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Vol. 2. No. 16

July 17-23

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On the cover

*CHARA' AND NORMA,
 THE LAMP POST,
 HOUSTON, TEXAS*

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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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NEWS UP FRONT

HOUSTON LAD FOUND DEAD

On Sunday, July 4, Jeff Schell was found dead under a high rise beach house near San Leon. Sheriff Sgt. Bruce Clawson said Jeff apparently died of a drug overdose. Jeff, age 21, was living in the Heights in Houston after having moved from Beaumont two years ago. Jeff, who played the guitar and wrote songs, has two songs to be published by Houston producer Ray Bush. Funeral services were held in Beaumont, Wednesday, July 7. We will all miss this tall sensitive Sagittarian. His two closest friends, Mike Brian and Jimmy Ledford, wish to thank the community for expressing their sympathy.

BIKE CHRISTENING & BLESSING

The Filling Station, which is fast becoming one of Houston's busiest bars, will present a bike christening and blessing this Sunday, July 18th, hosted by the International Roadmasters. All bikes are welcome, blessings are free, and free beer will start flowing at 6 PM. TWIT's roving reporter will be there with his "cruise camera", so peddle on over!

FOOD AND DRINK

Houston's Levi at 2400 Brazos now has its restaurant, the Chuck Wagon, open for supper and after hours breakfast every Friday and Saturday night and brunch every Sunday. The after hours breakfast is a real bargain - \$1.50 gets you a hearty plate of delicious sausage or bacon and eggs. And

on Wednesday nights you can get heaps of tasty spaghetti for only \$1.95.

By popular demand, Walter and Andre at **The Barn** have decided to serve their delicious Jambalaya every Sunday at 1pm. And you'd better get there at one because this delightful dish is always a fast mover.

And in Dallas this Sunday, you can get some good free food at **Club Dallas'** cookout from 2-5 pm.

NEW SHOWS COMING UP

On Thursday, July 22nd, Houston's Hollywood glitter bar, the **Tangier**, will premiere a new series of weekly drag shows. Utilizing **Tangier's** unique dance floor, the show will be developed on a theme of "Drag in the Round". Watch for next weeks issue of TWIT for further details.

Also coming up on Friday, July 23rd will be the **Bartender's Show**, a benefit for the **MCCR**, to be held at the **Levi**. The theme will be "Grand Ole' Opry Time" and will feature a cast of your favorite Houston bartenders.

GPC MAILING LIST

Don Hughes, chairperson of the mailing committee for Houston's Gay Political Caucus, again enlists your support and cooperation. If you are on the GPC mailing list and have moved, or if you wish to be placed on GPC's confidential mailing list, please contact Don at 626-2508. Don tells TWIT that since the start of the mailing list in September, some of you Montrose gypsies have re-located your pads as many as five

times.

BIG SHOW IN TOWN

Regulars to the Old Plantation can see their favorite entertainers in two exciting super shows this week. Showtimes are 9:30 on Sunday and Wednesday nights. The shows star **Carmelita, Jennifer, Donna Day, Naomi**, and, of course, **Ernestine**. On Sunday, July 11, Donna Day received the longest standing ovation in the history of the OP's shows for her 13-minute performance of Aretha's "Fillmore West". So this week be sure to make reservations if you want a good seat and table. Ask for Bob.

KON TIKI BATH RAID

Those of you who read last week's edition of TWIT know that on the morning of the 4th of July, Galveston police (12 to 16 bluecoats) raided the oldest bathhouse in Texas. Further details are now forthcoming. Bob Ellison of the Kon Tiki says city hall is buzzing and such notables as Barbara Jordan are being called in. Even the mayor of the city, who is an attorney, is upset as he had no idea the raid had been planned. It was carried out by the chief of police under the direction of the city manager. Fortunately, the raid came at an early hour (around 1:30 am) prior to the big after bar crowd that always stays at the baths. Still, thirty nine were arrested. Thirty appeared last Wednesday in Judge Youngblood's court and pleaded innocent to the class four misdemeanor charge of indecent exposure (not a serious charge). As David Gregg put it: "Arresting people for indecent exposure at the baths would be

continued on next page

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like arresting people at a health spa for wearing towels to take a shower or go in the whirlpool!"

The judge was very polite in court and reset the trial for a later date. However, it may all be tossed out of municipal court and into a higher court.

The Galveston Gay Society reports that the city collected \$2600 in bail bonds and that the ACLU in Houston is coming to the aid of the island city's gay community.

One of the reasons for the sudden show of sympathy is the manner in which the raid was conducted. The police attack came from two fronts. One group stormed the front stairs and broke down the buzz-in door while another scaled the fire escape off the alley. Once inside, the police destroyed the doors to all the private rooms, causing some \$3000 in damages. No warrants had been issued to back up the police action. So violent were the police in their verbal and physical abuse (they dragged several customers around by the hair) that one customer lapsed into an epileptic fit. For awhile, the police refused to send for an ambulance, saying, "If he dies, that's just one less of your kind to worry about!"

TWIT would like to remind Galveston that the gay community spends a great deal of money every summer in the island city. If the city wants to continue to take in gay dollars, this kind of senseless harrassment must stop. Fortunately, most Galveston businessmen understand this. It's only the police and city manager that have their heads in the beach sand.

BATHHOUSE NEWS

Get your Yves St. Laurent towels all cleaned and pressed. In Houston, Mr. Frizby's is now open seven days a week. Check their ad elsewhere in this issue for all the details. The Mr. Club Houston and Mr. Club Dallas Contests are fast coming down on us. Our next issue will carry complete registration details. And the Houston towel set is eagerly awaiting the grand opening of Club Houston's new swimming pool. Get on it, Gene!

MAE WEST PARTY

Further details are now locked in on the birthday bash for Mae West at Houston's Mary's. Maurice says there'll be a \$250 cash prize for the look-alike winner. So, start shopping your favorite boutique for Mae West threads. And, there'll be three movie screens in the trees out on the patio where three Mae West movies will be playing simultaneously and continuously. Wow!

COWBOY FOUND DEAD

John Steen, "cowboy", passed away at his home here in Houston on Independence Day. A native of Cline Texas, John Steen, age 28, most recently managed the paraphernalia shop at The Locker. Friends found him dead at his home Monday, July 5th, after an apparent overdose.

ALAMO CITY ACTION

As reported last week, the **Mary Ellen Lounge** is celebrating its first anniversary under new management. And what a bash it is! The festivities start with a big party at 9:30 on the 17th and continues with a shishkebob and corn-on-the-cob dinner on the

18th. The anniversary week winds up with Mary Ellen's first annual Western "S-Kikker" Barn Dance and Barbeque on Friday, July 23rd. Mosey on over for free beer and a super good time!

The Friendly has a great new bowling game lined up for your amusement. And on Sunday at 10:30 pm the **Club Hypothesis** presents "The Moods of Bazaar" hosted by Ruben and Bianca Starr.

The Habitat is planning a Funky Fashion Show coming up soon. Watch TWIT for further details.

TWIT has recently learned that a bartender at the El Jardin left his rich sugar daddy in Las Vegas to come back to good old San Antonio. Now who could that be - the rich sugar daddy, that is?

CHAMPAGNE ANNIVERSARY

Houston's **Venture-N** on Main Street will be the main event this Sunday when it celebrates its first anniversary. Owners Jim Wisener and Bill Armstrong invite you to join them for a champagne party from 8 pm till ??? And, to help celebrate, that swingin' band, "Babbs Plus Baldy" will begin a six month re-turnd engagement at 7 pm Sunday.

BATS, BALLS, & BOOZE

The sports event of the season is upon us. It's the girls versus the boys (and we'll leave it up to you to decide who's what) as the Lamp Post meets the Locker in what promises to be a rollicking good time. The location is the ballpark at Fairview and Yupon, and they'll throw the first ball at 2 pm, Saturday, July 18. After the game the team members will relax with a picnic and beer bust.

continued Page 32

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STARSCOPE

FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 16TH-22ND

Cancerians should now begin feeling more vibrant and ready to get it together since a month has now passed since the leaving of heavy Saturn in your sign where it had been dragging you down for 2½ years. These loving, sensitive Moon Children should find life improving now!

AIRES (March 21-April 20): Attention now centers more on your home life; unusual for the Ram who usually rams around away from home. But, the full moon is over!

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Best keep your guard up, most especially around the 21st as there could be more trouble bubbling with your lover, or even a business partner. The 25th would be a good day to make up.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Your second house of money receives stellar vibrations this week. So hold tight to your job and avoid expensive travel. Next weekend could be a better time for romance than this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): You are still under the favorable influence of July's new moon in your sign; but, now is not a good time to start any new projects, invest money, or begin a new love affair. Avoid arguments with your mate this weekend.

LEO (July 24-August 23): Some negative planetary vibrations are working against you and have been since Saturn entered your sign last month. So, if you don't have as much energy and enthusiasm for life, blame it on burdensome Saturn.

VIRGO (August 24-September 23): The 11th house of friendships catches good planetary energies mid-month, accenting a more active social whirl. But, don't whirl so fast you ruin your health or get hurt.

LIBRA (September 23-October 23): Although you want to find a partner, your head isn't into that now as your career is more important. Even your best buddy could disappoint you suddenly.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those 9th house long journeys may be thwarted this week by an unexpected (Uranus) happening. It's not a good time to sign a contract as there are hidden pitfalls.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Don't travel away from home and don't neglect your health as these areas are under heavy heavenly stress. For a change, let your mate make the weekend decisions as to what to do.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): The new moon favors your 7th house of marriage. But, that full moon opposes it . . . so you have a tug of war. If you didn't meet your love early in July, the time has been lost until late month for him to present himself to you.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19) Job, employees, employers, co-workers and career - these are the mundane things occupying your time and thoughts now; and, damn it, friendly Aquarius would rather be out being friendly.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The changing moon is keeping you in a creative tailspin as we approach mid month. Push ahead with ideas, but start no further new projects. Love is quiet.

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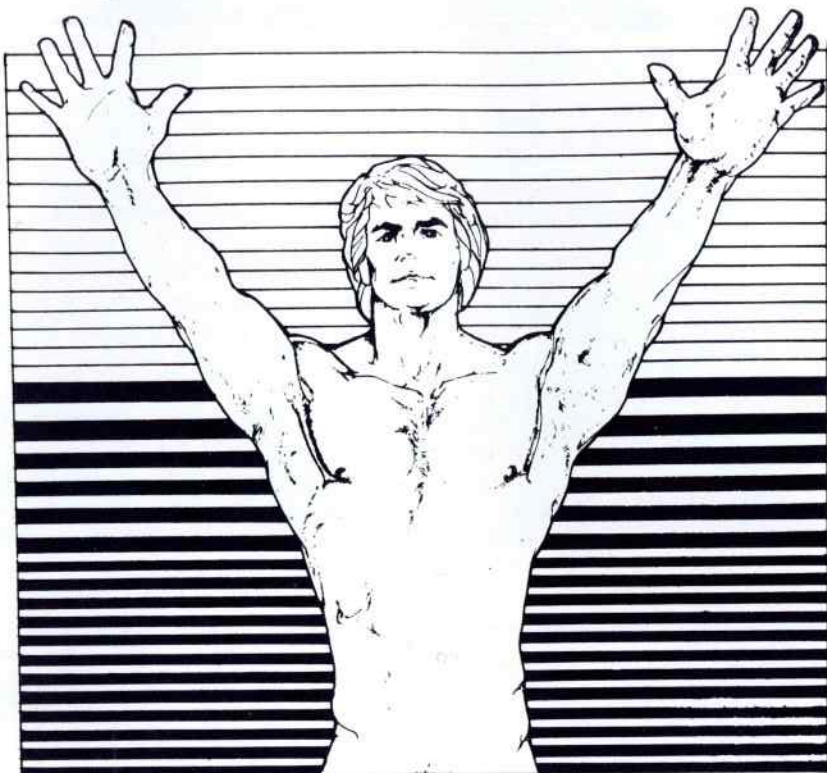
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LIFE WITH VERA

A Soaper by John Gardner

Dear Diary,

First off, it's so good to see you again! I had you certified as "missing in action" weeks ago. How you got from the bookshelf to the bottom of the deep freeze is beyond me. If I hadn't suffered a vicious attack of the Sara Lee's, I might not have eaten my way to you for months.

It pains me to break this news to you, honey, but recent days have not been as pleasant as could be expected. By the time my ship finally came in, it had been reduced from the Queen Mary to the Tugboat Annie! And you know what an aversion I have to anything that tugs.

In a sudden, urgent quest for funds, I have been hitting the pavement so hard that my feet must be convinced I've taken up ballroom dancing again. Yes, dear diary, I have been engaged in the lowly activity of seeking gainful employment. For the first time in my casual life, I've got to get a job. But I've already learned one very important fact about the "real" world -- my Wednesday tennis and Friday afternoon bridge are now in jeopardy. You wouldn't believe it, diary, but when you go to get a job, they expect you to show up **PRECISELY** on time. **PRECISELY!** It's so hard to make a grand entrance when everybody has to arrive at the same time. I haven't met a single interviewer who believes in "fashionably late". And they're all so picky. All they ever want to talk about is "skills". How dull.

Studying the situation, I had decid-

ed that the best place to get a job would be at a bank. At least it's a place where you can get your salary in cash, none of that pesky check-cashing stuff. You know how lousy I am with figures and bookwork. I told those bank people that I had to have a job as a teller, since they don't seem to have to work with pencils and paper a lot. Just money. What could be easier!

But being a teller didn't work out so well at all. I thought the best way to show that I was doing a good job would be to have the longest line in front of my window, to show how popular I was with the customers. But I was promptly informed that a teller is not allowed to hold a "Daily Double". You'd be shocked, diary, to see how many people will come to your window when you start giving two for one. Besides, my drawer didn't have a slot for those troublesome new \$2.00 bills, so I wanted to get rid of all mine in a hurry!

I was immediately transferred away from the money and into the loan department, after a rather heavy lecture concerning the way banks work. Banks are much happier about money that is coming in, instead of money that is going out. Especially in the loan department, where I created a sensation on the first day. I set a new record for the number of loans approved in one day! And not a single one required collateral. I don't like to get too personal. But I did get every single one of them,



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all 58, to promise to pay back the money on time. A solemn promise. With "cross your heart, hope to die". It's so fulfilling to make people happy. But the bank vice-presidents don't take a lot of stock in crossed hearts, so I was whisked off to the safety deposit boxes!

Unfortunately, I hadn't been there ten minutes before my contact lenses began to hurt. You know how those banks all scrimp on lights. It's so dark. Anyway, I decided to take my contacts out - - and what better place to put them than in one of the empty safety deposit boxes. But should you ever do this, diary, be sure you remember what box you put them into. Lord, what a mess! When you empty out all the safety deposit boxes into a big pile, be sure to take notes! You WILL forget what went where. But I didn't mind. It seemed like a great opportunity to change the destiny of an entire city - - by finally getting the wealth distributed equally. After all, some of those pitiful little boxes hardly had anything in them at all. How was I to know that the owners of the boxes that were just crammed full would notice! I was only trying to make the poorer people happy. Like I said, banks are so picky! And tacky. I was soon back out on the pavement.

But I saw something in tonight's paper that has left me encouraged about tomorrow's prospects. It said, "Do you want fun, travel and excitement?" And it showed this hunky number in white bell bottoms. I said to myself, diary, "Now those are MY kind of people!" I can't wait to make a grand entrance into their offices tomorrow. I've got my outfit all picked out. It'll just kill 'em. All for now.

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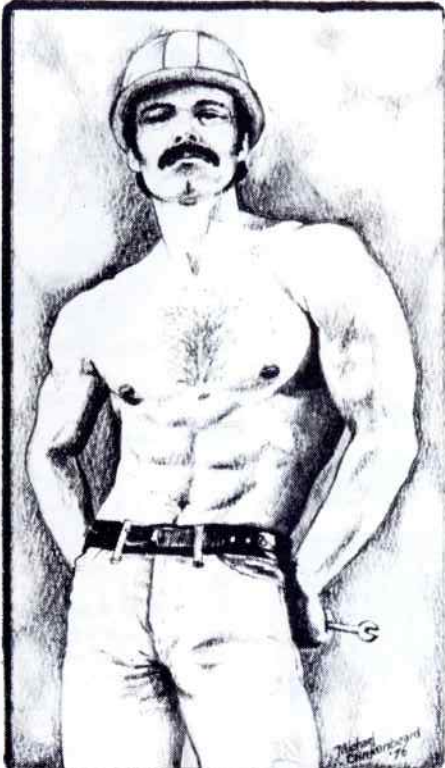
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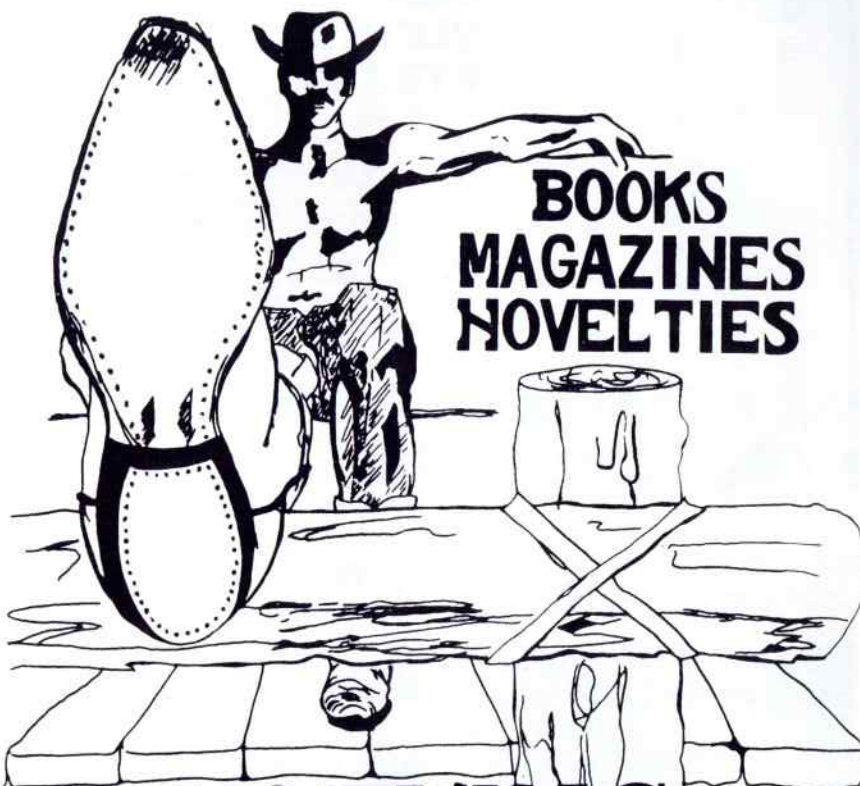
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MOVIE ARCADE



BOOKS
MAGAZINES
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Product Hotline

JULY - 1976



NEW SIZE INTRODUCED TO THE TEXAS MARKET

JAC AROMA NOW AVAILABLE IN 2 SIZES IN TEXAS

Jac-Aroma, the "man's - choice" was introduced to Houston several months ago and was very well-received. It continues to be popular with folks here in Texas and continues to be a sales leader across the nation.

First introduced in the familiar half-ounce bottle, Jac-Aroma is now being marketed in a smaller, less expensive

quarter-ounce size.

Jac-Aroma is now available in most of the more popular outlets in Texas. If not available, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to our office and we'll send you the name and address of the store nearest you. Or, if you prefer, you can order by mail with the form at the bottom of this page.

Available In Two Styles!

Jac-Blaster Inhalers In Colors!



The newest product on the market from the Jacmasters folks, is the new "Jac-Blaster" inhalers in a variety of bold colors.

Now stocked by most of the adult book stores in the Houston and Austin areas, they will soon be available in stores across the state.

The Jac-Blaster is available in Black, Blue, Red and Satin, and retail for \$7.00 each.

RETAILERS NOTE:

For information on wholesale prices on any of these products, please call or write the Exclusive Distributor in Texas - The Woodstock Company - Post Office Box 583, Alief, Texas - 77411 or call, (713) 783-7242.

THE BEST GETS BETTER!

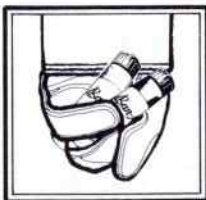
BAN-APPLE GAS NOW COMES IN GIANT SIZE BOTTLE

Introduced to the Houston area only two months ago, the now famous "Ban-Apple" has become the favorite of a lot of Texans.

With the publicity from Cat Stevens' recording of the same name and both local and national recognition through the pages of Rolling Stone magazine, Ban-Apple Gas invaded the market which, by then had many other brands marketed under all sorts of names. The difference was the fantastic aroma - a blend of

Bananas and Apples... soon dubbed the "un-trite nitrite" when test-marketed on the West Coast!

How can the best product on the market get better? Hold on to your god, folks.... Ban-Apple Gas is now bottled in a GIANT SIZED bottle at no increase in price! That's a fact. The Giant sized bottle sells for \$10. per bottle with the price on the popular half-ounce size selling at a reduced retail price. Available at better stores throughout Texas!



Get Your Hands on the Gas!

Ban-Apple Gas Shirts Classy

Everyone asked for them when the "Gas" hit the market and now they are available by mail and at a few selected retail establishments in Texas.

Made of 100% Polyester, these classy shirts proudly display the Ban Apple Gas logo in bright red ink on an even brighter yellow T-shirt.



MAIL ORDER FORM

IF ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT YOUR FAVORITE STORE - YOU CAN NOW ORDER THEM BY MAIL. Send proper amount in Cash, Cashier Check or Money Order plus \$.50 handling per order to:

PRODUCTS--P.O. BOX 583--ALIEF, TEXAS 77411

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send the following merchandise:

- Ban Apple Gas - Giant - \$10.00
- Ban Apple Gas - 1/2 Oz. - \$8.00
- Jac-Aroma - 1/2 Oz. - \$7.00
- Jac-Aroma - 1/4 Oz. - \$5.00
- Jac-Blaster-Specify color - \$7.00
- Red, Black, Blue, Satin
- Ban Apple Gas T-Shirts - \$5.00
- Specify Sm--Med--Lg--X-Lg

ALL ORDERS SENT POSTAGE PAID

BOX 22104

MARY HARTMAN
MARY HARTMAN

Box 22104: Unless you give us "Life with Vera" five times a week, we can't stand being without "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" for much longer. Will the show be back next season? And what can you tell us about Mary's being arrested on charges of drug possession?

Editor: Mary, and sometimes even Vera, occasionally have to rest and try to get their heads back together. Production of new episodes of "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" will resume the first week in August. The show will pick up where it left off in early summer. According to **TV Guide**, the hassle over Louise Lasser's possession of less than an ounce of cocaine was resolved by her agreeing to continue her weekly psychiatric counseling sessions. Vera's psychiatrist gave up long ago.

MARY JO RISHER

Box 22104: What ever happened to Mary Jo Risher, the lady in Dallas who

lost custody of her little boy because she was gay?

Editor: A Dallas judge rejected Mary Jo's plea for a new hearing, so she is still blocked from gaining custody of her nine year old son who was taken from her last December. She and other up-front gays in Dallas are looking in to an appeal from the judges decision.

TRAVELER FROM MISSISSIPPI

Box 22104: I just returned from spending July 4th in your state of Texas and want to say that without your magazine's list of supporters, I would have been lost. Thanks to your listings, my friend and I had one hell of a time. I wish our state had a similar magazine.

Editor: Thanks for the comments. We are now in our second year of publication. And, we are proud to say, all of the leading clubs, baths, and stores do carry THIS WEEK IN TEXAS every week.

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- Risque
- Nostalgia
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- The Return Engagement of Babbs & Baldy
- Free Champagne Party 8 pm - ? Sunday, July 18

Babbs & Baldy

1ST ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Sunday, July 18th, 7 PM til ???

ENJOY COCKTAILS OR BEER WITH

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REVIEWS

Movies

As an art film, **Bijou** is quite tolerable. As pornography, it's stimulating and sexually precocious. But it's something more than that.

Director Wakefield Poole has given us a surprisingly taut and thought-provoking gay movie that transcends the usual low budget mish-mash we've grown to expect. **Bijou** tells the story of a contemporary youth (Bill Harrison) who embarks upon a surrealistic journey through a maze of sexual fantasies with "himself and others". These fantasies, enacted by six rather virile looking young men, are as dramatic as they are arousing. Professionally filmed amid the strange lights, mirrors, and smoke of the mysterious 'Bijou', Poole's movie depicts their sexual encounters as methodically ominous experiences and couples them with an equally forboding musical soundtrack. The end result is a provocative film that will (I suspect) be studied and revived for years to come.

Less can be said for Andrew Herbert's embarrassing adaptation of Richard Amory's classic **Song of the Loon**. The film stars Jon Iverson as the "Herculean pioneer . . . with the testicles of a bull", Morgan Royce as the city boy who "usually knew where he was going, but not always", and a cast of incredibly phony Indians who emerge from time to time with the stalest of platitudes. Filmed in Northern California's beautiful Trinity Alps, **Loon** makes a miserable attempt at being whimsically romantic. The sex scenes are clumsy, the dialogue vaguely reminiscent of 'Nancy Drew's Frontier Adventure', and as for the acting . . . well, the acting is pretty laughable. All in all, **Loon's** only saving grace is that it happens to be co-billed with the hypnotic **Bijou** at French Quarter Theatre (Louisiana at Elgin).

Bijou and **Loon** are the first installments in the French Quarter's Wake-

field Poole film festival which will include **Moving** and **Boys in the Sand** later in July.

by Tom Goreman

Magazine

After considering everything from "The Magazine You'd Buy A New Coffee Table For" to "We Do It Once A Month" as ad campaigns, an indecisive staff finally selected: "**Christopher Street**, The Gay Magazine For The Whole Family" as their publicity logo. It's catchy, certainly, but it's also a reasonably accurate description of the new magazine. **Christopher Street**, recently introduced in the Texas market by Studz News, has no nude men, no cheesecake advertising, no kinky classifieds, no soapbox editorials. What it **does** have is an admirable assortment of good reading matter for even the most discerning gays. Along with the usual fiction, poetry, and film sections of its contemporaries, **Christopher Street** also boasts articles on dance, theatre, and Washington politics. The cartoons are clever and original, the format inconspicuously attractive. It's the kind of magazine I'd be proud to show my parents, a gay periodical that's literary, informative, and unusually tasteful.

by Tom Goreman

Theatre

Mark Medoff's **When You Comin Back**, Red Ryder, powerful as ever, is currently running weekends at Houston's Country Playhouse (Town and Country Village) with a cast of locals as professional as any we've seen. Meticulously directed by Rachel Ann Mattox, **Red Ryder** is the story of a demonic young man who terrorizes a

continued Page 27



Club Houston

2205 Fannin (713) 659-4998

OUTDOOR POOL OPENING SOON

WATCH FOR SPLASH DAY

reviews

group of patrons in a small diner somewhere in New Mexico. He humiliates them, physically degrades them, and leaves them (after many gruesome episodes) totally broken and pitiful. Besides robbery, the hoodlums motive seems to be his disgust at the emasculation of today's men. He rebels against this social castration with his wits as well as his brawn.

In search of lost or forgotten American heroes, he has two of the patrons (at gunpoint) act out a scene which he invents between the legendary Red Ryder and his girlfriend. When the performance fails to meet his standards, he becomes frighteningly brutal and sexually assaults one of the estranged customers. And as the slovenly obese waitress asks, "When you comin back, Red Ryder?" we hold our breaths for the climactic answer: "Never! Never! I ain't never comin back!" CP's production left us drained. It is a unique theatrical experience and we recommend it to all.

by Tom Goreman

Superb! That's the exclamation describing the two week run of **Mame** at the Dallas State Fair Musical. This version was all new, revised, and better than the original. **Mame** was played most wonderfully by Angela Lansbury who exhausted a much younger chorus line, leaving them out of breath while she continued her performance with co-stars Jane Conell and Anne Francine. TWIT noted that practically everyone in the community attended the performance, as **Mame** quickly became "the thing to see!"

by Charles Williams

ERNIE
& THE
STAFF

Crews Inn



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CALENDAR TEXAS

DALLAS

Sunday, July 18

- Free cookout at Club Dallas, 2-5pm
- Free draft beer at T J's, 7-8 pm
- Free draft beer at Sundance Kid, from 7 pm till the keg runs dry
- Drag shows at the Entre Nuit, Old Plantation, Bayou Landing, 10 pm

Tuesday, July 20

- Free VD Clinic at the Bachelors Quarters, 9-11 pm
- Buddy night at Club Dallas - - two for the price of one, 6 pm-2 am

Wednesday, July 21

- Bingo at the Olive Branch Saloon, 8:30 pm

Thursday, July 22

- Free VD Clinic at the Bayou Landing, 9-11 pm

Friday, July 23

- The Olive Branch Saloon's Dance Marathon, 8 pm

HOUSTON

Saturday, July 17

- "Saturday's Child" rap session from noon till 2 pm at the MCCR
- Ralphie Gerdine's last day at the Briar Patch. Ralphie says, "Thanks".

Sunday, July 18

- First anniversary party at the Venture-N with the Babs Plus Baldy band from 7 pm - ? and a champagne party starting at 8 pm
- International Roadmasters host a Bike Blessing and Christening at 3 pm at the Filling Station; free keg beer starting at 6 pm
- The Locker versus The Lamppost baseball, 2 pm, ballpark at Fairview and Yupon
- Ernestine MC's a super drag show at the Old Plantation beginning at 9:30 pm. Reservations accepted

- Jambayala at The Barn, 1 pm
- The Exile presents special guests Sandy Taylor and Don Bagham, 7 pm

Monday, July 19

- Free VD Clinic at Studz News, 4-7 pm

Tuesday, July 20

- Free movie at the Locker-Zeppelin at 9:30 pm

Wednesday, July 21

- Midweek drag show at the Old Plantation, 9:30 pm
- Spaghetti night at the Levi

SAN ANTONIO

Friday, July 16

- Live entertainment at Mary Ellen's, 9 pm till midnight

Saturday, July 17

- Beginning of the new management's first anniversary fling at Mary Ellen's. The party starts at 9:30 pm

Sunday, July 18

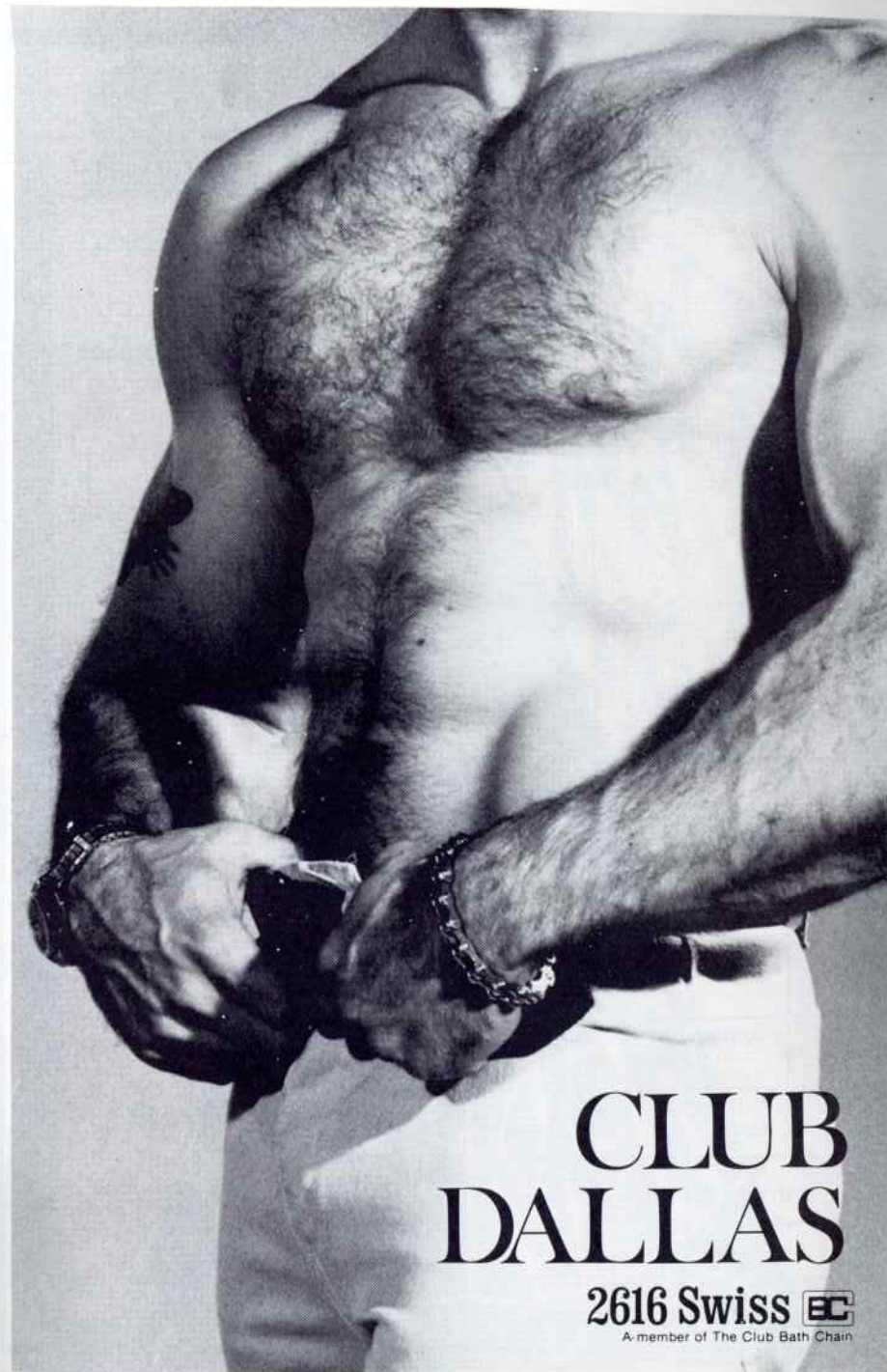
- All the beer you can drink for \$1.00 at the Pub, noon to 6
- Ruben and Bianca Starr present "The Moods of Bazaar". Guests include Miss Hypothesis, Pauletta Leigh, Pointer Sisters, Sammy Lee, Mr. Miles, Mr. Tori, Therisha, Marsha, and others. Showtime is 10:30 pm
- Shishkebob and corn on the cob, 6-9 pm and live entertainment from nine till midnight at Mary Ellen's

Monday, July 18

- Finals in the Mary Ellen Lounge pool tournament at 9 pm. Trophy and free beer.

Friday, July 23

- Mary Ellen's first annual Western "S-Kikker" Barn Dance and Barbeque. "Watch the blonde bombshell baste his beef!" Free beer, souvenir glasses, and no cover charge for those wearing western outfits.



CLUB DALLAS

2616 Swiss 
A member of The Club Bath Chain

TANGIER

CLUB & DISCO



2637 Winrock
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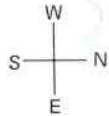
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
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HAPPY HOUR
7 Days A Week
4:00 P.M. til 8:00 P.M.

"The Hello From Hollywood"
Revue featuring Christy Lane,
Shannon Forrester, Melba Peter-
son, Kandi Delight, Sahdji and
Jill Jordan

Thursday, July 22nd

AFTER HOURS
2:00 A.M. til 4:00 A.M.
Fri. & Sat.



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	Briarhurst
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September 3 - 6

Return of Jean LaFitte
the Texas Riders
Present the

THE LOCKER

\$100 Reward for Best Individual Participation - Registration, Fri., Sept. 2 - Annual Bike Run, the Spirit of Outdoor Free Life.

news

CLUB HOUSTON CONTEST

The Third Annual Mr. Club Houston Contest is slated to hit the boards on the night of July 27th at the Old Plantation. Few events are able to generate as much excitement and chatter in the Bayou City as this annual event - - and this year promises to be a real blockbuster!

The Club Houston and the Old Plantation are working together to make this one of the really memorable events of the summer. Tiffany Jones, the Texas Tornado, is being flown in to share the emcee spotlight with Houston's C. J. Harrington. And Tif has promised that she's going to show the old home town a lot of new surprises.

Also, that hot new musical-comedy group you've been reading about, "The Mixed Company," will arrive at the Old Plantation to do a special 30 minute version of their show before the contest begins. One reason the "Mixed Company" will be appearing at the Old Plantation is because of the friendly Houston audiences - - since part of their performance in Houston will be recorded "live" to be put on their new record album which comes out later this year.

This year's Club Houston contest should also be a real spectacular in itself. Broadway director Edward Miller has consented, by special arrangement, to accept the burdens of staging the massive show. Be prepared for a fast-moving, every-minute-dynamite, spectacular showcase. Those desiring to enter should sign up immediately, to allow adequate rehearsal time for the cast production numbers. Applications are

available at Club Houston. Local winners will receive cash and trophies, with the recipient of first place to be flown to Chicago over Thanksgiving weekend to compete in the Mr. Club Baths International Pageant. If you don't want to enter, but just want to see the colossal show, get your tickets soon. They're going really fast!

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COMMENT

Editor's Note: From time to time we will use this space to run articles or comments submitted by our readers concerning new organizations or events of special interest. All material submitted becomes the property of TWIT, and we reserve the right to alter the copy to fit our editorial and layout requirements.

If you are one of the hunky numbers currently making the rounds at the Houston bars, you've probably noticed a group of guys wearing black leather vests with American flags attached. These gentlemen are not members of any of the motorcycle clubs. They belong to Houston's newest gay social organization, The American Leathermen. But despite the leather and chains, the club (as such) is not S&M. As one of the charter members, I must say that I couldn't possibly get into being handcuffed to a toilet seat or paddled with ostrich plumes while chained to a wall.

In some ways it's an amazing club. For example, the first meeting was held on Thursday, April 22nd, and by the end of the meeting the next night, the club had been named, its constitution drafted and ratified, the club of-

ficers elected, and a great quantity of beer and poppers consumed. And during the formative first month of the club, when meetings were held each Friday, every member was present at every meeting. (Pretty remarkable for this town, huh?) During the first month, the club held two car washes, designed and ordered the club colors, and adopted a tentative schedule of future events for the year. Among the events planned are a Back to School Sock Hop and a Columbus Day Roller Skating Party.

Since the Presentation of Colors dinner, American Leathermen is now open for new members, although there is a three month pledge period before becoming a member. A Leatherman can belong to other clubs while he is a member of Leathermen.

by Glenn Fennema

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BOOKS - MAGAZINES - NOVELTIES
MOVIE ARCADE



FICTION

A Day At the Zoo by Max Baumgardner

I'm trapped behind bars. They've put me here with the others. They've put all of us here. We're on exhibit. We make flowers. We design dresses. We have sex for their enjoyment. We act out fantasies that they write down on bits of paper and slip through the bars of the cage. They pay money to see us act out their fantasies.

My name is 609F. I used to be called John. My cagemate's name is 703C. His name used to be Dennis. We are not allowed to talk. Only eat, sleep, and masturbate.

But last night, after the lights of the zoo were switched off; after the spectators had left awe-struck and satisfied, when the laughter of the attendants had died down and the stillness of the evening set in, something out of the ordinary happened. We had a visitor.

"Shhhhh. Be very still. Be very quiet and very still and don't say anything."

"Dennis, who is it?"

"I'm right here."

"There's someone else in the cage."

"That's impossible."

"Would you two fools shut up and listen to me?"

"Who's there? Who's speaking?"

"Shhhhh. Be quiet. They can't hear me, but they might be able to hear you." Blackness. Total blackness. I felt Dennis close to me, could sense the presence of another nearby.

"Please . . . who . . ."

"You two are supposed to be sleeping. Those little white things behind your ears are monitors. They can tell if you're sleeping or not." Not unaccustomed to taking orders, we sat mute. "My name is Cavaca. I am a member of the Havesthenes Movement to free homosexuals from the zoos. We are a national organization sponsored by the United Church to deliver those of your kind into the structured world of Social Progress." Dennis touched my arm and made a small clicking sound with

his tongue. I grasped his ankle and held it tight. "Acceptable Social Progress," the voice intoned. "In your present state you are quite unacceptable. Unacceptable and dangerous. We are prepared to give you new names, new identification papers, and new faces. We are even prepared to treat those of you incapable of heterosexual activity at our psychological centers in Tampa. There's not much time to go into all the details. We're here to free you from this degrading way of life, which in our opinion is not much better than allowing you to roam the streets."

A cool breeze danced through the cage, delivering all the musty smells of the zoo on its nightly route. Dennis traced a question mark on my back with his index finger. "You must come with me now!" There was an urgent hoarseness to his voice, a slack sound. Tiring. Tense. "Come with me now or forget the whole thing. You're not the only queers in here, you know. There are others who would jump at the chance to escape."

"What you offer does not appeal," I said to the stranger sensing his frustration and ignoring it. "We're better off locked in this cage. You're not a liberator. What you offer is the worst kind of freedom."

Dennis slipped gently out from under my grasp and said, "I will go with you, Cavaca. I can't stand this treatment anymore."

"Dennis!"

"Go fuck yourself, 609F! I want out of here."

I felt strangely humiliated. Cut. Hurt.

"Here. Put this on. Wear it. You must not say anything. You must follow. Follow and obey." There was movement in the cage. Metal sounds. Then footsteps. Then silence.

The next morning brought more surprises. My keeper a sandy haired youth of fourteen, had been found murdered the night before. He was discovered lying face down in a goldfish pond near the public restrooms, his

throat sliced open with what appeared to have been his own knife.

Shortly after I heard the news, the curator of the zoo, an affable man in his mid-sixties had entered my cage and spoken to me with the warmth and love of father to son.

"Hello there, 609F. And how are you feeling today?" I backed away from him. "It's all right. I give you permission to speak." Silence. No words formulated in my mind. "But naturally you don't have to speak if you don't want to. This isn't a prison. This is a zoo." I flinched and drew my shoulders close together. The curator smiled. "I hope you change your mind. You see, there was a nasty accident around here last night. One of

our most attractive young attendants was heartlessly murdered as he made his rounds. Casey. That was his name. You remember Casey. He used to bring you and 703C extra rations of food and water. Such a nice boy. Clean. Dated a pretty little girl named Sue." The curator looked deep into my eyes and said in a low, confidential voice, "Your cagemate escaped last night. Isn't that a coincidence?" He put his hand on my shoulder and squeezed it. "And we suspect . . . that there was some kind of organized something or other that helped him escape. We suspect that they are out to help all of you escape." Here, a pause. "We've heard of organizations like this. They say they want to help you

the HAB/TAT

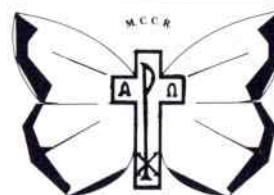
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TRACY
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people when in actuality they really want to harm you. Do you understand?" I nodded slowly. The curator seemed pleased and urged me to speak. "Do you understand?"

"Yes, Curator Barnes."

"Call me Dad."

"Yes, Dad."

"There, 609F. Isn't it nice that we're able to have this heart to heart talk? I mean, doesn't it do you a lot of good to get these things off your chest?"

"Yes, Dad."

"We here at City Zoo are particularly concerned with the fate of 703C and yourself. You two are quite valuable to us. I've seen some of the fantasies you've enacted for our visitors. Genius. Sheer genius. Why, you bring in more money than the deviates' cage."

"Do we, Dad?"

"You sure do, 609F. You sure do. And it tears my heart out. I mean it really tears my heart out to think that we'll have to exterminate you unless you tell us who helped 703C escape last night." Curator Barnes was con-

cealing the hatred in his eyes with a dazzling smile. His teeth were beautifully capped and white. "Now, c'mon. Tell your old Dad who he sneaked in here? Who was it? Mmmmm?"

I sat very still and tried to remember back that far, but could only recall vague, indecipherable voices lost in a total void. It was always difficult remembering things after the breakfast pill. "Last night?"

"Last night you had a visitor. Who was it?"

"A . . . visitor."

"Yes." Curator Barnes seemed to sense my willingness to help, that my confusion was indeed genuine. He gently stroked my hair. "How 'bout a chocolate bar to help you remember?"

"Not chocolate!" his aide suddenly snapped, appearing from nowhere in a haze of white. "This one tends to break out."

"Welllllll, I think we could stretch the rules . . . a bit . . ."

"No, Curator Barnes! Two weeks ago a visitor slipped this one a chocolate bar and he turned into a solid pimple."

The curator spoke quickly, irritated, between his teeth, "You'd think in this day and age, with medical technology what it is . . . you'd think they could find a cure for acne!" He turned his attention back to me, smiling again. "Well, maybe not chocolate. How 'bout an ice cream?"

I could hardly remember what ice cream tasted like, but I supposed it must be very good if Dad was offering it to me in exchange for information. "Yes, Dad, ice cream sound just fine."

Curator Barnes turned to his aide. "Mrs. Smith, go and get this young man some ice cream."

"I don't think I should leave you alone with him, Sir. He could turn on you in a minute."

"Nonsense! Turn on his old Dad? Nonsense, Mrs. Smith." The aide gave me a hateful, sideways glance and then left the cage in a huff. "She doesn't like your kind too much. She has a very closed mind."

The ice cream was indeed very tasty. It was cold and wet. Sticky. But in the hot afternoon sun it began to drip

down my chin and onto my chest, forming little rivers down the ripples in my stomach. A red light began to flash on Curator Barnes's hand radio and he was suddenly called away on business; but before he left the immediate premises, he had an old man from the B & D Section sent over to lick the excess ice cream from my hairy middle.

A group of school teachers touring the zoo had gathered around to witness the scene. Dad's own slogan, NEVER MISS A MOMENT, was printed neatly on the cover of their programs.

I sucked on the cone and the old man licked off the excess. I sucked. He licked. Halfway through the ice cream orgy, an attendant walked into the cage and smeared what was left of the cold, gooey, sweet stuff all over my body. Down my thighs and between my legs. All over. Then we both began licking. Licking and sucking the ice cream from my sweaty body.

The crowd applauded. The attendant took a bow. I could see him, smiling and bowing as I licked the ice cream from between my toes. It was depressing.

Later that afternoon, after the school teachers had left and the old B & D man had been taken back to his own cagemate, Dennis was returned to the zoo. He was brought back in a body harness, his arms bound behind his back, and led into our cage with two pronged sticks. He was bruised, and heavily sedated. There was blood in his hair.

When the attendants had gone, he spoke to me. "609F, what did Curator Barnes tell you?" His voice sounded alien, distraught.

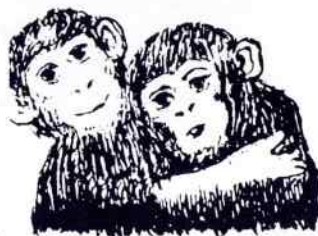
I moved away from my broken, bleeding cagemate and sat down in the corner of the cage near the food chute.

"What did he say, 609F?!" His voice trembled. He seemed beside himself.

I shrugged. "Something about Casey being killed. Something about an organization. I don't remember. It was a long time ago."

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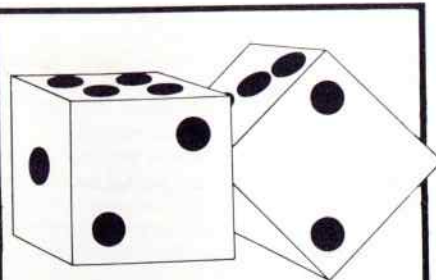
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703C began to cry. His body shook violently. He sobbed like a woman and gasped for breath.

An old couple had wandered up by then and were watching the scene. The old woman whispered something to the old man and then the old man scribbled something down on a piece of paper and handed it to me. It read: **FUCK HIM IN THE ASS BUT BEFORE YOU SHOOT PULL IT OUT AND MAKE HIM EAT IT.**

I looked across the cage at Dennis' small, shaking form. Through his tears I saw revulsion.



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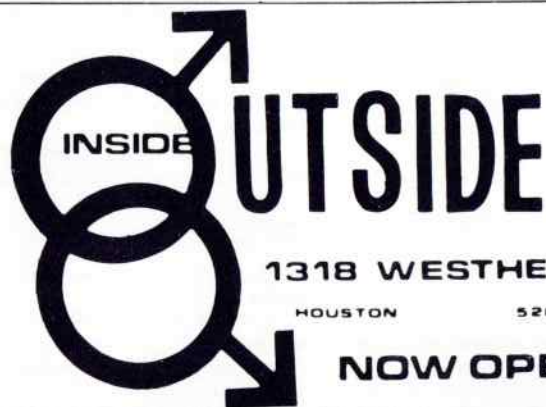
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