

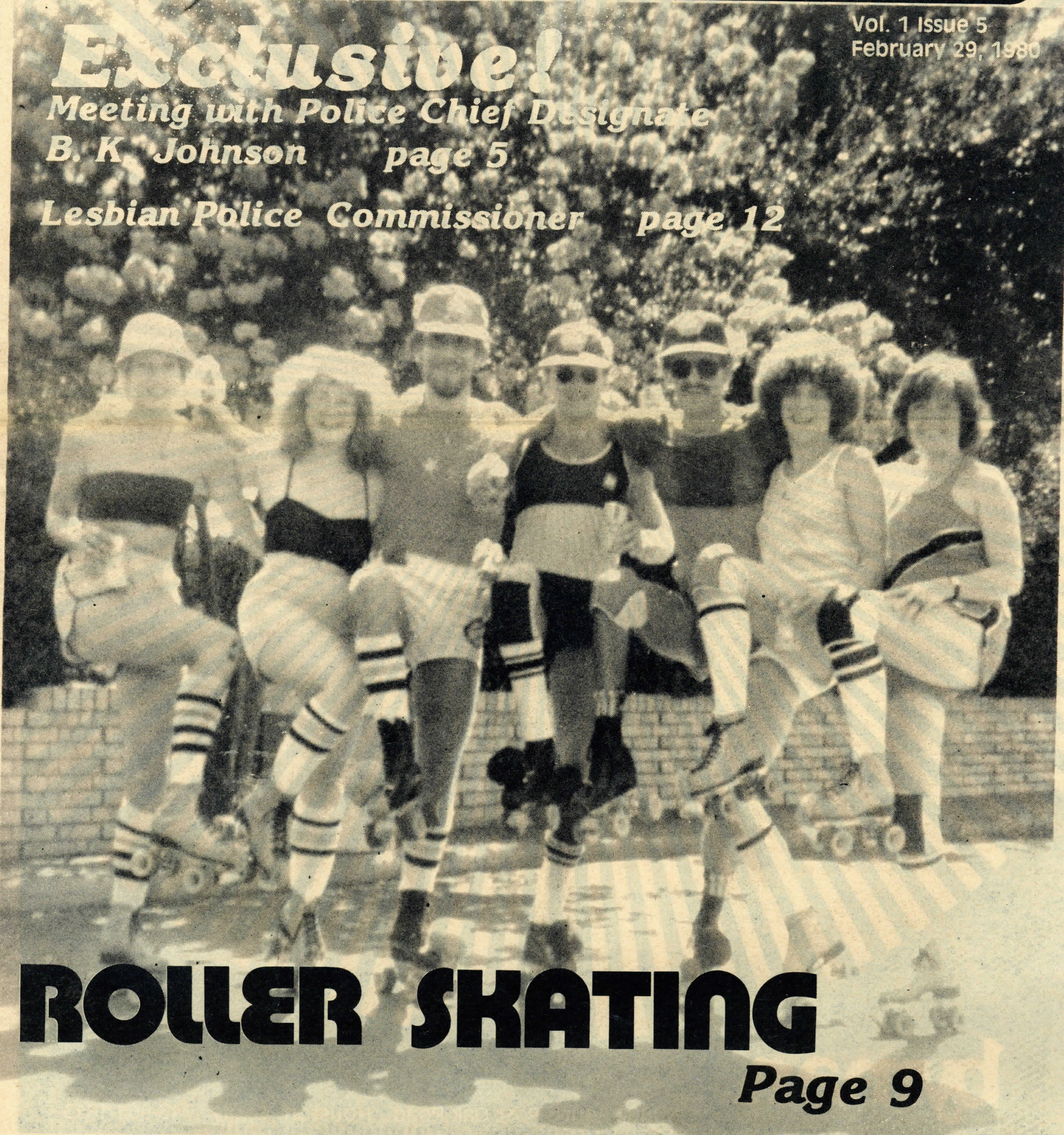
UPFRONT *America*®

Vol. 1 Issue 5
February 29, 1980

Exclusive!

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ROLLER SKATING

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Newsfront

Last Rites For MAC Foreclosure

Houston, TX—According to Irwin Acker, attorney for the Moh-trose Activity Center (MAC), a permanent injunction was obtained February 26 against foreclosure attempts by former owners of the building, Merle Schmidt and Gary Hoy. Schmidt and Hoy represented by Agarun and Associates had twice previously (June and September, 1979) tried to

foreclose, citing payment default by MAC. Both times MAC was granted a temporary injunction preventing foreclosure.

During a conversation with UpFront America Acker explained that he and Agarun and Associates settled out of court. "We got a permanent injunction," Acker said. "The case is finally closed. This means they will stop suing MAC and accept the monthly payments."

Ron Waters Seeks Senate Nomination

Houston, TX—State Representative Ron Waters (D-Houston) announced his intention to seek the Democratic nomination to State Senate District 15, a seat currently held by Jack Ogg (D-Houston). Waters recently withdrew his name as a potential candidate for the District 79 House of Representatives race where he had held office for four terms. During a press conference, he explained that "certain variables which complimented" his desire to seek the Senate seat had recently come to light.

Waters promised to delegate a Senate seat long deserved by the blacks and minorities in Harris County.

After stating that he would,

during the course of his campaign, release his IRS statement, he challenged Ogg to do the same. Waters stated that "too many times Ogg had voted to give the advantage to the bigger oil companies at the expense of the oil producers in this state."

Waters also announced that Bill Oliver of Beaumont, Texas will be the campaign manager for his Senate race. Oliver is a United Church of Christ (Congressional) Minister and past Chairperson for the National Commission for Racial Justice. Among other related questions he was campaign manager for Mickey Leland's District 18 congressional race in 1978.

Art films Thriving At Greenway 3 Theatre

Houston, TX—Greenway 3 Theatre of the General Cinema (GC) national chain was doing poorly a few years ago screening commercial films, according to Theatre Manager Steve Buck. Buck was recruited from California to perk up business. With a background in so-called "art" films, he changed the theatre's artistic direction and subsequently its profits.

Without a conscious plan to offer so many films with gay themes, his selection began to include just that, though not exclusively. "Word is Out," "Nighthawks," "Short Eyes," "Porquios Pas," and "The Consequence," have attracted the larger audiences. "There is an alternative to 'Star Trek,'" he said.

Recently he has run—and continues to run—the popular "La Cage Aux Folles," now in its 22nd week and the longest running, highest grossing film he has ever shown.

Buck turned down an offer to show "Cruising" which has been dripping with controversy since before it was completed.

Moving on to multi-media, Buck will show Judy Chicago's "A Dinner Party," a documentary about the creation of a sculpture show which displays different women in history. The show itself will be exhibited at Clearlake City, University of Houston March 14-28.

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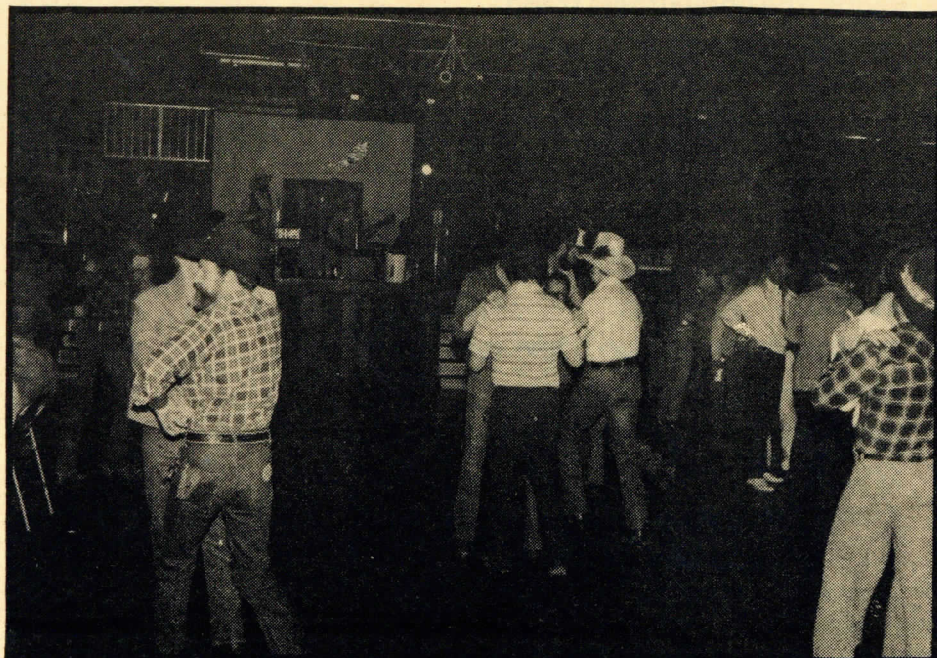
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Montrose Patrol Benefit Successful At Parade



By Craig P. Rowland

A benefit for the Montrose Patrol was held at **Parade** disco February 25 and 26 to help reduce the \$17,000 debt incurred for radio equipment purchased about three weeks ago. According to one of the seven patrol supervisors, Jim Cheek, about \$8,500 was raised (\$3,000 in pledges). Combined with the \$6,200 raised at a benefit held at **Numbers** disco recently, the debt is close to being erased.

The event was a refreshing example of the Houston gay community's ability to work (and play) together for a common cause. Most of the local gay bars, some restaurants, and other businesses and organizations joined together to offer food, drink, information, and entertainment.

Parade donated their space, cover charge, and draft beer. Bartenders contributed tips and **Parade** owner, Jerry Menefee, himself gave \$1,000. Over \$3,500 in all was contributed by **Parade** staff.

Some of the other substantial contributions were made by **Mary's**, **Venture-N**, **Exile**, **The Brasserie** and the **Houston Motorcycle Club**. Equally impressive were the energy and time expended by all who participated.

During the two nights of the benefit, the **Parade** was transformed into a gay country fair. Several booths representing various organizations and businesses offered a variety of services, products and information: Voter registration, hair-cuts, tacos, and color computerized photo reproductions of one's face printed on a t-shirt were a few. A City of Houston VD van parked at an entrance to the bar where the interested (and perhaps infected) could have cultures taken to the beat of live Country & Western music performed by **The Mustang Band** and **Ab** and the **Brazos River Rats**.

The "Gutter Girls" of New Orleans and the Montrose Singers performed Monday night.

On Tuesday Andy Mills of **Mary's** auctioned off donations such as dinner for four at **Bradley's** and the original "Texas Opry House" sign from Austin which was sold to David Schook and **Mary's** for \$750. Schook donated his share and the sign now decorates **Mary's** patio. Representatives from **Venture-N**, **Parade**, **Brasserie**, and **Mary's** paid

\$800 to be chauffeured by Jerry Menefee in his red and white Cadillac limo to **Baja Sam's** for dinner followed by drinks on the house at practically every gay bar in town. An additional \$200 was paid by the **Venture-N** for the privilege of throwing a pie in Andy Mill's face.

The Montrose Patrol was created about eight months ago to protect citizens from harassment and violence in the streets. Though not a problem exclusive to gays, much of the trouble had been occurring in neighborhoods where gays frequent nightspots. Initially volunteers patrolled high crime areas by car with CB radios. According to Cheek, harassers with other CB's interfered via radio, rendering the Patrol's communications practically useless. The newly purchased radio system resolves the problem, he said, and includes 12 walkie talkies, four mobile units, and a dispatcher who can receive calls directly from patrol cars and then immediately phone police.

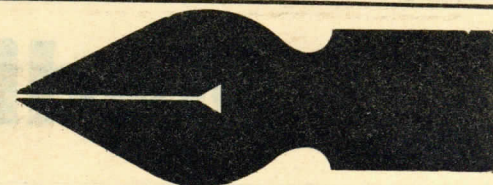
About 50 volunteer men and women work in couples canvassing target areas in cars (up to 10 cars at one time) every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights from about 10 PM until the streets are empty (often dawn). The Patrol does not replace police intervention. Volunteers try to work with the police by spotting and reporting crime and when appropriate intervening themselves.

Cheek explained that with the onset of warm weather the need for the Patrol will be even greater. Plans are to step up the operation to seven nights per week by spring.

The Montrose Patrol is a non-profit corporation dependent totally on donations. Supervisor Steve Coates said that monthly operating costs are about \$800 per month. Volunteers use their own cars and gas, and although a mileage fee is supposed to be paid members, budget problems often make that impossible. Coates feels that the community is getting a valuable service for very little and that it is up to the community to support the Patrol.

General meetings are held at Headquarters (3207 Montrose) every 2nd Saturday of the month at 2 PM and are open to the public. More volunteers and contributions are welcome and needed.

Editorials



B. K. Johnson on the Line

By Craig P. Rowland

(The following article is not an editorial but has been allotted this space due to its timeliness. Ed.)

Police Chief Designate B. K. Johnson's office

Wednesday, February 27, 3:30-4:45 PM

Attending:

Steve Coates, Montrose Patrol Supervisor
Lee Harrington, Gay Political Caucus, Vice-President
Steve Norvell, Executive and Professional Association of Houston, Vice-President
Johnny Peden, GPC Board member
Renee Rabb, GPC member
Bill Ramsey, Montrose Activity Center, Board member
Craig P. Rowland, UpFront America, Editor
Steve Shiflett, GPC President
Jim Wells, GPC Attorney

B.K. Johnson: David Fowler (radio talk show host) asked me this morning if I was violently against homosexual acts and I said "Yes I am".

Steve Shiflett: What did you mean by this response?

BKJ: I, as a person, am against a homosexual act. This is not my nature, it is not my way of thinking, it is against my religion and as such I am against homosexual acts.

SS: How can a gay person be treated equitably by someone who has homophobic feelings?

BKJ: I feel I can be fair in my treatment of you and the enforcement of the law. But as far as my personal feelings are concerned it's against my nature and my religion. I certainly don't condone it. I'm not an expert, but I understand a little about about your particular problem.

SS: Do you understand that it's not a matter of choice?

BKJ: Sure I do.

SS: If you discovered that one of your children were gay what would you do?

BKJ: Well, I really don't know. I don't have any idea.

Lee Harrington: Do you regard homosexuality as a problem for those of us who are gay?

BKJ: I think it's a problem because you are gay and because society has made it a problem for you.

SS: Are you going to assure us that what we term as your homophobia will not interfere with your ability to enforce the law equally?

BKJ: Absolutely.

SS: And you'll be sensitive to our complaints as you promised us?

BKJ: Absolutely.

The meeting was held February 27 in the office of Houston Police Chief Designate B.K. Johnson with nine representatives of the gay community. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss police related issues of concern to gays and, according to a letter to Johnson written by GPC President Steve Shiflett: "...to promote a renewed spirit of cooperation, mutual respect, and to establish a base of trust and confidence from which to begin working with each other..."

The 1½ hour long meeting ended with those attending feeling, generally, a lukewarm reaction overall. Only hours later, however, more intense discussion at the GPC Board meeting resulted in the following statement issued to UpFront America late Wednesday night:

"The Houston GPC Board of Directors is firmly opposed to the confirmation of Police Chief Designate B.K. Johnson because of his recently stated 'violent opposition to homosexuality' and his apparent insensitivity to various other minority groups. The Board has instructed the GPC president to coordinate efforts with other minority representatives who are opposed to Johnson's confirmation and to attempt to ascertain positions of other candidates being con-

Continued on page 16

Vantage Point

GPC Election

Houston has once again set an example for the rest of the country to follow. Where else can we find such grass roots involvement in selecting gay leadership as demonstrated this past February 20th when the Gay Political Caucus held its annual election? Literally, hundreds of concerned gay citizens turned out to participate in the selection and election of our political leaders for the coming year. True to GPC teachings, members of the gay community were encouraged to become part of an involved community—not just observers.

The significant point of this GPC election was not who won the respective races, but rather who the candidates were. They worked hard and campaigned with a vigor unknown in earlier years. Unlike past years, in this election there really was competition for nearly all the offices. A greater participation by women evidenced still another success of GPC and its long-running battle toward full participation by and from all segments of our diverse community.

I listened to the candidates and their supporters each taking their respective turn at the podium. They talked of their credentials, their past achievements, and their goals for the future. What impressed me most was the high caliber of the contenders.

While only one person could win each race and assume his/her position with GPC, there were no losers among those that did not attain office. GPC, much to the credit of Houston's gay community, put forth some of its finest citizens. Each of the candidates was a qualified, competent leader; an honor they individually earned.

So what happens now? Those that were elected to office have their work cut out for them. Those that did not, we hope, will maintain an active, participating role in this community's continued development. Whether it be GPC or something new, we cannot afford to lose good, dedicated people. We hope that those individuals who did not attain office this time not give up or lose interest. We need them just as much now as before.

Congratulations to all who were involved. Each of you deserve this community's thanks for all you have done... and for what you are about to do.

Publisher

Medifax

By Jim Lloyd

Hundreds of new drugs have been introduced in recent years. These substances are used as tranquilizers, to induce sleep, to relieve pain, to curb appetite and to relieve motion sickness, head colds and allergies. There are also numerous illegal drugs that many also use that are "uppers" or "downers." The drugs include narcotics, barbituates, hypnotic sedatives, tranquilizers and anti-histamines.

Mixing alcohol and drugs can be dangerous because alcohol works on the same areas of the brain as many other drugs and can result in multiplying the responses of either the drug or the alcohol far beyond what either would be alone. For example, alcohol and barbituates and tranquilizers increase each other's effects on the central nervous system and can result in death if taken together in large quantities.

An understanding of body metabolism or the way our bodies process the things we eat, drink or take is helpful to appreciating how alcohol and drugs interact with each other. If drugs were not metabolized they would continue to have a permanent effect. During metabolism drugs are changed into other substances which are eventually eliminated by the body. The faster the rate of metabolism of a drug is, the less its impact is. When drugs are competing with each other, the body metabolizes alcohol first thus prolonging the effect of the other drug and exaggerating its effect on the body. When added to the normally depressant action of alcohol alone there can be greater suppression on the parts of the nervous system which regulate vital body functions. This can result in death.

In the normally heavy drinker, during periods of sobriety, barbituates and sedatives will have less effect since they are normally metabolized quickly. Thus, the heavy drinker needs to take larger doses of these drugs to achieve an effect, further increasing the risk of death.

CRUISING: Confrontation In the Aisles

New York, NY (IGNA)—The hotly debated film about homosexual murders opened in New York, but the subsequent press conference with its director caused the most fireworks.

Gathered at the opening were New York media heavies, including Norman Mailer and Dick Cavett, as well as cartoonist Gary Trudeau and TV interviewer Jane Pauley.

Director William Friedkin, speaking in the Manhattan I, an upper East Side cinema, stood his ground before an array of microphones and TV cameras. He said: "What I saw in my research and what I portrayed on the screen, I don't consider negative. There is probably less murder per capita in these gay bars than there is in many other aspects of life... it is about specific characters and not a general situation."

Friedkin went on to say, "You may think that the way I see it is distorted, wrong. You may feel that it's going to cause violence. I don't."

Gay activist Arthur Bell at this point left his seat and walked

down the theater aisle to confront Friedkin.

"I condemn you for making this film," Bell said. "It is trashy and hateful. It can do nothing but harm to a lot of people."

"The movies have always treated homosexuals as wooden Indians. You have done it again. I condemn you. You are the worm of worms. Your movie is a piece of garbage and should be put in the garbage can and thrown in the Hudson River."

Friedkin replied, "I'm very disappointed to hear that, because Arthur Bell's columns were very influential in the research I did." He then proceeded to read a 1977 *Village Voice* article that Bell had written about gay martyrs along the New York waterfront.

A member of the National Gay Task Force, Tom Burrows, spoke up later to say: "I'm aware of the free-speech argument. But censorship already exists in subtle ways. We never see the good side of gay life. We're not denying anyone the right to make a film, but we would like people to know there is another side."

Come Worship With Us.

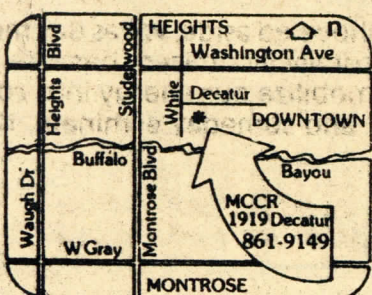


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VIOLENCE

Take It
Or Stop It

By Lloyd Cowan

The entire evening was enjoyable. Jed had just spent the evening over cocktails with several friends and seeing a performance at the Theatre. After the performance was over they decided to have one last drink before calling it a night. The bar was crowded and it was getting late. He figured it was time to go as he did not want to be late for work three days in a row. So he suggested to one of his friends that he walk him home as it was en route to his own. A good night walk and having company on the way was a pleasant way to close out an already wonderful evening. The conversation was light and relaxed with considerable laughter. It was fun, until three juveniles jumped out of a parked car. One of them hit Jed on the back of the head, knocking him to the ground then began to kick him repeatedly in the chest, back and groin. Another was busy attacking his friend. At this point they were looking for escape as the third assailant approached swinging a chain. Fortunately, before the attacker with the chain reached them, a pick-up truck pulled over to the curb and the driver motioned for them to jump in the back. This they attempted while the attacker continued to get in every blow possible before the rescue was a success. The fight continued in the back of the truck until Jed and his friend had kicked two of them in the face, sending them to the ground. The driver sped off and brought them to Jed's friend's apartment, as it was only five blocks from where the episode occurred.

This situation is not that uncommon. For them, to escape with only multiple bruises was something to be grateful for. If the rescue had not been as timely, who is to be certain how much damage the chain would have caused? Naturally the fear of walking at night was with them for some time and time was lost at work, but they knew that others had not been as fortunate when attacked.

There are people and organizations in this community that are giving full scale energy to finding resolutions to this problem. Community United Against Violence is one such organization. It is not only composed of concerned Gay men and women but others who are aware that this is a vital issue that needs solution. In their anti-violence campaign, they encourage people to carry whistles and use them when a confrontation exists. The basic principle is that by blowing your whistle you are able to alert others in the neighborhood that you are in trouble, therefore attracting assistance. If you hear a whistle, you are to respond. Some of you may wonder what good a whistle will do when being threatened with physical violence. A lot. Many times it has been a deterrent to violence. People in the community do respond. Obviously the more people who become aware of this the greater the response and the more assistance we will be able to give one another.

Violent activity against Gay men and women is not on the decline. We are faced with numerous homophobic attitudes coming from people who refuse to comprehend who we are. At times we may bear the brunt of violence because in many communities we are viewed as less than human, normal or desirable, therefore supposedly making

us available for targets. I am by no means trying to rationalize the behavior of the assailants, but it does seem to have become—by their decision—a viable scapegoat. We must, therefore, within our community confront this issue and critical problem in order to eradicate it.

Reporting a violent attack is of utmost importance. Notify your Police Department—insist they make a report, regardless of their attitude toward the situation. If you require medical attention, give the doctor full information of what transpired during the attack. If anti-Gay slurs were hurled at you at any time surrounding the situation, let the people know who are taking the information; in this way we are able to document the fact that this problem exists and, yes, we demand support to end it.

Back in 1977 I worked with the Gay Advisory Committee in cooperation with the San Francisco Study Center—an independent resource organization—to begin gathering statistics on violent activity directed toward Gay people. We were faced with a situation in which members of our community realized that a problem existed yet there was little, if any, collected data to substantiate our claims to the local authorities. Therefore, we canvassed the Gay bars, restaurants, community centers and various other locals, distributing posters informing Gay men and Lesbians that we were undertaking a violent crime survey. It worked in the following manner: each poster had attached to it a tablet of tear-off cards, about the size of a regular credit card, that could be torn off and carried in ones wallet or pocket. On the card contained information directing the person to call the Center if they had experienced any violent activity. Over a period of several months we had collected approximately 60 accounts of perpetuated violence. The information was gathered by interviews with the victims. Not only were we now able to validate our claims, but through the process we discovered there were isolated areas of high-violence activity. The project was run on a limited basis, given finances and resources, but it was instrumental in effort to bringing this issue into focus.

Coming up in the next column will be an in-depth look into the works of Community United Against Violence—their projects, training classes, collected data and their co-operative efforts in working with a variety of organizations in the city. There will also be a review on the work coming from Supervisor Harry Britt's office pertaining to this issue.

The seriousness of this issue is not to be shoved aside. We as Gay men and Lesbians are being attacked, and brutally victimized, because of our sexual identity. It is crucial that we mobilize our energy into constructive directions in order to reduce, and someday eliminate, the agonizing presence of physical abuse.

Submitted by:
Gay Community Liaison
Human Rights Commission
1095 Market Street, Suite 501
San Francisco, CA 94103

Newsfront

Anita Goes Hollywood (Fla)

Hollywood, FLA (IGNA)—Anita Bryant is alive well and spreading the Word.

Anita Bryant Ministries has moved into its new \$250,000 counseling headquarters in Hollywood, Florida (2843 Pembroke Rd., just east of Interstate 95).

But curing homosexuals will no longer be the Ministries' primary aim, said Larry Coy, one of the seven directors of the corporation.

"Our emphasis has always been to do whatever is necessary to reinforce the values America was based on," Coy said. "Homosexuality, alcoholism, abortion, the Equal Rights Amendment—all these are symptoms of the larger problem we address is the disintegration of the American family."

The headquarters houses a warm, plush, brown recording studio, where Bryant will record half-hour song-and-guest shows to be sold to radio stations.

According to a news story in the *Miami Herald*, religious pamphlets and Anita Bryant's books clutter the waiting room bookshelves and end tables. The secretaries are courteous and helpful, with a ready supply of Pepsi-Cola.

Gay Radio Airs In Austin

Austin, TX—"A Different Drummer," a new gay-oriented radio program, will have its debut in Austin on Sunday, March 2, at noon, on radio station KUT-FM, 90.7 MHz. The half-hour weekly program is being produced by the Austin Gay Radio Collective, a project of Gay Community Services. It is the first Austin radio program to be produced by and for the gay community.

Wanda Lust Dies In Kansas City Stabbing

Kansas City, MO—Well known impersonator Stephen L. Jones, professionally known as Wanda Lust, was stabbed to death at a movie theatre in Kansas City, February 19. According to an editor at the newspaper, *Chicago Gay Life*, Jones and his lover attended a screening of the film, "The Fog," that evening and a man with two women companions sitting behind them made continual sarcastic remarks about the film, making it impossible to hear. Jones turned to ask them to refrain from their talking but got no results. He and his lover left before the end of the film and were confronted by the black man and his friends outside. More words were exchanged and the man apparently interpreted Jones' remarks as racial slurs. He pulled

an 8 inch butcher knife and stabbed Jones repeatedly, then fled. Jones bled to death in his lover's arms. The murderer and two women have not been found.

Before moving to Kansas City, Jones had been a well known performer in Chicago. As an entertainer and manager of "Man's Country" (baths) where he also performed, booked other performers, and was disc jockey. He was also known for his generosity as a performer at numerous benefits. A memorial service was held for Jones February 25 in Chicago.

It was also reported that Jones found Kansas City too small for his career development and was planning to move to Houston which he felt had more potential.



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has been rescheduled for May, 1980. Persons wishing to volunteer for the project should call 521-1016. Ask for Gary.

Gay Police Commissioner Talks Straight



Copyright Greg Day

By Greg Day

Jo Daly, a Lesbian activist, recently became San Francisco's first openly Gay Police Commissioner. In selecting Jo Daly, Mayor Dianne Feinstein fulfilled her campaign promise to appoint a Gay person to the Police Commission. Jo's appointment has caused considerable positive and negative response, from San Franciscans. Scott Newhall of the San Francisco Chronicle referred to her as a father figure in the annals of Lesbianism and to her appointment as an example of the "gross venereal pest of Tokenism." The Gay community has, for the most part, voiced positive support for her appointment.

Daly has had considerable experience in local and national Gay politics. She has been an officer in the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, and the Gay Caucus of the California Democratic Council. She was appointed to the state Democratic Central Committee where she is serving her third term. Daly was an elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1976 and to the International Women's Year Convention. She served as liaison to the Gay community at the San Francisco Human Rights Commission for four years and was appointed to the Board of Permit Appeals when David Scott ran for mayor. With her business partner Fred Purdue, Daly operates the Consensus Bureau, a computer service for alternative businesses. She is a gregarious person known for her outspokenness and for her individualistic viewpoints:

GD Is San Francisco your home town?

JD No, I grew up in Washington, DC. My parents are staunch Roman Catholics and my father was a government official. After high school I moved to the DuPont Circle area and became involved in the Gay community. Everyone in Washington was very closeted and there were very few upfront women in politics. I felt I couldn't be as open about my Gayness in Washington because my parents were there. So I decided to come to San Francisco in 1972.

GD How would you describe yourself politically?

JD I would call myself a progressive moderate. I think that in every issue there are arguments on both sides that have merit.

GD An editorial in a recent issue of the Voice, a Gay San Francisco newspaper, said that you have a reputation for fighting in bars, that you hate all men and don't get along with Lesbians. Can you speak about these allegations?

JD The rumor that I fought in a bar was circulated by the author of that article and is a false allegation. I have never even been inside the bar that the fight was supposed to have taken place in. My past performance on the Human Rights Commission and in other public positions is proof of my ability to get along well with people regardless of their sexual preference or ethnic background. I have been extremely pleased by the reception I have gotten from Gay men with whom I have differed politically in the past. We may disagree, but they are willing to judge me on my performance as a Police Commissioner.

GD How does the Police Commission function?

JD We run the police department. We review promotions, and demotions of police officers, as well as the internal structure of the police force. The major job facing us right now is the budget. For example, do we want money spent on police officers peering into men's rest rooms? Or going into porno movie houses? Where the money is spent is pretty much how the police force will perform."

GD What kind of problems do Gay people have here with the police?

JD The problem of communication, the problem of having police officers who don't socialize with Gay people, who don't understand Gay

people and are apt to take lightly a complaint by a Gay person. I think Gay people don't complain because they haven't felt that they have a sympathetic ear, and that the cop is likely to find a marijuana plant in their apartment or tell them they've had too much to drink.

I want to see the Internal Affairs Bureau, the Police Force's self investigative unit, restructured because it doesn't work effectively. We are going to be setting up a police community relations unit to improve communication. We are going to get them out of their cars, and make them walk. Police Officers have been sitting in their cars listening to their radios, insulated from the general public. The only way that the police can know where to put their small army is by the complaints that they have. So first of all muggings and crimes must be reported.

GD In a recent article in the San Francisco Policeman, an Officer, Frank McDonagh, CSTF, described Gay people as decadent, immoral, sick, and as a blanket of plague engulfing this city. This is characteristic of other statements by the Christian Lobby of the Police Officers Association. Is this an acceptable attitude for police work?

JD The Christian Lobby of the San Francisco Police Force have been unfit for service for a lot of reasons. It is not up to the police department to be concerned about morals, they are supposed to be concerned with enforcing the law."

GD San Francisco now has a woman mayor and five out of eleven city supervisors are women. You are one of two women on the Police Commission. How does your identity as a woman relate to your position as a Police Commissioner?

JD As a woman I know what it is like to feel very vulnerable on the street. After every violent rape there is always some official who says 'well, don't walk at night, don't go to the park, don't job alone.' In other words, restrain the way you want to live because we can't do anything to help you. This is neither fair nor logical. I see a need for police officers on the beat, officers who know merchants, bartenders and people who would be walking on the street.

GD After women, aren't Lesbians and Gay men the most prevalent victims of street violence?

JD I'd say that Gays are the ones who are most harassed by other citizens. We are subject to the most verbal abuse. I think violence against Gay people is noticed more in our community. We are willing to say "here is a man brutally jumped at 18th and Castro. It is an anti-Gay crime; and yet we don't look at the other twenty people who were mugged, beaten and murdered the same night. Nobody looks to see how many are senior citizens, heterosexual, or minorities.

GD You have been quoted as saying that your position on the Police Commission is not a Gay seat. What do you mean?

JD I have never liked the idea that only a certain type of person can represent others. We are all, as individuals, absolutely different. I never believed we had to have a Gay person. We have to have people who are sensitive to the issues. It is the same problem when other ethnic groups picture us as unsuitable for public office because we are Gay. Quenton Kopp made this mistake in the mayoral debates. When he would not promise a Gay police commissioner, he played upon the minority communities to separate Gays from Blacks. Italians, Latinos, and Asians, when all of these groups also have Gay membership. We make the same mistake in separating ourselves. We forget that there are Gay Blacks, Latinos and Asians.

GD Are there minority police commissioners?

Continued on page 15

Be sure to attend
the meeting for

GAY PRIDE

WEEK 80

2:30 March 2nd

Family Center

MARY'S

OF COURSE

1022 WESTHEIMER HOUSTON

The case will provide a test of the city's gay rights ordinance. What will have to be determined is whether Raines can be shown to be guilty of incompetence of the scope of his responsibilities.

The director oversees the new gay museum performing arts center, which encourages the city to build the new theater.

Washington for Jesus, appears to be gaining widespread support in the fundamentalist Christian community. Literature indicates that their goal is one million persons for the event. Among his supporters are two prominent leaders with extensive religious broadcasting experience.

Both women and men have been invited to participate in the convention. The convention will include a social and community-building event of the convention will be a three-hour cruise through the streets of Boston Harbor on Friday evening. The cruise will include a band and a DJ. A party has been planned for Saturday night and Sunday morning at the Park Plaza Hotel at 1000 Huntington Avenue. The party will be held in the ballroom and will feature live entertainment.

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Newsfront

Danburg Qualified By Legislative Experience

Houston, TX—Debra Danburg has announced her candidacy for State Representative from District 79 (Montrose, Heights, 4th and 6th wards) in the upcoming May 3 election.

In a telephone conversation with UpFront America, Danburg said that she is "the only one in the race qualified with legislative experience." Her

background in business, politics, and a law school degree plus support from a "broad spectrum" of minorities, including gays, make her the most viable of the five candidates, she explained.

For further information contact Campaign Manager, Rick Graves at 862-4154 or 520-8068.

GPC MDs Offer Heart Course

The Medical Committee of Houston Gay Political Caucus announced the next course in Basic Life Support resulting in Certification in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation to be held Saturday March 29, 1980 at 9:00 A.M. The course will be approximately four hours long. Those interested in signing up should call the G.P.C. Office, Patrick Lane R.N. C.P.R. Coordinator at 520-9946 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or David Bonuelos, Medical Chairman at 777-2287 from 2:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Registration closes March 24.

Mardi Gras Madness

Houston, TX—About a dozen local gay men organized their fifth annual post Mardi Gras party which was held Saturday, February 23. The popular party attracted over 1500 guests from all parts of the U.S. A disc jockey from Los Angeles was hired, several open bars were set up, and lights decorated the large, rented warehouse-like space.

The party began about 10 PM Saturday and ended roughly 12 hours later, with guests still dancing to the continual disco music.

As an addition to, or a substitute for Mardi Gras in New Orleans Mardi Gras Madness was an event well worth standing in line for.

INTEGRITY Plans Summer Convention In Boston

Boston, MA—INTEGRITY, the international association of gay/lesbian Episcopalians (Anglicans) and their friends, has announced Boston as the site of the 6th annual Integrity Convention. Scheduled for August 21-24, the convention will be centered at Emmanuel Church on Newbury Street in the Back Bay section of Boston, within easy walking distance of subway stations, historical sites, tourist attractions, shops, restaurants, and night spots.

The convention will offer a series of workshops, coordinated by The Rev. Canon Clinton Jones of Hartford, author of "Understanding Gay Relatives and Friends" and "Homosexuality and Counseling." A number of well known Episcopal priests

both women and men, have been invited to participate in the convention's liturgies.

The social (and community-building) event of the convention will be a three hour cruise through the islands of Boston Harbor on Friday evening, August 22. The cruise will include supper on board, live entertainment, and dancing. A banquet has been arranged for Saturday night at the Park Plaza Hotel at which time the annual Integrity awards will be presented to a woman and a man who have made outstanding contributions to the gay movement.

Inquiries about the convention should be addressed to Allen Stifflear, 9 Rockwell Street, Cambridge, MA. 02139.

Pakistani Lesbians Seek Relief From Oppression

Karachi, Pakistan (ICNA)—Life in Pakistan for lesbian women is repressive. According to a report written by Rubina Shaikh, it is unheard of in Pakistan for single women to live alone. Ms. Shaikh says that she and her girlfriend, Maqsooda, must perforce live separately with their parents.

Prejudiced straights, including bosses and friends, make Lesbians feel that they cannot live their own lives as they wish. Pakistan has a male dominated society where marriage is considered the be-all and end-all of life.

Ms. Shaikh and her lover are trying to immigrate to the United States, but they fear that the Immigration Service will deny them entry and citizen-

ship. She explains their situation thus:

"In fact, it's come to a point where we have become just lifeless, empty shells. Switched off mentally, we live from day to day; getting to work; meeting briefly and secretly at the end of the day; going to sleep and then getting back to work the next day—with no social life at all."

The two women are seeking U.S. sponsors and temporary or permanent jobs in the U.S.

They ask those interested in their situation to write them (in discreet packing) as follows:

Ms. Rubina Shaikh
171/B Sindhi Muslim
Cooperative Housing Society
Karachi, Pakistan

Another March On Washington

Washington, D.C.—A national March on Washington for "righteousness and morality" has been set for April 29, 1980. According to the Gay Rights National Lobby, the March—known as both "Washington for Jesus" and "One Nation Under God"—may have very serious implications for the lesbian-gay movement, as well as for a number of other human rights movements.

"Washington for Jesus" appears to be gaining widespread support in the fundamentalist Christian community. Literature indicates that their goal is one million persons for the event. Among its supporters are two prominent persons with extensive religious broadcasting networks at their disposal: Dr. Pat Robertson, President of the Christian Broadcasting Network (the "700 Club") and Jim Bakker, president of the PTL Network ("Praise The Lord").

Suit Filed By Fired Director

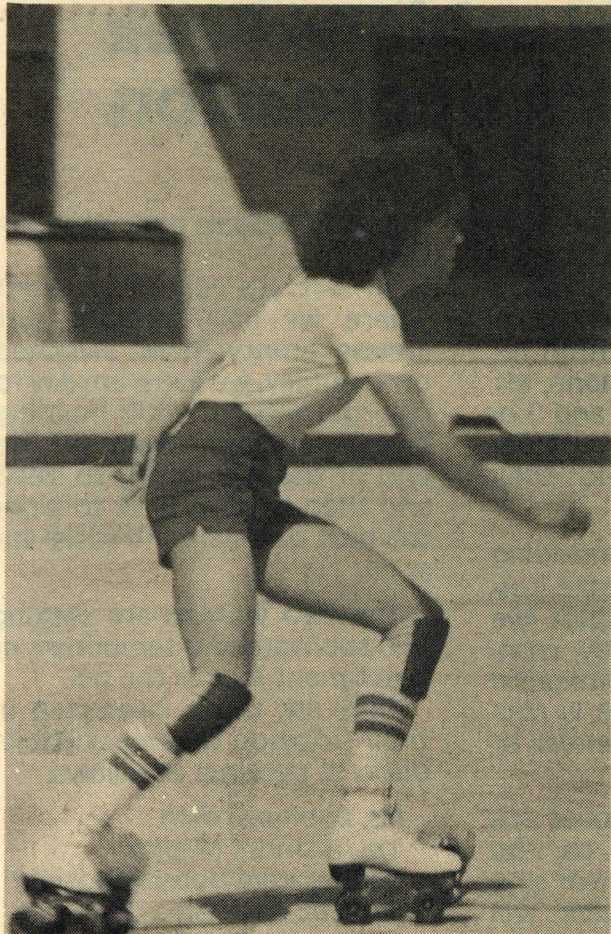
San Francisco, CA (ICNA)—The San Francisco War Memorial Opera House Board of Trustees voted recently to fire its managing director of 14 months for alleged incompetence. The man himself insists that it was because he is homosexual.

The managing director, Michael Raines, has filed a \$5 million suit against the board, the consulting firm that urged his firing, and the city of San Francisco.

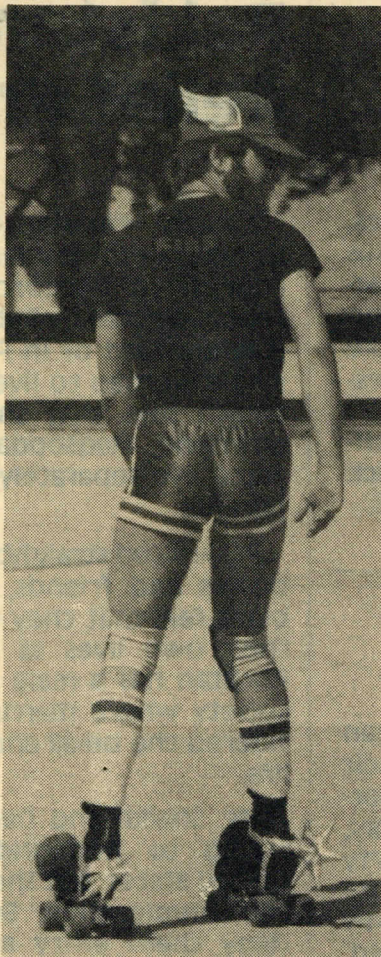
The case will provide a test of the city's gay rights ordinance. What will have to be determined is whether Raines can be shown to be guilty of incompetence or the scapegoat for homophobes.

The director oversees the new \$36 million Performing Arts Center, which encompasses the Opera Hall, the Herbst Theater, and the new Symphony Hall.

SQUEALS ON WHEELS



By Rue Starr II



Photos by Roz Vecchio



In the 40's and 50's the name Gloria Nord meant glamour and artistry on wheels. At five ft. two inches tall the gorgeous Gloria was the star of Skating Vanities, the most extravagant traveling roller skating show of all time. When the show folded in 1954 after twelve years of continuous touring it signalled another decline in roller skating popularity. Skating has had many ups and downs since it first appeared in the U.S. after the Civil War as a pastime of the very wealthy.

"For me Vanities was a magical life," says Gloria Nord today, recalling the lavish productions which utilized 85 skaters and 36 tons of equipment. In the spirit of the glamour queen on wheels who took her show-stopping style to every performance, new stars for a new era are entertaining themselves and anyone who wants to watch.

Queens Unlimited was born on St. Patrick's Day last year in Houston when Drex Albritton and his roommate Kirk Dellar skated downtown in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. They weren't exceptional skaters then and might have gone unnoticed but the Leprechaun outfits were a smash with the downtown audience. "We wore green satin tuxes with tails and matching top hats," Drex remembers, "and we threw unlucky charms cereal at people and traveled the wrong way—against the parade."

Drex and Kirk began skating all over Montrose and River Oaks on the weekends and gradually got wheels on some of their other friends. "We're like a family almost, so we needed a family name. We decided that we were unlimited—that we could do anything." Plans are underway for a QU one year birthday party.

Richard Tarlton Hathaway (the only) is Fearless Leader when the Rapid Transit Rollers meet at the Montrose Blvd. Steak & Egg on Sunday mornings for coffee. When all are accounted for, Fearless Leader escorts the mob across the street to Hi-Rollin' Skates Sales and Rental where the non-addicted are outfitted with rental skates. Then it's off to downtown (via skates) where they can find a sidewalk, street, a tunnel or parking garage to play on. "We still haven't decided if we're pedestrians or not so we ignore the lights and the walk signs," laughs Fearless Leader. One of the faster skaters always stays in front when they're navigating the deserted canyons of Main Street and yells "Nobody she's a come!" to signal safe passage. The shout and echo carry a mandatory thick Italian accent which honors Lom-

bard—a "very Italian-looking" RTR.

A face to face encounter with the Urban Animals, another Houston skating group, has been described as "like being flung headlong onto the set of **Rollerball**." The Animals work 8-5 jobs and are said to be "surprisingly middleclass." But after work they shed their middleclass disguises and become the largest of Houston's roller street gangs. The black T-shirts with the intimidating UA emblem and the dark knee and elbow pads make up the urban guerilla look. The stark uniform coupled with a UA faction's passion for graffiti has contributed to the somewhat shady reputation the Animals are now facing.

Adopting aliases such as Fleck, Geek, Kid, Gypsy, Lips and Renonevada they call their leader Scott Prescott. As one of Houston's first out of the closet guerilla artists, Prescott defends his attempt "to add comic relief to the urban landscape." "Doing graffiti on public surfaces, I'm assuming a privilege. I'm not defacing but adding to the culture," Prescott explains. His work has been mostly in "Graffiti Park"—the columns which carry the southwest freeway from Main Street to Montrose. His guerilla art is falling victim to other potential artists, who Prescott says are "only interested in destroying." Prescott is busy with another project which has the unanimous support of his group. The Animals are creating a photographic comic strip which will be distributed in England and Europe. The nicknames represent characters who are in the strip.

The Animals tend to be the most nocturnal of the skaters and claim that their presence downtown at night actually helps cut down on crime. Despite the frequent run-ins with security people, they sympathize with the guys they jokingly say are "paid to protect concrete."

Queens Unlimited took a moonlight skating tour of Washington D.C. sans cowboy hats the night of the March on Washington. "We really got to see the city a lot better," says Drex. "We climbed all the steps of the Capitol on our skates and sat down on the top step and watched the city while we smoked a joint."

The RTR revisited the site of "the big mishap" recently. It's a long ramp at Allen's Landing leading down to the bayou from the street. This time it was kid stuff. Not so last year when the RTR's were inexperienced. They knew they had to brake safely at the bottom, hit some concrete stairs, or fly into the bayou. Ernie was

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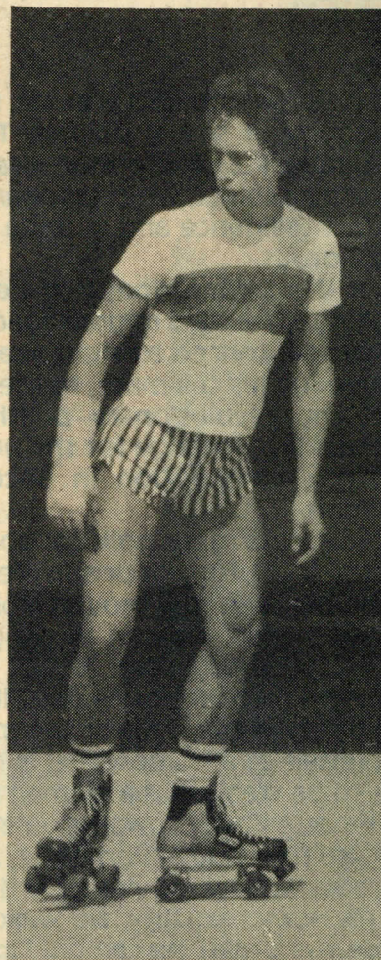
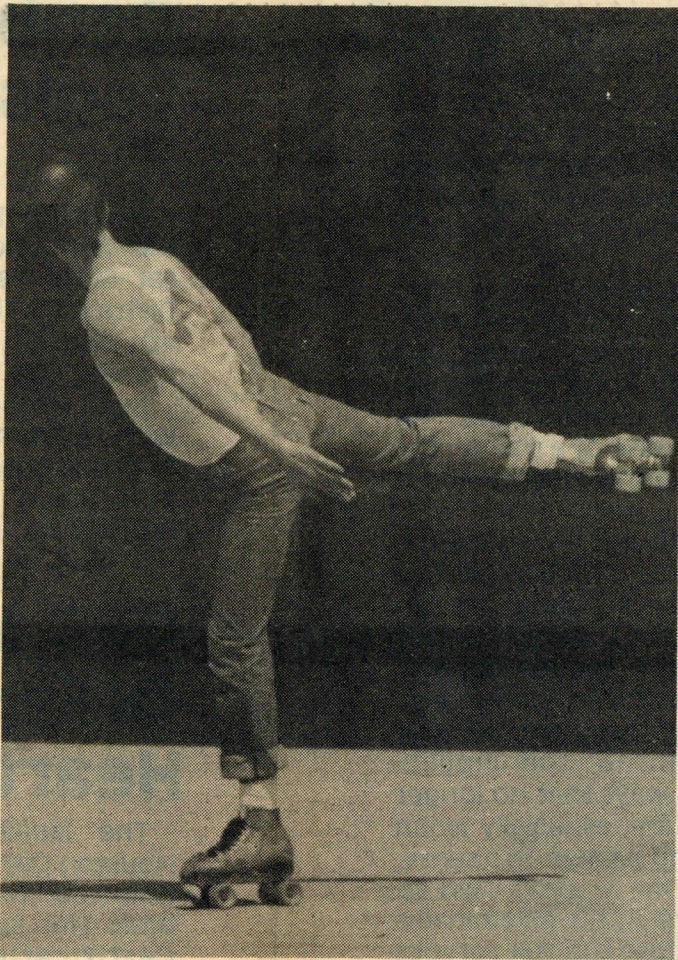
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ON WHEELS — HOUSTON



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headed for the water and just "sort of sat down"—in a pair of cotton running shorts. Lombard took the stairs and landed with a broken wrist. Only Richard escaped unscathed and has been Fearless Leader from that day on. Lombard wasn't shaken. He was seen in the Gay Pride Day Parade skating behind a truck with one hand on the truck and the other arm in a sling. Poor cheek-scarred Ernie has never been on skates again.

Much of this rollermania can be traced to the house on Montrose at Richmond with the red winged skates hanging in the window. Lee Ellis managed Skateboard City out in the suburbs when he and his partners decided to venture into Montrose with a skate business. He says Pat Tarrant and Samantha Frazier knew that gay people in New York and San Francisco kicked off the new skating boom. "That's why we chose Montrose. It was beginning to catch on with other people but we knew if we opened here we would do well," says Lee. Susan Larson calls Lee the Madhatter. "His feet are going crazy, he's really a good skater. Don too. They go with us about once a month." Lee is proud to handle only the best of the street skates. Many cheap imitations are now on the market and Lee warns that they not only handle poorly, they're also dangerous.

Hi-Rollin' provides a skate repair service and Lee and Don take time to give instructions on skate maintenance. A lot of their customers get safety tips as well as hints on technique as they become better skaters.

Almost as important as the skates themselves are the props. Those colorful little accessories that seem to be a must for any serious urban skating adventure include pompons, visors, wild socks, and striped skating skirts. Hi-Rollin' has all that plus some great Castro-fit Hi-Rollin' T-shirts in all colors, and for serious athletes, **The Complete Book of Roller Skating**. "A couple of guys even came in on New Year's Eve to buy gold and silver spandex pants," says Lee.

Across the street at All That Glitters, owners Lyle Cohen and Kerry Jordan Cohen prominently display two pairs of Lee's winged California skates over the cash register. Wende Clemence sports a refreshing avant-garde appearance which complements the zany exhibitionism of every item in the store. "Roller skating? I can stay up—I mean I can't skate backwards or anything." Wende is more excited about the new wave zero cool glasses, original shades from the early 60's. She shows off glitter

suspenders, matching socks and p V-back leopard shirt with miniatur recommends the store for skating c

Queens Unlimited traded in their lurex spurs when Sheer Fantasy on V their new Texas spurs. Even Miss Pig roller Tupperware Party at Mary's L "Miss Piggy knew us all by name bu who it really was," laughs Drex. Th Lady. "We played tupperware bingc a big QU corsage with ribbons that known the Tupperware Lady was bri have brought him a corsage too," e describe his brownish beige hous roller skates. "We all came as ho Susie—they borrowed some of our mustaches."

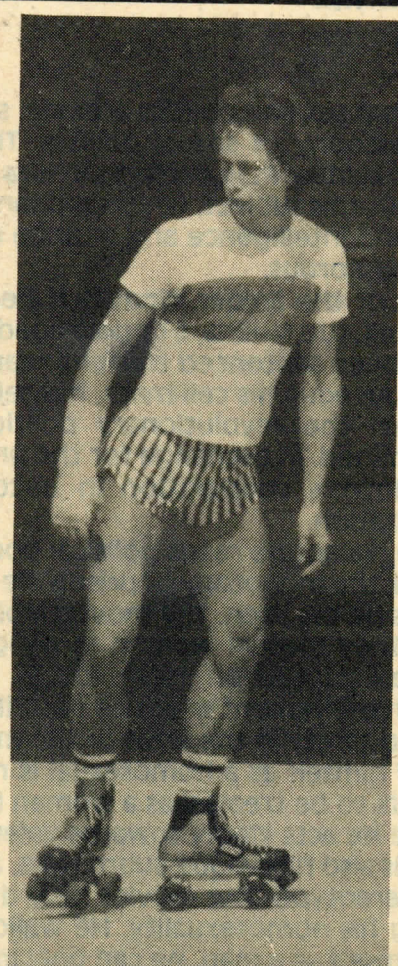
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ROLLERS - HOUSTONIA ROLLS HIT THE STREETS



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"Miss Piggy knew us all by name but we never have figured out
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Lady. "We played tupperware bingo for prizes and everyone had
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known the Tupperware Lady was bringing her husband we would
have brought him a corsage too," explains Drex. He went on to
describe his brownish beige housedress, sweater, up-do and
roller skates. "We all came as housewives except Rosie and
Susie—they borrowed some of our cowboy drag and painted on
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A year ago when Fearless Leader was only Richard Hathaway he
and his roommate Randy tried skating. "We decided it was a
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The Rollers made a \$500 contribution to the Jerry Lewis
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Solicitors often see people running the other way but with the
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Will flat concrete surfaces become as choked during the leisure
hours as Houston's freeways during rush hour? The Rapid Transit
Rollers christened the little park across from Jones Hall almost a
year ago. They returned in January to find two hundred skaters
there. Two weeks ago big signs said "NO SKATING".

Fearless Leader isn't worried. He's waiting patiently for the
ultimate outdoor skating trip—down the endless freeways of
Space City. "I'm waiting for everyone to run out of gas and I'll
have the whole thing to myself," he said.

Bookfront

POSITIVELY GAY By Betty Berzon and Robert Leighton, eds. Celestial Arts, Millbrae, California. \$4.95, paper. 1979.

By Jim Lloyd

This collection of essays, edited by Berzon and Leighton, is another in the many books appearing in the past few years written by homosexuals. Unlike books written by non-homosexual "experts" such books do not talk about causes and "treatment" of homosexuality but address themselves to issues of consequence to homosexuals. **Positively Gay** aims at helping gay people find and mobilize resources for coping in a hostile world. It could be particularly useful for the person going through the stress of coming out and also for families of gay people who are seeking some dimension of understanding what it means to be gay in our society.

Written in a clear and readable style, the book deals with such matters as couple relationships, attitudes towards religion, coming out, gay parents and parents of gays, problems of the aging homosexual as well as legal and financial matters. The book approaches these subjects with a positive tone.

There is considerable discussion of religion and representatives of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish followings get to have their say. But there is no mention (as there seldom is when "religion" is discussed) of the point of view of those who have rejected organized religion as a meaningful way of expressing themselves. Preoccupation with freedom of religion often leads to forgetting that there are some who are equally concerned about freedom FROM religion. Certainly large numbers of homosexuals have opted to find ways of leading ethical and moral lives without accepting the tenets of organized religion. Any discussion of religion and gays cannot really be complete without examining this point of view.

Although any book such as this one will have a mixed appeal, being more meaningful to some than others, it does provide a good representation of diverse issues that are of important to gay men and lesbian women everywhere.

El Vampiro de la Colonia Roma by Luis Zapata

By Karl J. Reinhardt

At last Mexico has a major, non-clandestine gay novel, a first-rate work which is closer in essence to John Rechy's **City of Night** than to, for instance, Argentinian Manuel Puig's internationally recognized novels. Told in the first person, the book's format is a series of transcriptions of tape recordings (each begun by a few parenthetical pages of fantasy), with phrases separated but without traditional punctuation and capitalization. The reader wonders, while reading, why the tapes are being recorded, and the work ends with a surprise slant, subject perhaps to more than one interpretation.

Zapata's novel (the full title is **Las aventuras, desventuras y sueños de Adonis García, el vampiro de la Colonia Roma**, published by Grijalbo, Mexico, D.F., 1979) is the story of a boy-growing-into-a-man-of-the-streets, in this case Mexico City. It is in the tradition of the Spanish picaresque novel in which the protagonist, typically the product of poverty and a broken home, goes through many experiences, making many lateral moves but few if any forward steps toward stability, wisdom and the establishment of close or lasting relationships. There are no profound observations on the human condition or society's woes expressed by the narrator; these the author allows the reader to conclude on his or her own.

Those who advocate "recreational" drugs, including marijuana, as no more harmful than Christmas rum cake will find no support for their cause in the frequently depressing events in the life of Adonis García.

Author Luis Zapata is young, a graduate student in French medieval literature at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. It is to be hoped that **El Vampiro** will be the first of many writings.

For Spanish speakers who have read little in their native language, the uncomplicated syntax and style will make for easy reading. The slang of the Mexican subculture—not identical to that used in the bilingual world of the Chicano—is introduced gradually, presumably as it becomes part of the narrator's vocabulary. Chicanos, as other Spanish speakers, will gain insight into the life and language of their brothers south of the Rio Bravo.

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN by Manuel Puig. Knopf, New York, 1979, \$8.95, 281 pages.

By E. J. Owens

To understand that sex and politics are one, sets the course for the creation of a philosophy of sexual politics. This is the subject the Argentinian writer Manuel Puig explores in **Kiss of the Spider Woman**, his fourth novel. But this subject, which appears weighty in outline, is treated with wit and intelligence and a range of styles that are rich, challenging, and humorous.

The plot of **Kiss of the Spider Woman** is deceptively simple. Two prisoners share a cell. Luis Molina, a middle-aged window dresser from Buenos Aires, has been sentenced to eight years for "corruption of a minor." Valentine Arregui, his cell-mate, has rejected his middle-class upbringing to join the revolutionary political underground. His sentence is determined. In exchange for the promise of a parole, the warden enlists Molina's cooperation in uncovering details about Valentine's organization.

To pass his time, Valentine reads political books. But boredom and the desire to break the monotony of prison life lead him to ask Molina to recount movies he has seen. The movies Molina tells about are surprisingly similar. They involve women in dangerous situations, and women who need protection from forces they cannot control. Molina speaks with excitement when he describes these women who find happiness and safety in the arms of the men they love. His view of women and of himself as a homosexual is romantic and unpoliticized. Molina wants to be treated as a woman in ways that no longer make sense. While he acts kindly towards Valentine, especially when Valentine is ill, he is also flirtatious, submissive, and passive. In a sense, he is a walking stereotype. The movies help define Molina's own attitude concerning his homosexuality. He wallows in his effeminacy. Unable to view himself as a man, he can only imitate the stereotypes of female behavior society has imposed upon women and upon homosexuals like Molina.

Valentine challenges Molina to question these stereotypes and to consider the ways in which the political and cultural status quo are maintained by perpetuating myths of behavior that serve only to keep groups locked in their places. Valentine maintains that one can be a woman—or desire to be one—and still not be submissive. Any other path is exploitive. "Being a man . . . doesn't give any special rights to anyone." Molina, however, refuses to consider a world in which women, or homosexuals, do not play the passive role. "That's the natural thing, because that makes him the . . . man of the house."

The closeness of prison life and their growing affection leads to a brief affair. For Molina, it nearly brings him to beg the warden to keep him in prison despite the decision to release him. To Molina's credit, his release is won without feeding the warden information on Valentine's cohorts. And it is only at the last moment that Molina agrees to carry a message for Valentine to the outside. Several days after his release, a rendezvous is arranged but backfires and Molina is killed. The heroics of the event do not impress Valentine who views the death as a senseless effeminate gesture. "I think he let himself be killed because that way he could die like some heroine in a movie, and none of that business about a just cause."

Puig employs a variety of narrative approaches to advance the novel. There are, of course, the highly involved and romantic descriptions of movies told by Molina. But there are also police reports, nearly blank exchanges of dialogue between Molina and the warden, hallucinations suffered by Valentine during his illness and later during his torture, and, most interestingly, footnotes which summarize homosexuality. The notes, which could be the notes made by Valentine on his readings in prison, chart changing attitudes towards homosexuality. With the novel as supporting evidence, they point toward the validity of writers of the left who maintain that the homosexual, the outsider, is a visible symbol of the repressive nature of middle-class society and the inequities and corruption inherent in any political system that maintains its control and power by keeping selected groups down.

Puig's last novel, **The Buenos Aires Affair** and **Kiss of the Spider Woman** have been banned in Argentine. He now lives in New York City. The book's challenge to corrupt and outmoded political and moral systems is the obvious reason why his fellow Argentinians cannot read the book. To read Manuel Puig is to enter a world where ideas have a vitality and importance too infrequently encountered in our literature.

Filmfront

AMERICAN GIGOLO directed by Paul Schrader; written by Paul Schrader; photographed by John Bailey; music by Giorgio Moroder; released by Paramount Pictures; running time 135 minutes. Starring Richard Gere, Lauren Hutton.

By Brent Northup

If John Travolta had as much inside as he has outside, his name would be Richard Gere.

Unfortunately, Gere has had more difficulty than Travolta launching his film career; to some extent this delay has been Travolta-induced.

Richard Gere lost the chance to play Danny Zuko in the film "Grease" even though Gere had played that role on Broadway and in London.

When "American Gigolo" was planned, Travolta was again preferred to Gere. But Travolta and Paramount never came to terms and so Gere sprinted out of the shadows.

Now that he has the limelight, Gere is unlikely to ever retreat or play second fiddle again. From now on Travolta may be offered the roles Gere turns down.

This provocative film chronicles the life of a high class gigolo as he works his way through the hearts and beds of wealthy women. He cautiously treads the line that his friends see more clearly than he. "You walk a thin line, Julian. If those bitches ever turn on you, you're through."

Gere's charismatic, intelligent portrayal of this tightrope walker is nothing short of dazzling. Unfortunately, the screenwriter was not content to give Gere's emotional growth center stage; instead Paul Schrader inserted a distracting murder-frame-up plot designed to up the movie's commercial appeal.

This strategy backfires by lengthening the film (it is over two hours long), scrambling the continuity and diluting the climax to Gere's otherwise stunning performance.

Nevertheless, "American Gigolo" is well worth a visit just for Gere, for the music (pulsating Midnight-Express-style synthesizer chords) and for the costumes (Gere's wardrobe even makes clothes-unconscious me blink).

Lesbian Police Commissioner

Continued from page 9

JD Yes, Burt Toler is Black, Dr. Sanchez is Latino, and Jane Murphy is a Senior citizen.

GD And you are the representative of Lesbians and Gay men?

JD I wouldn't use the word representative, but being Gay did help when I was at the Human Rights Commission.

GD Is that why you were chosen for the Police Commission?

JD Yes, and I think the argument that I didn't have the ability to deal with Gay men was washed away by the four years I worked for the Human Rights Commission and almost all my clients were Gay men. The other reason is that I also believe that police officers have human rights too.

GD Mayor Feinstein has a reputation for being opposed to sex clubs, pornography, prostitution and other so called victimless crimes. The new police chief 'Con' Murphy has said that he will focus on the enforcement of laws against victimless crimes. What is your position on this issue?

JD I think Dianne has been misquoted and misunderstood. I think that the police chief has expressed clearly that when people go to a place that is considered licensed, whether a bath or glory hole, they will be considered in private. I really wish heterosexuals had glory holes. Just think if a heterosexual man who was horny at two a.m., could say 'gee I only have five bucks,' but it would be nice to have sex before I go crazy, and it would help me to sleep,' and could go somewhere private and do that. I would certainly encourage straight glory holes, they would keep people who are horny off the streets.

I don't have any problems with what anybody consensually wants to do with anybody else, as long as nobody gets hurt. I mean, I'm not a moral snob, but I don't want to be harassed on the street by kids, who aren't even from San Francisco, trying to sell me drugs, and I also don't appreciate public sex. When I lived in this neighborhood (Castro) I liked it. When I had two men walking behind me late at night, they weren't going to rob me, because they were richer than I was; they weren't going to rape me cause they weren't interested in my body, and if I'm lucky they'll probably help me carry the groceries. I know that especially older women feel terribly safe here, because it is a Gay neighborhood and that there are good relationships between straights and Gays.

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Continued from page 5

B. K. Johnson on the Line

sidered for the position in regard to gay rights, and issues of Blacks, Browns, and other minorities. The president of GPC will take the appropriate action by consulting the Board and Officers as much as possible and then giving his decision to the Mayor."

GPC Board members will support a rally to demonstrate the amount of citizen opposition to the confirmation of Johnson. It will be held on City Hall steps at 7:30 PM, Monday, March 3.

As of this writing Shiflett said that opposition to Johnson's appointment is supported by City Council members: Lance Lalor, Judson Robinson, Jr., Ben T. Reyes, Anthony Hall, Ernest McGowan, and Judge Al Greene. Eleanor Tinsley, Dale Gorczynski, and Johnny Goyen were listed as "uncommitted." Shiflett plans conferences with the uncommitted councilpersons before the confirmation vote.

Johnson was nominated by Houston Mayor James McConn to succeed former Police Chief Harry Caldwell who suddenly resigned several days ago. Johnson's appointment must win the majority of City Council members' votes (8 of 15) next week when the confirmation issued is faced.

McConn selected Johnson from a list of nearly ten proposed candidates after meeting with minority leaders. Many, including GPC President Steve Shiflett, voiced their disapproval of Johnson at that time.

McConn said upon announcing Johnson's nomination: "I chose B.K. Johnson as Police Chief because I'm convinced he's the best man for the job. He is dedicated, honest, and fair. He has proven himself as a capable police officer and police administrator during his 26 years with the department. . . ."

One of the principal topics of the meeting and a factor swinging the GPC Board's decision to oppose Johnson is the request for a policy statement from the Chief to the Department concerning treatment of gay people.

Shiflett asked for equal and fair treatment of gays in custody and in public. He emphasized the importance of making the legal distinction between being homosexual which is legal, and committing a homosexual act in public which is not. According to Shiflett, many incidents of police harassment occur such as arbitrary arrests for public intoxication due to the apparent vague interpretation of the law by the Police Department. Also requested was a requirement that officers refrain from the use of derogatory language toward gays such as "faggot," "queer," and "dyke".

During the meeting Johnson said "I will look into it (issuing a policy statement) further."

An interesting shift occurred the next day when, according to Shiflett, Johnson called him at home and offered to produce the statement in the immediate future. Shiflett feels that in the interim Johnson became aware of the political clout of the gay community.

GPC had submitted a report to the Police Department with statistics from the Regional Resource Center of Child Abuse that showed that 90% of child molesters are not homosexual but rather are adult male perpetrated with victims being female. Shiflett said that in the past reports of the Department had been slanted against gays and he named Freeman and Benestandte of the Special Investigation Bureau's unit, the Child Sex Offenders Squad. Shiflett said that those involved in gathering statistics chose locations and situations to manipulate statistics making homosexuals the major offenders.

When asked if this report had been reviewed Johnson said, "I brought this up to him (Chief Sherman, Special Investigation Bureau) and asked him to determine from the statistics if there was an error and straighten it out. If he was in error we're going to change the remarks he made."

In response to being questioned about reviewing gay awareness courses for cadets Johnson said, "I'll review anything. I was very interested in having someone in our training academy to lecture cadets in regard to the particular problems that you have. I think this is very important." He added that a civilian teaching coordinator will be hired.

Continued on page 18



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Artfront

Kanti Struts Her Stuff



By Rue Starr II

The newest transparent abstract works of Houston artist Kanti Campagna will be featured in a show which opens March 1 at the Fine Arts and Collector's Gallery on Montrose Blvd. Brooklyn born Kanti left the quiet mountains of Taos, New Mexico a year ago to give exposure to a unique art form she developed while living there. "There are other artists working in similar media, but I know of no others working in this combination," Kanti said.

Gallery owner Eve Gamber calls Kanti's art "very exciting work with transparent color. It's a whole new environment of light." Kanti's works vary in size and are executed with a transparent dye using various brush and pouring techniques on plexiglass mirrors.

Gamber used the term "hi-tech" to describe Kanti's art. The artist explains that "hi-tech" is used mostly in reference to interior design, but in her medium it is art which involves industrial media. "I go to a hardware store and a wholesale distributor rather than to your traditional art supply store," Kanti explains. She calls herself a colorist as well as an industrial mediast.

Ms. Campagna says her works "have evolved from studies in the physics of light, the philosophical principles of color and contemporary industrial medias." "I started this in New Mexico with real glass and real mirrors. I found I got a better result with the plastic media," Kanti says.

Kanti's first show of her plastic materials was at the same gallery in October of last year. Gamber says the artist has been putting a great deal of herself into this second show. Kanti told **UpFront America** that she will be exhibiting larger works using more extensive ideas as well as unveiling her first transparent abstract sculpture.

Anyone attending the concerts of organist Virgil Fox or Russian pianist Labor Berman next month will see Kanti's art on the cover of *Performing Arts Magazine*. "The Depth of Music" is the title of the work.

Campagna has been painting since her High School years in Detroit, Michigan. She first began exhibiting her art while living in San Francisco during the early seventies. Her work can be found in 35 private collections around the country and has been shown all over California and New Mexico.

The artist tells why she chose Texas this time. "Any young artist would be happy to be here. Houston offered more because of its current growing pattern in the cultural arts." She still plans to spend all of her holidays in the mountains of Taos.

Kanti will be in the gallery March 1 from 11:00 a.m. until 8 p.m. to discuss her art with opening day visitors. Kanti Campagna—*Refractions: Light & Color*/March 1-15, 1980, Fine Arts and Collectors Gallery, 1776 Montrose at Peden.

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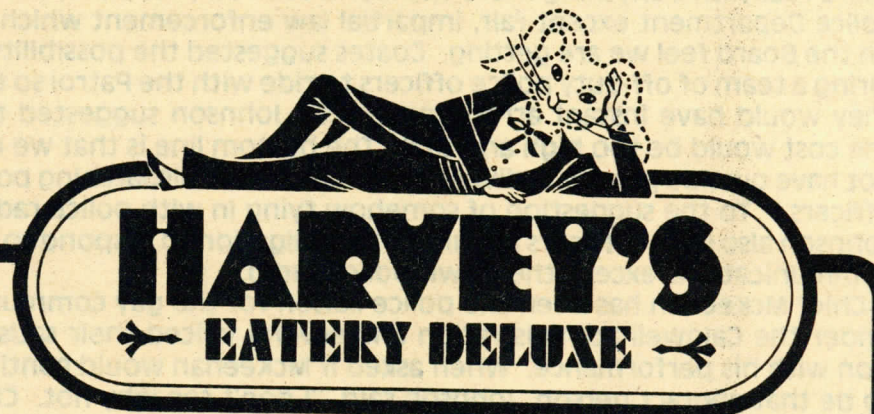
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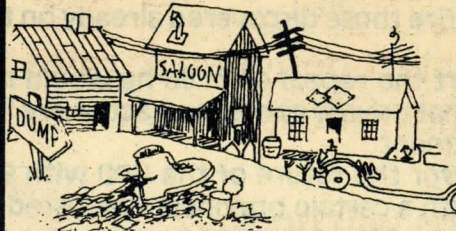
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Continued from page 16

B. K. Johnson on the Line

It was suggested that qualified gay people be brought in to advise at the Police Academy. To this Johnson responded, "This is what I'm looking for. Someone who can come in for two hours and teach our cadets. I know two hours is not very long but I hope we can give them some insight into the gay community, what their special needs and problems are."

Johnson was asked to speak at various gay organizations to increase communication and understanding between the HPD and gay community. "I am not a public speaker" Johnson stated. "I don't believe in public speaking. I will be glad to come to any meeting and sit down and have a discussion, question and answers. Public speaking is a one-way street, but discussion is a two-way street," he said.

"Let's talk about credentialing of our media" Shiflett asked. "We've had problems with Chief Caldwell accepting applications from our media (for press credentials) who are as professional as the other media in town," he continued.

"As long as you work for an established publication, radio, or television station you will have no problems getting credentials," Johnson said.

UpFront America has been denied press credentials in the past. In a letter to UA dated 12/29/78 Public Information Officer Bill Carter of the Department of Public Safety said: "...Following an examination of your publication we are of the opinion that it does not possess a second-class mailing permit and does not contain at least 25% news of general interest. I regret, therefore, that we are unable to issue your organization press card credentials." This was cited to Johnson who insisted that there would be no problem obtaining press credentials.

The ACLU contends that no restrictions can be placed on the media when applying for these credentials.

Steve Coates of the Montrose Patrol said that relations in the past with the Patrol and police officers have been good. "As long as we maintain the level of cooperation we have now with the field officers there really isn't anything more the Montrose Patrol could ask of the Police Department except fair, impartial law enforcement which we on the Board feel we are getting. Coates suggested the possibility of hiring a team of off-duty police officers to ride with the Patrol so that they would have instant arrest capability. Johnson suggested that the cost would be too high and that "The bottom line is that we cannot have outside groups, individuals, or companies dispatching police officers." To the suggestion of somehow tying in with police radios, Johnson also said, "Officers are under no obligation to respond to any communications except their own police radio."

Chief McKeehan has been the police liaison for the gay community under the Caldwell administration and several voiced their satisfaction with his performance. When asked if McKeehan would continue to be that contact person, Johnson said, "I don't see why not. Chief McKeehan has done an admirable job."

Last year it was with difficulty that Gay Pride Week coordinators obtained a parade permit. Would there be a problem again? "I don't know what the problem was," Johnson said. "I see no reason why you shouldn't."

Johnson discussed the "hold/card" system which refers to the process by which arrested citizens are booked and jailed. For a period of several hours, according to GPC Attorney Jim Wells, there is no record at all. Friends and family are often frantic having no idea where their close ones are. Johnson explained that a new computerized system should be implemented by mid-summer thus eliminating this problem.

Regarding the hiring and firing of gay police, Johnson said that as long as the 21:06 statute (prohibiting homosexual acts) is in effect he will actively not hire gays and will fire those discovered already on the force.

When asked if he would support the repeal of 21:06 he would not comment. He did say, however, that private consensual acts were not the business of the police department.

If there is a positive indication for the future of the HPD with B.K. Johnson at the helm, it may lie with a certain openness suggested by a particular statement: "I'm going to have to learn," he said, "I've got a learning process to go through."

Frontlines

UpFront America welcomes letters from readers. We require that letters be as short as possible and that they be signed. The writer's name will be withheld if requested. UA reserves the right to edit letters as necessary. Send to "Frontlines," UpFront America, P.O. Box 66844, Houston, TX 77006.

Houston, TX
2-18-80

Recently, UpFront America published an editorial by Sue Cummings of "The Committee Against the Movie 'Cruising.'"

Since this ran on the editorial page instead of Frontlines, I assume that Ms Cummings views are also shared by that of the Publisher and editorial staff of UpFront America.

I agree whole-heartedly with Ms Cummings regarding the gay communities' responsibilities to boycott such ill-representations of the gay lifestyle at large.

Further, I realize the responsibilities of publications such as UpFront in editorializing controversial issues that concern the community it represents.

Therefore, my criticism regarding this piece lies with UpFront and not the "Committee Against the Movie 'Cruising.'"

In this same issue (Vol. 1 Issue 4) you also ran a one-half page ad for the movie "The Consequence."

It is a strange paradox that a publication that supports the boycott of films that portray an "all gay love affairs must end in suicide or death mentality" would further endorse, via their advertising, a movie as "The Consequence."

Aside from the fact that the subtitles in this swiss-made film were inaccurately translated, obviously to appeal to a straight audience, this movie was a shameful display, and a disgrace among films depicting a gay relationship.

The characters portrayed in the film were flighty, weak, and of course oppressed by the self-righteous straight world. Constantly these characters are beaten-down and we, the audience, were subjected to visions of a gang rape of an obviously retarded young woman; that the cure for young gay men is incarceration; prostitution as a means of survival; and yes, even a sad, so sad, suicide attempt.

This was a depressing movie and a rip-off by the film-maker and UpFront America for endorsing through your advertising a film with the all-gay-love-affairs-must-end-in-suicide-or-death-mentality.

It is my hope that this fine publication will see fit to screen their advertising clients in a more pro-gay manner, and to avoid offending gays by propagating the old myth about how miserable we all are.

Sincerely,
Mike Geinzer

(The editorial referred to in the above letter was the opinion of guest editorialist Sue Cummings and was not necessarily the opinion of the staff of UpFront America—as is true of all of UA's writers. It is the policy of UA to print informative material which is believed to be of popular interest to the gay community.—Ed.)

Open letter to the readers of UpFront America:

Dear Readers (mainly male):

After having read the article from "Mother Ruth" pertaining to breast examination in relation to the detection of breast cancer, I was a bit concerned that most would not take the situation seriously. Well, it's best that you do take it **VERY** seriously, because it does happen all too often to males. Approximately six years ago in a normal examination at my doctor's office, I questioned him about a lump I had noticed on my right breast. He immediately called in a specialist, and two days later I was in the hospital having a mastectomy. Fortunately for me it was caught in time, and was found to be benign rather than malignant... but I didn't know for sure what the results would be until after I had gone through surgery. Thank God today I am alive, only slightly scarred (almost unnoticeably so), and the only limitations on my lifestyles are that I can do no exercises that will increase the chest muscles, since part of the muscle was removed, and only one side would develop with forced development. So, listen to the facts, **IT DOES HAPPEN**, and you must know your body to prevent the possibility of something such as this going undetected. If you wonder how it happened... well, to be perfectly honest, I was dating a person who was getting his jollies chewing on **MY** tits **HEAVILY**. Yeah, it turns some people on to have that done to them, but be careful, you too may wind up having my experience. I am not embarrassed, I am not ashamed, I am just honest about the price I paid and what you should watch for.

In all Honesty,

John H. Schillinger

P.S. My doctor, the one that performed the surgery, had only two weeks prior had the same operation on himself—they're regular people too.

President of National Deaf Society Visits Houston

Hebert Fradin, president of the National Rainbow Society of the Deaf, visited Houston recently to meet with members of the local chapter (Astral Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf) including founder and president Bruce Herman. Fradin was here to help develop by-laws as well as to become acquainted with members here.

The Society currently includes about 20 local chapters in major U.S. cities with approximately 300 members nationwide. The first was founded in San Francisco. Local chapters operate independently of each other, but efforts are being made to unify the various groups with a national constitution.

The Society is structured with Fradin as national president along with a vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Elections are held every two years. Fradin said that he will step

down as President at the end of the term.

The first annual convention was held in Fort Lauderdale in 1977 with subsequent conventions meeting regularly in different cities since. The next will take place in Toronto, Canada, June 19-22, 1980.

Fradin and Herman discussed some of the goals and projects anticipated for the future:

—Establish a home for the deaf aged.

—Coordinate a system for exchanging addresses so members can communicate with and meet deaf gays across the country.

—Organize special workshops and programs to discuss special events, exchange information and educate each other.

—Organize social events such as banquets, beauty contests, and a volleyball tournament.

—Develop and implement a

national constitution (local chapters currently develop their own by-laws).

—Communicate information on a national scale.

—Collect information about the Rainbow election every two years.

Fradin said he is particularly interested in local chapters providing a sign language class for the hearing to improve their communication skills with the deaf.

Hearing supporters are welcome to join and may do so with voting privileges however, they are not allowed to hold office.

There is no official national headquarters but information may be obtained by contacting president Herbert Fradin, 7261 N.W. 16th St., Plantation, Florida 33133.

Palma



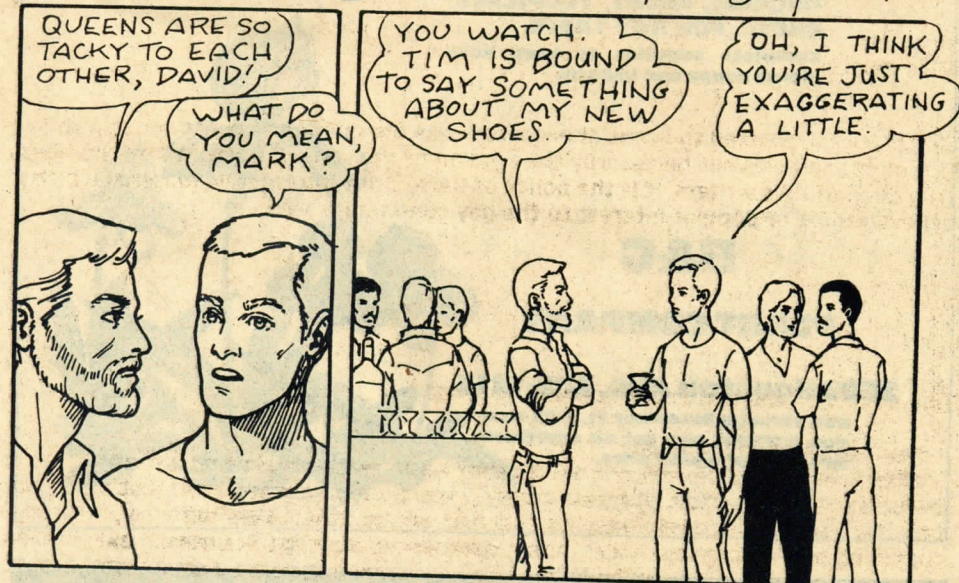
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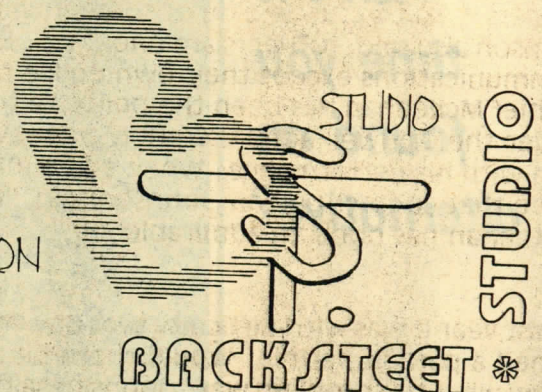
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Shopping For Body Beautiful

By Craig P. Rowland

With the "body beautiful" trend in high gear, gyms are opening everywhere and offering programs and a variety of equipment to improve and sometimes to confuse us. Three gyms in Houston catering to a primarily gay clientele offer personal instruction and individually tailored programs which maximize the improvement and minimize the confusion.

Fitness Exchange

The Fitness Exchange (3131 W. Alabama), recently written up in Blueboy and GQ exemplifies the personal approach to body improvement. According to owner/manager Al McClerren, the warm atmosphere is a selling point. He said that the clean and attractive surroundings, well trained instructors, and personalized programs motivate clients to participate consistently in a regular program.

The Fitness Exchange offers the popular Nautilus system which is one of the least time consuming (30 minute workouts, three times per week), and most scientifically advanced to achieve maximum satisfaction. One moves through a series of 12 different machines which exercise most parts of the body quickly and efficiently.

Free weights are available to those who prefer them or want to add to their Nautilus program. Jogging treadmills, a dry sauna, jacuzzi, lockers, and showers complete the facility.

50% of the program is nutrition, McClerren said. A computer retains information about each of the more than 700 members and monitors progress. For those who need it, nutritional advice is available.

Three basic memberships are offered. The one year "Earlybird" is for those who can work out before noon (\$225 per year). The "Split-time" membership for \$300 allows one access to the gym at all hours except the peak 4-7 PM period. The regular yearly membership is \$375 with no time restrictions. Hours are 6-10 AM, M, W, F, 10-10, T,Th, and 10-6 S, S.

Success has led to the opening of a second Fitness Exchange in Dallas which offers similar features.

What is unique about the Fitness Exchange? "We're Texas owned, Texas operated, and here for Texans," McClerren concluded.

Jim's Gym

Houston's newest gym, run by Jim Densmore at 607 Westheimer, opened this February. He offers the complete Nautilus system as well as free weights. The two floor facility devotes the downstairs to this equipment as well as a speed bag and body bag for boxing. A sport shop will sell gym related gear and plans are to include a juice bar.

The upstairs houses the "wet" facilities. (i.e., showers, whirlpool), and an 18 foot square wrestling mat. Lockers and a laundry service complete Jim's Gym and according to Densmore his facility is open to both straight and gay men.

For information regarding memberships, etc. call 528-JIMS.

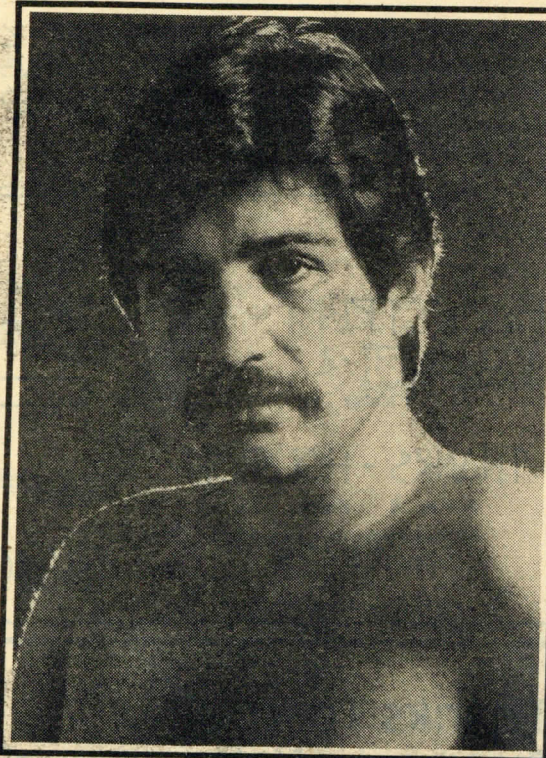
Midtowne Spa

Manager Hal Goldstein offers a fully equipped gym and more. In addition to what he described as a "Nautilus-like system" are free weights, steam room, whirlpool, and the Eurotan Tanning System. An olympic sized swimming pool is available for water sports.

For the more leisurely minded are a TV room, private rooms, ready room, and darkroom (large resting room). He boasts 1488 members and \$15.00 yearly memberships. With each visit is a \$5.00 locker or \$7.00 room fee. Non members may visit for a \$6.00 locker or \$8.00 room fee. A special Monday through Friday \$3.00 locker is available.

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Shiflett Win Is Heated Campaign Climax

By Rue Starr II

Steve Shiflett edged ahead of his Vice-President, Larry Bagneris, in the final hours to capture the helm of the Houston Gay Political Caucus for his third consecutive one year term. Shiflett grabbed 254 of 464 votes cast to lead Bagneris by a thin 54 vote margin.

Lee Harrington won the number two position running on the Shiflett slate as he defeated incumbent Secretary Greer Price 259 to 191.

Jenny Willinger was the only winner on the Bagneris ticket as she took the secretary slot away from Gil Marin. The narrow 246 to 206 margin left observers crediting her victory to the impressive turnout of the lesbian community. An estimated 80 women, many wearing yellow cards which read "I voted the feminist bloc," attended the election. As the voting was completed, organizers unfurled a large banner which read "We Have A Feminist Bloc On Our Shoulders."

Election night chairperson Alice Shrader pointed out that GPC's rapid growth can be gauged by the fact that the feminist bloc outnumbered the entire amount of votes cast in last years election.

Moments prior to the election, Shiflett and Bagneris both signed a document pertaining to the future of women's interests within the Caucus. According to the back of the feminist bloc cards, the well organized women's contingent was ready to swing their decisive votes against the candidate who did not agree to their list of demands.

Kay Little, Sam Canzoneri and Johnny Peden, all running on the Shiflett ticket, were elected to three year terms on the Board of Directors. Medical Committee Chair David Bonuelos won a two year



From left: Jenny Willinger, Steve Shiflett and Lee Harrington

Board position over Rick Graves 215 to 212. A runoff is pending between Steve Sabota and Renee Rabb who came out at the front of a group of candidates for a one year Board position.

A newly proposed policy regarding voting privileges for members of Family was not established in time for the election. According to then Secretary Greer Price, the organization which contributed \$4,000 last year to the GPC Municipal Elections Fund had hoped to receive voting clearance for a limited number of their members. The five Family Board Members at the election paid minimum yearly dues and only then were allowed to vote. Reports that 200 Family members were turned away from the election meeting are false.

Shiflett has also pledged to work "for reunification of the community" as minor election skirmishes polarized portions of the city's activist elements. He said that in beginning his third year he will try to "rekindle the enthusiasm . . . the spirit of cooperation that was so evident in last year's Gay Pride Week activities. He also said: "This was the first time ever that the gay community has issued a mandate of this

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Newsfront

Bill Introduced To Delete Term 'Sexual Deviation'

Washington, D.C.(IGNA)—Companion legislation to Senator Cranston's Immigration bill (S. 2210) has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill would delete the term "sexual deviation" from the Immigration and Naturalization Act.

The bill (H.R. 6303) was introduced by Representatives Julian Dixon, Anthony Beilenson, and Henry Waxman, all Democrats from California, to counter the recent decisions of the Immigration Service to prevent known homosexuals from visiting the United States.

In a "Dear Colleague" letter urging other Members of the House to co-sponsor the bill, they wrote: "We are disturbed that INS resources continue to be expended in enforcement of

this policy. To continue to deny aliens entry into the United States solely on their sexual orientation, in the words of the late Justice William O. Douglas, 'would be tantamount to saying that Sappho, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Andre Gide, and perhaps even William Shakespeare, were they to come to life again, would be deemed unfit to visit our shores.' "

The Gay Rights National Lobby urges people to write their Representatives to support this legislation. GRNL lobbyist Steve Endean said, "while it is merely a matter of common sense to end the outdated policy of barring lesbians and gay men from entry, the political reality is that it will be very difficult to secure passage of this legislation—and constituent pressure is the key."

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GPC Election

significance for a leader to speak for them."

Bagneris took credit for opening the Caucus up to the community by emphasizing ethnic and feminist issues throughout the campaign.

UpFront America has obtained a copy of the document which bears the signature of the GPC president.

As president of the Houston Gay Political Caucus I will endorse and work towards implementing the following objectives:

1. There shall be a feminist caucus of GPC which shall have a vote on the Steering Committee. The chair of the Feminist Caucus shall be elected by the Feminist Caucus and not appointed by the President of GPC.

2. The president of GPC will meet monthly with the Feminist Caucus or its representatives for input and feedback.

3. A standing committee of the Houston GPC shall be formed to investigate cases of discrimination against Lesbians and Gay men in housing, employment, child custody, other court matters, and police harassment. This committee shall also investigate complaints of racist, sexist, classist and ageist discrimination against Lesbians and Gays by gay proprietors and gay organizations and recommend action to the general caucus. We recommend that the chair of this committee be a member of a minority group or a woman.

4. GPC shall actively and publicly attempt to recruit and invite women into the organization.

The president shall present these issues at the first board meeting and to the first general caucus meeting after the election.

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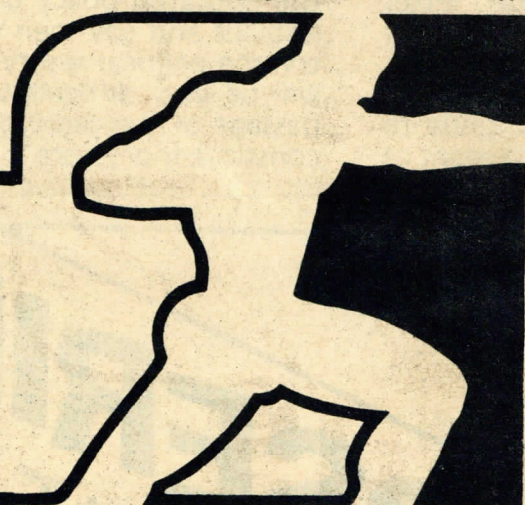
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