or legal referral.

difficulties in her relations with several White House staffers including Hamilton Jordan.

Costanza went on to warn against a push by radical right

Cont'd on Page 8

Naomi Simms Takes Miss Gay USA



Houston entertainer Naomi Simms was chosen Miss Gay USA Monday night. The elaborate two day pageant featuring 34 female impersonators from 14 states, including New York, Illinois and California, was held at the Numbers Disco Theatre on Westheimer.

When the winner was announced Simms was speechless and had to be supported by the First Runner-Up, Michael Andrews. Within moments, however, he was mobbed by the excited crowd who only moments before had rocked the club with shouts of "Naomi, Naomi". Simms, the obvious favorite of the highly partisan crowd, dazzled the audience with an electrifying performance of

"City Lights" which featured 4 male dancers. Among those in the crowd around the first Miss Gay USA were representatives from Houston's NBC television affiliate, KPRC-TV Channel 2, who reportedly are planning a television special featuring Simms who, earlier in the evening, had been presented with an award for the best production number by the pageant producers, RM Productions.

Other winners in the contest judged on three categories, Evening Gown, Talent and Personal Interview, were Lady Nova Bernard, Second Runner-Up, Eartha Kit, Third Runner-Up, and Cheree, Fourth Runner-Up. All five of the winners now live in the Houston area.

FRONTLINES

In the August 4th 1978 edition of "UPFRONT", a front page story describes a stabbing on July 19 "near a local disco" the article continues "eyewitnesses to the stabbing were reportedly refused assistance and access to a telephone by the staff of the Old Plantation", and then asserts that "a passerby with a CB unit summoned an ambulance." The discription (sic) of events describes the OP staff as unresponsive to a patron whose life was in jeopardy (sic).

Unfortunately, (sic) the facts in the Article, and I stress this was an article, not an editorial, are not true. When the persons, who came to the front door of the OP described the stabbing which happened 1½ blocks away, Keven Dunn, an OP bartender called an ambulance. However, the people outside were naturally emotional and would not stop long enough for me to explain that we could not by Texas State Liquor Laws allow them into the building after closing. If the victim had been near the door, of course we would have brought him inside, but no one near the OP was injured. Within five minutes the ambulance, which we called, was on the scene.

It is equally noteworthy that a check with the Houston Ambulance Service indicates they do not monitor (sic) CB transmissions, therefore the CBer could have summoned (sic) an ambulance till Christmas, and none would have

come unless someone listing (sic) called from a telephone. The exact same action we took, which resulted in the prompt medical help.

The sadest (sic) part about the article is that is (sic) could have been so easily avoided, by a simple conformation (sic) of the facts by either the OP management or the Houston Ambulance Service which records all calls. Instead one side of the story was heard and printed without sufficient investigation. The very same practice we as a movement are so quick to condemn in the general media. Nothing can do our movement more long term damage (sic) than the divisiveness created when we fail to practice what we preach. It seems only fair that any business or any individual named in a story could expect at least a phone call and an opportunity to present his or her side of the story. UPFRONT owes those who are named in a story that courtesy, and those who read the story that guarantee of caution.

As manager of the Old Plantation, customers have a right to expect my support for Human Rights, and certainly my respect for a Human Life. However we also can expect and should demand that same respect for truth in reporting on the part of all gay supported publications. I will always strive to maintain such a standard, and I will not quietly accept any less from the media.

Howard L. Nease

Medifax:

HEPATITIS-SCOURGE OF GAYS.

Not too many years ago hepatitis was not included on lists of sexually transmitted diseases by the medical community even though it had become obvious to most gay people that it should be. Sexually active urban gay males have a one in two chance of becoming infected with hepatitis. In recent studies in New York markers for type B hepatitis were found in 50% of gay men examined in contrast to 30% in the general population.

There are essentially two kinds of hepatitis, Type A or "infectious" and Type B generally called "serum". Recent evidence suggests that there may be still a third type known as "non A/non B". Although it is generally assumed that the risk of contracting Type A is greatest among gay men recent studies indicate that is not entirely true. Dr. Dan Williams, director of research and analysis for New York City's Bureau of V.D. Control has noted that Type B poses the greatest problem for gay men followed by non A/non B and more distantly by Type A.

Type A is the mildest form of hepatitis and persons having it are infectious for only a brief time just before and after the onset of symptoms. However, intimate contact with an infected person during that period can result in transmission. The incubation period for Type A may run from two weeks to a month after contact.

Type B hepatitis is a severe disease and can frequently be fatal. The incubation period can be as long as six months after exposure and people can carry the disease without symptoms for years. Type B can be transmitted via serum, saliva, semen and urine and possibly through droplets in the air. The risk of infection is extremely high for anyone having intimate contact with an infected person. Frequently hospital personnel

and doctors contract the disease through patient contact. Almost 30% of the general population are carriers. Someone being the recipient in anal intercourse with an infected person runs a very high risk of contracting the disease. Recent evidence has shown that the non A/nonB strain can be transmitted during blood transfusions as well as venereally.

The initial symptoms of hepatitis are vague and non-specific and include loss of appetite, extreme fatigue, fever, muscular aches and pains and frequently severe depression. Eventually jaundice or yellowing of the whites of the eyes and the skin appears. A bilirubin count which is a measure of the amount of bile in the blood confirms the diagnosis and gives an indication of the severity of the disease.

Proper sanitation may protect to some extent against Type A hepatitis and exposed persons should have a gamma globulin shot. The shot may help prevent development of the disease or at least lessen the severity of it if it does develop. Avoiding contact with fecal matter also is protective of Type A. Although there is a program underway to develop a vaccine for Type B so far there is no definite preventive measures that can be taken short of never having any intimate contact with anyone.

There are no drugs which can cure hepatitis. One simply has to have complete bed rest for a long time depending on the severity of the case. High protein diet and avoidance of any medications or alcohol are also essential. The liver is seriously damaged by the disease and therapy is aimed at restoring normal liver function. A person with Type A may be instructed to give up alcohol for a year while after B one may have to give up drinking altogether.

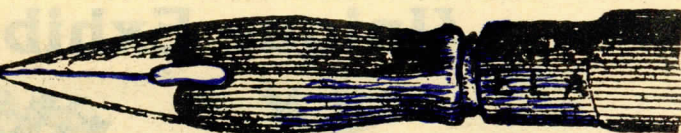
Blood tests can be done to determine if you are a carrier. Such tests are more complicated and expensive than routine screening for syphilis but are available at public health centers or through your physician. The V.D. clinic of the Montrose Activity Center is not set up at the moment to offer these tests.

Jim Lloyd

J. Ross

Real Estate
2714 Richmond Ave.
Houston, Texas 77098
713/521-1400

Editorials



A House Is Not Yet A Home

The House is there-but it still needs life infused into it to become a real Home for the Montrose Activity Center. For this to happen the big old house at LaBranch and Holman is going to need a lot of helping hands and a lot of bucks.

Just what is the Montrose Activity Center (MAC) anyway? Up until fairly recently it has been an idea in the minds of a few people-a vision of something that might be. Slowly, persistently visible signs of life are unfolding. There is this publication, UPFRONT, which is sponsored by MAC. There is a working V.D. clinic, the stirrings of a gay counseling service, a foundling theater group and the recently purchased building.

The V.D. clinic is operating, the counseling service may soon materialize due to the dedication of a handful of people and with a little bit of money the theater group could take to the boards. Hopefully all these groups can turn the big old house into a real home. But right now the house is not habitable. It needs to be cleaned up and renovated. This requires work and money. Eventually the place will also be available for organizations to have offices and meeting places.

The birth of the Montrose Activity Center is probably the single most significant thing to have happened in our community in a long time. Recognizing that the non-gay community has not and doesn't intend to help improve the quality of our lives we must do it ourselves. A full blown, healthy, well financed Activity Center would appreciably improve the standard of life for all of us and be a major source of unity and strength for the entire community. But MAC has almost no money. We are appealing to all of our organizations to consider helping this new baby to grow. MAC needs fund raisers, donations and physical labor. The house needs bodies in it to clean and paint. The counseling service needs funding. This paper, running on a shoe string and helped on by one generous donor, has begun to generate some of its own money.

Dear Members of the Houston Gay Community-all you apolitical, uninvolved people out there-can you spare a buck, an afternoon of your time? Won't you help turn MAC into a real home we can all take pride in? Contributions to MAC are tax deductible. For further information call (713) 526-9719 or write to MAC, P.O. Box 66844, Houston, Texas 77006.

Jim Lloyd

VANTAGE POINT DRUG ABUSE

Drugs of all sorts and compositions are, any more, common place and proliferate in society today. Our own Gay community is certainly no exception. During this past week, for example, two friends of mine encountered "bad" drugs and had horrible experiences because of them.

In the first case, the friend took some "acid" and was not even able to go to work the following day because he was literally incapacitated mentally until the drug had time to wear off. The second case involved another friend who, after ingesting another type of drug (MDA), found himself unable to handle it and couldn't rid himself of the paranoia enveloping his whole mental state. He broke down and cried and had to be talked through his ordeal--by someone he didn't even know.

This might not otherwise be significant enough to write about except for the fact that it does happen to reflect a growing trend of both the experienced and inexperienced drug consumer to accept and take anything given to him. There is no question that it is dangerous to consume street drugs. The imitation (Mexican) qualudes, myriad white powders, pills, capsules, liquids, and colored little dots on digestable cardboard all promise to be able to release the "free spirit" in you. But do they? Don't lose sight of the fact that these drugs are usually cut with something else, often times to allow them greater marketability and profitability. Sometimes they are manufactured or prepared in other than sanitary conditions. After all, who's to pass on quality (or even safety, for that matter).

I'm not about to tell anyone that they should or should not take a drug if they wish to do so. But I do want to suggest that maybe--just maybe--you might be doing yourself a great deal of harm. Maybe even slowly killing yourself.

Whatever! It's your life. Live it anyway you want. Only, think about what the consequences just might be. They might be fun. But then again, they just might be deadly.

Gary J. Van Ooteghem
Publisher

COMMENTARY

The different factions that make up the gay rights movement in Houston are going to have to decide what is the best way to create change. Is it by remaining secretive and closeted, the way society would like; or is it by showing this country that we are here in large numbers, and that we are here to stay? I think the latter.

The best way to create substantial, consequential, and lasting change is through high visibility. Every minority group or viewpoint throughout the history of this country has won (or are winning) their rights by being highly visible. Town Meeting I was a gigantic closet. The homophobic and truly ignorant parts of society want us to simply go away. Or at the very least want us to be secretive, closeted, and as Anita Bryant would say, "not flaunt our gayness." A majority of those who are now organizing Town Meeting II are serving the interest of these bigots, by trying to make TM2 another closet. The homophobic opposition wants us to be scared, ashamed, and insecure. Three very negative words, but words always used to put down minority viewpoints. My advice to these one-issue, radical amateurs who are organizing TM2 is to brush-up on basic political science and American history. We have to learn from the mistakes of the past and not repeat them. If there is to be another town meeting it must be freely accessible to all who show a valid and legitimate interest in attending and reporting about this public assembly.

The media would provide the movement with much needed public relations. It could be our tool to educate the general public. Those who wish we did not exist would then be forced to accept us as a basic fact of life. We have no ethical right to bar the media from such a public forum. The argument was put to me the other day by a friend in the movement concerning the right to privacy vs. freedom of the press. No one agrees with the right to privacy more than I, but all of us must be aware that our right to privacy concerning media coverage is given up when we walk through the door of the next town meeting. It is the media's duty and basic right to report on newsworthy events. Therefore, the right to privacy is not applicable at such a public assembly.

If people choose to remain secretive and closeted, I sympathize. But I cannot sympathize with these political amateurs who want and complain about leadership roles in the Houston movement, but aren't willing to take on the responsibility of being upfront with everyone concerned. These elements would drag the movement back into the 1950's, which would be no movement at all. If people want to participate in the movement, but aren't willing to be responsible to everyone for their actions, there are many things they can do behind the scenes. The most important thing anyone can do is to register and vote. Politicians are now recognizing that we have the votes, but we must continue to deliver these votes by turning out in large numbers with a 70-75% vote for a particular candidate or issue.

People can attend meetings where the public relations factor is not involved. A major part of any effort is the behind the scenes planning and coordination. We can talk to our friends and get them involved. We can also help the movement financially. So there are many things people can do to help the movement. But we all must seriously think about the priorities of the movement. Our part should not delay and infringe upon the rights of others who choose a different course, i.e., a public course. The movement is not male, female, black, white, or chicano. It is a movement of people, whose only crime or difference is our ability to love another human being, who just happens to be of the same gender.

Chuck Hickman

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Unique Exhibits Visit Houston



"Sweeping Experience in Livestock Breeding" by Yen Kuang-hui

Although many transplants to Houston from the Northeast or California might look with raised eyebrows and lowered eyes at anyone suggesting that Houston is becoming a cultural center the city is currently the site of two important exhibits removing somewhat the stereotype of provincialism.

At the Museum of Fine Arts the exhibit "Photographic Crossroads: The Photo League" includes the works of 56 photographers who were members of the New York based Photo League. The League was an organization of professionals and amateurs and its membership included most of the prominent photographers of the time. The League was in existence from 1936 to 1951. The current exhibi-

tion at the museum here is the first time the important works of this have been brought together.

The Photo League represented a point of view and had a definite philosophical position. The members felt it was important to record life as it is and consequently they developed an entire school of social realism in photography. The exhibition is a moving document of ordinary and often very poor people going about their daily lives. Determined men and women look out at us from the confines of Ellis Island, people line the streets of Harlem to watch an Elks parade, a black father plays on a blanket in the sand at Coney Island with his infant son and unemployed men give mute testimony to the agony and austerity of the Great

Depression. World War II rears its ugly head and there are satiric shots of Hitler and his Nazis.

Women working in defense plants and waiting for their men to return from war are captured in candid studies. All in all the photographs document a trying time in history as seen by the less fortunate and less affluent of the world who however approach their very human condition with extraordinary strength and dignity.

Over at the Contemporary Arts Museum there is another first of its kind exhibit which portrays socialist realism somewhat differently than the show at the Museum of Fine Arts. The "Peasant Paintings from Huhsien County of the People's Republic of China" is an exhibition of eighty contemporary

paintings executed by Chinese peasants. Depicting scenes of everyday life in the Chinese countryside, the workaday world is presented by these simple painters as a Pollyanna paradise which is aglow with brilliant colors and inhabited with immaculately clean and constantly smiling peasants. Nothing is out of order or soiled and even the animals are smiling in this worker's paradise.

This kind of painting began during China's Great Leap Forward in 1958 and the paintings were intended to offer encouragement to workers in their various tasks. Originally the peasants made their own paints from soot, lime and red soil. Later official help was organized, training began and today there are over a thousand peasants who paint in their spare time. In spite of the obvious pressures to present their world of communes as one in which everyone happily pitches in and keeps on smiling while feeding the pigs, counting eggs or pulling carts of mud at a dam site, individual styles manage to find expression.

The style of the paintings is primitive and colors are vibrantly brilliant in all of them. Representations of nature rather than portraits of people afford opportunities for self expression. The painters are quite skilled and many depictions of orchards and terrain are reminiscent of medieval tapestries. The most thrilling painting of all is one done by a 58 year old man and entitled "A Commune Fishpond". A ring of fishermen tugs at a vast net filled to overflowing with fish of all sizes. Surrealist in tone, the fish to be falling like rain from the sky into the net. It almost looks like something Dali might have done.

All in all the childlike paintings are very impressive considering they were done by so called amateurs. One can only wonder how these hard working simple people would paint if they had the freedom to depict their world as it really is - in that might lie the seeds of greatness.

Jim Lloyd

THE WHATNOTS by SAM



UPBEAT

Rhythms in the Park

Dani Thomas performs the satiric **Dances in Memory** in the Houston Jazz Ballet's **Rhythms in the Park**

Houstonians were served a rare treat last weekend when Rick Odums returned to his native city to dance with the Houston Jazz Ballet in "Rhythms in the Park" at Miller Theatre. The production, which featured the Houston Jazz Society Big Band, was a dazzling success, once again providing graphic evidence of the state of the dance arts here.

Odums, accompanied by his fiancée and favorite dance partner Arlena Rolant, who had flown in with him from New York, provided some of the evening's finest moments. In "Last Dance" and "The Closer I Get To You" Odums and Rolant, who you may remember from her stint on Broadway as the Tornado in **The Wiz**, displayed a wide range of expression and remarkable fluidity of movement. Odums was at his best, however, in his comic interpretation of a charismatic holy-roller; his timing and quick

satiric sense are marvelous.

After the show both Odums and Rolant were offered principal parts in the new Broadway production of **Carver**, the musical to be based on the life of George Washington Carver. Isn't it ironic that a stellar talent like Odums would leave Houston for New York to advance his career but would only get "the big break" when he returns to Houston do a favor for his old mentor and teacher, Patsy Swayze?

Good as Odums and Rolant were, however, the real star of the open-air show was the entire Houston Jazz Ballet Company. HJB is an arts group about to make the big time. It's about time. Though the show revealed a number of problems that must be dealt with, in order to do so HJB must take the big step to professional status. If the bright, varied show in on the Miller stage is any indication, HJB is ready.

Outstanding performances were registered from Rita Brosh, Dani Thomas (yes, that is her real

name), Ken Kempe and Douglas Jaeger as principal dancers in the innovatively staged "Have a Good Time". Kempe and Jaeger were also exceptional on the sensuous "The Men" though the male dancers of the company seemed generally to lack depth.

Even though two numbers were cut from the performance, Miss Swayze would do well to remember the limits of endurance to even the most devoted dance fan can be pushed. The show ran far too long. Fortunately, the alternation from the dance numbers to musical pieces by the HJS Big Band helped to quicken the pace. The band, under the baton of Kit Reid, was marvelous. Had the dancers been accompanied more often by the band rather than recorded music the show would have been considerably enriched. Sadly, Miller's sound system is completely inadequate for recorded music and caused several of the new recordings to appear flawed; it proved a great distraction.

In other news of interest, MCA is about to release the soundtrack album from "The Wiz". I recently received the 45rpm release of "Move on Down the Road" from the album, featuring Diana Ross and Michael Jackson, and if this small record is any indicator the album is going to be a winner. Look for it to make quite a showing the discos and on the air waves.

Equinox Theatre has announced that the next show will not be "The Passion of Dracula" as previously planned. It seems another well known theatre on South Main purchased the road rights some time after the Equinox had already announced its season schedule. One well known local theatre critic seems to think it was unethical but then, she says, ethical considerations haven't ever played too big a part in their thinking in the past either. The newly announced production will be "Solitaire/Double Solitaire" by Robert Anderson. The current production of **Sticks and Bones** is critiqued on page 8.

Bill Whiting

REGISTER TO VOTE

This is an official voter registration form. If you are a resident of Harris County but are not registered to vote, complete this form and mail it to:

CARL S. SMITH
Tax Assessor-Collector
County Tax Office
P.O. Box 3527
Houston, Texas 77001.

Official use only				Official use only					
PCT (11)		EDR (12)		VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION/ CHANGE FORM (Art. 5.13a)				Certificate Number	
If you are a new registrant or if you have changed your county of residence, complete all of the information below:								To CHANGE registration information:	
Last Name (02)		FIRST NAME (NOT HUSBANDS) (03)		Middle Name (04)				2	
Maiden Name (04)		*SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (05)		Birthdate (06)		Month		Day	
BIRTH PLACE CITY (08)		OR COUNTY (07)		State of Birth (or foreign country) (08)		sex (09)			
PERMANENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS - STREET AND APT. NO. OR ROUTE NO. OR LOCATION (NOT P.O. BOX) (13)				City (14)		Zip (15)			
Mailing Address if Different				City/State (17)		Zip (18)			
Phone Number (optional)				If you are a naturalized citizen, court or its location					
If you are now registered in another Texas county or were registered and failed to receive new certificate County (10)				Former Address					
I certify that the information provided is correct, the applicant is a citizen of the United States, has met all legal requirements, and holds legal residence in this county. I understand that the giving of false information to procure the registration of a voter is a felony.									
SIGNATURE OF VOTER*									
X									
*Initial registration may be by agent, but agent must be a registered voter and must be either: (Circle one) Husband - Wife - Mother - Father - Son - Daughter									
Return your current registration certificate for correction, or if your certificate has been lost or destroyed, initial the box below.									
*The disclosure of social security no. is voluntary only, is solicited by authority of Section 45b, Texas Election Code, and will be used only by election officials to maintain the accuracy and integrity of the registration records.									

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Theatre Review

STICKS AND BONES

by David Rabe at the Equinox Theatre, 3617 Washington

How did American society and particularly America's people face up to the moral dilemmas presented by this country's participation in the Viet Nam War? Those are the questions David Rabe asks in "**Sticks and Bones**", the second play of his Viet Nam Trilogy, now in its first Houston run at the Equinox Theatre. The answer to each question is a shatteringly stark vision of America in the early seventies.

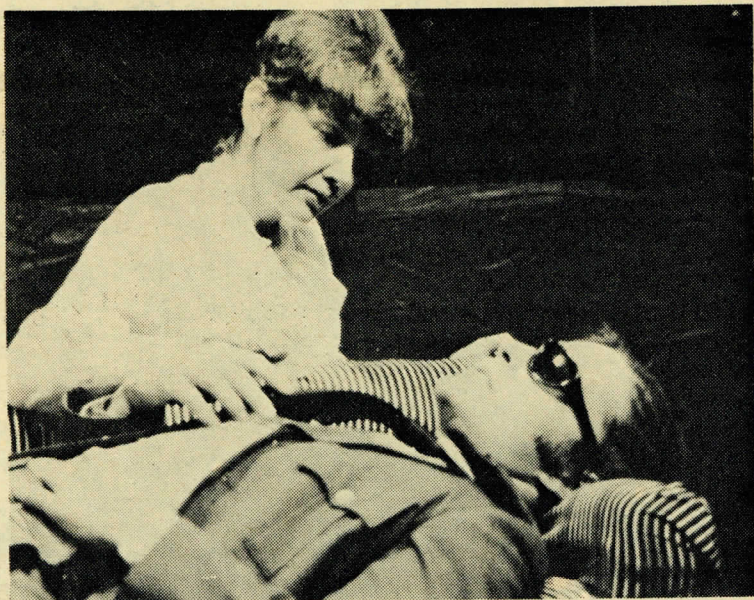
In drawing his view of America preparing to welcome the boys home and expecting it to be like 1945 only to find the realities of this war far different from their expectations, Rabe chooses his symbols well. So well in fact that the CBS television broadcast of this play several years ago was cancelled due to a groundswell of opposition that burst from their Bible-belt affiliates.

In the Equinox production Jim Bratten's Ozzie is appropriately alienated, self-pitying and generally repressed by the whole situation in which he finds himself. It is obvious that the concessions he made to society in his youth have never been dealt with adequately and he suffers in a self imposed silence. Harriet, portrayed wonderfully well by Carolyn Cornell, is a praying, fudge-making, middleclass bigot of a mother trying unsuccessfully to make her family fit into the fantasy mold she has created.

The real standout of the cast is Tom Mittleburger, whose dark glasses and broad, sardonic smile create an almost overpowering stage presense as he takes himself and his family down the tortured path to an awareness none of them wants. His clean cut good



Carolyn Cornell, Jim Bratten, and Tom Mittleburger celebrate David's homecoming.



Carolyn Cornell searches for a common ground on which she can relate to Tom Mittleburger.

looks provide a nice allegorical touch to the family's decision to rid themselves of an unsettling demon in its midst. More can certainly be expected from Mister Mittleburger as his star surely seems to be waxing brighter.

Mittleburger's unsettlingly sarcastic manner combines nicely with Bruce Bowen's intensely physical direction to create an atmosphere of approaching doom, though doom for whom is not quite certain until the final shocking climax. In Bowen's mind the violence that rests just below the surface of the American culture is always just a frustration away. It's the same dark vision Jules Feifer expressed in **Little Murders** some time back but without the comedic relief. Bowen seems to credit it as much with responsibility for our willingness to accept and then forget our national crime as the racism Rabe blames.

The climax, when it finally comes is both a release and an indictment of our society. It leaves the audience riveted to the seats, completely unable to leave; not bad for a small theatre beginning in its second year of existence.

The remaining members of the ensemble are adequate to their missions though one especially deserves comment. Andy Smith portrays the younger son, Rick, and does so in a surprisingly efficient manner despite the fact that he stepped into the role two days prior to the first performance when his predecessor bowed to familial pressures and gave up the theatre. Sadly another young person has payed homage to the values of his parents rather than being true to his own inner feelings. Perhaps it's just as well, though; he doesn't seem to have learned anything from the play in which he was scheduled to appear.

William Alexander

SUPPORT YOUR

GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS

If you will support it,
it will support you.

Mail your check to:
GPC, 1310 McDuffie Suite 28a, Houston, Texas 77019.

Cont'd from Page 1 Voter Drive Begins

—Caucus at 526-2668. If you do not have a yellow registration certificate, there is a good chance that you are not now registered. This is especially likely if you did not vote within the last two years or if you moved in that same period. To find out whether or where you are now registered, call 222-1919 Ext. 310.

The GPC mailing list is the best way of receiving the voter advisory information essential to maintaining the gay voting bloc. The list is confidential and "gay" is not written on the envelope. Just call GPC or drop a card to 1310 McDuffie, Suite 28A, 77019.

GPC is still looking for persons to assist in the registration effort. If you would like to contribute a few hours of your time for this enjoyable and worthwhile project. call 526-2668.

Cont'd from Page 1 Weddington to succeed Midge

wing elements to rescind or eliminate much of the progress of the past decade in human and civil rights. She promised to "make it my life's effort to go out into this nation to destroy the right wing.

Costanza quoted Carter when she refused to reconsider her resignation, "Midge, you did a good job and I needed you. You brought a heartbeat and a sense of humor to this administration."

Costanza did not comment on the reports that Weddington would replace her. Carter and Weddington have remained silent as well. The scope of Weddington's position and its title are reported to be in negotiation and are expected to be defined in the official announcement.

DIGNITY/ HOUSTON

DIGNITY/HOUSTON is an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics and is one of 70 chapters throughout the United States and Canada. In an atmosphere of concerned support and sympathetic understanding Dignity provides opportunity for reconciliation with the church. Each meeting is preceded by a sacred liturgy. Home masses, weekend retreats and days of recollection provide other opportunities for spiritual growth and

development. Other activities of the group include speakers, rap sessions, pot luck dinners, picnics and other social happenings. Payment of annual dues of \$15.00 provides membership in the local chapter and in DIGNITY/NATIONAL and entitles one to receipt of a national and Houston newsletter. DIGNITY/HOUSTON meets the first and third Thursdays of the month at 8:00 p.m. at Holy Rosary Church 3600 Travis. For further information write P.O. Box 66821, Houston, Texas 77006 or phone (713) 528-7644, 528-5494 or 528-0423.

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until 10:00 p.m. & weekends

OF INTEREST

GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS will meet on Wednesday, September 6, 7:30pm, at Montrose Activity Center, 1423 Holman at LaBranch. No air conditioning, so bring your favorite fan. For information or directions: 526-9719.

TEXAS HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION will meet on Saturday, September 9, 1:30pm. For information: 526-2668.

SOME SUBSCRIBERS had postage due on the last mailing of UPFRONT. We apologize for the inconvenience though we are at a loss to explain why some were charged 26¢, some 13¢ and most were not tagged "postage due" at all. Score another for our ever efficient postal service...

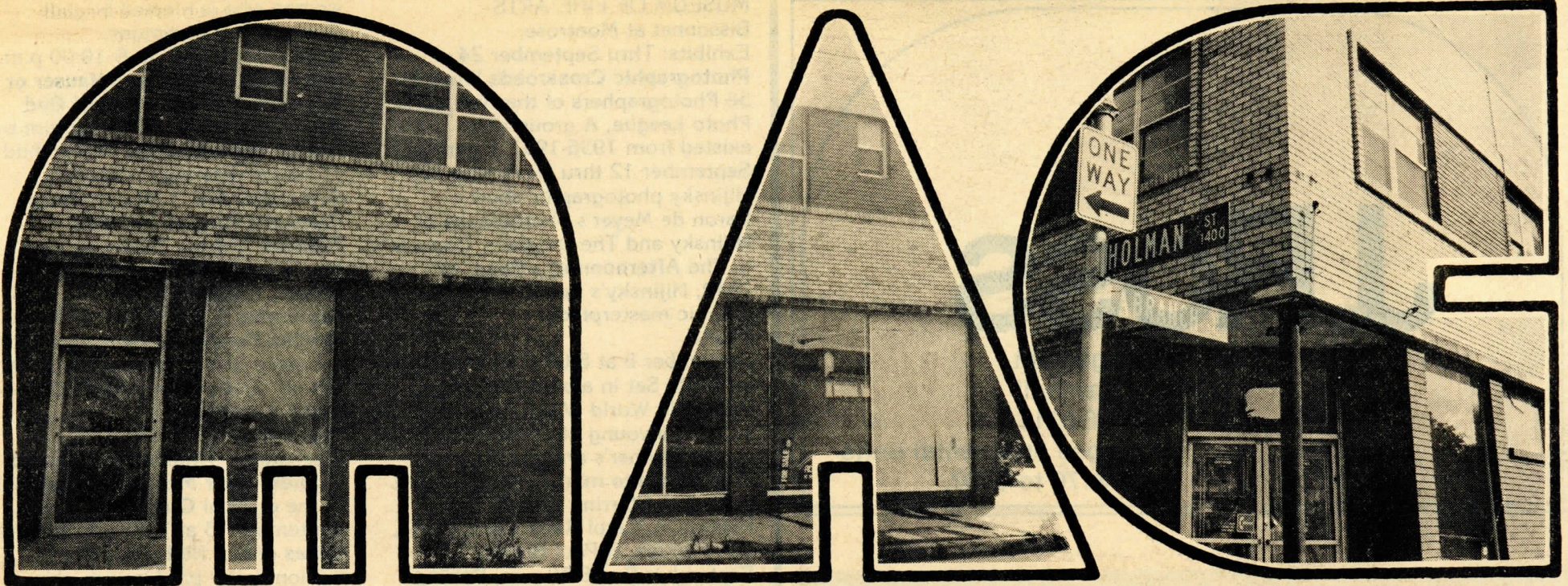
FOR GAY EPISCOPALIANS and friends: Episcopal Integrity Houston can be contacted at PO Box 25342, Houston, Texas 77006, 526-0555 or 777-7215. Integrity Austin can be reached at 9904B Randall, Austin Texas 78753. Integrity San Antonio is at 2408 Cincinnati, San Antonio Texas 78228, 512-434-9479.

THE ANTI-SEXISM COMMITTEE of the National Lawyers Guild has published a booklet called "A Gay Parent's Legal Guide to Child Custody". According to Ron Albers of the committee, the work draws heavily from work done by Dykes and Tykes, a New York organization, in 1977. Albers is interested in talking with gay parents who are involved in custody cases. Contact him or send \$1 for the booklet to Anti-Sexism Committee, National Lawyers Guild, 588 Capp Street, San Francisco, California, 94110; 415-863-3762.

Classified Advertisements

Part-time for UPFRONT: delivery people needed. \$4/hr. - Car required. For delivery of UPFRONT every other Friday. Call 526-9719.

Maintenance person needed for Midtowne Spa. Complete employment applications in person only - no calls, please. 3100 Fannin



Montrose Activity Center needs help!

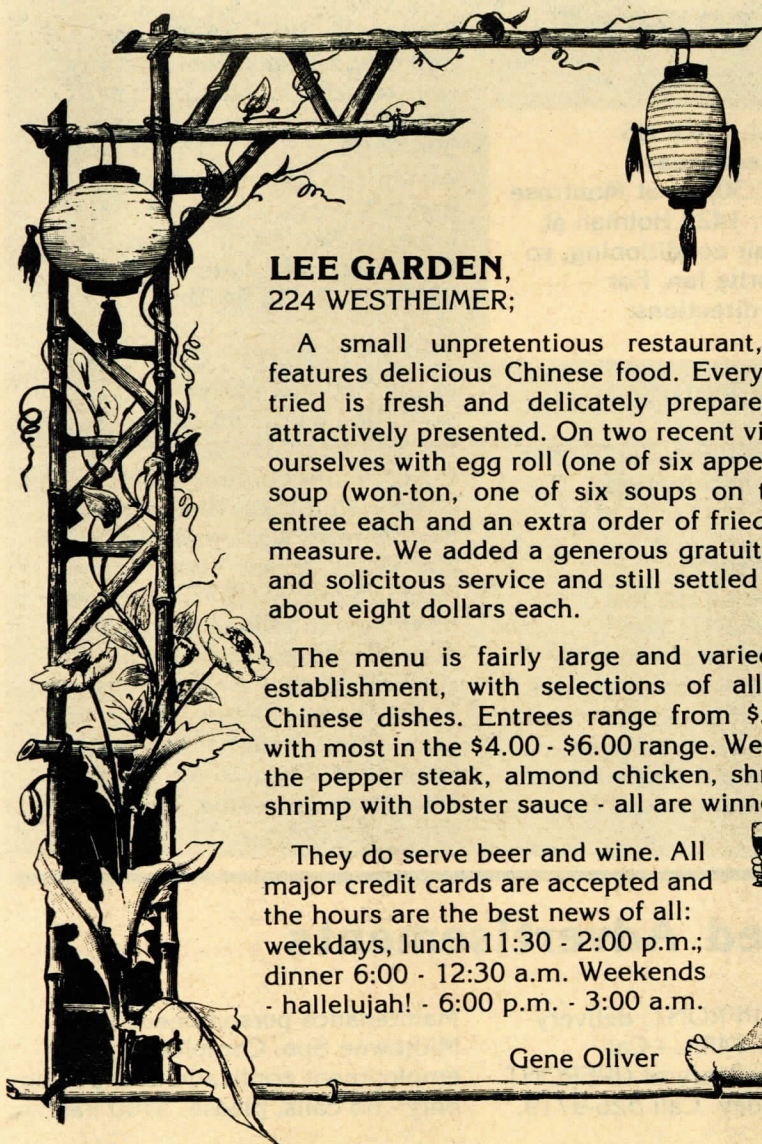
If you can provide any of the following skills, your help is needed to prepare a community center for the Montrose.

carpentry	cleaning	maintenance	electrician
wash floors	paint	sheetrocking	landscaping
artists	interior design	architects	accountants
bookkeeping	plumbing	air conditioner	anything else

Call today; 526-9719

If you can bring your own tools it will be a tremendous boon to us.

Restaurant Review



LEE GARDEN, 224 WESTHEIMER;

A small unpretentious restaurant, Lee Garden features delicious Chinese food. Everything we have tried is fresh and delicately prepared, as well as attractively presented. On two recent visits we stuffed ourselves with egg roll (one of six appetizers offered), soup (won-ton, one of six soups on the menu), an entree each and an extra order of fried rice for good measure. We added a generous gratuity for excellent and solicitous service and still settled our check for about eight dollars each.

The menu is fairly large and varied for a small establishment, with selections of all the favorite Chinese dishes. Entrees range from \$3.95 to \$7.95 with most in the \$4.00 - \$6.00 range. We have sampled the pepper steak, almond chicken, shrimp kew and shrimp with lobster sauce - all are winners.

They do serve beer and wine. All major credit cards are accepted and the hours are the best news of all: weekdays, lunch 11:30 - 2:00 p.m.; dinner 6:00 - 12:30 a.m. Weekends - hallelujah! - 6:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.

Gene Oliver

J. Ross

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Sunday, 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

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Houston Happenings

HOUSTON SYMPHONY

Erich Bergel, Conductor. Mozart Symphony No. 21 in a Major, K. 134; Richard Strauss **Don Juan**, Op. 20; Rimsky-Korsakov **Scheherazade** Op. 35., September 9, 11 at 8:00 p.m., September 10, at 2:30 p.m.

MAIN STREET THEATER

6265 South Main St.
The Misanthrope Fri. - Sat. 8:30 p.m. thru September 9. 524-6706.

EQUINOX THEATER

3017 Washington at Heights.
Sticks and Bones Thurs. - Sat. at 8:30 p.m. thru September 16. 686-5829.

COMEDY WORKSHOP

2105 San Felipe at Shepherd.
Comedy Revue: **Rednecks, Longnecks, and Bottlenecks** thru September 6. Opens September 14.
So What If I'm Apathetic Wed. - Sun. at 8:30 p.m. Late Night Improvisational shows Fri. - Sat. 11 p.m. Mon., Local Stand up Comics 8:30 p.m. 524-7333.

TUTS CABARET THEATER

Shamrock Hilton Hotel, Main at Holcombe.
Cavalcade mixed media retrospective of the last 10 yrs. of TUTS shows. Tues. - Thurs. 8:30 p.m., Fri. at 9:00 Sat. 5:00 and 9:00 p.m. Sun. 2:30 & 7:45. thru September 10. 664-3344.

Village People September 12, 13 at the Numbers, 300 Westheimer. For Information: 529-5599.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Bissonnet at Montrose.
Exhibits: Thru September 24.
Photographic Crossroads Work of 56 Photographers of the New York Photo League, A group that existed from 1936-1951. Opening September 12 thru November 12, Nijinsky photographic show - Baron de Meyer's photographs of Nijinsky and The Diaghilev Dancers in **The Afternoon of a Faun** of 1912, Nijinsky's first Choreographic masterpiece.

FILMS

September 8 at 8:00 p.m. **Wedding in White** Set in a poor Canadian Village in World War II, tells the story of a young girl who is raped by her brother's army buddy and then forced to marry a middle aged Bachelor. Starring Donald Pleasance, Carol Kane, Doris Petrie, Leo Phillips, & Paul Bradley.

September 9 at 8:00 p.m. **Darling** A satiric and ironic view of the world of the **Beautiful People** of the jet set and a young model who is the focal point of the film. Starring Julie Christie, Dirk Bogarde & Laurence Harvey.

September 15 at 8:00 p.m. Charles Laughton's **The Night of the Hunter** the story of a dangerous killer's pursuit of two innocent children who know the secret of a hidden bank loot. Starring Robert Mitchum, Peter Graves, Shelly Winters & Lillian Gish.

CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

Montrose at Bissonnet.
Exhibits: Peasant paintings from Huhsien County of the People's Republic of China thru September 24. Art of three Houston women

-The Paintings of three Houston women, Rita Gardner, Lynn Randolph & Gwendolyn Pappas thru September 24.

BURT BAKER PLANATERIUM, MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, Hermann Park.

The Loneliness Factor - September 1 November 19. A Planaterium Program about the search for Extraterrestrial Life. Life was created in the Explosion of Ancient Stars when the chemical pathway which led to Intelligent Life was created.

ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA September 3 at the Summit. For Information: 627-7456.

RICE MEDIA FILM SERIES

University at Stockton.
September 2 at 1:30 p.m. Gene Kelly in **The Three Musketeers** this one takes the story seriously. With Lana Turner, June Allyson, Van Heflin and Vincent Price. Also episode I of Dick Tracy serial.
September 2 at 7:30 & 10:00 p.m. **Allegro Non Troppo** a take off on Walt Disney's **Fantasia** September 3 at 7:30 p.m. **Chloe in the Afternoon** a proper French gentleman becomes involved out of boredom with a bohemian woman. Starring Bernard Verley & ZouZou.

September 6 at 7:30 p.m. Griffith's **Birth of a Nation** the granddaddy of the big time spectacles.

September 7 at 7:30 p.m. **The Red Blossom of Tien Shan** shown in connection with the Peasant paintings of Huhsien County at CAM this film is the story of a woman who is elected brigade leader of her commune.

September 8 at 7:30 & 10:00 p.m.

The Enigma of Kasper Hauser or Everyman for Himself and God Against All A new German film by Herzog this one deals with a child of nature entering civilization.
September 9 at 1:20 p.m. **Davy Crockett: King of the Wild Frontier** the old Disney version plus episode II of the Dick Tracy serial.

September 9 at 7:30 & 10:00 p.m. **Monika** Bergman's most erotic film the story of Monika and Harry who run off for a summer of idyllic love in the country.

September 10 at 7:30 p.m. Eisenstein's **Time in the Sun** and **Thunder Over Mexico** two versions of the original **Que Viva Mexico**.
September 13 at 7:30 p.m. **Foolish Wives** one of Hollywood's first million dollar productions, this film is the story of a ruthless Russian nobleman addicted to gambling.

September 14 at 7:30 p.m. **Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy** the second film being shown in connection with the Chinese peasant paintings at CAM this film is a dance, drama & opera by the Peking Opera Troop of Shanghai.

September 15 at 7:30 & 10:00 p.m. **Duel** Spiellberg's film concerns a traveling salesman suddenly menaced by a psychopathic driver of an 18 wheel diesel truck.

September 15 at Midnight. **Coonskin** the story of three urban blacks who enter the urban ghetto where non-blacks are in control of everything.

Book Review

FAMILIAR FACES HIDDEN LIVES, THE STORY OF HOMOSEXUAL MEN IN AMERICA TODAY.

By Howard Brown, M.D., Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York. 1976. \$8.95.

This account written by the former health administrator of New York City is a simple and direct story of what it is like to be a homosexual in America. Growing up in the forties in a small mid-western town Brown had difficulty getting in touch with his own homosexuality until he was well into medical school. Being a successful athlete he had difficulty perceiving himself as a homosexual since he could not identify with the stereotypes of what a homosexual male was supposed to be like. In his anguish he went to the then chairman of the department of psychiatry at his medical school to discuss his homosexuality and was smilingly reassured that he need not worry—he couldn't possibly be homosexual because homosexuals didn't go to medical school; they were florists, dancers and decorators.

Leaving the mid-west for New York after finishing his training Brown discovered the highly developed gay sub-culture of that city. He relates his experiences of picking his way over the rocks of

that scene—his fear and sense of helplessness the first time he unwittingly picked up a hustler, his experiences with a lover and the many concerns he had as he moved up to highly placed positions as an administrator in some of New York's biggest hospitals. He was finally tapped by Lindsey to be his health commissioner, a post he filled brilliantly. Catching wind of a rumor that Drew Pearson was about to launch a witch hunt of homosexuals in the Lindsey administration, Brown quietly resigned because he was very loyal to Lindsey and did not want to harm his administration in anyway.

The witch hunt never materialized but the experience changed Brown. He publicly announced his homosexuality and became a vigorous gay activist, helping to set up health services for gays in New York City and talking openly on T.V. about his homosexuality. After his announcement he was deluged with phone calls, letters and visitors from all over the country and the last half of his book is devoted to telling their stories. A moving letter of thanks came from a young woman who had been married to a gay man. She still loved him very much but realized she couldn't stay married to him when he told her he was gay. She felt that if more people such as Dr. Brown openly declared their homosexuality then people such as her husband would not need to try to fight their homosexuality by getting married and bringing deep pain to themselves

and others. One of the most touching stories was that of a physician who came from a small town in middle America to visit Brown in New York. This man was in his fifties and had lived out his life in celibacy because he never felt he could do otherwise. Scales fell from his eyes when he saw the gay life of New York; he had been so isolated he never knew there was such a thing. There are many other stories pointing to the fears and loneliness of gay men in small town America.

This sensitively and tastefully

written book has no statistics or self-aggrandizing political statements. It is simply a beautiful, honest and very powerful statement of what it means to be homosexual in homophobic America. Dr. Brown's untimely death from a heart attack a few years after this work was published leaves an enormous gap in the gay world. But his book remains as a testament of what a brilliant, giving gay man can be like. This would be an excellent book to recommend to parents and non-gay friends.

Jim Lloyd

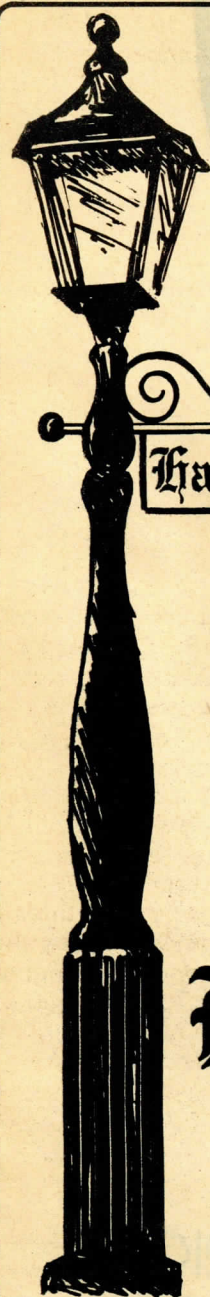
Specialty Store Welcomes Gays

Bert Hollister's, perhaps Houston's most prestigious specialty store for custom home furnishings and gifts is first to openly welcome the Gay Community. They're invited to open a charge account and to come in and browse, and to inquire about the innovative Gift, Crystal & China Registry, a registry which allows your friends and loved ones to come in and know which selections of china, crystal, silver and gifts you have selected to be given for special occasions such as anniversaries, Christmas, birthdays and just any occasion. And, Bert Hollister's keeps a running inventory on what you have received so that they can advise the shopper which pieces you need

to complete your selections.

Bert Hollister, President, says "We enjoy a substantial and evergrowing business from the professional and business people in the gay community and though it is not as large as our straight clientele, we are well aware of its purchasing power. In fact, businesses who fail to realize the purchasing power and potential of the Gay Community as one more important source for growth, in my opinion, are very shortsighted. We feel, at Bert Hollister's, we must recognize all the community, and this means the Gay Community, too."

A visit to browse in this beautiful store will tell you how fresh and totally different Bert Hollister's really is. It is like a whole world of new ideas. You are invited to come in and ask questions. Plan a shopping trip soon to Bert Hollister's. You will be glad you did.



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