



Handsome Peter Faber stars in 'Max Havelaar,' reviewed on page 2

Were gay Americans partly to blame in Iran? See page 10



STAR NEWSPAPER CHAIN

MONTROSE STAR

Houston's Free Weekly Gay Newspaper/Issue #132/March 23, 1979

Texas Legislature debates 'poppers'

AUSTIN — Texas State Representative Tony Polumbo (D.-Houston) has introduced a bill in the Texas House of Representatives that would require the state to regulate the sale of butyl nitrite and isobutyl nitrite products.

The products are currently marketed openly under brand names such as Rush, Locker Room and Hardware.

Rep. Polumbo's bill would require the products to be sold by prescription only. He contends that these substances may be harmful when inhaled and that sufficient medical data is not available to prove them safe.

As of March 19, the bill was sitting in a sub-committee of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee in the House.

Butyl nitrite and isobutyl nitrite products are frequently inhaled on the

dance floor at discos to give

a quick "high" and are also used during sexual activity. Most users claim no serious side affects.

The butyl and isobutyl nitrite business is a \$20-

million-a-year business with manufacturers estimating that five million Americans are steady users.

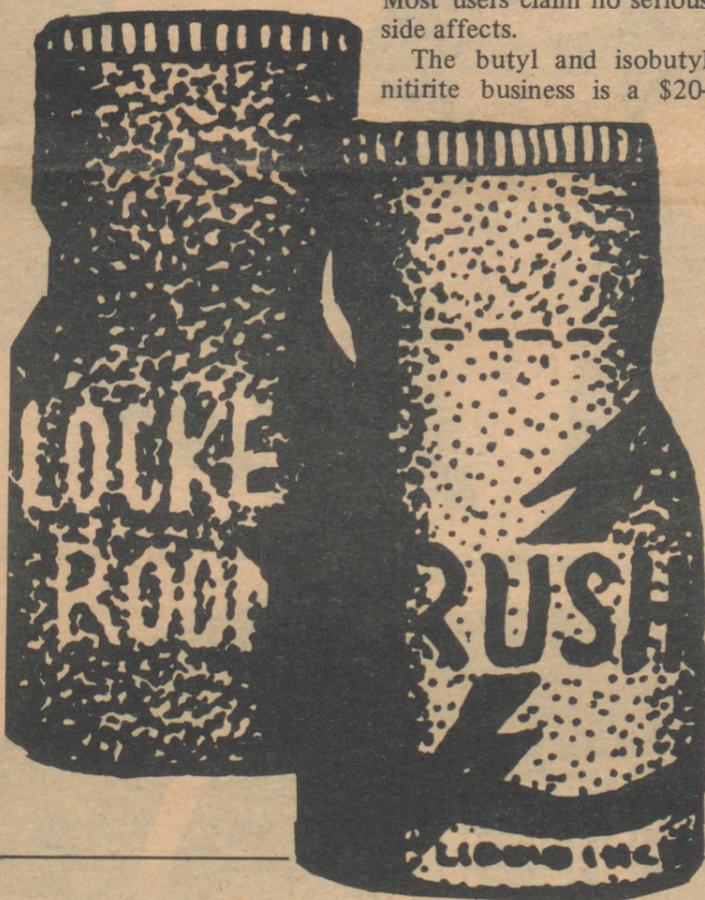
Other areas of the country have at different times passed laws trying to control the use of the products. A state court issued a temporary injunction in January, 1978, barring the distribution of the brand Rush in California but the injunction allowed other name brands to continue selling.

Rush got in trouble because its advertising campaign, in the eyes of the judge, was promoting the product for inhalation. Other brands have been careful to promote their products only as "room odorizers."

Also, in January, 1978, a Connecticut court ordered the products off the market in that state, but in November, a judge ruled that only butyl nitrite is subject to

the ban and the closely-related isobutyl nitrite could go back on sale. Both Rush and Locker Room brands are isobutyl nitrite so both were immediately put back on the shelves at discos, adult bookstores and headshops — places which traditionally sell the products.

For ten years or so, the nitrite products were almost exclusively a "gay" product, sold only at gay businesses to gay customers. However, during the past two years, through aggressive marketing, primarily by Pacific Western, the parent company of Rush, the products are being used more and more in straight society. It's believed that this exposure into straight markets has brought the attention of lawmaking bodies in California, Connecticut, and now Texas, who feel the products are dangerous.



NOTICE: THERE'S ONLY 334 DAYS UNTIL MARDI GRAS

NEW ORLEANS — Don't say we didn't warn you in plenty of time. Next year's Mardi Gras climax will be on Tuesday, Feb. 19. Mardi Gras itself is generally a two week celebration leading up to Fat Tuesday.

How do they figure the date for Fat Tuesday? It's

not easy.

Fat Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, which is defined as the first day of a period of forty weekdays (counting Saturday as a weekday) until Easter.

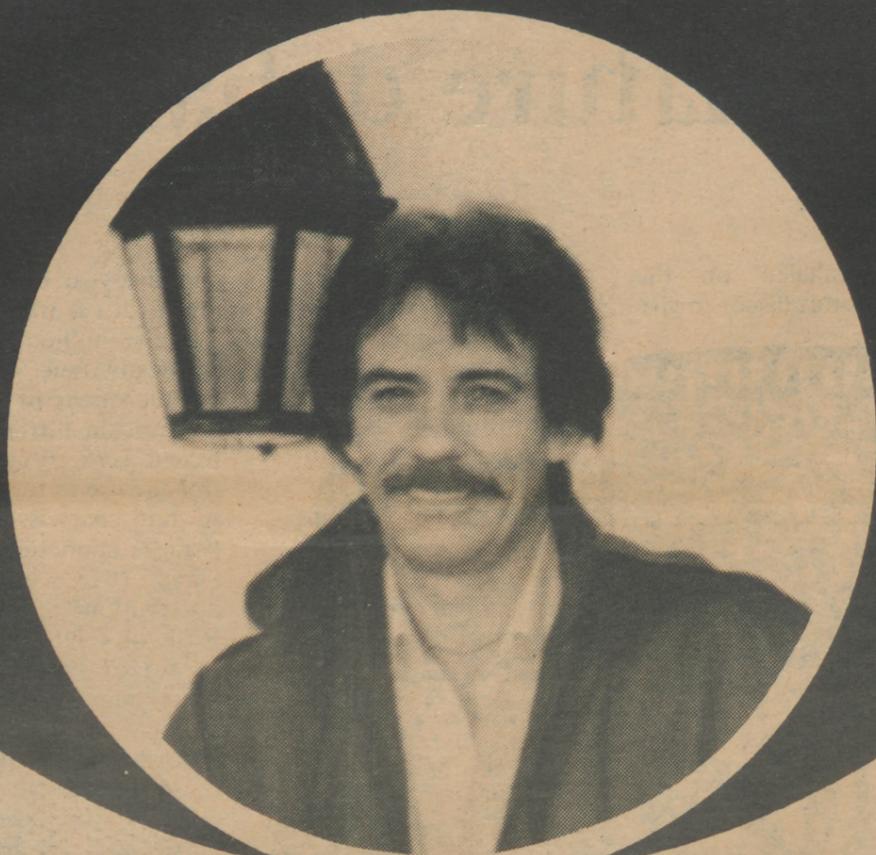
So, it all boils down, the date for Mardi Gras depends

on the date for Easter.

And Easter, Webster's defines, is "a celebration observed with variations of date due to different calendars on the first Sunday after the full moon or next after March 21 or one week later if the full moon falls on Sunday."



**A
NEW NAME
A NEW DISCO
BUT THE SAME MAN**



GENE HOWLE (pictured)

and his partner Lynn Ganey

**THE
CODA**

OPENING SOON IN HOUSTON

DASHING PETER FABER 'SAVES THE FILM' FOR 'MAX HAVELAAR'

MAX HAVELAAR, not rated. Distributed by Atlantic Releasing Corp. Executive Producer Hiswara Darmaputera. Produced and directed by Fons Rademakers. Screenplay by Gerard Soeteman. Based on the novel by Multatuli (Eduard Douwes Dekker). Starring Peter Faber with Sacha Bulhuis.

—o—

The story told by *Max Havelaar*, one of the first Dutch films to be released in the U.S., doesn't really justify its epic two-hour and fifty-minute running time.

Though the film never truly surmounts this fundamental problem, other qualities manage to hold one's interest. Foremost among these is the sheer exoticism of a film about Dutch colonialism in Indonesia.

Max Havelaar was adapted from a classic Dutch novel by the mid-19th-century writer Multatuli,

who based the story on his own experiences as a Dutch official in Indonesia. The film's titular hero is an ambitious, idealistic young man who is promoted to the post of Assistant Resident in a remote, poverty-stricken province of Java called Labak.

The blatant exploitation of the natives there, by a native Regent as well as the Dutch, is precisely the sort of evil Havelaar dreams of battling. He naively underestimates the extent of the corruption in Lebak, however, and eventually it is he who is broken, not his enemies.

Unable to change this system from within, he returns to Holland where he attacks Dutch colonialism by putting his ideas into writing.

Director Fons Rademakers — among Holland's most active filmmakers — has opted for a reverential, monumental approach to the story, and this accounts for both the film's weaknesses and its strengths.

Too often the simplest ideas are belabored as if they were revelations. Time and again, for example, we see detailed demonstrations of how 19th-century Europeans failed to regard non-whites as human. And yet, when Rademakers relates the tragic tale of the persecution of a young peasant couple, the "larger than life" treatment pays off in certain grandeur.

That grandeur is also reflected in the film's most brutal sequence, which depicts the massacre of a native village by Dutch



Peter Faber

troops. Rademakers stages this scene, which can't help but remind American viewers of *My Lai*, with a straightforwardness that doesn't require interpretation.

The event speaks for itself: Massive brutality is an inevitable consequence of exploitation.

The film's other strengths include the performances by a fine cast, most notably by the dashing Peter Faber in the title role. Ultimately, however, it's a fundamental earnestness in its opposition to exploitation that provides *Max Havelaar* with its scope.

SETH CAGIN

'GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY' OFFERS HANDSOME ENDING

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY, rated R. Released by United Artists. Produced by John Foreman. Written and directed by Michael Crichton and based on his novel. Starring Sean Connery, Donald Sutherland and Lesley-Anne Down.

—o—

The superb period work in *The Great Train Robbery* involves much more than decor. Writer-director Michael Crichton's social portrait of Victorian England is fascinating, encompassing both the mannered

elegance of the upper classes and the coarse squalor of the poor.

A sense of social and historical detail isn't necessarily a prominent aspect of a suspense caper, but *The Great Train Robbery* is greatly enhanced by it; much of this film's charm stems from its assertion that it is a reenactment of the first train robbery ever committed.

In 1855, which is when the story is set, trains themselves were only thirty years old. The technology for cracking safes hadn't been developed; they could only be opened with keys. To rob gold from a safe on a moving train was unthinkable.

The Great Train Robbery takes the view that its hero, the mastermind behind the unprecedented crime, helped usher in a more modern age. The suave rogue Edward Pierce (Sean Connery) is recognized as a trend-setter, the first train robber in what was to become a distinguished line.

Hence, the freshness required of a successful caper film is ingeniously captured by way of paying tribute to the Victorian era's sense of wonder before the industrial revolution and the profound social changes it heralded.

Not the least of Edward Pierce's genius is his social skill. He is a scoundrel who bamboozles upper class Victorians with his good



Donald Sutherland

manners, but is no stranger to the rough order of the slums.

He uses his upper class connections to learn about the security arrangements that have been made to safeguard the four keys needed to open the safe on the train. His lower class associations enable him to recruit a gang of crooks

to furtively make copies of the keys.

Chief among Pierce's accomplices are his lover Miriam (Lesley-Anne Down) and a crack pickpocket named Agar (Donald Sutherland).

Pierce's schemes for obtaining the keys and for executing the theft are clever,

to page 5



Donald Sutherland and Lesley-Anne Down

BUSINESS OWNERS

DISCUSS GAY

PRIDE WEEK

HOUSTON — A group of gay business owners and gay political leaders agreed March 19 that the idea of a parade down Westheimer during Gay Pride Week could be a good idea but they did not give definite approval.

What was billed as the first "Bar and Business Owners and Management Meeting" ended up being a friendly discussion among the nineteen persons attending. They discussed various ideas for Gay Pride Week, a ten-day affair starting June 23. The subject of a parade drew the most attention.

The meeting was chaired by activists Bill Puryear and Carol Fenema, representing the Gay Pride Week coordinating committee of the Gay Rights Coordinating Council, an organization which is made up of representatives of Houston's dozens of gay political groups and social clubs.

Ram Rod owner John Freeman suggested that Fenema and Puryear check with other gay organizations in the city, map out some definite plans for Gay Pride Week, then submit them for approval to gay business owners. The idea was accepted. The Gay Rights Coordinating Council is scheduled to meet April 2.

The Gay Pride Week coordinating committee is then scheduled to meet again with business owners and managers April 9.

If a parade is held, Fenema pointed out, a \$750 permit would have to be obtained from the city, provided the parade could be kept to under 49 units. Additionally, liability insurance would have to be obtained to protect the city government from lawsuits. All total, Fenema estimated about \$2000 would have to be raised before a parade could be organized.

Puryear and Fenema asked club owners to be thinking about special events they could hold to raise money for the parade and also possibly for a memorial plaque that would be placed somewhere in Montrose or downtown.

An alternate proposal was that the proceeds be

to page 10



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Travel

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WAIKIKI BEACH, Hawaii — If you're looking for a lei, you can find one here, or easily on any of Hawaii's six major islands. If it's another kind of lay you're after, try here — Waikiki Beach — part of the great city of Honolulu on the island of Oahu.

Only 25 years ago, the six or seven storied Moana and Royal Hawaiian Hotels were the tallest landmarks on Waikiki Beach. Today they are dwarfed by hundreds of multi-storied high-rise apartments, hotels, office buildings and condominiums.

Hawaii's beautiful beaches have everything the Gold Coast of Florida wishes it had except for less insects, snakes and humidity. The people are beautiful too.

Speaking of beautiful people, you see them everywhere ... on the beaches, surfing offshore, waiting tables in expensive restaurants, working out in gymnasiums, jogging through Ala Moana Park or driving pedicabs along Kalakaua Avenue. But surprisingly, you seldom see many of

these beauties in the gay bars or baths. Of course, it all depends on what you're into, I suppose.

The hottest discos are Hula's, 2103 Kuhio (home of the twilight twinkies) and the Tomato, 240 McCully at Ala Wai, which gets a mixed bag of Polynesians, Orientals and Occidentals. Both have outdoor patios and get a fair share of the Ms.'s, as do most of the bars in Honolulu.

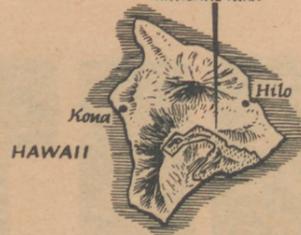
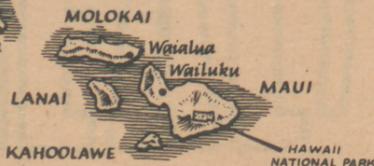
The Blow Hole appears to have blown it. Although it still does fairly well weekends, many of the macho males you used to see during the week just are not there anymore. It is located at 124 Kapahulu, just off Kalakaua.

The Cocktail Center at 434 Atkinson is a relaxed, friendly club but rather unpredictable.

And you can skip the downtown Honolulu bars, except weekends, if you are looking for military personnel, hustlers or drag queens. However, the Question Mark at 43 Beretania does get what little S&M crowd there is on Oahu. It's

especially good during the daytime and early in the evening.

Two new gay restaurants have opened since I last reviewed Hawaii in 1977. Bob and Tony's Steak House, located upstairs at 1700 Ala Moana, is a promising lunch and din-



ner house, offering pleasant food, service and entertainment.

Hamburger Mary's, next to Hula's, at 2109 Kuhio features an assortment of mediocre hamburgers, garnished with organically-grown vegetables. Their small bar can be interesting at times if you have the patience to wait until the bartender "discovers" that you're there.

The Steam Works Baths

upstairs at 307 Lewers, had a virtual monopoly until CBC's Club Honolulu opened recently at 2270 Kuhio. Although small and somewhat prissy, it is clean and comfortable, while the Steam Works is slightly sleazy in a loose, fun sort of way.

Hula's has just opened a popular new gym called the Diamond Head Athletic Club, located at 1701 Ala Wai. It's a great place to try out the complete Nautilus

equipment if you can keep your eyes off the humpy numbers around you.

There are three adult bookstores around the corner from Hula's but the Peep-O-Rama at 2146

Kalakaua gets most of the backroom action.

Other good cruising areas are Kapiolani Beach Park, Ala Moana Park and the restrooms at Kuhio Beach Center, opposite the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

For excellent but expensive "straight" dining, I like Bagwell's, the Bistro, Canlis, Chez Michel, Hy's, House of Hong, Marrakech, the Maile Room, Matteo's, Michel's, Nick's Fishmarket, Rex's, the Third Floor and the Trattoria.

All sorts of accommodations are available, so check with your travel agent to find what you want. If you plan to spend a couple of weeks or more, your best bet is to lease a condominium.

Hawaii calls me whenever I can get there. It's a great place to relax with your lover or can be exciting on your own.

In Hawaiian, "Aloha" means both "hello" and "goodbye," but once you've said hello to this semi-tropical paradise, you may never want to say goodbye.

BOB DAMRON

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Baja Sams — 402 Lovett — 527-9866
Barn (western) — 710 Pacific — 528-9427
Brazos River Bottom (country/western) — 2400 Brazos — 528-9191
Briar Patch — 2294 Holcombe — 665-9678
Copa (disco) — 2631 Richmond — open soon
Cove (disco) — 2912 S Shepherd — 524-0170
Dirty Sallys — 220 Avondale — 529-7525
Exile — 1011 Bell — 659-0453
Galleon — 2303 Richmond — 522-7616
HiLite Ranch — 6800 S Main — 528-8730
Inside/Outside — 1318 Westheimer — 527-9071
Just Marions & Lynns (women) — 817 Fairview — 528-9110
L'Amour (women disco) — 227 Westheimer — 528-7831
Lampost (women) — 2417 Times Blvd — 528-9110
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Midnite Sun (disco) — 534 Westheimer — 526-7519
Montrose Mining (western) — 805 Pacific — 529-7848
Ms Take II (women) — 2047 Marshall — 528-3533
Numbers (disco) — 300 Westheimer — 529-5599

Old Plantation (disco) — 2020 Kipling — 522-2363
Our Place (women) — 1419 Richmond — 528-8903
Pink Elephant — 1812 Leeland — 659-0040
Ram Rod — 5110 Airline — 691-9928
Venture-N — 2923 Main — 522-9019

BATHS

Club Houston (CBC) — 2205 Fannin — 659-4998
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The 2306 (macho) — 2306 Genessee — 528-6235

NEWSPAPER

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Data Professionals — 509 Euclid — 861-8384, 721-1677, 529-6631
Dignity (gay Catholics) — 667-1936, 528-7644
ERA Support Committee — 1902 Colquitt #16C — 524-0982, 864-8569, 521-9295
Episcopal Integrity/Houston — POB 66008, zip 77006 — 526-0555, 521-0690
Executive & Professional Assoc — 1735 Commonwealth — 523-2025
Gay Chicano Caucus — c/o 2001 Branard #8 — 523-9416, 521-9295, 523-9695
Gay Political Caucus — 1423 Holman — 526-2668, 526-9719
Gay Professional Writers — POB 13612, zip 77019 — 861-3451
Gay Resource Svcs — Box 309, Univ of Houston — 749-3489
Gay Speakers Bureau — 819 Richmond — 664-6459
Homophile Interfaith Alliance — 729 Manor — 453-1143
Houston Committee — 4801 Wiprecht — 524-0082, 527-7298
Human Rights League — POB 3624, zip 77001 — 523-6969

Institute for Mental Development (counseling) — 741-6313

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

Lambda Ctr for Alcoholics — POB 25363, zip 77005 — 521-9772
Lambda Social Club — c/o 1st Unitarian Church, 5210 Fannin — 526-1571, 433-8380, 528-1311

League City Social Group — POB 985, zip 77573 — 332-1646, 332-3494

Lesberados — obtain address from women's bar

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Society of Gay Engineers — 528-6820

Texas Gay Task Force — c/o 1906 W Alabama #2 — 526-3376

Univ of Houston Gay Studies Program — Univ of Houston Sundry School — 453-1143

Wesleyan Fellowship Society (gay Methodists) — c/o 5707 Westward #11 — 981-6858

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Etc — 300 Westheimer in Numbers — 522-7988
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Hodge Podge — 1338-A Westheimer — 522-6585
House of Plants — 1634 Westheimer — 529-1901
Manhole (clothing) — 1983 W Gray — 522-1089
Norman & Edies (flea mkt) — 2202 Waugh
Pet Shop & Bird Clinic — 3118 Smith — 529-7266
Prestige Travel — 3205 Montrose — 522-1922
Q-1 Leather — 2400 Brazos at Brazos River Bottom & 1732 Westheimer at the Locker — 527-9044
Rams Records — 521 W Alabama — 529-2559
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**IRAN HAD SIZEABLE
GAY AMERICAN COMMUNITY**



ISFAHAN, Iran — There are now only a handful of Americans in this city where, just six months ago, there were 10,000. Isfahan even had a sizeable American gay community, according to the Associated Press, and it was partly because of this gay community that local Iranians became outraged.

The [Iranians'] main complaint against the Americans was the fact that the majority of them appeared insensitive to Isfahan's deeply ingrained Islamic culture, according to the news service.

"They knew nothing about our culture and didn't care. The people of Isfahan are conservative and religious in their outlook," Reza Tabrizi, a member of Isfahan's Revolutionary Committee, was quoted as saying.

Although the presence of the gay community played a part in offending Iranian morals, activities of straight Americans were more repulsive, the natives claim.

"The men would wander round the streets in Bermuda shorts with a beer in their hand and women would wear revealing halter tops," Tabrizi reportedly said. "This is considered completely outrageous in our society."

The majority of Iranian women here still wear the chador, the head-to-toe black veil that is a sign of modesty.

Iranian residents tell of seeing drunken Americans lurching out of hotels and embracing women friends passionately on the sidewalk.

Most Americans in Isfahan were employees of the Fort Worth-based Bell

Helicopter Co., which had a \$4 billion contract with the shah's regime to build helicopters and train Iranian pilots.

**GAY PRIDE WEEK
from page 4**

given to a children's hospital or to some group, such as the Montrose Counseling Center.

Gay Pride Week will stretch across two weekends in June, so, as activist Ray Hill puts it, "we get our money's worth out of our only real national holiday."

Among events which seemed pretty well set included as June 27 "Day of Rememberence," honoring the Stonewall riots ten years ago on Christopher Street in New York City. A community memorial service is scheduled at Metropolitan Community Church that evening.

Other ideas mentioned included a women's day and lesbian workshop June 23 at the University of Houston and a "Thanks You, Ima" picnic in Memorial Park the same day. Also mentioned was the idea of a rally in the school yard at Lanier High School on Woodhead, near the Locker. The suggested date for this was June 30.

As for the parade, Fema suggested that it be held July 1, Sunday, starting at the intersections of Bagby and Westheimer, and proceed to Shepherd and Westheimer, or, roughly, from Numbers parking lot to the Old Plantation parking lot.

The March 19 meeting, held at the Spirit Restaurant, was attended by only a small fraction of the business owners and managers that were invited.

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