

THE **ADVOCATE**

Touching Your Lifestyle

Issue No. 176, November 5, 1975

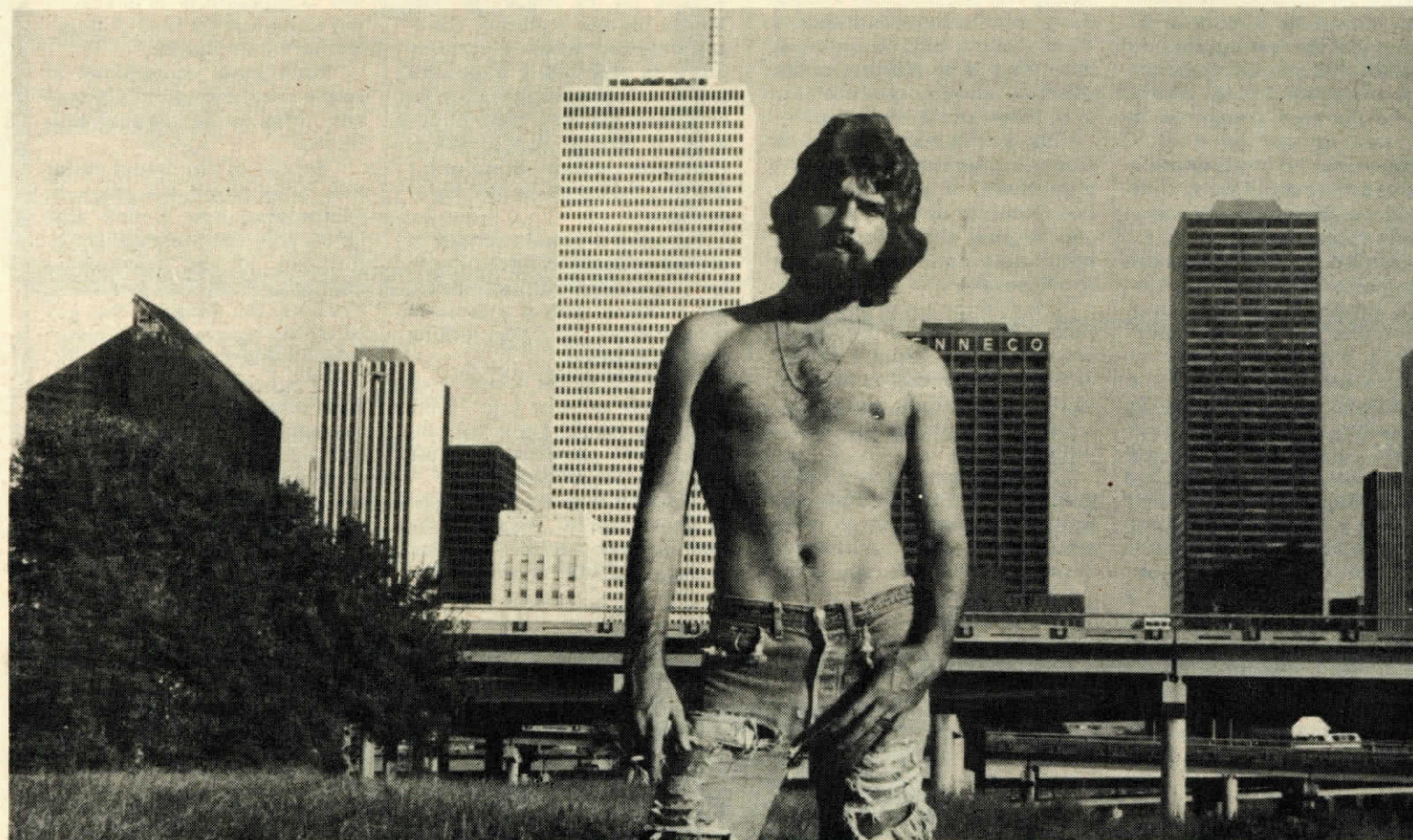
In Two Sections, 75 cents

**IN THIS ISSUE READ
WHAT DEMO PREXY
HOPEFULS ARE SAY-
ING ABOUT GAY
RIGHTS, PLUS FOUR
EXPERT OPINIONS
ON THE SUBJECT OF**

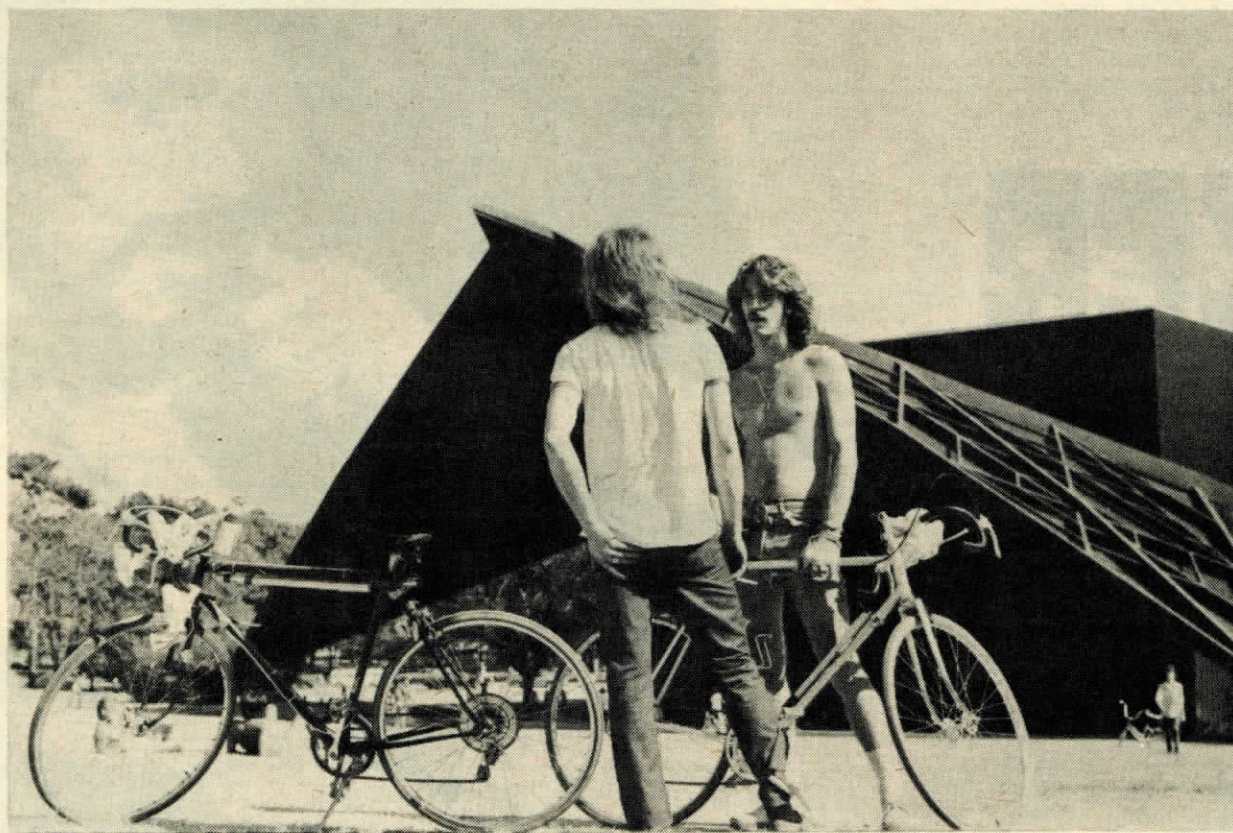
SEX

**UALITY AND GAY
SENSUALITY. AND
CHECK IN ON THE
HOUSTON SCENE
AND GET UPDATED
ON THE LATEST WINS
OF BIG CHIEF DAVIS
IN HIS EFFORTS TO
KEEP GAY COPS OFF
THE L.A. FORCE . . .**

GETTING OFF TO HOUSTON



Photos: George DeWoody



by George DeWoody

There are only a handful of cities in the world where you will find the combination of a growing economic base, vital cultural energy and a dynamic mix of people and lifestyles. Houston is one of them.

Unlike San Francisco, New York or other traditionally established metropolises, Houston has come on big, strong and fast. In the past 25 years the population has doubled, the metropolitan area approaching two and one-half million. It is the world leader in the petrochemical industry, the center of the American space effort and the nation's third-largest seaport.

With probably the strongest economy of any city in the country, Houston boasts of its low unemployment rate (challenged only by Dallas-Fort Worth as the nation's lowest), an \$18-million city surplus, and no new taxes.

A massive Houston-Galveston megalopolis is on its way. It is a City of the Future today. The architectural horizon changes constantly; futuristic sets used in films like *Rollerball* are everyday places of Houston commerce and culture.

With this same spirit of growth and adventure, the gay men and women of Houston are visibly moving to organize and to build.

As a voting bloc, gay Houston assured the 1973 election of its first liberal, professionally competent mayor. The recently formed Gay Political Caucus (see page 14) held the first gay voter rally in the South-Southwest, drawing over 500 people, drinking beer supplied by six of Houston's gay bars, listening to candidates from right to left, and opening a good many closet doors in the process.

A noticeable concentration of gay residents makes up the Montrose section of the city. "Homo Heights" has it all. Shops, bars, bookstores, boutiques, eateries and the cruisiest area east of Castro Street and west of Christopher.

Recently, on my first visit to Houston, I discovered myself homeless and horny at midnight in the Houston Intercontinental Airport. The situation was easily remedied. With the airport bus depositing me downtown and the cooperation of a knowledgeable cabbie, I soon found myself in The Locker, and appropriately butch-sounding pub on Westheimer. And quicker than you can say "Howdy, podner" I had a home. No strings attached—that's Texas hospitality.

In addition to The Locker, you'll find lots of hospitality in the crowd at Mary's. Both bars are headquarters for Houston's leath-

er set. Mary's, with its Sunday afternoon frolic, is justly famed; its reputation as Houston's raunchiest scene goes unchallenged.

The totally unique Filling Station is becoming quite a popular stopping-off place between Mary's and The Locker. You've never seen a men's room like the one in this converted gas station.

Most of the "get down" dance energy is flowing back and forth between the Farmhouse (billing itself as the largest gay bar in America) and the brand-new Depository disco on Westheimer. Try for a busy dance night at the Pisces Club, some distance away from the Montrose action, but worth the trip to Richmond at Hillcroft. And if it's afternoon socializing you crave, then Dirty Sally's should get you started, with Mary's close behind.

Drag shows are big down this way—lots of reincarnated Southern belles. The Farmhouse, Bayou Landing and, most notably, the Hi Kamp deliver some outrageous shows.

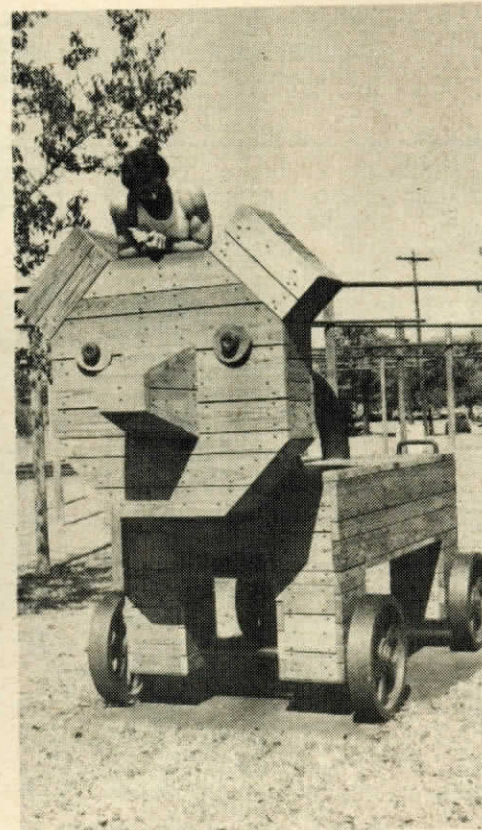
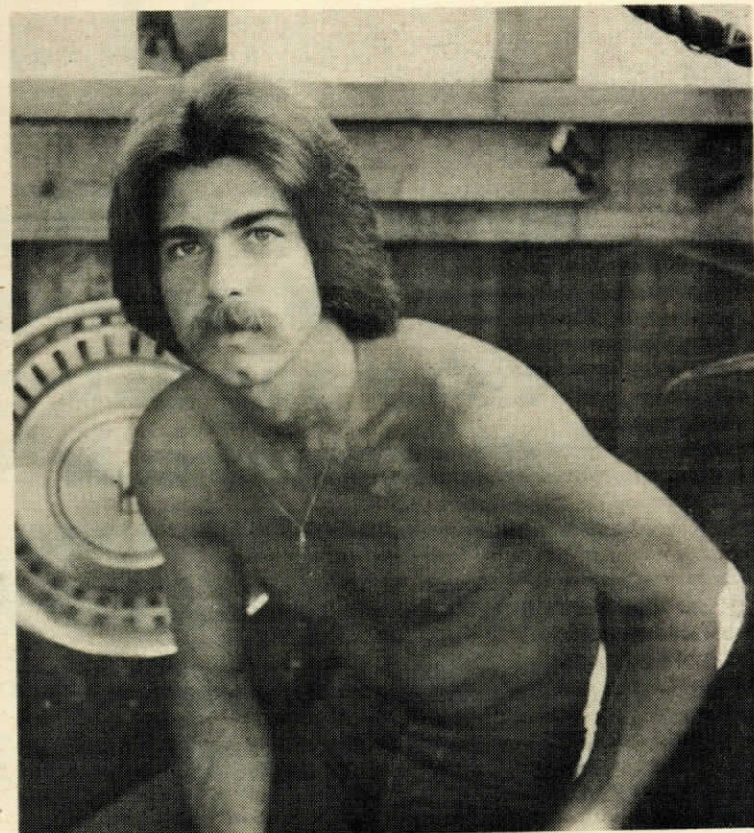
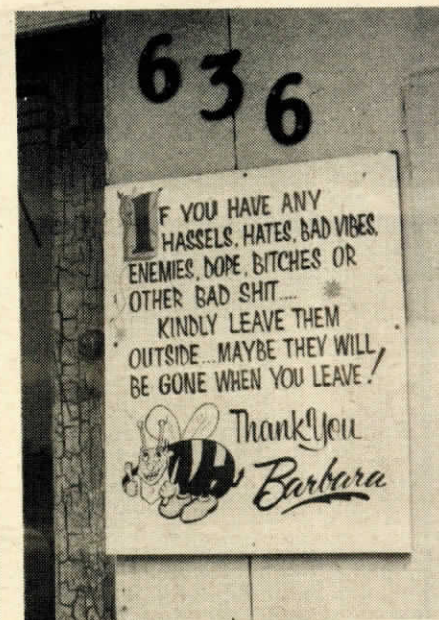
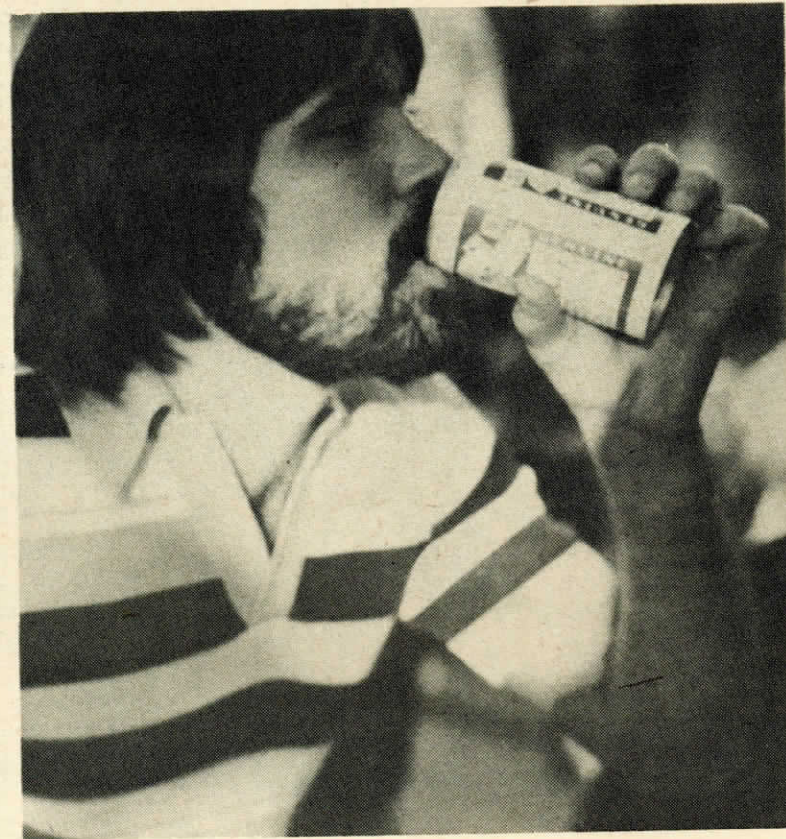
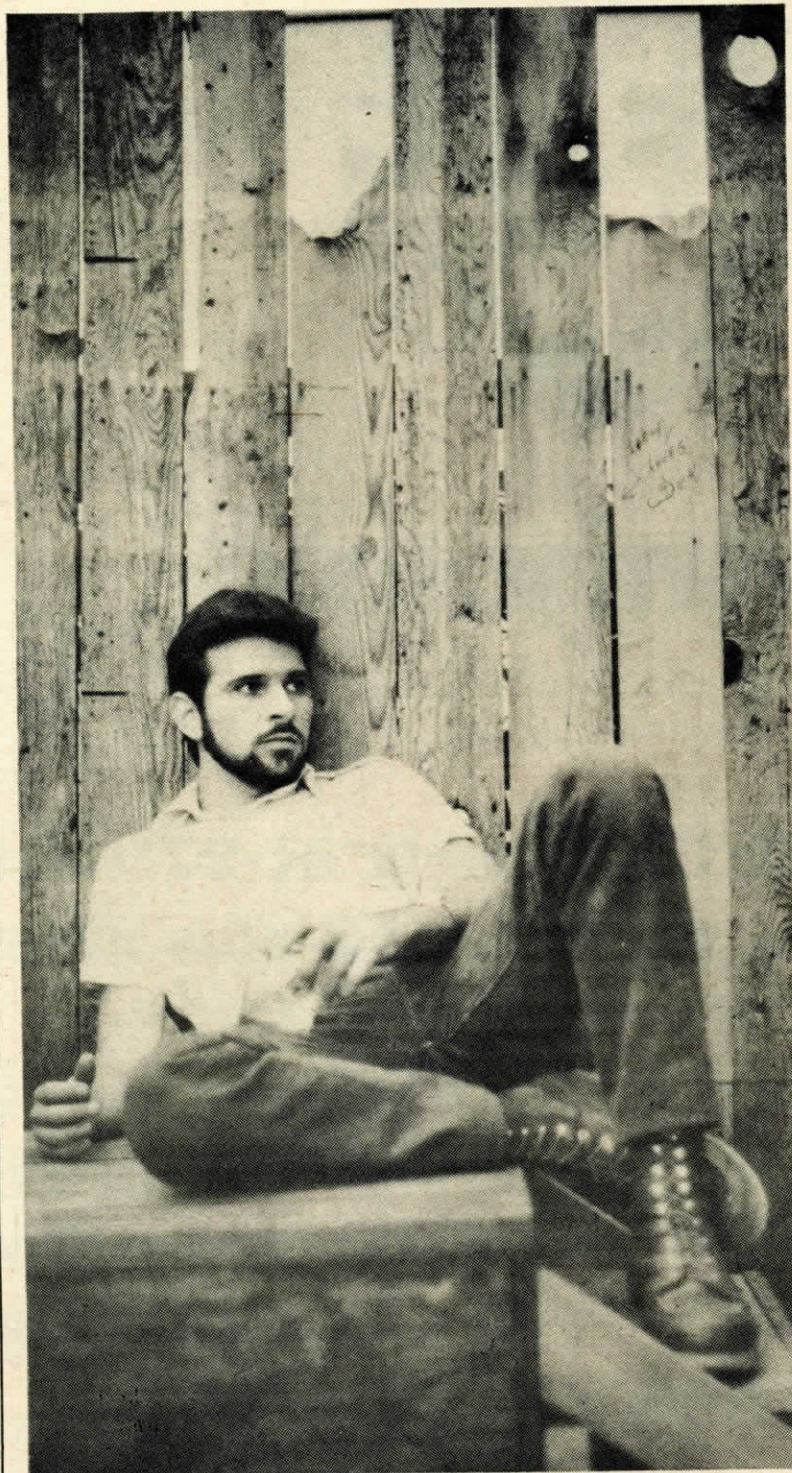
For outside cruising, you'll find "The Circuit" in the blocks above Westheimer to Alabama, primarily along Loretta from Montrose to Garrott. Residents in this area, both gay and straight, are actually campaigning with posters and leaflets to try to move "The Circuit" out of their front yards. It's doubtful that patterns like this can be changed by gentle persuasion, so you might be advised to check on the status of this scene.

The gay restaurant is Tooter's on Westheimer; everyone seems to show up there after bar closing. The food is not as worthwhile as the clientele, but at 2AM who's interested in food, anyway? You might want to check out the Two Greek Brothers restaurant for a variation on the same theme. But the very best eating I found (given the state of my budget) was Barbara's Home Cookin' on Alabama. And the cruising is interesting—it's next door to one of Houston's many raunchy adult bookstores, and that doesn't hurt the situation any.

While we're giving out tips on this and that, the best haircutting in town can be had at Hairphernalia on San Felipe; you'll find organic food and lots of good people at the Richwood Food Market, a.k.a. "Freaky Foods," on Richmond at Woodhead; the threads at Tootsie's are *tres chic*; and if you want to pick up the latest disco hits you heard at the Farmhouse you'll probably find them at the Record Rack at Alabama and Shepherd. If there's anything else you need, just ask someone appealing—you may end up with a lot more than you expected.

They tell me that Houston has the world's worst climate, but I enjoyed a week of beautifully moderate San Francisco-style weather that had everyone freaking out on how cool it was. Summertime, when you can expect temperatures in the 90s with humidity to match, finds everyone down on Galveston beaches. Out of necessity, Houston has got to be the most air-conditioned city ever.

However you find the weather and wherever you stage your scene, you can be assured that the gay folk of Houston will give you plenty of reason to want to stay around. The energy and good times are booming just as high as the skyline.





Farmhouse

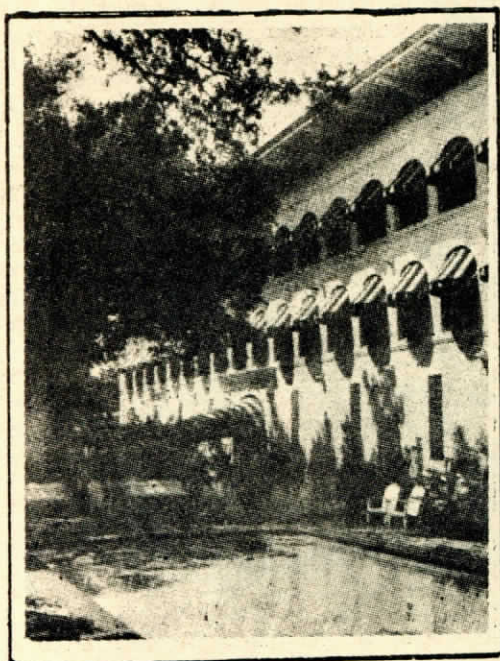
BE IT EVER SO DECADENT THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE THE FARMHOUSE

HOUSTON'S #1 SUPER BAR at 2710 Albany
Rock and roll every night 7 til 2 plus after hours
Friday and Saturday, with disc jockies
Bill Lewallen & Wayne Howarth. Swimming
pool open at noon. Divine shows Wednesdays &
Sunday, Amateur Night Monday, in the Plantation
Room. \$1.25 beer bust 7pm-midnight Sunday,
half price nights Monday & Thursday...

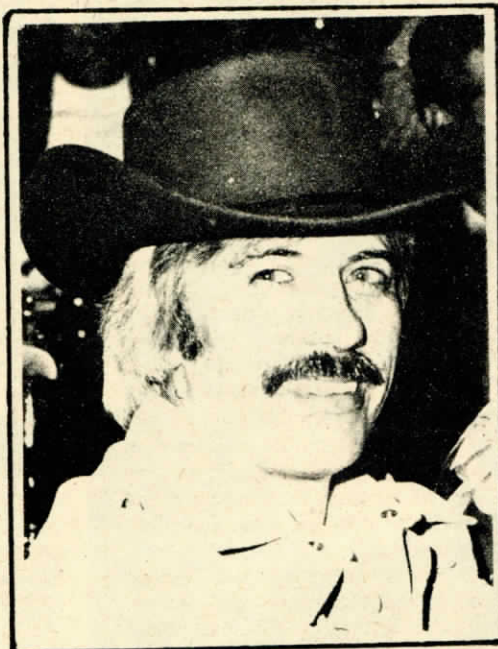
USING BOSE 901 SPEAKERS



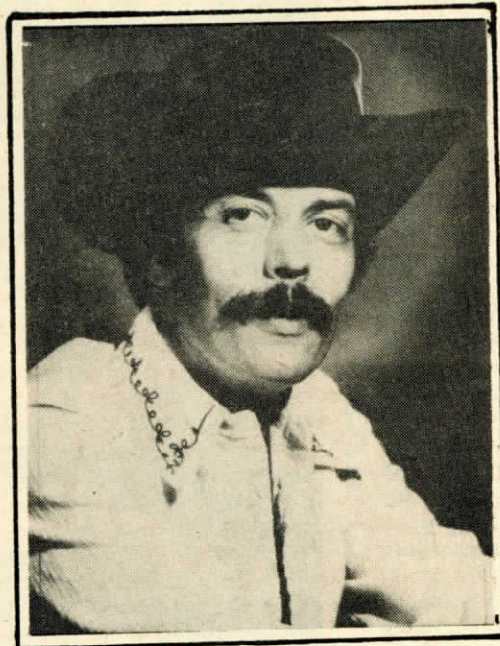
and 1801 AMPLIFIERS EXCLUSIVELY



THE FARMHOUSE



OWNER GENE HOWLE



MANAGER WAYNE BARTON

**PUT IT ALL TOGETHER AND YOU'VE GOT
A HOME.**

Calderone

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between college and my entrance into medical school when I was 30. I studied with Madame Maria Ouspenskaya of the Moscow Art Theatre. But I found out that I wasn't that good, and if I couldn't be good, I wasn't going to do it. So I dropped out. But I'm still a ham when it comes to making speeches!"

With the stress on the establishment of sex in health, as a part of mental health, part of the total personality of the individual, Calderone feels it borders directly on the basic right to know. She is convinced the subject must become established as an open field of investigative research and, under her insistence, it is gradually beginning to take place at the government level. Her organization is cooperating closely with the President's Commission on Bio-Medical Research while, at the same time, indicating to them the existence of a block on sexual research which is vitally needed.

When it comes to a more personal level, Calderone expresses a strong feeling about the importance of responsibility in a sexual relationship.

"The relational part of sex, and that may or may not include the erotic part, is, I think, where it's at," she says. "This brings in all of the aspects that apply to both heterosexual sex and homosexual sex, bisexual sex, whatever you want to call it. The responsibility of being involved with another person. The joy of being involved with another person. The road to

intimacy which moves through mutuality, and reciprocity, and trust, and delight into full sexual response. That has to be a road that allows two people to reach a plane in trust where they can be mutually vulnerable. You test the relationship as you go, to find out if this is a person you can trust, before you fully expose yourself. Now, there are some people who simply walk into an erotic relationship and expose everything. But they are people who are rather shallow. They don't have too much to expose. They're going to hold it at that shallow relationship. You have that in heterosexuality, too. It's not peculiar only to homosexuality."

Stating unequivocally that she sees no difference between homosexual and heterosexual sex as far as individual responsibility is concerned, Calderone is quick to remind us that she first suggested to the AMA that they substitute the word *variant*, which is not pejorative, for the word *deviant*, which is.

Often when she addresses a large audience, one of her favorite devices for getting attention is a game of magical powers.

"I say, OK now, you people out there who are heterosexual, how would you feel if a magical power came to you and said heterosexuality is terrible; you can't be heterosexual? First of all, it's a sin. Secondly, it's dangerous to your health. And thirdly, it's illegal. You've got to stop. You've got to become homosexual."

"I see this look of consternation spreading across their faces. I say, OK, that's what we're doing to homosexuals. Then I tell them ho-

mosexuals are very interesting people. They don't rape. But they get raped and guess who they get raped by? Heterosexuals! That's an eye-opener. And I go on demythologizing.

"As far as I'm concerned, homosexual people are like me. They do the same things I like to do."

In addition to her campaign for the sexual rights of the handicapped and others, and the busy, never-ending, myth-killing talks on the topic of what it must be like to be gay, Calderone has added to her list the job of liberating men.

"Men are tied up with their poor little stereotypes," she says. "Gays and straights. They should have the freedom to accept the other person as that person really is. Along that line, I've been given to understand that gay people are feeling very elitist and are looking down their noses at bisexuals. I think that's a pity, because you don't have to be 100-percent homosexual any more than you have to be 100-percent heterosexual."

"It's an interesting thing. It seems that bisexuality has been a phenomenon of group sex practices primarily by women. Hetero men in group sex don't go in for homosexual sex, unless they're true bisexuals."

"I don't think any of this is very clear. I really don't. I think we're in a state of flux. I think we would do well if society could be persuaded to look upon homosexuality as a phenomenon that is part of being human."

"I would like to see a really good study done to see if homosexuality has increased, as so many say, or decreased, or stayed about the same. A study we could com-

pare with the Kinsey figures. We have nothing else."

Josephs

Continued from Page 24

without making a big deal out of it. There was a competence about her very manner that I admired, a no-nonsense air that made me not want to waste our time together on trivia, something that seemed honest and direct.

She offered strong opinions: "All attractions to people are sexual, I believe. All attractions are generated by sexual energy. Not all energy that is sexualized is genitalized." Then she relaxed her vocabulary to assure me that she was open to any useful method in her work and any sexual structures that make sense: "I don't want to lay my trip on anyone. This is the way I practice therapeutically with people. If someone comes in and uses a framework they're unhappy with, then I try to help them broaden their framework. If they are happy with it, I'm content to leave them alone. I don't try to impose my philosophy on them."

I dropped a casual reference to my sadomasochistic adventures to test out her limits. "That's nice," she answered without a break in the conversational stride, looking me right in the eye.

I tried testing her values about the validity of being gay: "Some people say that it's better to be bisexual or pansexual because they're open to all experience."

"Then for them it's better," she answered. I smiled. We were in the same ballpark. I didn't know what to presume about her own sex life,

but I never had to ask. It came out naturally, the way it does with the sort of person who has not only opened the closet door, but removed the hinges as well. "I love that button that says, 'How dare you presume I'm heterosexual,'" she said. "I was interested in this question long before it became political. That was one of the reasons I didn't shy away from being gay or being oriented toward women, having a genitalized preference for women." Her words sometimes sounded a little clinical, but there was always sharp humanity in her eyes.

I wondered how a woman could understand a man's body, especially a woman who prefers to explore other women's bodies, but she spoke about parts of my body I didn't even know I had and told of how to control them, in this case a tiny artery near the head of the penis that affects orgasm.

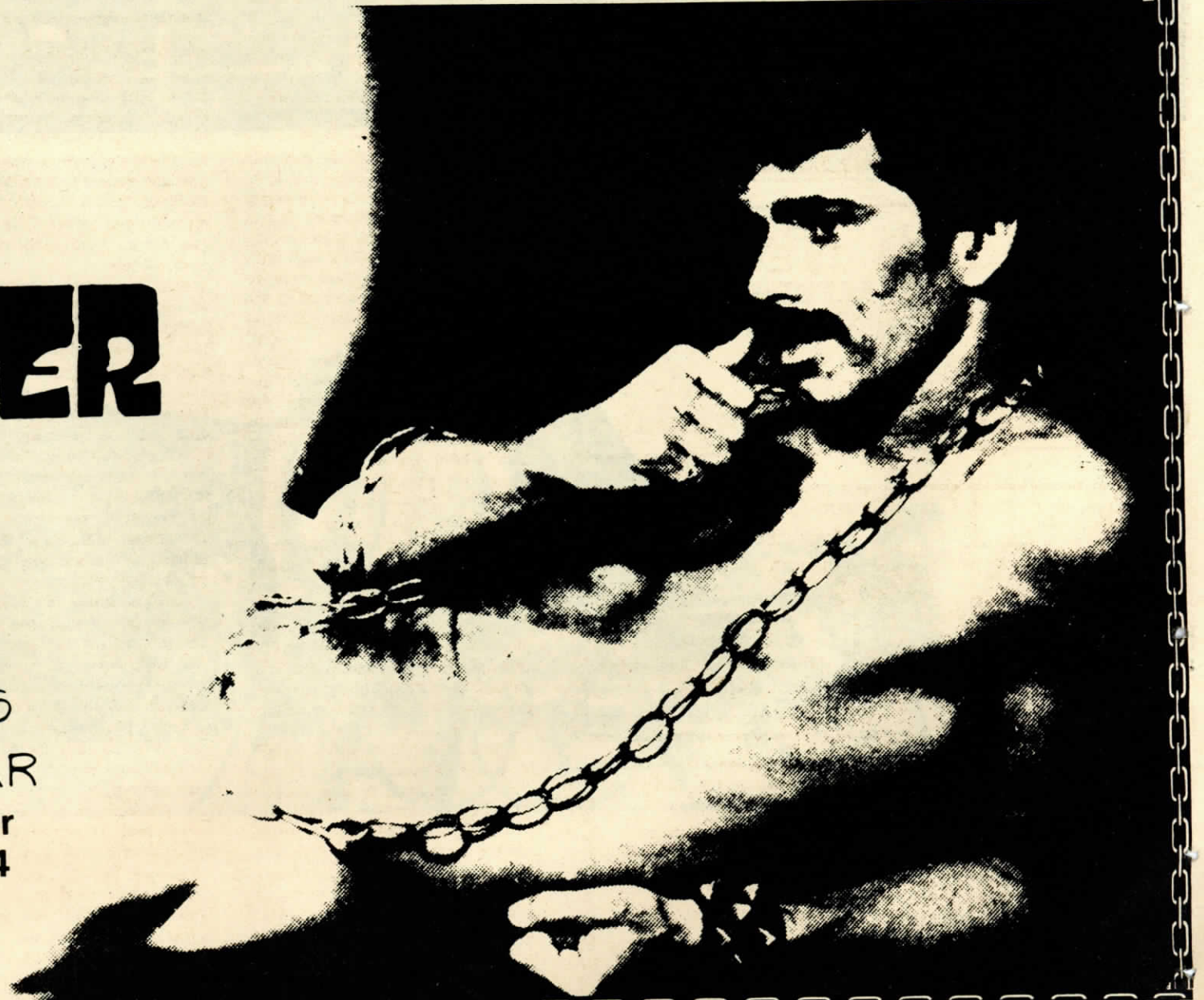
"What kinds of problems to people come to you with?" I asked her. "Why would someone look for you?"

"Not out of any sexual confusion. I deal mostly with people in relationships, and I find that having been a marriage and family counselor in the conventional settings for most of my professional career, the struggles that gay people are experiencing are essentially no different from the traditional population's... There are many people who come in for peer counseling out of loneliness and inability to find their way. There are people who are still terrified of going into gay bars, be it male or female, more so female... I can't believe they don't know their way

Continued on Page 39

THE LOCKER

HOUSTON'S
LEATHER BAR
1732 Westhimer
(713) 528-8844



Club Houston



2205
FANNIN

-713-

229-0156

Remodeled
with
bunkhouse
Sunday
Buffet!



Club Dallas



2616
SWISS

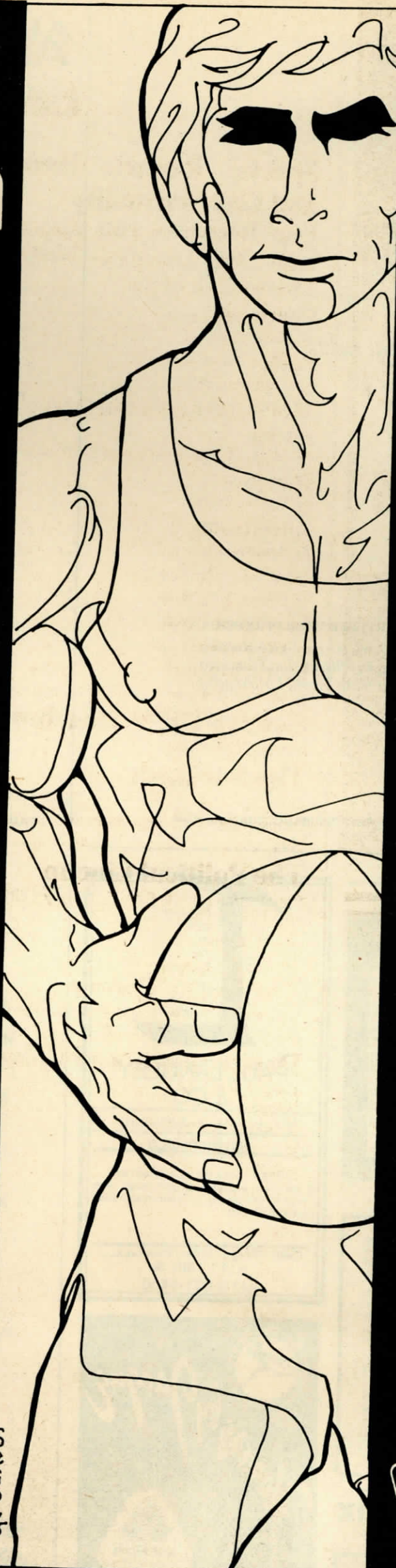
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Outdoor
pool
open
Sunday
Cookout!



In Texas, it's the Club Bath chain!



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1