

# Gay rally planned for City Hall April 10

STAR NEWSPAPER CHAIN

## MONTROSE STAR

Houston's Free Weekly Gay Newspaper / Issue #134 / April 9, 1979

### Leaders hope for large turnout for Tuesday gay rally at City Hall

HOUSTON — Gay Political Caucus acting president Larry Bagneris is expecting a good crowd at Tuesday night's rally at City Hall.

"We've had some successful meetings with police officials in the last few days ... the ball is now rolling and this rally will keep it rolling," Bagneris said.

The rally is set for 7:00 p.m., April 10, at the reflecting pool at City Hall, downtown.

"We want to show our numbers. The more gay men and women who show up, the better impression we'll make ... the sooner we'll get our demands for

better police respect and better control over crime in the Montrose," Bagneris said.

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission will be hold

hearings in Houston on police practices June 12 and 13. The gay community is planning on providing the Commission with affidavits and testimonials of inci-

dents of police brutality toward homosexuals.

The Houston hearings are part of a commission study of police procedures as they relate to civil rights.

Commission staff members have been in Houston the past two weeks conducting preliminary interviews with public officials and community members.

### Police start dialogue

HOUSTON — In a major decision in regard to the gay community, the Houston Police Dept. said April 4 at a meeting of the Gay Political Caucus, that it is very interested in promoting a better relationship between police and homosexuals.

Chief McKeehan, chief of field operations, and a sergeant, spoke before the GPC members, and promised to keep the dialogue going. McKeehan said that over the next few weeks he would see to it that individual officers who patrol the Montrose neigh-

borhood begin personal dialogue with gay men and women.

He said it would be a gradual thing, on a rotating basis through the various shifts.

McKeehan also surprisingly announced that he

favors a softball game between the gay community and police officers. This is an event that activist Ray Hill has been trying to arrange for five years, always to get turned down or simply ignored.

### movies reviewed . . .



## ACLU supports candidates

PITTSBURGH — The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit March 23 to exempt a gay rights activist from a campaign finance disclosure law, claiming that people will not contribute to his political effort if their names are made public.

The action was filed in Pennsylvania Common-

wealth Court on behalf of Randal Forrester, running in the May Democratic primary for Allegheny County commissioner.

The ACLU says he is the "first openly gay candidate in Pennsylvania," and that enforcement of the state law might deprive his supporters of their rights of free speech, free association and privacy.

## Syphilis increasing

ATLANTA — The number of reported cases of syphilis among adults and young persons in the United States is increasing again following a two-year decline, the Associated Press reports it was told March 30 by the

national Center for Disease Control.

The CDC said the number of reported cases of primary and secondary syphilis in November 1978 was 1987, a 15.3 percent increase compared to November 1977.

## Trial set for Ruiz

HOUSTON — State District Judge Joseph Guarino set trial for May 14 for David Ruiz, a prison inmate who is a plaintiff in a federal suit on prison conditions, on charges that he attempted to sexually abuse another prisoner while being held at the Harris County Rehabilitation Center.

Ruiz pleaded innocent to he felony charge at his arraignment March 21.

Ruiz's attorneys, Larry

Sauer and Frank Alvarez, said former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark may help in the defense.

Ruiz, serving 25 years for three robberies, is accused of attacking a sixteen-year-old Mexican national last Nov. 12 and threatening him with a knife.

Ruiz was the original plaintiff in the federal suit accusing the Texas Dept. of Corrections of violating inmates' civil rights.

## Board member arrested

AUSTIN — A Texas Pardons and Parole Board member was "booked, fingerprinted and mugged" March 29 after pleading no contest to a misdemeanor charge of indecent exposure, reports United Press International.

George Glenn Killinger, 70, one of three members of the state parole board, was fined \$30 plus court costs by Municipal Judge Alberto Garcia, the news service said.

Garcia was reported as saying that Killinger was "booked, fingerprinted and

mugged (had his picture taken)" after entering the plea, "the same as every other defendant."

The press service said Killinger was arrested by three Austin vice officers March 8 in a bus station rest room. He was taken to the police station and released on a field citation after pleading innocent.

Killinger's lawyers reportedly entered the no contest plea, which Garcia said was not an admission of guilt, but that Killinger was not contesting the charges.

## Bryant plans specials

MIAMI — Singer-crusader Anita Bryant plans two new broadcasting projects, in which she will promote "old-fashioned values" without getting into issues, reported Newsweek.

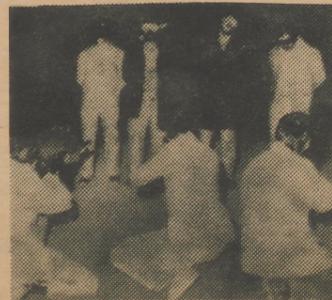
The magazine said in late March that it had learned that in a ninety-minute TV special scheduled for next fall, Bryant will star in a kind of panorama of Americana, using such settings as Gettysburg, Valley Forge, West Point, Sun

Valley and the small-town Oklahoma church where she first sang as a child.

In September, Newsweek added, Bryant will launch a syndicated daily radio program modeled partly after Don McNeill's "The Breakfast Club," a defunct show on which she started her big-time singing career.

Her radio program will mix interviews, advice, popular songs, hymns and Scripture readings, said Newsweek.

## Serious accusations for Iran



The new regime in Iran has been accused of gross human rights violations, including executions of homosexuals.

"The United States might be willing to help," Hodding Carter told the news media, but human rights considerations — including American concern about summary executions and floggings — "would be a consideration in the U.S. decision."

He did not directly mention the homosexual executions. As far as is suspected, only local Iranian homosexuals have been executed by the strict Moslem regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

WASHINGTON — State Dept. spokesman Hodding Carter said March 28 that human rights considerations will enter into whatever decisions are made about allowing U.S. technicians to put segments of the Iranian Air Force back on flight status, reported United Press.

## Bagneris acting GPC head

HOUSTON — Larry Bagneris, vice-president of the Houston Gay Political Caucus, the largest gay political group in Houston and one of the largest in the country, has temporarily

assumed the position of acting president.

President Steve Shiflett has taken a leave of absence to take care of personal business matters. Shiflett is expected to be gone for two months.

## Mayor nixes gay rights law

HARTFORD, Conn. — Mayor George A. Athanson April 3 vetoed a city ordinance that would have forbidden job or housing discrimination on the basis of "sexual orientation," race, color, age, religion,

national origin or sex.

The mayor, according to the Associated Press, called it vague and discriminatory because it singled out specific groups for protection, and would not have applied to the hiring of teachers.

# News of the movement . . .

HOUSTON — *Gay World Report*, a weekly twenty-minute "journal covering national and international gay and feminist news," now airs as part of the



## U.S. Navy decides against Village People in commercials

WASHINGTON — The Navy has decided against using *In The Navy*, a hit disco tune by the Village People, in its recruiting campaign.

The reason, the Dept. of Defense says, is "budgetary and coordinating requirements," and not because the group is identified as gay.

Most members of the Village People are gay as well as is the largest segment of their fans.

The Navy had announced

that it was considering using a film of the Village People singing *In The Navy* in its recruitment program.

Meanwhile, according to Village People producer Jacques Morali in a *Newsweek* article, "We're always walking a middle road between the gay and straight worlds." He says members of the Village People are reluctant to "come out of the closet," even though their original organization came about as a protest to Anita Bryant.

The group's costumes consist of a hard hat, an Indian, a cowboy, a leather freak, a policeman and a GI. The Village People thus portray gay male fantasy characters, and their songs, including *In The Navy*, *Macho Man* and *Y.M.C.A.*, carry the fantasy trip one step further. Of course, many straight people do not see the gay identity.

Village People, to date with their three albums, have sold ten million copies worldwide.

## City attorney happy to lose, will appeal bookstore case

HOUSTON — An attorney for the city government says he will appeal a state district judge's ruling that a law allowing city regulation of adult bookstores is unconstitutional.

W. Torrance Fiddes said he, in fact, welcomed the ruling by state District Judge Richard Millard because the city can immediately institute appeal proceedings.

Fiddes explained that he "felt sure" the adult bookstore would take longer to file an appeal than the city

would.

Millard's ruling was made March 20 on a lawsuit filed by the city seeking to prohibit the sale of sixty allegedly obscene films by Adult Book Shop II, 2772 Ella. Millard found the material to be obscene, but he also found that the city could not prohibit sale of the material because the law giving it the authority to do so is unconstitutional.

The city is seeking a Texas Supreme Court ruling upholding the law in order to circumvent a finding to the contrary by the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. Millard

said he was bound to abide by the federal appellate ruling.

Fiddes said 47 adult bookstores and movie houses in Houston would be affected by a favorable state Supreme Court ruling.

A ruling by the state high court would take precedence over the federal appellate ruling, Fiddes said, and could be overturned only by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Fiddes said the law in question allows the city to seek court rulings on whether material is obscene and to ask for court orders to prevent sale of material determined obscene.

*Wilde and Stein* gay radio program on KPFT, FM-90.

The program is produced by Texas Bay Area Gays and consists of reading news items from gay publications which most gay Houstonians are not exposed to.

*Gay World Report* airs Sunday at 10:00 p.m.

In other gay rights news in Houston:

• The Gay Pride Week Planning Committee will meet April 9, Monday, 7:30 p.m., at the Montrose Activity Center.

• The regular planning meeting for the Houston chapter of the National March on Washington will meet Sunday, April 8, 2:00 p.m., at the Montrose Activity Center.

• Integrity/Houston social and political group will have a meeting Thursday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., at Wilde 'n' Stein Books, 819 Richmond. A rap session will be held discussing "The Difficulty of Loving."

• "Choosing to Grow" is the title of a self-awareness program for gay people scheduled April 7 and 14 (Saturdays), led by Tony Marchese at the Gestalt Training Center. These are one-day workshops "designed to help individuals explore feelings that sometimes get in the way of a more positive and open self-concept. More info on this is available by calling 523-5231.

There's a \$20 admittance fee.

## Horoscope

**ARIES** (through April 19): This weekend you may want to hug your cares to yourself, but you'd be wiser to confide in one you trust — perhaps an ex-lover. Time has healed the wound. You two can now enjoy each other in a lighter, nonbinding relationship.

**TAURUS** (through May 20): Try merging your dreams into the common tide of those you love. Not a simple task, of course, but one that will be most rewarding. And after it's accomplished, go to the discos and celebrate.

**GEMINI** (through June 20): One who has seemed rather remote suddenly makes "friendly" overture. Good God . . . it seems everyone wants your body! Oh well. It's a cruel, tough world. Might as well let 'em have it.

**CANCER** (through July 22): Vibrant individual may try to communicate, and you, our venturesome sex fiend, will certainly want to respond. Oh yes. This potential relationship will not necessarily be a fling-type thing.

**LEO** (through Aug. 22): Open your heart to love, you sweet thing. Love is sure to surround you, and if you do not love, you do not live.

**VIRGO** (through Sept. 22): Try to put yourself into someone else's pants. It's not difficult. Many good-lookers are eager for your attention. Do this and you'll have an A-Number-One weekend.

**LIBRA** (through Oct. 22): Spring fever is no excuse! Your actions last week were shocking. Yes, you've been discovered. Your friends know. The word is spreading. You might as well admit it, and do it again, you sexy number.

**SCORPIO** (through Nov. 21): The desire is strong to go meandering in search of the new, the novel, the exciting, and your fantasy forest is so inviting. Go. Play. Enjoy.

**SAGITTARIUS** (through Dec. 21): Impatience can be your downfall this weekend. Newcomer may try to intimidate you. Fat chance. Weekend closes on the key of C, for chaos and compromise.

**CAPRICORN** (through Jan. 19): Freedom you have enjoyed may be curbed to some degree if you develop settling-down relationship with the cutie you've been dreamin' about. Ah, but it's spring and it's a worthy price to pay.

**AQUARIUS** (through Feb. 18): This weekend is hereby designated official Be-Kind-To-You Weekend. And why not? Yes, it's your weekend and you're going to feel the climax of it right after some good times at your favorite hang-out.

**PISCES** (through March 20): Quick and questioning, you are the innovator extraordinaire. You are demanding, discriminating and dogmatic. You are also prone to dissipation. Ah, but in bed you are absolutely divine!

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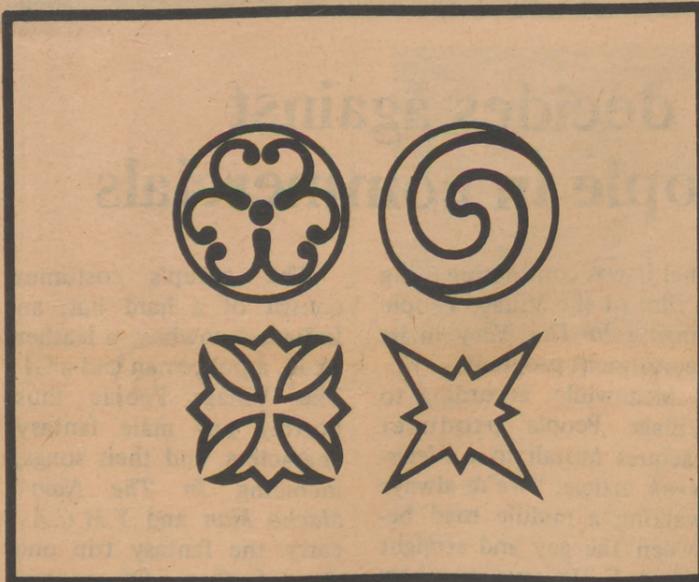
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RICHMOND, Va. — The Roman Catholic bishop of Richmond has defrocked a self-avowed gay priest, saying a homosexual lifestyle is not compatible with a priest's vow of celibacy.

Bishop Walter F. Sullivan announced the decision in mid-March to defrock Robert Hummel, 33, several months after a newspaper published a conversation with Hummel on his sexual preference and its implications on the church.

Hummel is studying for a doctoral degree in medical ethics at Georgetown University.

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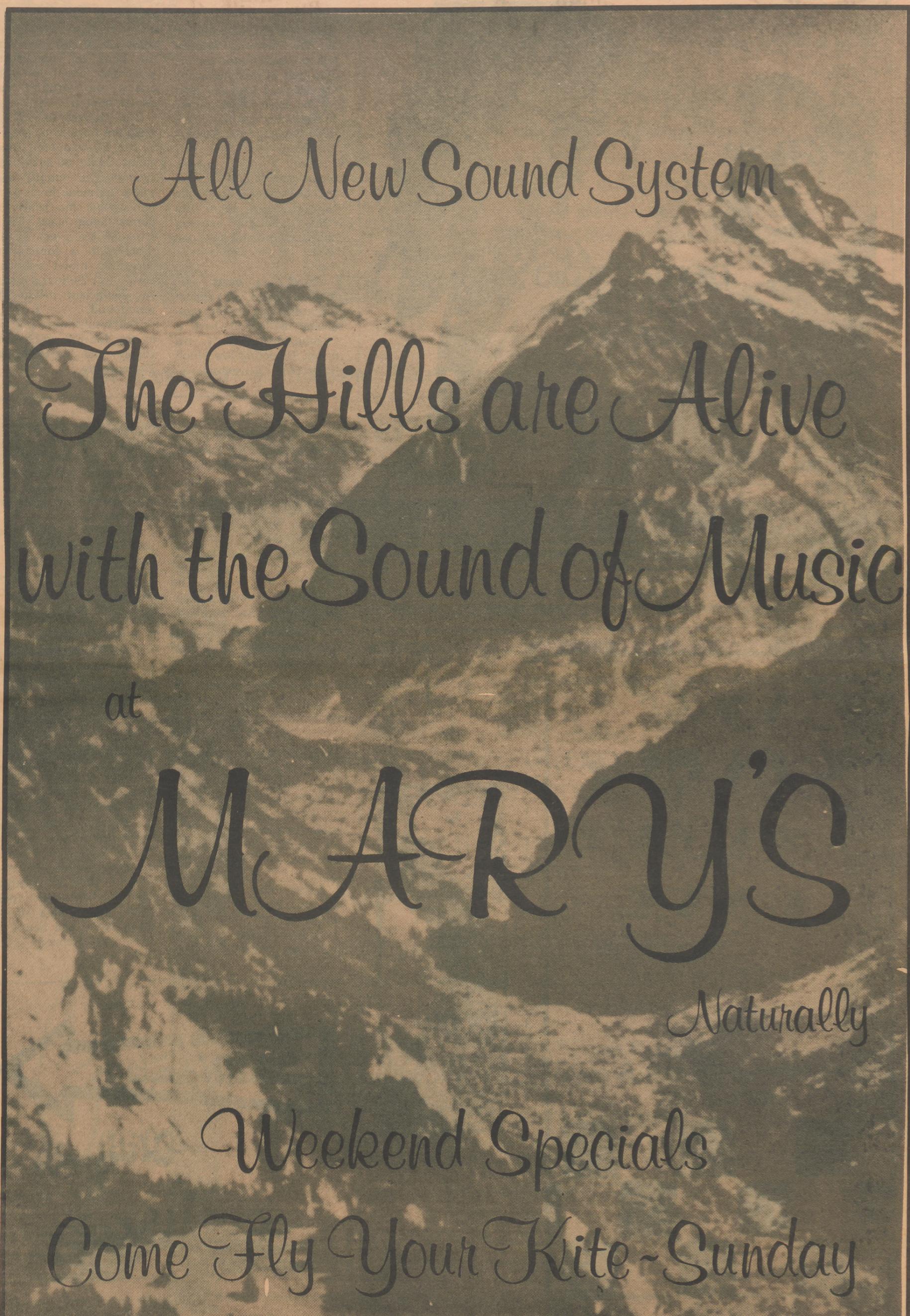
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LONDON — The murder conspiracy trial of Jeremy Thorpe, former leader of Britain's Liberal Party, was postponed until May 8 after Thorpe asked the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Widgery, to defer it until after the May 3 national election so he can fight to retain his seat in Parliament. This was announced April 3.

Thorpe, 49, is charged with conspiracy and incitement to murder Norman Scott, a one-time male model who has alleged he had a homosexual relationship with Thorpe.

His trial was due to start at the Old Bailey criminal court on April 30. Thorpe has represented North Devon in Parliament for twenty years.



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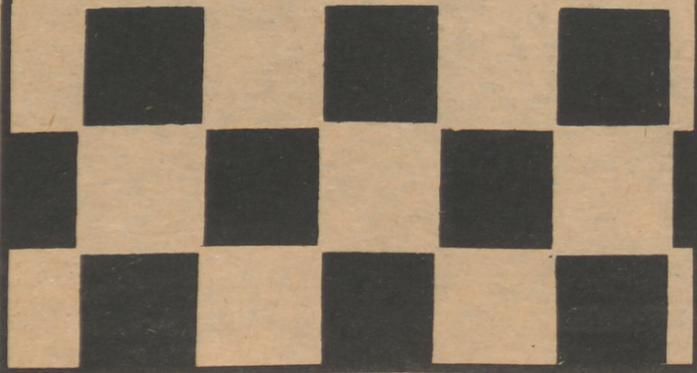
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NEW YORK — A new study at the Harvard Medical School casts doubt on the idea that chronic marijuana use can lead to a low level of the male sex hormone testosterone, according to a news report from Associated Press.

Using a more precise blood sampling technique, the news service said, the Harvard team found no clear relationship between marijuana use and hormone levels in thirteen young men.

About six years ago, reports began to appear suggesting that chronic marijuana use could have a "feminizing" effect on males. Detecting low blood levels of testosterone in

heavy pot smokers compared to non-smokers of the same age, researchers wondered about possible effects on fertility and sexual function.

The Harvard researchers recruited thirteen men aged 21 to 27 who used from about 23 to 60 marijuana cigarettes a month and whose hormone levels were well within the range for normal adult males. Their hormone levels were monitored with a continuous, automatic blood sampling device over 24-hour periods. No significant differences were found.

The results were printed in the Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

NEW YORK — The executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Barbara Levy, has been appointed Assistant Attorney General in the civil rights unit of the New York state government, according to an announcement in March from Lambda.

Levy was previously associated with the women's rights project of the ACLU.

"As a feminist and civil libertarian, I am looking forward to the challenges posed by my new position,"

she said. "It will give me the opportunity to explore, through litigation and the development of legislation, expanded avenues for achieving a just and equitable society."

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund seeks to eliminate discrimination against gay people through education and litigation. A search committee has been formed to select a new executive director.

Lambda announced that resumes may be sent to 22 East 40th St., New York, NY 10016.

WASHINGTON — President Carter has been judged "outstanding incompetent" of 1978 according to a poll of readers of Human Behavior magazine, conducted by Laurence J. Peter, creator of the "Peter Principle."

Carter, who was runner-up last year, edged out Anita Bryant this year.

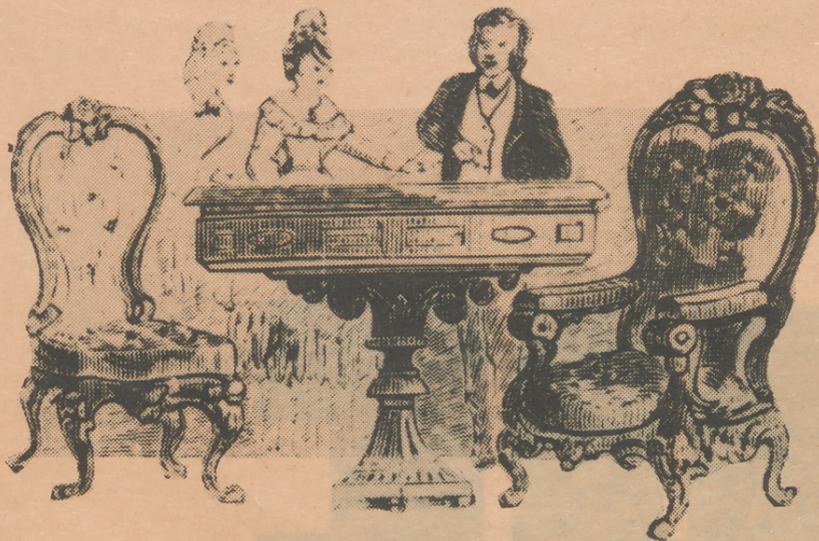
Others in the top ten, according to United Press

International, were U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, Richard Nixon, Proposition 13 leader Howard Jarvis, sports announcer Howard Cosell, Equal Rights Amendment arch-foe Phyllis Schlafly and (now former) Ugandan dictator Idi Amin (tied for seventh), California homophobe John Briggs, Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D.-Mass.).



STAR





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## All apples not rotten

Reading this newspaper week after week and listening to the cries of gay activists, one is likely to assume that we think all policemen are homophobic. That's far from true.

We have some very fine, conscientious and fair police officers in this city. We have some police officers who are in a personal way very concerned with human rights issues.

We *do* have some men and women in the Houston Police Dept. that we can be proud of and we're glad that they're working, in their own way, to bring about changes from within the system.

Meanwhile, we continue to work to bring about changes from outside the system.

## Some good from Legislature

The Texas Legislature appears certain to pass a bill that will increase penalties for peace officers or jailers who abuse prisoners. The Senate passed it this past week with a unanimous voice vote and the House will most likely do the same.

This bill came about as the result of the drowning death of Joe Campus Torres while in the custody of Houston policemen. The officers were convicted only of a misdemeanor by a state court.

Surprisingly, this bill can help gay people. Gay males, while in the custody of police officers, are frequently abused — sometimes verbally, sometimes physically. It's all-too-often reported to this newspaper by gay people who are arrested for one thing or another that at some time while they're in police custody they were called a "pretty boy," or "faggot," or some other uncomplimentary name. In some cases the gay person also is "pushed around."

Once this legislation passes, officers convicted of abusing prisoners will face third degree felony charges rather than simple misdemeanor charges. They'll face two-to-ten year prison terms themselves and a fine of up to \$5000.

The Montrose Star applauds the legislators for this law.

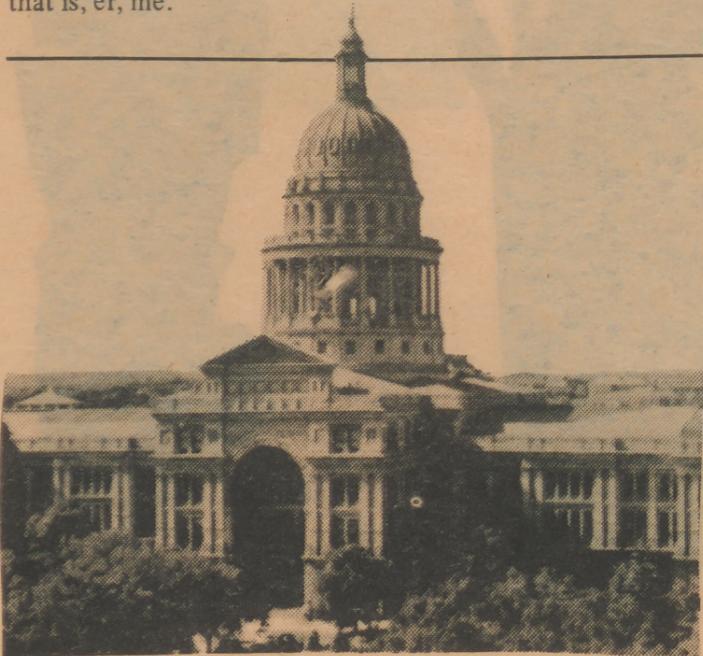
## No secrets at this paper

In Rhode Island, the state House of Representatives has approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would require newspaper editorials to be signed by their writers.

Of course, that doesn't affect us in Texas, but it gives us an opportunity to bring up the fact that in the Montrose Star — we're gay, proud and open. We print here on the editorial page just who owns, operates and writes everything in this publication. It's all there in the small print. And it's all true with no assumed names.

Everything in this paper that is not ended with the writer's name can be assumed to have been written by publisher-editor Henry McClurg — including this little tidbit.

When you don't like something, you can blame him ... that is, er, me.



# Houston gay leaders admired

Dear editor:

In response to your article concerning gay leadership which appeared Feb. 2:

Regardless of our own approval of the personalities involved, I think we can be proud of the fact that Houston has a dedicated core of gay activists who devote an enormous amount of time and energy to the cause of gay rights. The fact that such a small percentage of Houston's large gay population is involved I find disappointing, but the fact remains that those who are involved are remarkably capable and industrious.

I, personally, am proud of them all.

I would like to point out that it is always going to be those "certain aggressive, self-motivated people" who come forth as leaders. This is an important point to keep in mind.

Furthermore, the success of these people as leaders depends not upon their popularity among the largely silent gay community, but upon their effectiveness, their outspokenness, and their continued self-motivation.

How well or how poorly they come across in cocktail party conversation really has little to do with their success.

In addition, you've pointed out quite correctly that within our own gay community there are ways to become active without becoming outspoken. GPC members do vote, but you can't vote unless you go to the meetings. I have little sympathy for those people who sit quietly at home and complain bitterly of mismanagement.

It doesn't take very much to become an active member of our community. I, myself, feel a certain self-motivation which does not allow me to sit quietly at home on Wednesday nights. Clearly, many members of our community do not feel this — and that's their business. But unless they are willing to invest a certain amount of time and energy in the affairs of the gay community, I don't think they've earned the right to criticize those who do.

With apologies to the man who coined the phrase, let me say that the only way to have a

leader is to be one, and I'm sure all of our leaders would welcome support or criticism from others in the form of Involvement.

L. Greer Price, Houston

Dear sir/madam:

Someone sent a copy of the clipping you put in your paper illustrating the First Day (stamp) Cover I sent you last month.

I wanted to thank you for the publicity. It brought a reply from a fellow journalist in Oregon, so your paper really goes places.

Thanks again!

Mike Sheel  
MJS-Lambda Stamps  
Philadelphia

## Michael Franks pleasant, relaxing

*Daddy's just like Coltrane*

*Baby's just like Miles*

*Lady's just like Ella*

*When she smiles.*

Obvious influences color the listenable music of Michael Franks. Appearing Thursday, April 5, at the Texas Opry House in Houston, Michael Franks sang and performed his soft style of jazz to a few lucky listeners.

Michael Franks is an obscure name these days but looks to be one name that will be heard frequently in the years to come. His career as a singer is relatively new but his song-writing ability is already known in professional circles and he has songs that have been performed by folks like the Manhattan Transfer, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Stanley Clark and



many others.

Franks affects an easy listening type calypso jazz but makes it his own with his sense of humor. His voice is a pleasant tenor that perfectly fits the mood of the music with his effortless delivery. He is almost a modern day crooner.

Overall, his music is pleasant and relaxing but not banal as most easy listening would be considered. Franks puts jazz on a more contemporary level that most people who are not jazz buffs can relate to.

His wit and charm along with his good looks make him a promising new star for the eighties.

CHARLES CLINTON

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## Disco

# Newsweek devotes issue to disco

WASHINGTON — The cover story on last week's *Newsweek* was "Disco Takes Over" and the article recognized the significant contribution of gay people to the disco movement.

"What started a few years ago as all-night dance music in black and gay clubs has moved into the American heartland and is fast taking over the pop-music business," the magazine said.

Two-thirds of a page was devoted to a sub-report on Manny Slali, deejay at Hollywood's Studio One, a gay club. The article referred to Slali as Los Angeles' top deejay.

Not only did the article admit that gay discos were the trend setters, it went one more step and noted that those straight discos which join the major disco league usually are owned by gay people.

"These trend-setting city (straight) discos are usually owned and operated by homosexuals, and most of

the deejays, as well as the lighting crews, are also

gay," the article said.

"Abandoned by frugging jet-setters in the late '60s, the discotheques were revived by the homosexual community as places where they could let go without fear of harassment," *Newsweek* added.

Nat Freedland, director of artist relations for Fantasy Records, was quoted as saying, "The music is a symbolic call for gay (people) to come out of the closet and dance with each other."

Gay people are not, of course just involved at the clubs. They're now in high positions at major record companies. Ray Caviano, a 28-year-old former disco promotion man for TK Records, was plucked from the gay community to manage Warner Bros. new disco label, RFC, which is starting out with a \$6 million investment.



## 'Switched-On' switched around

CHICAGO — In the 1960s, Walter Carlos created *Switched-on Bach* — the decade's largest-selling classical music album. Later he did the score for the film *Clockwork Orange*. But Carlos's latest creation is himself — or rather, herself.

You see, it's not Walter Carlos anymore. It's Wendy Carlos and she tells the whole tale of her hitherto secret sex change in the

current issue of *Playboy* magazine.

She says from earliest youth, she felt "female," and couldn't understand. Now, she says, she's been transformed from an unhappy, suicidal man to a happy woman — that "all I really have done is change my suit of skin and bone."

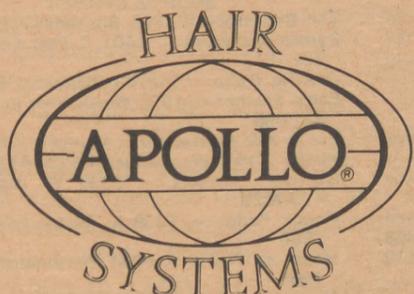
Her parents still don't understand. They still call her Walter.

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# Reno is the "Biggest Little City in the World"

RENO, Nev. — This city was once the largest city in Nevada ... as were Virginia City, Goldfield and Tonopah, at one time or another. Today Las Vegas is "king," but Las Vegas is being warned to watch out as Reno appears headed for a renaissance.

With some new high-rise hotel/casinos already built and more under construction or in planning, Reno MAY well become the boom town of the eighties.

Known as the "Biggest Little City in the World," Reno's population is now at just over 100,000 but it seems larger because of the ever-increasing influx of tourists.

While gambling, fast marriages and quickie divorces are almost synonymous with Reno, they are by no means the only reason to visit here. Some of the best winter sports in America are available at nearby Squaw Valley and Mr. Rose, while Lake Tahoe and Reno's annual gay rodeo attract thousands of summer visitors.

Plus, historic Virginia City, site of the fabulous Comstock Lode Gold Strike and Harrah's amazing collection of antique autos, is a "must" all year around.

The gay bar scene is, as expected, best on weekends, but can be fun almost anytime.



Paul's Lounge, a disco at 132 West Street, is currently the only gay bar downtown, but rumor has it that a couple of new spots may be opening soon.

The Forum at "B" Street and Kietzke, two miles east on Sparks, is probably the hottest disco, getting an even split of guys and gals.

New and cruisy is Pop's Club 99, a mile south of town at 1099 South Virginia. Another bar, too new to predict on, is the small Exchange Lounge at 1278 South Virginia.

Dave's VIP, located about three miles west at 3001 West Fourth Street, is Reno's oldest club and is especially fun when Dave's adjoining Westside Motel is full, and musical doors become the order of the day or night.

Another mile west is the Trapp, 5201 West Fourth Street, a cruise and conversation bar often frequented by Reno's small but friendly bike club, the Knights of Malta. Across the road and further west is Mahone's, which has gone

through more ownership and name changes than customers.

Last but not least is the Club Baths (not part of the CBC group) on West Second Street. If really desperate, give it a try, but chances are you will only be disappointed. Better to try Idlewild Park or any of the downtown casinos, which can be most rewarding if you play your cards right.

None of the gay clubs serve regular meals but there are many good "straight" restaurants in

the area. Among my favorites are Eugene's, Bundox, Glory Hole, La Table Francaise, Vario's and the Verdi Inn. Good and inexpensive breakfasts or late night snacks are served 24 hours in many of the downtown casinos.

All sorts of accommodations are available, including the huge new MGM Grand Hotel, Harrah's, Arlington Plaza, Saharan, Ponderosa and Holiday Inn-Downtown, which isn't really downtown at all.

I prefer the Holiday Hotel or River House. Both are centrally located and have balconies which overlook the rushing waters of the Truckee River. The latter is a little gem uniquely decorated with oriental furniture and art objects.

Although not yet on a par with Las Vegas, this delightful little-big city has more and more big name stars appearing in the casinos here or at Lake Tahoe. The spectacular extravaganza at the MGM is one of the greatest shows I have ever seen.

Reno rhymes with keno and that is the name of the game here. Of course, there are all kinds of other games too. If you "crap out" or go bust at 21, try the slot machines. Maybe Lady Luck will be with you and instead of a lemon you'll come up with a cherry or two

BOB DAMRON

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Wondering where to shop & spend time? These businesses are involved in your lifestyle.

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Adultz News — 714 W Alabama  
Asylum — 1201 Richmond  
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Copa (disco) — 2631 Richmond — open soon  
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ERA Support Committee — c/o 1902 Colquitt #16C — 524-0982, 864-8569, 521-9295  
Episcopal Integrity/Houston — POB 66008, zip 77006 — 526-0555, 521-0690  
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Gay Chicano Caucus — c/o 2001 Branard #8 — 523-9416, 521-9295, 523-9695  
Gay Political Caucus — 1423 Holman — 526-2668, 526-9719  
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Gay Professional Writers — POB 13612, zip 77019 — 861-3451  
Gay Resource Svcs — Box 309, Univ Houston — 749-3489  
Gay Speakers Bureau — 819 Richmond — 664-6459  
Homophile Interfaith Alliance — 729 Manor — 453-1143  
Houston Committee — 4801 Wiprecht — 524-0082, 527-7298  
Human Rights League — POB 3624, zip 77001 — 523-6969

Institute for Mental Development (counseling) — 741-6313

Integrity/Houston (social, political) — 819 Richmond — 523-2025, 526-5921, 529-7014, 694-1732

Lambda Ctr for Alcoholics — POB 25363, zip 77005 — 521-9772  
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Q-1 Leather — 2400 Brazos at Brazos River Bottom & 1732 Westheimer at Locker — 527-9044  
Rams Records — 521 W Alabama — 529-2559  
Specs Eyewear — 4709 Richmond — 626-1161  
Union Jack (clothing) — 4025 Westheimer — 622-3100  
Wilde n Stein (bookshop) — 819 Richmond — 529-7014

Is someone left out? Any corrections? Call the Montrose Star at 529-8188.

## “Norma Rae” manages unpretentious charm

NORMA RAE, rated PG. Released by Twentieth Century-Fox. Produced by Tamara Asseyev and Alex Rose. Directed by Martin Ritt. Screenplay by Irving Ravetch and Harriet Frank Jr. Starring Sally Field with Beau Bridges, Ron Leibman, Pat Hingle and Barbara Baxley.

Sally Field has come a long way since starring on television's *The Flying Nun* and *Gidget*. In the title role of *Norma Rae*, she plays a spirited textile worker influenced by a union organizer into spearheading union activities in her conservative southern town.

As *Norma Rae* evolves politically and is buffeted by controversy, her character undergoes profound changes.

Sally Field is a revelation in the part, creating a lively, realistic portrait at the center of a film that, in other ways, is old-fashioned, sentimental and predictable.

To describe *Norma Rae* as old-fashioned isn't necessarily to criticize it. The



eternal conflict between labor and management is presented here with all of its inherent drama. The filmmaker's sympathy lies one hundred percent with the workers. The manner in which the workers are oppressed is fully detailed, as are the obstacles to their attempt to organize.

Because the film takes

the unquestioning view that the union is necessary and that its eventual success is inevitable, *Norma Rae* often plays like a piece of propaganda geared to inspire labor to maintain the faith. This message is predictable in its sentiments and it may be overly simple politically, but it's heartfelt and is, thus, affecting.

As the outside labor organizer, a liberal Jewish New Yorker named Reuben, Ron Liebman is saddled with the film's most cliché-ridden role. It falls to him to embody the high ideal of selfless commitment to humanity as he becomes *Norma Rae*'s mentor.

The character of Reuben is so singularly devoted to his cause, he's so moral, that he verges on sainthood. Fortunately, Liebman has a knack for urban folksiness.

The tender but decidedly nonsexual friendship that develops between *Norma Rae* and Reuben, who is the first Jewish person *Norma Rae* has ever met, is one of the most engaging elements in the film.

It's difficult to resist *Norma Rae*'s heavily accented mimicry of Jewish slang words like “mensch” and “kvetch.”

In general, veteran director Martin Ritt (*Hud*, *Souther*, *Casey's Shadow*) is more successful develop-

ing character than in advancing the plot.

Beau Bridges, as *Norma Rae*'s uncomprehending but sympathetic husband, has some good scenes, as do Barbara Baxley and Pat Hingle as *Norma Rae*'s parents. But the exposition of the pivotal political drama is lumpy at best.

The conflict's inherent tensions are outlined plainly enough and several large scenes illustrate them nicely, but the story never gathers momentum. So perfunctorily does *Norma Rae* build up to its climax that the union's eventual successes actually seem easy — surely a contradiction of the film's purpose.

It's a shame *Norma Rae* doesn't make more of its naturally dramatic, topical subjects — Sally Field's memorable performance, the film's failures aren't crippling.

*Norma Rae* manages its share of unpretentious charm.

SETH CAGIN

## “Wifemistress” is part porn, part theorizing

WIFEMISTRESS, not rated. Distributed by Quartet Films, Inc. Executive producer Alberto Pugliese. Associate producers Licio Trentini and Franco Cuccu. Directed by Marco Vicario. Screenplay by Rodolfo Sonego. Starring Marcello Mastroianni and Laura Antonelli.

*Wifemistress*, an Italian film starring Marcello Mastroianni and Laura Antonelli, is part soft-core sensationalism and part feminist theorizing. The film details a woman's sexual awakening on the assumption that sexual liberation is equivalent to feminism.

There may be a degree of truth in this notion, but the trouble with *Wifemistress* is that director Marco Vicario wants both to shock his audience with his heroine's exploits and to depict those exploits as acceptable — ever preferred — behavior for a modern woman.

Antonia (Antonelli) is the repressed, resentful wife of Luigi (Mastroianni), a successful businessman. Her opportunity to cast off

the shackles of repression comes when Luigi disappears, and she is compelled to keep his business running.

Antonia discovers that Luigi has been leading a double life. As far as she knew, he was cold, distant and proper. Away from home, it turns out, he was a political activist and a libertine — immensely popular within a wide social circle.

As Antonia learns about Luigi's secret world, she grows to inhabit it.

The film's theme — that the wife breaks out of an unsatisfactory submissive role by literally occupying the husband's former place — is witty. Laura Antonelli's performance captures the humorous nuances of her character's radical transformation.

We find out that Luigi is a secret witness to his wife's new life without him. Mastroianni's performance as the spying husband con-

sists principally of pained expressions: His comeuppance, as he realizes that he has oppressed his wife and as the tables are turned on him, is milked for laughs.

It's difficult, however, to say whether *Wifemistress* is altogether a satire. A portentous, soap-opera score accompanies every scan-

dalous scene in the film.

Antonia dabbles in lesbianism and in group sex, she drinks and takes drugs in scenes that are clearly intended to shock and titillate.

On the one hand, Luigi's dismay at his wife's licentiousness reveals him to be a hypocrite who maintains a

double standard. On the other hand, however, by playing up its own sensationalism, the film invites the audience to embrace a similar double standard.

*Wifemistress* jumps from one point of view to another, sometimes criticizing Antonia for her loose morality, other times exploiting her in a pornographic sense and, occasionally, praising her for her liberated worldliness.

SETH CAGIN



Michael Douglas, star and producer of *The China Syndrome*, a movie which has been compared to the events of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in Pennsylvania, canceled an appearance on the “Tonight Show” because, he said, “We're all very wary of capitalizing in any sense on a tragedy.”

*The China Syndrome* was reviewed in last week's Montrose Star.

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## “Same Time. Next Year” is fundamental foolishness

SAME TIME, NEXT YEAR, rated PG. Released by Universal Pictures. Produced by Walter Mirisch and Morton Gottlieb. Directed by Robert Mulligan. Screenplay by Bernard Slade based upon his own stage play. Starring Ellen Burstyn and Alan Alda.

*Time, Next Year* is, on some counts, surprisingly effective.

The film's greatest asset is Ellen Burstyn's virtuoso performance as Doris, a part she played on Broadway for which she won a Tony award. Doris, like George, changes with the times, and in each of the film's episodes she is virtually a new woman.

The obvious moral of *Same Time, Next Year* whether you're talking about the Broadway hit or the film version directed by Robert Mulligan, is that a little adultery can be a wonderful thing.

She starts out as an ingenue of the early fifties. She becomes, in turn, a blonde sex kitten, a suburban housewife, a middle-aged hippie and a feminist businesswoman, winding up at last a dignified grandmother. Sensitive to the finest nuance, Ellen Burstyn captures the spirit of each phase her character undergoes without succumbing to broad satire.

The affair between George and Doris, thoroughly typical Americans who happen to be married to other people, is strictly limited to a single week-end rendezvous each year. Theirs is nonetheless a deep and meaningful relationship; indeed, this adulterous affair actually enriches the married life of each partner.

Alan Alda is less successful as George, partly because he lacks Burstyn's subtlety, but also because his part is more broadly written.

Though it panders shamelessly to inane middle-class fantasies, *Same Time, Next Year* is a compact and ingenious theatrical conception. The story catches up with its two characters only every five years, resulting in a delightful catalog of a quarter-century of tippy changes in style and attitude.

On another level, *Same Time, Next Year* is modestly entertaining simply for catering to our nostalgia for the recent past. One can scarcely suppress a smile when, for example, Doris arrives for the mid-sixties reunion dressed head to toe in hippie garb while George has become a steely establishment businessman.

Since the characters spend most of their lives apart — yet they're intimate — each meeting is an occasion for wild comic conflicts.

Bernard Slade, who wrote the screenplay as well as the stage play, is especially adept at sexual innuendo. The sequence in which an impotent George is confronted with a very pregnant Doris is hilarious.

The sheer artificiality of these ideas is the source of their strength as theater. What looks clever on stage, however, often looks facile and glib on film. *Same Time, Next Year* simply isn't at home on the screen.

At its best, *Same Time, Next Year* even goes a shade deeper, hinting at — but never grappling with — a fearsome insecurity that drives these characters from trend to trend.

The problem goes beyond stilted dialogue. This patently contrived story is difficult to accept on film because it is in no sense dictated by the film medium.

Unfortunately, the film's strengths represent minor skirmishes won in the course of losing a war.

On film, the drama's gimmicks actually draw attention to the absurdity of its tidy concept of adultery. Yet, despite blatant false notes — that passionate lovers could corral their feelings 363 days a year, that the couple could meet annually in the same room without missing a date in 25 years, or that these characters could so perfectly epitomize the periods they live through — *Same*

For the fantasy of trouble-free adultery as a spicy complement to a happy family life is the flimsy foundation *Same Time, Next Year* is built upon. Nothing in this film — neither theatrical flair nor its cinematic equivalent — distracts us from that fundamental foolishness.

SETH CAGIN

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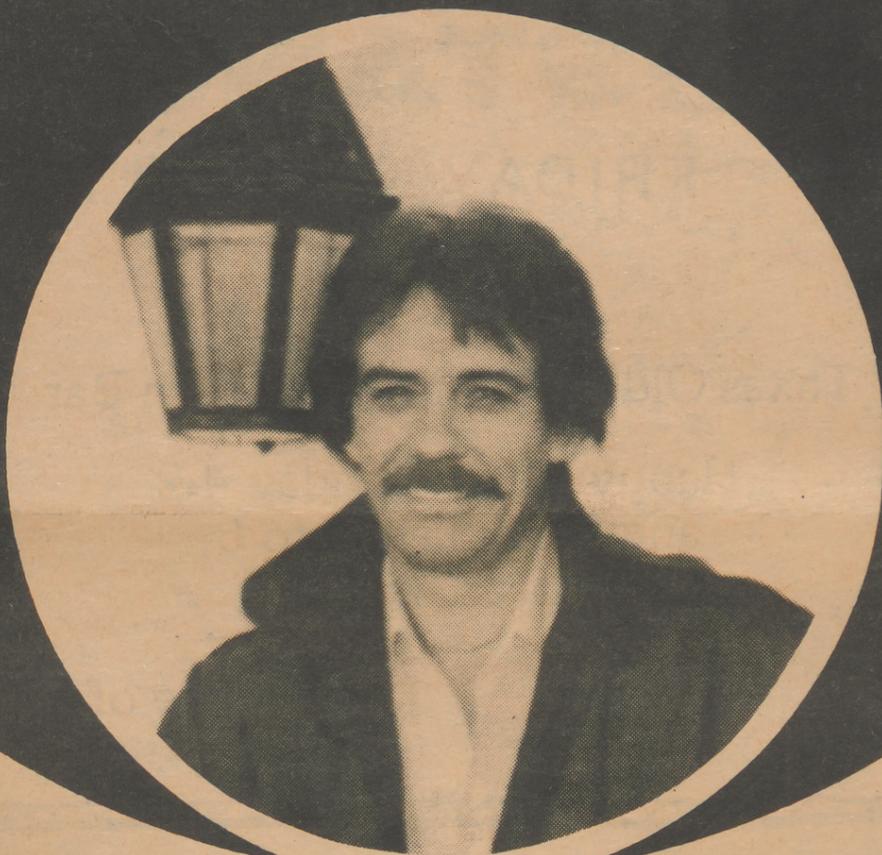
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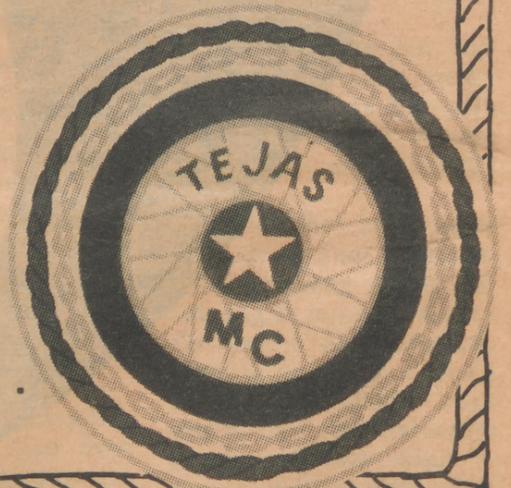
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