

UPFRONT

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 12

HOUSTON, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 15, 1978

THRE CRACKS BANKING INDUSTRY

CHEMICAL BANK PLEDGES NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Texas Human Rights Foundation (formerly spun-off in 1977 from the Gay Political Caucus as the Houston Human Rights Defense Foundation) is currently in the process of contacting various non-Gay businesses and requesting non-discrimination pledges from them. The most recent addition to this list of non-discriminating businesses is Chemical Bank, 3201 Kirby, Houston, Texas.

Dr. Mort Schwab, Chair of the foundation, has made available the following letter which states the bank's position:

Dear Dr. Schwab:

"In response to your inquiry please be advised that Chemical Bank does not discriminate in

employment on the basis of race, sex, handicapped status, age or sexual or affectional preference."

"Chemical has had and does presently have Blacks, Whites, Chicanos, Indian, Oriental, male, female, handicapped, "straight" and "gay" employees. Our oldest employee retired against our wishes last fall at age 77. We currently have people over age 65 and do not have a mandatory retirement program."

"Employment of a person and the advancement of an employee is based solely on their ability and willingness to work."

Sincerely,

Michael G. Murphy
President

CAUCUS MEETS AT MAC

The Gay Political Caucus last met on September 6 at the Montrose Activity Center, the first time the new facility has hosted a gathering. About a hundred people braved the heat and the absence of a sound system to attend at the new meeting place. The hospitality committee of GPC served refreshments.

Reports were made on committee activities. Details of upcoming events are in the "Of Interest" column. Other business included discussion of the No-On-6/

Matlovich weekend, projected revisions of the bylaws and reports of other project fund-raising events.

Steve Shiflett read Bob Krueger's human rights statement, which included the following: "More than ever before we are a nation of one culture, a community in which there must be room for each to realize his full potential and live his or her life regardless of race, religion, sex, orientation or lifestyle. No other course stands open to us nor would any other policy serve the needs of the nation."

LAWYERS OPPOSE BRIGGS

The Barrister's Club, a San Francisco organization of Bay Area lawyers, has gone on record as opposed to Proposition No. 6, the Briggs Initiative. The club released a statement in which they said the initiative would cause teachers to lose their jobs because of "the exercise of their rights of associa-

tion and speech or their sexual orientation" and that Proposition 6 would be punitive to school employees because of "their lifestyles and/or expressions of their political and personal beliefs. The vagueness of the initiative would likely lead to unclear and unequal enforcement".

RICHMOND TO BECOME 3-LANE

The project: Travel by car from Hawthorne at Garrott to Richmond and Greenbriar . . .

The time: 5:00 p.m., Friday.

The strategy: South on Garrott to Richmond, west on Richmond to Greenbriar.

The distance: about two miles.

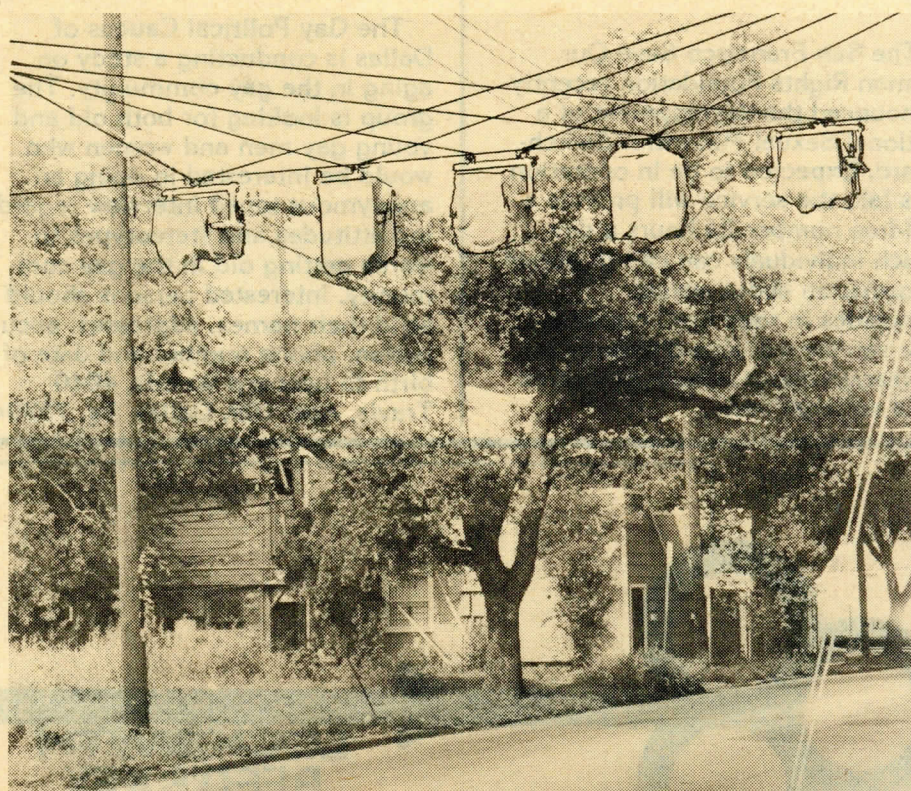
Travel time: 30-40 minutes.

A project recently implemented by Houston's Traffic and Transportation division soon may drastically reduce traffic congestion on Richmond Avenue, one of the three main east/west arteries of traffic in the Montrose.

Projected to be in operation by the end of October, the plan provides for Richmond becoming a three-lane instead of a two-lane

thoroughfare from Montrose Boulevard to Shepherd Drive. During hours of peak traffic, two lanes will flow east in the morning and two will move west in the evening. At other times the center lane will serve as a common left turn lane with access from both outer lanes, thus freeing traffic flow t all hours.

HouTran is expected to make some changes in bus routing to take advantage of the plan, according to John Reglin, Assistant Director of the Department of Traffic and Transportation. Although similar projects for Alabama and Westheimer are not proposed at this time, the success of the Richmond plan could be a catalyst for other traffic changes in the Montrose.



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MEDIA ALERT FROM NGTF

The following Media Alert was received from the National Gay Task Force (NGTF). For those individuals and organizations that can make use of it, please do so. Time is of the essence.

The celebrated film, "Word Is Out," consisting of conversations with 26 gay women and men, is scheduled to air on most PBS television stations on **Tuesday, Oct. 10 from 9-11 p.m.** (8-10 p.m. in New York City). This represents an important opportunity for educational outreach around the country and makes a fine prelude to the National Week of Dialogue with American Parents and Families which the National Gay Task Force has scheduled for October 22-28.

Gay Groups are encouraged to do the following:

1. Confirm the air date with your local PBS TV station and publicize the program in your local lesbian, gay and non-gay communities. You may wish to organize group viewings of the program.
2. Some conservative stations may be reluctant to air the film at all. If your local PBS station is not planning to air it, bring whatever pressures you can on the management to reconsider. Remind the station that gays are a segment of the public whose

needs and interests the station is licensed to serve, and that gays are a significant segment of the local community.

3. Some stations may decide to air the program at a post-11 p.m. time period to reach an "adult" audience. Again, try to persuade the management of the importance of reaching as wide an audience as possible with this film--including young people, who are growing up with many misconceptions about gays. Impress upon them the importance of airing the program in the earlier time slot. (9-11 p.m.).
4. PBS stations often air programs more than once. Encourage a rebroadcast of "Word Is Out" at a later date.
5. In New York City at 10 p.m. on Oct. 10, immediately after the airing of "Word Is Out," Channel 13 will air a special 60 or 90 minute local live "Outreach" program on the state of the gay rights issue in the NYC area. A series of gay panelists will address a variety of needs and interests of the lesbian/gay community and will respond to calls from viewers during the program. **Please encourage your local PBS station to do likewise.**
6. As it happens, the film will air during National Family Sex Education Week (Oct. 8-14.) Gay groups may wish to contact local groups involved in NFSEW activities and encourage them to include viewing "Word Is Out" as part of their participation.

EPISCOPAL/INTEGRITY HOUSTON

Episcopal/Integrity Houston is a local chapter of Integrity, Inc., a national organization for gay Episcopalians and their friends. The majority of the members belong to and support local Episcopal parishes. The organization provides members with gay fellowship, a supportive ministry and social activities not provided by local parishes.

Members function actively in parishes as ushers, choir members, acolytes and teachers and feel that part of their role is to be openly visible as gay members in their own parishes. It is hoped that through such openness members may help overcome misunder-

standings and prejudices against gays which still persist in Episcopal churches.

Monthly meetings are held at which members worship together, conduct business and have discussions, usually of church-related topics relevant to gay Christians. Social activities of the group include theater parties, house warmings, the prison rodeo, card games and picnics.

Membership in Episcopal/Integrity is kept confidential. Information about how to join and meeting times and places can be obtained by calling (713) 526-0555 or 777-7215 or by writing to P.O. Box 66088, Houston, Texas 77006.

Medifax

HERPES - From cold sores to genital blisters.

Herpes is caused by a virus and comes in two forms, Type 1 and Type 2. Type 1 is the common fever blister or cold sore and usually appears in areas of the body above the waist. It may, in some cases, affect the eyes. Type 1 is commonly acquired during childhood and is usually spread by non-sexual contact. Type 2 herpes is sexually transmitted and sores appear on the genitals and other regions of the body below the waist.

In males the blisters may appear in small clusters which are white and sometimes have a pus-like discharge. Usually the blisters are on the head of the penis, but may also occur on the shaft and with lessor frequency on the thighs and buttocks. In persons engaging in anal sex, sores may appear in the anus and fellatio may transmit the virus to the mouth or throat. In the female the principal site of infection is in the cervix with inflammation and oozing blood.

If the person has never had herpes before, the sores can be very

painful and may be accompanied by fever, headache and enlarged lymph nodes or swollen glands and there may be a general sick feeling. The symptoms may last two to three weeks but may be extended if there is a secondary infection. In some cases there may be urethritis or pain on urinating. Once herpes is acquired it can keep coming back after lying quiet for a time. However, the symptoms are less severe as immunity develops. Frequently repeat attacks of herpes are associated with stress or emotional upsets. The incubation period for the virus is from 2 to 12 days with an average of 6 days.

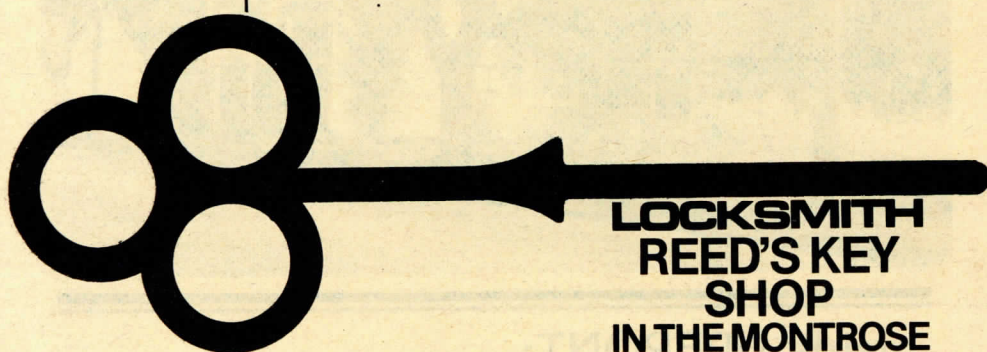
Compresses and creams are often prescribed to relieve the pain caused by the sores but there is no effective cure for herpes at the moment. Work is underway to develop a vaccine. The infection is usually self limiting and goes away and only rarely are there serious complications. There is some evidence that herpes may be involved in the development of cervical cancer in women but thus far evidence is inconclusive. People who knowingly have herpes should avoid sexual contact to prevent the spread of the virus.

S.F. HOTLINE

The San Francisco Save Our Human Rights Foundation recently announced the development of a national Sexual Minorities Switchboard. Expected to be in operation this fall, the service will provide a toll-free number 24 hours a day which individuals can call to obtain information about sexual minorities in their communities. The service will also distribute information about sexual minorities on a national basis.

DGPC STUDY

The Gay Political Caucus of Dallas is conducting a study on aging in the gay community. The group is looking for both old and young gay men and women who would be interested in doing an anonymous taped interview regarding attitudes and stereotypes towards getting old in the gay community. Interested persons should send their names, addresses, occupation, phone number and date of birth to Leonard Woods, 4040 Travis, Apt. 109, Dallas, Tx. 75204.



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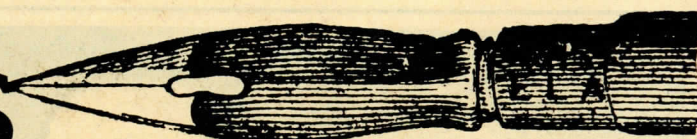
Real Estate

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Editorials



Commentary:

Millions of people have shed blood and given their lives and fought in the streets and in courts and law making bodies to win for us the most powerful political weapon of all—THE RIGHT TO VOTE. But alas, like starving peasants at a banquet who are too lethargic to eat, many people still choose to not use this precious privilege. In this time and place even though it has been extremely easy to both register and to vote many are still too unconcerned, indifferent or just down right stupid to exercise this right by taking the time and making the effort to get out and vote. We can only say that these people deserve everything they get in the way of oppression, injustice and inefficient, non-responsive and corrupt government.

One hears **ad nauseum**, "Oh, what difference does my one vote make?" Sometimes not much, but often when all those "inconsequential" votes are added to a bloc of votes an election can be swung one way or the other. If you don't think your one vote ever matters just take a look at what recently happened in Cleveland in the attempt to recall the mayor of that city. He retained his position by a mere 200 votes. Here in our own city many elections have been extremely close ones.

But there is more than just getting or keeping someone in office that is involved. The power of the vote goes beyond election day. Most politicians enjoy being in office and partaking of the spoils of victory and the exercise of power—in short, they want to stay there as long as they can. If they know there is a large group of politically aware people out there who go and vote everytime there is an election they also know that they are being closely watched. If that body starts making demands and is big enough, they know they had better start finding ways to meet those demands. "Hog wash," you say. Perhaps so. But political reality has shown time and time again that when a group builds a big enough bloc vote, some of their demands get met. The larger and more consistent the voting of that bloc becomes the greater the political power it acquires.

Voter registration is now underway in Houston until October 6, for the November elections. There are no legitimate excuses that any gay person in this city can have for not registering to vote unless they have been convicted of a felony. Even if you have just arrived you can register to vote thirty days before an election.

Houston is fast becoming a major center of activity and is assuming a national leadership role in the Gay Rights Movement. With the large population of gay people in this city, we have an opportunity to start swinging things around. If all the estimated 300,000 gay people in this town went out to vote in every election we could easily become one of the single most powerful political forces to be reckoned within the city as well as the state. We have unique opportunity to take advantage of everybody else's voter apathy.

If you've never been involved in the gay movement now is your chance to do so in the most meaningful way possible. Get registered. Be informed. Vote with the gay bloc and support the Gay Political Caucus endorsed candidates. Every vote counts!

Jim Lloyd

Letters:

Poetry

Congratulations on your paper. I've enclosed some poems I hope you will consider for publication. How about more news and info for the younger set. I'm 17.

YESTERDAY

We spent yesterday together. I used to lie in bed with warm thoughts of us floating in my head. But it's over now and there's nothing to be said. Strange though—I'm still lying in that bed.

Spurlock

California Reader

A copy of UPFRONT recently came my way, and I was pleased and impressed. As someone who in 1975 was working in gay journalism in Houston, I am glad to learn that Houston's gay community is being so ably served by such a handsome, well-laid-out, comprehensive tabloid biweekly. Congratulations to UPFRONT's staff.

The VD article in your Aug. 18 number calls for further comment, however, since it seems to be aimed more at a heterosexual audience than a gay reader.

Vantage point

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HOUSTON GPC

Three years ago the Houston Gay Political Caucus came to life.

The acceptance of the GPC from the majority of the Gay community was never an easy accomplishment. A great deal of work from literally hundreds of loyal, dedicated volunteers was essential before the GPC was able to garner the respect and support from a community as large and diverse as ours. But it has happened because GPC, throughout its existence, has never lost sight of its goals, purpose, or the people it serves.

The GPC was designed from its very inception to become the largest, strongest organization we have. In dealing with politicians, public administrators, and the general public the GPC has always done an admirable job considering the severe human and financial limitations under which it has operated.

This weekend, the GPC will be representing us in Fort Worth at the state convention of the Democratic Party. It will be the first time that we have been actively involved within the existing political system. And it won't be our last, either! As our people learn from this experience, so will our Movement. Two years from now when we replay this scenario, we will be wiser and stronger. Of this, I have little doubt.

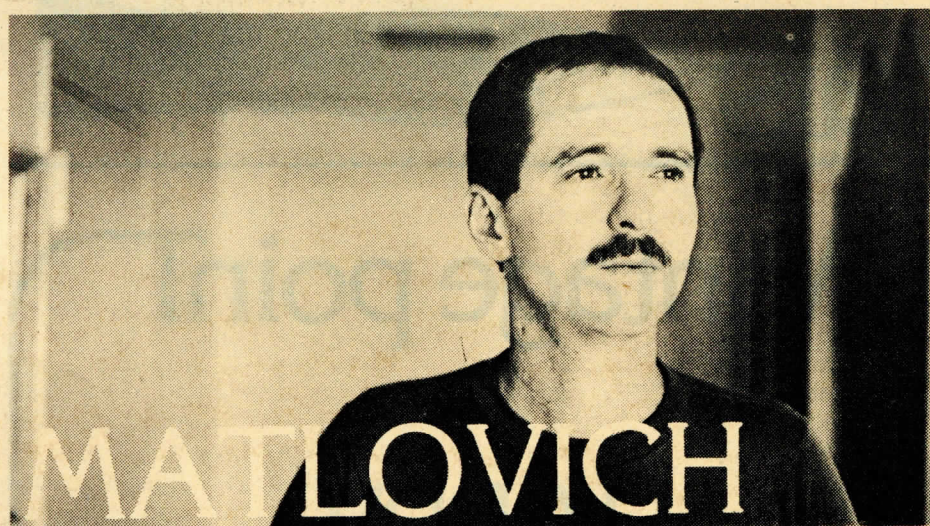
My best wishes go out to our Gay delegates going to the Fort Worth convention. And to the Gay Political Caucus on this, the beginning of its fourth year, I can only say congratulations on a job well done and good luck on what lies before you. Give 'em hell, gang!

Gary J. Van Ooteghem
Gary J. Van Ooteghem
Publisher

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Under the sponsorship of the Houston Gay Political Caucus (GPC), gay activist Leonard Matlovich will arrive in Houston Saturday morning, October 14 to rally Houston's support for No-On-6.

The No-On-6 organization is leading the fight in California to defeat Proposition 6, introduced by State Senator John Briggs. The proposition calls for the dismissal of all known gay teachers in the public school system, and for

placing a prohibition on the hiring of any known gays for teaching positions. California voters will decide November 7.

As in Miami in 1977, anti-gay forces are mounting an impressive campaign, and concerned activists are not forgetting Anita Bryant's surprisingly overwhelming victory and the resultant fall of gay rights legislation soon after, throughout the country.

No-On-6 is heading a \$1.4

million campaign in California, but both funds and political support from the national gay community are needed. The GPC has responded to this need, with the goal of making Houston a leader in the fight on the national front.

GPC coordinators are now finalizing plans for a weekend of events, October 14 & 15. After arriving at Houston Intercontinental Airport on Saturday morning, Matlovich's first stop will be the Montrose Activity Center, where he will be given a tour and a status report on the center's current progress. He will then take part in a press conference which will be set up at the center, sharing his thoughts with the media.

Saturday afternoon, Matlovich will be attending an open-house at a local bar, greeting Houstonians and explaining the No-On-6 efforts.

Highlighting the weekend will be a banquet at the Sheraton Houston, scheduled for 8pm on Saturday night. Cocktails at 7pm will precede the banquet. Tickets will go on sale after September 15, and information about them will be

available by calling the GPC office at 526-2668.

It is expected that the No-On-6 organization will be flying in celebrity guests to join Matlovich at the banquet. Local political figures are being extended invitations. Matlovich will deliver his major address of the weekend at the banquet.

At press time, two other events were under consideration: a coffee and sweet roll rap session with Matlovich at a local church on Sunday morning, and a talent show on Sunday evening, at which Matlovich would help preside.

A free picnic is being planned for Sunday afternoon, from 2 to 6pm. Matlovich will be attending from 3:30 to 5pm to meet picnic-goers. The Montrose Sports Association, which will have just completed a two day volleyball tournament, will be specially recognized at the picnic.

Watch for further details on times and locations of events in the next issue of UPFRONT, and on posters and flyers at local gay establishments.

Book Review

CHRISTOPHER AND HIS KIND, 1929-1939. By Christopher Isherwood, Farrar, Straus, Giroux, New York, 1976. \$10.00

Christopher Isherwood-known to many as the man who inspired the world famous plays *Cabaret* and *I Am A Camera*--took a major step out of the closet when this intimate autobiography of his young years was published. In 1929 Christopher left England for Berlin, ostensibly for a short visit and ended by staying until Hitler's rise to power in 1933. All the people in *Cabaret* are here during those years, a mix of real life and fictionalized characters.

Christopher left Germany in the company of his young German lover Heinz and up until the eve of

the Second World War they traveled from pillar to post all over Europe, often relentlessly pursued by the Gestapo. Theirs was far from a tranquil existence. Attempts on the part of Christopher to seek sanctuary for Heinz by trying to get him into England failed when they were denied admission because the immigration authorities suspected their homosexual liaison. On they went to Spain where they lived in idyllic splendor for a time, only to have officials arrive and demand that they leave the country. Off they went through Greece, Portugal, France, Denmark, Holland and Belgium always just a step ahead of their pursuers, making love and quarreling through it all. Theirs is a story of

intrigue and excitement when intrigue involving survival had become commonplace for millions of people. Finally Heinz was forced to return to Germany where he was arrested by the Gestapo. He was sent to the front during the war and somehow managed to survive it all.

Woven through the accounts of all the wanderings is a capsule glimpse of Europe's literary and artistic world during those terrible times. Many of the real life characters who were Christopher's "Kind" such as W.H. Auden, E.M. Forster, Somerset Maugham and Virginia Woolf weave in and out of the fabric of the tale along with an entourage of lesser known friends.

There are glimpses of the world which provided the stage for their lives: refugees from Hitler's Germany, the British colony in Portugal, the Group Theater Company and wartime China which Christopher visited with Auden.

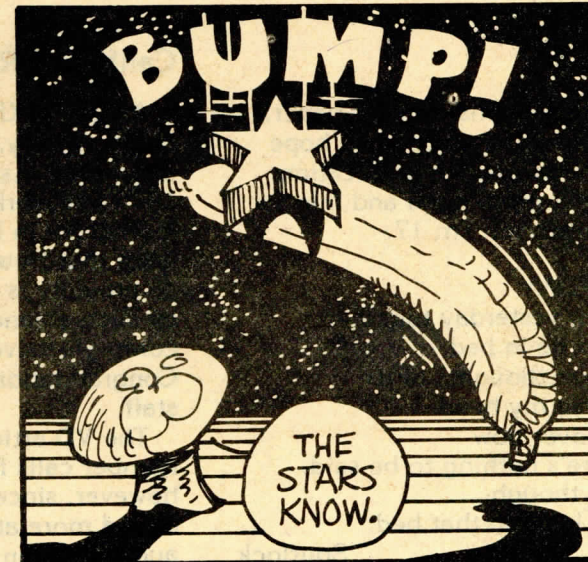
In a time when it was extremely dangerous in many places to do so, Christopher took stands. He hated Fascism and actively opposed it, finding in the process that friends became enemies and that there were curious new allies who were not always his "Kind". He was also outspoken against the others - the heterosexual dictatorship.

The story ends with Christopher expectantly looking at New York harbor from a ship as he comes to live in America on the eve of war. He was in his forties and more than half of his life still lay ahead of him, along with the most important love of his life.

This is the story of a brilliant, sensitive man who had the courage of his convictions when it had a big price tag. The story told here is endlessly fascinating and the example of the man's life is a ray of hope to all who are oppressed.

Jim Lloyd.

The Whatnots By Sam



Upbeat

GREASE arrived in Houston several weeks ago accompanied by acres of fanfare, klieg lights, a live band & legions of teeny-boppers attired in rolled-up jeans. Federated Department Stores (Foley's in Houston) went so far as to emblazon "Grease" on every garment in the teen shop and even the grocery store tabloids were reporting that John Travolta, fresh from his overwhelming media success in another Robert Stigwood opus, **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER**, had indulged his older woman fetish with co-star Olivia Newton-John (she's thirty already, folks). The PR blitz was successful and the public queued up, glassy-eyed with expectation, chanting "Grease is the word".

Grease is not the word; the word is who. Who did the casting and why did they choose ONJ for the female lead? Miss Newton-John appears to have researched her role as the sexless felt skirt & bobby sox virgin who turns vixen by watching reruns of the Mickey Mouse Club. She sings well enough and does dance though her dancing abilities appear to be limited to a hop, a skip, and a

jump. She does not act. Travolta is a bit more at ease in front of the camera but if he is supposed to be a hood, I'm Beaver Cleaver. If they could try to pass Olivia off as 17 couldn't they have done the same thing for Gene Kelly?

Stockard Channing does minimally well as Riz, the brassy, bosomy, bad girl with a heart. Her eyes dart; her words cut; her rabbit dies and her reputation plummets but her upper lip remains stiff until the end when her knight in black leather tells her he loves her... Really!!! This starstudded extravaganza went all out in the nostalgia department finding room for Eve Arden as Rydell High's principal (don't all old teachers become principals), Joan Blondell, keeping saloon as always but this time in the malt shop, Ed Byrnes imitating Dick Clark, Alice Ghostley imitating Paul Lynnde, and Frankie Avalon impersonating himself. Avalon's **Beauty School Drop Out** was easily the slowest point of a dull evening.

Hailed as the fifties musical **AMERICAN GRAFFITI**, **GREASE** delivers another of those plasticized, homogenized views of that decade recently popularized by American television. It is a disappointment. Stigwood seems unable to decide whether to make this film as a serious musical or a camp number. As a result we get a little of both and enough of neither.

Stigwood has attempted some innovative and very difficult projects in the past; the **ALL THIS AND WORLD WAR II** and **SGT. PEPPERS LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND** films are his. This, however, was his most challenging and he seems to have not realized that a stage piece can be among the most difficult of films if it is opened up too far. His error was just that. By delimiting the production Grease loses that comfortable feeling of a memoir from the lives of our older brothers and sisters. What it gains in return is a flying car.

The final result is a TV movie without commercial breaks. Maybe that's just an example of the all pervading nature of the television format and the way it has conditioned the mass audience. Personally I see it as a failure to have definite goals.

Still the picture is one way to escape from the pressures of the daily grind and if you are one of the many who did not see Rachel Wells do **You Better Shape Up** in the Miss Gay USA Pageant you'll probably walk out of the theatre humming. I almost wish I hadn't seen a drag queen do the number better than poor miscast Olivia.

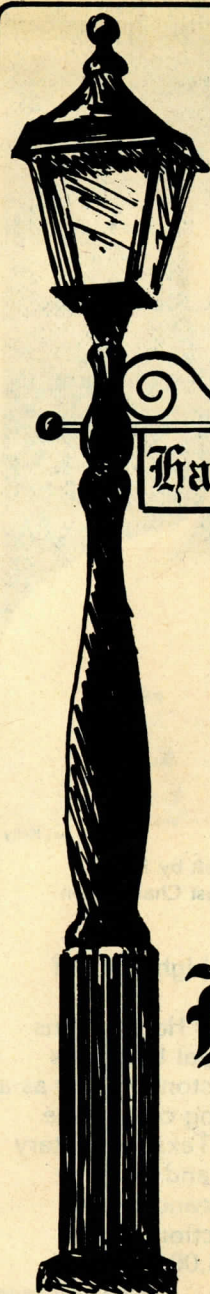
While I'm on the subject of disappointment, I happened to purchase Tim Curry's new album, **READ MY LIPS**, the other day. While Curry is extravagantly brilliant as Frank N. Furter in **THE**

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW, he is not yet ready to be a recording star. The album itself contains a bizarre amalgam of some of this century's favorite song writers, including Joni Mitchell, Burt Bacharach, Hal David, John Lennon, Paul McCartney and Irving Berlin, as well as some very talented studio musicians, Lee Michaels & Nils Lofgren stand out.

Unfortunately Curry applies his own interpretation so liberally that he ends up with the sort of record that is played only when freakiness is desired. Dada is fine as an art form but isn't going to sell many albums. To say more would be unkind.

On a happier note, congratulations and good wishes go out to Mort Schwab and the rest of the Texas Human Rights Foundation. THRF will begin litigation of Statute 21.06 (that's the anti-sodomy law) in the very near future. They've chosen James Barber an attorney who hails from Big D and everyone on the foundation board feels the law is vulnerable now. It's going to take a lot of money though so THRF will be having a fund raiser shortly. At the moment a former U.S. Attorney General from Texas is being sought as guest speaker so plan to attend and support this sterling effort in our behalf. Watch UPFRONT for further information on this event.

Bill Whiting



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HOUSTON GPC AT 3

The Gay Political Caucus is three years old! In those short three years the caucus has grown from an ad-hoc group of one lesbian, two gay men, and one dog of unknown persuasion, to one of the most successful gay political groups in the country. The caucus has registered, spoken, picketed, marched, negotiated, pleaded, demanded, corresponded, monitored, visited, boycotted, lobbied, announced and stood for one goal, "to pool the resources of the gay community to achieve full equality regardless of sexual or affectional preference."

GPC was incorporated in 1975 as a non-profit corporation in the state of Texas, the first Texas corporation with the word "gay" in its title. At that time former Mayor Fred Hofheinz's second election was imminent and the caucus immediately launched the task of registering voters and supporting candidates who supported the rights of lesbians and gay men. Within two months the caucus has registered over 3,000 voters and held weekly meetings attended by over 100 gay people. The results of that election were tremendous--in the caucus' best precincts, voter participation was up and GPC endorsed candidates won by wide margins. From that time on, the growth of the caucus has never stopped.

Caucus members have contributed to the national gay movement by raising funds and becoming leaders of both the National Gay Task Force and the Gay Rights National Lobby. Pokey Anderson, now Montrose Community Development Commissioner, has served as Co-chair of the National Gay Task Force. Pokey was invited in 1977 to meet with Presidential aides at an historic White House meeting which has gone far in changing federal agencies dealings with gay citizens.

Gary Van Ooteghem, former Comptroller of Harris County and GPC founding president, has served as Co-chair of both the National Gay Task Force and The Gay Rights National Lobby. Additionally, GPC lobbying has helped convince the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to halt its anti-gay rules regarding gay foreigners who seek U.S. citizenship.

The caucus monitors the media, speaks before civic groups and schools, actively lobbies for the ERA and gay rights in the Texas Legislature and Congress. The Political Action Committee licks stamps, block walks, pushes cards, paints signs, and staffs phones for

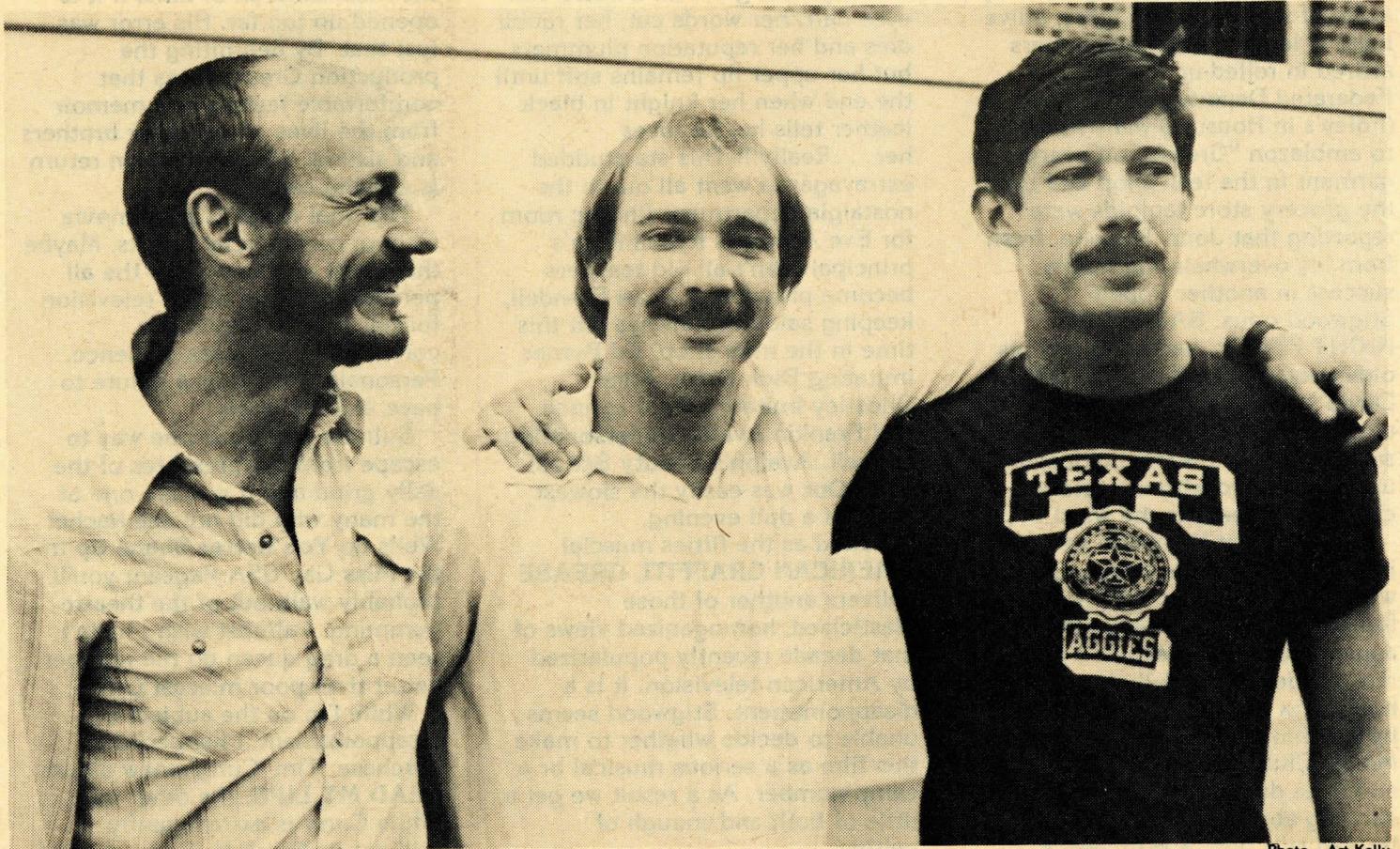


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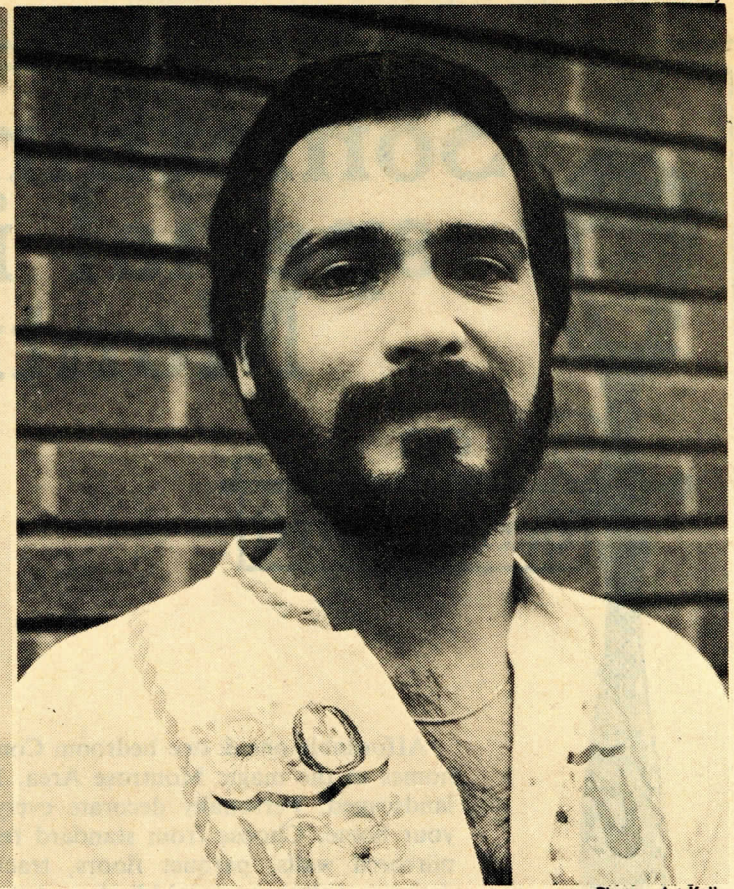


Photo... Art Kelly

Top photo: Current HGPC president Steve Shiflett flanked on his right by Gary Van Ooteghem, first president, & on his left by his immediate predecessor Don Hrachovy. Lower Right: Current Chairperson of The HGPC Board of Trustees. Lower Left: Past Chairperson Mort Schwab.

candidates endorsed by the Caucus. During more than one occasion, campaign managers for Houston candidates are heard to say, "If it looks impossible, call the GPC!"

The success of the Houston GPC has prompted our Dallas sisters and brothers to form the Dallas Gay Political Caucus. These Dallasites share in the hopes of all Gays to "unite for equal rights."

In June 1977, Anita Bryant brought her anti-gay crusade to the Annual President's Ball of the Texas Bar Association. GPC organized a rally and peaceful march in protest of her appearance. Besides Hollywood stars and religious and political leaders, over 10,000 gay Texans showed their support for the equal rights of gay women and men. Many will remember their participation in the

rally as one of the highlights of their lives.

Also in 1977, gay Houstonians formed the Municipal Elections Committee of Houston (MECH) as a political fund raising committee recognized by the Texas Secretary of State to collect and disperse funds for political candidates. During its first election, MECH distributed over \$4,000 to

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candidates who believed in the civil rights of gay people.

Because of recurring police problems, the GPC formed in 1976 a Legal Defense Fund, which has evolved through time into an independent entity the Texas Human Rights Foundation. The foundation recently received IRS notification of its becoming a tax deductible charitable organization, and has set out to challenge the constitutionality of the Texas Homosexual Conduct law, which makes criminal private acts between consenting adults. The Foundation also has received over twenty non-discrimination pledges from major corporation, including IBM, Bank of America and Eastern Airlines.

Most recently GPC, along with many other Houston Gay organizations, sponsored the historic Town Meeting I. This highly successful community meeting held in the AstroArena of the Astrodome included an address by former Texas gubernatorial candidate Sissy Farenthold.

What is in the future? No doubt continued growth and commitment. The Caucus has never been stronger and is constantly bringing in new leaders and members. Perhaps a Gay candidate for state or local office? Perhaps a governmental appointment for a gay community leader? If the next three years are anything like the last, hang on its going to be an exciting time in which to live.

Kevin MacLaughlin

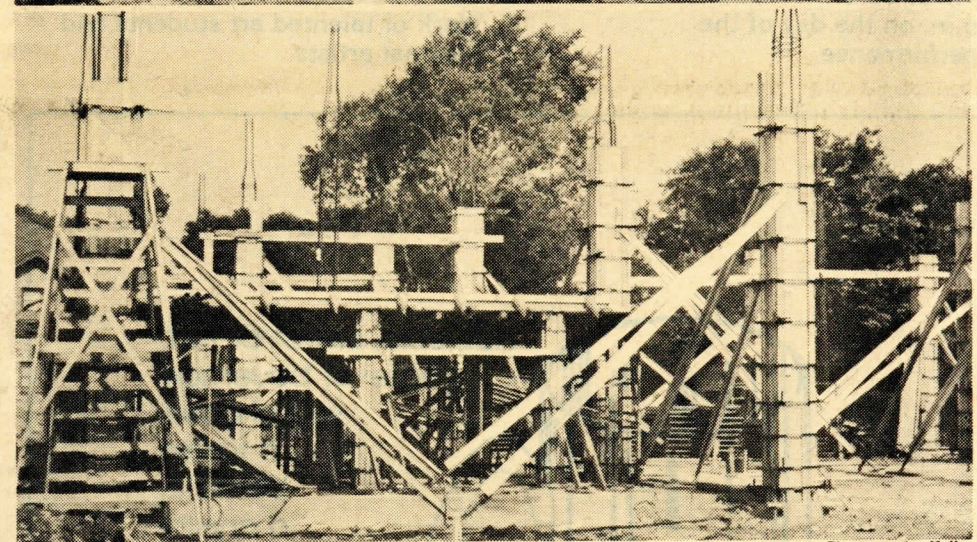
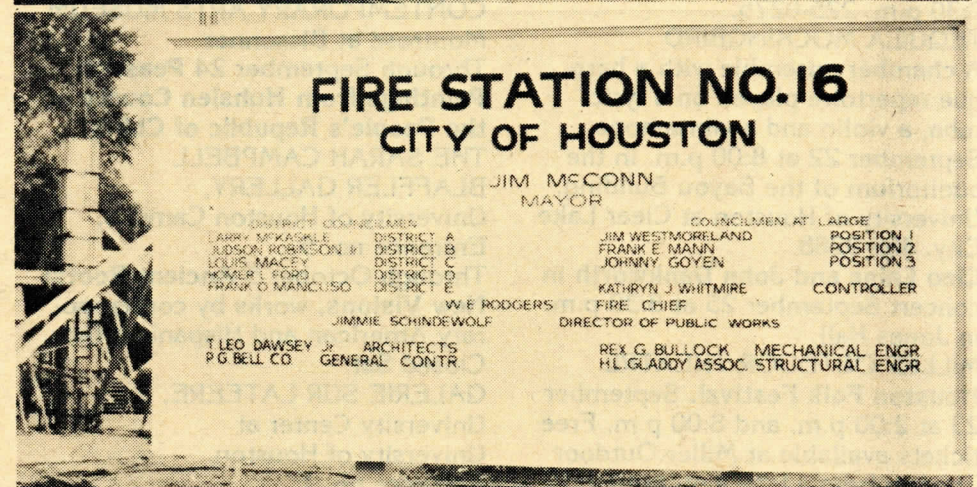
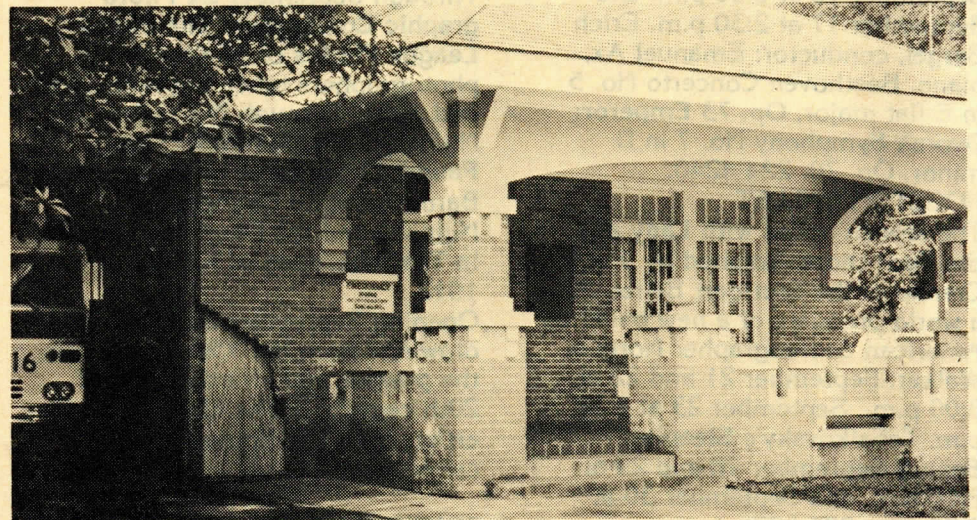
Houston Happenings

RICE MEDIA FALL FILM SERIES, University Blvd. at Stockton.
September 16, 1:30pm, Walt Disney's *Old Yeller* & Episode 3 of Dick Tracy serial.
September 16, 7:30 & 10pm, *The Duellists*; Keith Carradine & Harvey Keitel (Houston premier).
September 17, 7:30pm, Fritz Lang's *M*; Peter Lorre.
September 20, 7:30pm, *College* with Buster Keaton & *The Gold Rush* with Charlie Chaplin.
September 21, 7:30pm, *Seconds*; Rock Hudson.
September 22, 7:30 & 10pm, *Singin' In The Rain*; Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor.
September 23, 1:30pm, Walt Disney's *Treasure Island* & Episode 4 of Dick Tracy serial.
September 23, 7:30 & 10pm, *Voyage To Grand Tartaire*.
September 24, 7:30pm, Fritz Lang's *Die Nibelungen*.
September 27, 7:30pm, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1919).
September 28, 7:30pm, Ingmar Bergman's *Torment*; Alf Kjellin,

Stig Jarrel & Mai Zetterling.
September 29, 7:30 & 10pm, *Touch of Evil*; Orson Welles, Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh, Akim Tamiroff, Marlene Deitrich, Zsa Zsa Gabor & Joseph Cotton.
September 30, 1:30, Mike Todd's *Around the World in 80 Days*; David Niven, Shirley MacClaine & Cantiflas, and episode 5 of Dick Tracy serial.
September 30, 7:30 & 10pm, *Sisters*; Margot Kidder.
THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, Montrose Blvd. at Bissonnet
September 16, 8pm, *Accident*; Dirk Bogarde, Vivian Merchant, Michael York, written by Harold Pinter.
September 22, 8pm, *Justine*; Dirk Bogarde, Anouk Aimee, Anna Karina & Michael York.
September 23, 8pm, Visconti's *The Damned*; Dirk Bogarde, Ingrid Thulin, Helmut Berger, & Albrecht Schonhalo.
September 29, 8pm, *Let Joy Reign Supreme*; Philippe Noiret.
September 30, 8pm, *Death In Venice*; Dirk Bogarde.

cont'd page 8

PROGRESS



Photos... Art Kelly

Homosexology

THE NEW GAY MYSTIQUE

In recent years, gay people have been positive and assertive enough to begin establishing new and different directions for and perceptions of themselves. This new posture of gay people is one that had to be perceived and accepted first by gay people and, secondly, by their external public.

However, stereotypic behavior on the part of many young gay people still causes many problems in attempting to alter the perceptions that the general public has about homosexuals. There appears to be the false assumption on the part of many young gays that accepting or choosing such a lifestyle means

that they have to assume a certain behavioral posture. As growing acceptance of gay people continues, it appears that the overt or "nellie" gay person will become more anachronistic as the gay community assimilates into the larger society.

This characteristic is not necessarily unique; similar sociological dynamics can be observed with many Black people and within the Black movement. Prior to the advent of the Black movement, there were stereotypic roles associated with most "Negroes." However, as a result of the efforts obtained through the Black move-

ment and the fact that the larger White society agreed to tolerate and assimilate Blacks in the mainstream of the society, different levels of behavioral expectations accrued from this action. Those Blacks who were more readily accepted were those who evinced characteristics that met the expectations of the larger group. Thus, the Blacks who were more educated, sophisticated, well-groomed, well-mannered, and who possessed a particular carriage would advance faster and farther than those Blacks that did not possess these qualities. Whereas the "dirty nigger" was more frequently seen and his actions anticipated by the larger White society, the efforts of the Black movement have placed this particular character in the background, not only with the Whites but the Blacks as well.

In comparison to this group dynamic, it appears that a similar

development is occurring within the gay movement. The "nellie" gay person may become as obtrusive a character to gay people as "Uncle Tom" has become to most Black people. It is becoming increasingly obvious to the many gay people who are now coming out that being gay does not abide in external behavior but in internal awareness. Now, when the guy who appeared to be the "All American Joe" at the office tells his employer or supervisor that he is gay, everyone there is shocked because he "just doesn't act gay."

More and more gay people are finding what this author calls the new gay mystique which invariably poses the question in many people's minds--Is he or isn't he?--but, only his mother knows for sure! (This discussion on the gay mystique will be continued in the next issue of HOMOSEXOLOGY).

W. Charles Law

Houston Happenings

HOUSTON SYMPHONY

September 16 at 8:00 p.m. and September 17 at 2:30 p.m. Erich Bergel, conductor; Emanuel Ax, piano. Beethoven Concerto No. 5 in E flat major, Op. 73 **Emperor**; Dvorak Symphony No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70. 224-4240.

HOUSTON BALLET

The season opens with **Lady and the Fool** choreographed by John Crenko of the Stuttgart Ballet. Also a world premiere of a new ballet by American choreographer Norman Walker. September 21 and 22 at 8:00 p.m., September 23 at 2:30 p.m. Tchaikovsky's **Sleeping Beauty** September 28 and 29 at 8:00 p.m. and September 30 at 2:30 p.m. 225-0275.

TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD

A chamber ensemble with a baroque repertoire played on a lyric tuba, a violin and a vibraphone. September 22 at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Bayou Building, University of Houston at Clear Lake City. 488-9288.

Cleo Laine and John Dankworth in concert September 25 at 8:30 p.m. in Jones Hall.

MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE

Houston Folk Festival. September 23 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Free tickets available at Miller Outdoor Theatre from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. on the day of the performance.

EXHIBITS:

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, Montrose at Bissonnet.

Through September 24 **Photographic Crossroads: The Photo League** Photos of 56 prominent photographers taken between 1936 and 1951. Through November 12 Nijinsky's **L'apres-Midi D'une Faune**: Thirty three photographs by Baron Adolphe De Meyer of Nijinsky and the Diaghilev dancers in **The Afternoon of a Faun** of 1912.

Opening September 22 Prints and drawings from the 15th century to the present and an exhibition of 20th century books illustrated by artists from the Romansky collection.

CONTEMPORARY ARTS MUSEUM, Montrose at Bissonnet

Through September 24 **Peasant Paintings from Huhsien County of the People's Republic of China.**

THE SARAH CAMPBELL

BLAFFLER GALLERY, University of Houston Campus, Entrance no. 5

Through October 5 **Ancient Roots/New Visions**, works by contemporary American and Hispanic artists. Closed Sat.

GALERIE SUR LATEERE, University Center at University of Houston, Entrance no. 1

Work of talented art students and regional artists.

O'KANE GALLERY,

University of Houston Downtown, 1 Main St. Allen's Landing Paintings by Kermit and Katie Oliver thru the 29th of September. OFF WESTHEIMER PLAYERS **The Boys in the Band** at the Inside-Outside at 8:00 p.m. September 22, 23 and 24.

DOWNTOWN MUSIC HALL

Smash Broadway hit **For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf** - a national tour with original Broadway sets and costumes. September 26 thru October 1. Evenings at 8:00 p.m., Matinees at 2:30 p.m. 871-1616.

COMEDY WORKSHOP

2105 San Felipe at Shepherd. Comedy revue **So What If I'm Apathetic**, Wednesday thru Sunday at 8:30 p.m. thru September 30.

Late night improvisational show at 11:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday open stage for local stand up comedians. 524-7333.

EQUINOX THEATER

September 16 at 8:30 p.m. David Rabe's **Sticks and Bones** September 28 thru October 21 **Solitaire/Double Solitaire** Two one act plays by Robert Anderson. Thursday thru Saturday at 8:30 p.m. 3017 Washington at Heights. 868-5829.

TUTS CABARET THEATER, Shamrock Hilton Hotel, Main at Holcombe.

Pippin - half price previews

Monday and Tuesday September 25 and 26 at 8:30 p.m. Opens Wednesday September 27th and runs thru November 19. Tuesdays Thursdays at 8:30 p.m., Fridays at 9:00 p.m., Saturdays at 5:00 and 9:00 p.m., Sundays 2:30 and 7:45 p.m. 664-3344.

CULLEN AUDITORIUM,

University of Houston Vincent Price stars in Oscar Wilde's **Delights and Diversions**, October 1 at 8:30 p.m.

BURT BAKER PLANATERIUM, MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, Hermann Park

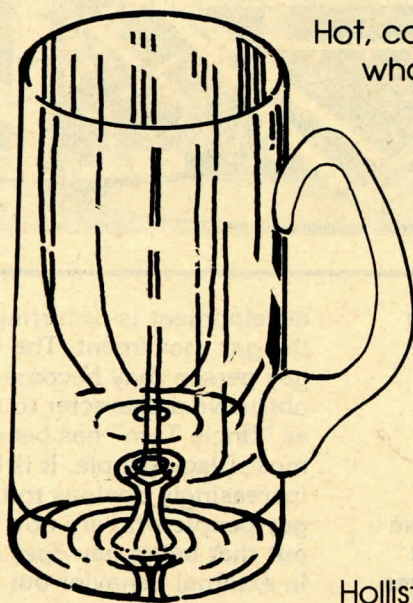
The Loneliness Factor - thru November 1. The stars tell the story of the ancient explosion of stars when the chemical pathway leading to intelligent life was formed.

HOUSTON BULB MART

The 36th annual Bulb and Plant Mart will be held from September 28 thru 30 at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, 4807 San Felipe at Loop 610. The mart will offer high quality bulbs from Holland and U.S. as well as bromeliads, orchids ferns, palms perennials and potted plants. The mart is held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For further information 871-0661 or 621-2510.

HOUSTON ARBORETUM

The Cactus Show with lecture and sale September 16 and 17 from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Free and open to the public. 4501 Woodway in Memorial Park.



Hot, cold, sweet or tart,
whatever beverage
you choose,
it tastes
better in
a crystal
beer mug.

Set of 4
\$25.

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until 10:00 p.m. & weekends

Restaurant Review

THE PLEASANT PEASANT
1502 South Post Oak
621-9463, 965-9664

With the Peasant it's hard to know just where to start. First, it's two different places at lunch and at dinner; at the noon hour a cafeteria-style line zips you through and back to the office on time. By night the atmosphere is relaxed with attentive staff (some say the best-looking in town), intimate lighting and pleasant low-key live entertainment. Best of all, the food has never been a disappointment in our long experience with the Peasant.

Lunch is literally indescribable, because the menu is constantly changing and expanding. A long list of sandwiches, often in unusual combinations of fillings, complements an equally thorough listing of salads. The home-made soups are good at lunch and there's always a salad special and a lunch special. Most recently we had a pork chop smothered in brown gravy with whipped potatoes and

broccoli for \$3.95. The chop was deliciously lean, the potatoes were real potatoes and the broccoli steamed to perfection, tender and just slightly crisp. Most everything at lunch runs \$2.50 - 3.95.

Dinner can be done on a budget (the most stringent should allow for the occasional nice evening out) or you can be a little extravagant if you like. The regular menu features entrees from \$4.95 to \$11.95. In addition, there are three special entrees offered every night. Prices include salad and vegetable.

The desserts are a bit of heaven. Succumb to temptation over a piece of the Peasant pecan pie --even if you have to starve yourself for the rest of the week to make up for such sinful indulgence--it's worth it!

All major credit cards accepted; dinner reservations recommended. Lunch 11-3 p.m.; dinner 6-10:30 p.m. weekdays, 6-11 p.m. weekends. Look for new (and even better) hours in October.

Of Interest

Tejas Motorcycle Club is celebrating its third year with a Westheimer Extravaganza. Starting at Mary's on Saturday the 23rd at 9 a.m., the event will continue with merriment, food, games, friends and surprises, with complimentary drinks at the Midnite Sun, Venture-N, the Barn and the Silver Bullet Saloon. There will be an S/M dinner at the Locker Saturday night and a champagne breakfast at the Silver Bullet on Sunday at noon. The entire event concludes with a fantastic show at the Numbers Disco-Theatre Sunday at 3 p.m. Donation for the entire event is \$7.50. Tickets are on sale at the Midnite Sun and the Leather Shop at Mary's.

"Sex Related Medical Problems of Gay Men" will be the topic of discussion for the 1st Community Forum/Workshop. This question and answer forum will be held Wednesday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m. The program is free and will be held at Montrose Activity

Center, Holman at LaBranch. Three medical professionals will conduct the discussion which is sponsored by the Education Committee of GPC. For further information, call 528-1667.

Gay Political Caucus invites you and yours to a September Picnic filled with fun, games, and people. Come join us for the fun of it and get to know another side of gay life. Bring yourself, a friend, your picnic basket, and your picnic basket, and refreshments--we will furnish the rest. Sunday, September 24, 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m., Cherryhurst Park in Montrose. For further information call the GPC office.

Community Covered Dish Social in Appreciation of Wilde'n'Stein Books. Saturday, September 23, 7:30 p.m. 1214 Joe Annie (MCCR). All are invited. Admission is a covered dish. Host and supporting groups include Integrity, MCCR, GPC.

MAC needs volunteers to help build our very own gay community center. Work sessions are scheduled: Sundays at 2pm; Tuesdays at 7pm and Thursdays at 7pm. Bring your tools and your friends but if you have got one or the other or both, come anyway; we have enough to share. See you there.

Discover a new world!

of exotic and erotic pleasures designed to provide even the most arcane earthlings with a series of stimulating experiences unequalled in the cosmos. And now all adventurers entering with this ad in hand will receive \$2 off their normal entry fee.

MIDTOWNE SPA

◆ 3100 FANNIN HOUSTON 713-522-2379

◆ 615 S. KOHLER LOS ANGELES 213-680-1838



Cast members rehearse WW2 in preparation for the opening next month.

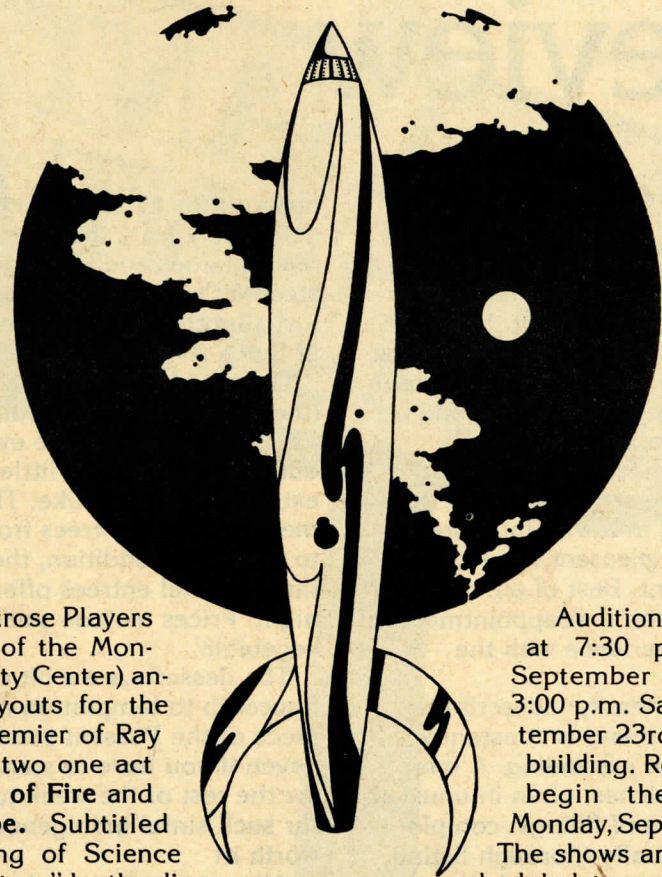
WORLD WAR II

WW2 is multimedia show about an era that saw change in every nation on the Earth. Director Vince Janis has planned an "intense sensory experience, an adventure in time that will change ideas of entertainment".

The producers, Phyllis McMahon and Brian Rogers have requested that the public come attired in

costumes of the period, either military or civilians. Following the 9pm performances each evening there will be a "Swing" dance contest. WW2 is set for October 23 to 26 at the Numbers Disco Theatre, 300 Westheimer, Houston. Tickets are available at Numbers, General Admission is \$8 & Reserved Seating is \$10 though the seats are limited.

CASTING CALL



The Montrose Players (a division of the Montrose Activity Center) announces tryouts for the Houston premier of Ray Bradbury's two one act plays **Pillar of Fire** and **Kaliedscope**. Subtitled "An Evening of Science Fiction Fantasy" by the director, Fred Hinton, the plays will be presented in the new home of the Montrose Activity Center at 1423 Holman (Holman at LaBranch).

Auditions will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, September 22nd, and 3:00 p.m. Saturday, September 23rd at the MAC building. Rehearsals will begin the following Monday, September 25th. The shows are tentatively scheduled to open on October 26th. In addition to a casting call, there is a need for volunteers in all other areas, especially technical people. For more information, call MAC at 526-9719.

CAPITAL ACTING COMPANY
presents

the boys in the band

directed by ROGER GORTON
8:30 P.M. SEPT. 22, 23, 24
(FRI., SAT., SUN.)

Off Westheimer Theater
Inside, Outside Club
1318 Westheimer
\$5.00 Advance/\$5.50 at the door

Tickets at: Just Marion's & Lynn's; Inside/Outside; Mary's II
Information: 527-9071

Classified Ads

UPFRONT is looking for a hard working Sales Manager. We are an expanding, progressive newspaper dedicated to helping the Movement Commission. If you qualify and are interested, call us at 526-9719 or send your resume to UPFRONT, P.O. Box 66844, Houston, Texas 77006.

WANTED: Artists who are interested in developing cartoons or comic strips for UPFRONT on a regular basis. Call 526-9719 or write UPFRONT, P.O. Box 66844, Houston, Texas, 77006.

PART-TIME newspaper delivery persons needed. \$4/hr. Car needed. For delivery of UPFRONT every other Friday. 526-9719

MAINTENANCE PERSON needed at Midtowne Spa. Complete employment applications in person only. 3100 Fannin.

RARE AMERICAN ART GLASS window for sale; 54 inches by 24 inches; perfect condition; \$500. Serious bidders only, please. 524-9360 after 7pm.

UPFRONT APOLOGIZES

In Issue #10 of UPFRONT, we carried an article containing information about a stabbing which occurred near the Old Plantation and the apparent lack of cooperation from the OP management to help the victims. We reported from information available at that time.

Subsequent to this article, Howard Neese (OP manager) supplied such other information as to demonstrate that he did, in fact, not call the police but did call the ambulance service. We offered Howard Neese space in our last issue to correct this matter. He did so in the form of a letter which should have settled the matter. But it did not.

When his letter appeared, there were a number of spelling errors which were allowed to be reprinted without correction. This caused Mr. Neese a second, unintentional embarrassment. It was not our desire or intent to have that happen. We would like to offer our apologies to Mr. Neese for any inconvenience that he or the Old Plantation may have suffered because of this matter.

The Publisher



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MONDAY.....Talent Night
Begins September 18

Mr. & Miss Ram Rod to be chosen October 16

TUESDAY.....Country Supper

WEDNESDAY.....Beer Bust (\$1 cover)
Pool Tournament (Prizes)

THURSDAY.....Drag Shows

FRIDAY.....Live Band

SATURDAY.....Live Band

SUNDAY.....Beer Bust (\$1 cover)

RAM ROD

5110 Airline Drive Houston, Texas 691-9928



NEW HOURS:

Monday thru Friday: 4pm til' 2am; Happy Hour 4 - 8.

Saturday & Sunday: 12 Noon til' 2am; Happy Hour Noon til' 3.

Letters (cont'd from Page 3)

Gonorrhea is no vital concern for Lesbians, for example, in that it's almost impossible for any woman to contract gonorrhea from a Lesbian. In the gay community, VD is a concern almost exclusively for gay men.

I wish the article had used simple-English words that almost anyone can understand--"throat," instead of pharyngeal; "penis," instead of penial orifice or urethra. The doctors who know what those big words mean don't have to read UPFRONT to learn about VD.

And because gonorrhea is so wide-spread--only the common cold is more prevalent--I wish the article had pointed out in no uncertain terms that gonorrhea is a localized disease, that where you catch it is where it stays, and where you must be tested in order to find if you have it. That is, if a gay man contracts gonorrhea in his rectum, by being on the receiving end of rectal intercourse, then only a rectal culture won't show it, and a penis culture won't--only a rectal test. Similarly, a man who has been performing oral sex is exposing himself only to a throat infection--and only a throat culture is going to determine whether he's infected.

That's very, very important for gay men to know, since many doctors and public-health VD clinics don't offer throat cultures or rectal cultures, unless the patient asks for them himself.

That's even true of the City of Houston's VD clinics, which the article mentions, or at least it was so in 1975 when I went in for a routine checkup. The fine and dedicated staff members assumed that every man who came in for tests was heterosexual and offered only a penis culture. In order to be fully sure that I was healthy, I had to ask for a throat culture--as should anyone who has been performing oral sex. And anyone who has been receiving rectal intercourse should also be ready to ask for a rectal culture.

If Houston's city VD clinics have changed their policies, if they now offer every man who comes in a throat culture and a rectal culture, in addition to the usual penis culture, that's a fine news story that perhaps UPFRONT should report promptly. For it means that health treatment for gay men in Houston has entered the big leagues, as it did earlier in New York City, Minneapolis, San Francisco and other cities, where all three tests are routinely offered to every man who comes in for testing.

But if not, if Houston men are all assumed to be heterosexual and if gay men have to know which tests to ask for, it's something UPFRONT's readers need to know.

Howard Erickson

Call for unity

In the weeks since Town Meeting I the controversies over many of the issues surrounding that event have

yet to be resolved. There is rhetoric at one end of the spectrum that calls Town Meeting I "a huge closet". At the other end is the cry for the total destruction of the photographic record. Between these are many and diverse views about the disposition of these issues.

The mitigation and settlement of these various interests is vital to the development of our community into a viable political force. So often hindering this development are the difficulties encountered when lesbians and gay men attempt to work together. Many bemoan the resulting controversies as though the Gay Movement in Houston is crumbling. That is far from the case.

Necessary to the settlement of the diversity in this community is an atmosphere in which men and women work together in trust and with some consensus of purpose. For this to take place, affirmative action needs to be taken. The accomplishment of the transition from a "gay movement", predominantly male, to a "sexual rights movement", including both men and women, will not take place overnight. But happen it will, and the community born of it will be one of real unity--the same unity that Town Meeting I was supposed to create.

In many instances, embracing the women's movement is a difficult experience for a gay man. Difficult because the issue is not one external to the gay community in which he lives. On the face of the issue, he endorses it because it is politically

healthy to do so. But that is not enough. He must embrace its principles as well, because they speak to the same equality that he is striving for. For somewhat obscure reasons, a gay man, once cast in the midst of members of the opposite sex striving for sexual equality, often feels threatened.

He should realize that the vindication of the issue of equality for women is a necessary prelude to the attainment of the rights that he is so avidly standing up for. It is delusion to believe that the American public will enact equal rights for homosexual men *after* rejecting equality for women. If gay men indeed are willing to commit themselves to sexual equality, both in terms of preference and gender, they should perhaps reassess some previously misplaced emphasis in the tone and direction of the Gay Movement.

The requisite affirmative action is more than the gay man merely extending his hand to his lesbian sister in an invitation to work with him. She so often views this action as a overture devoid of sincerity. What they both have failed to do is to create an atmosphere in which they both feel comfortable working together--an atmosphere in which the commonality of their ultimate aims brings them beyond the point of bigotry against each other. That unity is vital to our cause. It is incumbent upon us all to strive for it, with efforts that come from the heart, as well as from the mind.

Bill Lake

RECRUITING?

The Executive and Professional Association of Houston is actively seeking new members involved in Houston's dynamic Gay business community. If you would like to become involded in an organization that provides a forum for the interchange of ideas and information important to the entire Gay community contact us today.