

UPFRONT

IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2 3

HOUSTON, TEXAS

JANUARY 12, 1978 29

Feds Investigate Police Practices

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Laws are unequally applied and unequally enforced against gay people, Jean O'Leary, co-executive director of the National Gay Task Force, told members of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights here this month.

O'Leary was among 36 national experts invited by the Commission to participate in a two-day consultation (Dec. 12-13) on police practices and the preservation of civil rights.

The Commission called the sessions as part of a national study it is conducting as the result of an increasing volume of allegations of police misconduct which it has received in recent months.

"An investigation of police practices is both timely and warranted," according to Commission Chairman Arthur S. Flemming.

Hearings are scheduled for Philadelphia and Houston in early 1979.

Flemming pointed out that the Commission plans to investigate police departments "as institutions" and to study the mechanisms which encourage or discourage misconduct and complaint reconciliation.

"While the conduct of police officers in individual cases may be

investigated," he said, "it will not be for the purpose of establishing either the guilt of the officer or of those who failed to properly supervise or discipline the officer.

"Rather, it will be to determine how the system under which the officer operated could be modified to minimize the potential for abuse."

In her statement, O'Leary cited several cases of alleged police misconduct against gays which had been brought to the attention of the National Gay Task Force.

"Ten years ago, all these police abuses were seen by the majority of gay people as an inevitable part of what it meant to be a homosexual in America," she told the Commission. "Today, these perils still exist, but many of us have said, 'Enough!'"

Participants included police officials, scholars, experts in the field of criminal science, and representatives from civil rights groups, federal agencies, and police unions.

Issues which were addressed included the current state of police-community relations, the role of the police, recruitment and training, firearms policies and the use of deadly force, regulating police dis-

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Texan To Succeed Milk

Harvey G. Britt, 40, native Texan and former Methodist minister, was sworn in last Wednesday to serve out the unexpired term of slain San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk. Britt is past president of the San Francisco Gay Democratic Club and holds a degree from Duke University.

In a tape recording made sometime before his assassination, Milk suggested four possible successors should he be unable to complete his term. Britt was one of the four though at press time the other names still had not been made public. Britt, though an experienced veteran of the political wars of the

past decade, is not regarded as a forceful spokesman for the gay movement, a fact which allegedly made his appointment more palatable to Mayor Diane Feinstein. When questioned as to her choice earlier in the week, Feinstein stated flatly that this is not a gay seat. She went on to describe Britt as a **good human being** and predicted that he would have no problems representing the residents of his district, whether gay, elderly, straight, black, or whatever.

Watch for the next issue of UPFRONT which will include an exclusive interview with Britt and a discussion of his expectations for the future.

VOL 2-3
1-12-79

March on Washington Progress Report:

IN GENERAL

Scattered, unorganized attempts at mobilizing the national March on Washington are beginning to publicly appear in several cities around the country. Other areas have not all been convinced that the March should take place. Even within some local areas, there is disagreement among groups as to such things as March dates and who should be invited or encouraged to participate.

DATE POSTPONED

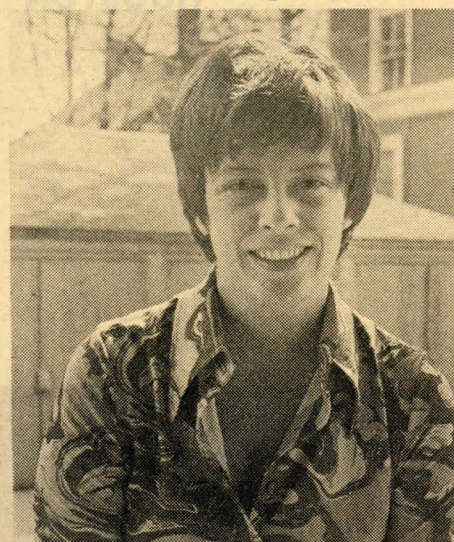
Houston is undoubtedly the leader of the pack. Houston human rights advocates are the furthest advanced of any in the country. Contracts were prepared and ready to sign reserving World Airway's DC 10's for the May 6, 1979 march date, the date Houston has been working towards for nearly two months. This date must

now be rescheduled so that other cities may have time to develop their own march plans and tie-in to the national one. A new March date is expected to be announced within the next two weeks. Charlie Brydon, Co-Chairperson of the National Gay Task Force, indicated to UPFRONT that the rest of the nation would have a difficult time—if not an impossible one—to get their own acts together in time to march on May 6, 1979. He indicated that other cities are just not as organized and are generally unable to develop plans quickly enough to meet the suggested Houston march date.

Brydon has not endorsed the march because he feels that no central purpose has yet been presented that would convince him of the reason to have it. However, he indicated

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NGTF Co-Exec Director Resigns



Jean O'Leary, Co-Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force since June 1976, has announced her resignation effective June 1979.

Ms. O'Leary, 29, native of Cleveland, Ohio, has been a lesbian and feminist activist since 1971. This closely followed four and one-half years of service in the religious order of Holy Humility of Mary of the Roman Catholic Church. She was also about this same time a founder of the Lesbian Feminist Liberation, one of the largest lesbian groups.

O'Leary joined the NGTF staff as National Coordinator in 1975. In 1976 she was elected as a delegate to the Democratic Convention after a campaign featuring her lesbian feminist candidacy. Because of her efforts on behalf of NGTF, the White House opened its doors for discussion with gay representatives on March 26, 1977.

Her meeting with Presidential Aide Midge Costanza led to other meetings with officials of federal agencies. Some of the organizations involved include the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, the U.S. Public Health Services, the Bureau of Prisons, the Immigrations and Naturalization Services and the Justice Department. Significant changes in federal policy regarding the gay population has resulted from these sessions.

In 1977 Ms. O'Leary was appointed by President Carter to serve on the International Women's Year Commission. That fall, she acted as principal organizer for the lesbian issue in Houston at the National Women's Conference.

O'Leary said her experiences at NGTF have been "tremendously challenging." She also stated that "this is a wonderful organization with a great future, and I intend to maintain close ties to NGTF and continue to be of service in whatever ways I can."

THANKS!

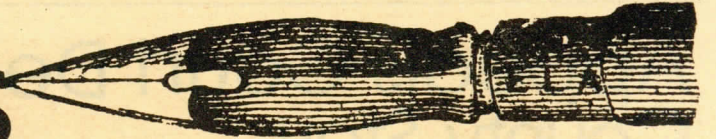
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Editorials



Frontlines

Dear UPFRONT:

So what the hell is the deal with GPC? Word is that GPC is "withdrawing support" from the Tea for Two Thousand "Super Tea" slated for January 28. What Support? Since when has GPC authority or acquiescence been a requisite for a private party in Houston? For it *is* a private party, albeit a fund-raiser. And I might add, parenthetically, that it's been damned successful fund-raising, too. Show me another group that's raised over \$3,000 for the community in a single afternoon (Tea for Two Thousand, October 28, 1978) and shown everyone a real good time, too.

It's time some of our *leadership* backed off. Instead of infighting and petty bickering, why aren't these *leaders* harnessing the new talent and energy evidenced by the Tea Dance collective for the Movement. Many of these folks have never been involved in community work before, but have demonstrated that they are achievers.

One more thing: I know personally, not from idle gossip or hearsay, that a few of the leaders of the Tea Dance group have spent - unsung and with praise unsought - thousands of dollars of their personal funds for the advancement of the movement in Houston. Such generosity is now being repaid with bad manners and peremptory ultimatums.

Gene Oliver

Dear UPFRONT:

I want to thank you for and congratulate you on *UPFRONT*. It is a dignified, professional addition to our community. The quality of the articles and the advertising makes me proud to pass it along to friends, both locally and around the country.

I have been especially pleased that *UPFRONT* has contained none of the offensive ads and articles that cheapen so many of our publications.

I am, however, somewhat distraught over an editorial appearing in your Christmas Issue. I agree wholeheartedly that most churches and organized religions have become great oppressors of our people. But, not *all* of them. We have within this city at least three churches that are ministering to people without regard to sexual orientation.

In the future, please make a distinction between the churches who have entangled themselves with the dogmas of blinded, ignorant people, and zealous bigots, and the churches who are raising the standard of human dignity by preaching the boundless love of Jesus of everyone.

Further, I could scarcely believe I was reading the words written in *Advice Mother Never Gave You*, (Vol. 2, Issue 2, pp 6, Dec. 22, 1978) in *your fine paper*. The same information could have been presented in a much more tasteful manner. The terminology, *in that hole that females have...*, is atrocious and clearly a slap in the face and dignity of your female readers.

And, as if to add insult to injury, the column appeared on the religious page.

All of us--your paper, our churches, and our social and political organizations--are in the struggle to restore dignity to our people. This type of article does not meet this criterion.

I am pleased and excited about *UPFRONT*. It's time we had a paper like this, and I've been most happy to have the record, *Because He Lives*, advertised in it. Please continue to offer us a dignified, intelligent, and sensitive paper. We have trash enough.

Jo Crisco
Exhorter, MCCR

We at UPFRONT have always been first to stress quality and good taste in our publication. However, we are human and occasionally we goof. We apologize to those readers that were offended by the article in question.

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Vantage Point

We Can Do It!

Nothing worth having ever comes easily--or so it seems. Attempting to pull together all the various elements necessary to have a successful March on Washington initially appears to be near impossible. As newly energized people join in the support for the March, it becomes correspondingly easier. Not easy, just easier.

The theory of what the March can accomplish for human rights is noble, indeed, and worth trying to do. You'll find few people who are not committed to such as idea--in theory. But, unless men and women make their own personal commitment to put these theories into play *in their own lifetimes*, they run the risk of being just so much rhetoric not worthy of remembering.

It is people who breathe life into theories. It is individuals who must integrate these theories into real life. Simply to embrace an idea is not enough. There are many pathways the committed individual can follow to ensure his/her own continued well-being and peace of mind. Of these, being involved is one of the most important. When done in concert with others, it has a multiplier effect; when done well, a lasting effect.

The March plans Houston has been developing were originally scheduled for May 6, 1979. It now becomes obvious that getting unanimous consent as to a single March date from cities and groups around the country will take time. And lots of convincing. We have already been told by reliable west coast leaders that Houston *is* more organized and can mobilize our resources faster and better than other parts of the country. Probably because we are relatively new to the Movement and have little history of dissension or mistrust, we are able to organize and move quickly when called upon.

There is no universal support behind the March, but it's building. That becomes the job of those March supporters who embrace and believe in the March concept to convince those more cautious and/or timid. You know who I am referring to: Those people who have never gone after anything daring or exciting, just the safe bets. Accomplishments are theirs to view, not to do.

Those people who will be attending the March will be those who believe changes can happen *during* their lifetimes, not at some future date by others. The time to get involved is now!

The knowledge is there to be gained, and there is much for everyone to learn from each other and themselves. The difficult part is that each individual must sacrifice the time and effort necessary to attend and participate. That is where commitment comes in. Tight budgets, families and/or lovers that seemingly can't live without us, and even the thought of airports, taxis, and hotel food make it tempting to pass up opportunities such as this. But those that are truly committed to improving their own world and that of their neighbor's and who recognize how valuable human rights are to a waiting world of different individuals all wanting to peacefully co-exist, side-by-side, with each other will find the time and money. The returns on such a modest investment are immense.

GVO

Gary J. Van Ooteghem
Publisher

UPFRONT

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Appeals Court Denies County Stay

The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit on December 29, 1978 denied Harris County's motion for a stay pending appeal of U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling's order to reinstate former Harris County Comptroller Gary J. Van Ooteghem and pay him back pay in excess of \$56,000 plus interest. The December 29th ruling again thwarts the county's repeated attempts to dodge their liability in the matter.

Harris County Treasurer Hartsell Gray, in an unexpected move made during his last official day in office, fired Van Ooteghem's replacement, certified public accountant Chad Brown. The action was still another maneuver to outwit the spirit and intent of the judges order. Gray fired Brown without prior written notice and thus, according to pre-established county rules, was entitled to receive over \$2,800 in severance pay. Had Gray kept Brown on the payroll that last day of his term no severance pay would have been paid since all of Gray's staff would have ended their employment simultaneously at the end of the day. Both Gray and County Commissioners Court had prearranged Brown's termination on that last day of Gray's

term so that—with only one day remaining in Gray's term—Van Ooteghem would have been reinstated according to the federal court order, thus complying with it, and then be legally terminated at the end of the day when the existing Treasurer's term officially ended.

The plan failed, however, when Van Ooteghem did not show for work. Van Ooteghem indicated that he is waiting for *all* of the court order to be complied with, not just piecemeal technicalities here and there. Van Ooteghem had previously returned to the Treasurer's office only to start the paperwork in process for his reinstatement. He has not officially returned to work, contrary to regular press reports.

Consequently, the county foolishly wasted another several thousand dollars that was paid to Chad Brown in that 11th hour attempt at stopping Van Ooteghem from returning to work. Ironically, the county inadvertently has caused the federal judge's order to now apply to newly elected County Treasurer Henry Kriegel. In the original order signed by Judge Sterling, not just Hartsell Gray was the defendant, but also his successor to that office; in this case Kriegel.

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GPC Elections Near

Annual elections of Board of Trustee members and officers of the Gay Political Caucus have been officially announced to occur near the latter part of February. Nominations will open on Wednesday, January 17th and close three weeks later on February 7th, reports GPC President Steve Shiflett. Elections will then take place on February 21st.

The by-laws of GPC were recently revised regarding the election process. Under the new rules, only those people who have paid their annual membership fee of \$15 or

more will be allowed to vote. Since this became effective as of January 1st, it is difficult to predict the impact of strict membership enforcement of this procedure on GPC matters and the resultant effect on greater community representation.

Previously, GPC'ers were given the option to participate as *full* privileged members by either attending three meetings during the twelve month period immediately preceding any vote or by the payment of \$15.

Montrose Activity Center Spreads Cheer

M.D. Anderson's Childrens Ward received a contribution of fresh fruit just before Christmas, compliments of the gay community. Originating the idea, Carlo's Hair Fair delivered to the Montrose Activity Center fresh fruit that had been obtained from patrons caught up in the season's spirit with specific instructions that only the children receive them.

A MAC representative delivered the boxes of fruit to the children's ward that had dwindled down to only 12 children by the day before Christmas. MAC (and thus the community as a whole) was thanked by a representative of the hospital for the gift. It was believed that no other group of concerned gays made an effort of sharing holiday cheer with those less fortunate this past holiday season.

NGTF Releases Survey Results

According to a survey conducted by the National Gay Task Force, 121 of the nation's largest industrial corporations, employing over seven million workers and representing nearly 600 billion dollars in annual revenue, now state that they do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring and promotions. The list includes such corporate giants as AT&T, Bethlehem Steel, DuPont, Exxon, Firestone, Ford, General Electric, General Motors, Gulf Oil, Gulf & Western, IBM, Mobil Oil, Rockwell International, Texaco, Union Carbide, Western Electric and Xerox.

As part of its ongoing Corporate Employment Project, NGTF sent inquiries last August to all of the

country's major industrial corporations, plus a selected list of non-industrials. To date, NGTF reports that 135 replies have been received, with only 14 of the respondents indicating that they have no policy with regard to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and none of the respondents indicating that a discriminatory policy exists.

"We are greatly heartened by the results of our current survey," NGTF Co-Executive Director Bruce Voeller stated, "especially since it compares so favorably to a similar survey conducted three years ago." In 1975, NGTF surveyed a smaller list of major corporations, and received 12 positive replies. Copies of some of these replies, including those from AT&T, Bank of America, CBS and

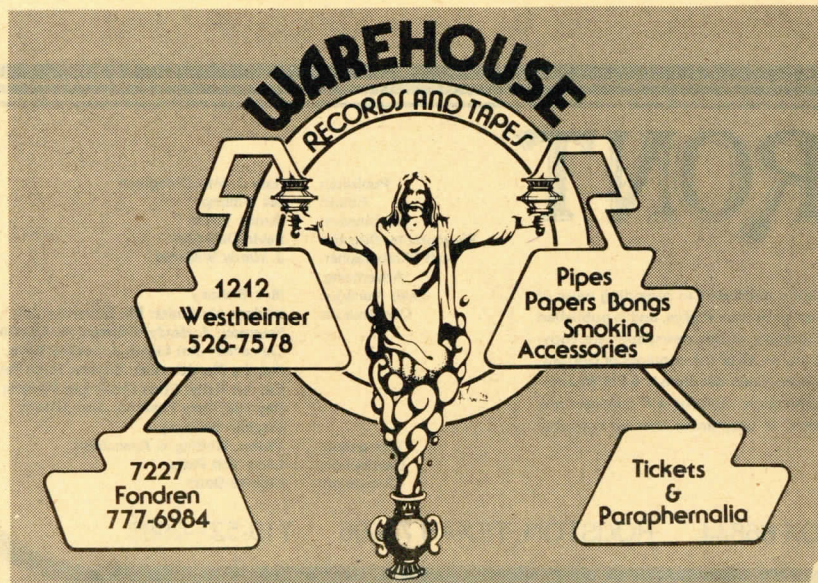
IBM, were sent along with the letter of inquiry in the 1978 survey.

"Our plans for the future," Voeller said, "include writing again to some of the corporations we haven't heard from, and telling them of the positive responses we've received. They also include writing to the corporations which have stated that they do not discriminate, and urging them to make formal policy statements which could receive wide distribution to present and prospective employees."

According to NGTF co-executive director Jean O'Leary, there are a variety of reasons for the substantial increase in statements of corporate non-discrimination. "For one thing," O'Leary said, "the passage of civil-rights legislation in more than 40 communities has forced employers to examine their own policies. It's also true that employers are

much more aware than they used to be of the number of gay people they already have in their employ, and the economic loss they would face by failing to provide these individuals with job security. The recent "backlash" has also helped, by helping to demonstrate the amount of discrimination which gay men and women actually do face."

Both Voeller and O'Leary stressed that while adoption and dissemination of corporate policies of non-discrimination will continue to be a major NGTF priority, such activity is in no way seen as a substitute for efforts to obtain civil-rights legislation on the federal, state and local level. "We see these projects," Voeller said, "as two parts of a single goal: to end, once and for all, all public and private employment discrimination against gay men and women."



J. Ross

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Upbeat



Photo: Kate Winter

MARY WATKINS

Something Moving (BLF919)

The first stated purpose of Olivia Records is to make high quality women's music available to the public. While their efforts in that direction are sometimes marred by an occasional overdose of socio-

political dogma, the women of Olivia often deliver exactly what they've promised. Mary Watkins' *SOMETHING MOVING* delivers that, and a bit more.

Unlike most women's albums,

which seem always to depend upon female vocalists for their impact, Watkin's entry into the ever more crowded field of feminist music presents an engaging mix of rhythmic emphases, syncopations and harmonic and melodic variations that put their message across better than all the wistful folksongs sung slightly off key by all the lesbian folk singers that ever took 3½ minutes to tell you *what its really like-- you know, the female experience*. It is so completely devoid of the hackneyed cliches we usually associate with *feminist* recordings that for all the casual listener knows, *Something Moving* could be the work of a dozen or so dedicated male miscegenists.

Watkins, with a healthy assist from Jerene Jackson on electric and acoustic guitars, composes, arranges, plays and sometimes sings in a broad range of styles, but seems most at home with the pop oriented brand of jazz that is so commercial today. The music is the medium and the message; it needs no additional reason for existence. If someone stops listening to the sounds long enough to hear the lyrics and to see their meaning--so much the better.

If not then it won't matter to anyone anyway because they'll just keep on *giving the best we have of who we are*. Afterall, that's what they started out to do in the first place.

Bill Whiting

Police Practices Cont'd from page 1

cretion, performance evaluation, police discipline, and remedies for police misconduct.

The Commission will conclude its study with recommendations to the President and the Congress for changes in legislation and policies providing institutional mechanisms and alternatives through which the problem of police misconduct can be more effectively controlled.

The Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan, fact-finding agency of the Federal government concerned with discrimination or denial of equal protection of the laws because of race, color, religion, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

While the Commission's mandate does not give it authority to investigate all complaints of discrimination filed by gays, it can investigate those patterns of discrimination against gays relating to the administration of justice.

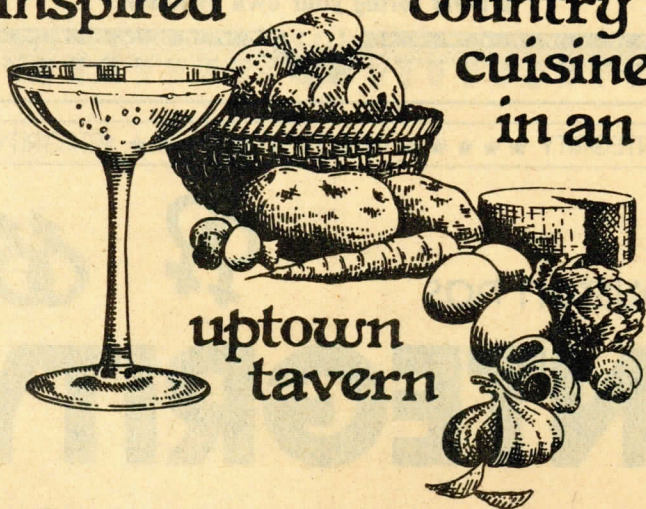
Chairman Flemming has held numerous governmental and academic posts. Other Commissioners are: Vice Chairman Stephen Horn, president of California State University, Long Beach; Frankie Freeman, an attorney specializing in estate and corporation law, St. Louis; Manuel Ruiz, Jr., an attorney specializing in international law, Los Angeles; and Murray Saltzman, Rabbi, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, Baltimore. Louis Nunez is acting staff director.

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MCCR - Yesterday, Today & . . .

The primary goal of The Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection 1214 Joe Annie, is to reach out to all people, to let them know they are loved, & provide a church home for them. With an outreach primarily to the homophile community, MCCR touches thousands of people each year. Seeing the church now, it is difficult to believe that the first two efforts to begin an MCC in Houston failed miserably.

The first MCC study group in Houston was formed during the winter of 1971-1972 by a man who had previously served as an MCC lay minister in California. The group encountered a great deal of opposition and finally folded in the early spring. A second attempt was made later the same year. Montrose Gaze, a social/community center organized in the summer of 1972, expressed interest in sponsoring a church. Rev. Richard Vincent, then pastor of MCC-Dallas, held the initial worship service for the seven-person group but before the small group could organize Montrose Gaze closed.

One person never lost interest in forming an MCC study group in Houston. Arnold Lawson first began holding informal study meetings in

a "mini-warehouse". When some objections to the location were made, Lawson rented an apartment and began to have regular meetings there in December of 1972. For months, only three people, including Lawson, attended regularly. Finally, in the fall of 1973, the group began to make progress.

To accommodate its growth; The study group moved to a run-down, bedraggled storefront on Waugh Drive. Meanwhile two men took on leadership positions within the study group, and began to lead regular worship services on Sundays. Finally, The MCC of the Resurrection was chartered on April 20, 1975, as a full church within the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. In June, 1975, Rev. Robert M. Falls became the first pastor of MCCR and was quickly joined by Rev. Robert Miller, who served as Associate Pastor. Under the leadership of the two ministers, the congregation quickly outgrew the former television repair shop, and moved to the present facilities on Joe Annie in November, 1975.

Falls & Miller served until July, 1976. Since then The MCCR has been served by several persons, either as pastor or Worship Coordi-

nator, including Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey. Harvey's 16 month tenure marks MCCR's longest period of uninterrupted service by a pastor. The congregation voted on December 3, 1978, electing Rev. Charles Larsen of San Francisco as the new pastor by a 93% majority. He will begin his term as pastor on January 15, 1979.

After two false starts and a very slow beginning, MCC of the Resurrection has grown to a church of approximately 300 members. The church operates on a \$60,000.00 per year budget, and supports a full-time pastor and full-time church secretary. The church building is freshly remodeled, with a seating capacity of 275. Church services are held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sundays, and on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Other on-going activities at the church are membership training, choir rehearsal, Bible study, and various social activities. Plans for the future include continued emphasis on outreach to the homophile community, the purchase of a church building, a larger paid ministerial staff, and new outreaches to frequently ignored minorities, such as the deaf, blind, and elderly.

Virginia Galloway

Rev. Larsen Enters Local Pastorate

Houston's Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection has announced the appointment of Charles W. Larsen as pastor. Larsen comes to MCCR from the pastorate at the MCC-San Francisco. Previously he has served as pastor of the Highlands Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, Georgia, and MCC-Tampa, Florida. Larsen was chosen for the Houston position after an extensive 9 month search during which numerous candidates were screened by the MCCR's Pulpit Committee and five other applicants were heard by the congregation. 93% of those voting approved of Larsen's choice.

Larsen, who holds degrees from St. Cloud University, Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin, and Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, was appointed by George Moscone to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission where he served as one of that bodies first three gay advisors. he also served as Executive Director of the Council on Religion and Homosexuality. Larsen's first sermon will be January 14 at 11 a.m. The formal Installation Service will be Feb. 25 at 11 a.m. The public is invited to these and all other MCCR functions. MCCR is located at 1214 Joe Annie St.

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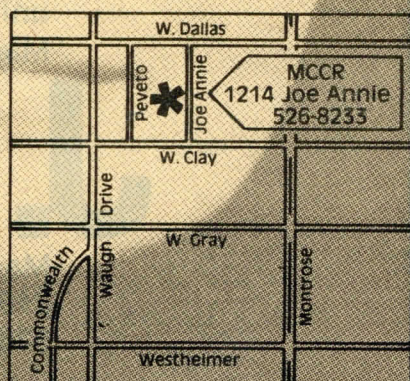
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Houston has

INTEGRITY

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Medifax

Is All That Effort Worth It?

Everywhere we look these days the streets are filled with joggers-all sizes, shapes and ages puffing along in all kinds of weather. Health clubs are doing a booming business and the New Narcissism as some call it has taken on the trappings of a Body Awareness cult. But there are the critics who say *Oh, you have to run MILES before it really does any good and who has time for it anyway?* Claims and counter claims about the effects of exercise on weight control, cholesterol level and heart function fly back and forth.

Before trying to assess the effects of exercise on health one must make the distinction between *degree of fatness* and *being overweight*. Using skinfold measures of fat accumulation is considered to be a more realistic way to determine degree of fatness rather than simple body weight. Loose skin over the stomach, at the waistline or other places on the body can be grasped

between the thumb and the index finger and measured with a caliper. Simple body weight may be misleading because an athlete can be *overweight* according to standard body weight tables but may actually be very lean when body fat is measured.

Shorter life span is associated with excessive fatness or obesity. The reduced length of life of the obese appears to be caused mainly by heart, kidney and digestive diseases, diabetes and liver disorders. Other evidence indicates that excess fatness may also produce high blood pressure, gall bladder disease, breakdown of the joints and certain types of cancer. So it is apparent that getting rid of excess fat is a good idea. There are two ways to do it- proper diet and adequate exercise. The question is -What does exercise really do?

If a person in caloric balance increases food without changing the level of energy expenditure through

increased activity, fat will accumulate. Fat will also accumulate if food intake is held constant and physical activity is decreased. Sometimes people can get into a vicious circle of reduced activity which increases fatness which often results in further reduction of activity and more fatness. Studies show that overall physical fitness and leanness are associated with higher levels of physical activity- so joggers you are helping to keep the fat down.

In studies on the relationship of activity and blood pressure and fatness and blood pressure, it was found that fatter people had higher blood pressure but that overall level of activity was not necessarily related to blood pressure. The causes of chronic high blood pressure are complex and still not too well understood but being too fat obviously isn't good for maintaining proper pressure.

Studies on the relationship of levels of physical activity and heart disease are not conclusive. It has been observed that people who are more active seem to be able to tolerate hardening of the arteries better than those who are less active. However, there is no evidence to support the popular idea that regular physical activity, especially jogging, improves the tone of the blood vessels or prevents hardening of the arteries. The causes of hardening of the arteries are not at all well understood and this is a subject of raging controversy among scientists. Increased regular strenuous physical

Cont'd page 14

Mother's Back

Clap, Clap, Clap, Clap, Clap
---Mother is not applauding. She is talking about the venereal disease called Gonorrhea.

Now if you think the Clap is only going to zap you in your penis --your wrong. You can have this disease in your throat and rectum, too. In fact, you can have it in all three places at the same time. (This is known in some circles as the Galloping Gonorrhea.)

I know, you don't have it -- you don't have a drip, drip, drip, and it doesn't burn when you urinate. Well, did you know that 20% of the people infected in the penis with Gonorrhea don't have any symptoms at all?

You had a blood test last week and everything is fine. Sorry, a blood test is for Syphilis, not the Clap. A culture must be done to determine if you have the Clap. All three areas (throat, rectum and penis) should be cultured. So ask your doctor to check you in all of these places.

If you find you are infected be a sweetheart tell your sex partners so they can get treatment, too.

Get regular check-ups and Mother will be applauding. TTFN.

Ruth Ravis

RUTH RAVIS is employed by Houston's Central Health Clinic as a registered nurse. She has been extensively involved with the gay community in the area of testing and treatment of V.D.

Ruth requested UPFRONT to experiment with a regular V.D. column written differently and pointedly hoping to shock or otherwise encourage readers to be tested regularly and often. UPFRONT joins Ms. Ravis in this endeavor.



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Book Review

DANCER FROM THE DANCE, By Andrew Holleran. William Morrow and Company New York, 1978. \$9.95.

Moving, like two figures from Dante's "Inferno", from disco to disco, from party to party, from baths to park bushes and out to the dunes of Fire Island the two main characters of this richly evocative novel are prototypes of a certain time, place and kind of gay lifestyle. The time is the era of the dawn of the discos in the early 70's in Manhattan which brought with it the birth of the Disco Queen and a closed little world of shadowy night people and hidden places that had not yet been discovered and hyped by the media into a multi-million dollar business. The Queens are seen at dawn, heads down, walking against the rest of the world on its way to work while they are going home to little rooms to sleep until dusk.

The chief figure, Malone, aloof, handsome to the point of driving beholders to despair, evolves from an ivy league school establishment lawyer to a child-like drop out as he moves from the world of Manhattans fashionable upper east side to a

grimy tenement of the lower east side with fat Polish women selling fruit from street stands and forlorn men sitting on their door stoops at dusk watching for no one knows what and looking out on crazy old ladies with baby carriages filled with trash, on pimps and whores and queens emerging into the twilight. Malone moves restlessly and endlessly through the dark discos, the baths and the parks in an endless search for the perfect Latin lover who somehow always eludes him even though everyone is in love with him and he sells his body to rich and famous men who adore him.

Sutherland, Malone's alter ego, is a male Southern Belle cast up into the ruins of Manhattan. Dressed in Halston, encased in elbow length gloves this ultimate Drag Queen drawls at Malone, *My dear, if you're going to be SERIOUS I'd better change my clothes!*. He is the Dark

Angel to the Galahad like Malone, leading him through the lower regions of the underworld in which they live.

For anyone familiar with New York and Fire Island this sad, funny, sensitive but brutally realistic book vividly portrays the city just as it is. The smells, The tramps, the steaming August pavements, the frenzy of a Fire Island party- it is all there. This novel, so comprehensible to any gay reader, more than likely would be baffling to the typical straight reader-but gays will have no trouble recognizing the members of the cast. A typical scene is the party thrown in Malone's slum flat after his arm is broken in a skirmish with some security guards. In come the Disco Queens, all strange shadows from the night, unknown to each other until trouble strikes one of their kind, bearing the detritis of expensive uptown parties- flowers, caviar, champagne, transforming Malone's ruins into an elegant salon. As someone here in Houston once remarked, *Who else but gay people would stand around in the ashes of a ruined place and throw a cocktail party!*.

Jim Lloyd

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Marching East

The first straight press mention of the March on Washington appeared in the New York Times on December 13, 1978 in a feature article written by Larry Kramer (author of the novel "Faggots"). In his article, he noted the March date of July 4th, a date first mentioned by the late Harvey Milk. Kramer wrote of listening to Lieut. Gov.-elect Mario Cuomo (New York) speak several months earlier to the Greater Gotham Business Council (an organization similar to our Executive and Professional Association of Houston) where the politician told the business group that until gays organized, until they prepared accurate demographics on numbers and purchasing power, gays would get nowhere; that political power-and therefore rights-is based on numbers and money.

Kramer also mentioned that he heard Percy Sutton (another New York politico) say essentially the same thing two years ago at a very sparsely attended anti-Anita Bryant rally. Mr. Sutton said, in effect: You don't know how many of you there are; until you do, you'll get nowhere.

Kramer finished his article by indicating that New York City does not have an aggressive gay community leadership. Kramer wrote, "Harvey Milk, William Barcus, Anne Kronenberg, Dr. David Kessler-we have no one like you here."



A Private Party benefitting the Montrose Activity Center Jan. 28 Holman at LaBranch

Religious Workshops Spark Confrontations

During the week between Christmas and New Year's gay people confronted the organized Church with its Anti-Christ treatment of homosexuals. There were two major religious events held in Houston, the American Lutheran Church-Lutheran Church in America (ALC-LCA) Youth Retreat, Dec. 28-30, at Dunfey's Royal Coach Inn and the Church of Christ's Greater Houston Workshop, Dec. 28-30 at the Albert Thomas Convention Center.

The ALA-LCA Youth Retreat had some 700 high school youth studying 23 different world issues. One was the issue of homosexuality covered in three separate workshops by members of Lutherans Concerned for Gay People and the "Wilde-n-Stein" radio collective and attended by more than 300 young people. About 35-40 young people, clergy-persons and counselors attended the first workshop. The lecture covered historical, psychological, sociological and theological concerns. Naturally the adults focused upon the condemnation found in Scripture. One of the lecturers finally pointed out that the Church is really the Anti-Christ whenever it condemns anyone. *In the past the Church has condemned Blacks, women, and other minorities using the same theological arguments*

it now uses against our Tribe-the gay community, he continued. The next morning the youths filled the meeting room 30 minutes before the workshop was to begin. They were moved into the main assembly room and as they moved through the halls the number increased as participants left other workshops and joined the one on Homosexuality. By the time they settled into five groups of only youth, there were over 200 young people. The group leaders were gay teenage men and women and young adult lesbians and gay men of the Wilde-n-Stein radio collective and Lutherans Concerned for Gay People. Speaking from their own personal experiences, the group leaders talked with the kids, answering questions on what it is like to be gay.

While the youths were rapping with gay teenagers and young gay adults, their parents, counselors and clergy persons were being confronted by Disco-Grandma and other gay men and lesbians. Disco-Grandma spoke of the beauty and love of gay women and gay men. She said the Church would do well to follow gay people's example of love. Of course members of the clergy became a little defensive and claimed that not all clergy or churches acted like Anita. However, another leader

pointed out that Lutherans Concerned for Gay People needed a regular meeting place and not one Lutheran Church in Houston would let them use their facilities and not one Lutheran Church would advertise in any gay publication that their doors were open to gay people. Another leader pointed out that *it is time for the church to put its tail on the line and practice what they preach*.

Saturday afternoon, Dec. 30, members of the gay community confronted another Christian body, The Church of Christ, at the Greater Houston Workshop on homosexuality. Sgt. John Freeman, founder of the HPD's Chicken Hawk Squad, was the main speaker.

During the question and answer period a gay man from the Church of Christ identified himself as gay and suggested that they permit Jimmy Allen a great preacher in the Church of Christ from Searcy, Arkansas, to answer questions. The young man stated that he had worked with Allen and highly respected him. Allen began by telling the gay man that he was going to Hell.

Allen stated that he would debate Homosexuality and the Bible with anyone at anytime and was invited to debate Ray Hill Friday, Jan. 5, on the Wilde-n-Stein program. Allen declined. However, the members of the Church of Christ promised that they would find someone to debate Hill, even if it meant flying someone in from L.A. (Church members were unable to find a debater on such short notice but they are still looking.)

Calendar

Lambda Club meetings are held each Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Rooms 8-9 on the second floor of the First Unitarian Church of Houston, 5210 Fannin (at corner of Southmore). Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to promote *those activities which contribute to the self-fulfillment of homosexuals*.

Sign Language Course begins at the MAC Building in early January, 1979. Call 961-1813, for more information.

Gay Political Caucus, 1310 McDuffie, #28A, Houston, Texas 77019 (713) 526-2668. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 1979, in the Caucus Room, MAC Building, 1423 Holman (at LaBranch). The meetings start promptly at 7:30 p.m. and are open to all.

VD Testing Dates for January: Studz News, Friday, Jan. 12th, 8-11 p.m.; Locker, Wednesday, Jan. 17th, 9-12 p.m.; Venture-N, Thursday, Jan. 25th, 10 p.m. - 1 a.m.

The Executive and Professional Association of Houston will hold its monthly meeting on Monday, January 22, 1979, at Don's Le Patois Restaurant, 428 Westheimer. Cocktails @ 6:00 p.m., Dinner @ 7:00 p.m. R.S.V.P. by 5:00 p.m. Friday, January 19, 1979 at 521-1400.

March Cont'd from page 1

that *should* the march occur, that both the May date and other summer dates (such as July 4th, give or take a couple of days so that weekends can be used) were not acceptable and that a fall date would be best. Brydon believed the May date would be too soon and that the July dates (endorsed by several San Francisco groups) were inconvenient because of weather, transportation and accommodation scheduling problems, and general vacation and tourist (national and Washington, D.C.) problems. A date in the fall when Congress is back in session and free of other scheduling conflicts would be his preference.

Houston march organizers were undaunted by this latest development. "If we have to wait for the fall so that we can *all* march together, so be it," responded one committee member. "We have not slowed our pace, we are only regrouping to cope with this latest development. Houston will still offer its services to develop and co-ordinate the March. Our reputation is on the line. We'll show other cities how to do a good job with limited resources." It was hoped that other cities would concentrate their energies on doing a good job as part of an overall team effort.

SUPPORT IS NOT UNIVERSAL

Just as Seattle's Charlie Brydon mentioned above, others have also stated that they have not yet been convinced that the March is necessary in 1979. Most think the idea is good, but a few years from now,

maybe. The confusion regarding support comes mostly from within the gay community where universal dissent normally exists. Nevertheless, Houston's March organizers are continuing to go forth with both local and national planning.

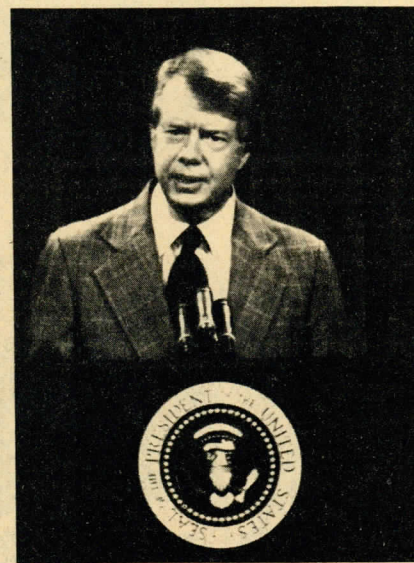
NEW DATE?

If appears certain that a fall date will have to be selected if *all* human rights interests are to be served. Deaf people are currently being organized by Houstonian Bruce Herman. He indicated that other deaf people are interested and want to assist in the planning, too.

Celebrities that formerly helped in Houston's June 16, 1977 Human Rights Rally have again asked to assist. Because the 1977 organizers are the same ones involved in organizing the current March, it is expected that the celebrities will again offer their support.

Organizers are determined that this March will not just be a gay march, but a human rights march which is gay rights and a whole lot more. Should some gay groups elsewhere in the country not wish to support this more universal approach, organizers are determined to push ahead with the plans anyway. However, they are quick to point out that the broader, there by stronger coalition, would be heard and seen more effectively that otherwise. They also were quick to include the fact that large numbers of gays would not attend a gay march, but would the more broad human rights concept.

"Penalties against possession of a drug should not be more damaging to an individual than the use of the drug itself."



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—President Jimmy Carter
Message to Congress, 8/2/77

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Abortion

Gay men and women don't usually have to deal with the problems of an unwanted pregnancy, so gay people don't have to worry about the efforts of "pro-lifers" to make abortion illegal, right?

WRONG. In case you didn't notice, the people who are behind the effort to deprive a woman of her right to choose are the same ones who would have you fired from your job, put in an institution, thrown in jail, or even murdered. These "pink ladies" and Anita Bryants see the abortion issue as just one segment of their broad scale attack to force the adoption of traditional, family-oriented, child-bearing habits as the *only* acceptable lifestyle in our society. They would enforce this tyranny against anyone who chooses to be different, and they will *not* stop with abortion. (Witness the half-page ad in a local paper which appeared during the International Women's Year Conference just a short year ago-- "Mommy, when I grow up can I be a lesbian?" The ad was purchased by the "Pro-Family Coalition" which sponsored a rally against the ERA, abortion, feminism, and homosexuals.)

Abortion is not a gay issue, not a women's issue, not a liberal issue; in fact, the right to choose an abortion has little to do with abortion per se. No one advocates mandatory abortion. Rather, our philosophical concern is that women have the *human* right to choose between pregnancy and a safe, legal abortion.

Even as a practical concern, though, it is a matter of health and safety. Women have *always* had abortions. The question becomes, were they performed safely, under medical supervision? According to Dr. Christopher Tietze of the Population Council, seven out of ten legal abortions performed in 1974 would have occurred even if abortion had been illegal, and under dubious conditions at best.

Made no mistake: the opponents of safe, legal abortion are well-financed and well-organized, and they have matched their angry invective with a series of actions in Congress, in the courts, and in the states to deprive women of the right to choose. *Already*, military women, poor women, and Peach Corps women can no longer obtain safe, legal abortion through their usual medical care because Congress has

Abortion Rights Workshop Set for U of H.

Monday, Jan 22, will mark the sixth anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the United States. To commemorate the occasion, the Houston Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union is sponsoring a Pro Choice Anniversary Workshop, Saturday, Jan. 20, in Room 116, Science and Research I Building of the University of Houston. The conference will feature speakers in the morning and two sets of 3 workshops each in the afternoon. Speakers will be Ms. Pat Bayea, Director of the National ACLU Campaign for Choice, and Father Joseph O'Rourke of Catholics for Free Choice.

After the lunch break the workshops will begin. Subject matter of

the first three will be Impacting the Legislatures, Media & Education, and Medical Aspect; the second set of workshops feature the Religious Perspective, Community Participation, and Courts: Abortion Legislation. Registration is open to the public beginning at 9:30 Saturday morning and the first session begins immediately at 10 a.m. Free parking is available in Lot 6-A.

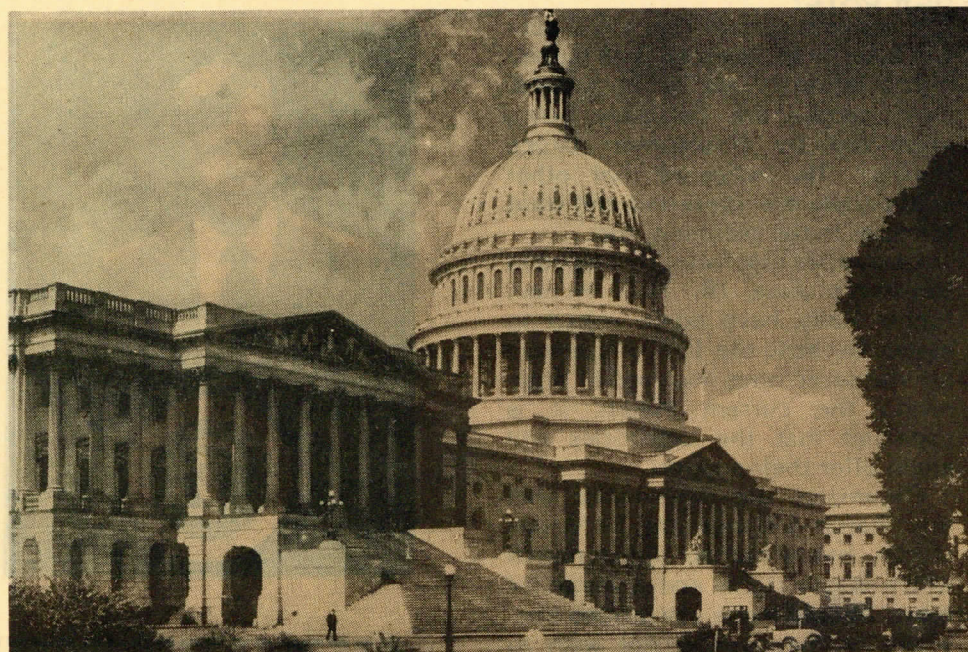
In related news, Pro Life forces are expected to stage protest demonstrations in many cities across the nation. In Washington, D.C., several thousand marchers are expected to gather before the capital in an effort to garner national attention for their cause. Locally they are expected to picket the Pro-Choice Workshop.

prohibited the use of federal funds for these women. Through intense lobbying and publicity, opponents have pressured more than 15 states to issue a call for a special Constitutional Convention (a mechanism which has never been used and which could provoke a crisis because of uncertainties about how it would operate) to write an amendment to the *U.S. Constitution* specifically prohibiting abortion. Texas has been targeted as the next state for

this "con-con" campaign.

Those who oppose the right to choose would require massive governmental intrusion into people's lives and the abolition of personal privacy. In coming issues we will examine the myths propagated against "abortion on demand" from a human rights perspective. The conclusion is clear: we must *all* be concerned, because we are *all* under attack.

Gary Brewton & Joan Glantz



A MARCH ON THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Transportation, lodging and other information will be printed in UPFRONT as it becomes available. Everyone is asked to begin planning for this event.

For information write: MARCH, P.O. Box 66844, Houston, Texas 77006

Lockeyland

Dear Lockey Love,

I would like to propose a new symbol to be used at the bars as one would wear a set of keys, a uniform, or colored handkerchiefs. This new symbol would be the part in the hair; the hair parted on the left means the wearer is mentally active and on the right, mentally passive. This could really catch on quick as surely more meaningful relationships will be developed since priorities will be drastically altered. Thanks for helping institute this new and worthwhile system.

"Lefty"
Pearland, Texas

Dear Lefty,

Aren't you cute to come up with this most intriguing idea, but you do realize that standards must be set for this work. A firm definition for **mentally active** has to be established. Does having read and understood *Mommie Dearest* or *Valley of the Dolls* place one in that category or should the requirement include the works of Tolkien as well? Some men are wizards at repairing mechanical things, others at preparing gourmet meals but may not even know who Joan Sutherland is. Political knowledge should also be a consideration; how many of us know, Heaven forbid, that Spiro Agnew or even John Tower could indeed run for president of the United States?

You definitely need to decide on the cut-off point between active and

passive before many of us start spending money for new hair styles. This brainstorm will surely be welcomed by all the colorblind gays who can't decipher the handkerchief code, but how in the world are all those cute bald men going to play the game? Work on this a bit more and let me know what you come up with.

L.L.

P.S. You wouldn't happen to be an out-of-work beauty operator, would you?

Dear Lockeyland,

Since it is now known you are a disco freak, would you please say something about the popper-moochers that haunt the bars. I get so tired of at least four hands waving at me demanding to borrow my inspiration the instant they see it. Please help to stamp out these people.

S. Brown
Spring Branch, Texas

Dear S.B.,

This situation I soooooo identify with. The non-popper-buyers are a bore. Upon inhaling the **inspirational aroma** most folks go somewhere near Krypton or the land of OZ, so the very last things we want to cope with are beggar's hands tapping our shoulders, keeping tabs on our little brown bottle or witnessing some stingy stranger spill it in his beard.

They don't cost tht much, girlfriends, so please B.Y.O.P.!!!

L.L.

Dear Mr. Love,

From the recent topics covered in your articles it is obvious that you do not realize that there are many of us out here that do not dance, do not go to the discos, could care less about them, and do not even like to read or hear about them. Give us a break!

D. Daye
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Daye,

I'd rather give you dance lessons, but since you insist I promise to never ask you to dance and graviously award you the title of **Wallflower of the Year**. (doesn't dance, indeed!!!!!!).

L.L.

Dear J. Lockey Love,

I must take exception to your negative opinions concerning Colorado. As one who has experienced the thrill, isolation, and freedom of knowing the beauty of this state firsthand by living here, I must disagree with your recent rude statements. Colorado is most of all *communing with nature*. You sound like a Sunday-nature-lover. One must leave the beaten paths and search for wilderness areas to truly experience the country and find its magic. One needs to be a dedicated backpacker who knows the ways of the woods. You simply were not prepared for the total commitment being a hermit requires. In short, you can't wear spiked heels and expect to enjoy the mountains.

H. Grigs
Denver, Colorado

Well, ain't you nothing, Helen! You do write a most poetic letter even if you cannot yet take a joke. You

obviously live next door to a 24-hour Safeway and never lived through those **Colorado-Country-Boy-Blues**. I communed, I was thrilled, isolated, and dedicated. I found those unbeaten paths and almost froze on them. Glad you are happy there, climb a few mountains for me, send no ice storms this way and break none of **your** spiked heels doing the hustle!

Mr. Lockey Love,

Could you please say something in your column about the obnoxious tall people in the discos who elbow the rest of us at every turn? I'm fed up with getting cigarette burns about the head and shoulders by thoughtless titans. Perhaps we normal-sized people should start an Italian-style terrorist campaign to break kneecaps or put out our cigarettes on accessible lower targets.

Please sign me--
Short but not Small

Dear Dwarf,

Calling **them** (myself included) obnoxious, and thoughtless wins you no brownie points from this department. It certainly isn't our fault you did not eat all your vegetables as a child. Buy some elevated shoes, take double doses of vitamins and stop your bitching. (All we tall guys had better be on the lookout for midgets smoking in the bars.)

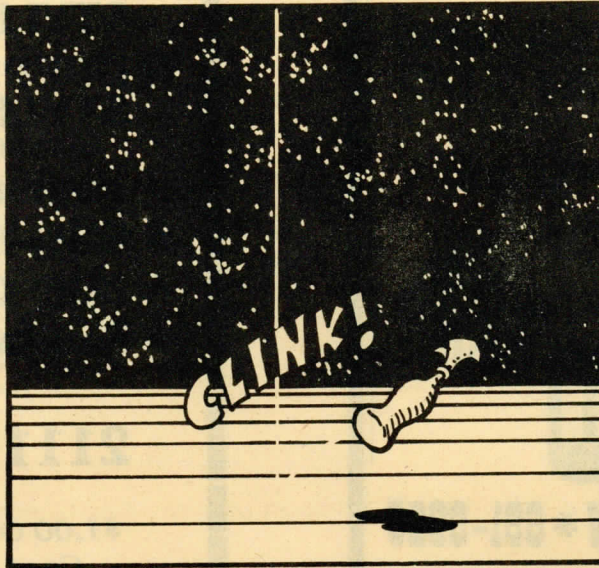
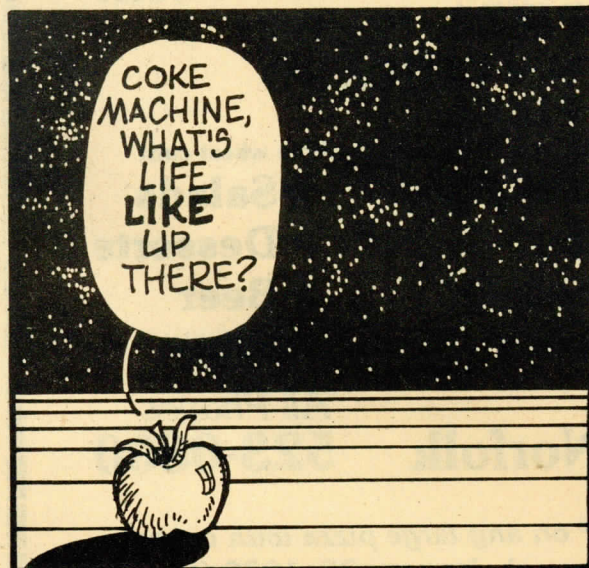
J. Lockey Love

To whomever sent me that strange gift in the mail, may I remind you that after Vincent van Gogh cut off his ear and sent it to his favorite barmaid he was known in some social circles as Vincent van Gauche!

And do not forget--Life is what happens to you while you are making other plans.

J. Lockey Love

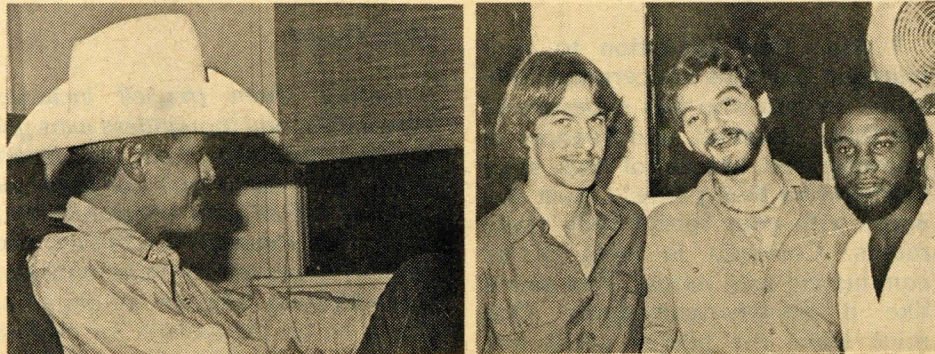
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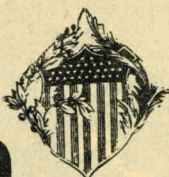
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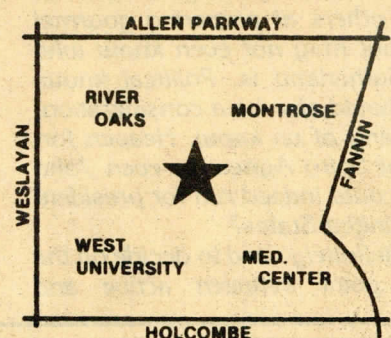
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information

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- ☐ Chicano Caucus
- ☐ Christ's Communion Church
- ☐ Dignity/Houston
- ☐ Executive and Professional Association
Of Houston
- ☐ Gay Political Caucus
- ☐ Gay Rights National Lobby
- ☐ Integrity/Episcopal
- ☐ Integrity/Houston
- ☐ Lutherans Concerned for Gay People
- ☐ Metropolitan Community Church Of
The Resurrection
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IN HOUSTON**
7 AM to 7 PM
Mon — Fri

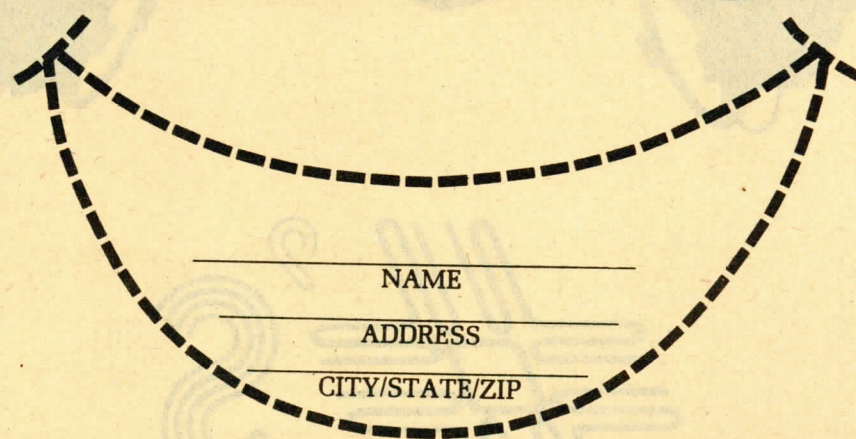


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Houston

WHY IS THIS AD SMILING?



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**Because (Ta-Daah) at last (Drum Roll)
UPFRONT (Trumpet Blast) is selling
SUBSCRIPTIONS. (Cymbal Crash)**

Yes Friend, once again you are being offered The Opportunity to receive all the news that's GAY in your very own mailbox. Read The Truth about Harry Caldwell; discover The Real Facts about Bill Clements & his Startling Relationship with John Tower; see never before published photos of GPC President Steve Shiflett in action; and much, MUCH MORE. All This can be yours, sent directly to YOU for a mere \$15 per year. Just tear along the dotted smile, fill the cavities (the Lines, the Lines) and send it today with your check or money order to:

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SEND A FRIEND A SMILE TODAY!

Frontlines Cont'd from page 3

Dear UPFRONT:

One of the things I have liked best about UPFRONT is its absolute professionalism. The high quality of the articles has been a good positive example for other gay-oriented publications, and the overall effect has been very fine. I say "has been", because I am dismayed by an article in the most recent issue of UPFRONT (the "Happy New Year" issue).

The article headed "Advice Mother Never Gave You" was done in terribly poor taste, and detracts from the really good image of UPFRONT. By permitting the sleazy phrasing so prevalent in other, less important publications, you allow UPFRONT to be reduced to their level.

The entire tone of the article was extremely offensive. Venereal disease is a very serious subject, and should not be treated with such flippancy. We need to educate our people about such things, and we need to be serious in our educational endeavors. Using phrases like "that hole that females have..." is a direct slap at your women readers, and reduces UPFRONT to the level of crotch-oriented tabloids that are terrific for amusement but do nothing to instill any self-worth in our people.

You have a fine newspaper -- one

in which our community can feel pride. Please don't let it sink to the level of the "trash rags." We have plenty of those, and they die away and are never remembered. You can be different.

Virginia Galloway
Deacon
MCC of the Resurrection.
(and your steadfast friend in the struggle)

Dear UPFRONT:

Many Americans mourned the death of Harvey Milk. He was a dedicated man who earned the respect of the gay community, as well as many outside of that community. His concern for *all* men and women was attested to by his vision of a national human rights march. As you pointed out in the beginning of your editorial in the December 8th issue of *Upfront*, he meant HUMAN RIGHTS in the broadest sense of the words--not a euphemistically narrowed expression for gay rights. This idea should not die with him.

Your editorial solicited solely the support and assistance of the Houston gay community. This restriction, implicit in the fact that it was printed in a gay publication, abnegates the nonpartisan spirit of the march. You pronounced Houston to be the organizational center of this effort, but then you confine it to the city's "highly organized and cooperative gay community." In

doing this you have bathetically reduced both Harvey Milk's vision and the power of your own statement: *The time has come for Houston to show its stuff to the rest of the nation.*

Due to Houston's rapid growth, it now contains a wide cross-section of people from all parts of the nation. It is, therefore, apropos that a national human rights campaign begin here. I hope that the strong gay community of which you boasted will have the foresight to tap the vast non-gay resources of our city and country.

David K.

To The Editor:

I would like to congratulate your entire staff for the tremendous increase in the quality of your publication. "Upfront" gets more professional with every issue and the variety of articles makes it very enjoyable reading.

I especially enjoy "Lockeyland" by J. Lockey Love. His wit and dry humour add much spice and warmth to your paper. "Lockeyland" is more than welcome is Houstonland.

R.A. Hayes

To The Editor:

Appreciate and enjoy your new format for "Upfront", but did miss "Lockeyland" in your last issue. He's funny.

We hope he is only on a temporary vacation from your up and coming newspaper.

M.J.
Baytown, Texas

Appeals Court Cont'd from page 4

County officials have unwittingly boxed themselves into another costly corner and have again lost. It remains to be seen what their next move will be and how much it will cost the taxpayers of Harris County next time.

Medifax Cont'd from page 7

activity does lower the heart rate which means the heart doesn't have to work as hard to pump blood through the body.

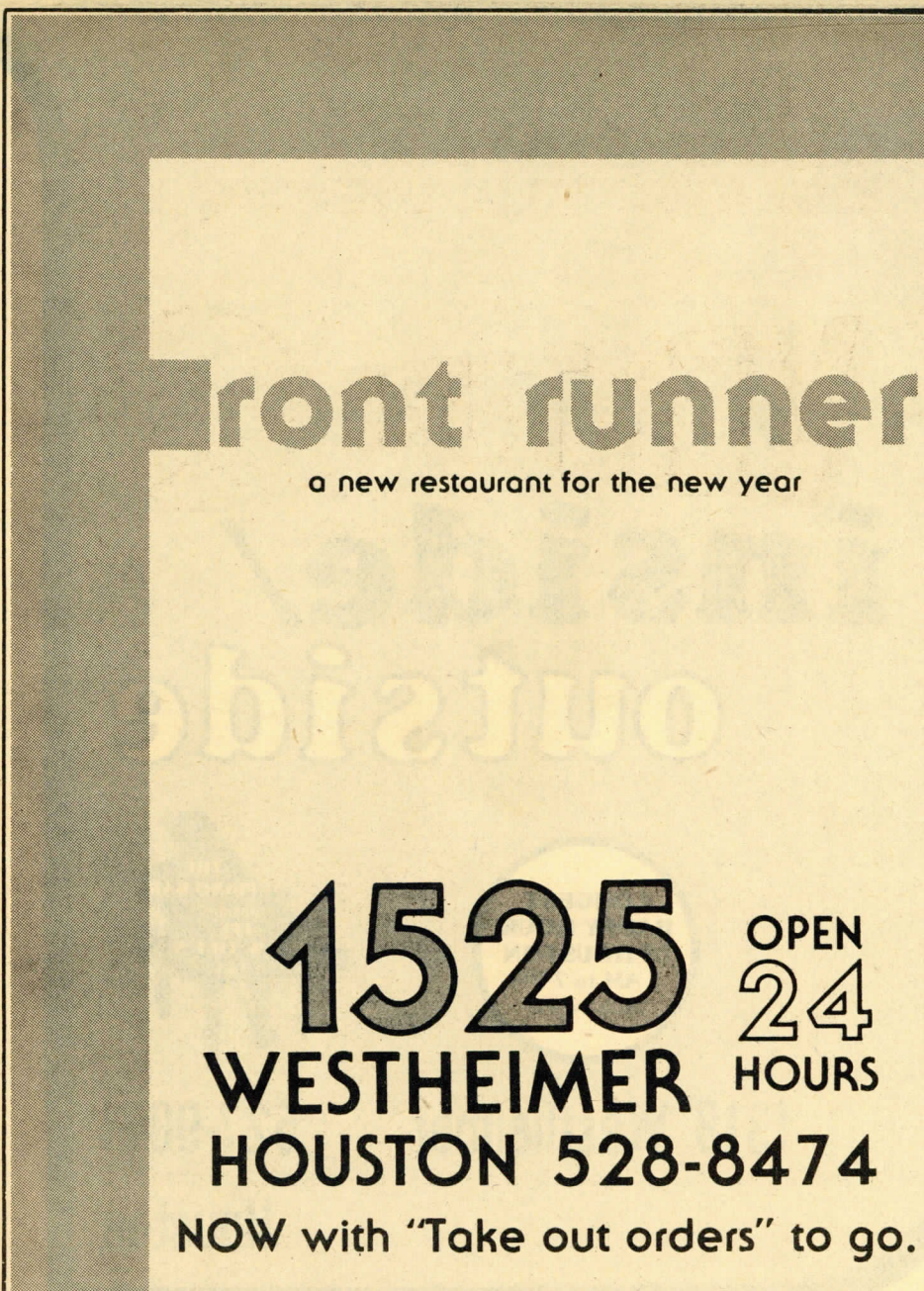
Many scientists believe that psychological stress may cause heart disease and studies have shown that those who have a program of regular exercise appear to tolerate stress better. Many people who jog or work out report that it makes them feel better emotionally and clears the tensions of everyday living. Perhaps just thinking that the exercises you are doing are good for you has some hidden effect on one's sense of well being.

One thing is clear- people who exercise regularly keep the fat down, look better and generally feel better. Looking good can often result in nice things happening which makes you feel better too. So off to the track, the gym and the dance floor!

Jim Lloyd



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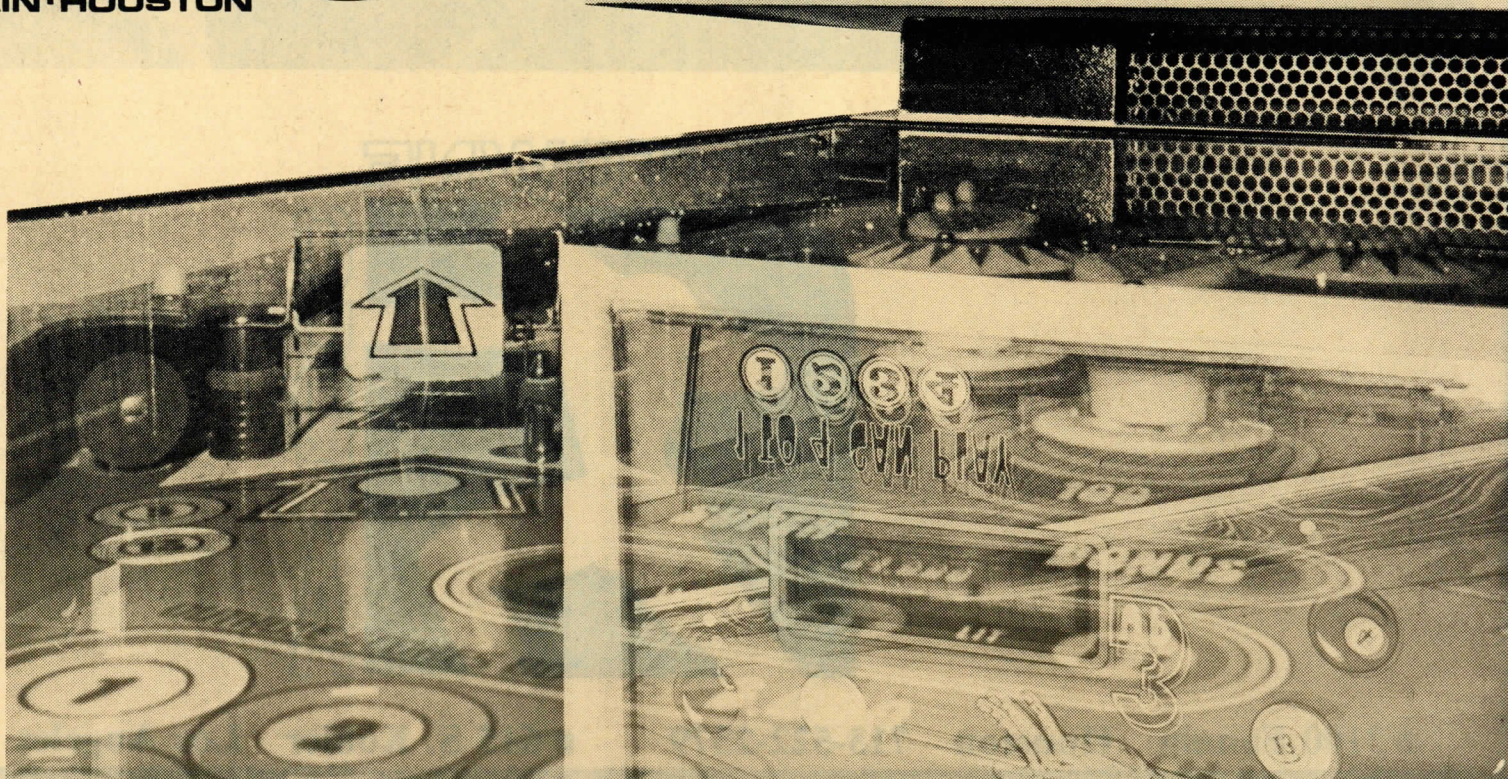
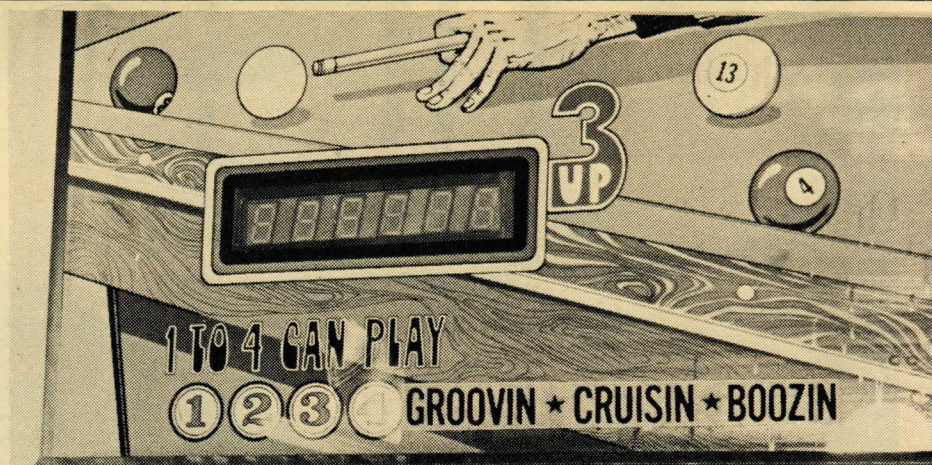
OPEN 24 HOURS

MARY'S

OF COURSE!

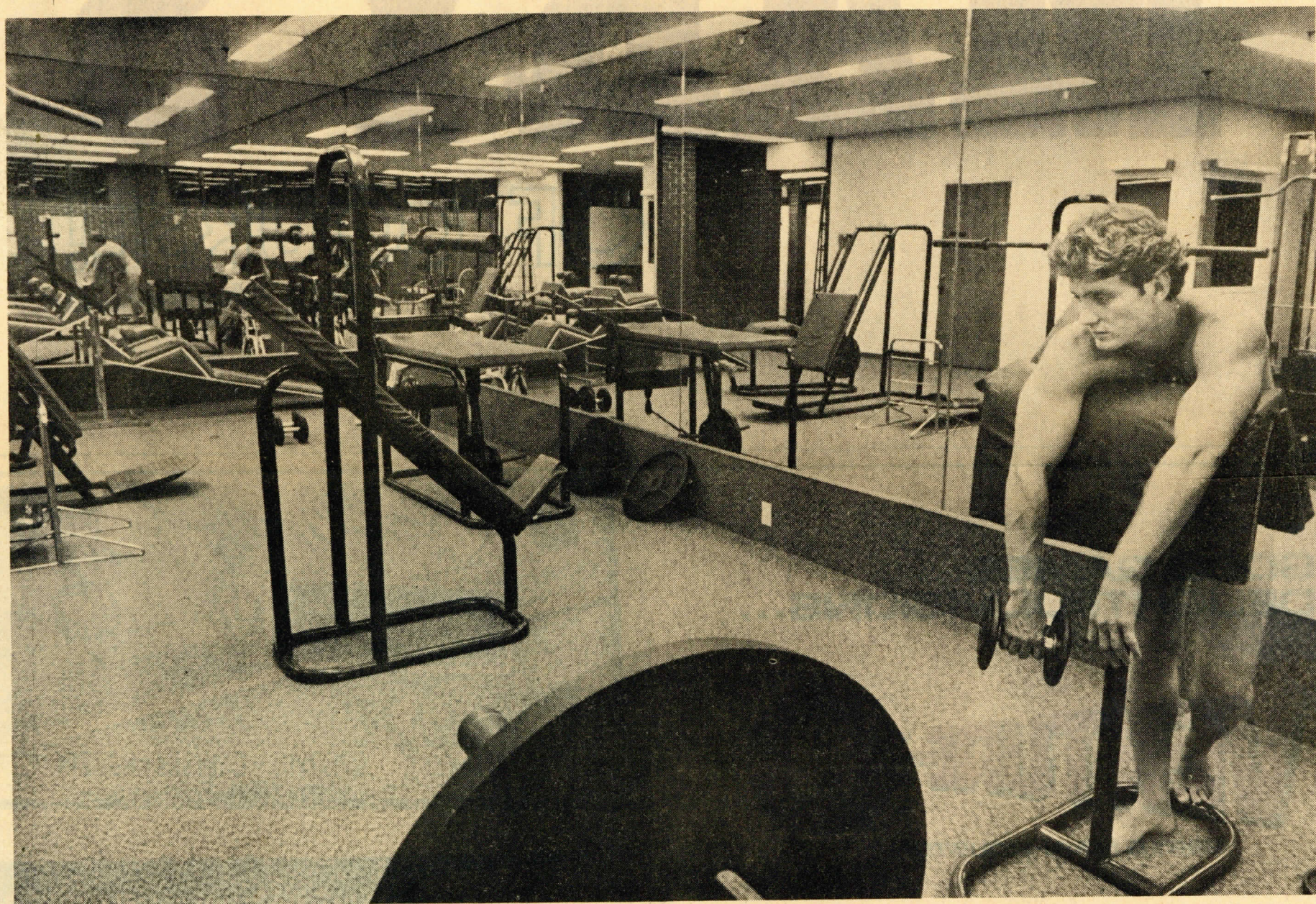
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