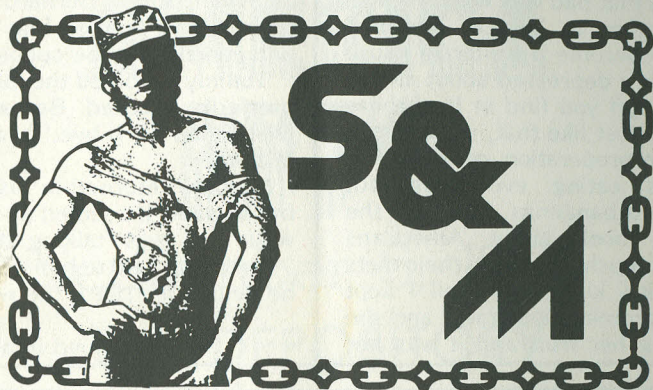


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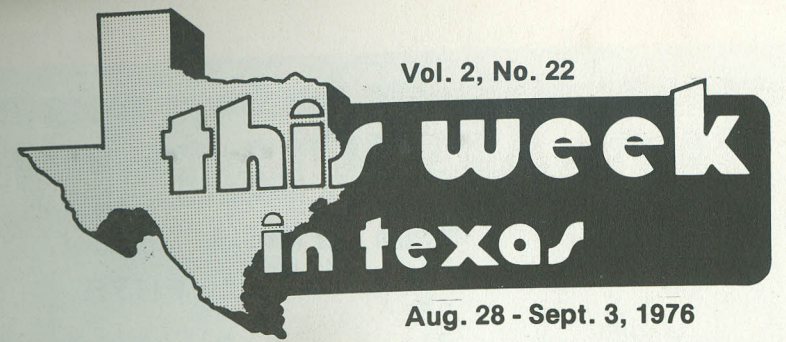
"a documentary"

FUGITIVE



new hours -
wed thru sat 2am, sun thru tues 12am

Vol. 2, No. 22



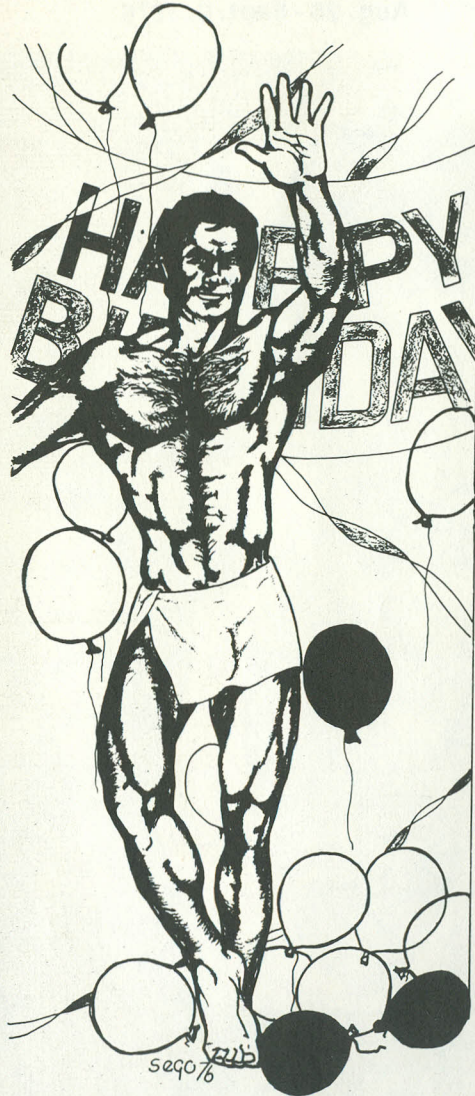
Aug. 28 - Sept. 3, 1976



2ND. ANNIVERSARY

SEPTEMBER 12th through SEPTEMBER 18th., 1976

DAILY SPECIALS and EVENTS



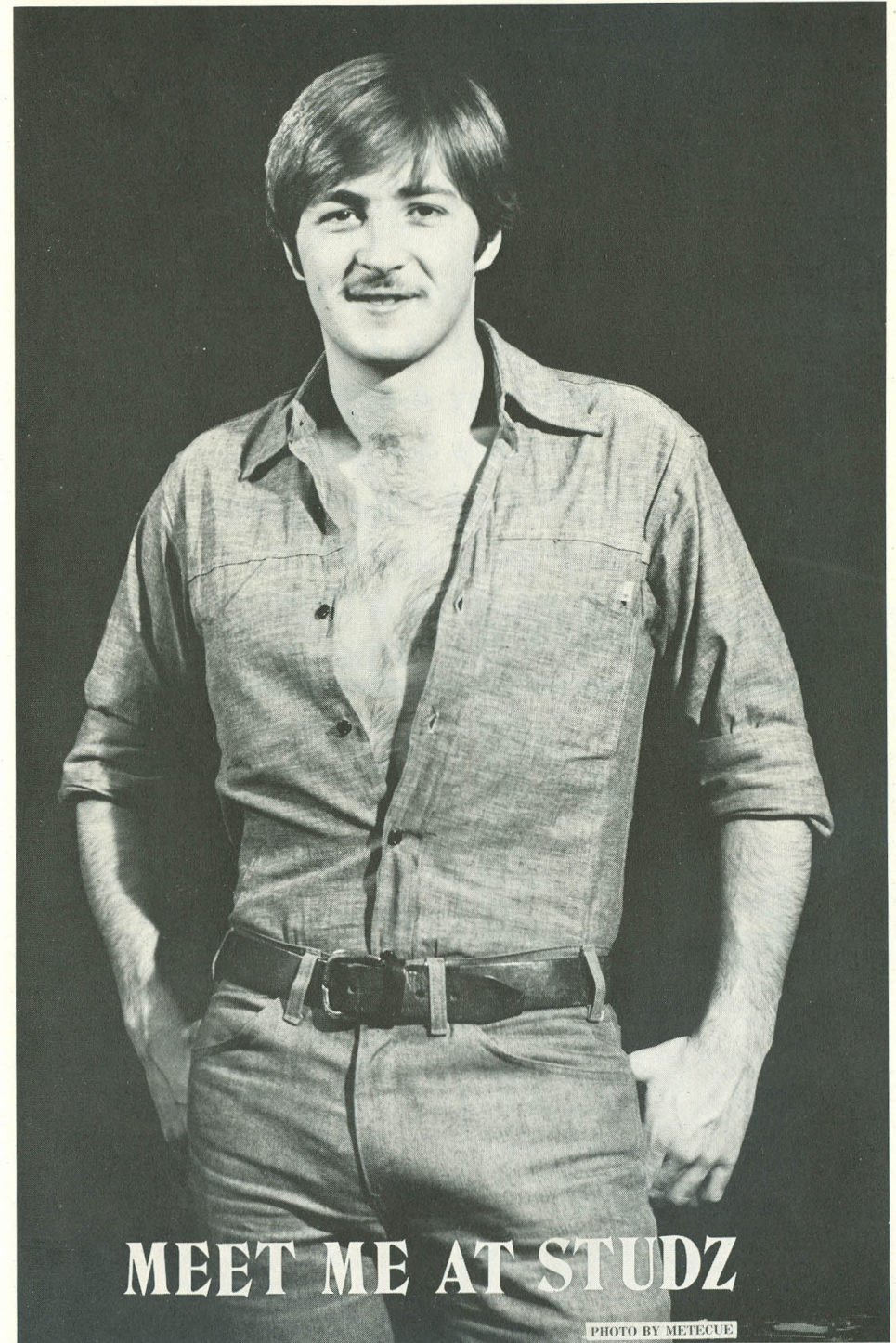
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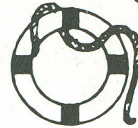
Mixed Drinks

Dancing



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Wednesday, 8 pm — Singles Pool Tournament
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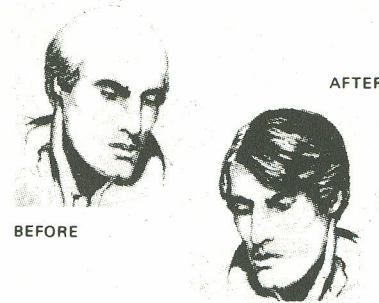
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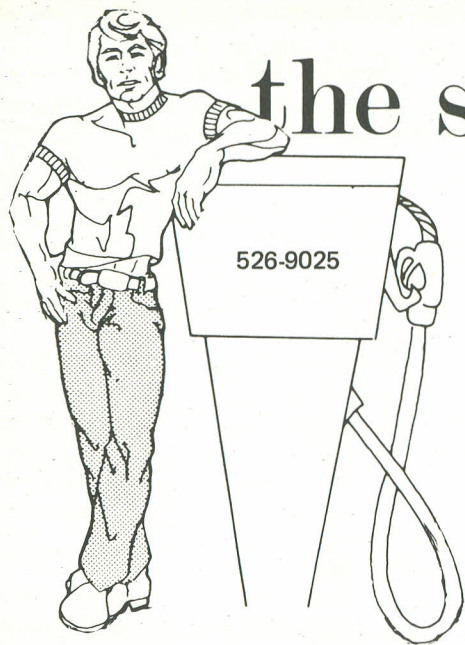
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COVER PHOTO

Ron Hageman,
TWIT Staffer

photographed by
Sam Osuna

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NEWS UP FRONT

NEW HOUSTON SHOP

Billy Lorenzo, manager of Houston's **Lamp Post**, informs TWIT that Norma and Chara are opening up **The Village Grooming Shop** (alias the Clip Joint) the end of this month at 2431 Times Blvd. So gather up your poodles and puppies and bring them in for a gay clip, bath, dip, groom and blow dry job. Really ...a gay dog!

SHONDA ON SUNDAY

This Sunday, August 29th at 7:00 pm the grand ol' **Exile** pulls out all their glitter, drag, and stereo for the Kit Kat Review. So, go early and get a stage side table for Miss Champagne, Adrienne St. John, Tracy, Veronica, and Ronnie Souix. Then, the following weekend (Labor Day) it's the Bobbie Botman Show. As you can see, **Houston's Exile** is living up to it's reputation of being the city's oldest show bar. We can't find anyone who remembers when there wasn't an **Exile** downtown!

LEO BIRTHDAY

Leo, the sign of the Lion, has been known to show two sides. Either he's a quiet, cuddly kitten or he's roaring. Such a Leo, hairy, hunky Glenn Andre, the manager of Houston's **The Second Sun**, did both roar and later make love at his last Monday night, private, birthday party. The whole affair may have been enough to put Paul Stewart back in V.A.

LAMP POST GAITY

As the recent pictures by TWIT's Cruise Camera showed, a gay time is going on Sunday evenings at the **Lamp Post** for the weekly drag extravaganzas. Back by popular demand this weekend is emcee Shawna Hayden along with the stripper and the comedian. For a fun evening of Shonda! Shonda!, catch the show Sunday nights at the **Lamp Post**, on Times Blvd. in beautiful downtown "the village." Incidentally, Wednesday nights at the **Lamp Post** have become Fun and Games night with prizes, and that all blasts off around 9:30 pm.

BICENTENNIAL/BISEXUAL

Only one of the above fits the one and only Morticia and it's not bisexual. Now that we all know her proper age and the secret is out, there's no holding back for this Sunday's upcoming

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Wednesday 6 - 8 pm

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11am-2am, closed Sundays
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HOUSTON

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THE SOUTHWEST'S SUPER DISCOS!

news

birthday bash at Houston's **The Loft**. Jim and Bill have leaked the information that Morticia will stand(!) the entire house to free draft beer from 3 to 4 this Sunday afternoon. So, drop into **The Loft** this Sunday for the beer bust and birthday party for Morticia.

HOUSTON MOTORCYCLE CLUB'S MILITARY BALL
Very West Coast! A Military

Ball. (No, we didn't make it up. It's really going to happen.) So make a trip to your local neighborhood boutique and buy, rent, or rip off a uniform. You might want to go as bicentennial as George Washington, or as a World War II brown shirt Nazi. You might even want to go as a camp follower. Gun encampment for this battle charge of the light (or rather, pink) brigade will be held at **Levi's** in Houston. D-Day is early fall, H.M.C. sponsors say.

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\$10 yearly memberships
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news

TALENT NIGHT

The **Old Plantation** in Houston is continuing their amateur talent drag shows on Tuesday Nights so grab two records and two dresses or two of something (maybe falsies) and enter. There's no entry fee according to manager Bob Fournier who advises you bring your friends to cheer you on to first place. Talent night will continue for several weeks winding up with a \$100.00 cash prize for the winner.

ALAMO COUNTRY

The Rev. James Harris of MCCR Dallas will be in San Antonio September 5 and will hold services at the Habitat. We should all thank David and Lance for letting us use the Habitat. They can always be depended upon to come through. Check with Lance or David for the time.

The Hypothesis is no longer with us, but most of the same crowd can be found at the Zoo.

We hear Luther is going to open a new downtown bar. Sure hope this one stays open longer than two months. Maybe if he doesn't have the same 'old' assistance, it will. We wish him luck.

Fernando, owner of the Sagittarius and the Hide-a-Way, is quietly looking for another bar location. We hope he finds it; his bars are well run, and fun places.

When the Crown opens

Labor Day weekend, the group out there will be easily recognized, so I've heard. They will all be on stretchers from exhaustion. In spite of the hassles they've had, they are going to be open as planned.

The Friendly Lounge is now open at 9 a.m. for all you early-bird beer drinkers. Drop by. Who knows who else may like beer at 9 a.m.?

Of course Fifi is still flying high at El Jardin's. Nobody could remain a stranger with that girl behind the bar.

Things to remember this week and next in San Antonio:

Mary Ellen's: New Show Sat., Aug. 28th, 10 p.m., \$1.00 cover. Every Sunday: Bar B Q & 75c Bloody Mary's.

The Crown opens Labor Day weekend; don't miss it.

M.C.C. services, Sunday, Sept. 5, Habitat — A service for everybody. You'll be sorry if you miss it.

That's it this week from the Alamo.

THE BARN

is looking forward to

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COUNTRY BARBECUE

in the

BARN YARD

Starting at 7 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 6

Y'ALL COME!

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Habitat

San Antonio's **Habitat** is changing its colors. Apart from being one of the hottest discos in the River City, this recently refurbished dance bar will inaugurate a "Star Review" opening September 4th with a cast of superlatives including Miss Ruth, Michael, Shelly Gene, and Miss Trixie. Show emcee will be Lance Stanfield, former Hollywood actor. Show-times: 10 and 12 p.m.

TWIT would like to take this opportunity to commend the Habitat on its remodeling job of silver, white, and black psychedelia honing in on a West Coast glitter scene.

NEW AUSTIN CLUB

The Private Cellar at 1221 West 6th in Austin has their



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liquor license and the doors are open from 2 til 2. That's the good word from club manager George Daniel. The decor is cozy and plush (dimly lit) complete with game area and gay restaurant. Head bartender, Butch, who has an eye for refurbishing, says further expansion is now underway to accommodate the ever-increasing number of customers. It's just another reason why Austin is a hot place to go!

NEW OCCULT SOURCE

Blue eyed Rob Hamilton of Houston has opened up a new occult service for Texans interested in witchcraft, magic, and esp. A very original name, The Eidetic Male, is also the idea of Rob. For a free catalogue of items available to help you cast a spell send a self addressed stamped envelope to Box 21470, Houston, Texas 77026.

ROUGH RIDERS

On Saturday, August 14th, a large group of motorcycle club members from Houston traveled to San Antonio to celebrate the

formation of a new club: "The Rough Riders" (named in honor of Roosevelt's mounted battalion). After arriving in the River City, the cyclists were taken on a tour of the Habitat, El Jardin, and the One Penny Lounge. Hosting the evening romp was "Col." Walt Bennett, commander of the R.R.'s. Participating Texas Clubs were the Houston M.C., Tejas, Texas Riders, Dallas M.C., and Wranglers.

TUB NEWS

The Kon Tiki Club would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to their "GRAND OPEN HOUSE" at the baths this Sunday, August 29th, from 3 to 6 p.m. Free coffee and snacks will be served to all.

THREADS

Word has it that the Emporium, a new clothing boutique located in the Old Plantation, is packed full of attractive threads for summer and fall casual wear. If you can stop dancing long enough to the OP's super disco sounds, hop on in and catch a gander at some of their duds.

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MR. GAY AMERICA

Due to the closing of the Bayou Landing Club in Dallas, and also to the uncertainty of its re-opening date, a new site was found for the First Annual Mr. Gay America Pageant to be held Sunday, September 5th, Labor Day Weekend.

The Mr. Gay America Board of Directors wishing not to change the date of the contest have announced that MR. GAY AMERICA 1976 will be held at the DEPOSITORY, 2606 Peckham, Houston, Texas.

Pageant starting time will be 9:30 p.m., and will be emceed by Mr. C.J. Harrington, the first MR. DAVID and co-host of the MR. CLUB BATHS CONTESTS; Mr. Tuna Starr, the first MISS GAY ARKANSAS and Grand

Empress of Arkansas; and Mr. Michael Andrews, MISS GAY AMERICA 1976.

Reserved seating tickets will cost \$4.00 per person, while general admission will be \$2.00 per person (available at the door). Persons wishing to purchase reserved seating tickets by mail should write to: MGA Tickets, c/o The Depository, 2606 Peckham, Houston, Texas 77006. All ticket requests should be accompanied by a money order or cashiers check made payable to "PAGEANT" for the exact amount of tickets.

Entry application and information are available at the Depository, or by writing: PAGEANT, 4615 Mt. Vernon, Houston, Texas 77006.

North Houston

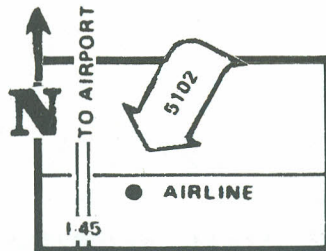


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STARSCOPE

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 28TH - SEPTEMBER 3

FOR ALL SIGNS: The Sun is now firmly implanted in Virgo for its annual 4 week sojourn affecting all signs of the zodiac. This last weekend in August begins with the sign of the sign of finding a partner, Libra. And, we are now under the influence of last Wednesday's (August 25th) New Moon, a Virgo New Moon. It is a fine time to start any new ventures involving details or work.

VIRGO (August 24-September 23): With Mercury in your sun sign (Mercury rules communications) messages may come in involving some sort of employment promotion. And, with the Sun in Virgo, you have the green light to proceed with goals.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): Mars (energy) has now moved into your sun sign which should spark up your love life considerably. Perhaps someone new is pursuing you into a heated romance. But Libra, who is looking for the perfect partner, may be having second thoughts.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Uranus (the unusual) is still in the early degrees of your sun sign causing many things from out in left field to suddenly appear in your life. You might even meet a very unusual person in a very unusual place. But, then, Scorpios are often found in unusual places.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 22): Neptune (secretive) is still in Sagittarius keeping many events in your life underground. However, last August 22nd, Neptune turned direct which may cause some of these secrets to now surface into public view.

CAPRICORN (December 23-January 20): Sometimes you wish there would be some favorable changes in your career. Take heart as Pluto is up in your 10th house of employment and Pluto causes things to happen fast.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19): The champagne campaign to find a lover is in full swing but that recent New Moon in Virgo (details) is causing you to pick apart bit by bit his faults. Back off, Aquarius. You're

coming on too strong again.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Your ruling planet Neptune is in your 10th house of career putting the emphasis there. Creative Neptune is calling heavily upon your talents. And Uranus (Unusual) back in your 9th house of travel is directing unusual trips.

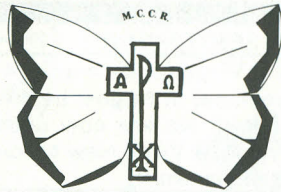
AIRES (March 21-April 20): You may find yourself on a trip this weekend and it may be a business trip what with the recent new moon having occurred in your 6th house of employment. Take care of any illness this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Our recent new moon of August 25th puts the focus on 5th house matters: love affairs, speculation into financial dealings, and show business. You may wish to take in a play or a movie.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): The new moon happened in your 4th house which rules your home front. If you've been thinking of moving or buying some property now (the next two weeks) would be a perfect time to sign that lease or contract, or make household improvements.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Some things which you've been trying to bring to head could favorably conclude thanks to the new moon in your 3rd house of messages. A message, incoming, should settle the issue in your favor.

LEO (July 24-August 23): The Moon and Uranus (emotions and the unusual) aspect to electrify your romantic hopes and wishes. And, the new moon occurring in the 2nd house of money brings greater fortune regarding monetary matters.



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that simply
looked good?

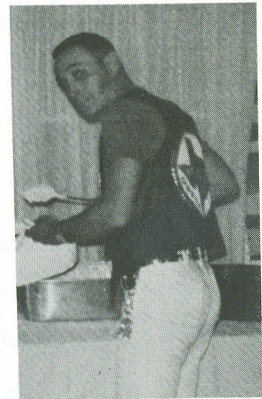
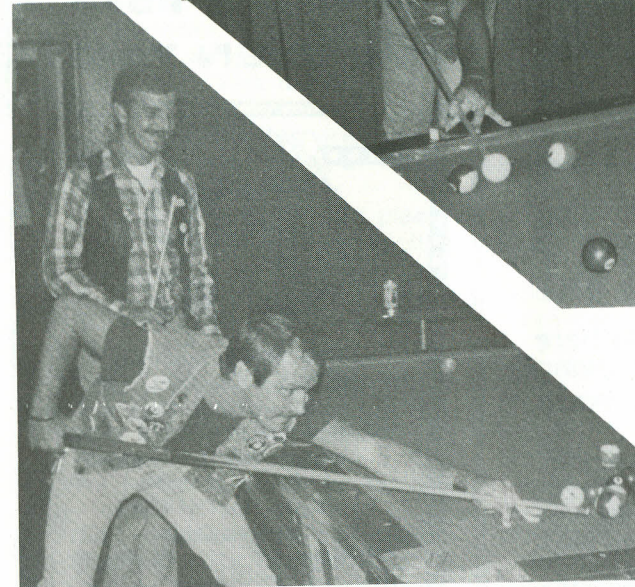
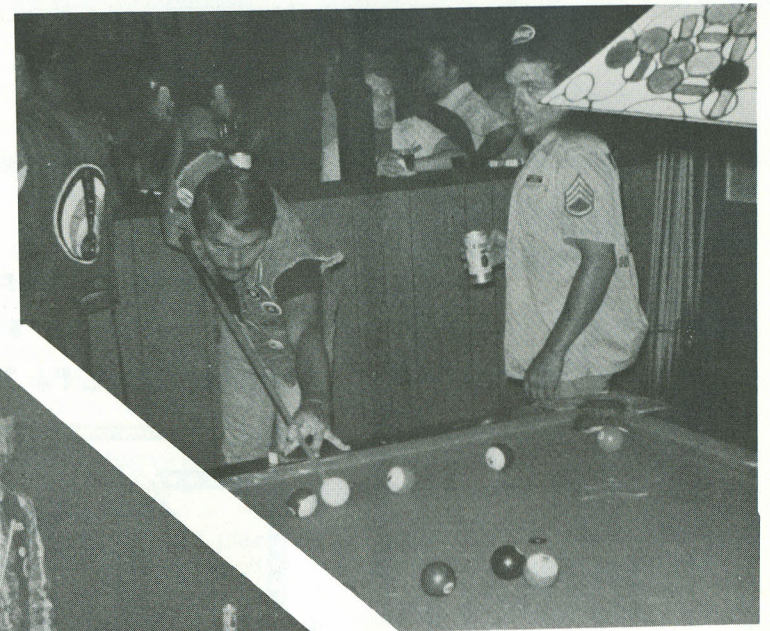
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Dirty Sally's SECOND SUN

LIFE WITH VERA

A Soaper by John Gardner

Burt was a pacer. A card-carrying member of the anxious group of people who prepare for a crisis by walking in circles at rather zippy speeds. In ever-widening, yet delicate, patterns, Burt left no inch of carpet untrodden, no wall escaped his shadow, and no piece of furniture went unvisited. Vera had often suggested that Burt become self-employed by offering his services to rich people, offering to "break in" their new shoes for them.

"Slow down! Relax," Vera pleaded, "You're torturing the shag. It'll take me hours to get it all fluffed up again. And a whole case of Dippety-D Do! Be calm, everything's going to turn out fine."

"Fine! Fine! That's what you're going to be paying when the City Inspector gets here and sees the way you're running this place! A gay funeral parlor! I just hope he has lousy vision."

"But I've done everything you said. The place looks just like it did before I took it over. Those tacky black drapes are back up. All the girls have been told that today's rehearsal on the "Gone With The Wind" funeral is off. There's no chiffon within four miles. So what's the sweat?"

"I can't explain it. I just have this sense of doom. Like I always do when I'm around you." Burt moaned.

"I'm sure you meant that as a compliment," Vera quipped. "But if it'll make you feel any better, I promise to be on my best, most butch, behavior while he's here."

Any solice Burt may have found in Vera's semi-solemn promise was erased as the dreaded knock at the door was heard.

"I'll get it!" Burt urgently demanded. "For your own good, you

keep your mouth shut as much as possible. Let me try to handle this."

"As you wish, Professor Higgins. I won't say a single word." Vera retorted.

Burt opened the door, the ordeal was on.

"Hello, I'm Inspector Wallace with the City Permits Department. Are you Mr. Christian?"

"No, no. That's Mr. Christian over there. Do come in." Burt spoke fearfully.

Carrying his clip board with a great sense of official pride, Wallace entered the now-dreary domain, approaching Vera with efficient, measured steps.

"I'm Inspector Wallace with the City Permits Department. Are you Mr. Christian?"

Burt was relieved as Vera simply nodded his head in the affirmative. Maybe things would be okay.

"Are you the owner of this establishment?" Wallace asked.

Again, Vera simply nodded.

"How many months have you been here?" Wallace probed, preparing to check off some of the little boxes that were printed on the sheet of paper decorating his clipboard.

Vera remained silent, giving a glance of bittersweet joy in Burt's direction. Vera then held up three fingers, indicating three months, while at the same time pointing to his throat with his other hand, and making sounds like a dog gagging on a chicken bone. Burt had been wrecked before, but this was going to be a real head-on collision!

"Oh. I apologize, Mr. Christian. I was unaware that you had a speech impediment. Is it painful?"

Vera assumed a pose of great grief, placing his forearm against his fore-

head while emitting a series of low groans in two-part harmony.

"But when I called, I spoke to . . . I thought I was speaking to you?" Wallace inquired.

"That was me, Mr. Wallace!" Burt interrupted. "I speak for Mr. Christian because of his . . . his condition."

"I see." Wallace responded, with as much compassion as city officials are permitted. "Does he read lips?"

"Yes, yes," came Burt's reply, and with sufficient volume to drown out Vera's whisper of "And beads."

With Burt at the helm, Wallace was lead through the unusually tame funeral parlor. He checked the fire exits, the wiring, the bathrooms. Luckily he didn't open the door behind the pulpit-podium, where all of Vera's furniture had been hastily thrown. Burt was aware that funeral parlors, like most businesses, cannot be used as a residence. Even if the owner was down on her luck and had to use the chapel as an apartment during the off season. The official Seal of Approval from the city was just a short signature away, when Phoebe burst into the chapel. And at 267 pounds, when Phoebe burst into a room, it was a Big Burst. Especially when she was in Scarlet O'Hara drag. And tears.

"Vera! My, Vera." Phoebe woefully screamed, oblivious to the presence of a stranger and Vera's continued gagging and clutching of the throat. "Bob's run off with a chicken from New Orleans. I've been abandoned. I've lost my love. I'm a tragic figure! What's wrong with your throat, honey? Been wearing that cheap necklace that breaks you out in a rash?"

"Phoebe! Eh . . . eh . . . I mean John. This is . . ." Burt broke in, attempting to cover. "This is Mr. Wallace. He's come to inspect the business."

"Glad to meet you, honey. Going to join your group. The Theatre of

Death, as it were. Pardon my looks, but my lover's just left me. You know how upsetting that can be. I'm the Tragic Queen. Where are the rest of the girls, Vera? I thought we were rehearsing tonight. How am I going to tell them my tale of woe if they're not here. That's why I came early. My phones broken again, so I just have to tell somebody. You look like a good listener Mr. Wallace. What's your first name, honey. And your shoe size. I'm in charge of costumes, ya know!"

Such a silence as has never been heard before descended upon the room.

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After Hours
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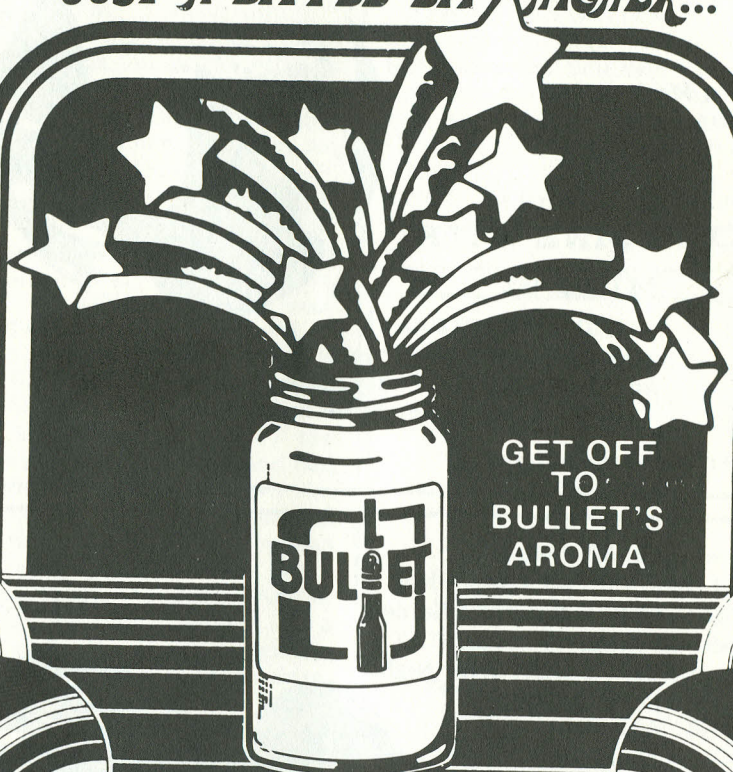
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COMMENT

Editor's Note: From time to time we will use this space to run articles or comments submitted by our readers concerning new organizations or events of special interest. All material submitted becomes the property of TWIT, and we reserve the right to alter the copy to fit our editorial and layout requirements.

Accomplishments of the GPC

The Gay Political Caucus has been in operation for little over a year. I would like to report on some of the things that we've done, where we're headed, and how you can assist us.

We've made significant progress in relations with the police, but much more remains to be done. We have established a liaison contact that we have activated on several occasions. We have met with Police Chief Bond twice and have developed a close working rapport with him. We are happy to report that there are significant changes coming about in enforcement of the public intoxication law. We have secured a pledge that persons will not be prosecuted for sexual acts between consenting adults in the privacy of their own homes. The police academy is negotiating with us over the possibility of including a human sexuality component in their cadet training program. We have done a lot, but much more remains to be done.

We have created a public litigating organization which has the capacity to collect tax free contributions and to instigate legal action to assure that gays receive all the rights and benefits that they are entitled to under the laws of this state and the Constitution of this nation. The Houston Human Rights Defense Fund is still formulating its policies. At this time, it serves as a coordinating force in the gay community working with civil rights attorneys and other persons interested in legal action.

Anti-Discrimination

Working with the American Civil Liberties Union, which is attempting to forge a broad coalition of other minority groups, we are developing a municipal anti-discrimination ordinance to fight discrimination against gays and others in employment and public accommodations.

We are working to end discrimination within our own community. We have solicited non-discrimination pledges from bar owners to attempt to eliminate discrimination which many gay establishments practice against women and other minorities.

Down With 21.06

In conjunction with other gay organizations of this state, the GPC is working for the repeal of the infamous state statute 21.06 which makes it a crime for two consenting adults of the same sex to perform a sexual act in private. We are proud of our efforts to help other communities organize their own political organizations to meet their community needs as they see fit. We also serve as an information gathering and disseminating source for virtually all national gay organizations.

The heart of our organization lies in our voter registration, candidate screening and mailing efforts. Before each election, we have conducted massive voter registration drives in the gay community resulting in the registration of thousands of new voters. GPC members have polled the candidates concerning their views of

continued on page 38

CRUISE CAMERA

Afternoons can be quite kinky at Houston's HiLite Ranch as these pictures show. (Right) Bartender Ric whirls up to round-table where a hand on leg is leading to a pick up.



(Left) Ed implants the kiss of death on mgr. Jim Ethridge for a "raise" out of Vera.



(right) Bartenders Gabriel & Bobby butch it up at the pool table. Where is Jessie's hot body? Under the pool table with young cowboy customer! You simple must go to The Ranch.

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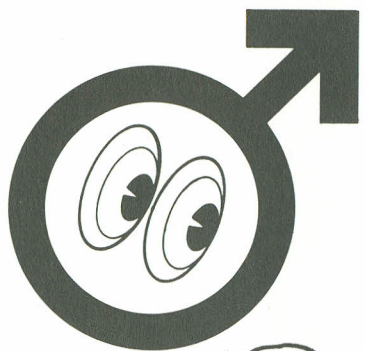
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FICTION

Editor's Note: This is the first installment of an original novella by Max Baumgardner.

Interstices

— PART I —

by Max Baumgardner

*A glimpse through an interstice caught,
of a crowd of workmen and drivers in a bar room...
Of a youth who loves me and whom I love,
silently approaching and seating himself near...
Along while amid the noises of coming and going,
of drinking and oath and smutty jest...*

—Walt Whitman

The bar was dark. The people moved through the maze of columns and chairs like ants moving through syrup. The atmosphere was sticky. The music was thick and rich, it flowed through the room and then became part of the room. It was a bar not unlike hundreds of other bars throughout the city. Crowded. Yet empty. Festive. But still . . .

Tommy always sat on the same stool in the bar. He always ordered the same drink, vodka tonic. He always smiled and tipped the bartender a quarter. He always left the bar at exactly two o'clock in the morning. And he always left alone. Always. Always. Always.

But then there was that one night:

"Is somebody sittin' here?"

"Uhhhh, no . . ."

"I mean you look like you're waitin' for somebody."

"Well . . ."

"You come in here a lot, dontcha?"

"I . . . ahhh . . ."

"You always sit right here in this same place."

"Well, ya see, I . . ."

"Bars depress me. I don't go out too much, but every time I do I see you sittin' right here on this same bar

stool looking like you just lost your best friend."

"You can sit down if you w-want. No one's sitting th-there."

"I'm just gettin' over this affair, see. My first gay love. Tragic, huh?" There was irony in the stranger's voice. It was a deep voice, guttural and somewhat scratchy. The stranger smiled. "My name is Bernard."

Tommy took his hand and shook it firmly. "Glad to m-m-meet you."

"Yeah, sure. Say, you got a speech impediment or somethin'? I mean . . . the way you stutter."

Tommy flinched. "Well, yes. I was b-born with it. It's n-n-nothing. I'm not st-stupid or anything."

"Nobody said you were stupid. Jeez. Don't be so touchy." The bartender walked over and asked Bernard if he wanted anything. "Yeah, I'll have a White Russian. Oh, yeah, and bring Joe Namath here another whatever he's drinkin'."

"D-Don't do th-that."

"Why not? I'm rich." Bernard cracked a sly grin and winked at the bartender. He touched Tommy's hand. "What's your name, huh?"

"T-T-Tommy."

"Cute name. Kinda like a puppy."

Continued on page 33

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fiction

Tommy frowned. He couldn't quite understand this creature who called himself Bernard and embarrassed him right off by mentioning his handicap. Handicap. (The word stung.) His incessant stuttering which other people were polite enough to ignore. Handicap. The reason he made few friends, fewer lovers. His shiralee. His tongue that couldn't quite keep up with the animated pace of the bars, the parties, the brunches, the social dinners. There were times when Tommy wished he had never come out. Gay life was rough, and there were times when he couldn't quite handle it. He struggled for something to talk about. "I pl-played football in c-college. UC-C-CLA."

"UCLA, huh? Football. Yeah, you look like it. You're so . . . BIG," Bernard said speculatively. "I work out a lot too. You probably can't tell it by this fruity shirt I'm wearin', but I got 16 inch arms. I comes in handy in my work. The better I look, the more jobs I get. Y'know what I mean?"

"N-N-No, I don't. What k-kind of work is that?"

"I, uhhhh . . . make movies."

Tommy's eyes widened. "You're an act-or?"

"Well, yeah. Sure. That's what I am."

"What m-movies have you made?" Tommy asked.

"Well, they're like . . . underground movies. Y'know. X rated."

Tommy was amused. "You make d-dirty movies?"

Bernard became defensive. There was anger in his voice. "Yeah, anything wrong with that?"

"No, I . . ."

"I make a lot of money. I got a lot of money saved up. I got a savings account!" The bartender brought their drinks, and for a moment they

sat in silence.

Tommy glanced around the bar. Faces loomed everywhere. And the faces were not very familiar, they seemed to change seasonally. Tommy had long since decided that the LA bar scene was anything but static. No one stayed around long enough to become a permanent fixture. People moved, got married, got lovers, got killed. All sorts of things happened. After a moment or two, Bernard perked up and said, "What kind of work do you do?"

"I p-p-paint."

"Oh, you a painter. I hear painters make good money. You belong to a union?"

"I p-paint pictures."

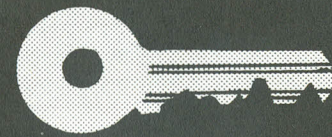
"You mean . . . like a gallery. You an artist?"

"Yes."

"Wow, that's neat. I never would've guessed. An artist. What do you paint. Like still lifes or portraits or what?"

"D-Different things."

Bernard was genuinely impressed, and his smile showed it. Tommy gave his leg a good squeeze and Bernard said, "You know, you're a very sexy dude."



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fiction

"I know."

"As a matter of fact, you are so fuckin' sexy, I'd like to take you home with me."

"G-G-Good."

"As a matter of fact, why don't we leave right now? We're wastin' time."

"Right."

And with that, they left the bar.

Bernard's apartment was something of a second rate circus. It was colorful. Unorganized. Energetic. A frightening personification of its inhabitant. Clothes were tossed aimlessly about. Pictures were tasteful, but hung too high. A rather involved set of weights cluttered up the living room floor. The furniture was contemporary, the draperies antique. (Fabrics screamed at each other.) What looked like an expansive area rug sprawled impressively over no particular area. A Barbra Streisand poster mounted contemptuously in the kitchen. An admirable record collection. A set of encyclopedias. A rubber tree. An aquarium. And a cat.

The right amount of liquor, the right music, and drifting carelessly on

a king sized water bed was quickly becoming Tommy's idea of a terrific way to spend an evening. He decided that Bernard's body was too beautiful to be wasted on dirty movies. Too smooth, too carefully developed. Too perfect.

They were floating in each other's arms. Kissing. Petting. Bernard became immediately aroused, his large rod poked teasingly at Tommy's skin through the covers. A tube of KY appeared from nowhere and Tommy could feel Bernard's skilled hand prying, working its way between his ass, gently inserting a finger . . . through . . . into. Tommy backed off.

"Relax," Bernard said.

"You r-r-relax!" Tommy bellowed back. He was quite drunk by then, the rhythmic rocking of the bed had begun to make him feel queasy. Nauseous.

Tommy's body was even more massive than Bernard had suspected. He had a hard time easing his partner's large frame into a compatible screwing position. He twisted and shifted and squirmed. The water bed tossed them about playfully. Tommy moaned. Bernard grunted. It was very romantic. When entrance was finally completed and Tommy

Continued on page 37

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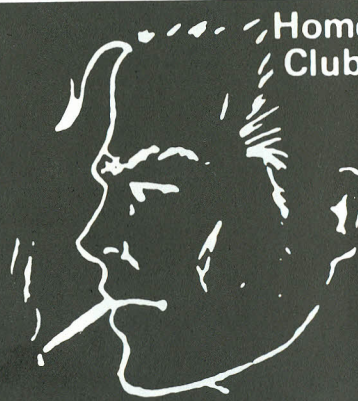
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fiction

had become somewhat comfortable with the steady throbbing pain in his backside, the bed suddenly sprung a leak.

"Mmmmmmm."

"B-Bernard."

"Oh, baby. Yeah. Ummmmm."

Tommy was on his back. He could feel the water seeping through the covers. "B-Bernard. Wait a m-minute!"

"Relax, baby. Ummmmm."

"B-But . . ."

"Shhhhhh."

"L-L-Listen to me!"

"Oh, its good. Yeah."

"The b-bed is l-leaking water."

"Ohhh, baby. I'm getting close. I'm gonna shoot!"

"B-B-But . . ."

"Just . . . hang on a minute. I'm comin'. Yeah. Mmmmmm."

"But B-Bernard, I'm g-g-getting w-wet!"

"Ohhhh! HERE IT COMES!"

"W-Wait."

"OH, BABY, AHHHHHHH . . ."

Bernard lunged forward. He pounded his seed into Tommy's asshole. Water splashed everywhere. Pound. Pound. Splash. Splash. "Yes. Ummmmmm." Heavy breathing. Then softer. "Ummmmm." Panting. Pause. "Whew! Oh, yeah. Good," Bernard whispered. Then he stood up and went into the bathroom. Tommy lay motionless in a pool of water, totally drenched. Bernard was hardly wet.

Tommy was mad. Really mad. He lay very still, hurting, wet, shivering, sobering. He lay there for what seemed an eternity. His thoughts stagnated by anger and frustration, his mind dulled by confusion and cold.

When Bernard finally came out of

the bathroom, he was all grins. He walked over to the bed, winked at Tommy, and said, "Wow! Pretty good, huh?"

Tommy sat up in bed, shaking. "F-F-FUCKIN' BASTARD!"

When Bernard was seven years old his grandmother was hit by a garbage truck and drug five hundred feet down Santa Monica Blvd. before the driver realized what had happened. Bernard remembered the incident, not from any sense of loss or disaster, but

Continued on page 41



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comment

gay rights and reported to the Caucus which has, in turn, endorsed various candidates. We communicate our endorsements to our supporters through massive mailing and ads in various media. We are quite proud of the effect that this combined activity has had on gay visibility in local politics.

Help

We've done a lot more, but more importantly, we want to continue our efforts and expand them. We need your help. We need to know in what directions you want the GPC to move this year. We need services and financial assistance, but more importantly, we need your time. If you have an area of special concern, talk with us and we will put you in touch with the appropriate committee or other individuals working in that area. Come to meetings and give us your much-needed feedback. Let us know what we've done right and where we've gone wrong. GPC is your organization and will be whatever you want it to develop into.

Hassled? Call GPC

We have a special request at this time. In order for us to make better use of our police liaison, please give us more raw information concerning incidents of police harrassment. Write down the badge numbers, squad car numbers, places and dates of any problems that may arise. Tell us what happened. Give us your name and your phone number so that we can get in touch with you. If you want, we will withhold your name or treat the information confidentially. Call us in an emergency at 526-2668 and we will try to respond. Give us the information we need in order for us to make effective use of our police

liaison. We really need your help if we are going to be able to combat this sort of problem in the future.

Your money, your time, your ideas, that's what we need from you. Please join us at MCCR on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 and help make the Gay Political Caucus the most positive force for change that it can possibly be.

Sincerely,
Mort Schwab, Chair
On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the members of the Caucus.



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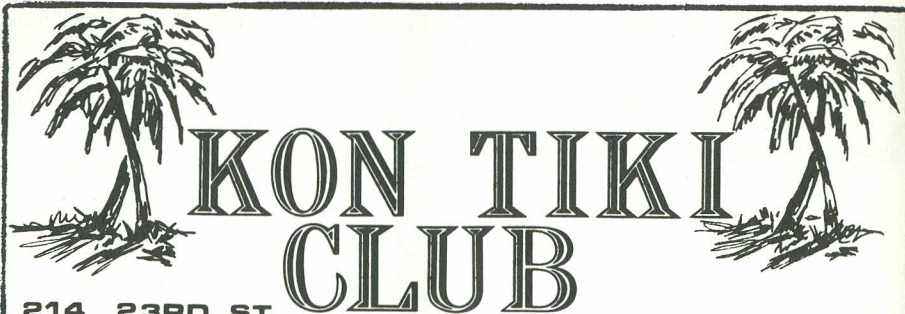
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ENTRANCE IN REAR

Fiction

simply as one of a series of peculiarly unpleasant things that happened consistently (almost yearly, almost predictably) in his youth. When he was eight years old the apartment building they lived in caught fire when their cat tried to climb the Christmas tree and overturned it. At nine he was thrown out of school for selling marijuana. At ten he got his foot caught in a garbage disposal at his aunt's house and lost two toes (Needless to say, he was never invited back). Bernard's sister committed suicide when he was eleven by throwing herself off the Grand Canyon during their summer vacation. (Bernard didn't resent her for spoiling the trip, he resented her for getting all the attention.) Bernard's twelfth birthday brought more surprises. He became a father. The news came in the form of a rather disjointed letter from a young lady named Suzy Watson who had moved in next door to them nine months earlier. The young lady, crazy as a loon, had demanded that Bernard's father marry her immediately OR ELSE. Well, of course he didn't and they never found out exactly what 'or else' meant, but from that day on, Bernard's relationship with his father drastically changed. They became generally unpleasant to each other, and it was only a matter of months before that unpleasantness turned into hate. When Bernard was thirteen years old he got hold of some bad tuna fish and almost died on the bathroom floor amid his own vomit. Oddly enough, Bernard's father had eaten the same tuna fish and experienced no ill effects. At fourteen, Bernard contracted hepatitis. At fifteen, syphilis. At sixteen: a rather odd strain of Korean scabies. Seventeen, eighteen, nineteen. A wife, a divorce, another

wife. Twenty, twenty one, twenty two. A hernia, a broken nose, an ulcer.

It was dawn. Bernard studied himself in the bathroom mirror. Tommy was asleep on the sofa, snoring loudly and irregularly.

Twenty nine, Bernard thought. Jesus. Already twenty nine. And what to show for it. Nothin'. Nothin' but four dirty movies and a spastic artist in the livin' room who can't talk right. Bernard washed his face. He brushed his teeth and trimmed his nose hairs and cleaned his ears with a Q-Tip. (Sometimes he felt like a Q-Tip.) He combed his hair. Too long. Too long, he decided. Needs cuttin'.

The telephone rang. Bernard ran into the hall to answer it before the second ring, not wanting to wake Tommy.

"Hello," he whispered into the receiver.

"It's me. It's your wife. Whatya whisperin' for?"

"I got a sore throat if it's any of your goddam business."

"You want me to come over and look after you?"

"Helen, it's a sore throat, not mono."

"Well, I just wanted to offer . . . you know I still care for you."

Bernard sighed and lit a cigarette. "Why did you call? Whatdya want?"

"Money."

"It figures."

"You have not sent me any money in four weeks. FOUR WEEKS, BERNARD! I GOTTA PAY RENT. I GOTTA EAT."

"Helen, I sent you a check three days ago."

Exasperation. "Well I didn't get no check! Look Bernard, if this is some trick . . . don't push me! Bernard, YOU LISTENIN'? If you didn't send that money there's gonna be trouble. REAL trouble."

Continued on page 51

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May we quote from .. T.W.I.T.

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TWIT's Cruise Camera now reveals the real lady behind the drag at Mary's Mae West Look Alike Contest. (Upper left) E.D. Lloyd. (Upper right) Paul Stewart. (Bottom, left to right) Mae West's sister, Mae West's brother, and Matthew's nice long personality.



CRUISE CAMERA

And the winner of the Mae West Look Alike Contest ... may we have the envelope from Mary's please ... is Torchy Lane (right)! (Below) Jann Russell looking very Hollywood.



Other contestants were the Hunchback of Notre Dame, Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman & Bette Davis.





MISS TEXAS AT LARGE PAGEANT

Tuesday, September 14, 1976

9:30 pm

THE OLD PLANTATION

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Weight Requirement: 200 lbs. Minimum

Judging Categories: Gown, Sportswear or Swimwear, Talent

Entry blanks at Old Plantation in Dallas or Houston

Prizes:

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- Miss Runner Up — \$75 and Trophy
- 2nd Runner Up — \$25 and Trophy
- 3rd Runner Up — Trophy

CALENDAR TEXAS

AUSTIN

Wednesday, September 1

- Special drink night at Austin Country, 8 pm 'til 2 am. Bar Drinks 25c; beer 10c. \$2 cover at the door.

FORT WORTH

Tuesday, August 31

- Amateur Drag Show at 9:30 at the 500 Club.

Wednesday, September 1

- 500 Follies present "Midweek Madness" at 9:30 pm., 500 Club.

Thursday, September 2

- 25c Draft Beer 6:30 till 9:30 Aub's Steak House Friday, Sept. 3rd.

Friday, September 3

- Country Western night at the 500 Club. Special drink prices if you wear western hat.

DALLAS

Sunday, August 29

- Old Plantation Drag Show with Jann Russel and the Pantomaniacs plus Alan Allison and the Living Dolls!
- Free Draft Beer at TJ's, 7-8 p.m.
- Free Draft Beer at Sundance Kid from 7 p.m. till the keg runs dry.
- Cook-Out at Club Dallas, 2-5 p.m. Everything supplied.
- Steak-Out at Chuck's, 6-8 p.m. Chuck's supplies the trimmings. All you have to bring is your meat.
- 10c Draft Beer at Villa Fontana 4-7 p.m.
- All the well drinks & beer you can drinks, \$3 cover, 3-7 p.m., Terry's Male Box. Pool Tournament every Sun. 5 p.m.

Monday, August 30

- Pool Tournament at Service Station, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, August 31

- Buddy Night at Club Dallas—two for the price of one, 6 p.m. till 2 a.m.
- \$1.00 day at Bachelor's Quarters.
- 10c Draft Beer at the Encore at 10 p.m.

Wednesday, September 1

- "2 for 1" night at Terry's Male Box, 5 p.m. till closing.
- Free Draft and 50c can beer at Sundance Kid, 10 p.m. till midnight
- 2 for 1 drinks, 5 p.m. till closing at Terry's Male Box.

Thursday, September 2

- 10c Draft Beer at the Encore at 10 pm.
- Live Band at the Jugs, 8-11 pm.

Friday, September 3

- Disc Jockey taking requests at T.J.'s Friday night.

HOUSTON

Saturday, August 28

- Babbs and Baldy performing at the Venture Inn 9 till 2. No cover.
- Beer bust at Levi's, 3 to 6 pm. \$1.00.
- "Saturday's Child" rap session from noon till 2 pm at the MCCR.

Sunday, August 29

- Drag show at the Old Plantation with Ernestine, Jennifer George, Naomi Sims, Donna Day, and Carmellita.
- Beer bust, The Loft. 4-7pm. \$1.00.
- Babbs and Baldy performing at Venture Inn 7pm till midnight. No cover.
- Beer bust at Levi's, 3-6 pm. -\$1.00; 75c if wearing western hat.
- Jambayla at The Barn, 1 pm.

- All lockers, \$2.00 each, 8 am-4 pm, at Club Houston.
- Drag Show at the Lamp Post 9 pm. Shawna emcee. Strippers and comedy.
- The Kit Kat Review at The Exile 7 pm with Miss Champagne, Andrian St. John, Tracy, Veronica & Ronnie Souix.

Monday, August 30

- Happy Hour, Monday thru Saturday, noon till 7 p.m. Hi Lite Ranch.

Tuesday, August 31

- Amateur Talent Night at the Old Plantation. No entry fee.
- Free movie at The Locker, 9:30 pm.

Wednesday, September 1

- "Fun and Games" at Lamp Post 9:30 pm.
- "Wilde 'n Stein" KPFT radio FM after evening news, approximately 7:30 pm.
- Gay Political Caucus meeting at 7:30 pm at MCCR.
- Super drag show with Ernestine, Jennifer George, Carmelita, Donna Day and Naomi Simms at the Old Plantation.
- Buddy Night at Club Houston — two for the price of one (lockers), 4 pm-midnight.



(right) Emcees Jenifer George & Ernestine stopping the show.



CRUISE CAMERA

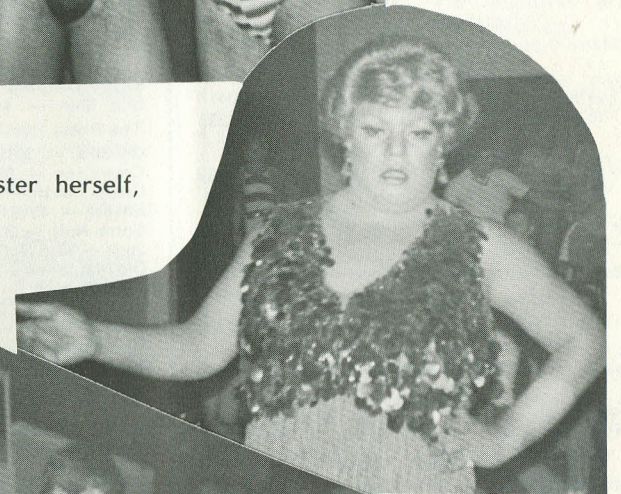
The hunks came from Austin, Dallas, Ft. Worth & Houston to the Mr. Gay Texas Pageant at the Old Plantation. Shown here is the talent competition as directed by promoter Mel Plummer.



CRUISE CAMERA

(left to right) 1st runner up Mike Rhodes, Mr. Gay Texas Robert Jones & 2nd runner up Raoul.

(right) Miss Soul Sister herself, Donna Day!



(left) The Top 5 Finalists: Raoul, Mike, Jamie, Frank & Robert.

THE GUIDE

Listed here are bars, baths, bookstores, retail shops, and services which **This Week in Texas** recommends to our readers. Each week we are in touch with each of these establishments, so our listing is both accurate and dependable. If you are travelling in Texas, we think you'll find that these merchants welcome your business and will give you the best value for your money.

AMARILLO LOUNGE
Old Plantation — 1005 N. Filmore — 372-5081

ARLINGTON CARPET & CLEANING
Germany's Carpet & Upholstery — 469-6439

AUSTIN BOOK STORE
Mr. Peepers — 213 East Sixth Street

AUSTIN CHURCHES
Metro Community — 408 W. 23rd — 444-5121

AUSTIN LOUNGES
Austin Country — 705 Red River — 472-0418
The New Apt. — 2828 Rio Grande — 478-0224

AUSTIN ORGANIZATIONS
Gay Comm. Svcs.—2330 Guadalupe—477-6699

COLEMAN THEATRE
Oak Drive Inn—N. on Hy. 84, Old Abilene Hwy.

DALLAS ADVERTISING CONSULTANT
Sego — 4519 Gaston Street — 821-9079

DALLAS AIR CONDITIONING
Day & Night — 5710 Marquita — 826-8300

DALLAS ANTIQUES
Mike's Things—3136 Routh, Ste. 104—748-0210

DALLAS BATHS
Bachelor's Quarters — 1225 Skiles — 823-0432
Club Dallas — 2616 Swiss Street — 821-1990

DALLAS BOOKSTORE
Lobo Book Shop—3917 Cedar Spr.—522-1132

DALLAS CHURCH
Metro. Community—3834 Ross Ave.—826-0291

DALLAS CLOTHING
Emporium — 3921 Cedar Springs — 528-7241
Union Jack — 3918 Cedar Springs — 528-9600

DALLAS HAIR SALONS
Tonsorium — 2900 N. Henderson — 823-1410
Union Jack — 3918 Cedar Springs — 528-9600

DALLAS LOUNGES
Bayou Landing — 2609 N. Pearl — 742-3269
Bon Soir — 4527 Cole Street — 526-9432

The Brass Rail — 2513 N. Fitzhugh —
Chuck's — 3019 Haskell Street — 526-9329
Crews Inn — 3220 N. Fitzhugh — 526-9320
Crews Inn II — 3115 Live Oak St. — 824-9043
Encore — 4516 McKinney Street — 526-9328
Entre Nuit — 3116 Live Oak St. — 823-0423
Jugs — 3218 North Fitzhugh Street — 526-9283
Old Plantation — 1807 N. Harwood — 651-1988
Olive Branch — 2822 McKinney — 823-0921
One Way In — 2509 N. Fitzhugh — 824-9227
Service Station — 3215 N. Fitzhugh — 526-9025
Sundance Kids — 4025 Maple St. — 526-9173
Swamp Trash—3014 Throckmorton — 526-9184
Terry's Mail Box — 2515 - 2517

N. Fitzhugh Avenue — 824-9126
Terry's Ranch — 4117 Maple Street — 526-9302
T.J.'s — 3307 McKinney Street — 526-9368
Tool Box — 1804 North Harwood — 748-2054
Villa Fontana — 1315 Skiles Street — 823-0372

MARYS TOO

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763-9334

fiction

Bernard slammed the receiver down in her ear. He went into the kitchen and opened the refrigerator. He made a bologna sandwich and poured himself a glass of milk. He put some protein powder into the milk and stirred with a spoon. It floated to the top of the glass in four unappetizing lumps of goop. Bernard frowned. The blender was broken. He mashed on the goop with a tablespoon and stirred it again. He mashed and stirred and mashed and stirred.

"What are you d-doing?"
Bernard turned. Tommy was leaning against the kitchen door, smiling at him.

"I'm makin' a mess. Look, man, I'm real sorry about last night but I couldn't stop I was so close."

"That's okay," Tommy shrugged. The powder had changed its consistency to that of paste.

"Jesus."
Milk had spilled out over the edge of the glass and onto the cabinet. "This is my protein supplement. You're supposed to use a blender but my blender don't work since I threw it at the cat last week. Do you know anything about electrical stuff? Maybe you could take a look at it."

"Sorry. I d-don't know anything about bl-blenders."
"Mmmm." Bernard was thoughtful. "Would you like a bologna sandwich?"

"No, th-thanks. My st-stomach doesn't feel too well."

"Maybe you're coming down with something. There's a bug goin' around," Bernard commented. "I know a lotta people who got the shits."

Tommy smiled. "The sh-shits."
"I only had 'em for a few days. But

Continued on page 55

DALLAS PHOTO STUDIO
Glenhall — P.O. Box 5915, Zip 75222—233-4362

DALLAS PICTURE FRAMES
Coddington — 3921 Cedar Springs — 528-7241

DALLAS PLUMBING
Bill Taylor Plumbg.—5710 Marquita—826-4300

DALLAS RESORT
El Rancho Vista — P.O. Box 24731, Zip 75224

DALLAS THEATRE
The Hayloft — 4100 Maple — 526-9458

EL PASO LOUNGES
Apartment — 804 Myrtle Street — 544-7175
Pet Shop — 800 E. San Antonio — 532-9721
Time Machine—207 E. San Antonio—532-0820

FORT WORTH LOUNGES
Aub's — 1308 Saint Louis Street — 927-9220
Bailey St. Wherehouse—259 Bailey — 335-0232
500 Club — 506 West Magnolia St. — 335-0692

FORT WORTH RESTAURANT
Aub's — 1308 Saint Louis Street — 927-9220

GALVESTON BATHS
Kon Tiki — 220 23rd/Tremont St. — 763-9031

GALVESTON HOSTEL
Galv. Guest House — 2101 Ave. 0¹/₂ — 763-8283

GALVESTON LOUNGES
Fruit Jar — 2214 Mechanic Street — 763-6319
Kon Tiki — 214 23rd/Tremont St. — 763-9031
Mary's II — 2502 Q¹/₂ Street — 763-9334
Robert's Lafitte — 409 Rosenburg — 763-9507

GALVESTON ORGANIZATION
Galveston Gay Society—P.O.Box1272,Zip77553

HOUSTON ACCOUNTING
Lambda Services-800 S. Post Oak #7-960-8828

HOUSTON ADULT BOOK STORES
Action Bookstore—4613 Mt. Vernon—524-5612
Adult Arcade — 1201 Richmond
Carter's Bookstore — 2819 Louisiana Street
Diner's News — 204 Westheimer — 528-8950
Mr. Peepers #1-5200 Telephone Rd.-649-9130
Mr. Peepers #2—1427 Texas Ave.—226-9353
Mr. Peepers #3—5400 Airline Dr.—691-9378
Mr. Peeper's Glory Hole — 2900 Fannin St.
O'Topos — 2020 Richmond Ave. — 528-8005
R.U.1.2. — 900 Lovett Boulevard, Suite 104
Studz News — 1132 West Alabama Street

HOUSTON ADULT MOVIE THEATRES
French Quarter — 3201 Louisiana — 527-0782
Mini Park — 2907 South Main St. — 528-5881

HOUSTON ADVERTISING AGENCY
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No-Sweat Catering Service — 780-7922

HOUSTON CHURCHES

Christ's Communion—908B Winston—861-0117
Metro. Community—1214 Joe Annie—526-8233

HOUSTON CLOTHING

Clothes Circuit — 900 Lovett Blvd. — 527-0553
Union Jack — 4025 Westheimer — 622-3100

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HOUSTON DISTRIBUTORS

Ban Apple Gas/Woodstock Dist. — 783-7242
Bullet — P.O. Box 3513, Zip 77001 — 522-3921

HOUSTON EXTERMINATOR

Truly Nolen — 5716-A Clarewood — 666-6333

HOUSTON FLORIST

Ron Oruc & Assoc. — 900 Lovett — 526-0525

HOUSTON GIFTS

Jim's (House With No Name)—716 W. Alabama

HOUSTON HAIR SALON

Marc I — 906 Westheimer Road — 523-7764

HOUSTON INSURANCE

U.B.I.Co.—Leave Message for Bill—691-6444

HOUSTON JANITORIAL SERVICE

Bradley Services — 713 Pacific St. — 526-8243
Jem Sanitation — 900 Lovett — 528-8969

HOUSTON LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANING

Single Services—1621 Westheimer — 524-9560

HOUSTON LOCKSMITH

Montrose Lock & Key Company — 523-1423

HOUSTON LOUNGES

Barn — 710 Pacific Street — 528-9427
Briar Patch — 2294 Holcombe Blvd. — 665-9678
Depository — 2606 Peckham St. — 527-0260
Detour — 1504 Westheimer Street — 528-9552
2nd Sun- 534 Westheimer- 524-1225
Exile — 1011 Bell Street — 226-8068
Filling Station — 1801 Richmond — 528-8523
Galleon — 2720 Richmond Ave. — 528-8787
Horn-It — 1430 Aldine Mail Rd. — 442-9459
Hi Lite Ranch — 6800 S. Main — 528-8730
Inside Outside — 1318 Westheimer — 528-8049
Just Marion & Lynn's—817 Fairview—528-9110
Lamp Post — 2417 Times Blvd. — 528-8921
Levi — 2400 Brazos Street — 528-8637
Locker — 1732 Westheimer Street — 528-8844
Loft — 2909 South Main St. — 528-9337
Mary's — 1022 Westheimer St. — 528-8851
Old Plantation — 2020 Kipling — 522-2353
Odd's Place — 905 Woodrow St. — 528-9019
Our Place — 1419 Richmond Ave. — 528-8903
Sally's — 900 Lovett Blvd.—528-8900, 523-3281
Venture-N — 2923 Main Street — 528-9397

HOUSTON OPTICAL BOUTIQUE

Specs of Houston — 4709 Richmond — 626-1161

HOUSTON ORGANIZATIONS

Gay Academic Union—P.O.Box16041,Zip77022
Gay Activist Alliance—4800 Calhoun-749-3489
Gay Polit. Caucus—815 Hawthorne—526-2668
Montrose Activities Center — 526-2668

HOUSTON PHOTO STUDIO

Algren — 2110 Lexington Street — 527-8961

HOUSTON RESTAURANTS

Tooter's — 2203 Westheimer Rd. — 524-9327

HOUSTON SCULPTURED NAILS

Mona — 6455 Westheimer Road — 785-3831

LUBBOCK LOUNGE

David's Warehouse—2403 Marshall—762-9165

McALLEN LOUNGE

Duffy's — 5 South 16th Street — 686-9144

ODESSA LOUNGE

Elbow Room — 1009 Maple Street — 337-9734

SAN ANTONIO LOUNGES

El Jardin — 160 Navarro Street — 223-7177
Friendly — 622 Roosevelt St. — 534-0710
Habitat — 309 West Market St. — 223-0866
Hypothesis — 2012 Broadway St. — 225-0693
Mary Ellen's — 815 Fredericksburg—732-9801
Penny Pub — 10006 Wurzbach St. — 696-9181
Precious — 1107 Nogalitos Street — 223-0413
Sagittarius — 3000 N. St. Mary — 732-0694
Spanish Harlem—349 W. Josephine—732-0110
Zoo Club—3240 Northwest Loop 410—341-4302

SAN ANTONIO MASSAGE

Amazon Studio—10000 McCollough—349-6980

SAN ANTONIO MEN'S CLUB

The Crown — P. O. Box 182, Zip 78291

TEXARKANA THEATRE

Capri Theatre — 818 East Street — Texarkana

WACO LOUNGE

Other End — 2810 North 19th St. — 735-9195

WICHITA FALLS LOUNGE

Carousel — 703 Travis Street — 332-0832



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Fiction

poor Helen (that's my wife), she must've passed water for a week. It really drained her. She walked around lookin' like Godzilla's revenge. Her cheeks were hollow. She looked awful." Bernard began talking in his rapid-fire monotone. "The last time she looked that bad was when we was livin' together in Venice. She had decided to become a fruitarian cause she was very depressed about all the chemical stuff you find in food these days. Well just like that, without any warnin' or preperation or anything, she stops eating everything but oranges and banannas. She said she read this book about Americans gettin' too much protein in their diets and how it's killin' us. Well I kept takin' my protein supplement and she kept eating her fruit and it was her

that ended up with the runaway bowels. She walked around bow-legged like a . . ."

"B-B-Bernard!" Tommy interupted. "I have to g-go. I have an ap-p-ointment this morning."

"Oh. Oh yeah. Sure. Go ahead." Bernard's disappointment was obvious. His face went slack.

"You w-want my ph-phone number?"

"Yeah. Sure." Bernard said, unenthused, and handed him a note pad and pencil from the opposite cabinet.

Tommy scribbled the number down hurriedly, pecked Bernard on the cheek ("Well, b-bye."), and left the apartment.

Bernard returned to his concoction by the sink. It seemed to have grown while he was talking to Tommy. "Well," he said to himself, "At least he helped me patch the waterbed."

(Continued in a later issue.)

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