

UPFRONT

None are free
unless
all are free!

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 6

FEBRUARY 23, 1979

IN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HOUSTON, TEXAS

March On Washington

This weekend Gary Van Ooteghem is in Philadelphia attempting to persuade the national gay leadership to join the Human Rights March On Washington. Before he left he asked that we at Upfront do something to show the city of Houston why we are marching and how much support the march has already garnered. Following is a statement released last week by a few of the supporters of the National March.

Everywhere we turn in the world today, whether abroad or within the United States, we see time honored human rights and personal liberties under attack. Almost daily we are treated to the sight of someone using the freedoms we hold dear to attack a person, group or idea he or she finds undesirable. Not since the days before World War II have so many precious freedoms been in such great danger.

Sunday, October 28, 1979 hundreds of thousands of Americans will gather on the Mall in Washington, D.C. to reaffirm their belief in and active support of the principles included in our Bill of Rights. They will stand together to show the President, the Congress and the Supreme Court that the freedoms of speech, association,

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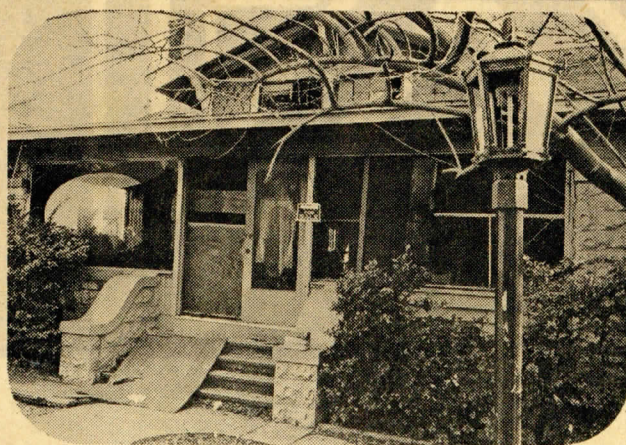
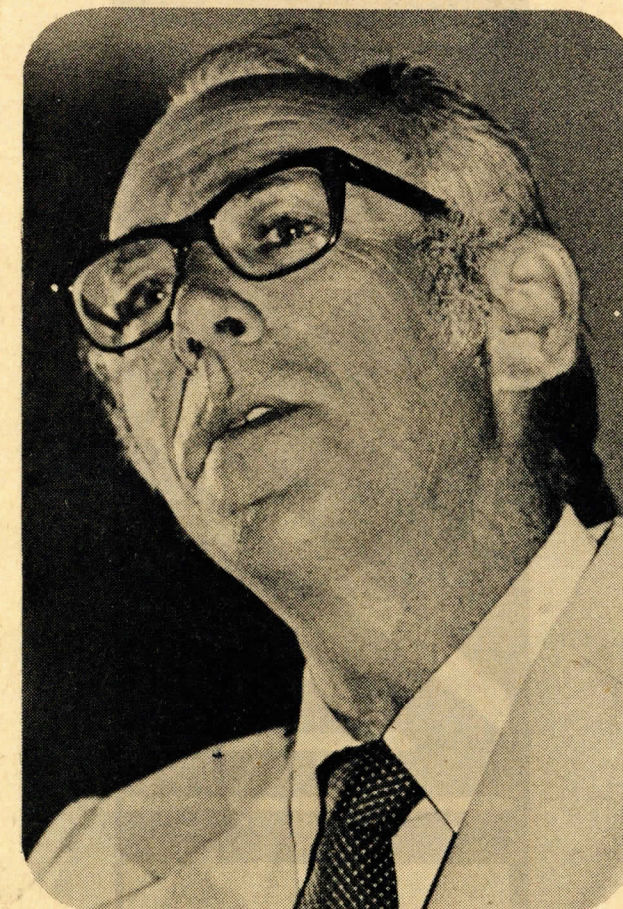
"there ain't gonna' be no pollinatin' up against the walls on Main St..."

When a local gay activist asked Houston Police Chief Harry Caldwell when he was going to take a personal interest in establishing an atmosphere in the HPD which would be conducive to fair and humane treatment being accorded all persons who come into contact with Houston's police, Caldwell replied that he had already done so. He went on to suggest that groups dissatisfied with his performance resort to the federal courts. He then lost his composure and in one great sweeping motion aimed his finger at Steve Shiflett and stated "So long as I am chief of police, there ain't gonna' be no pollination up against the walls on Main St." When asked later how his irrational answer related to the question, Caldwell refused to discuss the matter further.

The suave police chief was making a rare Montrose area appearance at the annual membership meeting of the American Civil Liberties Union. During the business session human rights activist Gary

Van Ooteghem and Ron Waters' legislative aide, Deborah Danburg, were elected with several others to the Houston ACLU Board of Directors. Van Ooteghem is also active on the state level in the Texas Civil Liberties Union.

Using his best professorial tone and spouting pseudo-sociological jargon, Caldwell chided the civil libertarians for jumping to the defense of so many colors, "blacks, browns, grey and pink but never blues." Caldwell stated again his opposition to a civilian review board, alleging they are always unconstitutional in practice. He also expounded his theory that all responsibility and authority in a police department rest with the chief. When asked who the chief answered to, Caldwell replied the people and the courts. Upon prodding he also mentioned Mayor Jim McConn's position in his chain of command.



COMING UP IN UPFRONT

This building located in the heart of restaurant row at 423 Westheimer burned in late Summer, 1978. It once housed beer drinking red necks and drifters. Now it provides shelter for rats, stray animals, derelicts... and perhaps the three chicano youths who have been terrorizing the neighborhood for months while eluding police. Why is this building allowed to remain in this condition, squatting shabbily on one of the city's busiest

thoroughfares in the center of one of our few real tourist attractions.

City ordinances establish the proper procedure to follow with a *dangerous building*, one that has been so damaged by fire as to become a danger to life, safety, morals, etc. They also establish a time period, generally 30 days, during which repairs must at least be begun or the building can be demolished by the city, and then charged against the property. Why are these laws being ignored in this case? Is this building a single exception or is our neighborhood filled with them and if so why? Upfront looks at these and other issues vital to the health of the Montrose in Issue 8, out March 23. Don't miss it.

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At the Front

GAY RIGHTS RESOLUTION PASSED

Socialists Convene Nat'l Organization In Houston

The Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee National Convention, meeting last week in Houston and chaired by author Michael Harrington, unanimously passed a resolution calling for an end to oppression of gays. Delegates to the convention included Gloria Steinem, publisher of Ms. Magazine, Harry Britt, San Francisco City Supervisor, Virginia Apuzzo, past candidate for the New York State Assembly, founding Co-Chair of the Gay Rights National Lobby and Chair of the Houston Town Meeting held last year in the Astroarena.

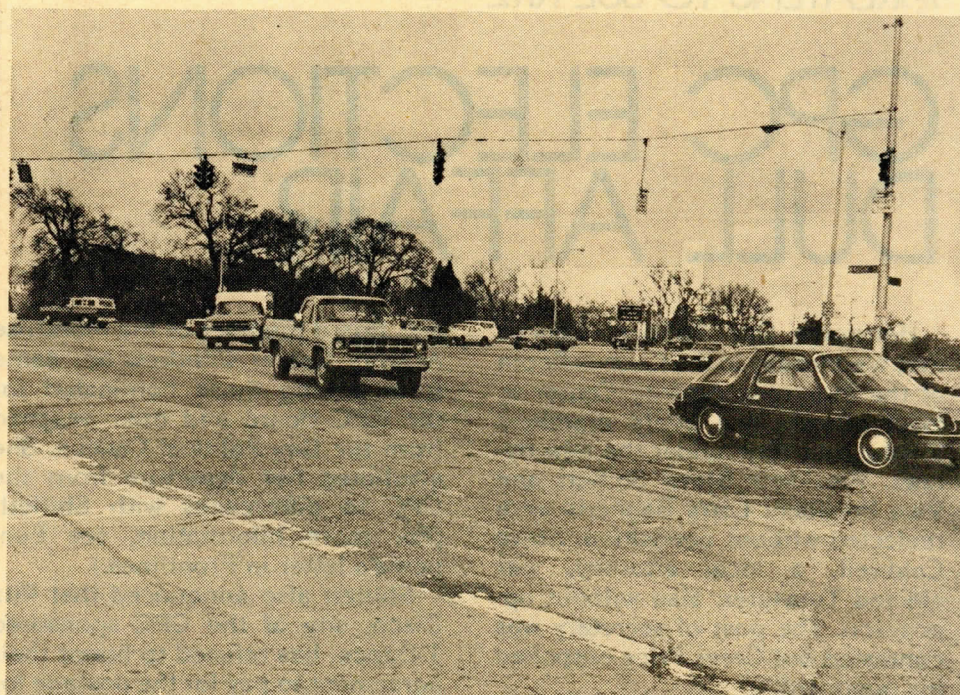
The resolution, introduced by Jim Chapin of San Francisco, states:

Millions of lesbians and gay men in this country are subject to severe

social, economic, psychological and legal oppression because of their sexual orientation and/or affectional preference.

DSOC affirms the right of any person to define and express their own sensibility, emotionality, and sexuality, and to choose their own style of life, so long as they do not infringe upon the right of others. We support an end to all social, economic, and legal oppression of lesbians and gay men.

After reading the resolution, Chapin received a standing ovation from the delegates. Spokespersons for the DSOC then pledged their support for attempts to include the resolution in the platform of the Democrat Party and in the constitutions of trade unions.



Upfront Photos by: J. Hardy Williams

City Services?

The intersection of Waugh Drive and Allen Parkway as it appears today. In another month and a half, perhaps two, the city will begin construction of a grade separation similar to the Allen Parkway Underpass at Montrose. The project is to cost an estimated \$5 million and will take from two to three years to complete. When completed motorists will be able to drive from Allen Center to the Kirby Drive gate

of River Oaks without interruption.

The underpass project had been opposed by many Montrose and River Oaks residents as an unnecessary frill desired by no one except the persons planning to redevelop the fourth ward. Issue 8, March 23, will include an investigation of the city's plans for the redevelopment of Montrose and the fourth ward.



THE TOWER

A Landmark Reborn

Montrose's famed Tower Theatre is undergoing its first major renovation in twenty years. Located at the intersection of Westheimer and Waugh Drive, the neon-lit facade of the 1930's art deco structure has been a Houston landmark for years but had been allowed to deteriorate for some time.

When completed sometime near the end of February the former movie house will contain a stage for legitimate theatre, dressing rooms, five bars and a lounge for early arrivals. The auditorium's acoustic properties have been significantly improved and new lighting and sound systems have been installed. Wherever possible, the art deco appointments have been retained or restored.

According to Production Consultant Steve Hauser, the Tower will be operated by a subsidiary of Pace Management and will open

February 25 with an all Houston production of the Broadway hit musical *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas* which will run for at least 10 weeks. If the show, which spoofs the closing of a famed Central Texas brothel and the part played in this real life drama by Houston television personality Marvin Zindler, generates enough interest the run will be open ended. When the show closes the theatre will be used for theatre and concert events appropriate to its approximately 1000 seat capacity.

Observers in the crowd during technical previews this week have reported high audience involvement with the fast paced, bawdy and humorous production as well as a high degree of professionalism on the part of the cast and crew. How well the theatre crowds integrate into the diverse Montrose social scene remains to be seen.

Max Blakney

THREATENS TO SUE RITZ

GPC ELECTIONS DULL AFFAIR

Houston's Gay Political Caucus met Wednesday in the Caucus Room of the Montrose Activity Center to elect officers and board members for the first time under the new by-laws. President Steve Shiflett and Vice President Larry Bagneris were reelected without opposition. Steve Caldwell, a local attorney, was elected Treasurer, also without opposition. The post of secretary was contested but Greer Price outpolled his opponent.

In filling the eight vacancies on the Board of Directors, each member of the caucus voted for eight candidates from a field of sixteen. The eight top vote getters were elected. They were Bob Sklare, attorney Norman Guttman, gay activist and KPFT radio personality Ray Hill, former University of Houston Student Body President Steve Umoff, outgoing GPC Treasurer Bob Lockett, Karl Reinhardt, Chuck Hickman, and Lesberada Alice Shrader.

During the nominating speeches Carol Fennema, Moderator of the Gay Rights Coordinating Council

and Board member of the Montrose Activity Center withdrew her name from among those nominated for the GPC Board and then resigned from the Gay Political Caucus. She attributed her departure from the GPC to differences with Shiflett. (For more information, see Fennema's letter in Frontlines.)

Shiflett also announced that Ritz Disco, site of the GPC sponsored T-Dance, has refused to honor their agreement to pay for the postage for the GPC mailing, in excess of \$600, and then make a donation. According to Shiflett, Scott Hagler, Public Relations Coordinator for the Ritz, characterized the GPC endorsement as "a cheap by-line in a cheap newsletter" and refused to pay anything. Approximately 350 people paid \$3 each to attend the Sunday afternoon affair. Drink prices reportedly began at \$2.25 for beer. Shiflett announced that GPC General Counsel Patricia O'Kane had served notice on the Ritz that legal measures would be instituted if payment was not received immediately.

Frontlines

Dear Upfront;

It is January 23rd, and as usual, I have received my paper twelve days late. It is a comforting feeling to know that I can always count on missing a meeting or being up to date on old news, when I rely on Upfront. It is also comforting to know that a subscription to Upfront puts you way behind the people picking it up free and on time in the bars.

David Bonuelos

all, many of the famed residents of the Galleria area and the River Oaks area go down our streets frequently also, on their way home or on their way to town.

John Allen Riggs

If you think the streets are a mess now, wait until you find out what the city plans to do to them over the next three years. It will all be in Issue 8 of Upfront, March 23. —Editor.

Dear Upfront;

As a working member of the GPC I appreciate the nomination of myself to the Board of Directors. I would have been proud to have served. However, due to the ineffective way the present leader handles the general membership, I am declining the nomination.

The reason for this late decision is the attitude of Steve Shiflett (GPC President). At the fundraiser held in the Ritz Disco I had a confrontation with a person who indicated his wealth and well standing with the GPC through a rude and uncalled for comment. Mr. Shiflett was present and withheld his opinion of the situation.

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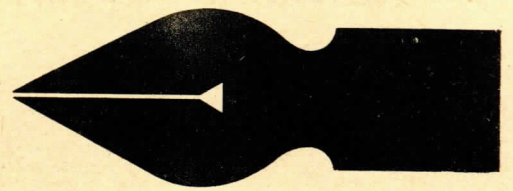
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Editorials



City Desk

MESS TRANSIT

Ever since the Metro election the public has been subjected to an intense barrage of carping about the quality of Houston's bus service. Not only have the buses been late, many days as much as half the fleet has been out of service because of repair problems. This is seen by many of those Cassandra's who opposed the MTA as vindication for their positions.

Now, the suburban mayors are becoming restive. They want to see something for their sales taxes. After all, it has been months since the election and there still isn't a subway to Katy, much less a monorail to the airport! And besides, Barry Goodman and his assistant are both too young and make too much money. Not to mention those cars they were going to buy...

You've heard it all before and you'll hear it again in the months and years to come, and precisely because these words are going to be in the air so much, I think it is time we looked beyond our noses and tried to learn from the predicament in which we find ourselves. We didn't build this mess transit system of ours in a year and we won't solve it in five.

To begin with, the mess we have today did not start the minute Metro was voted into existence. It is the result of the plans our city fathers made twenty, thirty and in some cases, forty years ago. You see they bet on the wrong horse... or horseless carriage to be exact. Houston's love affair with the private automobile and our subsequent refusal to provide for any alternatives combined with our hyperactive growth rates were sure to produce a point at which there would be too many cars. Unlucky us, we happen to be the ones who are caught in the transit bust.

Even so we might have made it had just a minimally effective bus service been established but instead we saw a series of operating companies, each seemingly worse than the one before... and always, at least a hint if not the fact of corruption. Finally, when we were faced with an insoluble traffic snarl and virtually no bus service, the politicians decided to create a new bureaucracy to take the heat off themselves. They stopped their demogogery long enough to help pass Metro; and then sabotaged its maintenance program by not ordering supplies.

So the next time you're late for work because your bus came an hour late and then broke down, don't blame the guy whose only been on the job for a few months. Blame the guy who created the mess. Blame the mayor and city council.

Editor

Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.

Abraham Lincoln

Vantage Point

HELP US!

I have spent the better part of two days trying to develop an easy-to-use approach in asking each of you to get on the band wagon and help us with the March on Washington. I have discarded former attempts because I now know there is no easy method to this. The best method is still the good ole' direct approach: Listen, everybody, we need your help and support **right** now or we won't make it!

A growing number of dedicated human rights advocates, from a variety of backgrounds, are working on the development of the greatest challenge we have ever undertaken. (Yes, folks, he's going to hype the March again.)

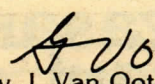
We cannot do this job alone. Please understand the significance of what we are saying: With your help, we can do it; without it, we can't! In the eight months that remain between now and October 28th, we must excite, interest, educate, and indoctrinate tens of thousands of people about this project---mainly through an effective (& expensive) advertising campaign. As these people become involved, they must also involve still more people. The first thing we must all do, then, is to talk up the March and support it every time it is mentioned or talked about, convincing others that the time is right to begin the human rights offensive by a **new** coalition of concerned citizens.

Next, we must **all** join in and help share the work load. We do not have enough volunteers to handle all the assignments. Not at this time, anyway. Consequently, many of you are needed to just sit down at one of our work tables and tackle straight-on the assignment given. That could be anything from stuffing and posting envelopes to researching who and where the college groups are, to seeing that we have enough portable toilets to meet projected demands. There's no telling what you might be doing, but you can bet it's necessary to the overall project. We won't waste your time!

Finally, we need financial support and funding such as this community has never witnessed before. To meet even our preliminary targets, a great deal of money must be raised and spent. We can assure you that we will direct funds where they can be most productive. But to do this, you must **trust** us. And be generous.

I have never before had to lay my own reputation on the line while working on any movement project, but I will do so on this one. Trust us. I give you my word that we will serve you well and honorably. But we can't do anything if we don't receive assistance from you. Time, money---it's all very valuable to us, you know. How much do you want us to do: Nothing, something, or a lot? Your support--or lack of it--will establish our pace. Help us make it fast-paced.

Place your name on our volunteer list. Include a donation, too, enough to register an 8.2 on the **sacrifice scale**. Contact us at March, P.O. Box 66844, Houston, Texas 77006.


Gary J. Van Ooteghem
Publisher

UPFRONT

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TGTF LOBBY WORKSHOP

March 10 the Texas Gay Task Force in conjunction with the Gay Resource Services of the University of Houston and the Texas Advocacy Fund will host the second in its series of legislative/lobby workshops. Previously, one workshop had been held in Dallas. The workshop will be conducted by members and staff of TGTF and is designed to inform participants as to how they as individuals can help block the anti-human rights legislation that most likely will be introduced in the current session of the Texas Legislature.

The session will discuss the lobby positions, TGTF's legislative plan, the legislative process, examples of how lawmakers bait gays and other minorities, how to present yourself to your legislator and an explanation of the TGTF communications

network. Among those participating will be TGTF Moderator Kathy Deitsch, Consultant Karol Phelan, and Human Rights Advocates' Lobbyist Bettie Naylor.

Deitsch stated that the purpose of the workshop is to "raise the level of political sophistication of gay men and women so that they can better understand the workings of their state government." She went on to say, "all too often we only see things as they are in our area or town but, if we are to succeed, we must learn the proper methods to attack and educate our enemies throughout the state."

The Houston workshop is to be held in room 116 of the Classroom and Office Building of the University of Houston, March 10, from 10 am until 4 pm.

HEARTS & GOODIES AT UH

In the photo at right, University of Houston students and members of the UH Gay Resource Services made final preparations for their Valentine's Day Bake Sale. Jack, Bobby, Keith and Lisa reported all systems were go and enriched their GRS coffers with brisk sales of foot longs. Below Keith (left), Tim, John, Lisa, Grady and Paul put in a long day, especially Paul who appeared as Cupid and gave away free kisses.



Upfront photo by J. Hardy Williams

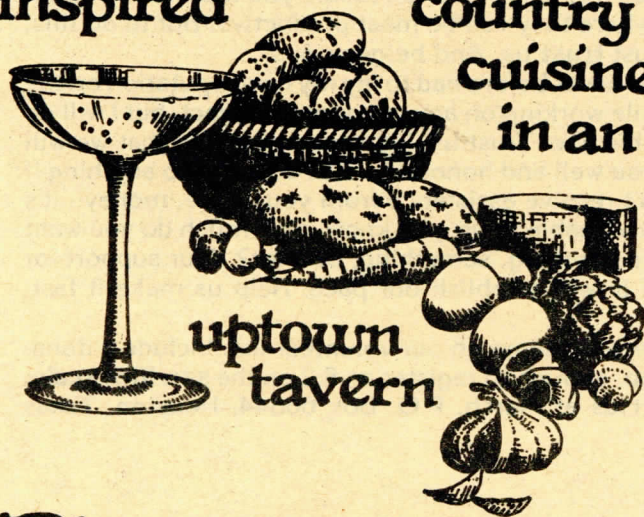


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At the Front

BAY AREA GAYS BAND TOGETHER

Thursday, February 8, gay men and women from Harris, Galveston and Brazoria Counties met at the League City Civic Center for their second organizational meeting of Bay Area Gays. Surpassing the unexpectedly large turnout of the initial meeting, those present used the meeting to provide bay area homosexuals with a workable organizational structure as well as immediate and long term goals.

The mission of Bay Area Gays is to provide a flexible organization which can serve the various needs of the suburban gays in the tri-counties. Ideally a sense of community will evolve, the quality of which has previously existed only in the inner city. BAG hopes to work

closely with Houston based groups in areas of mutual concern to build and strengthen this greater Houston-Galveston community.

The organization utilizes a group directed structure and a strong committee system in implementing its goals. Current projects include a tri-county voter registration drive: social, educational and sporting events: an intensive membership drive; and the strengthening of its associates with local and state-wide groups.

Meetings are currently held at the League City Civic Center at 7:30 pm on the first and third Thursday of each month. Information concerning the organization can be obtained evenings from Larry at 332-1647.



Annella Harrison

Upfront Photos by: Ed Davis

GAY STUDENTS MEET AT UH

Annella Harrison, Co-ordinator of Families and Friends of Gays, a recent addition to the growing list of gay and gay-related organizations in Harris County, met with members of the Gay Resource Services Thursday night. Harrison discussed recent successes of the group, including appearances on several local video programs, as well as their plans to participate in a *parenting gays* workshop to be held at the Texas Gay Conference 6 set for June in Austin.

Gay Resource Services members also discussed plans for a coalition

of gay organizations on college campuses across the nation, tentatively called NETWORK. Current plans call for using network as a tool for coordinating college student participation in the National Human Rights March On Washington. Also on the agenda were plans for participating in a joint project with the University Feminists' Organization, a lesbian workshop set for March 31. The workshop will coincide with the University's Central Campus Women's Week.

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Book Review

THE NAKED CIVIL SERVANT

THE NAKED CIVIL SERVANT. By Quentin Crisp. Paperback, Signet, 1978 \$2.25

Long before there was Gay Liberation there was Quentin Crisp. He dared to be an openly effeminate and self evident homosexual in 1931, in London at a time when as he says, *I wore makeup when even on women eye-shadow was sinful.* This book is the story of his madcap bizarre life.

That life was based on being as eccentric and offensive to society as possible. His henna dyed hair and outrageous behavior shocked puritanical London but it was his statement to the world that even though he was an effeminate homosexual that did not exclude him from the human race.

Crisp's early world was that of the depression and he came out into the streets when the sky was dark with

millionaires jumping out of windows. When he was able to find work it was as a graphics artist for advertising firms, but generally he got sacked after a bit because of his behavior and because he was never really very good at anything he did and didn't much care. His life story reads like an endless series of disasters and his whole attitude towards his existence is summed up in a remark early in the book: *As soon as I stepped out of my mother's womb onto dry land, I realized that I had made a mistake—that I shouldn't have come.* Near the end, looking back from the vantage point of old age he admits he didn't much care for anyone or most things. The only really bright spot was the Second World War. He loved the American G.I.'s and considers America his second home. All those gorgeous, friendly, generous men in uniform turned the streets of London into a constant party which came to an end when peace broke out.

The thing that saves this book from being a self-pitying polemic about social bigotry is the incredible wit and style with which it is written. Crisp's satire is frequently devastating and one frequently bursts out laughing while reading this fast paced and never dull book.

Crisp is an embarrassment to the modern militant homosexual. Although he flamboyantly flaunted his homosexuality to society he always felt he was inferior because he was a homosexual. He doesn't

think very much of the way gay people think and relate to one another. His own bizarre effeminacy is an affront to the currently popular *Macho* image and probably a lot of gay men particularly would not want to have him around.

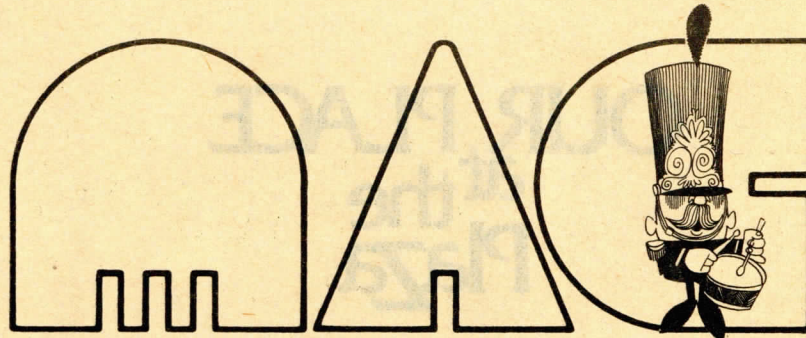
And therein lies one of the greatest ironies of Crisp's life. After years of barely surviving, being scorned, beaten up and rejected because of the way he looked he suddenly found himself in the 1960's in a society where EVERYBODY was suddenly running around in bizarre clothes and he was not so much of an oddity any more. He had to take on the role of an aging teenager to offend anybody and teens were the only ones who continued to be offended. Society had changed and had started tolerating his sort of lifestyles, and indeed, in some circles thinking it was the *In* thing to do. After publishing his autobiography in hardback in 1968 he became something of a celebrity and was discovered by T.V. His story was adapted as a television drama and he was sought after by everyone. He now frequently gives public talks called *Straight Talk from a Bent Man.*

Now in his seventies, he is the classic survivor, still letting loose his scathing honest wit onto an unsuspecting society which is forced to deal with the truth about THE NAKED CIVIL SERVANT and in so doing is made to deal with the truth about itself.

Jim Lloyd

TOWER THEATRE

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ON THE HOOK WITH ALCOHOL

There are between 15 and 20 million alcoholics in the United States. Authorities estimate that about 10% of all men and 5% of women in this country are alcoholics. Studies indicate that 20% of homosexual men and women are alcoholics, a rate far higher than in the general population.

Alcoholism is a sneaky disease in that it isn't always crystal clear when someone is an alcoholic. People can become addicted to alcohol within a few months, but generally the addiction is developed over a long period of time through what is called **social** drinking. There are many aspects of the gay lifestyle that positively encourage and reenforce social drinking. More often than not initial encounters in the gay sub-culture are made in settings where alcohol plays a prominent role. Being homosexual in America takes a heavy toll on many people who seek necessary relief from it all through alcohol and other drugs.

Although it is not always easy to label for oneself there are some very definite signs of developing alcoholism. In general one can say that when one becomes preoccupied with drinking beyond the usual partying kind of thing or when drinking begins to interfere with work, relationships and good health- there is a problem either beginning or well on the way.

The following little test is a good place to start if you think you may need to examine your drinking habits.

- 1.) Do you require a drink first thing in the morning?
- 2.) Do you prefer drinking alone?
- 3.) Do you miss a lot of time from work because of drinking?
- 4.) Do you need to have a drink at a definite time each day and do you get shaky and tense if you don't have it?
- 5.) Does drinking result in health problems and poor sleeping?

6.) Has your initiative, drive and efficiency decreased because of drinking?

7.) Does drinking frequently reduce your sexual potency?

8.) Are you moodier, more jealous and harder to get along with because of drinking?

9.) Have you lost a lover, friend(s) or a job because of drinking?

10.) Have you ever had a complete memory loss (blackout) because of drinking?

11.) Do you go to inferior environments or to places where you are not well known to drink?

12.) Do you get into fights with people or into trouble with the law because of drinking?

13.) Do you often drink more than you intend to?

14.) Do you make excuses to others or to yourself for drinking?

15.) Do you go on frequent wild benders?

16.) Do you drink to relieve feelings of social inadequacy?

17.) Do you frequently go without eating because of drinking?

18.) Do you pursue drinking when you know that you are too tired, too hungry or too depressed?

These are just some of the danger signals to look for. If you answered yes to more than five of the questions chances are you made need to take a hard look at your drinking habits- before you find yourself on the hook.

Jim Lloyd

Mother Says

that if you're going to share all that

It's Valentine's Day and Mother is sitting here thinking about love, sharing and caring. You know we all share the good lovin', we may also be sharing venereal disease.

Now that's when the caring starts, Darlings! You see, Mother thinks that if your going to share all that good lovin', you should at least care enough about your partner to find out their first name and a number in case you are one of those unlucky ones to be infected with a venereal disease.

All you have to do is throw it in a drawer or box when you get home --but later it may be that you need to care who that person was. You see if you have infected someone with syphilis, you maybe able to keep them from coming down with the disease by knowing who they are. How can you do that? By letting the health advisor who talks to you know who that person is and then they can get that person treated before he actually becomes infectious.

Mother, has told you before that there is a problem in Houston, in the Gay community, with syphilis. It is going to take an all out effort by everyone -- you, your sex partners, your local health department staff, and your private physician to stop this problem. Mothers says - *Let's work at it. TTFN*



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Upfront photos by Ed Davis and J. Hardy Williams



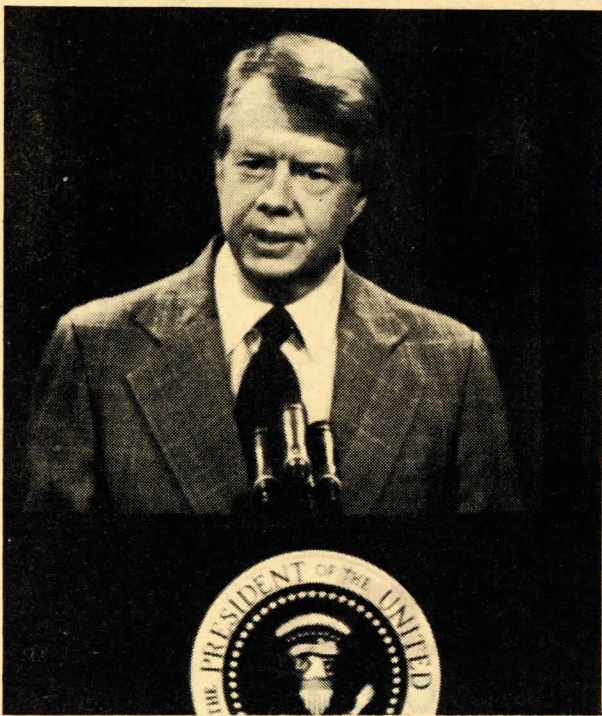
Far left photo: Steve Shiflett, Jean O'Leary, Larry Bagneris, Ginny Apuzzo and Bruce Voeller are all smiles at the NGTF-GPC fundraiser at Numbers.

Bob Lockett, right, GPC Board member leads the way through the bar-b-que buffet.

NGTF-GPC DINNER WITH THE DIRECTORS

Right: City Councilman Judson Robinson and Ginny Apuzzo appear to be comparing notes on their recent political campaigns.

Far right photo: Gary Van Ooteghem and Ginny Apuzzo discuss the National Human Rights March On Washington.



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

... Nowhere is this more clear than in the laws against possession of marijuana in private for personal use. ... The National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse concluded 5 years ago that marijuana use should be decriminalized, and I believe it is time to implement those basic recommendations.

“Therefore, I support legislation amending Federal law to eliminate all Federal criminal penalties for the possession of up to 1 ounce of marijuana.”

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

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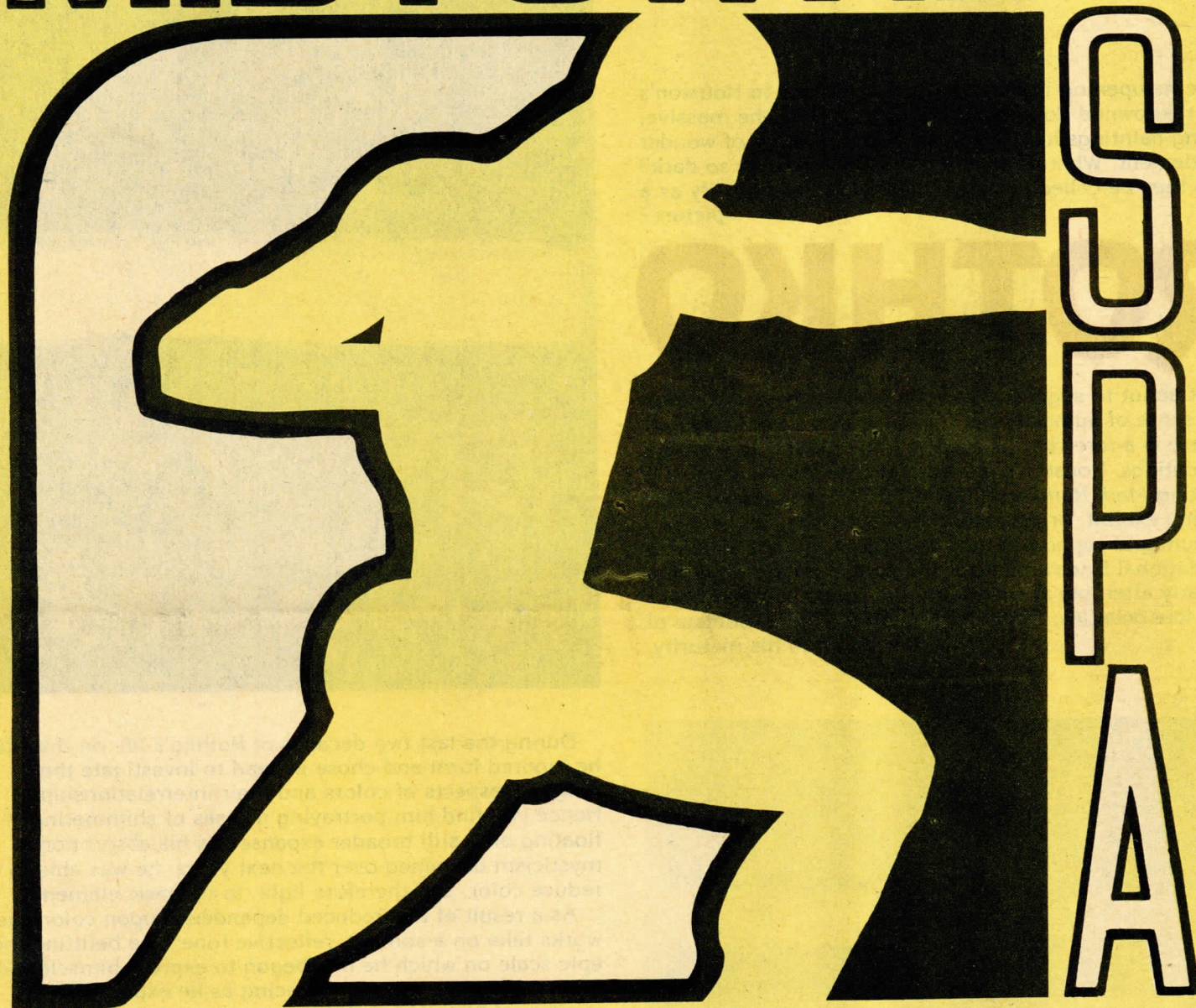
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MIDTOWNE



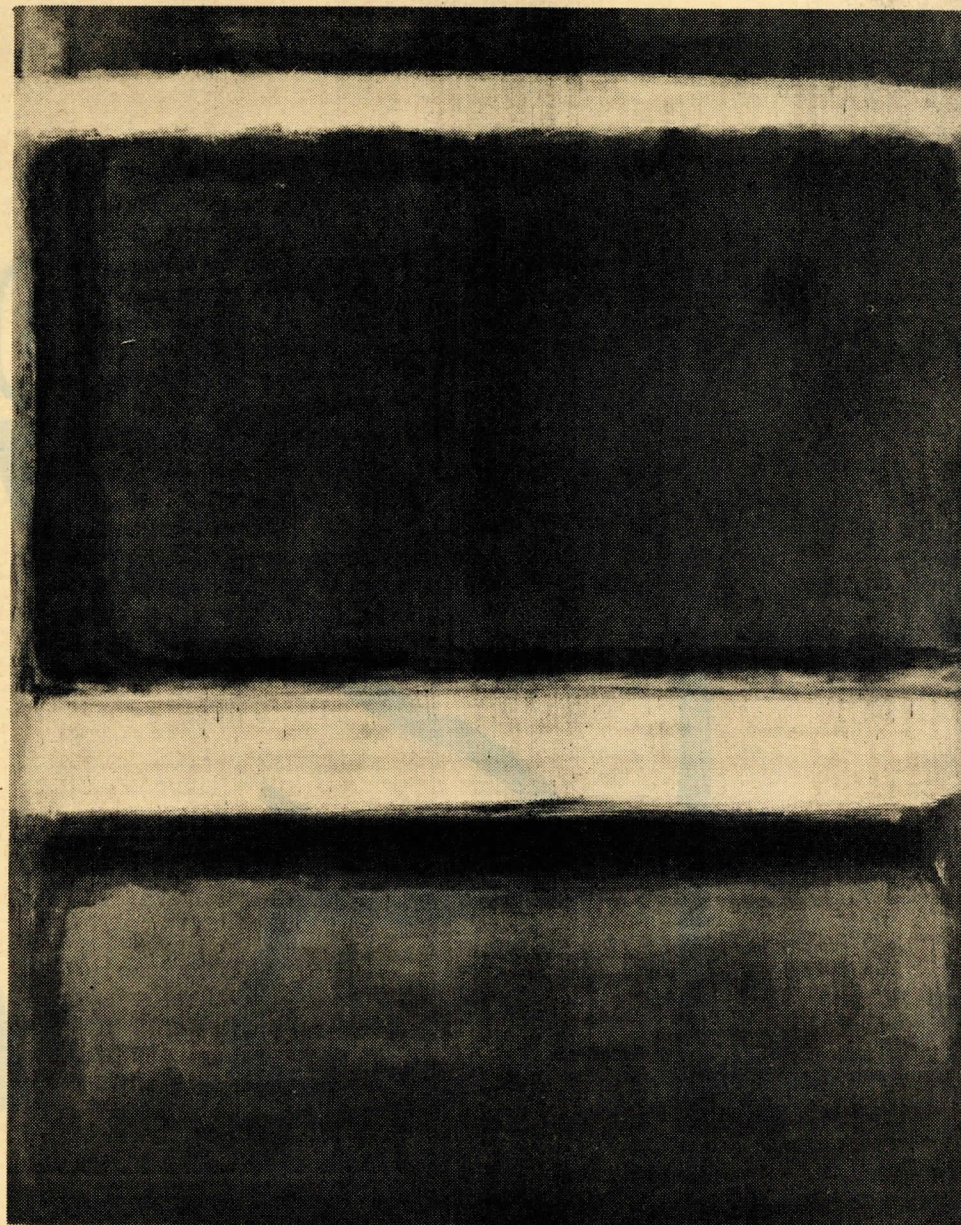
HOUSTON'S STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

MIDTOWNE SPA 3100 FANNIN AT ELGIN HOUSTON 713-522-2379

Since its opening in February 1971, visitors to Houston's renowned Rothko Chapel have viewed the massive, brooding paintings hanging there with a mixture of wonder and puzzlement. What do they mean? Why are they so dark? How can they be called art when they don't even qualify as a picture?

ROTHKO

I am not about to suggest that I can answer these questions with any sense of authority but for those who have wondered there is a rare chance to gain some perspective on the paintings. Houston's Museum of Fine Arts is currently presenting *Mark Rothko: 1903-1970. A Retrospective*. This outstanding exhibit, organized originally by the Guggenheim Museum and supported by grants from Atlantic Richfield and the National Endowment for the Arts, stretches from the artist's early attempts at traditional impressionist techniques in the late twenties, through his abstract expressionism of the early forties and into his maturity.



During the last two decades of Rothko's life on this plane, he ignored form and chose instead to investigate the religious aspects of colors and their interrelationships. Hence you find him portraying masses of shimmering, floating on a still broader expanse. As his absorption in mysticism deepened over the next years, he was able to reduce color, and therefore light, to its basic elements.

As a result of this reduced dependence upon color, his works take on a somber, reflective tone, one befitting the epic scale on which he had begun to express himself and the inner turmoil he was experiencing as he explored the reaches of his mind and therefore, the universal presence. It was at this stage in his career that he executed the De Menil's commission for the fourteen chapel paintings. Looked at from the greater perspective of his philosophical development they become grand impressionistic icons depicting the immensity of the universe and the consciousness of the cosmos.

Completing these he turned to his final series, in which he stated his conclusions on the universal dichotomy. In the end Rothko reduced his existence to a yes or no situation, this or that, no in between. Is it any wonder that he chose to end his life? He had already found that his work was completed. He had created a place in time for himself and his work and, completing that, he chose to move to another level of existence.

It is this tragic yet emotionally and philosophically beautiful quest for truth and perfection that gives his work its timeless quality. And happily for Houstonians, they are finally able to learn the secret of the Rothko Chapel. The answer is a luminous glow on South Main.

William Alexander

Religion

CLERGY ASSOCIATION CHOOSES MODERATE

The Greater Houston Clergy Association unanimously elected Rev. Frank Schulman to succeed Dr. Albert C. Walling as president. During Walling's three year tenure the organization has been closely identified with militant homophobe Geneva Kirk Brooks and her widely publicized crusade against pornography.

According to Schulman *the association is an organization of Jewish, Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox clergy who come together to share fellowship and learn from one another.* When asked if he intended to continue Walling's support of Brooks he replied, *Absolutely not! I intend to spend my term trying to build up membership and develop the organization's strengths.*

Schulman is pastor of the 400 member Emerson Unitarian Church, 1900 Bering Drive in the Briargrove area. Schulman stated that although he knew of no specific gay parishoners in Emerson, he was certain they were there... *We have no rules to keep people out.*

Walling will continue to fulfill the GHCA's obligation to the Crawford Foundation, a philanthropic fund dedicated to the education of physically handicapped Texans. Before his retirement Walling led the organization to reindorse the Community Standards Coalition of which he is Chair. He is Rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in the Lindale area of Houston's near North side.

DIGNITY

The national officers of Dignity, Inc. pose below with a local chapter official during a break in Dignity's Winter Board Meeting, held last weekend at the Greenway Plaza Ramada Inn. They are (Left to right) Madeline Ritchie, San Francisco, Treasurer; Paul Weidig, Sacramento,



Upfront photo by J. Hardy Williams

President; Carla Kaesbauer, San Diego, Secretary; and Bob Heer, Houston, President of Dignity/Houston. Dignity, Inc. is the national organization for gay Catholics. Attending the meeting on the 18th were members of the Houston chapter of Dignity, several representatives of local gay religious organizations and a few local priests.



MCCR

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection
PRESENTS

HAVE JESUS- WILL SHARE

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in a bicycle shop on Waugh Drive; how it ministers
to its flock and continues to tell
the Community of Christ's love for them.*

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JOIN THE EPAH

NEW BUILDING?

Sunday, February 25, members of the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1214 Joe Annie, will vote to accept or reject the recommendation of the church's Building Committee. Under consideration is a proposal to tender a purchase offer to the congregation of an historic church in the Montrose/Heights area. Because of the sensitive nature of the negotiations and the desire to avoid a homophobic reaction on the part of some members of the church in question, no information as to location, affiliation or cost is being released until after the contract has been executed. All that is known at this time is that the building is currently occupied by a shrinking, aging congregation affiliated with a large, mainline American religion and that the historic structure is in good repair.

If the MCCR votes to extend the offer and it is accepted, church members will immediately begin a drive to raise additional funds. The MCCR is presently housed in a commercial structure off West Dallas but according to congregational spokespersons, outgrew those facilities some time ago. All interested church members are urged to attend services February 25 so that their voices might be heard in this crucial decision.

Capitol Update

In the hope of increasing the responsibility to the electorate of our solons in Austin and Washington, Upfront will occasionally present an analysis of a particular law maker and some of his/her noteworthy legislation.

State Senator Walter Mengden of Houston has never been regarded as a great constitutional scholar. His bills usually reflect the provincial attitudes and parochial values of his working class constituents. Even within the fractious Harris County Delegation to the Statehouse he is often ignored, and frequently laughed at. In fact his years of service in Austin have earned him the colorful and unfortunately appropriate nickname *Mad Dog Mengden*.

This year Senator Mengden has taken it upon himself to promise the legislature there will be a bill introduced to prohibit homosexual organizations from being accredited on state college and university campuses. He made this announcement after the federal courts had already ruled that a similar attempt to bar gay organizations from state campuses in Missouri was discriminatory and unconstitutional. Senator Mengden seems to take the stand that whatever is good politically, that is, whatever his constituents want to hear is what he'll give them.

The status of homophobic legislation not withstanding, Senator Mengden has been hard at work on three bills which would effectively

end abortion in Texas. The first, Senate Bill 117, is an amendment to the family code which would give a living fetus, surviving an abortion, the same rights, powers and privileges as other citizens. It also terminates the parent-child relationship and makes the fetus a ward of the state.

Neither Mengden nor the Rep. Gene Green of Houston, the sponsor of the bill in the House, seems to be aware that awarding such rights to a fetus places an unfair burden of responsibility on the attending physician. On Jan. 9 of this year, the United States Supreme Court, in *Colautti vs. Franklin*, held just the opposite. They found that the burden of responsibility for the life of a fetus cannot be fairly placed upon the doctor, under normal circumstances.

Furthermore, the bill goes on to define a fetus as a *human being during the period of its development beginning on the 90th day after the day of conception and extending through the 270th day of gestation*. How Mengden and Green propose to determine the date of conception with enough legal accuracy to make the law effect appears to have been left out of the bill.

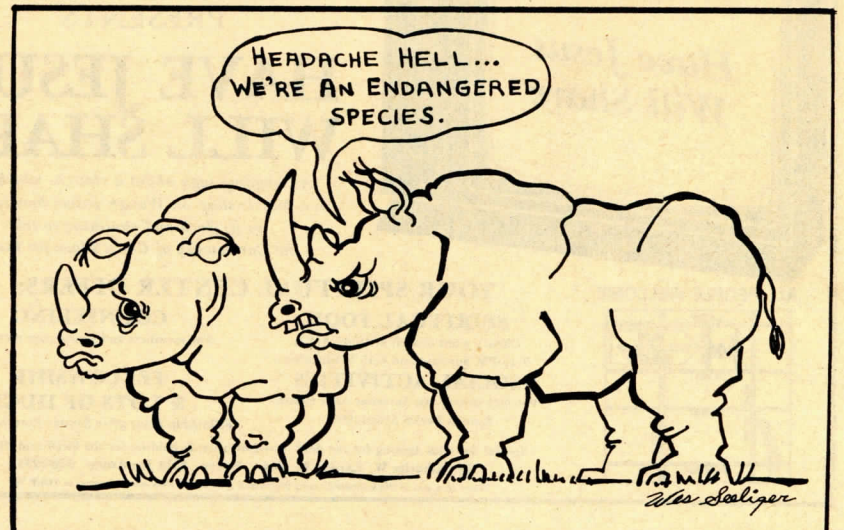
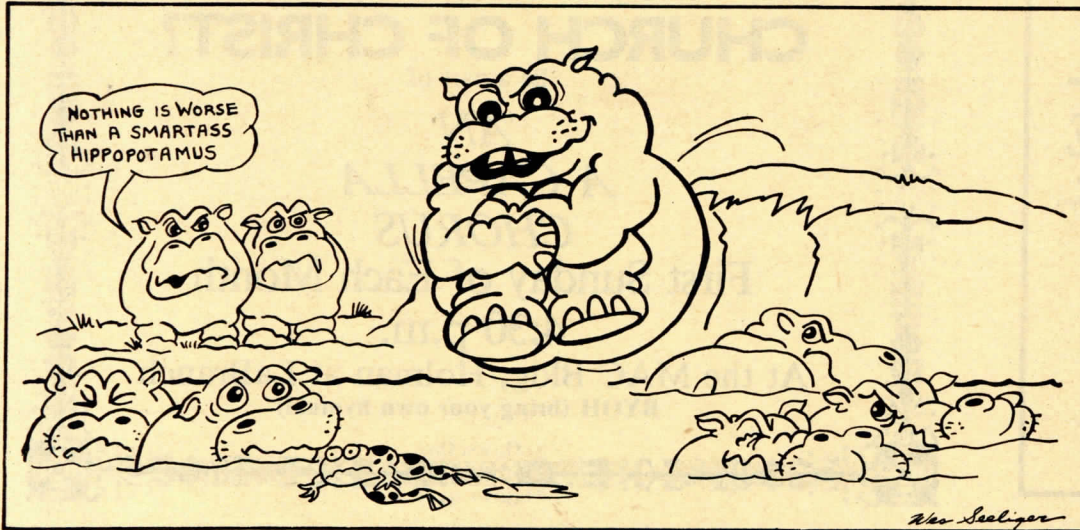
Other questions raised by SB117 include the ability of the states already over extended social welfare arms to provide adequate care for another crop of state wards. It also conveniently ignores the fact that there are no fetuses surviving abortions in Texas. In fact there are no third trimester abortions being performed in Texas. Second trimester terminations account for less than one tenth of the abortions performed in the entire United States.

Finally, there is the problem that haunts all legislation: what new and unforeseen problems will result from implementation of this law. In *Coautti vs. Franklin* the US Supreme Court expressed a fear of the *chilling effect* a similar Pennsylvania law had on the exercise of Constitutional Rights. Can this Mengden bill be less dangerous because it comes from a Sunbelt state.

Senate Bills 118 and 119 are also Mengden's. 118 would deny the use of any medical facilities supported in part or in toto by tax dollars, for the performance of pregnancy terminations. These rules would be waived if the life of the *Mother* was in danger or in cases of rape or incest. Aside from the bill's obviously discriminatory nature in regard to the poverty stricken who must use public, ie, tax supported, hospitals, it also prohibits virtually every hospital or medical facility in Texas from performing abortions. Most curious of all in this bill is the logic

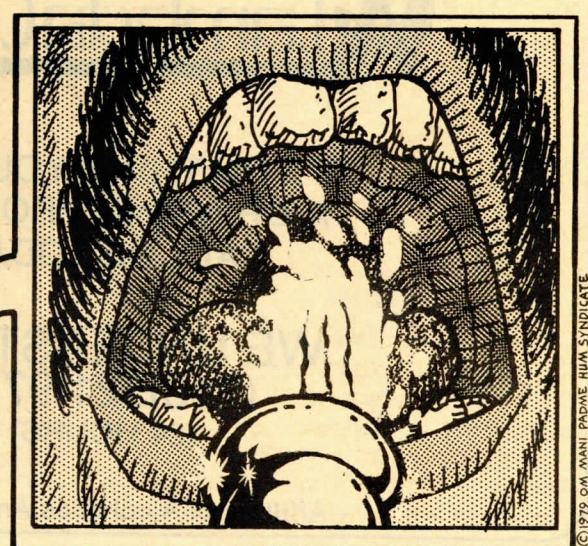
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Seeliger



BY SAM

Whatnots



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Whipped Cream

THE CHICKEN BENTLEY

*Enjoy the process.
Anticipate only excellence,
and you will be cooking,
in or out of the kitchen.*

Tom White & Frank Foster

When people of like nature, intentions, and with mutual trust get together to have a little fun, good times can be guaranteed. The Bentley was created under these circumstances one rainy afternoon when three friends got it together and played with their food.

As we looked at our raw ingredients, we each have our own particular recipe in mind. Fortunately, we were working with free spirits that allowed our inspirations to flow and our imaginations to fly. Any other chicken dish was forgotten as we tasted the Chicken Doodle Dandy,

(as Ecstasy's delight first named it.) The combined effort produced something greater than any one of us could have individually. Would you like to taste it?

The Filling: 8 oz. cream cheese, softened; one stick unsalted butter, melted; ¼ cup freshly chopped parsley; one tablespoon freshly chopped garlic; one teaspoon (tsp) Lowery's Seasoned Salt; one tsp Hungarian paprika; and ½ cup slivered almonds. Mix all ingredients and refrigerate. This mixture can be made a day or so in advance.

The Meat: Six 8 oz. boneless chicken breasts; 12 rashers of maple bacon (always available at Jamail's on Kirby.) For perfection, we insist on using maple flavored bacon.

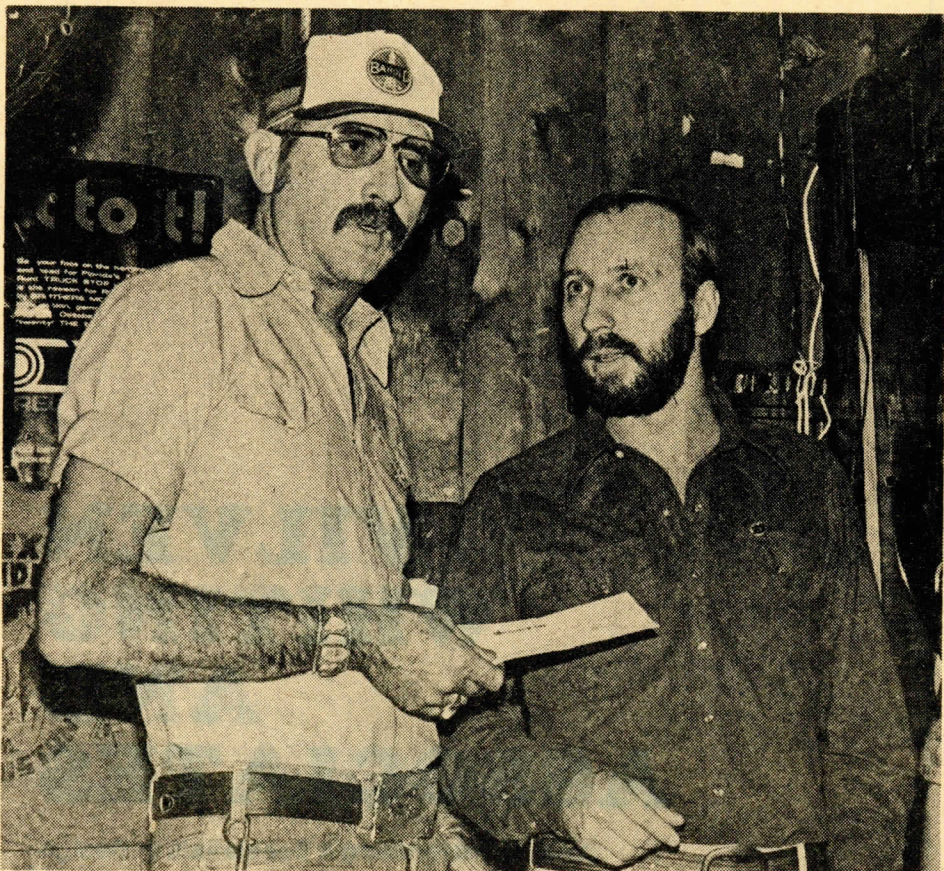
The Procedure: Place a heaping tablespoon of the filling in the center of each breast. Fold the sides of the breast to cover. Next, wrap the breast with two slices of bacon. Secure the bacon with toothpicks. Place the breasts in a baking pan and sprinkle with a dry, white wine. Dust with paprika for color's sake. Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 30 minutes.

The Sauce: After baking, drain and combine the pan drippings with three tablespoons flour and enough chicken base to suit your taste. Stir constantly over high heat until it begins to boil and thicken slightly.

And now for the secret ingredient. There is that subtle essence in every dish that reflects the attitude and the emotion of the one who does the mixing. That is to say: food absorbs the flavor of the cook. So, stir with loving energy.

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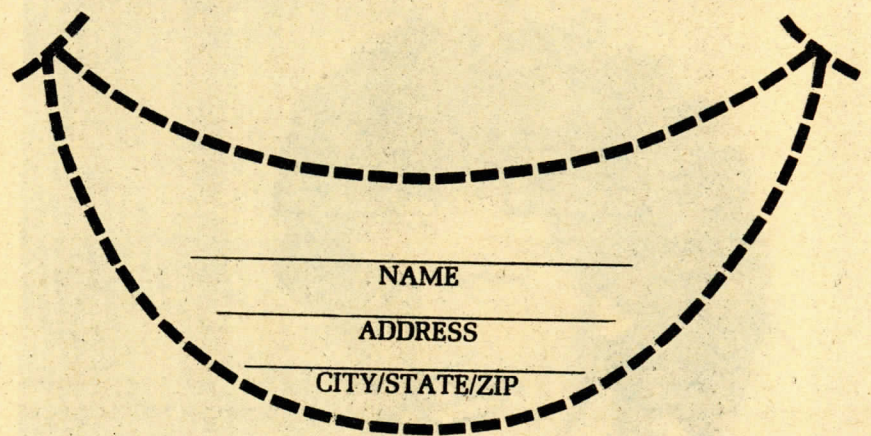
FIRST PLEDGE



Upfront photo by J. Hardy Williams

Jim Farmer, owner of Mary's Lounge, 1022 Westheimer, became the first owner of a predominately gay business to pledge regular monthly financial assistance to the National Human Rights March On Washington last week. In the photo above Farmer, left, is seen presenting the first monthly payment of \$500 to march Financial Coordinator Warren Duncanson. March organizers expressed appreciation to Farmer for his generosity and have noted that since Farmer several other donors have pledged to help.

WHY IS THIS AD SMILING?



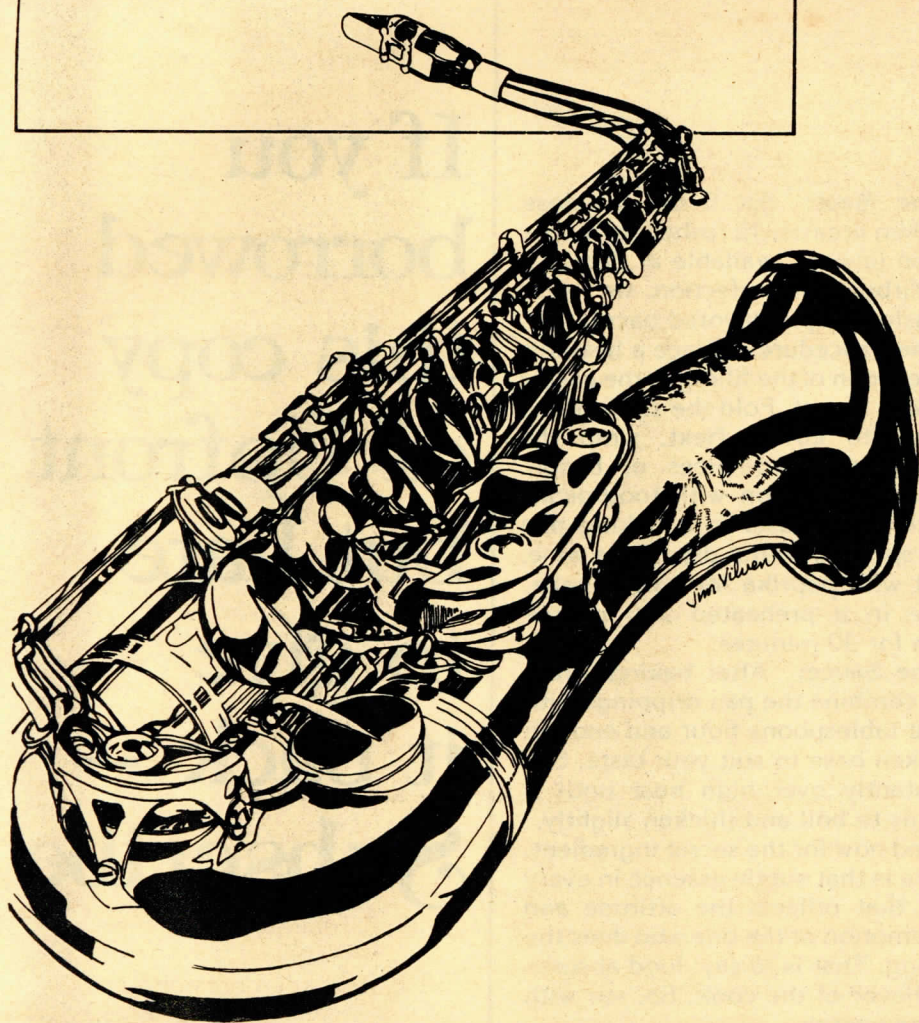
**Because (Ta-Daah) at last (Drum Roll)
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Yes Friend, once again you are being offered The Opportunity to receive all the news we know in your very own mailbox. Read The Truth about Harry Caldwell; discover The Real Facts about Bill Clements & his Startling 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 \$5 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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Upbeat



KLEMMER

JOHN KLEMMER
Cry (AA1106)

Only a few short years ago, John Klemmer was known within the music industry as an outstanding artist, a saxophonist without peer. Among the general public he was virtually an unknown. Then, in 1975 he recorded *Touch* and Klemmer became another of the overnight successes who, after years of arduously laboring at their trade, awoken to find themselves sitting across a teleprompter from Johnny Carson.

In the three years since Klemmer played his first large hall (Houston's Music Hall was the site of his first concert outside the intimacy of the club atmosphere) he has produced several outstanding commercial jazz albums. None of them, however, approaches the artistry of his latest release, *Cry* on ABC Records.

Cry is singularly impressive because John Klemmer and his saxophone are the only performers. Through the electronic wizardry of the entertainment industry, Klemmer is able to enhance his sound by means of an Echoplex, a sort of computerized recorder which allows an artist to play chords and maintain audio quality as well.

Gadgetry or not, Klemmer's amazing feat of singlehandedly maintaining not only the flow and direction of the album but also the musicality, i.e., melody, harmony and rhythm, is nothing short of phenomenal. He succeeds because of the raw emotion evident in his work. Not only is the sound beautiful, not only is it easily listenable, it speaks directly to your soul, bypassing the ordinary modes of verbal and visual communications we all use. It represents direct mind to mind linkage.

Klemmer gives the jazz fan a choice. He offers on the first side a powerful, driving kind of music often associated in the popular mind with the genre. But then, when the record is turned over he changes moods completely. No more definite statements of anguish and raw emotion. Now he becomes reflective, romantic — he speaks of hopes, and dreams of peace.

In his own words, *Cry is total release. The cry of pain, the cry of love, the cry of joy. Not only the physical act of crying, but the inner psychic cry. The longing and the hoping. GIVING ALL YOU HAVE. It's for me and for you.*

What more can be said?

IS THIS A HAPPY FACE?



J. Hardy Williams is happy because J. Hardy Williams has fun being an Upfront photographer, but was it always that way? Of course not. Once, not so long ago, J. Hardy was morose. He felt himself slipping into the death grip of rootless anomie. J. Hardy was headed for trouble! Then, one day when J. Hardy was more morose than usual, J. Hardy experienced a miracle. J. Hardy discovered Human Rights; J. Hardy discovered Upfront; and J. Hardy discovered life all over again. That's why J. Hardy Williams is testifying for Upfront today. You too can be saved from a fate worse than dissipation. Become an Upfront Photographer and you'll never be lonely again. Call 522-5545 for an appointment and J. Hardy will help you find peace.

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Lockeyland

Upfront has a new editor in the person of Bill Whiting. For those who don't know exactly what an editor does, he simply and painfully dissects, crucifies, and at times destroys the clever things we underpaid writers create. He performs all these actions with a cynical smile upon his face and a possessed gleam in his eye. His most-often-used phrase is *This is great---but you can do better!*, prevents us from ripping out his cute black curls and encourages us to indeed do better. Welcome aboard, Bill.

Contrary to some public opinion this column shall not evolve into advice to the lovelorn. (Why would anyone listen to a gay divorcee anyway?) You guys and gals seeking guidance will still have to *Ask Ann Landers* even though she's now back on the streets after her dissolved marriage. In reply to all you heart-broken darlings I will share a poem I composed some time ago:

When it's over and your're all alone

*Sitting and thinking why no one
phones
When your spirits are preparing to
fall;
Remember that it is better to have
Lockeyed & lost--
Than never to have Lockeyed at all!!*

And if that didn't help, perhaps the following will.

Ten ways to be Nice to Someone You don't Know.

- 1.) Ask his name.
- 2.) Buy him a drink.
- 3.) Tell him what you would like to do with him.
- 4.) Smile if he does/doesn't like that idea.
- 5.) Mention Donna Summer.
- 6.) Comment on how quaint/lovely/marvelous/unusual his
- 7.) Do not clutter up his bathroom.
- 8.) Do not be caught robbing his refrigerator.
- 9.) Inquire of his eccentric roommate with the live butterfly collection.
- 10.) Do not keep him up all night.

Ten ways to be Nice to Someone You now know.

- 1.) Remember his name.
- 2.) Remember when, what, where, etc.
- 3.) Ask about his dog, cat, rat, or bird.
- 4.) Inquire of his eccentric roommate.
- 5.) Tell him of your eccentric roommate who talks to toads.
- 6.) If feasible, buy him a drink.
- 7.) If not feasible, ask him to buy you a drink.
- 8.) Mention Donna Summer.
- 9.) Ask him for a date.
- 10.) Smile a lot.

Ten Ways to be Nice to Someone you Know and Like.

- 1.) Remember his eccentric roommate's name.
- 2.) Invite him to dinner.
- 3.) Invite yourself to dinner.
- 4.) Buy him a small gift.
- 5.) Pretend concern for his missing roommate and offer to feed the butterflies.
- 6.) Assure him your roommate is off on a toad-hunt for at least a week.
- 7.) Try to love his dog, cat, rat, or bird.
- 8.) Offer to take care of his plants while he's off on business.
- 9.) Stay out of the bars and watch television together.
- 10.) Smile, smile, smile.

Ten Ways to be Nice to Someone You Love.

- 1.) Remember all his friends' names.
- 2.) Introduce your eccentric roommates to one another.
- 3.) Unclutter the bathroom he just cluttered.
- 4.) Feed the dog, cat, rat, or bird when he forgets.
- 5.) Buy him a large gift.
- 6.) When he plays Tchaikovsky, don't mention Donna Summer.
- 7.) Prepare a gourmet meal for him.
- 8.) Listen to all his stories.
- 9.) Give him room to breathe.
- 10.) Assure him that two can live as cheaply as one.

Ten Ways to be Nice to Someone you no longer Love.

- 1.) Remember his name.
- 2.) Forward his mail.
- 3.) Feed the dog, cat, rat, or bird he hasn't picked up.
- 4.) Return all his clothes you've been wearing (laundered).
- 5.) Do not throw away his classical albums.
- 6.) Do not burn any gift he gave you.
- 7.) Say no bad things about him.
- 8.) Remember his birthday if it kills you.
- 9.) Remain sweet and cordial to his friends.
- 10.) And keep on smiling.

J. Lockey Love

OSCAR WILD BOOKSHOP

(Formerly After Dark)

Invites you to come by and get acquainted with the new owner and staff.

Robert Applewhite

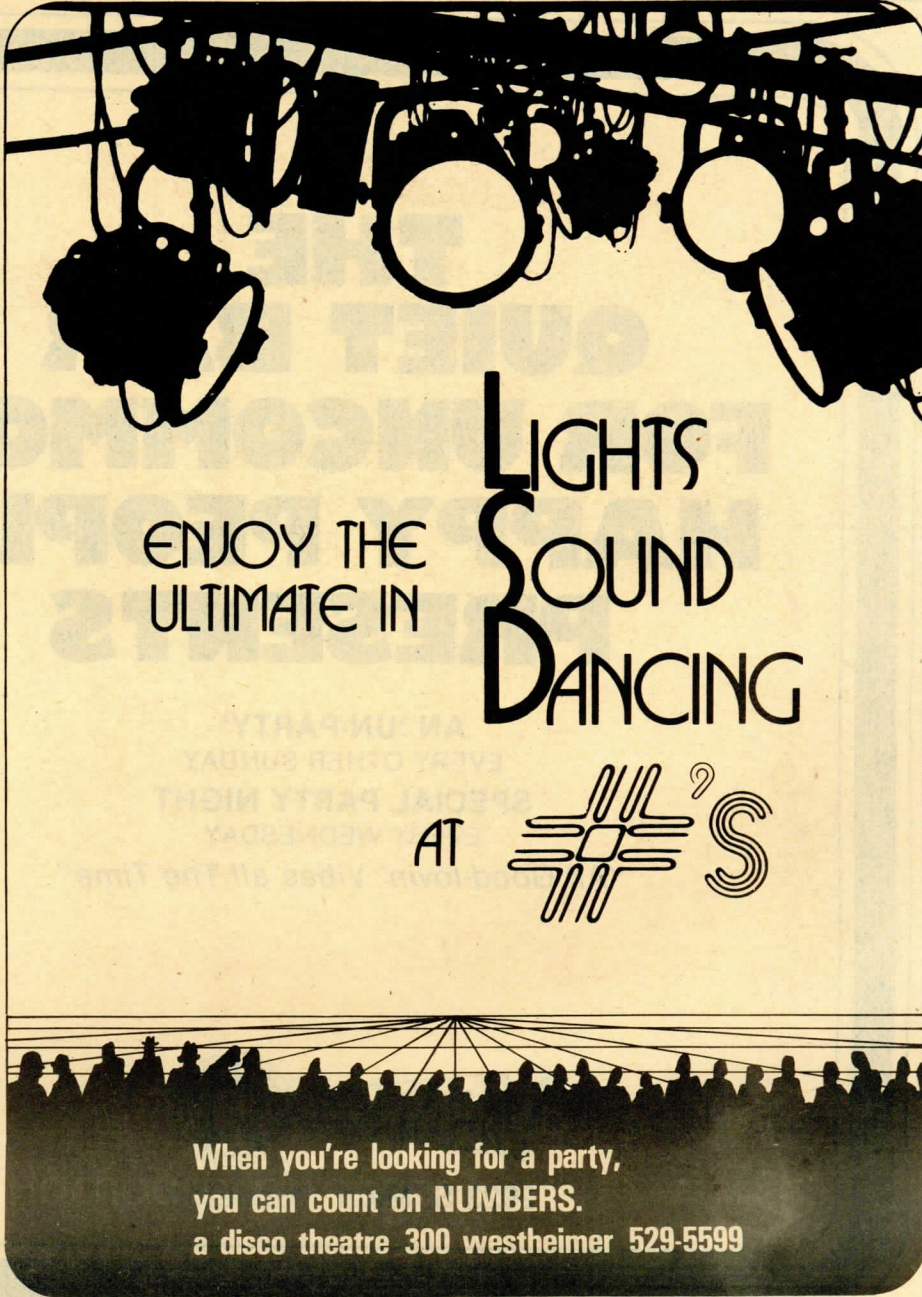
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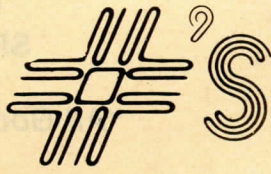
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Frontlines *Cont'd from page 4*

Later, after discussing the event with the Vice President, Mr. Shiflett backed me into a conversation even **after** I had voiced my reasons for not discussing the matter at that particular time. In this conversation, Mr. Shiflett told me that people with money have to be handled with tact. This I can understand for the GPC needs money to be an effective organization. In the latter part of the conversation, Mr. Shiflett very assertively used the words *you fucking bitch* in addressing me. This I consider a very untactful way of handling the situation. Because another necessity for effectiveness is a group of people willing to put out time and effort for a common cause. This is the need I've tried to fulfill and as part of the working group I feel that the way I was handled speaks louder than words. By not giving due respect to the general membership, the leadership limits the effectiveness of the organization.

My conclusion is that this inappropriate attitude will hinder the GPC in its future activities. I am opposed to this attitude and do not wish for my efforts to be indirectly perceived as supporting it.

Carol Fennema

Upfront deploras sexism and elitism in all its many forms. It is indeed unfortunate that the Gay Political Caucus should lose the support of one of the Houston gay community's most outstanding and involved women. We invite Mr. Shiflett to use this space for a response so that the matter can be resolved at the earliest possible time.—Ed.

Capitol Update *Cont'd from page 14*

behind Mengden's decision that fetuses resulting from rapes or incest should have fewer rights than fetuses resulting from consensual sex acts.

Bill 119 would prohibit the state, city, county, special district or any other political subdivision from entering into any health insurance agreement that provides benefits for abortion; except once again, in the cases of rape, incest, or endangerment of the Mother's life. This bill was unrequested by either insurance companies or state employees and represents the attempt of a small group of individuals to control the lives of all Texans through legislation. In short it is dictatorial and an imposition on the freedom of state employees to chose, through whatever process, their own insurers.

Finally and most importantly of all is the fact that this is another attempt to institutionalize the religious beliefs of a particular group. Our constitution prohibits such actions no matter how dominant that faction may be.

To tell your legislator how you feel about these proposed bills write him or her at P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin, Tx 78769. If your not sure who to write, send your comments to either Hon. John Whitmire or Hon. Ben Reyes, The House of Representatives, P.O. Box 2910, Capitol Station, Austin, Tx 78769.

March *Cont'd from page 1*

worship and privacy are unlimited and apply equally to all citizens regardless of sex, race, age, national origin, sexual orientation or handicap.

People throughout America are joining this human rights movement. Already thousands of citizens and organizations are making their plans to participate. It is not too early for you to make your commitment to stand up for freedom. Right now hotels are being reserved and transportation is being secured by groups in many cities. By contacting the Houston communications center of the National Human Rights March On Washington you can be put in contact with persons in your area who will help you make the necessary arrangements. By contacting the Houston communications center you can volunteer your time or money or both to those in your area who are helping to make this great patriotic March on Washington a positive statement of national purpose.

We believe this gathering will begin a rededication to the traditional ideals which have guided our nation through the past two centuries. We are proud to be among the first to publically endorse this great event.

Ed Asner, Emmy Award winning actor
Gertrude Barnstone, past member of the Houston School Board, active in Democratic Party, ACLU, and the women's movement

Jim Calloway, ACLU
Billie Carr, Democratic National Committeewoman
Virginia Carter, Tandem Productions
Executive and Professional Association of Houston
John Henry Faulk, noted humorist and author
Jack Fields, entertainers' agent
Sister Jeanne Grammich, New Ways Ministries, Mount Ranier, Maryland
Greater Houston Civil Liberties Union
Bruce Herman, Greater Los Angeles Council for the Deaf
Houston Human Rights Foundation
Charles Humphrey, President, Texas Civil Liberties Union
Father Robert Nugent, New Ways Ministries, Mount Ranier, Maryland
Rob Reiner, noted television personality and writer
Judson Robinson, Houston City Councilman
Margarite Robinson, Civil Rights Activist
Texas Civil Liberties Union
Texas Human Rights League
Lee Thune, writer
Upfront, Texas' biweekly Human Rights Newspaper

National Human Rights March On Washington Committee:

Gary J. Van Ooteghem, National Coordinator
Warren Duncanson, Financial Coordinator
Gertrude Barnstone, Womens' Liason
Margarite Robinson, Minority Community Liason
Carol Fennema, Gay Community Liason
Bruce Herman, Liason for the Deaf
Roxanne Ballweber, Coordinator for the Physically Handicapped

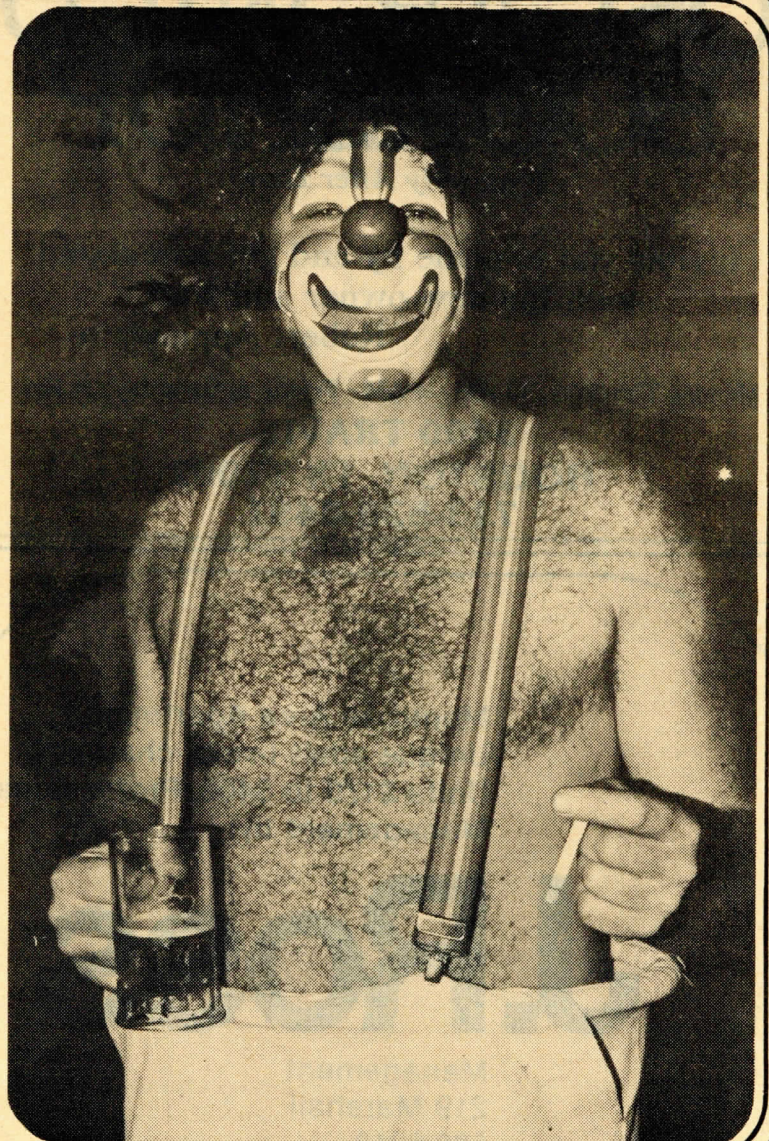
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**“All that is necessary
for the forces of evil
to win in the world is
for enough good men
to do nothing.”**

EDMUND BURKE

THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MARCH ON WASHINGTON

Sunday, October 28, in Washington, D.C., we will stand up for freedom. We will go to the “city that freedom built” and stand before the Lincoln Memorial and reaffirm our belief in the principles that guided his life. We will say a resounding “NO” to oppression and intolerance in all their forms. There are those who would say this is not the time. To them we say, “Will you ever find exactly the right time?” We think not. It could be too late tomorrow, for once lost, our precious freedoms will be difficult if not impossible to regain.

We invite all those who love liberty and hate injustice to march with us. America was not built by only those who espouse a single philosophy, by only those of a particular race, by only persons of a single sex or sexual orientation. America did not reach her manifest destiny by allowing only persons of single age, religion or nationality to participate in the benefits of freedom. We invite all who subscribe to the promise of America to assemble with us to reaffirm their commitment to the Bill of Rights and the principles of Liberty and Equality on which this nation was founded.

Persons or organizations interested in participating in the National Human Rights March on Washington should contact:
National Human Rights March, P.O. Box 66844, Houston, Texas 77006.