

# GROUPS OFFER SUPPORT TO GAY IRANIANS

WASHINGTON — Gay Iranians in the United States who face deportation may be able to use their homosexuality as a defense to remain in this country, said the International Gay Association.

Because of the execution of gay men in Iran earlier this year, openly gay Iranian students may assert that they would be in danger by returning to their homeland, IGA said, adding that a hardship petition may be successful in delaying or defeating deportation under these circumstances.

Meanwhile, in Dallas, the Texas Human Rights Foundation announced Nov. 30 that it has the intention of reviewing any deportation orders against gay Iranians residing in the U.S. The foundation said it had received requests for help from some gay Iranians concerned for their safety if returned to Iran.

The THRF said it sent a telegram to the commissioner of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service explaining the news reports of executions of gay Iranians.

In a recent interview with

noted Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci, the Ayatollah Khomeini reportedly said, in regard to the execution of homosexuals, "If your finger suffers gangrene, what do you do? Do you let the whole hand, and then the body become filled with gangrene or do you cut the finger off?"

Gay Iranians in Texas needing help were invited to contact THRF in Dallas at 522-5991 or in Houston at 526-9139. For other areas, the International Gay Agency can be reached in Washington at 234-6268.

The Texas Human Rights

Foundation says it is a non-profit public litigating corporation chartered to fight discrimination on the basis of sex, race, creed, national origin, age, handicap status, and sexual or affectional preference.

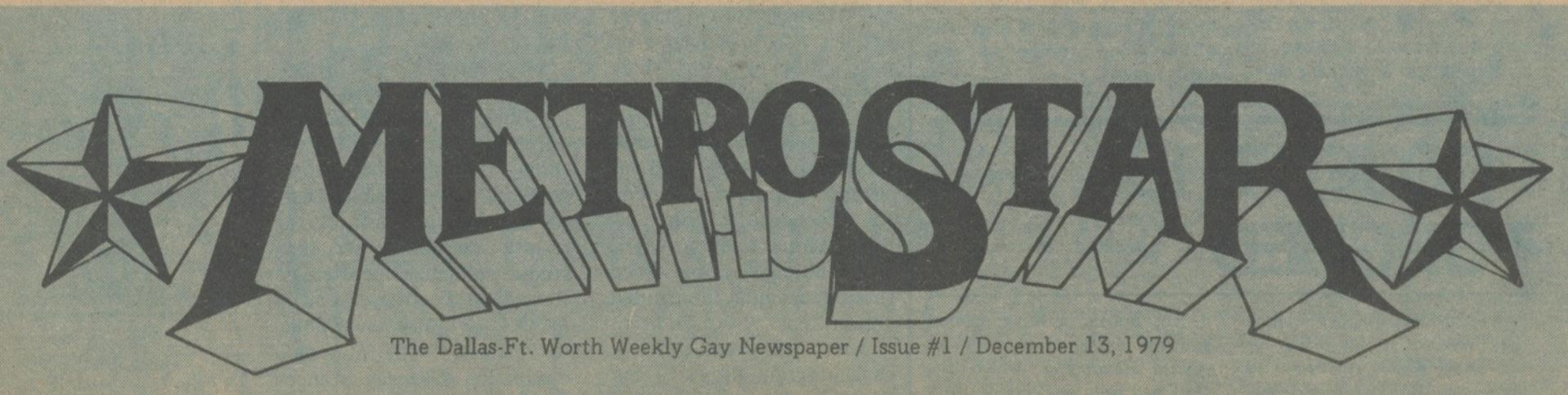
Four months ago, THRF was successful in getting then-INS commissioner Leonel Castillo to issue a directive instructing local INS agents not to bar foreign visitors from the country on the basis of sexual orientation.

However, the U.S. State Department Oct. 15 directed its 250 consular and diplomatic

posts around the world to continue excluding foreign gay men and women from eligibility for U.S. visas. The issue remains unresolved.

The International Gay Association is a British-based group which recently opened an office in Washington at 1469 Church Street, N.W.

IGA said its goals are to "promote the unity of gay people throughout the world by dissemination of information on gay oppression and liberation."



## DALLAS MAN CHALLENGES STATE SODOMY LAW

The Texas Human Rights Foundation filed a lawsuit Nov. 19 aimed at repealing section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, the section which outlaws sexual relations between adults of the same sex in private.

The civil suit was filed by Dallas attorney James C. Barber on behalf of Donald F. Baker, a 32-year-old gay community leader and Oak Lawn resident.

Baker has been openly-gay for the past five years and says he is now quite comfortable with his sexual orientation, although it was not always so. For seven years earlier, he says, he fought over the issue in his mind.

Although most metropolitan police departments in the state, including Dallas, say they never enforce Section 21.06, Baker says it nonetheless has a chilling effect on his private sex life. It technically makes most gay people criminals and the law can be the legal reason for discrimination against gay people in housing, jobs and child custody cases.

Baker said that the law "declares that homosexuals are criminals, and is used to poison society's concept of decent and otherwise law-abiding men and women."

Barber, his attorney, said he has a "reasonable chance" of being successful with the suit.

The legislature had repealed a law prohibiting sodomy be-

tween men and women but in 1973 reinstated the law outlawing sexual relations between members of the same sex.

"That singles us out for some sort of enforcement that the rest of society is not pressured into," he said.

Baker said he anticipates that the controversy surrounding the case might bring the issue of homosexual teachers back before the Dallas school board. Baker was once a teacher in the system and says he plans to return after finishing his master's degree at Southern Methodist University.

He said he hopes that the controversial issue of gay teachers remains quiet. "It just so happens I am an educator."

The Dallas Independent School District's board has issued no written policy on the subject of gay teachers, but two

years ago Supt. Nolan Estes made some strong homophobic remarks and said he would fire any known gay teachers.

He later calmed his stated view, saying as long as gay teachers kept their private life away from their professional conduct, they would not be fired.

Baker once debated anti-gay evangelist James Robinson on television. He was a sixth grade teacher at the time.

"We didn't talk about it, the parents (of the children in his class) and I, but it was kind of, 'We're going to respect Mr. Baker and we're not going to rock the boat and put him on the spot,' Baker said.

"The students didn't know what to expect (after the debate was broadcast) the first couple of days. But after several days it was back to the same routine. They were looking for a pat on the head. They were looking for my support, and I was happy to give it to them."

Baker added that if any parents had felt their child should not be taught by him, he would not have pressed the issue.

"If a schoolteacher, heterosexual or homosexual, should ever bring up his sexual orientation and make it a point in the classroom, he should be dismissed. I would hope a parent would want me for my ability to serve as a good teacher,



not because of my sexual orientation," he told a reporter for the *Dallas Times Herald*.

Why is this Oak Lawn resident the one to make the formal challenge to Section 21.06? He said because he believes he has a moral mandate to clear up myths about homosexuals.

"I knew when people spoke of homosexuals, they thought of degenerates, perverts, all the

negative things. But that's not true. It would be morally wrong for me to allow this kind of lie to continue in this society," he said.

"Many gay people still live with this sense of self-hate I once felt," he added.

He said he is fighting 21.06 because the illegality of homosexual acts makes it harder for gay people to lead positive lives.

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# District Lines Drawn for Dallas

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department last month ended a months-long squabble with the City of Dallas by concluding its latest reapportionment plan does not appear to discriminate against blacks and Mexican-Americans.

Assistant Attorney General Drew Days III, who opposed several previous Dallas proposals, gave the go-ahead to the latest plan and withdrew his objection under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The plan calls for a change from selection of eleven at-large city council members to a system of selecting eight

members from single-member districts and three at-large members, including the mayor.

Some gay leaders are not expecting the new system to result in the election of any gay candidates but they do think it could be responsible for getting some pro-gay candidates elected, especially in the district that includes the area of Oak Lawn.

Another Texas city, Houston, recently underwent a Justice Department-supervised election which did result in several candidates being elected who promised to work toward the hiring of homosexuals as police officers and for other gay rights issues.

## PROJECT IS TORCHED

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA) — Three fires were set in the offices of the Equal Rights Advocates in late-November. Two were inside and one outside the work space of the Lesbian Rights Project.

The fires destroyed case files, teaching materials, correspon-

dence, books, a filing cabinet and the drafts of the *Lesbian Rights Handbook*, which the staff had been working on for a year.

A filing card list of names and addresses was also stolen. •

## Gay View gets Priority on National TV

By Roy G. Hall  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The gay communities of Dallas and Fort Worth were well represented for the Nov. 13 filming of a segment of *The Baxters*, a syndicated television program which weekly presents controversial topics.

This segment was aired Nov. 24 and dealt with the subject of an openly-gay school teacher.

In this program, the Baxters' teenage son's science teacher was discovered on page four of the daily newspaper as taking active part in a gay rights demonstration, and while the Baxter son, along with his sister and mother, defended the teacher, the father remained uncertain.

An irate neighbor waved the paper and "demanded action."

After the dramatization, each program allows fifteen to twenty minutes for the studio audience to respond, usually led by two individuals representing the

opposing points of view.

Studio management at KXAS-TV, the station which carries *The Baxters* locally, contacted the Dallas Gay Political Caucus and the gay Metropolitan Community Churches to present the gay side of the issue and they contacted some local conservative religious leaders to present positions opposing the gay side.

Also present were a number of students from Tarrant County Junior College in Fort Worth.

Moderator Charlie Rose did not discover until filming time that the fundamentalist spokesmen failed to show, leaving the show without an opposing view to the gay position. As a result, members of the studio audience, led by the Rev. Don Eastman, pastor of MCC in Dallas, were able to present with minimal opposition the gay stance on the topic.

No explanation was given for the absence of the invited fundamentalist spokes-

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men, it was an opportunity for the gay people of the Metroplex to openly address the issue for television viewers. •

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# THOUSANDS MARCH IN MEMORY

SAN FRANCISCO (IGNA) — Thousands of marchers carrying gay-power banners and lighted candles wound their way through silent neighborhood streets Nov. 27 in memory of slain Mayor George Moscone and gay Supervisor Harvey Milk.

The marchers (estimates varied from 15,000 to 40,000), in a vigil that stretched for three city blocks, turned out to commemorate the first anniversary of the City Hall shootings of the two.

The march was peaceful. Present Mayor Dianne Feinstein led the procession.

Ex-Supervisor Dan White is serving seven years and eight months in prison for the slayings.

Various singers and speakers

shared their sentiments with the crowd, who applauded and raised their candles to show their approval.

Cleve Jones, master of ceremonies, spoke of the anti-gay hatred that was said to be the motive for the killings.

Wayne Friday, a political columnist for the *Bay Area Reporter*, was the most controversial speaker, referring to White's "closet," suggesting ambiguously that White was either a closet homosexual who could not face his inner reality or that he was in a "closet" of self-disgust that made him kill two other men to relieve his inner tensions in the same way that husbands who batter their wives or children do.

The San Francisco Gay Men's

Chorus sang several songs, and the evening closed with a surprise visit by recording star Sylvester.

The crowd disbursed quietly and the police riot squad stationed just beyond the site of the gathering had nothing to do but watch.

Earlier in the day, about 4000 attended a noon-time memorial service at the Civic Center. Robert Milk, the brother of the slain supervisor, spoke, calling for an end to discrimination against sexual minorities and urging the passage of legislation to guarantee full human rights for all.

Mayor Feinstein and gay Supervisor Harry Britt also made speeches at the noon ceremony.

# Obscenity Case put Before High Court

WASHINGTON, D.C. (IGNA) — The U.S. Supreme Court recently accepted for consideration a case involving the legal areas of obscenity, search and seizure, and free expression. The case sprung from a conviction a few years back of two men who transported homosexual films across state lines by common carrier.

The two men were sentenced to three years in prison and their companies fined \$33,000.

These questions were set to be explored by the high court:

1. When the government obtains allegedly obscene materials without a warrant from a *willing* third party (as happened in this situation), is there an illegal search and seizure?

2. When the government keeps the materials seized without a court hearing, is that a form of unconstitutional censorship?

3. If it is censorship, should the government be prevented from using the evidence in a criminal case or simply be required to return the films?

4. Should a judge instruct a jury on the way to use "community standards" to decide whether materials are obscene?

The issue arose when a shipment of films showing homosexual erotica was mistakenly sent by a Greyhound Bus employee to the wrong recipient. The manager of the firm that received the films called the FBI.

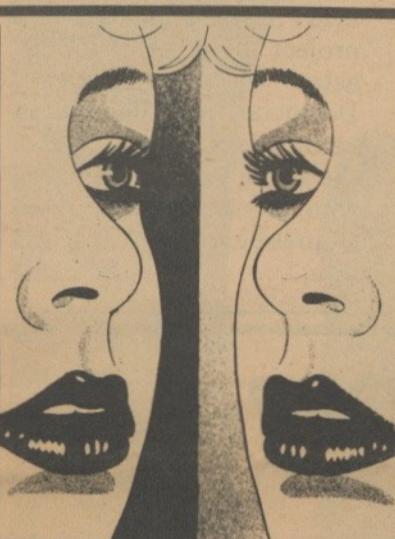
The convicted men appealed but a split Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld their convictions, concluding that FBI agents had acted legally because they had obtained the films as a result of a private, non-government search.

However, Fifth Circuit Judge John M. Wisdom disagreed, saying that his colleagues failed to interpret the Fourth Amendment (unreasonable searches and seizures) together with the First Amendment (freedom of expression).

Wisdom said that the case showed that the government could misuse its power of search and seizure to suppress publication.

The case was set to test the validity of the 58-year-old "Burdeau Rule" which says papers stolen by a thief and turned over to the government can be used as evidence in a trial.

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# Group Planning to Ask Amnesty Int'l for Help

WASHINGTON (IGNA) — A group called the International Lesbian and Gay Association has started plans to try and get Amnesty International to include gay prisoners as "prisoners of conscience."

In general, Amnesty International has not shown much interest in people imprisoned because of their sexual orientation or behavior, even though the stated aim of the organization is "to mobilize public opinion to introduce effective international machinery to guarantee freedom of speech and of religion as set out in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to work for the release of men and women imprisoned for their beliefs and for the relief, where necessary, of their families."

The cases the ILGA wishes to bring up include that of Sergei Paradjanov, a dissident Russian

film director who disappeared after being sentenced to a term in a concentration camp for being homosexual.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry office last year said that Paradjanov had been released, yet no one from ILGA had been able to verify this statement or had heard from the man.

Another case ILGA would like to bring up is that of Ralph Lobaugh, who was arrested in 1947 in Indiana and charged with the rape and murder of three women. However, two other men were later convicted of the crime and Lobaugh was supposed to be released. However, during the investigation, it was discovered that Lobaugh was homosexual, and ILGA claims, he has been held incarcerated for that reason since 1950, although he had never been convicted of any crime.

# BROWN FIRST TO MAKE OPEN APPEAL TO GAYS IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE

WASHINGTON — California Gov. Edmund G. "Jerry" Brown Jr. has become the first candidate in the 1980 presidential race to make an open, personal appeal for the support of gay voters, reports the *Washington Post*.

Other presidential candidates have made pro-gay statements but not before large gay gatherings.

Brown told a crowd of more than 600 at a Washington gay disco that he planned to bring the gay rights issue to the forefront of Democratic party politics, and, if elected president, to work for a far-reaching agenda to promote gay rights, the newspaper reported.

Brown said he would issue an executive order ban-

ning discrimination against homosexuals in the federal government, work for passage of national gay rights legislation, and appoint qualified gay people to federal jobs.

President Carter and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) send emissaries to represent them at the event.

In a letter read by Susan Estrich, the top ranking woman on his Senate staff, Kennedy said:

"When a qualified individual is denied employment or a financially able person refused housing because of his or her race or sex or sexual preference, then we must all be concerned. So too, we must be concerned when an individual is denied permission to come into this

country because of a statute based on outmoded medical and psychiatric views of homosexuality."

Carter sent Michael Chanin, a deputy presidential assistant, instead of a top-level aide. Chanin was loudly booed.

"What happened to Bella (Abzug)? What happened to Midge Costanza?" one heckler yelled, referring to two top ranking advisers on women's issues whom Carter fired.

Chanin told the rally, held to raise funds for a project to elect gay delegates to next summer's Democratic and Republican conventions, "You have in the White House a president who is meeting with you, a president who respects you."

# travel: OKLAHOMA IS MORE THAN 'OK,' IT'S A HOT PLACE TO VISIT

By Bob Damron  
TRAVEL CRITIC.

OKLAHOMA CITY — The state of Oklahoma has survived the rise and fall of the Indian nations, a land rush, an oil boom and the Dust Bowl days of the thirties. Today, the Land of cowboys, Indians and rodeos is called the Sooner State because early settlers sneaked across the border and homesteaded their land sooner than the date set by federal law.

At least, that's what I'm told.

The major cities of this state are Oklahoma City and Tulsa, 800,000 and 600,000 in metropolitan population, respectively, and are only a hundred miles apart on the Turner Turnpike.

Oklahoma City is the state capital. It's the only state capital in the country with oil wells pumping away on the Capitol grounds. (Maybe Austin should try this.)

The Capitol building is a point of interest in the city, as is cruisy Will Rogers Park, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, Lincoln Park Zoo, Oklahoma City Uni-

versity, Tinker Air Force Base, and the FAA (not to be confused with FFA) Aeronautical Center.

For lodging, I recommend the Hilton Inn near the airport, and for "straight" dining, I recommend Christopher's, El Zocalo, the Haunted House, Oklahoma Station, Tony's Via Room and Val-Gene's.

The most impressive gay club in Oklahoma City is the Free Spirit, a super disco situated in a converted church at 3125 N.W. Classen. A placard on the building proclaims their creed: "You have the freedom to be yourself — here and now."

Women in Oklahoma City seem to prefer D.J.'s Crescendo on N.W. 39th Street, a street known as the "Gay Strip."

The Circa Club at 2201 N.W. 39th (one block west of Penn) is the top gay western cruise bar. In the next block is Huggy Bear, a new private club with go-go boys, and just across the street is the Warehouse, a late-night spot for "action" after-hours.

Colorado's is a friendly neighborhood beer tavern at

the corner of 32nd and May, while Tony's is a promising new showbar at 8913 North Western.

The Renaissance Athletic Club at 1704 N.W. 25th is Oklahoma's first gay bath. It's a straight health club in the daytime but certainly gay at night with its olympic-sized pool. If the Baptists and the city fathers don't hassle them, it should prove to be a success.

Tulsa was known as the "Oil Capital of the World" before Mideast countries took the title away. Among the attractions in Tulsa are the International Petroleum Exposition, Oral Roberts University, the Philbrook Art Center, the University of Tulsa, the Will Rogers Memorial, cruisy Woodward Park, and the Catoosa, an inland water port.

Tulsa is a culturally vibrant city noted for its symphony, civic ballet, opera and community theaters.

The better "straight" restaurants here include Chateau Latour, Louisianne, Molly Murphy's and the Shadow Mountain Inn. For lodging, I suggest one of the Hilton, Sheraton or Holiday Inns.

Tulsa's gay bars have recently seen a big transition, with four places closing, one moving, and a new one opening.

The hot cruise bars currently are the Playroom at 2252 E. 11th Street and the new Taj Mahal at 1102 S. Lewis.

The owner of one of the city's gay bars point out to me that Tulsa spelled backwards is "A Slut." Right on.

The back doors to both the Taj Mahal and the Playroom open onto a sort of communal patio where guys congregate for drinking, smoking, and whatever.

Zipper's at 33rd and Yale is a unisex disco, especially popular on weekends. Their Sunday shows are very popular.

Other clubs include the Bamboo, which attracts some hip young hustlers, and The Club, for lesbians.

Bars in the state of Oklahoma are much like bars in Texas, open nightly to 2:00 a.m., except in Tulsa where they're open to 3:00 a.m. on weekends. However, this is the Bible Belt, so only beer is served in public taverns. Because of this, most gay clubs

are "private" clubs, and if you're not a member, you'll need to show an out-of-state drivers license and pay a small membership fee to get in. This way, they can serve mixed drinks.

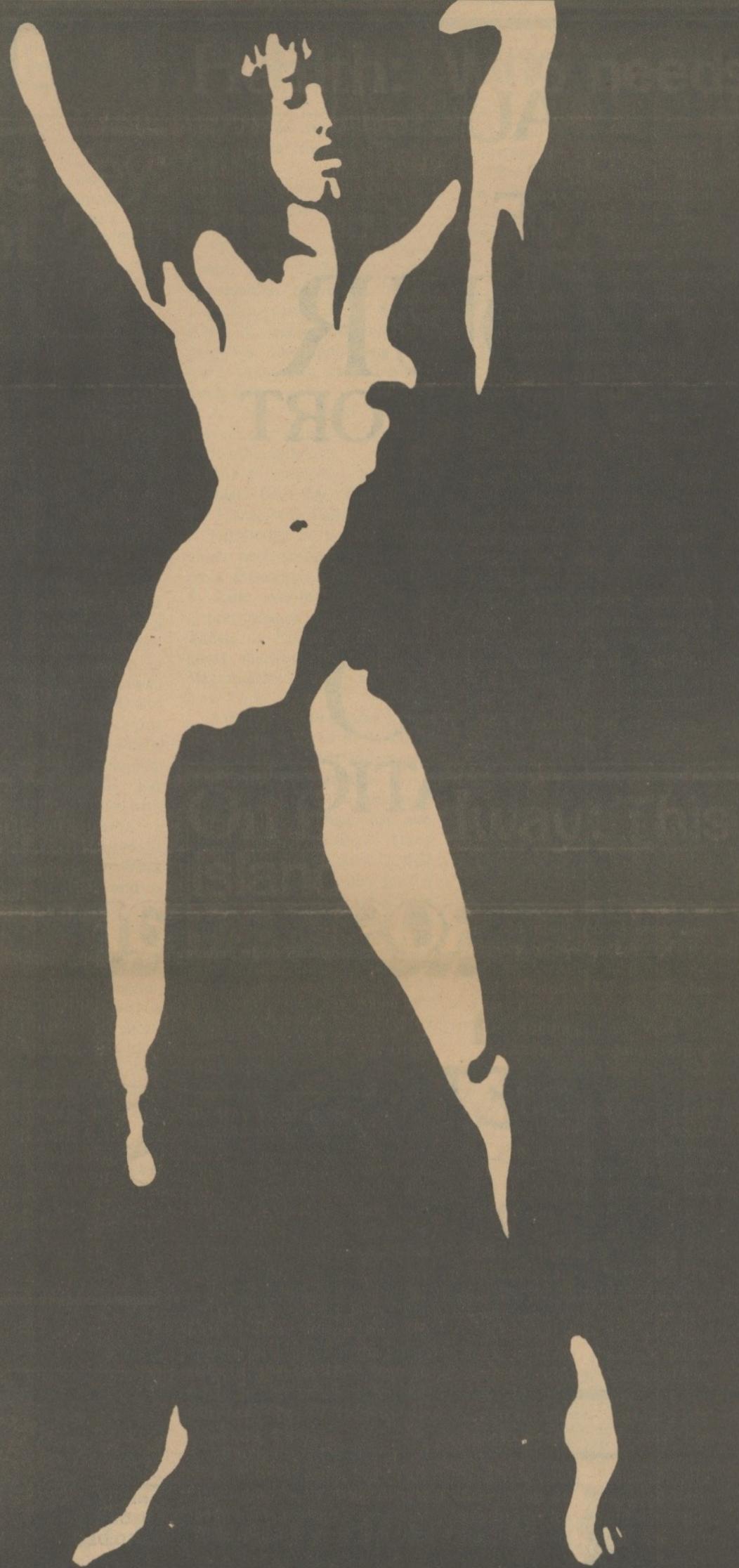
This is also true with certain restaurants, so inquire ahead of time by phone as to house policy.

A parting word: People in Oklahoma, despite what Merle Haggard sang, do not like to be referred to as Okie's. But the people here, especially the gay people, are very friendly and will show you a good time.

In short, Oklahoma is Okay.

(Be sure to pick up a copy of Bob Damron's Address Book, 1980 edition, America's foremost gay travel guide, available at leading clubs, bookstores and baths, or by mail for \$8.00, which includes postage, from P.O. Box 14077, San Francisco, CA 94114.)





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# horoscope

## IT'S GOING TO BE A GOOD WEEK!

**ARIES** [March 21-April 19] - Attention to health care should be foremost on your agenda this week. Discard plans that are physically taxing. Developments can be favorable for employment concerns dealing with fellow workers.

**TAURUS** [April 20-May 20] - You can successfully promote artistic and creative endeavors so go after goals. Not a week for risky ventures, however. Stick with interests you feel secure with. Your optimism is important now.

**GEMINI** [May 21-June 21] - Some long-term affairs may be culminated this week and other new undertakings gotten underway. Elders with experience play important role with your plans so seek advice before laying new foundations.

**CANCER** [June 22-July 21] - Display your mental expertise; pursuits involving new intellectual activities set off a different routine. Ties with close friends can be strengthened.

**LEO** [July 22-August 21] - Concerns which involve your personal resources, earnings come to the fore; guard possessions more carefully. Direct efforts toward improving present financial situation, making conditions more stable.

**VIRGO** [August 22-September 22] - Show your industriousness, ability to concentrate on important projects. Challenging demands and assignments can be met with expert know-how on your part. Make decisions based on sound facts.

**LIBRA** [September 23-October 22] - The week should be used constructively to first clear away pending matters and obligations. Settle for a quieter routine that gives extra time for self analysis, reorganizing and charitable causes.

**SCORPIO** [October 23-November 21] - Take stock of assets then take advantage of new opportunity and offers you get now through social contacts. Most hopes and wishes are realistic and attainable through your own efforts.

**SAGITTARIUS** [November 22-December 20] - You get favorable notice from superiors by giving your best. There's a good possibility of meeting influential people who can assist your career aims. Popularity is heightened.

**CAPRICORN** [December 21-January 20] - Dealings with people at a distance could prove profitable so make contacts to get things underway. Pay more attention to future plans, getting a long-range program into motion.

**AQUARIUS** [January 21-February 19] - You get your share of jointly owned business endeavors. Use intuitive abilities in making new decisions which involve partnership deals. Consider abandoning old methods for new, updated ones.

**PISCES** [February 20-March 20] - Some compromises are now necessary to get achievements made. Strive for good teamwork with associates. Meet challenges and competition with confidence.

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# MELBA MOORE: A Singer and Then Some

By Ram Rocha  
DISCO CRITIC

She's an actress, singer, recording artist, TV, nightclub and concert performer. She's also pretty, energetic, even brilliant.

She's Melba Moore.

And she has a large gay following.

"Lucky. I am so lucky," she said when asked about that following.

This multi-talented vocalist's second LP on the Epic label, *Burn*, is not run-of-the-mill disco. The fact that it was produced by Pete Bellotte says that. (Bellotte co-wrote and coproduced Donna Summer from *Love to Love You Baby* to *Hot Stuff/Bad Girls*.)

Melba has been "burning" since making the transition from a school teacher in her native New York to a professional singer in the Catskills. She eventually managed to join in the company of the Broadway show *Hair*, where, in a year and a half, she went from the chorus to the leading role of Shiela.

*Hair* became Melba's stepping stone to stardom. She left the production to co-star with Cleavon Little in *Purlie*, a musical. She went on to win a Tony Award, a New York Drama Critics' award and a Drama Desk Award.

After leaving *Purlie*, Melba established herself as a unique actress with her portrayal of Harriet Tubman on a TV special, *The American Woman: Portraits of Courage*. She has also guest-starred on several television programs, starred in her own CBS summer series, and appeared in the film of *Cotton Comes to Harlem*, in the American Film Theater production of *Lost in the Stars*, and in the movie version of *Hair*.

Using her four octave vocal range as an instrument, Melba's varying singing style has been responsible for five other albums before *Burn*. They are *Peach Melba, Melba, This Is It* (which earned a Grammy nomination for the cut, "Lean on Me"), *A Portrait of Melba*, and last year's *Melba Moore* (which featured "You Stepped Into My Life").

Last year also signified Melba's return to the Broadway

stage in the starring role of Marsinah in the hit musical, *Timbuktu!*

How does she feel about female impersonators "doing her" on stage?

"I feel it's a great compliment. I've never seen one impersonate me but I believe that the person doing this on stage is happy and truly appreciates the applauding and really believes in what they are doing."

A lithe, graceful woman, she appears regularly in concert halls and nightclubs.

She's currently appearing, through Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Fairmont in Dallas.

Milestones in her career include performing with the Detroit, Pittsburgh, Richmond and Syracuse symphony orchestras, a performance at the Olympia Theater in Paris, and her prestigious one-woman show at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

Asked how *Burn* came about, she said, "I wanted to do something that had spirit and express my personality, regardless."

One cut on the album is "Miss Thing," which has also been released as a single. Asked how a song with such a title arose, she said, "The idea for the cut came up as we (Pete Bellotte and herself) were looking for something that had a sense of humor and at the same time something that would relate to all people, even if some don't know how the phrase got its start."

"See, 'Miss Thing' started back when it was used as a saying by black females and now has wound up among gays. I wanted to use 'Miss Thing' to appeal to all groups."

Regarding her new album, she said, "It's up-tempo, happy, music and good sounds that express my feelings. It also meant a sacrifice in leaving the slow material out and I realized that people would miss the ballads."

Melba recently taped a Bea Arthur TV special and she says, "It's hilarious, just hilarious.... I just loved being with Rock Hudson, Wayland Flowers and Madame. Also it's the first time

that I had done 'Miss Thing' on any stage."

"Briefly, Bea plays an evangelist. She preaches to Rock Hudson and myself sitting and Wayland Flowers and Madame are playing the organ. The meeting takes place under a big tent revival. It's so funny that I

can't wait to see. I believe it will air sometime after Christmas."

Melba also appeared in a recent *Love Boat* episode, where she played football/needlepoint star Rosie Grier's wife in a "cute comedy that turns out, well, very *Love Boat* comedy, you know."

The future for Melba? She says, "Right now we are doing the final plans for the film version of *Purlie*. Everybody loved the play and I loved doing the role."

Melba Moore is recognized universally as a major and innovative artist. •



## HOUSTON CLUB BURNS

HOUSTON (MONTROSE STAR) — The Lamp Post, a gay bar in the Rice University "Village" area of Houston, burned early Thursday morning, Nov. 29. Owners Norma Brown and Chara Lunguia estimated the loss at \$25,000.

The fire apparently started in a lumber yard near the rear of the building shortly after midnight, fire inspectors said, causing damage

not only to the bar but several other neighboring businesses.

The club owners were waiting for city inspectors to tell them whether they could rebuild in the remaining structure or whether the building would have to be completely leveled and rebuilt from scratch. As of Tuesday, Dec. 4, no decision had been rendered, Brown said.

Brown and Lunguia had operated the Lamp Post, at 2417 Times Blvd., for the past eight years. They had owned the Briar Patch, another gay club, at 2294 Holcombe, prior to that.

The Lamp Post location had been the site for a gay bar in Houston ever since Houston probably first had gay bars. In the 1960s, a gay club was located there called the Old Stadium.

## BAND LEAD ARRESTED; Faces \$50 to \$500 Fine

HOUSTON — An organizer of the Montrose Marching Band was arrested Nov. 27 and charged with illegally prescribing glasses and contact lenses.

Arrested was Clint Moncrief who operates Specs of Houston, an optical store.

He was charged with violation of the Texas Optometric Act. If convicted, he faces a fine of \$50 to \$500 and two to six months in jail.

The Montrose Marching Band is a mostly-gay group which performs around the Houston

gay community and recently led the national gay march on the nation's capital.

Prosecutor George Godwin said Moncrief is licensed by the state as a dispensing optician and may legally fit glasses and contact lenses under the direct supervision of a physician or optometrist.

Instead, Moncrief has been performing his own examinations, then fitting the lenses, Godwin claimed.

He said this was the first criminal charge in the state filed under the Optometric Act. •

# Gay Vote Crucial Tuesday in SF Election

By Daniel Curzon  
IGNA

SAN FRANCISCO — The next mayor of San Francisco won't be gay but he or she may have to have the gay vote to get elected.

Because of the closeness in the Nov. 6 initial election between incumbent Dianne Feinstein and Supervisor Quentin Kopp (42% for Feinstein and 40% for Kopp), the candidate who came in third, openly-gay David Scott, has been in the position of eliciting concessions.

Many of the 18,506 who voted for Scott (about 10% of the vote) did so because they wanted to show that there is a gay bloc in the city and that attention should be paid to it.

The runoff election on Tuesday, Dec. 11, will settle the mayor's race. For the past four weeks, the contenders have been trying to raise additional funds and to obtain votes from Scott forces. Some wheeling and dealing has taken place.

Supervisor Harry Britt, who is gay and who was appointed to replace the slain Harvey Milk, also gay, got 27% of the vote

Nov. 6 in his district, followed by Terence Hallinan with 22% and Kay Patchner with 21%. Britt and Hallinan are thus coming face-to-face in the runoff with Patchner's liberal vote expected to go mostly to Britt.

Patchner had much lesbian support, although she herself is not a lesbian.

In another important contest, District Attorney Joseph Freitas lost initially to Arlo Smith by a wide margin (70,304 to 45,668), but Smith did not receive the necessary majority and will have to face Freitas in the runoff.

Carol Ruth Silver, who ran in direct opposition to Freitas' handling of the Dan White murder trial, did almost as well as Freitas, with 41,310 votes.

Only 54% of the voters turned out on the rainy election day, Nov. 6, among the lowest turnouts for a mayoral election in modern times in this city.

In other issues, voters decided not to abolish the Police Department's vice squad, not to introduce rent control and not to require large businesses to cover 60% of city revenues. •

# Minn. Man Awarded \$31,000 in Discrimination Case

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Commission on Civil Rights notified Tim Campbell last month that he is entitled to receive two years back pay and other compensation from the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Association because he was discriminated against on account of his sexual orientation.

Campbell, who today is editor of a Minneapolis gay newspaper, the *GLC Voice*, was awarded \$28,000 on Nov. 5 in back pay, \$500 in punitive damages, \$769 for interest and



Tim Campbell

\$1578 to cover legal fees. Campbell said that he had been treated unlawfully during an interview for the position of Programs Coordinator of MCDA during the summer of 1975. He filed the complaint with the civil rights commission about three months later.

Campbell said he was asked seven non-standard, subjective questions during the interview by Dagny Christensen, including, "Would you be able to work this job without doing your thing predominantly?" •

## SENATE MAY GET GAY BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C. (IGNA) — Senator Paul E. Tsongas of Massachusetts made plans recently to introduce a gay rights bill in the U.S. Senate to bar discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.

Although such a bill has been introduced in the House, this was set to be the first time such a bill is introduced in the Senate.

This proposed legislation is meant to redress what the

senator said he believes to be arbitrary and unjust discrimination against gay people in employment. This proposed Tsongas bill would make no moral judgments about homosexuality and would not establish any special privileges, such as gay job quotas.

When asked if he expects criticism if he introduces the measure, Tsongas said, "The only people who will criticize

me will be the ones who believe in discrimination."

Senators Patrick Moynihan of New York and Lowell Weicker of Connecticut agreed to co-sponsor such a bill.

Broader gay rights legislation has been introduced in the House. It proposes to prohibit discrimination not only in employment but also in housing, public facilities and educational institutions. •

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# 'MR. METROPLEX' CONTEST BRINGS ON THE MEN!

The Mr. Metroplex Contest was held Wednesday, Nov. 28, at the Mad Hatter in Arlington, with proceeds going to the Texas Gay Advocacy Fund. Contestants were judged in leisure wear, fantasy and swim suit categories. The winner, David Sanchez, received \$200, a gift certificate to Union Jack, and a year's membership at the Body Works.



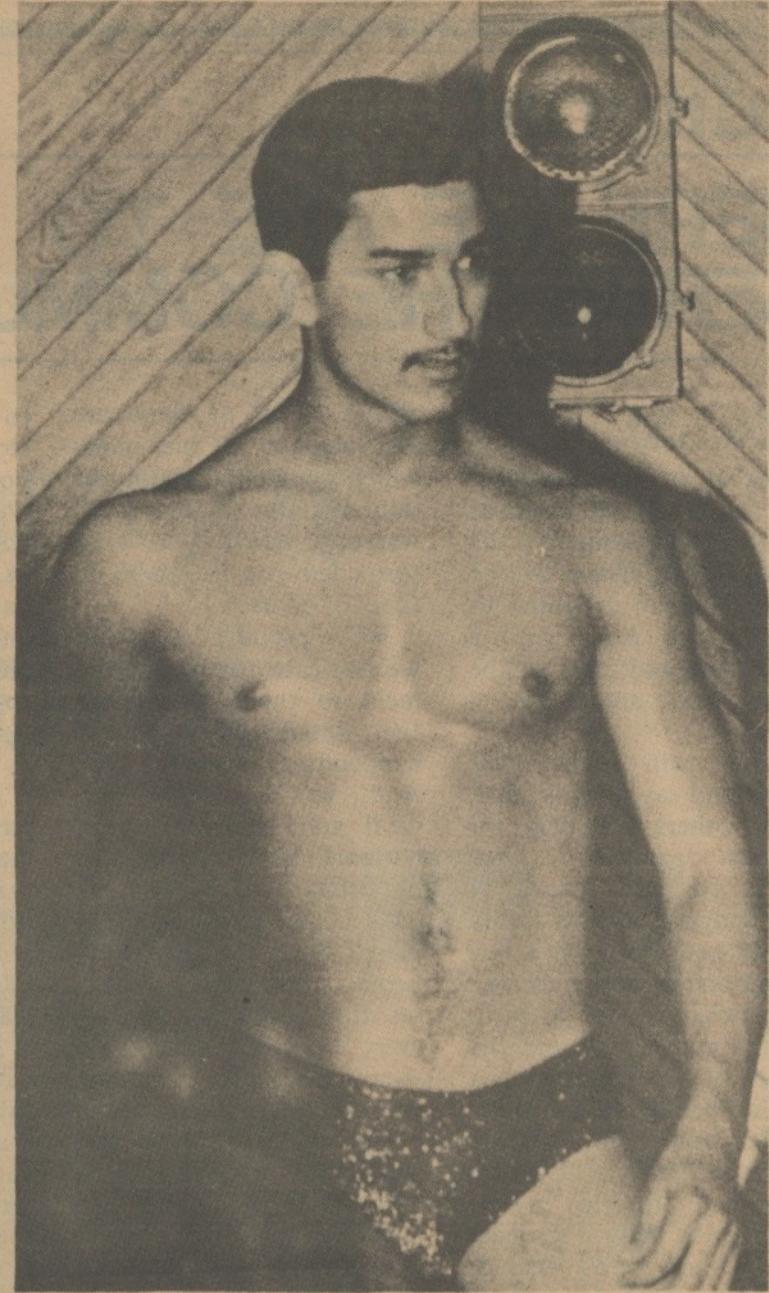
Andy  
Anderjeski



Billy Jack  
Lawry



Glenn  
Weber



David Sanchez, the winner



Rick Raznick



Lady Shawn, M.C.



A winning lineup, left to right, Rick Raznick, Glenn Weber, Bill Spears (Mr. Fort Worth), Billy Jack Lawry, Andy Anderjeski (Mad Hatter manager), and David Sanchez, the new Mr. Metroplex.

METRO STAR photos by  
Roy Hall.

# editorial

## HERE WE ARE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

By Roy G. Hall  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A lot of assorted reactions will come as a response to this first issue of the METRO STAR. There will be those who are delighted to have a new paper with a local slant, and there will be those who don't give a damn.

Some will shake their heads and say it won't last, while others will pray for success.

We are *your* paper. It isn't tough to just list future events and throw in a few snapshots; anybody can do that. What we are going to do for you is give you the entire story in the news, not just a fleeting glimpse of it.

We won't stop at the story, either; we'll introduce you to the people making the news. Personalities, trends, news, feature

stories — all of these are just a part of the paper which you'll find waiting at your friendly neighborhood watering hole each week (provided you get there on time, of course).

We're proud of the room we dedicate to stories with meat to them, filled with the details of what is happening around you. And, to balance it out, we'll add choice news of national and international importance. (Sure, you can go to the newsstand and pay a buck to read about people you never heard of on the coasts 1500 miles away if you want to. We'll give you the news at home and away from home, free.)

We want to make you laugh. We want to make you cry. Most of all, we want to make you think. Our paper is long enough

to give you the important stories, yet short enough for you to cover everything. We hope you'll make the METRO STAR a habit. Read us each week, write us to let us know what you like and what you don't like, and we will have a chance to be the paper that serves you best.

And — so we can keep on serving you — be sure to mention to our advertisers that you appreciate their support, and tell those who don't advertise that you missed seeing them in the METRO STAR.

It's your paper. Call us with the past, present and future news so we can share it with the entire community. We're here to stay. Give us the opportunity to give you the best service possible.



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## To Each His Own?

### THE AYATOLLAH...

Peruano Wood  
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MAD - METRO STAR



## Gay Man Sues City of Boston

BOSTON — A \$500,000 civil rights suit against the City of Boston on behalf of "John Doe," a 35-year-old local man, was filed in U.S. District Court by a group called Gay and Lesbian Advocates, or GLAD. This is according to a report in *Gay Community News*.

GLAD charged in the suit that the Boston Public Library director, the police commissioner, a deputy police superintendent, a police district captain and a police vice squad officer conspired to deprive "John Doe" of his civil rights by falsely arresting him for prostitution, the newspaper reported.

"Doe" was said to be one of over 100 men arrested during a two-week-long crackdown on alleged gay male cruising at the Boston Public Library in March 1978.

Those mass arrests incited some of the most vocal anti-entrainment protests in Boston history.

Judges at Boston Municipal Court appeared sensitive to the accusations of entrapment, as nearly half the men who went to trial were found not guilty, *Gay Community News* wrote.

In the suit, the newspaper reported, GLAD accused the city of launching "a campaign of harassment and intimidation of persons believed to be or suspected of being homosexuals ... to prevent suspected homosexuals from using the Boston Public Library."

The suit charged that after a surveillance of the library by plainclothes police officers lasting two to three weeks that "produced no evidence of criminal activity, the police officers undertook a campaign

of entrapment of innocent persons solely because they appeared to said officers to be homosexual."

The newspaper said that the police officers loitered in the men's room and other areas of the library and tried to encourage homosexual solicitations and even exposed their own genitals "in the apparent belief that this would result in an expression of sexual interest."

"Doe" was said to be in the library to attend a concert when he was approached by Angelo Terrizzi — a young, attractive plainclothes police officer — who asked him to have sex. "Doe" declined, but Terrizzi continued to repeat his offer until he agreed, it was reported.

"Doe" was then arrested for prostitution and Terrizzi later testified in Boston Municipal Court that "Doe" had solicited him for oral sex for \$20, said the newspaper.

"Doe" was found not guilty, the newspaper reported.

*Gay Community News* said that the suit accused city officials of depriving "Doe" of his rights to freedom from illegal detention and imprisonment under the Fourth Amendment; freedom from intimidation and humiliation, enjoyment of life, liberty and property, and freedom from deprivation of due process and equal protection of the law under the Fourteenth Amendment; and rights, privileges and immunities under the First Amendment.

The report said that the conduct of the defendants was called "false arrest, negligence, malicious prosecution and civil conspiracy."

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# Potpourri:

## The Self-Value Key: The Important Element

By H.S. & Associates  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Your personality is made up of numerous, interconnected ideas which are more or less consistent with each other. At the center of those ideas, and permeating all of this, is your idea of yourself. It is how you view yourself and it is your key to happiness and success in whatever you pursue.

Realizing the value of one's self is vital to success in any venture, especially the long-term adventure we call life. By self-value we do not mean conceit or egoism. Instead, it is a wholesome self-respect; it is a realistic recognition of the potential that exists within one; it is this realization which allows that potential full reign.

Psychologists tell us that each person acts very much like the sort of person he thinks he is. It is impossible for him to act in any other behavior pattern for any extended period of time, no matter how much willpower he exercises. Thus, each person is either bound by a low self-image or free to grow because of his feeling of self-value.

Every person must have a healthy self-respect; the alternative is a lifetime of

making excuses for taking up space on this planet. No person can do anything in a positive way while holding generally negative feelings about himself. A low self-image creates an invisible ceiling that stops a person from attempting to rise or grow beyond his self-imposed limitations. A proper concept of self-value, on the other hand, helps each person to acknowledge his worth and significance and it allows his days to be filled with positive motivation.

All of the truly successful people you'll ever know will have one characteristic or quality in common: a realization of self as a person of value. This is the bridge which they have used to allow the potential within them to cross over and out in a positive manner. It is not only common to all successful persons, it is a prerequisite.

There is a Pennsylvania Dutch saying which goes something like this: "The truth of it all — us that you can be ten inches small — or ten feet tall."

The self-value concept helps you decide in your favor.

## cookin'

By Lori Jones  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On one of my trips to California, I got this recipe from a gay restaurant in Los Angeles. It's so simple to do, and your guest will believe it took you the whole day to make it.

It is rich in flavor of fish, a subtle, delicious main meat dish you will want to use over and over.

### Red Fish Doheny

1 1/2-2 lb. redfish, fileted  
1 large white onion, chopped  
1 large lemon, sliced  
1 cup of milk (little more if needed)  
1 tsp. worchestershire sauce



1/2 stick butter or margarine  
a touch of pepper and salt

Grease the pan with butter, place the fish filets in it. Mix in the milk, pepper, salt, worchestershire sauce and pour over the fish.

Arrange lemon slices over the fish, cover with chopped onion and place in medium over (350) until tender. Do not cover. Baste occasionally.

Yummy.

## Health: Who needs iron?

(Editor's note: "Health" will appear as a weekly column in the STAR. It is written by L.A. Chotkowski, M.D., F.A.C.P., and will each week present a short essay on medical topics of interest to our readers.)

By L.A. Chotkowski, M.D.  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Who needs iron? We all do.

Who need extra iron in pills, nostrums or enriched foods? No adults, for the most part, unless they are losing blood. Such are the timely findings of Dr. William Crosby of California reporting on the physicians' P.R.N. daily radio network.

Blood loss is the single major cause of significant iron deficiency anemia in adults. The most common blood loss in females is in menstruation. In only five percent of menstruating women is there sufficient loss requiring extra iron supplementation, states Dr. Crosby. The daily adult iron requirement is only one milligram.

The most common cause of iron deficiency anemia in adult males and post menopausal females is blood loss from disease, such as bleeding ulcers, or in particular, cancer of the colon. The cause must therefore be found early, rather than be treated with iron. It might be cancer and curable.

In ancient Greek mythology, health was gained by drinking wine sprinkled with rust. No one would buy that nostrum mix today, but contemporary advertising mythology has fostered another fable called "tired blood" and its relative, "iron-poor blood." Women are encouraged to take iron-loaded medications indiscriminately — and men too.

Dr. Crosby points out that taking iron without medical supervision can be dangerous to your health, for the following reason. Only one milligram of iron is needed daily, a very small amount, available in any average diet. In fact, the body is pro-

tected from ordinarily absorbing more than one milligram by its own intestinal barrier. Otherwise we would all soon be overloaded with iron.

Unfortunately some people are not well protected and even on regular diets develop an iron-overloaded body, a disease called hemochromatosis (he-moh-chrom-ah-TOE-sis).

In Sweden, where the government mandated that iron supplements be added to "enrich" bread, harmful iron deposition was found in two percent of the population. Here in the United States, we narrowly escaped a similar fate when a proposal to "enrich" bread was defeated by an aroused medical profession.

Large amounts of iron can be poisonous.

I must agree with Dr. Crosby that taking iron without medical supervision can be dangerous to your health. This fact is timely, relevant and deserving of serious public attention.

## On Broadway: This is our island

(Editor's note: Each week the STAR presents "On Broadway," a varied column which frequently gives inside news on what celebrities are doing and tips on major Broadway plays. This week, writer Ray Wilson presents, as background, a brief general guide for New York visitors. Sometime in everyone's life, you MUST visit New York.)

By Ray Wilson  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR  
FROM NEW YORK TODAY

For being only 12 1/2 miles long, 2 1/2 miles wide, the little Big Apple is a place brimming with a rich history and diversified entertainment that is continuous the year long.

The Empire State Building, for example, boasts more than forty million visitors since its opening in 1931. For the physically fit, it takes 1860 steps to reach the observatory. I, for one, will take the elevator to the 1000-foot ascent.

Although not the cleanest of mass transit systems, New York City subways are still, despite economic problems, the most efficient in the world. But then that's the way it should be. It now costs fifty cents but started out as a nickel ride.

Some 8700 trains roar along

the 726 miles of track every day. Besides old standbys on the tourist circuit, such a visit to the Statue of Liberty, Rockefeller Center and the Empire State Building, New York offers countless new and exciting things to do and sights to see most everyday.

Roosevelt Island (formerly Welfare Island) and its aerial tramway provide an interesting side trip ... as the latest residential addition to the city, visitors are invited to stroll around and see some of the island's historical landmarks.

The tram is just like an Alpine ride, only it's hanging on a wire cable over the East River.

A new ride around New York is the double-deck buses servicing Fifth Avenue. They may be temporarily out of action for the winter (too cold!) but look for them come the spring.

Three interesting exhibits other than the usual good ones at the many museums are the Burlington Mill (Sixth Ave. and 54th St.), which traces the history of the textile industry; Guinness World Records Exhibit Hall, a room full of record

breakers, including Kate Hepburn's three Oscars; and the New York Experience, a three-D sight and sound trip through New York in a movie theater.

Another neighborhood to visit is Soho. Home for many of the city's artists, Soho contains new galleries, shops, restaurants, theaters and night spots.

And of course, there's Greenwich Village. But you already know it's a must-visit.

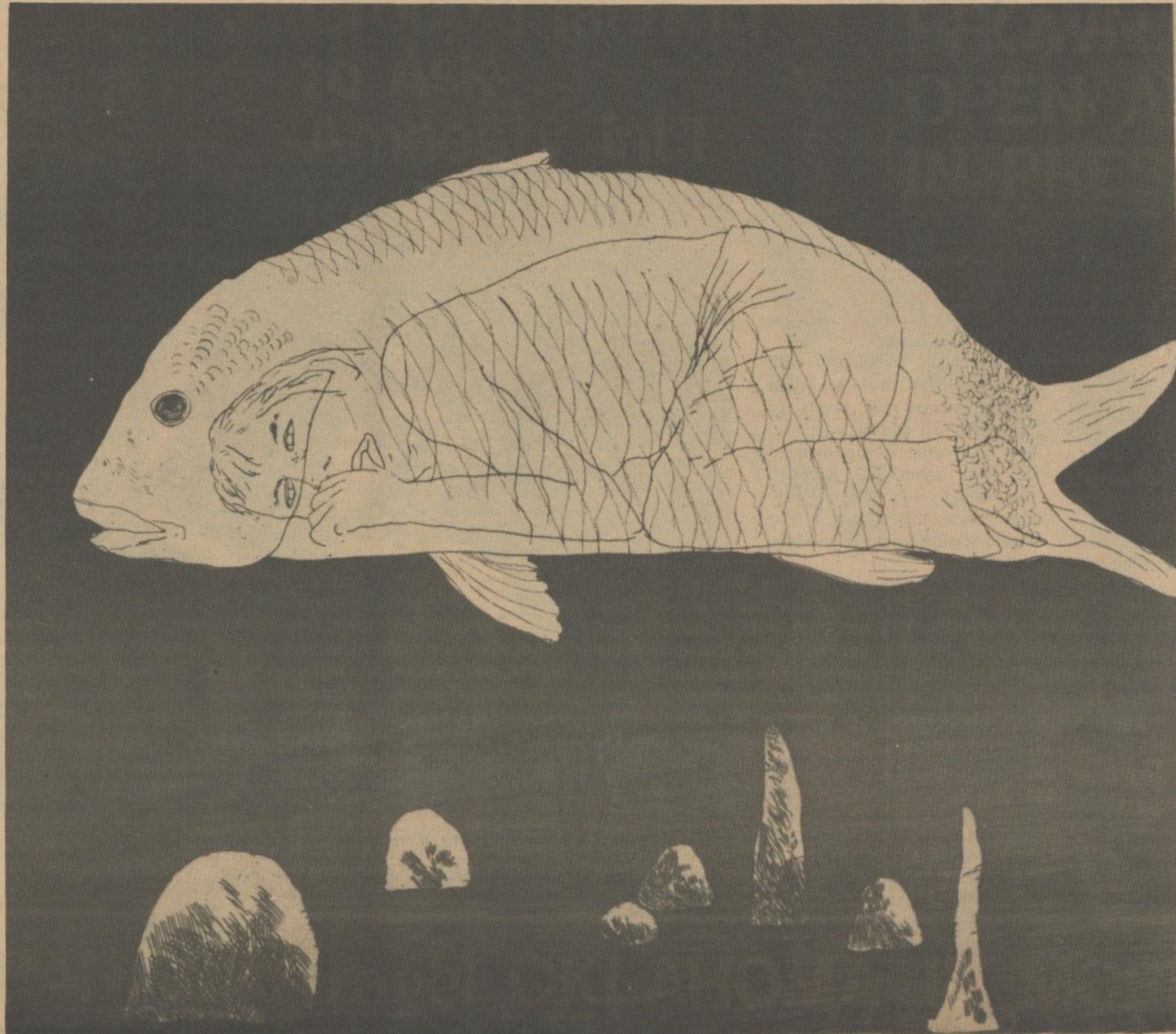
Theater-goers could spend three weeks in New York City and never see all the hit shows on and off Broadway. Right now the theater is in a boom and good, entertaining musicals, dramas and comedies are in abundance.

Some examples: *A Chorus Line, Dancin', Evita, Peter Pan, Sugar Babies and The 1940's Radio Hour*.

En route around the Big Apple, dining out is a must. The gourmet restaurants offer a variety of culinary delights, and provide renewed energy for touring the town. Many restaurants alone can supply an evening's feast and entertainment, or dining out can be combined with the theater.

He's s'th'o  
s'th'uck up, he always s'th'  
has'th' his'th' thumb in the air

THUMB THAVING THAWE



*The Boy Hidden in a Fish, 1969, by David Hockney*

## DAVID HOCKNEY, a healthy Andy Warhol

By Daniel Curzon  
IGNA

SAN FRANCISCO — David Hockney seemed just a touch ill-at-ease when I interviewed him near the exhibition of some of his work on display through January 1 at the M.H. de Young Museum here.

It may have been my own coloring of his reaction but I caught a hint of reluctance when I identified myself as from a gay news agency. Perhaps Mr. Hockney, the English artist who has lived at times in the United States, has been burned by gay activists who have tried to make him identify with the cause.

Hockney did say that he's been asked before if there is such a thing as a "gay sensibility." He thinks there probably isn't, although he conceded that a viewer can tell that Renoir, let's say, has a "heterosexual sensibility" because of a preoccupation with certain subjects.

Hockney mentioned that he does not have a lot of gay content in his work,

although he has some paintings he did in the early sixties that are definitely gay. (There are none in the exhibit, by the way.)

He feels that sexuality is only part of anyone's life, and he personally prefers to represent a variety of his interests, such as exotic places like Lebanon, Marrakesh and Los Angeles; crayon drawings of vegetables; lithographs; and, of course, the famous swimming pools.

I noticed an etching and aqua-tint from *A Rake's Progress* called "The Drinking Scene" that is clearly a gay bar scene, and his *Illustrations for Fourteen Poems from C.P. Cavafy* 1966 show two men sleeping nude in the same bed.

I asked Hockney if he thought his work would be taken as seriously as it is if he did only "homosexual" pictures. His answer was that there are the formal or technical qualities of art, not just the subject matter, that determine the seriousness with which an artist is considered.

I said that most people seem to pay attention to the subject matter of art first and foremost, and I mentioned that some gay artists have the problem of getting recognition outside the ghetto by straights, even though their technical abilities are professional.

Hockney nodded, yet leaving the point moot.

I wondered if he had ever been "detected" at promoting homosexuality in his art, the way some gay artists of the past (and even today) have been "exposed."

(There is even a feminist book of art criticism out right now, called *The Nude Male*, in which the author seems to point the finger at Caravaggio, calling some paintings of boys posing as cupid, "homosexual pin-ups.")

Hockney said that this hasn't happened to him.

In general, he seems not to have had problems getting his work exhibited, evaluated and bought for high prices even though he himself is quite candid

about his gayness. No doubt the flamboyance of his personal appearance in the early days of his career actually helped his image as an eccentric, and hence a genuine artist.

He has been noted for dyeing his hair various shades of vibrant blond and wearing oversized glasses. The day I spoke with him he did not seem theatrical at all, nor effeminate. Indeed, his hair looked so natural I think only his hairdresser could tell for sure.

Overall, he gave the impression of being casual about his sexuality. He's 42 now, with a fresh, clean, rosy look and good teeth — a sort of healthy Andy Warhol.

Hockney knows the work of Don Bachardy, Christopher Isherwood's lover, and I asked him about any similarities or differences between Bachardy's art and his. He said that he prefers to draw people that he knows well, over and over, to capture their different moods, and he is not

particularly interested in doing portraits of famous people, as such.

He thinks his work is popular because it communicates something open that most people identify with. Portraits of specific people, he feels, as with Toulouse Latrec, appeal to most viewers on a simple human level.

He admitted that he's rather surprised that he's as popular as he is. He doesn't think art is necessarily unartistic because it is popular (a common idea among critics). He cited Chaplin's *City Lights* as an example of a film that has been seen by millions over the years and still is a fine film.

In other words, an artist can be accessible to the public and still feel that he has not resorted to inferior work.

David Hockney seems to be in an enviable position for an artist — he's respected and he sells. •

# 'THE ROSE' Gives Midler a Chance to Explode but Film Fizzles

## cinema:

THE ROSE, rated R. Produced by Marvin Worth and Aaron Russo. Directed by Mark Rydell. Screenplay by Bill Kerby and Bo Goldman from a story by Kerby. Starring Bette Midler with Alan Bates and Frederic Forrest.

By Seth Cagin  
FILM CRITIC

*The Rose* isn't much of a recollection of the '60s, as it purports to be, but it is a phenomenal film just the same.

The reason is that *The Rose* marks the screen debut of one of the most explosive singers of the decade, Bette Midler, in a role that allows her ample space for exploding. The spectacle of Midler careening through a movie which is awful on many counts isn't exactly artful, but it is memorable, entertaining, and even exciting.

The verdict on *The Rose* is this: the star is at war with the film; the star wins.

From her delirious, boozy entrance to her grandiose on-stage death, Midler as a legendary '60s rock star named The Rose is fascinating to behold. The character is modeled after Janis Joplin, who drank and drugged herself to death before screaming millions, and in the attempt to capture Joplin's soaring, volatile spirit, Midler acts up a storm. She is vulnerable and sweet, coarse and hard, a tremendous vocalist and a sensational personality.

If only the sprawling screenplay had some shape to it, *The Rose* would be one of the greats. As it is, however, this is a film about a rock singer that offers no insight into stardom, a psychological drama with no sense of psychology, a sociological portrait that entirely lacks a social background.

Midler turns The Rose into a larger-than-life figure, but

her profound despair remains entirely unexamined.

She battles ferociously with her ambitious manager (Alan Bates) because she wants to take time off and he won't let her. Overwork is supposed to be what drives The Rose to the brink, yet it's patently unbelievable that a figure of The Rose's stature would be so easily bullied.

The Rose's other struggles are likewise dramatically inauthentic. She undergoes a tumultuous love ~~affair~~ with a handsome AWOL soldier (Frederic Forrest), that is given to us as an illustration of her inability to find true love. We're supposed to believe that The Rose is too much for any man to handle, but, as it's presented, the argument between The Rose and her lover is a contrivance. They fight at top volume about nothing; their feelings for one another remain obscure. Whatever emotion this relationship engenders is borne solely by the charisma of the actors.

It is to Forrest's great credit that he holds his own against Midler, so that the goings-on between them aren't a total loss.

The story overall is such a mess that it's best to forget it entirely to concentrate on Midler's performance, the concert footage — beautifully executed by cinematographer Vilmos Sigmund — and on several bravura sequences that are sheer fun.

One of these involved a visit The Rose and her AWOL boyfriend make to a transvestite bar where, along with impersonators of Barbara Streisand and Diana Ross, there's one of The Rose herself.

Bette Midler and her double do a duet that would have made a great scene no matter what movie it had been part of. •



Bette Midler stars as *The Rose*, a rock star of the '60s, in *The Rose*.



Alan Bates is Rudge, the manager of *The Rose* (Bette Midler), in *The Rose*.

## stanley: I'LL BE RIGHT OVER

By Stanley S. Stanley  
ADVICE COLUMNIST

Dear Stanley:

I'm planning a trip to San Francisco because I hear so many rumors about how "gay" it is. Is it really what I've heard?

And how's the weather this time of the year.  
(signed) Wondering

Dear Wondering:

Yes, the city may be what you've heard. Perhaps

not.

San Francisco is probably more gay, percentage-wise, than any other city. But it's not all gay. Don't get carried away with your thoughts.

The city is 14% (the straights' estimate) to 20% (the gays' estimate) gay. That certainly beats other cities 5% or so. But it certainly is not a "majority." Don't be misled by what you've "heard."

And, this time of the year, San Francisco is cold enough to freeze your buns off. Take some warm clothing.

Dear Stanley:

The two hunks who live across from me in the apartment complex are always leaving their front curtains open and parading around stark naked.

What should I do?

(signed) Just Looking

Dear Looker:

I'll be right over.

Dear Stanley:

I'm afraid to call our local Crisis Hotline for help because they'll know who I am. Are their other people who I can call?

(signed) Needing Help

Dear Needy:

At Crisis Hotline you do not have to give your name. So you have no need to fear, if you want to remain

confidential.

But if you still feel uncomfortable with them, any of the church groups would be happy to help you. It's their job. Just call them.

Got a question for Stanley? His column appears weekly in the MONTROSE STAR in Houston and the METRO STAR for Dallas/Ft. Worth. Write him at P.O.B. 70282, Houston, TX 77007.

# cinema: '10' is Middle-brow but Not Square

10, rated R. Released by Orion Pictures through Warner Bros. Produced by Blake Edwards and Tony Adams. Written and directed by Edwards. Starring Dudley Moore and Julie Andrews with Bo Derek.

By Seth Cagin  
FILM CRITIC

In the manner of old-fashioned Hollywood, *10* takes the simplest idea and spins out of it a comedy that runs and runs and runs.

The idea in this instance is for a successful, middle-aged songwriter (Dudley Moore), suffering a mid-life crisis, to become infatuated with a spectacularly beautiful stranger (Bo Derek) he happens to see one day.

The comedy springs out of his dire and desperate attempts to find, meet, and conquer the subject of his veneration. It's all very simple — man wants woman — but writer-director Blake Edwards brings it to life with a cool string of gags and hip one-liners.

Edwards is greatly assisted by Dudley Moore in the lead, who certainly does his share of keeping *10* lively. The British Moore is a gifted comic (Americans have seen only a little of him in *Foul Play*) who manages to turn his character's animal lust into some kind of wistful ideal. He wants to meet the woman he has rated a ten in an attractiveness scale, not because he's some kind of macho stud,

but because she represents the youth and beauty he fears is slipping away from him as he ages.

Without becoming soppy, Moore gives the film a solid center and a foundation from which the film's predominately slapstick humor can take off.

The comic keynote is the length to which Moore will go in pursuit of his dream girl. He falls down a mountain, is subjected to a dentist's drill, is stung by a bee and reduced to a drunken stupor before it's all over.

He preplexes his friend and lyricist (Robert Webber) and the woman who loves him (Julie Andrews) with his desperate complaint that life is passing him by and with his sudden obsession with young women.

There isn't really much more than that to it, and *10* does lag in spots, but for the most part, a hectic, delirious pace is maintained.

Blake Edwards, best known for his *Pink Panther* movies, works on the assumption that nothing he's doing is going to take his audience by surprise. There's no hint of anarchy in Edwards' work.

This is a movie which is comfortable with the modern world and the way it works. None of the humor here is derisive or condescending; all of the characters are accepted at



Dudley Moore and Julie Andrews costar in *10*, a comedy about a songwriter's mid-life crisis.

face value.

*10* has no bite; it's simply a speeded-up view of the most

recognizable human foibles. It's a pleasure to view a comedy this assured and moderate.

*10* is middle-brow without being square; funny but not raucous.

## DISCHARGE APPEALS

WASHINGTON — The American Civil Liberties Union is behind an effort to get 2.2 million older veterans given undesirable discharges before 1965 to appeal their cases to the Defense Department before a Dec. 31 deadline.

The Pentagon has no plans to

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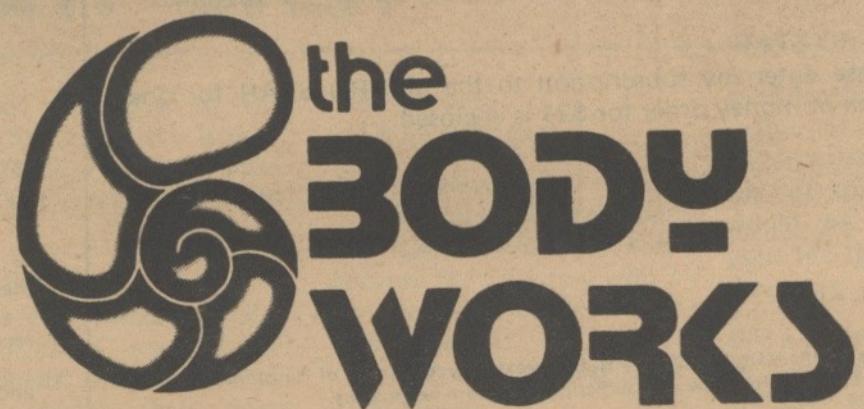
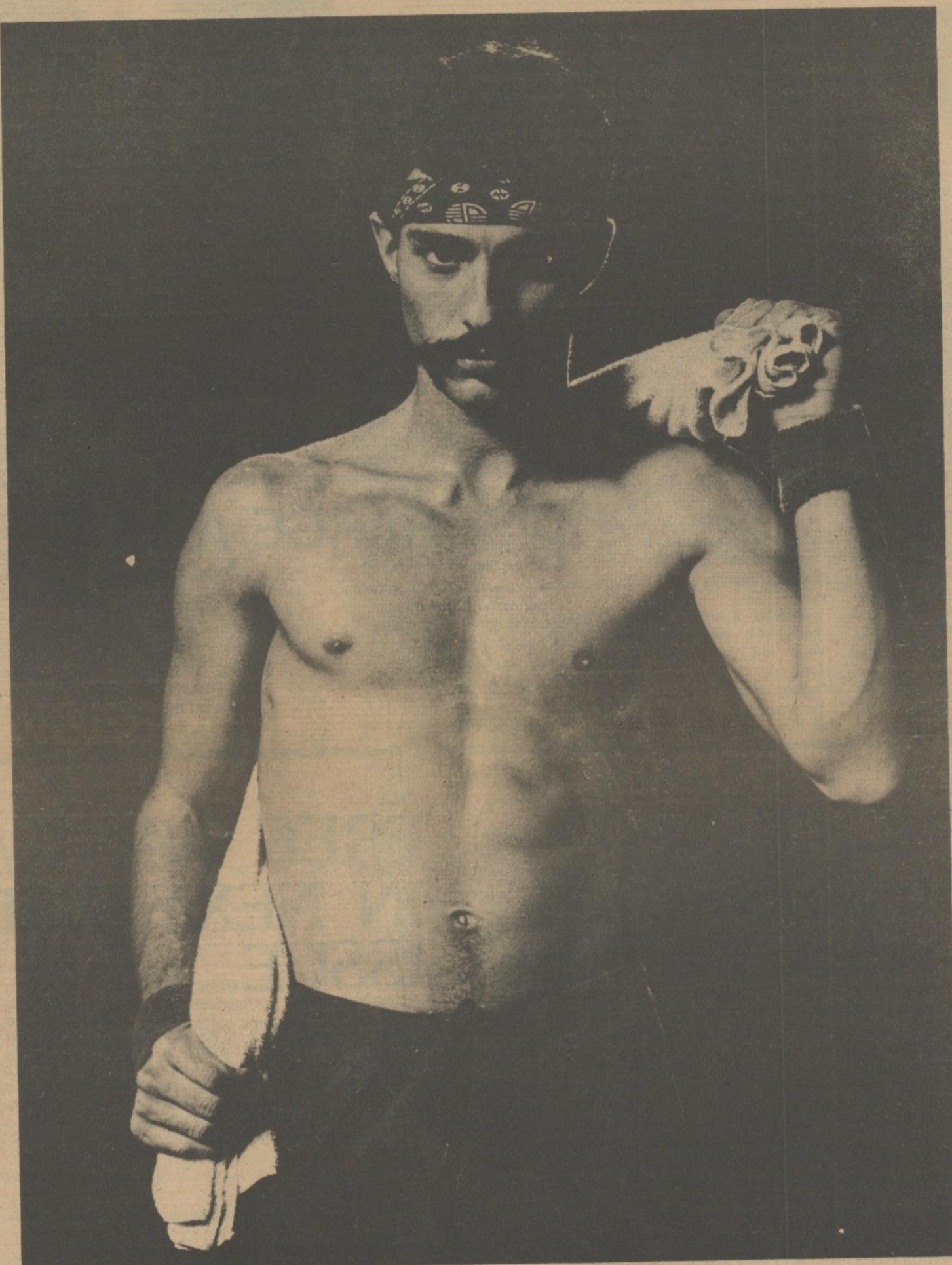
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