

UPFRONT

25¢

AUGUST 29, 1979

HOUSTON, TEXAS

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 18

HPD'S LESBIAN
ADVISOR

TEXAS GAY
CONFERENCE 6



Warner Roberts at #s



WOMEN

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Newsfront

gay lawyer tapped for police board

HOUSTON-Patricia O'Kane, a lesbian attorney with a long history of involvement within this city's gay political community, was among the six citizens named last week by Mayor Jim McConn to the recently expanded Police Advisory Committee for Continued Improvement. According to some reports, O'Kane was one of several prospective appointees suggested to the mayor by the powerful Gay Political Caucus. Rev. Charles Larsen of the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection was designated as O'Kane's alternate.

The 21-member committee, which includes 15 other persons nominated by community organizations, was created earlier this year to work with the Police Department in solving problems, improving relations between the police and the community, and defuse continuing community pressures for a police review board. McConn was quick to point out that the board's role was strictly advisory and that it would not function as a police review board.

In a telephone interview following the announcement of her appointment, O'Kane characterized the additional six appointments, which included several members of minority groups critical of the current municipal administration, as "an afterthought...but necessary". "My appointment came about only after much lobbying and is a clear indication of the political clout of the gay community. It gives gays the hope that the gay voice will be heard. I just hope the other members of the committee see (gays) as another constituency to be served."

O'Kane said she planned to contact as many of the established gay organizations as possible in an effort to gain community ideas as to the content of the committee agenda.

"The mayor says the committee is to be totally advisory. We will see how effective it will be. That will be determined by the amount of contact we have with the mayor and the community. If the various groups fail to use the committee, we will have no more effect than if the mayor and police chief ignore us. It's a two-way street. I expect no problems of this type from gays. We have waited too long to have a voice not to use it."

gpc documentation begins "phase 2"

HOUSTON-Darvin Wright, Director of Public Relations for Houston Gay Political Caucus, has announced the activation of Operation Documentation, Phase 2. Phase 2 is planned as a method of documenting cases of abuse, harassment, and discrimination faced by some members of the gay minority when dealing with certain businesses serving and operating within the gay community.

According to Wright, "With the Houston gay community becoming one of the leaders of the national gay movement, it is for each of us to make certain that our community does not reflect the bigotry, prejudice, and discrimination we face daily in 'straight' society". Wright went on to say "The Gay Political Caucus recognizes that the majority of businesses, bars, etc. have been very supportive of community activities. It is the small group of businesses whose practice it is to support and/or encourage harassment and abuse of gay minorities that Phase 2 is being directed toward".

Victims of or witnesses to any incident of discrimination by a gay or gay supported business are urged to call the GPC office at 526-2668.

nat'l march's 800 # off - may be discontinued

NEW YORK CITY-The 24 hour National Transportation Center toll free information phone number (800-528-7382) of the National March On Washington For Lesbian And Gay Rights has been temporarily discontinued without a forwarding message or number. The 800 number had been servicing approximately 400-500 calls per week at the time the service was halted; the final decision regarding the information service's future will be made sometime after this deadline.

According to Eric Rofes of the march's New York City headquarters, the funding for the four-line toll free number is undergoing a staff review. Current funding problems materialized when previous funding commitments arranged by Policy Committee member Ray Hill of Houston expired without replacement resources being readily available. The funding difficulties accentuated previously existing administrative and supervisory problems involving the 800 number's daily operations and resulted in the number's suspension until an informed decision regarding the information service's future could be reached.

If the service is to be resumed in the future, it will be with overhauled personnel and with decision-making procedures firmly under the control of national officials of the march. Previously the information service was controlled out of the Los Angeles-Southern California march committee.

Scattered rumors of impropriety which accompanied the unexpected decision to examine the information service's contributions to the march effort, have been traced to a single person no longer involved in any official capacity with the march.

police report

HOUSTON-"They better get an injunction, because on Sept. 2, I intend to be there," said Houston Police Chief Harry Caldwell in response to questions regarding a suit filed by noted Houston attorney Clyde Woody challenging the new Texas anti-pornography law to become effective September 1. According to a report published in the Houston Chronicle, a group of 25 adult book store, movie theater and novelty shop owners have filed suit on 28 district attorneys, police chiefs and sheriffs in cities around the state to prevent enforcement of the law. Among other remedies, the suit seeks a temporary restraining order and preliminary and permanent injunctions declaring the law unconstitutional.

Caldwell went on to say, "The smartest thing they could do was to include me, because I can assure you I intend to enforce this statute very aggressively."

"They are trying to use the constitutional safeguards to pump this smut into the community. There is too much slime hiding behind the Constitution."

Unlike the recent past when Caldwell has taken every opportunity to point out the critical shortage of police in Houston, always linking it to the city's dramatic jump in murders, he made no mention of the 44% increase in homicides in the Chronicle article. Neither did the police chief detail the number of officers that would be assigned to cleaning up the city's reading material.

Meanwhile, adult book stores throughout the city are jammed day and night, with shoppers, many in the 21 to 35 age group, purchasing sexually related books and articles at greatly reduced prices.

In the past those materials seized by the HPD as obscene which have not disappeared after arriving at the Police Station, have been incinerated. Historically, these book burnings are not open to the public.

Newsfront

md benefit comes to women's club

HOUSTON-Just Marion & Lynn's, a Montrose-area club serving the women's community, joined the growing list of gay organizations and businesses raising funds for mainline charities in 1979. The Second Annual Muscular Dystrophy Benefit staged there in mid-August raised approximately \$1,000 from the overflow crowd. The money, which will be used to finance research into the cause and cure of the disease which cripples without regard for sexual preference, will be presented to Houston television personality Ron Stone during the Channel 2 MD Telethon in September.

The benefit featured performances by amateur and professional entertainers of both sexes ranging from ecdysiasts to female impersonators. Owner Marion, appearing as her famous clown character, closed the show with a special performance.

In a related development, Just Marion & Lynn's has announced a change in its alcoholic beverage permit effective sometime next month. Starting in September patrons will be able to purchase mixed drinks as well as the complete line of current beverages.

teacher attacked by briggs sues

HEALDSBURG-An elementary school teacher who found himself at the center of last year's unsuccessful anti-gay initiative is suing those he blames for the affair. Listed as defendants in the \$3.5 million suit by Larry Berner are California State Senator John Briggs, author and chief proponent of the measure, his campaign organization, a Healdsburg school trustee, and KNBC television of Los Angeles.

During the drive for the initiative to ban homosexual teachers from the public schools, KNBC broadcast a commercial featuring school trustee Lee Lee allegedly slandering Berner as "a second grade teacher who uses his status to flaunt his homosexuality to our... children". After broadcasting what Berner contends was the false charge by Lee and Briggs that he used his classroom to proselytize for gay rights, KNBC refused Berner's request for equal time to reply.

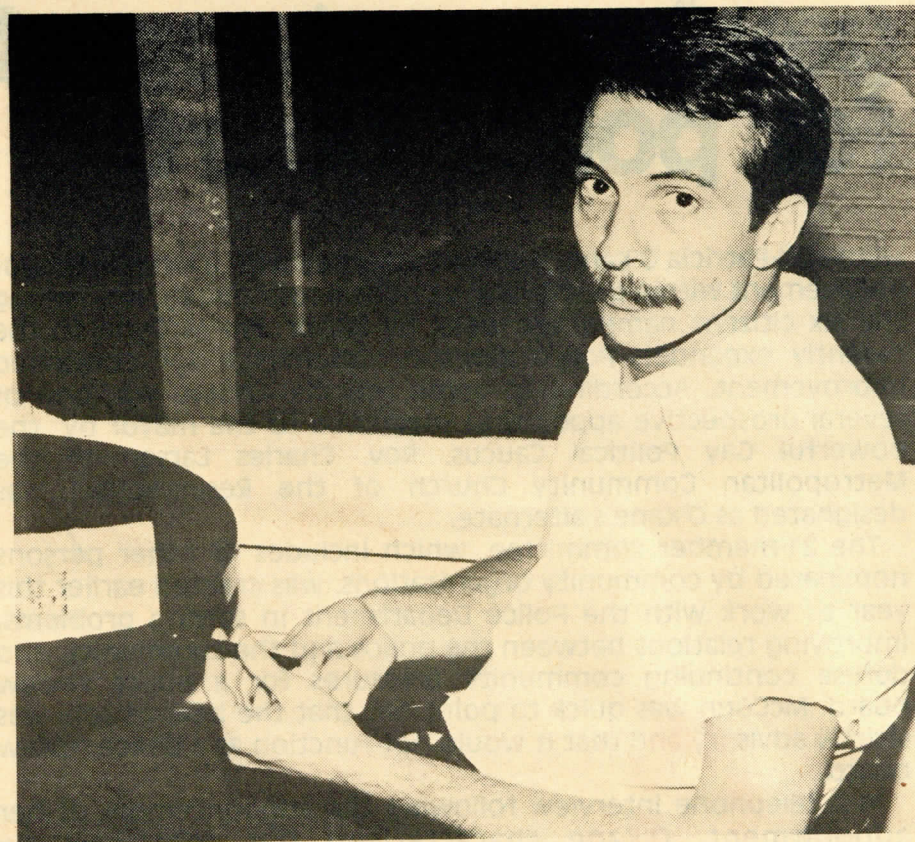
KNBC, Briggs and Lee are being sued for \$1 million each. Briggs' campaign organization, California Defend Our Children, is included in the suit for \$500,000 in punitive damages. Berner is being represented in court by the Gay Rights Advocates (see story page 33) of San Francisco.

During the heat of the campaign, Briggs is accused of having made the statement, "We don't allow necrophiliacs to be morticians. We've got to be crazy to allow homosexuals who have an affinity for young boys to teach our children".

african queens?

WOODSTOCK, South Africa-The graduating class of coeducational Queen's Park High School was suspended for attending school in drag. According to UPI, the students were punished because they chose to celebrate the last 40 days of the term with a joke that involved swapping clothes prior to morning assembly. Principal Greg Gilmore missed the humor of the situation and suspended the entire 100 member class on the spot, ordering the students to go home, dress properly and return with their parents.

The suspended students were apparently unconcerned, with one young wag describing the affair as "just a big drag".



upwardly mobile-Charles W. Clinton, Jr. lately of the Upfront Editorial Staff, has been promoted to Managing Editor of the gay bi-weekly. Clinton is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi where he majored in journalism. Upfront is currently undertaking a major expansion into other predominantly gay markets in Texas and around the United States.

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Upfront was founded in 1978 by the Montrose Activity Center in Houston, Tx.

Editorials

City Desk

broadening our base

The strides made by Houston's gay people in the last three years have been nothing short of phenomenal. In that short expanse of time, homosexuals have moved from the position of political pariah to one of admiration and influence. The endorsement of gay leaders and organizations is actively sought by many candidates. The Gay Political Caucus is recognized as one of the most politically potent organizations in the county with a solid record of controlling the gay boxes of the Montrose over the past two years.

Happily, I can and do point with pride to my own short but, I think, effective service as GPC's first Political Action Coordinator and as one of several people whose combined efforts led to the GPC sweep of the last Democratic precinct conventions in the Montrose. This took place in a period when the only sensible choice for gay people in Houston was to concentrate our efforts and try to gain a toehold inside the Texas Democratic Party.

We were successful and the earlier trickle of Democratic aspirants seeking gay support has become a virtual flood. GPC leaders have access to members of the legislature, at least one congressperson, members of the city administration and a number of other office holders, almost all of them Democrats. GPC's President, Vice President and Political Action Coordinator are now considered part of the liberal Democratic coalition, their opinions respected and their votes coveted. Originally a non-partisan organization, GPC is successfully playing the game of coalition politics as played in the Democratic Party.

But what about the Republicans? The Governor is one, as are many of the top officers in the county government and numerous members of the Harris County Delegation to the Legislature. As we see single member districts established in Houston, we can be sure several will become the private domain of the Republican Party.

Continued on page 31

Vantage Point

a pleasant sunday afternoon

I have just returned from visiting the Castro Street Fair in San Francisco where 40,000 gay men and women assembled along several blocks of Castro Street to enjoy a pleasant Sunday afternoon together. Along the perimeter and down the side streets were commercial displays of gay entrepreneurs showing their wares, services, and/or talents. Scattered in between these were organizations proudly touting their achievements and asking for continued community support. At opposite ends of this multi-block extravaganza were stages upon which excellent entertainment was performed, much to the delight of all within sight and hearing. Judged by any standard, the day-long event was highly successful.

However, it was neither the performances nor the separate displays that convinced me that the Castro Street Fair was successful. It was the people, being themselves. I was impressed by their fun-loving attitude, flamboyancy, and of course, the thousands of smiling, friendly faces that kept flowing past hour after hour.

It is to those people that we dedicate ten pages of photographs in this issue. The pictures are of only a few of the participants, but they do represent the group well.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words. If that's so, then enjoy an 80,000 word essay on what it's like being gay together during one special Sunday afternoon in San Francisco...Compliments of Upfront.

Gary J. Van Ooteghem
Publisher

Soapbox

The Texas Legislature has a reputation among some activists in our community for being a deliberative body with a very low consciousness. Individually, there are a few foresighted and sensitive members, but as a body they govern us neither realistically nor empathetically. If we had no presence in their hallowed halls, there is no telling what breach of human dignity they would next impose upon gay Texans. We were there, however, with style and respect, and that presence produced a process by which our insistence upon equal treatment will continue to help shape the laws of this state.

The Human Rights Advocates lobbied successfully against such repressive legislation as a bill to outlaw same sex dancing in places where alcohol is served and another to restrict over-the-counter sales of poppers. HRA also achieved the deletion of a rider banning gay student organizations from state supported college and university campuses from other legislation. Although the HRA was one of two groups which appeared in committee to lobby against the new "porno law" (to become effective September 1), the inclusion of that measure in a child protection package kept most

legislators from realizing the unconstitutional provisions limiting freedom of speech and expression. Labeling it "child protection" was compelling enough to draw the necessary votes for passage and enactment into law.

We as a community have for too long regarded the Legislature's daily activities with an apathetic sense of non-concern. We tend to view the activities of that austere group in Austin as too far away to ever directly impact our lives. Well, folks, they have proven us wrong. The most recent measure, which will apparently place severe limits on what gay and straight adult bookstores are able to sell, is just one example of how quickly their opinions and concerns can move in and shove our own aside.

The time has come for our community to educate the lawmakers in Austin on our lifestyles, our strengths and our problems. The process may be slow but it will get nowhere without our continued efforts to monitor the subjects they consider and the laws they pass. The presence of the Human Rights Advocates in the statehouse was more than a step forward for human rights. It was a concerted and organized beginning to the repeal of laws which prohibit the gay lifestyle and victimize gay people in the name of misguided morality.

Bill Lake

Mr. Lake is the member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Gay Task Force representing the Eastern District (including Houston, Beaumont, and Galveston as well as a portion of East Texas). He served as Parliamentarian for last summer's historic Town Meeting and is involved in a number of community projects and organizations. His comments in this issue follow TGF's recent successful Texas Gay Conference 6. For more on TGC6, see page 6.

sixth annual texas gay conference

AUSTIN—Approximately 200 gay men and women gathered in the shadow of the Texas Capitol for a weekend of shared experiences, learning opportunities, reports on the progress of the gay movement in the diverse regions of Texas, and planning for the Texas Gay Task Forces' electoral and lobbying projects. Sectionalism, always a problem in Texas, became more apparent than ever before in Texas' gay movement as the conference divided along mass (broad-based grass roots organization) versus elitist (oriented toward leadership from above).

Between sessions the conventioners partied at the hotel and in Austin's clubs and were entertained by such luminaries as Leonard Matlovich, candidate for San Francisco Supervisor, Pat Bond, lesbian/feminist comedian, and Lucia Valeska, Co-chair of the National Gay Task Force. Participants in the conference also had their pick of almost two dozen gay-related workshop subjects from which to choose. Topics included Gays in Opera, parliamentary procedures, media utilization, and health problems specific to the gay community. This last topic was a serious look at drug abuse, alcoholism, venereal disease and hepatitis by Upfront Featured Columnist Jim Lloyd.

One of the high points of the conference was the report of the successes and failures of the Human Rights Advocates in the last legislature. This was the first opportunity for most Texas gays to get a look at the fledgling HRA and the fact that it could claim some successes made it even better. In a related event, the HRA and the TGTF awarded their 1979 Appreciation Awards to Representative Lance Lalor of Houston and Senator A.R. "Babe" Schwartz. The awards were in recognition of their untiring support of human rights and specifically their work during the past legislature to insure equal treatment under the law for gays and lesbians. They carried the points of order and helped HRA remove the discriminatory and unconstitutional rider in the states general appropriations bill. The rider denied gay organizations on college and university campuses use meeting facilities and other campus services.

Under the leadership of TGTF Moderator Kathy Deitsch and members from the Northern Region, an attempt was made to activate the Lesbian & Gay Democrats of Texas (LAGDOT) as a political front for the Democrats of TGTF which could lose its favorable tax status should they become involved in partisan political activity. LAGDOT's creation caused a considerable ferment within the Houston delegation. The final decision was postponed until later.



TGTF Moderator Kathy Deitsch

we'll bring out the beast in you

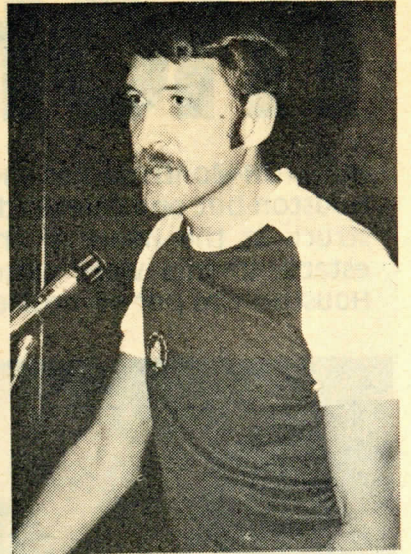


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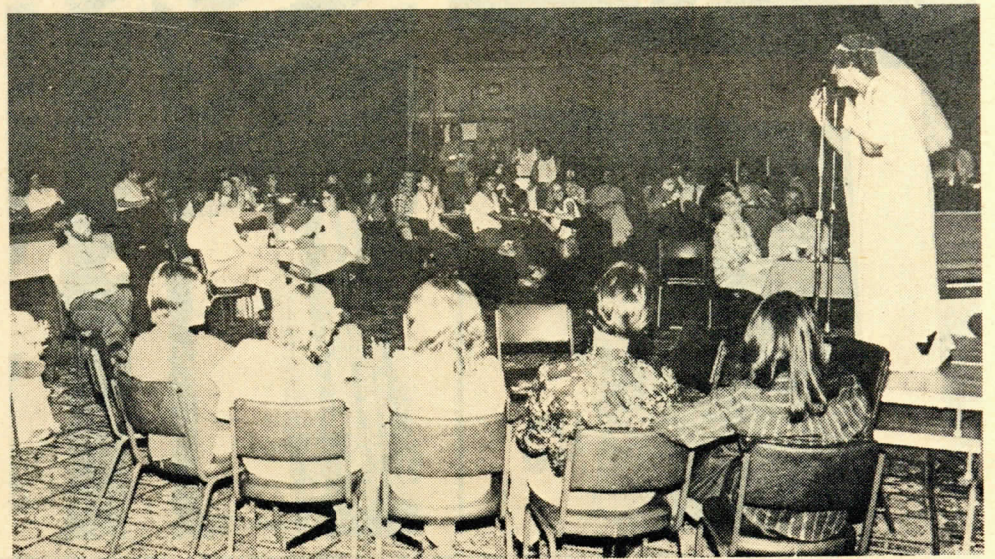
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Entertainer Pat Bond (below) and State Representative Sam Hudson (below right) were among the VIP's. Houstonians (photo at right) present included Board member Bill Lake (with glass), Ruth Raves, and Bob Fleisher.



Don Potts (above right) of Galveston delivered a stirring plea for representation and consideration of gays living outside the cities of Houston, Dallas and San Antonio. Delegates were entertained by a local troupe of comics. Included in their show (below) was a satirical portrait of President Carter's evangelist sister, Ruth Carter Stapleton.



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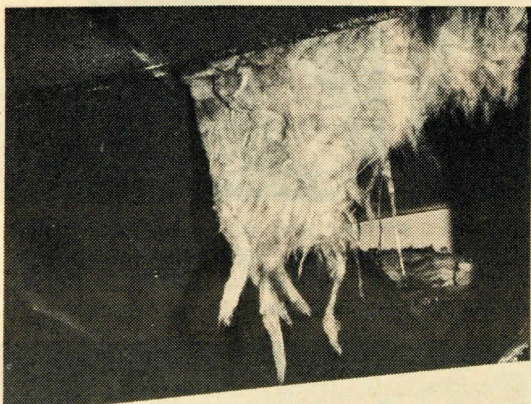
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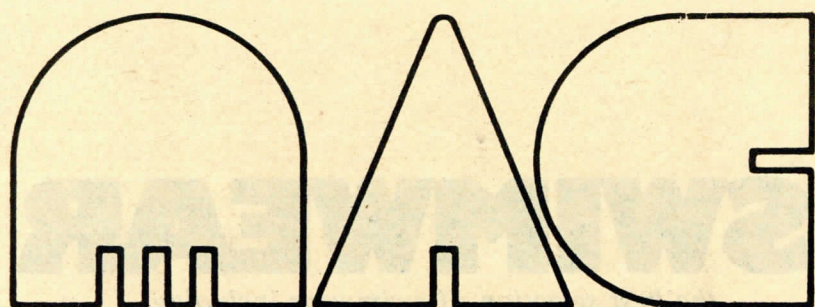
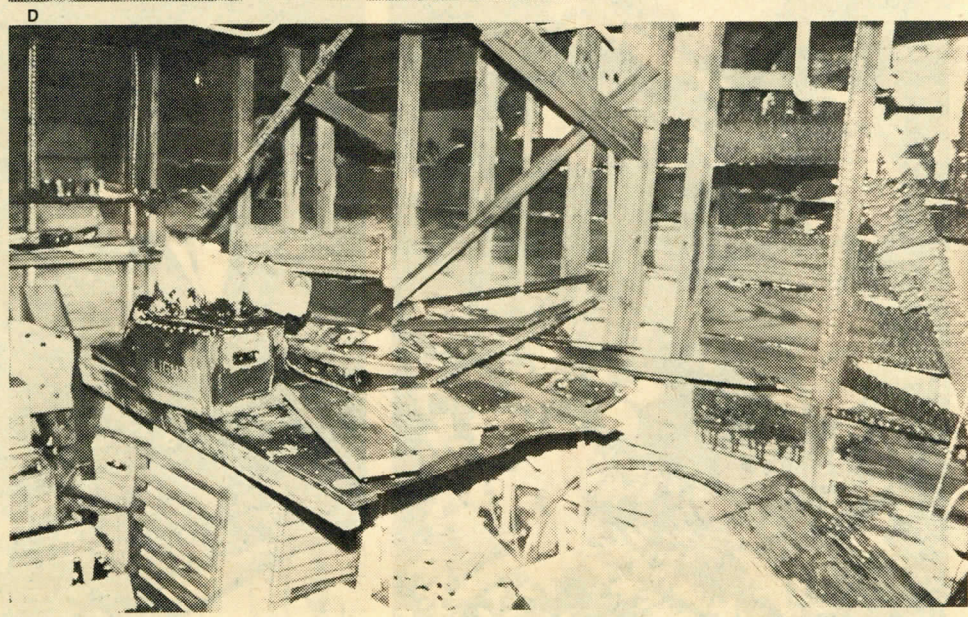
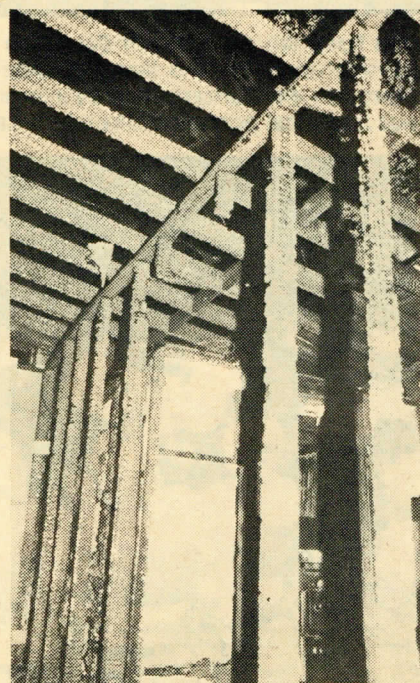
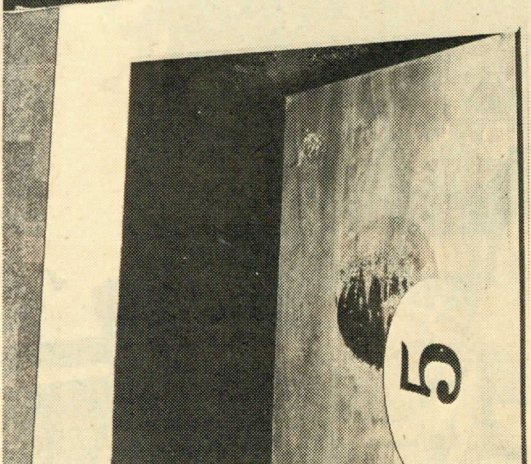
montrose fires

Upfront by J. Hardy Williams

HOUSTON-Montrose has the reputation of being the hottest part of Houston but one weekend in August things got out of hand as arson struck at the heart of the gay community. None of the burned establishments were closed for more than a few hours but gay Houston was put on notice that someone doesn't like us.



A-Professional heat bomb hit Midtowne Spa.
B-Spirit Cafe lost its air conditioning.
C&D-Silver Phoenix's storage room was a total loss.
Police arrested a Phoenix bartender and the management is considering a benefit to pay for his lawyer.



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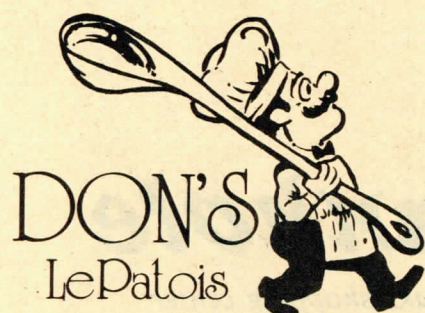
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gay bowels is not sexual preference

HOUSTON-As if there were not enough plagues to harass everyone a new disorder called "Gay Bowel Syndrome" has appeared, first in New York, then Boston, San Francisco, Washington, and now, here. It is serious enough to sometimes require hospitalization.

The beasties that cause this condition are either a bacteria called SHIGELLA (sometimes called bacillary dysentery), and the parasites GIARDIA LAMBLIA and ENTAMOEBIA HISTOLYTICA (the latter is often referred to as amoebiasis). These creatures can be transmitted from person to person by contact with the feces

either directly from oral-anal sex or indirectly from someone's fingers which are infested with fecal matter.

Sometimes people can be carriers and not show symptoms, but if such individuals are food handlers or have sexual contact with others, they can infect them. Symptoms include heavy diarrhea with blood and mucus, lots of gas and belching, stomach cramps, loss of appetite, nausea and extreme tiredness. Infection with Shigella is usually acute and short term, but infection with Giardia and Entamoeba may be persistent and recurrent, resulting in weight-loss and fatigue.

Diagnosis involves examination of stool specimens by a competent person. Patients should carefully follow the instructions of their physicians in collecting and handling the stool specimens. Several specimens may have to be examined and after treatment several more should be checked to make sure the cure is complete.

All sexual partners and roommates should be examined to prevent spread of the infection. Early treatment can prevent a lot of pain, but neglect of care can result in a very serious condition.

Jim Lloyd

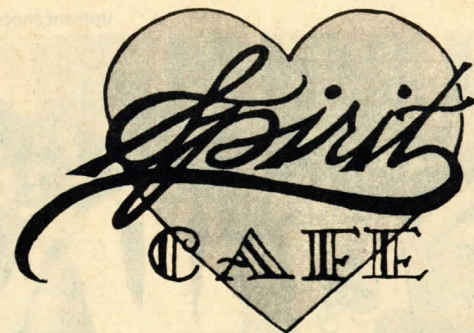


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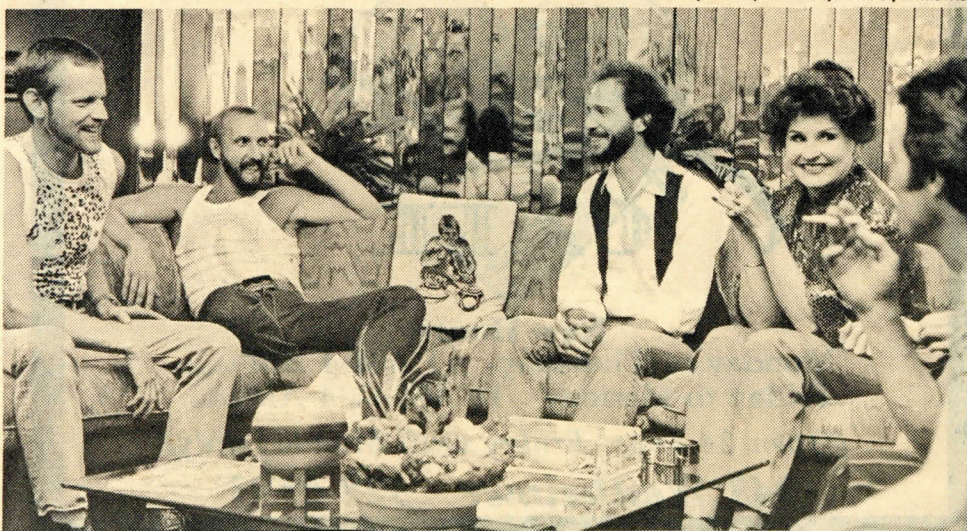
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discowarner

HOUSTON-Television personality Warner Roberts visited Numbers Disco to see why all those people are lined up outside every weekend. Included in her party were Tom Mueller and Warren Duncanson of Houston and George Weinle of New York. From Numbers they went to an after hours fund-raising party at the Montrose Activity Center. Duncanson, who is a member of the MAC Board, toured the group through the MAC, showing them the Montrose Playhouse which will open September 6 and the MAC Coffeehouse, also under construction, as well the organizational office space upstairs.

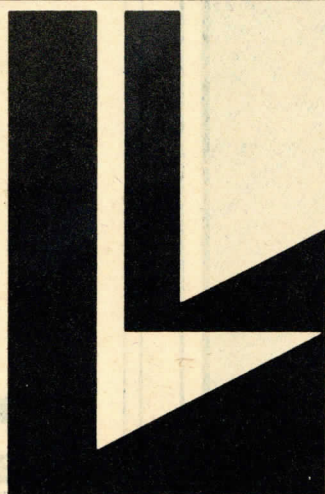
The afterhours party raised enough money to make the note on the building this month. Funding Parties are being planned for the near future to ensure the continued financing of the building.

Upfront photos by J. Hardy Williams



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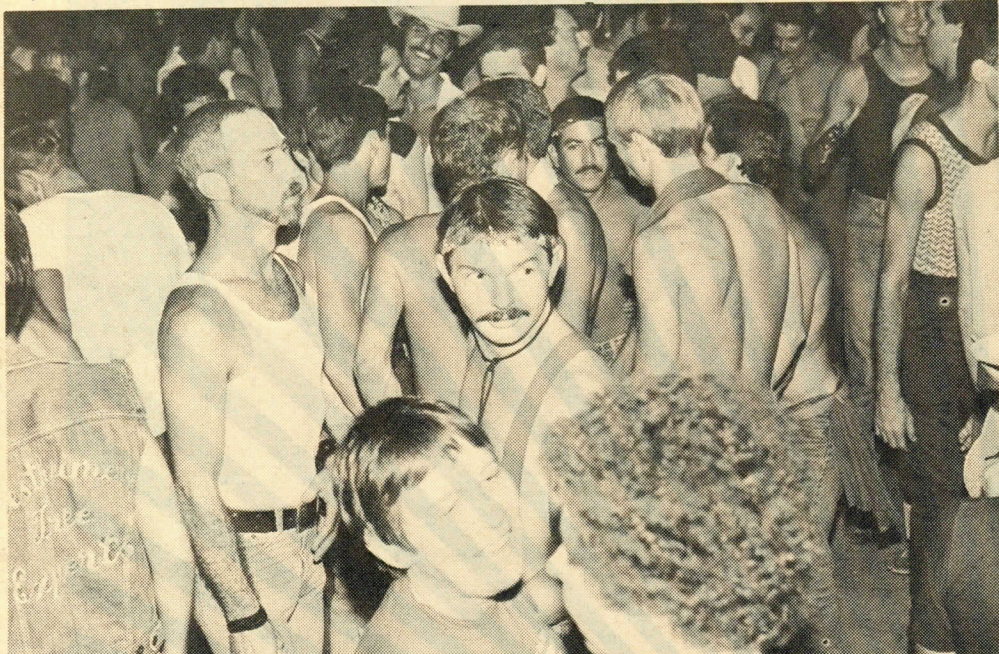


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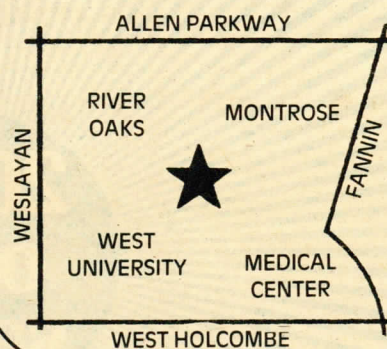


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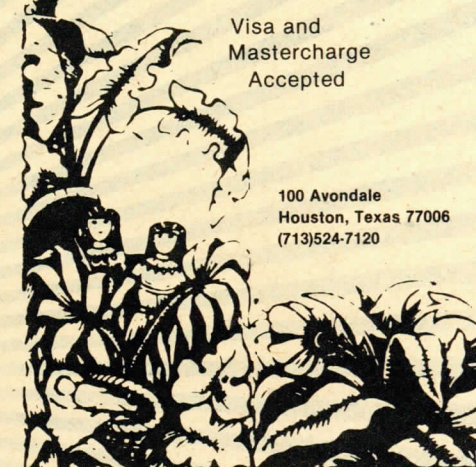


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Upfront at the flicks



shout it out a review by brent northup

HOUSTON-Alan Bates may well be Laurence Olivier's heir apparent as Britain's, and the world's, greatest actor. He has consistently delivered sensitive, thought-provoking performances in films such as "Women in Love", "The Go-Between", and "Butley". He is a rare blend of sexuality and intellectuality. In "The Shout" he is at his best—as usual.

Charles Crossley (Bates) arrives in Britain after living for eighteen years in the outback country of Australia. He brings with him mystical beliefs and powers taught to him by an aboriginal mystic. Crossley believes that during periods of moral starvation man's soul takes refuge in objects outside himself—in stones or in trees, for example. During this time our souls can be touched by others if they will only touch our "soul-stones". If they shatter that stone, we are shattered.

He also believes that one man can possess another by casting a spell on a treasured possession of the victim. Finally, he believes in his power to kill by a shout. When he screams, all living beings within earshot die instantaneously.

Crossley befriends Anthony (John Hurt) and Rachel Fielding (Susannah York). What follows is a tale of love, jealousy and terror as Crossley's sex appeal combines with his mystical power to disrupt the Fieldings' lives. Eventually Crossley is confined to an insane asylum, but not for killing a number of people with his voice. Lightning cuts short his last shout—at an assylum doctor—and Crossley dies.

Superficially "The Shout" is simply a unique horror film. This is one film, however, which shouts out for deeper analysis. "The Shout" is a mystical puzzle-box with a philosophical key.

The incredible array of seemingly unrelated visual and audial events in "The Shout" all systematically develop the theme that all men are inextricably linked to one another. Each of us holds not just our own fate in our hands, but we hold the fate of all men in our hands—and they hold ours in theirs. This interdependence is illustrated on countless levels in the film.

On the simplest level we affect one another by choosing to love, to hate or just to relate to one another. Two marriages lie at the center of this film. These chosen bonds are both disrupted, however, by outsiders.

Love, hate, jealousy—all of these are within our experience. Crossley challenges Anthony to reach beyond experience to consider other forms of interaction. At this point "The Shout" moves from the mundane to the mystical.

Throughout the film characters mystically affect one another through dreams, through soul-stones, through spells, or through shouts. In each case the effect is inevitable—try as we might, we cannot stop another person from touching our soul. Nor can we keep from touching the souls of others. Charles is helpless when Anthony shatters his soul-stone.

Since we are linked to one another, we should assume responsibility for one another. If we take our responsibility carelessly, others will suffer or die because of our actions. Even when Charles shouts on a seemingly empty beach, he unknowingly kills a shepherd, his flock, and many nearby birds. Robert Penn Warren put it best:

It was as though the vibrations set up in the whole fabric of the world by my act had spread infinitely and with ever-increasing power and no man could know the end.

Because we cannot know the end, we must control the beginning.

THE SHOUT, directed by Jerry Skolimowski in 1978; screenplay by Michael Austin; based on a story by Robert Graves; photographed by Mike Molloy; music by Anthony Banks, Michael Rutherford and Rupert Hine; released by Rank of Great Britain; running time 86 min.

Brent Northup, a Houston film critic, broadcasts a weekly talk show on film at 7:00 PM each Thursday over FM 90, radio Pacifica in Houston.





Book Review

the faggots and their friends between revolutions

HOUSTON-All those who are trying to convince everybody that homosexuals are "just like everybody else" or who don't think that there is a "Gay Mystique" will be somewhat thrown by this tiny little red book. Unlike Larry Kramer's guilt-ridden, self-denigrating "Faggots" or John Rechy's narcissistically masochistic "Sexual Outlaw", **THE FAGGOTS AND THEIR FRIENDS BETWEEN REVOLUTIONS** celebrates the joys and sorrows of the homosexual life-style in a serious yet upbeat style, expressing itself in a gentle poetic prose that delicately weaves between whimsical illustrations like the point and counterpoint of a baroque concerto.

"The first revolutions destroyed the great cultures of the women"-leaving the men in control. The second revolutions made some people less poor and a few men without color rich. Meanwhile the ever clever faggots and their friends have managed to live in the best places while the men, paranoiacly attempting to preserve their power, attempt to shore up crumbling empires.

Originally intended as a children's book, Faggots and their Friends would seem to be just that to anyone living outside the faggots' world. For those who live within that environment, it combines a powerful political statement with a child's honest portrayal of the beauty and meaning of love, fantasy and romance.

The men have the power and make decisions about who is to be hated, including "those without cocks, those who are hungry involuntarily, those who refuse to work assiduously, those who want to play always, those who

Continued next page

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**"A
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OF A
HOMOSEXUAL
LIFE!"**

KEVIN THOMAS
Los Angeles Times



NIGHTHAWKS

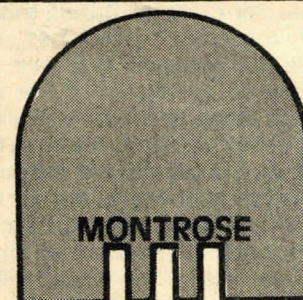
A COMPLEX PORTRAIT
OF A GAY TEACHER

GREENWAY

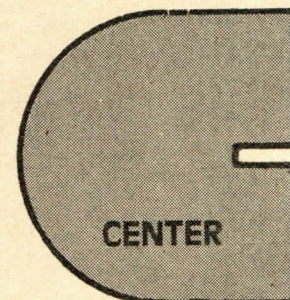


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do not believe in male worship, those born with color and those who love their own kind". The men fear the faggots because the faggots are not afraid to be men.

The faggots live among the ruins of places devastated and abandoned by men. Within them they create magical spaces in which to live out their lives and fantasies. The men wear only gray but the faggots wear all the colors. When the men wear short hair the faggots let theirs grow to the knee and when the men let their hair grow and wear colors the faggots shave their heads and don black leather. The men are naturally confused and in their confusion become angry and aggressive, attacking and brutalizing the faggots and their friends. The men have no friends because they will not allow themselves to feel; the faggots have lots of friends.

Among the friends of the faggots are the Queens, the Fairies, the Women not in bondage to the men and the Women who love other Women. The Queens are bizarre, outrageous, madly individualistic creatures, luxuriating in tinsel and glitter, who think the faggots are cute, though they sometimes chide the faggots for being so serious and looking alike. The Queens go into the streets with the faggots during revolutions. The Fairies usually live in the country, tending their plants, but sometimes create fabulous gardens in the ruins of the city. The Fairies do not work hard, preferring instead to sing and dance, especially with faggots. The Women have tended the men's needs and whims for eons and teach the faggots how to use men and triumph over them without the men's ever knowing what is happening. The Women teach the men that "the more fuzzies you give, the more fuzzies you get". The Women help the faggots learn about survival.

The Queens would like to be friends of the faggots but live, work and act like the men, but with less enthusiasm. They are continually apologizing to the men for not living with their families in the suburbs like the men. The men know the Queens look like men and act like men, but they are not men. The Queens are very disturbing to the men. But the faggots, Queens and Fairies also make the Queens very nervous as well.

The men love to file, sign and accumulate papers as evidence of their power. They can never have enough papers. The Fairies use papers to start fires and wrap their plants in winter. The faggots throw their papers out during spring cleaning and the Queens use theirs in the toilet.

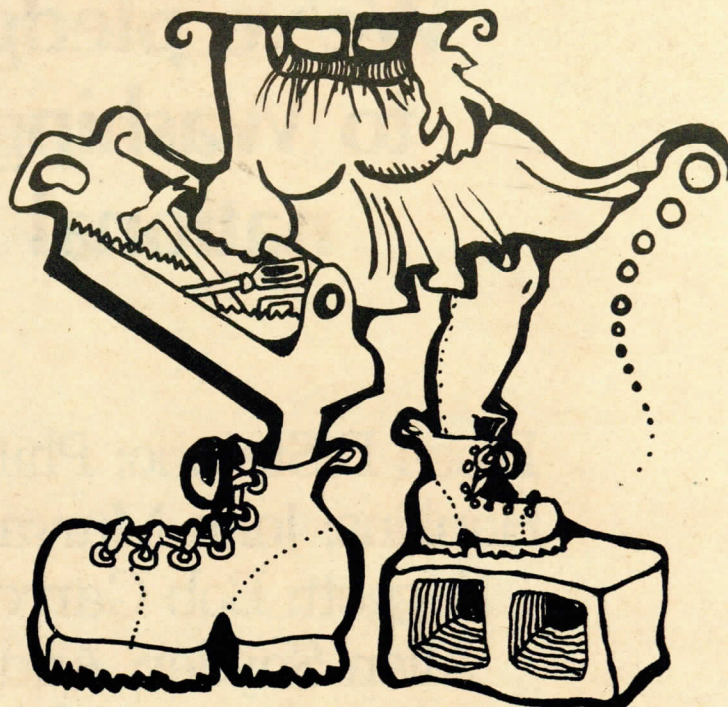
If you live in the gay world, you will not have any trouble recognizing yourself or your friends. But don't be surprised if you see yourself as a Faggot Queen or on your way to becoming a Fairie Faggot.

Jim Lloyd



Faggot Wisdom

There is more to be learned from wearing a dress for a day, than there is from wearing a suit for a lifetime.



THE FAGGOTS AND THEIR FRIENDS BETWEEN REVOLUTIONS.
Text by Larry Mitchell. Illustrations by Ned Asta. Calamus Books, 323 N. Geneva Street, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. 1977.

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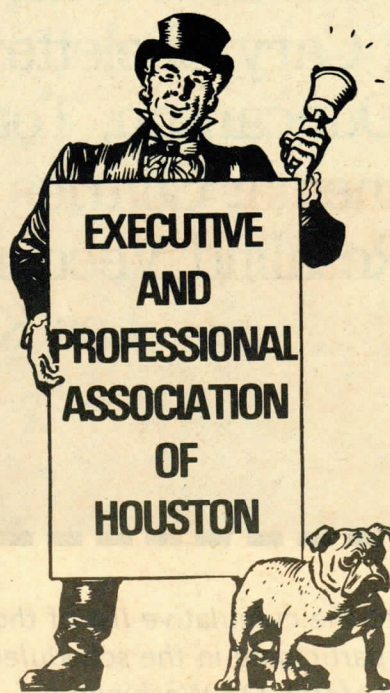
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Castro Street Fair '79



CASTRO STREET FAIR

Upfront photos by Gary Van Ooteghem



castro street fair '79



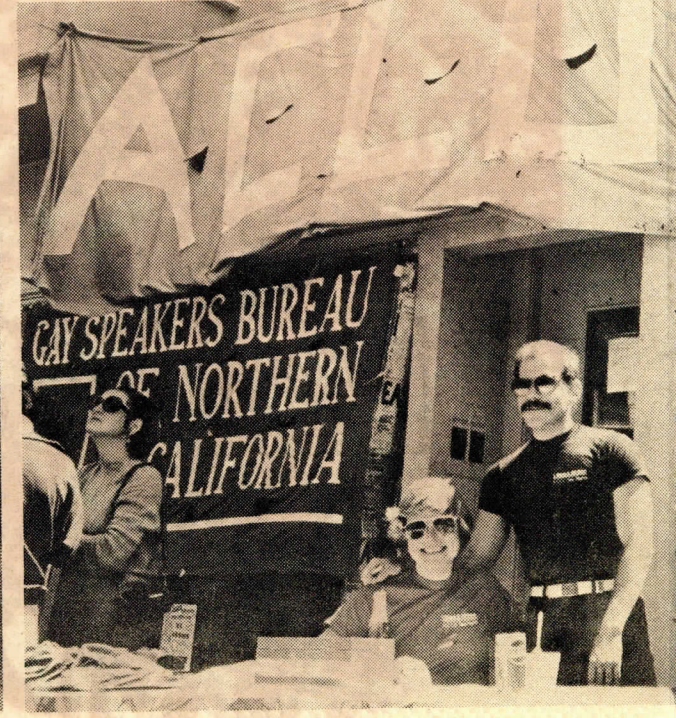
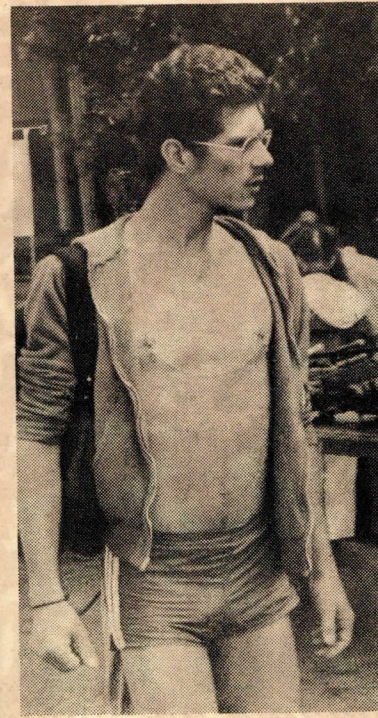
San Francisco is the classic American melting pot. It's the synthesis of every trend, fad, style, course or drift to hit these shores in the past 200 years. It is their last haven. They can travel no farther west. Here, where East meets West, they must make their stand. They must survive or disappear. In what other climate could gay people have blossomed so completely.

The home (above) of Upfront staffer Jeff Baggett proves that you can take the queen out of Texas but you can't take Texas out of the queen.

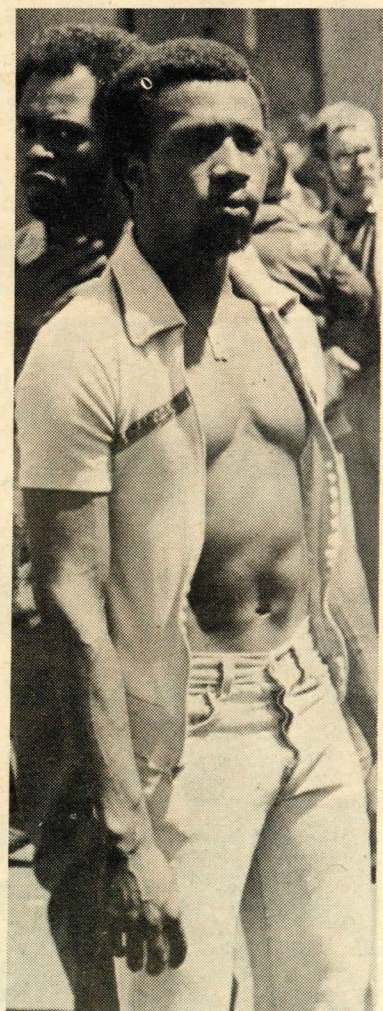
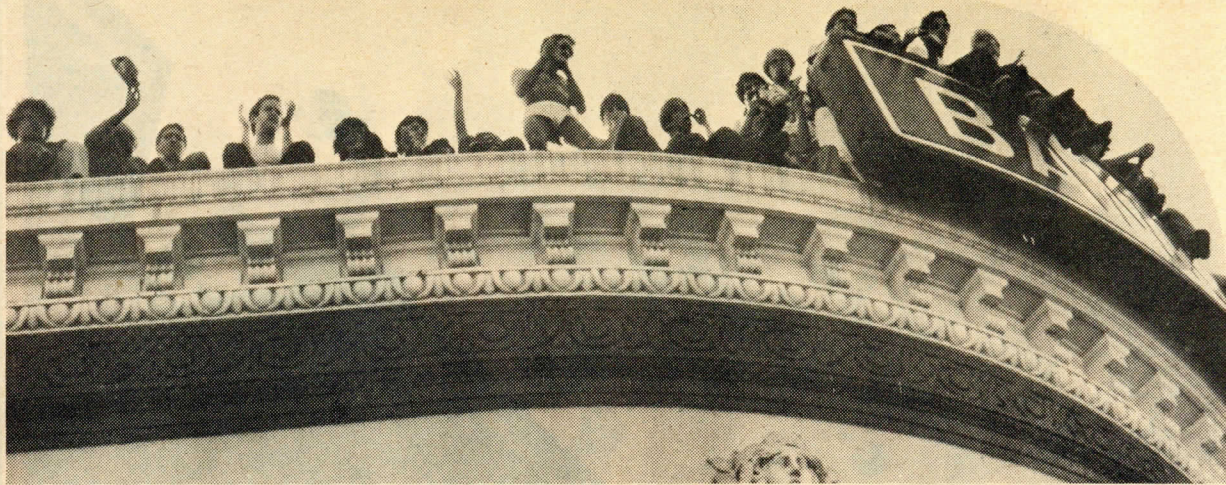
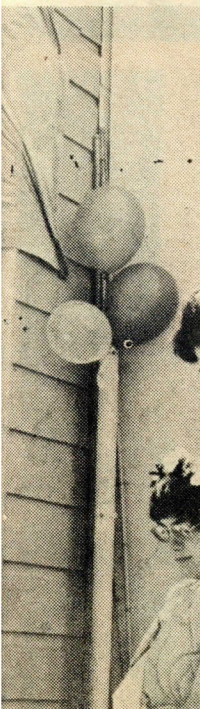
Author, athlete, after dinner speaker, activist and auto salesperson, Dave Kopay (upper right) joins the madding crowd on Castro.

The only all gay chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (below left) was represented on Castro Street, spreading the word about personal freedom and civil rights to anyone who would listen.

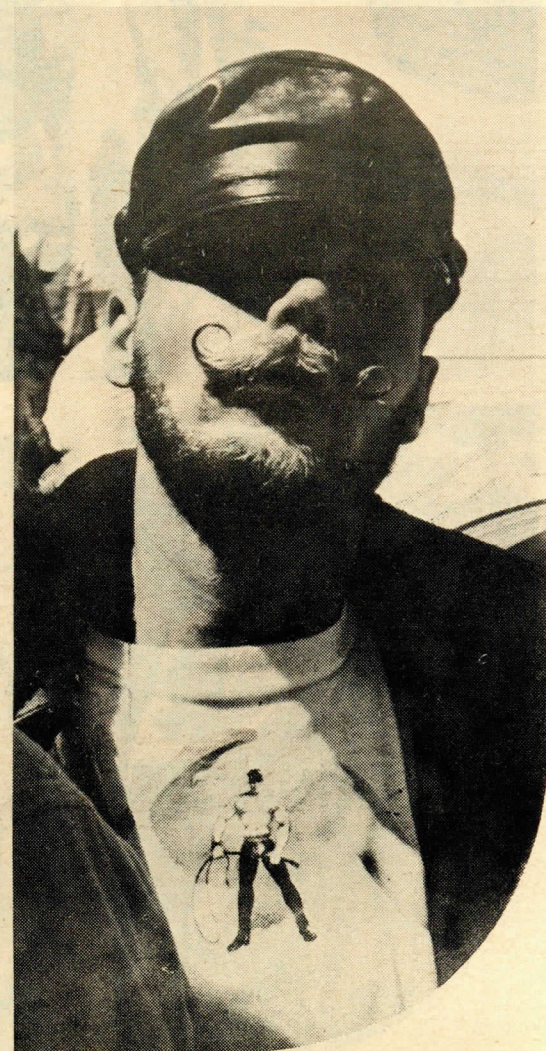
David Miranda (left) of Los Angeles took a short vacation from that city's justly famous 8709 Bathhouse and came to an entire neighborhood that seems as free as a steam bath.

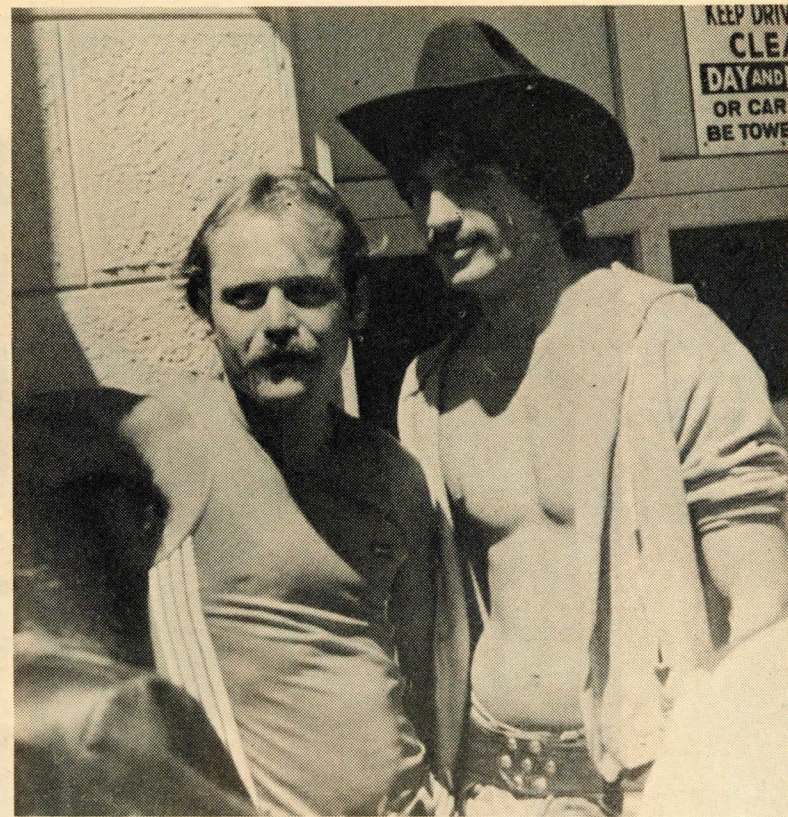
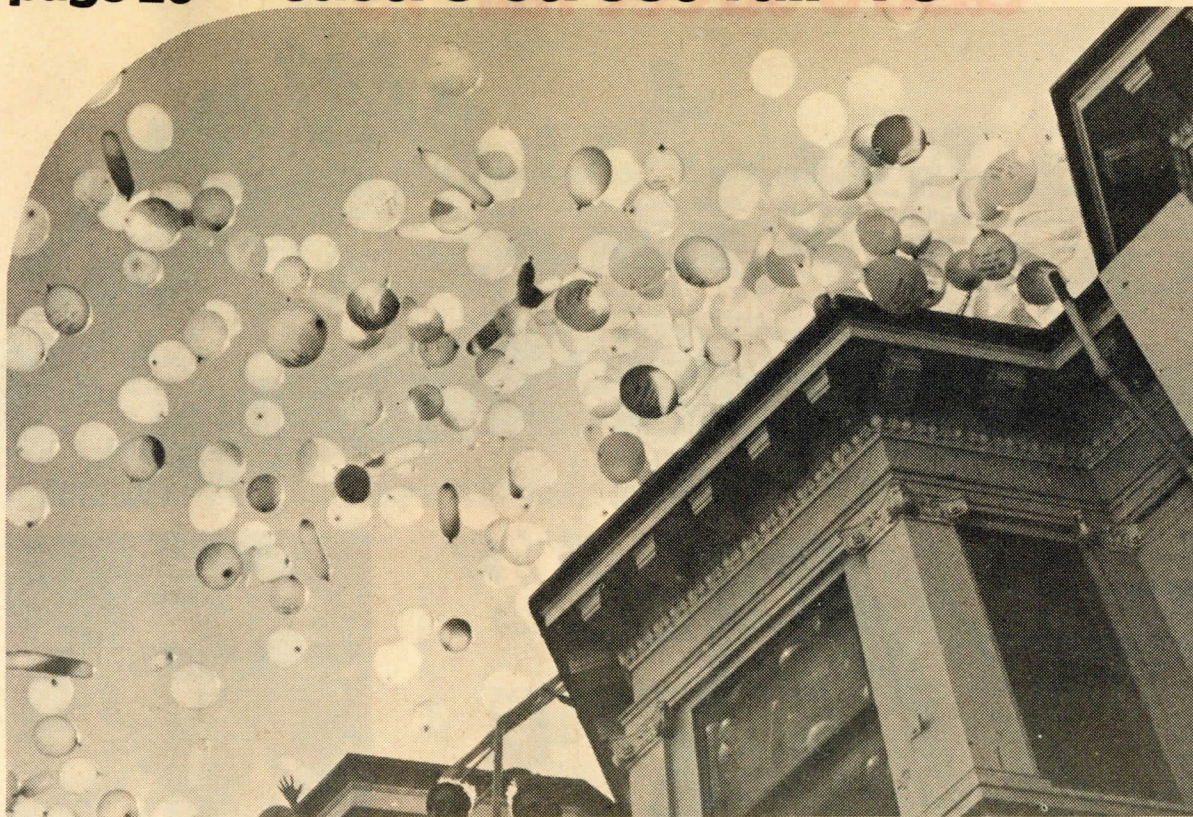


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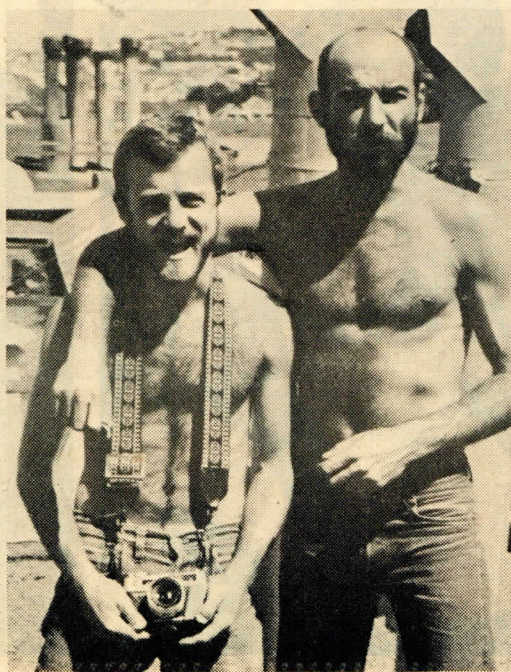
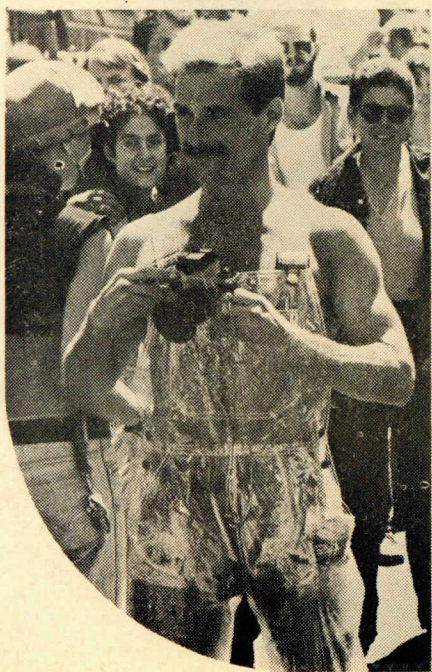
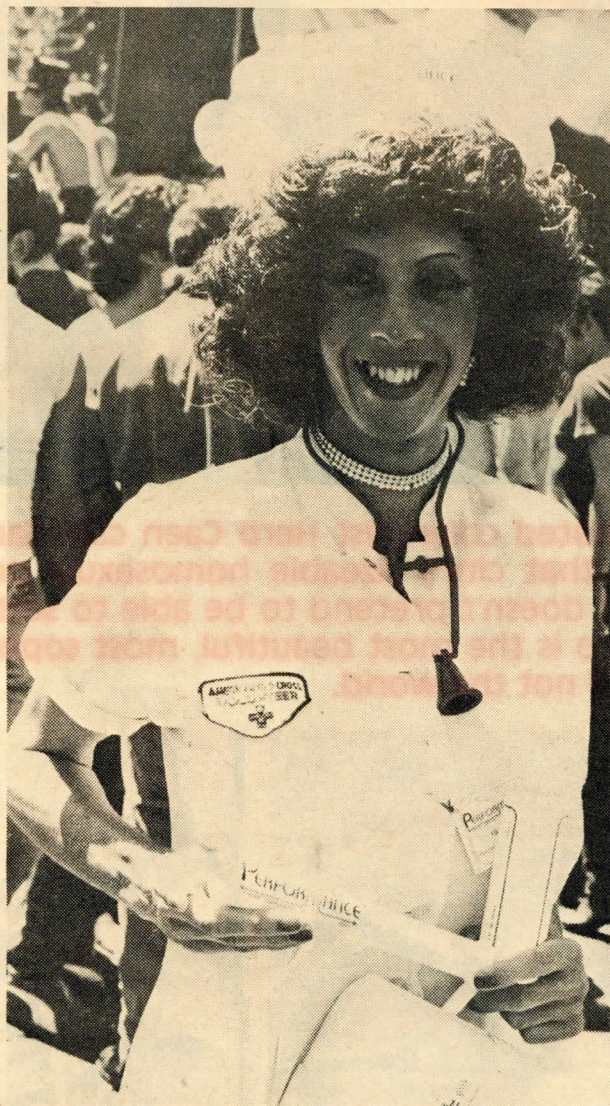


Syndicated columnist Herb Caen calls San Francisco the "capital of kookdom"; among that city's sizeable homosexual population are many who call it "Oz". Upfront doesn't pretend to be able to settle the debate but for our money, San Francisco is the most beautiful, most sophisticated, most free city in the United States, if not the world.

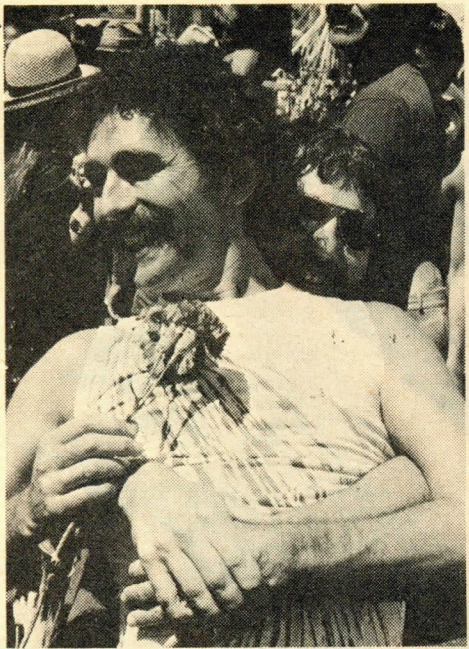




Ask anyone who has returned recently from the "city by the bay", what is it that sets San Francisco apart from the rest of this country? It isn't the hills, or the bay, or the buildings. All of those things are available in other cities, in some cases, they can be had in combinations everybit as romantic, picturesque and desirable as any vista San Francisco can offer. The charm of San Francisco lies in its people. Not just those who live there, but also the millions who are at home there, on its hills, strolling the streets, looking, seeing, and... being seen. They make the city richly diverse and yet slightly unknown... and unknowable.



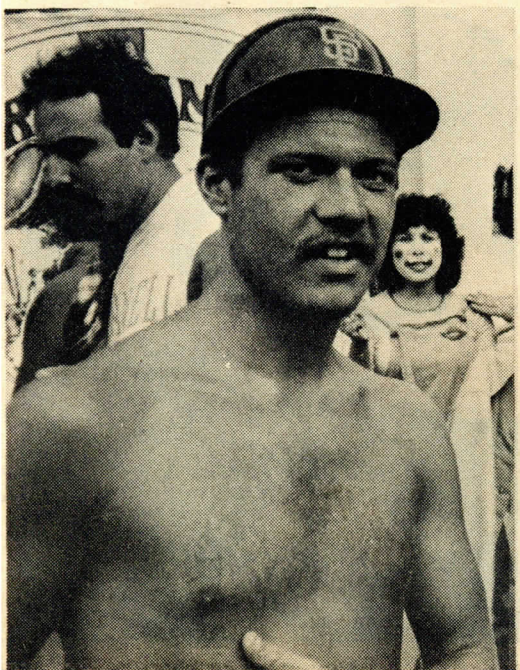
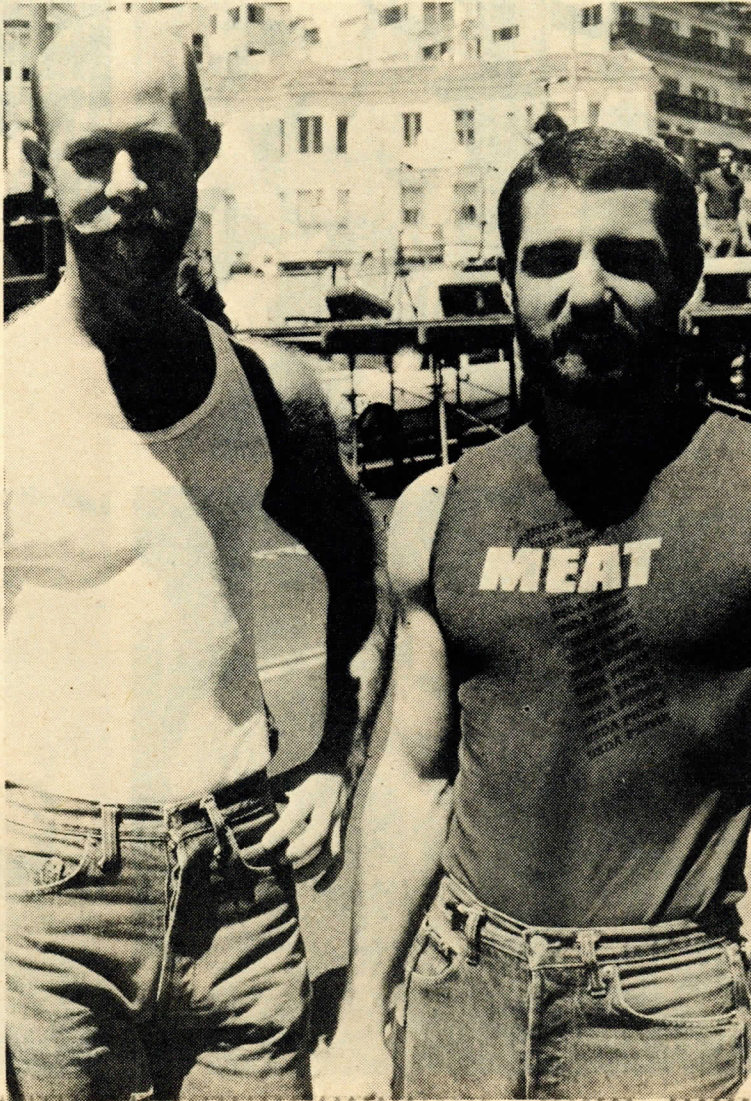
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For many people San Francisco is a stopover. A place to be for now until they can find their own private niches elsewhere.



San Francisco is an attitude, a way of approaching life. When in San Francisco, whether for 20 years or 20 minutes, life is lived, not as an obstacle to be overcome but rather as an unexpected gift to be used and enjoyed to its fullest.



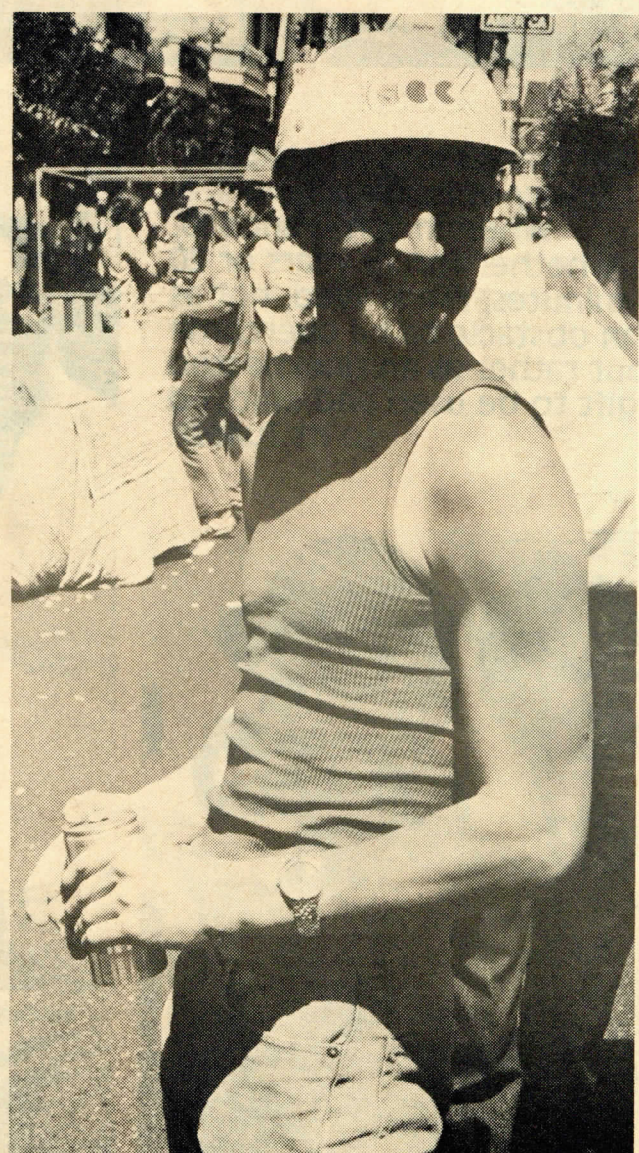
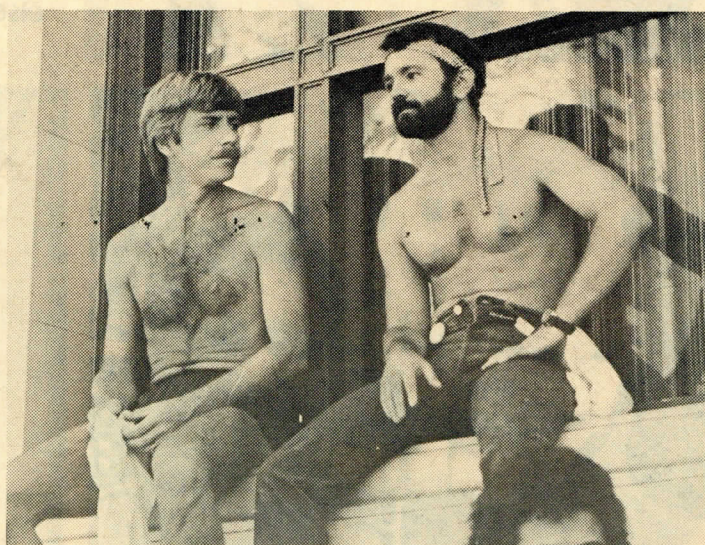
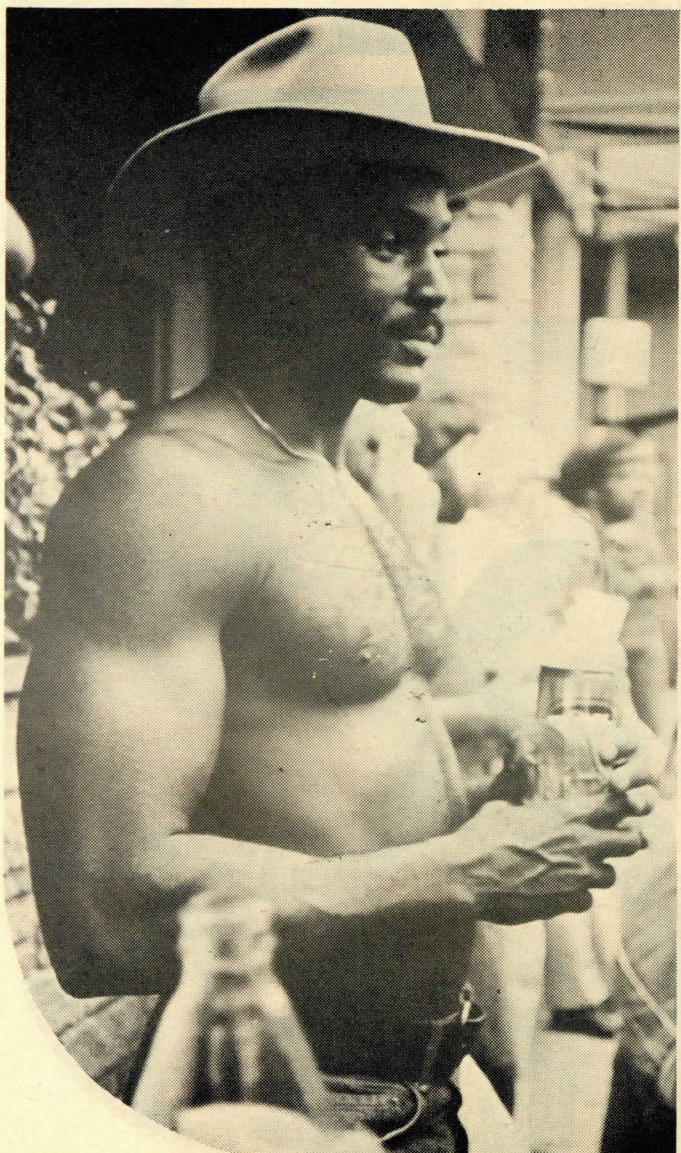


The best method available to measure the cosmopolitan nature of a city is the degree to which it practices tolerance. The debate that rages between similar cities as to the level of sophistication can usually be answered in favor of the city least involved in the argument. San Franciscans inherited the naturally accepting outlook that usually developed in a world class seaport during the last century and reinforced it with the attitudes and values of the American West. The

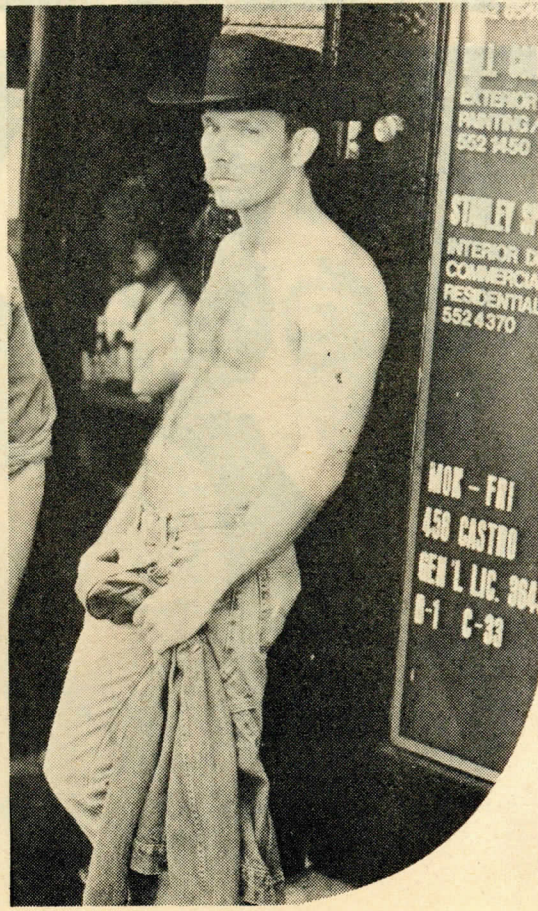
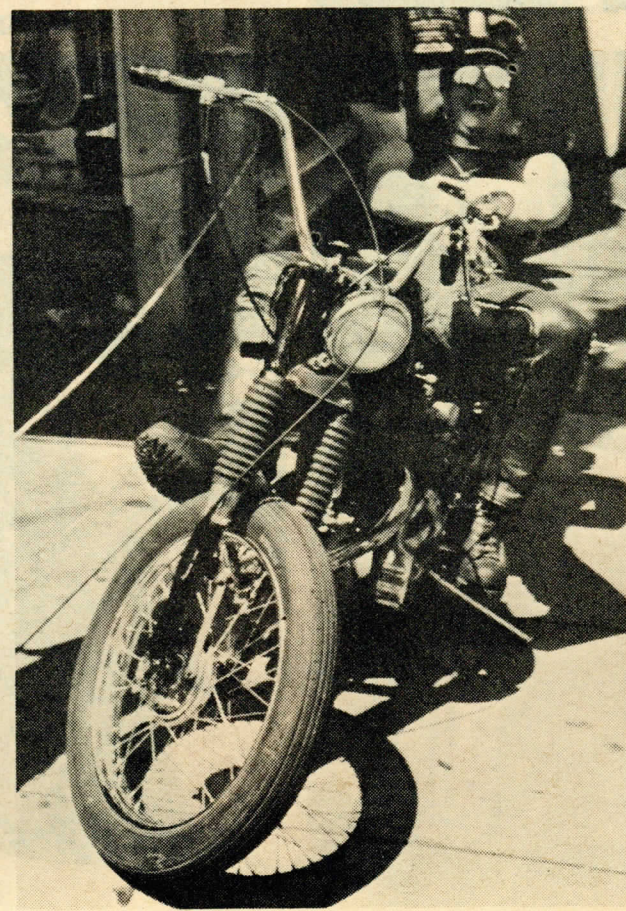
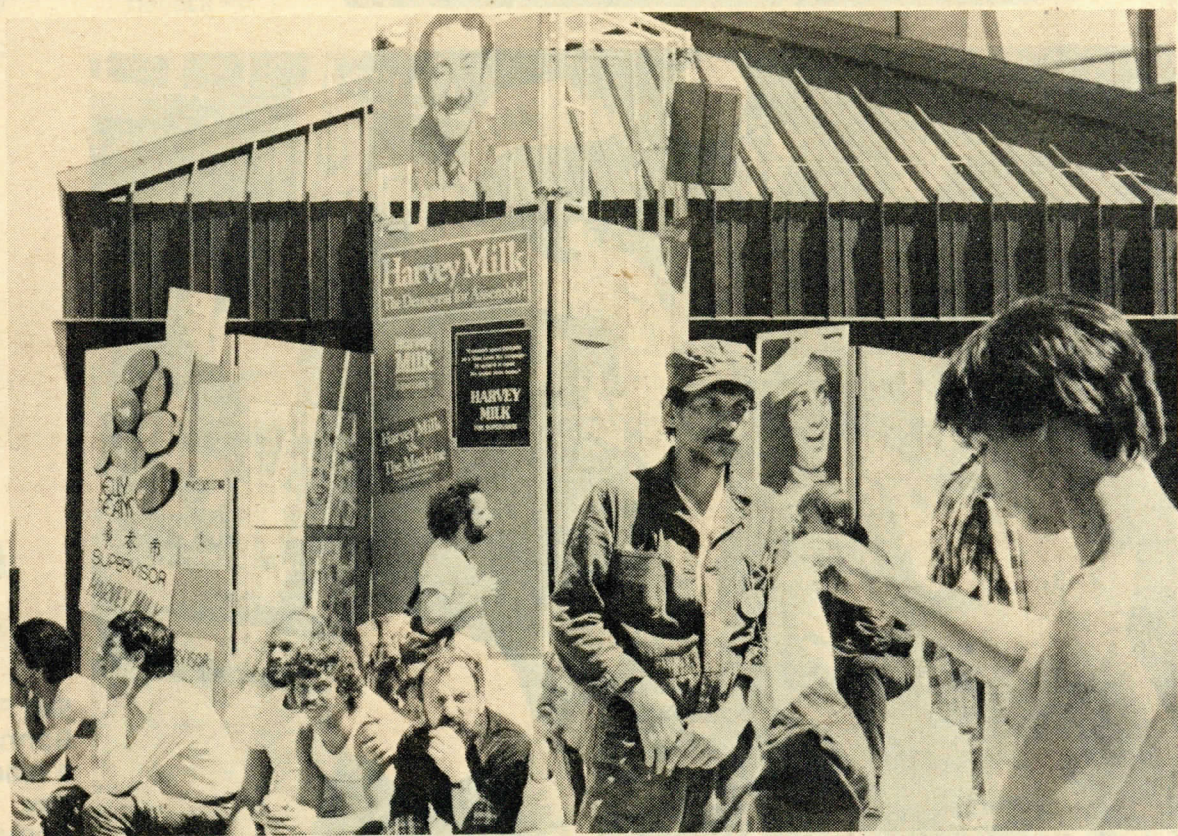
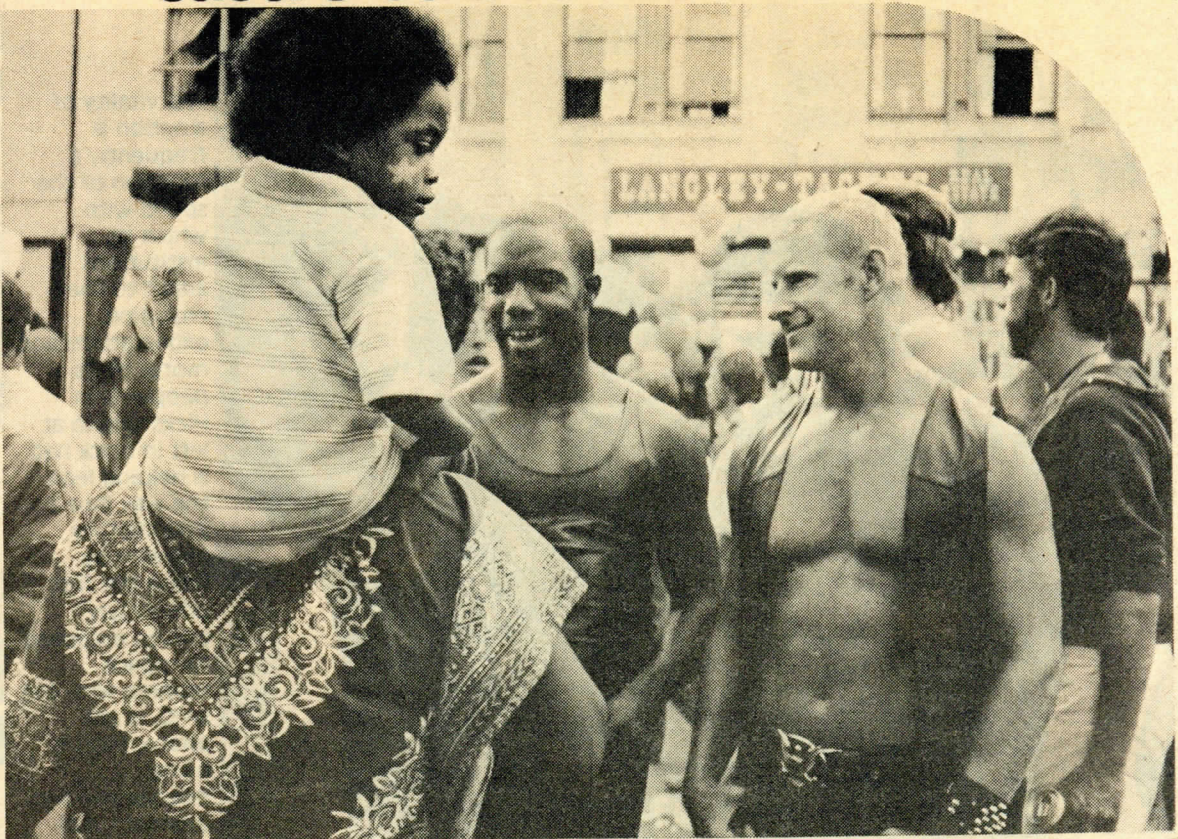
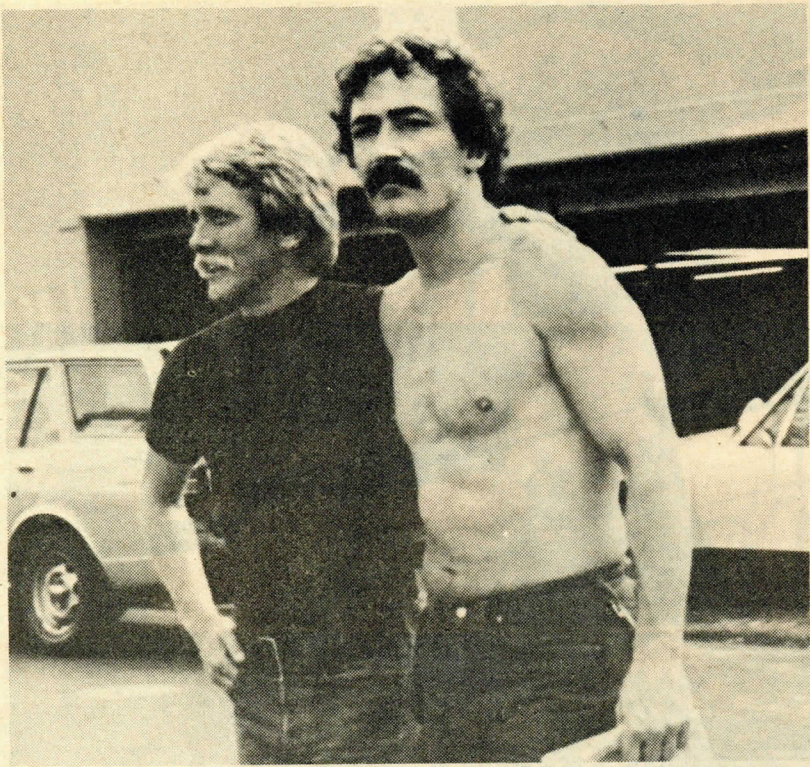


resulting ability to accept change and diversity fostered the growth of the Castro Street area and other similarly populated inner city phenomena.

However, the single factor most conducive to the city's ability to tolerate massive numbers of gay residents and visitors has been and will continue to be the economic power of gay people — money. That is why David Scott (far upper left) was pressing his campaign to become the city's mayor by pressing gay flesh at the Castro fair and it is why major recording artists like Sylvester (immediate left) and Ullanda were performing there. And finally, that is why the city of San Francisco closes Castro Street to traffic and helps create one of the largest homosexual tourist attractions in the country.



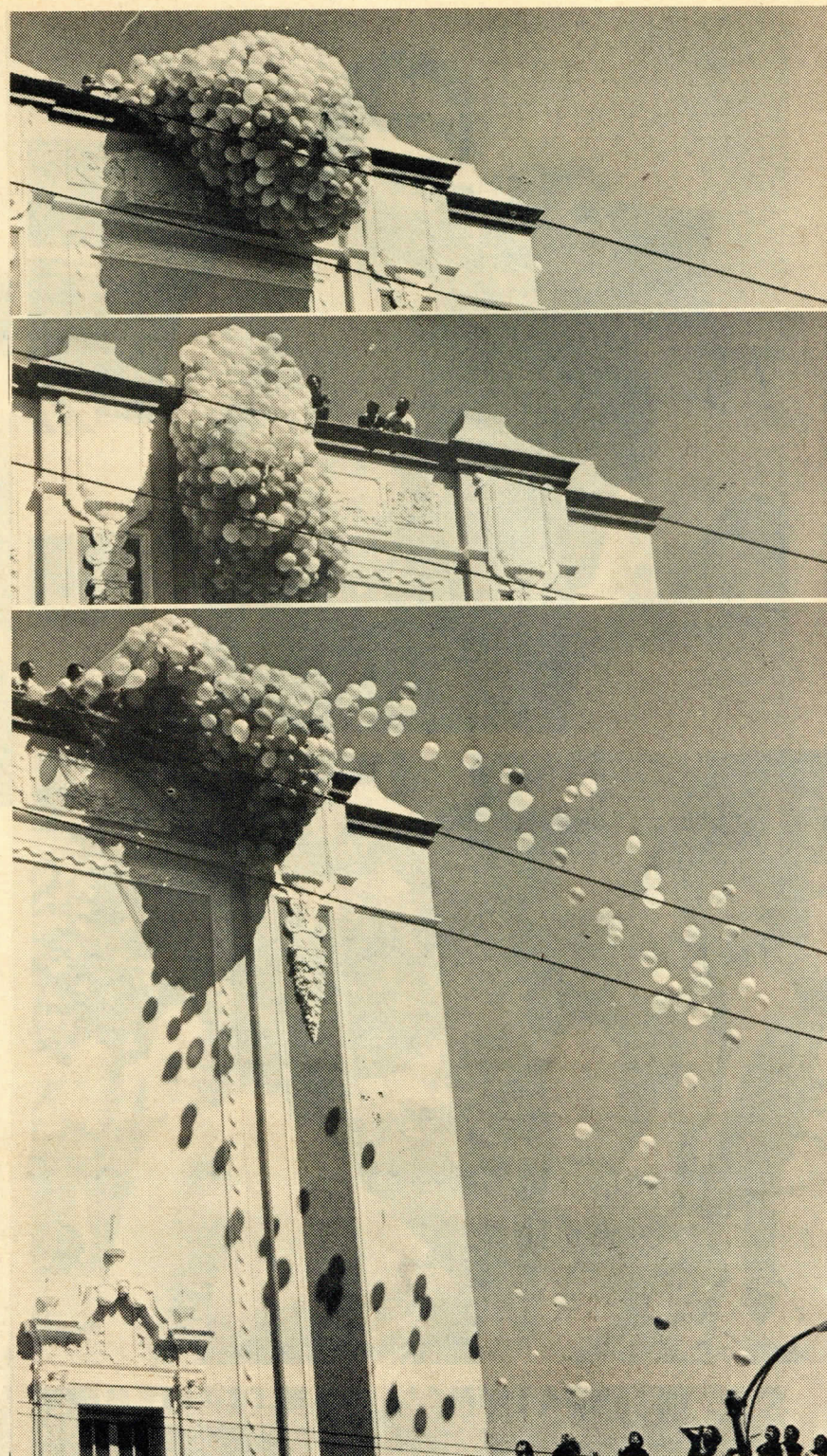
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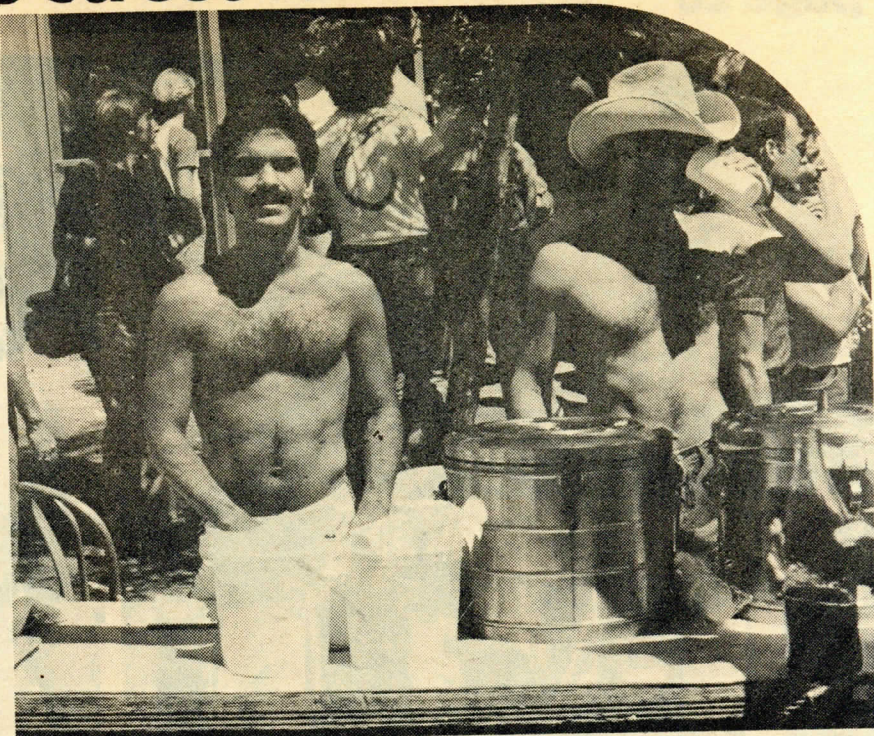


The vitality of a nation is frequently a function of the speed with which its institutions adapt to the changing expectations and mores of its people. Don Hicks (photo at left in black hat) is helping lead the way into a 21st century morality by being the first openly gay person accepted for police training with the SFPD. In the photo, Hicks is being interviewed by Upfront's Jeff Baggett.



San Francisco is a leader in national social change as well. Paul Bonnenberg (holding newspaper in lower left corner photo) is a leading figure with the National March on Washington for gay rights. Because of its large, politically active gay population, the city has become a fountainhead for much of the gay political activities around the US.

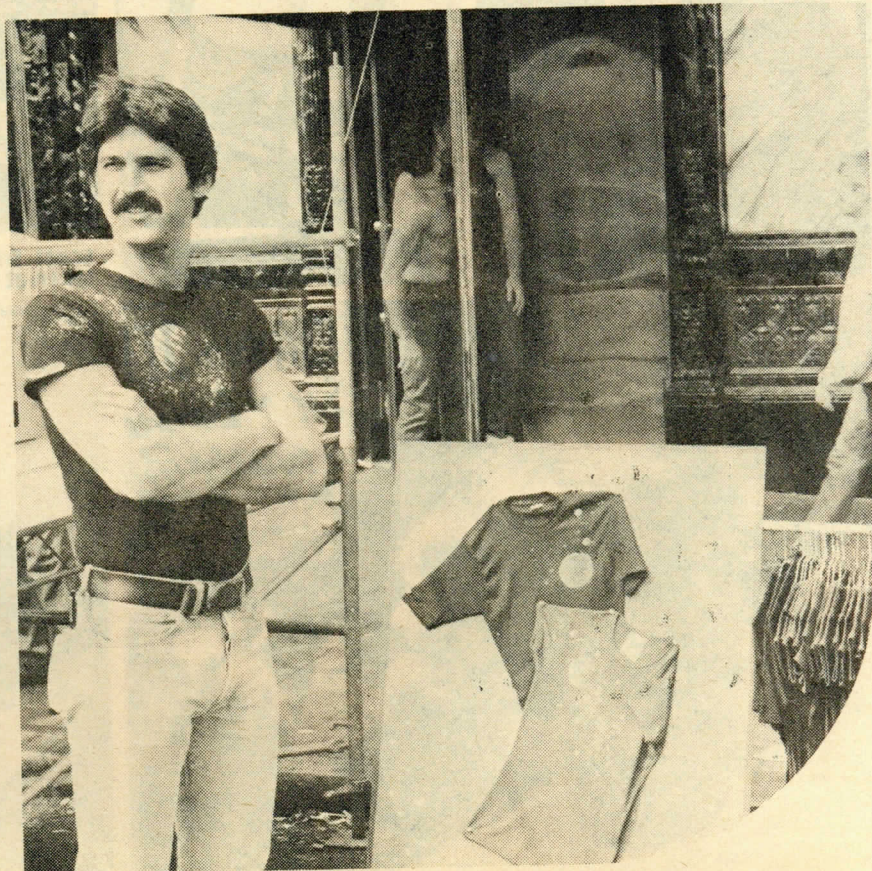




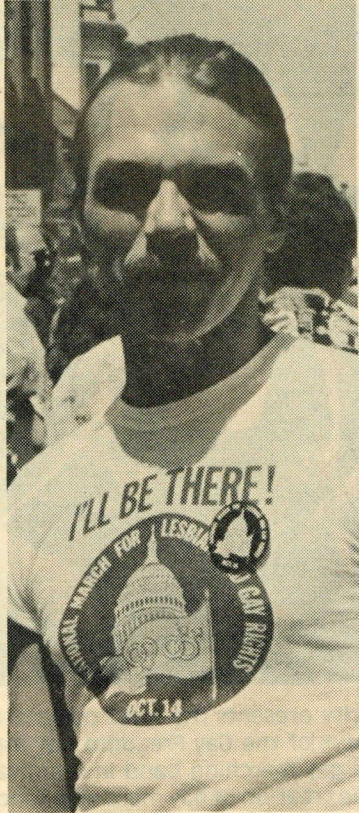
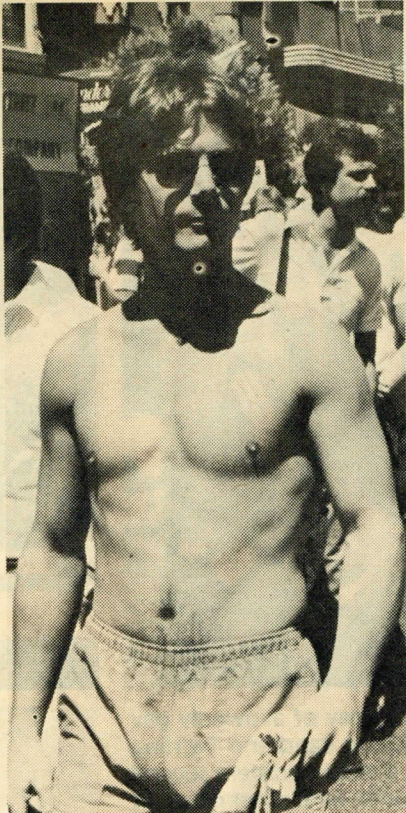
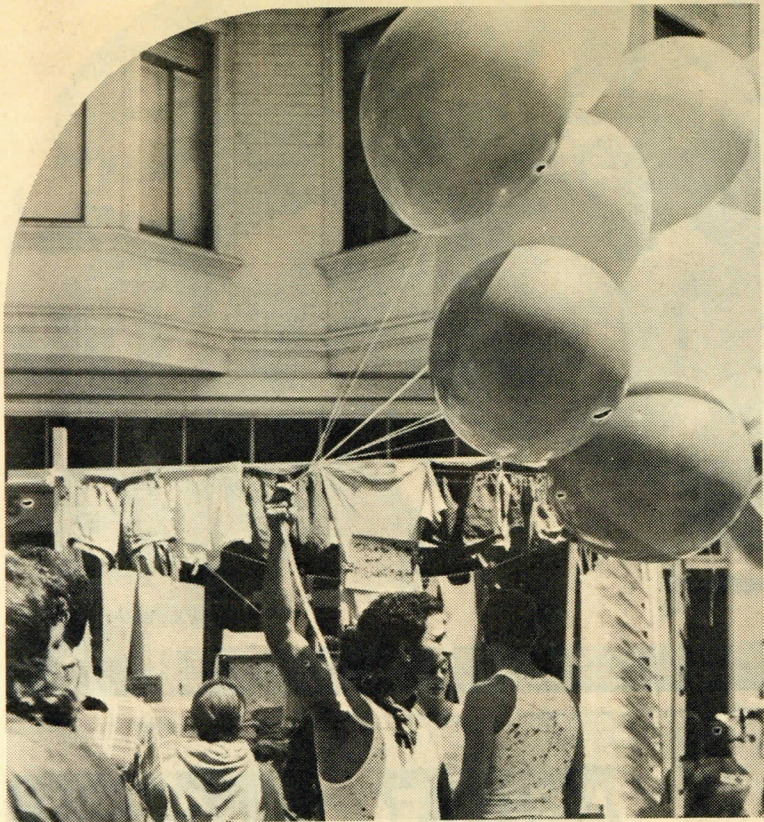
As the defacto capital of gay America, the city presents the most complete display of avowedly gay cultural phenomena in the world. Five members of the Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps (above) strike a camp pose. The first all gay marching band in America, it now numbers several hundred gay men and women and has led to the creation of gay marching bands in several other cities. At left employees of the Midnight Sun Bar prepare videotapes of the day's activities for replay in the bar and



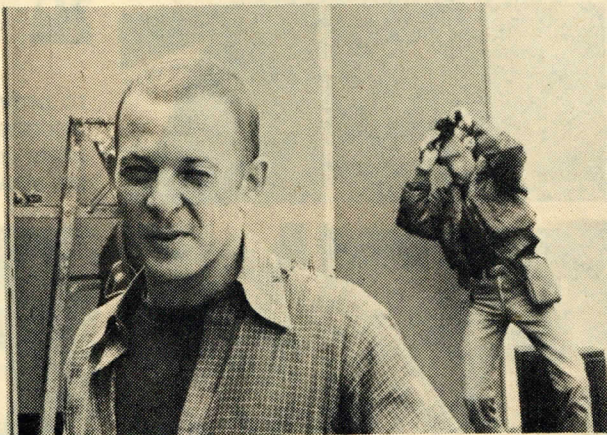
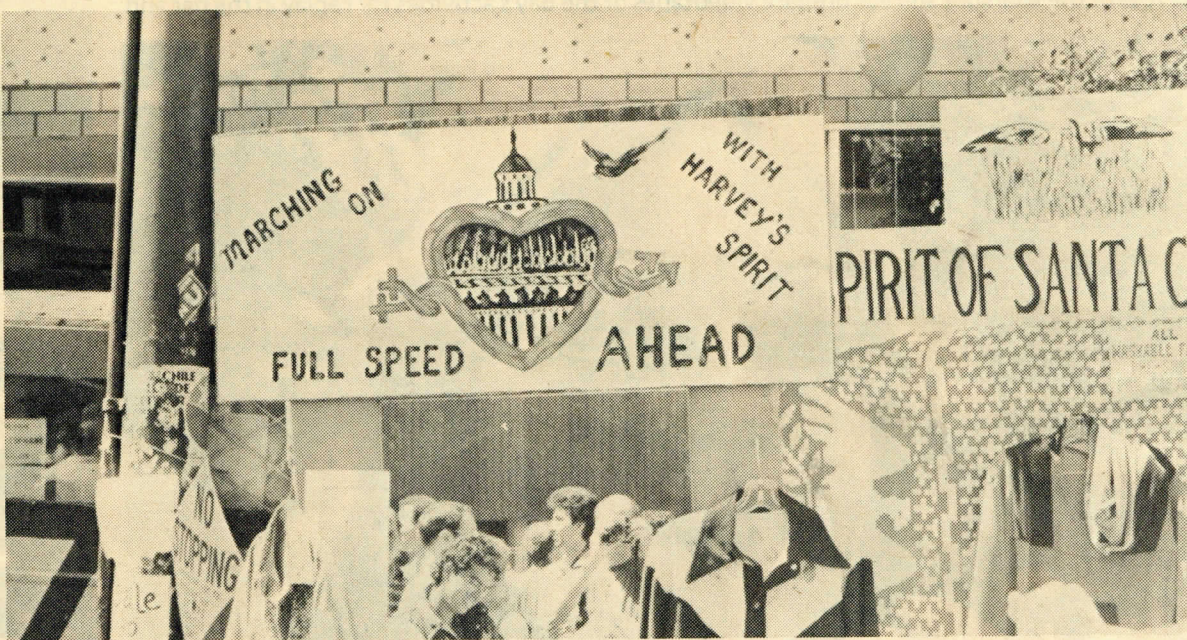
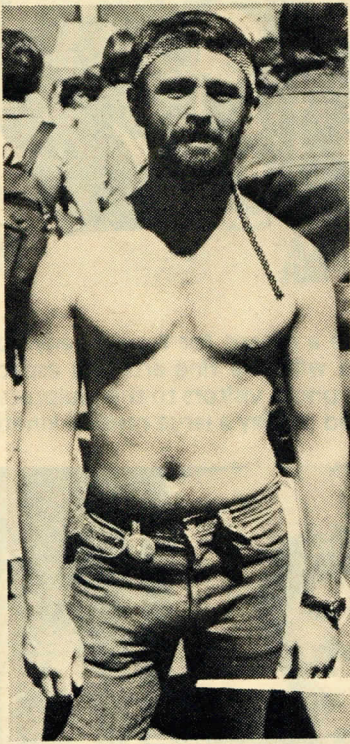
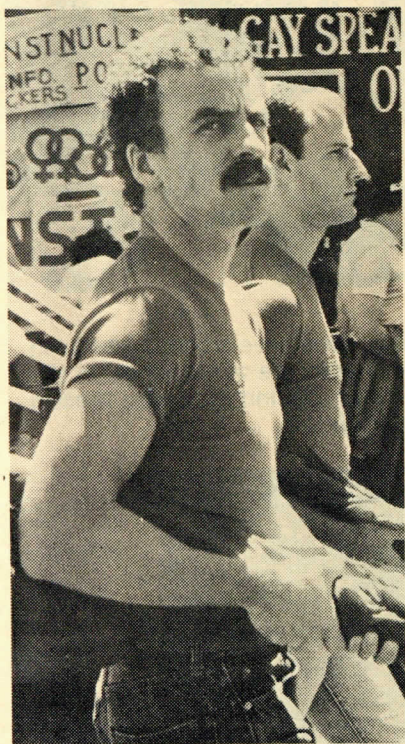
to provide a record for future generations. Gays have traditionally been associated with the fine arts and especially with the avant garde. In the lower left photo visitors to the sculpture display behind the Castro Theatre are allowed to play a large musical kinetic sculpture.



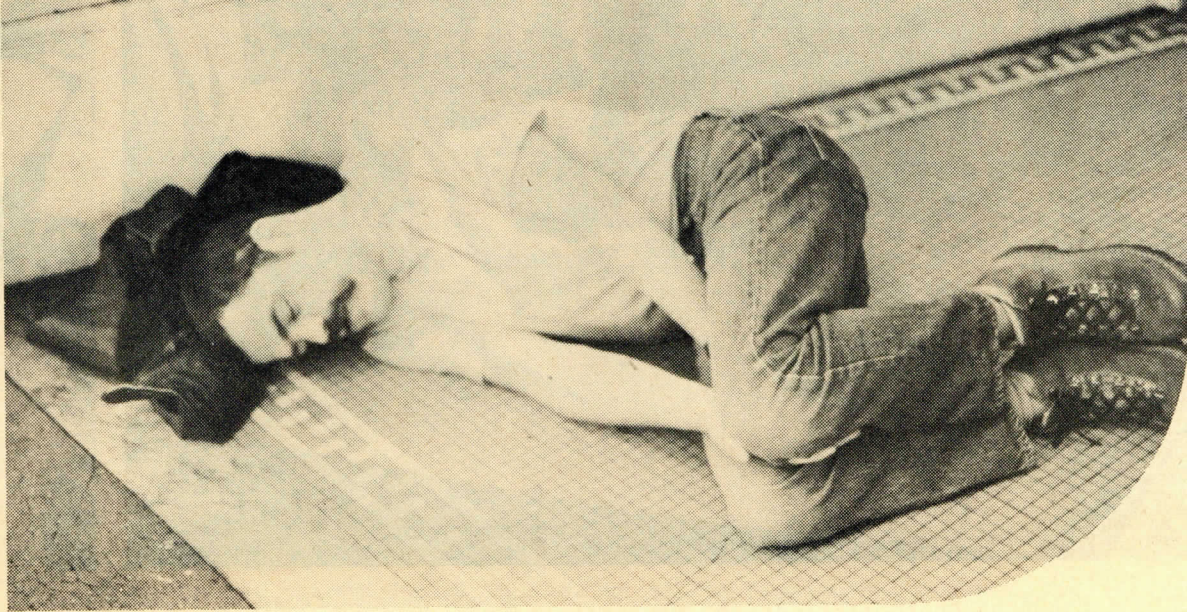
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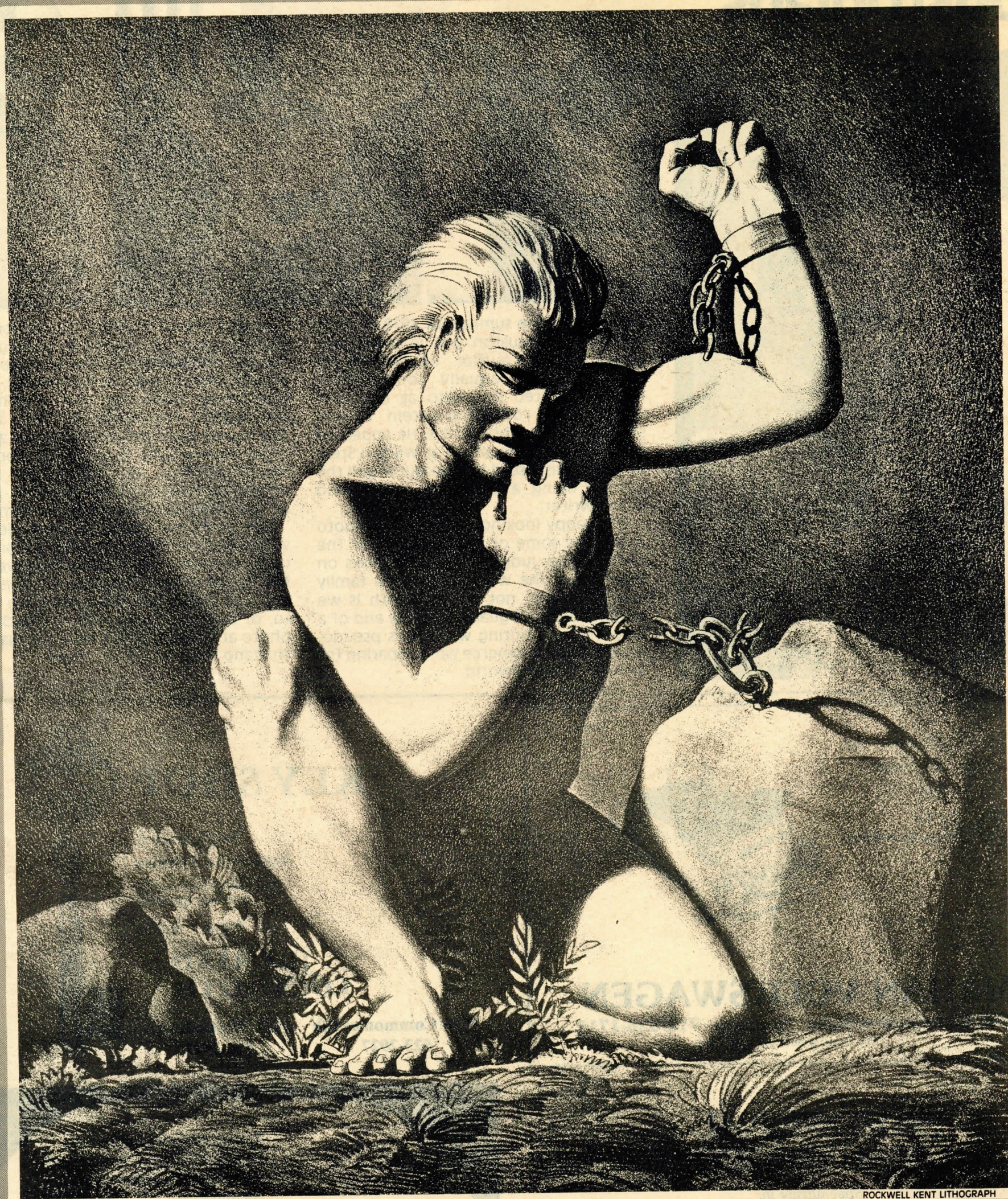


It was a pleasant
Sunday
afternoon in
San Francisco.



Scott Smith (above), former lover of Harvey Milk, taken at the Harvey Milk Exhibit on "Hibernia Beach".



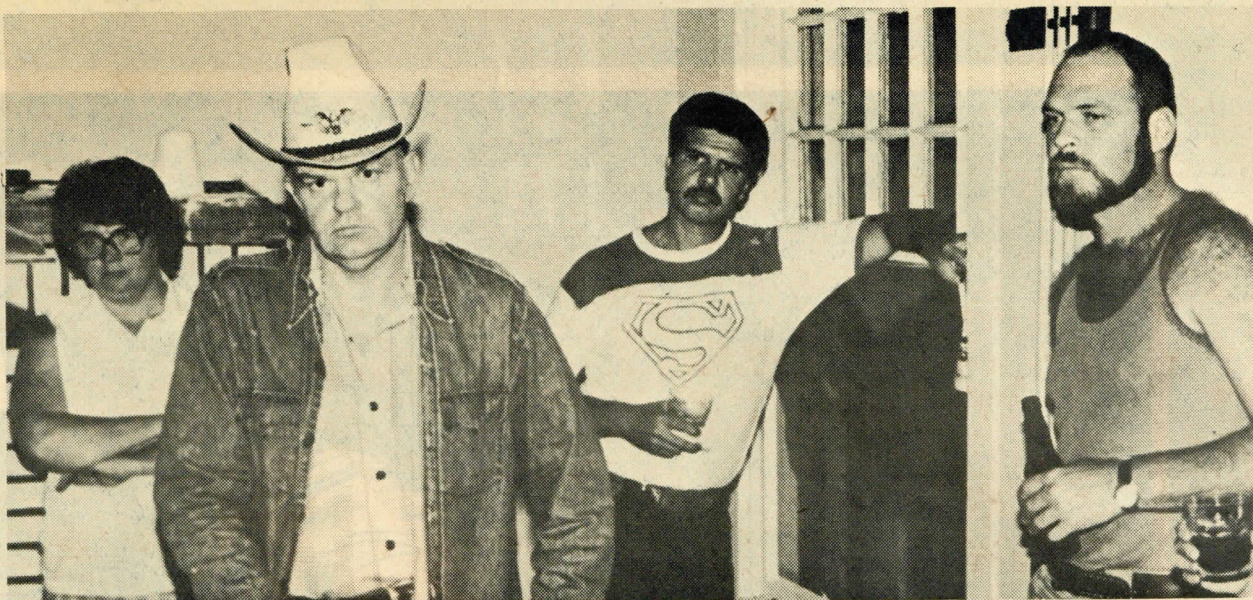
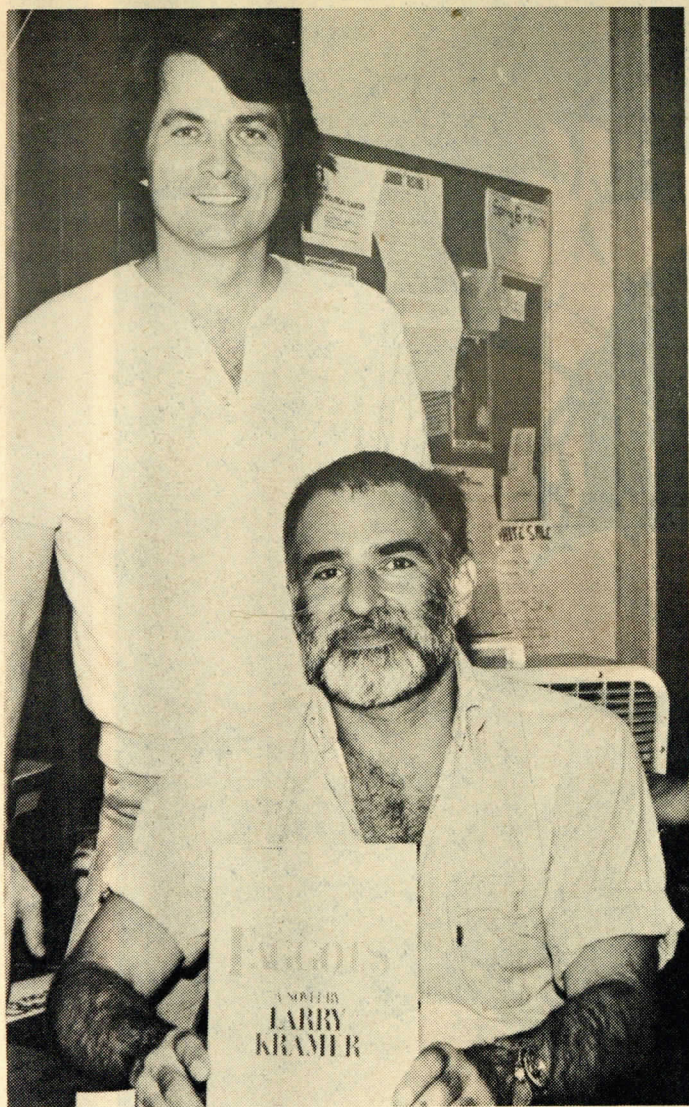


ROCKWELL KENT LITHOGRAPH

**National March On Washington
For Lesbian & Gay Rights
OCTOBER 14**

houstonians

Upfront photos by J. Hardy Williams



HOUSTON-As the summer of 1979 drew to a close gay Houston was in high gear. Larry Kramer, author of the highly successful and equally controversial *Faggots* (seated in photo at left with Charles Gillis of Wilde'n'Stein Books), stopped to plug book sales. He appeared at an evening reception at Wilde'n'Stein where he discussed the pleasures and the pits of being a published author and screenwriter.

The happy looking group in the photo above are some of the members of The Family. Now, judging from the looks on their faces one would think this family was unhappy... not so. The truth is we caught them off guard near the end of a long meeting during which this pseudo-Chamber-of-Commerce was preparing for GAY DAY at Astroworld.

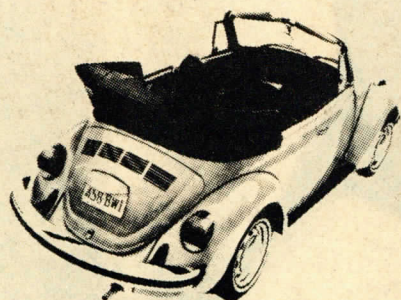
Tickets will be \$9.25 for the September 30 event and will be on sale throughout the gay community. If you purchase your ticket before you get to Astroworld, \$3 of the price goes to the March on Washington. Astroworld will keep all of the money from tickets purchased at the door. Incidentally, if you hear about a Montrose Day at the South Loop amusement park, it's all the same. After all, aren't Montrose and Gay synonymous.

This year's gay rodeo in Reno, Nevada was its usual rompin', stompin' self and, as usual, a number of our neighbors were in the stands as gay cowpersons proved we don't all ride sidesaddle (unless we want to, of course). If you look closely at the photo at right (page 29), that is Houston's Mustang Band in the white hats.

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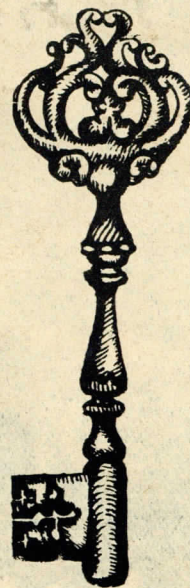
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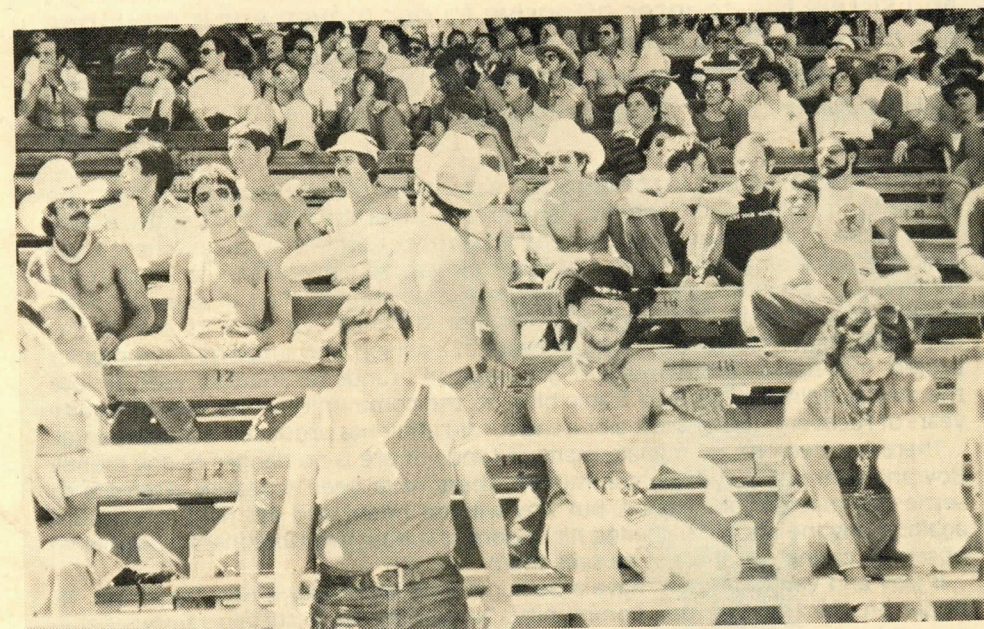
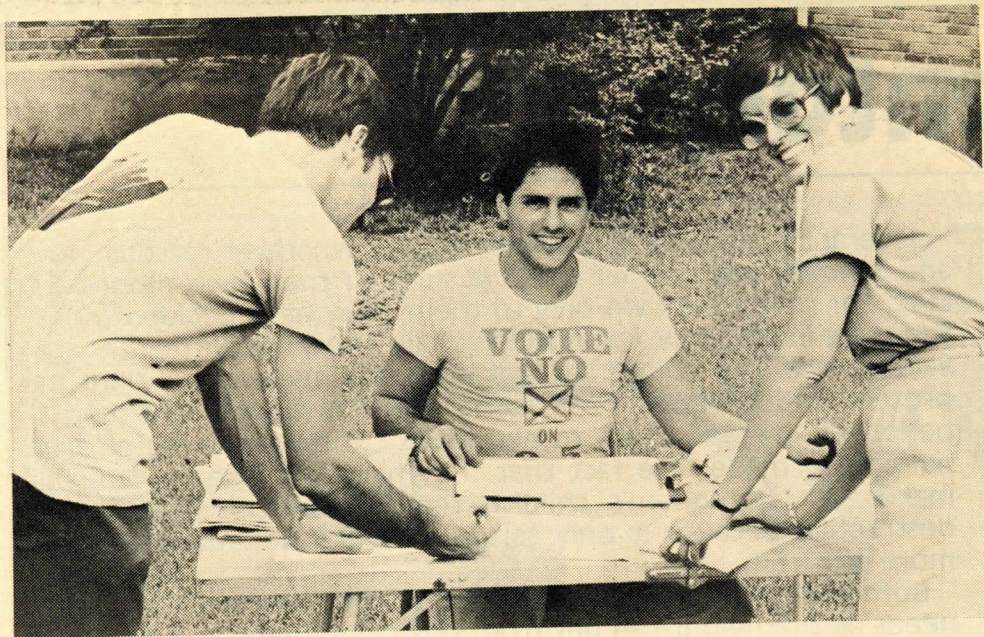
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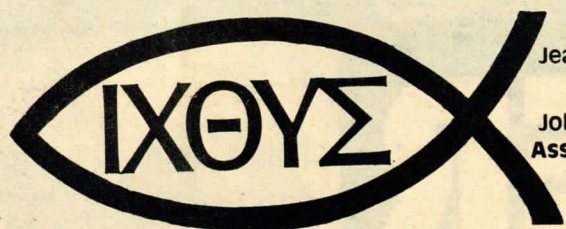
GPC Board Member Norman Guttman (left photo in center) was at the Wharton School polling place August 11 collecting signatures for a petition calling for an increased number of single member council districts. Similar booths will be appearing all around the gay community in the weeks to come as the GPC voter registration drive picks up speed. If you aren't registered or if you have moved stop next time you see one. Single member districts will do you no good if you can't vote in the elections coming this fall.



Montrose Players (in photo above) were preparing for the opening of the Montrose Playhouse in the Montrose Activity Center. Women Behind Bars debuts there September 6 and the show is a knock out. It features Big Skinny Brown in the role created originally by Divine and Fred Hinton as Louise. The drag make-up was designed by Steve O'Kane. Director Jack Lampert has put together an entertainment that gay Houstonians are never going to forget.

MAC officials report that 40,000 tons of air conditioning are being installed this week. That should be enough to keep the audience cool. Tickets are \$5 and available by reservation by calling 960-1612.

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MCCR*

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SEPTEMBER 21, 22, 23 Weekend:
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for further details of these events.

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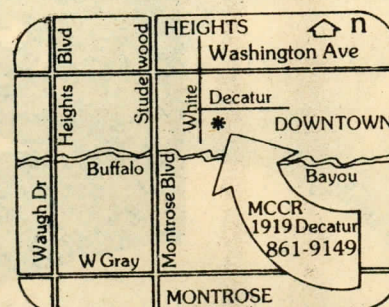
Christ's Word Spoken Sundays
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Adult Sunday School 9:30am Sundays

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Rev. Charles W. Larsen, M. Div.
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Commentary

HOUSTON-As one of two founding co-editors and still a frequent contributor to Upfronts I have been closely involved with the development of this publication with respect to its philosophy, style and tone. As I conceived Upfront, in its infancy and still now, this was to be a serious publication devoted to tastefully informing, educating and raising the consciousness of the gay and lesbian community of Houston. It was not expected to side step controversy, but was hopefully to be able to objectively address issues and be an open forum for differing opinions. It was NEVER intended to be a vehicle for the public assassination of any single individual's character.

In spite of occasional clashes of personality and disagreements over content and style with other members of the Upfront Staff, I have continued in good faith and hope to contribute to Upfront. I feel it serves a useful purpose in the community.

It is with a deep sense of both sorrow and duty that I must, however, decry the editorial written by the publisher, Mr. Gary Van Ooteghem, in the August 15 issue of Upfront with respect to Mr. Gary Hoy. Disagreement over an issue does not justify an intemperate, unfair, insensitive attack on another person's integrity. In short, no one has the right to tell someone else to leave town-no matter how much they disagree with or dislike that person. In the darkest hours of Watergate no one ever suggested that Mr. Nixon leave the country.

From where I sit, and it's fairly close to the eye of the storm, the whole mess regarding the MAC has grown out of communication failures, often the result of personality clashes. This has led to the appearances of mismanagement of resources triggering chain reactions leading to what is now a very chaotic mess. People screaming at each other, or threatening others with physical violence for asking questions, or telling them to leave town serves no positive purpose but DOES serve to further alienate the parties involved.

Several things need to be assessed. For whatever reasons, Hoy and Schmidt did commit sizeable sums of their own money to MAC. For reasons known only to them, they have decided those funds are in jeopardy. I do not personally know if their reasons are valid or not. The point I am making is that they have a right to protect their interests. If this clashes with the goals of MAC then it behooves the MAC to try to negotiate. I know that such efforts have been made. The fact that they have not been successful makes Van Ooteghem's childish temper tantrum even more destructive because it only serves to make negotiations even more difficult.

Both MAC and Upfront are valuable to the community and MAC needs all the help it can get from this community. But Brothers and Sisters the counter offensive to our movement is mounting out there on all sides-we can no longer afford the luxury of tearing at each other because we dislike each other's personalities. Let's get it TOGETHER!

Jim Lloyd

Hoy and Schmidt started the mess at the Montrose Activity Center by foreclosing without prior notice. Throughout the entire length of the affair their motives have been suspect and never once did they attempt to settle the disagreement in an amicable, gentlemanly manner. The fact that Van Ooteghem does not wish to be subjected to Hoy's presence in the future is a personal feeling of someone who neither serves as an officer of the MAC nor is connected with its day to day operation. Rather, it represents the feelings of a person who supports a community project that has absorbed much of gay Houston's funds for the past year. To lose the MAC building would be a tragic blow to the community which would require years of recovery. The distrust alone this sordid affair has produced is monumental.

There has been no mismanagement of funds. There is no danger to any money Hoy and Schmidt may have committed. There have been repeated attempts to settle this matter out of court but Hoy will not relent and has filed foreclosure again. If anyone needs to change his actions it is Hoy. Van Ooteghem is simply an observer, calling the shots as he sees them.

If Hoy and Van Ooteghem have a personal difference why is Hoy taking out his pique on the Houston Gay Community. To paraphrase a certain famous Dane-something is rotten here...and it isn't in Denmark.—Editor



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Frontlines

When you have something to say but only want to say it once, say it in **FRONTLINES**. Say it in as few words as possible but take as many as needed to complete your thought. Although we will withhold names upon request, Upfront will consider for publication only those letters which arrive in our offices signed. Address your letters to: **FRONTLINES**, P.O.Box 66844, Houston, Texas 77006.

Dear Upfront;

A large part of the success of (GPC's Operation Documentation) Phase 1 was due to the efforts of concerned news media such as yourselves with your conscientious journalism. Due to the success of Phase 1, we are confident that Phase 2 will be of great assistance in elimination of some of the prejudices we must deal with in our own community.

Thank you for the responsive service you have performed so well in the past, and for your very valuable help with Operation Documentation.

Steve Shiflett
President, Gay Political Caucus

Dear Upfront;

I enjoy Upfront very much. I just wish you had better distribution in Galveston. In fact, if you would send copies to me I could see that they get in the bars.

Don Potts
Galveston, TX

Thanks for your offer to help distribute. The fact is more vending machines are on order for Galveston at this very moment. You should find Upfront in several more locations there very soon.

Dear Upfront,

I would like to thank you and your staff for the wonderful coverage and profile of me featured in (Issue 2, 17) of Upfront. The article was concise and very positive and the photographs flattering to my work and image.

To a person just beginning in the community and in photography in this city, your coverage was worth more to me than any patron or public relations could provide. It shows belief in me and my work. Knowing you and your staff and the ideals you present in your paper, I'm certain you know how valuable that is.

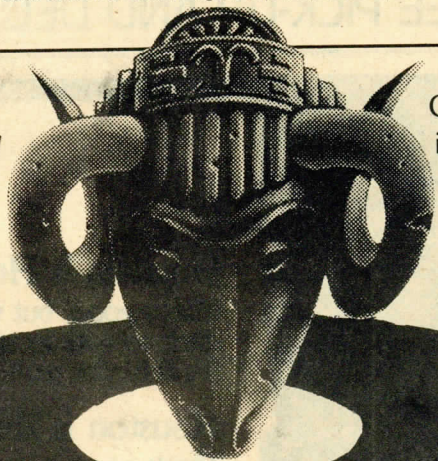
Rosalind D. Vecchio

GAY RESOURCES SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON, CENTRAL CAMPUS
MEETS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
EMBASSY ROOM, UC, 7:30 PM

Join the GRS for a Back to School Social August 31, MAC, 7:30 PM; Beer is free, cups \$1

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alaskans save equal rights commission

ANCHORAGE-The Mayor's Ad Hoc Charter Review Committee defeated a proposal to eliminate language from the city charter making the municipal Equal Rights Commission mandatory. Committee member Tom Fink had proposed eliminating the language requiring the existence of the Committee so that it could be disbanded if and when it was no longer needed.

Opposition to the proposed change had been swift with numerous citizens and several organizations, including the Alaska Women's Resource Center, Alaska Civil Liberties Union, and the Alaska Black Caucus, quickly going on record in support of the commission's charter mandated existence.

Fink explained his motion to delete the charter mandate by saying, "We have all kinds of boards and commissions; it just seems to me we don't want to let the (Anchorage City) Assembly make the decision... to keep whatever they want or throw out whatever they want".

Prior to the vote, charter committee member Ed Isenson stated that "any effort at this point to remove this provision is going to be interpreted as less of a commitment to achieve the goals" the Equal Rights Commission was created to achieve.

The Equal Rights Commission has come under closer public scrutiny in recent months after attempts by gay citizens to redress their grievances through ERC procedures. The vote was 9-1 in favor of retaining the charter mandate.

lesbian / feminist concerts set for houston to precede the march

HOUSTON-One of Houston's best known producers of lesbian/feminist oriented entertainment, off the wall productions, is planning a Pre-March Weekend Celebration featuring comic Robin Tyler and singer/songwriter Therese Edell. The shows are planned for the first weekend in October at a location to be announced.

Formerly with ABC Television, Tyler has just released her first album on Olivia Records. For Tyler, "Comedy is a political weapon, when you turn around and laugh at the ludicrousness of the establishment that's oppressing you. True comic genius is one that casts light of the truth, and casting light on that truth can make people laugh."



Gene Howle
and his partner
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ARTISTS, CRAFTSPERSONS, ARTISANS, entrepreneurs and other talented folk- ATTENTION- MCCR is having a Fall Festival & we need Westheimer Art Festival Type vendors to set up booths at the church, 1919 Decatur for Saturday, September 22, and Sunday, September 23 (after church services of course). Call MCCR in Houston, (713)861-9149, for details.

UPFRONT IS NOW TAKING applications for experienced sales personnel, both full and part-time, for fall employment in the following cities: Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Washington, DC, and Denver. Interested persons are invited to make application to Upfront, Box 66844, Houston, Tx 77006. Resumes are appreciated.

MAC T-SHIRTS NOW ON SALE - \$6 plus tax at Wilde'N'Stein Bookstore and B.D. & Daughter, both in the mini-mall at 520 Westheimer, or call 520-0420 in Houston. All proceeds go to the Montrose Activity Center.

ROOMMATE WANTED-FONDREN & Southwest Freeway area. Prefer person who can help paint & fix up 3 bedroom townhouse. Many pluses. Call Royce Williams (713)988-1674 after 5PM and weekends.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OF the Houston gay community wishing to office at the MAC should contact the MAC Board of Trustees, Box 13726, Houston, Tx 77019. Applications now being accepted for limited space remaining.

GAY RESOURCES SERVICE

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MEETS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
EMBASSEY ROOM, UC, 7:30 PM

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City Desk Cont'd from page 5

Can gays afford to neglect this powerful and growing force in local and state politics? I think not. So long as gays only work within the Democratic Party, the Republicans will gladly stand between us and our goals. We know there are gay Republicans as well as gay Democrats but do the Republican politicians know it? I doubt it.

We must not allow our civil rights to become identified with one or the other party. Blacks won their rights only when Republicans began to vote for civil rights bills. The same will be true for gays. If only Democrats must answer to gay voters, it will be in the GOP's interest to frustrate gay people and their issues.

The GPC works well as a de facto gay democratic club; the GPC should admit that is what it is and concentrate in that party. Let the gay Republicans form their own group, one that can work within the traditionally conservative Republican Party organization and, therefore, force them to come to grips with the gay issue.

Remember, Lincoln, the first civil libertarian in the US, was a Republican. Perhaps we need another Lincoln to come free the gay slaves.

More on this next issue.

Editor

Kwik Kopy

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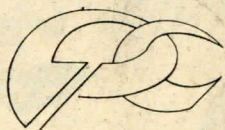
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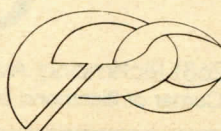


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msa bowling leagues forming for winter

HOUSTON-The Montrose Sports Association is organizing an ABC sanctioned winter bowling league to consist of 16 teams. Play begins Monday, September 10 at Diversions in the Galleria 2. The 6 team 1979 summer league ended August 27 and awards will be presented September 8.

Current plans call for a MSA sponsored intercity bowling tournament the weekend of November 17-18. Teams are expected from New York City, Phoenix and other cities. The host lanes have not been chosen at this time.

Winter league and tournament information are available from Gerald Hagan (713)665-1734 evenings.

law students friends of gays*

HOUSTON-Straight and gay laws students at the University of Houston's Bates College of Law have banded together to form an umbrella student organization to provide associative benefits to those persons who currently have no place in established law school organizations. According to a statement released by students Martha Pitkin and Phyllis Frye, "Friends is not a gay organization. It is for sexual minority students, staff and faculty who wish to join and for other good people who do not arbitrarily exclude their sisters and brothers" from joining.

In the title, the asterix following "Gays" refers to sexual minorities and is meant to make "Gays" a term which includes "Lesbian citizens, gay male citizens, transpeople citizens, and bisexual citizens".

Friends founders Pitkin and Frye are well known Houston women. While employed as a senior analyst for Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation, one of the nation's largest utilities, Pitkin was chosen Woman of the Year (1978) by the San Jacinto Chapter of the American Business Women's Association in Houston. During the National March on Washington Planning Conference held in Houston last July, Frye, a well-known transperson activist involved with a number of gay community groups, received national recognition in the gay press when she made a stirring plea for inclusion of transpersons in all subsequent literature emanating from the National March on Washington Headquarters. Though her plea went unheeded by the assembled conferees, it marked the first time the issue of transpersons had been taken into consideration in march planning sessions.

gays fund litigation group with benefits

SAN FRANCISCO-The Gay Rights Advocates, a San Francisco based organization active in litigating cases of anti-gay discrimination around the United States, has been the recipient of money raised in Gay Pride Week benefits Texas and California. In Houston, the Houston Motorcycle Club and a group of concerned civil libertarians opened GPW with an event arranged and coordinated by Richard Rouillard of GRA. \$1500 was raised.

Less than one week later, more than 300 people attended the Second Annual Mental Health Community Benefit for GRA. The dinner at the San Francisco Art Institute was followed by a performance of the Top Hat Trio, a women's jazz band, and Andy Elkind, a jazz guitarist. The evening raised more than \$5,000.

September 13, San Francisco's Everett Junior High School will be the sight of GRA's "An Evening with Christopher Isherwood. Isherwood will read from his works and field questions from the audience in what academic sources expect to be an important literary event. Seating for the event is restricted to 1,000. Poster drawings of Isherwood by Don Bachardy will be sold.

Gay Rights Advocates has recently been victorious in several landmark cases including one against Pacific Telephone & Telegraph which established gays as a protected class under the California equal protection clause but not under federal law. GRA was also instrumental in winning a criminal discrimination prosecution against a subsidiary of Braniff Airlines in Austin, Texas. It marked the first time criminal penalties had ever been applied in prosecuting under a municipal gay rights ordinance.

Tavern Guild of Houston

Gay Bar owners and managers interested in working with others toward common goals and solving problems affecting each of us should contact Andy Mills at 522-0651

HOUSTON'S FRIENDLIEST COUNTRY/WESTERN BAR

THE BARN

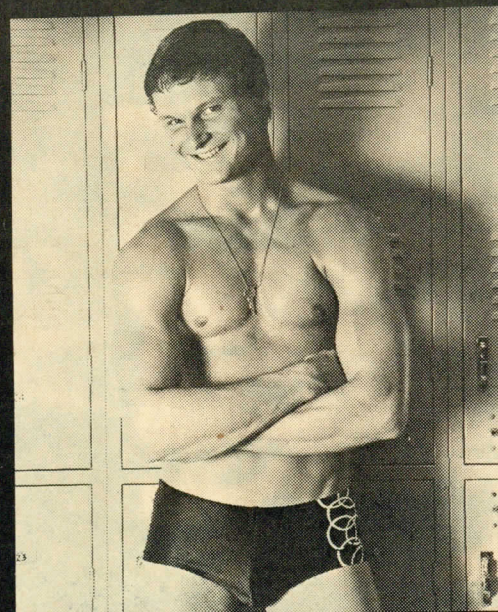
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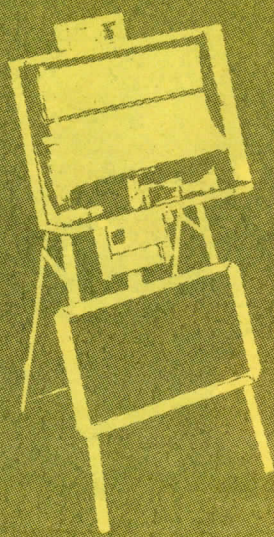
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