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 Lamp Post — 2417 Times Blvd. — 528-8921
 Levi — 2400 Brazos Street — 528-8637
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 Odd's Place — 905 Woodrow — 528-9019
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Vol. 2, No. 7

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 in texas**

May 15 - 21, 1976

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BC THE CLUB BATH

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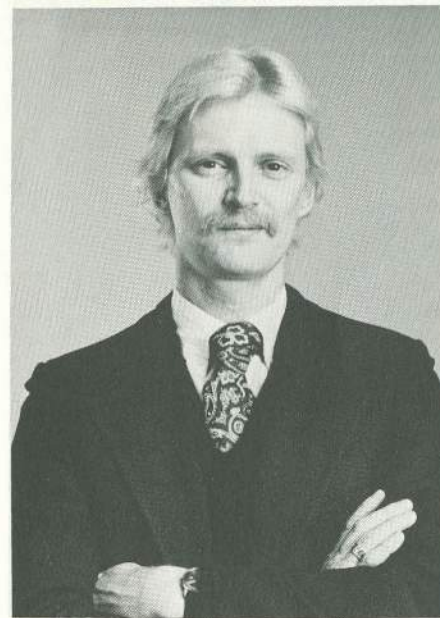
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Above is Dr. Bruce Voeller, Executive Director of the National Gay Task Force.

On the cover is Meg Christian who will be performing at the O.B.S. this week.

Cover photo by Cynthia MacAdams

This Week in Texas is published weekly at 2110 Lexington, Houston, Texas, by This Week in Texas, Inc. Opinions expressed by columnists are not necessarily the opinions of This Week in Texas or its staff. Publication of the name or photograph of any person or organization in articles or advertising in This Week in Texas is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. Advertising rates available on request. Phone (713) 527-9111 9am-5pm or write This Week in Texas, P.O. Box 22104, Houston, TX 77027. Subscription rate per issue: 50 cents. Back issues: 50 cents each. Payment must accompany all orders. First class postage paid at Houston, Texas.



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2 NEW HAPPY HOURS

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5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

*“Come Have A Cocktail
With Helen”*

AROUND THE STATE THIS WEEK

Friday, May 14, Houston

Free VD health clinic at the Locker, 6-10 p.m., and at Mary's, 9-12 p.m.

Saturday, May 15, Dallas

Free bloody marys, Swamp Trash, 12-1 p.m. . . . Car wash, Club Dallas parking lot, 12-5 p.m. Proceeds to the Gay Crisis Line.

Saturday, May 15, Houston

Grand opening, Horn-It. Draft beer 25¢ 12-6 p.m. Free barbeque starting 8 p.m. \$20 drawing at 9 p.m.

Saturday, May 15, Ft. Worth

Special grand opening show with Dina Farrell and Big David in concert, Aub's Lounge.

Saturday, May 15, San Antonio

Grand opening of Mary Ellen's with food, keg beer and mixed drinks.

Sunday, May 16, Dallas

Meg Christian in Concert, 8 p.m., Olive Branch Saloon. Proceeds go toward the Mary Jo Risher legal fund. . . . Free bloody marys, Swamp Trash, 12-1 p.m. . . . Oldies but goodies, T.J.'s, 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 16, Houston

Country picnic, sponsored by Texas Riders and the Locker. Meet at the Locker at 10 a.m. sharp. Tickets available at the Locker.

Tuesday, May 18, Dallas

VD health clinic, Bachelor Quarters, 9-11 p.m. Enter from Live Oak.

Wednesday, May 19, Dallas

Bar owners' drag show, 10 p.m., Entre Nuit, with honored guest, Rev. Troy Perry. \$2 cover with proceeds to the MCC building fund.

Wednesday, May 19, Houston

Gay Pride Week planning coalition meets at MCCR, 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 20, Dallas

Grand opening of Crews Inn II. Complimentary beer and bar drinks 8-10 p.m., with free appetizers. . . . VD health clinic, Encore, 9-11 p.m.

Thursday, May 20, Houston

Mr. Old Plantation contest, 10 p.m., Old Plantation. Cash prizes. . . . Free VD health clinic, Club Houston, 8-10 p.m.



THE OLD PLANTATION

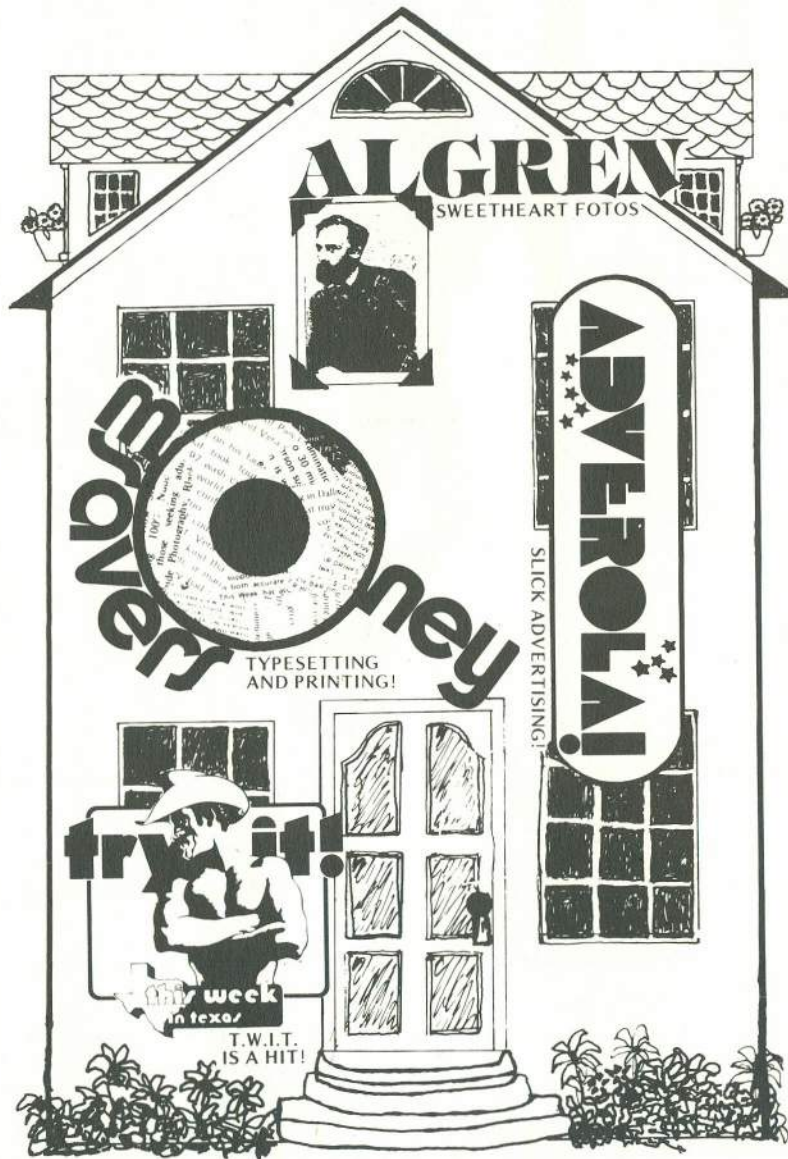
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May 20 — 10 p.m.
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Sampling Texas

Hi! And good evening to you, readers. Let's turn out attention to Big "D," the site of this week's important social awareness event. On Sunday, May 16, singer Meg Christian will present a benefit concert at the Olive Branch Saloon, 8 p.m., on behalf of Mary Jo Risher. Mary Jo, as you know, lost custody of her son to her ex-husband when it was revealed that she was a lesbian and had a lover. And to add insult to injury, she has been ordered to pay \$85 a month child support to the father! A ruling handed down by the court, despite the fact that Mary Jo only earns \$600 a month, while the father earns almost \$2000 per month. The court battle to restore Mary Jo's son to her custody MUST be fought! Already, other states are using the Risher case to deny custody of children to lesbian mothers. To lose this battle is to deny civil liberties and rights to lesbian mothers for generations to come. We can't afford to "throw" this fight through apathy. This one really counts. Hence, the benefit to raise funds. The evening is titled "A Concert of Music for Women with Meg Christian." It's a splendid opportunity for our gay sisters to channel their alliance and support into a cause unique to them: the moral rights of motherhood. It's a critically important issue. We know our Dallas sisters won't let us down.

In other Dallas news: The unwavering success of the Crews Inn has spawn-

ed the creation of Crews Inn II, under the guidance of Bill Cox. Despite the fact that Crews Inn II is a spin-off from a popular bar, it is already setting precedents of its own. The Crews Inn II is the only bar in Dallas to open at 8 a.m. in the morning. (Don't let those morning erections go to waste, guys.) Enjoy the sunrise from the Crews Inn II patio. Simply heaven!

Over at Chuck's, meanwhile, the competition is on to give their patio's western town setting a name. It's a novel new approach to bar motiffs. But what do you name a western town setting filled with gay dudes? If you can answer that, you're up for the cash prize. Get an entry blank and get witty, hunks. The contest ends June 27, so let's move it!

And let's not forget that wet T-shirt contest being held at the Olive Branch Saloon. It's a running competition through the month of June, open to both guys and dolls. How do you look in a wet T-shirt? A big cash prize goes to that special Mr. (or Ms.) wonderful who garners the most praise in wet rags. All line up for the douse.

And finally, it's full steam ahead for the scheduled May 27 opening of the new Old Plantation in Dallas. They've been burning the midnight oil every night, so you can enjoy lot's of "hot stuff" on the May 27 prem. Make plans, Dallas persons!

The Rev. Troy Perry will be in our state this week, hopping from Dallas to

HOUSTON LEATHER BAR

THE LOCKER

HOME OF THE TEXAS RIDERS

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Q-1 LEATHER & CLASS WITH TRASH

HAPPY HOUR
Mon.-Fri., 4-7pm
½-price drinks

Mon.: 50¢ beer. Tues.: Movies. 7pm Sun.: Free beer bust. Wed.: Color or hat night, ½-price drinks. Sat.: Bar doubles \$1.25 1-6pm.

CHUCK CRAIG

Houston. So, for Troy, and everybody else, let's see just what the hell is happening in Houston this week.

First off, and get this, the Loft has instituted bare chest night on Wednesdays. A drink discount of 50% for all those who show a little tit. (And remember, both Mary's and the Filling Station offer discounts for bare backs.) Is there no end to what a person can get for showing some flesh. Kind of makes you want to chain yourself to the Slenderbolic building.

Over on the Lovett circuit, Dirty Sally's has added Thursday for their Happy Hour calander. Now you can get happy hour prices all day on both Tuesday and Thursday. Guzzle, guzzle.

The new trend for bar botiques is exploding all over town. The newest entry is a shirt shop called Bobby's of Houston, situated upstairs at the Inside Outside. What's your size? That big! Well, come on over, honey.

That big beer bust on Stewart Beach in Galveston, sponsored by the Old Plantation, has been re-scheduled from the 16th to the 27th. Seems they didn't have time to truck all the beer down to the coast, since the Mr. Old Plantation contest hits the boards on May 20th. (Applications can still be picked up at the O.P.)

The Houston MCCR is enjoying success with its Saturday morning rap sessions, with coffee and music and dancin' Everybody's welcome and it all starts around noon. Praise be to those who yak it up and get it together.

IN HOUSTON

O'TOPOS

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FREE HOT BEVERAGES

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**Dive
right
in!**

**CLUB
DALLAS**

2616 Swiss **EC**
A member of The Club Bath Chain

Amen.

Houston's super disco, the Depository, is slated to become even more super in sound, with the upcoming addition of more sound equipment. Watch those tweeters twit and those woofers woof!

And as we bid a fond farewell to Houston dirt for this week, remember the special course about homosexuality being offered by the University of Houston. It's for both gay and non-gay and is part of the U. of H. Sundry School summer program. There's no fee for the course, but there is a "materials and lab" fee of \$6. And let's don't hear any cheap and tacky remarks about the "materials" being a dildo and a tube of K-Y. It ain't true, so don't go spreadin' it around. Call U. of H. for more info if you're interested.

Over in Ft. Worth land, the first gay restaurant for that city has now opened its doors. It's the Aub's Steak House and Mexican Restaurant, open from 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. So everybody head on down. You are what you eat!

And finally, those who seek their thrills in Lubbock (and that's everybody for a radius of about 200 miles — towns are few and far between in that part of the hinterlands), you'll be glad to know that on May 30, a major spectacle of live entertainment and a show will be presented at David's Warehouse. Ya'll gas up the tires. What else can I say?

And that's about all the dirt that's fit to print this time around. More later. Peace.

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MUSIC FOR WOMEN**
WITH **MEG
CHRISTIAN**



Photo: JEB

MAY 16 — SUNDAY — 8 P.M. — OLIVE BRANCH SALOON
2822 McKinney Avenue — Dallas

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR MARY JO RISHER
\$3 per woman or more if you can

Amen.

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Photo: JEB

MAY 16 — SUNDAY — 8 P.M. — OLIVE BRANCH SALOON
2822 McKinney Avenue — Dallas

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR MARY JO RISHER
\$3 per woman or more if you can

DISCO TEXAS

by Ram Rocha

Disco, disco, disco everywhere. Even Raquel Welch is heading for the studio to record a disco LP. She's negotiating with Brass Construction and B.T. Express for back-up. Word is that Capitol Records is interested.

The new Gloria Gaynor album has been delayed. It was due out sometime in late April or the early part of May.

Hamilton Bohannon has a new LP, "Dance Your Ass Off," and it is dy-no-mite! Another exceptional album is "Where is the Love" by Margaret Singana for Casablanca. This one was recorded in South Africa.

The Album of the year continues to conquer the disco scene. It's the new Trammps' "That's Where the Happy People Go" on Atlantic — their first for the label. Hot cuts are "Soul Searchin'," "Disco Party," "Ninety-Nine and a Half," "Hooked for Life" and the title cut.

My pick this month should put Scepter records back on top. "Nice and Slow" by Jesse Green has some DJ's spinning it twice a night.

Remember Marlena Shaw from

"Woman of the Ghetto"? Well, just a note to let you know she is back and gaining steam with "It's Better than Walkin'."

My man from TV's "Good Times," cute little Ralph Carter, is up with his new "When You're Young and In Love" LP. It contains the long versions of "Extra, Extra (Read All About It)" and the title song . . . plus a hot cut called "Higher and Higher."

The new B.C.G. (Bob Crewe Generation) disc on 20th is due out sometime this month and will be all disco and worth the wait.

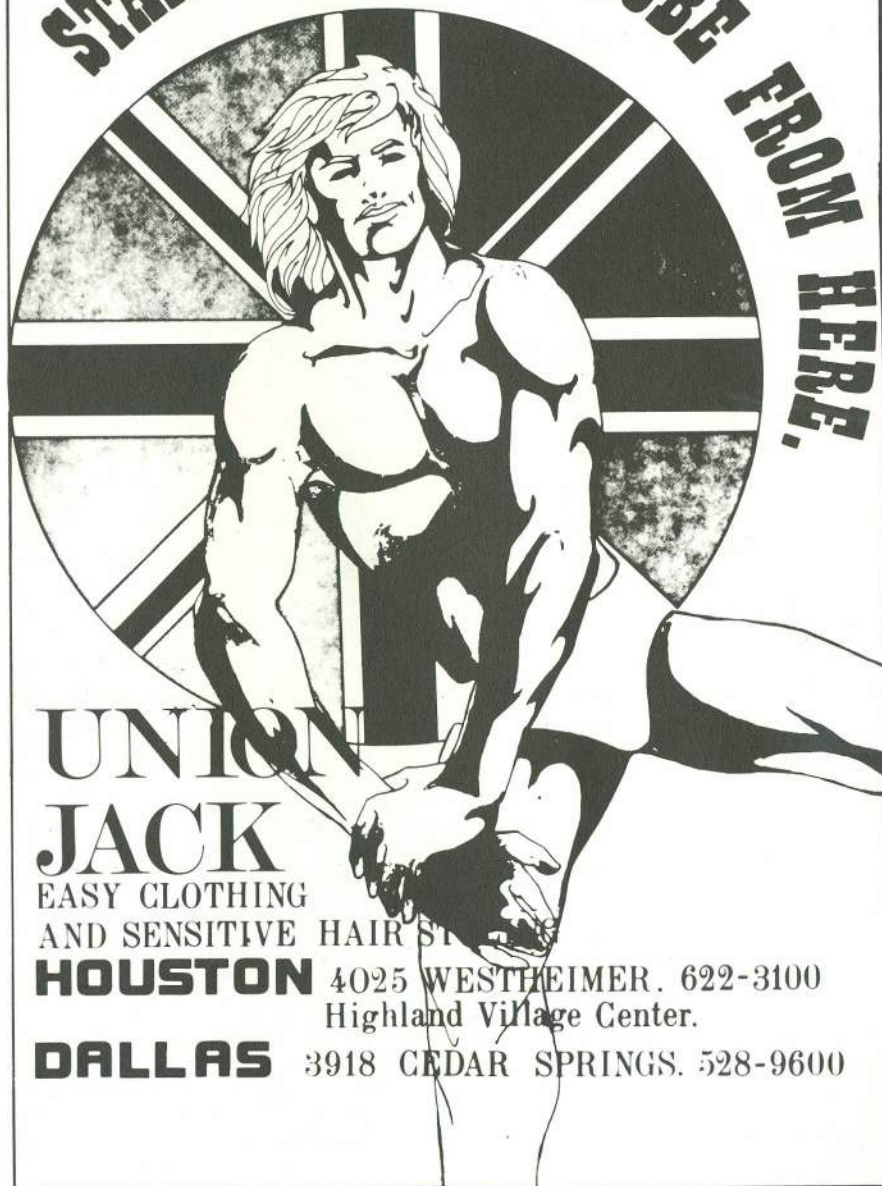
Also coming from 20th Century are new LP's by King Errison and Leon Haywood.

Calhoun's new "Soul Man" is causing a lot of sensation. The 45 is being released by Spector.

D.C.A. Experience has a Bicentennial LP on Private Stock that contains everything from "Yankee Doodle Dandy" to "Deep in the Heart of Texas." You'll love this one 'cause it's a hoot. The group sounds very much like Wing and a Prayer. One of the producers is Jay Ellis, Gloria Gaynor's manager.

Many have overlooked a very talented young lady by the name

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of Yvonne Fair. She has an album entitled "The Bitch is Black" on Motown. It contains the hit "It Should Have Been Me."

Dianna Ross is putting a show together. She'll make appearances in major U.S. cities this summer.

Those fabulous Supremes are creating a lot of static across the state with their "Let My Heart Do the Waling" cut from their new disc on Motown, "High Energy."

Atlantic has a new single entitled "Law of the Land" by the Alkie Kahn Orchestra. The Temptations had a big hit with this one back in the early '70s. Also from Atlantic we have "You and Me" by Simon Said and "Happy Man" by Impact.

A couple of singles worth mentioning are "Fantasy" by Cilla Black on Private Stock and "Dancing Free" by Hot Ice on Rage.

Watch for upcoming LP's from Motown by Magic Disco Machine 11, Thelma Houston, Jermaine Jackson and (finally) Stevie Wonder (due for release May 17).

DJ's, please note. Send a list of your top ten plus any disco happenings in your area to Disco, box 13062, Houston, TX 77019.



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SUNDAY BEER BUST — 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

This Week —

Fried Chicken with Beer Bust

COMING SOON — *Houston's First Outdoor
PATIO MOVIES*

The Screen Shop

by Christopher Savitch

During an unusual display of wisdom and sudden insight, I came to recognize a rather profound truism of life. It is simply this: The search for true dirt always comes up empty.

Okay, so maybe it's not going to get me a Pulitzer. But stop and think about it for just a minute. The search for true dirt DOES always come up empty.

And the recent rash of "biographical" movies proves the point.

Let me explain. Pretend you're out looking for some true dirt. You'll encounter a lot of true. Jack Kennedy is dead. Cher is pregnant. George Maharis beds with men. That's all true. But boring. There's no real dirt. Nothing that you didn't already know.

On the other hand, you could encounter a lot of dirt. But it wouldn't be true. You can get stoned smoking cat hair. Jackie O. sits on windshield wipers. A fetus was found in the sorority incinerator. That all qualifies as dirt, but it's not true. The quest for dirt comes up empty.

Now to the movies "W.C. Fields and Me" and "Gable and Lombard." Both represent the search for true dirt. People paying money to find out what they were all "really like." And it better be good. And thus the problem.

In the "Fields" movie, they opted to downplay the dirt and stress the true, which is really quite noble. Or perhaps

there really was no decent dirt on Fields. Maybe what we all saw and loved on the screen WAS the essence of the man's individuality. Perhaps there was nothing else to know. The movie certainly gives that impression. Dull, dull, dull.

I don't know why the American public insists that there must be some deep dark mysterious character that must be explored in every public performer. You wouldn't expect that of an oil company president, or any other person who displayed unusual excellence in their given profession. They can be dull as hell, and nobody cares. Why can't it be likewise for those who excell in public performance.

If the greatness of W.C. Fields was ONLY what we saw on the screen, then that's good enough. Let sleeping dogs lie. You do not make it into a movie, however. For then everyone feels cheated.

The moviegoer feels that if they DID make a film about the private life of W.C. Fields, there must be some true dirt worth knowing. There is only disappointment when you leave the theater, knowing not one bit more about the personality and nature of the man than you did before, especially considering the excellent "exterior" portrayal of Fields by Rod Steiger. It was all for nothing. A carefully crafted



CREWS INN II

GRAND OPENING

THURSDAY, MAY 20

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and delightfully executed portrait of a memory — with nothing to say.

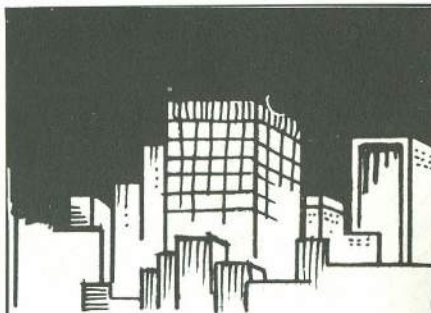
I'd have soon have studied the private life of the man that invented the can opener. At least I don't already know anything about him. "Fields" was true, but not dirt. Empty.

Taking the diametrical tack is "Gable and Lombard." "Gable and Lombard" offers a big dose of dirt, unlike "Fields." However, unlike "Fields," "Gable and Lombard" offers no truth. The movie could have as easily been titled "Feather and Fondue." It's all a big sham, like that fetus in the sorority incinerator. Lots of good dirt, for days, but not one shread of truth in it. Another rip-off box office ploy.

Put familiar names on the marquee and watch the sheep flock in. Pity.

Don't get me wrong. I love biographical movies — if there's any semblence of true dirt. But going for the cheap bucks with little or no product is, for lack of better words, real tacky. Just real tacky. Let's see biographical movies about people whose life is really meritorious of such scrutiny. If the deserved greatness of a performer is in the legacy of the fine work he left behind, so be it. I couldn't be a more ardent fan. But please spare me any "behind the scenes" stories of what is a basically normal and somewhat unexciting private life.

Don't promise me new knowledge, new dirt, and then deliver nothing we all didn't already know. And especially, don't take a dull private life and try to salvage the effort by bending and twisting reality into a farcical melodrama. Give me true dirt, or give me nothing. Spare me sequined corpses. Please.



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Life With Vera

a serial by John Gardner

continued from previous week

Carothers was charging across the lawn. And she was charging pissed. Old lady Carothers had been giving David hell since he moved into the neighborhood. (The primary road running through West University Place subdivision was Buffalo Speedway — and David was convinced it was named after old lady Carothers. A theory not totally without plausability, since the only true distinction between the two was the absence of grey hair on the part of the buffalo.) And on this day, Carothers was setting a record. Total time elapsed from the moment she set foot on David's turf to the moment her sweaty palm hit the doorbell — seven seconds (1.3 below previous record).

"Just a minute!" David yelled. "Be right there."

He hurriedly searched the room with his eyes, in hope of finding a spot to put down the bundle of Christmas ornaments weighting his arms. "I've got to get a sack for these tree ornaments," he muttered, casting them onto the last patch of carpet not hidden by cardboard boxes or chiffon.

As he tip-toed toward the door, David had no idea the person ringing the bell was Carothers. However, as the ringing stopped and the pounding and beating of wood began, a hint was provided.

David opened the door and, sure enough, it was gruesome. Herself. Sear's smock, girdle, bun and all. Whatsmore, Carothers had pulled herself

up to an alltime holier-than-thou high. David expected the glow of a crucifix to emblazzen across her face at any second. Or at least a portion of "Song of Bernadette."

"I just have two questions for you, sir! First, do you read the Bible? And two, if you don't have one, will you buy one and read it. I'll even pay for it!"

"Mrs. Carothers! How good to see you!" David stalled for time, caught mentally off guard by the two-prong nature of the query.

"Just answer the questions. Do you? Will you?"

"No, I haven't read it. But I hear the movie is not so hot. And two, no I won't let you buy me one. I trust my book-of-the-month club. If they think it has any merit, I'm sure they'll pass a copy along. Any more questions, Mrs. Carothers?"

"You're a sinner! You know that? A sinner! You are a sinner!"

"Well, I suppose it's better than being in Philadelphia," David reasoned.

"You know what I found on my front yard this morning! Do you! A wood nymph! A two-hundred pound wood nymph! With a broken wand and a beard. Doused in champagne! Snoring! And I was on my way to church."

"Miss Phoebe! Where is she! Is she hurt! I told her she was taking too many pills at the party. Is she okay?"

"She's fine . . . er, he's fine . . . eh . . . eh . . . well, whatever the heck it was. It got up and ran off! Leaving pieces of its tu-tu on all my shrubs!"

"Oh, no!" David proclaimed.

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"Well," Carothers commented, "I'm glad to see you understand the problem."

"That's awful!" David muttered.

"It truly was," Carothers huffed.

"That was my best tu-tu! Miss Palmer gave that to me and when she finds out I lent it to Phoebe, there's going to be blood in the streets. Just like in the Bible. I'll have to put a religious insignia on my door to ward off the Plague of Death. Just like in 'The Ten Commandments.' I hope God likes Crayola."

"Blasphemy!" Carothers shouted.

"You'll have to give me an easier one than that," David responded. "I'm lousy at word association games."

Suddenly Carothers entered into a seemingly spiritual trance. Not unlike those provided by Katherine Kulhman, but without commercials.

"And the Bible says, 'Thou shall not sleep with a man as you do a woman,'" Carothers crooned.

"Well! I certainly hope not!" David replied, doing a better-than-average impersonation of Geraldine. "Equality is equality, honey! But when it comes to da good stuff," David continued, snapping his fingers, "you saves that up for the boys! Wwhoo-oooo! My body is a jungle for the safari wearing boots!"

Whatever trance Carothers may have entered into was not sufficiently genuine to keep her knees from buckling. With the grace of a falling redwood, she seemed as a great pillar of starched salt turned tipsy on the table. She was encased in sudden repose amid the tulips and ferns adorning the right side of the walkway. Carothers was out for the count. And Vera was busy taking bows.

continued next week

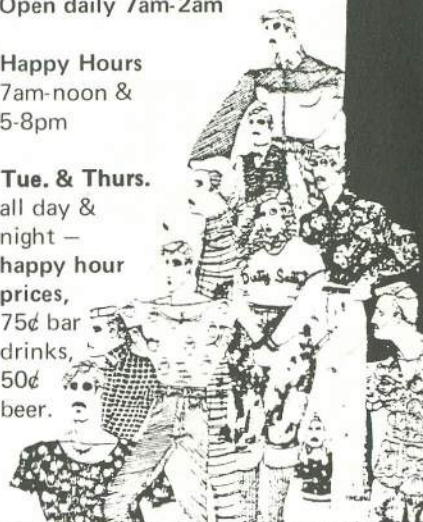
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Gay News Briefs

NATIONAL RIGHTS LEADER TALKS TO HOUSTON GROUP

Dr. Bruce Voeller, executive director of the National Gay Task Force, spoke at a recent meeting of Houston's Gay Political Caucus on the current efforts of the NGTF.

The audience, assembled at MCCR and in excess of 200 persons, listened attentively as Voeller described the changes that the gay movement has experienced over the past five or six years and how NGTF, which was created about two years ago, has worked to unify the movement on a national level.

Voeller said that the gay movement has gone through some rather dramatic changes since the late 60s and early 70s. "At that time," he said, "the movement was one of confrontation and demonstration designed to gain national attention.

"This early period," he explained, "was developed to make the right to be heard known, and once we got the attention of the press and the people, we were able to start approaching the problem through more orthodox routes."

The route that NGTF chose

was one of selective work on wide-ranging national projects.

Congress was the main target of the group, but first it had to work on building a base of support from other groups. NGTF began with a letter campaign to over 1100 gay organizations in this country, asking for local support and information about key people to contact who would play a major role in the fight.

One of the first things NGTF did was "to do away with the 'sickness' label." The American Psychiatric Association was approached and eventually was persuaded to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disturbances.

"One of the side effects of this instant cure," Voeller explained, "was to make gay people feel better about themselves, especially the younger gays who no longer had to grow up with this label hanging over their heads."

At this point too, more gays began to feel positive things about themselves and the gay movement, and the organization began to move rapidly into other areas with a broader base of support.

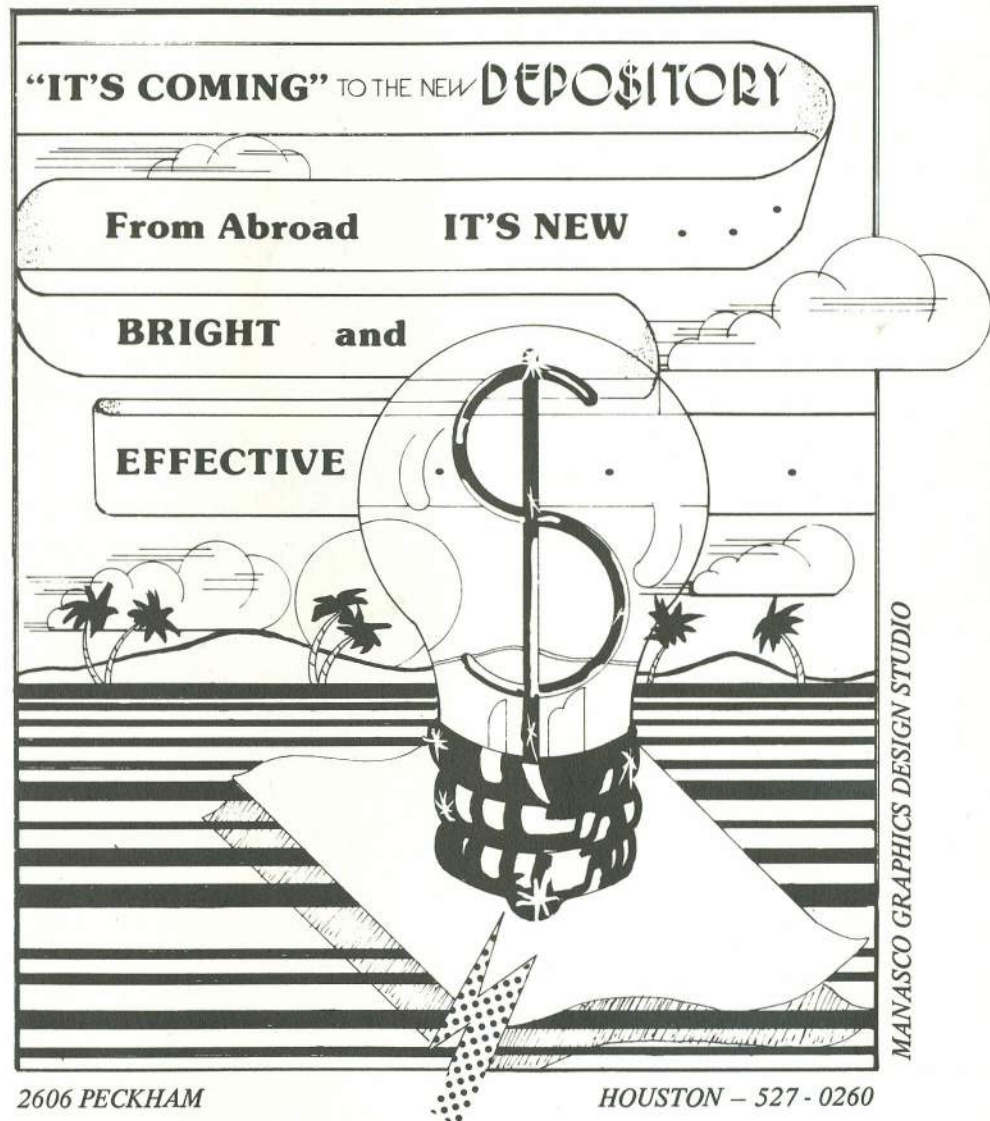
Another NGTF target is big business. Presently the Task Force

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is conducting a survey of the Fortune 500 companies in an attempt to gain positive statements from them on the hiring and treatment of gay employees. One hundred companies have already been polled and while the rate of return has not been high, there have been some encouraging signs.

Other organizations were also approached, including the National Council of Churches, which last year passed a resolution in support of gay rights.

"By dealing with these areas and others, NGTF accomplished two things," Voeller added. "A need was demonstrated to legislators and this in turn helped them to overcome their negative attitudes about gay legislation."

This was a very important step, according to Voeller, because it also showed public officials the safety of voting for such laws without having to fear losing their offices.

(Currently, 36 cities and counties in this country have laws protecting gays and fifteen states have repealed their sodomy laws.)

"Something else began to happen along with all this as NGTF started to be known," Voeller said. "People from all walks of life started to give us very helpful information. We obtained leads everywhere from people who couldn't come out themselves, because of their positions, but they played a very major role in helping us to set up a broad base

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of support."

With the foundation laid, NGTF then began its attack on Congress and immediately ran into problems in dealing with the Senate, due basically to the size of a Senator's electorate and the mix of people a Senator has to represent and draw support from.

The work in the House was a little easier, and one year ago in March a bill was introduced before that body.

"We had a real problem in getting coverage about this bill's introduction though," Voeller commented, "but not because of any bias on the part of the media. On the day we held our press conference, King Faisal was shot in Saudi Arabia and the reporters who had come to cover our press conference ended up across the hall listening to Henry Kissinger."

Presently NGTF is continuing its efforts in Washington and is now trying to raise funds in order to employ two full-time lobbyists there.

"The initial work is done," Voeller remarked, "and the foundation is set, but now we need a vehicle to tap these resources."

Voeller closed by commenting on the problems of dealing with such a diversified group of people and addressed the "infighting" within the gay ranks. "But," he commented, "the diversity is really one of our biggest assets. We have all kinds of talents and resources waiting to be tapped and we can accomplish a great deal if only we can stop forming these circular firing squads and unite in our common cause."

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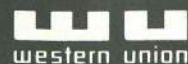
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