The Lady Baronessa Wins Miss Gay America Amidst Nashville Pollution

(From The Tennessean, Monday, May 14, 1973)

by Douglas Moore

Clutching the winner’s crown to his sparkling white evening gown draped early Sunday morning, Miss Gay America of 1973 said his eventual goal is to undergo a sex change operation.

But for the immediate 12 months, he said, he would travel throughout the country representing the gay community.

"If I CAN change one straight person’s mind, I’ll be happy," said Carmelo Santiago, 24, of Chicago, who is known professionally as Lady Baronessa.

After Norma Kristie, the first Miss Gay America, relinquished his crown to Lady Baronessa, the new titleholder told a cheering audience with tears welling in his eyes: "I will promise you this, I will represent you all the way."

The soft-spoken native of Puerto Rico was crowned Miss Gay America at the Glass Menagerie about 1 a.m., chosen from 26 other female impersonators after three days of competition. The final evening dragged on for five hours with the 10 finalists competing in evening gowns, sportswear and talent.

During a lull in the entertainment, a member of the audience who bore a striking resemblance to pop singer Paul McCartney to pop singer Paul McCartney spoke to a reporter about the fascination of men dressing as women.

"Every gay boy in some sense would like to be a girl," said the 21-year-old, who performs as a female impersonator under the name of Marlo. "Another thing is money. I can get $40 a night for a performance."

"You know, it must seem strange for men wanting to dress up like women, but it’s just so much fun."

Like most other beauty pageants, the five semifinalists were asked questions as they stood under bright blue lights on the stage in front of the mostly gay audience of more than 400 and a couple of TV film cameras.

Lady Baronessa’s question was: "If you are interviewed by the press what will you say your reasons were for entering this pageant?"

"I love people," he replied. "I love to entertain people, that’s why I chose the stage."

This contest gives me the ultimate goals as a female impersonator and that’s to represent all of you."

After the pageant’s finale—in which the contestants and most of the audience joined hands under flashing lights as a song ended "United We Stand, Divided We Fall"—blared over the loudspeakers—the winner sat down with a few reporters.

Santiago said he wears women’s clothing only when he performs as a professional entertainer, which he does for a living. Asked why he doesn’t dress like that on other occasions, he said, "Because I’m a boy."

His usual dress is casual, with blue jeans. As for hobbies, he said, "I like to ski, ice skate, cook and dance."

"Eventually, I’m going for my sex change," he said, indicating the operation was still five or six years in the future.

His prizes for the title include a new Pontiac and $1,000. Liquor flowed throughout the evening and the audience responded emotionally to the performers.

A tall black contestant with an enormous Afro hair style, Lady Nova, stunned the audience during the evening gown competition when he whipped off his cape to reveal a $1,000 black velvet dress studded with hundreds of sparkling rhinestones. The outfit was greeted by appreciative screams and applause.

The audience was shocked again during the talent competition when a semifinalist named Elizabeth, impersonating the song "This Is My Life," suddenly ripped off his red and silver gown to reveal a bare, distinctly male chest over the father of a 14-month-old boy.

"I’m very happy," a couple of contestants said they won’t be back to Nashville for the pageant in the future.

"It’s a farce," said Wendy Lee, 25, founder of the Miss Southeastern United States title. He was disqualified, he said, in a dispute over his talent act—an impersonation of Carol Channing in a kitchen, which involves breaking things and "it’s pretty messy." He refused to clean up after the act.

Peak, chairman of the pageant and proprietor of a local gay bar, blasted charity organizations which turned down offers of proceeds from Sunday night’s gay benefit show.

"I believe," Peak said, "when it comes to saving a life, a dollar bill’s a dollar bill."

Gay Money Trash For Charity

The following appeared in one of the daily papers after "charity" had refused money from the Miss Gay America pageant in Nashville, Tennessee.)

by Frances Green

Where does charity get off? Money isn’t money if it comes
from a contribution homosexuals have taken part in?

Two relevant statements of concern are being made here. How rejected a homosexual is in our society is evident when told even his money is no damn good. The self-renunciation by young men who would parade in women's clothing, too, is more a furnishing truth than I suspect the contest is, put-on. Contributions, taken in any factory, hospital, on road clocks, are helped along by homosexuals - men and women who are as concerned with the less fortunate as the next person, since, indeed, they are the next person, in class-rooms, operating rooms, the arts, in all walks of life.

Does an orphan child ask where the money comes from? Does an old person in a nursing home demand to know the source?

No lesbian's money is refused when she offers payment for merchandise in stores, no homosexual's when he makes payments on his automobile. It goes without saying we are expected to pay.

A condition being revealed to us by men and women who prefer to dress in the opposite-sex clothing. The act is a violent state on their part: I am not fit to dress in the opposite-sex clothing, too, is more a tarnishing truth, than, as I suspect the showing in the 1973 Miss Gay America Pageant was the peak of my impersonating career.

The contest was the fairest.

The contest itself was the fairest with the exception of Miss Gay Texas, that I have ever entered and the contestants were the finest I have ever worked with.

The chairman - Mr. Jerry Peck and Toni Deran made everyone feel welcome to Nashville, Tennessee, despite the polluted atmosphere. They worked very hard for this contest and it proved to be far greater than last years.

In all the contest was (ONE). Never have I seen so nervous or afraid to compete. The impersonators presented the best in evening gowns, sports wear, beauty and above all poise and talent. I am eagerly looking forward to next years contest and I hope to be a part of it.

The winner of the Miss Gay America title was the Lady Baronessa, Chicago, Illinois, 1st Runner-up was Roski, Chicago, Illinois. 2nd was Gentie Dee, from Hollywood, California - 3rd was Carmen Del Rio from Atlanta, Georgia - 4th - Lady Nova from Houston, Texas.

The title of Miss Congeniality was awarded to Cookie LaCook, New Orleans, La., now appearing at the Greensleeve's in Houston, Texas.

Lady Baronessa received $1,000 cash plus a 1973 Pontiac and/or cash - Lady Baronessa took $3,000 instead of the car, $525 which she gave to charity, and a trophy.

1st Runner-up received $1,000 cash plus 2 beautiful gowns and a trophy, this was Roski from the Baths, Chicago.

2nd Runner-up received $700 cash plus a beautiful gown and a trophy - Carmen Del Rio of Atlanta, Ga.

Lady Nova of Houston, Texas was the 3rd Runner-up receiving $100 cash, trophy - She gave $50 to charity.

3rd Runner-up - $500 cash plus trophy - Carmen Del Rio of Atlanta, Ga.

Lady Nova of Houston, Texas was the 4th Runner-up receiving $100 cash, trophy - She gave $50 to charity.

ESCARGO

Annette's for Houston for year's has had coverage in the press about it's Escargo-eating contests and the well-known eating orgy has attracted hundreds each year to the ranks of gourmet-suching this delicacy.

In the Gay world, P---, himself, Gourmet of food (and other things) recently gave an escarguer party at his home that would, on a smaller scale, put to shame the gluttons stuffing themselves at Annette's. The guests devouring the little snails did so with the grace of ravenous queens in hot pursuit of intended victims and must have consumed the city's entire supply that night. P--- may be only one of several Escargo Pantries in Houston, but his prowess as a Gourmet Chef will remain a badge of honor as viewed by his many guests.

Mr. Frizby has Second Birthday

The Hi-Kamp of Houston hosted the owner, staff and members of Mr. Frizby's, Houston original Baths, for its second Anniversary Party. The Hi-Kamp, conventionally located next door to this popular establishment provided for its patrons and those of the Hi-Kamp an evening of entertainment, free beer and liquor at two-for-one prices. The show, dedicated entirely to Frizby's, played to a full house and brought almost unceasing applause and laughter throughout.

The backdrop for the stage was a cleverly designed mock-up of Frizby's building and was used to create the hilarity by its association with the members mimed to the music the thoughts pertaining to the club; Wesley, the Bath's manager, himself an extremely warm and friendly personality and one time female impersonator, performed to the delight and amusement of the audience in a manner that can only be described as grand.

In one scene, the stage props turned around to reveal a mock-up of one of the rooms at the Baths which acquired a second cut-out between the two rooms was used by one of the performers during the "John-Marsha" skit, to exemplify the "Glory-hole" scene which literally tore the house down, and uproariously funny and certainly alienating to vulgarity, this scene was actually last shed and done in excellent taste. In one act, "Whatever Lola Wants..." was performed with the help of an innocent victim from the audience who was dragged from his seat and undressed (unwillingly) almost entirely through the "Bride of Frrzby's" what appeared to be a sex-crazed "Lola".

The entire show was done in a professional manner. The Hi-Kamp exemplified its courtesy to the patrons throughout the show by providing excellent table service, keeping the flow of beer constant. An excellent example to Ted's popularity was the appearance of many bar owners, and the management of the new Club, in support of this party.
Dear Phil,

It was such a great pleasure to see and talk with you and your party during the Miss Gay Texas Contest, and I can truthfully say that it was one of the most exciting events that I have attended this year. Miss Gay Texas is certainly capable of capturing the crown of Miss Gay America.

Speaking of that contest, it will be sponsored by the Watch Your Hay and Coast Saloon Show Bar in Nashville, Tennessee, from May 16th till the 12th with the final benefit show on the 12th. The entire contest will be at the Nashville Music Center. The 60 contestants will vie for $10,000 worth of prizes, including cash, designer gowns, gift certificates and of course, the 1973 Pontiac for the winner. The contestants will be judged on a point system in all realms of the three areas of competition. These are Evening Gown, Talent and Sportswear.

As far as my philosophy on being Miss Gay America, I just about summed it up the night of the Texas Pageant.

First, I believe that Miss Gay America should be a representative of our gay society both in male and female attire. He should be ready, willing, and able to understand and apply this understanding in relation to the majority of citizens. He should be able to explain his position to the majority, and possess an ability to relate with this majority.

He should not attract sympathy for the gay minority, but should be of such stature as to command respect for our minority. He should, more than anyone else, be interested in all gay people no matter what their "thing" might be.

In dealing with the heterosexual society, he should be, first, cooperative. He should ask them to understand his position of being gay, and understand that the gay minority is a basic, productive society that can contribute something to the world. Secondly, I think that he should ask the major­ity to accept the gay society an productive society, but realize that this society's tastes as just a bit different. Then finally I think that he should ask for a combination of understanding and acceptance. If this cannot be reached by several individuals in the majority, then let them just forget the whole thing, because the gay society will be no threat to their moral values. Of course, there are a few people in this majority who cannot understand or accept, and they are not going to leave the gays alone. These are the few who call the gay minority "queer". Miss Gay America should be able to handle them by saying that it is just the opposite. These are the "queer" ones, and they are the ones that need the psychiatrist.

Phil, this is my philosophy and I hope that I have answered most of your questions. I'm doing my very best to live by what I have said to many people and what I have written here today. And I am sure that if I do, my reign as Miss Gay America, 1972, will not come to an end in May, but the tradition that began with Norma Kristie will continue on for years.

Good Luck and Best Wishes for a fine summer,

Norma Kristie
Miss Gay America

SOMEONE NEEDS YOU

Are you tired of staring at the back of your tube night after night? Nothing to do in your spare time? Want to make new acquaintances and friends? Attend exciting social events sound like your bag? Then someone wants and needs YOU! We at the Montrose Gaze Community Center extend a friendly invitation to you to join us, get involved, and knock the everyday nothingness out of your life.

Montrose Gaze is a non-profit organization to help the gay community in the Houston area. The center is located at 504 Fairview, phone 538-9069. We have an age range from 16 to 78. No one is left out in the cold with his TV for company! We offer a variety of activities for our members and visitors. Among other things, we have a color television, pool table, a variety of games, piano, stereo and a large number of rooms in which to carry on rap sessions. Every Wednesday we have a general rap session beginning at 7:30. New members are encouraged to attend these meetings. Besides our various activities, we offer community services, and religious services for those who ask for it.

The Center needs people, money, and you; however, if you can offer no more than your presence, that's fine. If you WANT to get involved in radio, television, working on the responsibility as doorman, or working on a recreational or dance committee - any service for the gay community - we NEED and WELCOME YOU! We are open every night from 6 till 10. Please make it a point to come by.

Marquis Cole

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FT. WORTH: Agape Metropolitan Community Church P. O. Box 26093, Ft. Worth, TX 76112 Sunday Services: 2800 Purflington, Ft. Worth 7:30 PM Interim Pastor: Rev. David Carden

For information regarding other areas, contact the nearest MCC office.
MOTHER OF DALLAS

The night the last papers came out at the Villa Fontana has had water once with the Salty Sisters from maybe years -- and it was almost a not in demand on the highways superstar -- and after I might...
have joined forces before in other ventures. Cappell brings to the Red Room a friendship with other bar owners and managers that has existed over the years in the Houston-Dallas area, which include such places as the Bayou Landings, the Farm House, the Hi-Kamp, the Glass Stein, Mary's, the 900 Club, the Roaring 60's, the Bon Soir, Rosen's, T.J. L's, the Encore and LaCaja and several more in Austin and elsewhere.

With the help of these and other friends, Cappell intends to restore to the Red Room the atmosphere of a "Gay Bar" which provides a neutral meeting ground for operators and clientele and which will cater primarily to conversational people, as opposed to loud discoteque establishments; although there is also dancing, pool table, air-hockey, pinball, etc., the general tenor will be some what hushed and ungraded. The new operator plans occasional shows which will be announced later, planned to break up the "monot

The Red Room began as a small neighborhood lounge many years ago and grew proportionately with the Gay population to the size of a good medium sized dance bar. Many changes through the years have kept the Guys charmed with its differences in atmosphere, and has now reached its peak in both the general tenor will be some what hushed and ungraded. The new operator plans occasional shows which will be announced later, planned to break up the "monot

Why A Gay Parade?

"What is accomplished?" "What purpose does it serve?" "You don't see heterosexuals marching down the street carrying signs proclaiming their sexual preferences. "Why be a spectacle?" "It only antagonizes straights." "I have some of the arguments hurled at those busy making plans for Dallas' second annual GAY PRIDE PARADE. These critics have their points. And sometimes I wonder if it is worth all the work and problems a gay parade in downtown conservative Dallas causes. But then I recall my own youth, and my story differs little from thousands of others. When I was growing up, I had strange, vague feelings that I was somehow different from "normal" people. I had never heard the word "gay" or even "homosexual." Frequently, I had heard "Queer," "Fruit," "Fagget," "Fairy," and "Cock sucker." When, eventually I did learn the word "homosexual" I also "learned" they were . . . sick, extremely unhappy, and lonely. The only hope for these "persecuted" was to get psychiatric treatment and become "normal" - meaning heterosexual.

Ha. Are there no sick, unhappy, lonely heterosexuals? - in approximately the same numbers? So this is why I march. I really DON'T want to march as I don't enjoy advertising my private life in front of straighters. But I must, I need to help counteract centuries of prejudice. In the long run, to assure both to homosexuals - both physically oriented people of the individual and collective worth of persons regardless of their sexual preference. We are attempting to make people AWARE of the entirety of their sexual responses. To assure people that AWARENESS of the fullness of their lives can only make them better and more complete persons. To make the general public AWARE of the incidence of homosexuality. And finally we are attempting to make people AWARE that homosexuality will no longer accept passively the hostility of an ignorant society. We have become at last AWARE that GAY IS GOOD!"

DO YOU AGREE? ? ?

(The material that follows is taken from a brochure received recently from the University of Western Ontario, in which Homophile Association, London, Ontario, Canada. We feel that it is very well written and that we are fully in accord with the thoughts expressed.)

The text follows:

HOMOSEXUALITY

Homosexuality is the capacity to respond emotionally and physically to another person of the same sex. It is a real and genuine human feeling, fully equal to heterosexual response. It is shared by a great many people of every personality type and every social position. Homosexuality has existed as long as man himself and has been regarded in many various ways by different societies; some societies have viewed it as a part of "normal" behavior and other societies, like our own, have regarded it as "abnormal" behavior. It would seem to depend upon the nature of the society and not on the nature of homosexuality. Homosexuality is a fact of life. Like all other facets of human behavior, it must be dealt with rationally and without prejudice.

We are living in an age that is conscious of the personal freedom and individual right to live a fully honest life. It begins with each and every person--it begins with YOU.

HOMOPHILE ASOCIATIONS

Awareness of one's homosexual tendencies may come at any age. A person's response to this sudden insight will vary depending upon his strength of character and self-concept. The person who is aware of his homosexuality is usually also afraid--afraid of exposure, of social rejection, afraid of being made sick or afraid of some other worse fate. It is only in the assurance of his positive worth that the homosexual can accept his feelings and live a happy and satisfying life.

The Homophile Associations of Ontario and other places were formed and dedicated to giving proof both to homosexuals and heterosexually oriented people of the individual and collective worth of persons regardless of their sexual preference. We are attempting to make people AWARE of the entirety of their sexual responses. To assure people that AWARENESS of the fullness of their lives can only make them better and more complete persons. To make the general public AWARE of the incidence of homosexuality. And finally we are attempting to make people AWARE that homosexuality will no longer accept passively the hostility of a hostile society. We have become at last AWARE that GAY IS GOOD!"

RATIONAL

Becoming aware of and accepting one's homosexuality is a growth process. But growth requires energy. This process may therefore bring new life if one has the strength to grow or will be difficult if one does not have the resourcefulness of character to encourage growth in himself. Homophile Associations provide an atmosphere both in the inner social life and in the outer world. The text continues:

PAGES
meet others with his sexual preference and where he may socialize without the fear of "being different".

Homophile Associations also provide a forum where the curious and interested may find communications with the homosexual in an open and positive interchange.

Homophile Associations act to bring a personal and public acceptance of sexual freedom. We do not advocate promiscuity. We insist upon the individual freedom of each person to live his own private life.

The need of every person to be accepted for himself is our priority. The right of each man to seek out and to find a happy relationship with his fellow men is our aim. People must be encouraged to find deep, personal, satisfying, and responsible relationships. All of us have the potential to love - all of us have the need to be loved - we must be free to love freely. It is the QUALITY of your relationship which matters, not whether that relationship is between two persons of the same or opposite sex.

ACTION

Once one has come to terms with his homosexuality, it is time to act. The homosexual must have pride in himself and in his sexual preference. The old days of fear and cringing are over. The homosexual admits his homosexuality to himself AND TO OTHERS and what’s more - he is proud of it!

The Homophile Association promotes gay pride with general meetings, public debates and forums, speaking engagements at schools, churches, clubs, hospitals, etc., demonstrations and marches such as the national march on Ottawa of August 28, 1971, various social activities, and private interviews and discussions about the topic.

GAY RADIO PROGRAM

Originally, T. Sanders, a very active woman for the gay community had a radio program on Pacifica Radio, FM90. The gay program, throughout 1972 featured live and taped programs with the purpose of enlightening the straight community about gays. T. Sanders recently turned the program over to Chuck Berger for development into a program of gays for gays.

The program will be every other Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m. - May 27th is the next one scheduled. The program will feature gay information, gay entertainment and about functions in the community.

Anyone wishing to donate talent to the program "Out of the Closets, Into the Streets" may contact KPFT, this program.

Gaze Has Easter Dinner

About forty people came to the Montrose Gaze Community Center on April 22 to enjoy Easter dinner. Lots of women came to enjoy the festivities.

After lunch, people went outside to play volleyball on the lawn.

April 21, two members from the center delivered about 15 fully-wrapped Easter Baskets to Texas Childrens Hospital.

In attendance for Easter Dinner were several members of Integrity Houston.

We of the center Work, Struggle and hope for the best for the community. Montrose Gaze, 504 Fairview at Whitney - 526-9068 - is open to all - give them a call or drop by.

The Center grew slowly but steadily and in being recognized as a mark of stability in the Gay Community of Houston. Right now, they are in need of some generous person to donate a power lawn mower so that the lawn can be put in shape - anyone listening?

Sunday dinners at the Center are becoming more and more popular - call and check when the next one will be and attend.

Donations by the Gay Community are what is keeping this non-profit organization going. Have you helped? Each month all at the Center thank Mr. Dennis Sisk for his generosity in making it possible for them to remain at this location by paying the rental.

WONDERING WHAT TO DO?

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A Good Example !!!

For the longest time the Houston Gays who had the urge to visit the (the) found Galveston to be the closest convenience, and It wasn’t till Ted opened Mr. Frizby’s in Houston, that the Dallasites could call a Houstonite . . . in Houston. Now Houston has opened its doors, and promises to be every bit as safe as Frizby’s. What too is scheduled for another, not that It has two already, of them seem to be doing well, therefore there seems to be room for third. This all goes to prove a point. When an establishment is rated like a business, and when internal controls are enforced, then the authorities barely acquit themselves with the existence of such places. But when the baths, as any other gay operation becomes a nuisance to the public and force the authorities to take action, you can rest assured the survival of that Gay enterprise falls precariously in the balance.

A Lesson to Be Taught

In the straight world, while bigotry seems to be fashionable still, and while courts and associations fight for the equality of individuals, it has almost become a laughable matter in our Gay world. Blacks, Mexican-Americans, Whites, Jews, Italians, and other minorities seem to have found a world in Gay life that has none of the barriers. At any club you will find blacks with whites, dancing or petting; Mexican Americans with protesto-whites living together without mind the cultural differences. In Gay Society, it is acceptable to be Gay; regardless of background or culture. Why then, can’t the courts, “Lib Societies” and others, send their emissaries into Gay life for the answer to “equality”; it would be instantly obvious that Gays represent “love” and that there is little room in our lives for bigotry or racism. Perhaps being homosexual bridges the gap, somehow. And while places like the “Ghetto”, River Oaks, “North Dallas” exist to the straight world, they are only names to the Gay World that have no meaning when people come together at the bars or parties. And if a Gay lives in one of those “places”, he leaves it behind when he entertains himself with friends at the bars; And you can be sure that when race riots plague cities across the country, it’s treated as a joke to Gays, who rub shoulders with the very protesters outside the Gay world, and who bring about daily the only true homogenous society. In Gay life, bigotry has no room. Maybe our social educators can find the key to harmony by spending a few nights at any Gay Bar. If they’re not afraid they’ll lose their own bigotry.

Is Texas destined to become a state interested only in female impersonators to the absolute dishonor of so many handsome boys in the area? The publishers of this paper would wish that a realistic contest be slated for the near future that would select the HAND-SOMEST men. Such a contest would certainly arouse more than passing interest in club patrons, and could, perhaps be staged on neutral ground or at a club large enough to handle the job. The man chosen for the title MISTER TEXAS and the other contestants could easily reap more than a trophy as his reward, for his future could lead to modeling and other things, whereas an impersonator of females can look only to the Gay world for acceptance.

Such a contest is a must in Texas, and should be held with a view to perhaps enlarging to a truly national contest, not merely the tool for promotion of a club or a newspaper, but an earnest attempt at a Gay version of the Mister Universe contest. It certainly would not hurt the Gay image in our world, and could produce evidence to a naive public that not all Gays wear girls clothing.

This paper strongly urges you to write of your opinion regarding this challenge, and should we receive the proper support, we feel we can enlist the aid of Texas Gay Scene Operators to put across such a contest.

Good looking men and boys should be seen.

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Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Recognizing the need for increased communication and cooperation between organizations working for gay rights and liberation, Gay Liberation/Arizona Desert (GLAD) is sponsoring a Southwest Gay conference.

Open to the public, the conference will be held May 26-28 at Arizona State University and will feature workshops, films, a gay pride parade, a tubing trip down the Salt River, and other activities. Organizations are being invited from Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah.

The conference will be sharing ideas and experiences with the emphasis on pooling resources, increasing solidarity, and working together. The workshops will be loosely structured and participatory in nature.

Registration forms will be mailed in the next few days. Suggestions and comments are welcome.

For more information, please write to above.

Yours in the struggle,

GLAD

--

The Sunday edition of the Advocate, a gay rights newspaper in Dallas, Texas, features articles on a Gay Pride Parade and a Gay Political Caucus, as well as letters to the editor discussing the impact of the Supreme Court's decision in the Baker v. Hosterman case on the rights of homosexuals. The Advocate also includes a listing for a “Mr. Gay Pride” contest and information on Bedlam, a gay bar in Houston.

The Advocate is a key resource for the LGBTQ+ community in Texas, providing news, activism, and cultural coverage to support the rights and interests of its readers.
as the letter indicates, she may do more to turn her boys against females than the gay fellow ever could.

GAY BROTHERS AND SISTERS?

I hope you will say a little prayer that Senator Washington (a heterosexual) will be successful on our behalf. Should we win this victory, let us then work for the civil rights of all mankind—not just gays.

On the other hand, if we do nothing WE WILL DESERVE WHAT WE GET.

Steve Jonason

"There should be fences even between friends. But they should have great holes in them." HABIB SHABID

HE IS DEAD

Oh, lamentable day!

Death lies upon him like an untimely frost upon the sweetest flower of the field.

David Joseph Hennessy died on April 22, 1973 at the age of 22. Born here in Houston on September 16, 1950, and a lifetime resident of the city. Few knew this lad as well as I but many were the people who loved him. He was the victim of a traffic accident in the small hours of Easter morning.

Having lived with David for five years I feel that his loss can never be replaced. For it was David Hennessy who taught me humanity and love. He was generous to all and a true lover of mankind. What he had done for everyone remains and no one can take that away. Life passes but love remains.

He worked for the Galmiche Salon, he was a respected hairdresser for his young age. His following was large.

Watching his development it seemed to come to full bloom almost over night.

Each person that met David could not help notice the personality of this young man, and his zest for living. In the spirit that he lived let us live and be joyful.

Scottie Harbers

FORT WORTH'S NEW ORGANIZATION

Any person who would like to join AURA, or would like more information concerning the organization should write to:

AURA
Ken A. Cyr, Chairman
P. O. Box 26063
Fort Worth, Texas 76116 or call Ken at 882-2659.

Chairman and founder of AURA, Kent A. Cyr, has announced that a meeting for prospective new members will be held the later part of May. Dues are $10 a year for Active Members and $5 a year for Associate Members.

Ken is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and serves as church clerk for Agape MCC. He has spoken several times at area colleges on behalf of the church.
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**STARTING MAY 30**

*Congratulation to SHOUT IT LOUD!

The GLF at Kent University is doing a great job of educating our fellow students, faculty and general public. Boldly, they print a small but interesting newsletter monthly. They frequently give dances in which straights and gays dance side by side. Also they conduct men and women's rap sessions and sponsor forums.

Perhaps the most dramatic thing they've accomplished was to demolish the sexism that had existed on the Men's Basketball Inter­mural teams by fielding a team of both men and women called the Lavender Menace. Their won-loss record wasn't impressive, but they were VISIBLE AS GAY PEOPLE. And they had a lot of fun. They were VISIBLE AS GAY PEOPLE. And they had a lot of fun. They were VISIBLE AS GAY PEOPLE. And they had a lot of fun. They were VISIBLE AS GAY PEOPLE. And they had a lot of fun. They were VISIBLE AS GAY PEOPLE. And they had a lot of fun.

**To Help Gay Priests**

Roman Catholics are planning to open a counseling center for homosexual priests, brothers and seminarians.

**Location of the center, to be called Renewal, Rest and Recreation, is undecided. Rev. John F. Harvey of Alexandria, Va., who is organizing it, says the center will focus on pastoral counseling and help for gay clergymen. He says he expects the program to be in operation within a year. Harvey says Catholics are reluctant to acknowledge homosexuals in the clergy. “Too many people are threatened by something which is so little understood,” he says. Establishment of the center is officially approved by the Catholic Church and will be listed in the Official Catholic Directory, says Harvey.

*Houston Chronicle 5/4/73*
At popular request, the MINI PARK is pleased to announce the return showing of "BOYS IN THE SAND" starting May 30th.

"FOUR MORE THAN MONEY"
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An AA’s Birthday

During the past month the Nuntius was invited to attend a “birthday” party. The party was for AA’s that have been sober for one, two or more years. My understanding of this program was greatly increased by the brief time spent with this group.

Hereewith is a writing by one of the “birthday” celebrants, a young woman but was celebrating her “1st” birthday of sobriety.

The search is yours and mine. Each finds his way with help, but yet alone.

Serenity is the goal.

It comes to those who learn to wait and grow;
For each can learn to understand himself and say, “I’ve found a joy in being I, and knowing you; a knowledge of the depths I can descend.
A chance to climb the heights above my head.”

The way is not so easy all the time. Our feet will stumble often as we go.
A friend may need to give others some extra help, as we once gave to others.
When in the hour of fear, this is no picnic path that we found; but yet compared to other days and other times, it seems a better route.
We lost our way before; In fear and guilt, resentments held too long.
Self pity had its way with us: We found the perfect alibi.
For all our faults, we do not know what life may bring.
From day to day, tomorrow is a task not yet begun, and we could fall to pass its test but this will wait.
While in today we do the best we can.
Today we try to grow.

The Nuntius is proud to present these beautiful cards that our community has needed for so long. This exclusive line of these very personal, thought provoking, art treasures are just what you’ve been waiting for. Great drawings, too much messages!”

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"Better are the blows of a friend than the false kisses of an enemy"
THOMAS A. BECKETT

THE TEEN SCENE

Often overlooked by operators but never neglected are the teenagers and under-21s in Texas, who, were they New Yorkers, could frequent the bars. This group of people who now have the right to vote, serve in the armed forces, and who pay taxes as would their adult counterpart find themselves in the strictest sense of the word a “minority.”
But thankfully, Friday and Saturday nights when the curfew takes over and the liquor and beer is put away, such Houston and Dallas bars as the Farmhouse, T.J.’s, the Bayou Landings open their doors to these young people for two hours of dancing and coke drinking.
The parents of such young adults who often send “rescue-money” to the runaways who find themselves better treated in other states should encourage Texas legislators to drop the drinking age to 18 years; San Francisco and New York and other exotic elixirs would quickly lose their appeal to these young adults whose only desire is to be able to dance and socialize some time before 2:00 a.m. and if not in school, perhaps even mid-week. These under 21’s may be kiddies to society, but to the Gay World are adults and should be treated so.

FIRE RAVAGES DETOUR

Fire ravages the Detour at 3113 Live Oak, Dallas, Texas the morning of May 14.

The rear of the building, which was an old residence, was being demolished and the Detour had plans for rebuilding that portion of the saloon and enlarging the facilities.
It is understood that the damage was extensive to the rear of the...
Mother Of Dallas Hospitalized

Madam Fertelizer, “Mother of Dallas Drag,” has been hospitalized and is in serious condition.

Madam Fertelizer has been for the past several years one of the performers at Rossue’s at 3326 McKinney having missed very few performances during this time. “Fertie,” as she is known to all who know her well is a friend to all who meet her.

Ron Hembry, Rossue’s owner and friend of “Fertie” held a benefit show in which about $730.00 was collected to help with expenses during his illness. This effort was picked up by the Encore and the Bayou Landing. About $500 was collected at the benefit at the Encore and another $450 at the Bayou Landing.

The female impersonators doing these benefits gave tips and all for their friend and fellow entertainer. This is a great example of what the collective Gay community can do to help when the need is there. “Fertie” will still require assistance during this period. If you have ever seen this “young past sixty”, she is your friend and needs your help. Please call or send what you feel you can afford to Mr. Ron Hembry, Rossues - 3326 McKinney, Dallas, Texas - Phone 526-9333.

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GUESS WHOSE COMING TO TEXAS

Troy Perry, gaydom’s most charismatic leader will be in Dallas May 25, 26, and 27, and he’ll be in Ft. Worth May 28, 29 and 30. There’s full days of activities being planned by the Dallas Metropolitan Community Church, said Reverend Richard Vincent. Starting Friday at 8:00 pm there will be an Open House. The next day will be filled with special music, a buffet dinner and a program of varied entertainment. Then Sunday morning at 11:00 Troy Perry will officiate at the dedication of Dallas’ own MCC building.

This building, at 3834 Ross Avenue, was built in the Depression 30’s as a private hospital. Today the architecture is quiet but interesting and the structure sound. But the building had been vacant for many years and vandals had smashed most of the windows. Through the years, thieves had forced entry and carried off everything of value. Then hippies, seeking shelter from Dallas’ cruel winter’s “liberated” the building and made it their home.

When MCC purchased the building, it was in shambles. On that cold December day, when the congregation first looked at it, many were discouraged and thought it beyond repair. But about 100 members (and non-members) pitched in, rolled up their sleeves and set to work. Window panes were replaced. The leaking roof was repaired. Hug holes in the floors and walls were patched. While some workers were doing all this, others were busy sheetrocking, putting in new electrical wiring, cleaning windows, painting, nailing, hammering. Then came a new floor, with gold carpet. When the sanctuary was finished, a beautiful organ was donated.

Guess Whose Coming To Texas

But to those who’ve labored so hard, it is simply beautiful. New Troy Perry will bless and dedicate -- Dallas’ First Gay Church! (From The Gay Insider, USA by John Francis Hunter)

Can a man of the cloth proclaim himself a homosexual and still effectually lead a flock?

Until a very few years ago such a question was not openly raised in the homosexual community, and if it was presented to theologians, the answer was generally in the negative if provided at all. Most theologians would rather not ponder such questions. The majority of homosexuals as well as preachers (they’ve never been mutually exclusive entities) seemed to prefer that such questions not be asked, not be answered.

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Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people have a long history of activism and advocacy, often in opposition to religious and political forces. One figure prominent in this context is Troy Perry, a prominent figure in the gay liberation movement, famous for his role in the founding of Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). Perry was known for his charisma, his ability to attract large crowds, and his advocacy for LGBTQ rights. His work has been both celebrated and controversial, with some religious leaders viewing him as a threat to traditional religious beliefs and others seeing him as a champion for marginalized people. Perry’s appearances in Dallas, as described in the text, were part of a broader tour that included events at both the Encore and another MCC establishment nearby.

The text also reflects the challenges faced by early LGBT activists in garnering support for their causes. The organizers of events were often met with resistance from religious and political leaders, who viewed their activism as a threat to the status quo. Despite these challenges, activists persisted, inspired by the belief in a future where everyone could be openly gay and have equal rights. The text also touches on themes of community and support, highlighting the importance of local organizations and friends in providing assistance during times of need.
During church service on the aforementioned Sunday, Perry, good-naturedly told a city official's call to ask how many demonstrators he anticipated. Perry had estimated.

"A thousand," the man replied.

"Are there a thousand homosexuals in Los Angeles?"

"That really blew my mind," Perry cried as his congregation roared: "I explained if there weren't a thousand, there certainly were a lot of limitations running around!"

While heavily involved in advancing the cause of sexual revolution, the cause of sexual enlightenment and freedom from discrimination in his community, the seemingly indefatigable Perry's first commitment is to his church. The variety of activities besides Sunday morning worship service include prayer meetings/ Bible classes; and "Alcoholics Together" group; a class for the deaf; marriage ceremonies (performed for couples who have been together for at least six months); and a Rescue Squad which responds to telephone hot-line pleas for homosexuals in immediate crisis caused, they said, by the indifference of the world to their lonely suffering has become overwhelming to them. Perry offers understanding and extends a welcome to homosexuals in immediate crisis. It's just as natural to be homosexual as it is to be heterosexual!"

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some malevolent experience, or of being locked into restrictive roles. We can group aging into three categories: biological, social, and psychological.

**Biological Aging:** This refers to changes in the organism's vulnerability to disease and the susceptibility to environmental demands of other organisms. Physiological age influences this, and biological age is also determined by other factors that include his ability to employ his capacities. This can mean that a person of fifty can still function sexually, or he can be a loving person if his drive is not physiologically diminished.

**Social Aging:** This plays a strong role in Gay Life but merely refers to an individual's social habits relative to his age group. A person's behavior is often self-imposed and, according to some, merely because it is "expected" he act his age. Be more conservatively; conversely more lecherous, etc. But the aging Gay will often forced to act in accordance with norms that decide whether he acts too young for his age. Let's probe into the biological determinants. Each animal species, on the average, only lives a certain length of time. If there are large individual differences around the average, the lifetime of, for example, range from a few minutes to well over a hundred years. To some extent, an individual's life span is determined genetically. For instance, if your grandparents were long-lived, you may have one small advantage in the biological determinants. But the environmental factors play a larger role; the food we eat, temperature, demands for work, will determine easily well into his nineties. Variations in man's environment of different ages and social and intellectual activities; the criteria here is a simple balance is not prevalent, then the aging Gay, and in some cases his activity can (and usually does) become related to human and social interplay and with dignity from the "scene." But although older people do begin to distance themselves from many social roles, their activity can (and usually does) become related to life and social satisfaction and the tendency is to plan and attend more productive encounters (less frequently but nevertheless productive) with sexual and social partners at parties and other limited events. Loneliness - personal and social and intellectual - is the most wicked scourge of the aging.

**Psychological Aging:** Sex is curtailed only psychologically by the aging Gay, and if the loss of hormonal or other medical imbalance is not prevalent, then this person's sexual life can continue easily well into his nineties. The criteria here is a simple desire. The availability of a sexual partner. Most Gays have a tendency to sublimate their sexual desires. Age should make little difference in one's life, and if he should become less active sexually, then a great deal of the fault lies with his own self-hate. For psychologically mature individuals, though growing older, does not change - a loving person is still a loving person, and paranoid is still paranoid at any age, and an old roué still lusted after new tricks.

The story of life can actually be divided into sections. As one grows older, the reasoning becomes more logical, and he can still love and enjoy life. He can still appreciate the beauty of nature, and he can still have a healthy sex life. He can still be a good friend, a good father, a good husband, a good lover. He can still be a loving person, an paranoid is still paranoid at any age, and an old roué still lusted after new tricks.

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OWN YOUR OWN HOUSEMAN -- Enjoy your coffee in bed! Single, handsome, personable, employed white male, twenty-seven, would like job as house-man, doing light house work and yard work in exchange for room and board with single man or couple. Looking for big brother image to watch over me. Likes home atmosphere, would make good host for your parties and companions. Contact Bill at 437-7109 between 5:30 and 10 p.m. Willing worker, would make good house-pet. Only sincere reply please.

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