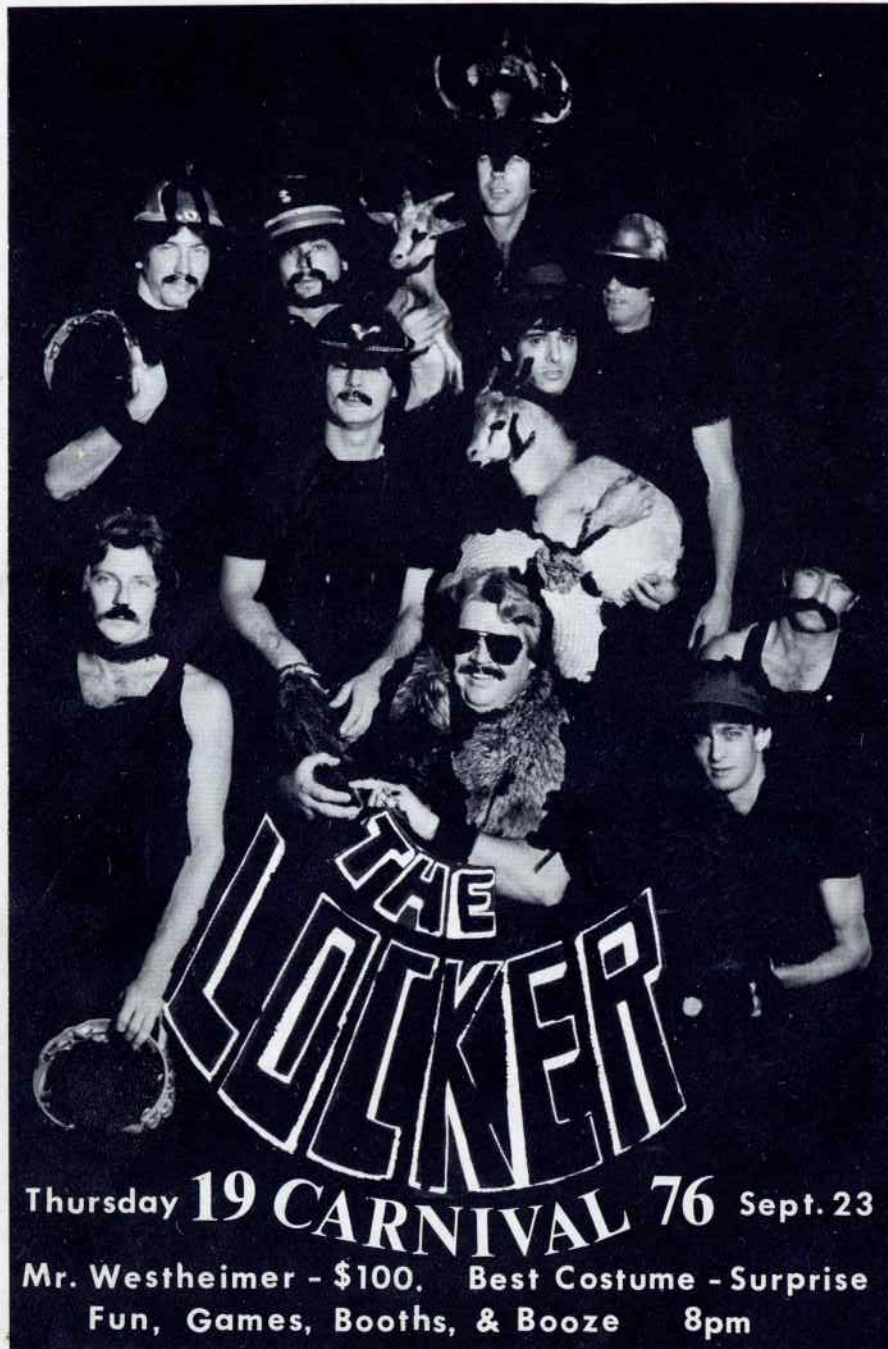


COME IN & MEET THE FAMILY



THE LOCKER

Thursday 19 CARNIVAL 76 Sept. 23

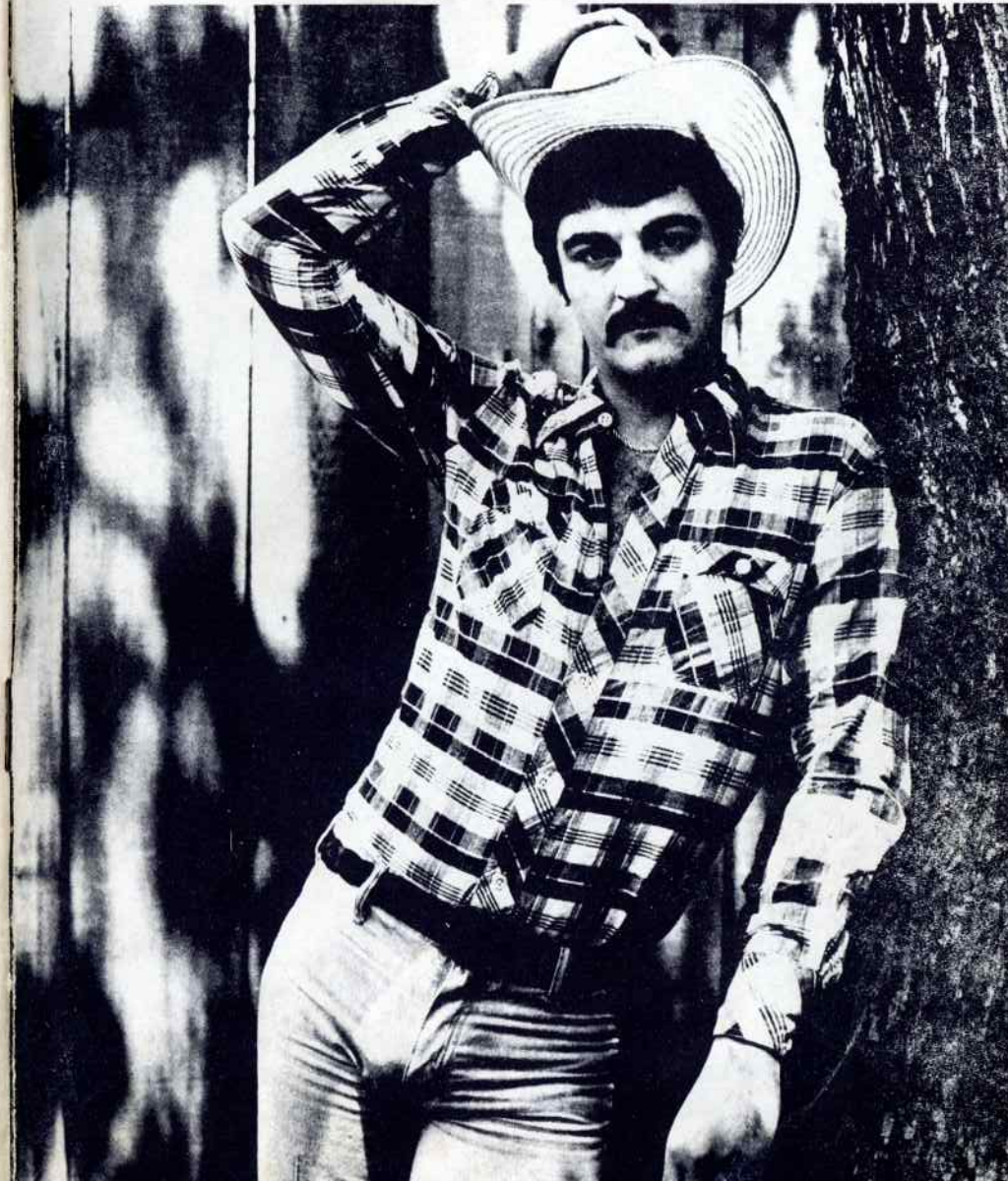
Mr. Westheimer - \$100. Best Costume - Surprise

Fun, Games, Booths, & Booze 8pm

Vol. 2, No. 25

this week in texas

September 18-24, 1976



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ON THE COVER —

Rick Marino
of
Houston's
Hi-Lite Ranch

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NEWS UP FRONT

CARNIVAL TIME

"I won't sleep in your bed because your sheets don't match." You've seen it before in TWIT and other publications. That's the theme of **Carnival '76** and Gary, manager of the Locker, says the time has come for all of you to strip off your mismatched sheets and come on out Thursday, September 23, at 8 pm for an unparalleled evening of fun, games, booths, boxes, and booze. What's in store this year? Carnival games, circus booths, leather boutiques, ear piercing, dunk for the rubber duckie, et. al. Mr. Westheimer will receive a \$100 cash prize. The prize for the Best Costume is a top, eyes only, secret. And, of course, the traditional Big Box will be up for grabs. Save your Locker \$'s to bid on it! That's **Carnival '76**, at the **Locker**, in Houston. Come on over and raise some hell. No cover.

SHONDA COMES TO FT. WORTH

Coming up Saturday, September 25 at **Aub's** in Fort Worth is a great new show featuring Ivory Turner and the Dynamite Revue with Very Special Guest Star, Cheree, Disco Queen of Dallas. Showtime is 10 pm. Call 927-9220 for reservations.

FINALLY—A QUIET, RELAXING BAR

Ever wish you could retreat to some place far away from the loud music, frantic hustle, and crowded spaces of the usual bar scene? Relief is in sight. Jim and Tom, the new owners of Dallas' **BON SOIR**, have succeeded in transforming this popular bar into a relaxing setting where you can meet friends, make new friends, and socialize over a quiet drink. It's not out of the way - just out of the crowds.

"SNIP" SNIPPED

"The new NBC situation comedy **Snip** never got started. The folks over at KPRC-TV have announced that the series will not start as advertised next fall. It was a new situation comedy being sent down by NBC which was supposed to be on the fall line-up, but it seems that some people have objected to a character who is portrayed as a homosexual hairdresser.

One of those people is a member of District 16, Texas Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association, Mrs. Dorothy O'Banon: 'I called my state president and asked her about it and she said definitely she thought that that was the thing to do, is to try and stop it. So after I found out the proper names to contact that are in the upper echelon of the broadcasting company, then that is what I did. I wrote letters to all of them, asking them to please help us try to preserve the integrity and the reputation of our profession.'

According to Channel 2 sources, **Snip** might be aired next January when things cool down a bit."

TWIT has learned that the following statement is in the original story on file at the radio station but was not broadcast over the air: "O'Banon says her group opposes having homosexuals or deviates of any kind depicted as hairdressers."

2ND SUN SHOW

Louis Garcia, manager of Houston's **SECOND SUN**, is bringing back Sunday afternoon drag beginning this weekend. Emcee for the show is Peaches! Also on the show bill is Maggie, Benji of the Detour, and several guest stars. No cover, according to Dirty Sally, Paul Stewart.

Continued on page 14

Mr. Peepers has purchased this space to offer an explanation to the many, many friends in Houston and throughout the state who have been patiently awaiting the opening of our fabulous new **Glory Hole**. Aside from construction delays and permit problems with the City, much of our sophisticated projection and sound equipment was late in arriving from the West Coast. The equipment has now arrived and we are patiently awaiting final city inspection which will at long last enable us to bring to you Texas' only San Francisco styled **Glory Hole**!

What is it? There has been much speculation throughout the community in recent weeks. The **Glory Hole** is a private and most unique membership club located at 2900 Fannin at the corner of Tuam. There, you will be able to travel through the **Glory Hole** vertically to one of our lofts, then slide down into your very own private room . . . or make a quick left into another area where you can view a super flick by merely pressing a button . . . but then there's so much more waiting for you that we can't fit it all into this small space. We can tell you that in addition to our private section, there is a huge arcade with forty peep machines that will be open to the public and our fabulous reel-to-reel stereo system will flow throughout the **Glory Hole**.



We hope to obtain the necessary permits within the next few days. We are trying our best to open this weekend . . . if we are still a few days late for some unforeseen reason, please forgive us as we are doing everything within our power to open our doors to you. It will be well worth waiting for!

LIFE WITH VERA

A Soaper by John Gardner

The ringing of the telephone before noon on Sunday indicated an emergency. Must be an emergency. None of Vera's friends would normally be calling at that hour. Not on the morning after the night before. Those who had failed to find True Love on Saturday night would be home knocked out, sleeping it off. Especially Miss Phoebe. Those who did manage to locate some love would still be enjoying it and would have their mouths too full to talk on the phone. If they had any spunk at all. Indeed, a call before noon on Sunday could only mean one thing. Emergency.

Vera flew from the bathroom, where he had been attempting to "get

a leg up" on all the others "girls" by starting his Sunday-Afternoon-At-Mary's makeup job an hour early. As the terrycloth sails of Vera's bathrobe neared the phone, they deflated a bit. Vera had slowed his pace to prepare for the Emergency. Meeting a crisis required the proper mood. Strong. That's what he would have to be. Strong. Accordingly, he assumed a solid stance, arched his Crawford brows, and plucked the instrument from its cradle with a challenging grasp!

"Hello," Vera softly intoned, attempting to shield his apprehension, in case it were a wrong number, rather than the expected Matter of Life and Death.

"Are you up yet?" It was Burt.

"Who's dead! How many are injured? Have the mothers been notified? And who haven't you told about it yet?" Vera asked hastily.

"What are you talking about?" Burt queried.

"Don't try to spare me. I can take it. I'm strong. Just blurt the Dreadful Truth right out!"

"I don't know what you're talking about."

"Aren't you calling me to tell me about some horrible occurrence? Some disaster? Some bit of information that will buckle my knees and send me into fits of sympathetic convulsions!" Vera hoped.

"No. Not really."

"Well, why not!" Vera huffed, impatiently. "I had my lips all puckered up for some gloom. A facial exercise I associate with fear, you know."

"I'm calling to ask a favor."

"A favor? Is that all? Well, of

Continued on page 10

THE BARN

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\$1.00 off any pocket novel
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Vera

course I do favors. Cheerful Assistance is my middle name. Pull my chain. Ring my bell. Toss my salad. I'm yours!"

"How would you like to do some work today?" Burt asked.

"Today! My day of rest. The few fleeting hours I'm able to set aside for physical repose. My reprise from strenuous labors. It's not easy rehearsing funerals you know. And you want me to take time out to"

"Okay, okay. I get the message. Just thought I'd ask," Burt said.

"Any other time you know I'd be more than anxious to help you out. But today is just impossible. Try as I might, I just couldn't muster the strength. You do understand, Burt?"

"Oh sure. That's fine. I'll just call around some more. Couldn't be that

hard to find someone who knows about movies."

"Movies!" you-know-who said, with ears perking.

"My friend Mike has hepatitis. He works at a skin flick house and is trying to get someone to cover his shift. He's a projectionist. I told him I didn't know how to operate a movie projector, but thought I might be able to find someone who did. Guess I'll just have to keep looking." Burt added.

"What do you mean!" Vera boasted. "Who could know more about the movies than me. Why child, I was practically there when they invented them. I've spent more of my life in movie houses than under the dryer!"

Vera continued to tell Burt of all the aspects of movie production with which he had been involved. Which were numerous. And questionable. Eventually the deal was signed and for a seven hour period the mistress of the funeral parlor set would serve as movie projectionist extraordinaire! Besides, how hard could it be, Vera contemplated. Movies are so easy to watch, they couldn't be that hard to show.

He arrived at the appointed hour, conversed cheerfully with the proprietor, carefully selecting words that sounded as if he knew what he were talking about, and then ascended the stairs to the projection booth with stoic determination and grace. Knowledge is power. But sometimes you just have to "Make Do."

Discovery number one was the observation that he would not be running just one movie projector, but two. The theatre had been cut from its singular magnificence, and chopped into two "mini" theatres of appreciably less charm. Inflation at work. On the right side of the projection booth was a small auditorium for heterosexual perverts, and on the left side, a video showcase for the discriminating gay. And between the two, in charge of it all, was Vera! Lights! Action!

MOVIE ARCADE

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After Hours Breakfast Friday and Saturday, 2 - 3:30 a.m.
Afternoon Snacks Sunday, 3-7 p.m.

STARSCOPE

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18-24th

FOR ALL SIGNS: Jupiter (good fortune) turns retrograde (backward) September 19, in Gemini (sales, teaching, communicating). Therefore luck will come harder for all.

VIRGO (August 24-September 23):

Your current or future involvement could be an older person since Saturn (old) is linked to your 5th house of love affairs. He offers stability & love!

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

Venus (love) and Mars (action) are in your 1st house of your personality. Therefore you may be feeling a surge of passion for starting a marriage.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

Since so many planets are in your 12th house of secrets, you can expect your love life to remain secretive and not known to all.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 22):

The independent archer is being pushed on by Jupiter to give up his valued independence for a married life. Be sure!

CAPRICORN (December 23-January 20):

The love planet, Venus, is in your 10th house of career which means your latest attraction could easily be someone you're working with.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19)

Lucky Jupiter is in your 5th house of love affairs and not in your 7th house of marriage; enjoy him as an affair not a future husband.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

The married Pisces will be more involved with joint financial matters this week rather than with passionate love-making. Avoid financial arguments.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

The impulsive ram is turning thoughts to love and marriage. Your ruling planet is now in the 7th house of marriage.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

You may now find yourself running errands and doing little things for your loved one, thanks to Mercury. But, Taurus

likes to take care of peoples' problems.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Someone you've already met wants to marry you. But, there will be others after your heart with Jupiter (luck) still in your sign.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The Moon Child is still in love with a past relationship that really never got off the ground. Your home life is too fuzzy now to allow much development.

LEO (July 24-August 23): Venus (love) and Mars (action) are now in your 3rd house which rules short trips, letters, telephones, and communications. This indicates a "long distance love affair".



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FRONTENAC PLAZA)
HOUSTON, TEXAS
528-8730



DANCING DAILY

Noon til 2 a.m.

SUNDRY SCHOOL

The University of Houston will offer a gay studies course again this semester. "The Homosexual Experience" will be taught on Monday nights at the U of H main campus. Registration for U of H students and faculty will be held Friday evening, September 17; for all others; Saturday, September 18 (10-2 pm) and Sunday, September 19 (1-5 pm) in the Houston Room, University Center and daily through Wednesday from 10 am to 9 pm at the student activities desk. Enrollment fee for non-students is \$9.00 for the course and includes a U of H parking permit. There is an additional fee of \$6.00 for printing costs of the materials used in the course.

AFTERNOON SHONDA

The Lamp Post in Houston is moving its Sunday drag show to the afternoons now that Fall is here. According to owners Norma and Chara, the headliners will be Shawna Hayden, Eartha Kitt, Reina, Anna, strippers, and a comedienne. And, to help the festivities, bloody marys and screwdrivers are only 75c from 2 to 6 pm.

we're still looking

for those poems...

see page 32



**COUNTRY
COMING
SOON!**

1318 WESTHEIMER

HOUSTON

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MARY HARTMAN THERAPY

For some, television's **Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman** is entertainment; for others, a bore. But for a Florida counseling center, Mary Hartman is good therapy.

Coconut Grove's Transperience Center, a project that also boasts weekly gay and bisexual raps, is now using the popular soap opera as a basis for nightly "tension prevention" rap sessions. According to the center, the show can help clients explore sexist roles, "religious-conditioned guilt" and the potentials of three-way relationships.

MR. VIRGO

Club Dallas Manager, Larry, announced the winners of the "stiff" competition for Mr. Virgo. Hunky Rick Young picked top honors in the Zodiac contest, with Lee Struwe not far behind as 1st runner-up.

Continued on page 17

THE BOOT CAMP :

Open 1 pm-2 am Daily

**Monday-Saturday, 4-7 —
50c well; 50c beer**

**Pinball Tournament
Every Wednesday at 7:30
with prizes**

**Sunday, 1-5 —
50c Bloody Marys &
50c Screwdrivers**

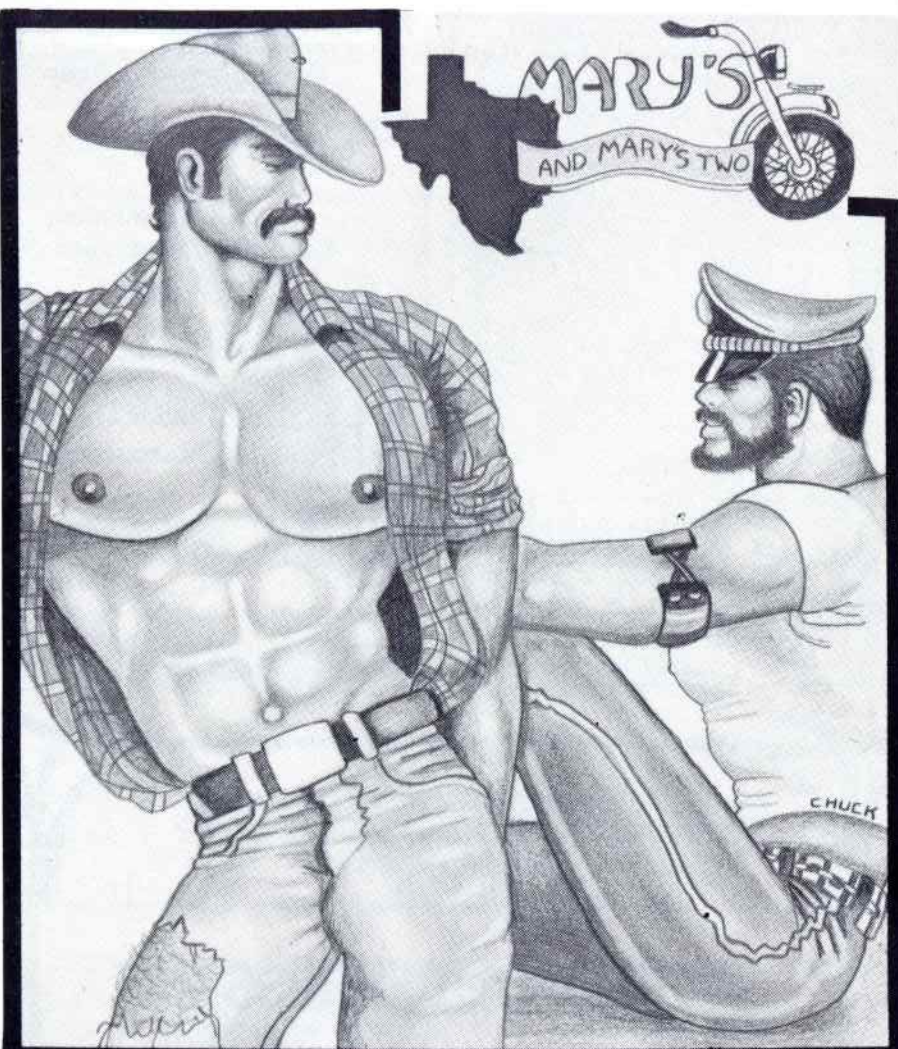


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Mixed
Drinks
- Pool**

**THE MONTROSE ACTIVITY CENTER IS
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FOCUSING ON**

ANXIETY & DEPRESSION

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Home of the Houston Motorcycle Club

HOUSTON

— AND —

GALVESTON

It's Coming--The Military Ball

news

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sunday, September 19, Dallas' **Villa Fontana** will host a weiner roast from 4 to 8 pm out on the patio. The fete is in honor of Mr. George Straight who on that day will reach the venerable age of 77. Still going strong, George may well be one of the oldest up-front gays in Dallas. The staff of TWIT joins the Villa Fontana in extending warmest congratulations to you, George — and many happy returns.

AUSTIN COUNTRY SHOW

Thursday nights have now officially become show night at **AUSTIN COUNTRY** according to owner, Bunch Brittan. Thursday, September 23, the show marquee Jerry Vanover

(permanent host every week), The Grease Sisters (Alvina and Kitty Litter), with special guests from Dallas: Jann Russell and Alain Allison. Showtime is 10:00 pm. No reservations. First come, first tables, first served! Go early!

P.S. YOUR CAT IS COMING

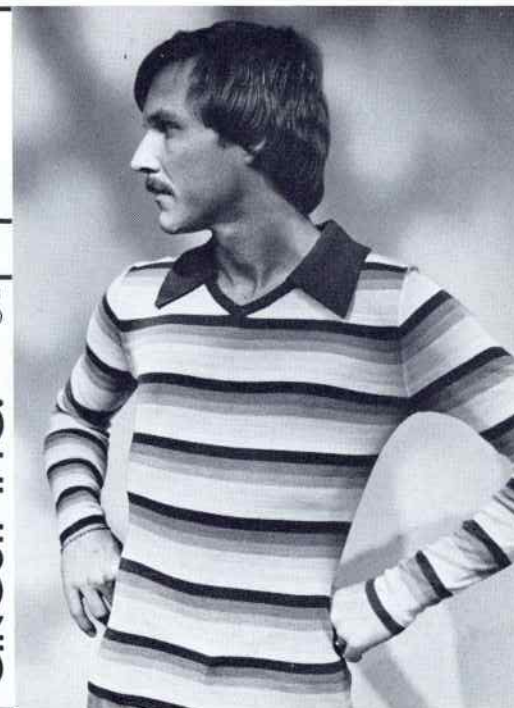
The Montrose Activity Center will produce the southwest's first run of James Kirkwood's **P. S. Your Cat Is Dead**, only weeks after its release by Samuel French, Inc. The production is slated for the first three weekends in October and will be directed by Jack Lampert of New Orleans. Cast members include Gary Von Ottegham, Fred Hinton, and Cheryl Markowitz. Check next week's TWIT for more info and related article.

Continued on page 22

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CRUISE CAMERA

The song says "Come on down to the Disco." And that's just what we did. (right) Down at the Depository in Houston we found Mr. Gay Texas Robert Jones with his friend Norman of Tooter's Restaurant. (Below) Two blond hill country hunks amid UT lads dancing at the Austin Country Disco! All over Texas, it's shake, shake, boogie!



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COMMENT

Editor's Note: From time to time we will use this space to run articles or comments submitted by our readers concerning new organizations or events of special interest. All material submitted becomes the property of TWIT, and we reserve the right to alter the copy to fit our editorial and layout requirement.

... With Dignity

Now that summer is almost over, we feel that it is time to bring all of you up to date on the activities of Dignity/Houston.

You may remember that Dignity was at one time a regular advertiser and supporter of TWIT, but our ad has been conspicuously missing from its pages lately. We were never sure how many of you saw our ad or even understood what Dignity was. We never had any delusions about attracting the masses (activism has never been appealing to the majority and religion even less so), but hoped to reach out to a few more of you than we originally had.

In May the Parish Council of St. Anne's Church asked us to leave the premises. It was their mistaken notion that our presence at the church had spawned the creation of a gay bar (practically on their front doorstep), and had caused aged men to go berserk and expose themselves to their children after school ("Lord, what fools these mortals be!!") But what they failed to acknowledge was the fact that St. Anne's parish includes the majority of the largest gay community in the Southwest.

So! From St. Anne's we moved to St. Basil's Byzantine Rite Church on West Main. We stayed there for 6 weeks before the Board of Directors of St. Thomas University told us to move

on. It seems the Parish Council of St. Anne's felt it was their Christian duty to inform the Board of the evil lurking within their own boundaries. (St. Thomas owns the land St. Basil's occupies).

It was at this point we requested a meeting with Bishop Markovski of the Galveston/Houston Diocese. He was unwilling to meet with us but we did get in to see his assistant, the Chancellor. We informed him of our difficulties with the Catholic community, and of our immediate need for a meeting place. We had two very productive discussions with Chancellor Fiorenze, and he is now pleading our case before the Bishop. Hopefully, the Good Lord will intervene on our behalf and we will soon have a new meeting place.

That is all the news to date. Dignity/Houston is still living and growing, but we are now meeting in private houses throughout Houston. I would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who is interested, or even mildly curious, to attend one of our meetings. If you have any questions about Dignity or its meeting place and time, feel free to call me at (713) 529-8213. Peace and love to all of our sisters and brothers.

Mike Nelson
Chairman, Dignity/Houston

the best of

Life With Vera

coming soon

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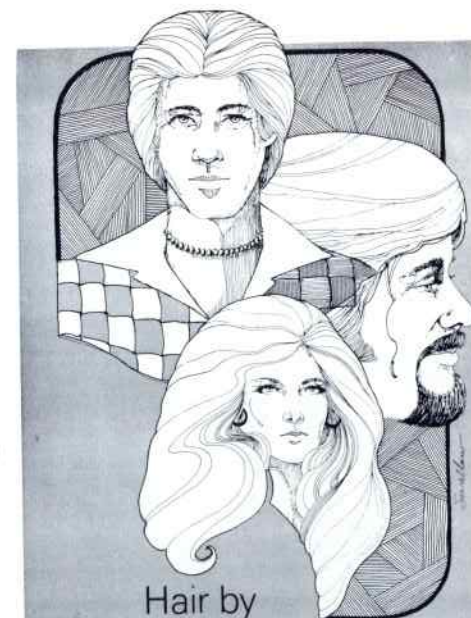
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POKEY ENTERS RACE

GPC co-founder Linda (Pokey) Anderson has entered the race for Montrose/Fourth Ward Neighborhood Development Commissioner with a list of luminary endorsements including those of incumbent Commissioner Dr. Milton Lower, Houston Area NOW Chapter President Betty Barnes, Joe Villareal of the Coalition for Barrier-Free Living, Gertrude Barnstone, and a majority of precinct judges within the district. Neighborhood Commissioners are the administrators of federal funds targeted for older neighbors and the Montrose/Fourth Ward allocation for 1977 is \$750,000. Anderson believes the money should be used to restore rather than replace older structures in the area.

She was prevailed upon to run as a write-in candidate when Democrat nominee Betty Graham White shocked



supporters by endorsing Dolph Briscoe's hand-picked conservative, Calvin Guest, for State Democrat Chairperson. Incumbent Commissioner Lower says, "I began asking around for a good candidate and the name that kept coming up was Pokey Anderson."

Among her other accomplishments, Anderson is the sparkplug of the local Sexuality and Lesbianism Task Force of NOW, a co-founder of lesbian/feminist monthly *Pointblank Times*, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Gay Task Force. When asked why a gay should enter the race, she replies "Gay people helped convert Montrose from a slum to one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Houston. Gay people deserve a voice in its future."

(This item was broadcast on September 8 over KLYX Radio.)

LOFT REMODELING

Houston's THE LOFT has been

closed for a couple of days, according to owners Jim and Bill, in order that some cosmetic surgery could be performed on the popular bar. When you return this weekend you will find the bar in the middle — sort of an island bar effect like the *Venture Inn* so you can cruise in the round.

ALAMO COUNTRY

Our sympathy to Mary Ellen, the Empress of the gay bar scene in S.A. Her husband Tommy passed away this past week. Benefits for Mary are being planned in several bars.

"The Country", to be held in October, is having casting problems. Seems the new director knows more about 'drag' than the drags themselves. A case of too many chiefs and not enough Indians?

The show at Mary Ellen's, an L.A. gay bar production, was a typical S.A. show. Mona was very good, as usual, and the bearded belly dancer was a great addition to the show. Sybil and L.L. really SHOULD give up coming out of retirement for every war. And I DO mean from Civil on up. Really girls.

The S.A. Flames, our women's tackle football team, will take on

Houston Hurions at Pittman Sullivan field behind St. Girard Hi, September 18, 1 p.m. Admission free.

The Amazon Studio is reportedly up and 'coming'. Reports have been most favorable. Give them a try; they're a very friendly bunch over there.

Gad, knowing marrieds seems to be getting a bit hazardous these days. J & B have split after 10 years and many problems, and a local bar owner and her other half are sure having scenes these days, right in the bar too. Cool it, girls. HOME is the place both to split up and make up.

More new gay businesses in the near future for S.A.: a new book store out by Randolph and a new bar in Windsor Park Mall. Miss M seems to have learned a lot more from Penny's than we thought. At least she better have. Good luck.

El Jardin's getting to be quite cruisy these days. Seems FiFi and the gang have been discovered by a 'young' crowd.

Miss Freddie P. has a birthday this week. Who knows how long ago the FIRST one was as he is about as tight lipped as an eel fresh out of juice, but he is somewhere between first and second childhood. Happy birthday, lovey.

The group at the Crown is firmly convinced there is a conspiracy, headed by equipment delivery firms to keep them from opening. The list of "we're sorry sir, BUT," got rather lengthy this week. Last report had the Gene's, Radke & Evans, ready to do mayhem to the FIRST truck driver they spotted. So what else is new? What truck driver was ever safe with that pair around?

TRICYCLE RACE

Girls, on your mark, get set, go! Hot, festive, fun! The Old Plantation



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3307 McKinney
526-9368



CRUISE CAMERA

The Ramrod was the scene for a Happy Birthday for Joe Acosta. Partner Ken Thomas provided a party that seemed to be a pleaser for all. Free champagne and a super catered affair with a beautiful, big cake, sandwiches and all the trimmings. Incidentally, one of the most decorative trimmings is the bartender Gerald.



in Houston is bringing back the gay olympic bike race around an obstacle course of OP chairs. The vehicle is a little tots trike and the winner gets \$25.00 and the crowds get a charge. It starts at 10:30 pm Tuesday, September 21.

BRIARPATCH CONTEST

Has the patch ever got it all together offering a holiday weekend for two at Galveston's Flagship Million Dollar Hotel plus cash, plus tickets for plays, shows, football games, drinks, bar tabs, and cold hard cash (see center-fold ad). Hurry by the patch for the drawing coming up Friday evening, September 24. Obviously, the BRIARPATCH has a game plan!

HOUSTON GPC

Beginning with its September 15 meeting, the Houston GPC is featuring a guest speaker at every other meeting. Each speaker will address the GPC on

some matter of interest to the gay community. The speakers will be drawn from politicians, law enforcement officers, and candidates for public office. The next speaker will appear Wednesday, September 29.

In other GPC happenings, a new slate of officers will be elected at the September 29 meeting, and vacancies on the board of directors will be filled. The GPC has also begun screening the candidates for President, Senator, Congress and for local offices. The results of the screening process, as well as the GPC's recommendations, will be mailed to the 3000 voters on the GPC's rolls.

Recalling the success with which the GPC launched its efforts over a year ago, its current membership has scheduled a picnic in Cherryhurst Park on Sunday, October 10 from 3 to 5 pm. Political leaders will be invited to address the picnic, and brown-bag lunches will be raffled off.

Mixed Drinks



CREWS INN

3220 N. Fitzhugh
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Dancing



Ernie's Sara Lee Hours 50c Well/50c Beer:

Mon.-Fri. 4-7 p.m.

Saturday 4-8 p.m.

Sunday 3-7 p.m.

Singles Pool Tournament

Every Sunday 4 p.m.

**Come Have A Drink
With Ernie**

BOOGIE TALK

(Hollywood) -- Who is probably the man responsible for producing more hit records than any other in the history of American music? His name is Bob Crewe. In the 60's he created dozens of hits for the Four Seasons, Mitch Ryder & the Detroit Wheels, and scores of others . . . as well as creating the Bob Crewe Generation . . . who turned the music from a TV commercial into a number one instrumental called "Music To Watch Girls By".

Always at least two steps ahead of "contemporary music", Bob's more recent credits include co-writing LaBelle's "Lady Marmalade"*, and creating Disco-Tex & the Sex-O-Lettes, and their super songs "Get Dancing" and "I Wanna Dance Wit' Choo". Even though his association with that aggregation has ended, his string of hits has not. He put together Frankie Valli's "Swearin' To God". He co-wrote and produced "Hollywood Hot" and all of the other cuts on the Eleventh Hour album. Getting up early and staying out late, he went on to create the biggest disco smash of 1976 so far -- "Street Talk".

Now, after months of work, the album "Street Talk Suite" is complete, and should be released this month. Lunching in the coffee shop of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Bob played the "Suite" on a cassette recorder he usually carries with him. Even though the hostess constantly came around asking us to "please turn it down", the supreme quality of the LP was always evident.

"Street Talk" is a boy who comes to Los Angeles and hustles his way into an incredible array of sexual and social situations.

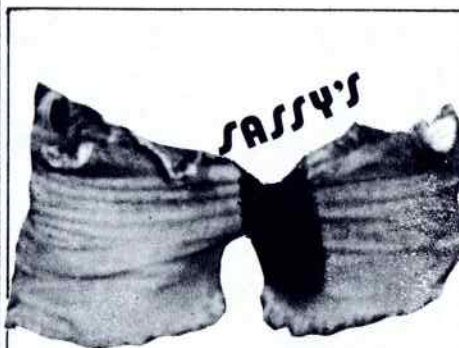
*(Inspired by a Praline Lady he met in New Orleans years ago . . .)

The highlight of the "Suite" is Bob Crewe singing the lead -- for the first time -- on a ballad called "Time For You and Me", that will be released as a single even before the album comes out. LuAnn Simms, Bob's associate, and a lead vocalist on the first "Disco-Tex" album, confided that though this is his first "up front" vocal, he's almost always demonstrated to the "stars" the way he wanted the lead and back-up singing sung.

Bob Crewe is responsible for the sale of millions of records, even though (according to another reliable source) he doesn't read a note of "written music". Respect is due to his many collaborators: Denny Randell, Kenny Nolan, Cindy Bullens, and others . . . but the genius of the man is unmistakable. Bob Crewe has overseen a decade of American music.

Next time, another record producer who has come out with a great album on his own . . . Giorgio . . . one of the Knights in White Satin, and the man who made Donna Summer a disco star.

Scott Manning -- at the Depository



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WEDNESDAY... 75¢ BAR DRINKS	
THURSDAY... POOL w/ PRIZES	
SUNDAY... SOMETIMES A DRAG SHOW	

Briar Patch

SEPTEMBER

End of Summer Contest

1st Place: Weekend for 2 at the Flagship Hotel in Galveston plus \$50.00 in Cash.

2nd Place: \$20.00 in drinks

3rd Place: \$10.00 in drinks

Drawing Friday Evening, September 24

Bar Drinks 85c, 10 am-7 pm

Sunday
Bloody Marys & Screwdrivers 50c
50c Beer 2-7 pm

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Houston, Texas
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Briar Patch

OCTOBER

- 1) Old Fashioned Sunday Box Lunches - Free
- 2) Pumpkin Carving Contest
- 3) "Life is Such a Drag" Halloween Party - October 31

Watch for Exact Dates and Times



Briar Patch

DECEMBER



- 1) Tree Trimming Party (Help us with our Balls)
- 2) Toys for Tots Drive
- 3) One Hour of Free Drinks Christmas Night
- 4) Weekly Drawings for Prizes
- 5) New Year's Eve Champagne Rehearsal Party



NOVEMBER

- 1) Weekly Drawings for Prizes and Cash
- 2) Drawings for Free Turkey
- 3) Pilgrim Festival Party
- 4) Thanksgiving Day Specials



Briar Patch

(Hic) **JANUARY**
Happy New Year New Year's Eve Party
Champagne! Confetti!
Party Favors! Drinks!
Lamp Shades!
Prizes & Drawings Weekly Thru January

Briar Patch

FICTION

Editor's Note: This is the second installment of an original novella by Max Baumgardner.

Interstices

by Max Baumgardner

*"Passing stranger! you do not know how longingly I look upon you,
You must be he I was seeking . . .
I am to wait, I do not doubt I am to meet you again,
I am to see to it that I do not lose you . . ."*

—Walt Whitman

Tommy played football when he was in college. He had a speech impediment. Bernard made dirty movies in Los Angeles. He had a wife. They met in a bar one night and went home together. They made love. And then, the following day . .

— PART II —

Tommy was bored. He sat cross-legged on the floor of his workroom, staring blankly at an empty white canvass. He had stretched it, pulled it, tied it, and prepared it. And then suddenly, almost magically, the mood to create had left him. It had left in a maze of sadly confused thoughts; thoughts that revealed the core of his very being: his loneliness.

Tommy had been lonely all of his life. In college he had briefly enjoyed a short term engagement with a blond pixie-like girl named Penny Payne who promptly broke their betrothal one evening when he tried to finger fuck her in the back seat of his Desota ("Tommy, don't. I don't do things like that. Please stop.")

But then Tommy, contrary to his good looks, remained generally unpopular throughout most of his college years and was not able to attract the looser, more forward coeds. His

stuttering caused him to be considered slow and dimwitted, despite his excellent grades.

Tommy had no sense of humor. He seldom laughed at anything short of an out-and-out joke, and when he did laugh, it was usually in the form of a short, spastic sounding guffaw that annoyed all within earshot. Fellow students considered him "too serious." Professors considered him an academic pleasure. Tommy considered himself something of a tragic figure.

Fortunately, he was able to focus this self-contrived tragedy on one of the more outward forms of self expression: oil painting. And amazingly, it paid off. He was good. Surprisingly good. And as he sat now, in the middle of his workroom floor amid his paints and brushes, staring at the abysmal canvass, he tried desperately to hone in on all of this tragedy (as he had done so many times before) and failed. Miserably.

His mind began to trace the events of the previous evening. He thought of Bernard. He thought about the sex they had had together. And he wondered what Bernard might be doing right now. He wondered. . .

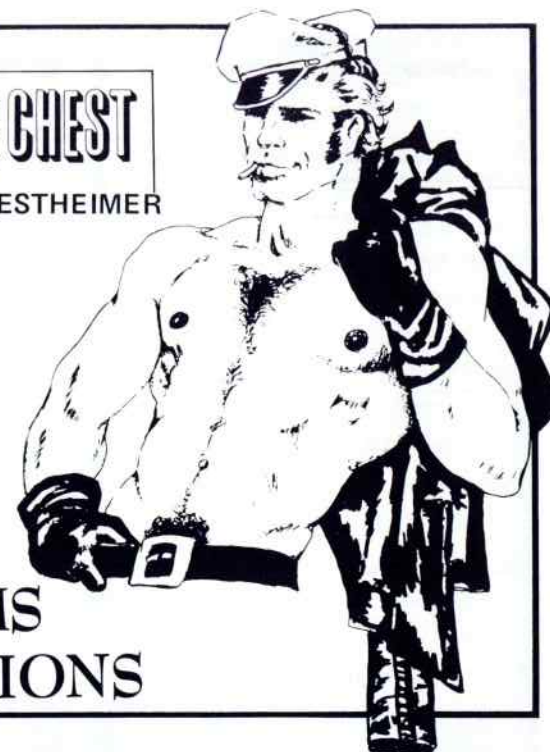
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WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD POEMS...

Twit is proud to announce its first semi-annual **Poetry Contest**. We're inaugurating a state-wide search for original gay poetry to be published in upcoming editions of This Week In Texas. All submissions become the property of Montrose Ventures, Incorporated, and may or may not be published in TWIT at the discretion of the managing editor. Employees of Montrose Ventures, Incorporated, employees' families, judges and judges' families are ineligible to enter.

First Prize: \$25.00
and gift certificate
from Studz News
Second Prize: \$15.00
and gift certificate
from Studz News
Third Prize: \$10.00
and gift certificate
from Studz News

Submit your entry to TWIT, P. O. Box 22104, Houston, Texas, 77027, no later than October 15. Winners will be announced in Issue 30 (October 23).

fiction

Bernard walked into the bedroom. The camera followed him. He took off his shirt. Slowly. He tensed his body. The camera panned his fleshy chest, devoured it. Then it moved up to catch the boyish (?) grin on his face.

"Okay. Cut. Hold it," the director said. "That won't do, Bernard. Something's wrong."

Exasperation. "Ya' told me to smile at the camera."

"Well something's wrong. Either you're trying to look precocious and it's not coming off, or something."

"How could I be doing that?" Bernard bellowed. "I don't even know what that means!"

"Don't get smart with me, you creep!"

Bernard cringed. He bit his tongue.

"Okay! Let's try it again!"

Bernard moved into the bedroom. The camera followed him. Halfway into the room, he tripped on a rug and stumbled.

"Stop! Cut! Hold it! Okay, who's bright idea was it to put that rug in there?"

There were mumbles throughout the house ("I dunno" "Beats the shit outta me" "I never seen that rug before" "What rug?")

The director exploded. "Well that goddam thing didn't just walk in there by itself!"

"Here. I'll remove the offender," the cameraman said and tossed the lumpy pile out of the room.

"I need a valium. Look Bernard, this is costin' money. I got my ass chewed out the last picture I did with you 'cause there were too many takes. I don't want it to happen again."

But Bernard's movies always seemed to make more money than they cost. In fact, they were somewhat in demand. After his brief exposure in a throwaway flick (Tom's

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Hot Rocks), Bernard managed to latch on to a one shot deal with Masterdon Films which gave him the overnight notoriety he needed to cinch other movie deals. More expensive ones. And it wasn't long before Bernard could write his own mealticket with any porno producer in town. Unlike most of his contemporaries, Bernard's screen appeal did not diminish after the first two or three films. If anything, his movies became more in demand. Gay moviehouses begged for his new films, contracts never seemed to cease.

But the reason that most directors had little patience with Bernard was because of the tremendous amount of work it took to get these money making efforts squeezed out of him. As a model, Bernard was just not that photogenic. His posture was Cro-Magnon, his expressions Neanderthal, and as for his sex appeal... well, most of that ended up on the cutting room floor.

And even though these films grossed enough profit to keep the producers happy, it was the estranged director who ended up virtually penniless for his efforts.

"Okay! Once more!" the director hollered. "Ready. Action."

Bernard moved into the bedroom. The camera followed him. He removed his shirt and smiled at the demanding lens. Sweat trickled from his brow.

"Cut!"

Bernard threw up his arms and yelled like a wounded animal. "WELL I'M SORRY BUT IT'S TOO FUCKIN' HOT!"

"Bernard!"

"I can't help it if I sweat! It's a normal body function!"

"BERNARD!"

"Fuck you, man! Just fuck you! Fuck all of you!" And with that, he stormed off the set.

He walked out of the house, oblivious to the director's rantings

i
WON'T
SLEEP
in
your
BED
Because
your
SHEETS
DON'T
MATCH

CARNIVAL 76
at the LOCKER

8pm
SEPT. 23

Fiction

and ravings, and into the busy street. He caught a downtown bus headed north towards Hollywood and griped for having to spend his last lucky halfdollar on a transfer. He sat on the bus and fumed. He silently cursed the director. He cursed pornography and gay life and everything tied in with it. An old woman sitting next to him on the bus leaned over at one point and whispered something in his ear. This is what she whispered: "You may not live very long. Take advantage of yourself."

Unnerved and jittery, Bernard got off at the next stop.

He walked fifteen blocks down Las Palmas until he reached Santa Monica Blvd. and then ducked inside a phone booth to call Tommy:

"Hello."

"This is Bernard. Whatya doin'?"

"Oh. Hello."

"Are you busy?"

"N-No, not real b-b-busy. Yourself?"

"Well, I just got off work. It's real hot where I am. I'm in a phone booth. You wanta meet me somewhere for a beer?"

"N-Now? Right n-now?"

"Yeah. Now. I'm walkin' over to the Jaguar. Can you get away?"

"Yes. I guess so."

"Okay, then. See you there in fifteen minutes." Bernard emerged from the phone booth and into the blistering white street.

Meanwhile, across town, Tommy was in a state of mild upheaval. He frantically searched his apartment for something to wear to the bar. All of his clothes were either at the laundry or piled knee-high in the middle of his bedroom floor, dirty. He rummaged through heaps of jeans and t-shirts, smelling underarms and crotches to

find a pair that he could get by in long enough to have a quick drink at the Jaguar. (Some of them were pretty bad. One pair of cut-offs almost took his breath away.) Finally he extracted a seldom worn pair of brown cordoroy trousers and a pen-striped tank top that had been ripped on a rose bush in La Brae Park. He dressed quickly and left the apartment building.

When he arrived at the bar, he found Bernard perched crow-like on a stool at the far end of the counter, a beer clutched securely in his hand. Tommy approached him, smiling.

"H-Hi. Nice t-t-to see you."

Bernard handed him the beer. "It might be a little warm by now. I been waitin' here for ten minutes."

Tommy took a sip. "No, it's f-fine. Thank you." They sat in silence for a moment; Tommy catching his breath, Bernard collecting his thoughts.

"Did you expect me to call?" he suddenly asked.

"I d-didn't know. M-Most people

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April Ashley with Very Special
Guest Star:

CHEREE—

Disco Queen of Dallas
Saturday, September 25
10 p.m.



Fiction

d-don't."

"Well," Bernard lit a cigarette, "I had a real bad day today."

"S-so you thought of m-m-me." Tommy smiled.

"We're doin' this movie, see, and we're off schedule as it is, and I walked off the set a little while ago cause I got pissed at the director and everything," Bernard sighed. "And then this morning."

"T-This morning."

Bernard looked thoughtful, scared. "This morning something happened. It . . . it really spooked me good."

"What happened?" Tommy asked.

"Well . . . it's probably nothing, but it bothered me. It stuck with me throughout the day. This morning I was trying to get something out of my closet, it's real crammed in there, when this old Bible my mother gave me came crashing down to the floor right at my feet. Now my mother used to underline all the verses in the Bible she thought was important. She'd underline 'em in red ink. Anyway, it fell open to a page where she'd

underlined a verse."

"What was it? What w-was the verse?"

Bernard looked nervous. "It was in Genesis. The bit where God's talkin' to Abraham about destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. The part she had underlined was where Abraham says, 'Will you destroy the wicked with the just?' cause nothing but perverts lived there. And he asks God if he would spare the city for the sake of ten good men." Bernard paused. "But you know, Tommy . . . and this is the spooky part: He didn't even find ten."

A cockroach crawled across the counter and began drinking from a pool of syrupy Coke that had spilled over and dried there from the night before. Bernard smashed it with his beer can. "This city is dirty," he said. "Sometimes I wonder about this city."

Tommy looked at him curiously. "If you're th-that unhappy, m-m-maybe you should l-leave."

Bernard shrugged and said, "I can't, Tommy. I got too many things to do."

(Continued in a later issue.)

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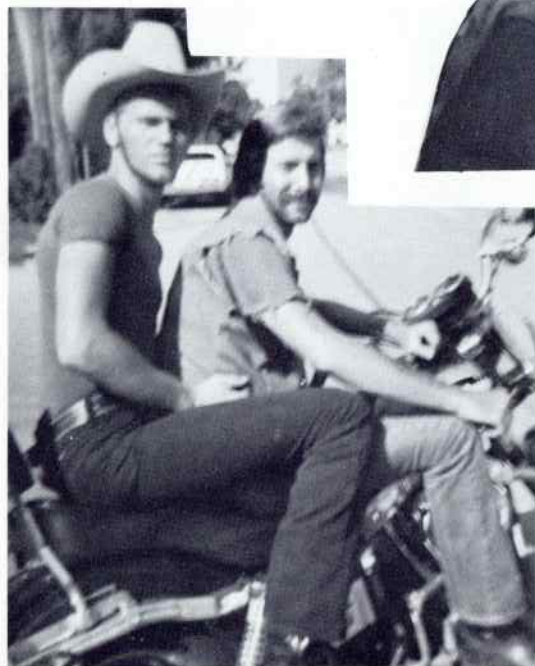
BILL & JIM

10-2 DAILY, 12-2 SUNDAY



Rugged outdoor Texas Riders arriving at Levi's, back from their holiday run.

A cool kiss in a cool bathtub!



CRUISE CAMERA

After a Labor Day Weekend bike ride to Columbus, the Texas Riders came back to a good old fashioned Texas Drag Show at Houston's Levi's. Amid drag, beer, bikes and bathtubs, the good times just kept on rollin'.



BRING YOUR OWN MEAT

On Wednesdays **Levi's** will have Steak Night
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Mary's will no longer
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Bring your own meat!

Levi's will furnish potatoes,
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CALENDAR TEXAS

AUSTIN

Saturday, September 18

- After Hours, 2-4 am at Austin Country.

Sunday, September 19

- Happy Hour All Day at Private Cellar. Beer 45c, Well Drinks 95c.
- Happy Hour 3:00 to 5:00 pm at the New Apartment.

Monday, September 20

- Happy Hour Mon.-Sat., 5:00-7:00 pm at the New Apartment.
- Happy Hour Mon.-Sat., 5:00-7:00 pm at the Private Cellar.
- Midnight Hour til 2am Mon.-Fri., at the Private Cellar.

Wednesday, September 22

- Special Drink night at Austin Country. 8 pm 'til 2 am. Bar Drinks 25c, beer 10c, \$2.00 cover at door. Drawing, prizes.
- Free Keg Party at Private Cellar from 9 pm til ? No cover at door.

Thursday, September 23

- Drag Show at Austin Country, 10 pm.

Friday, September 24

- After Hours, 2-4 am at Austin Country.

- The Entre Nuit presents the Cindy Bird-song Revue with guest star Sahdji, 9:30

Monday, September 20

- Pool Tournament at Service Station, 7:30
- Beer bust at Terry's Mail Boxx, 9-12 pm.

Tuesday, September 21

- Buddy Night at Club Dallas — two for the price of one, 6 pm til 2 am.
- ½ price drinks all night at the Service Station.
- \$1.00 day at Bachelor's Quarters.
- 10c Draft Beer at the Encore at 10 pm.

Wednesday, September 22

- Free Draft and 50c can beer at Sundance Kid, 10 pm til midnight.
- 2 for 1 drinks, 5 pm til closing at Terry's Mail Boxx.
- ½ price drinks all night at the Service Station.
- Discount card day at Club Dallas. Buy a discount card and get a free locker.
- VD Clinic at OP, 9-11 pm.
- Pinball Tournament at the Boot Camp with prizes, 7:30 pm.

Thursday, September 23

- 10c Draft Beer at the Encore at 10 pm.
- 50c canned beer and 85c well drinks all night at the Entre Nuit.
- ½ price drinks all night at the Service Station.

Friday, September 24

- Disc Jockey taking requests at T.J.'s.
- Grand Opening of the new Bon Soir with free well drinks and beer, 7-9 pm.

DALLAS

Sunday, September 19

- Old Plantation Drag Show with Jann Russell and the Pantomaniacs plus Alain Allison
- Free Draft Beer at T.J.'s, 7-8 pm.
- Free Draft Beer at Sundance Kid from 7 pm til the keg runs dry.
- Steak-Out at Chuck's, 6-8 pm. Chuck's supplies the trimmings. All you have to bring is your meat.
- 10c Draft Beer at Villa Fontana 4-7 pm.
- Oldies but goodies night at T.J.'s, 8 pm.
- Happy birthday winner roast for Mr. George Straight at Villa Fontana, 4-8 pm.
- Bloody Marys and Screwdrivers 75c, 1-8 pm at the Bon Soir.
- Screwdrivers and Bloody Marys 50c, 1-5 pm at the Boot Camp.
- Pool Trounament at 5 pm with ½ price beer and well drinks and free snacks, Terry's Mail Boxx.
- Beer bust and barbecue at the Tool Box, 6 pm and on while it lasts!

FT. WORTH

Sunday, September 19

- Free Beer 8-10 pm followed by professional drag show at 10 pm at Bailey St. Warehouse.

Monday, September 20

- Amateur drag show 10 pm at Bailey St. Warehouse.

Wednesday, September 22

- 500 Follies present "Midweek Madness" at 9:30. 500 Club.
- Free Beer 8-10 pm followed by professional drag show at Bailey St. Warehouse.

Continued on page 46

CRUISE CAMERA



Crashed under a tree, Ronnie Chef who did all the cooking. Let's do it again next year!



They were lined up at 7 Labor Day morning waiting to get into the Barn's Bar-B-Q and the crowds kept coming all day. Pictured here, Andre of the Barn serves up some brisket to Paul Stewart of Dirty Sally's Second Sun.



THE OLD PLANTATION

DALLAS

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HOUSTON

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THE SOUTHWEST'S
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CALENDAR TEXAS

Thursday, September 23

- Disco and record giveaway 8 pm-2 am at Bailey St. Warehouse.

Friday, September 24

- 25c draft beer 6:30 til 9:30 at Aub's
- Country Western night at the 500 Club. Special drink prices if you wear western hat.

Saturday, September 25

- Ivory and the Dynamite Revue with special guest Cheree at Aub's, 10 pm.

GALVESTON

Saturday, September 18

- Weekend drag show at Robert's Lafitte's
- After Hours 2 am til 7 at the Kon Tiki

Sunday, September 19

- Special drink prices during afternoon happy hour at Mary's Too.
- Drag Show at Robert's Lafitte's.

HOUSTON

Saturday, September 18

- Babbs and Baldy performing at the Venture Inn 9 til 2. No cover.
- "Saturday's Child" rap session from noon til 2 pm at the MCCR.
- Beer bust at Levi's, 3-6 pm, \$1.00
- Laverne & Company at the Exile, 9-1 pm.
- Benefit drag show for the NFL Girl's Football Team at the Horn-It, 9:30 pm.

Sunday, September 19

- Drag show at the Old Plantation with Ernestine, Jennifer George, Naomi Sims, Donna Day, and Carmelita.
- Beer bust, The Loft, 4-7 pm, \$1.00.
- Babbs and Baldy performing at Venture Inn, 7 pm til midnight. No cover.
- Beer bust at Levi's, 3-6 pm, \$1.00. 75c if wearing western hat.
- Jambalaya at The Barn, Noon.
- All lockers, \$2.00 each, 8am-4 pm, at Club Houston.
- Drag show at the Lamp Post 4 pm. Shawna emcee. Strippers and comedy.
- Beer bust at the Locker, 7 pm-2 am, \$1.00
- "La Hot" Drag Show at the Second Sun, 4 pm.
- Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers, and beer 50c, 2-7 pm, at Briar Patch.

Monday, September 20

- Pool Tournament at Lamp Post, 9 pm.

- Happy hours at Sally's 7am-Noon and 5-8 pm, M-W-F, all day Tuesday and Thursday.
- Cocktail Hour 10 am-7 pm. 85c bar drinks, at the Briar Patch daily.
- Happy hour noon til 7. Well drinks 85c, at the Hi-Lite Ranch. Daily.
- Happy hour noon til 7. 50c beer, at the Barn, Monday-Friday.
- Happy hour noon til 8. 50c beer, 75c bar drinks, at the Lamp Post, Monday-Friday.

Tuesday, September 21

- Beer bust at Our Place, 11am-7 pm. 25c draft.
- Free movie night at the Locker, 9:30 pm.
- Tricycle contest at the OP, 10:30 pm.

Wednesday, September 22

- Steak Night, 8 pm at Levi's.
- "Fun and Games" at Lamp Post 9:30 pm.
- "Wilde 'n Stein" KPFT radio FM after evening news, approximately 9-10 pm.
- Gay Political Caucus meeting at 7:30 pm at MCCR. Public invited.
- Hat and color night at the Locker - ½ price drinks.
- "Hot Stuff", a complete meal at Chez Pierre, 7-9 pm. \$2.50 per person.
- Super drag show with Ernestine, Jennifer George, Carmelita, Donna Day and Naomi Simms at the Old Plantation.
- Buddy Night at Club Houston — two for the price of one (lockers), 4 pm-midnight.

Thursday, September 23

- Carnival '76 at the Locker, 8 pm til 7
- ### Friday, September 27
- Laverne and Company at the Exile, 9pm-1
 - Babbs and Baldy performing at the Venture Inn, 9 til 2. No cover.
 - Drawing at the Briar Patch for free Galveston vacation.

LUBBOCK

Friday, September 17

- Drag Show at David's Warehouse, 9:30 pm

SAN ANTONIO

Saturday, September 18

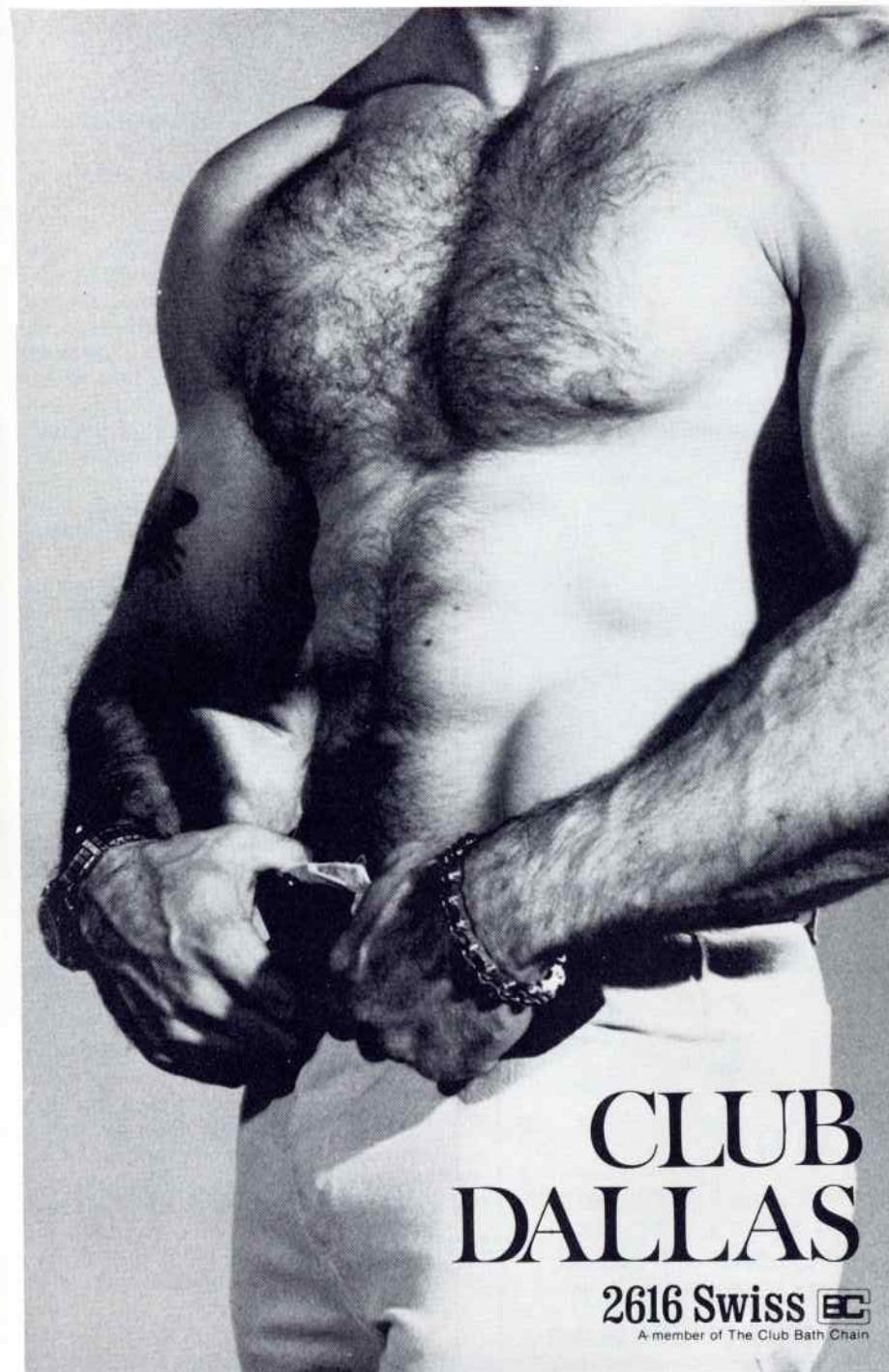
- Drag show with Pauletta, Tammy, Stephanie, plus 2 guest stars at Mary Ellens.

Sunday, September 19

- Outdoor barbecue at Mary Ellens.

Tuesday, September 21

- Pool tournament, winners play off at Mary Ellens.



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REVIEWS

OH COWARD

One must first realize that OH COWARD! is **not** a play. There is no plot, no 3-dimensional characters, and only a page or so of sketchy dialogue woven intermittently into the fast-paced musical revue. (We dislike calling it a revue because of the connotation the word regrettably implies: that of gaudy theatrics strung loosely together with no particular meaning or message. And OH COWARD! says something. It's a witty and very personal commentary on theatre, travel, love, family life, and women joined tightly together by some very pleasing tunes with some **very** funny lyrics.)

But it's a difficult show to stage. And to have the production come off with all Noel Coward's biting satire requires nothing less than a structured, professional ensemble. For Houston's Country Playhouse (Town and Country Village) to tackle such a piece is ambitious, certainly, but perhaps . . . how shall we say it: something of a lark?

Jerry Scales has directed the show with much vigor. His characters move well, and parade stylishly about the

stage as one would expect participants in such an ensemble piece to do. Betty Dickenson's choreography was admirable, and would have brought more polish to the show had any of the actors been able to dance. Or even keep time with the music. But they couldn't. They shuffled about like residents at a senior citizens dance or a home for declining paraplegics (at times their shuffling was even louder than the music). And for that reason, coupled with their combined voices that never quite molded together, the evening's best moments remained exclusively with solos and duets.

The script originally calls for only two performers, but Scales (at the request of the CP board) was obliged to use three different couples. And some of them were painfully weak. Such as Marty Fleck, who seemed out of breath before the first ensemble number had hardly begun. And Bettye Gardner, whose "operatic" voice quivered incessantly when it occasionally managed to ring out over the shuffling feet. Lois Fleck was cute (even charming) in a couple of places but couldn't carry a tune in a jock strap. Director Scales realized this and wisely assigned her to the faster, talkier songs. David Grant had a pretty face. Dallas Purdy seemed less confident than we remembered her in last year's hypnotic **Promenade** (Main Street Theatre) but brought more of the needed professionalism to the stage than the other actresses. And last, though certainly not least. Kenneth Allen Newman presented a dynamic portrayal to his role that left us . . . oh, Goreman, why be coy? **He was hot!** He sang well, he moved well, and he looked good. What more can we say?

Conceptively, OH COWARD! is an amazingly slick piece of entertain-

ment. And CP's production, despite some of the performers, was (after a rather slow start) effectively tantalizing. But it's a 30-minute drive from Montrose to the Country Playhouse. And tickets are \$4 (You can get a seat at the Alley for \$3). So without meaning to slight the effort (and we saw a great deal of effort put into the production) we recommend it only to those who might be consumed with the weekend blahs and desire an unconventionally amusing respite in local theatricality.

by Tom Goreman

THE HORN-IT

Benefit Drag Show for the NFL Girl's Football Team Saturday, September 18 at 9:30. Starring the Horn-It's own Kris Kuntry, Julie Dichell, Tiger, Mr. Stacy Lynn, Rachelle, Maya, Mandy.

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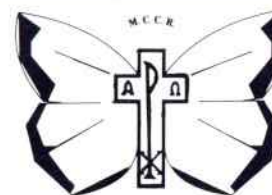
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THE GUIDE

Listed here are bars, baths, bookstores, retail shops, and services which **This Week in Texas** recommends to our readers. Each week we are in touch with each of these establishments, so our listing is both accurate and dependable. If you are travelling in Texas, we think you'll find that these merchants welcome your business and will give you the best value for your money.

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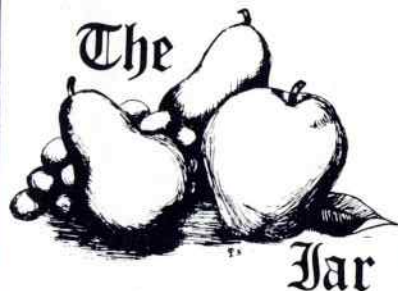


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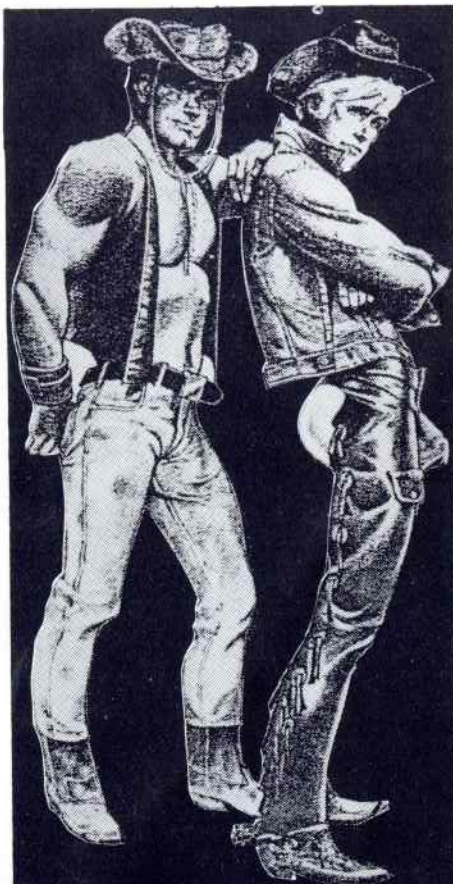
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