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*Shown above and on our front cover this issue is Dennis Baker of Houston as photographed by Primus Studios.*

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# AROUND THE STATE THIS WEEK

## Saturday, April 10, Dallas

Car wash, Club Dallas parking lot, 12-5pm. Proceeds to the Gay Crisis Line.

## Saturday, April 10, Galveston

Kon Tiki Spring Show featuring the Cookie LaCook Review, 10:30pm.

## Saturday, April 10, Houston

Miss Gay Texas Pageant, Old Plantation. . . . Special party with free keg beer, Filling Station, noon until. . . . Hat making party for the Duchess' Roller Derby, 12-4pm, the Loft. Beer, 50¢.

## Sunday, April 11, Dallas

"No Greater Lover," a cantata for Easter offered Palm Sunday evening by the Channel Choir of MCC. . . . Olive Branch Saloon turns back to the 1950s sock hop. Everyone dressed in the 50s clothes entitled to 25¢ draft and \$1 well drinks plus door prizes. . . . Special fashion show, courtesy of Union Jack, at the Sundance Kids. Mike Harrell and Norman Owens are MC's, modeling summer swim wear and briefs. . . . 6pm Pool tourney at T.J.'s with trophies.

## Sunday, April 11, Houston

The Duchess' 3rd annual Roller Derby. Starting at the Locker at noon with beer bust; moving to the Detour for 45¢ beer and \$20 tab prize; moving to Mary's for specially priced drinks for participants; moving to Just Marion & Lynn's for skaters' discounts, and ending at the

Loft with a \$25 tab prize. . . . Miss Gay Texas Pageant, Old Plantation, final competition.

## Tuesday, April 13, Dallas

Mr. Gay Dallas Contest, Sundance Kids.

## Thursday, April 15, Dallas

V.D. health clinic, Encore, 9-11pm. . . . T.J.'s T-shirt night. Half-priced drinks all night for T-shirt wearers.

## Thursday, April 15, Houston

V.D. health clinic, Club Houston, 8-10pm.

## Friday, April 16, Houston

Locker auction for masters, 10pm. Highest bid master receives \$100. Highest bid slave receives \$50. Interested masters and slaves contact Don or Phil.

## Houston Gay Organizations

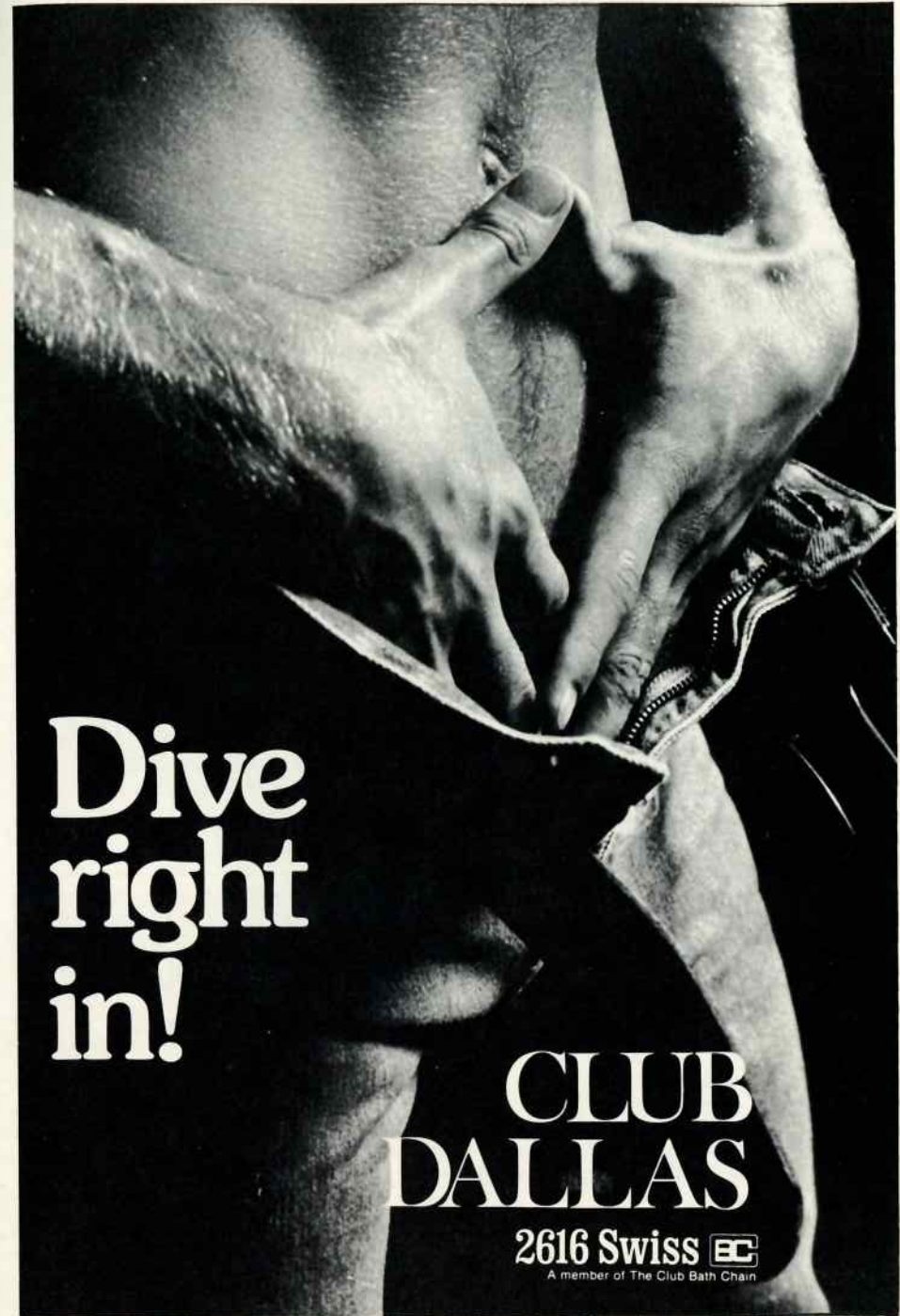
Christ's Communion Church. Sunday: refreshments 10am, worship 11am. Tuesday: ministerial staff 7:30pm, CFC meetings 8:30pm.

Dignity. Thursday: meeting 8pm, St. Anne's Church, 2140 Westheimer. Call 529-8213 or 629-6428.

Gay Political Caucus. Wednesday: general public meeting, 7:30pm, MCC.

Integrity. Thursday: meeting 7:15pm, MCC.

Metropolitan Community Church. Sunday: worship services 11am, 7:30pm. Monday: Lambda AA and Transactional Analysis, 8pm. Tuesday: Bible study and Holy Communion, 7:30pm. Friday: Good Friday Services, "Way of the Cross," 7:30pm.



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# Sampling Texas

Lots of tidbits this time, kids. So everybody pull up a chair, sit close and listen up. First off, in our Names and Faces category, Houstonians Gary Van Ooteghem and Pokey Anderson have been asked to join the Board of Directors of the National Gay Task Force. Good goin', you two. Incidentally, the ex-director of the NGTF, Dr. Bruce Voeller, will be in Houston toward the end of the month as guest speaker for the Houston Gay Political Caucus. GPC dynamo Van Ooteghem has really been busy lately, including turning in a superlative stint, along with Hugh Crell, on a KAUM talk show about the gay lifestyle.

In other organization news, the Gay Activist Alliance is to be congratulated on the just-completed and highly successful teach-in at the University of Houston. The theme centered around the recent Supreme Court ruling (see the Gay News Briefs page) and gay rights in general.

Watering Hole Tidbits: Here's the latest dirt on what's happening for your pleasure at Houston's favorite bars. There is growing anticipation for the grand opening party at the Loft on April 17. It's already a super addition to the Houston night life biz. More details will be announced in the next issue. Jim, the owner, says all is in readiness. (Also, Jim wishes to publically thank the Houston Police Dept. for their cooperation in recent "hoaxes" and

false alarms which have arisen in the Loft vicinity lately. The guys in blue have evidently been great.)

You can watch for the re-opening of the Adam's Image, under a new name and management.

Congratulations go out to the Inside-Outside, and to Ed Moninger. They've just celebrated two years of high jinks and good times for all their patrons.

The Depository has just added ten tons of extra air conditioning over the dance floor. That should come in especially handy as summer rolls around. Let's boggie!

At the Detour, the outside patio should be open by the time you read this. Even if you're a speed reader. Up to the bar, you butch ones.


All her fans will be ecstatic to know that "Mop" Harman has staged a comeback at Just Marion & Lynn's as "ye old bartender & such."

The Odd's Place, after long and expectant waits by all concerned, has finally opened. Ya'll go over, they're waiting' for ya.

And the Lampost is now embroiled in a hot softball tourney, played every Sunday at the park at Fairview and Yupon. The Lamp Post team just whooped up on the Libertarians of the M.C.C., score 25 to 19. Norma hit a home run for the Lampost, which she said was easy, and then chugged around the bases, which she said damned near killed her.

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At the Old Plantation in Houston, a major pool tourney is slated for Mondays. Check their ad for details.

And finally, in water hole notes, Donnie Gray is the new assistant manager at Dirty Sally's.

Houston Rag News: The Union Jack is now having a big sale on assorted pants. One table is heaped up with goodies for the going price of only \$1.88 a pair. Also, a lot of Levi's and denims have been put in the \$5.88 to \$10.88 class. Line up!

And at 900 Lovett, E.D. Lloyd has moved upstairs from the former shop. (Your basic bust at the seams.) Incidentally, E.D. will guest at the Miss Gay Texas Pageant at the Old Plantation.

In other notes around the state, the New Encore in Dallas has added another bar, making three good places to have a good time under one roof. Miss Pat will fix you up.

The Bon Soir, also in Big D, is soon to begin Sunday steak events. You bring the steak, they supply the fixins.

And finally in Dallas, check the Bayou Landing ad. Those are great discount prices, huh? And what's more, management says they're here to stay! (Maybe pretty soon they'll be paying you to drink.)

Over in San Antonio, the Penny Pub had their grand opening, complete with flashing lights and a bubble machine. A one, and a two, and . . .

On the serious side, San Antonio has been the site of a major city-wide gay controversy. That hot issue will be detailed, in depth, in a special section in This Week in Texas next week. Til then, so long for now.

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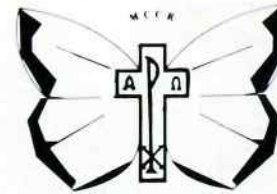
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# Life With Vera

a serial by John Gardner

continued from previous issue

"Don't drive so fast," Vera warned. "This is not a time to get a ticket. In Texas, getting caught with a dead body in the back seat is almost as bad as being caught with a lid of grass."

"I'm doing the best I can." Burt was tense. Really tense. "Going to Galveston was your idea!"

The little AMC Pacer slowed to a comfortable 50 miles an hour. Only 20 more miles to the beach. To the casual observer, there was nothing unusual about the car. But a more discerning eye could have picked up little peculiarities. For one, all the windows of the car had been covered with sheets, towels, and two of Vera's old drag dresses. Vera was taking no chances that anyone would see the corpse in the back seat. Also, they were sweating like hogs in a microwave. Burt's car had no air conditioning and Vera feared that if they rolled the windows down, someone might smell "death."

"Next time you take a trick home, Vera, please be sure that he's in good health. I don't want any more heart attacks. Or whatever it was that did him in during the night. Besides, think what

it's going to do to your reputation when word gets out that all of your tricks die on you."

"Just shut up and drive. Please. Can I help it?"

"This is insane. Surely there was somewhere in Houston we could have dumped him." Burt reasoned.

"Dressed in a bathing suit? All the bars have dress codes?"

"Couldn't you get his clothes back on him?"

"I tried that! He's just too stiff. You know how much trouble we had getting him in the back seat. If he'd been two inches taller, we'd of had to stick his feet out the back, with a red ribbon tied around his foot. Get off my back, Burt. As it is, I'm sacrificing my favorite Clothes Circuit original. And he doesn't look half as good in that swim suit as I do. 'Course, he's sick."

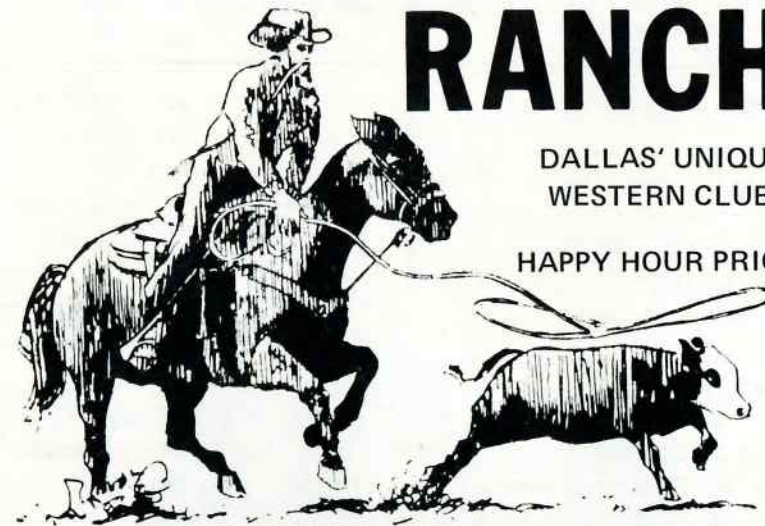
"What are we going to do once we get to the beach?" Burt asked.

"Well," Vera reasoned, "by the time we get there the sun will be going down, so I don't think we'll be able to get much sun. Maybe we can get a hamburger and go . . ."

"Not us! With him! The body! What are we going to do with the

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body?"

"Oh, just put him on the beach. We'll find a secluded spot, lie him on a blanket, put a bottle of sun tan oil in his hand. And split."

"Sun tan oil?"

"You don't want him to burn do you? Poor child's in enough trouble as it is. Look at his face. We've got to remember to put him face down. Or maybe propped up on one arm, as though he were contemplating the sea. Wish we could get him to smile. Just a small one. Nothing ruins a party like someone not enjoying himself."

"Did you ever find out who he is?"

"He said his name was Peter, I think. Or Dick. He didn't have any identification. But I can tell you one thing for sure."

"What's that?"

"He's a Airies."

"How do you know?"

"Today's horoscopes say this is going to be a bad day for Aries." It's going to be a bad day for us, too."

"Did our horoscopes say that?"

"No."

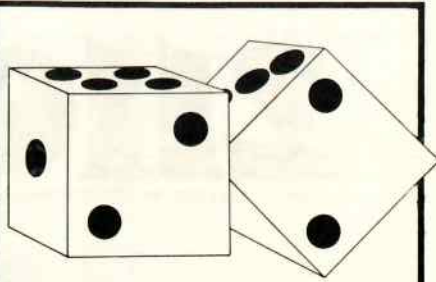
"Then what makes you think we're in for a rough day?"

"The flashing lights."

"What flashing lights?"

"The ones on the cop car behind us. Hang on, girl. We're in for a surprise!"

continued next issue



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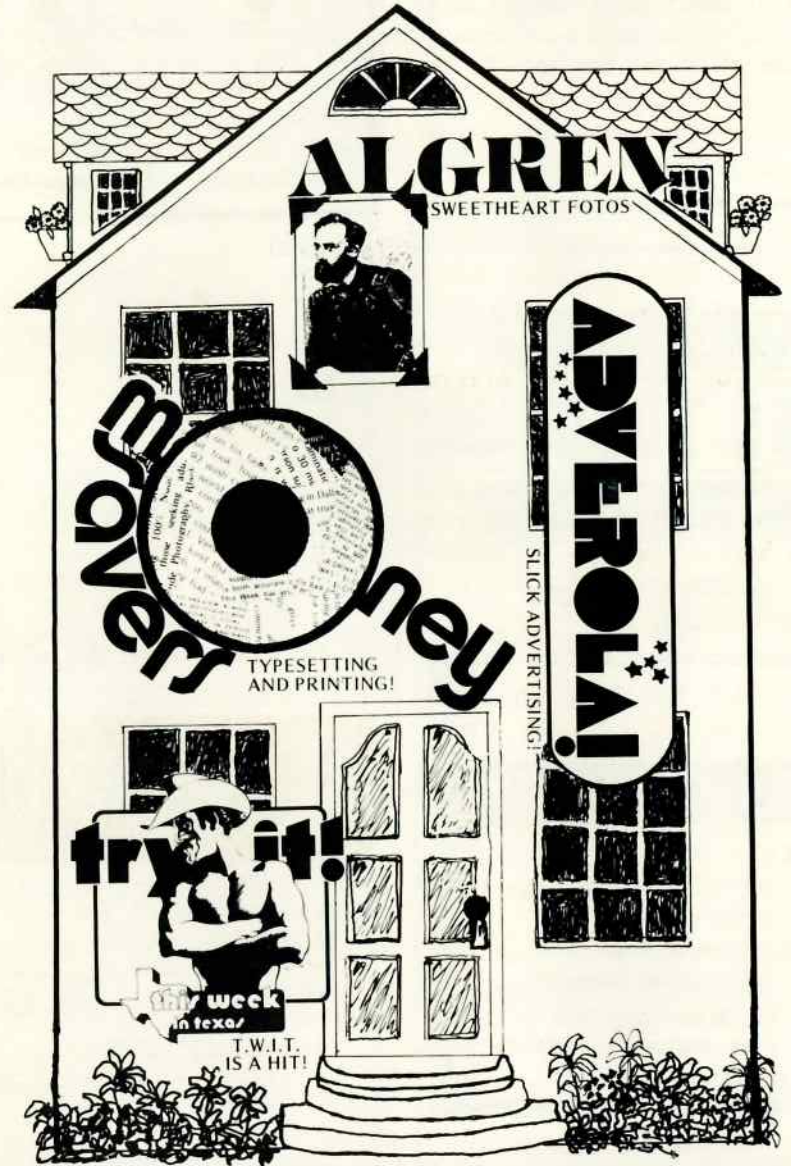
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# Gay News Briefs

Gay rights organizations around the country are currently trying to assess the future impact of the recent Supreme Court action which turned a cold shoulder to legal efforts to allow homosexuals protection from punishment for sexual acts committed in the privacy of the home between consenting adults. Most agree that the March 29th ruling on the issue will not be the last word on the matter, but it is also evident that a pessimism has infected future legal efforts. The sought after legal victories now seem far off, indeed.

Dr. Bruce Voeller, executive director of the National Gay Task Force, issued a statement which seems to characterize the situation.

"From this decision it becomes clear that in the Court's view, the tempo of the times has not yet moved along so that both heterosexuals and homosexuals can avoid being criminalized by laws forbidding forms or private sexual behavior between consenting adults commonly practiced by 80% of our population. Since the so-called 'sodomy' laws are commonly associated with homosexuality, we can assume that bigotry has temporarily won out over constitutional equality. We are certain that the decision will not stand, and that the right of human beings to privacy and control of their own bodies will be established as the right of all

Americans."

"It is nonetheless necessary to point out that the United States is the only nation in the Americas and Western Europe which still has such oppressive laws on the books, and that the Court's ruling is particularly surprising in view of the opposition to such laws by major organizations including the American Bar Association, American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association and the National Council of Churches." Dr. Voeller concluded.

Five members of Houston's Gay Political Caucus were among 64 leaders of the gay liberation movement that met on March 27th at Chicago's Hyatt O'Hare Hotel. The purpose of the conference was the establishment of a federal lobby in Washington, D.C., to push for broad-ranging legislation to benefit gay people.

The lobby will direct its efforts toward such areas as restrictive immigration and naturalization policies, laws discriminatory to the single taxpayer, and a federal bill now pending that expands all existing federal civil rights legislation to include "sexual or affectional preference."

The keynote speaker was Gary Aldridge, a gay aide to Senator Alan Cranston. The conference was organized by David Goodstein, publisher of The Advocate.



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# Bulletin Board

Your message here will reach thousands of gay people throughout Texas. To advertise, send 20¢ per word to Weekly Bulletin Board, This Week in Texas, P.O. Box 22104, Houston, TX 77027.

## FOR SALE

Ideal gay club for sale for men, women or both. Located near downtown at 3007 Travis, Houston, yet secluded with lots of inconspicuous parking. Fully furnished, equipped, and ready to open. Only needs an owner and license. \$10,000 selling price, \$760 monthly property rent with long lease. For an appointment to see, call 9-5, Mr. Black, 526-5333.

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# SUPPORTERS

Listed here are Texas establishments that support This Week in Texas. Each week we are in touch with our supporters, so the list is both accurate and dependable. If you're visiting the Lone Star State, we sincerely hope This Week has assisted you in having a good time.

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