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LANCERS CELEBRATE 19TH ANNIVERSARY SATURDAY

By Mark Johnson

President, Lancers Motorcycle Club

The Lancers Motorcycle Club will hold its 19th Anniversary this Saturday, beginning with registration at 7:00 p.m. at Mary's (1022 Westheimer), on the back patio. Registration for the one evening event is \$5.00, and includes several cocktail parties, as well as food provided by Boudreaux's.

Sundance Cattle Company will provide the first cocktail party at 7:30 p.m. followed by an 8:30 p.m. cocktail party hosted by the Texas Riders. The run will then move to the Venture-N (2923 Main), with a cocktail party hosted by NLA:Houston at 9:30 p.m. The run will conclude with a 10:30 p.m. cocktail party given by the Lancers, with awards and closing announcements following.

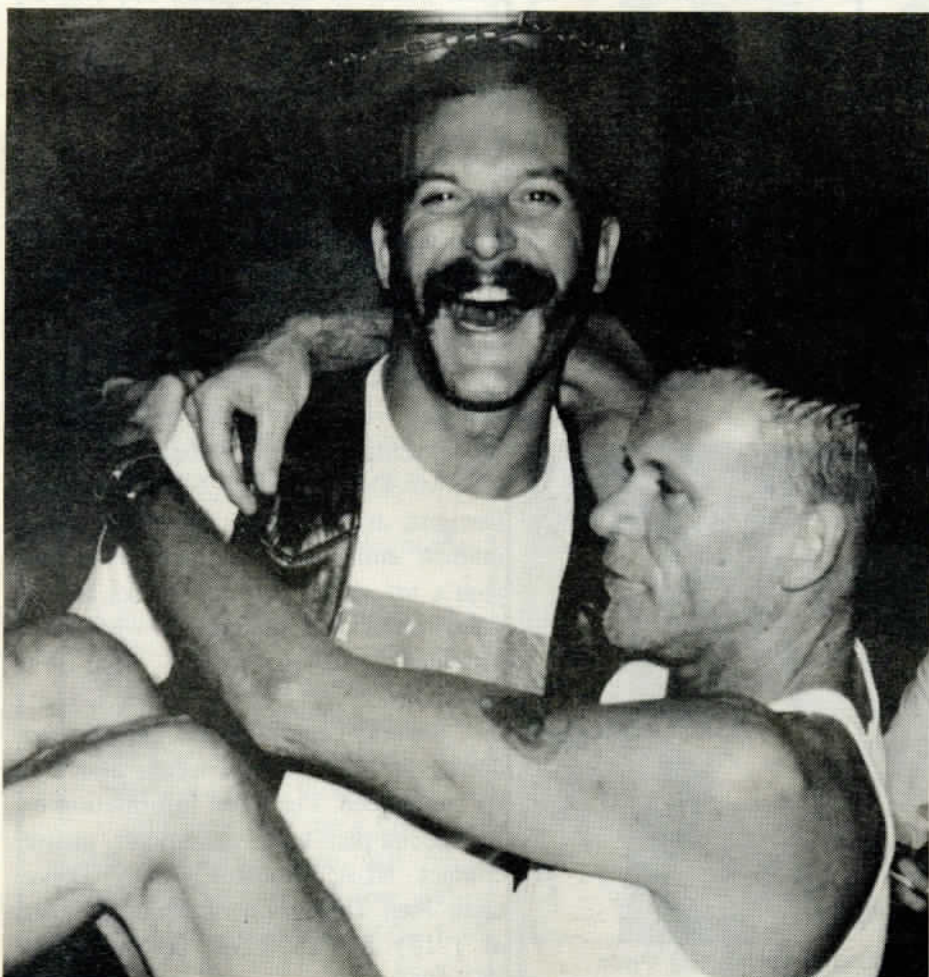
The Lancers were originally founded in New Orleans in 1977, where it had a lively and successful history during its early years. The

club moved to Houston in the mid-1980's, when the members in the club at that time moved from New Orleans to Houston.

The club currently has eight members, and is a member of the Texas Conference of Clubs, and the Houston Council of Clubs. The Lancers were proud to have been the coordinating club for the TCC LoneStar 10, held in 1994, which raised approximately \$9,000.00 in order to pay off the remain debt on the TCC campground near Cameron, Texas.

This year the club returned to the TCC campsite for LoneStar 11, where club members built a recreation of the Argos, Europe's oldest leather bar, which is located in Amsterdam. The Argos was one of the highlights of LoneStar 11, and was well received by the attendees.

The membership of the Lancers Motorcycle Club looks forward to celebrating their 19th Anniversary with their friends this weekend.



Big Gary, current manager of the Ripcord, and John T. clown around during one of the Ripcord's famous parties in 1995. More Pictures on Page 8.

RIPCORD TO CELEBRATE ITS 14TH ANNIVERSARY MONDAY

By Ron Dionne and

Reverend Mother Christine

(Editors Note: In late summer or early fall of 1982, the Happy Trails Bar was purchased by new owners. The front part of the building was originally a notion's store, grocery store and fish market. In the area that is now the back bar and patio and the house next door (presently Leather Forever) was a chemical company that sold janitorial supplies. In the 1920's when it was built, there was even a trolley running down Fairview.

There were also two apartments in the rear that were occupied by bar employees Jerry and Tony (Sweet Petite).

Sadly, on October 28, 1990, an arsonist's torch closed the bar for about 10 days and also destroyed much of the earlier history of the establishment. THE MAP is trying to recreate this history and to help we are willing to buy you a drink at the Ripcord if you can help fill in some of the blanks.

Many thanks to Chuck Drake (present owner), Ron Dionne (go-fer), and Chris Broadhurst (bar hound) for their untiring efforts to chronicle this brief history.)

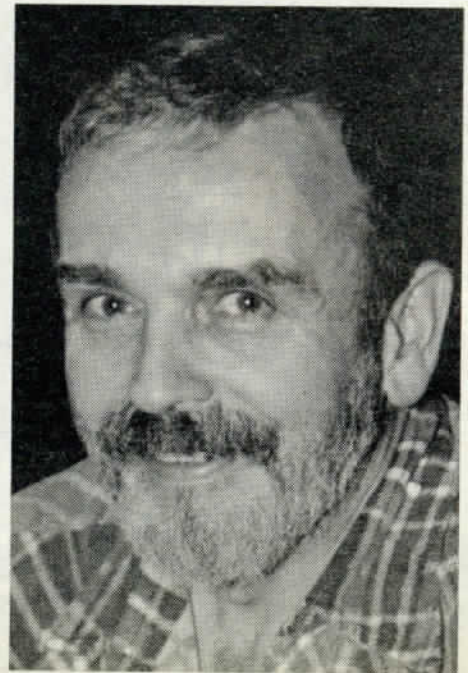
On December 10, 1982, the Ripcord officially opened its doors with beer at \$1.25 and well drinks at \$1.50. Inflation has somewhat escalated these prices, but Sundays are almost the same with beer and well drinks both at \$1.50 all day and all night.

The bar had many more employees in that first year than they have now. Gary Batcheller worked the patio bar until it closed. Remember Warren, starched shirt and chaps? Piss George? Bald David?

They even had a Board of Directors to bring customer's input into the direction of the bar. Boots Adams came and went. In August, 1983, the Ripcord was closed from the 23rd to the 31st. Here is the first blank—why? (With the first good explanation come two free drinks—one from THE MAP and another from Chris.) Vince Janus (later, he changed his name to Vince Roy) certainly opened a successful pub and Mike was the DJ.

1984 saw the arrival of the first women workers, Roz and Cindy. Chops came aboard and played a good Santa. Hurricane Alicia visited and they partied and partied. It was Hoke's year. Alicia couldn't close the bar but Hoke's funeral did.

Several severe freezing weather bouts in early 1985 had customers shivering but the parties continued. They showed flesh for the first Prime



Vince Roy, the original owner of the Ripcord (Photo courtesy of Chuck Drake)

Choice Contest. Celebration was the habit for all occasions and they even added a few new reasons to the well-established list.

The first bus to Mardi Gras — all employees left to party while the Colt 45's remained behind to serve the remaining customers. The Ripcord proudly displayed the winning Gay Pride Float in the Parade. It was the year of the first draft beer and Mike Cooley played the music.

Some of the best and some of the worst beckoned the Ripcord in 1986. Of course there were lots of parties, good bar — bar's interaction, and new parties like the Blessing of the Bikes. Then there were disasters—July was a total blackout. Then again the electricity failed and the Ripcord closed from March 3 through March 23. (Anyone know why? Again two free drinks for the first answer!) The entire group partied with DJ David Olsen.

Change was the answer in 1987. The Ripcord bade a fond farewell to San Francisco bound David Peck. John T. was welcomed with open arms, as was Joe DeRosa and Rev's daughter, Jerry for a short time.

The traditions continued; Prime Choice and the bus trip to Mardi Gras but with a new high in decorations with Jim / Mitzi's great achievements.

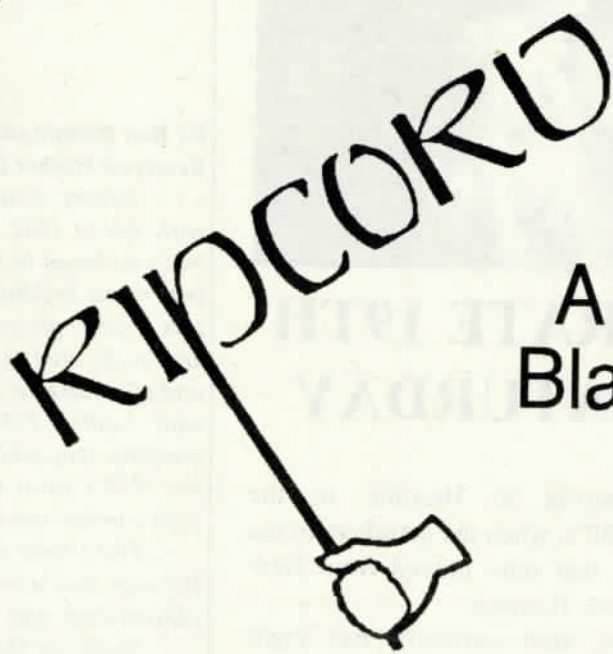
Wes Decker (soon to be an infamous porn star) arrived in 1988. Mark Herbert joined the crew and they partied on; the Yellow Party made the party scene. Vince (Janus)

Please see RIPCORN on page 2



Celebration XIV

Join us in celebration
of our fourteenth
anniversary



A Black Tie
Black Leather
Affair

Monday December 9th • 9pm-2am

RIPCORN CELEBRATES — PARTIES

Continued from page 1

Roy left Houston to open the Ripcord-Dallas. Gary (later to be known as Little-Gary) became the absolute manager. Mardi Gras, Prime Choice, and anniversary were continuing parties.

"Snap" was the word for 1989. Cold outside and a lot of snap inside. The regular parties continued. The decorations went up the day of the party and came down before the doors opened the next day. Blink and you missed Mitzi's artwork. Wes departed for San Francisco and Tom Sawyer joined the work force as Pineapple Tom..

1990 added Fred, who was later robbed, and then became Vicar's wife. More of the usual parties continued. The G-9 Economic Summit was in Houston and the Ripcord's gay and lesbian response, 'CURE AIDS NOW' was heavily involved until its presence became a 'MOB.' They raised almost \$1,250 for Harvey Gantt in their 'BEAT JESSE' party, but the money and pillow fights couldn't defeat Helm's racism.

All the routine bar traditions continued. The bar was closed on October 28th by an arsonist's can of gasoline and a match. The Ripcord reopened on November 7th. The year's ending party was challenged by a power outage. Traditions were both built by the Ripcord and imposed upon it.

Grief raised its ugly head in 1991 as the bar lost Vince Roy; its

decorator, Mitzi; and another bartender, Rick Kipp. Gary Batcheller became the owner.

The staff and customers grieved and partied for themselves and others — remember the Teddy Bear party? It was the year of food — jazz lunch, cookouts, etc. 1992 greeted Brian (of the car wreck), Lee (of the broken leg), Tony and David. Old parties and new were a continuing life-style; 'Tailhouse Buffet', 'Fire House Party', 'Chops and Straps', 'Back to Black' — a reprise. The lady's room was built and life went on.

Living in Leather visited Houston as well as the Ripcord in 1993. Mitzi's fabulous 'METROPOLIS' starred at Halloween. Art from John T. and haircuts from "the Don's" (Don Gill and Don Dowden) appeared on the scene. The Ripcord made 'National Press' — when *Details* Magazine named the Ripcord as "the late night Hot Spot of Houston"

The expected parties continued in 1994. Prime Choice was a highlighted event.

1995 seems to be a year where the chronicle in the Day Book is limited to the traditional parties. '94 and '95 are another of those infamous blanks where you just might get another of those two drink salaries for your writing your remembrance.

Presently, the Ripcord crowd is still grieving over the loss of Gary (Little Gary), but as Gary would have wanted, they go on. Chuck Drake became the owner. The Brotherhood of

Pain had its slave auctions and the Five Poisonous Animals 'bought' Big Gary. The parties continued. The back bar was expanded, given the light of day and became known as Tom Sawyer's Dive. Chuck served a fabulous food buffet for the opening — and then closed the kitchen (forever?) Jim joined the crew.

At the one month anniversary of the "Dive", Leather By Boots celebrated with a grand opening of its new store directly across the street. Big Gary was forced to serve out his 'slave' status at the party.

As we approach the 14th anniversary, we all know that Leather, Levi, Uniform, Love and Laughter will rule. It's that kind of bar!

On Monday, December 9th, the Ripcord invites you and yours to celebrate with them. It will be another of a continuing tradition of parties and good times...



Gary Batcheller during Gay Pride Festivities in 1994.

NLA: H TOY DRIVE

The National Leather Association: Houston kicked-off its sixth-annual Christmas Toy Drive on December 1, 1996. The 1996 beneficiaries are the Loving Arms Foundation and the P.W.A. Coalition.

Twenty collection boxes and twenty coin jars will be located in various businesses and clubs throughout the Montrose area, including the Venture-N, Brazos River Bottom, Mary's Naturally, Chances, Basic Brothers and more. New toys with labels ranging from infant to seven years old are requested and can be placed in any of the white, red and green boxes with the NLA: H 1996 Christmas Toy Drive poster.

Coin jars will have the same markings and all contributions are welcomed from pennies to dollars. Last year NLA: H's toy project raised over \$600 in cash and in excess of 1,500 toys benefiting the children of Community Visions.

The National Leather Association: Houston wishes to thank Empress Ruby Stone, Emperor Jim Halbert, Mr. Don Gill, Mr. Don Woods, R.S.V.P. Creative Designs, and so many others for their interest, enthusiasm, and support in this year's toy drive. Special thanks to the many clubs and businesses who have provided precious space for this endeavor.

Several benefit shows are planned during the next several weeks and will be announced. For more information or for special pick-up arrangements, please contact NLA: Houston's Toy Drive chair Neil Thompson or Mike Geinzer at (713) 861-2598 or fax at (713) 861-5969.

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R.S.I.C.S.S TO HOST PIC- TURES WITH SANTA

The Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc. will host a series of photo sessions with Santa Claus at neighborhood clubs for the next week. For a \$5.00 donation (to be used as a Court fundraiser) you will receive a picture of yourself on Santa's knee in a decorative folder.

The schedule for Santa's visit is as follows:

Venture-N, 2923 Main, Friday,
Dec. 6 at 9:00 p.m.

Mary's Patio, 1022 Westheimer, Saturday, Dec. 7 at
2:00 p.m.

Brazos River Bottom, 2400
Brazos, Sunday, Dec. 8 at 5:00
p.m.

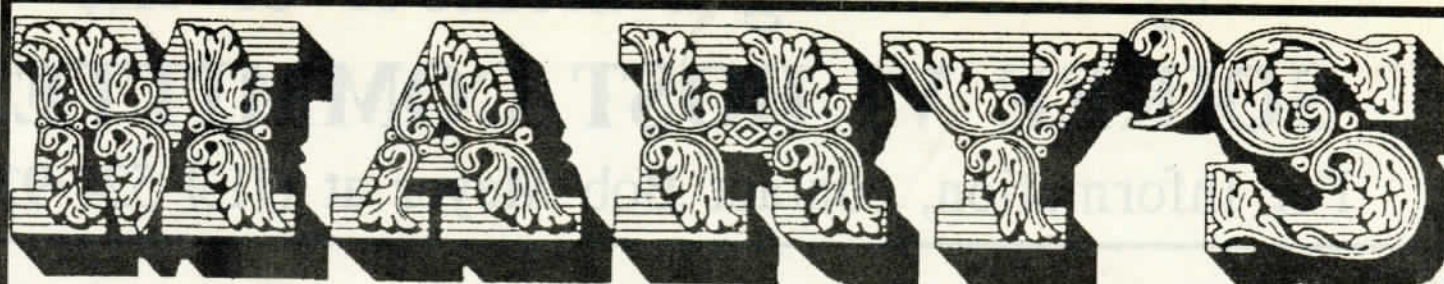
E/J's, 2517 Ralph, Wednesday,
Dec. 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Chances, 1100 Westheimer, Friday,
Dec. 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Ripcord, 715 Fairview, Saturday,
Dec. 14 at 10:00 p.m.

Gentry, 2303 Richmond, Sunday,
Dec. 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Join the Court for a fun filled time on Santa's knee. All funds raised by the Court during Reign XII will ultimately benefit the Colt 45's.



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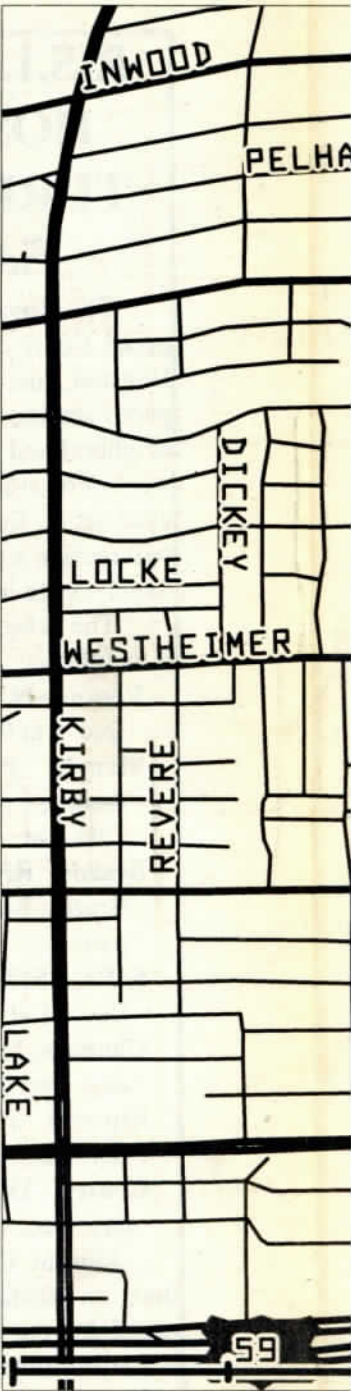
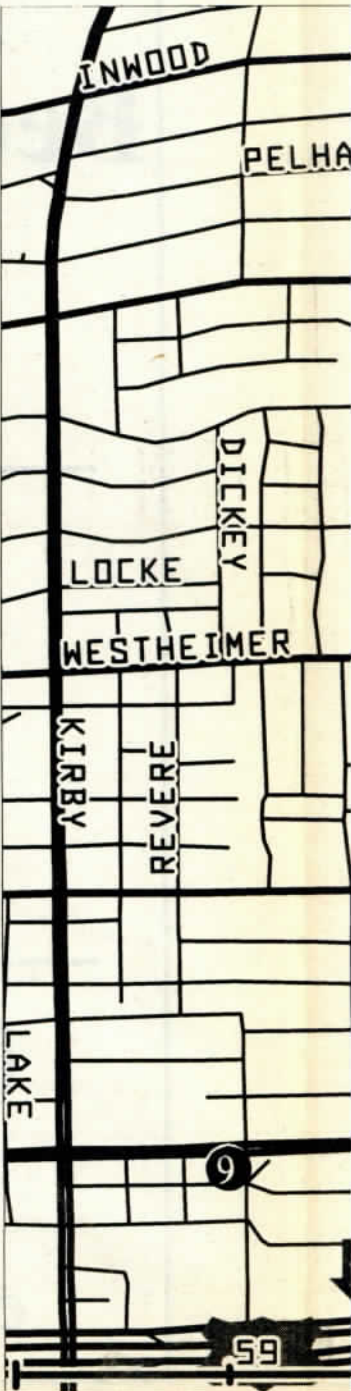
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7:00 PM**

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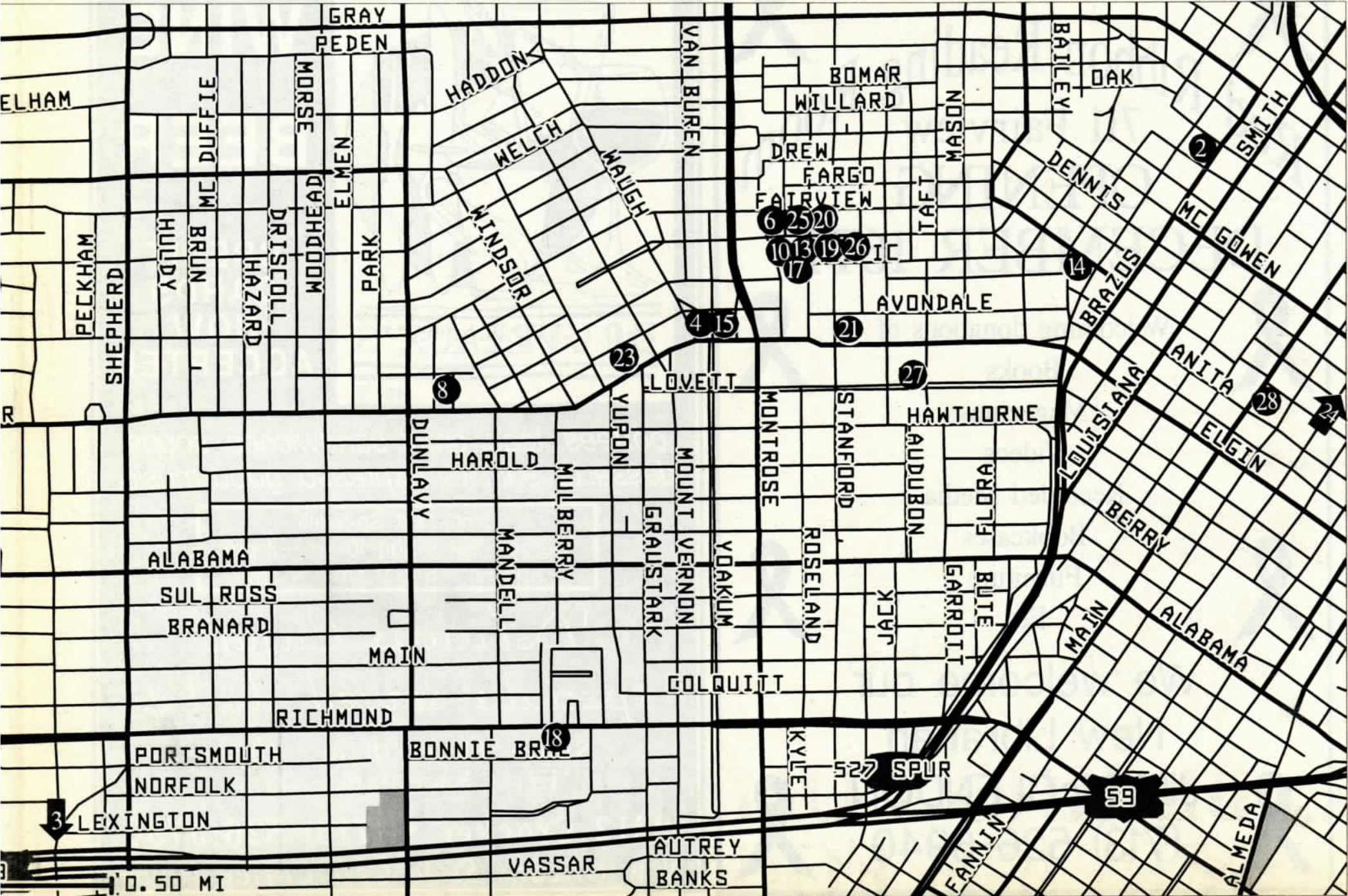
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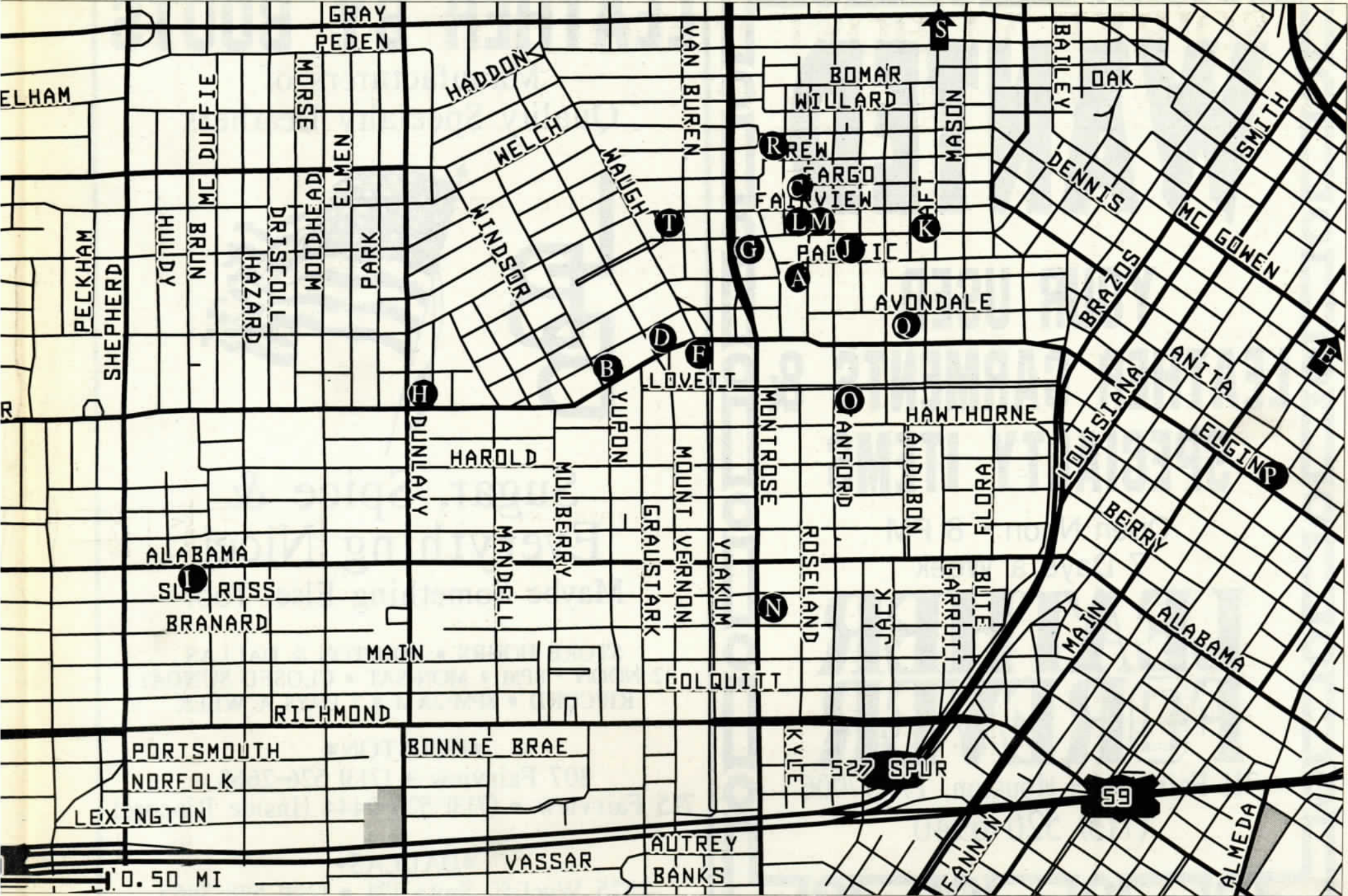
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R STUDIO 911
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S TAFT STREET AUTO
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1411 Taft
T THE TIRE PLACE
529-1414
1307 Fairview

ENTERTAINMENT



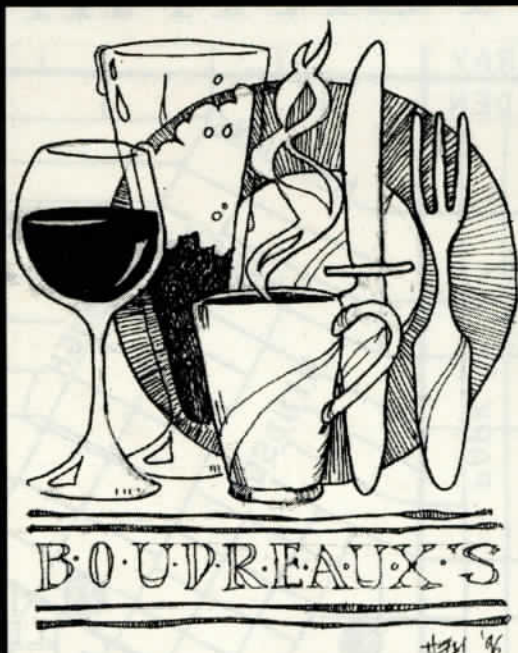
BUSINESS



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A CHRISTMAS SONGFEST—HOLIDAY CELEBRATION OF SONG AND SPIRIT

A Christmas Songfest for 1996 will ring in the holidays on Sunday, December 8, 1996, at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center. The proceeds from ticket sales to this tenth annual holiday celebration of song and Christmas spirit benefit local AIDS groups.

This spectacular, fun event has grown from a small gathering of friends, to an evening of Christmas music and festivities that last year attracted nearly 1,000 participants. The festivities include entertainment, a silent auction, a sumptuous holiday dinner buffet and an open bar. It's an exciting event because during the program dozens of different clubs and organizations are invited to the stage to sing and lead the audience in carols and special holiday music.

In the middle of all of this confusion, professional entertainers take the stage performing their favorite renditions of classic Christmas tunes. Featured entertainers scheduled to appear include Jerry Atwood, Ricky Comeaux, Cindy Harrelson, Sharon Montgomery, Keith Caldwell and Terry Pierce. Of course, the producers of the event admit they never know who else may show up and join the group, but it's always fun and the entire family will enjoy the evening.

Honorary Event Chair for 1996 is Dr. Paul Gustafson. Hosting the event will be Channel 11 weatherman Dan Meador, Channel 51 anchorperson Dayna Steele, and KRBE-Radio morning show host Maria Todd.

The public is invited and good seating is still available. Reserved tables for 10 persons are available starting at \$400.00 and general admission is \$45.00

at the door. For information on reserving a table, call Ed Inderwish at (713) 683-0485. The Edwin Hornberger Conference Center is located at 2151 West Holcombe Boulevard. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

A Christmas Songfest is an all volunteer 501(c)(3) corporation that benefits HIV/AIDS charities in the Houston area. To date the organization has raised over \$215,000. This year, A Christmas Songfest is dedicated to the assistance of two very worthy groups, Omega House and The Assistance Fund.

Omega House is the only residential hospice program for terminal stage, medically indigent People Living With AIDS, providing shelter and care beyond 30 days. Since 1986, Omega House has offered a full range of palliative bedside care and psychological support services to over 360 residents and their families and friends. Omega House is a 501(c)(3) organization and was the first special care facility licensed by the Texas Department of Health. Roughly 60% of Omega House's annual budget comes from private funding sources.

The Assistance Fund (TAF) was established in 1988 to assist those persons living with AIDS (PLWA'S) by paying their health insurance premiums and the cost of emergency prescriptions until they qualify for Medicare. TAF's clientele base is comprised of those PLWA'S who have reached the point in their disease process where work is no longer possible and available financial resources are inadequate to meet their monthly health insurance premium. TAF becomes an avenue which enables those who qualify for

assistance to maintain their health insurance coverage and at the same time meet other necessary living expenses thus, avoid becoming a burden to the public health system.

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RIPCORD PAST RETURNS TO PICTURES



Chuck Drake (l), Danny Wright (RSVP Cruises) and Gary Batcheller (r) taken in 1990.



Gentlemen of the Ripcord on the Gay Pride Parade Float in 1994.



More gentlemen at the Ripcord 11th Anniversary Party in 1993.



Original look of the Ripcord in 1982. Note: Picture is damaged from fire?



Vince Roy (Janus) and Gary Batcheller at Disneyland in 1986.



(l-r) Ron Dionne, go-fer; George, bartender & manager; and Tony Perry, Sweet Petite, mgr.



Jim Reich (Mitzi) loved to 'decorate' the Ripcord.



Rick Kipp, bartender



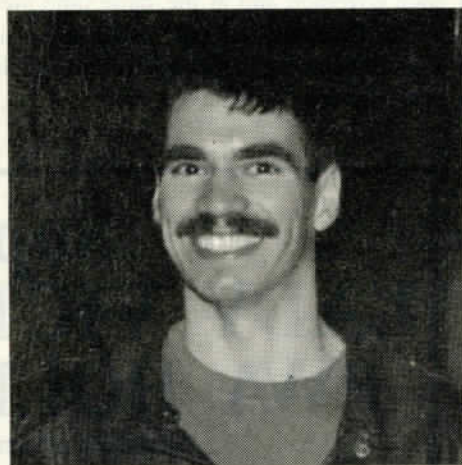
Pooh Bear and Boots Adams — Oh, so many years and pounds ago.



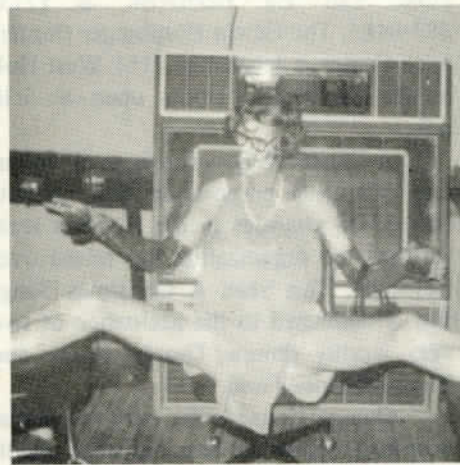
David Peck, one of the original bartenders, left for SF in 1988



Mark Hebert, current DJ, and Chris



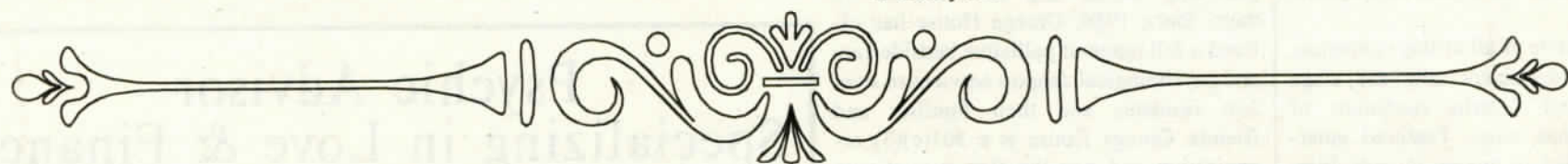
Bill Rodriguez, DJ prior to Mark



The first 'drag' show. Miss Dee is that you!!!



Warren Dodson, bartender



GENTRY'S TURN-ABOUT SHOW



Papa Del (Sparkle)



Sean Carter (Lucy)



Val Rodela (Valerie)



Kip Grandberg (Dolly)