

MONTROSE STAR

Just How Do Local Super Markets Stack Up when Put Side to Side?

By Bert Hollister

There has never been a truer saying, "The law of economics governs everything." This seems more true than ever when it comes to food prices, and especially after listening to all of the TV ballyhoo about who has the lowest prices. Nobody can give something for nothing, yet we all fall for it, I guess, just by wishing it could be true!

To verify just how little different food prices really are, I took a short trip through three super markets on Monday, April 7, and found the mere difference between total food bills for each store isn't worth the cost of gasoline to get around and "compare" prices!

The main thing I noticed the food czars using to trick the buyer's mind is the different ways of pricing the same food. For example, grapefruit at 98 cent a pound is far higher than 3 for \$1.10 for the same grade of fruit, but 98 cents sounds cheaper.

The three stores I visited were Weingarten's on Gray, Jamail's on Kirby, and Kroger on Montrose. And here is how the stores stacked up! Almost the same on prices...about \$3. total overall difference between the three, with Jamail's being the highest. However, there were big differences in other areas!

In my opinion, Jamail's was the cleanest and most attractive. Weingarten's has been cleaning the store

much better lately, perhaps due to increased competition in the area. Kroger was filthy. Dirty floors, broken eggs, leaking milk cartons, leaking laundry detergent, and poorly stocked shelves all seem to show a lack of employee morale or lack of management.

Selections were best at Jamail's. If you want it, Jamail's usually has it, and they handle only the best; so if you are not financially strained, you can pay the difference there and get the finest quality. At Weingarten's and Kroger, you take what they let you have. Kroger is rated very poor on selection and display is rated only fair. The quality of vegetables was about the same at Weingarten's and

Jamail's; Kroger's produce appeared to be old and a lower grade (Randall's, not included in this survey, has the finest vegetables and fruit I have seen, and at reasonable prices!).

Jamail's wins hands down on customer service and good personal attention; employees are willing to give directions and even pick up products for you, checkout is fast, and carryout service is given without asking. Weingarten's checkout service was fair, while Kroger's was dismal...drudgingly slow, and the Express Line must be where the new employees get trained! Both Weingarten's and Kroger will carry out

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Don Baker Challenging 21.06

By George Barnhart
STAR STAFF

Striking down any law which is offensive to the every essence of human rights usually takes the personal commitment of one key figure providing the challenge either in the courts or through political processes.

The Dred Scott Decision for the blacks, Susan B. Anthony for woman's equality are two examples.

In Texas, this year, one gay male educator/activist, Donald F. Baker, 34, may make the history -- books as the pivot case around which all oppressive discriminatory laws affecting gays may be laid to rest forever.

In 1973, the Texas Legislature passed a law prohibiting sexual relations between two members of the same sex. This statute (21.06) is the prohibiting cornerstone for gay equal rights in housing, employment, and child custody cases.

Quiet spoken, conservatively dressed with calm professionalism, Don Baker has lent his name to the Federal suit filed last November in Dallas. Baker considers the law, "a direct violation of basic constitutional rights, more specifically the First and Ninth Amendments dealing with my right to privacy."

President of the Dallas Gay Political Caucus, a Navy veteran Don speaks with

a clarion conviction of certainty that his precedent-setting case will be won and the ensuing victory will be both a political and educational victory for gay and human rights. In addition to many intensely personal reasons for his involvement in the suit, Baker states: "I'm an educator by profession... as an educator, I'm a facilitator in learning. I teach children facts and information.

"It is inconsistent for me... academically... to allow a law to stand that is based on misinformation and ignorance."

Baker sees the legal conquest of the 21.06 statute as having a "domino effect" over all forms of discriminatory ordinances and practices that the statute has supported.

"This law intimates that we (gay people) are criminals and are perpetually involved in criminal activity. The police teaching and medical institutions need no other reason to deny us our rights and employment," concludes Baker.

Baker is supported by the Texas Human Rights Foundation, founded in 1976 as a non-profit, tax exempt, public litigation corporation. The organization is chartered to fight discrimination on the basis of sex, race, creed, national origin, handicap status and sexual or affectual preference.



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LOCAL

Lambda Club Dissolves, is Replaced with UUGC

The Lambda Club of First Unitarian Church has dissolved itself to be replaced by a local branch of the Unitarian-Universalist Gay Caucus.

The members of Lambda felt that they had become so integrated in, and accepted by, the congregation at First Unitarian, that they no longer needed a support group.

It was felt that Integrity/Houston and other organizations could better serve the community with more resources for support services.

Instead, the gay men and lesbians of the local Unitarian-Universalist community have formed a chapter of the

Unitarian-Universalist Gay Caucus (UUGC), already active in many cities and supported by the church through its funded Office of Gay Concerns in the Boston continental headquarters.

The new group meets on the third Sunday of each month after services at First Unitarian, and has a Steering Committee elected by the membership. Its first two activities will be a brunch after church for the congregation in May and the annual Gay Pride Service in June. All Unitarian-Universalists throughout metro Houston are invited, as are all persons interested in liberal, non-Christian religion. For information call John Burch at 524-7254

There Are Changes in the Integrity/Houston Community Coffee House Schedule

Some schedule changes are in store for Integrity/Houston and the Community Coffee House. The Integrity/Houston Educational Forum Programs will take place on the third Friday of each month at the Community Coffee House, 3405 Mulberry, 8:30 PM. Integrity/Houston business and committee meetings will take place on the first and third Thursdays, respectively, at 3405 Mulberry, beginning at 7:30 PM, and membership orientation for new members will take place on the fourth Friday at the Coffee House.

The Community Coffee House has changed operating hours. New hours are 7:30 - 12 midnight. Weekly Coffee House

events scheduled are:

- First Friday - Free Movie
- Second Friday - Integrity/Houston Educational Forum
- Third Friday - Entertainment
- Fourth Friday - Integrity/Houston New-member Orientation and Education Forum Rap Topic

The Community Coffee House is a low-key social function open to the public, regardless of age, race, sex, or sexual orientation.

Integrity/Houston is a social, service, and educational organization for the gay community and friends of the gay community.

GPW Meeting This Sunday at MAC

There will be a meeting of the Gay Pride Week committees at the Montrose Activity Center this Sunday.

The meeting will begin at 2 PM.

The public is invited to attend.

'Meet the Candidates'

The Integrity/Houston Educational Forum will hold a "Meet the Candidates Forum," featuring all of the candidates for the State Representative District 79 race, at the Community Coffee House, 3405 Mulberry, on Friday, April 11, beginning at 8:30 PM.

'Star' Article Taken to the White House by NGTF

(Editors note: The following letter was sent to Allison Thomas at the White House, in Washington, by the National Gay Task Force concerning an article in the *Montrose Star* on Homophobic Training Material at the US National Fire Academy, Department of Commerce.)

Dear Ms. Thomas:

The enclosed article from the February 14, 1980, *Montrose Star* (Houston, Texas) indicates that a training manual used by the National Fire Academy asserts that there is a link between homosexuality and arson.

On its face, this is one of the more preposterous ideas to come to our attention in some time. It would be funny were it not for the fact that strong opposition to local gay rights ordinances often emerges within uninformed public safety organizations such as municipal fire departments.

We request that steps be taken to remove this material from government sanctioned training manuals and that all training material used at the National Fire Academy be reviewed for content that would further bigotry and

prejudice directed at women, racial and ethnic minorities as well as gay people.

Very truly yours,

C. F. Brydon

Lucia Valeska

Co-Executive Directors
National Gay Task Force

GPC Forms Two New Committees; Appointees Sought

At a specially called meeting Houston Gay Political Caucus Acting President Lee Harrington, told of his plans to form two new committees in that organization.

Held last Monday evening at the Inside/Outside, on Westheimer, the acting president told a group comprised of local political and civic leaders of a committee to investigate government funds available to GPC. He also told the group of about 75 that he was forming a 'Community Advisory Committee.'

Harrington noted there is a possibility for financial aid to the organization in the form of government grants. He said it would be this group's primary function to investigate and secure such money.

The acting president went on to say how important it was for him to keep in touch with the rest of the community -- that he needed to have a firm finger on the pulse of the community.

A new Community Advisory Com-

mittee will be comprised of citizens active in the varied sectors of the community. Harrington noted he was taking suggestions on appointees to the committee. He said the committee would meet every two weeks.

After a brief cocktail hour, Harrington called those assembled to order. In addition to announcing the formation of the two new committees, he said people were "coming out of the woodwork" to help with the upcoming May 3 primary election. Noting the GPC was in a period of transition, he wished former GPC President Steve Shiflett, "the best of luck."

KPFT Radio Station Manager Ray Hill expressed his feelings that the Houston community has reached an important turning point. He said thought the community may be divided there are critical issues, such as the May 3 primary as well as important national issues which face all people and these must be dealt with by a united community.

This Week in Texas (TWT) Publisher Editor Chuck Patrick asked Harrington what the difference will be after the recent GPC election when a mostly Steve Shiflett camp was "swept" into office, and if Harrington planned to actively seek the organization's presidency.

Harrington said that GPC needs the backing of as many people as possible and the community needs to play a larger part in the organization's activities. He explained this is one reason why he is forming the Community Advisory Committee.

Harrington said he was undecided in whether he will actively seek the GPC presidency.

Present at the meeting was Houston City Councilperson Eleanor Tinsely. She told the group how well "Lee has kept up" with her, calling the councilperson at least once a week. She asked for a vote of appreciation which was informally given in applause.

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President/Publisher

BERT HOLLISTER

Editor

BILL LUBING

Advertising Representatives

GEORGE BARNHART

LYLE AUSTIN

Production

BEN LE DOUX

Office Manager

RAY MENDEZ

Local Associates

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Telephone

713-529-8188

Mailing Address

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Emerging Like a Butterfly, Lesbian Woman 'Happy'

TUSCON, ARIZONA — (IGNA) — Betty Berzon is a happy woman. She has finally emerged, like a butterfly, from 20 years of therapy that sought to cure her homosexuality. Not, of course, that the “cure” took. Homosexuality, she observes, is not a disease. No, what she finally shook off was the need for therapy itself -- and a husband. And a lifetime of gut-churning about her “condition.”

Now, as a clinical psychologist in Los Angeles, with an all-gay practice, the 51-year-old former Tucsonian is writing, lecturing and counseling gay men and women, trying to help them feel good and courageous about being gay. This is pioneering work. Her practice is rare. "Prior to about five years ago, the usual approach of counselors, whether gay or non-gay themselves, was to either try to convert their patients to heterosexuality, or help them compromise by making an adjustment to this undesirable state of being gay," she says. "Either way the message was the same: 'You are a lesser person than those who don't have this affliction'.

Ms. Berzon said this attitude is still

the prevailing one among non-gay therapists today. So she is working to spread the opposing point of view. She was in Tucson as featured speaker at the Gay Students Organization's first annual "Gay Fest" held at the University of Arizona. She spoke of the art of being "positively gay" - - the title of 1979 book she edited. She conducted an experimental workshop to help lesbians and gay men better understand what they expected in relationships with lovers.

"In my very early adolescence I had probably a very typical experience. I was aware of a particular attraction to women - - to my friends, sometimes my teachers. And I know there was something wrong with this, but I didn't understand it. Also fairly typical, I went to the library to learn what I could. I remember one book - - *Psychopathia Sexualist* - - and I need go no farther than the title to describe it. Another was *The Well of Loneliness*, a classic written in 1928 about a lesbian love affair - - with a sad ending."

See Page Nineteen

How to Speak 'Dirty'

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HEALTH

By L.A. Chotkowski, MD
STAR COLUMNIST

One thing is clear this summer, sunburn will cause grief to a considerable number of readers. Sun screening lotions, creams and gels have been timely evaluated by the authoritative *Medical News* letter to avoid this.

There are a number of myths about sunburn, tanning and sunscreening preparation. Myth number one is that sun screening products promote tanning. They do not. They help to prevent sunburn and only allow tanning to develop gradually. They prevent burning by absorbing ultra-violet light. Coppertone, for example, reacts with the skin to form a yellow-brown stain, but not a tan.

Myth number two is that they always prevent sunburn. Not so; only if you use enough and have skin not easily burned will these preparations protect you. There are four skin types. If you are type I, you burn easily; type IV, hardly ever -- you only tan.

Another myth is that you can not get sunburn on a cloudy day. Yes you can, and severely. Ultraviolet light, the sunburning rays, can penetrate the clouds and burn even on a cool, cloudy day.

The last myth is that only direct sunlight causes burns. Wrong again. Reflected light from sand, aluminum siding, white paint and particularly water, can burn the skin.

It is true that certain people are allergic to sunshine. Others with lupus or porphyria, or those taking certain antibiotics, diuretics and psychotropic drugs, must also avoid the sun.

What everyone should know is that sunlight is the major cause of wrinkles. It destroys elastic skin fibers, resulting in stretching and sagging. Excess sun exposure can also cause skin cancer.

In choosing a sunscreen check the label for S.P.F. (sun protection factor). An S.P.F. of 2 gives minimal protection, while a 15 gives super protection. Sunscreens themselves can cause rashes.

The best, cheapest way to avoid sunburn, a wrinkled old face or skin cancer is to stay out of the sun. The next best way is to wear some protective clothing. If you have a beautiful type IV body and would like exposure for a nice tan, get it by gradual doses of free sunshine. If you are a skin type I, protect it with an S.F.P.-15-rated sunscreen -- and enjoy the summer!

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Church Immune?

Important Case Asks if Churches are Exempt from San Francisco Non-bias Ordinance

SAN FRANCISCO — (IGNA)In a discrimination case with potentially far-reaching implications, a judge was asked yesterday to decide whether a church has the right to fire a gay employee despite a San Francisco ordinance prohibiting bias based on sexual orientation.

The case, which pits San Francisco's gay rights ordinance against First Amendment religious protection, involves 23-year-old church organist, Kevin Walker. He was fired by the First Orthodox Presbyterian Church in May, 1979, after he admitted he was a homosexual. A short time later he sued the church for violation of the city's anti-discrimination ordinance.

In a packed courtroom at City Hall, the lawyer for the church called the case unprecedented and asked the Superior Court judge to dismiss it because the U. S. Constitution "absolutely forbids" the government from

interfering in the spiritual matters of churches.

"The government did not build this church, it does not support the church and it has no business interfering with the church," attorney John Whitehead said.

But lawyers for Walker argued that the courts have ruled that employment discrimination laws apply to church workers in secular jobs. Both sides agreed that Walker was fired because he was gay, but the key dispute was whether his job as organist was secular or part of the church ministry.

Whitehead told the judge that the church was fundamentalist and the congregation believed the Bible literally when it described homosexuals as sinners. He added that because Walker, as the church organist, was "an important member of the religious team" who stood before the congregation, the church's mission to

win new converts would be "undermined" by Walker's admission that he was a homosexual.

Walker's lawyers claimed that internal documents of the church defined the job of organist the same way it defines other secular positions. He was characterized by the church as "a member of the ministry after he was terminated, for purposes of the case", said attorney Mary Dunlap. Walker is asking for back pay and \$1,000 in punitive damages, and that the city fine the church \$400. The judge said he would study the case and rule later.

The courtroom was packed with people waiting in the hallway, unable to get in. Most were members of the First Orthodox Presbyterian Church and nine other churches of the same denomination in the Bay Area which joined in asking for dismissal of the suit.

International

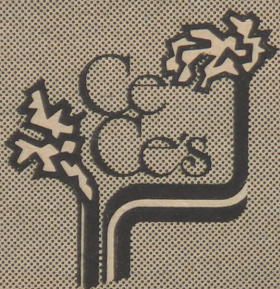
Jewish

Conference in

Planning Stage

The Fifth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews will be held in San Francisco, August 29 - September 1, 1980 (Labor Day Weekend). The conference is being hosted by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and gay and lesbian Jews of the Bay Area. The agenda contains an opening banquet, workshops, symposia, discussion groups, social activities, and worship services. For registration forms and further information write:

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KPFT — Apparently driving and sneezing don't mix.

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'Kiss my Grits'

*Florence Jean Castlebury
Keeps Up 'gritty' Rapport
with Television Audiences*

Our television tip for the week is that Florence Jean Castlebury hasn't changed a bit . . . and, we hope, she never will! For those of you not in the know, Florence Jean is none other than "Flo" in the new comedy of the same name.

Flo is a spinoff on *Alice*, where Polly Holiday made her climb to national fame asking Mel to "kiss my grits!" In her new series, Flo's grits are still very available for kissing. At the beginning, she asks a young garage attendant to fix her flat tire, promising that "I her'll be a bonus" if he gets it done quickly.

Circumstances keep Flo from going to Houston, where she has a hostess job waiting, and hold her in her home town, where her mother (who promises a bonus to the man from Leon's Neon for cutting the price on Flo's roadhouse sign) and sister (engaged for twelve years, her prudery makes her too funny for words) still live.

What does Flo want to see with her

childhood girlfriend? The new indoor mall with the outdoor escalator? No way! She wants to see the old necking spots and lovers lanes.

The men in Flo's world are sheerly sex objects and play at best a third fiddle, foils for her humorous flirtation. Earl, the bartender who didn't want to work for a woman boss, tells Flo that "if I knew you better, I'd show you my rodeo scars." To the which, Flo responds that if he knew her better, he'd be running to get away.

Let's face it: Even with Diane Ladd, who played Flo in the movie *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* (on which the TV show *Alice* was based), resuming a role which resembles Flo to replace her on *Alice*, Sunday nights aren't the same; and between *Flo* and Stockard Channing's new show, Monday could be a fun new night to curl up with *WKRP*, *MASH*, *Flo* and *Stockard*. And, if you don't agree with this comedy-loving critics opinion, "Kiss my grits!"



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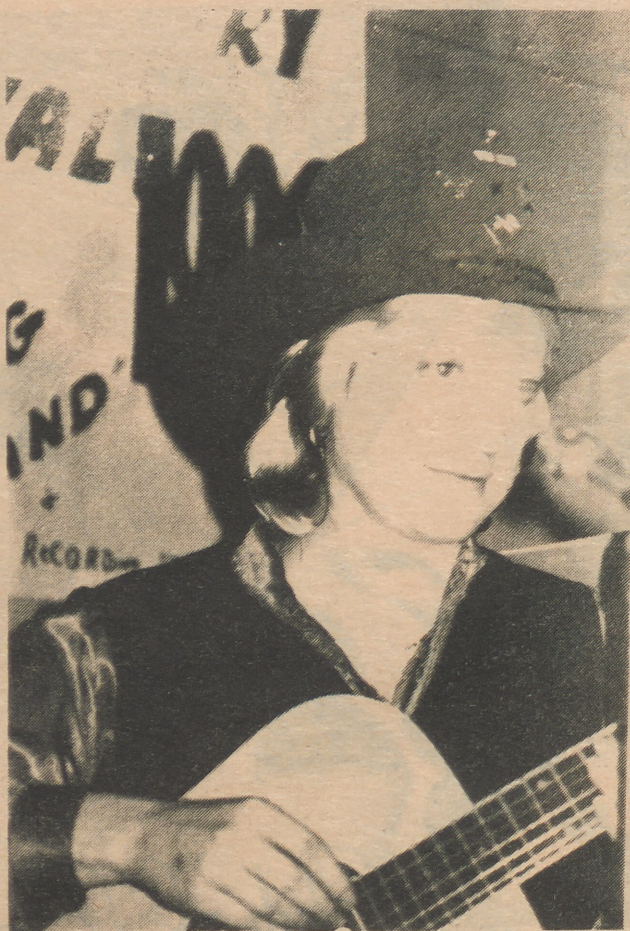
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Dubbed the 'First Country Music Festival of the 80's' the Brazos River Bottom proved again the pullability of country music.

Last Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, several thousand people enjoyed the vibes from five country/western bands.

Traveling from New Orleans, Louisiana, 'Tim Williams and Her Band of Gold' carried the crowds from the oldies through the progressive country sound.

Also appearing was Houston's own and well known 'Mustang Band,' which is slated to play a return engagement at the Gay Reno Rodeo,

August 1 through 3.

Hailing from a small West Texas town, Gary Fields played with smooth, mellow control.

In a definite Jerry Lee Lewis style, 'Bob Williams and the Texas Boogie Band' had the dancefloor filled to capacity from the start to the finish of their sets.

To round out the entertainment at the two-day event, which is a tradition with the Brazos, 'Mike Hammond and Buckskin' offered a wide sampling of the country/western fare.



Exploring the Supermarkets

From Page One

your groceries if you are old or an invalid and request the service; otherwise, it seems the idea is "Lots of luck, Buddy! And come back to see us again!" Parking was a mess at Kroger, fairly poor at Jamail's, and best at Weingarten's.

Some other stores were looked at, but were not detailed in this review. Rice on Westheimer was just too depressing and hard to shop. Safeway on Westheimer is a bit ho-hum standard, and is assumed to be some-

where between Weingarten's and Kroger.

Overall, shopping for food is a bit higher and more difficult in the Montrose area than in Post Oak, Tanglewood, or Sharpstown. Prices are a bit higher, too. Still, the main thing to remember is that no one is out to save your budget. They are out to get it, so if you listen to "Bonus Days" or "Budget Choppers" and such, I feel you are the goat, friend. Let the buyer beware!

Some Specific Prices

(Here are some examples of the price variations between Weingarten's, Jamail's and Kroger.)

At Weingarten's cello wrapped carrots were priced at 19 cents; at Jamail's 39 cents; at Kroger 45 cents.

Lean ground beef was priced at \$2.09 a pound at Weingarten's; \$2.49 at Jamail's; and \$2.09 at Kroger.

Borden milk was priced at \$1.27 per half-gallon at all three stores.

Crisco was \$2.32 at Weingarten's;

\$2.35 at Jamail's; and \$2.32 for a 48 ounce can at Kroger.

Purina Dog Chow was \$1.81 at Weingarten's; \$2.22 at Jamail's; and \$1.84 at Kroger.

The total shopping bills at the respective stores was: \$35.55 at Weingarten's; \$38.68 at Jamail's; and \$36.18 at Kroger.

For a complete list of the shopping comparison, send a long, self addressed envelope to the Montrose Star, 3217 Montrose, Houston, 77006.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE TRUTH?



The religious and political leaders nearly twenty centuries ago weren't ready. First, they tried to kill the Truth, then they made up "explanations" when he wouldn't stay dead.

A lot to today's religious and political leaders aren't ready for the truth. A century ago they weren't ready to do away with slavery and accept the truth that blacks have souls. Today they aren't ready for truth about gays.

The truth can make you free, too. If you're tired of the "explanations" of Anita Bryant, Jerry Falwell and James Robison, come look for the truth with friends.

You can be alive again, too.

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Jim Norwood, Worship
Coordinator
Phone (817) 926-2976

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2701 Reagan (at Brown)
Dallas, Texas, 75219

Don Eastman, Pastor
Phone (214) 526-6221

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection

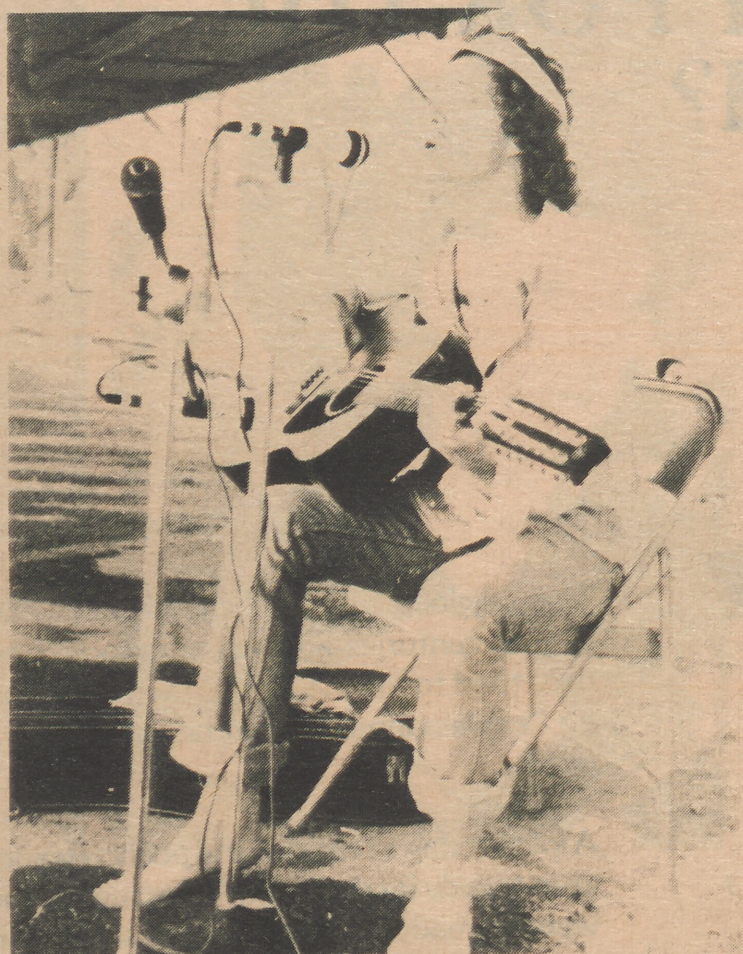
1919 Decatur Street
Houston, Texas 77007
Chuck Larson, Pastor
Phone (713) 861-9149

United Community Church

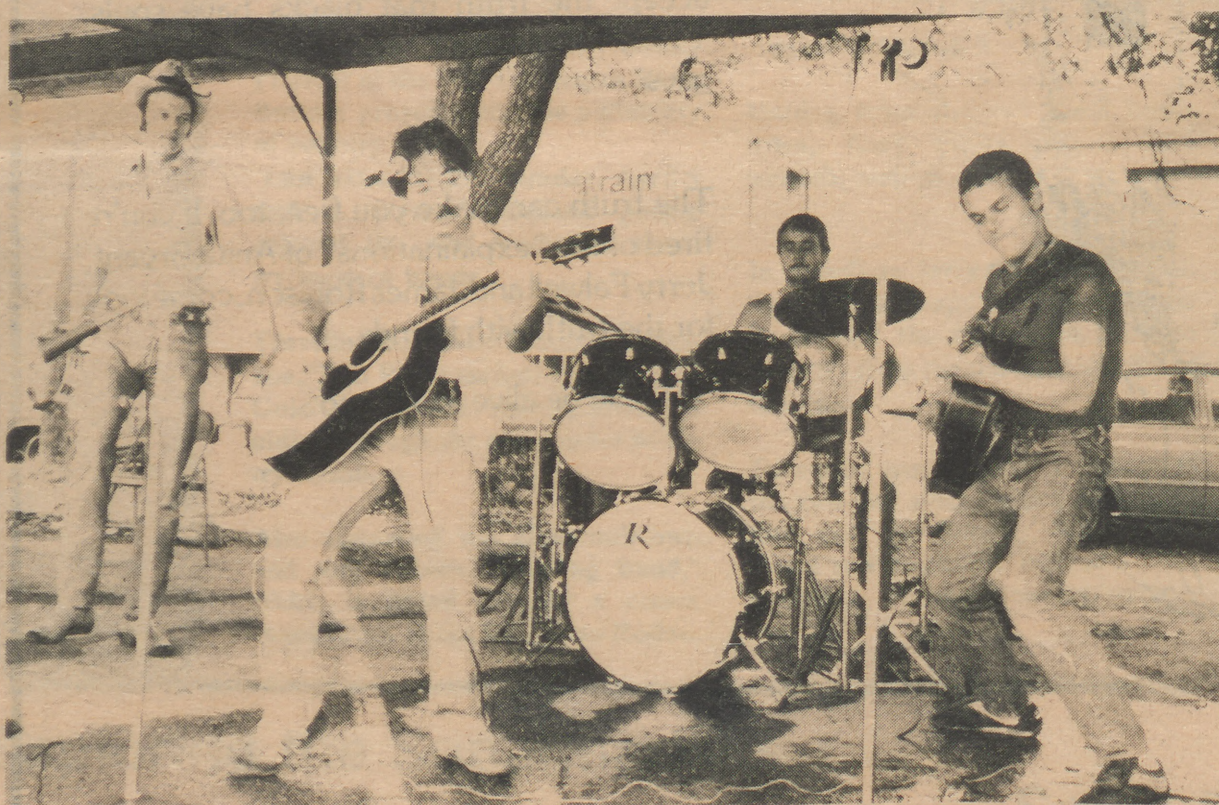
4402 Roseland
Dallas, Texas 75204
Shawn Farrell, Pastor
Phone (214) 827-5088

PREACHING AND PRACTICING THE BIBLE FOR ALL PEOPLE

Despite Rain Heritage Festival a Fun Afternoon



The rain kept a lot of people away from the 'Heritage Festival' last Sunday afternoon. But those who came had a good time. At the left, there was live music, above, haircutting was the most popular booth, bottom, comparing 'Drain Mate' drain opener to 'a leading brand'



Photos by Bill Lubing

MONTROSE BEAT

By George Barnhart
STAR STAFF

... a new business is open. The **Burger Bar Booze Too** is open and running. With 85 percent pure-beef burgers, hotdogs, and some of the sexiest male flesh to be found in Montrose working as bartenders and waiters ... well, what else do you need to set you in the mood for a night of barhopping. The service is excellent.

The **Houston Bar and Tavern Guild** is forging ahead on it's spectacular extravaganza at the Shamrock Hilton ... more details later.

The **Montrose Singers** are setting up to do a gig at the MCCR, a week from this Sunday ... for those of you who don't like sermons, this is your chance to go to church and forgo all the rhetoric.

Some crank who evidently had his calendar all

wrong ... must have thought April Fool's was last Sunday ... tried a Bomb Scare on **Mary's** last Sunday. Reports are that the police responding were very well behaved, well-mannered, and handled themselves in a professional manner. Good show B.K.!

St. Tropez tells us they are already ahead of the game in planning for the best Westheimer Art Festival ever. Joy tells me they are planning to bring in **Carol Breval** ... of **Copa** and **Baja** fame ... the weekend of the Art Festival. I hear whatever you like to stick in your ear she can sing.

Over at the **Dogpatch** the **Grand Czarina** ... otherwise known as **Doglad** ... is planning a Benefit for GPW ... that's **Gay Pride Week**, for those of you who don't know ... for Saturday the nineteenth. Some kind of a zany, one-act comedy

called **An Evening at the Dogpatch** ... or something like that. Whatever, with **Jerry Vanover** as the producer it's got to be totally crazy.

Sleaze for Two Thousand ... well, what can I say ... they made the ole' **M.A.C.** rock and roll again. What with the music that wouldn't quit, the hot-hot-hot bodies ... fanasties are made of this. Congrats **MAC** board for a good one.

Mother Nature is really a bitch ... the rumours are true. But in spite of the ol' gal (my apologies to the feminists for all the above) **Family** under the masterful guiding hand of **Phil Slusser** and all the others, still pulled off a kinda' damp, but festive, time. It takes more than rain to keep the determined from having a good time.

Club L'Mour plans to open their door to everybody this Sunday for a politico-type benefit for **Bert**

Bares. Leslie says "you all come."

Chartered jets departing from New Orleans to Reno via Houston and Dallas will soon be bearing some of the most ripsnorting Gay Cowboys and their fans, all bound for the third-largest rodeo in the world, which starts August 1 this year and continues for two more days. This rodeo, cow-fans, is totally gay ... and all proceeds derived go to support the Muscular Dystrophy Drive. That's the 1980 Gay Rodeo in Reno ... gosh, what a high-powered event that's going to be!

Rocky says shes' workin' on the patio and expects to have it open for a funsational summer. Their softball team called, appropriately enough. **Rocky's Horror** will also be ready to play this Saturday.

Honest to Goodness Barbecue in Montrose



Photo by Lyle Austin

By Bert Hollister

"Simple, basic, country-western food with the biggest order of meat in Houston!" This is the way Jim and Tim of Bar-B-Que Ranch, 1525 Westheimer, describe their new bar-b-que haven!

And haven it is! The food may be simple and basic, but it must be added that it is super good and super filling. And the meat . . . will, you won't have to be a meat lover to notice immediately that it is not the run-of-the-mill, dried-up bar-b-que you find in the sawdust pits around town. Jim and Tim have a very special pit built to cook the meat for 12 hours. Most places cook their meat in less than for hours over uncontrolled heat.

Teresa she is the Ranch's star of the show makes a very special bar-b-que sauce . . . a secret recipe that adds even more to Tim and Jim's meat. Each day, Teresa makes a fresh home-made desert--from scratch! I was there on banana pudding day,

and, let me tell you, it is to fight for! Other days she surprises customers with fresh peach cobbler and other country desserts. (I may die of a fat attack just thinking of them!)

The side dish selection is not so different. The usual fare of beans, potato salad, cole slaw, and relish bar. Baked potatoes are soon to make their debut. The real difference is quality all the way. I recommend the Hungry Man's Platter...full of ham, beef, sausage, and all the trimmings--and you'd better be a big man to eat all of it, too!

The restaurant has a completely new kitchen, and the entire place is so clean that Marvin Zindler would leave with tears in his eyes.

Bar-B-Que Ranch is open seven days a week, from 11 to 11. Stop in and tell that *The Star* sent you. Pile up the bar-b-que and slug down that super-cold beer in a frosty mug, and you will know you really got your money's worth! They also have food to go, and plenty of free parking.

Lady Fingers

Sadness Best Released Through Humor

By Bill Lubing
Star Editor

"There's too much sadness in the world," begins Lady Fingers. She leans back in her chair, reflecting on her ambitions as a standup comedian.

"I am very serious about comedy," she continues, "I'm not talking about just my own personal ambitions to succeed as a lesbian comedian. It goes further than that.

"Humor gets across a lot more of the serious issues in life."

Originally from New York, Lady Fingers, has appeared locally at the Inside/Outside, Chivas Take II, and other local establishments

Expressing every confidence in the world she'll succeed as a serious, lesbian comedian, Lady Fingers describes her humor as upbeat.

"It's not put down humor," she

explains, "it is proud humor. Gay people have needed comedians for a long time -- material that deals with the gay lifestyle in a positive way." She goes on to say it's important to look at personalities in humor.

"Almost all humor comes from sadness," she stresses. "There is a very thin line between comedy and tragedy. Some of the best comics came out of the concentration camps in Germany. You're able to deal with life's issues easier if you can look at it and see the humor."

The topics Lady Fingers dwells on, "cover a very broad range, she says. "There is the type of humor that is meant to be shared with gay people. But there's also an important type that can be shared with a straight audience. For the straight people especially," she concludes, "it's as much a learning experience as it is jokes to amuse."



The word from the birdie this week is safety . . . referring to your personal safety . . . the place is the streets of our lovely community of Montrose.

Last time this year Montrose was faced with a terrible problem of things like muggings and rape and killings going on . . . then came the Montrose Patrol.

In a few short months a handful of volunteers attempted the impossible . . . and did a heck of an impressive job. As a result crime in Montrose dipped way down. People . . . guess what . . . it's that time of the year again . . . all the crazies soon are out of school and running rampant. Queer-bashing, as they call it, is one of their favorite pastimes . . .

Montrose Patrol is in critical need of your support and involvement! And they need it now. . . before the warm weather brings the rednecks and the weirdos out looking to do damage on our precious lush-looking bodies.

Think about it.

To borrow a phrase from our Ray Hill . . . "it's better to be a star on the streets (helping the Montrose Patrol) . . . than being a wall-flower in the bars".

The number to call to volunteer is 520-9616 . . . if you get a recording leave a message anyway. Maybe with your help they can throw that canned corny recording away and help save your life and mine.

Elsewhere on the *Montrose Beat*, I have some

really beautiful news to report.

Some weeks ago, right in the middle of a Family meeting, a group of concerned Montrose residents adjourned the meeting and promptly called -- or convened -- the first meeting of The Montrose Neighborhood Council. What's the Montrose Neighborhood Council you ask?

Because of an inadvertent or intentional lack of information, virtually the entire area of Montrose has been left out of area planning for obtaining Federal funding for badly needed projects in our area. Either by choice or by plan, the money that has helped other parts of Houston receive shares of the Federal pie has been withheld from us. Projects like badly-needed personal assistance, paving for

our chug-hole laden streets, have been long neglected.

Now because of the community spirit of some people like Andy Mills, Bev Wren, and others . . . we are attempting to use the system to finally bring ourselves around to being able to resolve many of the problems that face us. Thus, the reason for the Montrose Neighborhood Council

Reports leaked to us from a reliable source close to the situation tell us that the groundwork has been laid and the planning is well underway to start to really make things happen in Montrose. Regardless of the outcome, we really ought to give the folks at the Montrose Neighborhood Council a warm round of applause for trying.



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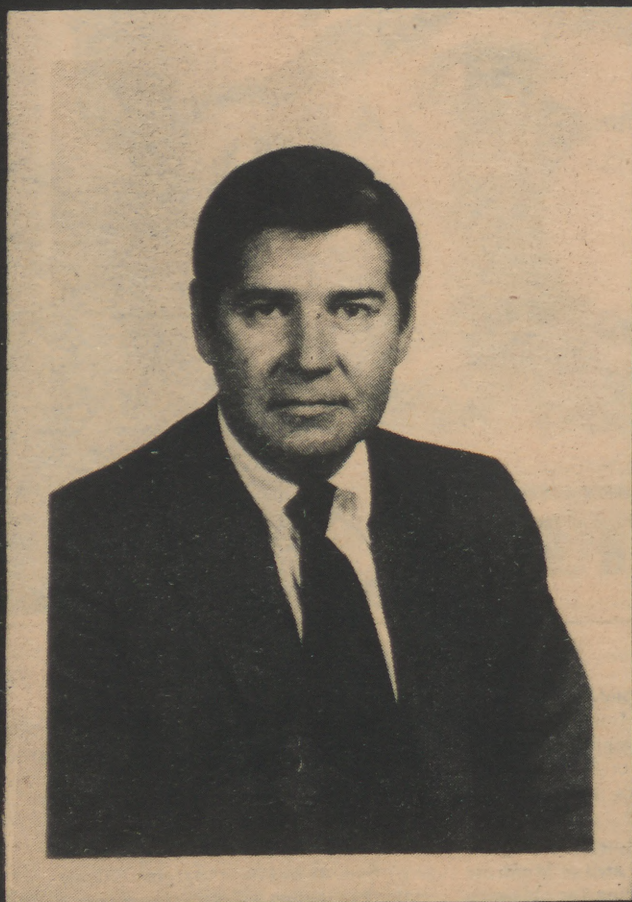
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PERSONAL COMMENT

People in Official Positions Don't Deserve Position

Dear Editor:

At the GPC candidate screening meeting of 26 March, one member complained of "being lectured to by the Chair".

I am moved, by the outrageous position of censure adopted by the GPC Board on 30 March against the President, Counsel and Parliamentarian, to lecture her and the entire community in this most public forum available, about the responsibilities of both members and officers of political clubs.

Persons who use official positions for personal influence do not deserve either the influence or the position. Those officials of GPC, including a majority of Board members, who have endorsed, lent their name and title (sic), or otherwise actively pro-

moted specific candidates before the Caucus as a whole had voted on support, have violated their obligation to preserve public impartiality in the service of the organization.

Such premature endorsement or promotion by an individual is an illegitimate and unethical commitment of the group's will before it has been determined.

In plainer language, Official X says, "They're in my pocket, they'll vote the way I say." And so they did, on 26 March 1980.

I wasn't there for that vote, having had a belly full by 10:15. The Board's action has now given me another belly full, and I'll schedule something more enjoyable for Wednesdays from now on.

John R. Behrens

Sorry About The Untimely Absence

RE: Ad #432-A

Dear Editor

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the staff of the *Montrose Star* for their recognition of our past efforts and their concern over our untimely absence from the arena of gay social issues and affairs.

Such thanks also rightfully belong to the many parties who offered continuous assistance, support and applause during last summer's Gay Pride Week and Gayfest performances, and presently, to those who personally express similar concern over our disappearance from the scene.

In response to your inquiry as to where National Gay Theatre has gone, I must report that, no, NGT is not dead. It is alive and well and living in San Francisco in the form of its master-mind, director and creator, Roger Gorton. The unfortunate series of events which catalyzed the transition of headquarters to our sister city need not be relayed here.

However, the bitter truth remains as a warning to us all that the realization of real power and progress in our community must mandatorily arise from the unification and cooperation of all diverse groups, regardless of their political orientation, religious affiliation, ethnic origin, social and sexual eccentricities and so on ad infinitum. Sure, it's the same old line we read on all job applications but its practical expression has never gotten past academic theory.

Now, with another hopefully bigger

and better Gay Pride Week in the making we leave ourselves no alternative but to refrain from stepping on on each others toes. Just who are we as gay people that we can afford to even consider such action?

As the summer, now rapidly approaches and plans for the week are being finalized I am left with a certain sadness. Much to the distress of many, and the smug delight of a few, National Gay Theatre will not be included in the itinerary this year.

I cannot conceive of anything more satisfying than to be able to offer an encore performance doublefold in scope and magnitude, but it will necessitate more than feeble pleas from me to bring the boys back home.

Houston has lost an invaluable and irreplaceable asset, leaving itself nothing more than a painfully obvious void in the field of legitimate theatre. We must at this time strive to eradicate past prejudices, restructure the organization, incorporate new and diverse talents, establish secure and workable communications with other groups both inside and outside the gay world and offer this city a taste of what it thirsts for.

This is my ultimate goal, but I cannot achieve it along. First we must bring Bill Empson and Roger Gorton home.

Sincerely,
Robert Seiler
National Gay Theatre

Houston, Texas

Lee Harrington Reflects on Gay Politics

Dear Community

These past six months have been the most emotion-filled GPC has ever experienced, directly related, I believe, to the rapid emergence of power the Houston gay community now enjoys. It's sort of like we skipped a stage or two in growing up.

In addition to the marches protesting Anita Bryant's visits to Houston, Town Meeting I summer before last, the Human Rights Banquet, the first Gay Pride Week Parade last summer, and Family's ability to take over Astroworld - who would have ever thought that the historic November elections would have yielded what they did?

Rarely does any electorate make such a major change in the make-up of its governing body as we did in November. And so, after all this, it's understandable, but unfortunate, that personalities often emerge to cloud the goals. Everybody wants in on the action.

We begin to think so highly of ourselves that we become convinced ours is the thinking that ought to prevail. So, then, rather than working together, genuinely seeking the input of others, open to re-thinking any ideas we have, we become like islands. The common bonds which held things together begin falling away, and in our case, the entire community suffers.

We have to turn it all around here, because Houston has too much potential for local and national leadership roles in the fight for gay rights to forfeit all that can take place in the future. We must never allow the negative things that have happened during the last few months to occur again, and they will not, if we do not allow an atmosphere of hostility to build as we have recently. We have to talk with each other. And when we do so, with community goals in mind, things will click, like they did Monday night at the GPC press conference where leaders from throughout the community came together, along with Eleanor Tinsley and other local political figures.

San Francisco proved what happens when it eventually divided its clout into several different groups and now finds the power it once had seriously diluted. On March 2, 1980 the *Houston Chronicle* stated, "GPC has been gaining political clout in recent years and most politicians now consider the Caucus a real power in Houston politics, particularly in Montrose and the surrounding areas." That's complimentary, but we need to become the most powerful political entity in the city, and I intend to communicate that to the Mayor in my May 15 meeting with him.

And then there are the women.

The women intend to have a voice in things here, and I think that is one of the healthiest things to happen in a long time. Those big signs they brought into the election meeting ought not to scare

people so much. So it's something different from what has happened in the past, but differences and new approaches are really strengths.

We should all by now have clearly come to understand that, and the importance of acceptance. Someone said, "Several of them are so outspoken..." Hell, you might be a little outspoken at times, too, if you felt like you had been forced to take a back seat for so long. In fact, I

think I have been a time or two myself. What we should do is watch to see what we can gain from their organizational efforts. I'll tell you, pain ain't worth a damn if we don't learn something from experiencing it.

I am very glad there are so many men and women involved now. We need to also work on the involvement of as many minorities as possible. There are a number of committee chairs and assistant positions available, particularly in the areas of fund-raising and political action. Appointments will be made soon, so all interested people need to do is contact the GPC office at 526-2668 or me at home, 523-4400.

Volunteers are coming in daily for the major May 3 primary and Gay Pride Week efforts. A newsletter will begin publication soon, but, still, more help is needed. There were 464 of you out there who came to the February 20, 1980 election meeting, and there are several hundred more who have been involved in some way before. There is a place for you... we need your help.

Danburg Camp Apologizes to counseling Center

Dear Editor:

The Debra Danburg campaign would like to apologize to the staff and personnel of the Montrose Counseling Center for the use of that non-political organization's name in our endorsement ad in the March 27th *Star*.

Steve Umoff and Bill Scott are strong supporters of Debra, however, the ad implies no endorsement of any kind from the Center itself.

We are sorry for any inconvenience or embarrassment to the Center or the persons involved.

Sincerely,
Rick Graves
Campaign Manager

COOKING

Salads & Cucumbers nice Warm Weather Dishes

By Bert Hollister

Now is the time for all good gardeners to get out the seeds and the hoe and plant their vegetable garden.

Of course, after all that heavy hoeing and farm work in the back patio a fairly good appetite can be worked up.

Here are some vegetable dishes that will kill that hunger, and not add the weight back to you. If you do not want to start first with planting, you can pick up the vegetables at your local grocery store. But be very careful about picking up vegetables in many of the 'open' vegetable markets. Some of them I have checked are higher than a good super market!

- One pound fresh tender okra.
- Six fresh tomatoes.
- Two green peppers.
- One large onion.
- Salt and tabasco sauce to taste.

Chop all the vegetables into a Dutch oven. Add salt and hot sauce. No liquid is necessary because vegetables make their own liquid.

Cover and cook over very slow heat for one-and-a-half hours, or

until all the liquid is cooked away. Vary the amounts of vegetables as to the amount of finished food you want.

For variety: you can add two large carrots and/or one-quarter cup chopped celery.

For a real French flare, add two or three ounces of creme sherry.

And since you've been slaving away in the garden, working up a hot sweat, you may want to try this delicious and refreshing salad.

I call it Shivering Lizzie salad. It's pretty, delicious, cooling and is for just everyday enjoyment or for party time.

Shivering Lizzie Salad

- One three-ounce package orange gelatin.
- Two 11-ounce cans mandarin oranges, drain and reserve juice.
- Two tablespoons lemon juice.
- One pint orange sherbert.

Add enough mandarin juice to lemon juice to make one cup liquid. Heat. Add gelatin and stir 'til dis-

solved. Chil 'til syrupy.

Add sherbert and orange slices. Pour into well-oiled six to eight cup mold. Refrigerate.

Serves eight.

For all you canners and picklers, those garden fresh cucumbers can be absolutely fabulous. Be sure and make up a lot of these cucumber rings. Your neighbors will love them!

Cucumber Rings With Cinnamon

- Fifteen large cucumbers.
- Two cups lime.
- Eight-and-a-half cups of water.

Peel and slice cucumbers. Remove center seeds making ring.

Mix lime and water, add cucumber rings and soak 24 hours. Drain and rinse.

Pour clean water over them and let stand three hours. Drain and add the following.

Heat and simmer two hours, then drain.

- One cup vinegar.
- One tablespoon alum.
- One ten-ounce bottle red food coloring.

- Water to cover.

Mix the following and bring to a boil.

- Two cups water.
- Two cups vinegar.
- Six cups sugar.
- Eight cinnamon sticks.
- One-half package red hots (cinnamon candies).

Pour over rings and put the lid on tight.

Let it stand overnight. Drain off liquid, reheat and pour over rings for three days.

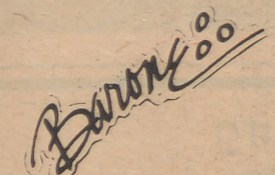
On the third morning heat the syrup to boiling with rings in syrup. Pour into sterilized jars and seal.

I think you'll agree on your visits to the neighbors this is really a unique candy to take a calling.

Send the *Star* your favorite recipe. If we print it we'll pay you \$5. All you need to do is give your recipe a name and complete directions on how it is to be made. Enclose your name, address, and phone number should we have to clarify instructions.

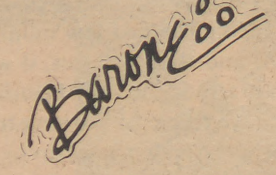
We look forward to hearing from you.

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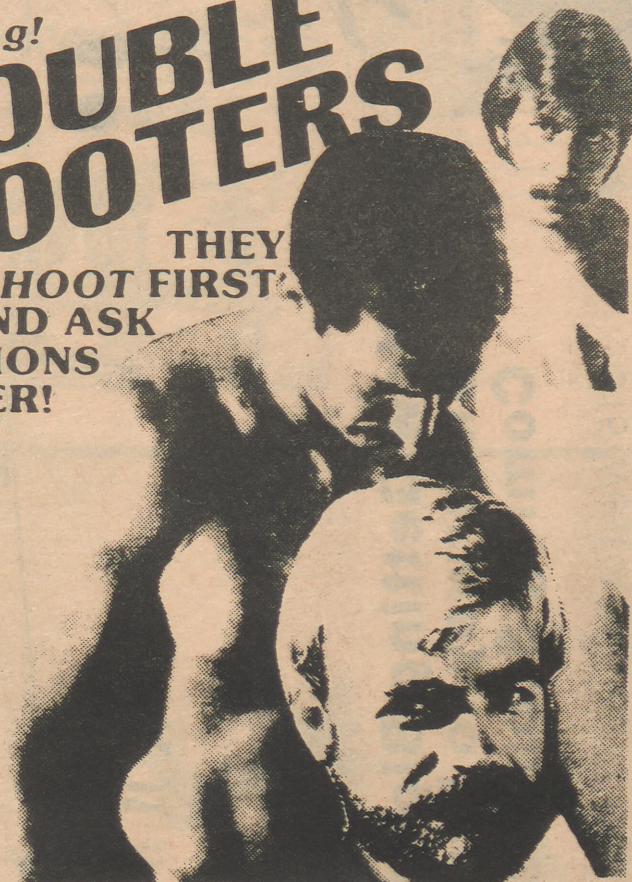
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Thomas Mann Shown to Be Gay

by Johannes Werres
(IGNA)

GERMANY — Thomas Mann, the most famous German author of the twentieth century, a Nobel Prize winner, is shown to have been homosexual according to his *Day Books* (1918-1921), published in Germany in 1979.

Mann's predilection was for youths, thus providing some clarification of the autobiographical nature of *Death in Venice*, one of his best-known books. However, apparently the author never engaged in real homosexual activities, remaining homoerotic instead.

The *Day Books* also indicate that Mann fell in love with his son, Klaus Mann, who was also homosexual.

From Page Four

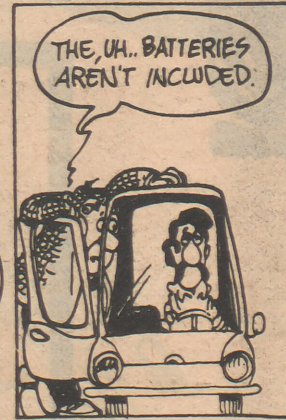
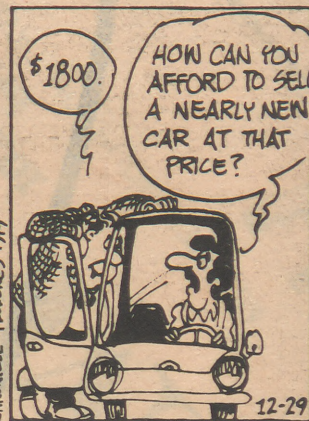
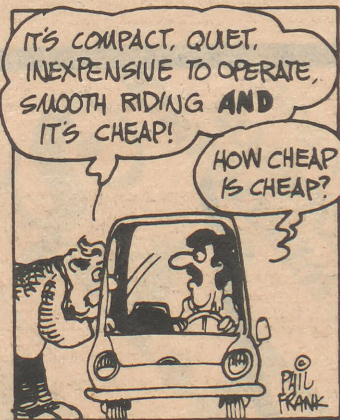
"So after I had spent all this time reading that I was sick and immoral, I knew that one, I certainly had better not tell anyone about these feelings, and two, I certainly had better not do anything with them."

Through high school, she went out on regular dates, playing the role that was expected of her. After graduation, she went to Stanford -- and there, living in a dorm, found several women who "knew all about homosexuality, and were interested in advancing my education. That scared me to death, but at least it led me to understand that this part of my makeup was more important than I had previously supposed."

She dropped out of college and went to live for a year in Greenwich Village, "trying to be gay." But the lesbian community there thought she was merely cute and waif-like and took her on as a kind of mascot. It took her a return to Arizona before she had her first gay sexual experience. That first gay affair lasted a year, and disgusted her so much she leaped into a conventional marriage and those 20 years of therapy.

Ms. Berzon's story is poignant precisely because it is not unusual. Many of her patients today, she says, are middle-aged lesbians just like her. Conditioned from early childhood to recoil at the thought of homosexuality, they have repressed their real sexual nature to get married, live in the suburbs and drive their kids to soccer practice -- and live in secret, constant grief. She encourages them to come out of hiding. "I think gay people should be gay", she says simply.

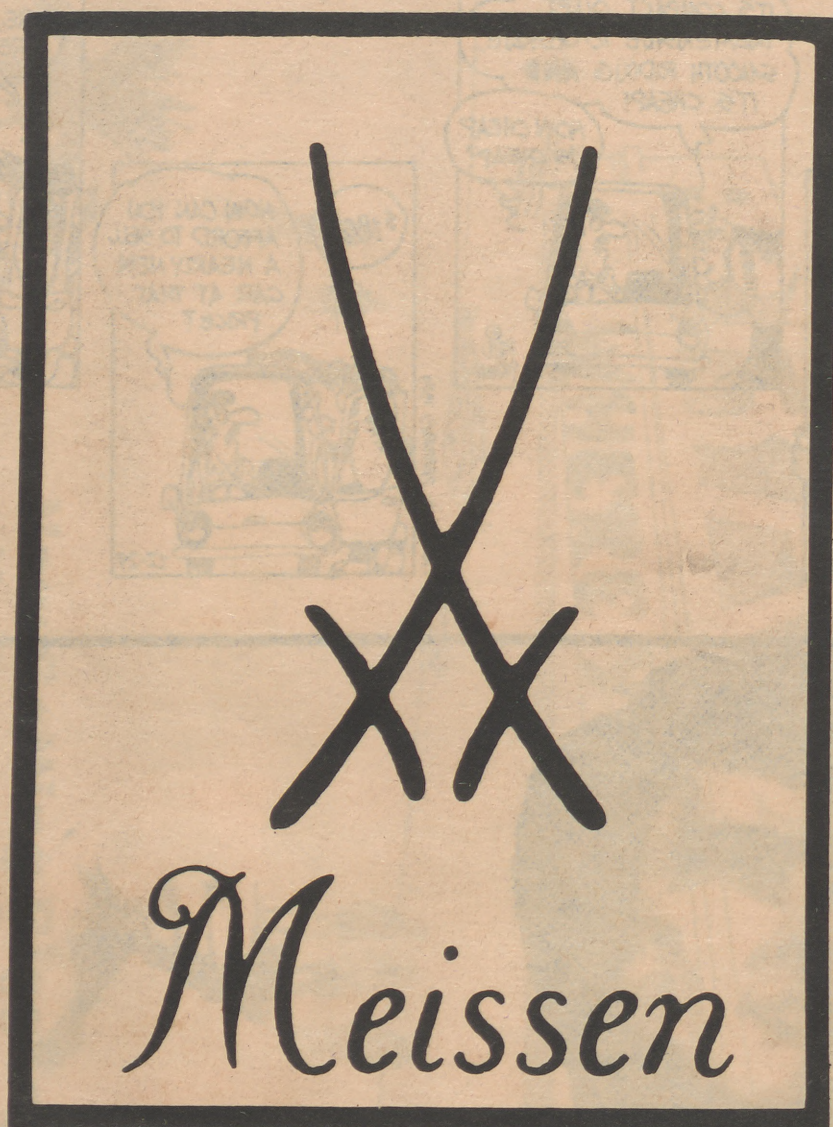
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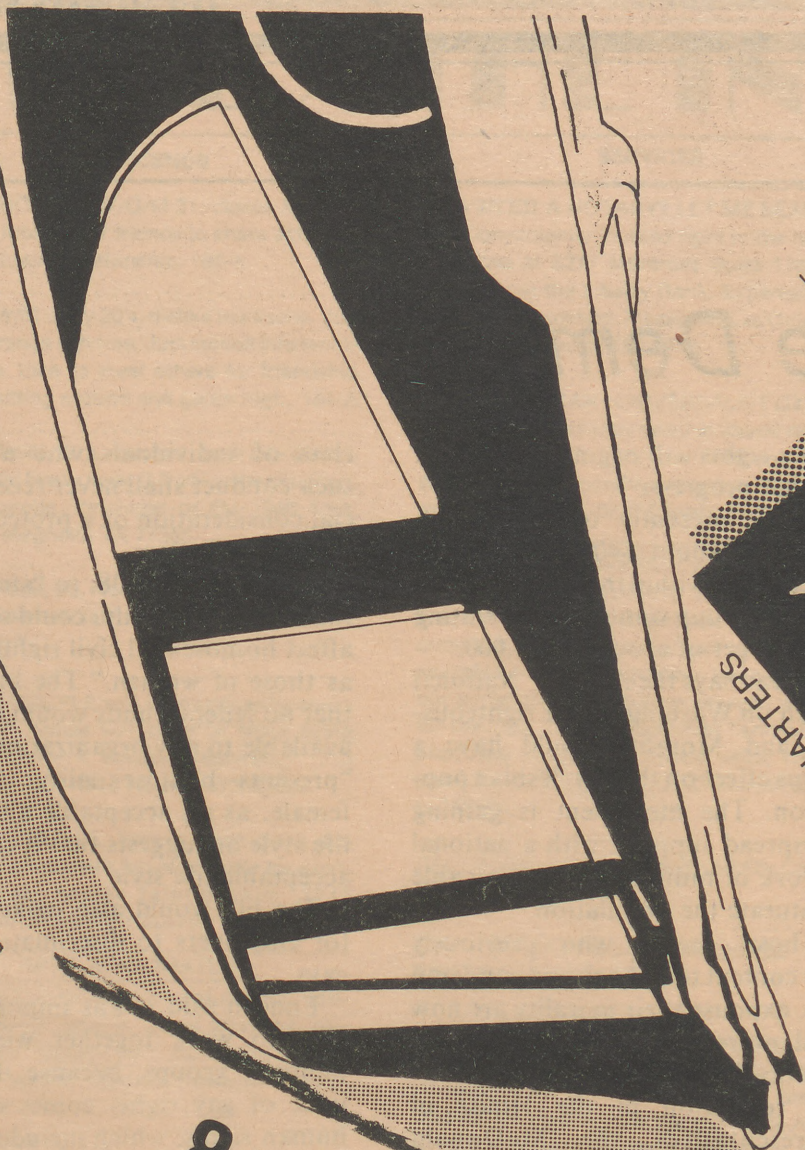
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LOCAL

GRNL Director Warns of 'Mecca's' Possible Demise

By Bill Lubing
STAR EDITOR

Steve Endean, executive director of the Gay Rights National Lobby, was in Houston on Wednesday, April 3 and Thursday, April 4.

On a 21-day tour of 15 U.S. cities, Endean stopped by the *Montrose Star* offices to tell of that group's function, and the problems it faces.

"On the national level there are some very real dangers facing the gay community," warned Endean.

He said that "gay meccas" such as Houston, could very well be turned back to the way they were years ago, with much of today's freedom forgotten.

Formed over three years ago, the Gay Rights National Lobby is a full-time national organization lobbying Congress for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men. The GRNL works to defeat anti-gay bills and amendments as they arise in Congress. It also works to counter the effects of anti-gay lobbies such as the Christian Voice and Moral Majority.

He says these groups are "da-

ngerous because of their strong financial resources. Endean says though they are supposed to be multi-issues organizations, they strongly push anti-gay views in their literature.

The GRNL is working to form a nationwide constituency network. Through the use of 'Civil Rights Action Teams' (C-RAT) Thousands of letters could be generated to Congress.

Endean says the main problem getting programs such as C-RAT off the ground is a combination of money and people power.

"A lot of people are hesitant to fund political action groups because they don't feel the time is right," told Endean.

He said it may be ten years before gay equal rights are legally acknowledged -- but, "The next two or three years are absolutely critical. If we don't get organized now, get the backing now, the past ten years of progress could be negated.

When groups such as the League of Women Voters, "come out to us on a national level," Endean says gay and

lesbian rights will begin to make real national progress.

GRNL presently operates on a budget of about \$40,000 per year. Endean says within the next couple of years the group wants to be operating on a budget of around \$140,000.

Endean says the April 29 'National March on Washington for righteousness and Morality' could have a serious effect on the gay/lesbian population. The movement is gaining widespread support, with a national network of radio and television able to saturate the population.

"Those people who previously were content to sit back and condemn gays, expound their morality are now vocal, more involved in their case for morality," commented Endean.

A resolution in the House of Representatives, the 'McDonald Resolution', is being watched closely by the GRNL.

The resolution (H.C.R. 166) says Congress should not give any special consideration to gays -- "that it is the sense of the Congress of the United States that homosexual acts and the

class of individuals who advocate such conduct shall never receive special consideration or a protected status under the law.

Senate Bill S.1808, to "strengthen the American family, could seriously affect homosexual civil rights as well as those of women." The bill states that no federal funds would be made available to any organization which, "presents homosexuality, male or female, as an acceptable alternative life style or suggests that it can be an acceptable life style."

The bill would also make it legal for employers to discriminate against gays.

Endean said it was important for gays to work together with other minority groups, because the basic issue of gay rights comes down to human rights, which includes a wide spectrum of Americans.

While he doesn't expect much pro-gay legislation to pass in the near future, Endean says it's important for the politician "to deal with the tough issues. It's part of the game for them not to."



... OOPS! CONGRATULATIONS! Last Week's Star incorrectly named Sabrina as the winner of the Miss Gay Metroplex Houston Pageant, held at the Copa. Here's the real one, Deitra Allen, of Beaumont, winning from a field of 18. -- Photo Courtesy Friends & Lovers Studio

Tavern Guild Upset With 'Uncooperative Attitude' of Local Disco

Members of the Houston Bar and Tavern Guild were informed last Tuesday at their regularly scheduled business meeting that Number's management group was "uncooperative if not downright hostile," to the needs of the community, according to that organization's president, Andy Mills.

Mills told the group, which consists of over 12 Montrose area business groups, that repeated attempts to contact George Wolcott, president of the corporation that owns Numbers, failed and that Wolcott evaded calls to him regarding projects endorsed by the Guild.

"After dodging calls made by me and others, George finally told me he was not interested in doing anything for the community period," Mills reported.

Remarks made by Wolcott were apparently in response to requests that he again donate a strip of the parking lot adjacent to the building to Family, a local fundraising organization and other community groups for fundraising purposes during the Westheimer Art Colony Festival.

"He told us that if we wanted the space we would have to give him a hundred

dollars per space," exclaimed Mills.

"When we told him all the money raised would go directly to benefit our community he said, 'that's what they all say' and hung up."

The Guild then voted by unanimous proclamation not to support him or his business and to inform the community media so that the patrons of the respective bars and businesses in the area would know which of the businesses in the area are contributive to the good of the community, and which of them could care less about the needs or the welfare of their patrons.

According to a Family spokesperson Number's refusal to contribute the space may cost the organization and other organizations of their key time in the year for fundraising.

It is also reported Numbers has still not paid back \$400 to cover the costs of hamburger meat that was left with them for safe keeping after the last festival, and then was found missing.

When the *Montrose Star* Attempted to contact Wolcott at Numbers, the business's telephone number had been disconnected

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