

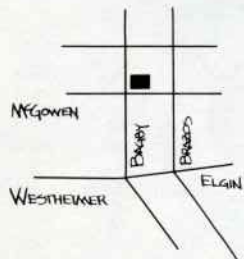


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ON THE COVER—

Gary W. Ervin

— at the festival —

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NEWS UP FRONT

BIGGEST ISSUE YET

This issue of TWIT is our biggest yet! We have expanded to even more pages due to readership and advertiser demand. We sincerely wish to thank all gay Texans for your continued support of our magazine.

And with this issue, we happily bring the coastal city of Corpus Christi into the TWIT family. Thanks, Texas, for helping bring TWIT full circle all over Texas.

POETRY CONTEST

Obviously, there's a lot of talent in Texas. Due to the large number of last minute entries sent in to our POETRY CONTEST, the judges are still pouring over submissions and winners will be announced in issue Number 31. (Thank you, Texas.)

D-DAY IN HOUSTON

This weekend Depository II opens as manager Jay Allen cuts the ribbon Saturday night. The new disco is located in a huge two story brick building covering 1/4th of a city block. The rest of the block is lighted and paved for parking (with security).. Depository II has twice the sound, more dance floor, more air conditioning, more restrooms (Whew!) and a bigger light show!

Saturday and Sunday tickets will be given away for a midnight Sunday drawing of a COLOR TV, STEREO, and a 10 SPEED BIKE!

Also, C.J.'s Boutique has also moved into D-II, so stop in and scope out the new fall clothes.



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Halloween

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Come In & See What We Are Doing

news

GPC NEWS

This last weekend, the Houston Gay Political Caucus hosted officers and other leaders of the new Dallas GPC. There were a series of social and business meetings. Ideas and strategies were exchanged, particularly in the area of fund raising and community involvement. The first state-wide candidate screening was undertaken; Supreme Court nominees were jointly polled concerning their attitudes towards gay right by the Dallas and Houston GPC's. The Dallas guests saw P.S. YOUR CAT IS DEAD starring Gary Von Ooteghem, president of the Houston GPC. The next morning, brunch was hosted by a long time GPC supporter. Mort Schwab, chair of GPC Houston said the weekend was highly valuable and a very positive learning process for all involved. Hopefully similar meetings will take place in the future involving persons from all parts of the state interested in forming local political organizations with others who are involved with established gay activists organizations.

GUEST SPEAKER

R. Adams DeBaught, a director of the Gay Rights National Lobby, Inc, will be a guest speaker at the South Central District of the MCC to be held October 29-31 at MCC Dallas, 2701 Reagan.

YOLANDA WINS

Last weekend the Precious Lounge in San Antonio announced the winners of their talent show. Yolanda is the new Miss Precious, 1976. First runner up is Miss Sonya and 2nd runner up is Miss Rachael. That was last Saturday. Then on Sunday Mela's birthday was celebrated with a party for owner's IB and EE.

HOAGIES

SUNDAY IN CORPUS!

Brunch: 11 am-2 pm

- Bloody Mary 30cents (Bring your own gin and vodka), Beer 40 cents (12:00 noon till 4:00 pm.)

If you didn't score Saturday night, we're a must! But if you did, extend it here! Bring this ad in for freebie.

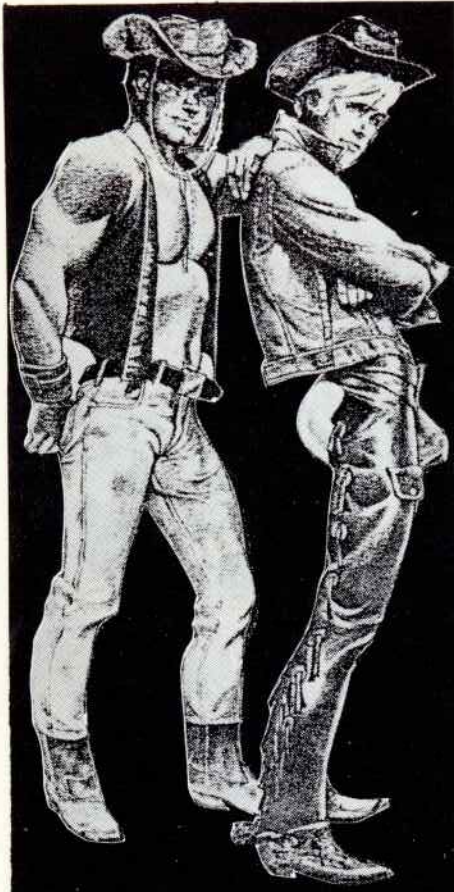
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news

MR COWBOY CONTEST

Who is Houston's Mr Cowboy? Six of Houston's western bars are searching and each will send their representative to the finals Halloween night at Levi's. Mr Cowboy will win a grand prize trophy & \$50.00. For details check with sponsoring bars in Houston: The Barn, Levi's, Mary's, The Locker, The Hi-Lite Ranch, and Outside Country.

SHOW ON TOUR

Jann Russel, Alain Allison, and Apple of the OP Dallas have been on the road this past week taking their professionally staged show to both El Paso's Pet Shop and Austin Country. The cast now returns to Dallas to resume their regular OP engagement.

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

The votes are beginning to pour in to our office for Entertainer Of The Year! If you haven't voted yet, use the ballot on the back page of this issue, or vote at the following bars in Texas: Old PLantation in Houston, Dallas, Amarillo; The Pet Shop in El Paso; Austin Country in Austin; Baily Street Wherehouse in Fort Worth; or Mary Ellen's in San Antonio. Deadline for voting is October 31st.

DALLAS MUNCHIES

The Munchies Restuarant at the OP Dallas is now open every night from 7 to 9 serving up a Tuesday special of "all you can eat" every week. This week the menu special is spagetti, salad, & garlic bread. Eat drink, and boogie all under one roof at the OP.

MAMA'S BOYS

Mama's Boys, a unique multi-media adult musical comedy direct form Hollywood was a super success at the OP Dallas last week. And now the show moves to the OP Houston 9:30 pm showtime, Oct 24th--26th.

news

ROCKY HORROR SHOW

You've seen the movie and danced to the music, and now AUSTIN COUNTRY presents the Rocky Horror Show Halloween night. All the Hill Country is talking about it and Bunch, Bruce, Alvina Grease, Kitty Litter, Alian Allison, and others are busy in rehearsal. Ken Patterson, manager, says this show is about a transexual who creates a blond adonis.

MISS GAY AUSTIN

This Thursday night, October 28th, Austin Country withll present the Miss Gay Austin Contest with 1st place prize set at \$250, 2nd place \$100, and 3rd place \$50. Then, on Halloween night, the finals will be held. Special guests include Michael Andrews and dancer Vicki Chistopher plus the very talented Alain Allison.



OCTOBER

- 1) Old Fashioned Sunday Box Lunches - Free
 - 2) Pumpkin Carving Contest
 - 3) "Life is Such a Drag" Halloween Party - October 31
- Watch for Exact Dates and Times



2294 W. Holcombe
Houston, Texas
(713) 665-9678

GRAND OPENING:

oct. 15 th

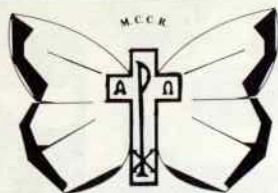
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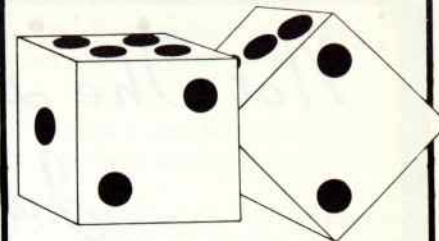
1214 Joe Annie † P.O. Box 13731 † Houston, Texas 77019
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news

BILLY ROBINSON DIES

A long time friend of many Texans, Billy Robinson died unexpectedly of a heart attack Wednesday, Oct 13th. The funeral was held Friday the 15th.

Billy was co-manager of Mary's Too in Galveston along with Walter. Walt wishes to thank all of their friends for their sympathies. We will all miss Billy.



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news

NEW ODESSA BAR

Bobby Waddill informs us that a new bar will be opening in early November in Odessa at 415 North Jackson called the Misty Blue Club. Bobby will manage the new club and says it will be located where the old Skylight Bar was. TWIT is now available in Odessa, too!

DETOUR OPENS

One of Houston's favorite, cozy Westheimer bars is re-opening this weekend. So be sure to drop in a and say hello to Richard and Lulu who have been working very hard this month to bring a new, fresh look to the Detour. (Watch for Grand Opening Specials, too!)

Max Baumgardner will take you anywhere you want to go . . .

- from a slave ship docked in the harbor of ancient Pompeii
- to a futuristic zoo where homosexuals are kept in cages and forced to enact fantasies for 'visitors'
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And now . . . an original novella. INTERSTICES. (Watch for Part V)

WE SHALL RETURN!

Watch for the
REOPENING
of
Dirty Sally's

SECOND SUN

SAME LOCATION

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LIFE WITH VERA

A Soaper by John Gardner

Vera never felt more popular. The phone hadn't stopped ringing since Thursday and people were beginning to drive by and point at Vera's house. Anxiously awaiting Saturday night. All Vera's parties were spectacular, but this one was drawing special attention. It was going to be The event of the season. An engagement party honoring Gary Von Densmore and Phoebe. Yet Vera sensed it would be just as attention getting if it had been Gary Von Densmore and a Winchell's donut.

Gary Von Densmore! Gary Von Densmore! It was the community passion cry. People Vera didn't know, and people he wouldn't have liked if he had, were clamouring for invitations. It didn't bother Vera that the plague of lusty locusts didn't know who Vera was. But it did disturb him that they didn't know who Phoebe was either. And Phoebe was the bride! All they wanted was a glimpse of Gary Von.

With the big shindig only 24 hours away, Vera had Phoebe safely tucked in the bathroom, where a primp session of colossal magnitude was underway. Vera was determined that if Phoebe's 260 pounds couldn't mould into Stud Centerpiece, it could at least be painted into alluring acceptability. Vera had piled all the bottles onto the bathroom counter, including those with a skull and crossbones on the front. Phoebe sat quietly on the side of the tub as Vera pounded his face, trying to get an entire bottle of skin moisturizer below surface level.

They had spent a painful morning at Foley's, trying to buy Phoebe a new outfit for the party. It had taken forever. Every time Phoebe and Vera headed off toward the fitting room so Phoebe could "try-on" a garment, a rude sales clerk shouted out that they could only take three garments into

the fitting room at a time. And every time, Vera had to hold up the massive bundle of cloth in his arms and show the clerk that it was only one garment. One giant, giant garment.

Vera would do anything for a friend. And Phoebe was one of his Nearest and Dearest. And certainly Largest. It was very easy to see what Phoebe saw in Gary Von, Vera thought, but what could Gary Von possibly see in Phoebe. It was hard enough seeing AROUND Phoebe. Perhaps, at last, someone actually saw the beautiful soul who had established residence in Phoebe's rotund body, Vera hoped. And hoped.

Gary Von was a King of the Beefcakes. With more beef in front than is usually attached to a Jimmy Dean label at the grocery store. And his cakes would rival Sara Lee. Vera just hoped he could talk intelligently. Or semi-intelligently. Most beefcakes couldn't talk intelligently sentence to sentence. Vera just prayed that Gary Von could link words. For Phoebe's sake.

Vera didn't know a lot about Gary Von, except what Phoebe had told him. And every time Phoebe talked about Gary Von, his fat thighs began twitching and his mouth became a megaphone for deep giggles. And he kept kissing the Playgirl cover on which Gary Von appeared. No sooner getting it so covered with kisses than the edges began to curl from the moisture. Didn't matter, though. Phoebe had 400 more copies in the trunk of the car.

From Burt, Vera learned that Gary Von had moved to Houston several months ago, after failing at an acting career in Hollywood. Seems that despite his good looks, Gary Von had great difficulty in memorizing the lines of a script. A task no doubt com-

Vera

pounded by his inability to read words of more than one syllable. He had been thrown off the lot of Sesame Street, after telling the kids that education wasn't as critical as having a good set of "pecs." Which he spelled with a "k."

But if Gary Von was Phoebe's cup of tea, Vera felt it was worth stirring. Maybe it was, indeed, a match made in heaven. It made Phoebe happy. So Vera was making every effort to keep it from raining on Phoebe's parade. The party would be one of Vera's best!

Every type of hors d'oeuvre known to Jamail's was locked away in Vera's freezer. Dozen's of each. Plus all the special kinds that only Vera knew how to make. Including Vera's special mushroom-soy sauce-peanut butter combo, a treat he had learned to pre-

pare while visiting with a priestess in Tibet. And for dessert, he had carted away the entire output of House of Pies from 3:30 am to 1:15 in the afternoon. The kitchen absolutely flowed whipped cream. You would have thought a herd of S&M cows had just fought a battle to the death near the sink!

The planned entertainment was designed to coincide with what Vera assumed to be the mental capabilities of Gary Von and his friends. A lot of Gene Autry records, a tank for bobbing apples, and dozens of mirrors placed around the room. If worse came to worse, Vera knew the likes of Gary Von would have a great time merely by being able to see themselves with some frequency.

"Do you really think my outfit is okay?" Phoebe moaned, as Vera pulled the strings to Phoebe's corset tighter and tighter.

"It'll be perfect," Vera assured. "At least there won't be another outfit at the party like yours." And indeed there wouldn't. The clothes Vera selected for Phoebe to wear had no two inches of cloth the same color. Vera secretly hoped the shock of the color scheme would divert attention to the pleasantly plump nature of the matronly figure sporting them.

"Not even Maggie could come up with an outfit like this," Vera continued. "And it serves her right. Last year I had this heaven white pant suit and Maggie showed up in the same thing. The exact same thing. I spent the whole night in the powder room with a magic marker, making mine polka dotted. Didn't get a single dance. And ruined my nails. Now breathe out, we've got to get this as tight as possible. And I want you to sleep in it tonight, so you'll be used to it by tomorrow."

"But I can't breathe! It's too tight!" Phoebe pleaded. "I can hardly talk!"

"Nonsense, nonsense. Just open your mouth and say moo, honey." Vera joked.

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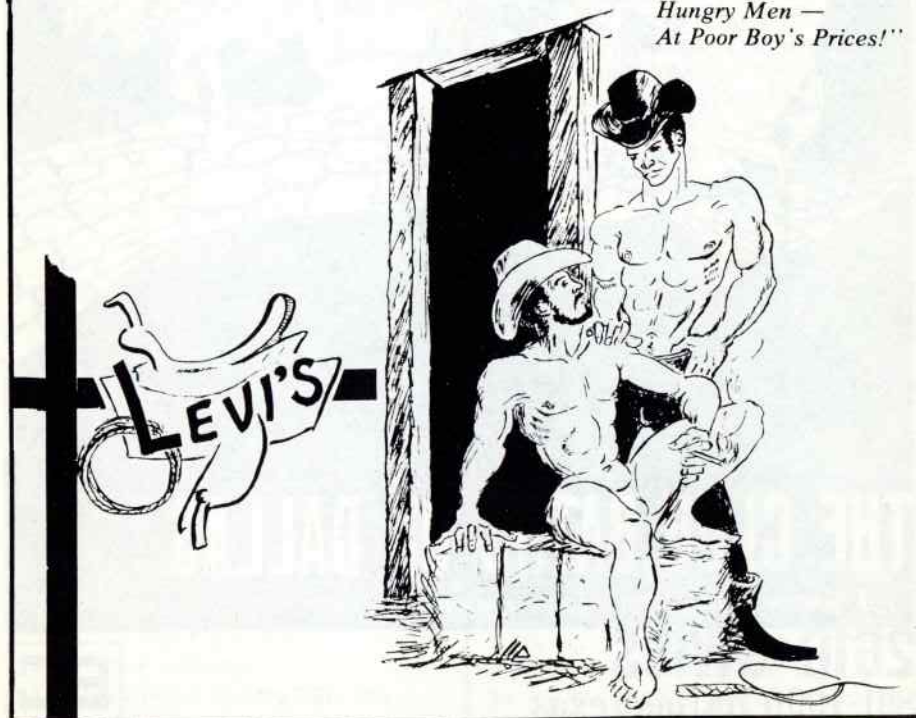
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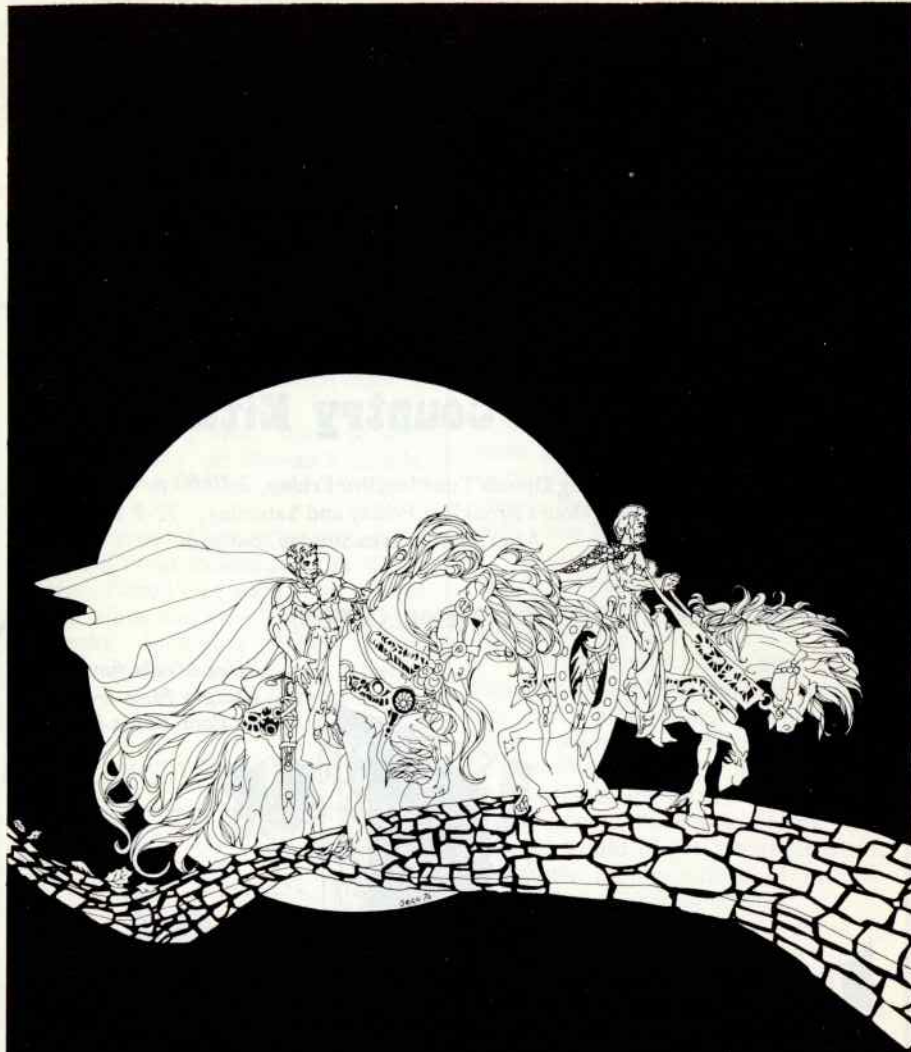
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STARSCOPE

WEEK OF OCTOBER 23-29TH

FOR ALL SIGNS: Friday October 22nd at 10:10 pm there is an eclipse of the new moon (time to start new projects) in Libra (the sign of partners). The next two weeks therefore are a good time to meet a future new mate. This week let's see how each sign should tackle this lover chase!

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 12th house of secrets. Therefore this new love will involve some secret meetings and out of the way get togethers.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 22):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 11th house of friendships, hopes and wishes. You are now forming a deep friendship with your new love. Lovers who are also friends are the best relationships of all. Your hopes & wishes for true love seem here.

CAPRICORN (December 23-January 20):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 10th house of career. Therefore this new love could be met in your line of work or through some career situation.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19)

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 9th house of education and philosophy. Therefore this new love may be met on a mental level first, later developing into a physical matter.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 8th house of undoing. Therefore, it is not a good time to meet a new love but you may be involved financially with one you are fond of.

AIRES (March 21-April 20):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 7th house of marriage. Therefore, you more than any other sign can meet Mr. Right and this could lead to an eventual wedding.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in

your 6th house of health and service. You should continue to watch your health. This new love may be involved in health matters such as a hospital, gym, or health food store.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 5th house of love affairs. Therefore, this new love will be very obvious to you when he appears to you. But, this is the house of love affairs and not marriage, yet.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 4th house of the home. Therefore, this new love may be introduced to you on the home front rather than in a public place. This may be in your home or in someone elses.

LEO (July 24-August 23):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 3rd house of communications and short journeys. Therefore your new love and you will be making more trips, phone calls, and letters plus communicating serious, basic opinions.

VIRGO (August 24-September 23):

The eclipse of the new moon occurs in your 2nd house of money and material things. Therefore, this new love may involve such matters. Example: He may spend money on you or shower you with gifts.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

The eclipse of the new moon in the final degrees of your sign means you are thinking very seriously about forming a partnership. In fact, marriage seems to be the most important thing on your mind these days.

Mixed Drinks

Dancing



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SUPPORT A MAN WHO SUPPORTS YOU

Jimmy Carter has repeatedly expressed his opposition to discrimination of any kind, including discrimination based on sexual preference. He has indicated that, as president, he would sign the Abzug Bill which would extend the protection of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to cover discrimination based on "sexual or affectional preference."

Gov. Carter has already acted by appointing Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force, and Rep. Elaine Noble and Jo Daly to serve on the 51.3% Committee on Women's Issues.

If you are tired of Republic appointees to the Supreme Court who are endangering efforts to realize the constitutionally guaranteed human and civil rights due all Americans; if you are fed up with repressive state and local laws which threaten your lifestyle—then get involved! Campaigns are very expensive, and we need your support.

If you live in Montrose, join us in our efforts to give a voice to all of the people of our diverse community. We need your thoughts, your time and your money.

For more information, or to volunteer your time or to request campaign materials, call us at 527-9939. To contribute, make checks payable to "Montrose Democrats Campaign Fund," and bring them or mail them to

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CRUISE CAMERA

SPARKLE PLENTY is here! The new Houston disco opened this past Thurs. Located next to the Alabama theatre at 2912 So Sheperd. [above] inside table area next to dance floor showing wall decor. [left] Terry Hulse, owner & manager .."SP" features include 2 floors, winding staircase, tv lounge, & terraced seating + game room!

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WHO IS HOUSTON'S HALLOWEEN

MR. COWBOY ?

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COWBOY REPRESENTATIVE "MR HALLOWEEN
COWBOY OF HOUSTON " THE FINALIST
WINS THE GRAND PRIZE TROPHY PLUS \$50.00

THE OCCULT

This is the second in a series of articles on the OCCULT by the author of STARSCOPE. In weeks to come we shall learn more about: ESP, the power of thoughts, astrology, pyramids, meditation, and more.

◆◆◆ THE HOROSCOPE ◆◆◆

Last week we discussed the "case for astrology" with positive facts pointing to astrology as a true science. And as a science, astrology means even more when applied to the individual. This requires erecting a horoscope. "Horo" means hour; "Scope" means picture. Therefore, a horoscope is a picture of the sky at the *hour* you were born.

For a horoscope to be totally correct, the astrologer must know the exact time of birth (to the minute) and the location (the longitude and latitude) of birth. The location allows the astrologer to calculate the angles of the planets coming down on you. (the aspects)

The three power points in a horoscope are the Sun, the Moon, and the Rising Sign. Just knowing these things gives a rather accurate outline of your personality. And, when all the rest of the planets are placed in your horoscope, more detailed differences in your personality are explained.

The horoscope is divided into 12 signs (there seems to be some divinity to the number 12) but within these twelve signs there are further differences. How, for example, can two Leos be so different? Let's take an example.

Two boys born on the same day: August 6, 1959. The sun was in Leo that day so both have Leo qualities such as leadership, showmanship, de-

votedness, and vibrancy. However, on this day the Moon was in Virgo. This will tone down these Leo traits. We now have two proud Leos but both can become quiet and serious (which are Virgo traits). But here the similarities between our two Leos end, because one was born at 1 pm and the other at 1 am. The one born at 1 am would have Taurus rising, giving us a Leo with stubborn Taurean qualities. The one born at 1 pm has Scorpio rising, giving us a Leo with passionate and secretive traits. Had one of them been born just one hour earlier at midnight, the Moon would have still been positioned back in Leo, giving us a double Leo.

As you can readily see, it is NOT enough to just know your sun sign, for that is all too general. In reading your STARSCOPE, you should read both your sun sign and your rising sign to give a more accurate prediction of the week ahead.

To find out what kind of personality you have so you can get to know yourself, have your horoscope plotted. It will also help you pick the right job, the right mate, and when to act on important business or romantic matters. Astrology can be a most helpful guide to your gay lifestyle. If you don't know an astrologer who can erect your horoscope, may we suggest a good book for beginners, HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN HOROSCOPE by John Goodage (now in paperback).



Next week in OCCULT we will discuss witchcraft in a special Halloween feature.

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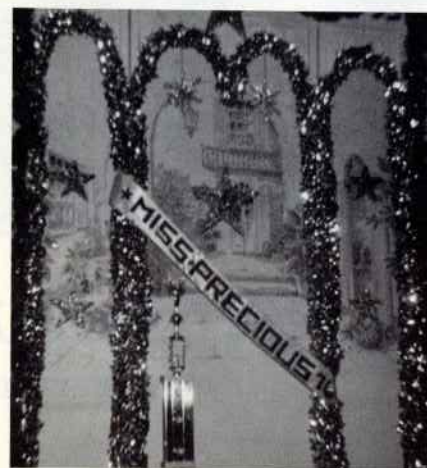


CRUISE CAMERA

Weekend fun in San Antonio!!
[left] Gus of Adultz Newsstand.
[middle left] jazzy outside sign at Sagittarius Club. [below] a pool game at The Habitat with TWIT reporter Lance Stanfield & a Habitat regular (really!) ..



Miss Precious is Yolanda crowned last Sat night [picture bottom right]



Westheimer Colony Art Festival



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October 16 & 17, 1976

A WEEKEND TO LONG REMEMBER



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HOUSTON

— AND —

GALVESTON

WHO IS HOUSTON'S MR COWBOY? [HALLOWEEN]

REVIEWS



MUSIC

My first exposure to *Gino Vanelli* was about 6 months ago at a Dallas party. My first impression was: "Amazing what can be done by over-producing an album."

But after Gino's first Houston performance last Saturday, I also find myself amazed at how over-produced a live performance can be as well. The planned eroticism of Gino's over-choreographed stage movements left little room for the spontaneity that sparks real excitement in live music and audiences as well.

The opening number ("Powerful People") was a dazzling display by Gino's well-trained light technicians, but as the all keyboard/percussion band tried to carry the song through an extended jam, the weaknesses were all too obvious.

There were many *very* exciting moments, though. "War Suite" was an extended medley that Gino conducted as his "statement" against war. Gino: What is the use in defending our own country from the outsiders when we can't destroy our own fast enough? (An interesting thought, anyway.)

With his incredible vocal range and power, Gino is most effective with bal-

lads (excluding one which he sang off-stage in total darkness—"In the silence of my soul I'm just an ugly guy." Really!) No one who peacocks around the stage with his overt Italian/Canadian beauty can believably sing lyrics like that.

The crowd as a whole, and the gay listeners in particular, had the high point of the evening with "Where Am I Going?", an intense tale about growing old too soon. But then who can't identify with aging too soon?

Final Note: The class acts coming through Houston will probably continue to play the Music Hall, but think at least twice before you consider any ticket purchase there you're able to sit in the front half of the main floor. The ultra-fascist security there is nothing more than a bunch of young punks with their 1st taste of power which they overplay with gusto. My enjoyment of Gino's show was tainted by the security-created hassles, and if too much so, my apologies to Gino and crew.

— Ron Hageman

FILM

Googie Gomez has a dream. (**"I had a dleem, a dleem about joo, babeeeee. Eeet's gunna come true, babeeeee..."**) And her dream is to be discovered by a famous Broadway producer and thereupon whisked to stardom with nothing but luck as her vehicle. Unfortunately, though, Googie's dream will never come true. She simply has no talent. And her accent is thick enough to cut with a knife. The only job she consistently holds is performing at a large, posh gay bathhouse in New York City. ("Joo guys teenk I dunno what goes on in 'ere?")

Such is the setting for Terrence McNally's farcical comedy, *The Ritz*. And the plot? Well, there are several;

REVIEW

Googie's dilemma being only one of them. And though you'll probably be more entertained by her animated romps in theatrical (not to mention sexual) frustration, McNally's prime storyline is as carefully contrived and developed (though completely silly) as any we've seen.

It involves a horrendous conglomeration of mistaken identities which disrupt the nightly routine of the baths and lumps both straights and gays in both slapstick and satirical encounters.

Richard Lester (of *Robin and Marion* fame) has directed the film with a discerning eye. What usually lacks in the transformation from stage to screen is so carefully covered with fresh-minted sight gags that it only manages to inhance McNally's already fine script.

The cast (Jack Weston, Jerry Stiller, and Kaye Ballard) are all excellent comedians. But predictably, it's Rita Morino, as the irristable Googie, who walks off with the movie (and our hearts as well).

—Tom Goreman

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COCKTAILS
NOON-2AM

A NEW CONCEPT IN GAY BARS

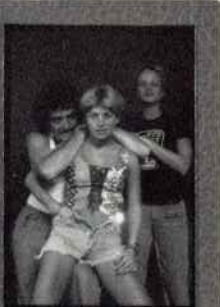
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Photos by
Linda Hopwood

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FICTION

Editor's Note: This is the 4th installment of an original novella by Max Baumgardner.

Interstices

by Max Baumgardner

*For the one I love most lay sleeping beside me under the same cover...
And his arm lay lightly around my breast... and I was happy...*

—Walt Whitman—

Tommy played football when he was in college. He had a speech impediment. Bernard made dirty movies in Los Angeles. He had a wife. They only had one thing in common: *loneliness.*

— PART IV —

Helen glanced at the digital alarm clock next to her bed. 9 AM, it said in sketchy white symbols. Mmmmm. Would Bernard be awake, she wondered. Would he have made a decision about the money? Would he give it to her?

Helen reacted for the phone. No, she decided, better not call just yet. Better not chance waking him.

But then... what if he was on his way out the door? What if he was on his way to work? *What if she missed him?*

Panic. Helen snatched up the receiver and quickly dialed his unlisted number. On the other end, she could hear the phone ringing. Then a sharp click. Then a voice.

"Hello. This is Bernard. I'm not home right now so if you have something important to say to me you can leave a message on my Automatic Telephone Answering Machine and when I get home I'll return your

call."

Shit, Helen thought.

"Please wait till you hear the sound of the beep before ya' say anything."

There were several moments of silence, then:

BEEP. "Hello, Bernard, it's me. It's your wife Helen. I called to find out if you decided to give me the money or not. My doctor says I only got a few more weeks before the real pain sets so please hurry and decide. And if the answer is no I just might..." BEEP.

Fuckin' machine. Helen climbed out of bed and slipped clumsily into a terrycloth bathrobe that had been tossed on the floor earlier that morning. She wandered into the kitchen and sat down at a small dinette near her only window. She looked out of the window at the Los Angeles skyline and saw only vague architectyrical images consumed in billowing clouds of brown soot. She cried.

Tommy and Bernard spent the next two weeks together, off and on. Bernard's work schedule was rather hectic: four retakes, three unblocked scenes, some last minute line changes (*Masterdon Films* decided to give this particular movie *real* class. They brought in a sound technician from a

fiction

major studio to help with some of the mixing). And through it all, Bernard spent about seven hours a day under the camera's bright lights. They had only fifteen days to complete the

Tommy likewise remained busy. He was commissioned to paint a life-sized portrait of one of the CBS union dancers which was to be presented as a surprise birthday present by the young man's co-workers. Tommy was charging a fee of \$595 since the painting had to be churned out in less than a week and all they had given him to work from were three 8x10 glossys which had been borrowed from the dancer's composite. It was the largest job Tommy had ever been assigned, and he didn't want to botch it. He

worked steadily, but only during the daylight hours. He reserved his evenings exclusively for Bernard.

They somehow managed to stay every night together. And the evenings they spent in each others arms were beautiful. Or at least Tommy thought so. Bernard was so exhausted by the end of the day that it was all he could do to stagger in and collapse onto the bed.

They would lie there, locked securely together, and Tommy would drift slowly off into a restful sleep while Bernard would unromantically pass out cold. Every night. Every night for fourteen days. And then one morning...

The sun sprinkled them with lambent rays of garish light, tossing several small shadows across Tommy's

Continued on page 42

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fiction

broad chest. Tommy looked at the shadows and smiled. He was very happy.

"Ummmmmm."

"B-Bernard."

"Mch mch mch."

"B-Bernard, are you w-w-waking or what?"

"Ummmm... what the fuck... tim "

"Bernard, I I-love you."

An incoherent, sleepy voice answered: "Yeah, I know."

Tommy smiled again. He knew. *He knew.*

Bernard was half asleep when he shifted positions and said simply, "I... ah, guess I love you, too."

And with that they drifted back off and slept steadily for three more hours.

Continued on page 46

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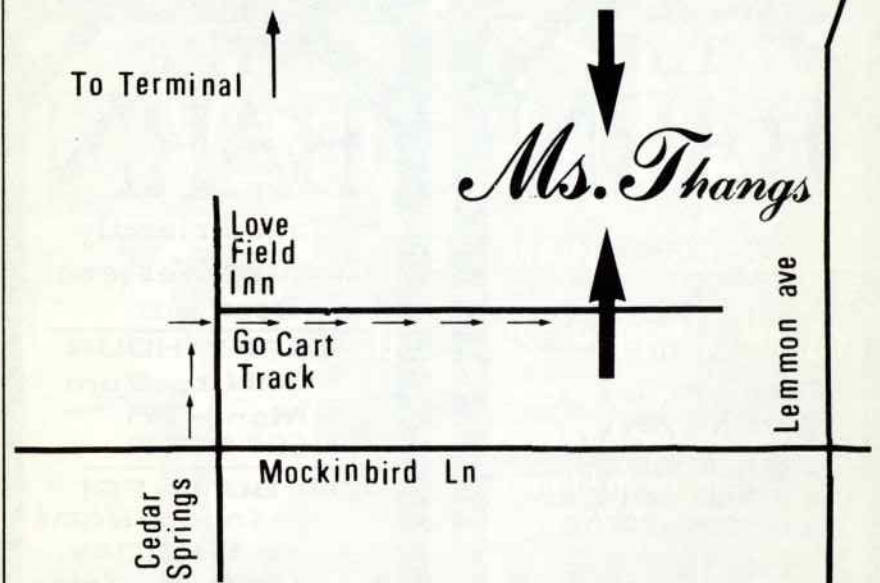
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fiction

It was midday. They had silently finished a large breakfast that Tommy had prepared when Bernard suddenly perked up and said, "Hey! I kinda like your apartment. This is the first time I ever seen it." He reached for one last piece of toast.

"Th-Thanks. I've been living here for about a year. I I-I-like it."

"The whole atmosphere... it's like... well, you know. Calm Serene. That's the word. Serene."

Tommy smiled. Bernard had a habit of occasionally tossing off a few large words. And for Bernard, serene was a whopper.

"D-Did you really mean what you said this m-morning about loving me?"

Bernard looked at him impassively. "Sure I meant it. What dya think? I go

around tellin' everybody?"

"Well, I j-j-just wanted to know."

Bernard hastily changed the subject. "It's so fuckin' goof to have that movie finished I can't tell ya'. To not have to worry about takin' that stinking bus downtown and then sittin' around for a hour sometimes waiting to start. And then havin' some guy I'm supposed to really have the hots for show up hungover, smellin like a dog peed on him. And THEN me having to get an erection over someone like that. Blows my mind just thinkin' about it."

Tommy looked at him questioningly.

"I know. You're probably wondering if I complain so much, why the fuck do I put up with it? Right? Is that what you're wondering?"

"Welllll..."

"There's only one reason. MONEY. Big money. More money than I could

make doing anything else."

Tommy frowned. "Why haven't you b-b-bought yourself a car?"

"Well, a car is one thing I don't really need right now. Yeah, I know. I bitch about the bus and everything but at this particular point in my life, a car would be like an albino around my neck."

"You m-mean an albatross."

Bernard's feathers ruffled slightly. "If I'd have meant an albatross I'd have said an albatross. I... was makin' a pun."

But he obviously wasn't. Tommy didn't try to correct his grammer. That was a sore spot between them. Perhaps he was afraid of Bernard sayin' something like, "You tellin' me how to talk?" There was no filter between Bernard's mind and his mouth. Whatever he thought, he said. And if words sometimes came out wrong; well,

Continued on page 48



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Fiction

fuck 'em. Who the hell needs words?

"I got enough money for a car if I ever decide to buy one, though. I'm not rich or nothin' (Helen sees to that) but I still got money for a car."

Tommy stood. "If you're interested I'll show you my w-w-workroom," he said, "Where the artist cr-creates.

"Sure," Bernard said, unenthused, "Why not? I'd like to see some of your pictures."

The breakfast table was promptly cleared and then Tommy led Bernard down a narrow hallway to a locked door at the back of the apartment. Tommy dug in his trousers for a key.

"Why do ya' keep it locked?" Bernard asked.

Tommy inserted the key and turned the knob. "Everything I've w-w-worked for is in h-here." They en-

tered the dark room. "I guess it's stupid because if anyone decided to rob me they wouldn't let this one pad-lock st-stop them."

"You fuckin' right it wouldn't," Bernard said, the voice of experience.

Tommy flinched slightly. He sometimes suspected shady dealings in Bernard's past but never quite had the nerve to question him on his suspicions. He had learned to accept whatever Bernard told him with total complacency. And Bernard told him enough to keep his mind occupied for years. There was really no need for Tommy to dig *too* far. Unless, of course... Well, they weren't *that* involved yet.

Or were they?

Tommy switched on an angular light which flooded the room with harsh iridescence.

Bernard stood aghast. "Jesus, and you said *my* apartment was cluttered."

Mountains of canvas and sheets dwarfed the tiny room. Tubes of paint were strewn everywhere. Turpentine.. Brushes. Towels. It somehow reminded Bernard of the janitor's closet. "I don't believe it," was all he could say. 2:30 PM.

The building moved. There was a small rumbling noise.

"Oh, shit, a tremor."

Tommy lost his balance and fell backwards, crashing solidly into Bernard's stocky figure. "Oh, fuck!"

Things in the room began to topple and crash.

Bernard, unprepared for this sudden weighty shove, was likewise thrown off balance and both young men were brought sprawling to the floor.

"B-B-Bernard."

A window cracked.

At one end of the room, a six foot canvas swayed and tilted.

"B-BERNARD." Tommy struggled to get to his feet. "Help... g-g-get..."

Bernard was confused. He saw the life-sized portrait of a thin young man in tights suddenly fall to the floor and rip on an upturned palette knife. The painting slid with the movement of the room and the palette knife sliced through the dancer's face and chest and down across one of his sinewy arms.

Tommy, from his tangled position on the floor, watched helplessly as the canvas was mercilessly destroyed.

"Oh G-G-God."

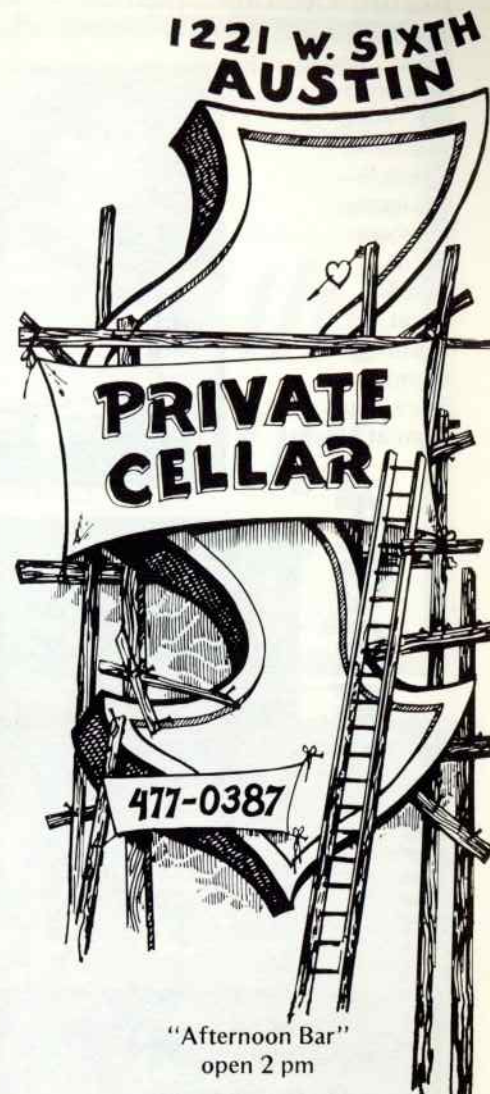
Then, as abruptly as it started, all movement in the room stopped. The small quake ended.

Tommy whimpered. "Oh m-my G-God."

"What? What? It's nothin'. It's over." Bernard said.

Tommy closed his eyes and fought back a sudden rush of tears. "G-God.

Continued on page 55



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"It's show time at AUSTIN COUNTRY," says Jann Russell and the stars step on stage [top left] Kitty Litter .. [top right] Apple .. [middle] Alian Allison, Tiffany Jones & Jann .. [bottom] Alvina Grease joins Jann, Apple & Alian for the 'living dolls' puppet show .. The Pantoman-iacs. And, Austinites love it !! Obviously, the show bar of central Texas is Austin Country every Thurs night at 10pm.



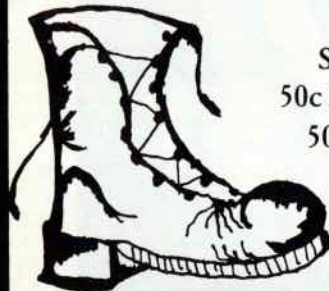
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- After Hours 2-4 am at Austin Country.
- After Hours 2-4 am at Pearl Street.

Sunday, October 24

- Happy Hour all day at Private Cellar. Beer 45c, Well Drinks 95c.
- Happy Hour 3-5 pm at the New Apartment.
- Volleyball Game 4 pm at Rio Grande & W. 23rd sponsored by GCS.

Monday, October 25

- Happy Hour Mon-Sat. 5-7 pm at the New Apartment.
- Happy Hour Mon-Sat. 2-7 pm at Private Cellar. Well 95c, Beer 45c.
- Free Draft Beer Mon, Tues & Thurs. at Private Cellar, 10:30-11:00 pm.

Wednesday, October 27

- Special Drink Night at Austin Country. 8 pm til 2 am. Bar Drinks 25c, Beer 10c. \$2.00 cover. Drawing, prizes.
- Free Keg Party at Private Cellar 9-11 pm. No cover at door.

Thursday, October 28

- Free Draft Beer at Private Cellar, 10:30-11 pm. Keg Party.
- Miss Gay Austin Contest 10 pm at Austin Country.

Friday, October 29

- After Hours at Austin Country, 2-4 am.
- After Hours at Pearl Street, 2-4 am.
- Gay Community Services Evening. Men Rap Session. Call 477-6699.

DALLAS

Saturday, October 23

- After Hours 2-4 am at OP

Sunday, October 24

- Bourbon Day at Ram Rod; double bourbon \$1.00, 5-6 pm.
- Free draft beer at TJ's, 7-8 pm.
- Free draft beer at Sundance Kid from 7 pm til the keg runs dry.
- Steak-Out at Chuck's, 6-8 pm. Chuck's supplies the trimmings. All you have to bring is your meat.
- 10c draft beer at Villa Fontana 4-7 pm.
- OP Drag Show with Jann Russell & the Pantomaniacs "Living Dolls", Alian Allison, Apple & guest stars, 9:30 pm.
- Drag Show at Boot Camp, 9 pm with Miss Fran, Sallie Marie, Tony Sinclair of OKC, Glda Rae & others.
- Bloody Marys and Screwdrivers 75c, 1-8 pm at the Bon Soir.
- Screwdrivers and Bloody Marys 50c, 1-5

pm at the Boot Camp.

- Hot dog buffet all afternoon at Swamptrash.
- Pool Tournament at 5 pm with ½ price beer and well drinks and free snacks, Terry's Mail Boxx.

Monday, October 25

- Pool Tournament at Service Station, 7:30
- 75c well, 50c beer at Swamptrash.
- Scotch Night at Ram Rod; double scotch \$1.00, 10-12 pm.
- Beer bust at Terry's Mail Boxx, 9-12 pm.
- 15c draft beer at OP. No cover.

Tuesday, October 26

- Buddy Night at Club Dallas — two for the price of one, 6 pm til 2 am.
- Rum Night at Ram Rod; double rum drinks, \$1.00, 10-12 pm.
- Free pizza at Swamptrash, 9-11 pm.
- VD Clinic at Bachelor Quarters, 9-11 pm.
- \$1.00 day at Bachelor's Quarters.
- All you can eat dinner 7-9 pm at Munchies (in OP) Restaurant.

Wednesday, October 27

- Free draft and 50c can beer at Sundance Kid, 10 pm til midnight.
- 2 for 1 drinks, 5 pm til closing at Terry's Mail Boxx.
- ½ price drinks all night at the Service Station.
- Discount card day at Club Dallas. Buy a discount card and get a free locker.
- 10c draft beer at the Villa Fontana, 4-7pm
- Cowboy Night at Ram Rod, 50c beer, 50c well if wearing western hat.
- DJ Contest at TJ's, 9 pm.
- Pool Tournament at the Boot Camp with prizes, 7:30 pm.
- VD Clinic at Club Dallas, 8-11 pm.
- Numbers night at Ram Rod, \$1.45 double if you are wearing a numbered football shirt
- 50c canned beer and 85c well drinks all night at Entre Nuit.
- Free movie night at Swamptrash: "Pillow Talk".
- Half price well drinks at OP.
- Free VD Clinic at OP.

Thursday, October 28

- "A Star Is Born" with Judy Garland, free movie at Swamptrash.
- 50c can, 85c well at Entre Nuit.
- VD Clinic at Crews Inn, 9-11 pm.
- Bring your own meat Steak Out at Crews Inn II — 7:30. Baked potato and salad furnished.

CALENDAR TEXAS

Friday, October 22

- Disc Jockey taking requests at TJ's.
- After Hours 2-4 am at OP.

EL PASO

Saturday, October 30

- Pet Shop's Annual Masquerade Party with cash for Best Costume.

Sunday, October 31

- Pet Shop's Miss Halloween Contest.

FT. WORTH

Saturday, October 23

- Special shows throughout the evening with 25c draft beer, midnite til 1 at 500 Club.

Sunday, October 24

- 500 Club presents "500 Follies" at 9:30
- Professional Drag Show at 10 pm at Bailey St. Warehouse.
- 30C malt liquor at Flame Lounge. Prices good all day.

Monday, October 25

- Amateur Drag Show at Bailey St. Warehouse at 10 pm.

Tuesday, October 26

- Amateur Drag Show at 9:30 pm at 500 Club. Trophies awarded.
- Draw beer 25c, 9 pm - midnight at Flame Lounge.

Wednesday, October 27

- 500 Follies present "Midweek Madness" at 9:30 pm at 500 Club.
- Free beer, 8-10 pm followed by professional drag show at Bailey St. Warehouse.
- Draw beer special 9 pm-midnight at Flame Lounge.

Thursday, October 28

- Disco & record giveaway, 8 pm-2 am at Bailey St. Warehouse.
- Wine coolers 40c, 9pm-midnight at Flame Lounge.

Friday, October 29

- 25c draft beer, 6:30 til 9:30 at Aub's.
- Country & Western Night at the 500 Club. Special drink prices if you wear western hat.

GALVESTON

Saturday, October 23

- Pot Luck Dinner and Farewell Party for Pete, 9 pm; drag show, 10 pm at Robert's Lafitte.

Sunday, October 24

- Happy Hour at Mary's Too.

Friday, October 29

- Drag Show at Robert's Lafitte.

HOUSTON

Saturday, October 23

- HMC Uniform Military Ball starting at 10 pm at Levi's.

- Babbs and Baldy performing at the Venture Inn, 9 til 2. No cover.
- Western band at Loft, 9-1 am.
- "Saturday's Child" rap session from noon til 2 pm at the MCCR.

Sunday, October 24

- Wayne's Bike Blessing and Beer Bust 3-6 pm at Levi's. \$1 or 75c with western hat.
- "Mama's Boys" live on stage at Old Plantation. Starts at 9:30 pm.
- Survivor party at Sally's, 9 pm-midnight. Cocktail hour prices.
- Buffet and beer, 6-9 pm, OP.
- Beer bust, The Loft, 4-7 pm, \$1.00.
- Jambalaya at The Barn. Noon.
- All lockers \$2.00 each, 8am-4pm, at Club Houston.
- Beer bust at the Locker, 7 pm-2 am, \$1.00
- Bloody Marys & Screwdrivers, 75c single, \$1.25 doubles at Inside Outside.
- Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers, and beer 50c, 2-7 pm, at Briar Patch.
- Liquor bust at the new Countryside.

Monday, October 25

- Bare Chest Nite at Mr. Peepers Glory Hole, 50c with membership.
- Pool Tournament at Lamp Post, 9 pm.
- Happy Hours at Sally's 7am-Noon and 5-8 pm, M-W-F, all day Tuesday and Thursday.
- Cocktail Hour 10am-7pm. 85c bar drinks at the Briar Patch daily.
- Happy Hour noon til 7. Well drinks 85c, at the Hi-Lite Ranch. Daily.
- Happy Hour every day at The Galleon, 4-8:30. Two for one. Singles 50c, doubles 90c & beer 55c.
- Happy Hour noon til 8. 50c beer, at the Barn, Monday-Friday.
- Morning Cocktail Hours 7am-Noon at Inside Outside. Special prices.
- Happy Hour 4-7 pm at Inside Outside. Singles 50c, Doubles \$1.00, weekdays.
- Draft beer 35c, 7 am-7 pm, everyday at the Inside Outside.
- Happy Hour 5 til 7. 50c beer, 75c bar drinks, at the Lamp Post, Monday-Friday.

Tuesday, October 26

- Cut Off Night at Mr. Peepers Glory Hole, 50c with membership.
- Beer bust at Our Place, 11am-7pm. 25c
- Free movie night at the Locker, 9:30 pm.
- \$2.00 night at Mr. Frizby's.
- Pool Tourny 8 pm, Inside Outside.
- Depository Skate Nite at Carousel Roller Rink, Katy Frwy., 9-11 pm.

Wednesday, October 27

- Steak Night, 8 pm at Levi's.
- Pool Tourny at Hi-Lite Ranch, 9 pm.
- "Wilde 'n Stein" KPFT radio FM after evening news, approximately 9-10 pm.
- Gay Political Caucus meeting at 7:30 pm at MCCR. Public invited.
- Hat and color night at the Locker - ½ price drinks.
- Buddy Night at Club Houston - two for the price of one (lockers), 4 pm-midnight.

Thursday, October 28

- "Hot Stuff", a complete meal at the Westheimer Flea Market, 7-9 pm. \$2.50 per person.

Friday, October 29

- Laverne and Company at the Exile, 9pm-1
- Babbs and Baldy performing at the Venture Inn, 9 til 2. No cover.
- Western band at the Loft, 9-1 am.

LUBBOCK

Friday, October 29

- Drag Show at David's Warehouse, 9:30 pm

SAN ANTONIO

Saturday, October 23

- Bar \$1.00 til 7 pm, beer 75c til 10 pm at Penny's Pub.

Sunday, October 24

- Outdoor barbecue at Mary Ellens.
- Boys Beer Bust, Penney's Pub, Noon-6pm

fiction

Five days. Five d-d-days of... m-mind-bending work. Shot. SHOT TO F—F—FUCKING HELL!" He made a small choking animal noise and cracked his knuckles.

Bernard had never heard Tommy swear before, and it startled him. "Wellllll..." He stood up and walked over to the tiny window in the corner of the room. "What's that song? It never rains in Southern California... Hmm? What's that song?" He looked out at the sooty L.A. skyline. "Remember? It never rains, it pours."

Tommy noticed a hidden smile on Bernard's pursed lips and suddenly wished him dead.

continued in a later issue.....



FLOWERS

Robert is a Floriculturist, with a B.S. in the field. He can advise you in restoring sick plants and provide personalized service in selecting plants.

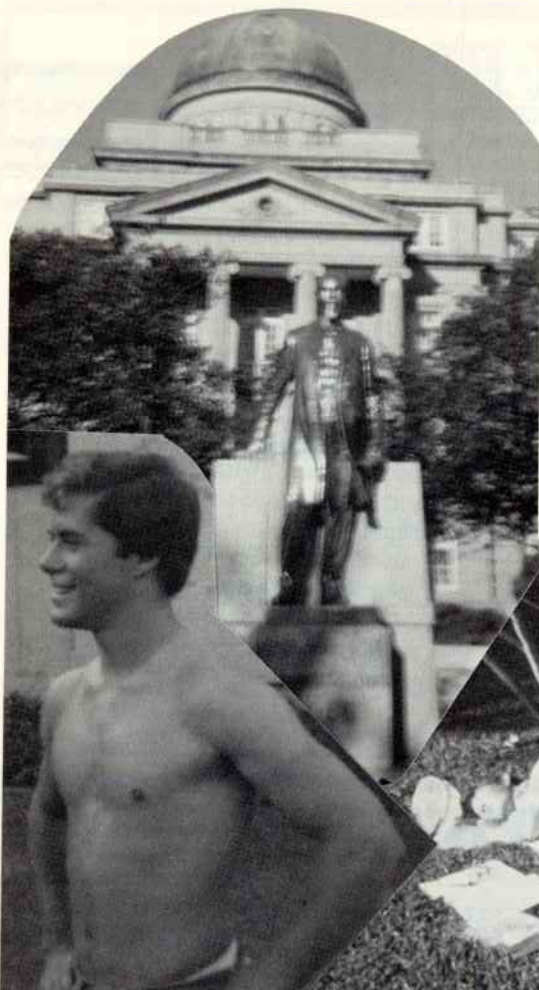
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In an all out effort to cover Gay life on Texas campuses, TWIT has in past issues gone to UT-Austin & UH-Houston. This week we visit Texas A&M at College Station where there is lots of action (left) the bell academic bldg. (below) handsome Aggies studying & resting between classes. A&M's gay organization is growing and named Alternative! A&M is indeed the school for the all American boy image. All those Aggie jokes are on you if you haven't visited Aggieland lately! TWIT recommends it.



CRUISE CAMERA

(left) Young Aggie takes a study break in autumn sun on grassy lawn while his buddy kicks a football in the background at TEXAS A & M.

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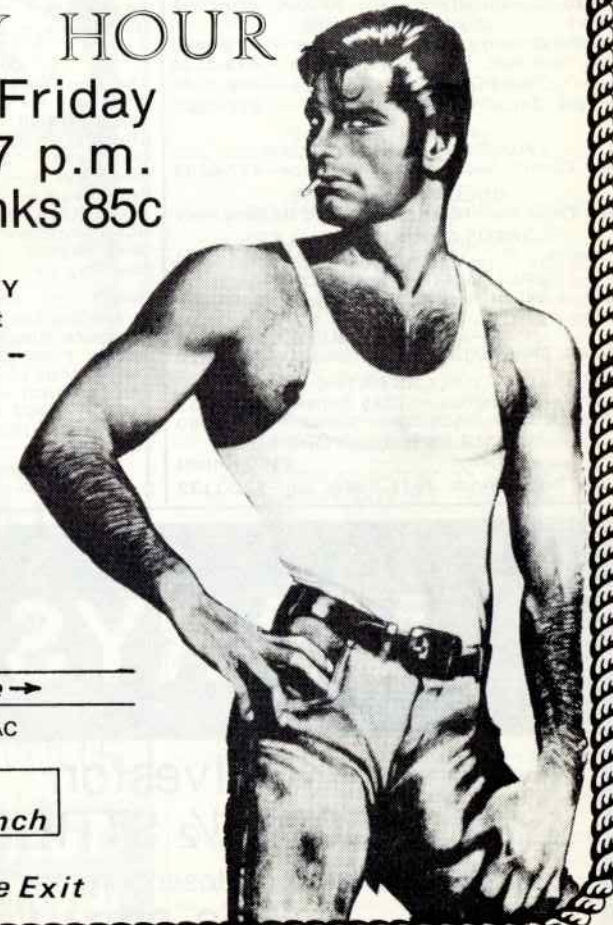
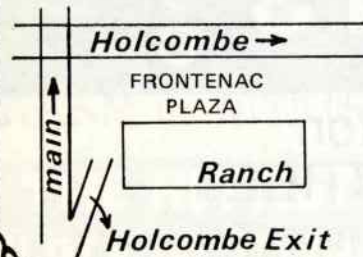
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HALLOWEEN PARTY
Sunday, October 31st

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AFTER HOURS:
Friday & Saturday



THE GUIDE

Listed here are bars, baths, bookstores, retail shops, and services which **This Week in Texas** recommends to our readers. Each week we are in touch with each of these establishments, so our listing is both accurate and dependable. If you are travelling in Texas, we think you'll find that these merchants welcome your business and will give you the best value for your money.

AMARILLO LOUNGE
Old Plantation — 1005 N. Filmore — 372-5081

AUSTIN ADULT BOOKSTORES
All American News-2532 Guadalupe-478-0222
Mr. Peepers — 213 E. 6th Street — 478-0243

AUSTIN CHURCH
Metro Community — 408 W. 23rd — 459-7189
Metro Community — 2701 Reagan—826-0291

AUSTIN LOUNGES
Austin Country — 705 Red River — 472-0418
The New Apt. — 2828 Rio Grande — 478-0224
Pearl St. Warehouse — 1720 Lavaca — 478-0176
Private Cellar — 1221 W. Sixth — 477-0387

AUSTIN ORGANIZATIONS
Gay Comm. Svcs.—2330 Guadalupe—477-6699

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Oak Drive Inn—N. on Hy. 84, Old Abilene Hwy
CORPUS CHRISTI RETAILERS
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DALLAS BATHS
Bachelor's Quarters — 1225 Skiles — 823-0432
Club Dallas — 2616 Swiss Street — 821-1990

DALLAS BOOKSTORE
The Copenhagen — 2500 Knight
Lobo Book Shop—3917 Cedar Spr—522-1132

DALLAS CHURCH
Metro Community—3824 Ross Ave—826-0291

DALLAS CLOTHING
Emporium — 3921 Cedar Springs — 528-7241
Union Jack — 3918 Cedar Springs — 528-9600

DALLAS HAIR SALONS
Tonsorium — 2900 N. Henderson — 823-1410
Union Jack — 3918 Cedar Springs — 528-9600

DALLAS LOUNGES
The Boot Camp—2508 N. Fitzhugh—823-0138
Bon Soir — 4527 Cole Street — 526-9432
The Brass Rail — 2513 N. Fitzhugh

Chuck's — 3019 Haskell Street — 526-9329
Crews Inn — 3220 N. Fitzhugh — 526-9320
Crews Inn II — 3115 Live Oak St. — 824-9043
Entre Nuit — 3116 Live Oak St. — 823-0423
Jugs — 3218 North Fitzhugh Street — 526-9283
Old Plantation—1807 N. Harwood—651-1988
Olive Branch — 2822 McKinney — 823-0921
One Way In — 2509 N. Fitzhugh — 824-9357

Sassy's — 4516 McKinney — 526-9328
Service Station — 3215 N. Fitzhugh— 526-9025
Sundance Kids — 4025 Maple St. — 526-9173
Swamp Trash—3014 Throckmorton—526-9184
Terry's Mail Boxx-2515 N. Fitzhugh-824-9126
Terry's Ranch — 4117 Maple Street — 526-9302
T.J.'s — 3307 McKinney Street — 526-9368
Tool Box — 1804 North Harwood — 742-0350
Villa Fontana — 1315 Skiles Street — 823-0372

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Pet Shop — 800 E. San Antonio — 532-9721
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Metro Community—251 S. Vacek—332-5008

FORT WORTH LOUNGES
Aub's — 1308 Saint Louis Street — 927-9220
Bailey St. Warehouse—259 Bailey—335-0232
500 Club — 506 West Magnolia St. — 335-0692
Flame Lounge—303 Throckmorton—335-0745

FORT WORTH RESTAURANT
Aub's — 1308 Saint Louis Street — 927-9220

GALVESTON BATHS
Kon Tiki — 220 23rd/Tremont St. — 763-9031

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GALVESTON LOUNGES
Fruit Jar — 2214 Mechanic Street — 763-6319
Kon Tiki — 214 23rd/Tremont St. — 763-9031
Mary's II — 2502 Q 1/2 Street — 763-9334
Robert's Lafitte — 409 Rosenburg — 763-9507

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 Detour — 1504 Westheimer Road — 528-9552
 Dirty Sallys 2nd Sun-534 Westheimer-524-1225
 Exile — 1011 Bell Street — 226-8068
 Galleon — 2720 Richmond Ave. — 528-8787
 Hi Lite Ranch — 6800 S. Main — 528-8730
 Inside Outside—1318 Westheimer-528-8049
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 Lamp Post — 2417 Times Blvd. — 528-8921
 Levi — 2400 Brazos Street — 528-8637
 Locker — 1732 Westheimer Road — 528-8844
 Loft — 2909 South Main St. — 528-9337
 Mary's — 1022 Westheimer Road — 528-8851
 Old Plantation — 2020 Kipling — 522-2353
 Odd's Place — 905 Woodrow St. — 528-9019
 Our Place — 1419 Richmond Ave. — 528-8903
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 Pet Center — 1010 Tuam — 659-3760
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 Texas Ball — P.O. Box 583, Alief, Tx. 77411

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 Jim Hollomon, Realtor — 521-0278

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 Duffy's — 5 South 16th Street — 686-9144

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 Paris News—1929 N. New Braunfels—225-9339

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 Mary Ellen's - 815 Fredericksburg - 732-9801
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 Spanish Harlem—349 W. Josephine—732-0110
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 Amazon Studio—10000 McCollough—349-6980

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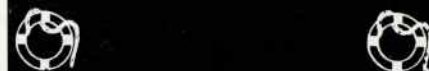
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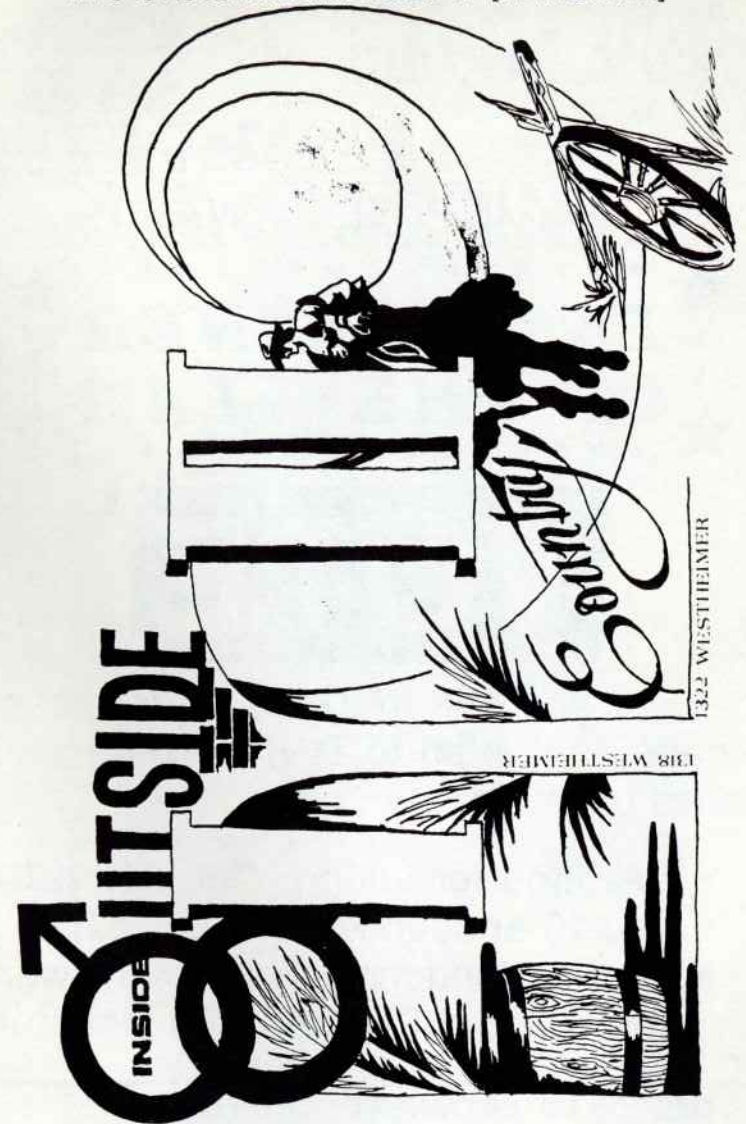
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