

Danny Villa: 'I'm Not Planning My Life Around Dying'

By Billie Duncan

At three-years-old, he won a Shirley Temple lookalike contest. As a teenager, he was the star dancer at El Cerrito High School in Berkeley, Calif. When he was in his 20s and 30s, he was on Broadway and touring with names like Ben Vereen and Katherine Hepburn.

Now, at 49-years-old, he is known for dedicating his talents to all the many and various causes of the gay community.

He also has AIDS.

Danny Villa was diagnosed with the condition in February of last year. He had pneumocystis and almost died. "The doctor said that if I had stayed at work for another hour or so, I probably wouldn't have made it."

But Danny quickly put that behind him and tried to find something to look for-

ward to. "It's a devastating thing to suddenly discover yourself in this kind of position."

"The thing that has created the positive outlook about myself and my illness and what can be done with it is the fact that I'm doing so well. And from the very beginning, I've been trying to use positive energy."

Danny paused. "That's really difficult to do in light of the fact that everything that you read or see or hear about it is terminal."

"I've watched my friends die, and I see other friends who are going to die because they've decided they are. They find out they have AIDS, and they decide immediately that there's no hope, because they're told that over and over and over again."

"If I can do anything at all—now, I may

be dead next week, because I can catch something that would kill me—but if there's any way of projecting a person, a personality, a somebody that is making it..." Danny trailed off. But his point was clear.

His concern goes beyond just the fact that he has AIDS and may die from one complication or another, possibly in the near future. He is looking at the greater picture of just what the illness is and what the individual can do who has it. And what the community can and should do about it.

One thing that he feels the gay community should not do is panic. "By now I would imagine there's about 3000 reported cases of AIDS, of whom 70 percent are gay. Which gives us 2100 gay men with AIDS. That's 2100 people out of an approximate 17 million gay people, out of a total coun-

try population of 235 million.

"It's a drop in the bucket. More people die than that daily from automobile accidents. There are hundreds of thousands of people with cystic fibrosis, with muscular dystrophy, with other forms of cancer, with even tuberculosis.

"And I'm not saying we should emphasize that, but I think it's important for gay people to realize the staggering difference in the actual figures and not be quite so scared."

The dilemma of the individual with AIDS is also a concern for Danny, because so little is known about what will or will not affect or cause the condition. How does a person change in order to avoid or lessen the chances of getting AIDS?

"After living with it for over a year and

continued page 4

1984: Another Crucial Gay Political Year



Larry Bush, p.5

MONTROSE VOICE

The Newspaper of Montrose Feb. 17, 1984 Issue ***173 Published Every Friday

Guttman, Lovell to Head Gay Political Caucus

By Robert Hyde

Norman Guttman became the president of Houston's Gay Political Caucus Wednesday evening (Feb. 15), and Sue Lovell was elected his vice-president.

Guttman defeated his only opponent, former GPC board member Ray Hill, by taking 63 percent of the vote to Hill's 37 percent in what was the most publicized race of this year's election.

Lovell ran unopposed, after vacating the board seat she held last year.

"We all have goals, and some of those goals are not the same," Guttman told the caucus after his election. "But the basic goal (has been) working together, being unified, spending a lot of hours in the evenings and on weekends. Those things weren't given easily by anybody here, but they have been given. We also have to be the spirit to take that kind of enthusiasm out into the rest of the community..."

Lovell, in her preelection address, stated, "Discrimination is simply not acceptable."

She stated that it was the responsibility of the caucus to teach the system, to educate it and to challenge it.

"Together we will reach our hopes, our goals and our dreams," she concluded.

Debbie Squires was elected secretary of the caucus over challenger Don Pritchard who was absent from the meeting.

"I love a hard job," Squires said. "I love responsibility."

Referring to the caucus as her other family, she said, "I'll appreciate a chance to give of myself to the community."

Gregg Cliff, a three-year member of the caucus and also a member of various other gay community organizations, capitalized on his bookkeeping expertise to be elected treasurer over Chris Chiles.

Jack Valensky, Eric Sarenzio and Tom Coleman were elected to board seats six, five and two, respectively.

Leslie Larson won the position-four seat after a runoff with Tim Hall.

Dale Lowenstein and Joe Thornton had competed unsuccessfully for that chair, as well.

Before the balloting, both presidential contenders Guttman and Hill declined to address the caucus concerning their qualifications.

After the election, Guttman said that he



New GPC President Norman Guttman



Ray Hill, defeated, salutes



GPC Vice-President Sue Lovell, unopposed

in the city and throughout the electoral process in 1984. I'm sure of that."

Addressing the roles of the previous presidents of the caucus, Guttman said, "These people were highly successful and brought the community from a place that was somewhat unknown politically and unknown in the context of the social demographics of the city."

"I just hope that I can continue some of their fine work. I will feel very successful if I can do some of what they've all done."

Before outgoing President Larry Bagnaris handed the traditional gavel to his successor, he thanked the caucus for "the rare experience of helping this caucus grow into its present position of power."

Bagnaris said his term as president also had led to his personal growth and development.

He also pointed out that during his administration, the caucus opened up the process, developed the screening questionnaire for elections and had become more controlled and more democratic.

Bagnaris said that the caucus now had a fully involved board, with "each member an asset in his or her field of expertise."

Also referring to his term, Bagnaris said, "Our image in Houston has been raised from an uneducated concern about what we do in the privacy of our bedrooms to an almost unanimous agreement that we are worthy members of the body politic of the City of Houston."

Bagnaris also mentioned the need for a census for the gay community to determine, "Who are we really?"

He also mentioned the need to recruit future leaders for the caucus.

"I pledge my continued support to this caucus, to this community, and to the many friends and businesses that have supported this administration," he said in his concluding remarks. "I thank you for the opportunity and the honor."

Bagnaris gave special thanks to Terry Harris, political action coordinator under his administration; Marian Coleman, his vice-president who always felt "the community came first"; Tony Vega, caucus secretary; Norman Guttman, treasurer, for "closing out the debt"; Sue Lovell, noted for her assistance to the KS/AIDS Foundation of Houston; and Jack Valensky, board member, for his additional work at radio KPFT.

felt very good about winning.

"It's a lot of fun to win," he said. "It's not a lot of fun to beat someone who was your mentor as far back as 1977."

"Ray Hill, along with Debra Danburg

and a number of other people, got me involved in politics here in Montrose. ... In beating Ray I do know ... that Ray is going to have a very, very important part of what happens in the caucus, in Montrose,

Montrose Mouth

By Amanda B. Recondwith

Into Heavy Drama and Art and ... the Unknown

By Amanda B. Recondwith
This has been such a *dramatic* week for Amanda, and for a good segment of Montrose, if Montrose has been attending some of the *fabulous* events going on lately!

We simply *must* comment on the production of **The Boys In The Band** at the **Pink Elephant**. Last Friday's opening show was full of emotion and talent; two things that seem to be missing from Friday night *television!* There is no reason for sensitive, intelligent people to sit at home and let their minds be dulled by the constant drilling of the mass produced *crap* appearing on the screen, when they could be watching real drama and talent at the Pink Elephant—or even the **Alley** or **Jone's Hall** or **Stages**.

The performance at the Pink Elephant was so very touching. The troubled gay world of the late 1960's certainly hasn't changed that much in the 1980's, sad but true. The identity crises, the jealousies, the misconceptions, the prejudices are all still there, and so very well portrayed by the excellent cast.

The Pink Elephant is an exhilarating place to see a play. The cast is small, the atmosphere is casual, but very intense. One can imagine what it must have been like to be a *beatnik* in the **Village** back in the 50's—*avante guard* and eccentric, smoking Camel straights and reading subversive material while McCarthy was on the home TV, damning the world.

Don't miss an opportunity to go to the Pink Elephant to see their productions. We know it's not really *haute chic*, but neither was New York until people opened their minds about it! You never know. Places like this may someday be looked back upon as the cradle of some fabulous new talent. Imagine people at the **Galleria** buying post cards of the Pink Elephant!

Amanda also was honored to attend a *fabulous* preview of the movie, **The Dresser**, sponsored by **Arts For Everyone**, in conjunction with the **British Consulate** in Houston. The champagne reception at **Boccaccio's** was a real gala affair, and the guests were some of the *cream* of Houston and British society. Amanda functions so well with the British, since she learned the language!

The movie was a touching story of Blitz-ravaged England during **WWII**, and it was so much more interesting to know that probably half the viewing audience had actually been living in England at that time. The ending of the movie was truly sad, leaving Amanda in a state of depression, not just for obvious reasons (*You will have to go see it for yourself because Amanda will not tell you how it ends!*), but because the death at the end of the film also portrays the death of a whole way of life. And the audience felt that very strongly.

Amanda wishes to thank **Michael Serkess**, **Mark Addicks**, **Marshall Maxwell**, **Paul Dupree**, and **Dick Dace** for a wonderful evening. If the Dear Fans don't know what **Arts For Everyone** is all about, but are willing to know, call 522-3744 for information.

We have finally found the **Widow!** She appeared at **JR's**, talking excitedly about her trip to **Baden Baden**, and how her *cure* has been so good to her. Then, she nearly instigated a riot when she was seen again at the **Mining Company** with what seems to have been the ghost of **Grace Kelly!** Perhaps she *did* finally get the hint and go to **Monaco** after all. ... Amanda has heard that the **Widow** is now holding court at **Butera's**, where she says she can look at the old **Plaza** and detect the *auras* of long-dead celebrities who once lived there—but only when the sun is at a certain level on the horizon. Her spiritual experimentation is only a sign of the age, but we fear that she may get a little *kinky* as her practices grow in creativity. What's this we hear about a *menage*?

Rice University is putting on a performance of the **Shepherd Singers**, Thursday, March 1, at

8pm in the **Rice Memorial Chapel**. Don't miss this fine group's performance under the direction of **Gwyn Richards**.

Rice will also be putting on an interesting performance of the **Tokyo String Quartet**, sponsored by the **Houston Friends of Music** and the **Shepherd School of Music**, Sunday, March 11, at 8pm. Admission will be \$10 for the public and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

The **Crown Jewels of Welch Street** are still in place, although Amanda hears that the benefactor has long since departed. Fear not, darling, your eyes will soon be caught by the glint of some other diamond. Oh by the way, are the rumors true that a gang of pothole workers have found a strange shiny object resembling a chess piece somewhere out near Telephone Road?

Don't Miss the **First Annual Houston Flower & Garden Show**, produced by **Pace Management** and the **Flagg Agency**, March 22 to 25 at the **AstroArena, Astrodome Complex**. There will be hundreds of open air landscape displays, booths for selling lawn and garden related products, competitive flower shows for both the professional florist and the amateur garden clubber, displays by specialized plant societies and seminars by horticulture experts. Amanda is especially excited by the five-acre **Wonderland of Flowers, Plants, Shrubbery, Trees, Landscaping Ideas, Gardening Supplies, Etc.** (that is not a real title, you know). Judging by the incredible things Amanda has seen displayed in *dining rooms* and *living rooms* here in Houston, we can certainly expect some *real incredible* creations at this show. On your marks ... Get set ... *Start creating!*

You have all heard of **Duncan/Hines**? Well we have received a suggestion that our *editorial staff* should be called **Duncan/Hyde**. Is it true that they come in 69 varieties?

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!!!! **Ethel Mermon** is dead! Amanda, and probably most of the world mourns her loss. Where will we ever get a replacement for such an incredible stage presence?

Don't Miss the wild party being given at **Numbers** by our own wonderful **Jeff Dunn** of **Private Selection**, helping to kick off the fabulous **212** and **713 Magazine!** For those Dear Fans who are not aware, **212** is a very glossy New York magazine, kind of like a gay "W". They are now moving into Houston, and publishing a section on Houston's gay social life, called "713". Don't miss this party at **Numbers**, Sunday, Feb. 19. It should be the champagne and dance party of the year!!

John Shown will be shown Thursday, Feb. 23 at the **Robinson Galleries**, 1200 Bissonnet. The reception will be from 6 to 9pm, and his works will be on display until March 31. Mr. Shown is really something to see. His art is witty and creative, and he is charming. Amanda will be there!

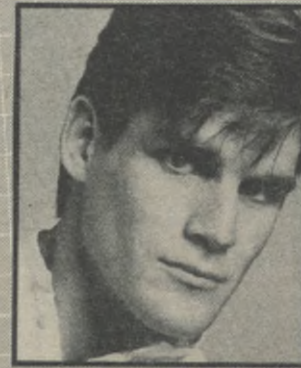
Amanda hears that **Kindred Spirits** had a wonderful anniversary party on Valentine's Day. Congratulations from all of us at the VOICE!

The **Barn** will hold their anniversary party (which started yesterday, Feb. 16) through Feb. 26.

There's romance in the air at the VOICE. Could it be the marriage of the sales department and the art department? What would you get if you combined an artist with a salesman? An exacto knife that knows how to cut a deal!

The **Wise Exhibit** of Japanese contemporary art will be on display at **Pearson-Falcone Interior Design**, 1200 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 322, March 14 to April 27. The public may see it on weekdays from 10am to 5pm, and on Saturdays by appointment. Don't miss these extraordinarily beautiful designs.

Well, Dear Fans, Amanda has just about *exhausted* herself on gossip and events this week. Remember, Houston is getting to be a more sophisticated place all the time, and as long as you continue reading **HER**, you may have a *head start*. Then again, she may be leading the public down the dark alleys of illusion!



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'Quiet Riot' Describes Avondale Meeting

By Hollis Hood

Quiet riot would be an accurate description of the Avondale Civic Association meeting last week (Feb. 9).

In an organization rift with opposing views on how to solve neighborhood problems, it appeared to be business as usual at the less than one hour meeting.

Earlier in the month, members had been notified of the gathering which urged them to attend because, "This meeting is of the utmost importance to all members interested in the quality of life in our area," stated the unsigned notice letter.

However, nothing happened.

The letter made reference to the removal of Rock Owens, president of Avondale, during a "special" Avondale meeting at 4:30 a.m. at the Allen Parkway Inn during January. At that meeting, attended by only eight persons, Robert Desmond, acknowledged leader of an Avondale faction which would like to see Montrose rid of gays, was elected president.

However, said Owens, that entire "special" meeting was declared illegal by the Avondale board of directors. Neither Owens nor Desmond chaired the most recent meeting.

Avondale met with discernable scrutiny this past month because of a rumor that it, or some of its members, were responsible for a rash of bar raids netting some 46 arrests in one weekend.

Representatives to a community meeting stated that Avondale had nothing to do with calling vice, and that the organization's purpose was to subvert crime in the Westheimer area and not "run people out of business," such as bar owners.

Cynthia Owens, an Avondale member and attorney, stated that Avondale had never protested liquor licenses at JR's and the Barn, and had no intention of doing so.

The new "611" club which was to open at Hyde Park and Stanford was not going to be protested, said Rock Owens, simply "because it would cost too much money." But members out voted the board's decision not to protest and the matter was heard at a recent TABC hearing in Austin. The bar "was just the straw that broke the camel's back," he said.

Rock Owens, according to the letter to the membership, had been removed from the presidency because he sent a letter to the TABC withdrawing Avondale's protest. An unlikely matter, because he was present at the Austin hearing and stated that the only problem with the bars sometimes was parking.

"Should our Association condone a president whose wife is involved in litigation for an applicant?" asked the letter referring to the 611 case. The owner of the 611 allegedly threatened Robert Desmond with bodily harm if he did not stop harassing the intended bar and Desmond took the matter to court. Cynthia Owens represented the 611 owner asking Rock to testify regarding the incident. The judge admonished both parties to keep their neighborhood squabbles out of his courtroom, said Cynthia Owens, but apparently the squabbling within Avondale has only begun.

Avondale has some guidelines for membership—for anyone who might be thinking of becoming a part of this troupe. There are three types of members: active voting, active non-voting and associate, also non-voting.

But to be an active voting member, you must be a resident of and own property in their designated area.

An active non-voting member can be a resident of the area, property owner or business operator within that area.

Judge Rules Gay Games Can't Use 'Olympic'

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA)—A federal judge has issued a permanent injunction against the series of athletic events known as the Gay Games from using the word "Olympic" to describe the competition.

U.S. District Judge John P. Vukasin granted summary judgment in favor of the United States Olympic Committee, which was given exclusive use of the word "Olympic" by Congress in the Amateur Sports Act of 1978.

John Artman, a member of the Gay Games board, said that the decision is "a tragedy, just another example of the homophobia that we have to live with." He added that it's still possible to see "Olympic Cleaners" and "Olympic Airlines" and "Diaper Olympics," "Special Olympics," even "Oyster Olympics," but gays are not permitted to use a word that has been in the public domain for thousands of years.

Last year, another federal judge granted a preliminary injunction against the Gay Games' use of the term. The U.S. Court of Appeals upheld that decision in August.

When Artman was asked what would happen if the board of the Gay Games violated the injunction, he said he didn't know what the penalty was, but he thought "We'd go to jail. I really don't know what the penalty is and don't want to find out."

Artman said that he didn't intend to let the court's decision get in the way of the goals of his board, which are to "combat discrimination and prejudice against gays and lesbians, as well as racism and nationalism."

Mary Dunlop, attorney for the Gay Games, when asked if she would appeal the ruling, replied, "You bet!"

The second Gay Games is scheduled to be held in San Francisco's Kezar Stadium in the summer of 1986, with athletes from many states and foreign countries competing in sports as diverse as wrestling, soccer, tennis, swimming and billiards.

Atlas Seeks Nationwide Gay Clientel

"Three years ago all the big banks in San Francisco were highly skeptical about the idea of a financial institution owned and operated by gay men and lesbians," said John A. Schmidt, chairman of the board of Atlas Savings and Loan Association. "Now they are frankly envious of our phenomenal success and ask us how we did it."

Atlas Savings, the world's first gay and lesbian owned financial institution, has barely been open for business two years and has already seen its assets grow from \$2.5 million to more than \$90 million. In recent weeks, two major developments have further indicated Atlas' growth: 1) Atlas stock, which went on the market over two years ago, will soon split three shares for two; and 2) construction has begun on a \$1 million branch office located on Castro Street where many gay men and women live and work.

As a public corporation, stock in Atlas Savings is owned by thousands of gays with investors and depositors in 48 of the 50 states and in several foreign countries. When Atlas stock went on the market it was selling for \$12.50 per share; current book value has risen to \$19 per share. Traditionally when stock splits, the per share price goes down—Atlas will probably then sell for \$11 or \$12 per share.

Schmidt said, "Atlas was founded by

the gay community because many financial institutions overlooked gay people in the past. We felt the time was right for a gay savings and loan that could make fellow gays more comfortable."

Schmidt gave the example of two gay men or two lesbians coming in to apply for a loan to buy a home. "With us, there doesn't have to be any lies about the relationship and no embarrassment. We understand their lifestyle, and if they qualify for the loan, we want to give it to them."

"This savings and loan not only shows the financial clout of gay people," Schmidt continued, "but also destroys the myth that gays are not good managers of their money. Atlas provides many of the services of other financial institutions, but I feel we add the personal touch."

In its first two years of business, Atlas has not only enjoyed enthusiastic support from gay men and women in the San Francisco Bay area, but also has attracted depositors across the nation.

"We are so pleased that gay people everywhere are financially supporting us," Schmidt said.

"Since many people bank by mail anyway, we encourage out-of-state customers to do at least some of their banking in San Francisco. Gays want to show their pride in our institution and be part of us, even if they live in Chicago or Houston or San Diego. This gay pride is much of the key to our success."

More information can be obtained from Atlas Savings and Loan Association, 1967 Market Street, Department K, San Francisco, CA 94103.

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Danny Villa: I'm Not Planning My Life Around Dying

from page 1

living with it with my friends for two or three years, I realized the futility of changing, because it may not change anything, if they cannot give you what to change.

"Like, if you take LSD, you're going to get AIDS. If you smoke marijuana, you're going to get AIDS. Drinking too much. A combination of the above." Danny explained to his doctor that a whole lot more people do all those things than ever contract AIDS. Or ever will.

"I'm not saying, get complacent. I'm not saying life in the fast lane is the answer. All I'm trying to do is put a realism into it. The reality is that the number of people it's afflicting is almost minute compared to the overall population."

Another reality is that Danny is one of that number. And that is something that all his facts and figures cannot talk away. "The thing that is so frightening about AIDS is that the mortality rate is so high. And fast."

Perhaps all the facts and figures that he has dredged up are a comfort to him, but the one thing that he cannot forget is that death is now part of his every day life.

"It's hard to think of anything else and at the same time, I feel fine, I look fine. I'm not planning my life around dying of AIDS."

"It's hard to talk that way and not sound glib or ungrateful. Or stupid. But I live with it." He looked at his empty champagne glass sitting on his coffee table. "No one is disallowed from dying. We all die. We die at different times. We die for different reasons. And we die from different causes. But everybody dies."

In his life, he has had to go through a lot as a gay man and as a Mexican-American, although most people do not think of Danny as the stereotypical Latino.

But as an actor, Danny was definitely typed because of his ethnic origins. However, he couldn't get the typical Mexican roles because he didn't have the proper Mexican accent. Well, you can't win 'em all.

As for being gay, he went through all the changes of the radical 60s and 70s. He explained that when he was younger, "there wasn't a community. Being queer was just being queer."

It wasn't until he was diagnosed with AIDS that he ever had any discussion with any member of his family about the fact that he was gay. "I just had my first conversation about anything resembling gayness with members of my family. It had just never come up."

Danny has five brothers. "My brothers are the Mexican equivalents of rednecks. You know where the word 'macho' comes from? And now, all of a sudden, their little brother has an incurable disease."

A look of astonishment came over Danny's face at the memory of how they took the news. "They were really wonderful. I was really impressed with my brothers. Quite possibly for the first time in my life. Certainly for the first time in a long time. Because they didn't stress anything. They didn't push into my lifestyle. They didn't try to change me."

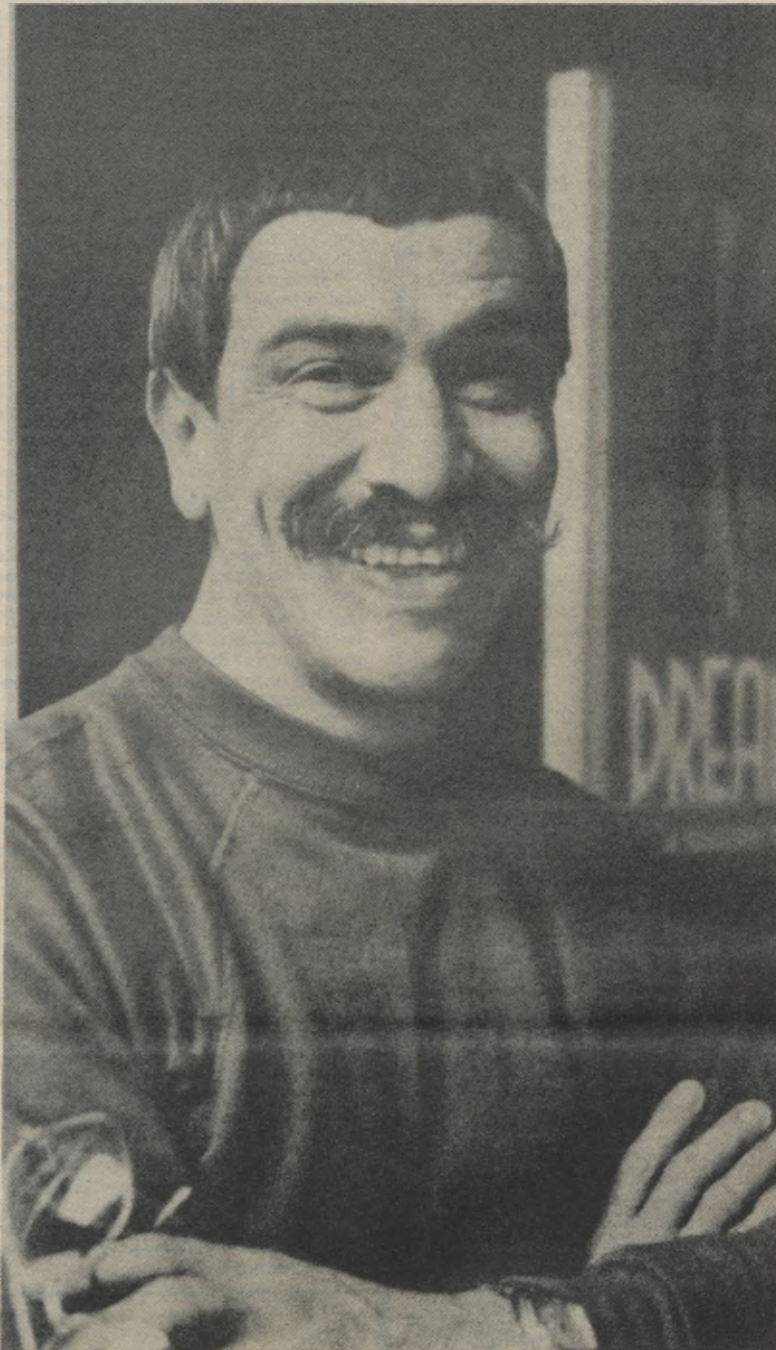
"They wanted to find out if I was being treated. How I was. And what it was about. It (being gay) didn't come up with some of my brothers—it didn't come up at all. They knew it, and they're treating it (AIDS) as an illness."

"And they're not pointing any fingers or bringing anything up out of my past or anything. They're not asking for details from that part of my life. They just want to know how my health is."

Perhaps because of his close family ties, Danny said that his favorite joke currently is, "The hardest thing about having AIDS is convincing your mother that you're Haitian."

However, his family has always been important to him, even when he felt like the odd man out in a family of men. "We've always had differences because I was always different. I was the sissy that danced. They were the jocks."

"When I got to the point where I was making more money than they were from



Danny Villa today



Three-year-old Danny Villa as Shirley Temple



A young Danny Villa in his ethnic stage costume

dancing, when I got to the point where they were going and telling their girlfriends, 'That's my brother up there dancing,' when they had something they could be proud of, that sort of changed."

"But until the day he died, I think my father was waiting for me to get out of show business and settle down into a real job."

(Next week: Danny Villa goes from doing the Mexican Hat Dance in California to hoofing it on Broadway.)

CHE to Address Taxicab Issue

The Citizens for Human Equality will conduct a special forum concerning the Municipal Transportation Reform Ordinance, more popularly known as the Taxicab Deregulation Ordinance, on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Central, 4640 Main Street.

Stating that "CHE has, as a stated purpose, to demonstrate to everyone that we are not interested in only gay issues," President Sam Cazoneri said, "We in CHE feel that this issue is of interest not only to the gay community, but to the city in general. Many visitors to Houston use taxicabs, and the performance of these cabs forms a part of the impression of our city they take home with them."

Speakers at the forum will include Houston City Councilmember George Greanias and Joe Chernow, representative of the Houston Taxicab Committee composed of Yellow Cab, United Cab, Sky Jack Cab and Square Deal Cab, which have 98 percent of the taxis in Houston.

At the forum, after introductory presentations by both speakers, the audience will be allowed to ask questions which will be answered by either or both speakers.

Chivalry Isn't Dead

The feminist movement may have opened doors for some women, but others are still grateful when men open doors for them.

Psychology Today reports that a Tennessee sociologist studied the reactions of women—and men—to having a door opened for them at a library.

J.C. Ventimiglia found that plain women were more appreciative than prettier ones, but ordinary-looking men were markedly less grateful than handsome ones.

Ventimiglia thinks the plainer women were experiencing "a long-awaited acknowledgement of their femininity," while the less grateful men were having their male self-confidence shaken.

Reception for Montrose Clinic Physicians at Rascals

A reception for the physicians of the Montrose Clinic who donate their time in service to the community is planned for this Sunday (Feb. 19) at Rascals, 2702 Kirby, from 5 to 7 p.m.

State and local politicians are also expected to attend in honor of the doctors. There will be a no-host cash bar.

Blood Needed for AIDS Victim

Brian Gentry, a member of the community suffering from AIDS, is urgently in need of blood donations.

Persons interested in helping may do so by donating blood at Hermann Hospital's blood center, main floor, Fannin at Ross Sterling, in the Medical Center.

Donors should specify that their contributions are for Gentry. Blood type is unimportant.

The Year Ahead Will Test Gay Clout and Community

By Larry Bush

WASHINGTON—This city, which often catches on to things after the rest of the country, was preparing to start the 1984 year at the end of January. The President gave his State of the Union message on Jan. 26, and Congress had only begun the year by reconvening two days earlier on Jan. 24. The President's new budget, which will take up most of the year's debate, wasn't out until Feb. 2, and then the details probably weren't clear for two weeks after that. Even in a presidential election year that feels as though it started months earlier, the first votes by rank-and-file citizens won't be cast until Feb. 20 in Iowa.

Most of January was taken up, politically speaking, by dress rehearsals—politicians floated trial balloons on new programs or approaches to win votes, reporters scanned the horizon for new ways of looking at the same faces, and ordinary citizens searched for new reasons to feel optimistic.

Among the January try-outs was the idea, renewed with a little more evidence behind it, that gays might make a considerable difference in the elections and in American society in 1984. The *Wall Street Journal* ran a feature suggesting gays could be "the major factor" in the '84 elections, the *Los Angeles Times* ran a mammoth front-page article Jan. 1, the *New York Times* began researching a second article on gay politics, the "McNeil-Lehrer Program" began interviewing gay politicians, NBC collected more footage at gay enrolement meetings, and the Christian Right churned out new warnings about the "gay threat" for 1984.

Amidst the hoopla, however, gays were given an important new glimpse into the way the world views their efforts. It came in the *Los Angeles Times* article, which included a major new public opinion survey. Public attitudes toward homosexuality continued to show a large disapproval factor, and attitudes toward civil rights



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laws showed a large approval factor, but for the first time, the public was surveyed on a new question: "How sympathetic would you say you are to the homosexual community?"

Nationwide, the American public said it was pretty unsympathetic: 63 percent to 30 percent. That compares with 52 percent opposed to homosexuality and 43 percent accepting it for themselves or others, and 52 percent favoring job protections for gays with a minority 36 percent opposing them—almost a reverse of the figures of those sympathetic to a gay community.

While not enough information is available about how the public feels about other

minority communities, there still appears to be some thought-provoking relationship in these responses. The public appears increasingly acceptant of ending discrimination, uncertain on the issue of homosexuality itself, and unhappy about the emergence of a gay community.

In 1984, that may well turn out to be the cutting edge of change for gay people. There are other and even strong indications that gays as individuals are winning public acceptance out in the open—the changes can almost be characterized as a "post-Harvey Fierstein" climate. Certainly one of the ironies in January was the launching of an Olympics 1984 fun-

draiser in New York with George Hearn singing "I Am What I Am," now referred to as a new gay anthem, while the Olympics Committee itself continues to argue in court that the term "Gay Olympics" demeans the sporting world.

But there are only the stirrings of an indication that it is becoming accepted for gays to form a community, to act like a political voting bloc, and to seek to strengthen bonds that cut across regional, economic, educational and even racial and sexual lines in recognition that a sense of being gay supercedes those other identities. It very likely is due to the unease of the public toward the gay community, rather than gay rights, that some political figures still keep away from public gay events; within the gay community, such distinctions seem almost disingenuous. In 1984, with a focus on politics and a continued need to respond to the AIDS crisis, the major dialogue may be on why gays have had to form a community, and what that community has as its goals.

In the year ahead, these appear to be the most likely places and issues around which that debate may take place.

The Federal Government: the Presidency and Congress. The major concern gays will have with the Reagan Administration will be over the proposals for AIDS funding in the new, fiscal 1985 budget. That budget won't even begin until Oct. 1, but the President proposed it in February, Congress will begin picking it apart in March and April, major committee action will come in June (virtually no work will take place this summer, due to the national political conventions), and the full vote will likely come in September, just in time to have the greatest political mileage. In fiscal 1984, Reagan started the year by proposing a \$17 million AIDS budget; by the time Congress looked it over, and the Reagan staff saw the sentiment for major increases, the final figure was about \$42 million. The addition of

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1984 Another Crucial Year

from previous page

some carry-over money from 1983 means that about \$47 million will be spent on AIDS in 1984. For 1985, expect the Reagan Administration to propose something between \$50 and \$60 million, with inauguration of some new funding for local gay groups to provide services. (In the Feb. 1 budget submitted to Congress, the Reagan Administration requested \$53.9 million for AIDS funding.)

Congress will likely make some increases in that figure, depending on how well gays argue for additional funding. The scientific community already has made its arguments at every level, and so the major tinkering will come through new money for counseling programs, hot lines and the like, where gays are now trying to document needs. In addition, expect Congress to push harder for funding of the \$30 million Public Health Emergency Fund, which it authorized but did not fund last year. Do not expect the Reagan Administration to put any money in its budget proposal for the fund, however.

The Reagan Administration may also get smoked out of hiding on the immigration reform issue on exclusion of gays. Congress will take up the exclusion question in a Judiciary subcommittee hearing, perhaps in March, but even before that White House counselor Edwin Meese will go before the Senate Judiciary Committee for confirmation hearings for his new post as Attorney General. That could lead to questioning on the Administration's feelings about reform of the antigay exclusion. Observers also expect Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Edward Brandt to deliver on a commitment to oppose the antigay exclusion's health rationale, thus adding another Administration voice in favor of reform.

Expect few Administration meetings with gays outside the Health and Human Services Department. The Justice Department, at least pre-Meese, was unwilling to meet with the National Gay Task Force on civil rights legislation or on its review of security clearance requirements; some meetings did take place with the Justice team working on immigration reform.

Defense Department officials flatly refused to meet with the National Gay Task Force even on the humane issue of servicemen with AIDS.

The White House itself has remained aloof from gays, although representatives of the Liaison Office have been quoted several times making derogatory remarks about gay civil rights and expressing hopes that Americans will tag the Democrats as the "pro-gay" political party. As the year begins, there are quiet moves among gay Republicans to begin bringing their issue to the White House, but the outlook for success remains uncertain.

In Congress, however, there now appears to be more open doors than gay groups can handle. In addition to the AIDS concerns and the immigration reform issue, there now are efforts to have the Government Accounting Office issue a report on how much the military spends to determine who is homosexual and then to process them for military service; a Congressional Research Service study of what antigay laws and regulations currently exist around the country that would be overturned by a federal gay civil rights law; and oversight hearings will continue on such topics as police responsiveness to minorities, federal security clearance requirements, even some consideration about minority participation in federal funding for the arts and humanities.

The reason for this activity is clear: all 435 members of the House are up for reelection this year, and 34 members of the Senate as well. While no one expects major new legislative initiatives, oversight hearings give members of Congress a wonderful platform to raise issues they believe will help back home. This time, the issue increasingly will be insensitivity to minorities and the poor, and gays will more than ever be included in the groups whose voices will be invited to be heard.

State and Local Developments of National Significance. Even though 1984 is a presidential election year, much that is going to be important for gay people will take place at the local level. In a number of instances, the efforts will be of importance to gays elsewhere, because they symbolize the changes taking place in the country or because they provide a new initiative that might be replicated.

In San Francisco, for example, expect Mayor Dianne Feinstein's study panel on a spouse benefits law to end up before the Board of Supervisors, where it likely will pass and become law. The national focus on San Francisco as the site of this year's Democratic National Convention will put even more of a spotlight on a spouse law this time around. A similar effort to provide a legal basis for gay spouses is also expected in Minneapolis this year, according to activists in that city.

Gay civil rights laws also will go before city and county councils for votes in a number of cities in 1984, but the most important ones are likely to be New Orleans, Houston and Chicago. The Deep South has been undergoing remarkable changes in the past decade, partly as the states there have brought in new employers who have been in turn bringing in more highly educated and urbanized employees. The freeze-out of progress for gays should end this year, a historic development. Expect New Orleans to be first, probably in time for Mardi Gras in March, with Houston coming in close thereafter. There may be a housing ordinance or mayor's order passed in Birmingham, Ala., which also would be a landmark. Chicago, which has a fractious City Council, appears to have the votes for an ordinance but can't lay down fights on other issues long enough to get action. It is one of the few major cities without such a law.

Gays also will move forward on an agenda that goes beyond legislative changes in some cities. Expect that New York City, for example, where there has been nothing but turmoil over getting a city gay civil rights ordinance passed, will move to the front ranks in getting city and state funding for special social services for gay people, including possibly a shelter for homeless youths. Other candidates for such action include Boston and Philadelphia.

In some locals, simply the public emergence of a gay community and its ability to get major elected officials to meeting openly with them will make news. Expect that New Mexico gays will make more and more news during the year. Look for Ohio gays to make some strong gains in 1984, seemingly coming from no place to an effective statewide force. North Carolina gays also can be expected to emerge into visibility, possibly of national proportions, as a result of their involvement in the effort to defeat Sen. Jesse Helms.

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Hill Not Ready for Sunset, Despite GPC Presidential Loss

By Robert Hyde

This is the second in a two-part interview. Part I appeared last week.

On Wednesday evening (Feb. 15), Ray Hill lost his bid to become president of Houston's Gay Political Caucus—a position he sought, almost hesitantly, up until the last minute. Outside the Holiday Inn on Main Street where the election took place, Hill's palomino stallion was waiting. He waved one tear-streaked farewell to his staunch supporters who almost saw him achieve his goal, and rode off into the sunset.

That's the way the scenario would have achieved the romantic ending to what some saw as Hill's campaign against almost certain odds.

But rather than fading into purple shadows, Hill is still around, and though not necessarily the cowboy in the white hat (losers always wear black), he is still Houston's Don Quixote charging into windmills—and often the vice—a position he's maintained in this community for almost 20 years.

"I don't think that anyone enters a race without the hope of winning it, and I certainly fall into that category," Hill said after Wednesday night's election. "Yeah, I'm always disappointed when I lose."

"I feel like a gay uncle from the '50s. Everybody loves me, but they want to hide me from the public," he said.

And Hill might be right.

On the morning following his defeat, GPC President Norman Guttman asked Hill to become the caucus' political action coordinator, a less visible position which Hill accepted. He was also asked to retain his seat on the board of directors. He's thinking about that.

"This is not the first GPC election that I've lost," Hill said immediately after the count, referring to failed attempts at becoming vice-president under Larry Bagneris' first year as president and two failures at obtaining board seats under Van Ooteghem and Shiflett. "As a matter of fact, I think I've lost as many GPC elections as I've won."

"And this is the first time in a good many years that I will not be on the board, and I will not seek reelection to my board seat," he said, prior to Guttman's offer.

"But I'm still available to the administration to use as asked, as always. I think that I can serve a pretty significant role sitting on the front pew on the smoking side where I have been many, many times before without holding title or office in

'I think we have been far more generous to the politicians we have supported than they have a right to expect.'

Gay Political Caucus.

"The important thing, I think, for the community to think about is that we have an election year every year.... And we hope to accomplish something, keep the wagons reasonably near, encircled, fighting off our foes and supporting our friends and carrying on."

"I am hopeful that Norman's administration will continue the development of the caucus," he said.

And with Hill as political action coordinator, he probably has one of the most influential spots available, considering the heavy election year awaiting that organization.

Guttman is clearly pulling on Hill's political expertise, something Hill fondly likes to think he inherited from his parents.

"I'm concerned about people's rights,"

he said. "Inherently, that is one of the things that is very important to me. Maybe it was in my rearage. My mother is a strong civil libertarian. My father was a small-time community politician. His father was in the same thing. My role is the same, except I'm working in a specific community."



"So it's kind of in the blood, if politics is a genetically communicated disease," he said, "which it very well may be."

And anyone who has known Hill for the length of time he has been involved in gay politics can attest to some driving force inside the man. He was shouting for gay rights to Houstonians when *Boys in the Band* was an outrage on Broadway and when *The Exile* and the Red Room were Houston's more popular gay bars.

"I've been involved in Houston gay activism since there was anything going on," he said, speaking of his early years in the turbulent '60s. "In '66, I helped co-found the Promethean Society, with David Patterson, Rita Longstrom and myself essentially working as a troika. We used to have wonderful meetings," he remembered, smiling. "We'd announce a meeting at a park or auditorium and 200 people would come. And we'd talk about the problems the gay community was having with the police, the city and various corporations and entities. And we'd get a good turnout and have nice discussions."

"We wouldn't have another meeting for a month or so, and then we'd pass out fliers...and another 200 people would show, but it would be a different 200 people who showed the first time. So David, Rita and I were essentially lecturers to this turnover of people," he said fondly.

Hill was perhaps too much a product of that period in this nation's history. Jane Fonda was ostracized from more polite society, Richard Nixon held the reins of the most powerful seat in the world, and Ray Hill orchestrated a burglary ring. Since then, the world knows where Nixon went, and Jane was forgiven by her peers and awarded a couple of Oscars.

One wonders what part Hill's prison years played in the outcome of the recent GPC election. Perhaps his achieving the presidency of the caucus would have been in some way his own "Oscar" for simply having survived and fought for the gay movement for so long.

When he was at the helm of the Promethean Society, "which essentially died when I went to prison in 1970," Hill said, he was also taking advantage of a governmental system he thought was doomed, a period in his life he speaks of unabashedly over and over again. But more often than not, he views those years as an unappreciated interruption of his work for the gay cause when the youth of the era were up in

arms in Vietnam or in the streets of America.

But Hill was not up in arms, he just chose a milder form of civil disobedience more closely kin to Hitchcock's cat burglar prowling the environs of the French Riviera.

"I began stealing, really, when I was so far removed from reality because of the heavy metal politics of the mid-60s—1966, 1967," he recalled matter-of-factly. "I was absolutely convinced that civil rights was at a dead standstill. We were unable to stop the war in Vietnam. Gay rights wasn't ever going to get anywhere. So I thought that the movement—cum civil rights movement cum anti-war movement cum gay rights movement—was just not going to work out in this system."

"I thought the revolution was coming." He smiled. "And as strange as that sounds to me now, at 26 and 27 that made very good sense to me."

"And I was pretty heavily into politics. I know that I had a van outfitted so that I could go to anti-war demonstrations or conferences and sleep in my van relatively close to where the action was."

Hill thought for a moment, then remembered enthusiastically. "I spent a great deal of time talking politics. I really wasn't or never have been a Marxist or a communist or that kind of thing. I've been what I would call a red-blooded American anarchist. I'd like to preserve the Constitution, but at the time, I'd have liked for its benefits to be distributed among all the people, equally, and that did not seem possible when Richard Nixon was president of the United States."

"Now I know that brings up a whole different mind-set about things," he said, trying to explain. "I know that a lot of people may have difficulty accepting that mind-set, but if you look at what the '60s were to so many people, my mind-set was not all that far out of character with the period."

"So I began stealing from corporations," he said.

Hill forays into the world of theft saw



him specializing in antiques, jewelry and art.

"But art that can be stolen is art that you can't steal," he said, referring to the less-than-popular pieces he did take. "I mean, what would you do with a Renoir if you stole one?"

"But I've never broken into anybody's home and stole their personal goodies," he said almost apologetically.

Also by way of explanation—and perhaps apology to those who believe in him—Hill said that he stole primarily for the Glorious Cause, inasmuch as Scarlett

O'Hara tossed her wedding ring into the basket of gold to keep the Yankees out of Atlanta.

"I had an ethical thing, and I thought that I was feathering the Cause, because what I did with the money was invest in Cause-oriented things—carrying large numbers of people to anti-war conferences and/or demonstrations."

"I also lived a lot better than I do now," he admitted. "In that kind of thing, there is a selfish element. When you have brown paper sacks full of money hanging around in your closet, you don't do without dinner. In fact, you do dinner with a little more grace and style than one would otherwise."

In 1969, Hill's world came crashing down. His burglarizing was on the verge

'I feel like a gay uncle from the '50s. Everybody loves me, but they want to hide me from the public.'

of coming to a halt anyway, Hill said, but he had not quite stopped when the HPD busted him and the men who worked with him.

"I stayed out on bond most of that year, and wound up being the only person to go to prison out of the whole bunch, which I felt was appropriate because it was my responsibility to do so."

Though Hill did not give the details of his prison sentence, he did imply that he had it easier than other men, working as a maintenance and construction bookkeeper and—not even resting behind bars—as a prison reformist.

"The *Chronicle* headlines pegged us as a \$4 million burglary ring, and the headlines helped with my relationship whenever I got to prison. I was a successful thief. People around me were apparently unsuccessful thieves. And so that gave me enough stature to make it through the prison experience."

"I was sentenced to 20 eight-year sentences, which is a total of 160 years," he said. "I served four years and four months, having convinced a judge that 160 years is cruel and unusual for nonviolent crimes against property."

Then to underscore his more benevolent nature, which he feels sets him apart from the hardcore prisoners of this world, Hill said, "Nonviolence is a part of my life. I inherited that via my parents and grandparents."

"I never owned a gun," he said, adding, "That's not true. They gave me a shotgun when I was 14-years-old. I cleaned it for years, then passed it on to my nephews, never having fired it at a living thing."

"But I just constitutionally had the mind-set of a nonviolent," Hill said, which helped in getting his prison sentence reduced, "because nonviolence, nonjeopardizing of human life, were important."

Hill has difficulty evaluating the effect the prison years had on him. He veils the actual experience in secrecy. Yet it is obvious that it haunts him and could possibly be an albatross around his neck for the rest of his life.

"The prison experience was amazing," he said, "but I survived that."

"What effect it had on my thinking is difficult to imagine. I know that the only laws that I violate are those I consciously violate and am willing to take an arrest to try a case," he said of his recent civil disobedience work.

"It took me quite a bit of time to overcome my fear of police and the criminal justice system," he went on. "And the death of Fred Paez (who was killed by a police officer) certainly didn't help that along very rapidly. That scared me to

death," Hill emphasized. "I realized that they (HPD) really do kill people, and that I am a person they would probably like to kill. I've got no time to go around being paranoid, and if you're afraid of your law enforcement agencies, then what is the rationale in having them?"

"So the prison experience is difficult to put into context. I can talk about it, and I can say that it had an impact on me.

"As a result of the prison experience, I do not seem to need the kinds of status symbols other people seem to need. Things—whatever they are—are not so damned important that I cannot do without them. Putting on impressions—the dress for success mentality, the fashionable apartment mentality, the flashy car mentality—I can just as soon do without Cadillacs and things of that nature."

Then it comes back to the importance of Hill's role as an activist in Houston's gay community and the shadow that his prison term casts on that role—something that might have been lurking in the minds of GPC members at this week's election.

"As a group, convicts are more tolerant of my being gay than gay people are of my being a convict," he said. "I think that's literally true. I think the reason that is true is that gay people have a mentality that somehow their being gay makes their struggle for acceptance more difficult than other people face. And, therefore, any other thing added to their being gay—you can't overcome the problem you have feeling any self-worth. And they transfer that onto me.

"I think that it bothers gay people a lot that I'm a former inmate of the Texas Department of Corrections. Their being bothered bothers me a lot, because having been there, I know that there are a great many gay people in prison, some for gay-related offenses, others for trying to struggle against their lower social status by accumulating things of worth.

"I mean there's a lot of hot-check writers, a lot of credit card abusers, whose hot checks and credit cards were used to improve their perceived status among their peers.

"All you have to do is walk into any gay bar in Dallas and you know what pretense is all about. Fortunately, I'd like to think that in some small way I have made a contribution to Houston being a more realistic city where impressions are not as important as substance."

Today, when he's not running the vice out of Diner's News or attending meetings of the Gay Political Caucus, Hill runs the North Loop Shepherd Legal Clinic, which is affiliated with the law firm of Hopkins, Low & Young, "helping people with divorces, wills, getting out of jail, misdemeanors, DWI—the kind of thing that I've done for many, many years.

"I am not a lawyer," Hill emphasized. "I make no pretenses of being a lawyer. Lawyers tell me all the time I should go to law school and become a member of the bar." He laughed. "I don't like lawyers that much. I think lawyers provide a good service, but sometimes I lose sight of that in individual cases..."

Another area Hill is involved in is with radio station KPFT, 90.1 FM, which he refers to as being "one of the great loves of my life."

The station broadcasts in nine languages; has two gay-related programs, "Wilde 'n' Stein" (which Hill produces) and "Breakthrough," a feminist/lesbian program broadcast during drive-time Friday mornings; and Hill's prison reform show.

KPFT grew out of a need for an alternative radio station in the late '60s, Hill said.

"In those days, when you did a radio talk show about the gay community, there was always a psychologist who thought you were sick, there was always a cop or assistant D.A. there to tell the people that you were really a criminal, and there was always a Baptist minister there to tell the folks that you were a sinner.

"It was a debate, that's what it was," Hill said. "There was no open, unrestrained discussion of gay rights as we now understand it. In the late '60s, it was a struggle."

Hill sees KPFT, despite its small audience, as being very instrumental in

relieving gay people of the guilt and fear heaped upon them by a non-gay society.

"There has been a whole generation of gay people who have heard over the radio in private that their gay attraction is nothing to be ashamed of, nothing to be afraid of, nothing to feel guilty about," he said quietly. "And that is a real phenomenon. I can really, in my own mind, think of the real value of that whenever I am flashed back to my high school years and going to college libraries and taking book after book off the shelf and finding out how sick, perverted, twisted, sick and criminal I was. There was simply, to a young man growing up in Houston in the late '50s and early '60s, no positive information about my identity. But we have people who have grown up having heard frequently in this voice that it's okay to be gay."

And this positive affirmation of homosexuality is something Hill continues to blast, whether on radio or not.

His "we're-fine-get-off-our-backs" philosophy came to the attention of the gay community most recently when he confronted the vice squad and Police Chief Lee Brown with an alleged existence of a "faggot file."

And although that issue has been shoved to a back burner for many in the community, Hill sees it as an ongoing sore in his hide, indicative of another disease Hill would probably label the vice.

"Brown said in the meeting (with representatives from the gay community on Jan. 23 following a series of raids) that he would look at it (the file), then out of the meeting he encountered the media, and he said that it didn't exist. That's a stone-wall.

"I think his plan here is the expected response of a police chief—his first responsibility. The reason Brown was hired to be our police chief was to get the police

'The prison experience was amazing, but I survived that.'

department off the front page of the newspaper in a negative way. And that's why he's police chief—not to clean it up—not to run the bigots out—but to get it off the front page of the newspaper.

"And Brown has got to, by virtue of his job description, defend his officers, I suspect, though his public stance is, 'Oh, gosh, all these raids in four to six days; and, gosh, 46 arrests; and, gosh, we have a faggot file that they've been keeping over there for at least a decade.' All of this is business as usual," Hill said, "except the file, which doesn't exist at all.

"I think that that should have been our expected public stance from the police chief. I think that privately—and probably of more importance to us—is that he's willing to dump some of those people from the vice squad down to the Port of Houston patrol. I think he will really do that."

Hill is very concerned that those in the community who have been subjected to police abuse participate in Project Documentation, the giant effort currently underway to prove abusive treatment by the HPD.

"The burden of proof is on us," Hill said, referring to Brown's stance that he had not received one complaint, and also to the need for gay citizens to complain. "If we can prove that (abuse), those suckers are going to find something else to do.

"I think that there's an enormous psychological victory in documentation. If the vice department knows that there is a means within the gay community to document their bullshit arrests, their verbal and physical abuse, to gay people, they will simply stop doing it.

"I think that it will certainly alter the behavior of vice officers right away. And I think that as long as we do that, as long as we are willing to do that, the vice officers are going to be much better behaved."

Beyond problems with the vice squad, Hill sees a festering problem with the mayor and City Council—a problem that arises from their unwillingness to docu-

ment gay rights in this city.

"They're politically ambitious," Hill said, "and we are a resource that they will vie with one another for.

"And we have been more predictable than I am comfortable with. We've just been following along and being used without any fight back. And I think this is incredible. This is 1984. This will be the ninth year since the founding of Gay Political Caucus, yet every mayor who has been elected for the past eight years has had some form or another of Gay Political Caucus support. We have supported a clear majority of City Council for five years, yet we do not have one word in writing to protect the rights of gay men and lesbians in this city. I think that's absolutely incredible.

"I think we have been far more generous to the politicians we have supported than they have a right to expect," Hill added. "Now to accomplish getting that in writing is not going to require a fight attitude. There's no need to go around and insult people we've elected. We just need to constantly and gently remind them that it's our turn. Now. Move ahead.

"Anthony Hall's policy reforms—or maybe even a city ordinance—is not untimely.

"First, when we ask for a city ordinance, they throw back to us, 'By God, are you ready to fight a referendum?' I do not think that those who oppose the rights of gay men and lesbians being legislated constitute a large enough number of people to draw the petitions necessary to have a recall election. And if they can somehow hoodwink enough people to sign the god-damn petition, I absolutely know that there's not a large enough number of Houstonians to vote for it. So I'm not afraid of referendum.

"It's the politicians who are afraid of referendum," Hill said quietly. "Not gay people. We simply know better. We get along far better with our neighbors. In every poll that ever has been done in the City of Houston for its attitudes on gay and lesbian rights, we've steadily out-paced the whole country, so that now some 70 percent of Houstonians think that we

should have equal rights. Thirty percent think we already do."

Before Hill is finished, he will probably see that ordinance—he will probably see it statewide. It is difficult to see him writing his memoirs when he is not yet 50. He might even be president of the organization he helped found, along with Robert Schwab and Gary Van Ooteghem back in 1975.

"It started small and quickly grew," he said of the GPC. "So I was there for the founding of Gay Political Caucus, and I've stuck it out." He paused, shook his head, then said, "None of the other folks pictured as founders are still around."

Where would Houston's gay community be today without Ray Hill?

There have been others who have pushed the community forward, but with as much force—with as much hell-hath-no-fury persuasiveness—which as much sheer determination—and duration?

Hill says he calming down now. He'd like to see major inroads made in Austin, but beyond that, he's folding in his wings.

"I'm getting too old."

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1983 Frisky Awards, Part II

By Randy Alfred

(Part I appeared last week.)

BUSINESS: Heart of Gold award to the three West German doctors convicted of removing heart pacemakers from corpses and implanting them into their patients, who were charged for new ones.

Banker's Heart award to Chicago's Continental Bank, which denied a \$2,500 home-repair loan to a woman who had returned \$500,000 to the bank in 1981.

Sound As A Dollar award to U.S. Steel, whose South San Francisco plant lost a bid to provide steel to rebuild an overpass just outside its gates to a Japanese firm that had to ship the steel across the Pacific.

Career Counseling award to Greg Jacobs, the Australian real-estate agent who won the World Monopoly Championship in Palm Beach, Fla.

CRIME, PUNISHMENT, AND THE LAW: Stop the Movie *Cruising* First Amendment award to the Michigan mother-son minister team and the Ku Klux Klan leader who joined forces to rid their local library of books with gay and feminist subject matter.

Wishful Thinking First Amendment award to Mayor Dianne Feinstein, who said of the upcoming Democratic National Convention here: "There is no reason to believe there will be demonstrations of any kind."

Joe McCarthy Memorial First Amendment award to the U.S. Justice Department, which labelled three Canadian documentaries on nuclear war and acid rain as "political propaganda" which could not be shown without a disclaimer that the U.S. government does not approve of them. One film, *If You Love This Planet*, won an Oscar.

Quality of Mercy award to the two Pennsylvania physicians who saved the life of the attorney who was suing them for malpractice, when the lawyer collapsed from a heart attack in the courtroom.

Catch 22 award to the INS and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. In 1982, the Immigration and Naturalization Service deported a European-born woman because she was running a legal brothel in Nevada. In 1983, a bankruptcy examiner criticized another brothel for inefficient operation. He thought it needed time clocks for the prostitutes and receipts for the customers.

Letter Of The Law award to Virgil Everhart, the Kentucky man who split his house in two with a chainsaw rather than sell it to give his wife half the proceeds in a divorce settlement.

Music Hath Charms award to the West German man who was granted a divorce on the grounds that his wife played the piano or listened to music morning, noon and night.

K-Mart Justice award to the East Los Angeles judge removed from the bench by the California Supreme Court because he offered criminal-defense lawyers a bargain day on which he would impose only one-half of his customary sentence or fine when the defendant pleaded guilty.

Things Are Tough All Over award to the mob, which FBI Director William Webster told Congress had to impose a hiring freeze because business was so bad.

There Go The Ratings award to attorney F. Lee Bailey, who was unable to obtain convicted Atlanta child-killer Wayne Williams for Bailey's syndicated TV program, "Lie Detector."

Sharp Eye award to the Boston metermaid who failed to notice that the man who appeared to be sleeping behind the wheel in the car she was ticketing for over-parking had actually been shot in the back of the neck.

Seat of Intelligence award to the 200-pound San Jose woman accused of killing her 9-year-old son by sitting on him. She sued a local counseling center, claiming it recommended the technique as discipline.

Lust Conquers All award to the two Red Brigade defendants who engaged in a sexual act while an Italian court was in session. Other defendants in the case stood close to the bars of a security cage in the courtroom to hide the couple.

Spoilsport award to the Alameda County sheriff, who cracked down on the use of sanitary napkins, sheets, toilet paper, and cups for other than their intended use, when imprisoned anti-nuclear demonstrators used those items to stage an impromptu Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day parade at the Santa Rita jail.

Chutzpah award to the wife of the San Francisco man who injured her and seven others and killed two when he shot up the office at which she worked. Erlinda Contawe sued the building owners for not providing adequate security. Her attorney acknowledged, "I personally don't think we have much of a case."

Runner-up for the Chutzpah award is the Nebraska man convicted of manslaughter who petitioned the court to get the weapon back. He claimed the 12-gauge

shotgun was a family heirloom with "a lot of emotional value."

Don't Raise The Bridge, Lower The River award to the Louisiana con man who claimed he was former pro-basketball star Bill Russell. Aurther Lee Trotter said he'd had 10 inches of leg bone removed by surgeons so he could fit into his Mercedes Benz.

Exporter Of The Year award to the Iowa judge who "punished" a man convicted of showing obscene material to a child by giving the man a one-way bus ticket to Los Angeles.

Naked Truth award to the Israeli judge who ordered a 16-year-old girl to stop walking around her house without any clothes on. Her 80-year-old stepfather had claimed she was trying to cause him to have a heart attack so she could inherit his

wealth.

Use The Small Fork For The Twinkies award to the Menlo Park woman who slashed her boyfriend to death in an argument that started because he was "eating like a pig."

Win Some, Lose Some award to Donald Praska, who was busted for possession of marijuana with intent to deliver on the same day voters elected him to the Jackson Junction, Iowa, City Council.

Jerk Of The Year award to the New York state man who hired another man to rob his girlfriend, so he could rescue her and be a hero. The "boyfriend" got there late and failed to prevent not only her robbery but her rape as well.

Alfred's column originates at the "Sentinel," a San Francisco gay newspaper. ©1984 Randy Alfred, all rights reserved.

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Gleanings from the Non-Gay Press

By Jim Kepner
Via Gay Press Association Wire Service

Hope all of you saw the excellent features on Gay Community progress in the Jan. 1 and 2 *Los Angeles Times*. Some readers felt they skimmed on some sectors of our community, but what was covered was done excellently.

Dan White's surprise parole to L.A., thanks to Chief Gates, produced a flurry of articles on gay community response, the best being in the Jan. 8 *Herald*. Initial press coverage here and elsewhere reported L.A. gays as not much disturbed by Dan White's presence (a Jan. 9 *Times* editorial approvingly quoted Morris Knight's advice to stay home with a friend and "go into a period of recollection"), but by midweek the press had noticed that not all L.A. gays felt that passive. It was historic for a leading gay activist to be quoted approvingly in a *Times* editorial. Other California papers also editorialized that gays should be good boys about the matter. After all, justice has been done, even if it was a grand mistake.

Guy Wright, a rarely pro-gay *San Francisco Examiner* columnist, said on Jan. 2 in response to a reader's query about Richmond and two other cities nixing Dan White as a resident, "Maybe White should settle down at Soledad. They say he was a good citizen there."

The Jan. 10 *San Francisco Chronicle* briefly reported newly reelected Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire's tour of 10 gay bars, with a doubledeck busload of supporters, including three city councilmen—to heal the Gay Political Caucus' gripe that at inauguration time she'd ignored major gay support that twice put her in City Hall.

UP THE CENSORS. The Jan. 6 *Minneapolis Star Tribune* gave a full report on Minneapolis Mayor Don Fraser's veto of the unique anti-porn law passed by the lame duck city council Dec. 30. The ordinance, drafted largely by N.Y.C. lesbian separatist writer Andrea Dworkin, declared that pornography *per se* violated women's rights. It would have permitted any woman who felt that she'd been attacked or coerced or had her rights violated as a result of pornography to file a claim with the city Civil Rights Department which would have 45 days to award her damages against those who produced or distributed the materials, and then would permit her to take the matter to court.

The ordinance was vague at defining pornography, vague as to how specific damages might be charted or how blame might be assigned to a particular producer or seller of materials alleged to be pornographic.

Mayor Fraser said he agreed that pornography degrades women and is legitimately a social threat, but felt the law was unconstitutionally vague and a serious threat to First Amendment rights. Gay activist Tim Campbell, editor of the *GLC Voice*, joined the ACLU and moderate feminists in opposing the bill, pointing out that no one could tell in advance what book, magazine or film could be so charged, but Dworkin and right-wing moralist allies scorned the critics and promised to float similar ordinances countrywide. Fraser suggested they draft a more moderate bill.

Running contrary to several previous studies, a report in January's *Psychology Today* noted that a study by psychologists Donnerstein and Linz said that men who repeatedly watched X- or R-rated films tended to become desensitized to rape. (*USA Today*, Jan. 4).

A *New York Times* report was picked up by the Jan. 3 *Los Angeles Herald* on the growing threat of hysterical groups trying to censor books in the public schools. One list of 600 books which has been pinpointed includes *Make It with Mademoiselle* (actually a sewing guide published by *Mademoiselle* magazine) and the *American Heritage Dictionary*, said to contain 36 dirty words. Objections center on *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Huckleberry Finn*, *The Scarlett Letter*, etc., but range from alleged obscenity,

to unfairness to minorities, to books containing unbiblical or unpatriotic opinions (Darwinism, Robin Hood, reports on Vietnam, Watergate, slavery, unions or women's rights). And we know where any mention of gays stands with the censors.

The *Los Angeles Daily News* on Jan. 4 also had a similar strong feature on the spread of censorship pressure as part of the spurt of articles on George Orwell, the political sci fi writer who made this year famous.

PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS. Lawrence Biemiller in the *San Francisco Chronicle of Higher Education*, Jan. 4., gave a full account of the struggle of the Gay & Lesbian Student Association at Southern Methodist University to achieve student senate backing, and of the barrage of homophobia they still meet, launching a debate as acrimonious "as any since the student senate invited Martin Luther King to speak on campus in 1964." Co-chair Robert Rios has been the chief target of the vicious attacks and has been interviewed widely in Dallas media. Methodist Rev. William Finnin, SMU's chaplain, described the culture of Texas as "stridently heterosexual," willing to define in theological and moral terms any difference from the norm.

"We were seeing some students in pain and trauma, struggling with the issue of their own sexual identity." Several gay and anti-gay students and faculty members were quoted at length. Sophomore William Koch called the move to legitimize the GLSSO part of a plot by the national political gay movement, "which is very strong in Dallas."

The Jan. 5 *Kansas City Times* reported the spectacular recovery of Eddie Liedtke who has celebrated a 32nd birthday he did not expect to reach. Liedtke, hospitalized 18 months ago with "an amazing range of diseases," has been a mainstay of the AIDS Project Hotline during his periods out of bed. Doctors now say he has "what we call a severe case of pre-AIDS."

The Jan. 8 *San Francisco Examiner* described Val-Kill, the home and factory at Hyde Park which Eleanor Roosevelt built and shared with close friends Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman (described elsewhere by Elliot Roosevelt as "masculine appearing"), as now being readied for several months of activities commemorating her life and work. After son John lived there a while and divided and sold off the property and furnishings, the government bought it in 1977 and began restoration as a historic site.

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Lesbian comic and music festival producer Robin Tyler got burned badly for her offer to provide housing and support for quadriplegic Elizabeth Bouvia so she could die in peace and not be subjected to force-feeding. Bouvia's angry rejection was reported in papers all over the U.S. in the first days of '84.

Popular female impersonator Danny La Rue got heavy pans from London critics in a production of *Hello, Dolly!* Only John Barber in the *Telegraph* approved, calling the show a "ritual celebration."

Carol McAfee gave a fine review in the Jan. 8 *San Francisco Chronicle* to Joseph Hansen's latest excellent novel, *Job's Year*, about a man who confronts himself honestly for the first time while his sister is dying of leukemia.

LEGALITIES. The Jan. 5 *San Francisco Chronicle* reported that the Massachusetts Supreme Court had given a gay rights bill the green light. State senate opponents had sought a constitutionality

ruling.

The Jan. 8 *Los Angeles Daily News* printed a UPI evaluation by Penny Spar of District Attorney Philibosian's proposal to revamp the court system. The initiative, co-sponsored by ex-State Attorney General Younger, would change many court procedures, permitting convictions by a 10-2 jury vote, preventing attorneys from questioning prospective jurors, cut into grand jury safeguards, etc. Philibosian recently told L.A.'s mostly gay Log Cabin Republican Club that the proposal would speed up trials but would probably not result in more convictions.

Last time we mentioned New York Governor Cuomo's talk at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine. A bit more from the Dec. 23 *Boston Globe* summarizing the shift in popular Catholic thinking from "peasant roots" to post-Vatican II concerns: "I don't mean to belittle the Church of that time ... (but) in our preoccupation with evil and temptation, we often put guilt before responsibility, and we obscured a central Christian truth: that God did not intend this world as a test of our purity, but as an expression of his love. ... These exciting new articulations of the world's beauty helped a generation of Catholics to realize that salvation consisted of something more than simply escaping the pains of hell. ... My politics ... (is) an extension of this faith. There is a paradox here. ... It would be impossible to stand here as governor, as an official elected by Moslems and Sikhs and Deists ... and atheists—and talk about politics and Christian stewardship without addressing this paradox."

"The paradox was recently raised in a letter received on an executive order I issued banning discrimination against homosexuals in state government." The writer had asked "how can you claim to be a Christian when you go out of your way to proclaim the right of people to be what is

Commentary

an abomination in the sight of God? ... The answer drives to the heart of the question of where private morality ends and public policy begins. ... How I involve myself in a world broad enough to include people who don't believe all the things I believe about God and conduct. ... To secure religious peace, the Constitution demanded toleration; it said no group, not even a majority, has the right to force its religious views on any part of the community...."

He associated the concept of protected freedoms with that of stewardship, "reaching out to include those once excluded—women, blacks, minorities."

Kepner is director of the National Gay Archives, Los Angeles, and has been clipping and filing articles of interest to gay people for 42 years.



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Letters

Atheist Attacks Churches' Strings-Attached Mercy

From Don Sanders

In last week's VOICE (Feb. 10), S.H. claims that my criticism of churches is unfounded. He claims there are a number of mainline churches friendly to gays and which offer their services to our community in one way or another. I am aware of these churches, and I am knowledgeable of their outreach programs. My avocation, being national director of American Gay Atheists, requires that I keep abreast of what churches are involved in.

Covenant House on Lovett at Yoakum does offer shelter and food for young runaways and outcasts. However, there are strings attached to its mercy. If a young gay teenager comes to this shelter, he must denounce his homosexuality and be subjected to the teachings (brainwashing) of the homophobic Catholic church. Many teenage runaways are victims of mental and/or physical abuse by their parents. Upon entering Covenant House, they are again subjected to mental torture and are encouraged to denounce their natural feelings. Some hospital environment!

I am also aware of several churches offering prayer services for victims of AIDS. Little good prayer has done AIDS victims, since praying amounts to nothing more than a local agitation of the atmosphere. Giving funds collected from a special offering (collected at the time of the AIDS prayer vigil) was the least the "charitable" church should have done. At least the entire effort was not totally in vain.

Churches are usually always lauded for their charitable work but are never chastised for dishing out propaganda to those in need of their few meager handouts....

Under the religious exemption category under IRS rules, churches do not have to make financial reports to anyone—not the government or their members. Other agencies of charity which are listed under the categories of

health, education or welfare are required to file FORM 990 each year and must disclose their earnings. Because of this favorable status given to churches, countless persons have lost millions in old age home schemes, insurance schemes, bonding schemes, feed-the-hungry-schemes, etc. The IRS has estimated that the churches of the nation spend "only 41 cents a month for everyone who belongs to a church in America" on services to those outside the church, but within the church's own denomination or sect. Again, according to the IRS, churches own approximately 25 percent of all the privately owned land in this country. This means that approximately \$50 billion of real estate is off the tax roles. If churches were taxed on their real estate holdings, their revenue from stocks and bonds, their sales, inheritances, and other non-related ecclesiastical earnings, every one of us would benefit greatly.

So, when you talk about the "charitable" churches, please know what you are talking about. These institutions are a burden on the pocketbooks of every American, religious or not.

Chief Brown Should Remember His Past

From the Martha Mitchell of Montrose

The proposal made by Police Chief Lee Brown necessitating documentation of cases of police misconduct before any change can be implemented virtually guarantees that no reforms in the vice operations of the HPD will be made.

How does Chief Brown expect bankers, lawyers, business owners, students whose education is parent financed, etc., to file charges against an officer who violated their civil liberties without exposing their private, homosexual lives?

Such expectations are, in my view, tantamount to asking a black person in Vidor, Texas (the largest city in the U.S. without a black resident), to file a complaint against the Ku Klux Klan.

Perhaps Chief Brown should remember back a few years into his own life and the lives of his family in order to understand our dilemma.



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Sports

MSA Softball Series 8 Committee to Host NAGAAA Spring Meetings

The Greater Houston MSA Softball Series 8 Committee will be hosting the spring meetings of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance Council on March 1-3, according to its press release.

NAGAAA is the international organization of gay softball leagues across the U.S. and Canada, with its prime functions being the coordination of information among its member leagues, the encouragement of new leagues to form and join the Alliance, and to oversee the tournament plans of the annual Gay Softball World Series.

Also during the meetings, applications from potential new member leagues will be considered. Houston is glad to announce that one of the applications to be considered will be Dallas' Oak Lawn Softball Association.

While the delegates are in Houston, the Series 8 committee will be doing its best to show true Houston hospitality. During the meetings on Friday, the Series 8 committee will present an update on current plans for Series 8 and then treat the delegates to a double-decker bus tour of the city, the playing fields at Memorial Park, and a luncheon at Baja Sam's. On Saturday, the delegates will adjourn to Levy Field for a fun softball game followed by a Texas barbecue.

In all, we will be hosting about 50 delegates for a weekend of long meetings and evenings of fun. We hope to make a favorable impression on the delegates to build enthusiasm for Series 8. We hope that by doing this, we can attract many additional fans to Houston for Series 8 on August 25-Sept. 1.

Montrose Tennis Action Continues

By Rich Corder

The "Rain Gods" smiled on Montrose Tennis this past weekend as the clouds parted and the courts were sunny and dry for some late Sunday matches.

Donny Kelley made the biggest jump, coming from behind to defeat his doubles partner (moi!) 6-4, 6-2. He thereby stepped up four notches onto the No. 8 rank in the Top Ten Ladder.

He later played membership chairman Randell Dickerson for the No. 4 rank, but Randell held him off (quick & easy) 6-1, 6-0. You would have thought Randell would be rusty for having spent the last week on the ski slopes in Colorado—but Donny wasn't lucky enough for that!

Top Ten No. 5 Jim Kitch defended his ranking against yours truly 6-3, 6-1. As you can see, our top players are indeed a step or two (at least) better than the next

level of us. We'll keep trying, though. Good competition—lots of fun!

Top Ten No. 7 Don Smith was not quite so fortunate in his defense. Ron Bell is returning to his former crispness and jumped from No. 1 on the B Ladder to the No. 7 spot on the Top Ten with a long, split-set victory over Don 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

MSA Volleyball Begins Season

The MSA Volleyball League will begin its indoor season this coming Tuesday, Feb. 21, at Hamilton Jr. High, 20th and Heights Blvd. Faced with playing outdoors for the first time in six years, League officers were delighted when HISD offered Hamilton as a replacement for Gregory-Lincoln, which is under repair.

This past Saturday, several players assembled on the tennis courts in Cherryhurst Park for some "half-hearted" practice, and they plan to practice again this Sunday at 2, weather permitting.

The first two weeks of play will be dues-free, and basic skills clinics are planned by older members for all who attend. Newcomers are strongly encouraged to at least show up and see what MSA Volleyball is all about.

Play is continuous from 7-10 p.m., and refreshments are provided, so come on out and get some exercise and learn a new sport while meeting some new faces!

Women's Softball League Forming

The MSA Women's Softball Slow-Pitch League is currently forming for its 1984 March-August season, and newcomers are welcome.

The League, which will have two divisions, will sponsor three tournaments during the year, and an all-star team will be selected to play exhibition games during Gay Pride Week.

Team registration is encouraged by the next council meeting March 5.

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| Mike Linder, 201 | |

Montrose Tennis Club Challenge Ladder

Following Feb. 12 competition

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| A LADDER | |
| 1 Tim Calhoun | 6 Don Kessler |
| 2 Rich Ryan | 7 Ron Bell |
| 3 Jan Mauldin | 8 Don Smith |
| 4 Randell Dickerson | 9 Donny Kelley |
| 5 Jim Kitch | 10 Rich Corder |



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The Baths Are Getting a Bum Rap

By Joe Baker

I went to the baths for the first time back in 1972. Hard to believe it was 11 years ago.

The place was called Dave's, and it was in the North Beach area of San Francisco. If you are going to make your virgin appearance at the bath, I guess there's no better place to do it than in the gay capital of the United States.

I was visiting San Francisco with a non-gay friend of mine. I was just starting to come out. The whole gay scene was new and fascinating to me.

I had read and heard a lot about gay life in San Francisco and was more than eager—and ready—to sample it. But I wasn't ready to share that fact with my friend, so I was pretty much stuck playing the straight tourist.

One night, however, my friend decided he was tired from the heavy dose of sight-seeing I had dished him that day. He said he didn't feel like going out and would prefer to stay in our hotel room and watch a football game that was being televised.

My heart jumped. Of course, I pretended to be very disappointed and disgusted. Why would anyone come to San Francisco and stay in a hotel room at night and watch a football game?

But I was out the door of the hotel in no time flat. I had my treasured gay guide to San Francisco and started to hit all the hot spots. There were so many bars to explore that I probably only spent 10 minutes in each place.

Towards bar closing time, however, I noticed the ad for Dave's in my gay guide. I really didn't know what the baths were, but I figured they were probably something like a sauna for gay men. I decided to check it out.

It took me a long time to find the place, and I was quite nervous as I walked in. The attendant took my money, gave me a room key and a towel and buzzed me in.

The locked door with the buzzer fascinated me. "This must be some kind of secretive place," I thought.

I had no idea what the towel was for—even the room. I had no idea what was waiting for me once I got inside.

The first thing I noticed was the men walking around wearing towels. Not being a complete dummy, I figured out real fast that I was expected to shed my clothes.

As I explored the facility, I was amazed at the number of good looking men and the various offerings of the club. I also wondered why so many of the men were lying in their little rooms with their doors opened. Then I stumbled into a dimly-lit room—and couldn't believe what I was seeing.

To make a long story short, I learned very quickly that night what the baths were all about. I was in the candy store of my dreams. I couldn't believe such a place existed for gay men. And I couldn't wait until I got back home to see if Detroit had gay baths.

Sure enough, it did. Two of them, in fact. As I continued my coming out process over the next several years, the Detroit baths and I got to know each other quite well.

They were extremely popular. Michigan bars closed at 2:00 a.m., and on weekend nights guys would stand in line waiting to get in. Oh, how I remember those long, slow lines on below-zero winter nights.

When I moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1972, the baths no longer fascinated me as much. It was easy to meet people in the bars, and the baths were starting to bore me. But I still went occasionally.

Sometimes I had a good time; other times I didn't. You know the story.

Anyway, here I am in Texas now. During the past couple of years, I've ventured over to the baths every once in a while. A steady customer, I haven't been. But the times I went, I usually enjoyed myself.

When the baths started getting all the bad press around the country because of AIDS earlier this year, I—like a lot of people—dropped them from my social calendar. The trip wasn't worth the alleged risk.

But lately, I've been doing some rethinking on the subject. I think the baths have gotten a bum rap. I'm not saying this because of any urge or need being resurrected to frequent the baths regularly again. They are still only an occasional outlet for me.

But I don't think the baths are any more to blame for the number of AIDS cases than are the bars—or your own bedroom.

From everything I've read about AIDS, there is still no known cause. The only advice we are being given is to limit the number of our sex partners, because the medical world believes that the disease is transmitted through intercourse—the theory being that the fewer number of contacts one has, the chances are fewer for being exposed to someone with AIDS. Of course, that makes sense—just as it always has in relation to various kinds of

veneral diseases.

So are the baths to blame for spreading AIDS? Certainly not; neither are the bars to blame. The baths are an easy target, however, because of their openness regarding sexual activity. Obviously, there is less game playing there than in the bars.

And—if one should be so inclined—there are multiple opportunities for several sexual contacts. But the bars also provide opportunities for several sexual contacts.

What is the difference between having sex with three different guys in the baths one night or bringing home three different guys from the bars three nights in a row?

The score is the same. Your chances of meeting someone with AIDS is three times as great.

My point is that we have to become

responsible for our actions and conduct.

If sexual moderation is the name of the game today, we have to accept the responsibility that goes with it. Those are the rules. We either decide to play by them, or not. If we don't, then we have to be prepared to accept—and be responsible for—whatever may result.

A trip to the baths today still is—and should be—an enjoyable option for a lot of gay men. But responsibility for our health and our partners' health goes with it.

The baths can still be a sexual playground with fewer or a limited number of activities and playmates. For now, the sexual excessiveness of the 1960s and 1970s is not wise.

Let's not blame the baths or the bars if we choose not to curtail ourselves. Let's put the blame—rather, the responsibility—where it belongs. On ourselves.



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'The Boys in the Band' Another Hit for Diversity Theatre

By Billie Duncan

Diversity Theatre Group has done it again! Their second show, *The Boys in the Band*, is going to be as big a hit as their first.

Mart Crowley's big "gay" play was given what was called a "new approach" by director Joe Watts, but the script did not seem to be much tampered with.

Instead, there were some different choices in how some of the characters were played. That's not so new. Actors do it all the time. What director Joe Watts did was cast the perfect people to carry out his vision.

In the play, a group of gay men has assembled to celebrate the birthday of one



Bruce Herling as Emory in "The Boys in the Band"

of them, Harold. The host of the party is Michael, who is working on staying on the wagon.

However, when his non-gay college chum Alan calls needing to speak to him immediately, Michael winds up falling off the wagon with a vengeance.

The play speaks not only of the problems and loneliness of being gay, but also of the love between gay friends and the network of support that they build despite the tiffs, the drugs, the alcohol and the various guilt trips.

This feeling of support was clearer in Watts' production than in the productions I had seen of the play many years ago.

Incredibly, with the strong individual members of the cast, capable each one of scene-stealing, the feeling of community and ensemble work on the tiny Pink Elephant stage was superb.

Of course, the character of Emory is written to steal a scene or two, and Bruce Herling does it nicely, without ever losing sight of the fact that he is in a play with other characters and other actors.

Actually, Bruce is achingly funny as he prances and snips his way through the dishy parts and completely touching when the sad little secret of his first love is brought out.

Each actor has his moment. And each is up to it. At the top of the laurels list, though, is Calvin Mitchell as Bernard. When he finally lets loose, it is one of those magic moments in theatre that fit in the unforgettable file.

Next, there is Tye Randall Jobe as Harold. He plays the part as a combination of molasses and sandpaper, with a voice and manner that are howlingly understated.



Molissa Fenley

JACK MITCHELL PHOTO



A scene from "Oliver," now playing at the Tower Theatre

Kenny Joe Spivey as Larry pulls off one of the better "new" feelings. His character is usually played as a cold person, the guy who has a lover, but likes to screw around and doesn't care who he hurts.

In Spivey's beautifully crafted characterization, Larry is not a hateful person, but a loving man who can't seem to fit into a monogamous role, even though he loves the man with whom he lives, Hank.

Hank is portrayed by Ian Tanna with excellent restraint and a perfect sense of

honesty. Jack Presley as Donald, Michael's friend, and Rod Williams as the non-gay who enters Michael's world are both good, if lacking some of the depth of the other actors.

As far as Joe Watts is concerned in the role of Michael, he is a very good director of the other actors, but he needed someone to look in on his own performance. He is not bad, but he hammers the part a bit much and plays at Michael rather than playing the character's needs and desires.

However, the entire show is held together with tons of love and talent and should not be missed.

It will play at the Pink Elephant on Mondays and Tuesdays through March 6, with a final performance on Friday, March 9.

□ Duncan's Quick Notes

To do justice to *Oliver!* a company needs to have a completely adorable little boy who can sing exceptionally well, a multi-talented back-up cast and a group of superb character actors who can really



The creators of "Moonlake Casino" sit on the set

sell a song.

The current touring company from Cincinnati that is performing at the Tower does not quite measure up.

It's not the fault of little Zachary Stier, who is totally captivating in the title role. Stier has the face and voice of an angel and can be best described by that over-worked adjective "adorable." But he is, he is.

In fact, he is so delightful in the role that he is worth sitting through the rest of the cast wandering about the stage, mugging and sweating.

A great deal of the trouble with the production is the direction, which pits the characters against the audience like a bunch of rabid cartoons.

The only person escaping the pit of over-worked musical-comedy "style" (besides the children, of course) is Elizabeth Van Den Berg as Nancy. For some reason, she has not forgotten that her character is a person first of all. Even she, however, looks gauky in some scenes where she has totally unbelievable blocking with which to contend.

If you have children, go ahead and see it. How many live stage productions can you take the kids to nowadays, anyhow?

Actually, if you can afford it, go ahead and see it. The more things we support at the Tower, the longer it will be around in our very own neighborhood.

Don't forget, they just brought us *Agnes of God* last week. Oh, by the way, Maryann Plunkett, who so beautifully played the part of Agnes gave the VOICE an exclusive interview which will run probably next week.

In it, she talks about the problems of the remote-controlled blood gushing device that was hidden in her costume. It's quite interesting.

And talking about gushing, the High School of the Performing and Visual Arts was full of gush last Monday when the group Duran Duran paid a visit to the school. Eight of the students had collected over 36,000 aluminum cans to win a contest, the prize of which was a visit by the group.

My kids asked me for cans, also, but all I had was beer cans, no Coke. It just goes to show what a bad effect drinking beer can have on your children.

Tonight at HSPVA, the snazzy musical *Guys and Dolls* will open for a three-day run. These young people are super talented. You'd better go see what they are doing, right here in the heart of Montrose. For reservations, call 522-7811.

If you want to be in a play, go and try out



Maryann Plunkett in a Tower Theater dressing room

for the Diversity Theatre Group's latest effort, *Lovers*, which will have auditions on Sat. and Sun. Feb. 18 and 19 from 3 to 6 p. m.

They didn't give me the location, but if you call the Pink Elephant, I'm sure they will find out where it will be. Come to think of it, the auditions just might be at the Pink Elephant. One never knows.

Around the corner and down the street from the PE is the Exile, which had its big Miss Sweetheart Contest on Tuesday. The \$200 first prize went to Tommie Ross, the second prize of \$100 was won by Ramona Sims and Tina Renee walked away with \$50 in third prize money.

Owner Doug Bone said, "I never saw so many pretty girls. Each one was good. I would have hated to be a judge." Well, it's a dirty job, but someone has to do it. Congratulations to the winners and to all the contestants who did such a fine job.

And if you haven't made it downtown to Stages to see *Moonlake Casino* and *Suddenly Last Summer*, better get a move on. It closes on the Feb. 26.

But before you do anything, start getting out the silks, satins and sequins.

SumArts is sponsoring the largest contemporary arts festival in the world starting on Feb. 24. And on that very day will be the Sumfest Beaux Arts Ball with music by Buckwheat Zydeco and Dr. Rockit and the Sisters of Mercy.

That would be reason enough to go, but there's more! They are giving away a prize for the most outrageous costume. The prize is \$1,000. How are those cookies?

Lanny Steele of SumArts said that it is the perfect occasion for the creative and colorful minds of the gay community to come up with something great. I agree. Go get 'em!

Actually, the entire festival should be exceptional. It will run through April 4, and every week, we'll let you know what is happening. One great person who is coming to town for this series of events is Molissa Fenley, who is an international dance star.

She was just recently featured in *Vogue* and in *People* (how's that for covering the bases?), as well as being on the cover of *Dance*.

For further info, call 526-8309. And for goodness' sake, let's win that \$1,000!



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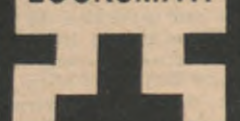
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Films



Albert Finney (center) and Tom Courtenay (right) prepare for a scene while producer/director Peter Yates looks on during the shooting of "The Dresser," which centers on a traditional English touring stage company during the 1940s

Finney Impeccable in 'Dresser'

By Steve Warren

As the radio reports the progress of World War II and Tom Courtenay takes his first mincing steps, we wonder whether *The Dresser* is "to be or not to be," echoing Mel Brooks' recent version of that Ernst Lubitsch comedy, another story of "Mary Noble, Backstage Fag."

Well, it is and it isn't. Courtenay's title character is more central to this story of a second-rate theatrical troupe making the show go on through wartime than James Haake's was to *To Be...*, but his gayness is less important.

The Dresser is the story of every subordinate, be it secretary, sergeant or what have you, who was ever responsible for the success of his "superior." Norman (Courtenay) serves Sir (Albert Finney) not only as dresser, but everything from administrative assistant to wet nurse. He's had the job for 16 years and still gets neither respect nor reward, just the satisfaction of knowing he deserves the credit every time Sir gets through a performance.

Despite its universal theme, *The Dresser* will have limited appeal outside of Anglophiles with greasepaint in their veins. Critics, masochistic by nature, are praising it because it contains a scathing anti-critic remark.

By that standard, gays should love it—there must be a dozen digs at us. Sir puts down everything and everyone—from another actor's *Lear* ("I was pleasantly disappointed") to the meager company that's been left him during the war: "...naught but old men, cripples and nancy-boys." He cracks about gays to Norman are made with unthinking but unintentional cruelty, like a housewife talking to her maid about blacks. Write at least some of it off to "the good old days."

The war not only makes it difficult to get good help, but results in theatres being bombed and air raids threatening to interrupt performances. Sir has a strong survival instinct, despite his failing health and spirit, that takes over once Norman is able to get him on stage, and doesn't let up until the curtain is down and he's taken his bows in the manner of the "Dying Swan" of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo.

The Dresser is an actors' picture and impeccable from that standpoint. Finney's ham is the kind the Old Testament warned us against. He leaves no scenery unchewed; and submerged in costume and makeup that would allow most actors to coast, he proceeds to overwhelm them.

Courtenay's role is more subtle (World War II was more subtle!). His stereotypical

gay mannerisms irritated me, perhaps because of their accuracy, to the point where I didn't enjoy watching him; but that's not to say he doesn't do an excellent job with the part as written (by Ronald Harwood from his play) and directed (by Peter Yates).

Although I was disappointed in *The Dresser* overall, I have to recommend it for Finney and dozens of delicious bits of dialogue.

Danger Enhances Sex in 'Restless'

By Steve Warren

Tea room sex between a man and a woman? It happens in *Reckless*, yet another teenage drama of escape from Steeltown, U.S.A. There's also boiler room sex—which gets pretty steamy—following swimming pool foreplay.

I guess it was Freud or somebody who said that danger enhances sex. Now someone's set that theory to music and made a movie of it.

Daryl Hannah plays Tracey, high school senior and head cheerleader, who is tired of being "perfect... I've never had an abortion. I've never even had the measles." What she has is a boring middle class family, a boring quarterback boyfriend (Adam Baldwin) and a boring future.

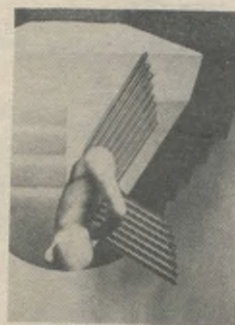
The excitement she seeks takes the form of Aidan Quinn, the latest selection from the New James Dean of the Month Club. He's not quite handsome despite blue eyes; but he's sexy and, if he's got more than this one role on him, he's going to be an important star.

Quinn's character, Johnny Rourke, is described in the school records as "potentially dangerous and destructive." Like Tom Cruise in *All the Right Moves*, he gets thrown off the football team; but while Cruise was a good boy, the kindest thing you can call Johnny is messed up.

A whirling camera—director James Foley's most creative touch—heightens the mating dance Johnny and Tracey do to Romeo Void's "Never Say Never" ("I might like you better if we slept together").

Not knowing what he wants to do with his life, Johnny is offended when Tracey hesitates before chucking everything to share his uncertain future. I know the romantic solution would be to tell her to go for it, and it made me feel very old when I couldn't think of a single reason why she should.

I don't like movies that make me feel old.



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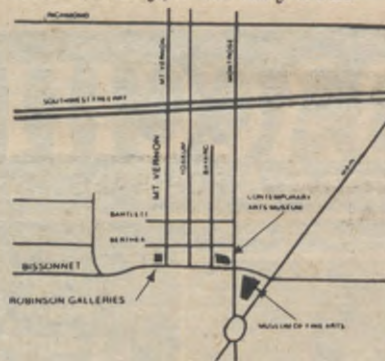
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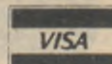
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					FEB. 17	FEB. 18
FEB. 19	FEB. 20	FEB. 21	FEB. 22	FEB. 23		

For additional information or phone numbers for events listed below, look for the sponsoring organization under "Organizations" in the Montrose Classified.

Selected Events through 7 Days

- **FRIDAY:** Baytown Lambda meets 7:30pm Feb. 17
- **FRIDAY:** Committee for Public Health Awareness's "Sharing Group for the Worried Well," 7-8pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett
- **SUNDAY:** Montrose Tennis Club plays 10:30am-1:30pm, MacGregor Park
- **SUNDAY:** Choices meets 12:30pm Feb. 19
- **SUNDAY:** Unitarian/Universalist Gay Caucus meets Feb. 19, 1st Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin
- **SUNDAY:** Reception for staff of Montrose Clinic at Rascals, 2702 Kirby, 5-7pm
- **SUNDAY:** Overeaters Anonymous meet 8pm Bering Church, 1440 Harold
- **MONDAY:** Washington's birthday, Feb. 20
- **MONDAY:** AIDS victim support group meets 6:30pm, Montrose Counseling Center, 900 Lovett Blvd., Suite 203
- **MONDAY:** MSA Bowling, 9pm at Stadium Bowl, 8200 Braesmain

- **TUESDAY:** Montrose Symphonic Band meets at Bering Church, 1440 Harold, 7:30pm
- **WEDNESDAY:** Overeaters Anonymous meet 8pm Bering Church, 1440 Harold
- **THURSDAY:** Wilde 'n Stein gay radio show 7:30-9pm on KPFT Radio, FM-90
- **THURSDAY:** CHE forum on "Taxi Deregulation Ordinance," 8pm Feb. 23, Holiday Inn Central, 4640 Main
- **THURSDAY:** MSA Mixed Bowling League bowls, 9pm at Stadium Bowl, 8200 Braesmain

Selected Events in Future Weeks

- **IN 1 WEEK:** Lesbian/Gay Resource Service, Univ. of Houston, meets 2:30pm Feb. 28, Spindletop Room, Univ. Center, Univ. Park
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Lutherans Concerned meets Feb. 28, Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Integrity meets Feb. 28, Autry House, 6265 Main
- **IN 1 WEEK:** Houston Area Gay & Lesbian Engineers & Scientists meet 7pm Feb. 28

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **BUSINESS OWNERS:** We list free each week in this directory Montrose community organizations plus businesses serving as distribution points for the MONTROSE VOICE
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ACCOMODATIONS

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 - Locker—1318 Westheimer—521-2306
 - Lola's Depot—2327 Grant—528-8342
 - Mary's—1022 Westheimer—528-8851
 - Midnight Sun—534 Westheimer—526-7519. disco, shows
 - Miss Charlotte's—911 W Drew—528-8840. country
 - Montrose Mining Co—805 Pacific—529-7488
 - Numbers 2—300 Westheimer—526-8338. disco
 - Officer's Club—2700 Albany—523-4084
 - One on One—1016 W Gray—528-8503
 - Outlaws—1419 Richmond—528-8903
 - Pink Elephant—1218 Leeland—659-0040. shows
 - Ranch—6620 1/2 Main—528-8730
 - Rascals—2702 Kirby—524-8272. dining, live music
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 - Trailride—1225 Westheimer—520-1225
 - Twins—535 Westheimer—520-0244. disco
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 - West Playland—3012 Milam—528-6988
- ALEXANDRIA—**
● Silly Sally's—924 Jackson—448-9164
- BEAUMONT—**
● Copa—304 Orleans—832-4206. disco

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- Robert's LaFite—213 Kempner—765-6896
- Tramps—627 Winnie—763-1247

LAFAYETTE—
● Fantasy I—408 Maurice (Windwood Shopping Ctr)—232-0338. disco

LAKE CHARLES—
● Paragon—1501 Broad—433-9389. disco

ORGANIZATIONS

- SELECTED NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS—**
Gay Press Association—POB 33605, Washington, DC 20033—(202) 387-2490
Gay Rights National Lobby—POB 1892, Washington, DC 20013—(202) 546-1801
Human Rights Campaign Fund—POB 1396, Washington, DC 20013—(202) 546-2025
Lambda Legal Defense—132 W 43rd, New York, NY 10039—(212) 944-9488
Media Fund for Human Rights (Gay Press Association)—POB 33605, Washington, DC 20033—(202) 387-2430
National Association of Business Councils—Box 15145, San Francisco, CA 94115—(415) 865-6363
National Association of Gay & Lesbian Democratic Clubs—1742 Mass Av SE, Washington, DC 20003—(202) 547-3104
National Gay Health Education Foundation—POB 784, New York, NY 10026—(212) 563-6313 or Dr. Greenberg at (713) 523-5204
National Gay Rights Advocates—540 Castro, San Francisco, CA 94114—(415) 863-3624
National Gay Task Force—80 5th Av, New York, NY 10011—(212) 741-5800
NGLTF's Crisisline—(800) 221-7044 (outside New York State)
Texas Gay/Lesbian Task Force—POB AK, Denton 76201—(817) 387-8216
- A Capella Chorus—(Montrose) Church of Christ—777-9286**
A Place in the Sun—c/o Gracyn Books, 704 Fairview—522-7695. subgroup of I/H Inc. concerts 7pm Tues
- ACLU—1236 W Gray—524-5925**
AIDS Hotline—c/o Gay Switchboard—529-3211
American Gay Atheists—457-6660
Astro Rainbow Alliance—520-9451 (voice), 520-0552 (TTY)
Bayou Blu Singers—Robert Moon, dir, 209 Stratford—868-3084
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church—1440 Harold—526-1017. service 10:30am Sun
Black & White Men Together (BWMT)—c/o Gay Switchboard, 529-3211
Choices lesbian group—Carol at 529-4975 or c/o Gay Switchboard, 529-3211. meets 12:30pm 3rd Sun
Christian Church of the Good Shepherd—1707 Montrose. services 1pm Sun. Bible study 7:30pm Thurs
(Montrose) Church of Christ—1700 Montrose—777-9286. services 11am Sun
Church of Christian Faith—217 Fairview—529-8005. services 10:45am Sun & 7:15pm Wed. Bible study 7:15pm Tues & Sun; choir practice Wed after services
Church of Pentecostal Unity—1217 Richmond—850-7286, 520-5699. Services 7:30pm Fri, 11am Sun
Citizens for Human Equality (CHE)—POB 3045, 77253—680-3346. meet 2nd Tues, Watson-DeNagy Gallery, 1106 Berthea; forum on "Taxi Deregulation Ordinance," 8pm Feb 23, Holiday Inn Central, 4640 Main; author-Drs David M McWhirter & Andrew Mattison workshop Mar 3; St. Patrick's Day party with staff of Montrose Clinic invited guests Mar 17
Clippers—342-8502
Coit 45's—meets at Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos—528-9192
Committee for Public Health Awareness—POB 3045, 77253—528-6333, 522-5084. "Sharing Group for the Worried Well" meet Fri, 7-8pm, Montrose Counseling Center
Community Gospel Center—1700 Montrose—523-6018
Cong Aytz Chayim—meets at CCF, 217 Fairview—688-8997. service & social 8pm 2nd & 4th Fri
Crisis Hotline—228-1505
- Interact—POB 16041, 77222—529-7014.** meet 4th Wed, Bering Church, 1440 Harold, 7:30pm
- **KPFT Radio, FM-90—419 Lovett Blvd—526-4900.** "Wilde 'n Stein" gay radio show Thurs, 7:30-9:00pm
- KS/AIDS Foundation—1001 Westheimer #193—524-AIDS**
- Lambda Center Gay Alcoholics & Alonon—1214 Jo Annis—521-9772**
- Lesbian/Gay Resource Service—University of Houston, 4800 Calhoun, box 309, 77004—749-1253.** meets 2:30pm alternate Tues, Spindletop Room, 2nd floor, University Center
- Lesbians & Gay People in Medicine—880-9486.** meet 7:30pm 1st Sat
- Lutherans Concerned—meets at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh—521-0863, 453-1143.** meet 2nd & 4th Tues evenings
- Men Against Deception Courtesy Club—POB 514871, 77254**
- **Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR)—1819 Decatur—861-9149.** potluck dinner 7:30pm 1st Sat monthly; services 10:45am & 7:15pm Sun & 7:15pm Wed. membership inquirers class 7:30pm Mon; education classes Tues & Wed eves
- Montrose Art Alliance—521-2461.** affiliate I/H Inc; meet 2nd Thurs
- Montrose Civic Club: see Nartown Association**
- **Montrose Clinic—104 Westheimer—528-5531.** open weekdays 9-10pm; reception for staff at Rascals, 2702 Kirby, 5-7pm, Feb 19; seminar on McGee, 8-10pm, Mar 7, Apr 4 & Jun 6. Citizens for Human Equality hosts St. Patrick's Day party with staff of clinic invited guests Mar 17
- Montrose Cloggers: affiliate of I/H Inc.** meet Fri eve, Bering Church Activities Bldg, 3405 Mulberry
- Montrose Counseling Center—900 Lovett #203—529-0037.** AIDS victim support group meets 6:30pm Mon
- Montrose Singers—Carl Lawrence 774-3591** after 6pm rehearsal Mon eves, Bering Church, 1440 Harold
- Montrose Tennis Club—Randell at 697-9653.** play Sun, 10:30am-1:30pm, MacGregor Park
- MSA/Mon Night Bowling—play Stadium Bowl, 8200 Braesmain—528-4576 or 499-9036**
- MSA/Thurs Night (Mixed League) Bowling—play Stadium Bowl, 8200 Braesmain—961-1523**
- MSA/Greater Houston (Men's) Softball—523-8802 day, 523-0413 eve. Scramble Tournament Mar 10**
- MSA/Pocket Billiards League**
- MSA/Greater Houston (Men's) Softball Series 8 Communication Committee—POB 22272, 77227.** Series 8' Gay World Series opening (tentative) 3pm Aug 26, Memorial Park
- MSA/Women's Softball League—6431 Pine-shade, 77008—Linda at 688-7193; deadline Mar 5 for sponsor fees & player rosters**
- MSA/Volleyball: games 7:30pm Tues, Gregory-Lincoln school, 1101 Taff**
- Montrose Symphonic Band—meets at Bering Church, 1440 Harold—527-9454.** meet 7:30pm Tues; affiliate I/H Inc
- Montrose Watch: subgroup Nartown Assoc**
- Mustangs—meets at the Barn, 710 Pacific—528-4427.** club night Thurs
- National Gay Health Education Foundation—toun 523-5204**
- National Organization for Women (NOW) Lesbian Rights Task Force—POB 440422, 77244**
- Nartown Association (Montrose Civic Club)—meets at Bering Church, 1440 Harold—522-1000.** meet 7pm 4th Tues

Montrose Classified

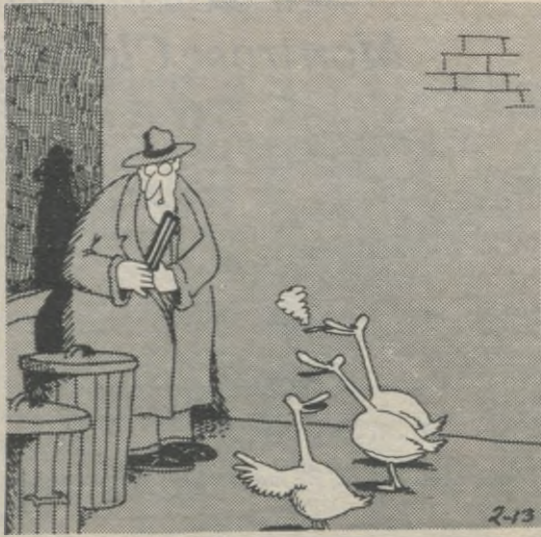
- New Freedom Christian Church—912 W 11th—863-8377.** services 10am Sun, 7:30pm Wed
 - Overeaters Anonymous—c/o Bering Church, 1440 Harold—Peggy at 526-4015.** meets 8pm Wed & Sun
 - Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays—Houston 454-6663.** Spring 353-4792
 - Park People—c/o Nartown Community Firehouse—741-2524**
 - Paz y Liberacion—POB 600063, 77260—523-9061**
 - Recreational Land Fund Committee—Mustang Club project**
 - Rice Univ Gay/Lesbian Support Group—c/o Gay Switchboard, 529-3211**
 - Shanti of Texas counseling for life-threatening illnesses—522-5084**
 - Texas Bay Area Gays—332-3737.** meet Thurs evening
 - Texas Bay Area Gay Youth—332-3737.** meet bi-weekly
 - Texas Gay Rodeo Assoc—c/o Kindred Spirit, 5245 Buffalo Spdy**
 - Texas Human Rights Foundation—1915 Commonwealth—522-2824**
 - Texas Riders—c/o Mary's, 1022 Westheimer—528-8851**
 - Unitarian/Universalist Gay Caucus—c/o 1st Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin—520-9767, 528-5842.** meet 3rd Sun afternoons
 - Westlawn Fellowship—864-8899**
 - Westlawn Colony Arts Association—1001 Westheimer #187**
 - Women's Lobby Alliance—4 Chelsea—521-0439**
- BAYTOWN—**
Baytown Lambda Group—427-1378. meets 7:30pm odd Fri
- CONROE—**
Conroe Area Lambda Society—Jan at (409) 756-0354 or Ray at (409) 756-4097
Conroe Area Lesbians—Kathy at (409) 756-9069. meet 8pm 2nd & 4th Fri
- GALVESTON—**
Lambda Alcoholics Anonymous—763-1401
- LAKE CHARLES—**
Dignity—Rt 1, Box 216C, Longville, LA 70652

MODELS, ESCORTS, MASSEURS

- HOWDY, STOCKMEN!—TY**
Top model in town. 8am—midnight. 869-2298.
- TEXESCORT 524-9511**
Models, escorts and masseurs. "We do care enough to send the very best." Major credit cards honored. Monthly medical certificate. Have a real fun time with the right guy for you.
- RELAX & ENJOY**
The BodyWorks massage. For appointment, call Bill, 526-2470.
- LICENSED MASTER MASSEUR**
Full-body, deep muscle relaxation. In or out. Professional service by appointment. (713) 527-0876. Chace.
- BODY MASSAGE**
In or out, Bruce, 521-2009.
- HANDSOME VERSATILE ESCORT**
Buck, 520-6735.

PERSONALS

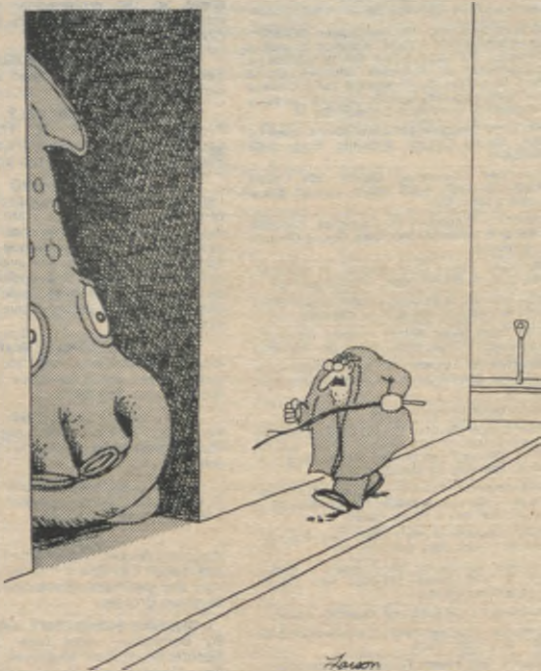
- KILLER MACHO DUDES**
GWM, 30, 150, professional, muscular, masculine, horny. Box 42825, Suite 323, 77242.
- TOTAL FINANCIAL OBLIGATION**
Taken for right GWM. Need son/lover. Call 688-8843.
- LIKE TO TRAVEL?**
Professional, GWM, 31, 170, seeks younger travel companion/relationship. Photo a must. Box 173A c/o Voice.
- SEEKING FRIEND**
I am a 38 WASP Ivy-League professional, bi-sexual, married male. I am 6 ft., 180 lbs., no facial hair, brown hair and blue eyes. I see a friend or friends for occasional intimate times. My availability is limited to weekdays, 10-6, and sometimes on Saturday. All replies (with photo, if possible) to 2615 Waugh Drive, Box 189, Houston 77006.
- AFFECTIONATE GUY**
Attractive, versatile, 29, blond/green, Virgo, seeks 25-38 for good times and dates. Thom, 858-8929.
- ARE YOU HUNG?**
Very good-looking GWM seeks same. Must be well-hung. Call 522-8358 if you fit the bill.
- DAD WANTS SON**
GWM, 5'11", 170 lbs., free rent. Ray, 522-4167, 10-12pm, Montrose.
- CARLA**
Attention Wicked Witch of the North. You sick queen. Lay down. If all else fails, get ugly and sue the scagface. Your Ugly Pimp-lushing Brother
- CHUNKY SUBMISSIVE WANTED**
By dominant, uncut New Orleansian. Mature, brown hair, blue eyes, 5'11", 140 lbs., Greek active, cigar smoker, beer drinker, CW dancer. 504/943-9875. 6-11pm only.
- HISS HISS**
My darling Blake. I love you! Steve.



Cornered by the street ducks, Phil wasn't exactly sure what to do — and then he remembered his 12 gauge.



"Hold it right there, Charles! . . . Not on our first date, you don't!"



"I've had it! This time I've really had it! . . . Jump the fence again, will he? . . . Dang!"

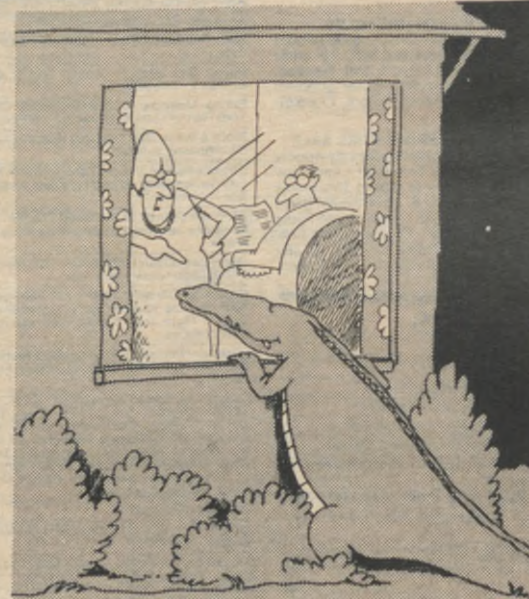
The Far Side by Gary Larson



"Here's the last entry in Carlson's journal: Having won their confidence, tomorrow I shall test the humor of these giant but gentle primates with a simple joy-buzzer handshake."



"You fool! 'Bring the honey,' I said . . . This isn't the same thing!"



"It's back, Arnie! Get the book! . . . We're gonna settle whether it's an alligator or a crocodile once and for all!"

HARDLY HUNG HOUSTONIANS
It takes only one hand to handle a Whopper, Jr. J/O club forming for this special breed. Picture, letter to Box 7111, Houston 77248.

ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONALS SOUGHT
Professional GWM, 28, 5'10", 160 lbs., athletic, self-motivated, career-oriented, masculine/atractive, seeks introductions to other active, honest professionals. 961-9878.

TDC GAY INMATES
Are you lonely? Depressed? Discouraged? Do you need a friend and pen pal? I will answer all sincere letters. Ad 173-B, c/o Voice.

YOUNG GAY NUDIST
Club forming. Send photo, phone to Occupant, Box 740572, Houston 77274.

MUSCULAR HAIRY MASSEUR
seeks attractive well-endowed slender men. Nonsmoker. Send photo. "A must!" "Thom," 1809-4 Brun, Houston 77019.

DON'T READ THIS
GWM, 34, seeks nonsmoking, hirsute man over 30 for friendship/possible relationship. David, 522-4050.

LOCALS ONLY PLEASE
I'm new in Houston, seeking others nearby. Write Lewis, 5010 Lamonte, Houston 77092.

WANTED
Softball players. 1984 MSA season is forming. Call Jerry, 523-0413.

PATRON SOUGHT
Medical student seeks personal, professional, financial contacts. Legit. Jim, Box 20582, Houston 77225.

MATURE MALE SOUGHT
by GWM, 31, for lasting relationship. Attractive, stable, over 30. 783-8997.

MONTROSE
GWM, 42, 5'11", 135, GR/FR/A/P seeks GWM, 30-45, for fun times. John Towle, 617 Harold 3, Upstairs, Driveway entrance. Houston 77006.

HAIRY CHESTED GWM
GA, FP, 44, 135 lbs., 5'5", brown hair, seeks smooth-bodied buddy for fun times. Box 172X c/o Voice.

FUN YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
Stable, masculine, GWM. I'm attractive, adventurous, happy and likeable. Not recently involved. Outgoing, equally comfortable in gay or straight surroundings. I'm seeking a masculine, attractive, well-balanced man whose interests include his career and his social life. I enjoy outdoor sports, beach, travel, people, professional challenges. If we have a lifestyle and outlook in common, send me a letter with a photo, which will be returned if requested. Box 172W c/o Voice.

TOP SEEKS BOTTOM
WM, 36, 5'10", 145 lbs. Write with photo. Box 2703, Humble 77347.

LET'S MEET
GM, 5'11", 24, 165 lbs., seeks men 20-28 for friendship, fun. Dwayne, 520-8519.

GERMANY CALLING
Professional, mature GWM, 5'10", 145 lbs., brown hair, 40, wish to meet GWM, 25-35, for relationship to live in Germany. Am sincere, loving, quiet, affectionate. Write with photo, please. Ad 172-Y, c/o Voice.

BIKERS
Looking for motorcyclists into sport riding. Call 520-6014 and leave message.

6'4" BLUE-EYED BLOND
Attractive topman wants sex dates, lover. Serious, affectionate, attractive only. Johnny, 660-9644.

HISPANIC OR ORIENTAL
Into sharing for permanent relationship. Write T.M., Box 956, Richmond, TX 77469.

INTO SHAVING?
and unusual haircuts? Write Clippers, Box 956, Richmond, TX 77469.

HAIRY LIFEMATE SOUGHT
by 45-year-old man. No smoking, boozing, drugs. Larry, 713/481-2892, 6-9pm.

HAPPINESS IS . . .
a handsome, healthy, humorous, happy hunk as your escort or model from . . . TexEscort, 524-9511, Major credit cards honored. Security and discretion assured.

STABLE, RESPONSIBLE EXEC
GWM, mid 30's, slim, attractive, seeks similar for good times, all replies answered. B.J., Box 66973-174, 77006.

HAPPILY MARRIED SOUGHT
GWM, happily married to female, well-preserved 45, slender, short and well-built intellectual, professional, seeks relationship with GWM in similar circumstances. Seek slender, attractive looking, in my age category, discreet, successful professional for friendship, intimate sharing at not always convenient hours. Direct correspondence to Box 61647, Houston 77208-1647.

PRIVATE GAY CLUBS

- Club Houston Baths—2205 Fannin—659-4998
- French Quarter Theater—3201 Louisiana—527-0782
- Midtown Spa—3100 Fannin—522-2379
- 2306 Club—2306 Genesee—528-6235

RESTAURANTS

- Baja's—402 Lovett—527-9866
- Boulevard Cafe—808 Lovett—521-1015
- Chapultepec—813 Richmond—522-2365
- Cultured Cow—2366 Rice
- Frankie's—Montrose at Westheimer—529-7896
- Matt Garner BBQ—138 W Gray
- Gyro Gyros Sandwich Shop—1536 Westheimer—528-4655
- Greek Island—302 Tuam—522-7040
- House of Pies—3112 Kirby—528-3816
- La Jalciense—1308 Montrose—524-8676
- Luigi's Beef House—2703 Montrose
- 9'ers—1303 Westheimer—528-8823
- One's a Meal—2019 W Gray—523-8432
- Perky's—Richmond at Kirby—524-0075
- Rascals—2702 Kirby—524-6272
- Second Verse—3619 Washington
- Spanish Flower—3921 Main
- Spud-U-Like—416 Westheimer—520-0554
- Steak 'n Egg—4231 Montrose—528-8135
- Tim's Coffee Shop—1525 Westheimer—529-2289

SERVICES, ETC.

- APPEARANCES—JEANS/SPORTSWEAR**
Alterations while you wait. 1338 Westheimer. 521-9450.
- STOP SMOKING 957-4399**
- INCOME TAX RETURNS**
CPA will prepare your personal and business tax returns. Other accounting services available. 526-0950.

Patricia Anne O'Kane
Attorney at Law
Patricia Anne O'Kane
Attorney at Law
Patricia Anne O'Kane
Attorney at Law
Patricia Anne O'Kane
Attorney at Law
9 Years Experience

3212 Smith, Suite 102
526-7911
answered 24 hours

ELECTRONIC SERVICES
TV, VCR & stereo repair. Call Doug, 526-2358, after 7:30.

ESALEN MASSAGE FOR
relaxation. Professional masseur. Non-sexual. James Buechler, 526-1649, 781-8031.

CARRIAGE TRADE CONTRACTORS
General maintenance and contracting. Landscaping and yard maintenance. Don Dana. 864-1339.

NEED A LAWYER YOU CAN AFFORD?

Judith Douglas
ATTORNEY AT LAW
520-1370 24 HOURS

Proudly serving the Montrose Community

- Drunk Driving—Public Intoxication
- Debt Relief—Bankruptcy
- Injury Claims—Job & Accident
- Theft—Shoplifting
- Possession—Drugs & Weapons Charges
- Lewd Conduct—Prostitution

Reasonable Fees & Terms
2 Convenient Locations

- 303 W. Polk at Taft (1 block off Montrose/W. Gray)
- 3816 W. Alabama, Suite 214 (near Wesleyan)

CABLE TV REP
for the Montrose. Woody Woodward. 522-9825.

TAX RETURNS
All types, reasonable rates. Call Maryanne Taylor, CPA. 520-5778.

COMMISSION A POEM
\$1 for sample and info. Bill O'Rourke. 509 E. Cottage, Houston 77009.

TREAT YOURSELF TO MUSIC
Learn to read music or increase your repertoire, musicianship, technique through piano or singing instruction. Professional teacher. 723-3254.

DISCOUNT PRINTING—CDC
Example—Business cards \$13-10. (713) 664-9465. (713) 667-3600.

MOVEMASTERS
Hauling; packing supplies, too. 1925 Westheimer. 630-6555.

- Francisco's Hair Design—901 Richmond—523-0438
- Icenhower Beauty School—327 Westheimer—520-7972
- Legends Hair Design—906 Westheimer—527-0188
- Lionel Hair Design—3220 Yoakum—526-4494
- Magnifique hair care—2528 Kingston—524-0672
- Montrose Hair Design—1004 California—522-2822
- Montrose Voice newspaper—3317 Montrose #306—529-8490
- Neartown Garage—1901 Taft—523-2794
- Ron's Hair & Skin Care—1310 Hawthorne—521-3000
- Taft Automotive—1411 Taft—522-2190
- Tommy's Barber Shop—2154 Portsmouth—528-8216
- Total Animal Care—1640 Westheimer—521-9277

SHOPS & STORES

- All-Star Adult News—1407 Richmond—528-8405
- Antique Corner—1921 Westheimer—522-6087
- Appearances—1338-A Westheimer—521-9450
- Asylum Adult Bookstore—1201 Richmond
- Aussie Way Liquors—913 Westheimer—526-6932
- Ball Park Adult Bookstore—1830 W Alabama

- Books—Kirby at Westheimer
- Boulevard—Plaza Hotel, 5020 Montrose
- Cactus Records—W Alabama at Shepherd
- Cobweb Liquors—2036 Westheimer—526-2989
- Critters—626 Hawthorne—529-8299
- Cut Flowers—5015 Montrose—522-1775
- Diner's Adult News—240 Westheimer—528-8950
- Doubrava-Jones, the Manhole clothing—1983 W Gray—522-1089
- Downbeat Records—2117 Richmond—523-8348
- Dramatika gifts—3224 Yoakum—528-5457
- Google's—1004 California—524-5555
- Gracielynn Books—704 Fairview—522-7695
- Health Seekers—W Alabama at S Shepherd
- House of Coffee Beans—2520 Rice
- Houston Home & Garden—2476 Bolsover
- Infinite Records—528 Westheimer—521-0187
- Kroger—3300 Montrose
- A Moveable Feast—3827 Dunlavy
- Oh Boy! Leather Goods—912 Westheimer—524-7859
- Old English Furniture—1138 W Gray—521-9145
- Possessions—4412 Montrose—526-3094
- Record Rack music—3109 S Shepherd—524-3602
- Studz Adult News—1132 W Alabama
- TLC—602 W Alabama—524-5860
- The Tire Place—1307 Fairview—529-1414
- Union Jack clothing—1212 Westheimer—528-9600
- Up One Western/Leather—BRB, 2400 Brazos—524-5737
- Village Cheese Shop—2484 Bolsover
- Waugh Drive Liquor—1402 Welch
- Westheimer Flea Market—1733 Westheimer
- Westheimer Interiors—1727 Westheimer—520-1357
- Westheimer Records—2024 Westheimer—520-8800
- Wild Bill's New & Used Clothing—2201 Washington Av—880-8824
- Wilde & Stein book store—802 Westheimer—529-7014

TRAVEL

- Travel Consultants—2029 SW Fwy—529-8464

MONTROSE CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISING RATES

Placing a Classified other than a Personals? Read this:

- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- CARS & BIKES
- DWELLINGS & ROOMMATES
- EMPLOYMENT & JOBS WANTED
- FOR SALE, MISC.
- MODELS, ESCORTS, MASSEURS ■ SERVICES
- TRAVEL

RATE: Up to 3 words in bold, \$2 each week. Additional regular words 30¢ each per week. Minimum charge \$3 per week. DEADLINE: 5:30pm Tuesday for Friday's newspaper.

LONG TERM ADVERTISING: Run the same ad 4 weeks or longer, pay the full run in advance, and make no copy changes during the full run, and you can deduct 15%. Run the same ad 13 weeks or longer under the same conditions and you can deduct 25%.

CHARGE YOUR AD: All classifieds must be paid in advance OR you can charge your classified to MasterCard or Visa. We do not bill—except through your credit card—for classifieds.

PHONE IN YOUR AD: Only those who will be charging to MasterCard or Visa can phone in classifieds to (713) 529-8490 Monday or Tuesday, 9am to 5:30pm.

Placing a ■ PERSONALS? Read this:

RATE: Up to 3 words in bold and up to 15 total words, FREE. (Additional words beyond 15 per week are 30¢ each.)

FREE PERSONALS apply only to individuals. No commercial services or products for sale.

HOW LONG? A Free Personal can be placed for one, two or three weeks at a time—but no longer without re-submitting the form.

BLIND BOX NUMBER: If you want secrecy, we'll assign you a Blind Box Number. The answers to your ad will be sent to us and we will then confidentially forward the replies to you. Rate is \$3 for each week the ad runs but replies will be forwarded as long as they come in.

ANSWERING A BLIND BOX NUMBER: Address your reply to the Blind Box Number, c/o Montrose Voice, 3317 Montrose #306, Houston, TX 77006. Enclose no money. Your letter will be forwarded unopened and confidentially to the advertiser.

CHARGE YOUR PERSONAL TO CREDIT CARD: All charges beyond the 15-word limit or Blind Box charges must be paid in advance OR you can charge to MasterCard or Visa. We do not bill—except through your credit card—for classifieds.

PHONE IN YOUR AD: Only those who will be charging to MasterCard or Visa can phone in Classifieds to (713) 529-8490 Monday or Tuesday, 9am to 5:30pm. The Free offer does not apply to Personals phoned in. You will be charged the same rate as other types of Classifieds.

(up to 3 normal-size words in bold capitals)

(free or 30¢/word) _____

(free or 30¢/word) _____

(30¢/word) _____

(30¢/word) _____

(30¢/word) _____

bold headline at \$2 _____

_____ words at 30¢ each _____

Blind Box at \$3 per issue _____

Total _____

_____ times _____ weeks _____

(use additional paper if necessary)

Name _____

Address _____

Amount enclosed _____

(check money order, cash in person VISA charge MasterCard charge)

If charging by credit card: _____

_____ exp. date _____

Mail or bring to Montrose Voice, 3317 Montrose #204, Houston, TX 77006

By Tycho

For Friday, February 10, 1984, through Thursday, February 16, 1984:

ARIES—If a wish is a dream your heart makes, why not share your dream with your heart's desire? You're a bit overwhelmed with dreaminess this month. Be specific with your specific someone, and watch the whole world change for the better.

TAURUS—While all that working-out has been good for you, there have been points along the way when you've been all "worked out." Try to keep a balance between effort and relaxation to achieve the perfection you're after. Your helpmate is there for those relaxing times.

GEMINI—You're thinking about doing some travelling, and if you're really smart, you'll include some business along the way. You could make some very good contacts and make your fun tax-deductible while you satisfy your wanderlust! Start packing!

CANCER—A man who is close to you (possibly a relative) needs your help very much. In answering a plea for assistance, be giving, but know where to draw the line. Give gladly, but not at the expense of everything else in your life. Promise only what you can be sure of.

LEO—The tension you've been building needs to find release. Use any method that is safe to take the clamps off. Everyone has a limit, so don't push past what you know is yours. Relief from outside comes in a very short time, but this week is the one that you have to be good to yourself.

VIRGO—While you've always had a penchant for being organized, this is one of those times when your ability to bring all the details together can result in accomplishing exactly what you set out to do. You won't miss a thing, and you'll even gain more than you imagined you could.

LIBRA—What was lustful and passionate and lots of fun has turned into something that you weren't expecting at all—love. What you could do with this surprising turn of events might change all sorts of things in your life. Don't deny it. Let it out and let it in!

SCORPIO—Scorpios have a more direct knowledge of what power is than any other sign. What they do with that knowledge varies extremely. Now is one of those times when you can use your knowledge in a practical and magical way. An Aries or a Sagittarius could be a very helpful ally.

SAGITTARIUS—A much-needed long-distance conversation or a beautifully written letter may come now. Though possibly not from an expected source, that can make its effect even more profound. It will assist you in your process of getting rid of excess baggage.

CAPRICORN—First, it was your turn to make a commitment, then fate took a turn. Now the ball is in the other person's court, and that's where the final decision comes from. You've done all you can about this. Que sera, sera—and you'll know next week.

AQUARIUS—Your confusion slows and comes to a near halt. The excellence of your intelligence pierces through all the B.S. that's around and allows you a vista of what's ahead. Though details remain to put together, it looks like you're clear of weirdness for a while.

PISCES—Yes, you are very sexy. Yes, you have a direct line to what's really going on, and yes, your dreams are coming true, right before your eyes. And yes, you might grow complacent and yes, you can become too arrogant. Even with your incredible good fortune, you can blow it. Careful!

SUMARTS = SUMFEST 1984



BEAUX ARTS BALL Friday February 24

at
LAWNDALE
ALTERNATIVE
5600 Hillman

LIVE MUSIC

Dr. Rockit & the Sisters of Mercy
Buckwheat Zydeco
Ils Sont Partis

SUMFEST 1984 PROGRAM

FEBRUARY

FRIDAY 24 THRU MARCH 22
East End Juried Art Show
Lawndale Alternative, 5600 Hillman

FRIDAY 24

"Beaux Arts Ball"
Dr. Rockit and The Sisters of Mercy
Buckwheat Zydeco
Ils Sont Partis
Lawndale Alternative, 5600 Hillman
9:00 P.M. Until \$8.00/7.50

MARCH

FRIDAY 2

Pauline Oliveros: A 30-Year Retrospective
featuring Carol Plantamura
Lawndale Alternative, 5600 Hillman
8:30 P.M. \$7.00/5.00

SATURDAY 3

"Solo Performances"
Deborah Hay
featuring Pauline Oliveros
Lawndale Alternative, 5600 Hillman
8:30 P.M. \$7.00/5.00

SUNDAY 4

Voices of Change
Dudley Hall/Fine Arts Bldg. UH-UP
8:30 P.M. \$7.00/5.00

TUESDAY 6

"The Magick Lantern Cycle" — Part 1
Kenneth Anger
Rice Media Center,
University & Stockton, near Rice Stadium
7:30 P.M. \$4.00/3.00

WEDNESDAY 7

"The Magick Lantern Cycle" — Part 2
Kenneth Anger
Rice Media Center
University & Stockton, near Rice Stadium
7:30 P.M. \$4.00/3.00

WEDNESDAY 7

Ronald Shannon Jackson
and The Decoding Society
Rockefeller, 3620 Washington Ave.
9:00 \$11.50/7.50

FRIDAY 9

SATURDAY 10

"Take Off From A Forced Landing"
Dianne McIntyre/Sounds In Motion
guest artist: Nizake Shange
Lawndale Alternative, 5600 Hillman
8:30 P.M. \$7.00/5.00

SUNDAY 11

"Super-8/Berlin:
The Architecture of Division"
Keith Sanborn
Diverse Works 214 Travis
4:00 P.M. \$4.00/3.00

MONDAY 12

"Films and Performance"
Keith Sanborn
Rice Media Center,
University & Stockton
7:30 P.M. \$4.00/3.00

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster locations. For ticket information call 526-8309