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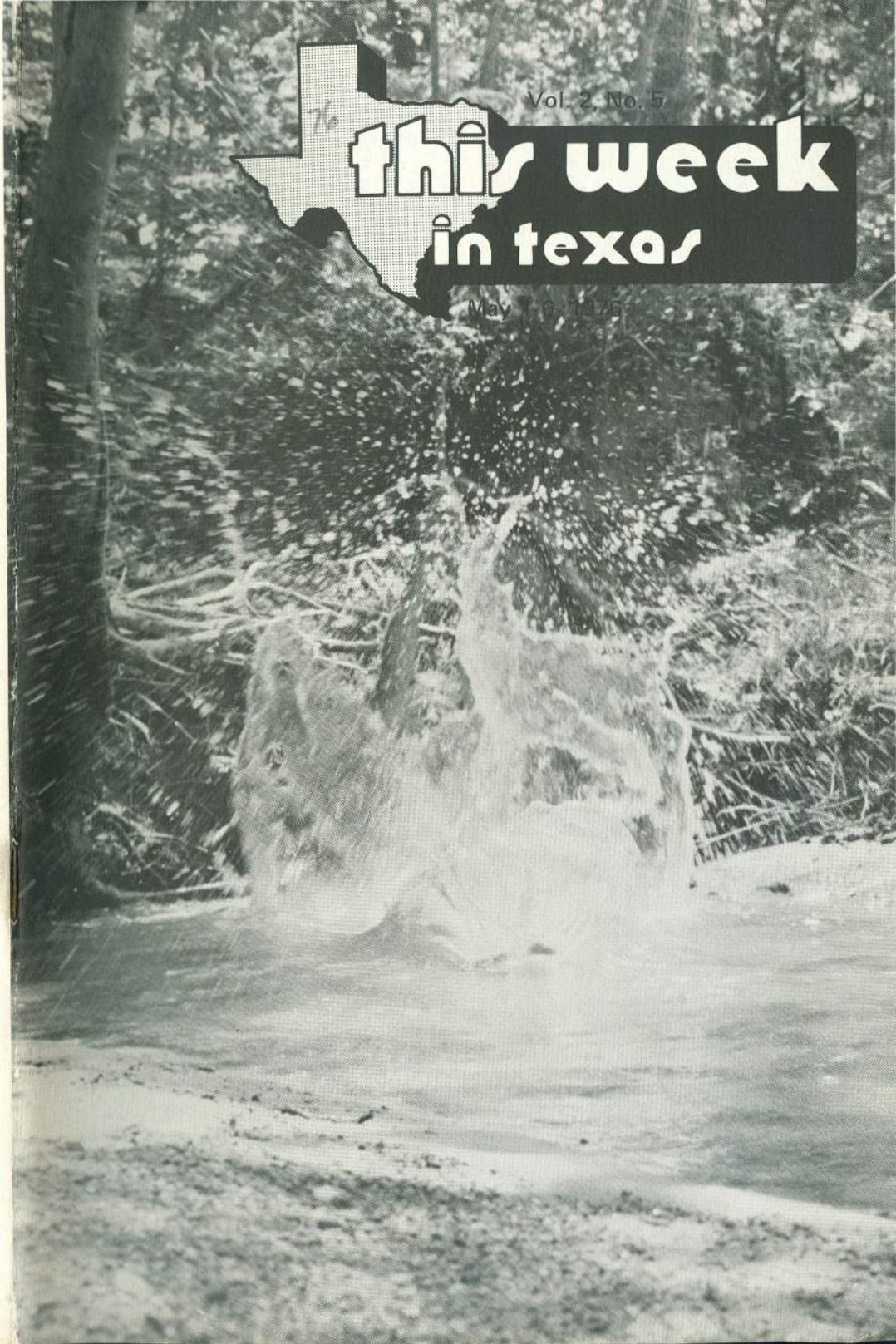
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Every Wednesday 7:30 pm

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Dancing

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50¢ BAR DRINKS & BEER

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THURSDAY - CHAMPAGNE 50¢ A GLASS
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MONDAY - 10¢ DRAFT BEER TUESDAY - 90¢ MARGARITAS
WEDNESDAY - 60¢ BAR DRINKS THURSDAY - POOL TOURNAMENT
FRIDAY & SATURDAY - \$1 COVER
SUNDAY - \$1.50 COVER - BUFFET AND FREE DRAFT BEER 6-9:30pm

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THE PET SHOP

800 E. San Antonio * 532-9721

EL PASO'S DISCO WITH LIQUOR!
EVERY SUNDAY - BEER BUST - SHOW - BUFFET

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Our splash day pictures here and on the front cover feature David, bartender at the Loft in Houston. Photos by Algren.



**VOTE
MAY 1**

These are candidates who support issues important to you!

THESE NAMES AREN'T JUST PULLED FROM A HAT

Now it's your turn to support them!

**GET OUT AND VOTE
MAY 1, 1976**

Rep. Dist. 79 — Ron Waters
Rep. Dist. 80 — Lance Laylor

Precinct Judges Races
32 — Bert Bares
33 — Debra Danburg
34 — Lee Marsters, Jr.
37 — Patty Davis
38 — Rosemary Scott
60 — Lynn Haymond
123 — Ann Lower

County Commissioner — Tom Bass

**A VERY SPECIAL EVENING
MAY 5, 1976**

Dr. Bruce Voeller, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force will report to the GPC and all those in attendance on the current status of NGTF's lobbying effort in Washington.

Dr. Voeller will also answer questions from the floor.

**A VERY SPECIAL EVENING
NOT TO BE MISSED
7:30 P.M.
MCCR, 1214 Joe Annie**

**THE
GAY
POLITICAL
CAUCUS**

**THE GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS
MEETS THE FIRST WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH
AT THE M.C.C.R.
1214 Joe Annie**

AROUND THE STATE THIS WEEK

Friday, April 30, Galveston

Fashion show featuring the summer selection of clothes for the liberated man from Chris and Adam's Body Shop, 10pm, Mary's II.

Friday, April 30, Houston

Club Houston 3rd anniversary. Continental breakfast 8-10am. Free admission all day if you have a Club Houston discount card. Free future visit for membership cards ending with a 9 or 0, 4-9pm. . . . Diana Wright Show with guest, Venture-N, 9-11pm.

Friday, April 30, San Antonio

Del Martin, co-author of "Lesbian Woman" and "Lesbian Mothers" and co-founder of Daughters of Bilitis and Lesbian Mothers Union, at the Zoo, 7:30pm. Pre-conference champagne reception. \$5 donation requested. Sponsored by Gay Women of San Antonio.

Saturday, May 1, Statewide

Vote in today's primary.

Saturday, May 1, Dallas

Free bloody marys noon-1pm, Swamp Trash.

Saturday, May 1, Galveston

Splash weekend, Robert's Lafitte. Carnival circus show, booths, games and prizes. "Welcome Tejas Riders."

Saturday, May 1, Houston

Club Houston 3rd anniversary. Continental breakfast 8-10am. Drawings

tonight for two G-E color televisions. . . . 2nd anniversary of Houston Motorcycle Club. Private dinner and wine at the Levi, Front Pocket Room, 8pm. Ten dollar tickets on sale from any HMC member, the Levi, or the Western Leather Shop at Mary's. Show follows in the main bar, open to the public at no charge. . . . Gay Activists Alliance and the Dept. of Religious Activities of the University of Houston meet to discuss with non-gays "How to Relate to Gay People." Register ahead of time by calling 749-3489. No charge.

Saturday, May 1, San Antonio

"Gay in San Antonio - A Sense of Belonging." Call the Gay Switchboard at 733-7300 if you need further info.

Sunday, May 2, Dallas

Splash-Day-2, Club Dallas. Reduced rates noon-6pm. Continental breakfast 9am. Buffet 1pm. Mr. Taurus Contest 3pm. Fashion show and live entertainment. . . . Special splash day prices, Crews Inn II, 5-7pm. Well drinks 75¢. Beer 50¢. . . . Special splash day prices, Villa Fontana, 7-9pm. Well drinks 75¢. Beer 50¢. . . . Special splash day show 9pm, Entre Nuit, with Cindy Birdsong and special guest. . . . Jam session at Chuck's, 3pm. Bring your own instrument and your first drink is on Chuck and Fred, if you play. . . . Half price drinks 5-9pm and \$1 beer bust 5-12pm, Terry's Ranch. . . . Free bloody marys noon-1pm, Swamp Trash.

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open
6pm
to
2am

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WHATEVER YOU MAY BE LOOKING FOR IN A GAY BAR
WE HAVE IT

259 Bailey..... Ft. Worth

Sunday, May 2, Galveston
Splash weekend, Robert's Lafitte.
Carnival, circus show, booths, games,
prizes. "Welcome Tejas Riders."

Sunday, May 2, Houston
Lamp Post vs. Detour at Fairview and
Yupon, 2pm. Free beer. . . . Special
show with Michael Andrews and Dickie
Christopher from Dallas, Old Plantation.

Monday, May 3, Dallas
Chuck's 1st anniversary party with free
well drinks 8-9pm, 11-12pm.

Monday, May 3, Houston
Grand opening, Levi. Mr. Mustache
contest. \$25 tab for best designed
mustache, 10pm. . . . V.D. health clinic,
Studz News, 4-8pm.

Tuesday, May 4, Galveston
Galveston Gay Society meeting,
8:30pm, Robert's Lafitte.

Tuesday, May 4, Houston
Grand opening continued at Levi. 75¢
beer bust, 8-11pm. . . . Free V.D. clinic
at Mr. Frizby's, 8-10pm. Free pass for a
future visit to those who have a blood
test.

Wednesday, May 5, Dallas
Chuck's wooden chips for those wearing
Dallas Motorcycle Club colors all
evening. . . . V.D. health clinic, Swamp
Trash, 9-11pm. . . . 10¢ draw beer at
Terry's Ranch. . . . MCC's pot-luck
dinner at 6:30pm.

Wednesday, May 5, Houston
Dr. Bruce Voeller, Executive Director
National Gay Task Force, will report at
the GPC meeting, 9:30pm, MCCR, on
current status of NGTF's lobbying
efforts in Washington. . . . V.D. health
clinic, O'Topos, 9-12pm. . . . Grand
opening continued, Levi. Mr.
Rhinestone Cowboy contest 10pm.
Cash prizes of \$25 and \$15. . . . Salute
to Mexico celebration, Lamp Post.
Special show features Peaches, Rikki
Luna, plus MC Monica, 9-10pm and
10:30-11:30pm.

IN HOUSTON

O'TOPOS

2020 RICHMOND
528-8005



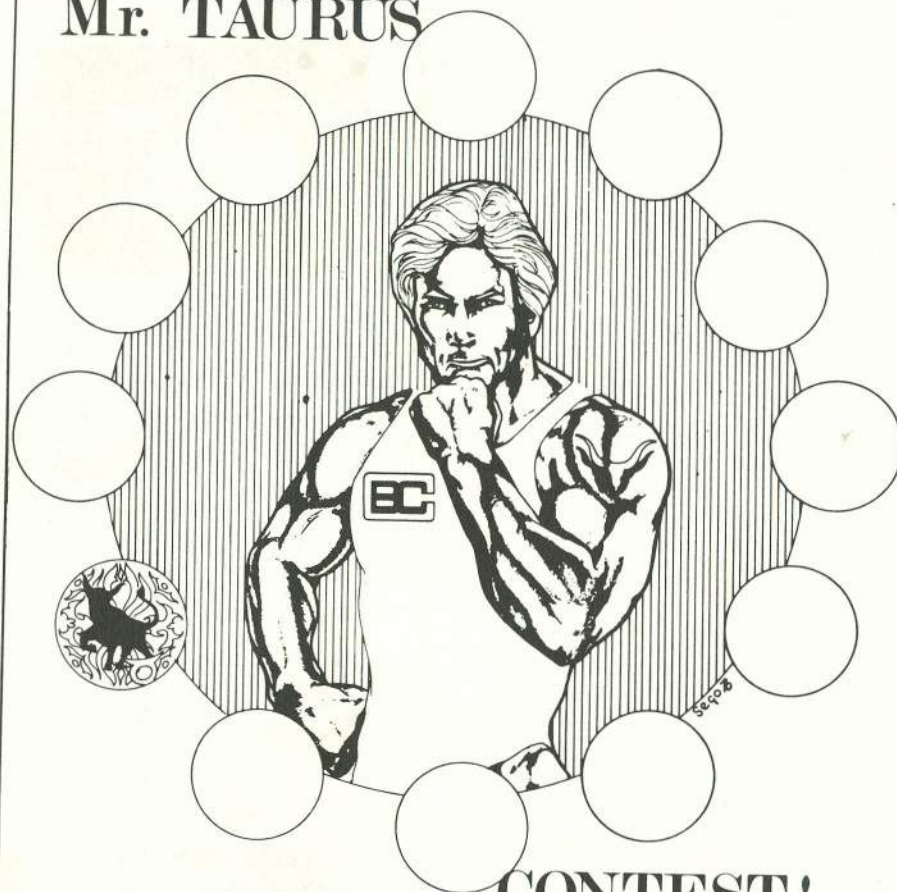
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and Peep Shows
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Must enter by 5/1/76

- 1st ■ 1 yrs. free pass to Club & \$25
- 2nd ■ 6 month free pass to club
- 3rd ■ 2 Discount Cards

Judged on Casual Wear & Bathing Suits

Buffet 1 p.m. Contest Club

Thursday, May 6, Dallas

Western hat night with weel drinks 75¢ & beer 50¢ all night, Chuck's. . . . Entree Nuit grand opening with free drinks 10-10-11pm.

Thursday, May 6, Houston

Grand opening continued, Levi. Photo night. Match the photo from 7-12pm with the bartenders and bar owners in the Westheimer area. Winner receives a \$50 gift certificate to the Western Leather Shop at Mary's. . . . V.D. health clinic at the Inside Outside 5-9pm and Club Houston 8-10pm.

Friday, May 7, Houston

2nd anniversary at the Locker, 10pm. Mr. Locker contest winner receives \$150 and the Locker Belt. Free champagne. Barbarian feast, savage style. . . . Grand opening continued, Levi. Lick It or Rim It night. Surprise! . . . V.D. health clinic at Dirty Sally's, 4-8pm.

Dallas Gay Organizations

Gay Crisis Line. (214) 241-4118.

Metropolitan Community Church. Sunday: worship services 11am & 7:30pm.

Houston Gay Organizations

Christ's Communion Church. Sunday: refreshments 10am, worship 11am. Tuesday: CCC Liberators girls softball. Wednesday: visitation night. Thursday: spiritual staff and worship meeting.

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

Gay Politcial Caucus. First Wednesday of each month: general public meeting 7:30pm, MCCR.

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

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

THE NEW BEER BAR
1313 HEMPHILL FORT WORTH 927-9523

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Open 11 am Daily
 Open Noon Sundays

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 The First in Houston
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 All Male Movies

Tuesday — all day all
 night is Buddy Day 2 for \$5

2907 MAIN ST 528 5881

Club Houston

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 Houston
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BC THE CLUB BATH CHAIR

Sampling Texas

That exotic "feel" of summer is beginning to cast its special spell over all and the bathing suit social season is revving up for a massive show of strength. But first (and this is REALLY important, so just "cool" it for a minute), there's one major matter to be taken care of. In Houston.

Representative to the state legislature, from the Montrose district, Ron Waters comes up for re-election on Saturday. As you know, Ron is the only state legislator to call for the repeal of state sodomy laws that result in the continued arrests of persons for "victimless" crimes. Many of his colleagues say they agree with Ron, but just can't bear the thought of voting for such measures because of their conservative constituents. Ron's other colleagues just laugh at him. Many are watching Ron's re-election bid to see just how important an issue this may be. Saturday, as I said, is voting day. The same day as Splash Day. But please, for goodness sake, vote for Ron Waters before you head out for Galveston. Remember, Ron only won re-election last time by 300 votes. So EVERY VOTE will count Saturday. And could count for a lot. If the one pro-gay spokesman in the legislature goes down to defeat, I don't have to tell you what the other lawmakers will take as a license to do. The Ron Waters race will affect you directly, especially if you are aware of the anti-gay beliefs of his opponent. To vote for Ron means you'll have to vote Democratic, of course. But then this race, which affects your daily life, is probably, at this stage of the game, a lot more important than any popularity race endorsement of Ronald Reagan, which requires Republican voting and therefore inactivates your

support of Ron. Also, please note the Gay Political Caucus endorsements elsewhere in this issue.

Speaking of that organization, we remind you that Bruce Voeller, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force, will be featured speaker at the regular GPC meeting on May 5th at the MCCR at 7:30pm. A very special evening not to be missed. Incidentally, the GPC summer schedule of meetings calls for sessions on the first Wednesday of each month in May, June, July and August. Upcoming is the naming of members who will be part of the National Gay Pride Week Coalition committee. Also, an exact date for that event will be announced.

The University of Houston has announced that a gay studies course will be offered this summer to anyone caring to join, as part of their Sundry School Program. The title of the course is "Being Gay and Relating to Gays." The course is open to both gays and non-gays and will be offered for eight weeks, with classes from 7 to 9p.m. You must register by June 14th. The course will also be offered again next semester. For further info, call the U. of H.

And in the "Get This" department, Houston now has two new motorcycle clubs. Both clubs will call the Filling Station their home bar. The International Road Masters Texas Chapter requires that you have a motorcycle to join. The other new club, however, the American Leathermen, requires only that you have a knack for things S&M. (Guess your choice of club boils down to just "what" you prefer to "ride.") Anyway, the Bayou City welcomes them both — and by the way, we send special second anniversary greetings to the Houston Motorcycle

TERRY'S RANCH

DALLAS' UNIQUE WESTERN CLUB

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
10¢ Draw Beer

SUNDAYS
5 to 12
All the Draft Beer
You Can Drink — \$1

SUNDAYS
5 to 9
Half Price Drinks



HAPPY HOUR PRICES

4117 MAPLE
526-9302

Club, a long-standing organization of high favor to all.

In other Houston tidbits: Gossip has it that a super disco will open in Houston — for gay GALS! How about that, gang!

TWIT sends out cordial greetin's to the Locker, which is celebrating it's second anniversary. And no bar deserves congratulations more than the Locker.

Bircardi Bill is now back tending bar at the Detour. The Detour has moved its popular beer bust from Wednesday to Thursday. Wednesday was just too hectic, with the steak night event which starts at 7p.m. and has a way of lasting late into the evening. Mary's also has the popular steak night attraction on Wednesdays.

At the Briar Patch, Wednesday is the night for the pool tourney, with a one dollar entry fee and cash prizes for first and second place winners. Monthly playoffs are also staged.

The Levi is offering a week of grand opening specials you'll certainly find worth a careful look. Details on that can be found in Around the State.

And finally, in Houston, Mary's new patio has been described as "flawless." Check it out and send me your reports.

In San Antonio, it appears a mood of calm prevails. The hectic Fiesta celebration and the political turmoil of the "Gay in San Antonio — A Sense of Belonging" conference are winding down. A new site for the conference was found, but kept secret to protect the meeting from the homophobics who have given conference organizers such hell in the past. Those registered to attend were given secret maps to the site. Among those following the secret maps included these conference guests: Representative Elain Noble, N.O.W. President Karen DeCrow, and Del Martin, co-foudner of the Daughters of Bilitis. This Week in Texas offers the strongest of salutes to those individuals who made the conference a reality,

665-9678

THE
**BRIAR
PATCH**
LOUNGE

2294 W. Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, Texas

Ric & Jerry invite you to:
Happy Hour 10am-7pm
75 cent bar drinks

Sunday: Bloody Marys 50¢.

Jerry Kauffman Ric Marino

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THIS WEEK IN TEXAS
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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

despite difficult odds and problems that many would find insurmountable. Very, very good work! A credit to all involved and a landmark effort on behalf of the entire community. Our most profound appreciation for your efforts.

In a lighter aspect, congratulations go to those who also worked their tails off to make the gay aspect of the Fiesta celebration such a blast. It's been an exhaustive week for all involved in all events all over the terrain known as San Antonio.

Maybe ya'll should check into Amazon Studios in San Antonio for a good massage. It's the only place there to get one. Ya'll have really earned it.

The beat goes on in Dallas, for those of you who could ever have doubted it (fools that ye be). The Service Station now has 'round-the-clock live music. 'Round the calander, rather. Monday thru Saturday you can enjoy the sounds of the "Diamond Head" group; on Sunday nights you can boogie with the "Cactus Cafe," the hot new contemporary - country - progressive music makers.

In big Dallas news is the construction of the new Old Plantation near downtown. Plenty of parking has been assured, so don't worry your pretty little head 'bout that, darlin'. Opening is set for around May 20, with three different bars calling the new address as home, along with the patio and disco sounds for days. Even weeks.

Over at Chuck's, the new patio is about to "gel," so watch for that grand opening soon. Chuck's pool tournament is now every Friday night at 8p.m. for singles and on Saturdays at 3p.m. for lovers. (Lovers' pool is a hoot! No matter how bad the pool playing, the fights are just heaven! Wheeeeeee!)

On May 16th, a benefit will be held for Mary Jo Risher, the gay mother who lost her son in a custody battle with her divorced husband. It's been a big issue in Big D. Singer Meg Christian will



MARY'S II Galveston

STEAK NIGHT
WEDNESDAY

FREE FISH FRY
FRIDAY 8PM

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THE CORNER OF
ROSENBERG (25th)
AND Q½ STREET

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midnite



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Highland Village Center.

DALLAS 3918 CEDAR SPRINGS. 528-9600

perform to the delight of her legion of fans. Mark your calanders now. But we'll also remind you about it later.

Turning slightly away from Dallas, we land in Fort Worth, where this week's news is not encouraging. The Fort Worth Gay Switchboard is in trouble. Unless they can land some volunteers, the whole worthy project could close down. You Fort Worth folk with a little spare time: please don't let this happen. Please call 335-6301 after 6p.m. Help, help!

Going north to Amarillo, please take note that the Pal's Lounge is closed. The Old Plantation is now the only gay bar there. Ya'll have to huddle up close, ya hear!

That's our tour for this week. Now, if you'll permit me, I'd like to speak for just a second about something really close to home. Namely, in this office. This Week in Texas has been getting complaints concerning both individuals and organizations allegedly claiming to be associated with this organization. These persons are attempting to "feather their own nest" by palming themselves off as part of our organization. Once and for all, for the record: This Week in Texas is not a part of any other organization or commercial enterprise. The only persons employed by This Week in Texas are those persons who distribute copies of the magazine. Do not give an ad or, especially, any money to ANYONE who says they are part of This Week in Texas unless they are the person delivering the copies of the publication. Also, we are not a part of any other commercial enterprise or business. And that's the TRUTH!!

And finally, for those of you who enjoy "Life With Vera" (and reports indicate that "L.W.V." ranks right up there with "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman), get ready for a shock. "Life With Vera" will soon move into a new era . . . a first . . . not only for this publication but a FIRST for anyone. We'll tell ya more later, but for the time being, just brace yourself, honey. You ain't gonna believe it!

See ya later.

TJ's

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girls' bar - mixed drinks - pool



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Dallas, Texas

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823-0372

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Happy Hour

12:00 Noon - 2:00 PM
Daily



4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Mon. - Fri.



BACHELOR'S

QUARTERS...

Tuesday - \$ Day $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Room } \$3. \\ \text{Locker } \$1. \end{array} \right.$

Thursday - Buddy Day

Any two members for the price of one!

Dallas, Texas


1225 SKILES

823-0432



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Presents**

**THE
SHOW
BOAT**



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DOWNTOWN GAY BAR**

<p>COME BY AND SEE JOHN & CHEVE * * *</p> <p>HAPPY HOUR 6-10 MONDAY-THURSDAY with 30¢ DRAW BEER * * * POOL & PONG</p>	<p>OPEN DAILY 10am-2am (2pm-2am Sunday)</p> <p>* * *</p> <p>25¢ DRAFT BEER SUNDAY * * *</p> <p>FREE DRAFT BEER TUESDAYS 11pm-midnight</p>
---	---

303 THROCKMORTON
FORT WORTH
335-0064

Life With Vera

a serial by John Gardner

continued from previous issue

Dear Diary,

I could just die! I've never been so humiliated in all my life. I'm so embarrassed, diary, I can hardly look you in the face. Honest to God, I could just die! Die!

It all started last Sunday when Miss Burt said she just had to go spend some time in Memorial Park. (You know, diary, how butch she tries to be sometime. Putting Coppertone behind each ear before she goes to parties so she'll smell "tanned," wearing starched T-shirts, attacking innocent trees with a Frisbee, etc., etc.) You know how she is, diary.

Well anyway, Miss Burt was hell-bent on going to the park, so I went along. But only on the condition that I could take little Fi-Fi. Burt didn't like the idea. But after explaining how poor little Fi-Fi doesn't get to go outside much (since pets are forbidden in this apartment building), Burt finally agreed to let her come. Fi-Fi was so happy when I let her out of the aquarium. (When I say this apartment project doesn't allow dogs — I MEAN IT!)

We all piled into the car and off we went. Well diary, no sooner had we found a spot to "pitch out tent," than Miss Burt remembered that she'd left the microwave on. A most serious mistake, let me tell ya. (There's a little black blob on the bottom of my microwave that I've never been able to remove. And I've tried everything. But I guess I can't complain since that little black blob was caused by my mistake. I'd forgotten to turn off the microwave. That little blob, diary, is the total remaining heritage of what had been, thirty minutes earlier, a 22-pound turkey!)

Anyway, Burt had to go back to the apartment. Little Fi-Fi was giving me one of those sad looks, so I said we'd just stay outside and Burt could join us when he returned. Agreed. Off he went. Leaving me and little Fi-Fi. Alone.

I decided to make the best of it and noticed that it really wasn't all that bad. Any second I knew the sun rays were going to make me pass out, or give me an instant case of skin cancer, but I smiled. And then I noticed that someone was smiling back. A whole bunch of people. Four of the most truly heaven numbers I'd seen since I was . . . since I was . . . younger. (Mary, there are some things you can't even tell your diary.)

I started to feel pretty good. For the first time all week. (This week had started with a particularly upsetting incident: Little Fi-Fi ate my favorite cassette tape. That real nice one by the Supremes. Everytime I think about Flo I could just die.) I began feeling so good, I even decided to take a chance and "walk" little Fi-Fi toward the four good-looking guys having the picnic.

We were about half way to where the guys were spreading out their picnic blanket — and then it happened! I'm so embarrassed, diary, I could just die! At that very minute little Fi-Fi decided she needed to take a poop-poop. Poop-poops are a lot more embarrassing when people are watching. And especially when the poop-poop is coming from your Fi-Fi. But this had happened before, and was just the call of Mother Nature, so I had learned not to let it upset me. But then, little Fi-Fi began to have problems.

The poop-poop looked fine (as far as poop-poops go, in general). But strangely enough, when little Fi-Fi began to walk away, the poop-poop began following along behind. Well! This was doing little Fi-Fi's heart



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SUNDAY MAY 2, 1976

●
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●
Buffet 1 p.m.

●
Mr. Taurus Contest 3 p.m.

●
Fashion Show & Live Entertainment

●
New Super Sound Systems &
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condition no good. No good, at all. And it wasn't doing much for me, either. Especially when I noticed that the poop-poop was still connected to Fi-Fi by some sort of string-string. And then it hit me!

As I look back on the story, diary, I would just swear that I heard singing. "Stop in the Name of Love!" "Reflections," "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," etc. That's right diary. Little Fi-Fi was connected to her poop-poop by my Supremes tape — that she'd eaten a few days before. Yes sir, like it or not, the Supremes were staging a comeback! In Memorial Park. In front of all those guys. I could just die.

Fi-Fi had the Supremes in her tummy. And now she was "reeling" 'em out. Fi-Fi didn't like it one bit. And started to run. She was making a beedive toward the picnic lunch. With the poop-poop following about four feet behind. But poop-poop was losing ground. By the time Fi-Fi reached the picnic blanket, it was a good nine feet back. But unfortunately Fi-Fi didn't stop. She bounded over the blanket, just as the four guys dived for cover to avoid collision with what they saw was bounding toward them, behind little Fi-Fi. On a string.

Being the naturally brave hero that I am, I was trying to avert the disaster by stepping on the tape before the poop-poop made a cameo appearance in the picnic. And, diary, I did it! Just in time. Right before the you-know-what hit the fan, or in this case — the picnic. I stepped on the tape and broke it. Just in the nick of time. Unfortunately, when I stepped on the tape, the Supremes staged one last burst — and the entire concert, in a wad, landed in the chicken salad.

From this point on, diary, it is too embarrassing for me to think upon. So I will close. I may never speak to Burt again. Until next week.

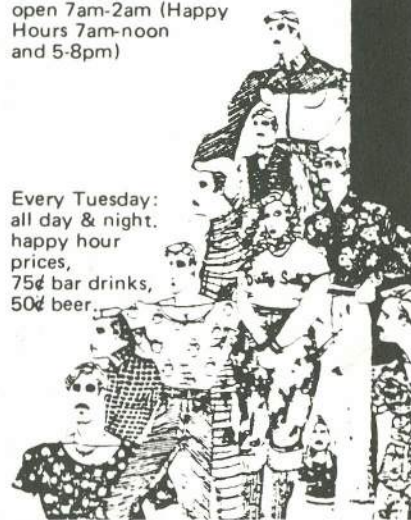
Vera
P.S. — It looks like that whole thing about the extra body is going to blow over. Haven't read anything in the papers, lately, but will wait and see.

continued next week

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On that Friday night, the Locker will top itself as only the Locker can do in bringing another first to Houston. It is our second anniversary and as it stands now it promises to be a night you won't easily forget.

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Among the surprises that night will be a selection of meat and other goodies that will make your fur rise. (No eating utensils will be provided).

Mr. Locker '76 will be selected with \$150 and the Locker Belt going to the winner.

And you know what else? The Locker is . . . What? . . . Oh. . . . I'm sorry, Gary. I know I'm a blabber-mouth.

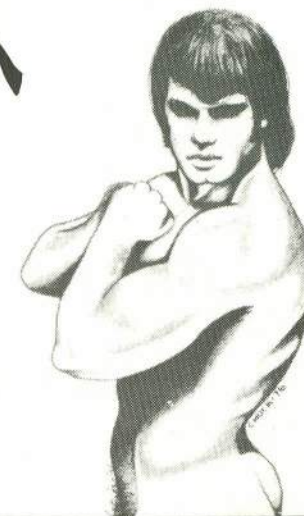
Well, if you want to see what else comes off that night, be at the Locker, Friday, May 7, as the Locker celebrates its second anniversary with a Barbarian Feast.

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Gay News Briefs

PRESIDENT FORD RESPONDS TO GAY RIGHTS QUESTION DURING CAMPAIGN

It finally happened. President Ford was asked about gay rights during one of his campaign appearances. And, if you can believe it, he said even less than he has on other issues of the day. The response is reported from Peoria, Illinois, to have gone like this:

"Civil rights for what?" Pause. "I recognize that this is a very new and serious problem in America. I always try to be an understanding person as far as people are concerned who are different than myself. I think this is a problem we have to face up to and I can't give you a pat answer. I just would be dishonest to say there is a pat answer."

Granted, this is the first time the President has been faced in public with the question. Probably it should be taken as important that he wasn't antagonistic. Perhaps what he needs is a good briefing with background information. Maybe he should ask son Jack, who has recently been out in at least one of the "mixed" bars in New York City.

SIGNS APPEARING THAT CATHOLIC CHURCH ANTI-GAY POLICY MAY BE WEAKENING

Several current clues are emerging to suggest that the anti-gay theological position of the Catholic church is beginning to weaken. The clues may often be contradictory, but they are beginning to turn up with increasing frequency.

At a meeting of American Bishops last fall, Texas Bishop Warren Boudreaux may have summed up current thinking in this country when he was reported by Newsweek's March 8th issue to have said, "To listen is not necessarily to approve, to report is not necessarily to endorse, to study is not necessarily to change, but not to consult is to fail."

This accomodating view was somewhat superceded last month by a Vatican declaration that "homosexuals, though sinners, should be treated with compassion." It's hard to be sure exactly how to interpret the declaration. Brooklyn Bishop Francis J. Mugavero issued a pastoral letter to his congregations stating that gays have "legitimate" rights like everyone else. He urged members of his diocese to "explore ways to secure the legitimate rights of all our citizens regardless of sexual orientation." He has also suggested that the Vatican declaration was too severe in tone "like the last six

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commandments, with lots of 'thou shalt nots.'"

No immediate change in church doctrine is foreseen. However, the general softening of position may be an important sign of success of Dignity, the national Catholic organization concerned with rights for gays. Beyond its general work, Dignity has enjoyed particular success in the scheduling of special masses for gays in Boston, Chicago and San Francisco. Father John McNeill, founder of the New York Dignity chapter, plans to publish a book advancing the theme of gay being O.K. The most significant circumstance surrounding the book may lie in the fact that he was received permission to publish it from his Jesuit superior. The church only rarely permits publication of a philosophy in contradiction to current church doctrine. Is that another clue?

**WASHINGTON, D.C., SURVEY
DISCOVERS THAT
ATTITUDES ARE CHANGING**

Sixty-three percent of the people polled in Washington, D.C., have stated that they favor decriminalization of homosexuality among consenting adults. These results come from a major survey conducted by the Bureau of Social Research (which should be free of any bias), according to the Washington Post.

The least support for decriminalization came from older people, poorly educated people and lower income blacks, although in each group a majority still agreed. Present laws in the District of Columbia are similar to those in 36 states with outlaw oral and anal intercourse.

A similar study conducted in 1973

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showed that only 58% of the residents favored decriminalization. Washington gay rights spokesman Dr. Frank Kameny said that "In the last ten years or so something has gone on in terms of a change of attitude in general. There has been a heightened sensitivity in recent years to questions of privacy and personal freedom in several ways. As far as consenting adults acting in private, the number of arrests is literally zero in the country as a whole."

The exact tabulations of the survey were: 63% agree, 27% disagree and 10% don't know.

DEAR ABBEY

It's of interest sometimes to read the daily newspaper for more than just the comics. How do you think Abigail Van Buren replied to her millions of readers concerning having guilt feelings over being gay? Here is one of her recent pronouncements:

"I say that if a heterosexual had been raised to believe that his preference for the opposite sex was 'sick,' twisted, abominable, sinful and a disgrace to his family, he would ask for help on how to 'straighten himself out,' too.

"Homosexuality is a problem because an unenlightened society has made it a problem, but I have received letters by the thousands (not just 'ocasionally') from gay people telling me they wouldn't be straight if they had a choice. All they ask is to be loved in their way without facing the charge that they are 'sick and twisted.' I say love and let love."

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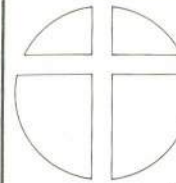
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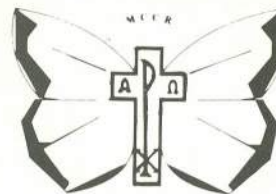
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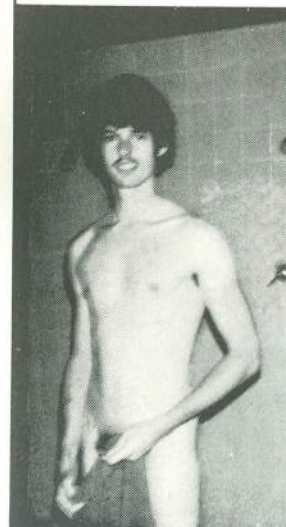
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Friday — 10pm
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