



the

NUNTIIUS

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FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GAY COMMUNITY

MAY 1973

The Lady Baronessa Wins Miss Gay America Amidst Nashville Pollution

(The Tennessean, Monday, May 14, 1973)

by Douglass Monore

Clutching the winner's roses to his sparkling white evening gown here early Sunday morning, Miss Gay America of 1973 said his eventual goal is to undergo a sex change operation.

But for the immediate 12 months, he said he will travel throughout the country representing the gay community.

"If I CAN change one straight person's mind, I'll be happy," said Carmelo Santiago, 24, of Chicago, who is known professionally as Lady Baronessa.

After Norma Kristie, the first Miss Gay America, relinquished his crown to Lady Baronessa, the new titleholder told a cheering audience with tears welling in his eyes:

"I will promise you this. I will represent you all the way."

The soft-spoken native of Puerto Rico was crowned Miss Gay America at the Glass Menagerie about 1 a.m., chosen from 26 other female impersonators after three days of competition. The final evening dragged on for five hours with the 10 finalists competing in evening gowns, sportswear and talent.

During a lull in the entertainment, a member of the audience who bore a striking resemblance to pop singer Paul McCartney to pop singer Paul McCartney spoke to a reporter about the fascination of men dressing as women.

"Every gay boy in some sense would like to be a girl," said the 21 year-old, who performs as a female impersonator under the name of Marlo. "Another thing is money. I can get \$40 a night for a performance."

"You know, it must seem strange for men wanting to dress up like women, but it's just so much fun."

Like most other beauty pageants, the five semifinalists were asked questions as they stood under bright kleig lights on the stage in front of the mostly gay audience of more than 400 and a couple of TV film cameras.

Lady Baronessa's question was: "If you are interviewed by the

press what will you say your reasons were for entering this pageant?"

"I love people," he replied. "I love to entertain people, that's why I chose the stage. Entering this contest gives me the ultimate in goals as a female impersonator and that's to represent all of you."

After the pageant's finale--in which the contestants and most of the audience joined hands under flashing lights as a song called "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" blared over the loudspeakers --the winner sat down with a few reporters.

Santiago said he wears women's clothing only when he performs as a professional entertainer, which he does for a living. Asked why he doesn't dress like that on other occasions, he said, "Because I'm a boy."

His usual dress is casual, with blue jeans. As for hobbies, he said, "I like to ski, ice skate, cook and dance."

"Eventually, I'm going for my sex change," he said, indicating the operation was still five or six years in the future.

His prizes for the title include a new Pontiac and \$1,000.

Liquor flowed throughout the evening and the audience responded emotionally to the goings-on.

A tall black contestant with an enormous afro hair style, Lady Nova, stunned the audience during the evening gown competition when he whipped off his cape to reveal a \$1,400 black velvet dress studded with hundreds of sparkling rhinestones. The outfit was greeted by appreciative screams and applause.

The audience was shocked again during the talent competition when a semifinalist named Elizabeth, pantomiming the song "This Is My Life," suddenly ripped off his red and silver gown to reveal a bare, distinctively male chest over a pair of faded jeans. The audience was silent for an instant, then erupted into applause.

Another talent entry, a costume design presentation by Inger, drove the audience into another frenzy.

Inger glided onstage with a long, fuzzy green cape and a three-foot white wig topped with elaborate



Here S(He) Is . . .

Carmelo Santiago, left, known professionally as "Lady Baronessa," smiles with tears in his eyes after winning the second annual Miss Gay America Pageant here. With Santiago is Jerry Peek, master of ceremonies for the pageant which attracted 27 female impersonators from across the country.

plastic antennae. As the instrumental sound track from the film "2001: A Space Odyssey" blasted from the speakers, Inger dropped the cape to reveal two huge butterfly wings.

And as two bikini-clad men in florescent paint popped on-stage, the apparatus on Inger's head lit up like a Christmas tree and lights on the butterfly wings began flashing.

The Pageant's chairman Jerry Peek, said the contest will expand next year and he eventually hopes to have national television coverage. The only problems he encountered for the pageant, in its second year, was the reluctance on the part of local charities to accept donations from a benefit performance.

The Nashville Rescue Squad and the father of a 14-month-old boy hospitalized with a digestive problem finally agreed to accept the money. The father, Wayne Wilson, was one of the three judges.

While the Lady Baronessa said "I'm very happy," a couple of contestants said they won't be back to Nashville for the pageant in the future.

"It's a farce," said Wendy Lee, 25, holder of the Miss Southeastern United States title. He was disqualified, he said, in a dispute over his talent act -- an impersonation of Carol Channing in a kitchen, which involves breaking things and "is pretty messy." He refused to clean up after the act.

Peek, chairman of the pageant and proprietor of a local gay bar, blasted charity organizations which turned down offers of proceeds from Sunday night's gay benefit show.

"I believe," Peek said, "when it comes to saving a life, a dollar bill's a dollar bill."

Gay Money Trash For Charity

The following appeared in one of the daily papers after "charity" had refused money from the Miss Gay America pageant in Nashville, Tennessee.)

by Frances Green

Where does charity get off? Money isn't money if it comes

OUR COMMUNITY

NOTHING HUMAN IS ALIEN TO US

from a contribution homosexuals have taken part in?

Two relevant statements of concern are being made here. How rejected a homosexual is in our society is evident when told even his money is no damn good. The self-renunciation by young men who would parade in women's clothing, too, is more a tarnishing truth, than, as I suspect the contest is, put-on.

Contributions taken in any factory, hospital, on road clocks, are helped along by homosexuals--men and women who are as concerned with the less fortunate as the next person, since, indeed, they are the next person, in classrooms, operating rooms, the arts, in all walks of life.

Does an orphan child ask where the money comes from? Does an old person in a nursing home demand to know the source?

No lesbian's money is refused when she offers payment for merchandise in stores, no homosexual's when he makes payments on his automobile. It goes without saying we are expected to pay.

A condition is being revealed to us by men and women who prefer to dress in the opposite-sex clothing. The act is a violent statement on their part: I am not fit to live as I was born. A man is a man, a woman is a woman, regardless, and ought to, be allowed, to remain so.

A society passes judgement on a person; they, in turn pass it on to themselves.

Gay is not good when dressed in drag. Gay is offensive and of-in drag. Gay is offensive and fended. We're in dire need of an education as to why this outlandish occurrence happens. Naturally, no one is forcing people to openly display their inward voice of themselves.

Let us hope the day shall come, and is forever on the horizon in America, when men and women

could be simply that, and if they chose, could drop a coin into a cup out of the goodness of their hearts, and have it accepted without a hassle.

Publicity is involved here. What contest doesn't have? (Editor: Gay is good! Gay is gay! Frances Green has a point but who is what's judge?)

Houston's Lady Nova

Places In Miss Gay America

by Nova Bernard

Despite the harassment and conduct of the Nashville people, I must say that the Miss Gay America Pageant was the peak of my impersonating career.

The contest was the fairest

The contest itself was the fairest with the exception of Miss Gay Texas, that I have ever entered and the contestants were the finest I have ever worked with.

The chairman - Mr. Jerry Peek and Toni Doran made everyone feel welcome to Nashville, Tennessee despite the polluted atmosphere. They worked vr

They worked very hard for this contest and it proved to be far greater than last years.

In all the contest was (ONE). Never have I been so nervous or afraid to compete. The impersonations presented the best in evening gowns, sports wear, beauty and above all poise and talent.

I am eagerly looking forward to next years contest and I hope to bring back to Texas more than my showing in the 1973 Miss Gay America Pageant.

The winner of the Miss Gay America title was the Lady Baronessa, Chicago, Illinois, 1st Runner-up was Roski, Chicago, Illinois. 2nd was Genie Dee, from

Hollywood, California - 3rd was Carmen Del Rio from Atlanta, Georgia - 4th - Lady Nova from Houston, Texas.

The title of Miss Congeniality was awarded to Cookie LaCook, New Orleans, La., now appearing at the Greensleeve's in Houston, Texas.

Lady Baronessa received \$1,000 cash plus a 1973 Pontiac and/or cash - Lady Baronessa took \$3,000 instead of the car, \$200 which she gave to charity, and a trophy.

1st Runner-up received \$1,000 cash plus 2 beautiful gowns and a trophy, this was Roski from the Baton, Chicago.

2nd Runner-up received \$700 cash plus a beautiful gown and a trophy, Genie Dee of Hollywood.

3rd Runner-up, \$500 cash plus trophy - Carmen Del Rio of Atlanta, Ga.

Lady Nova of Houston, Texas was the 4th Runner-up receiving \$400 cash, trophy - She gave \$50 to charity.

Miss Congeniality Cookie LaCook - \$500 cash, trophy and she gave \$25 to charity.

ESCARGO

Antone's of Houston for year's has had coverage in the press about it's Escargo-eating contests and this little-known eating orgy has attracted hundreds each year to the ranks of gourmets suckling this delicacy.

In the Gay world, J---- P-----, himself a Gourmet of food (and other things) recently gave an escargo party at his home that would, on a smaller scale, put to shame the gluttons stuffing themselves at Antone's. The guests devouring the little snails did so with the grace of ravenous queens in hot pursuit of intended victims and must have consumed the city's entire supply that night. P----- may be only one of several Escargo Fanciers in Houston, but his prowess as a Gourmet Chef will remain a badge of honor as viewed by his many guests.

Mr. Frizby Has Second Birthday

The Hi-Kamp of Houston hosted the owner, staff and members of Mr. Frizby's, Houston original Baths, for its second Anniversary party. The Hi-Kamp, conveniently located next door to this popular establishment provided for its patrons and those of the Hi-Kamp an evening of entertainment, free beer and liquor at two-for-one prices. The show, dedicated entirely to Frizby's, played to a full house and brought almost unceasing applause and laughter through-



LADY NOVA

out. The backdrop for the stage was a cleverly designed mock-up of Frizby's building, and was used to create the hilarity by its association with the numbers mimed to elicit the many thoughts pertaining to the club; Wesley, the Baths' manager, himself an extremely warm and friendly personality and one - time female impersonator performed to the delight and amazement of the audience in a manner that can only be described as grand.

In one scene, the stage prop was turned around to reveal a mock-up of one of the rooms at the Baths which adjoined a second; a cut-out between the two rooms was used by one of the performers during the "John-Marsha" skit, to exemplify the "Glory-hole" scene which literally tore the house down, and uproariously funny and certainly alluding to vulgarity, this scene was actually just shaded and done in excellent taste. In one act, "Whatever Lola Wants..." was performed with the help of an innocent victim from the audience who was dragged from his seat and undressed (unwillingly) almost entirely through the "Brute force" of what appeared to be a sex-crazed "Lola".

The entire show was done in a professional manner. The Hi-Kamp exemplified its courtesy to the patrons throughout the show by providing excellent table service, keeping the flow of beer constant. An excellent example to Ted's popularity was the appearance of many bar owners, and the management of the new Club Baths, in support of this party.

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NORMA KRISTIE First Miss Gay America



Dear Phil,

It was such a great pleasure to see and talk with you and your party during the Miss Gay Texas Contest, and I can truthfully say that it was one of the most exciting events that I have attended this year. Your Miss Gay Texas is certainly capable of capturing the crown of Miss Gay America.

Speaking of that contest, it will be sponsored by the Watch Your Hat and Coat Saloon Show Bar in Nashville, Tennessee, from May 10th till the 12th with the final benefit show on the 13th. The entire contest will be at the Nashville Music Center. The 60 contestants will vie for \$10,000 worth of prizes, including cash, designer gowns, gift certificates and of course, the 1973 Pontiac for the winner. The contestants will be judged on a point system in all realms of the three areas of competition. These are Evening Gown, Talent and Sportswear.

As far as my philosophy on being Miss Gay America, I just about summed it up the night of the Texas Pageant.

First, I believe that Miss Gay America should be a representative of our gay society both in male and female attire. He should be ready, willing, and able to understand and apply this understanding in relation to the majority of citizens. He should be able to explain his position to the majority, and possess an ability to relate with this majority.

He should not attract sympathy for the gay minority, but should be of such stature as to command respect for our minority. He should, more than anyone else, be interested in all gay people no matter what their "thing" might be.

In dealing with the heterosexual society, he should be, first, cooperative. He should ask them to understand his position of being gay, and understand that the gay minority is a basic, productive society that can contribute something to the world. Secondly, I think that he should ask the majority to accept the gay society as a productive society, but realize that this society's tastes as just a bit different. Then finally I think that he should ask for a combination of understanding and acceptance. If this cannot be reached by several individuals in the majority, then let them just forget the whole thing, because the gay society will be no threat to their moral values. Of course, there are a few people in this majority who cannot understand or accept, and they are not going to leave the gays alone. These are the few who call the gay minority "queer". Miss Gay America should be able to handle them by saying that it is just the opposite. These few are the "queer" ones, and they are the ones that need the psychiatrist.

Phil, this is my philosophy and I hope that I have answered most all of your questions. I'm doing my very best to live by what I have said to many people and what I have written here today, and I am sure that if I do, my reign as Miss Gay America, 1972, will not come to an end in May, but the tradition that began with Norma Kristie will continue on for years.

Good Luck and Best Wishes for a fine summer,

Norma Kristie
Miss Gay America

Dear Norma,

I first wish to thank you personally for the nice letter and tell

you for all who attended the Miss Gay Texas Pageant how much all of Houston enjoyed seeing you. You are a great entertainer as witnessed by thousands over the past year.

The example set by you as being Miss Gay America for the year 1972 will continue if those following hold the respect you have for all American Gay.

Phil Frank
Editor

REWARD POSTED

The Houston Police Department has posted a reward of \$2,000 for information leading to the arrest of the persons involved in the killing of a Houston Police Officer recently at the Silver Dollar on Westheimer. Anyone who may wish to help the authorities may do so with full immunity and identity protection by contacting any Sheriff's office, the District Attorney's office, the Houston Fire Department, or the Houston Police Department. An additional reward is posted by the Houston Police Department for the conviction of the parties to the slaying. Gene Howle and Lynn Ganey have posted a cash reward of \$1,000. to anyone with information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the parties guilty of assault upon them recently; such information may be given through the Houston Police Department or directly to Howle or Ganey.

WITHDRAWN

The \$100.00 reward for the information leading to the capture of Lynn Hudspeth, posted by Frank Caven of El Paso is withdrawn; Hudspeth was arrested in New Orleans for possession of a stolen automobile and \$3,100. in cash belonging to his former employer, Frank Caven.

SOMEONE NEEDS YOU

Are you tired of staring at the tube night after night? Nothing to do in your spare time? Want to make new acquaintances and friends? Attend exciting social events sound like your bag? Then, someone wants and needs YOU! We at the Montrose Gaze Community Center extend a friendly invitation to you to join us, get involved, and knock the everyday nothingness out of your life.

Montrose Gaze is a non-profit organization to help the gay community in the Houston area. The center is located at 504 Fairview, phone 528-9069. We have an age range from 16 to 78. No one is left out in the cold with his TV for company! We offer a variety of activities for our members and visitors. Among other things, we have a color television, pool table, a variety of gm a variety of games, piano, stereo and a large number of rooms in which to carry on rap sessions. Every Wednesday we have a general rap session beginning at 7:30. New members are encouraged to attend these meetings. Besides our various activities, we offer community services, and referral services for those who ask for it.

The Center needs people, money, and you; however, if you can offer no more than your presence, that's fine. If you WANT to get involved in radio, television, taking the responsibility as doorman, or working on a recreational or dance committee - any service for the gay community - we NEED and WELCOME you! We are open every night from 6 till 10. Please make it a point to come by.

Marquis Cole



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DALLAS: Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas
3834 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Tx 75204
Phone: (214) 826-0291
Sunday Services: 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM
Pastor: Rev. Richard Vincent

FT. WORTH: Agape Metropolitan Community Church
P. O. Box 26063, Ft. Worth, Tx 76116
Sunday Services: 2800 Purinton, Ft. Worth
7:30 PM
Interim Pastor: Rev. David Carden

For information regarding other areas,
contact the nearest MCC office.

MOTHER OF DALLAS



(Mother sent a picture for herself and wouldn't you know it advertises where she hangs out.)

Just wonder how much she pays the Detour for the space she takes up?)

Shared a barstool with Ronsue for a show at the Encore on a Wednesday night. Our onw Mr. Tina Lee from the Detour guested along with some Kids from Ft. Worth the Supremes. Behind the bar to serve us our numerie citrus - Misses Ray and Joe.

Bertina, I hear you've been ailing - haven't seen you in days. Maybe its the gout honey - you realize a girl must use more caution as the years progress upward. I've quit stepping off the curb unless I'm full of citrus or Old Charter!! J. Carroll - maybe we should share a citrus and visit the elderly once a week!!!!

By the way, for those of you who didn't know who Mr. Golda, the 2nd runner up in the Miss Texas Peagent was - it was our Mr. Golda of the Supremes here at the Detour in Dallas. Ain't she a doll? That girl can really shake it.

Monica darling - we know you're not two faced, otherwise you

wouldn't be wearing the one you are! An Alexandria dish!!

The Entree Nut celebrated their No. 1 birthday this month, and so did good old Fred. May we all be around for the nest one-----

The night the last papers came in Alexandria and I did the entire scene and that was the blast of the month -- even her car caught on fire on the parking lot of the Great American Hamburger place. Honey, you think that didn't draw a crowd? Mother's first paper route at the tender age of 41 years -- and it was almost a disaster!!!

To all the girls in Oklahoma City, Mother and The Lady of the Lake plan to drive up in a few days. Tessie you best start preparing the minds of your sisters for this.

Has this month ever been a bitch. Rain every day -- water everywhere and mother's lungs about to collapse. Can you imagine the embarrassment of being barred

from your won friendly neighborhood Safeway store for having a seizure over the produce? Eggplant and okra -- no less!

Good things are happening too - The dynamic duo Alice (Al) Morgan and Ginger (Buddy) Rogers are together again in a new business venture which will probably be open by the time this article hits the bars. The location - near the Glory Hole. The name, still unknown but will fill you in as truth comes to light.

At the Bayou Landing, Miss Billy had a birthday and so did Dennis. Would you believe 365 roses to one old puss? That was one present Miss Billy got. Honey the pollen count was so high in the Tiki room, you expected the Bartenders to start passing out oxygen tanks to the customers!! They were gorgeous though, and Mother's just a jealous old bitch - so's someone else of that haram - say what?

What kind of a bird don't fly? Ask my good friend Alexandria! Everyone knows it's a jail bird, but she just flew to court, told her story, (not all of it), and won her case. She said she and the DA did a little cha cha after the case was dismissed. The moral of this story is -- Justice will be served, but a girl has to get out of jail first. Thank you Alexandria for sharing Ella with me - she is terrific.

Speaking of confinement - Donna Mae is away at finishing school, but should be on the streets again soon. Then bring on the dancing boys and the booze - it's a hell of a way to dry out, ain't it Sis?

Big Mable, alias Miss Management at the Villa Fontana has had a bad month but has survived. Her ego just needs a boost. She burned the blinker lights out on her car on a recent trip to Lubbock, and had no luck at all at Childress. Mother suggested to her that maybe mature, gray-haired matronly types with the frizzies just were not in demand on the highways and byways at that time.

Congratulations to Pauline - on her first year at Nacogdoches - we knew her before she was a superstar -- and after I might add!

Visited with Louise (Walter) at the Bon Soir a couple of times - once with the Salty Sisters from Salt Lake - which by the way happened to be one of Miss Brenda's last performances. She is now laid up in ye old hospital with ONE leg in the air. She lost a window in her apartment, but Mary she found it with her leg in the middle of it! How's that for a Grade A Betty Davis?

This must cease - Mother has a customer -- Be talking to you next month!! Until then - thanks to Ronsue for half a stool/how about half-a-Ken?

Mother of Dallas --

The Brazos Bar

According to Bill, a partner at the Brazos Bar in Houston, the place is up for sale for \$9,500. Bill explains that the reason for the sale is a very personal one and in no way reflects the business' income. All Bill explained, "every bar has its price and mine has been on the market for almost a year now. I just think it's time to sell so I can either can either find a bigger place or go into another business".

CONCERNING GAY PRIDE WEEK

Are you proud to be gay? you are and you wish to be other gay people get it together. Gay Price Week contact anyone 528-9069, or come by the Montrose Gaze Community Center, Fairview, Houston. We are artists, poets, handcrafts and those who work with ceramic to come forth and help us make even better showing Gay Price Week.

Gay Pride Week begins June. Montrose Gaze Community Center will be featuring an open house full of good artwork by gay artists and craftsmen. We are most proud to announce that Mr. Ronny Wade will be speaking at the Center during this special week. We are proud of the people we already have participating in making Gay Pride Week a better week for gay people; however, we are extending an invitation to you to add anything you feel you are at to show you are a proud gay person.

Because Montrose Gaze is a non-profit organization, we rely on our gay community support. Anything you would be able to contribute for the rummage sale, our art showing, or your general participation will be most welcomed and appreciated. We are open to any and all suggestions you have concerning our activities during Gay Pride Week. We need any help you're willing to give. Your time and efforts will be greatly appreciated. Come by the Center to introduce yourself and your talents any day of the week from 6pm till 10 pm.

Be proud to be counted!
Marquis Cole

RED ROOM REGROUP

In a move which culminated almost a full year of negotiations the owners of the popular Red Room have turned over control to Bob Cappell, as of May 1st. Cappell a club operator in Houston, several years, originally became well known through Bev's Club, a private club which he turned over years ago in Dallas, and which became Dallas' first and only mixed-drink dance bar. Probably better known for the Aquarius in Dallas, Cappell operated Aquarius as Dallas' largest club with the exception of Bev's; only mixed-drink / dance bar, showbar which gave birth to so of Houston's and Dallas' best known show figures. Among other places Cappell has operated both cities are the Odysssee, Painted Duck, the Tara, Entree, the Mid-Towne, the Boheme.

The coupling of the Red Room with Bob Cappell was actually the brainchild of "Big George" who for more than a year negotiated with Cappell to take over the lounge but who was now unwilling to relinquish control and as a result of the agreement Cappell will be given full operational control. The friendship between the two owners of the Red Room and Cappell, back many years and it is commonly known that these operators

APPLICATION

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS
PARADE COMMITTEE

PO BOX 5944 - Phone (214) 824-0770 - DALLAS, TEXAS

I hereby give written notice of my intent to enter the GAY PRIDE PARADE to be held Saturday, June 30, 1973 at 11:00 AM.

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Your Name _____

Number of floats you wish to enter: _____ (\$15.00 per float)

Number of cars you wish to enter: _____ (\$5.00 per car)

I hereby enclose _____ for entry fees to be used by the Parade Committee for expenses incurred for the parade. Make Checks payable to THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS PARADE COMMITTEE.

Signature: _____

Remarks: _____

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ony", but plans primarily to operate the lounge as a lounge where mixed drink prices are reasonable and where service will be enexcellent.

The Red Room began as a small intimate neighborhood lounge many years ago and grew proportionately with the Gay population to the size of a good medium sized dancebar. Many changes through the years have kept the Gays charmed with its differences in atmosphere, and has now reached its peak in combining almost all the features of the many other lounges in Houston in the smaller package.

The new Red Room will feature a cocktail hour daily (except Sunday) from 4-7 and Beer Busts every Sunday. Outside of this, the operator plans to tone down the atmosphere and return the club's reputation to that of a great place to silently stalk or politely talk. If Cappell's flair for the unusual still exists, then the Red Room promises to be the most popular and unusual lounge in Houston.

Why A Gay Parade?

"What is accomplished?" "What purpose does it serve?" "You don't see heterosexuals marching down the street carrying signs proclaiming their sexual preferences." "Why be a spectacle?" "It only antagonizes straights."

These are some of the arguments hurled at those busy making plans for Dallas' second annual GAY PRIDE PARADE. These critics have their points. And sometimes I wonder if it is worth all the work and problems a gay parade in downtown conservative Dallas causes. But then I recall my own youth, and my story differs little from thousands of others. When I was growing up, I had strange, vague feelings that I was somehow different from "normal" people. I had never heard the word "gay" or even "homosexual." Frequently, I had heard "Queer," "Fruit," "Fagget," "Fairy," and "Cock-sucker." When, eventually I did learn the word "homosexual" I also "learned" they were "sick, extremely unhappy and lonely." The only hope for these "poor unfortunates" was to get psychiatric treatment and become "normal" - meaning heterosexual.

Ha. Are there no sick, unhappy, lonely heterosexuals -- in approximately the same numbers?

So this is why I march. I really DON'T want to march as I don't enjoy advertising my private life in front of straights. But I must, I need to help counteract centuries of neurotic / psychiatric propaganda. I need to help show the world that I am GAY, PROUD, HEALTHY and HAPPY.

Perhaps this is not the best way to do it, I don't know. But until someone comes up with a better suggestion, this is the way I must do it. One thing for damn sure: hiding in closets will never accomplish anything!

"Friendship consists in forgetting what one gives and remembering what one receives"

ALEXANDER DUMAS

DO YOU AGREE? ? ?

(The material that follows is taken from a brochure received recently from the University of Western Ontario Homophile Association, London, Ontario, Canada. We feel that it is very well written; and we are fully in accord with the thoughts expressed.)

The text follows:

HOMOSEXUALITY

Homosexuality is the capacity to respond emotionally and physically to another person of the same sex. It is a real and genuine human feeling, fully equal to heterosexual response. It is shared by a great many people of every personality type and every social position. Homosexuality has existed as long as man has and it has been regarded in many various ways by different societies; some societies have viewed it as a part of "normal" behavior and other societies, like our own, have regarded it as "abnormal" behavior. It would seem to depend upon the nature of the society and not on the nature of homosexuality. Homosexuality is a fact of life. Like all other facets of human behavior, it must be dealt with rationally and without bigotry and prejudice.

We are living in an age that is conscious of the personal freedom and individual right to live a fully honest life. Integrity begins with each and every person--it begins with YOU!

AWARENESS

Awareness of one's homosexual tendencies may come at any age. A person's response to this sudden insight will vary depending upon his strength of character of self-concept. The person who is aware of his homosexuality is usually also afraid--afraid of exposure, of social rejection, afraid of being labeled sick or perverted. It is only in the assurance of his positive worth that the homosexual can accept his feelings and live a happy and satisfying life.

The Homophile Associations of Ontario and other places were formed and dedicated to giving proof both to homosexuals and to heterosexually oriented people of the individual and collective worth of persons regardless of their sexual preference.

We are attempting to make people AWARE of the entirety of their sexual responses. To assure people that AWARENESS of the people that AWARENESS of the fullness of their lives can only make them better and more complete persons. To make the general public AWARE of the incidence of homosexuality. And finally we are attempting to make people AWARE that homosexuals will no longer accept passively the hostility of an ignorant society. We have become at last AWARE that GAY IS GOOD!

RATIONALE

Becoming aware of and accepting one's homosexuality is a growth process. But growth requires energy. This process may therefore bring new life if one has the strength to grow or it may be difficult if one does not have the resourcefulness of character to encourage growth in himself.

Homophile Associations provide an atmosphere both academic and social where the homosexual may

have joined forces before in other ventures.

Cappell brings to the Red Room a friendship with other bar owners and managers that has existed over the years in the Houston-Dallas area, which include such places as the Bayou Landings, the Farm House, the Hi-Kamp, the Glass Stein, Mary's, the 900 Club, the Roaring 60's, the Bon Soir, RonSue's, T.J.'s, the Encore and LaCaja and several more in Austin and elsewhere.

With the help of these and other

friends, Cappell intends to restore to the Red Room the atmosphere of a "Gay Bar" which provides a neutral meeting ground for operators and clientele and which will cater primarily to conversational people, as opposed to loud discoteque establishments; although there is also dancing, pool table, air-hockey, pinball, etc., the general tenor will be somewhat hushed and upgraded. The new operator plans occasional shows which will be announced later, planned to break up the "monot-

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meet others with his sexual preference and where he may socialize without the fear of "being different".

Homophile Associations also provide a forum where the curious and interested may find communications with the homosexual in an open and positive interchange.

Homophile Associations act to bring a personal and public acceptance of sexual freedom. We do not advocate promiscuity. We insist upon the individual freedom of each person to live his own private life.

The need of every person to be accepted for himself is our priority. The right of each man to seek out and to find a happy relationship with his fellow men is our aim. People must be encouraged to find deep, personal, satisfying, and responsible relationships. All of us have the potential to love -- all of us have the need to be loved -- we must be free to love freely. It is the QUALITY of your relationship which matters, not whether that relationship is between two persons of the same or opposite sex.

ACTION

Once one has come to terms with his homosexuality, it is time to act. The homosexual must have pride in himself and in his sexual preference. The old days of fear and cringing are over. The homosexual admits his homosexuality to himself AND TO OTHERS and what's more -- he is proud of it!

The Homophile Association promotes gay pride with general meetings, public debates and forums, speaking engagements at schools, churches, clubs, hospitals, etc., demonstrations and marches such as the national march on Ottawa of August 28, 1971, various social activities, and private interviews and discussions about the topic.

GAY RADIO PROGRAM

Originally, T. Sanders, a very active woman for the gay community had a radio program on Pacifica Radio, FM90. The gay program, throughout 1972 featured live and taped programs with the purpose of enlightening the straight

community about gays. T. Sanders recently turned the program over to Chuck Berger for development into a program of gays for gays.

The program will be every other Sunday from 4 to 5 p.m. - May 27th is the next one scheduled. The program will feature gay information, gay entertainment and about functions in the community.

Anyone wishing to donate talent to the program "Out of the Closets, Into the Streets" may contact KPFT % this program.

Gaze Has Easter Dinner

About forty people came to the Montrose Gaze Community Center on April 22 to enjoy Easter dinner. Lots of women came to enjoy the festivities.

After lunch, people went outside to play volleyball on the lawn.

April 21, two members from the center delivered about 15 beauti-

fully-wrapped Easter Baskets to Texas Childrens Hospital.

In attendance for Easter Dinner were several members of Integrity Houston.

We of the center Work, Struggle and hope for the best for the community. Montrose Gaze, 504 Fairview at Whitney - 528-9069 - is open to all - give them a call or drop by.

The Center grows slowly but steadily and is being recognized as a mark of stability in the Gay Community of Houston. Right now, they are in need of some generous person to donate a power lawnmower so that the lawn can be put in shape -- anyone listening?

Sunday dinners at the Center are becoming more and more popular -- call and check when the next one will be and attend.

Donations by the Gay Community are what is keeping this non-profit organization going. Have you helped? Each month all at the Center thank Mr. Dennis Sisk for his generosity in making it possible for them to remain at this location by paying the rental.

WONDERING WHAT TO DO?

in **Dallas**

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A Good Example !!!

For the longest time the Houston Gays who had the urge to visit the the found Galveston to be the closest convenience, and it wasn't til Ted opened Mr. Frizby's in Houston, that the Dallasite could get a Houstonite . . . in Houston. Now Houston has opened its second baths, and i promises to be every bit as safe as Frizby's. Dallas too is scheduled for another, not that it has two already, th seem to be doing well, therefore there seems to be room for third. This all goes to prove a point. When an establishment is perated like a business, and when internal controls are enforced ghtly, the authorities barely acquaint themselves with the existance such places. But when the baths, as any other Gay operation comes a nuisance to the public and force the authorities to take otice, you can rest assured the survival of that Gay enterprise ings precariously in the balance.

Dope, long a menace to bar owners, seems to be the same menace baths owners, but in Galveston, Houston, Dallas, through their wn devises for control, dape is virtually non existent. Sex is a appening which through consenting partners may still be considered legal wrong, but is lately viewed by jurists as something short of jail crime, and ergo if kept controlled, and does not invite public tention, can for the most part be tolerated. Frizby's is to be con- ratulated for having operated as the pioneer in Houston in the Bath usiness. And becaust of his stringent controls at Frizby's, no public itery has arisen. No wagons have backed up to his door to lead ex offenders. Frizby's should serve as an example to others who ish to operate in this field, and to Ted, now celebrating the beginning f his third year in Houston as "Mr. Frizby's", we offer the sincerest est wishes for continued success. Congratulations to Frizby and ompany.



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A LESSON TO BE TAUGHT

In the straight world, while bigotry seems to be fashionable still, and while courts and associations fight for the equality of individuals, it has almost become a laughable matter in our Gay world. Blacks, Mexican-Americans, Whites, Jews, Italians, and other minorities seem to have found a world in Gay life that has none of the barriers. At any club you will find blacks with whites, dancing or petting; Mexican Americans with protestos-whites living together or making love as freely as though there were no cultural difference. In Gay Society, it is acceptable to be Gay; regardless of background or culture. Why then, can't the courts, "Lib Societies" and others, send their emissaries into Gay life for the answer to "equality". It would be instantly obvious that Gays represent "love" and that there is little room in our lives for bigotry or racism. Perhaps being homosexual bridges the gap, somehow. And while places like the "Ghetto", River Oaks, "North Dallas" exist to the straight world, they are only names to the Gay World that have no meaning when people come together at the bars or parties. And if a Gay lives in one of those "places", he leaves it behind when he entertains himself with friends at the bars. And you can be sure that when race riots plague cities across the country, it's treated as a joke to Gays, who rub shoulders with the very protesters outside the Gay world, and who bring about daily the only true homogenous society. In Gay life, bigotry has no room. Maybe our social educators can find the key to harmony by spending a few nights at any Gay Bar. If they're not afraid they'll lose their own bigotry.

Is Texas destined to become a state interested only in female impersonators to the absolute dishonor of so many handsome boys in the area? The publishers of this paper would wish that a realistic contest be slated for the near future that would select the HAND-SOMEST men. Such a contest would certainly arouse more than a passing interest in club patrons, and could, perhaps be staged on neutral ground or at a club large enough to handle the job.

The man chosen for the title MISTER TEXAS and the other contestant winners could easily reap more than a trophy as his reward, for his future could lead to modeling and other things, whereas an impersonator of females can look only to the Gay world for acceptance.

Such a contest is a must in Texas, and should be held with a view to perhaps enlarging to a truly national contest, not merely the tool for promotion of a club or a newspaper, but an earnest attempt at a Gay version of the Mister Universe contest. It certainly would not hurt the Gay image in our world, and could produce evidence to a naive public that not all Gays wear girls clothing.

This paper strongly urges you to write of your opinion regarding this challenge, and should we receive the proper support, we feel we can enlist the aid of Texas Gay Scene Operators to put across such a contest.

Goos looking men and boys should be seen.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS
3834 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75204

Dear Friends,

Dallas is having its second GAY PRIDE PARADE at 11 am, Saturday June 30, 1973. Perhaps you saw the first such parade last year in person or on TV. The parade is sponsored by the Circle of Friends, Texas' oldest homosexual organization. The parade will be made up of various organizations as well as individuals. We will have floats, banners, cars and hundreds of people carrying signs. The parade will proceed up Main and down Elm streets. Emphasis is on Civil Rights.

One of the main purposes of this parade is to call attention to the fact that members of the homosexual community are human too and should be able to exercise the same civil rights as any other citizen. We invite you to join us in this parade and at the picnic at Flag Pole Hill immediately following. Bring food and drink for yourself and a friend.

If you can't march, you can still help sponsor the parade by your check or cash donation. It was such donations last year that made it possible to have a successful parade. In this way everyone can have a part in making it a success.

MAIL YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:
Parade Committee
Box 5944
Dallas, Texas 75222

For additional information, call 824-0770.

Yours for human dignity and equality,

Chris McKee
Parade Chairwoman

Gay Liberation Arizona Desert
P. O. Box 117
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Recognizing the need for increased communication and cooperation between organizations working for gay rights and liberation, Gay Liberation/Arizona Desert (GLAD) is sponsoring a South-West Gay conference.

Open to the public, the conference will be held May 26-28 at Arizona State University and will feature workshops, films a gay pride parade, a tubing trip down the Salt River, and other activities.

Organizations are being invited from Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah.

The conference will be sharing of ideas and experiences with the emphasis on pooling resources, increasing solidarity, and working together. The workshops will be loosely structured and participatory in nature.

Registration forms will be mailed in the next few days. Suggestions and comments are welcome. For more information, please write to above.

Yours in the struggle,
GLAD



HOW CAN WE HELP EACH OTHER

The Senate subcommittee has recently finished its work on the "homosexual clause" for the consensual adults in private. They have reduced it from a felony to a misdemeanor with a \$200 fine. This is a considerable gain for the liberal faction on the subcommittee, in that there wasn't but marginal liberality and support. Senator Graig Washington is working mostly for the reduction and when the bill goes before full committee, he will add an amendment to have the consensual laws stricken completely. From the senate committee, the bill will go to the house for a final vote.

The ACLU has a lobby on the penal code and is active with the homosexual clause. "Integrity," a Houston gay group has been working with Ron Waters, a Representative (although he isn't on the subcommittee) favorable to gays. The Gay Political Caucus of Hous-

ton has been to Austin to lobby with Senators, in addition to talking to ACLU.

The Texas Gay Coalition wants to have names and addresses of a few gays in each city in Texas. When there is a gay rights bill or issue that needs representation, a newsletter will be fired off all over the state so that individuals can write letters to their Senators and Representatives -- sort of a gay crisis hotline. When a person gets the newsletter, he calls friends, who in turn call more friends. By helping each other, we can get fantastic political results.

(From the Channel, MCC of Dallas)

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I am panicky and need your advice. I just learned that someone who is very close to our family is a homosexual. I was shocked, to put it mildly. He does not know that I am aware of his deviation. I could overlook it, except for the fact that I am concerned about our children.

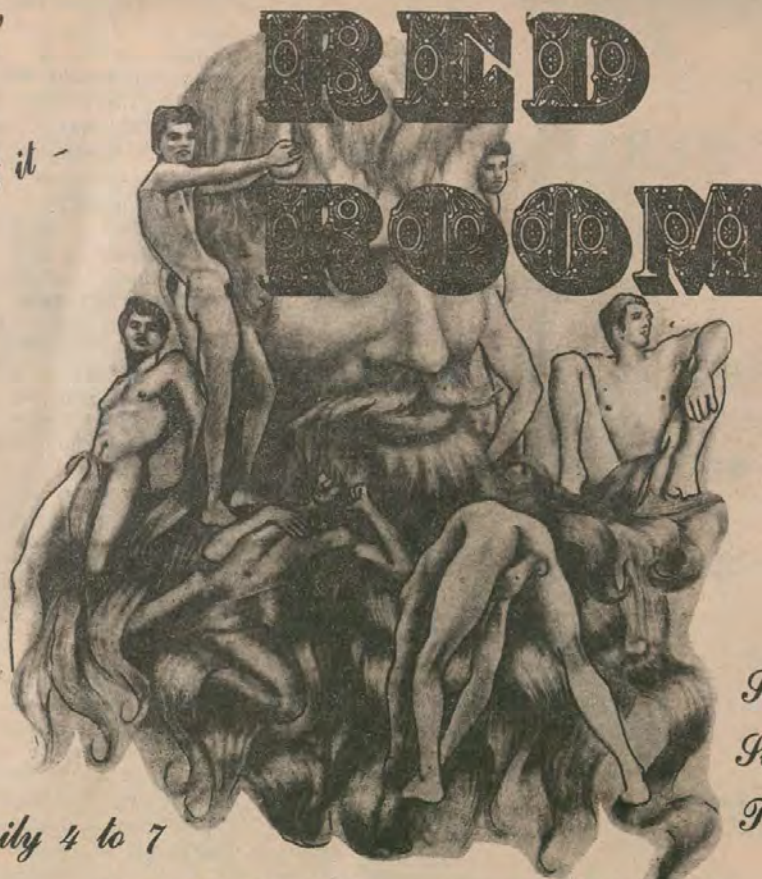
We have two little boys. Will uals have any special interest in small children? Also, do you think he might try to influence our little boys against girls?

- Afraid.

DEAR AFRAID: The percentage of homosexuals who are child molesters is actually smaller than among heterosexuals. Your little boys would probably be safer with this friend than with a "funny" heterosexual uncle.

DEAR READERS: your recalcitrant editor thinks that the lade (?) who wrote the letter to Ann Landers has problems. Anyone who has to "overlook" a friend's gay lifestyle obviously isn't much of a friend. If the writer is as picky

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as the letter indicates, she may do more to turn her boys against females than the gay fellow ever could.

GAY BROTHERS AND SISTERS
I hope you will say a little prayer that Senator Washington (a heterosexual) will be successful on our behalf. Should we win this victory, let us then work for the civil rights of all mankind -- not just gays.

On the otherhand, if we do nothing **WE WILL DESERVE WHAT WE GET.**

Steve Jonsson

"There should be fences even between friends. But they should have great holes in them."

HABIB SHABIB

HE IS DEAD



Oh, lamentable day!

Death lies upon him like

an untimely frost upon

the sweetest flower of the field.

David Joseph Hennessy dies on April 22, 1973 at the age of 22. Born here in Houston on September 16, 1950, and a lifetime resident of the city. Few knew this lad as well as I but many were the people who loved him. He was the victim of a traffic accident in the small hours of Easter morning.

Having lived with David for five years I feel that his loss can never be replaced. For it was

David Hennessy who taught me humility and love. He was generous to all and a true lover of mankind. What he had done for everyone remains and no one can take that away. Life passes but love remains.

He worked for the Galmiche Salon, he was a respected hairdresser for his young age. His following was large.

Watching his development it seemed to come to full bloom almost over night.

Each person that met David could not help notice the personality of this young man, and his zest for living. In the spirit that he lived let us live and be joyful.

Scottie Harbers

You And Your Bike

Houston has recently effected an ordinance covering the registration of bicycles that requires all two-wheeled bikes to be ridden on public ways to be registered with the Houston Fire Department.

The cost, one dollar, covers a two-year period wherein the serial number is recorded along with the manufacturer's serial number and kept on file; a decal is issued and placed on the bike to certify the registration. It is hoped that this act will help curtail the rise in bike thefts in this city, particularly the more expensive five and ten-speed variety. The Houston Police Department is given the authority to enforce this ordinance, and will detain anyone riding an unregistered bike.

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FORT WORTH'S NEW ORGANIZATION

(the OPEN DOOR - April 1973)

A new organization has been created for Fort Worth. It is called AURA - Awareness, Unity and Research Association. AURA is a joint effort of straights and gays to bring about social equality.

AURA is an educational organization which hopes to make all gays aware of the rights which are common to all citizens, and of ways to defend themselves against discriminatory practices. It hopes to contribute to a social climate where outmoded myths and taboos no longer hinder free discussion and objective evaluation of the homophile subculture. AURA also hopes to serve as a center of communication, making the individual aware of existing homophile organizations and services. The organization will also research and evaluate studies and publications which deal with the homophile subculture.

Chairman and founder of AURA, Kent A. Cyr, has announced that a meeting for prospective new members will be held the later part of May. Dues are \$10 a year for Active Members and \$5 a year for Associate Members.

Ken is a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and serves as church clerk for Agape MCC. He has spoken several times at area colleges on behalf of the church.

Any person who would like to join AURA, or would like more information concerning the organization should write to:

AURA

Ken A. Cyr, Chairman

P. O. Box 26063

Fort Worth, Texas 76116 or

call Ken at 838-2095.



Ken A. Cyr, founder of a new organization aimed at bringing understanding and awareness to the Fort Worth community.



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MICHAEL KELLER, MGR.

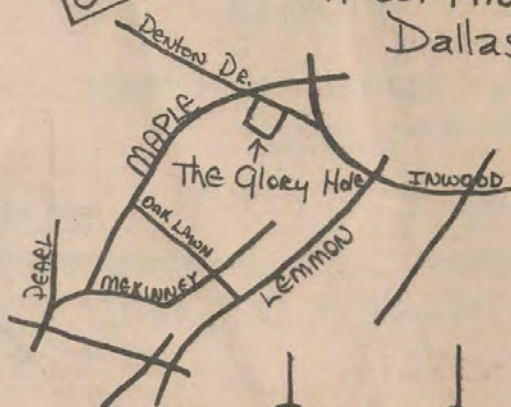
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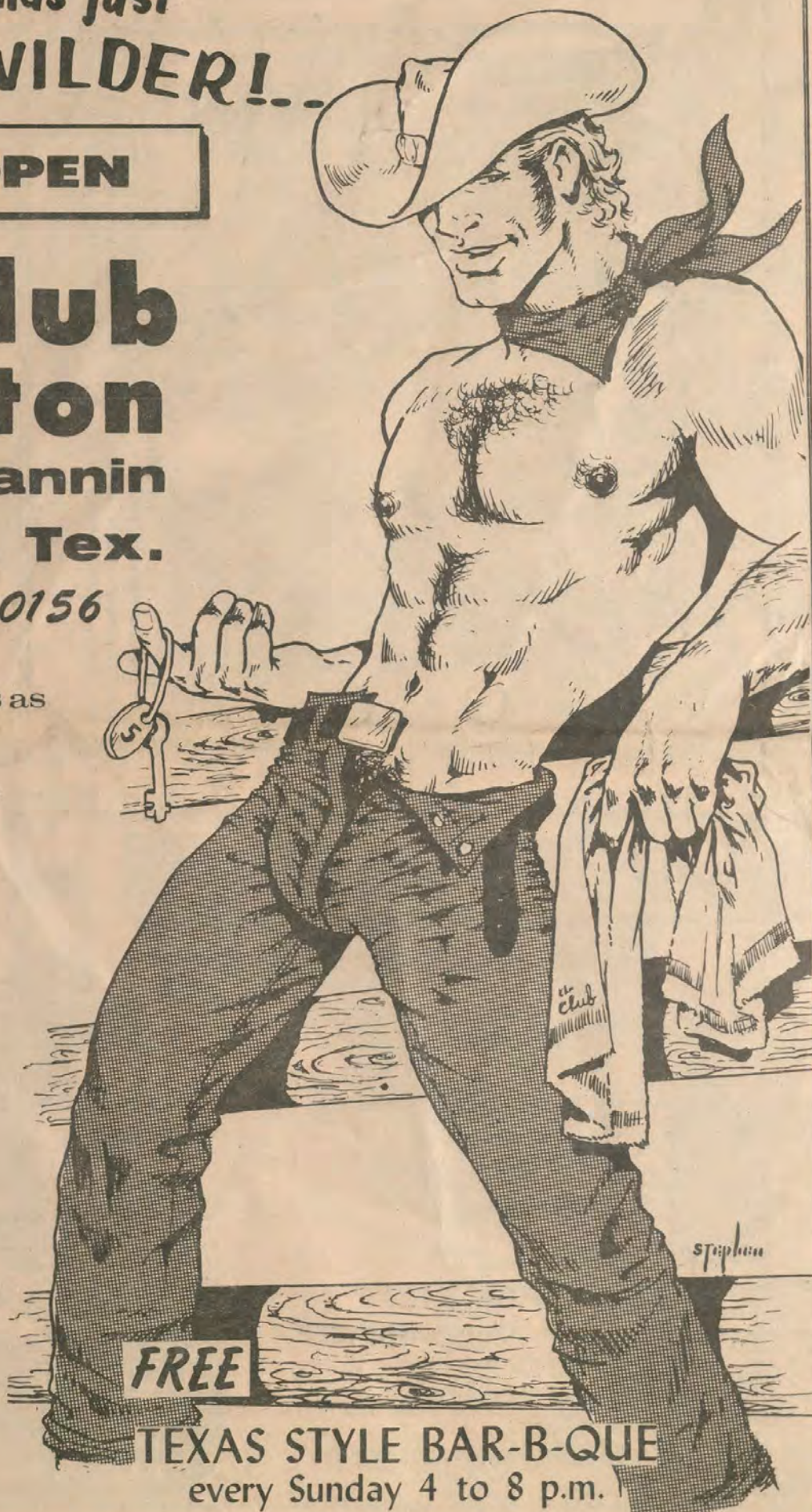
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Congratulations to SHOUT IT LOUD

The GLF at Kent University is doing a great job of educating their fellow students, faculty and general public. Boldly, they print a small but interesting newsletter monthly. They frequently give dances in which straights and gays dance side by side. Also they conduct men and women's rap sessions and sponsor forums.

Perhaps the most dramatic thing they've accomplished was to demolish the sexism that had existed on the Men's Basketball Inter-murals by fielding a team of both men and women called the Laverne Menace. Their won-loss record wasn't impressive, but they were **VISIBLE AS GAY PEOPLE**. And they had a lot of fun. They also had a giant cheering section. Now that basketball season is over, these courageous young men and women have entered a volley-ball team.

Those wishing to contribute to **SHOUT IT LOUD!** may write

KGLF at Room 233: University Center KSU: Kent, Ohio 44242. This poem is from a recent publication:

I was searching --
looking!
I was watching --
learning!
I was listening --
hearing!
I was seeing --
finding!
I was touching --
feeling!
I was being --
living!
I was loving --
you!
I was --

T. D. Bean

Gay is Good
Gay is proud
Gay is here
SHOUT IT LOUD!

"My enemies are now so numerous, I'm thankful for the friends I've got -- however few".
ALEXANDER GRAY

WHY ARE WE LONELY?

I suppose because I'm an ancient queen and because I have a good ear, I get phone calls all the time (usually at night when I have a warm companion) from people who are lonely and desperately need someone to talk to. Of course I wouldn't just rudely hang up and hurry back to my friend, but I can't help but wonder -- why?

Oh, I can see a young lad, finally awakening to the fact that he's gay and needs some answers. And I can understand someone from a small town, new to Dallas and doesn't know where or how to meet people.

To those of age, I always keep a handy list of gay bars by my telephone and recommend these. But many are a little timid about

going into a bar alone, knowing no one.

To the young and the shy I say the easiest and best way to get to know a lot of good people; people who are happy, successful, proud, and un-hung-up about being gay, is to attend the Metropolitan Community Church. Any stranger can walk into 3834 Ross Avenue, and he isn't likely to be a stranger long. There is something of interest going on there almost every night.

Some of the interesting things coming up in May are:

1. **COVERED DISH DINNER**, May 6th at 5:30 pm. Anyone, church member or not, can enjoy a feast fit-for-a-king for just \$1.50. If, out of a hundred men and women milling around, talking, laughing, eating and drinking, one can't meet some nice people who will eventually become a lasting and loyal friends, then one simply isn't trying, or else is looking for a "knight in shining armour." And unless one is a "knight in shining armour," too one best not be so pickish!

2. On the 18th and 19th of May there will be another delightful **MCC NIGHTS AT THE MOVIES**. These movies are always "choice" and the intermissions are even more so.

3. For those who wish to get involved, to do something rather than just complain, there is the **CIRCLE OF FRIENDS** with meetings on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at 8:00 p.m.

4. A rapidly growing women's organization, **DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS**, meets the first Friday of the month at MCC 8:00 pm. On the third Friday of the month, they meet at 2001 Bryan, Suite 290.

Houston offers the same opportunities (Perhaps More) at the Montrose Gaze.

So dear lonely people, please remember: all of us is lonely sometimes, aren't we. Please don't expect instant happiness with the mere ring of a telephone. Get off your butts. **GO WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE!**



To Help Gay Priests

Roman Catholics are planning to open a counseling center for homosexual priests, brothers and seminarians.

Location of the center, to be called **Renewal, Rest and Recreation**, is undecided. Rev. John F. Harvey of Alexandria, Va., who is organizing it, says the center will focus on pastoral counseling and help for gay clergymen.

He says he expects the program to be in operation within a year.

Harvey says Catholics generally are reluctant to acknowledge homosexuals in the clergy. "Too many people are threatened by something which is so little understood," he says.

Establishment of the center is officially approved by the Catholic Church and will be listed in the Official Catholic Directory, says Harvey.

(Houston Chronicle -5/4/73)

J. BRIAN

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PHIL ANDROS

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MONEY

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WITH
RAY JACKSON, KERRY CLAWSON &
JOE NASH

An AA's Birthday

During the past month the Nuntius was invited to attend a "birthday" party. The party was for AA's that had been sober for one, two or more years.

My understanding of this program was greatly increased by the brief time spent with this group.

Herewith is a writing by one of the "birthday" celebrants, a young woman that was celebrating her "1st" birthday of sobriety.

The search is yours and mine.
Each finds his way with help,
But yet alone.

Serenity is the goal.

It comes to those who learn to wait
and grow;

For each can learn to understand
himself and say, "I've found a
Joy in being I,
and knowing you;
a Knowledge of the depths I can
descend,
A chance to climb the heights above
my head."

The way is not so easy all the time.
Our feet will stumble often as we
go.

A friend may need to give others
some extra help,
as We once gave to others
When in the hour of fear.

This is no picnic path that we
have found;

But yet compared to other days
and other times,
It seems a better route.

We lost our way before;
In fear,
and guilt,
Resentments held too long.

Self pity had its way with us;
We found the perfect alibi
For all our faults.

We do not know what life may bring
From day to day

Tomorrow is a task not yet begun,
and we could fail
to pass its test

But this will wait,
While in today we do the best
We can.

Today we try to grow

Today we live,

We seek to know,

To give,

To share

With you.



(ZNS) - A magazin publisher in England is organizing a "sex fair" -- featuring male strippers, nude all-girl wrestling teams, erotic films and topless girl pop bands.

According to Reuters News Service, publisher Nick Coles is currently looking for a location north of London to stage his sex carnival. The show -- which will feature an "orgy tent" and live lesbian stage shows -- was shifted away from the small village of Forest Row after residents there protested.

Coles says that, once a site is found, he will build a stadium which will incorporate sexy side-shows and a love tent, which will have foam rubber on the floor so visitors can watch erotic films played on the ceiling.

"Better are the blows of a friend
than the false kisses of an enemy"
THOMAS A. BECKETT

THE TEEN SCENE

Often overlooked by operators but never neglected are the teenagers and under - 21s in Texas who, were they New Yorkers, could frequent the Bars. This group of people who now have the right to vote, serve in the armed forces, and who pay taxes as would their adult counterpart find themselves in the strictest sense of the word a "minority."

But thankfully, Friday and Saturday nights when the curfew takes

over and the liquor and beer is put away, such Houston and Dallas bars as the Farmhouse, T.J.'s the Bayou Landings open their doors to these young people for two hours of dancing and coke drinking.

The parents of such young adults who often send "rescue-money" to the runaways who find themselves better treated in other states should encourage Texas legislators to drop the drinking age to 18 years; San Francisco and New York and other exotic cities would quickly lose their appeal to these young adults whose only desire is to be able to dance and socialize some time before 2:00 a.m. and if not in school, per-

haps even mid-week. These under 21's may be kiddies to society, but to the Gay World are adults and should be treated so.

FIRE RAVAGES DETOUR

Fire ravages the Detour at 3113 Live Oak, Dallas, Texas the morning of May 14.

The rear of the building, which was an old residence, was being demolished and the Detour had plans for rebuilding that portion of the saloon and enlarging the facilities.

It is understood that the damage was extensive to the rear of the

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building but talking with a representative of the bar they feel that the front will be in operation real soon.

This fire was an accident and not as so many in the past "suspected arson."

Mother Of Dallas Hospitalized



MADAM FERTERLIZER

Madam Ferterlizer, "Mother of Dallas Drag" has been hospitalized and is in serious condition.

Madam Ferterlizer has been for the past several years one of the performers at Ronsue's at 3236 McKinney having missed very few performances during this time. "Fertie", as she is known to all who know her well is a friend to all who meet her.

Ron Hemby, Ronsue's owner and friend of "Fertie" held a benefit show in which about \$730.00 was collected to help with expenses during his illness. This effort was picked up by the Encore and the Bayou Landing. About \$500

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Guess Whose Coming To Texas

Troy Perry, gaydom's most charismatic leader will be in Dallas May 25, 26, and 27; and he'll be in Ft. Worth May 28, 29 and 30. Three full days of activities are being planned by the Dallas Metropolitan Community Church, said Reverend Richard Vincent. Starting Friday at 8:00 pm there will be an Open House. The next day will be filled with special music, a buffet dinner and a program of varied entertainment. Then Sunday morning at 11:00 Troy Perry will officiate at the dedication of Dallas' own MCC building.

This building, at 3834 Ross Avenue, was built in the Depression 30's as a private hospital. Today the architecture is quaint but interesting and the structure sound. But the building had been vacant for many years and vandels had smashed most of the windows. Through the years, thieves had forced entry and carried off everything of value. Then hippies, seeking shelter from Dallas' cruel winters "liberated" the building and made it their home.

When MCC purchased the building, it was in shambles. On that cold December day, when the congregation first looked at it, many were discouraged and thought it beyond repair. But about 100 members (and non-members) pitched in, rolled up their sleeves and set to work. Window panes were replaced. The leaking roof was repaired. Huge holes in the floors and walls were patched. While some workers were doing all this, others were busy sheetrocking, putting in new electrical wiring, cleaning windows, painting, nailing, hammering. Then came a new floor, with gold carpet. When the sanctuary was finished, a beautiful organ was donated.

Now at last it is ready. In comparison to Dallas' mighty First Methodist Church and Highland Park's splendid Presbyterian Church, Gay's MCC is primitive.

But to those who've labored so hard, it is simply beautiful. Now Troy Perry will bless and dedicate -- Dallas' First Gay Church! (From The Gay Insider, USA by John Francis Hunter)

Can a man of the cloth proclaim himself a homosexual and still effectually lead a flock?

Until a very few years ago such a question was not openly raised in the homosexual community, and if it was presented to theologians, the answer was generally in the negative if provided at all. Most theologians would rather not ponder such questions. The majority of homosexuals as well as preachers (they've never been mutually exclusive entities) seemed to prefer that such questions not be asked.

Popular psychologists / propagandists like Edmund Bergler - (1000 Homosexuals) dismissed homosexuals who didn't plead to "be cured" as willful perverts. Pervert and sinner were synonymous. The idea of a self-confessed homosexual cleric was unthinkable -- until late 1968 when Troy Perry surfaced, a stunning example of the New Free Gay and moreover, the New Conscience.

Perry is a phenomenon of the late '60s who, by the end of this present decade, may seem about as novel as an earth-orbiting astronaut or the recipient of a heart transplant. But for neo he is absolutely rare, an innovator, a rallying point for gay activists, a pioneer -- and as much a freak as Jesus whom he worships and promoted from the pulpit of his Metropolitan Community Church.

"My principle message is the message of love," Perry proclaims forthrightly wherever he



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goes. Also, "The Lord is my shepherd, and he knows I'm gay."

"A love of self, a love of God, and a love of this country. I believe that the homosexual has to love himself before anybody else can love him and that includes God . . . I feel that you have to come to terms with yourself, know who you are and what you are and know what you want out of life."

His congregation responds sometimes en masse, sometimes spottily, as it is made up of diverse religious backgrounds. From austere Episcopalians who feel comfortable with the generally Episcopalian pattern of worship, to zealots of Perry's own ilk. The congregation in terms of its sexual orientation is guessed to contain 70 percent male homosexuals, 15 percent female homosexuals, and 15 percent heterosexuals -- certainly making it the most unorthodox church in America today.

Unorthodox, though, is simply not a big enough word to describe Perry, his assistant ministers, his choir, his aides or his communicants, nor the work of his church. Whatever one thinks of organized religion, on the lunatic fringe or in the bosom of the ancient establishment, one has to view the MCC group as a sociological bocom of the ancient establishment, one has to view the MCC group as a sociological entity of enormous psychological and sociological potential.

Homosexuals are, contrary to straight opinion, highly diverse, difficult to organize, constrained by conditioning, law and prevailing popular attitudes and fearful of losing their jobs if "discovered." Perry has his hands full.

In addition to his ministry, the kindly blue-eyed minister is President of the Western Homophile Conference, Chairman of the Los Angeles Community for Homosexual Law Reform and a board member of the Council on Religion and the Homosexual. He can be found at the forefront of any homosexual protest march for the right to make love in private as one choses -- or even protesting against public discrimination.

On Sunday evening, January 11 (1970), Perry led some twohundred fifty marchers under the aegis of the Homosexual Law Reform group up Highland past Hollywood High School to fabled Hollywood Boulevard. The blase' boulevardiers had never seen anything like it.

Then on Sunday, February 7, Perry made his way to a greasy spoon on Santa Monica Boulevard called Barney's Beanery to protest the offensive "Fagots Keep Out" sign, which had for years declared its management's misspelled prejudice from above the bar. He prevailed. (The sign was recently restored.)

During church service on the aforementioned Sunday, Perry good-naturedly told of a city official's call to ask how many demonstrators he anticipated.

"Maybe a thousand," Perry had estimated.

"A thousand!" the man replied. "Are there a thousand homosexuals in Los Angeles?"

"That really blew my mind," Perry cried as his congregation roared: "I explained if there weren't a thousand, there certainly were a lot of imitations running around!"

While heavily involved in advancing the cause of sexual enlightenment and freedom from harassment in his community, the seemingly indefatigable Perry's first commitment is to his church. The variety of activities besides Sunday morning worship service include prayer meetings/bible classes; and "Alcoholics Together" group; a class for the deaf; marriage ceremonies (performed for couples who have been together for at least six months); and a Rescue Squad which responds to telephone hot-line pleas from homosexuals in immediate trouble with the law or when a love affair has ended and rejection has become overwhelming to them.

or when the indifference of the world to their lonely suffering has grown unbearable. Perry offers understanding and extends a welcome to those who feel that they do not belong anywhere.

Homosexuals are not openly invited into most churches in America and in many places of worship

they are scorned, Perry points out. Churchmen feel they have to change a person and convert him from his homosexuality if he is to become a proper Christian. Perry does not feel any change is necessary other than that the homosexual should be encouraged to stop feeling guilty and ashamed of being what he is.

In answer to the question "What do you feel is the origin of homosexuality -- genetic or acquired -- or is it as much a part of the Natural Order as heterosexuality?" Perry muses:

"About the origin of homosexuality, a thousand different psychiatrists have a thousand different answers . . . They have decided not that a child's sexual orientation is set by the time he is three years old. I think they're going to find that it's much earlier than that. I tend to agree with Dr. Evelyn Hooker of UCLA who seems to feel that in some -- and I think that will be explained to include ALL -- homosexuals -- there is a biological reason for being homosexual, that chemically the body is tipped toward homosexuality. I feel that the homosexual is created so. I don't believe environment has a lot to do with it. I would disagree with almost every homophile leader in that respect . . . If they go back and find that the origin of homosexuality is in the foetus, then you don't control it . . . I believe that I was created a homosexual and that's why I had no suffering or guilt feelings or hang-ups about it. I'm God's creation. I believe it's just as natural to be homosexual as it is to be heterosexual!"

This is the man who is coming to Texas the last week in May. Everyone (straight or gay - believer of non-believer) would enjoy hearing this man talk. When this man enters a room, love enters at the same time.

Understanding Growing Older

In Gay society a person is ill equipped to handle the aging process unless he understands a little about the bio-psychological process of aging. And as a person growing older peers with one eye at himself in the mirror reflecting an image of disdainful age, and the other on the television commercializing a hair product with the words, "You're not getting older, you're getting better", a turmoil of frustration can build quickly. But this problem is not unique to Gay life alone. It's a serious concern to society as a whole and volumes fill the libraries on this subject alone. Because there is more to aging than just becoming old.

Aging may come slowly or rapidly - gracefully, gradually, or suddenly. Some people seem to slip into old age gracefully, even beautifully, while others seem almost overnight to be transformed by

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some malevolent experience, real or imagined, into relative old age. We can group aging into three categories for study.

BIOLOGICAL aging refers to changes in the organism's vulnerability; the chances of survival diminish with the passage of time. An older person biologically, has on the basis of physiological, chemical, and anatomical measurements only a short time left to live. A person's **PHYSIOLOGICAL** age can be gauged by his capacity to adapt to the environmental demands of other persons. Physiological age influenced, of course, by Biological age is also determined by other factors that include his ability to employ his capacities. This can mean that a person of fifty can still function sexually as strong as a person of thirty, if his drive is not psychologically diminished. **DOC-CORRECTION**

psychologically diminished. **SOCIAL AGE** plays a strong role in Gay Life but merely refers to an individual's social habits relative to society's expectations. This person's behavior is often self-imposed and toned down considerably merely because it is "expected" he act his age. Be more conservative; conversely more lecherous, etc. But the aging Gay Person is often forced to act in accordance with norms that decide whether he acts too young for his age. Let's probe into the biological determinants. Each animal species lives, on the average, only a certain length of time, but there are large individual differences around the average. The lifetime of men, for example, range from a few minutes to well over a hundred years. To some extent, an individual's life span is determined genetically. For instance, if your grandparents were long-lived, you may have one small advantage. But the environmental factors play a larger role; the food we eat, temperature, demands for activity, quality of the air, and the like also affect chances for longer life. Variations in man's environment is most important in determining span of life; more so than heredity. If man can assess and control his environment, he can increase his life span, or the aging process.

Wrinkled skin and other changes in appearance come about as a result of changes in the connective-tissue fibers that lie between the cells of the body. Leonardo da Vinci was able to reduce the drawings of individuals of different ages to rules, based on specific anatomical changes. (Changes in appearance can be attributed to genetics, but are also most definitely able to be modified by environment.) It is commonly known (if ignored) that continued exposure to the sun, regardless of preventative lotions, etc., quicken the aging process by faster thickening connective tissue leading to leathery of the skin. Many cells of the body continue to divide with age (reproduce themselves), but some of the most important ones do not: brain cells and heart cells do not.

There are social determinants that vary the pattern of aging and that vary with social class. Poor people are generally exposed to more injurious environmental conditions than are the middle - or upper-class rich, and the consequences are poorer health and earlier aging. Poor people also become more vulnerable psycho-

logically as they become older. Their range of choices of where and how to live become increasingly constricted with advancing age. Because, in a real sense, it is choice that makes us human, the aged poor robbed of choice decay even more rapidly. In Gay society an aging Gay is often looked upon without respect if he acts "younger" than his age, and is often shunned and avoided if he does. When a man passes into his forties (in Gay life), he actually approaches a new phase and finds himself more admired for himself and his intellectual or social prowess rather than has sexual appeal. It is when he clings to his thirties that he becomes undesirable to his peers and to the younger set who either scorn or "use" him. One of the concerns of aging is the need to curtail certain activities as energy declines and the need to rest increases. Understanding this is difficult to the Gay who is used to crowding his day with business and his nights with pleasure games and who must then begin to curtail his activities or show ever-increasing signs of aging. The well adjusted gay gauges himself and his energy drives; perhaps motivated by the death of his peers, which serves as reminders of his own vulnerability. At this point the Gay often wishes to retreat from the complexities of life and society and retire honorably and with dignity from the "scene". But although older people do begin to disengage themselves from many social roles, their activity can (and usually does) become related to life and sexual satisfaction and the tendency is to plan and attend more productive encounters (less frequently but nevertheless productive) with sexual and social partners at parties and other limited events. Loneliness - personal and social and intellectual - is the most wicked scourge of the aging.

Sex is curtailed only physiologically by the aging Gay, and if the loss of hormonal or other medical imbalance is not prevalent, then this person's sexual life can continue easily well into his nineties; the criteria here is a simple one. The availability of a sexual partner. Most Gays have a tendency to sublimate their sexual desire. Age should make little difference in one's life, and if he should become less active sexually, then a great deal of the fault lies with his own self-hate. For psychologically mature individuals, though growing older, do not change - a loving person is still a loving person, an paranoid is still paranoid at any age, and an old roue still lusts after new tricks.

The story of life can actually begin here. If appearance, and I'm speaking of your face, biceps, chest, etc., brings you unhappiness, and you are too poor to change them, then accept aging gracefully. But if your income allows you to choose your environment, then by all means, pick an air conditioned apartment and get out of the smog; get that face lifted, wear that make-up; take those facials; style your hair; get out on the dance floor and work up those sluggish veins and tired old sluggish heart; pump some youth into your life through clever clothing; stay out of the sun and wear color on your face from a bottle. Tint your hair

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or buy a wig. Pluck your eyebrows or dye them. Do the things that for centuries the rich have done, and you'll find new satisfaction in growing old, because in reality, your age is only reflected in the mirror. And if you can still achieve an erection then find the right person to turn you on. Remember, if you can masturbate, you can have sex with a willing partner. Don't grow old mentally, and you'll find yourself back in your thirties again. And if you **THINK sex, you'll HAVE SEX.** (NEXT ISSUE, "How to Halt Ageing")

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Down, Right

1. snug
4. flaccid
6. TV award
8. double
10. black gem
12. to caution
14. quiet
16. lip caress
18. make a loan
20. cord
22. discover

Down, Left

2. lubricant
3. Wizard of --
5. anger
7. half-way
9. one (Span.)
11. presently

13. curve
15. to question
17. sick
19. go astray
21. fool; lout
23. neut. pronoun

ANSWERS

D-R

1. cozy
4. limp
6. Emmy
8. dual
10. onyx
12. warn
14. calm
16. kiss
18. lend
20. rope
22. find

D-L

2. oil
3. Oz
5. ire
7. mid
9. uno
11. now
13. arc
15. ask
17. ill
19. err
21. oaf
23. it

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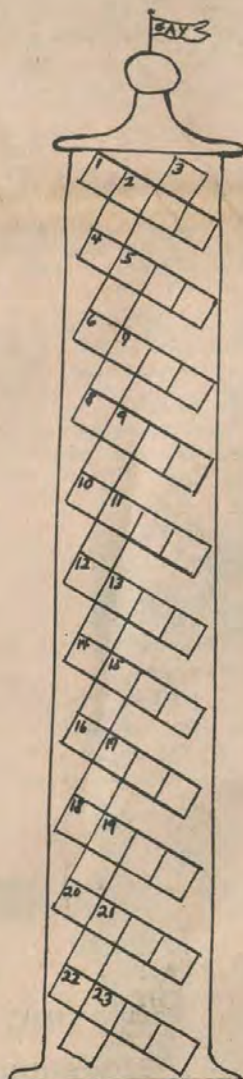
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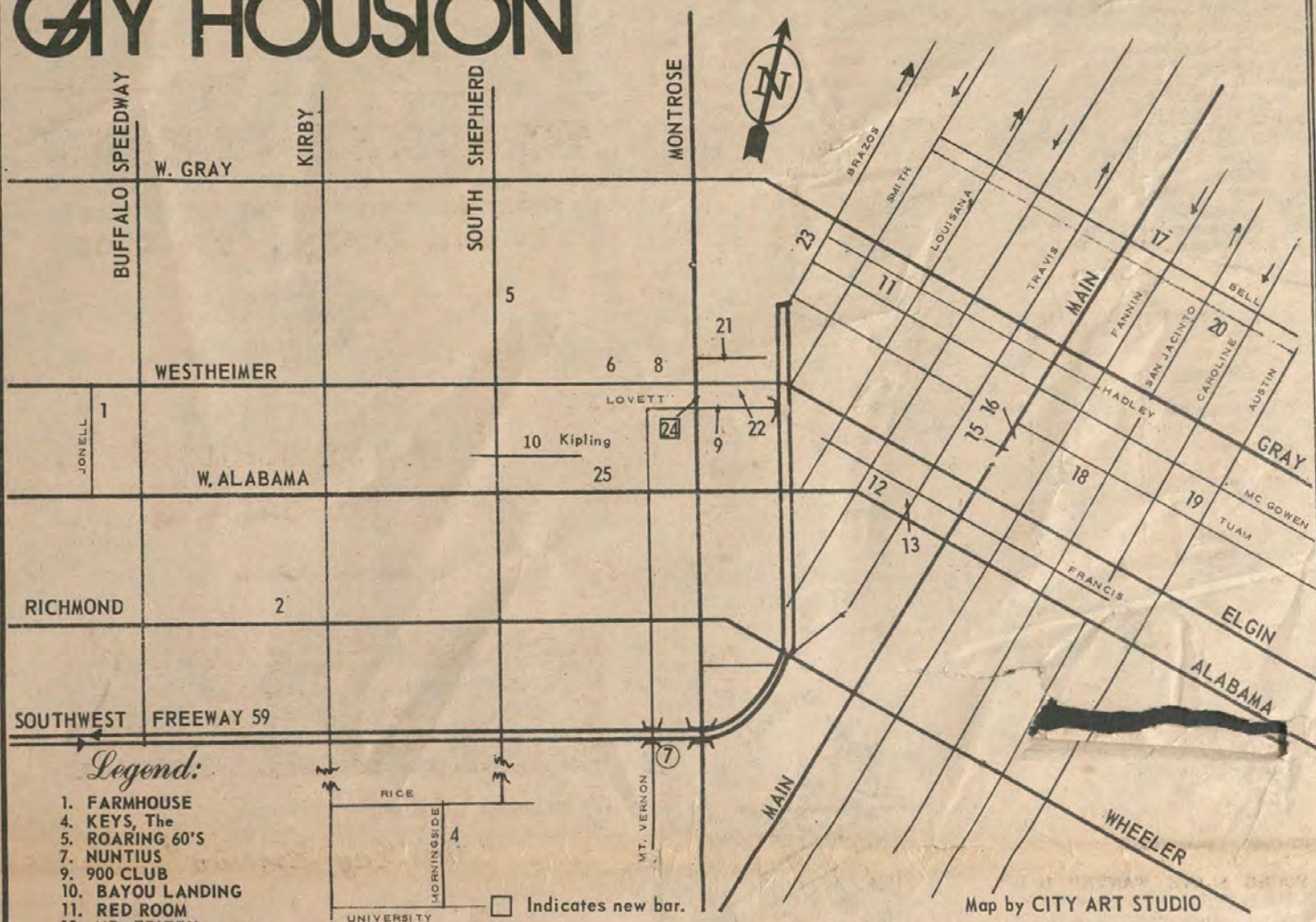
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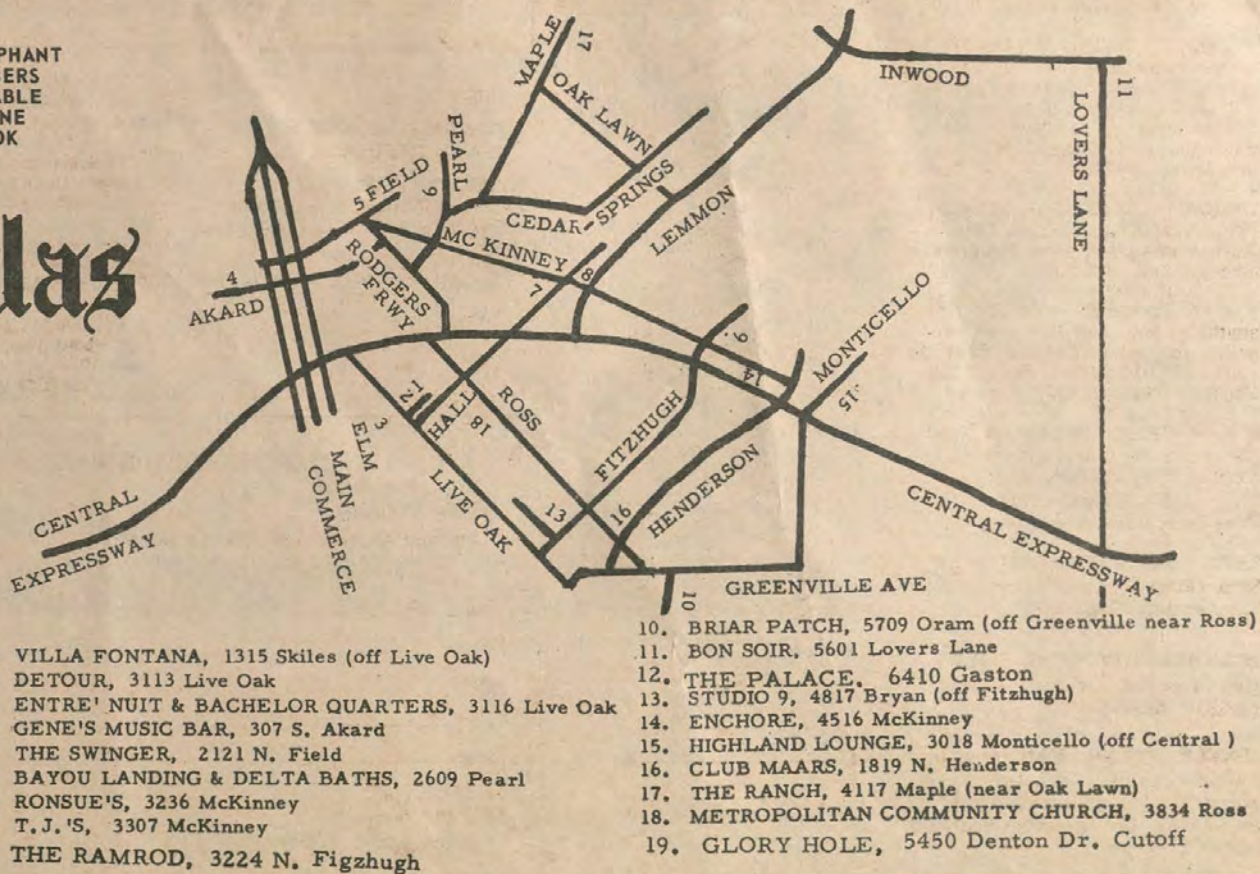
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