



Mary Ann Plunkett Finds it's Easy to Bleed as Agnes of God p.15

Judge Rules Against Hill, Despite Municipal Acquittal

By Robert Hyde

Although gay activist Ray Hill was acquitted in a municipal court over a 1982 entanglement with Houston's police, a federal judge ruled against him last week for violating a city ordinance.

Hill believes the ruling stems from the judge's long history of defending officers in civil abuse cases and because the judge's son is a police officer.

U.S. District Judge James DeAnda upheld the city law prohibiting any persons from assaulting, striking or in any manner opposing, abusing or interrupting any policeman in the execution of his duty.

Hill had interrupted an officer on lower Westheimer whom he thought was going to hit a young man with a flashlight.

"I fellow by the name of Charles Hill—no relation—a young black man, was actually walking down the street in the company of a white woman," Hill said, describing the incident which led to his arrest. "Someone was trying to pull out of a parking space near the corner of Whitney and Westheimer. And Charles stepped out in the road, stopped the traffic, let them back up and proceed."

"Officer Kelly grabbed him, pushed him around, told him only police officers are allowed to direct traffic in the City of Houston and gave him a bunch of other

misinformation," Hill continued.

"Charles felt that the officer was through with his lecture and started walking off, and the officer grabbed him and turned him around."

"Charles has kind of a nervous tic under tension, which causes an upper thorax spasm. As the cop put the pressure on, Charles began to react that way. Finally the cop, after stopping him when he tried to walk away, realized that he didn't have anything else to say, and he dismissed Charles, and Charles started walking off."

"But the nervous tic was there," Hill said, "and the cop then ran to the corner and grabbed him, dragged him up against the building."

"And whenever he pulled the flashlight back, I told him, in a loud voice about 25 feet away, 'Leave that kid alone. He's done nothing wrong. If you've got to pick on somebody, why don't you pick on somebody who can handle it.'"

"So they let Charles go and arrested me for interrupting a police officer."

The 1982 incident marks the fourth time Hill had been arrested under the ordinance, arrests which prompted DeAnda to believe Hill was "baiting" the police. In a statement made last week, DeAnda said that Hill "is intimately acquainted with the ordinance. He has read it and he has

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Inside: Gary Larson, Steve Warren, Billie Duncan ... & Amanda

MONTROSE VOICICE

The Newspaper of Montrose March 2, 1984 Issue ***175 Published Every Friday

Houston Should Participate in Documentation Project

By Robert Hyde

When the National Gay Task Force in Washington, D.C., launched their project to document harassment and violence in the gay community, it might have seemed premature or unnecessary to many in Houston to participate in this project.

Now that Houston has its own Project Documentation to track down and stop police abuse of gay citizens, the urgent need to report all crimes against gay people—both by police and private citizens—is more clearly recognized.

And NGTF's reasons for the project are similar to our own. Black and white proof needs to be made for the courts and the American people, many of whom still cannot believe that gays are being harassed.

The major difference in reporting abusive acts to the NGTF lies in the fact that the reporter can remain anonymous, whereas in Houston the accuser is being asked to sign an affidavit to convince Police Chief Lee Brown of abuse.

Following an abusive act or crime perpetrated against a gay citizen, a report should be filed with Houston's Gay Switchboard (529-3211) which is documenting cases in the Houston area for the NGTF.

The Switchboard is using two violence report forms, one specifically for police violence and harassment.

"This is the first time we've gone outside our counseling and information service," said Rick Grossman, administrative director and Gay Switchboard founder. "Really, we're doing it for the NGTF."

"I think the greatest need is to convince the public at large that we, as gay people, are often targeted for abuse, violence, threats, etc. Part of this is to find out how much there is," Grossman said.

Then similar to the problems arising

with Houston's Project Documentation, the NGTF will have to confront the more meek stance of many members in the gay community who choose to remain silent, regardless of their abuse.

"No matter how much we publicize his," Grossman said, "we're only going to get a small number of the cases reported."

"I suspect most of the incidents are non-police activity," he conceded. "There are some examples where straight people have come in (to the Montrose) to harass gay people. Some may be gay oriented, some may not be."

Grossman believes, however, that, basically, the police problem in Houston has improved over past years.

"Brown is going to back the police," Grossman said, "but if he finds that individuals have done wrong, those individuals will be pulled out of the force."

"He seems to be localizing the force and having people work more closely with the community," he added. "And with their familiarity and a knowledge of the community, the people in it won't freak out or be as hostile and perhaps will be able to help us a little better with being able to recognize the troublemakers."

Police problems aside, Grossman is hoping that the anonymity of the reporting will help booster NGTF's cause.

"They can be anonymous if they want," Grossman said, "or they can give their name and address so the NGTF can contact them. That's up to them."

Grossman also mentioned that while the reports will be for NGTF's records, he would not hesitate to inform responsible members of the community of an increase in violence so that they could investigate it.

"We might be reporting to the community ever-so-often what we're becoming

aware of with violence. If we notice a lot of violence going on, we might try to see what other groups are doing about it. We would not approach the police and say we're noticing X number of complaints, but we might notify GPC about that,"

Grossman said.

But above all, Grossman wished to stress that the Gay Switchboard is here to help people who are in distress, and should they be subjected to harassment and/or

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Ann-Margret Excellent in "Streetcar" p.8

San Franciscans Treated to Gay Video on Castro Street

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA)—It is now possible for passersby on San Francisco's famed Castro Street to stop and watch up to an hour's worth of entertainment, interviews, news and clips, even a soap opera "too rich for network television," where the emphasis is directly aimed at a gay audience.

Couldn't Be More Graphic Video has been offering a new program every week for approximately two months now, featuring such items as clips from the Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade, interviews with authors, horoscopes, visits to dance spots and attempts at humorous programming.

While admittedly the quality at present tends to be varied, from professionally edited segments to embarrassing ones, the staff is determined to upgrade the quality of the material, hoping to provide free television of gay interest, with advertisements and public service announcements as well.

The organizers, says spokesman David Smyth, have had to contend with neighbors complaining in the early days about the loudness of the volume, as well as complaints about the softness by those trying to listen to the show of late.

The program is watched by between one and 20 people at any given time, with the viewing hours from noon to 11 p.m. every day.

Key to Wedded Bliss: Bed

A California marriage counselor says the key to wedded bliss is a three-letter word: bed, reports the *Denver Post*.

Mary Buxton says the "bed environment," as she calls it, is like a third party for many couples. She says it's a "center of excitement" when things are going well, but an "arena of tension" when a relationship is on the skids.

A sure danger sign, she says, is when couples start sleeping as far away from each other as possible.

Buxton believes getting couples to talk about their bed often gets them to open up about other areas of their relationships.

Marijuana Best Tranquilizer, Prof Says

A Vermont psychologist says he's found the perfect tranquilizer, marijuana, reports the *International Medical Tribune Syndicate*.

Actually, it's one of the many ingredients in pot, and Professor Richard Musty says it'll cool your jets faster than Valium.

But don't rush out to your local dope dealer yet. Musty says the chemical doesn't get you high, and it blocks the T-H-C in marijuana that does.

Not Tonight, Dear

It seems that sex is everywhere in our society, but for one in five Americans, it might as well not exist, reports *McCall's Magazine*.

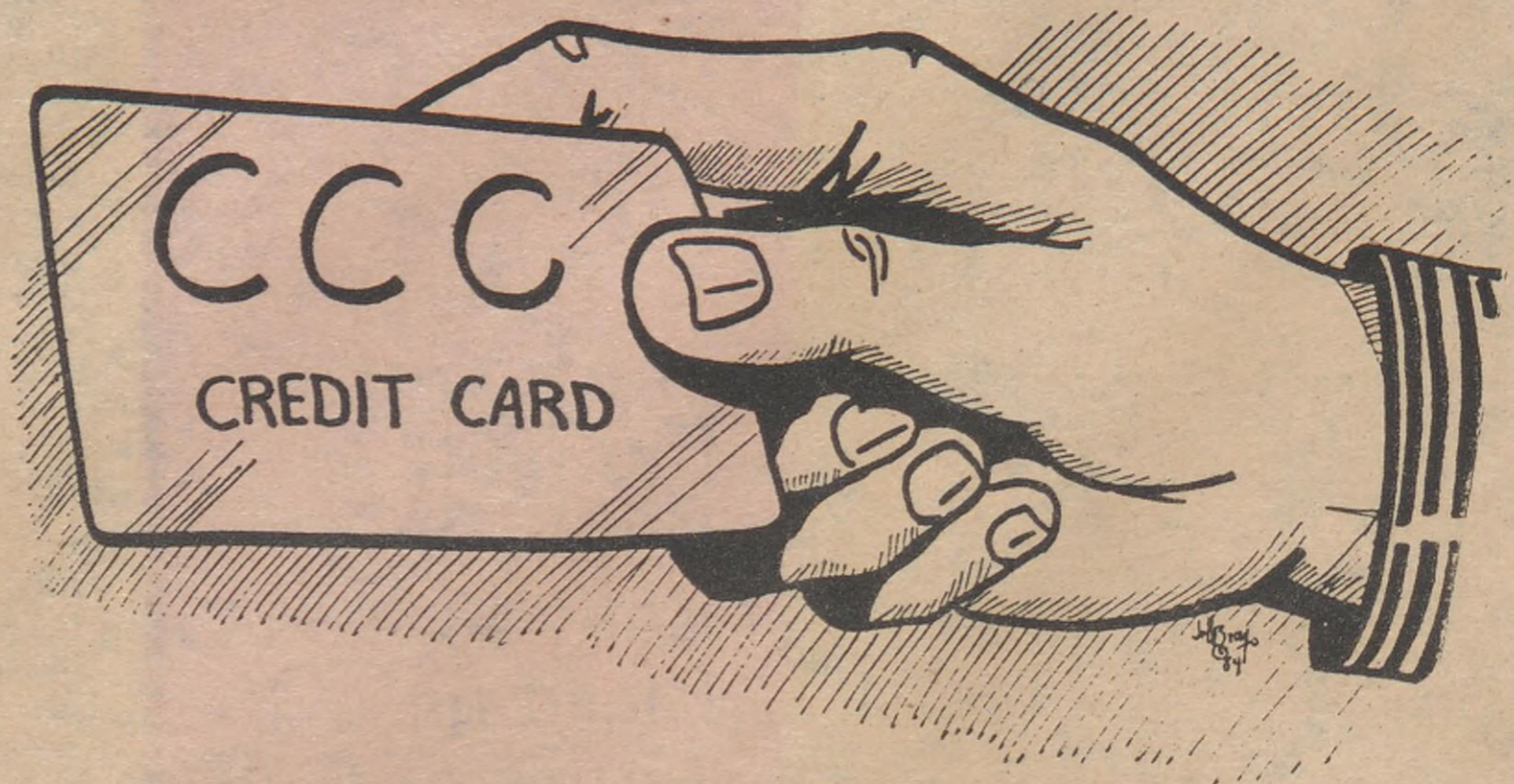
A University of Pennsylvania study found nearly 20 percent of the population suffers from a lack of sexual desire.

Dr. Harold Lief, who conducted the study, says most of the cases have nothing to do with physical problems.

For men, the primary cause of a diminished sex drive is anger—often about non-sexual issues—followed by depression.

Women are twice as likely to cool to sex, he says, because they "usually need more romance, love, touching, caring and concern than men."

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Project Documentation . . .

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violence, the Switchboard's first priority will be to soothe the victims and not subject them to a question-and-answer period simply for the NGTF report.

"Our primary concern is the person who calls in who might have encountered some violence," Grossman said. "Our concern immediately is to try to get the caller to a safe situation," he added, preferably off the street, behind locked doors and with a doctor, if necessary.

"We're not going to start asking him the details. We're going to find out first if he's safe and if he needs medical attention.

"If he's safe and does not need medical attention, we might ask him if he wants to participate in this survey. And if he does, we will ask him to give of the information then or participate at a little later time.

"These people may be a little upset," Grossman emphasized, "and to sit there and start asking them questions is, in our point of view, not the most sensitive thing to do."

Grossman went on to mention that the reports are also intended to help gay people in their encounters with those who harass them.

"It's very difficult to prove that there is discrimination against the gay community, and that we are targets of violence," he said. "Part of this is to document that and to prove that. Yet part of it is to try to find out what are the techniques that seem to work against the perpetrators (of violence)."

Grossman calls it "developing street sense."

ET, Call Your Club

Aliens should come out of the closet. That's what a New Hampshire real estate man thinks. So he's formed an organization for transplanted aliens who fear ridicule, reports *Omnis*.

Andrew Ferguson says his group, called Extra-Terrestrials Only, will do for aliens what gay liberation has done for homosexuals: help them cope in an often hostile environment.

Realizing that many members of the gay community frequent bars late at night, Grossman addressed safety measures that should concern anyone walking the streets alone—or even with a group of friends.

"A lot of it is common sense," he said, focusing his attention away from NGTF's survey. "Avoid confrontations. Keep your eyes open. Don't be afraid to run. Just be aware," he emphasized.

"Walk down the middle of the street, like a lot of people already do. Avoid sidewalks, under trees and alleys. Avoid dark places. Try not to park in secluded spots. Avoid getting super drunk or drugged out and wandering around the streets.

"Call a cab if you're in that situation," he advised.

"There seems to be in the literature that I've read conflicting reports on what to do if you run into hostile people. Some of the approaches are be confrontive, and some of them are saying be assertive and avoid the situation.

Grossman further mentioned ways in which gays can talk with their assailants: "Statements such as, I don't mean to hurt you—I'm not here for that—You don't want to hurt somebody.

"Other include crazy suggestions, such as pretending to have an epileptic fit, looking around for objects to protect yourself (beer, bottles, sticks, rocks), breaking a window to a store or something to just bring attention to you. Ringing door bells and yelling fire.

"There are a variety of techniques," Grossman said. "I think probably the easiest one is just to watch out for what's going on. If you see a group of people walking down the street who don't seem friendly, avoid the situation and run away and get out of there.

"When you're physically being attacked," Grossman added, "most of the experts agree that it's probably better to fight back at that time and try to get away at the same time."

With community participation in this survey, perhaps a more concrete response to violence will be suggested to protect members of the gay community.

The survey will also document violence against gays.

Again, as with Houston's own Project Documentation, it is up to the individual to make the complaints.

Ray Hill . . .

from page 1

been arrested under it on a number of occasions."

The judge also stated that Hill's numerous arrests under the ordinance "clearly demonstrates that he has 'baited' the police and intentionally provoked them into arresting him on several occasions."

Hill said, "The judge certainly didn't get that from the evidence of the trial. He may have got that in private conversation with his son...because the police officers have a concept that I do that.

"I must say from the evidence that the

Houston's GPC Calling for Party Caucuses

Republican and Democratic gays and lesbians of the community—politically experienced or not—are encouraged to attend the Gay Political Caucus' party caucuses next week to discuss presidential delegate selection strategy.

The Republican Caucus of the GPC will be held immediately following the GPC's general meeting Wednesday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m. (approximately 8:30 p.m.) at the Holiday Inn—Central, 4640 Main.

GPC's Democrats will caucus Monday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. upstairs at Spuds-U-Like, 416 Westheimer.

British Look Down on Horror Videos

British government has declared war on the latest import from America: video cassettes of ultra-violent horror movies, featuring cannibalism, bestiality and torture, reports the *Washington Post*.

In this country, chainsaw massacres are treated as harmless drive-in movie fare. Over there, they're called "Video Nasties" and a corrupter of youth.

A bill now in Parliament would restrict distribution of such cassettes, extending censorship for the first time into the English living room.

The British are the world's most avid consumers of home video: one home in three has a machine, compared to only one in 10 here in the States.

trial showed, that, yes, I am a person concerned with people trying to stop unnecessary police violence and illegal police activities. But I don't think that should be confused with baiting, and I don't think any of the evidence presented before Judge DeAnda's court indicated that I was baiting," Hill said.

Hill feels that the judge's decision was based on the fact that the DeAnda's son is a police officer and that the judge has a long record of acquitting police officers.

"It did not surprise me that Judge DeAnda would be reluctant to rule in our behalf," Hill said, "because during his entire judicial career he has served as kind of an apologist for police abuses. It doesn't help that his son is a police officer.

"He came from the Valley (Laredo) to the Houston federal court having already established a track record of specifically not punishing officers for abuses of power.

"I understand he acquitted the officers who were later found guilty in both civil and criminal courts where they had video tapes," Hill said of an earlier case handled by the judge. "It's my understanding that during the first go-round of that case, he dismissed that case for lack of evidence when they had video tapes of the officers' actions.

"So he's got quite a track record for covering up a cop."

Not easily defeated, Hill plans to take the case to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court in New Orleans for appeal.

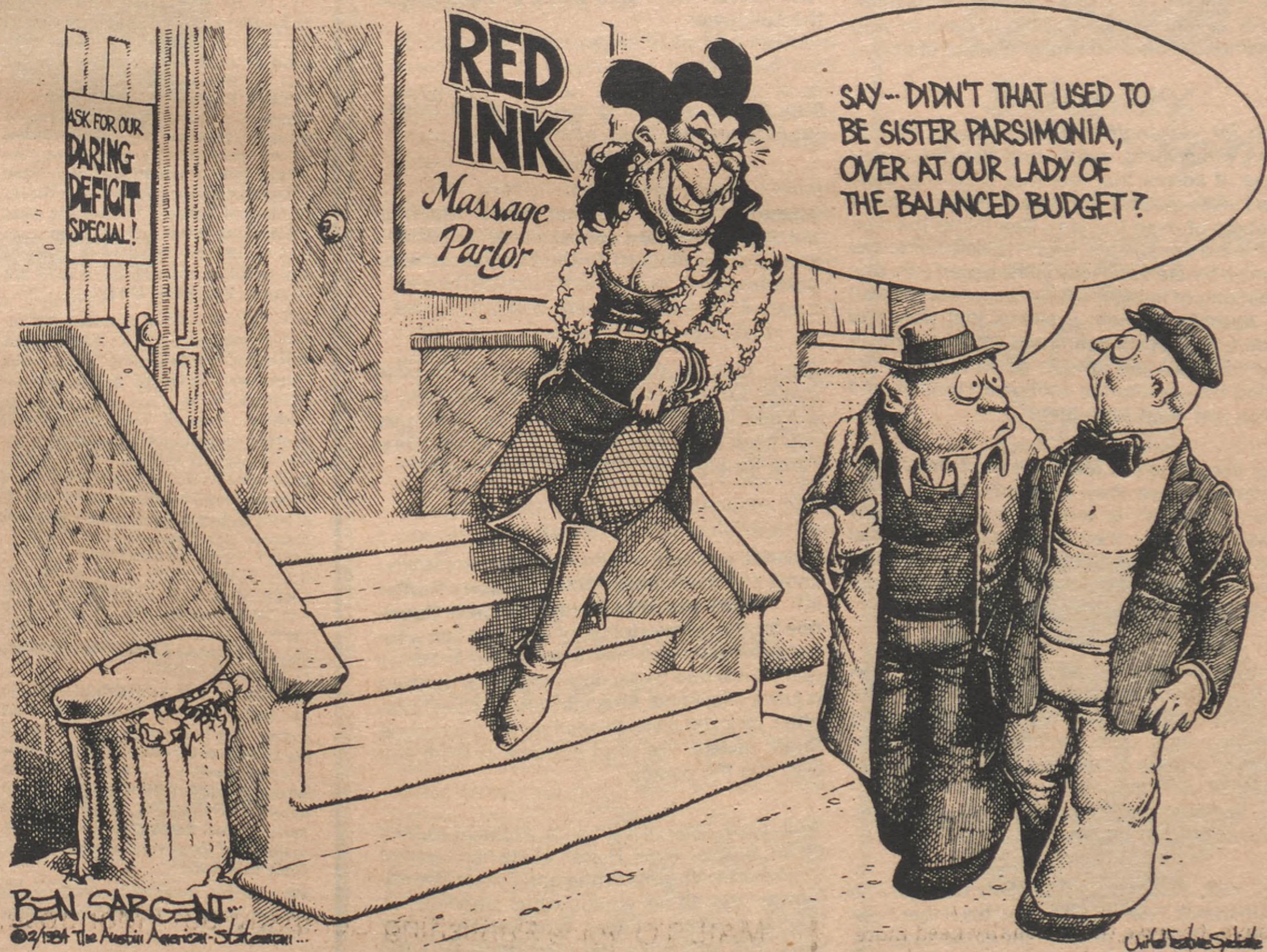
"I feel like an appeal to the Fifth Circuit would be successful. I'm going to have to raise the money to do that. I think it will probably cost \$2500 to \$3000. Folks who are interested in my approach to civil rights reforms will probably come forward."

In other federal courts, similar ordinances have been challenged and have been ruled unconstitutional.

"I won the suit in municipal court—had a trial. Both officers came to testify against me. The judge heard all the evidence and acquitted me. And subsequent to that acquittal, we filed federal suit challenging the constitutionality of the ordinance under which I had been arrested for words that I spoke with no physical action on my part."

According to Hill, the ordinance, which he deems vague at best, is used to allow policemen to make improper or illegal arrests and to silence witnesses.

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Montrose Mouth

By Amanda B. Recondwith

"Where's the Beef?"*

*(There Was Never Any There In The First Place.)

This week, **Amanda** is in a philosophical mood. Having a naturally *curious* and *inquisitive* mind, she has been aware lately of a rather comical term being used over and over again. "Where's the Beef?" people are saying, smiling and coining what may be the year's (if not the decade's) biggest catch phrase. There is, however, meaning at the bottom of the phrase that may not strike us as funny.

The little old lady leans over the counter and indignantly blurts "Where's the beef?" It may seem simply amusing, but have you, *Dear Fans*, ever thought that maybe her indignation represents a whole generation raised with the expectations of peace and prosperity and security only to see that after 20 years it has *never happened*? When the poor little old lady cries "Where's the beef," maybe she is just speaking for us all. Wouldn't it be awful to face the fact that there never was any beef in the first place?

Enough seriousness, *Dear Fans*. Amanda has **Good News** for Houstonians! Just think! If the war between Iraq and Iran spreads to the Persian Gulf, and the Strait of Hormuz is blocked, 20 percent of the world's oil supply will be cut off! Now Amanda knows that this seems like **bad news**, but remember, Houston *thrives* off the misfortunes of the Middle East (and most of the oil-dependent world). The oil companies will **boom** again, and we will all be *much* better off. Don't buy that **Mercedes** yet, though. Something *could* go wrong—there could still be a chance for *peace*.

Was that really **Anthony Hall** with members of Houston's new **C-PAC**, wineing and dining at **Rascal's** last Tuesday evening? We're sure they were enjoying themselves in the restaurant. What's this we hear about an *expansion*?

We hope that **David** will get these official early morning visits worked out so they will be a little *less frequent*!

Hooray for Randolph. He finally got a new pair of boots that *fit*!

Amanda *must* ask **Robert Hyde** not to wear his contacts so often. We assume that is why he was seen on his knees, dressed in leather. Really, **Leatherworks** is going to have to stop dressing that man—it's having a bad effect on him!

Time for yet *another* **Widow Report**. She is again forecasting gloom and doom for everyone. It seems that she was watching **CNN News** last weekend, and saw film clips of great numbers of *dead Iranians*. She thinks the men over there are *so cute*, and it upsets her to see them all bloated and icky in the desert sun. She is thinking of flying there for a conference with the **Ayatolla** himself. It seems that they had made a friendship years ago while he was in exile in **Paris**. She used to pose nude for him during his community college art course, and things just went from there.

Why does **One's A Meal** not want the **VOICE** anymore? Have they suddenly decided that their "clientele" is too *queazy* for the gay news? Certainly they would be surprised at how much more difficult it is for them to cover their overhead should the gay community suddenly decide *not* to eat there!

Amanda thinks that **Mr. Guttman**, our new GPC president, is a very handsome figure. He was very impressive at the **C-PAC** meeting Monday night. Just remember, boys; other minority groups have tried to win votes and influence with money, but they have repeatedly suffered *pogroms* and even **genocide**. Money does not buy everything.

YES, YES, YES, YES, YES!!!! **Boy George**, one of Amanda's *Dearest Fans*, had his finger right on the button the other night at the **Grammy Awards**. He said that we Americans have *taste* and *style*, and that we **know a good drag queen**

when we see **one!** Amanda experienced the most unusual feeling of hysteria at the thought of her parents and family back home (1500 miles away) sitting in the living room hearing that comment. Rather touching, don't you think?

If you *really* want to know what Amanda looks like, just see the ad for **Boulevard Cafe**. It is a striking resemblance.

DON'T MISS the fabulous TV special, **Tennessee William's "Streetcar Named Desire."** Everything Amanda has read about it is *very positive*. **Ann Margaret** is playing Blanche, a part she has been waiting for all her life. Amanda has heard through her own **Hollywood Connections** that it was a toss up between Ann and **Angie Dickenson**, but Angie didn't get the part because the play takes place in **New Orleans**, and there was no way that she could be allowed to wear *see-through knit sweaters*.

The **VOICE** has been getting lots of mail from you *Dear Fans*, and even some *Not-So-Dear Fans*, so we have decided to create a **Public Forum** column for all those people out there who *need* to **VOICE** their opinions. Start writing, *Dears*, and maybe someday you'll have a column of your own.

EEEEEEEEEEEEK!!!! Amanda has just received a picture of **John Shown!** If you haven't seen him or his art work (**Robinson Galleries**, 1200 Bissonnet), go see them. *Hot man!*

Mark Drago, of the **VOICE'S** advertising department, has decided to start a **Mr. Useless, Aimless & Missing Contest**. If you know of anyone who fits the description, send the nomination to the **VOICE**. The person with the most votes will win a free trip (*one way*) to **Lubbock** in a motor home. Second prize is a night with Mark under the **Pierce Elevated**. (Rest, Widow, rest!)

Don't miss **Godspell** at the **MCC (Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection)** March 9 and 10, 8pm. **Tucker Parmlee** says that the response from the Houston gay community has been fantastic. A small donation of \$3 is requested at the door, and that isn't much for such great entertainment. Call 861-9149 for information.

Speaking of religion, Amanda remembers being at **St. John the Devine** one Sunday when a visitor asked one of the clergy whether they ever "experimented with *progressive Christian rock music*." The visitor is now a hunchback in the bell tower.

Dirty Sally's is opening another bar in Texas, but Amanda won't say where yet.

Amanda has been told that famed "*Mouth of the South*," **Richard Johns**, bit his tongue and had to admit himself to the hospital for *food poisoning*.

Good luck to **PEC** in their efforts to raise money for the **Wortham Theater** downtown. It will take lots of hard work, but Amanda knows you have the ability to do it. Stay tuned, *Dear Fans*, for big fund-raising events to come.

Amanda wonders whether half the people who know him even realize how nice **Barry Burton** is? **Thank you Miss Marilyn and Miss Courtney** for the wonderful party in Dallas last weekend. Houstonians say that people in Dallas don't know how to get down and party, but that is just a falsehood. Amanda loves to *visit* Dallas often, and she loves to see the two glamorous **Roark Sisters**. We send our love to Mom and Dad and the poodle.

Well, *Dear Fans*, it's time for Amanda to take off for another week. Robert Hyde has decided to take after **Virginia Wolfe** and **Ernest Hemmingway** and do his writing while *standing up*, hoping to be so inspired. Who knows? It may work, but let's hope the inspiration isn't *too deep*. After all, Wolfe and Hemmingway *both* committed suicide.



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Exiled South African News Editor to Speak at Rothko Chapel

Donald Woods, exiled South African journalist and news editor, author of the banned works *Biko* and *Asking for Trouble: The Autobiography of a Banned Journalist*, will speak at the Rothko Chapel on Thursday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Woods, who is of British decent and known internationally for his courageous anti-apartheid stand within the white South African community, will address the critical situation in South Africa today.

The program will include an introduction by the Most Reverend John McCarthy, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, a personal friend of Mr. Woods.

The first private citizen ever invited to address the United Nations Security Council, Donalds Woods was forced to leave South Africa in 1977 because of his insistence on exposing the details of the death in police detention of Steve Biko, the brilliant and charismatic man who became South Africa's leading Black Consciousness spokesman.

Until officially silenced by governmental banning orders in October 1977, Donald Woods wrote the most widely read syndicated column in the country; a close friend of Steve Biko's, Mr. Woods led the international outcry against his death.

Since leaving South Africa after death threats and attacks on his children and home, Donald Woods and his family have lived in exile in London. There Mr. Woods is director of the Lincoln Trust, an internationally-supported organization committed to raising awareness, especially in the Western democracies, of apartheid as not simply a system of racial oppression in South Africa but an affront to Western concepts of individual liberty and a growing threat to the political and economic interests of the West.

The Rothko Chapel is located at the corner of Yupon and Sul Ross Streets in the Montrose area. The program on March 8 will be free, and the public is invited. For further information, call the Rothko Chapel at 524-9839.

FDA Questions Cold Cures

Americans spend more than \$1.2 billion a year on nonprescription cough and cold remedies, but a 10-year federal study shows that most of the medications in those products are neither safe nor effective, reports *Science Digest*.

Of 90 ingredients tested by the Food and Drug Administration, only seven used in cough suppressants and 14 used in decongestants were considered both safe and effective. Unless they pose a distinct health hazard, however, the FDA has no plans to remove the drugs from the market.

Dr. John Bartlett, infectious disease specialist at Johns Hopkins University, recommends consumers avoid brand-name preparations altogether. Not only do they fail as cold cures, but he notes, "These things are pretty expensive. Shop around, read the labels and look for generics."

jokes, take the money and run."

Jeane Dixon Sees 1984 Horrors

Nineteen eighty-four may not be as bad as George Orwell predicted, but psychic Jeane Dixon says we may yet see some horrors, reports the *Denver Post*.

Exactly what, she won't reveal because, she says, "There'd be mass hysteria. People would be scared to death."

But the nation's most popular soothsayer has spoken of her fears with President Reagan, who, Dixon says, listens to her advice.



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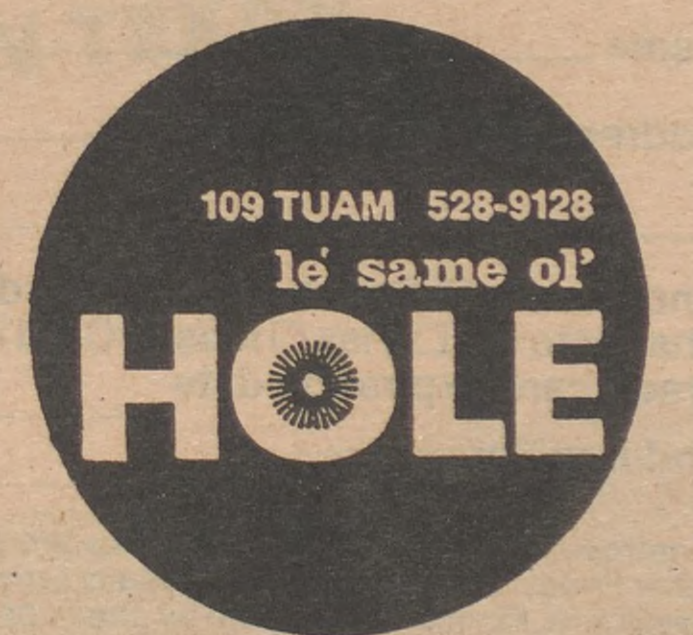
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ONE TEENAGER IN TEN: Writings by gay and lesbian youth, edited by Ann Heron, \$4.00. One teenager in ten is gay; here, twenty-six young people tell their stories: of coming to terms with being different, of the decision how — and whether — to tell friends and parents, and what the consequences were.

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Olympic Afterthoughts

By Randy Alfred

It's understandable that ABC Sports got disappointing ratings for its extended coverage of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games at Sarajevo. It constantly promoted the games and based its coverage on the root-for-our-folks platform. And the U.S. team had its share of glory, but no "miracles." (And my, how *that* word has been devalued and debased.)

So, with the Soviets and East Germans "showing us up," Americans tuned out. The point of the Olympics was missed. Winning is not *all*, not in these games.

Virtually every Olympic sport or event, summer and winter alike, has a world championship or World Cup competition that occurs elsewhere and at another time. The Olympics are not and should not be a combined world championship, a cheap, nationalistic, point-scoring Pick-Sixty or Ultimate Tri-fecta.

Frankly, I am offended by "medal counts" and unofficial point-scoring systems. The problem with the modern Olympics is that they have become a war simulation, an *inter*-national competition rather than a *trans*-national celebration. They are now an event of nations, not of individual athletes, and this should not be.

The Olympics should be a celebration of the pursuit of excellence, a glorification of the body and of competition and camaraderie, not of triumph alone. The games really are a great concourse of the world's athletes, a gathering of the tribes. In this sense, the medals are prizes in a world-class exhibition, not the spoils of a world championship.

Print media had less choice. They could only tell you the results. The same is largely true of radio. But TV can show you. No matter who wins, you can see the best competing. (This, of course, will be truer as the outdated rules about who is an "amateur" are finally brought up to date.)

Suppose ABC had hyped its coverage not with: "Root for us"; but rather with: "See the best." Don't you think you'd have watched, or watched more?

Suppose ABC had shown us less of those infuriating medal ceremonies. (Yes, I find them equally infuriating when U.S. athletes win the gold medals.) Suppose the International Olympic Committee dropped the playing of national anthems and the raising of flags altogether. Suppose the gold-, silver- and bronze-medal winners stood in a semi-circle and put their hands together.

Suppose ABC had shown us more of the mingling of athletes in the Closing Ceremony. Couldn't we listen to the athletes speaking to each other, instead of to commentators, or—as happened all too often—the commentators talking to each other? The sight of the athletes dancing together was beautiful. (And wouldn't it have been nice to see the medalist skaters hold hands and glide around the rink together when the skating exhibition came to an end?)

As for anthems, use only the Olympic anthem. And as for national flags, use them only when they are all seen together: in the opening and closing ceremonies, hanging from the arena roof, and in a colonnade of flagpoles. In these settings, the flags represent not nationalistic victory, but multi-national sharing. Nuf sed.

END OF A DYNASTY? After Six Formalwear offered endorsement contracts to John Forsythe, John James and Linda Evans of "Dynasty," but the company is undecided about Jack Coleman, *The New York Post* reported Feb. 10. The *Post* quoted an After Six spokesperson as voicing the concern that Coleman's character, onetime bisexual Steven Carrington, "may go gay again."

The *Post* asks, "Why wouldn't a gay guy look spiffy in a tux?"

RUSSIAN TO JUDGEMENT: How did you like the Soviets' quick choice of a new leader? Reports said Konstantin Chernenko had been a close friend and political ally of Leonid Brezhnev. In fact, they were so close they were known around Moscow

as Lenny and Cher.

You think it was just a secret meeting in the Kremlin that elected Chernenko? You must have missed the Georgia Primary. And the Caucasus Caucus.

FRAGMENTS FROM THE OZONE: Not true is the rumor that Detroit's National Football League team will move to Oakland. A born-again revival meeting refused to give up conflicting dates. It was the same old story: Lions vs. Christians in the Coliseum.

It is a signal honor to dedicate this traffic light...Heartiest congratulations on the success of your bypass surgery...Families that have their large TV sets repossessed are disconsolate.

Did you hear about the French gentleman who was willing to pay high prices to impress his lady friend, but always used foreign currency? When she asked him

Dateline S.F.

how much he had spent on a fling, he answered, "Dearly, madam: I don't give a franc."

Have you ever read a book that was too literary for words? Is there such a thing as mitigated gall? Is there anything you can do with aspersions but cast them?

AIDS has changed the patterns by which some of us spend our discretionary incomes on indiscretions. Centerfold hunks are a safe fantasy, so we no longer take the Me Track to the meat rack. Instead, we make eye contact with the icon tacked upon the wall.

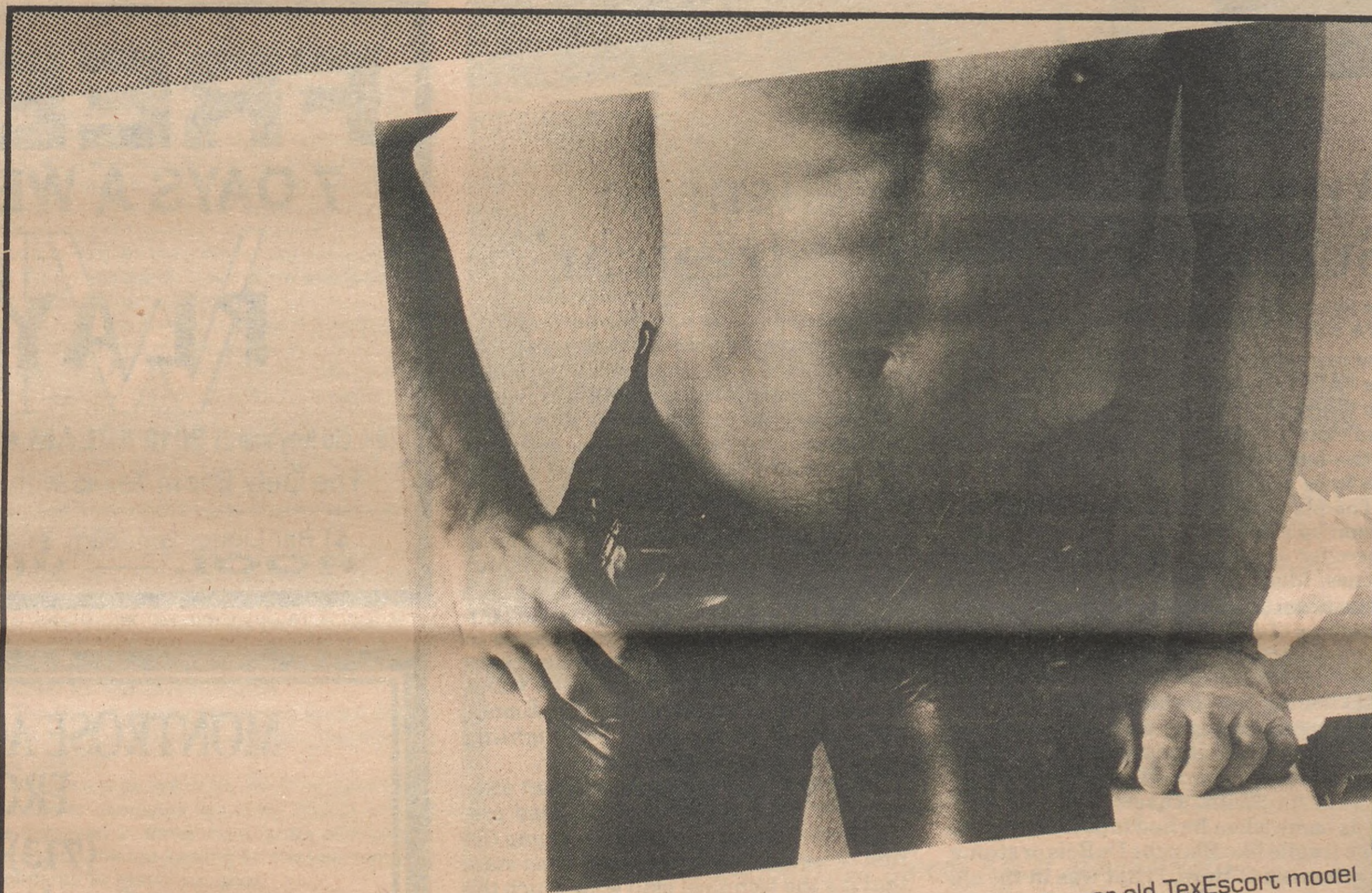
I thought I heard someone say: "Your opinion is judgmental. My opinion is right." And remember, smilence is consent.

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



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Films



Ann-Margret Excellent in Sunday's Altered 'Streetcar'

By Steve Warren
GPA Wire Service

You can take or leave the first two parts of the "ABC Theatre" production of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*—and there are good arguments for both—but the last half-hour is definitely not to be missed.

The play has been "opened up" for television by substituting scenery and atmosphere for dialogue, especially in the early scenes. Much of what has been cut concerns Blanche DuBois indulging herself in delusions of elegance, living in a past that never existed. Stripping her of some of Williams' poetry makes Ann-Margret's job of establishing the character more difficult.

Of course, most gay men know Blanche and many relate because the playwright put so much of himself into her. When I lived in the South, a queen's first identity crisis came when he had to decide whether to be fragile like Blanche DuBois or strong like Scarlett O'Hara. (That was in the old days, of course. They're all butch now.)

Poor Blanche, whose weakness leads from one misfortune to another after her gay husband kills himself. The army declares her off limits, she loses what's left of the family plantation, the high school fires her for carrying on with a student and "she's practically told by the mayor to get our of (Laurel, Mississippi)."

Blanche believes that "A woman's charm is 50 percent illusion," but she's up to 90 percent and climbing.

So she goes to New Orleans for an indefinite "visit" with her younger sister Stella and Stella's husband Stanley Kowalski. When Blanche's coquettishness meets Stanley's brutish sexuality, it's just a matter of time until they get together.

In the meantime, her aires manage to deceive Stanley's friend Mitch, a mama's boy who hasn't known many women. He even considers marrying her, until—well, I've given away enough already. There must be some of you who have never seen *Streetcar*.

As noted, Oscar Saul's adaptation does away with quite a bit of dialogue. That's not all for the worse, as Tennessee was known to suffer attacks of verbal diarrhea and what works in the theatre doesn't necessarily come across in your living room; but there are times when Saul seems to have been pressured to follow a current rule of prime time television: Cut to the smut. I never thought I'd see the day when Tennessee Williams was too tame for television; but it's not easy for a 37-year-old play, however steamy it once seemed, to compete in the age of "Dynasty," "Dallas" and that ilk.

The period is quickly established as if to

excuse any touches of refinement, and it's all photographed in golden tones like John Huston's *Reflections in a Golden Eye*. Bill Butler's camerawork is excellent, but so busy that it makes the Kowalskis' apartment seem larger than it is, reducing the sense of claustrophobia that pushes Blanche and Stanley together.

"I don't want realism," Blanche says; "I want magic." Magic is what the viewer gets in a number of scenes: Mitch installing a paper lantern to hide Blanche's "naked light bulb" ("We've made enchantment!"); Stella and Stanley's reunion in the rain after a fight; Blanche's revelations about her husband (a scene which should win Ann-Margret an Emmy, although the direction and lighting deserve a share of the credit).

After that, it's one magic moment after another. The rape scene merits loud protest from feminists, and I'll be among the first to issue it; but as a critic, I must state that it's the technical skill with which the scene was filmed that makes it so effective and therefore objectionable. That's damn-ning with strong praise.

Partly because of the script, Ann-Margret's performance only intermittently catches fire in the first several scenes. Unlike her co-star, she can't just yell "Hey, Stella!" and tell you everything you need to know about her character. In the latter portion, however, she not only does the best work she's ever done, but some of the finest any actress has done on television.

Treat Williams gives us a clever carbon of Marlon Brando playing Stanley, but adds nothing of his own. It's a consistent job, and he's a Treat for the eyes, shirtless as often as not, but his lack of originality is disappointing. Rich Little could have played the part as well.

Beverly D'Angelo, surprisingly well matched to Ann-Margret as a sister act, does beautifully as Stella, not only making us believe she loves Stanley, but even that he deserves it.

Randy Quaid as Mitch was an inspired bit of casting that works well.

Fans of gay films should look for Raphael Sbarge as the paperboy. He plays the abused child who has an affair with a gay filmmaker in Artie Bresson's *Abuse*.

The score by Marvin Hamlisch sounds like a Muzak version of the one Alex North wrote for the 1951 film version.

Despite his concessions to the medium and the times, director John Erman (who made last year's "Who Will Love My Children?") has fashioned a *Streetcar* that's worth the ride.

It airs Sunday, March 4, at 8:00 p.m. on ABC.

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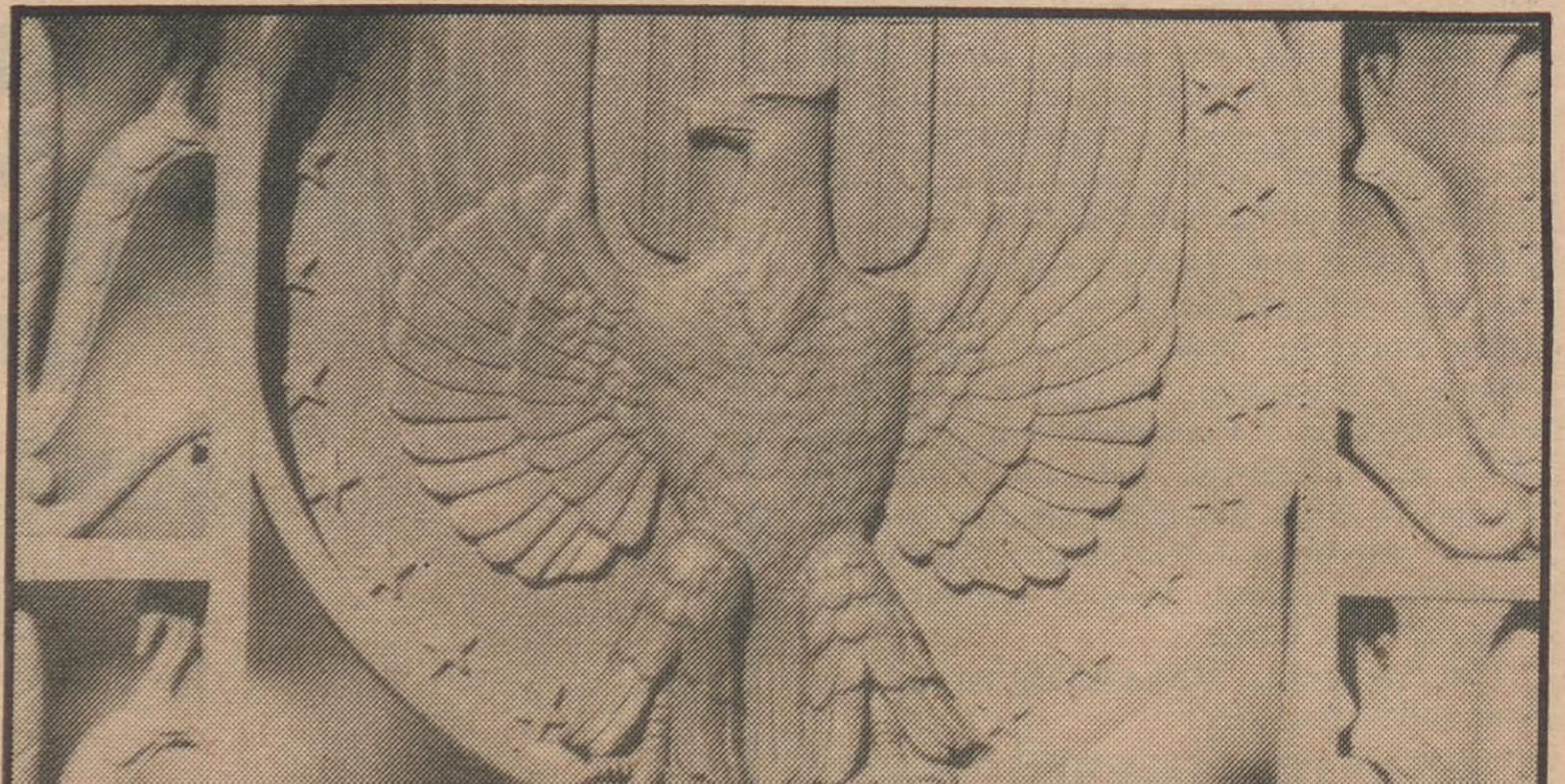
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Letters

Time to Nail Down Politicians on Gay Issues

From Dick Dace

I have been an active member of numerous political and civic organizations of the community over the past four years. Time and again, I have seen politicians, particularly those at City Hall, come to the gay community for support. We have reciprocated by giving many thousands of dollars, untold votes, and uncounted hours of devoted work to their campaigns. On issues not necessarily singular to the gay community, they have asked us to deliver our votes toward their proposals, such as was the case on the downtown convention center.

Now, it is time for us to nail these politicians down on the issues of the gay community. As I sit and listen to them speak at election time, I am amazed at how easily they woo this community. By speaking in the most nebulous terms about their so-called "friendship" with the gay community, they win the trust of so many far too easily. Not only their words, but their actions and their voting record must prove their loyalty to us. As we would run a business, we must run City Hall, ridding ourselves of personnel who do not perform and replacing them with others who will. Likewise, we should promote and advance those who do the job.

I have read with interest the recent comments published by the VOICE from readers who are awakening to the fact that our mayor and City Council are not supporting this community where it counts. Finally, I am happy to see that some of us are asking for more than gestures of protocol and undefined promises.

It is far past time for our elected officials to start giving something back to this community. No longer will we accept friendly gestures alone. It is time for them to act in positive and concrete ways. Where we have given votes at election time, they must give votes at Council.

People like George Greanias, who's Council position represents the greatest gay constituency in the city, must stop spending the bulk of their time representing other interests like taxicab deregulation. If he is to remain our representative, he must earn our support—not only Greanias, but others who seek us at election time: Kathy Whitmire, Anthony Hall, Eleanor Tinsley, Jim Greenwood, Ernest McGowen and others. These people must begin to realize that they can no longer take a back seat position on our issues.

I personally will not give one more dollar to their campaigns, nor will I think of them as "friends" at election time until I see change in their attitudes and their actions. I will use my influence to encourage others to do the same.

Gay Community Has Nothing to Prove to Police Chief

From Roy Farrowli

I agree with the sentiment raised by Martha Mitchell of Montrose (Feb. 17) and reiterated by Gregory Austin (Feb. 24).

The documentation project proposed by Police Chief Brown is an impossible task, and in my view, another excuse which has been swallowed hook, line and sinker by our community leaders.

I urge our leaders, the mayor, Police Chief Brown and the City Council to remember that the gay community has nothing to prove to them. To the contrary, they have much to substantiate to us. We pay their salaries, we elect them to be our representatives, we call the shots.

Maybe someday, we'll have a better understanding of where the power originates in this country. When we do, we will all be better off.

Keep the Police Issue Alive

From Randy Lewis

I have enjoyed reading some of the letters recently published in the VOICE regarding the feelings of others as they pertain to the recent rash of police actions in the Montrose area.

Although I believe some of the remarks have been extreme, I believe this is a subject which should be kept in the forefront until some definite action is taken by the mayor.

Too many times this has happened. Before we have let the issue drop, and as a result, nothing has been done to correct the problem. Consequently, raids continue to happen, and the mayor just waits for a few weeks until the issue settles. Nothing is done.

I hope you will keep this issue going so that we will not so easily forget the wrongs which confront this community.

Mexico's Gay Movement Seeks Fiscal Help from U.S.

From Manuel Alvarez Reyes

Please receive a warm and friendly gay regard. We're writing to let you know about our situation and the activities we've been developing—and especially to ask for your HELP!

Since 1978, when the Grupo Lambda de Liberacion Homosexual began to work as a lesbian and gay liberation group, we've been making our best efforts to construct a strong gay movement in Mexico. A year ago (Aug. 82), after lots of troubles, we rented a house that we use as our center (the only place in the country where lesbian and gay people hold political meetings and activities openly). This center has survived for over a year—thanks to the efforts of all the members of our group and to the different activities that we've been developing to get some money.

But now it is not good enough. The last year we spent over a million pesos in our activities organizing for the fifth consecutive year the Lesbian and Gay Pride March, preparing our congress, promoting a national lesbian and gay network, etc.

In this very moment, we're with a deficit of over a quarter of a million, and it means to us a very high risk of losing our center because of lack of money.

It is very closely related to the situation of our country, which is in the deepest economic crisis in its history. Besides, the government put poor youth, prostitutes and gay people in the target of an increasing repressive wave in the real face of the presidential slogan: "The Society for Moral Renovation."

The loss of our center means to us a disastrous step backward for the gay movement in our country.

We will not be defeated. We're organizing an economic campaign to collect \$3,333 U.S. to be achieved in three months. As part of this campaign, we are looking for the International Solidarity to reach our goal.

Any money order will be welcome and will help us to save our movement.

Donations should be in international post money and addressed to Manuel Alvarez Reyes, Apartado Postal 73-130, Mexico 12 DF.

Better Off Aping Monkeys

Don't blame those afternoon blahs on what you ate for lunch. Scientists are saying the real reason our energy takes a post-lunch dip is because we all used to live in the jungle, reports *Psychology Today*.

In tropical climates, monkeys are active and noisy all morning, but calm down in the heat of the afternoon. Human workers have no choice: they have to go back to work.

Researchers say we'd be better off aping the monkey: delay lunch an hour or two to coincide with the natural dropoff in alertness, then spend the later afternoon hours on less demanding tasks.

Russian Says Beards Breed Germs

Rasputin wouldn't like this, and neither would Lenin, but Russian scientists now claim that beards breed germs and should be shaved off, reports London's *Weekly News*.

The Soviet researchers says facial hair attracts microbes which can infect the lungs.



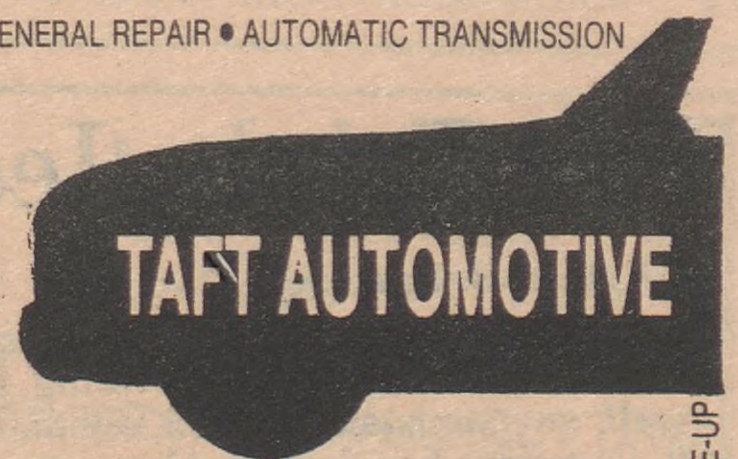
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The Triple Jeopardy of Being Black, a Woman and Gay

By Arthur S. Lazere, C.P.A.

The first time I heard Linda Tillery sing, I felt that rare tingle of discovering for myself an unmistakable and wonderful gift. One critic has described her voice as "rich and sweet as hot fudge and as powerful as a blast furnace." Another spoke of "vocal strength and clarity of delivery, almost unparalleled in its force and presence."

One of the ingredients of a singer's voice is the instrument itself—the vocal chords, the physical structure with which the singer works to produce sounds. Then there is the skill with which the singer learns to use the instrument, the musicianship. Beyond the instrument and the musicianship is the singer's identity, the life experience, and the resulting emotional and intellectual resources that shape and color the content of the singer's songs.

Tillery has the instrument. She learned the musicianship and it is evident in all her work, she is a virtuoso. Her life experience and its effect on her work and on her career is a story of triple jeopardy.

Linda Tillery was, in her own words, "a real big girl." At the time she entered junior high school, age 13, she was five feet, seven inches tall and weighed two hundred pounds. From early childhood on, her size made her the subject of much teasing. She became defensive and somewhat withdrawn. "I became very particular about whom I would let in," she recalls. She also remembers herself as a violent child, goaded into fist fights (usually with boys) arising out of teasing about her size. These experiences defined for Tillery her first strong sense of being different.

Brought up in San Francisco's Fillmore district, Tillery was not particularly aware that she lived in a ghetto. The child of a working class family, her memories are of a comfortable, warm, and loving home, anchored by her mother who was, and remains, Linda's best friend. Both of her parents were music lovers, though neither could carry a tune. There was a large collection of records in the house which provided Linda with the beginnings of her musical education. Even before she could read, she learned to choose her favorite albums by their logos or the color of their labels. Dinah Washington and Count Basie were early favorites. (The senior Tillerys preferred blues and jazz to the then contemporary rock sounds.)

Television variety shows also had an influence. Linda was impressed with how loud Kate Smith could sing. Then, she told me, "I discovered bathroom acoustics. I'd go into the bathroom, shut the door, and just stand in there and wail and bellow out songs!" Linda's older brother had been living with their grandmother in Texas. When he joined the family in San Francisco, Linda became tuned in, for the first time, to rhythm and blues—recording artists such as Clyde McFatter and

LaVerne Baker.

When she reached junior high school, Tillery started her first formal musical training. She wanted to learn to play the violin, but the music teacher took one look at this tall girl with big hands and assigned her to the string bass. This was her instrument through high school years.

During her junior high school period, the Tillery family moved from the Fillmore district to Ingleside, a mostly middle-class white neighborhood. Linda quickly experienced her second strong revelation of being different: "I became aware for the first time of conflicts between my black culture and the predominant white middle-class culture of the city, differences in speech, in dress and hair styles, and in behavior."

Junior high was also the time of initial sexual awareness. As early as age five or six, Linda says, "I fell in love with Annette Funicello." She was aware that her feelings for the television star were very different from other feelings of love. She was also, somehow, equally aware that those feelings were not to be talked about, taboo. At five or six, however, overt sexuality was not yet in the picture. By junior high there was, of course, a growing awareness of sexuality, of the terms "fruit" and "faggot" and (Black argot) "bulldagger." There were the whispered rumors about gym teachers. Linda's feelings towards other women, previously limited to the television screen, now resurfaced as crushes on the other girls in the orchestra. And, after a long and calculated courtship (modeled after the example of her cousin, a Casanova several years her senior), she initiated an affair with classmate Michelle. She now dealt with her third difference, being a lesbian. A physically large, black lesbian.

While the process of working through one's homosexuality is never an easy one in our homophobic society, back in 1962 it was surely more difficult than it is today. Linda felt isolated: "There was no feminist movement, no gay rights movement. There was no one to tell me that it was okay to love another woman and to love myself as a woman." The lack of lesbian role models left the couple with only non-gay examples to follow and they fell into "butch" and "femme" roles. Linda was the butch, but she found the role constricting. Her need to express vulnerability or even to cry, didn't fit the role she thought she was expected to play. So she repressed those feelings as she had learned before to repress her frustrations and resentment over all those ways in which she found herself to be different. The surface cool was maintained.

Still another source of confusion to teenager Tillery was the conflict of her Baptist upbringing with her sexual preference. She sang in the church choir and she heard the hellfire and brimstone sermons. She took her role as a Christian person seriously. How could she square

that with being a "bulldagger"?

Her affair ended when Michelle and her family emigrated to Canada. As her parting gesture, Michelle announced to Linda that *she* (Michelle) was certainly not a lesbian and that lesbians were perverted. At the end of this three-year affair, Linda was left confused, threatened, and without any support system whatever. She did not know even one lesbian woman in whom to confide. Once again, she buried the feelings. She became virtually asexual.

While continuing her formal musical training through high school (still on the string bass), Linda had started to vocalize. She sang in school variety shows. She learned the lyrics to hundreds of songs. Her instrument and talent were beyond doubt. But she had not found a direction to take. Though the voice had all the potential, she couldn't see herself as an opera singer. As a black woman she felt the opportunities were too limited and the classical European tradition did not attract her. She also knew that within the popular music field there was much that did not work for her: "I didn't want to go to Las Vegas and wear sequined gowns and sing love songs about Harry and Charles when what I meant was Harriet and Charle-setta."

After graduating from high school, Tillery went to work in the post office. She didn't have to wait long for her first big break. In 1968, she answered an advertisement in the *San Francisco Chronicle* which landed her her first professional singing job as the vocalist for a rhythm and blues band called The Loading Zone. San Francisco was in the midst of a rock music explosion in the late '60s. Singing with The Loading Zone, Tillery shared the bill at the fabled Fillmore auditorium with stars such as Arlo Guthrie, Chuck Berry, Iron Butterfly and Janis Joplin. The Loading Zone was under contract to RCA Victor and the first of Linda's many recordings was as their lead vocalist in 1969.

Now a public person, Linda had the external indices of success. Money, fame, music, and partying filled her life. Underneath, she was still confused about her sexuality. She continued to be afraid that she would be rejected and ostracized, both socially and in her work, if she was upfront as a lesbian. She continued to repress her sexuality. She managed to work up enough courage to confide in her good friend Patrick O'Hara, the trombonist with The Loading Zone. Patrick warned her not to tell anyone else, reinforcing her fears.

The pressures mounted. Linda began to suffer from severe anxiety attacks. Hysterical symptoms began. Her heart would race uncontrollably. She would twitch at the temples. Her hands grew numb. She suffered violent headaches. When she sought medical help she was told that she had no physical illness. She committed herself to a psychiatric hospital, the first

of three times she did so. Working with therapists, Linda learned over a period of time that she had been living in denial, that she was full of anger, and that she had been sitting on her feelings for years. She became angry with herself for suppressing her gayness. She had never been able to accept herself in all the varieties of her differentness.

Slowly, one step at a time, Linda worked her way back to mental health. She started meeting gay people, men and women. She entered into a new relationship with a woman which continued for two and a half years. She became totally upfront about being a lesbian. In 1974, at age 26, she quit singing publicly for a year and spent her time getting involved in Oakland's lesbian community, particularly with a group of third world lesbians called Gente. She organized a chorus called the Gente Gospelairens.

At the same time, Linda kept her recording career going, cutting records with Coke Escovedo and Lenny White. But the new direction in her career was her affiliation with Olivia Records, an independent recording company using women artists, engineers and producers. She produced albums by Bebe K'Roche and Teresa Trull. In 1978, she produced her own album for Olivia simply called "Linda Tillery." She sang: "If I could just tell you what it's really like/To live this life in triple jeopardy; I fight the daily battles of all my people...."

Olivia Records was important to Linda for several years. It provided her a working environment which was supportive of her as a woman and as a lesbian. But Olivia's music is white music, and Linda, as a black woman, needs to express her cultural roots in her music—blues, rhythm and blues, and jazz. She left Olivia and has not recorded for several years. But she has been far from idle, singing constantly in the Bay area and on tour. She recently completed a successful seven-week tour to 26 cities all over the United States. And, while she still has a strong following in the women's community, she finds that her audiences are growing more diverse. She was recently honored with a "Jamie" award as best female vocalist, ultimate recognition of her talent by her peers. Now she is planning to produce her own record, singing her own music.

Linda Tillery came back from an abyss. She has found herself. She is being herself—a lesbian, a woman, a black, a virtuoso musician. She has attained the peace of accepting herself and saying to the world, "This is who I am; this is the music I like, the music that expresses who I am. Come share it with me!"

Lazere is on the board of the San Francisco Industrial Development Authority. His column originates at the "Bay Area Reporter," a San Francisco gay newspaper.

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Commentary

I Could Have Had a V-8

The bigger the price of a purchase, the bigger the potential rip-off. And the bigger the purchase, the more chance that you'll have some emotional hangup with the thing you're buying.

After a house, the most expensive outlay you'll likely make is a car. And just as that pretty little cottage may have termites gnawing under the glistening facade, your spiffy little sports car may have all the potential to bring you more grief in the long run than your immediate pleasure.

The buying public is still naive about automobiles. Since the federal government started requiring a "sticker price" on each vehicle, many consumers have been lulled into believing that purchasing a car has become as cut-and-dry as buying a steak at the grocery.

That's simply not so. In the first place, that sticker price is only the "manufacturer's suggested list." Your local dealer can add a wealth of charges to it for "preparations" and for extras that you may not need. Those charges may contribute as much as 25 percent to the overall cost of the car.

More important, many people don't realize the importance of the word "suggested." Your dealer can deal. The "suggested" list is only a starting point from which a price can be negotiated. You still have to wheel and deal in buying a car, and if you're buying an unpopular model, you can cut the price tremendously by bargaining. Even on fast-moving autos, you should pay less than list.

How can you do this? You have to know what you're buying and what it's worth. As in any other purchase, it's stupid to go into a situation in which the seller has all the information and you have none.

The critical consideration in this transaction is your awareness of your needs. Automobiles are heavily weighted with psychological overtones. Do you want a new car because it's pretty? Are you trying to impress others with the status of your car? Dealers are very much aware of these factors and will use them to persuade you to buy more than you need or to pay more for something you don't want.

Don't be used like that. If you're honest with yourself about the reason for your purchase, it's harder for a salesman to manipulate your honest doubts about the deal he's offering.

Sit down and list exactly what it is you're looking for and what will satisfy those needs in the most basic manner. If you want a pretty car, that's okay. If you want to impress others, that's okay, too. But list your *real* reasons.

Now see how economically you can realize your hopes. Are the lines of the Pontiac Firebird that much nicer than the Chevrolet Camaro? Will the Mercedes be more impressive than the Volvo? Think about your driving habits. Do you carry enough people around to merit a four-door, or will a two-door do the job? Will lots of long trips make a small car uncomfortable? Since you have to haul your work materials around with you, is a sports car impractical?

Once you have a general idea of the type of car that suits you best, consult the *Consumer Reports Guide to Car Buying*. There you'll find a listing of almost all models of all cars with their suggested retail price.

Austin Tops

Looking for a job? Well don't head for Houston—set your sights on Austin, said the Kansas City Times recently. The Texas capital has been dubbed the country's most promising job market.

Besides Austin, the list is: Oxnard, San Diego, Riverside and Anaheim, Calif.; Tampa and Orlando, Fla.; Tucson, Las Vegas and San Antonio.

But poor Houston has slipped from number one to number 79 in the last two years. The reason: energy is slumping while high-tech is still riding high.

You'll also see a listing of the cost of most options. Those will have to be added to the base price to come up with the figure you'll be dealing with.

Dealers love options. They offer a higher profit margin than the cars themselves, so you'll be pushed to add things you may not need. Are the summers really hot enough to warrant air-conditioning? How many days would you use it? Is a good stereo system a high priority? How much would it cost to buy the car without one and have a name-brand installed at a stereo store? In this last case, you may come out with a better quality system at lower cost.

How do the gas mileages stack up against one another? If you drive 1000 miles a month, a car with a 20 miles-per-gallon rating will cost you \$12 more to run than a car that gives 25 mpg. At 30 mpg, you would save \$250 every year, enough to pay the insurance.

That's another factor. Check your insurance agent to see how much each model you're considering costs to insure. Rates are widely divergent, enough to be important in your running costs. They also give some indication of the relative safety and construction of the cars themselves. A car with a high insurance premium may have demonstrated proportionately high incidences of accidents or repair costs—some of which you'll be bearing if you have an accident.

Now, return to the *Guide* to check out a listing of "Trouble History." This table gives you a listing by make and model of reported repairs (not for accidents) that the owners have given to *Consumer Reports*. It's no fun to buy a car that has to be in the shop every month; even if the repairs are done under warranty, you're suffering inconvenience. Steer clear of cars that have shown repeated problems with mechanical or electrical systems.

Remember, even if it's "pretty" or "impressive" that you're after, your car can't be appreciated for either unless you can drive it.

By this time, you should have a fairly accurate picture of the car you want to buy. Let's say that you've narrowed it down to a Walt Whitman Six with air-conditioning or the Toklas convertible with bucket seats. *Consumer Reports* has another little feature that will help you. There's a listing of the cost to the dealer for each car, so that you can figure out just how much profit he'll make from your purchase and whether or not the deal you intend to counter with is a fair one.

You need three more bits of information before you visit the dealership. First, acquaint yourself with any discounts or rebates that are being offered on the car you want. Those should be subtracted from the list price of that model.

Next, check out your bank or credit union for their current interest rate on car loans, if you intend to finance your purchase. A turnaround has occurred in the past two years in which the auto manufacturers may actually offer you a loan at less interest than the banks can, and the difference between a 9.9 percent loan from the dealer and a 13-15 percent loan at the bank can be a hefty chunk over three or four years.

While you're there, ask your banker to check the value of any car you may want to use as trade-in. He has a publication called *The Blue Book* which lists wholesale and retail prices for used cars. Remember the wholesale price; you should get something close to that amount when you trade up to your new car.

Now, with those facts and figures handy, you're ready to do some trading. We'll look at how to buy your car in next month's installment.

If you have consumer problems or observations that you would like to share with our readers, write to Rip-Offs at Stonewall Features Syndicate, P.O. Box 222976, Carmel, CA 93924. We'll be glad to hear from you.

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Commentary

No Sex, Please, We're 'Just Friends'

by Joe Baker

My friend, Steve, is a hunk by anyone's definition or standards—gay or straight, male or female.

He's tall, dark and strikingly handsome. Broad shoulders, loaded with charisma, beautiful smile and eyes you fall into.

He works out religiously, and his taunt, well-defined body shows it. He's got a great personality, he's considerate and, generally, just a darn nice guy. What's more, he's also a successful young attorney.

In other words, Steve is quite a catch.

I'm telling you this because of our relationship. You know—"We're just friends."

How many times have you used that line yourself? Often, I'm sure. I know I have used it many times.

I keep using the line to answer other friends of mine who inquire after meeting Steve, "How can you stand just being friends with him? Wouldn't you just love to have sex with him?"

My response is always the same: "What! Sex with Steve! No way, I'm not interested in him that way. We're just friends."

I then go on to explain that Steve is not my type, that we would probably just laugh ourselves silly if we ever tried having sex together, and that a sexual encounter would probably ruin our friendship.

In other words, I try to justify or rationalize our nonsexual relationship. Steve isn't the only friend I've put into the "don't touch" category over the years. There's been several others.

My story isn't unique among gay men. Most also have their "Steves." I don't know about gay women, but I tend to think such a situation doesn't exist with them. Sometimes I think they've got their heads together a lot more than gay men.

Anyway, when I say I'm not sexually interested in Steve or one of my other "hunk" friends—I really mean it. I think most gay men do.

That really stinks.

I got to thinking about this situation after Steve visited me recently from Michigan, and my Texas friends started quizzing me about our past and present relationship.

They couldn't believe that I've never had any desire to hop into the sack with him. They couldn't understand why we weren't lovers.

"He's the perfect match for you," they said. "Why can't you get over this no-sex-with-friends hangup?"

I had to admit it was a hangup, but when I turned the table on my Texas friends, they had to admit that they also had hangups about having sex with their friends.

Their reasons were the same as mine.

So why do we feel this way? I sat down and had a man-to-man talk with myself and came up with at least one explanation.

Americans have a lot of hangups about sex. Most of us were raised believing that it was something you didn't talk about. You just did it in the middle of the night—when it was nice and dark. It was a hushed-up subject.

Naturally, we grew up then thinking that sex was dirty. We were encouraged to hide our sexual feelings and desires.

Throw in the fact that we were gay—and you can easily understand why so many homosexuals had trouble developing a healthy view of sex, much less adjusting to their homosexuality. We had a double guilt trip to deal with.

So here we are today. Subconsciously—and in some cases consciously—we still believe that sex is dirty and something we shouldn't do with our friends. Especially gay sex.

The gay lifestyle for years revolved around that concept. Sex was something we did with strangers—lots of them. Sex was something we did in back rooms of bars, in dark orgy rooms at the baths, in

the bushes in public parks and in restrooms in shopping malls.

Sex was something you had with people you dragged home from a bar, threw out the next morning and never talked to again.

It is time to put a stop to such nonsense. Our recent health crisis may help us.

Sex is not dirty—straight or gay sex. It is a healthy and beautiful part of our existence. Sex is sharing and caring. It is an expression of love, but it also is a normal physical need.

When we accept the notion that we can't have sex with our friends because they are our friends, what we are saying is that we believe sex is dirty.

We buy into the theory that sex is something we only reserve for strangers: We do dirty things with strangers. We would never think of doing such things with people we consider our friends.

We care about our friends. We love them. We want the best for them. Sex and friends do not go together, we foolishly decide.

Silly, isn't it?

What we have to start realizing is that sex isn't evil and something we can only do with strangers. We have to start believing that sex is good. And since it is good, it is something we should want to do with our friends.

If we really do love and care about our friends, then what is wrong with showing them that through sexual expression.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not saying that we should start having sex with all our friends—just for the sake of sex. There are other nonsexual ways of showing love and concern.

But we also shouldn't just eliminate the possibility of a sexual relationship with a friend because he is "just a friend." Think about all the warm and wonderful relationships we've probably been missing.

When we take sex out of dark rooms with strangers and put it in the homes of our friends, then maybe we all will start treating each other with a little more feeling.

Sex with strangers may be okay, but I'm willing to bet that sex with friends you love and care about is a whole lot better.

Agnostics Feel God Getting Too Much Publicity

A group of agnostics in Madison, Wisc., thinks God is getting too much publicity, reports the *Chicago Tribune*.

They were miffed by signs on the city's buses that said, "Keep Christ in Christmas," so they bought space for their own placards that said, "The Bible ... A Grim Fairy Tale." They claim the good book degrades women and contains too many gory battle scenes.

Says the group's president: "If the bus company is going to bow to religion, they'd better be ready to bow to us."

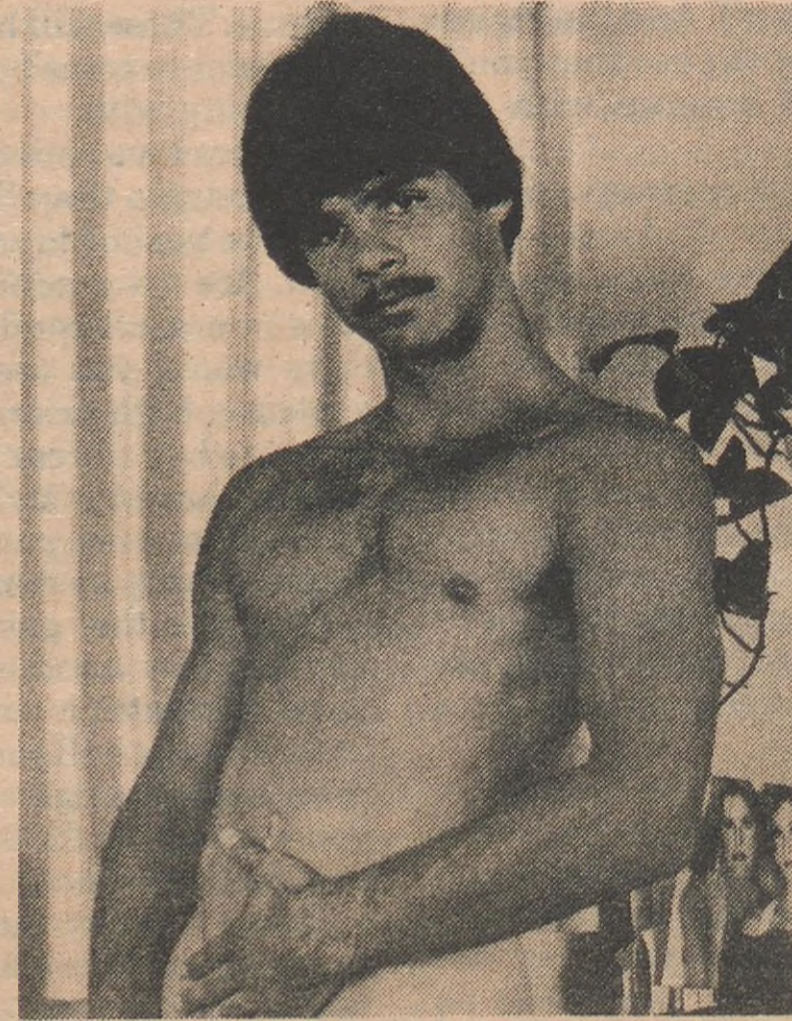
Women Artists Underpaid

A study of American painters and sculptors has discovered that while there are more women artists than men, the men earn the lion's share of money and recognition, reports the *San Francisco Examiner*. And researchers for the University of Chicago say the reason for this artistic gender gap is both social and economic.

They say women dominate the ranks of lower-paid artists because most of them aren't into it for the money. But men who are barely eking out a living through art usually switch to a better paying field.

The study concluded that successful female artists possess certain distinct personality traits: they reject social stereotypes, take extreme positions on political and nonpolitical issues and are very self-sufficient.

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It's Simple and Exciting to Become Politically Involved

By Lee Harrington

Harrington is a former Houston Gay Political Caucus president, organizer of their now-forming Democratic Caucus and also a boardmember of the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Democratic Clubs and responsible for its eight-state South Central Region, which includes Texas.

It is important to note that there is both a Republican and Democratic Caucus within GPC. While Harrington's perspective relates to the Democratic Party, Republican Party procedures are similar, and the VOICE encourages a Republican representative from the GPC to address issues particular to that party.

The Democratic Caucus of Houston's Gay Political Caucus is asking all gay and lesbian Democrats in Houston (and those who want to be) to come together to help organize a plan of action that will most effectively impact the 1984 state and national delegate selection process in the Democratic Party.

Long-time Houston political activist and member of the powerful Democratic

National Committee, Billie Carr, will address the meeting, and several Democratic presidential candidates have sent telegrams encouraging our participation in the Democratic Party process.

The meeting—slated for this Monday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. upstairs at Spud-U-Like, 416 Westheimer—will discuss strategy and speak to the issue of how gays never before involved in politics can begin at their own neighborhood precinct level and have a major effect on the policies of both the Democratic Party, as well as the U.S. government.

This is a critical meeting in Houston for both the experienced and the new. It provides one of the few opportunities I know of where a new person can get involved and make a significant difference in little more than 90 days.

The idea is simple: get as many gays as possible elected to represent their small, neighborhood precincts, and it's far easier than most people would think.

This begins the process for major gay issue impact on the

November elections.

The precincts each will select their representatives at a small meeting at the polling place after the polls close at 7:00 p.m. on May 5. Not many people show up, so the more gays who are there the greater our chances are to elect gay representatives. There will be another, larger meeting two weeks later composed of representatives from several precincts. Then, the State Democratic Convention will be held June 15-17, this year in Houston.

At that time, we'll be involved with gays from all-over the state who are beginning to do the same things now that we, in Houston, are. Next, all of us who were involved from the precinct beginning (who can afford it), whether we actually become delegates or not, will fly together to the Democratic National Convention in July in San Francisco. It was in Madison Square Garden in New York at the 1980 Convention where I, along with many other gays from around the country who were also present but without voting

status, was still able to contribute significantly to the inclusion of a gay rights plank in the Democratic Party Platform.

It all started, for me, at my neighborhood precinct, number 233, bordering Lamar High School. I got 16 other gays from our precinct to come back to the polling place for the traditional, 45-minute precinct "meeting" after the primary election polls closed at 7:00 p.m., on May 3, 1980. We voted together, and by doing so, we ultimately controlled the delegate selected to represent our precinct at the state convention. He was gay.

It takes getting gays involved, if we are to influence the system. There are few things more exciting than working all week with the gay caucus at the National Convention, effecting platform and policy, and then being in the convention hall on the night two people are nominated for president and vice-president of the United States.

Now is the time to get started. I hope to see all of you Democrats—and Independents—Monday night.

There's Too Much Bull at City Hall, HPD

By Gregg Russell

Russell has developed a reputation in the community for his outspoken rhetoric concerning gay leadership and gay rights. A member of Houston's Gay Political Caucus, Citizens for Human Equality and the newly formed Community Political Action Committee, Russell has emerged as one of the more vocal—and critical—members of the community.

One month ago, I sent a letter of inquiry to the mayor, the chief of police and City Councilmembers Eleanor Tinsley, Anthony Hall, Jim Greenwood, Earnest McGowen, George Ellis and our own favorite councilmember, George Greanias, dealing with the excuse, apparently originating from City Hall, that the mayor, City Council and the police chief are powerless to make changes in policy and procedure because of state law 1269m. My letter refuted that argument, placing responsibility back at City Hall where it belongs. Furthermore, my letter asked each of the above representatives what they intend to do to prevent future incidents of harassment by the Houston Police Department upon the gay community. I guess I should not have been surprised at my responses:

Firstly, the mayor wants us all to know that she is "concerned about violations of harassment within the police depart-

ment." However, as she pointed out in her letter, she will dodge the issue by placing all responsibility for change in the hands of the police chief. (I believe they call that "passing the buck.") So much for your mayor.

So let's turn to the response given by Police Chief Lee Brown. With regard to powers to regulate the police department and suspend officers, Chief Brown claims he has "ample authority to regulate the conduct of the officers (of the HPD)." Further, he claims that the rules of the HPD "prohibit harassment, intimidation or any other form of abuse of an officer's power..." But, the Chief is quick to jump back to defend the actions of his officers by stating "Whether illegal activity takes place at gay bars or straight bars or any other location within the City of Houston, the officers of this department will take the appropriate enforcement action." (I believe they call that "doubletalk.") In other words, the police chief has the power to stop indiscriminate police actions, but has no plans of doing so. Perhaps that is why we have had more raids on gay establishments under his administration than any previous. So much for the police chief.

As for Eleanor Tinsley, she believes her "record in trying to work with the Gay community and the Police Department speaks for itself." She wanted you to know

that she sent a memo to the police chief. When I wrote her back on February 10 to inquire as to why she did not answer my questions, she sent me a memo from Police Chief Brown denying that a "fag list" existed, an issue which was not even addressed in my letters. (Sorry, Eleanor. Wrong activist. See Ray Hill.) To this date, I still have not received an answer to my basic question from Eleanor: What are you doing to prevent indiscriminate police actions against the gay community—not ones that have already happened—but preventing them from occurring again?

While I am on the subject of Eleanor, I hope that in the future, copies of my personal letters to my Council representatives will not be sent to the officers of the GPC for reference. They are not my government officials, and I do not look to them for answers, except where it affects that organization's performance. At this time, I want to know what you are doing.

As for Anthony Hall, Jim Greenwood, Earnest McGowen and George Ellis, I have received no response. I presume that they are no longer interested in the issues of the gay community since the election is over. (I believe they call that politics.)

I almost forgot our own District C Councilman, George Greanias. Despite the fact that George has several people working in his office, he apparently is too busy run-

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We at the VOICE would like for you to help us in creating an even more unified community through utilizing one of our greatest assets—communication.

ning for a citywide position next time around to become too seriously concerned with answering letters from his Montrose constituents. To date, after one complete month of waiting for an answer from our Montrose Councilmember, I still have not heard one word from Mr. Greanias. Maybe someone should run against him next time. (I believe they call that competition.)

Is this what I have to go through in order to get a clear answer? (I believe they call this bull!!!)

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High School Student Looks at Gay Bar Patrons Commentary

By Kenny Pope

The following was submitted by a Houston high school senior whose English teacher is entering it in a Junior Literature Essay Contest. Mr. Pope has been going to gay bars for over four years, he said, since he was 14.

It is Friday night. Time to go out and party. The bars are filling up with some interesting characters. Dozens and dozens of men, packed within the bar and expecting a good time. However, despite the many quasi-decent people here, there are some undesirables among us.

There are several types of people who go into gay bars. I, or most people in the gay community, have grown accustomed to recognizing three types. The three types I have chosen to discuss are extremists in their personalities and are often considered undesirable by the majority of the respectable members of the gay community. The three types that I would like to inform you about are the "butch" type, the "queen" type, and the "hustler" type. There are many people who fit slightly into these categories; however, I am strictly discussing the extremists.

The first one on the agenda is the "butch" type. "Butch," in the gay community, designates the he-man type. This type is very stereotypical. "Butch" struts ever-so-graciously around the bar, wearing his skin tight jeans and t-shirt and forever flexing his muscles. "Butch" considers himself "God's gift"; when "Butch" talks, people better listen. "Butch" cannot be approached by another man; "Butch" must be the aggressor. "Butch" does not fool around with someone who has approached him; his machismo will not allow it.

When "Butch" carries on a conversation, which is a rare event, he keeps it short and impersonal. "Butch" does not care to waste the energy it requires to complete a sentence. Consequently, "Butch" talks in fragmented sentences. However, the occasion may arise when "Butch" is forced to utter a few syllables. For instance, when he has to get another beer,

he might say, "Be back; gotta get beer." If one looks, not too carefully, one can spot "Butch" in just about any bar.

The next one encountered in a gay bar is the "queen" type. "Queen" too is a very stereotypical role to uphold. The term "queen" is often used synonymously with the terms "fag," "fruit" and "fairy." "Queen" types, unlike the "butch" types, have never heard of a fragmented sentence. In fact, "Queens'" entire vocabulary consists of run-ons that they sing. When a "queen" has to get another beer, the incident is usually turned into a major production number: "Girlfriend! I finished my beer, I have to go and get another one, although I'm really not supposed to be drinking, but I don't think that a few beers will hurt anything, but I want to have a good time, and how can you do that if you

don't at least have a buz. REALLY!"

A "queen" always has to be the center of attention. He will prance around the bar with his hands on his hips as he sways his buttocks from left to right. A "queen" is the one who dances around the bar, since the bar does not have a dancefloor. Fortunately, most "queens" tend to go to the same bars in large groups, sparing the rest of the gay community.

Lastly on the list is the "hustler" type. A "hustler" is someone who will take a man for everything he has got, and then move to the next victim in line. This type is often the most undetectable because they usually fit into the "butch" or "queen" categories.

"Hustlers" are infamous for buying a cocktail, and when they finish it, go into the restroom and fill their glass with

water. This method results in the "hustler" appearing as if he can afford the night out; while in reality, the "hustler" does not have a cent. "Hustlers" go to the bar to try and sniff out money. If a "hustler" spots a man who appears to have money, then the "hustler" leaches onto the man immediately. If the "hustler" happens to discover that the man does not have money, then the "hustler" restarts his sniffing routine.

These three types of gays are not too popular. They are the ones who give the gay community a bad name. Although these types of gays frequently go to the gay bars, the other men at the bars tolerate them. The gay community struggles enough with the prejudices coming from the outside to create problems within itself.

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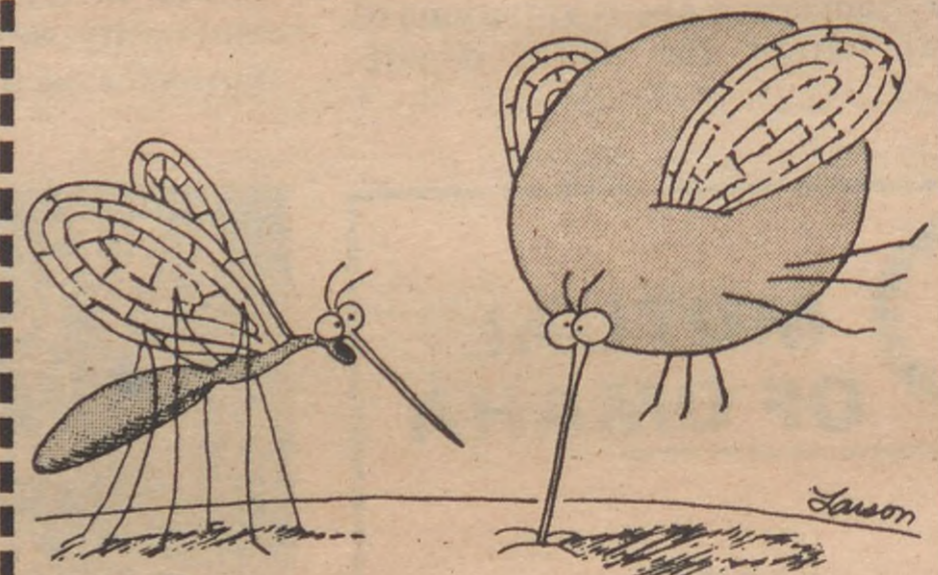


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"Pull out, Betty! Pull out! ... You've hit an artery!"

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Maryann Plunkett — It Was Easy to Bleed as Agnes of God

By Billie Duncan

"One night during the stigmata—the first one when she pulls the handkerchief off—you could hear the people go, 'ohh!' And I hear this lady in the front row go, 'It's only ketchup.'"

Maryann Plunkett laughed at the memory of that example of what she calls the "television mentality." Since she started playing the title role in *Agnes of God*, which just had a run at the Tower Theatre recently, Maryann has piled up quite a few stories for her memory book.

A lot of them concern the apparatus that allows Agnes to bleed profusely from the palms when she experiences a stigmata (the spontaneous bleeding from wounds that parallel the wounds of Jesus).

Under the costume for Agnes is a "blood vest" that contains two cannisters of "blood" that are released by remote control when Agnes is supposed to bleed. Actually, only one of the cannisters at a time is supposed to release.

As with any mechanical device, everything has not functioned perfectly all the time. "A couple of times it didn't bleed," explained Maryann. "And, of course, it changes the whole ending of the play, because then Agnes is kind of crazy. 'Cause she's seeing blood—wiping blood off the floor—and there's nothing there!"

While the play still functions as an interesting piece of theatre whether or not the blood is actually there, the actress playing the part of the psychiatrist is put into a strange situation when there is no blood.

"Because if there is no blood, then the doctor can just say, 'I was right, she's mad. She's a very troubled young woman.' Whereas, if the doctor sees the blood, the doctor is confronted with it. So, it does make a difference."

A more humorous problem is the times when trapped air in the hose of the apparatus unexpectedly squeezes out. "Every once in a while, all of a sudden, there is this farting noise. Extra air escapes. Especially if all the blood has come out, there is nothing more to be pushed out, so it's just air.

"When that happens, the rule is—if you're on stage when that happens—everyone has to start screaming, like, 'Ohhhhhhh!' That's the rule."

Besides no blood, there was one performance in Boston when both cannisters

released, rather than the single one that was supposed to let go. "It was very scary because it looked like a slaughterhouse. I finished bleeding and the other one triggered by itself.

"I think they figured out that next door they were doing *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, and I guess they use a remote control airplane in that play. They thought that's what triggered the second cannister."

The result was exceedingly dramatic. "The entire dress," Maryann searched for words. "It looked like Agnes had been slaughtered."

Not knowing for sure what was happening, Maryann was frightened. "I thought, 'Maybe I really *did* have a stigmata. Maybe the first one was the machine, but maybe I'm really bleeding now.' The stage was covered with blood. It was pretty gruesome."

However, the mishaps do not occur very often. But, just working with the blood vest when it functions properly is quite a rush for Maryann.

She started out as an understudy in New York. "The understudy doesn't get a chance to work with the blood vest, and so, the first time I went out on the stage in the show was the first time I'd had that blood vest on."

When the device triggered and she saw the blood, the adrenaline pumped through her. "It's a wonderful thing for the actress. You don't have to squeeze anything. There are no blood capsules or anything.

"You just open your hands, and, the next time you look, they're covered with blood."

In addition to the blood vest, Maryann also wears elbow and knee pads for the scene in which she re-lives the birthing of her child. That's the nice thing about wearing a nun's habit. Any number of things can be hidden under it.

Maryann explained that the habit itself is not from any known order. "I think they were afraid of offending someone, so they decided to make the 'generic' habit—an all-purpose habit."

Maryann Plunkett smiles and laughs a lot and seems to find the fun and beauty in most things that she examines. In the confines of a brief interview, she came across as a very gentle woman with a handle on life.

In everyday life, she wears no make-up,

and her hair floats in a ginger frizz around her fine-featured face. If eyes are the mirror of the soul, Maryann Plunkett has an ever-changing soul. The color of her eyes shifts from blue to grey to a touch of green.

She explained that the color changes with the colors that she wears, but she wore a red cotton shift with multi-colored embroidery throughout the interview, and the hue of her eyes was decidedly different at the end of the meeting than at the beginning.

Perhaps the different parts of her were reflected at different times in the colors of her eyes, like the different parts of her are reflected in the artists that she loves and the roles that she has best liked playing.

"I love Van Gogh. I've always loved his work. There's so much to it. I also like Renoir. I go from extremes. I like one, but then, I like the other."

As for her favorite role, "I love so many of them. I love Juliet. I've played Joan of Arc. I've played Angel in *When You Comin' Back, Red Ryder?* From classical to modern to musicals—they're so different.

"It's like, for this part of me, this is my favorite; for this part of me, *this* is my favorite. For my funny side, that was my favorite. For my tragic side, *that* was."

"Agnes encompasses a lot 'cause she's funny sometimes and she's also tragic. And she gets to sing a *little* bit."

Having been a belter all her entertainment life, Maryann had to get coaching to sing "pretty." But her voice is beautiful in the show. Typically, she gives all the credit to her coach.

As far as her co-stars in the play, she says that working with Mercedes McCambridge is "wonderful." But her highest praise goes out to Elizabeth Ashley.

"The first time I went on, that was with Elizabeth in New York. The first time I went on was the first time I met her. I walked on the stage and said (meekly), 'Hello, so nice to meet you. I'm the understudy. I know the lines, I think.'"

Elizabeth put her at ease immediately. "She was very open and warm."

But even if Maryann is rubbing elbows (albeit padded) with big names in theatre, it does not mean that she has forgotten her friends. "They know my perceptions of theatre—my perceptions of show business—things like that.

"I've been making my living for a long time in theatre in New England with a corps of actors who are artists. We have ideals and beliefs and dreams that don't necessarily encompass fame or money.

"I mean, it's nice not to have to worry about how I'm going to pay this month's rent. But as long as you're happy and you're doing what you want to do... And that's not to say it's this happy Pollyanna-type existence. It's not. But if you believe in something, and you work for it, it doesn't matter if you're just getting by."

Maryann Plunkett is more than just getting by as far as talent is concerned, and all that unnecessary fame and money just may come her way.

□ Duncan's Quick Notes

It had to happen. *Risky Business* has held over their "The Best Of" show for four more weeks. I have no idea when the show was to have closed before they extended the run, but, what the hell, just add four more weeks on to this week or next and we should be close.

The point is (remember, this is being written before dawn on deadline day—not a pretty time), the show has gotten such good response that they had to keep it going longer than was scheduled.

Of course, a lot of people thought that *Risky Business* itself would not last for more than one show, and look how well they're doing. They not only have a super show on the weekends, but they have sensational talent contests every month (with a \$500 first prize!) and Open Mic Nite on Tuesdays.

Possibly, the discount ticket prices on Thursdays and the complimentary champagne on Friday and Saturday are bringing in the sold-out crowds. Maybe it's just the consistently good shows and the fact that it is very hard to walk out of *Risky Business* without having had a good time.

In the area of having a good time, we have to put the fabulous *Sumfest* which is continuing through April 4. Last week was the *Beaux Arts Ball*, which this overworked and underpaid woman could not attend.

So far, I have not found out if a Montrosean won the \$1000 prize for the most outrageous costume. I certainly hope so. It



Bella Lewitzky Dance Company of HSPVA

attempted to make the movie, the footage was stolen by Bobby Beausoleil and destroyed. Beausoleil is currently in prison, serving a life sentence for one of the Manson murders.

Anger had "discovered" Beausoleil and was living with him.

Well, no matter what your personal taste in film subjects, the movies of Kenneth Anger are certainly interesting as art objects on the fringe of the cosmos.

Tonight, the Sumfest offers the works of Houston-born composer Pauline Oliveros at the Lawndale Alternative; while tomorrow, dancer Deborah Hay will join Oliveros for an evening's entertainment.

Dance enthusiasts will also be delighted to note that the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts is the site this week of performances of the Bella Lewitzky Dance Company. Last night they opened their three-day program at the school with a lecture-demonstration.

Tonight and tomorrow night, they will perform original works at HSPVA.

At another school (University of Houston) another form of entertainment is going on. At Wortham Theatre through tomorrow is the very funny *Sly Fox*, written by Larry Gelbart of *M*A*S*H* fame.

I know that it is very funny, because I was in a production of the play at Penn State a couple of years ago. Yes, Yours Truly played the part of Miss Fancy, the pregnant prostitute searching for a husband.

I thought I was wonderful and so did the other actors, who used to sneak around to watch me from the voms during my more outrageous scenes. In fact, most of the audience really enjoyed my performance. But there are always those muddy sticks, aren't there?

Letters of protest came into the department about my performance. I think it had something to do with how I treated Mr. Crouch's cane in one scene. Ah, art!

Anyway, this version has one of my favorite people acting in it: Timothy Arrington as Sly. Tim is just as wonderful on stage as he is off. And he is truly a sensation off.

Two more theatre things I have to mention are *Brighton Beach Memoirs* at Jones Hall and *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* at the Chocolate Bayou Theater Company, 1823 Lamar.

Brighton Beach plays March 6 through the 11 and is already being hailed as a classic.

The Adventure of the Speckled Band is a Sherlock Holmes adventure that is seeing its Houston premier in the current production at Chocolate Bayou.

I'm sure there are tons of more things happening, but the sun is rising over Montrose, and I know in my heart that there is a fresh pot of coffee brwing at



Clive Carlin (Sherlock Holmes) and Katherine Hollowell in Chocolate Bayou's "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"

would be dreadful for some foreigner to walk off with those kind of kumquats.

This week, the highlight could be the appearance of filmmaker Kenneth Anger during two days of his films, which will be presented at the Rice Media Center.

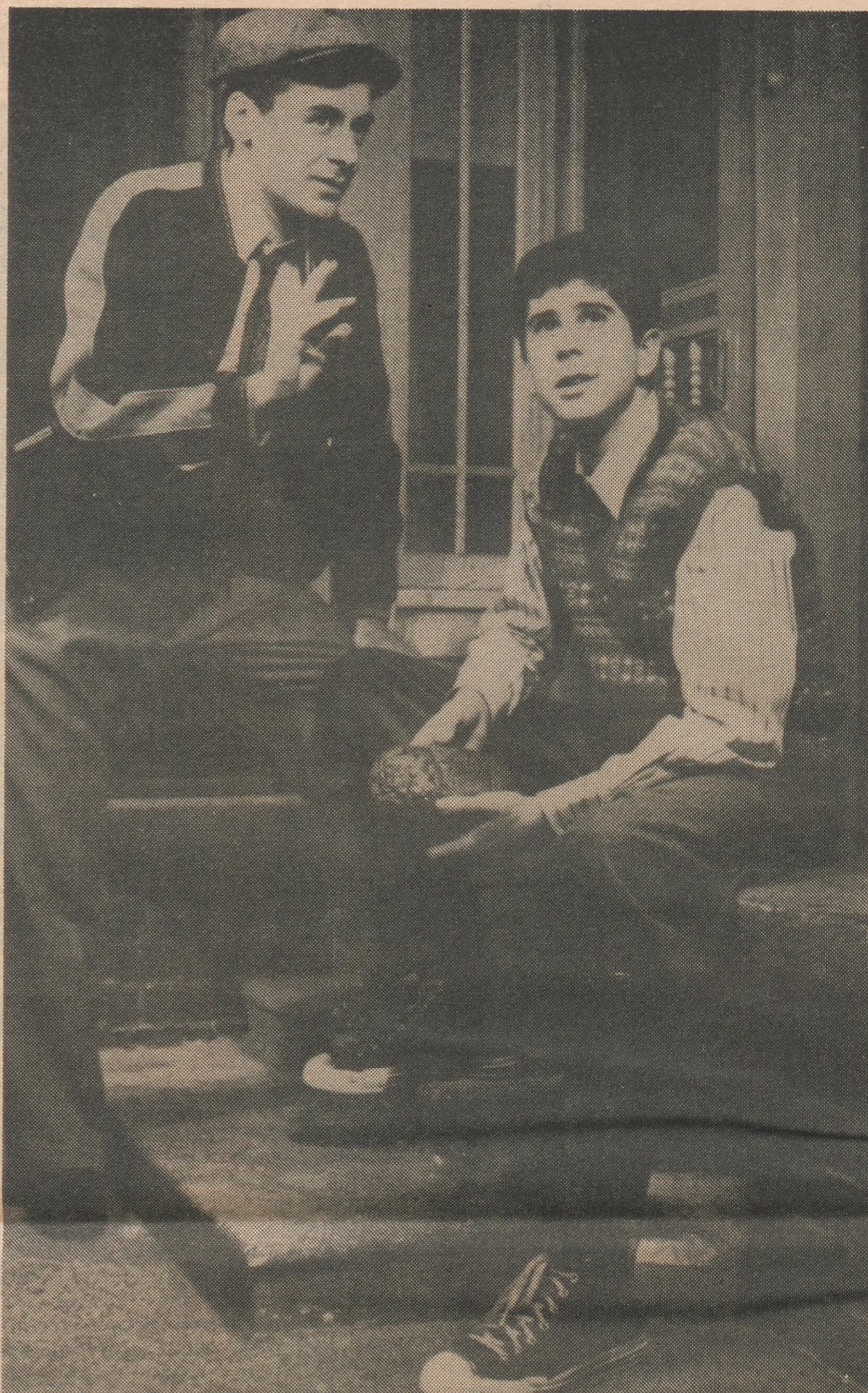
The Magick Lantern Cycle is composed of nine of Anger's films arranged chronologically. The first is *Fireworks*, which Anger made when he was only 17. It concerns (plot-wise) a boy who picks up a sailor, has sex with him and is beaten.

Of course, what it is really about is another question. Anger's films seem to both confuse and excite.

The last film of the series is *Lucifer Rising*, which has a history that a person could make a film about. When Anger first



Timothy Arrington (left) and Jeff Bennet in "Shy Fox" at the U of H-University Park



A scene from Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memories," opening March 6 at Jones Hall

E/J's. So long for a while.

□ Aytz Chayim to Take in Sherlock Holmes

Houston's only gay-oriented congregation, Aytz Chayim, is planning to spend a night on the moors of England when they attend a Sherlock Holmes' mystery, "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," during their theatre party at the Chocolate Bayou Theatre this month.

This party, their second in what they hope will become a tradition, is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, at 3 p.m. at the

theatre at 1823 Lamar. Anyone interested in attending the festivities should contact Stuart at 688-8997. Tickets are \$8.50 each.

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Kustom Kar Kommandos by Kenneth Anger to be at the Rice Media Center

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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) 885-6363

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 10036—(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

NGTF'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

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ACLU—1236 W Gray—524-5925

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American Gay Atheists—457-6660

Astro Rainbow Alliance—520-9451 (voice), 520-0552 (TTY)

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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; author-Drs David M McWhirter & Andrew Mattison workshop Mar 3; St. Patrick's Day party with staff of Montrose Clinic invited guests Mar 17

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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

Dial-a-Gay-Atheist—457-6660: American Gay Atheists

Diana Foundation—2700 Mason—524-5791

Dignity—Catholic Student Center, 1703 Bolsover—523-7644, 528-7644: mass & social 7:30pm Sat

1st Unitarian Church—5210 Fannin—526-1571: service 11:15am Sun

Frontrunners—529-1288

Gay & Alive Sharing Experience (GASE)—528-1311, 528-0891

Gay & Lesbian Archives of Texas: affiliate of I/H Inc

Gay Asian Club—2615 Waugh #124 77006

Gay Hispanic Caucus—868-5252

Gay Nurses Alliance—880-9486

Gay Political Caucus (GPC)—POB 66664, 77266—521-1000: meet 4600 Main #217 7:30pm 1st & 3rd Wed

Gay Switchboard—POB 3624, 77253—529-3211: information, counseling, referrals, TTY, AIDS Hotline

Greater Montrose Business Guild—contact through Montrose Voice: meets 7:30pm, 4th Wed, community room, Liberty Bank, 1001 Westheimer

Greenspoint/FM1960 Area Far-Away Friends—821-9681

Homophile Interfaith Alliance—729 Manor—523-6969

Houston Area Gay & Lesbian Engineers & Scientists—524-7498, 7-10pm: meets 7pm 4th Tues

●Houston City Hall—901 Bagby

Houston Community Clowns—862-8314

Houston Data Professionals—meets in East Room, Holiday Inn Central, 4640 S Main—523-6922: meet 7:30pm 2nd Tues

Houston Motorcycle Club—c/o Mary's, 1022 Westheimer—528-8851

Houston North Professionals—POB 3840, Humble 77347—Bill at 821-7126: meet 7:30pm 2nd Sat

I/H Inc—POB 16041, 77222—694-1732, 529-7014: affiliated groups are Interact, Gracielynn Gallery's A Place in the Sun, Montrose Art Alliance, Gay & Lesbian Archives of Texas, Gay Switchboard, Montrose Symphonic Band, Montrose Cloggers; board meet 7:30pm 1st Thurs (varied locations); educational forum 7:30pm 3rd Thurs

Ingersoll Speakers' Bureau—POB 391, Bellaire 77401—669-4064

Integrity/Houston (Episcopalian)—POB 66008, 77266—439-1209: meets 2nd & 4th Tues, Autry House, 6265 Main

Interact—POB 16041, 77222—529-7014: meet 4th Wed, Bering Church, 1440 Harold, 7:30pm

●KPFT Radio, FM-90—419 Lovett Blvd—526-4000: "Wilde n Stein" gay radio show Thurs, 7:30-9:00pm

KS/AIDS Foundation—1001 Westheimer #193—524-AIDS

Lambda Center Gay Alcoholics & Alanon—1214 Jo Annie—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 541871, 77254—c/o Gay Switchboard, 529-3211: meets bi-weekly

●Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR)—1919 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 Neartown Association

●Montrose Clinic—104 Westheimer—528-5531: open weeknights 6-10pm; seminar on patient-staff & staff-staff relations, David 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 6:30pm Mon; Women's Support Group 7pm Tues; Stress Management Workshop continues 6:30pm Mar 8, 15, 22; Gay & Lesbian Parents Support Group 7pm Mar 6, 13, 20, 27; "I Can't Help It" workshop 12pm Mar 17; "In Search of Love" workshop 11am Mar 24; AIDS Update 2pm Mar 18; "Sexual Enrichment for Lesbians & Gay Men" 10am Mar 31; "Alcohol, Drugs & the Gay Life" 7pm Wed's thru Apr 11

Montrose Singers—Carl Lawrence 774-3591 after 6pm: rehearsal Mon eves, Bering Church, 1440 Harold

Montrose Tennis Club—Randell at 697-9553: 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; "It's My Party" 4-8pm Mar 11, Copa, 2631 Richmond

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—Carolyn at 868-6256: deadline Mar 5 for sponsor fees & player rosters; pre-season tournament Mar 17-18; league play Mar 25

MSA/Volleyball: games 7:30pm Tues, Gregory-Lincoln school, 1101 Taft

Montrose Symphonic Band—meets at Bering Church, 1440 Harold—527-9454: meet 7:30pm Tues; affiliate I/H Inc

Montrose Watch: subgroup Neartown Assoc

Mustangs—meets at the Barn, 710 Pacific—528-9427: club night Thurs

National Gay Health Education Foundation—Houston 523-5204

National Organization for Women (NOW) Lesbian Rights Task Force—POB 440422, 77244

Neartown Association (Montrose Civic Club)—meets at Bering Church, 1440 Harold—522-1000: meet 7pm 4th Tues

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 464-6663, Spring 353-4792: Southern regional convention Mar 30-31, Houston

Park People—c/o Neartown Community Firehouse—741-2524

Paz y Liberacion—POB 600663, 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 Spdw

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

Wesleyan Fellowship—864-8899

Westheimer 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, Lonoville LA 70659

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Many superlatives can be used to describe our guys; however, we do know the importance of your security and our discretion. Major credit cards honored. 524-9511.

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The BodyWorks massage. For appointment, call Bill, 526-2470.

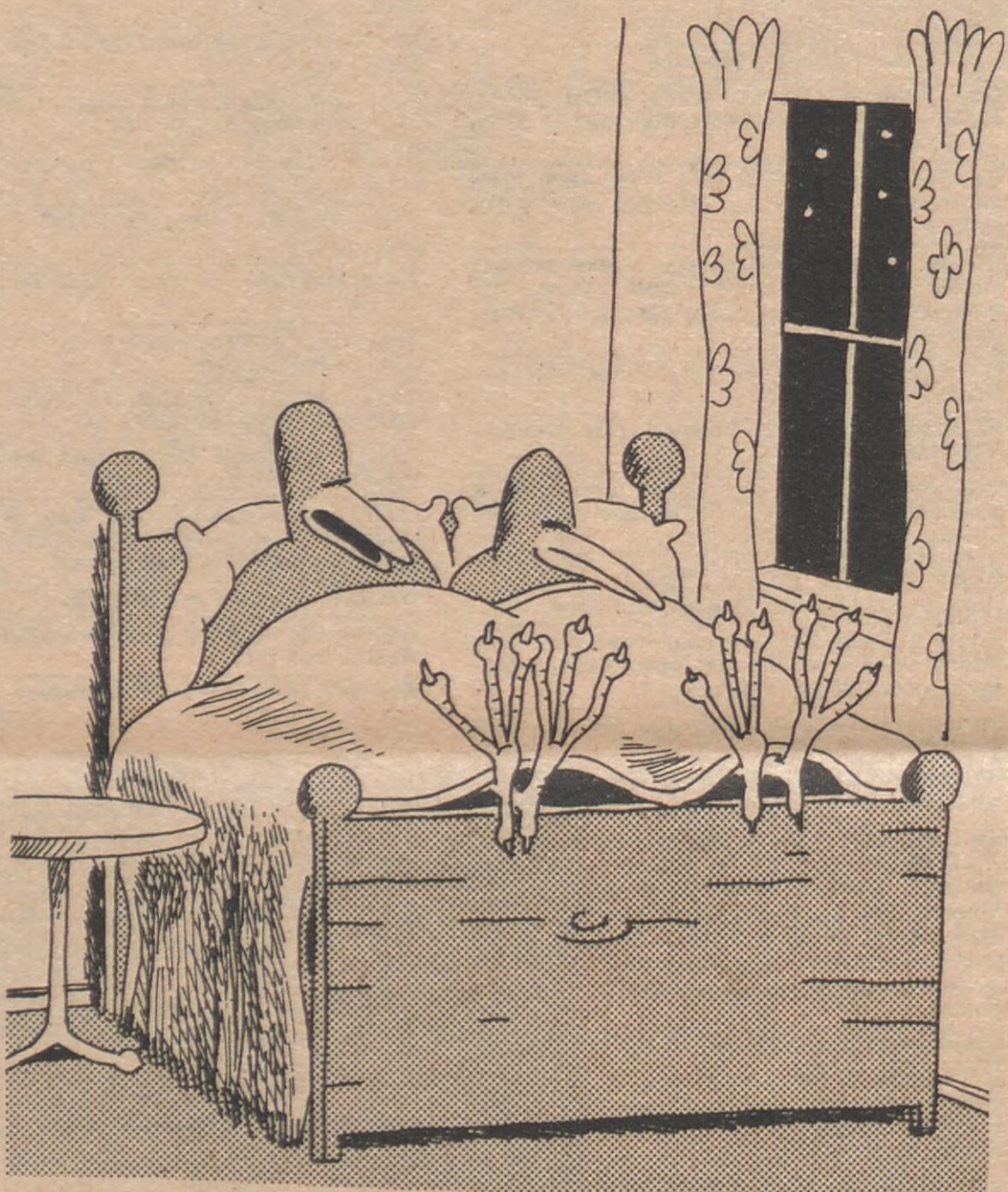
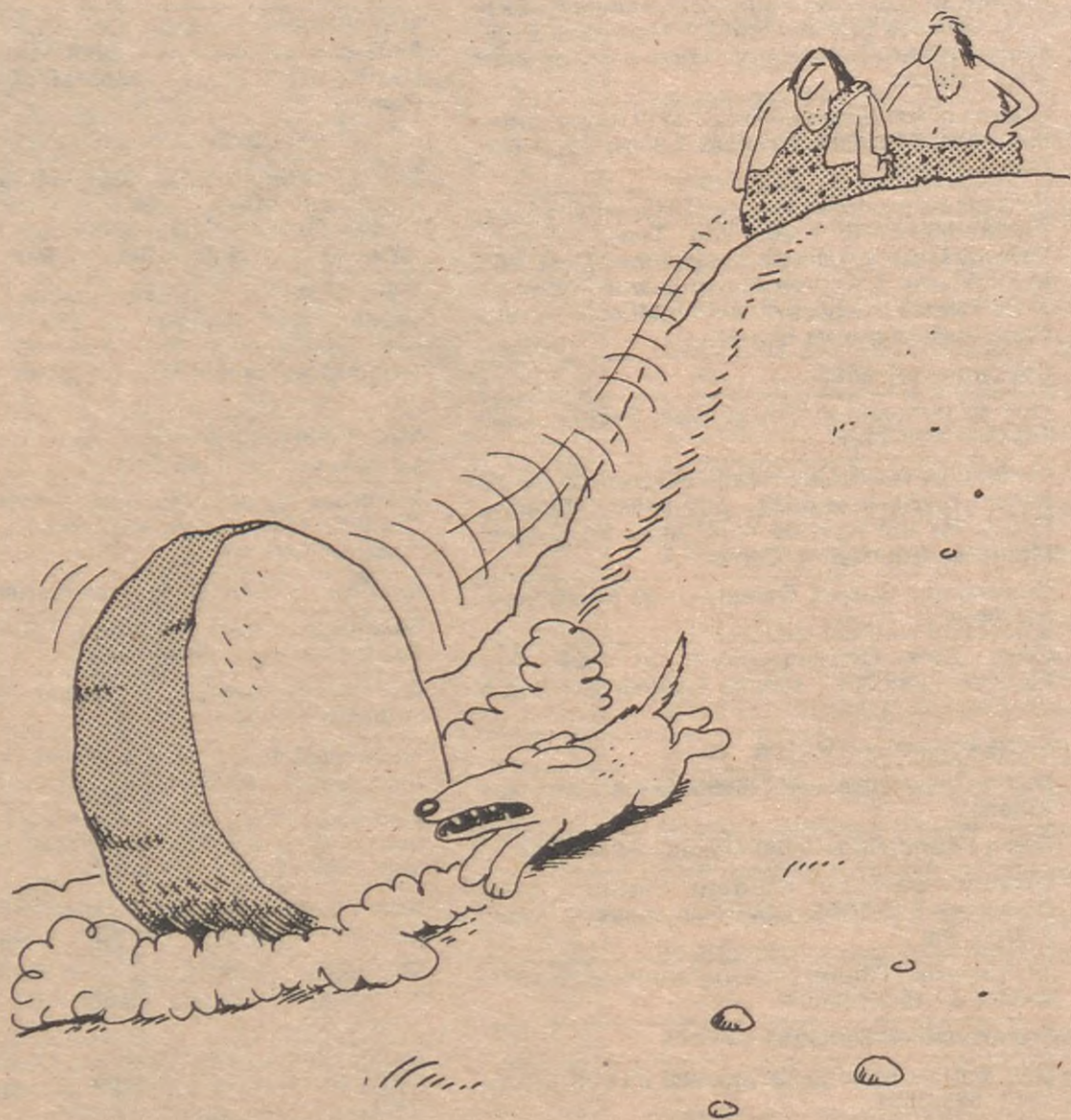
BODY MASSAGE

In or out, Bruce, 521-2009.

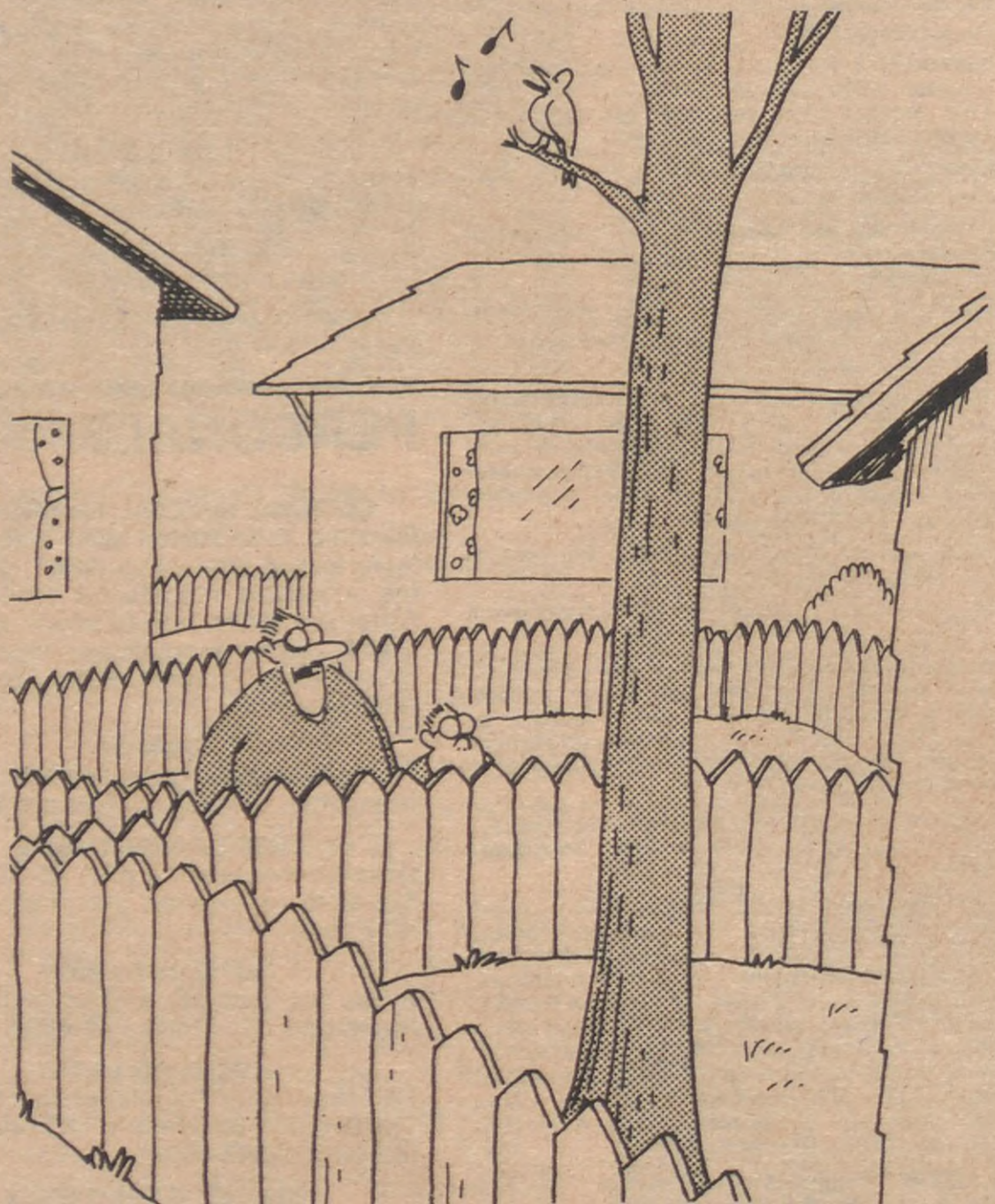
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PERSONALS

SEEKING SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP
Possible relationship with stable, well-built, varied interest, cuddler, like pleasing, attractive, moustache, GWM, 24-3

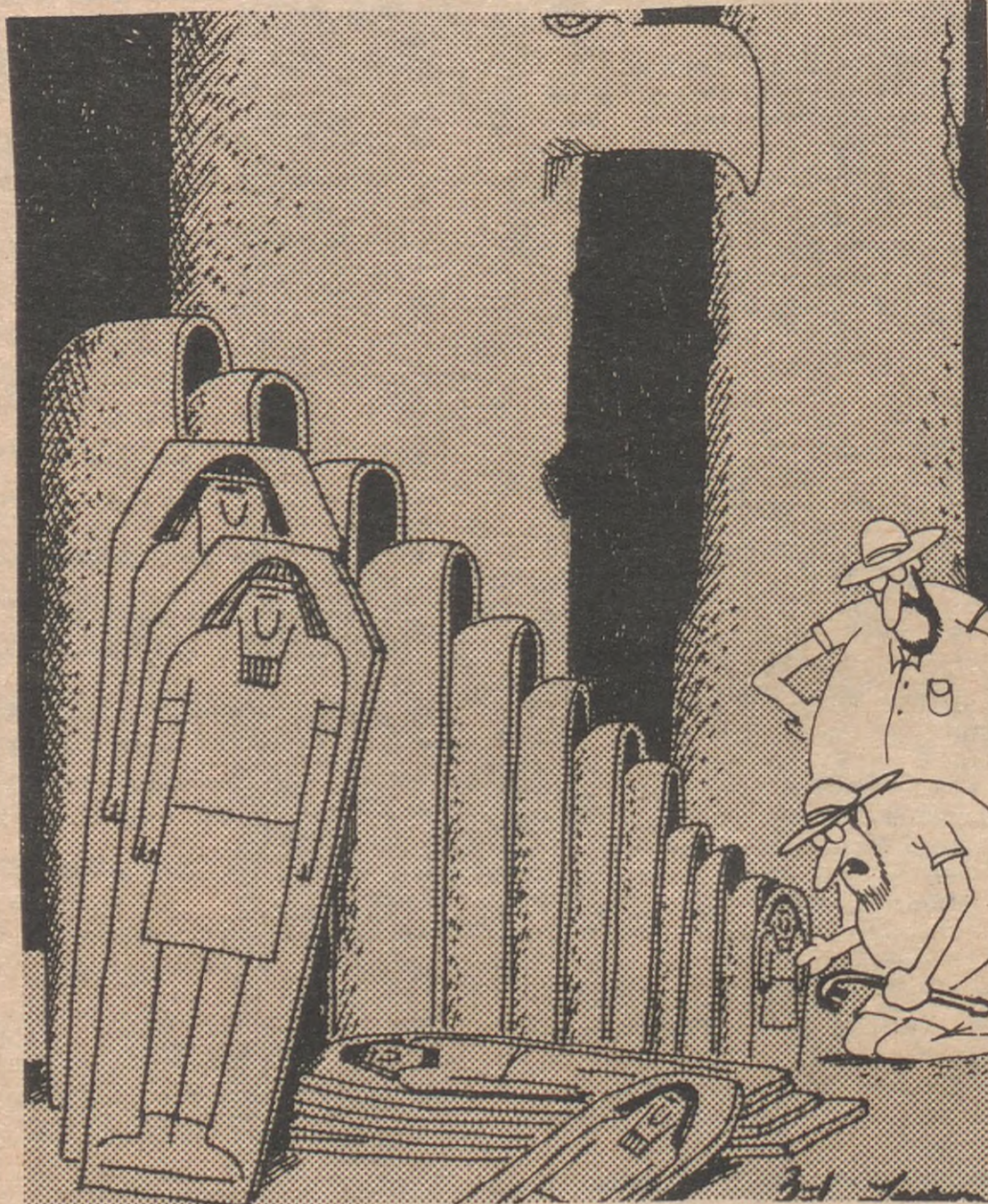


"Well, I dunno, Warren . . . I think your feet may be uglier than mine."



"And now, Randy, by use of song, the male sparrow will stake out his territory . . . an instinct common in the lower animals."

The Far Side by Gary Larson



"What the . . . ANOTHER little casket!!?"



Larson



Suddenly, Professor Liebowitz realizes he has come to the seminar without his duck.

YOUNG ATTRACTIVE SINGER
White male, seeking financial backing for recordings. Write Box 174X c/o Voice.

TRANSSEXUAL
would like to meet same. Friendships needed. (713) 255-6349.

ATTRACTIVE SINCERE MEN
GWM, 32, 6'1", 185 lbs., brown hair/blue eyes, handsome, seeks attractive, sincere men for meaningful dating relationship. Letter, photo, please. Box 175C c/o Voice.

PERSONABLE PROFESSIONAL
GWM, 28, 6'3", 190 lbs., brown/hazel, masculine/attractive, confident, responsible, respectable, sensitive, ambitious, accomplished pianist and bodybuilder, wants to meet attractive, well-built, responsible men for casual dating or possible relationship. 961-9878.

KNIGHT IN LEATHER?
Why not have your fantasy come to life in shining leather? A telephone call to Tex-Escort, 524-9511, can get you that guy. Major credit cards honored.

BIG MAN
Professional, affectionate, intelligent, 34, GWM, 6'1", 270, beard, brown hair, blue eyes. Seeks friends—possible relationship. Box 175B c/o Voice.

EINGEBORENER DEUTSCHER
gesucht der zwischen 30-45, sportlich, masculine, aktiv und sich gerne auf Deutsch unterhaelt. Ich bin 29, Amerikaner, GWM and moechte dio sprache nicht verlernen. Box 175Z c/o Voice.

HANDSOME, MATURE, DISCRETE
Very attractive, athletic, masculine, intelligent student needs help getting through school. Write for photo, etc. Your photo appreciated. Right guy won't be disappointed. Box 175A c/o Voice.

NEED A FRIEND
I am 32, attractive Greek. Looking for blond blue-eyed hunk, 21-30. Call Alex, 955-8459.

VERY WELL HUNG
Very good-looking GWM. You must be same. Serious good looks and well-hung only, call 522-8358.

GOT A CCC?
What's a "CCC"? It's the Community Credit Card—a division of the Voice Publishing Co. Call 529-8490 for an application form.

VOICE ADVERTISING WORKS
Find that special person through a Montrose Voice Classified. Call 529-8490. And charge it on your Community Credit Card, MasterCard or Visa.

LOVELINE
Short inspirational message, changed weekly. (713) 520-LOVE.

MONTROSE
GWM, 42, 5'11", 135, GR/FR/A/P seeks GWM, 30-45, for fun times. John Towle. 617 Harold 3. Upstairs, after 5pm. Drive-way entrance. Houston 77006. 522-8542.

TENNIS ANYONE?
For a good time, call Rich Corder, Montrose Tennis Club president.

OLDER MAN WANTED
Professional GWM, 30, 150, 5'11", light brown hair, brown eyes, attractive, sensitive, affectionate. Big loving & caring heart. Looking for an older professional executive 45 to 60 years of age, strong-minded & honest man, who wants a monogamous one-on-one relationship & understands what it means. Broke up with promiscuous lover of 8 years. Looking for person who wants more out of life & wants to grow together. Occupant, Box 66973, Suite 1139, Houston 77006.

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP
Couple seeks men 30-45. Must be well-endowed. Looking for right person for fun & games. Box 174Z c/o Voice.

NUDISTS
Between 25-45, getting together for quiet social evenings & conversation. Photo with phone to Box 22821, Zip 77227.

ATTRACTIVE
GWM, 28, 5'7", lt. brown/blond hair, muscular professional seeking attractive muscular men for fun. Write with photo & phone to Box 174W c/o Voice.

HUNG MEXICANS WANTED
By tall GWM, athletic, versatile, hung. For action, write with pic Box 174V c/o Voice.

BWUCE H.
We wuv woo!! Wheelwy!! Signed, Elmer Fudd & Bahbwah Wahwah.

DEAR SLUT PUPPY
We found your socks. You can pick them up at the Ballpark. Just see Puppy Poker!!

CAN WE TALK
GWM, 34, 5'9", 145 lbs., moustache. Seeks same for relationship. Letter, photo, please. Ad 169-A, c/o Voice.

LIKE TO TRAVEL?
Professional, GWM, 31, 170, seeks younger travel companion/relationship. Photo a must. Box 173A c/o Voice.

CHUNKY SUBMISSIVE WANTED
By dominant, uncut New Orleanian. Mature, brown hair, blue eyes, 5'11", 140 lbs., Greek active, cigar smoker, beer drinker, CW dancer. 504/943-9875, 6-11pm only.

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.

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Saturday, March 10, 2pm-6pm

Sunday, March 11, 2pm-6pm

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