

Ciao! THE WORLD OF GAY

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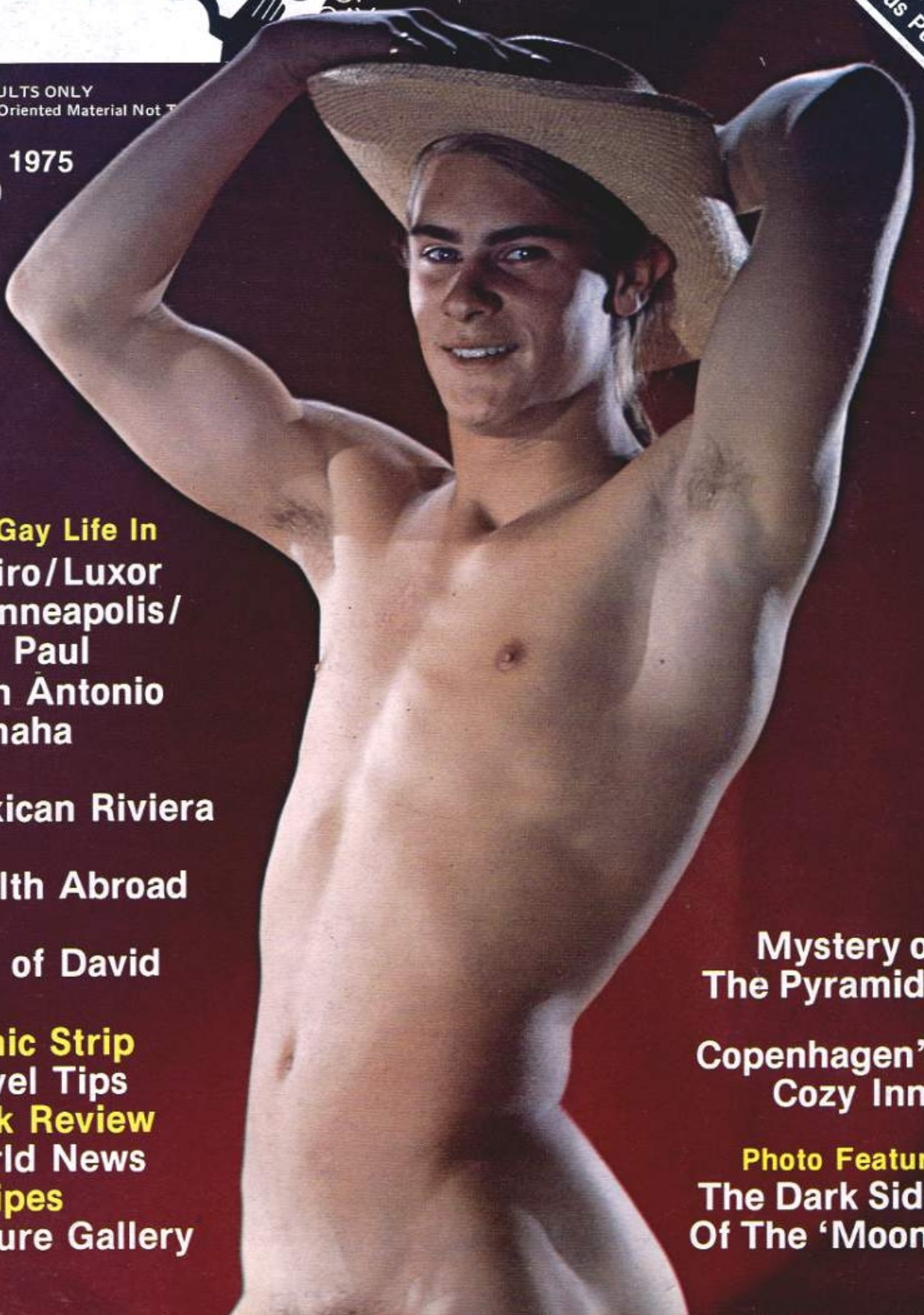
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indifferent sexist and a fully-involved one is **degree of control**—of thought and of body . . . just as in the case of the indifferently-grown coffee beans being pyramided into buoyant flavor. Or it may be that pyramid power can keep us sexually active for longer periods without a need to conserve our strength . . . as in the case of the professor who is totally refreshed after less than two hours of sleep. Or we may find that nights of conical sleep and hours of conical meditation can give us a sharper sexual focus . . . as French yogurt is perkier in taste when conically contained.



Great Pyramids of Giza

Pyramid power is nothing to laugh/sneer about. If you're not into it, don't knock it. Obviously it takes more than mere symbolism . . . more than a pyramid ring on the finger or pendant around the neck. It takes much thought . . . and **belief**. Others have found it a compelling life force. Why not you?

San Antonio

By Jerry Daniels

San Antonio is a good mixture of cultures which blend together easily in a setting of swaying palms and ancient buildings. The city is particularly important to Texans because of the Alamo where 187 Texans fought 3000 Mexicans in a valiant effort to make Texas an independent nation. Unfortunately, during this battle which raged thirteen days, the Texans were slaughtered. Consequently "Remem-

ber the Alamo!" became the major war cry that turned all Texans against Mexican rule.

Next to the Menger Hotel, where Teddy Roosevelt formed the Rough Riders, the historic past of the Alamo is carefully preserved. This old Spanish mission is now open to tourists and is a recommended tour stop. Besides the Alamo, there is a large variety of attractions, from La Villita, a small village restored to its 17th century charm, to the winding San Antonio River walk, downtown, which is flanked on both sides by interesting shops and restaurants and nightclubs.

Amidst this charming setting, in a balmy climate where flowers bloom year 'round, gay life flourishes. Because there are so many military bases, the city is mostly made up of military transients. For many years, cruising was mostly on the streets, but now that the military lifted the off-limits sign from some of the gay bars, outside cruising isn't as popular as once, and bars have become the place for meeting military.

Unfortunately, San Antonio can be rough. Straights have been known to wander into gay bars and pick up gays, then rob and beat them. Since some of these troublemakers are well-known, bar owners are forming a blacklist which will keep out anyone who has a history of molesting gay customers. This decision to do something about the roughs is primarily due to an active group of gay militants trying to make San Antonio a safe place to cruise and visit.

There is a heavy Mexican and Spanish population in San Antonio. Many of the bars have a thick mixture of both. If you are doing the bar scene, you will undoubtedly meet many. Since the Latin culture stresses masculinity heavier than our culture does, you will find that most of the men will prefer the masculine role.

There are enough bars in San Antonio to keep a visiting gay content for the duration of his stay. The majority of them are located downtown within walk-

ing distance of each other. Incidentally, if you should need advice on the location of a new bar or an up-to-the-minute report of what's happening in San Antonio, you should call the Gay Switchboard at 733-7300. It is the only Gay Switchboard in the country, to my knowledge, that is financed by the straight community of the city.

Downtown there are seven bars. Frisco, Cork Room and El Macho are practically within arm's length of each other. The **Frisco** at 147 E. Travis, has a large number of Spanish and Mexicans visiting the bar. It is a great cruise bar, well known, with men varying widely in age. There is dancing, if you can find space between tables and chairs to wiggle loose pounds. Unfortunately, there isn't any specified area. Hours are from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily.



Frisco

The **Cork Room** at 411 N. St. Mary's is probably the oldest gay bar in San Antonio. It is most popular with the hustlers, military and rough trade. This is the place to go if you like your men a little rough with that Brando, "Streetcar Named Desire" look of torn tee shirt and tough language. It would be wise to watch yourself here. Hours are from 3 p.m. to midnight daily. Beer and wine.



Cork Room

Practically next to the Cork
CIAO!

Room is the **El Macho** at 425 N. St. Mary's. This is a mixed straight and gay bar with a variety of ages and types. Of course, there is some casual and not-so-casual mixing of straights and gays in and out of the bar. Since the bar attracts a variety of types, it can be rough . . . if you aren't careful. Hours are from noon to 2 a.m. daily. Mixed drinks and beer. No wine.



El Macho

The **San Antonio Country Cocktail Lounge** (often called Country) at 1122 N. St. Mary's is the largest and most impressive of the bars. It attracts a wild, zany and liberated young crowd, gay and straight. All types . . . black, white, Spanish, girls, military and lookers . . . pack its three bars. Twice a year they have a drag or semi-drag show. Hours are from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. The best hours, though, are from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dancing.



San Antonio Country Cocktail Lounge



Desert Fox

Also downtown is the **Desert Fox** at 309 W. Market Street.

This bar attracts many Spanish, limp-wrist queens. During the day some attractive and interesting businessmen visit. Best cruising, though, is at night. Hours are from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. Beer only. Dancing.

El Jardin at 106 Navarro is considered the wrinkle-room, where the auntie queens with unpleasant dispositions go to buy young hustlers. It can be fun on Sunday afternoons when all types flock here for a change.



El Jardin

A very nice bar that gets the businessmen and conservative crowd is the **Yum Yum** at 607 N. St. Mary's. There is talk that it may close, but at this writing no one at the bar would confirm this. Its hours are from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Sunday from noon to 2 a.m.



Yum Yum

In a black residential and industrial area is the **Unicorn** at 1607 W. Poplar. This bar gets both girls and boys, and is considered by some to be a very nice bar. Hours are from 2 p.m. to midnight; weekends from 2 p.m. to 1 a.m. Closed Monday. This is a beer and wine bar with dancing.

A bar which has a reputation for rough action is **El Safari Club** (highway 81 South in Von Ormy, Texas). All types head here, but mostly very rough men. There have been reports of a murder, so be careful. They have shows

on Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 p.m. On show nights, there is a cover charge of \$1.25 or \$1.50. Dancing. Beer only.

The **Cellar Master** at 471 Farm Road is a bar popular with the outdoor crowd. There was talk during my visit that it would be going private with only guests of members welcome. Before you come here, it would be wise to verify if you can get in. There is a swimming pool (bathing suits necessary). It gets a military crowd of girls and boys.

At 2012 Broadway there is the **Hypothesis**. Although girls go here, there is a large percentage of boys who make the scene. There have been some serious beatings at this place. It is well-known to straights and some come here to cause trouble. But most of the trouble seems to be set off by the girls who crave excitement. There is good dancing here with a d.j. Incidentally, next door to the bar is a 25-cent arcade and book store with the usual action.



Hypothesis



Spanish Harlem

Near the Hypothesis at 349 W. Josephine (at St. Mary's) is the **Spanish Harlem**. Drag queens (black and white) and butch (also black and white) come here. There is a strong distinction between the masculine and feminine, much stronger than any other San Antonio bar. Hours are from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Beer

and wine. No dancing. Another bar that gets a strong distinction between the two types is the **Gay Silhouette** at 2522 Culebra. It is located in a black and Spanish area, and is rough.

At 826 San Pedro, there is the **Keg Tap Room**. This bar gets a little of everything from the very young to the wrinkle-room set. Hours: 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Dancing. A few straights visit. Also on San Pedro at 6724 is the **White Gazebo**. This bar attracts the businessmen and is very nice. On Friday nights from midnight to 2 a.m., they have a buffet. All you can eat for 50 cents. Hours: 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily; weekends from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. Dancing.



Keg Tap Room

And finally, for a more conservative gay bar crowd, there is the **Menger Hotel bar** which is quietly mixed and cruisy. During the fiesta around Lent, the Gunter Hotel (which is the old and posh establishment hotel) gets cruisy. It is probably the only time when this otherwise staid hotel really swings. The rest of the year it is properly quiet.

For outdoor cruising there is **Travis Park** by the Greyhound Bus Station. This was once the outside cruise area, but now it gets just the usual hustlers and roughs. It is a small park framed by Pecan, Navarro, Travis and Jefferson Streets. It is especially busy at night. A larger park, where the local zoo is, is **Brackenridge**. There have been reports of beatings here. It is busy everywhere, especially in the woods and john, but when I went out there I couldn't find anything really exciting. Also, **Olmos Park**. This is a heavily wooded park which gets families on picnics, but by the basin

some heavy action sometimes takes place.



Travis Park

Houston Street downtown is also supposed to be good, a regular melting-pot of types. At night when everyone is off work and a little dazzled by the night lights of the city, there is some cruising here. There are three johns, the one **outside the Alamo** under the gazebo, another **in the Frontier Drive-In** at 3715 Broadway, and a third at a **rest stop on Interstate 35** midway enroute to New Braunsfels. The latter is popular with the truckers.



Houston Street



John at The Alamo



John at Frontier Drive-In

If you aren't driving to San Antonio, and you're coming from Houston, I would recommend that you take the Trailways red-carpet service. Although bus travelers, especially those on Trailways' well-known competitor, have been known to be jammed uncomfortably together as they are transported from one poorly maintained rest stop to another, this isn't the case with the red-carpet Trailways' service. A pretty and congenial hostess is placed on board, and you are whisked along easily, while being served soft drinks and a light meal, in clean and spacious comfort . . . all for only the extra service charge of about \$2.50. You almost forget, during the span of your journey, that bus traveling can be uncomfortable. I would strongly recommend this service whenever planning a holiday. It can easily make your vacation something quite special at a very modest cost to you. So go by Trailways. Go to San Antonio. You'll **really** enjoy yourself.

Omaha

By Bill Josephs

Omaha is finally beginning to lose its faceless Midwest image. Such multi-million-dollar buildings as the 30-story Woodmen Tower Building and the 19-story Hilton Hotel are springing up everywhere, brightening that once dull, grey city with a new space-age look. This modernization, though, isn't limited to the physical look of the city, but it also extends to the spirit of the young gays who are vigorously forcing social change.

Although sodomy is punishable by heavy fines and/or imprisonment, gay activity still flourishes. This became evident to the public when the University of Nebraska had a student-sponsored conference on homosexuality some years ago. The result of this conference was

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