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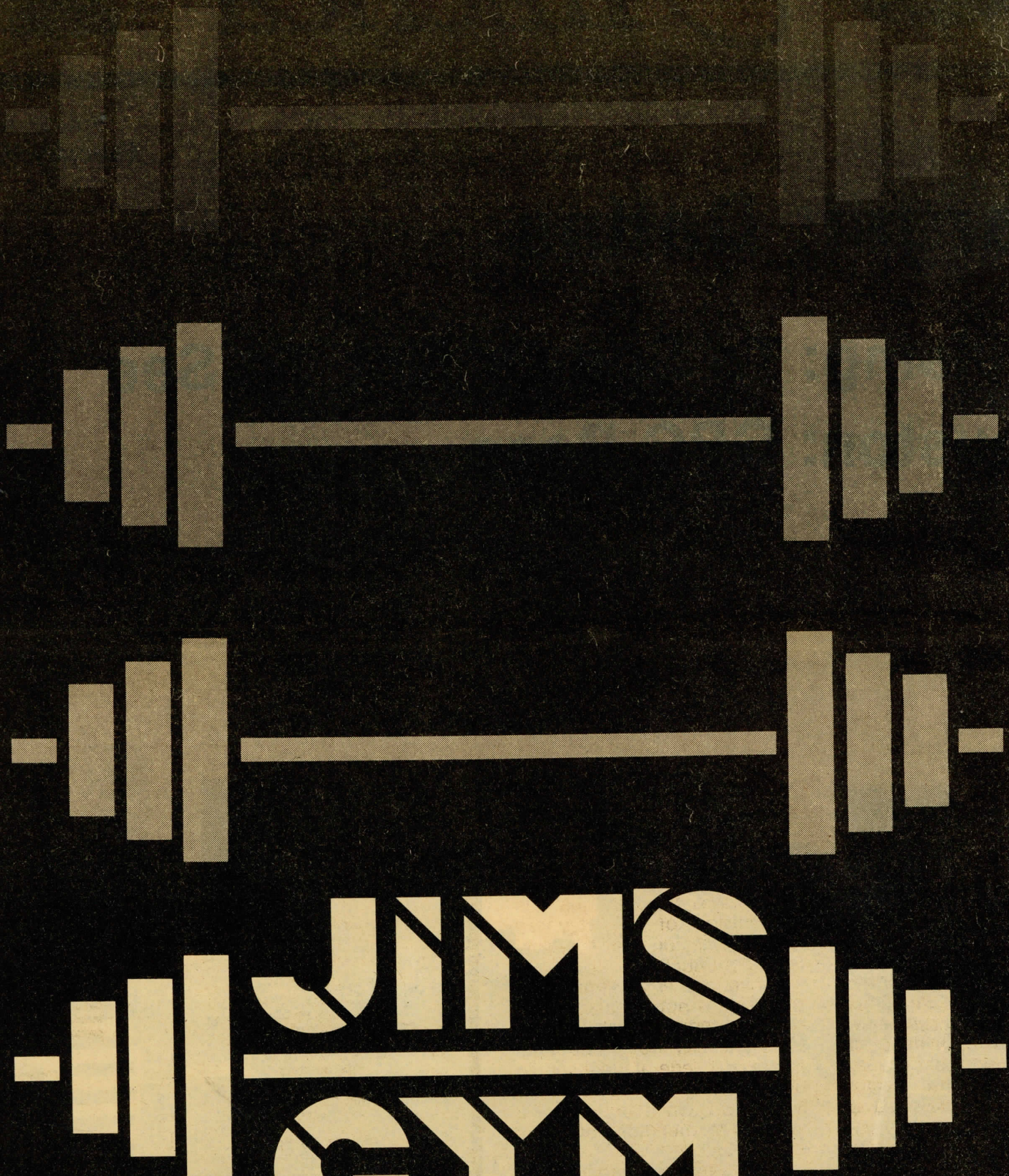
Vol. 1 Issue 4
February 15, 1980

Target: Dallas

Cruising: To See Or Not To See

Houston: GPC Race

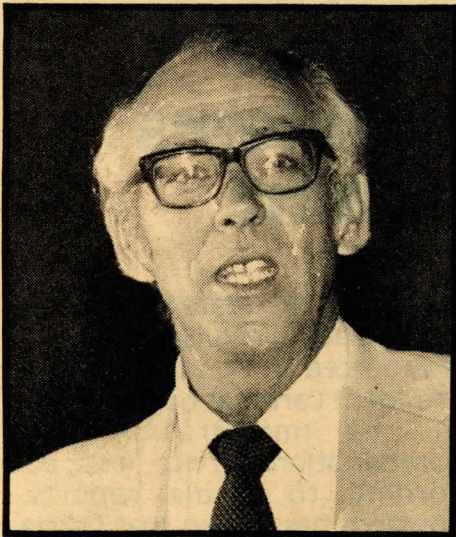




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Newsfront



Houston Police Chief Caldwell Resigns Post

Houston, TX—Police Chief Harry Caldwell announced his resignation February 12 effective at the end of this month according to a KULF radio report. Houston Mayor James McConn confirmed this report the commentator said.

It was also mentioned that Councilman Ben Reyes said that

in a meeting with Caldwell the week before he (Caldwell) seemed near "the breaking point."

Caldwell, who has been Police Chief for the past 3 years and an officer for over twenty, has accepted a position as head of security with a local organization, the station reported.

GHC Endorses

Houston, TX—Ron Burnett, President of the Gay Hispanic Caucus after screening both candidates for GPC president, wishes to inform the Houston Gay community that the Gay Hispanic Caucus is proud to endorse Larry Bagneris, Jr.

Vote

Houston, TX—VOTE! February 20, Holiday Inn, 4640 Main, East/West Room. Certification, 7 PM. Voting commences 7:45 PM, GPC members only. You may register election night. Call 526-2668 for information.

Mother Ruth Clinic

Houston, TX—Steve Shiflett, President of the Houston Gay Political Caucus, announced on Monday night, February 5, 1980, the beginning of a drive to let City Hall know the desires of the Houston Montrose Community to have the proposed new Medical Clinic named in honor of Ruth Ravas, Liaison to the Gay Community from the Health Department. Steve stressed that while the Clinic was Gay initiated, it will not be Gay restricted.

The announcement was made mid-way through a special "Mother Ruth Benefit Show" at Numbers Disco on Westheimer honoring Mother Ruth Ravas who has been hospitalized for several weeks following an automobile accident.

Shiflett urged everyone who agrees with the drive to write either the Mayor's office direct, or the GPC office for forwarding to the Mayor, urging that the Mayor consider naming the pro-

posed new Medical Clinic the "Ruth Ravas Medical Clinic," in recognition of the devoted work she has done in the Montrose Community.

"While the establishment of the Clinic is not at the present time a certainty, all reports from the city government indicate that Federal funds should be available shortly to begin this most worthwhile project—and we want Mother Ruth honored," Shiflett said.

Steve also announced that a major project for the Gay Political Caucus will be to convince the Medical Community of the need to release information to the Lovers and Friends of seriously ill hospital patients and not just to the immediate families. "People must begin to realize that in many cases in the Gay Community, lovers and friends are the only immediate family we have," Shiflett remarked.

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Newsfront

Gay Vote 1980 Targets New Hampshire

Washington, D.C.—"GAY VOTE 1980," a nationwide drive to win gay rights planks in the Democratic and Republican platforms this year, is shifting its focus from the Iowa caucus to the New Hampshire primary.

The drive is being coordinated by the National Convention Project of Washington, D.C. The Project is sponsored by a coalition of national lesbian and gay organizations.

Mary Spottswood Pou and Tom Bastow, Co-Directors of the National Convention Project, said they were pleased by the results of the Iowa caucuses, January 21.

About a dozen members of local gay organizations were elected as Democratic and Republican county convention delegates at that time. In five of

the state's six Congressional districts, some three dozen precinct caucuses adopted gay rights resolutions.

Pou and Bastow said they had found only four Iowa precincts (three Democratic and one Republican) that had rejected a gay rights plank. "We're encouraged that gay people are going to make a strong political showing in 1980," they said. "The Iowa caucuses show an unprecedented level of gay political awareness. This was the first statewide gay political effort in Iowa. Almost all of our delegates are first-time participants in the caucuses."

The National Convention Project is now working on major drives in three early primary states: New Hampshire, Florida, and Illinois.

Stars Shine On Key West

San Carlos' Key West Celebrity

February 12-17 "Eartha Kitt"

February 19-24 "Michael Greer"

February 26-March 9 "Maxine Andrews" of the famed Andrews Sisters

Tennessee Williams
Fine Arts Center

February 21-March 1 "Anything Goes"

February 24 "Mano a Mano"

March 13-22 "Equus"

March 16 "Ensemble Guillaume de Machaut de Paris"

April 3 "Claude Kipnis Mime Theatre"

April 10-13 "The Three Penny Opera"

May 8-17 "Twelfth Night"

Waterfront Playhouse

March 3-8 "Company"

Border Problems Again?

Houston, TX—State Representative Matt Garcia (San Antonio) is expected to be appointed by President Carter as new Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) according to media reports. Research has shown that Garcia has a political history that would probably make him insensitive to gays, according to Houston GPC President Steve Shiflett. Garcia voted against the repeal of the Homosexual Conduct Statute a few years ago, and "his reputation is one of being an opportunist, someone who doesn't understand gay issues, and is not sensitive to women," Shiflett said. It is likely that Garcia would put low priority on the border problems foreign gays have experienced recently, Shiflett suggested.

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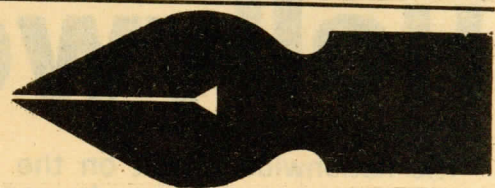
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Editorials



Bruising Cruising

Today the movie **Cruising** will open in six Houston theatres. Controversy has surrounded this movie from its inception and for good reason. Fifteen million dollars have been spent by its makers and lesbians and gay men were injured during protests against the film in New York City last summer. For the past two weeks pressure has been placed on local theatre owners to refuse to exhibit **Cruising** with limited success. However, lesbians and gay men as an audience must take the ultimate responsibility for the box-office success or failure of **Cruising**.

How do we know this is an anti-gay film? Because it relies on stereotypes and distorts us as human beings. It doesn't depict a variety of gay lifestyles or a gay man who is a sympathetic character. Instead, **Cruising** has one-dimensional images of gay men who are only into sado-masochism. Furthermore, this film is overwhelmingly violent—even by our current violence-bombarded media standards. According to Lucia Valeska of the National Gay Task Force who was present at the New York City press screening, "The overall message is that it is both physically dangerous and psychologically devastating to be gay, or in the proximity of gay people."

William Friedkin, the movie's director, often defended his need to film in New York City by saying that he wanted "realism". The tragedy of **Cruising** is that so much money and time was spent and yet the result is **not** a realistic depiction of violence against gay people but another lone-crazy killer thriller. This film doesn't deal with the adolescents who come from New Jersey or Memorial to beat up a queer. It doesn't show the fears that gay people face if they go to the police. Friedkin "Cruises" past the real dangers of gay love is death.

What have I got to lose by seeing the film? By purchasing a ticket to see **Cruising** lesbians and gay men will decrease any chance of ever seeing a positive gay film. And of course it follows that you will increase your chances of seeing more of the same lurid material. Hollywood's track record for gay movies is "F". So far the film industry has an "all gay love affairs must end in suicide or death" mentality. We do need to see images of ourselves on film and TV but those images need not be false and misleading.

What good does a boycott do? In Houston recently gay people have used their votes to demonstrate political clout. But there is another way to influence institutions such as the film industry—the pocketbook. Economic clout is an effective and legitimate tool which will carry our movement forward. One way to demonstrate economic clout is to patronize gay businesses; another is to deny financial support to those who oppress us. When corporations and government officials realize that we have the motivation and the discipline to exert our economic clout, they will be forced to negotiate with our community.

Lesbians and gay men cannot afford to dismiss this issue as simply one of poor taste in entertainment. For it is proven in psychological research that media images of violence may stimulate aggression, particularly in a young population. Motion pictures are a powerful and pervasive influence in our society. We can demand that the media act within reasonable bounds of social responsibility. We can and we must refuse to accept the role of scapegoat which is being thrust upon us in an increasingly violent society. The first step is to refuse to pay for our own oppression. Our curiosity and our desire to see gay people on the larger-than-life screen is natural. To yield to that impulse in the case of **Cruising** would be self-destructive.

Sue Cummings

Committee Against The Movie 'Cruising'

Vantage Point

The MAC: Why we need it!

The Houston gay community has been developing, organizing and mobilizing itself for nearly five years. During this time, Houston has also been gaining national prominence as being an emerging leader in gay political affairs. In traditional Texas style, we made good every pledge we sought. And we did it in a big way.

This issue, I would like to spotlight the Montrose Activity Center (MAC) and how it plays into all this. The organization will be approaching its fifth anniversary later this year. During the past four years of MAC's life, it has changed. When originally conceived, it was to be a many faceted organization concerning itself with a variety of projects and objectives. Today, perhaps wiser due to lessons on reality and human resource availability, the MAC concentrates its efforts on only one objective: the development and financial stability of the gay community's 100-percent owned community center. The board's objective is to make available this center for all of our organizations—whether small or large—for either housing their offices and/or having meeting rooms of various sizes available to them. In other words, they have made available to this community a facility large enough to enable all our organizations to come under one roof and work together side-by-side. This feature is perhaps the single most important one about the MAC—bringing the organizations together. Take a moment to dwell upon the importance of this.

For reference sake, remember back to the black's civil rights struggle in the 1960's. They began to be a force to be reckoned with only after they became organized. They became organized when they began to meet in central locations—then the black churches—and work together. Twenty years later the fight is the same, only the people are different. Today we must use both our churches and our community centers to do the same thing. We must come together! The old adage, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall," is true.

Here's how our Houstonian readers can help us set an example for gay communities in other cities to follow:

1) Every Saturday is "Work Saturday" at the Montrose Activity Center. We are replacing windows, moving walls, painting, and much more. We need volunteers to give a hand. Volunteers should bring whatever small tools (hammers, etc.) they have with them and report each Saturday morning at 10:00 AM to the MAC Building, Holman & LaBranch. We will work until approximately 5:00 PM.

2) We are attempting to pay our own way as we go. Many businesses will be asked to help us raise money. Our first success at this is **Disco Thursdays**, a two month cooperative effort with **NUMBERS DISCO**, whereby 100 percent of the door proceeds each Thursday will go toward **Project 1980: The Renovation of the Montrose Activity Center**. Here, then, is a second way of supporting our efforts. Dance for an evening and enjoy yourself—not just from dancing—but also because you helped MAC.

To Your long life.

Amy Warf

Publisher

Hollywood Held Hostage

By Rue Starr II

The nationwide assault on the United Artists movie **Cruising** is yielding some positive results as gay activists in most urban areas have been charting final battle plans. With the help of the New York based Campaign Against the Movie Cruising, General-Cinema Corporation was persuaded to drop the film starring Al Pacino two weeks before the February 15 release date.

Scheduled to exhibit the film in 26 of their "showcase theatres" including Houston's prestigious Galleria Cinema, GCC executives "hated" the film and called it "a stinker of a movie." Execs and staff declared that **Cruising** deserved an X-rating despite its official R status. It is a GCC policy not to release X rated films.

American Multi-Cinema Theatres is planning to show the film at six Houston areas theatres. AMC, owner of Greenway 3 Theatres, voluntarily dropped **Cruising** because the manager there was aware of the controversy and consulted local gay groups, including **UpFront America**, before declining the film. Attempts were made through the past week by local activists to convince other theatre owners to decide against showing the film.

San Francisco is the only major city where nobody is touching **Cruising**, so organizers there will be carpooling it out to the suburbs for picketing and leafleting.

Last summer's Manhattan filming met determined opposition which forced technicians to dub the sound in many parts of the film. The coverup work to eliminate the sound of hundreds of protesters blowing whistles is reported to be poor.

Boys In The Band director Freidkin and producer Jerry Weintraub made no attempts to negotiate with gays as the protesting erupted into violence in the heart of Manhattan's gay community.

Three hundred New Yorkers gathered in the rain January 18 to protest the opening of yet another United Artists film, **Windows**. Beginning with a heterosexual rape scene, this one stars a psychotic killer lesbian. **Windows** received poor reviews and showed substantial profit drops in the second week of release which usually indicates a short run. The National Association of Gay Filmmakers and the National Gay Task Force have been working with other lesbian and feminist groups to oppose these two films. An announcement of organized economic action against United Artists is expected from the NGTF later this month.

NGTF's Lucia Valeska released a statement to gay groups across the country following the **Cruising** screening. "... the movie amounts to a pallid rendition of Freidkin's original ambitions ... the movie will do harm to the gay community." The overall message is that it is dangerous ... to be gay or in the proximity of gay people. Because there have been no positive gay films, its immediate effect will be destructive unless the gay community intervenes and turns the situation to our advantage," Valeska said.

In Houston, Wilde 'n Stein radio co-anchor Sue Cummings intends to do just that. At press time a **Cruising** synopsis as well as a leaflet explaining gay opposition to the movie was being prepared for weekend distribution at local theatres. Cummings said she hoped for a "laid-back" protest which would not attract television cameras to the theatres. Working with Ray Hill and the Houston Human Rights League, Cummings organized planning meetings for the protest here.

During last summer's **Cruising** protest in Manhattan Cummings was involved with the Committee Against The Movie Cruising. She Attended the National Planning Conference for the March on Washington in Houston last summer as a New York City delegate and is now living in Houston.

The new anti-**Cruising** group has called for and received a Gay Political Caucus endorsement for non-confronting action." (Non-confronting action has been translated to mean picketing or leafleting with no efforts made to interfere with the rights of those intending to show or view the film.) A sound technician at the lab where **Cruising** was processed, told Arthur Bell that the film was not only anti-gay, he called it anti-human. For an anti-Cruising update call 526-2668.

CRUISING

It's unclear here at press time exactly how Freidkin's original script which was smuggled out of United Artists' studios months ago has been altered through filming and cutting. Apparently Al Pacino, as the undercover detective tracking an S&M murderer through the leather bars of New York, ends up having been the killer all along. This realization is the film's climax. Originally, after entering the "unknown world" (as the commercial goes), Pacino becomes confused about his own sexual identity and breaks off relations with his girlfriend. After

being picked up by the killer, Pacino slays him and then mysteriously assumes the identity of the killer.

Executives of General Cinema Corporation dropped **Cruising** after a private top secret screening in January. They reported that the character of the girlfriend and the killing of the playwright (to whom the detective was to have been attracted) are no longer in the film. "All that is left of the film is bars, discos, pissing, fucking, groping, etc," they said. There is, therefore, little character development or story line.

While police are rarely concerned with criminals who injure and kill gay men and women, in this film police are going to great lengths to get the killer. Village Voice columnist Arthur Bell reports that the "murder sequences in **Cruising** are filmed like production numbers in an M-G-M musical—each more spectacular than the last." Bell also says "If he (Freidkin) had a sense of societal justice, perhaps he'd have altered his script, which, in effect, says that murder is the result of gay sex."

WINDOWS

Emily is a newly divorced career woman living alone for the first time. Arriving home at night, she is attacked and raped by a man who tape records her moans. The rape was paid for by Andrea, a psychotic lesbian who hopes the rape will drive her friend Emily into her arms.

The first five minutes of the film is the graphic and detailed rape scene. The film culminates in Andreas' rape of Emily. Other characters and consequences include:

Bob, the attractive, sensitive detective—everything rape victims have found police not to be.

An elderly male neighbor who is murdered by Andrea.

A psychiatrist who also meets his demise at the hands of this same deranged, sex-crazed lesbian.

In other developments: Our lesbian villainess spies on Emily through a phallic telescope, writes sentimental poetry about her true love, and listens over and over to the recording of Emily's moans as she was raped.

Emily is too stupid to sense the evil intentions of her "friend," even when everyone else in the film, up to and including her cat, knows the truth.

Emily finds her beloved cat frozen in her refrigerator like a popsicle and rushes to Andrea for comfort. Andreas' advances are frantically refused so it's rape time again. In case you weren't keeping score, that's two rapes and two murders not counting the cat.

After Emily's handsome detective, now boyfriend, arrives for the rescue, she tells him "All night long she kept saying 'I love you,'" "Well," he replies, "maybe in her own way she did." Fade out.

TRANSAMERICA SUPPORTS JOHN BRIGGS

United Artists, which has released films this year about male and female homosexual murderers, has been exposed as having far right wing political connections. California homophobe John Briggs was allegedly the recipient of campaign contributions from United Artists' parent company subsidiaries.

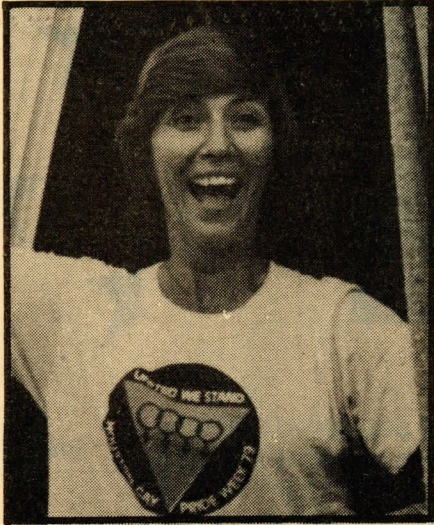
"It has come to our attention that Transamerica, the parent company of United Artists, made financial contributions through two of their subsidiaries, to the political campaign of John Briggs, the infamous sponsor of California's Proposition 6—the anti-gay initiative that would have made it illegal for gays or gay supporters to teach in the California public schools." That lengthy declaration was part of a recent joint press release from the National Gay Task Force, The National Association of Lesbian Gay Filmmakers, and the Coalition Against Violence Against Women.

The announcement came as all three groups joined together to take action against United Artists, the company responsible for the anti-lesbian-gay **Windows** and **Cruising**. The contributions were made during the period of time when Proposition 6 was before the public. On October 13, 1977 Occidental Life, a Transamerica subsidiary contributed \$1,250.00 to the Briggs for Governor Campaign. By March 1, 1978, Transamerica Financial Services had donated \$750.00 to the Briggs Campaign.

The Briggs for Governor Campaign made a series of loans and payments to the Yes On 6 group variously called Save Our Children—during the 1977-78 period.

One loan for over \$317,000 paid for a direct mail program in support of the effort to pass the law which would have called for the automatic termination of all gay teachers in California.

Mother Says . . .



By Ruth Ravas

Mother's going to talk about breast cancer. Whoa! Now you fellows, don't you just skim over this and say it's not for you. Breast cancer is proven (sic) that you are a high risk if "you have pierced nipples, or if you enjoy having your breasts fondled quite frequently." So, therefore, you are a risk (sic) of having breast cancer the same as women are. So I would like for you to read this as important to you.

Most breast cancer is first discovered by the people themselves (sic), and since breast cancer, when found early and treated properly, has excellent chance for cure, learning how to examine your breasts properly can help save your life. There are three simple steps to self-examination procedures and I will give them to you now.

Stand before a mirror, inspect your breasts with arms at your side. Next, raise your arms high over your head. Look for any change in contour of each breast: a swelling, a dimple of skin, or a change in your nipples. Then rest palms on your hips and press down firmly to relax

your chest muscles. Left and right breast will not exactly match, and few do. Regular inspection shows what is normal for you and will give you confidence in your examination. Next, lie down. To examine your right breast, put a pillow or a folded towel under your right shoulder. Place your right hand behind your head. This distributes the tissues more evenly on the chest. With left hand, fingers flat, press gently in a small, circular motion, around an imaginary clock face. Begin at the outermost top of your breast area, for twelve o'clock, then move to one, and so on around the circle back to twelve. A ridge of firm tissue in the lower circle of each breast is normal. Then move in an inch, more toward the nipple. Keep circulating to examine every part of your breast, including that nipple. This requires at least three more circles. Now slowly repeat the procedure on your left breast with a pillow under your left shoulder and left hand behind your head. Notice how the breast structure feels. Finally, squeeze the nipple of each breast gently between your thumb and index finger. Any discharge, clear or bloody, should be reported immediately to your doctor.

Now fellows, you may not agree with all of this, but it is a proven fact and you must learn to take care of yourself. Follow this same procedure once a month, okay? If you do notice any change, such as a lump, a dimple or a discharge (sic), please contact your doctor. It's important to see him as soon as possible. Don't be too frightened, because most breast lumps or changes are not cancer, but only your doctor can really tell you. Doing breast self-examination once a month will give you a little peace of mind. Seeing your doctor once a year will reassure you that there is nothing wrong. Now, if you are out-of-the-closet gay, remember, if you're going to ask him for cultures in the rectum and the throat, it's not going to hurt to ask for a breast exam. That's what Mother says!

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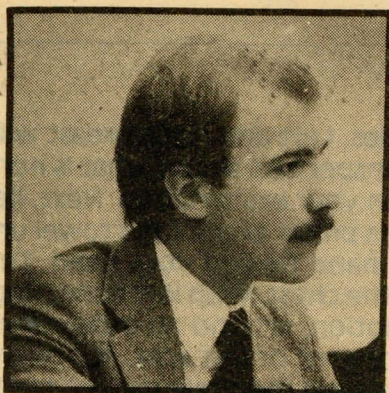
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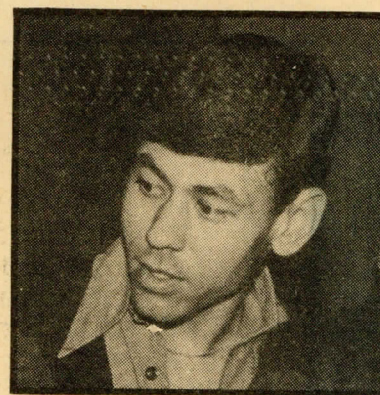
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GPC Election



STEVE SHIFLETT



LARRY BAGNERIS

By Craig P. Rowland

Steve Shiflett, Houston Gay Political Caucus (GPC) President for the past two years is being challenged for his office by GPC Vice-President Larry Bagneris. This is the first time in GPC's 4½-year history that more than one candidate has sought the office in this, the largest local organization of its kind in the country. About the competition Shiflett said, "I think it's flattering and healthy that for the first time we have qualified leaders competing for the job."

What is Shiflett campaigning on? "On my record," he told **UpFront America**. "I brought GPC out of the closet and into the mainstream of politics."

He cited some of the achievements GPC has made since he took office:

"Under my leadership I helped get elected a majority on the City Council who are friendly, and are listening and responding to us," he said. Evidence of this is that homophobe Frank Mann was defeated after twenty years on the Council.

"We doubled the size of our mailing list," he continued. "Consequently we have been able to politically educate more gay Houstonians than ever before."

The GPC annual budget has increased from \$12,000 when he took office to a projected \$66,000 this year. To meet this need Shiflett plans to put GPC "on a permanent fund raising basis." Grassroots fundraising has been the source of financial support (i.e., bar donations, memberships, parties, and a new pledge program whereby a contract permits a percentage of one's paycheck to be deducted regularly for GPC).

Recently, Shiflett was instrumental in legalizing GPC, Inc., as a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation. What this means is that GPC, Inc. has branched in two directions although one staff will maintain two sets of books. "Houston GPC, Inc." (HGPC) is the tax-exempt arm of the organization which in the future will provide areas to grow in social welfare and education. According to Shiflett the advantage is that "anything that is not affecting bi-partisan politics can go through the corporation at a better tax advantage."

"Texas Gay Political Caucus" (TGPC) is the political arm, now a political action committee filed with the Secretary of State.

Though he said he supports all minority rights, he clarified his position regarding GPC:

"GPC's purpose is to promote and protect Lesbian and Gay rights by working in consort with other minority groups who promote human rights.

"We can work together when there are areas of similar concern," he continued, "but for areas of dissimilar concern there are other organizations that are better equipped to deal with them."

"I think there is a fine line between saying, 'I don't want to include' vs saying 'I want to direct the Caucus' energies into this avenue," he explained.

Continuing with his history as GPC President, Shiflett said that over 100 delegates at the precinct level were elected toward the state convention process (May-December 1978) ending with eight delegates to the state convention and one to the national convention. He was

Continued on page 17

"Coalition politics" is the phrase that peppered GPC Vice President Larry Bagneris' discussion with **UpFront America** about his desire to win the GPC presidency from incumbent president Steve Shiflett. According to Webster's Dictionary "coalition" means "a temporary alliance of distinct parties, persons, or states for joint action." This is exactly what Bagneris means when he talks about uniting minorities of all kinds—a major goal he would have as GPC president.

His passion for such unification stems from his own ethnic background and the experiences resulting from that. He is Creole (a mixture of Spanish, French, and Black bloodlines). Bagneris remembers boarding buses in New Orleans where he was raised and having to stand because neither the Blacks sitting in the back nor the Whites sitting in the front would accept him. Having been an outsider, it is understandable that he has developed such a strong drive to unite people.

Bagneris is very much an insider now. He is an executive board member of the National Gay Task Force, a position he views as an asset to GPC, because it will help him shed national light on the goings on in Houston. In addition to other groups, he is also involved with the Gay Hispanic Caucus and the Houston Committee (for Blacks). "I have lots of friends from every sphere of life," he said. Grouped together, his friends would look like a delegation from the United Nations, Bagneris added.

He considers the GPC mailing list (presently about 7500 including about 350 paid members according to the GPC office) as the backbone of the organization. It needs to be better organized, he suggested, with more emphasis placed on enlarging it. He would accomplish this by tapping more community groups and individuals.

His background again serves him in terms of plans to enlarge GPC. Part of growing up in Creole culture was that "We had a party for everything," he said. He sees socializing as a key aspect to strengthening and enlarging GPC.

"The type of direction GPC needs is to be political but to learn how to put politics into the community. Ours is a social community and if you don't socialize you're going to turn more people off than you do on. I've been trying, as GPC vice president, to bring in as many social programs as possible and it's been successful," he stated.

An example of bringing people together in a social/political context is "Election Night Central" which he was instrumental in organizing. He described the original meeting as "... a coming together of the gay community ..."

"We set up televisions and watched the returns together. The first year we did it was during the John Hill race where we lost. This year we did it with Eleanor Tinsley and it was super. We had the Montrose Marching Band, disco music, and eight T.V.'s in a back room."

Raising money for GPC is another core issue that Bagneris said he would act on as GPC president. The GPC budget continues to increase and with it the need to tap more pocketbooks.

With more money would be the ability to better politically educate the community, Bagneris said. His thrust is to go to the people, whether in bars, churches, or

Continued on page 17

Musicfront

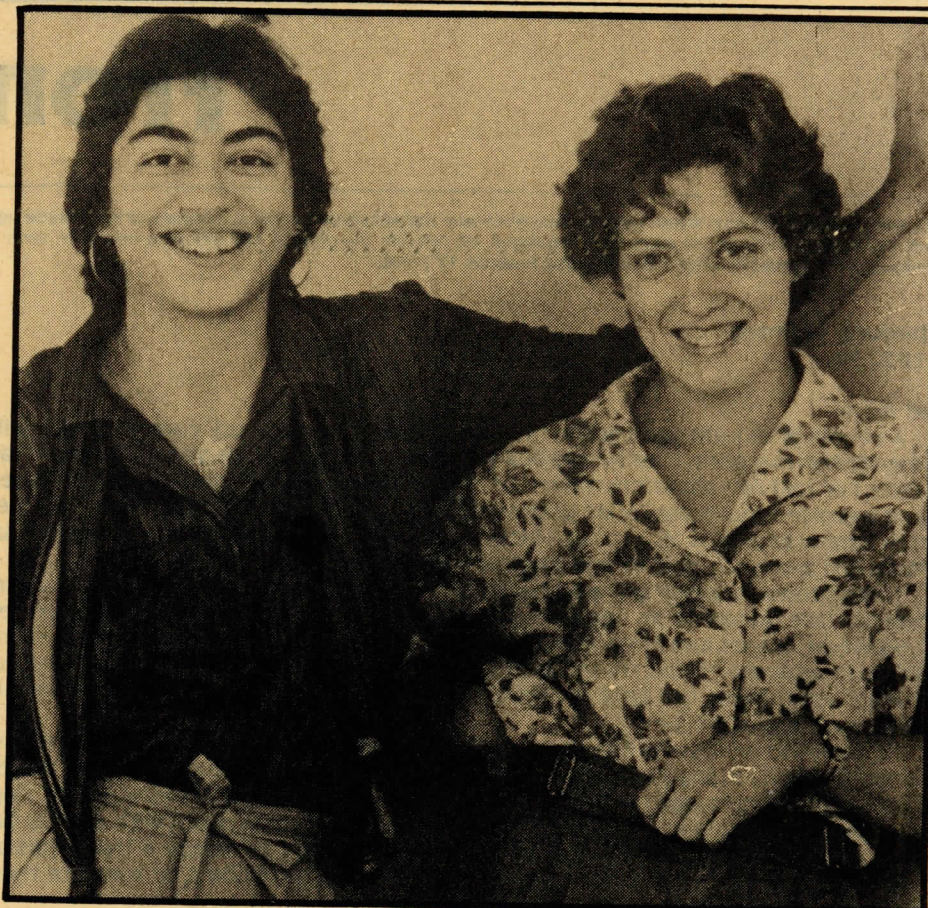
By Pokey Anderson

You don't find a lot of folks in the music industry whose biography sheet includes: "Worked as a dump truck driver to support herself while gaining experience in music." You won't find a lot of dynamic gospel and blues singers with green eyes and red hair. And you won't find many performers who will sing honestly and naturally about women who love other women. But then, nobody has ever accused Teresa Trull of being a run-of-the-mill performer.

Teresa is warm, down-to-earth, and very human. She labors under no delusions of grandeur—her deep, rich voice speaks for itself, with range and intensity. And, reports the **Santa Barbara News Press**, "she plays a mean blues guitar and her yodeling can only be termed as fierce."

She learned gospel and blues while growing up in North Carolina. Her music now blends gospel, soul, traditional jazz and the blues. Since Teresa's first album, **The Ways A Woman Can Be** (recorded at the age of 23), her music has reclaimed even more of the down-to-earth energy of its Southern roots. Also, she has gained the accomplished piano backing of London-born jazz pianist, Julie Homi.

Like Meg Christian, Teresa Trull is a member of the nation's leading women's music label, Olivia Records. The women at Olivia are committed to providing a means for real women—not mass media fantasy women—to communicate about their own lives, loves, hopes and dreams. They make special efforts to include among their performers and audiences women who have often been ignored by our culture: lesbians, minority women, working class women, disabled women. Out & Out Productions, a group of local women with goals similar to Olivia's, will be sponsoring Teresa's upcoming Houston concert. Out & Out produced a very well-received Meg Christian concert here in December.



Teresa Trull and Julie Homi will appear in concert on Saturday, February 23, 8 pm, at First Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin. Advance tickets will be available at B.D. & Daughter, Wilde 'N' Stein Books, The Bookstore, "Just" Marion & Lynn's, and A Movable Feast. A donation of \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door, or work exchange is requested. Child care and deaf interpretation will be offered. For further information, contact Out & Out Productions, P.O. Box 66354, Houston 77006, or 665-3083.

As an added treat, Teresa and Julie will be on hand to meet people informally on Saturday, February 23rd, 1:30-3:00 pm, at B.D. & Daughter, 520 Westheimer.

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Dieburg, Germany
12-22-79

Hi there,

A couple of months ago I got in touch with Walter Unger, a U.S. correspondent with the German magazine, "Stern." I've been reading his article on the gay scene in San Francisco. I've told him about my search for gays of this scene over there. I am gay myself, and was given your name by Mr. Unger who told me that you might be able to help me. I don't know English at all, but I was lucky since I met a guy today who once lived in San Francisco and who's able to translate my lines into English.

I am a brown-eyed guy at the age of 30, 5'11" tall, slim, and enjoy reading, and writing songs. I take myself for an open-minded guy who loves all the pleasant things in life.

However, there's one more thing. I'm presently in jail here in Dieburg, West Germany. Being in jail doesn't mean I'm an incorrigible crook. Sure, I've committed a couple of offenses. I go through hell once in awhile. Lots of the "normal" guys I've been around ignore me because I'm gay.

So, I'd like to meet some American guys who are going through the same kind of thing as I'm presently doing. I'm planning to leave Germany after I've done my time. Maybe, by means of your help I could find a couple of bang-up guys who feel like contacting me. I hope you can pass this on and that some nice guys get in touch with a lonely German brother (soon). I will be grateful and endlessly happy no matter if the letters are written in German or English, since I've got a buddy who's going to translate them. Thanks a lot in advance. All the best to you.

Love from,

Klaus Konig
Alstadt 25
D-6110 Dieburg
West Germany

Remark: This letter expresses Klaus' words, not mine. —Joe, interpreter.

Dear Frontlines,

I am a sixteen year old Lesbian. To some of you this situation may appear to be quite

immanent; to others, unacceptable and oppressive and who will classify this condition as an intermittent "perversity." The purpose of this letter, however, is not to reveal the nature of my idiosyncrasy, but is aimed at the overall awareness and attitudes in our culture pertaining to gay youths.

I recently attended a meeting of the so called "Gay Young People." The narcissism of those involved appeared extremely grand and flamboyant. They were, in every respect, negotiable, compatible, understanding, etc. However, the total lack of organization makes this program a deep failure. Most importantly, the needs have no place in society—whether gay or straight. We are "minors." This transitional label distorts our legal rights as citizens, and our social rights as young gays. As such, our self-concept is partially (if not totally) destructive in our self-evaluation. We need a sense of "Belonging"—a place to go where there are no criteria.

I strongly urge the adult gay community groups to please act on this problem immediately. It is only through the efforts of the gay community, and their friends, that all gays will stand in society with full strength and will become recognizable as a whole. We, the young gays, are in desperate need of your help. We are in need of active role models found in community groups and other organizations for direction and guidance.

Generally speaking, I would like to say that the gay community is what makes an expanding, profound, and revolving world. If we help each other we will be a unity, not a minority. Please help us to help each other.

Sincerely yours,
Norma Garza

Oakland, CA
2-1-80

Gentlepeople:

Recently, I was surprised and pleased to learn that my picture appeared in one of the issues of your publication—purportedly, the issue which covered the events of the October 14, 1979, National March on Washington. Although, I have not seen the issue, I was apprised of my debut in the National media by three separate and geographically dispersed friends—in Dallas, backwoods North Carolina, and Norfolk, VA. Congratulations on your circulation!

Thank you for perpetuating the memory of one of the most meaningful and exciting occasions of my life.

Best regards to Houston,
John B. West



2140 Market

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Medifax

By Jim Lloyd

Every year millions of people are made sick by what they eat and foodborne disease results in losses of millions of dollars a year. Food poisoning is caused by bacteria which grow in foods that have been improperly preserved, stored or poorly cooked. Only oysters and dairy products are routinely checked by health officials for bacterial contamination so the consumer must take precautions to prevent food poisoning.

One form of food poisoning, called **BOTULISM**, is caused by a bacteria commonly found in soil which contaminates foodstuffs such as vegetables. The organism is very resistant to heat, so if foods are not properly preserved and cooked the bacteria will flourish. Home canned foods, especially beans and corn, are the most common sources of infection, although preserved meats can also be a source of infection. Botulism is very dangerous and can be fatal. Symptoms can appear within three hours after eating infected food and include vomiting, pains in the stomach and either diarrhea or constipation. There is also muscular paralysis.

Probably the most common form of food poisoning is caused by various strains of staphylococcus bacteria. It is most often caused by cream filled baked goods or by ready to eat meats which have been improperly preserved or inadequately refrigerated during storage. Symptoms appear rapidly and don't last too long. Excessive salivation is the first sign, followed by vomiting, cramps and diarrhea. Blood and mucus may appear in the stool. Death can occur, but rarely does and most people recover rapidly.

Infections caused by **SALMONELLA** bacteria take twelve to fourteen hours to produce symptoms. Foods become infected during processing or while being displayed. Meat and eggs are the principal offenders. In fact, 15 to 50 percent of chicken is contaminated with salmonella. The bacteria can be destroyed by proper cooking. Rat and mice droppings may harbor the bacteria and humans can also carry the bacteria. The first sign of infection is usually a chill, followed by vomiting, severe cramps, fever and very foul smelling diarrhea. Sym-

toms can last from two days to two weeks. Death can occur, but is rare.

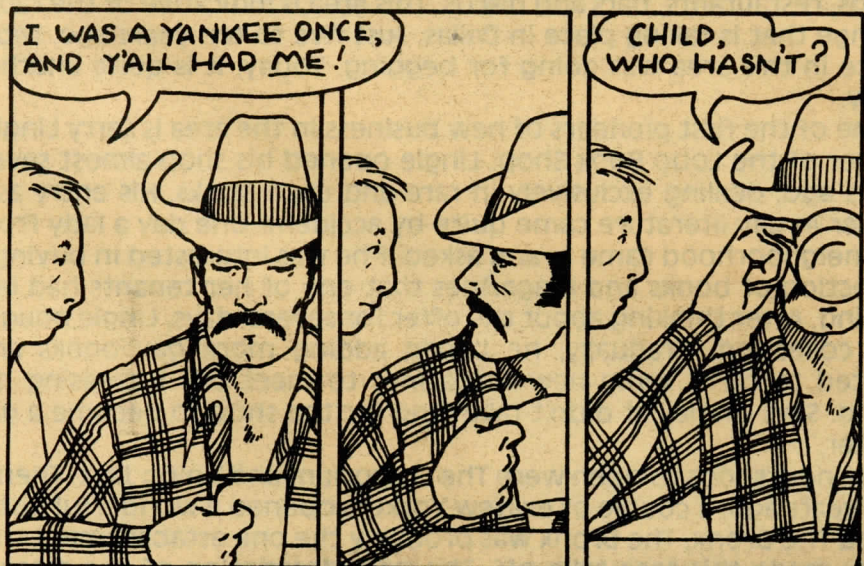
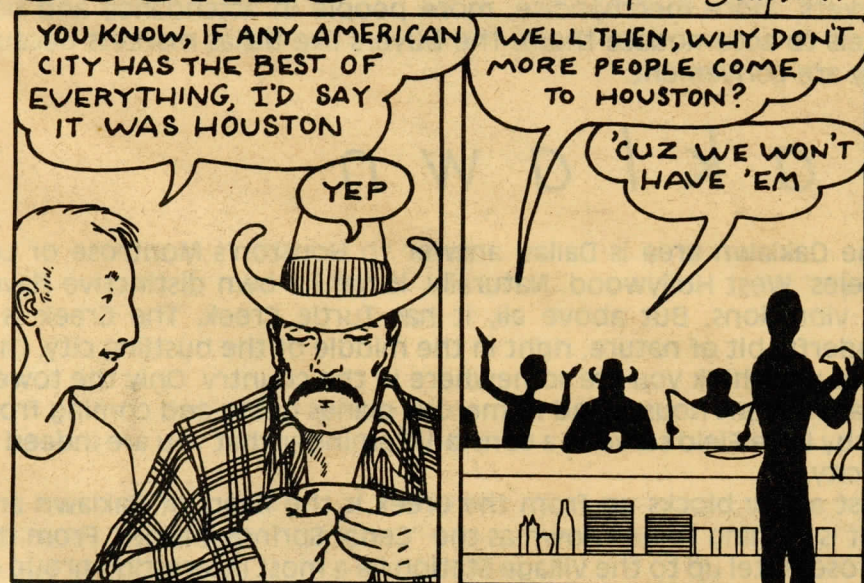
What can one do to protect against food poisoning? Hopefully, one finds restaurants that are properly managed so that patrons are not subject to poisoning, but this is an all too common occurrence. However, one can exercise care in the selection, preservation, cooking and storage of food to prevent infection.

When shopping for canned goods don't ever buy dented or swollen cans. If frozen foods show signs of having melted or appear to be partially thawed don't buy them. At home make sure your freezer is at an appropriate temperature and if foods do thaw, use them at once or throw them away. In many states dairy products and a number of prepared foods have dates after which they are not to be used or displayed. When buying milk, dairy products, prepared meats and things like mustards and mayonnaises always check the expiration date. It's also a good idea to check things you have stored in the refrigerator and be sure they have not passed their expiration dates.

In preserving and preparing foods there are a number of precautions. Home canned foods should be kept at high enough temperatures for the proper time to be sure all bacteria are destroyed. Such foods should also be properly sealed. The same utensils and surfaces should not be used for cutting raw chicken and raw vegetables unless everything is thoroughly washed in hot soap and water between cuttings of the meat and vegetables. Salmonella from the poultry can cross contaminate the vegetables. Foods should always be properly cooked. Stuffings for poultry should never be made far in advance and left to sit around even for a few hours and NEVER stuff a bird and let it sit overnight in the refrigerator. Birds that are stuffed should be started cooking immediately after they are prepared. Cream sauces are better made right at the time they are to be used. Just an hour of sitting around can create a bacteria culture. Chicken, seafood and potato salads are best made as close to the time of use as possible and should be kept properly chilled before use and preferably iced at the table if served from a buffet bowl. Always be sure that utensils, pots and dishes are clean before using them in preparing foods. If there is any doubt about something that has been sitting in the shelves, wash it with hot water and soak before using it. Personal cleanliness is also a must. These simple precautions can spare a lot of grief.

SCORES

John Simpson



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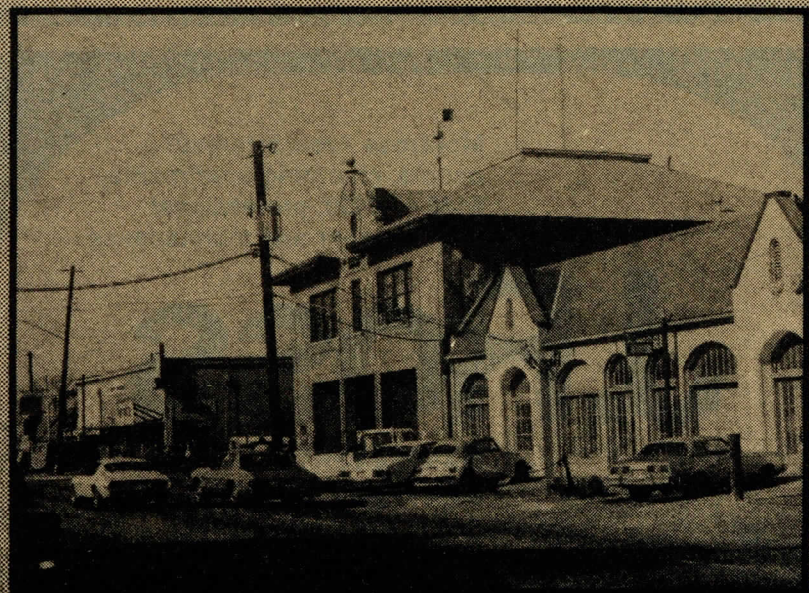
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DALLAS - HUB OF



MIMOSA STUDIO



ERIC SMITH

Ask anyone about Dallas and you are sure to get anything but a lukewarm response; they either love it or genuinely dislike it.

Interestingly enough, I've found this to be the case when playing the role of the man on the street and asking people about their feelings toward other great cities in the U.S. and abroad. People never seem to be lukewarm about Paris, New York, Tokyo, Los Angeles or Chicago, to name a few; and I point this out because Dallas is quickly becoming as talked-about a city as any of these.

More and more people are talking about Dallas for a number of reasons. The obvious reasons are the popular T.V. show "Dallas" and, of course, The Cowboys.

But Dallas is growing in population, business and world-wide prestige for several reasons the average person might not know about. Aside from being the financial hub of the southwest and having what many describe as one of the best airports in the world, Dallas is headquarters for over 200 insurance companies that include Fidelity Union and Southland Life. Further, the Dallas-Fort Worth "Metroplex" has become a major center for aerospace and electronics and is called home by such companies as American Airlines, Texas Instruments, Tandy Corporation (Radio Shack) and Braniff International. And, Dallas is fast becoming a major advertising center.

Another major reason for recent growth is the Dallas Market Center. The Market Center includes the Trade Mart, Apparel Mart, Homefurnishings Mart, Market Hall, The Decorative Center, and the recently expanded World Trade Center. Just across the freeway from this enormous complex is the Loew's Anatole Hotel, all of which was built by Trammell Crow, who was partially responsible for San Francisco's Embarcadero Center and the Peachtree Center in Atlanta. The Market Center has been attracting more and more buyers every year; and the trend is definitely on the upswing. Each year there are additional markets, more merchandise, more people in attendance and new hotels to accommodate them. The buyers like Dallas markets because they are convenient.

Oaklawn

The Oaklawn area is Dallas' answer to Houston's Montrose or Los Angeles' West Hollywood. Naturally, it has its own distinctive flavor and vibrations. But above all, it has Turtle Creek. The Creek is a wonderful bit of nature, right in the middle of the bustling city, that makes you think you are somewhere in the country. Only the towering apartment houses and numerous planes going and coming from nearby Love Field serve as a constant reminder that you are indeed in the city.

Just a few blocks up from the Creek is the heart of Oaklawn and what is coming to be known as the "Cedar Springs Village." From the Melrose Hotel up to the Village Station lie a most interesting group of shops, restaurants, bars and discos. This area is indicative of the rapid change that is taking place in Dallas. Just five to ten years ago, retail space in this area was going for begging. Today, it is quite another story.

One of the first pioneers of new business in the area is Larry Lingle, owner of the Lobo Book Shop. Lingle opened his shop almost seven years ago, dealing exclusively in rare and used books. His entry as a dealer in gay literature came quite by accident. One day a lady from the neighborhood came in and asked if he was interested in buying a collection of books and magazines that one of her tenants had left behind. After thinking about the offer for several days, Lingle bought the collection. Gradually, he began adding more gay books and started to carry some new magazines to meet the increasing demand. Says Lingle, "It didn't take long for the shop to become a gay center."

The next shops to open were The Emporium and Union Jack. Then, a few years ago, a couple of ex-New Yorkers opened a wonderful bistro called The Bronx. The Bronx was probably the one establishment that really made this area take off. The best description of the place is Texas-style Greenwich Village. This is true in decor, menu, and

THE SOUTHWEST

By Andrew Cosgrove

clientele. Initially, the clientele was predominantly gay due to its location, but after some good reviews in "D" Magazine, in came all of Dallas' movie, recording, advertising and even Highland Park crowd. Needless to say, you have to wait in line on a Friday and Saturday night just like any popular place along the McKinney Avenue "Restaurant Row."

The newest shops include Under Arrest, Off The Street, and Butler's Pantry Too. The newest restaurant is Cedar's Palace, offering late night suppers and breakfast or a minute's relief from the throbbing sounds of the Village Station and Magnolia's. If you are in need of a 24 hour coffee shop, be sure to visit Faye at the Steak and Egg.

Local Color

Several years ago, a community of black "ladies of the night" relocated themselves from an area on Bryan Street, east of downtown, to the corner of Cedar Springs and Throckmorton. At the time, the present locations of the Village Station and Magnolia's were catering to a straight clientele and the girls would more or less hang out at these spots looking for prospects. Now that these places have been replaced by gay establishments, they are somewhat left out on the street.

Merl and Vivian Smith, who have operated the Avalawn Cleaners on that corner for 57 years are somewhat aghast at the kind of business that takes place on their corner when they leave at six every evening. "It's the worst sin in the Bible" says Merl. The Smiths, however, agree that the neighborhood is going through a period of improvement and healthy growth.

The attitude of the police toward all this is one of tolerance. They constantly drive by and each appears to simply acknowledge the other's presence. Many feel that the city's attitude toward the area is that it's not a very good neighborhood. The Dallas Public Library, however, is currently building a new branch just down the block on Cedar Springs; and that should help raise a few standards. But, no matter what the city and police might think, the people coming in from California and the northern states are leaving their prejudices behind and bringing in their cash and good taste. Consequently, the prices are rising at a rapid rate and good real estate deals are getting hard to come by. Word has it that most of the retail area along Cedar Springs has already been bought up by just a handful of investors.

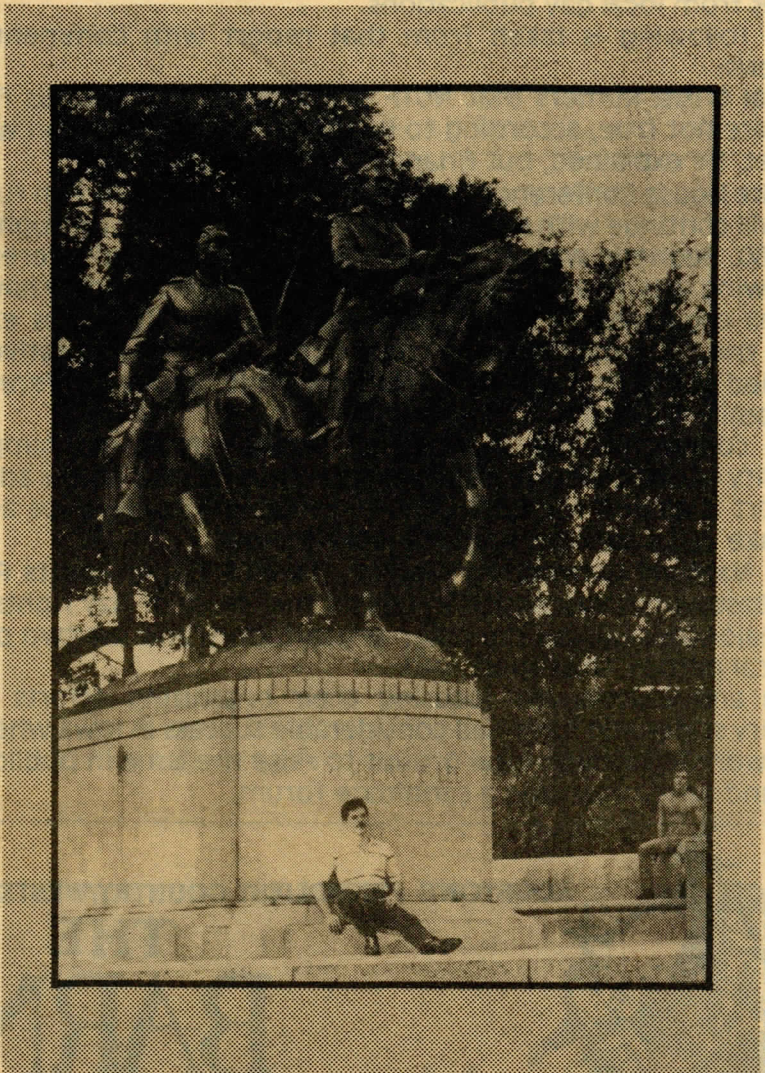
Down the Line

Since the Oaklawn area is part of the inner city (minutes from downtown), it is becoming densely populated like many other cities today. Houses are being demolished to be replaced by townhouses and apartments. More high rise apartment buildings are planned along the Creek, and the former King Mansion will soon become one of the city's most prestigious hotels, operated by the 21 Club of New York. This kind of development is contributing to the pedestrianization of the area, making it all the more interesting. One of the best things about the area is that you can stay at either the Melrose or Stoneleigh and just walk to all the shops, restaurants, and bars, etc.

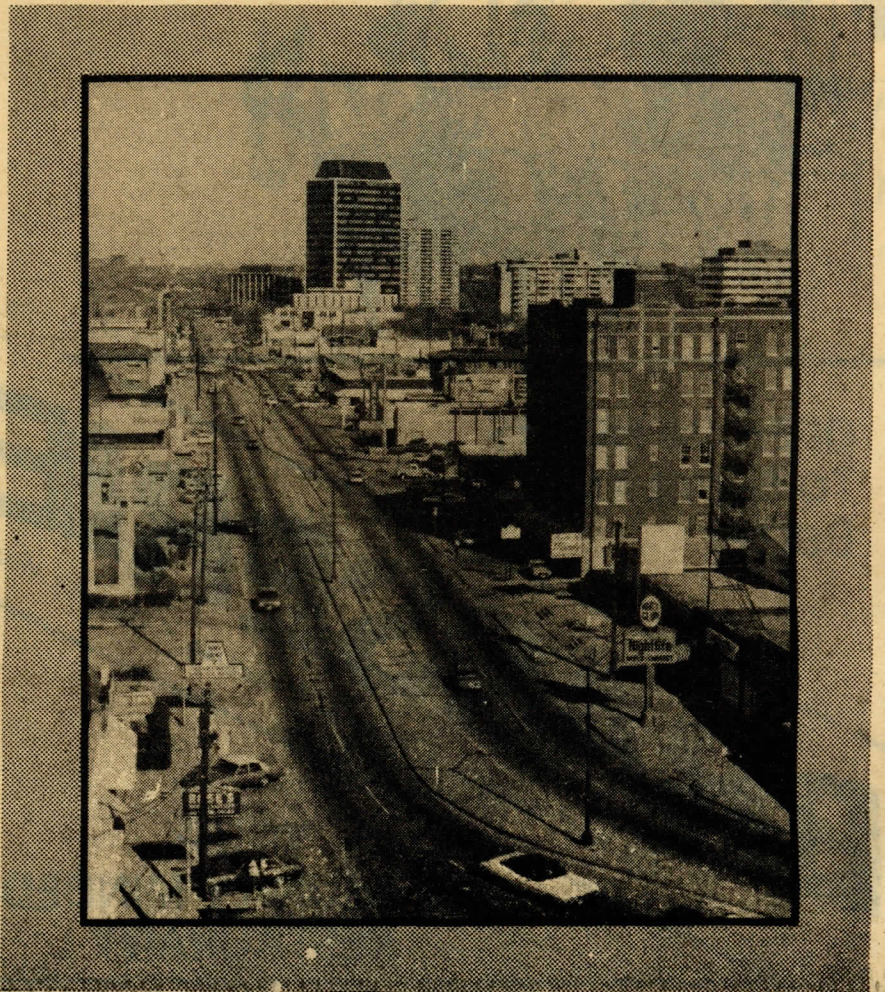
Like any major city in the U.S. today, there are occasional reports of the streets not being safe at night. This, however, does not stop people in Dallas from walking from Cedar Springs to places like the Sundance (Bar) on Maple Avenue (roughly six blocks away) especially on weekends when parking can be a problem.

This writer feels that the best way to overcome crime on the streets in any city is to get more people on the streets, rather than have them stay behind closed doors. Since Dallas voters passed a \$25 million bond issue last November and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts is assured a new home on the north side of downtown, the city will have one more link to pull the Oaklawn area closer to downtown.

So, if Dallas is a city you don't yet know, my best advice is make plans to go, get acquainted with it, and by all means, make up your own mind about it.



MIMOSA STUDIO



ERIC SMITH

NGTF Conference

By Craig P. Rowland

Larry Bagneris, Houston GPC Vice-President and challenger to incumbent GPC President, Steve Shiflett, held a press conference January 31 to discuss the recent National Gay Task Force (NGTF) conference held in New York City the previous week.

Bagneris, one of six Executive Board members of NGTF elaborated on the co-director's report which he made available to representatives from local gay publications.

The following is taken from that report with comments from Bagneris:

Fiscal Crisis: Rumors that NGTF is immersed in a serious financial crisis are not true, according to Bagneris. The organization was over budget, he explained, but finances are now back in line.

White House Conference of Families: The conference is in full swing and will continue with scheduled events taking place through August of 1980. Bagneris warned of the takeover of State Conferences by right wing groups and suggested that pro-gay groups may have to be as well organized as their opponents. Though NGTF was excluded from the National Advisory Committee, gay representatives have testified at the four scheduled National White House Conferences on the Family Hearings.

The conference needs increased support from gay supporters. Visibility of gay concerns has been high thus far, but unless additional support is gained for NGTF efforts, remaining conference activities will take place without significant NGTF input.

The National Convention Project: The NCP under Spotts Pou and Tom Bastow has succeeded in raising the issues of gay rights within the major presidential campaign organizations and the two principal political parties, the report said.

Pou and Bastow are focusing their organizing efforts on the primary states and have had considerable success in Iowa where they have worked through local groups to raise the issue in public discussion and have organized a candidate forum.

Immigration: The meeting scheduled for January 17 with Associate Attorney General John H. Shenefield to discuss the December 10 Office of Legal Council memorandum (which calls for enforcement of the prohibition against homosexuals by INS without the cooperation of the Public Health Service) has been postponed until January 30 at the request of the Justice Dept. Until the January 30 meeting and final action by Mr. Shenefield, the OLC memorandum will not be implemented.

New National Lesbian and Gay Organization: On March 7-9 the organizers of the October 14, 1979 March on Washington will hold an organizing conference in Oberlin, Ohio to form a new national Lesbian and gay rights organization. The Co-Directors of the Task Force have stated publicly that they will be supportive of the efforts of the new organization as long as they are not destructive to their own.

Film: NGTF is participating in activities of an ad-hoc NYC group attempting to keep the national lesbian and gay community informed of events and effects that national distribution of the controversial film, "Cruising" is likely to provoke. It is scheduled to open nationwide February 15.

"Windows," another United Artists production, was scheduled for a January 18 release. A joint press release signed by NGTF and the National Lesbian and Gay Filmmakers has been sent to national gay media warning of the event.

ABC-TV's recent documentary on homosexuality, aired December 18, was greeted with mixed but predominantly negative feedback from the national gay community. NGTF was distressed to be excluded from the promised pre-screening and has filed a protest with the president of ABC.

Bagneris talked about some of his personal goals and expectations for NGTF. He wants to increase information made available to the public regarding NGTF activity and intends to work toward increasing third world membership in the organization. Presently membership is predominantly white, he said.

Bagneris, incidentally, was recently nominated as one of the Outstanding Young Men of America for 1980, an honor that recognizes young men throughout the nation for professional achievement and community services.



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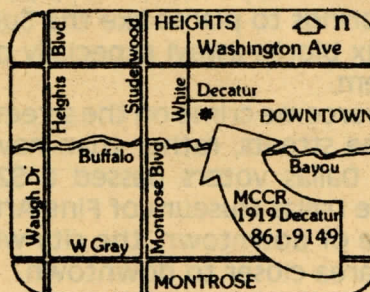
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Newsfront

National Group Will Aid Gay Businesses

New York, NY—On November 18, 1979 a new organization was formed comprised of the majority of the gay and lesbian business associations across the country. This group, the National Association of Business Councils, is incorporating in Washington, D.C., with its principal office in New York City. Its purpose is to support, assist, inform, and educate gay and gay oriented business associations in their relationship with each other, to gain increased respectability for the associations, and to recognize their high standards by engendering the practice of strong motives toward excellence of service and products.

Elected representatives from each council will meet twice a year, and the officers who comprise the executive committee will additionally meet four more

times during the year. NABC's next general meeting will be held in Houston, Texas on May 17, 1980. It is expected that by the time of the May meeting, national membership in NABC should be about 3000 businesses.

This is the only non-political organization of its kind representing gay and lesbian professionals, executives, and business owners from across the nation. It will act as an information clearing house for an exchange of data among the various member councils, secure various benefits for its members, and represent the gay business community on matters of national concern.

For more information please contact:

H. Gerald Schiff, President,
(212) 944-9185.

Black Men's Conference

Washington, D.C. — "Man's Work," the first national conference for black homosexual men will be held February 15-17, 1980 at the Georgian Terrace Hotel, 659 Peachtree Street, N.E., in Atlanta, Georgia, drawing an expected crowd of 500 persons.

A convening is for the purpose of establishing a viable national network by and for black homosexual men that will address and serve their needs and the black community at large. The conclave will also formalize its new organization, temporarily operating until now as the Committee of Black Gay Men.

Attendance is open to all black homosexual men. For further information, contact Sidney S. Thompson, c/o The Committee of Black Gay Men, 1403 12th Street, N.W., Suite 3, Washington, D.C. 20005 or call (202) 483-2976.

Lesbians Research

Dallas, TX—LESBIANS DEFINING THEMSELVES: Traditionally, research on lesbianism has been conducted by non-lesbians. Ronda Carlson, a lesbian, is conducting a national survey to determine how lesbians define themselves and their communities. She recently completed a master's degree in social work and this research is a continuation of a survey done for her thesis. She needs lesbians willing to complete a fairly long and specific questionnaire (about 1½ hours to fill out). The questionnaires and all correspondence will be kept strictly confidential, but it is hoped that the results will eventually be published. For a questionnaire please write Ronda Carlson, 3014 Millmar Drive, Dallas, Texas 75228.

NUMBERS

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A community funding project designed to raise funds for the repair and renovation of the Montrose Activity Center. 100% of all door proceeds will go to Montrose Activity Center.

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CELEBRATES IT'S 10th ANNIVERSARY
BY BRINGING TO PARADE HOUSTON,
FOR A SPECTACULAR SHOW
THE RETURNING KINGS AND QUEENS
FROM 10 YEARS
PAST

GPC Election:

Steve Shiflett

Continued from page 8

particularly pleased with this outcome as it was "the first try." "That means," he said, "there are a lot of gay voters listening to GPC."

Attorney Patti O'Kane, who Shiflett described as a GPC loyalist, became the first gay appointee to the City of Houston's Police Advisory Committee. Prior to her appointment, many citizens were complaining about police harassment, he explained. Shiflett lobbied City Council and the Mayor's office until the Mayor finally called him to ask who he wanted appointed. Shiflett named Patti O'Kane. He is working for her re-appointment.

Town Meeting was co-produced by Shiflett and Ray Hill, Executive Director of the Houston Human Rights League in 1978. The meeting of 3000 gay people, including 40 to 50 businesses, was "A catalyst that

gave GPC a thrust forward," he said. It was the first time anywhere that such a group met and was similar in organization to a senatorial district convention.

Shiflett and staff are currently working with the Mayor's office in hopes of acquiring a multi-disciplinary medical clinic, a gay rights ordinance, and a position for a liaison between the Mayor's office and the gay community.

Finally, another major goal is that as a Board member of the Texas Human Rights Foundation he intends to work toward the repeal or removal of 21:06 which is the Texas Homosexual Statute prohibiting all homosexual acts.

Shiflett made a closing statement:

"The primary purpose of my running again is to solidify the gay block vote. Under my leadership in the next year GPC will be able to tap and represent new segments of our community unlike ever before. We don't need to break the cadence perpetuating the continuum that we have begun (i.e., change in leadership—Ed.). Stability is strength and strength leads to power. With the power of the gay community earned by the existing leadership we must not change horses in mid-stream."

GPC Election:

Larry Bagneris

Continued from page 8

anywhere necessary. Written material and a GPC representative's presence is the most effective method of reaching people, he explained. On the spot talking and listening are what work.

An example of the Bagneris proficiency at organization was reflected in the Gay Pride Week parade last year which he said he practically single-handedly organized. After getting a permit, "I realized that we only had three weeks to put a parade together," he said. "I was only Acting President of GPC (for two months) so I put the word out into the community on the side—not through GPC. I decided I'd take the responsibility of the parade on myself," he stated.

UpFront America asked

Bagneris how he felt being in the rather unusual position of competing for an office with the person he currently works directly with and under.

"Most people wondered why I even got into the race because I was a complete shoo-in as Vice President. I didn't see it that way. I saw it as an opportunity to give the community the opportunity to select what method they want to use in the next year, having seen the work I've done and what we need for the future."

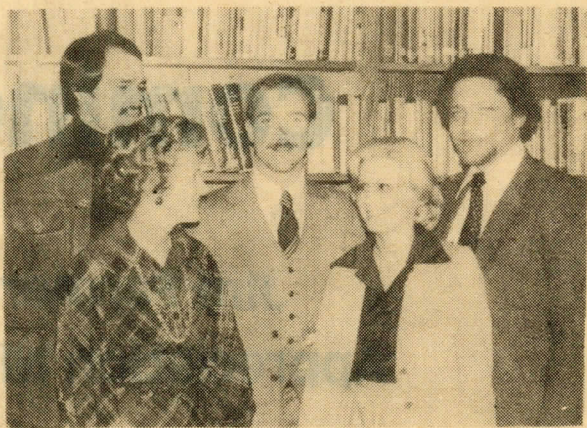
Why does he think he should win? "I've prepared myself for two years for this job and the time has come when the preparation and the job I can see are hand in hand..."

"I think I have the programs to bring that extra vote out so that GPC can continue its clout, not only in the gay community, but outside of the gay community because that's what we want to reflect."

"And, at the same time, he concluded, "the more people you make feel good about themselves, the more you've got willing to do anything for the movement."

STEVE SHIFLETT

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February 20,
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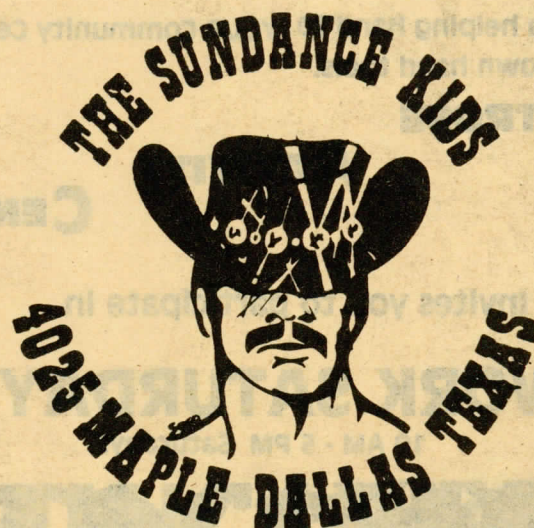
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Bookfront

Rechy, John. *Rushes*. New York: Grove Press, 1979. 222 pages. \$10.

By E. J. Owens

A waterfront bar called "Rushes" in an unnamed American city is the setting for John Rechy's new novel, *Rushes*. Here, where dress and age codes are rigid and where women are not allowed to enter, cowboys, youngmen, construction workers, and leathermen engage in a sex hunt which is unrelenting and which, through the thoughts and comments of the narrator and the friends he gathers, raises fundamental questions about the morality of the world of S & M and our ability and willingness to love and to be loved.

During one typical evening at "Rushes" four friends meet, drink, talk, and cruise. As the evening progresses their hopes and desires are smashed as the biting cruelty of the world of the bar effects the men gathered there. Endore, the narrator, is a journalist whose intelligence and cynicism set him apart from his three friends—Chas, his antagonist whose single quest is for heavy S & M; Bill, the "cowboy"; and Don, over forty and fragile, but permitted to enter the bar because of his friendship with Endore. What Endore calls the "carnal hunt" becomes the main preoccupation of the men at the bar. Jeans bulge, shirts are removed, poppers inhaled, and sweat and smoke fill the air as the bar itself seems to take on a human personality.

"Rushes" is first a safe refuge from the brutality and oppression of the world outside where roving groups of young straights taunt and attack gay men with verbal assaults and then physical violence. But as the evening advances, the safety of the bar vanishes as the male domain is invaded. First to enter are Lyndy, a chic, aristocratic fashion designer and Martin, a successful artist. Lyndy comes to feed her jaded consciousness on the scene at the bar and her presence forces Chas and Endore to confront their own thoughts on women.

The second invaders are Roxy, a male transvestite, and Elaine, a black whore. They are admitted when gangs on the street threaten them. The third troubling presence is Bobby, young, attractive, and

innocent. Endore feels attracted to him but wants to protect him; Chas wants to "baptize" him with an initiation into pain and humiliation. Their confrontation over Bobby presents the book's most dramatic moments.

Each chapter of *Rushes* receives its title from prayers said by Catholic priests as they offer the Mass. The book moves from "In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti" to its conclusion at the after-hours "Rack" where the heading "As often as you shall do these things, in memory of Me shall you do them" reinforces the ritual of the sex hunt. For Endore, however, the sacrifice of Christ reenacted in the Mass challenges believers to acts of loving and caring. The ritual of the bar is a black parody.

Religious symbolism fills the book. The clothing of the men is described as "sacramental vestments." The walls of the bar are lined with sexually tantalizing drawings which echo the fourteen stations of the cross. Unlike Christ's journey to Calvary, these stations are frozen in their depiction of pain and hatred.

John Rechy is certainly our most important gay novelist. Other writers, like Rita Mae Brown or Andrew Holleran, write with both more wit and more educated intelligence. Few maintain with such clarity Rechy's aims to chronicle and question the varieties of gay life. His seventh book since the publication of *City of Night* in 1963, *Rushes* is a very "moral" novel, designed to challenge our values and beliefs. If *Rushes* disappoints it is because it never combines thought and action in a manner that is truly dynamic. But it depicts a real world of hollow laughter, suffering, and cruelty. Rechy insists that we explore what our lives mean socially, politically, and morally and that we consider the legacy of acts of humiliation and domination for future generations of gays. His insistence makes *Rushes* an important work. Endore's final act is to begin a benediction over his world which ends in a gesture of hatred. Rechy demands the same investment in questioning from his reader.

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Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 1980. An evening of entertainment by the Montrose Marching Band, Montrose Choir, and the Montrose Players. Check this and other Houston publications the weekend of February 29th for more details.

Persons wishing to help with this event should call 521-0685 and place your name on our volunteer list.

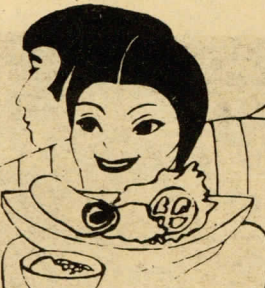
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Filmfront

CHAPTER TWO directed by Robert Moore;
photographed by David M. Walsh; music by
Marvin Hamlisch; released by Columbia; starr-
ing Marsha Mason, James Caan, Valerie Harper
and Joe Bologna.

By Brent Northup

Neil Simon
Hollywood, California

Dear Neil,

After all the nasty things I've said about your plays and movies in past years, I feel a bit awkward writing this letter. I don't like the taste of crow.

At any rate, I'm writing about your new film, "Chapter Two." I fully expected this story to be full of your patented punny-cutesy dialogue. I prepared for the screening by loosening up my groans. I was ready.

When the movie began with a quiet, disturbed James Caan reflecting on the death of his wife, I figured I was in the wrong theatre. But just as I got up to leave, Caan's brother (Joe Bologna) began cracking one-liners. I sat back down. I knew it couldn't last.

But then Marsha Mason, a recent divorcee (not from you, Neil, from her fictional spouse) began a very realistic portrayal of a suddenly alone woman. Jill Clayburgh and Meryl Streep couldn't have been better. I began to suspect that someone ghost-wrote this story for you.

Valerie Harper then breezed in with some pointless quickies and I smiled; I always enjoy calling you trite.

Nevertheless, I was beginning to wonder. The story kept delving subtly and poignantly into the problems surrounding the "second time around." Mason and Caan were capturing both sides of readjustment with incredible balance. They glowed when they dreamed of their future; they gulped when they remembered their past.

After our lonely singles married, I figured you would finally find a way to sillify the plot by inserting a series of Touch-of-Class-style jokes. Again, you chose substance over laughs.

By this time I reluctantly realized that I was totally enchanted by "Chapter Two." I was even rooting for you to end it properly, but I feared you would settle for the stock, unmotivated happy-forever exit. Wrong again.

The new couple worked slowly through the painful process of forgetting and rebuilding. I actually sensed a tear in my eyes once or twice. The script was psychologically plausible, a fine model for marriages in crisis.

As I got up to leave, I was still shaking my head. I had seen a simply terrific movie by a simply awful playwright. How could that be?

Finally I decided to draw up the inevitable conclusion that you must be thicker than ready whip after all. Keep it up and you may become a great writer.

Apologies for previous abuses. I look forward to your next movie. (Tell me Neil, who really wrote the screenplay? I promise I won't tell.)

Sincerely,
Brent Northup

THE CONSEQUENCE

In Wolfgang Petersen's **The Consequence**, Jurgen Prochnow plays the role of Martin Kurath who gets a two year prison term for "seduction of a minor."

Since Kurath is a professional actor, he is called upon to direct a play written by one of the other prisoners. Ernst Hannawald plays the role of Thomas Manzoni, the sixteen year old son of one of the guards, who is brought in for the main role in the play.

While rehearsing, the youth makes overtures to Kurath and schemes to slip into his cell the night of the performance. The two vow to hold a relationship, attempt living together after Kurath's release and confront Manzoni's parents with the situation.

Needless to say, it's all up hill from here.

The film was made for German Television, thus it has subtitles. Aside from running a bit too long (100 minutes), it is interesting from several points of view, especially the parents' handling of the situation: accommodation of their own insecurities in the name of helping their son.—AC

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Newsfront

Shiflett Will Not Run For State Rep Post

Houston, TX—Steve Shiflett, President of the Houston Gay Political Caucus, today announced that he has decided not to enter the race for the State Representative seat to be vacated by Ron Waters. Waters will be running for the State Senate in the next election.

Shiflett said that his decision was based on several factors including his desire to continue the bold new strides made by the Houston Gay Political Caucus during his leadership of the past two years. "To desert the GPC just as we have many things moving in our direction would be an injustice to the entire Gay community of Houston," Steve remarked. "I just think I can better serve our cause at the present time as President of the Gay Political Caucus, and worry about other offices later."

"The decision not to run now for the State Representative position was very difficult," Steve commented, "But when I announced that I was going to seek re-election as President of the GPC, I stated that a primary

goal for me over the next year would be to solidify the gay bloc-vote, and it is my opinion that this goal can best be reached by continuing to focus my attention on GPC work, and not spend my time campaigning for the State Representative position."

"Nevertheless," Shiflett continued, "I do want to thank the many leaders of the Gay Community, including Ray Hill, Larry Bagneris, Chuck Hickman, and others, who strongly encouraged me to enter the Representative race. Such a display of confidence from so many leaders is greatly appreciated."

Shiflett has been President of the Houston Gay Political Caucus for the past two years and has served on numerous state and national gay organizations and committees. He currently is running for re-election as President of the Houston GPC, with voting to take place at the Holiday Inn Central, 4640 Main (Next door to the GPC offices), beginning at 7:45 pm on Wednesday night, February 20.

Sex Letters

Houston, TX—At least 150 letters were mailed to 8- and 9-year-old children last week, according to the Houston Chronicle. Most of the children are, or, were students at Bendwood Elementary School in the Spring Branch school district.

The typewritten letters, mostly carbon copies, are signed with a woman's name, but Officer Norman Graham of the juvenile division's sexual exploitation squad said he is not convinced a woman wrote them. Whoever did write them tells of a plan to concoct evidence that the writer's spouse is gay and asks the addressee for help in finding evidence.

The letters also include religious phrases and photostatic copies of a photograph of two men engaging in a homosexual act.

About 75 percent of the recipients were boys, Graham said, and most of the letters were collected by parents and turned over to police before the children could open them.

Celestial Knights

New Orleans, LA—Celestial Knights, one of the most prestigious of the Gay Carnival Organizations, will present its Mardi Gras Ball on February 16, 1980, at 8 PM in the New Orleans Theatre of the Performing Arts.

Featuring the New Oriental Leviathan Trot Orchestra, who have just completed their fourth album, the Krewe of Celestial Knights has taken Le Plumage D'Hiver ("The Plumage of My Winter") as the theme for this second annual presentation which is being made available to the public through Ticketmaster outlets. Tickets for this Ball had never been offered for sale until last year.

Tickets will be on sale at all Ticketmaster outlets: Boxes, \$15, Orchestra, \$12.50, Parquet, \$8, and Balcony, \$7.50. For information call L&M Productions, (504) 948-9244, or Bette Moore (504) 524-0404, or write Presentations, Inc., P.O. Box 3530, New Orleans, LA 70177.

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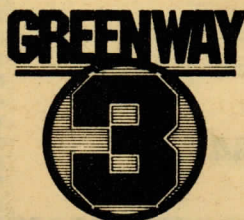
The Consequence

A film by

Wolfgang Petersen

Starring Jurgon Prochnow and Ernst Hannawald

a *Libra Films* release

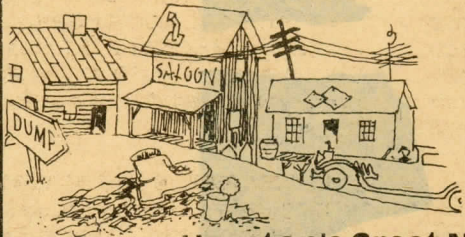


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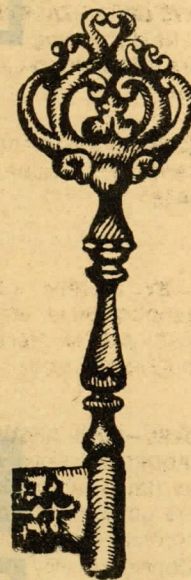
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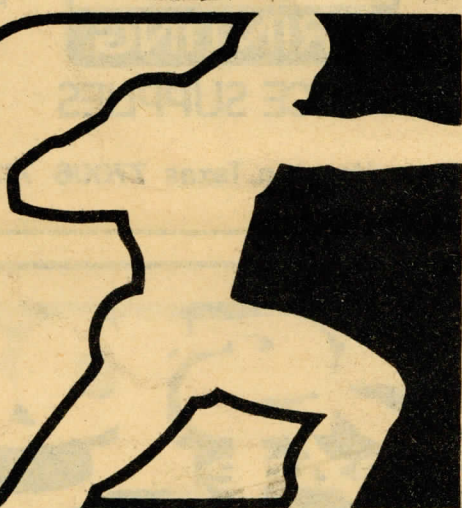
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