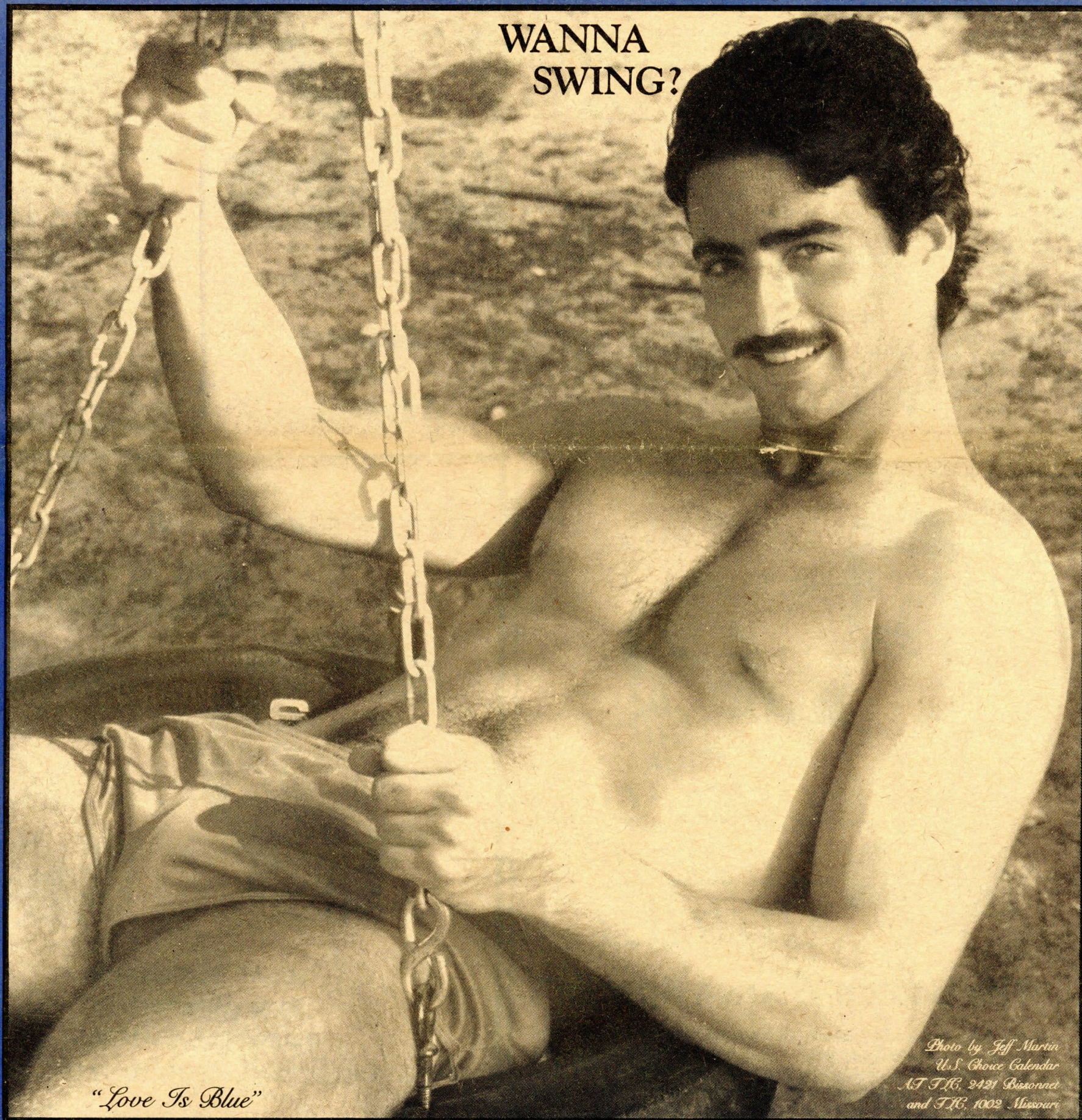


H O U S T O N FORUM

Volume 1, Number 41

December 6, 1985



WANNA
SWING?

"Love Is Blue"

*Photo by Jeff Martin
U.S. Gizee Calendar
A.T.T.R., 2421 Bissonnet
and F.H. 1002 Missouri*

Let's Get Real

RAY HILL ENDORSEMENT

EDITORIAL

The FORUM endorses and heartily supports Ray Hill for next President of the GPC. We are doing so at this time to encourage and foster new and renewed GPC Memberships and to give the community as well as current GPC members a full month to ponder over this important election.

The FORUM has learned that GPC active memberships are down to roughly 300 people. The GPC has been and still can be a vital force for good in our community—and in the city, state, and nation. With only 300 members, each such member realistically speaking represents 300 to 600 other Gays and Lesbians. Due to their concern and active participation these men and women are in many respects "delegates" for the rest of us. They are to be commended, applauded, and thanked. To join their ranks you must do so by December 16th. This would allow you to vote in the GPC elections set for January 15th. DO IT!

We support and endorse Ray Hill's candidacy for President for several reasons. The wiser one becomes the more you come to recognize that timing in life is everything. Ray is the man of the hour—this hour being 1986. Six months ago this would NOT have been the case, however, NOW with all incumbents handily reelected (including Hall and Robinson). Ray Hill is our community's "man on horseback".

To many people, Ray is pushy, blunt, outspoken, and in our view, that is forceful, frank, and truth-full. Truth-tellers are a rare breed. Anyway you look at it, THAT is what we need now! We have chits to collect at City Hall and Ray Hill will collect those chits. Ray understands the new coa-

lition politics and knows just how to work them.

Ray Hill, a native Houstonian, has been a gay activist for 20 years, long before it was trendy or fashionable. He has done a great deal for all of us and will and can do more. The Presidency of the GPC would make both the GPC and Ray more effective voices. We need that now—especially with old friends like Kent Spear leaving Greanias' office. Ray knows how to get into City Hall—both through the front door and the back door, too—if that is needed. Sometimes it is needed. Add to this, and often just as crucial—Ray knows and understands the press—at ALL levels.

Let's do get real—we don't need a "movie star" GPC President NOW—or a gracious, soft-spoken "Lord or Lady" GPC President NOW. We needed them before but not NOW. Now we need someone—Ray Hill—that can do the job, collect those chits, and then step on a few toes at City Hall, if that has to be done. We were good little boys and girls this last election. We dutifully kept quiet and went down and helped vote ALL the incumbents back into office. We are asking Lee Harrington to write an in-depth analysis for the FORUM revealing just how crucial those gay votes were for ALL the incumbents. With hysteria over the health crisis mounting and backlash at new highs, we NEED a tough customer, a vocal spokesman, and a real chit collector representing our community. So join GPC or renew your membership now and vote for Ray Hill for President on January 15th.

To join GPC, send in your name, mailing address, and telephone number (plus dues) to: GPC, P.O. Box 66664, Houston, TX 77266. Regular dues are \$25 a year, \$10 memberships are available for low and fixed income and students on an honor system

basis. You must join by December 16th (by mail is OK) in order to vote on January 15th. You must be present at the election to vote (no proxies). Call Dale at GPC, 521-1000, with any questions. Get involved, DO IT! 300 members for this vital group is a pretty sad state of affairs.

Stewart McCloud
for the FORUM



Ray Hill—Off & Running



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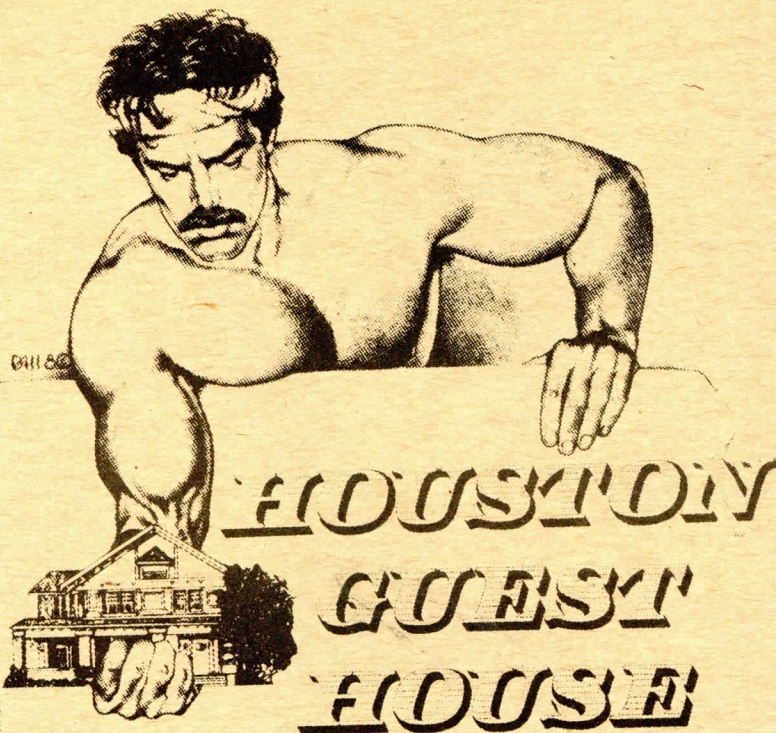
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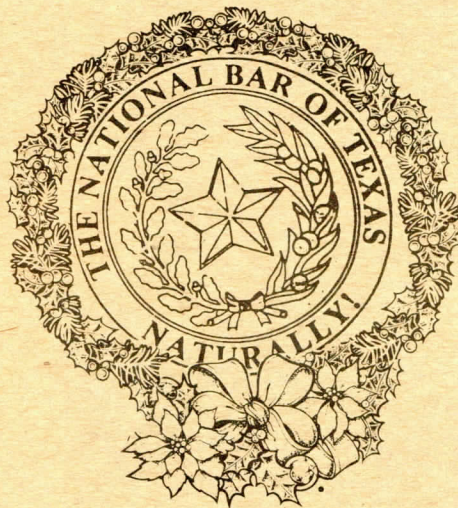
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THE QUEST FOR MR RIGHT

Well, the Quest for Mr. Right does seem to be off and running and has been very gratifying for all of us. Last Sunday at the Brazos River Bottom we had our first barbecue and dance event/happening. A very nice crowd, a sight for sore eyes, showed up—even in the bitter cold, and had a great time. One "Questor" told us: "It is so nice to finally join some gay thing, that I am supposed to graduate from!" and he told us he has gotten dates out of the two events he attended. We assured him that his wedding photos might be a front cover "Photo essay" for the Forum. Many thanks to the BRB which did a smashing job with food, decorations, and a live band—and special thanks to Tommy and Ray in the Brazos Back Pocket—a fine shop at the BRB. Tommy and Ray read about the Quest and the red, white, and blue theme and they generously gave out little American flags for people to wear at the event. It was very touching to look across the wide range of folks there and see so many American flags stuck here and there. It was also quite interesting WHERE they put their flags. Hmmm.

This Sunday's (December 8th) host location is the new club Metro, at 911 West Drew in Montrose, right off Fairview and Montrose Blvd. (next to Hooters). This is a beautiful new bar which has been fully

remodeled with a fine, sleek modern look. They have a great sound system and there will be dancing as at the BRB—but more of an intimate disco atmosphere. There is no cover charge, DJ on hand, and the Metro will offer 75¢ Cape Cods, Bloody Marys, and Screwdrivers, as well as 75¢ Long Neck Beers, and 50¢ Schnapps. Control yourself to look pretty as possible unless you believe in: "I know I don't look pretty, but I feel just gorgeous". That is this Sunday, December 8th, at Metro, 5 to 9 p.m. The Quest is on!

As you may know, the Quest for Mr. Right is a concept invented by the Forum to help people meet new people. It is a 1985 MEET RACK (yes, meet) not the old "meat racks" of yesteryear. If you are looking for love and romance, want to meet new people, in a new way, this is a 1985 version of the old church social or college mixer. The location changes every week and we have been asked by attendees to just keep it going into 1986. We plan to do so—and by popular demand!

The Quest is a continuing event, series of happenings, changing each Sunday—so that we all get out of our ruts—whatever they are—and get out and meet new people in new places with new attitudes. We strive for a relaxed and casual atmosphere of a MEET RACK and want folks to just stop by and casually check things out.

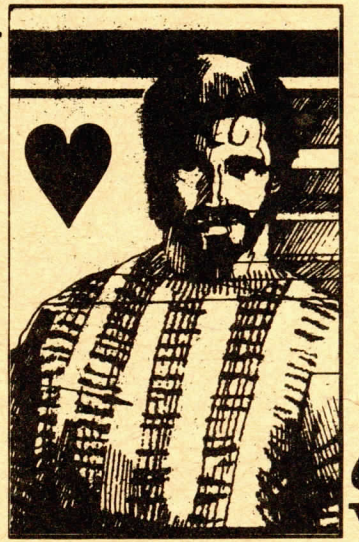
When you really want to get in the swing of things you wear red, white, or blue—or as at the BRB people grabbed on to the American flag idea quite quickly. It is important at these Quest events to just be relaxed and casual and be open and receptive to meeting new people, to new quality relationships coming into your life. This is new and different for everyone. Come alone or come with a friend or two.

The next Quests will be at the Venture -N (the 15th) and then a Christmas buffet, at Rascals (the 22nd). The buffet dinner should be splendid—with that great Rascals quality, and the Venture-n is decorating for a Christmas fantasy for the Quest there on the 15th. Each event has its own flavor and is unique.

As we have said, what is nice about ALL these Quest events is that at each one you are at least walking into an atmosphere that is supportive of you meeting other people and where you at least know that the people there are receptive to relationships. The universe of prospects is thus somewhat narrowed down to other open and receptive people—just like you. It is not a jaded singles thing—but a warm, mellow chance to get out and see just what's happening and see if the chemistry is right for you and someone else who's right up your alley!

Come join us at Metro for the Quest for Mr. Right this Sunday December 8th, at

K



Y

Metro, 911 W. Drew. Try to wear red, white, or blue. Call 520-0454 if you need directions. Come get acquainted, get some names and phone numbers. A date next week—even better. Come on out and test the waters. Join the many others who are enjoying this new community-oriented experience. We all get in ruts—maybe it is time to climb out of yours. It would be nice to bring in the New Year with a wonderful New Man in your life. Come on, now—it would be ever so nice!

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HOW TO MEET MEN

THE QUEST FOR MR. RIGHT.
10 TIPS FOR MEETING PEOPLE
ON "THE QUEST".

1. Remember everyone fears rejection and many people are shy. Be open and receptive to ALL people and strive to make everyone relax and feel at ease.
2. Present yourself as someone who at first glance seems worth falling in love with. Look your best. Strive to make the best possible first impressions.
3. Be positive, upbeat, smile, be warm & friendly. Happy meets happy. Leave your hassles and problems at home!
4. What is special, unique about you?? Slyly bring it out in conversation. Be warm & responsive, interested in what is special and unique about others, too!
5. Don't be judgmental or critical. Flow with it. Be open and receptive to others. All too often in life we don't KNOW just what or who will be best for us.
6. Use props. Like the little American flags at the BRB Quest. Give others ANY excuse to talk to you. T-shirts with writing: pins; buttons, a flower in your hair, whatever is YOU. Be creative.
7. Go Alone. Friends are wonderful but don't hunt in packs. If you go with friends—split up—reconnect—split up. Look vulnerable—and alone—solo flights are the best.
8. Ask someone to dance. That's an easier one. Try it!
9. If you are this shy: scribble out a note, personally—and give it to your Mr. Right as you dash out the door. The note says: Hi—you're cute. I'm single. I'd like to see you. Please call me." Add your name & number. Who knows?
10. Let everyone know you ARE looking. Don't worry what they think. Let people know of your own Quest. You'll be amazed how helpful people will be. Let them help out.

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AMANDA

W

ell, Dear Fans, this week, Amanda has an interesting letter from one of her Dear Fans.

Because of the unique nature of this letter, we thought it would be most becoming to let you all in on it, in case you may be able to identify with it!

Dear Amanda: My lover and I have tried to solve this problem on our own, but we have finally given up and are writing you for help.

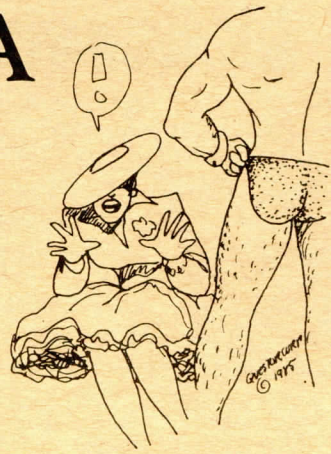
We live out in what you would call the suburbs, off the Katy Freeway, in a real nice neighborhood. We've fixed our house up real nice, and we enjoy our lifestyle, and our neighbors are very friendly and accepting of us because we don't flaunt our sexuality. In fact, our neighbors are always coming over to visit, which is part of the problem.

One of our neighbors is a very attractive married man who is built like a football player and looks like a blonde Tom Selleck. He and his wife come over a lot and party with us, and that's not so bad, or at least it wasn't until recently.

Over the past few weeks, the man has been coming over to the house and has been getting very "friendly" with my lover and me. In fact, the other night, he came over wearing a Chippendale outfit, complete with sequined bikini, bow tie and cuffs! He was very drunk (he drinks alot!) and danced around the house and was making actual advances at us! His wife was getting so concerned, she nearly broke into tears!

Amanda, we don't know how to handle this. They're nice people, and we like them, but we don't want to be subject to some sort of "swapping" situation, and we certainly don't want to be held responsible for "influencing" him into doing these crazy things. What do you think is happening to him, and how do you think we should handle it?

Signed,
M.B. and M.R.



Well! Amanda is quite aware that there are lots of wonderful men and women living out there in the suburbs, and in response to this letter, we should take into consideration that it is certainly a totally different world than anything we in Montrose can imagine.

As we have stated before, we prefer to live in the Inner City, because suburbanites would most likely find our wardrobe far too disconcerting, and they wouldn't like our occasional Caligula parties, where we lower horses down from the ceiling to the squealing amusement of our guests. But M.B. and M.R. do have a real problem!

It sounds to Amanda like your neighbor is harboring some very serious problems about his sexual identity, and he may have decided that you two are the knights in shining armor who will rescue him from his indecision—but don't be deceived, Dears.

First of all, your neighbor sounds like he may drink a bit heavily. If this is the case, anything is possible. You say that you are "out" with your neighbors and that they respect you and don't seem to be the least bit concerned about your lifestyle. That depends. Amanda has found that neighbors can be charming, or they can be completely hideous, and there is always a very

fine line between them. It's rather like living as an atheist in a house that straddles the line between Moslem and Christian Beirut. You can be friendly, but at any given moment, things could become dangerous and you can be caught in the crossfire.

The Chippendale outfit is interesting. We remember renting one of those once for Halloween, but returned it because the air conditioning was too cold at Rich's. Your neighbor, handsome though he may be, was probably reveling in wild abandon, knowing full well that you two were watching his every move—no matter how offended you probably tried to appear. No doubt his wife was well aware of the whole transaction of looks between you all, and there may be a chance that she and her husband had argued about such things before and he was going to show her what for. Who knows?

It is not for Amanda to speculate why someone acts the way he does, but it is obvious that you and your lover are being used as some sort of vehicle by this man—either for sexual gratification or just plain exhibitionism.

Amanda advises you to ignore him when he's like this. If he becomes too friendly, simply smile and spill your drink on him, or else calmly move away from him to another part of the house (perhaps the bathroom will do), and let him cool down. These bursts of affection, or whatever, come and go, you know.

If his advances continue or grow more bold, then we suggest that you confront him directly and ask him what exactly it is he's after. If it's sex, then you must tell him to go elsewhere, but do so kindly. If he's admitting to "coming out," then you should advise him to seek a therapist, and especially to consult his wife about the matter. After all, this is 1985, and most wives can't be deceived for long—in fact,

it sounds like she knows more about what's going on than he does! But more than anything, don't let yourselves be used, or get yourself into a compromising situation. If the worst happened, your neighbors could all turn against you in the most ugly way, and that would prove most harmful to all involved.

Finally, Amanda has to thank you for sending this letter, which reveals something quite interesting about our bedroom communities. Yes, there is life beyond the Loop, and it sounds like it's quite interesting in many ways. Our nose used to bleed everytime we passed the Galleria, but maybe it wouldn't hurt to experience some other atmospheres! Hopefully the people we meet will be more well adjusted than your unfortunate friend!

Incidentally, we have to thank Mary's for awarding us the "Golden Turkey Award" last week. We're not sure what to do with it, but it is always an honor to receive recognition from one of Houston's greatest institutions.

by Amanda B. Recondwith
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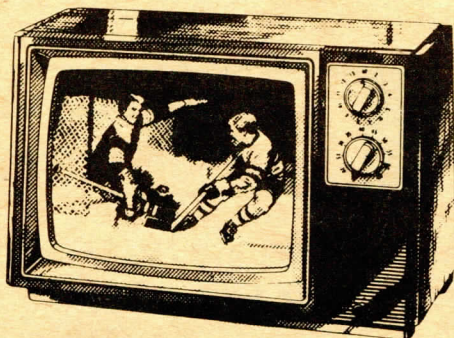
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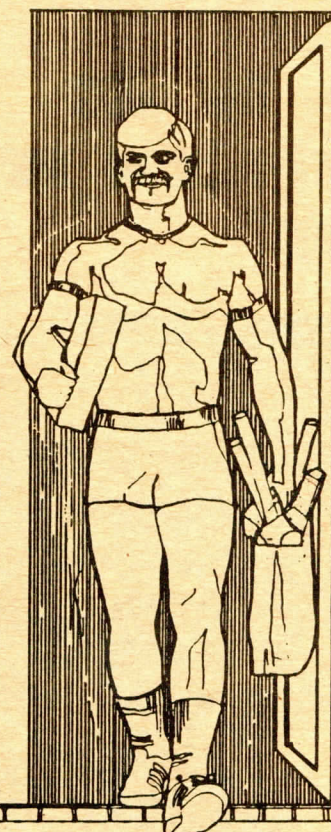
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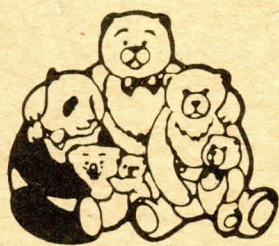
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Can We Talk?

HOLIDAYS. Wasn't Thanksgiving grand? Now we can get on with December, the most festive month of all. It has all those little celebrations: Pearl Harbor Day; Immaculate Conception; U.N. Human Rights Day; Our Lady of Guadalupe Day; Bill of Rights Day; Wright Brothers Day; Forefathers' Day; Hanukkah; Odun Kekere; Christmas; 2nd Christmas and New Year's Eve. Something for everyone.

Those paper mache' angels: *Al Hazlett* and *Richard Praivitz*. THE PAPER MAKERS are holding Open House Christmas Party this evening until 9 at 209 Stratford, 522-0642. They make the wonderful animals you've seen at The Westheimer Art Festival and The Renaissance and at The Missouri Street Gallery. Don't miss this event.

The 3rd Annual Art Auction benefiting the GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD is December 8 from Noon to 6pm at The Montrose Counseling Center at 900 Lovett Blvd. Some very good buys, I hear.

St. Anne's Parish Choir on December 8 at 4pm will present their free 10th ANNUAL ADVENT CHRISTMAS CONCERT with *David Daniel* as Director of Music and *Ken Nienhuis* on the Organ at St. Anne's, Westheimer at S. Shepherd.

If you care to travel down Galveston way, tonight is THE NIGHT BEFORE DICKENS and Saturday and Sunday DICKENS ON THE STRAND. Many of our community talents will be represented including the Noon:30; 2pm (Parade) & 4:30 Concerts by THE MONTROSE SYMPHONIC BAND, preparing for their own annual event: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS Concert, December 14 at the marble and opera house setting of Lanier Middle School, 2600 Woodhead. Guests will be the wonderful MCCR Choir (remember the June Concert when they did "WE ARE THE WORLD?") and a pre-concert at 7:30 by the re-grouped MONTROSE SINGERS, who are just about everywhere these days. Tickets are only \$5, call 527-9454.

Tonight is the opening of the *Ron English Show: ANNUS/MIRABILIS* at the Kwikwash Gallery on Montrose.

ON THE RUN

How nice to see famous entertainer *John Whitmore* and *Harry Howard* at the Ven-

tue N during Revival Hour last Sunday. In fact, I ran into many of the IN crowd there. *David & Big Jim* promise everyone a special event on December 15 at 1pm—a CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR, lighting of the bar. This is also the weekly party for Looking for Mr. Right, Venture N is so wonderful.

That brings up runways. Need extra Christmas money? Who doesn't? Talk to Wendell at The Studio 13. They are planning the largest juiciest prizes ever given to amateur drag contestants in the state. MSBand's *Tom Moore* and I shocked Mary's one time, but that's another story. Speaking of prizes, those of you out Club Laradon way, have you noticed the SAUSALITO APARTMENTS on Imperial Valley Drive? They have trips available, if you sign a year's lease, to Australia, Hawaii or Mexico, Nice Holiday Trip!

Speaking of trips, I stood in the cold drizzle to see The Mary's Turkey Awards, and I know who should get one next time. My bitch is getting the show started on time. Come on. With a whole week to organize. Shame on *Ron Souix*, no show! HOUSTON FORUM won two awards. Something about what *Stewart McCloud* tips with and dear *Amanda* got hers. We all expected real turkeys for Thanksgiving, not a rubber chicken—SO TASTELESS, I LOVED IT!

At 611 I ran into *Andy Mills* with *Troy Perry* and I saw handsome *David Cockerell* in from the hill country, who also has survived a head-on collision without a scratch. He was decorating *Debbie Seagraves'* front porch.

MAKING PLANS

Metro's *Bart Johnson* is planning a big blow out for this Sunday's QUEST FOR MR. RIGHT. Please make plans to hunt for me! Got Tuesday off? you might be interested to go up to Tomball to attend an auction of 3/4 of a million dollars worth of restaurant equipment. Some of it is 3 years old and has been used about 20 days. It's part of the liquidation of T.N.T., the Royal Kitchens at THE TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL. They're splitting the sheets after a 10 year relationship, you know how that goes. If interested call, (713) 356-3002 for directions and poop.

Need a change for lunch? Try seeing handsome *Mike Guice* at *Barry & Robert's*

Chafing Dish for a wonderful holiday atmosphere and now they have economy paced lunch specials. Treat yourself!

Speaking of food, we'll miss Tim's Coffee Shop and all the eye-fuls of after hour glitter. Best wishes, Tim.

Until next Friday, CAN WE TALK?

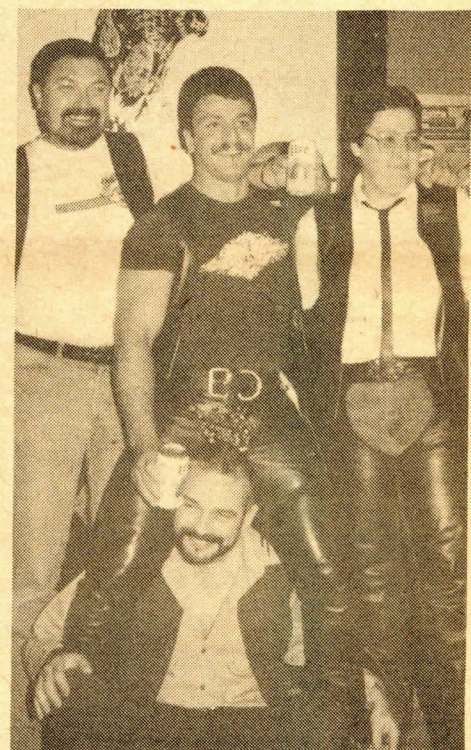
Question of the Week: Is Key West really the closest thing to Heaven?
 Last week's answer: CAREFULLY.

by Elroy Forbes

Play Safe!



I was de
 he just



All must agree the cocktail party the eve of contest was a hit. Ripcord's *Ron DeLeon*, *Vince Roy* (under *Patrick Toner*) and *Cindy Ewing*.

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We Talk?

Wasn't Thanksgiving over we can get on with the most festive of all those little or Day; Immaculate Rights Day; Day; Bill of Rights Day; Forefathers' Day; Christmas; Year's Eve. Some-

Angels: Al Hazlett THE PAPER MA- House Christmas at 209 Stratford, the wonderful Westheimer naissance and at lery. Don't miss

ction benefiting WITCHBOARD to 6pm at The ater at 900 Lovett ys, I hear. on December 8 free 10th AN- STMAS CON- Director of Mu- he Organ at St. Shepherd.

Galveston way, BEFORE DICK- nday DICKENS y of our commu- ented including e) & 4:30 Con- SE SYMPHON- heir own annual USTMAS Con- marble and op- Middle School, will be the won- ember the June WE ARE THE ert at 7:30 by OSE SINGERS, here these days. 527-9454. of the Ron Eng- ABILIS at the ntrose.

entertainer John ard at the Ven-

tue N during Revival Hour last Sunday. In fact, I ran into many of the IN crowd there. David & Big Jim promise everyone a special event on December 15 at 1pm—a CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR, lighting of the bar. This is also the weekly party for Looking for Mr. Right, Venture N is so wonderful.

That brings up runways. Need extra Christmas money? Who doesn't? Talk to Wendell at The Studio 13. They are planning the largest juiciest prizes ever given to amateur drag contestants in the state. MSBand's Tom Moore and I shocked Mary's one time, but that's another story. Speaking of prizes, those of you out Club Laradon way, have you noticed the SAUSALITO APARTMENTS on Imperial Valley Drive? They have trips available, if you sign a year's lease, to Australia, Hawaii or Mexico, Nice Holiday Trip!

Speaking of trips, I stood in the cold drizzle to see The Mary's Turkey Awards, and I know who should get one next time. My bitch is getting the show started on time. Come on. With a whole week to organize. Shame on Ron Souix, no show! HOUSTON FORUM won two awards. Something about what Stewart McCloud tips with and dear Amanda got hers. We all expected real turkeys for Thanksgiving, not a rubber chicken—SO TASTELESS, I LOVED IT!

At 611 I ran into Andy Mills with Troy Perry and I saw handsome David Cockerell in from the hill country, who also has survived a head-on collision without a scratch. He was decorating Debbie Seagraves' front porch.

MAKING PLANS
Metro's Bart Johnson is planning a big blow out for this Sunday's QUEST FOR MR. RIGHT. Please make plans to hunt for me! Got Tuesday off? you might be interested to go up to Tomball to attend an auction of 3/4 of a million dollars worth of restaurant equipment. Some of it is 3 years old and has been used about 20 days. It's part of the liquidation of T.N.T., the Royal Kitchens at THE TEXAS RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL. They're splitting the sheets after a 10 year relationship, you know how that goes. If interested call, (713) 356-3002 for directions and poop.

Need a change for lunch? Try seeing handsome Mike Guice at Barry & Robert's

Chafing Dish for a wonderful holiday atmosphere and now they have economy paced lunch specials. Treat yourself!

Speaking of food, we'll miss Tim's Coffee Shop and all the eye-fuls of after hour glitter. Best wishes, Tim.

Until next Friday, CAN WE TALK?

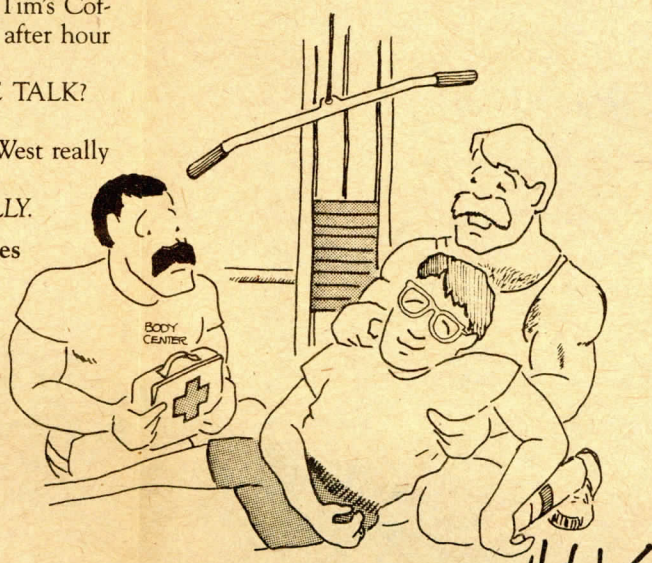
Question of the Week: Is Key West really the closest thing to Heaven?

Last week's answer: CAREFULLY.

by Elroy Forbes

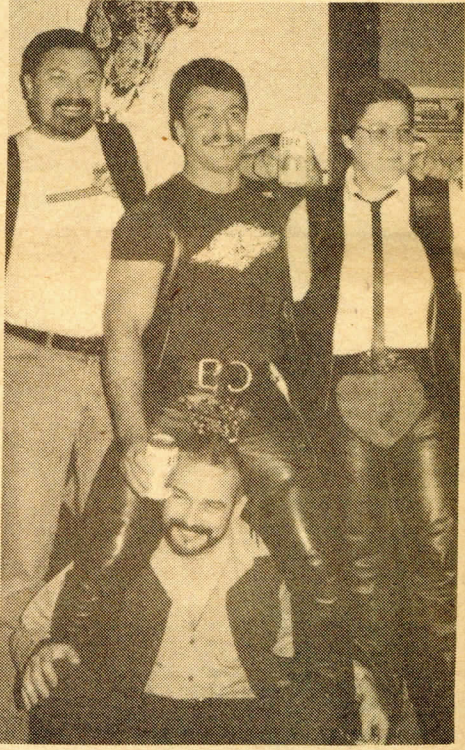
Play Safe!

MAX

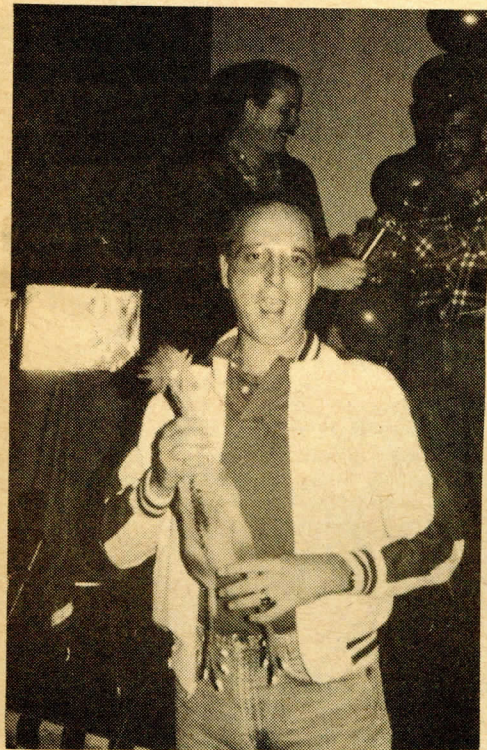


I was demonstrating the lat pull-down and he just passed out.

© 1985 Angst Design



All must agree the cocktail party the eve of contest was a hit. Ripcord's Ron DeLeon, Vince Roy (under Patrick Toner) and Cindy Ewing.



Accepting for HF's Amanda, Randy Brown, while Dick and cutey, Ken Claude look for Ron Souix.

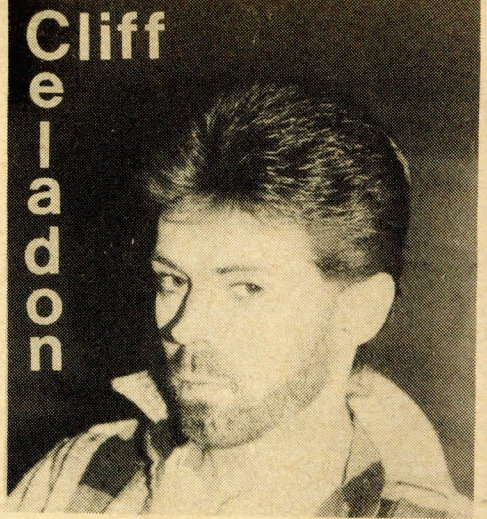
RSVP AT RASCALS

Respondez s'il vous plait Most Certainly—now thru December 14th. Don't miss them!

Well, it was a warm and hearty "Welcome Back!" for the wonderful group R.S.V.P. this week at Rascals. These fun guys and gals have a growing fan club here and we have yet another CLASS ACT at Rascals. As a community we are truly blessed to have such an establishment, drawing such talent to our city.

R.S.V.P. is a group act with two fun guys and two really funny gals—they make beautiful music—and comedy—together and talk about harmony they have got them. What is unique, besides their truly blessed harmony, is the incredible way they can do the sounds of other instruments themselves when only accompanied by a piano. You have to see/hear it to believe it. Once again Rascals has recognized that a real crowd pleaser is the act that can engage the audience in the fun, too. They have a wide range of selections, and some hilarious Christmas material to boot. They will be at Rascals three times a night now thru December 14th. Don't miss this one—makes a fun date out with friends or that special someone. Hmm hmmm hmmm! Rascals, 2702 Kirby (just off Westheimer), call 524-6272 for info. All major credit cards.

Also, do you find each holiday season that you just don't seem to ever get to enjoy Christmas dinner with friends, roomies or lovers because they all seem to race HOME. Well, this year not to worry. Rascals is having a special Christmas buffet on Sunday, December 22nd with this in mind. They are opening specially to host this Christmas affair on that Sunday. It will be \$15 per person—and now is the time to line up your date or a whole flock of friends—bring the whole gang down to enjoy Christmas dinner together before everyone splits for home later that week. Christmas is such a special time of the year and here you will have a splendid opportunity to share its joy and warmth with those you really care about. Mark your calendar for Sunday evening the 22nd and get on the phone and get it together, Myrna!!! Merry Christmas!



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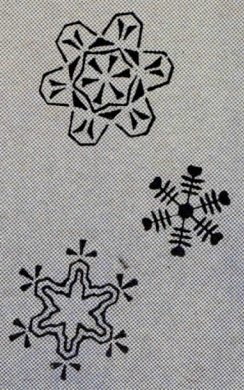
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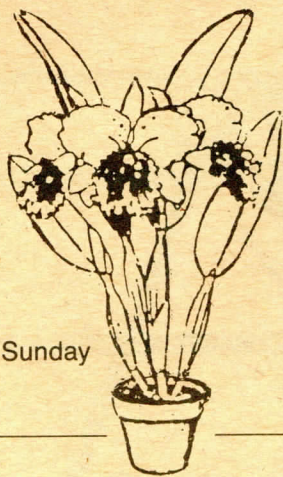
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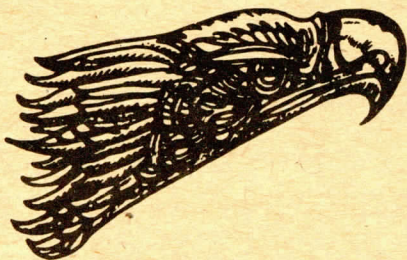


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Horoscopes

ARIES: You should be concentrating on making a team effort with your mate, lover, or life partner at this time and MAKE it work for you both. The New Moon on the 11th could evoke new and brilliant schemes. Shoot high. Some career uncertainty now.

TAURUS: Lusty desires prominent on the 10th and 11th. You earthy bull! Around the 8th Mercury provides you with good insights into a loved one's innermost feelings. Five planets in your sector of passion should make you exceptionally amorous now! Hmm.

GEMINI: Do you Twins find yourself/yourself drawn into romance at this time?? It should be beckoning. Have you been attending the Quest(s) for Mr. Right? Hmm. You may well have an interesting inner battle—independence vs. desire to make attachments.

CANCER: Around the 8th you Moon kiddos will be talking like loony birds to that special someone in your lives. Chatty! Your 6th house of employment and health is also prominent now. Pay heed in those areas. Watch for hair pulls at the office.

LEO: Five planets all join now to encourage intense romance during most of December. Lucky Jupiter also puts its blessings on intense involvement. At least there should be a generous Santa around! You are at your charming best Mr. Lion or Ms. Lioness.

VIRGO: Around the 8th you should have intense family talks likely bro or sis. You should learn far more about what really went on in your family scene. A party could clear some debris from your life and aid in cleaning up your digs, too. Emphasis on HOME.

LIBRA: Now til the 14th you are quite energetic and charming, too. About the 8th you may have hassles in your record—the bank's (or other financial institution). Emphasis and more emphasis on communication. Get those Xmas cards/greetings out—and soon.

SCORPIO: Around the 8th make those important phone calls and get letters out. 2nd house of money/finances is crucial now. You can make and spend money now and so just flow with it. Sexy Scorpio is now working towards a jolly Santa image for the holidays.

SAGITTARIUS: Five planets in your sign and it is your cycle now spell for greater drive, dynamism, and flash (and not bulbs). The New Moon the 11th means a new you and people are noticing it. Should be some strange but exciting romantic opportunities now.

CAPRICORN: You may well crave a retreat from office pressures now. Xmas parties never were your favorite were they?? At least at the office, huh? You feel intent on career and the gang there is getting more and more lax. You feel real private. Retreat some.

AQUARIUS: You are feeling real social now and should enjoy the holiday and partying season enormously. But, now you are finding that you enjoy loyal and reliable pals far more than clinging vine types. Good. Friendships and social life are emphasis now.

PISCES: Now hot love-making should enhance a present or new relationship. You try to get away but there is such emphasis on career and your reputation. The New Moon on the 11th spells success/promotions, even revolutionary changes in your position.



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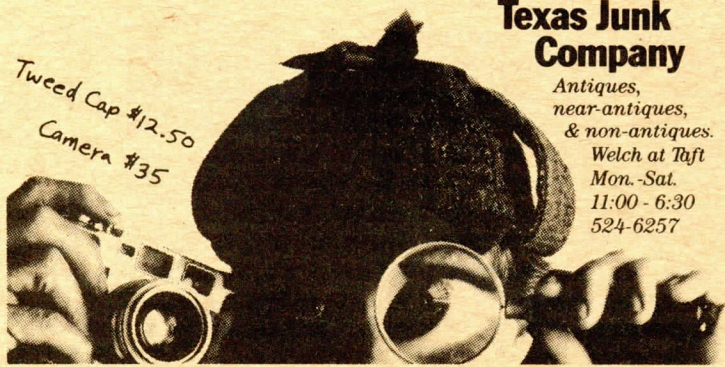
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Dear Mona: ADVICE & BEADS READ

I'm tired of the same old boring Christmas Tree every year.
Do you have any new and wonderful ideas? I really want something new and different. You know, unusual.
Thanks!
Mike on Missouri



Dear Mike:
I agree! There is nothing more boring or dull than a seven foot, "easily assembled" (HA!), geriatric old Christmas tree with the customary glass (multi-colored of course) balls hanging from each sagging limb. And don't you just love those little silver ice cycles?

They stay permanently embedded in the tree forever! I like to be a lot more original. Here are some ideas I think you may be able to either use or expand on. Then again, you may want to stick with that old tree!

THE BUTCH CHRISTMAS TREE: Just set set it up, spray it black (for image), and it will do the rest.

THEME TREES: This can include a wide array of unique oddities! For instance, there is the "Tad Nelson Original"; this consists of the "heart theme". I'm sure this tree is more appropriate for those new couples spending a first Christmas together. Couldn't you just puke! Cover your tree in every heart you can find, and believe me, there are heart ornaments everywhere! Other "theme trees" could include trees consisting of all glass ornaments, all wooden ornaments, or a tree of all one color. I get dizzy just thinking about being so traditional!

The "Gardner's Dream": This is a tree consisting of nothing but vegetable ornaments. Make sure the tree is a color that totally clashes with the rest of your color scheme. Cover it in every plastic vegetable you can find! **RAID FIESTA IF YOU MUST!** Top it with a sprinkler bucket. And for that final touch of elegance, make sure you purchase a healthy supply of hand painted, individually blown (don't get too excited!) **GLASS PICKLE ORNAMENTS** (from Germany, wouldn't you know). These are (honestly) available only at TLC and the ANNEX. But, **HURRY!** According to Jae, a very close friend, the pickle is the number-one-seller out of the other hundreds of ornaments available!

Now here are the fun ones. These are my personal (and of course, vrry creative) ideas. **THE DRAG TREE:** "Powder puff pink" flock with white ostrich feathers extending outward from the often neglected trunk. White bugle beads hanging from each branch make a real eye opening difference! And last, but not least, make sure the tree is put on a revolving stand. Top this

Enjoy your Christmas!
Merrily,
MONA

"Don't forget the man in your life"

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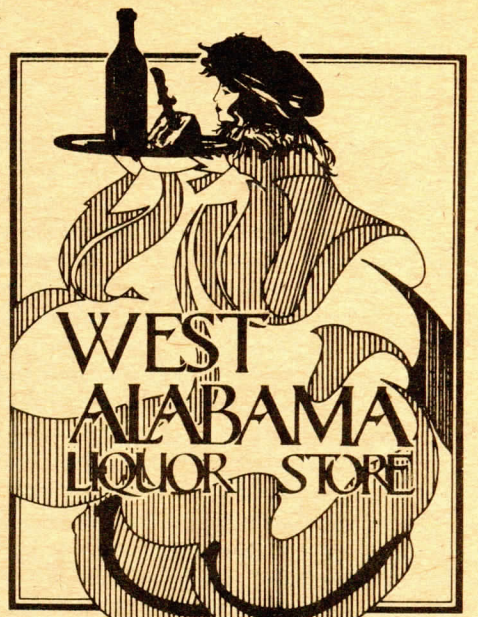
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77005 The "Good Life" in West University

ALBERT & WENDELL: Aged 36 and 39, they have been the gay darlings of West University's Bryn Mawr PlaCe for 4 years now. Ensclosed in their tasteful 2-story Georgian home, with a few Greek Revival (Ashley Wilkes) touches, they were the 2 Prince Charming figures to their het neighbors—Yuppie and Guppie heaven on earth. Both Young Republicans and established stockbroker and headhunter (We'll Get A Head Executive Search Firm), BMW and Porsche, plus the fashion-setting wardrobes of death) everyone on Bryn Mawr just loved them. Albert was even elected to the local school board and Wendell has long been sought after as a council candidate.

Their Yuppie neighbors especially loved these sweet guys' access to controlled substances when they "just wanted to experiment." The fact that these "experiments" ran for 2-3-4 years was of no matter to Albert and Wendell. These guys ALWAYS knew the right places to go, the plays to see, the hot discos, and where one should vacation every season. And they were so generous with use of their tasteful home for Young Republican fund raisers—Sen. Gramm and "Dutch" grossed hefty sums in their rug-rat free home. One neighbor even had the nerve to suggest a Straight Slate event here—reasoning that with separate bedrooms these 2 had to be OK. After all she had left her 3 kids with them one Saturday when a compulsive shopping spree to Neimans and the Galleria had otherwise destroyed her better judgment. Hmm. All was just peachy keen for Albert & Wendell, the new Guppie trend-setters, the darlings of Bryn Mawr Place, that is until Randy & James arrived on the scene.

RANDY & JAMES: James, the 54 year old banker was the first to arrive on serene Bryn Mawr Place. He bought the old Faust residence, a bit run down, and as a wealthy downtown banker, big Mercedes and all, plus servants, the neighbors were gratified at the prospect of significant capital improvements on his property. A few eyebrows were raised when the 4 jockey hitching posts had their little faces painted black again. Well, there were few Black families in West U. and the ones that were there were real mellow. Maybe this would slip by. Then there were the 2 huge Pink Flamingo bird baths on the front lawn. Now really. When the house was repainted pink to match the flamingos the local street association went to have a chat with ole James. "No dice, baby!", was James' reply. Then he put in a wide driveway from the street all the way back to his pool. Who could figure that one?

Unknown to his new neighbors, James had a fixation, no an obsession with young, blonde, hairless pool boys. He'd had his own extensive search efforts running for years in fag rags from Florida to California. Half-page overtures to sweet young things to just come take care of my pool

and I'll care for and even educate you. Finally, at long last, he'd had a promising reply from Randy, a 22 year old dropout from Conroe. Who'd have believed that his local ad in the *Montrose Voice* would have been the ticket. James had always felt Florida or So. Calif. is where all the real pool boy talent lay. Lay? Randy was indeed handsome, sun-tanned, blonde, and looked the ticket—but did not know one thing about pool maintenance. Well, his new "uncle" James fixed that and sent him off for 2 weeks for lessons, and bought him a little Chevy LUV truck stocked with pool supplies and "Randy's Pool SERVICE" emblazoned on the 2 doors. Hmm.

Randy found James to be rather easy-going. He was generous with his allowance, and the only pool he had to maintain was theirs—each Mon., Wed, and Fri., at dusk—just like clock-work. It was a bit appalling that James raced home from his downtown bank tower, those 3 nights and had his little "party" from the upstairs bedroom window, entranced with Randy's performance, but at least he'd never laid a hand on Randy. Randy noticed that the neighbors were watching the scene, too, but he didn't want to ruin a good thing—or move operations inside to the bedroom—so he kept this NEWS to himself.

James was generous, his only concern was NO DRUGS. Booze OK, but no drugs. Well, James would go away on extensive business trips. Randy always liked those periods, and of course, the pool and his dusk performances were set aside. The truth was that at 54 James was just too young for Randy's 22 year old tastes. He had a real thing for the grandpa image—perhaps going back to some liberties his maternal grandfather had taken in his early puberty. But, no matter. With James away Randy zips down to the Latin Quarter Adult Theatre and scouts the audience for those on the TOMB side of the womb to tomb spectrum there present.

Many on the womb side of the audience are perplexed to see an Adonis pool boy like Randy strolling out with the Aged 7, but no more perplexed than the neighbors back on Bryn Mawr Place. Seven codgers and Randy rollicking and skinny dipping at all hours on serene Bryn Mawr Place is indeed appalling. And then the rest!!

After a day or two of such USO work—entertaining the aging troopers—Randy hungers for younger companions, more his age. Then he'll cruise lower Westheimer for cohorts and drugs. One day he even found Lance, Rodney, Louie, and Dick our hustler/model/masseur at the U-Totem, luded out. What a party!! The 5 of them returned in the LUV truck to serene Bryn Mawr Place and the party raged for 48 hours. Randy, mindful of James' aversion to drugs, had instructed his partners in crime to destroy all evidence. Neighbors' children were soon found playing Doctor with used rigs and making roach tea at their own little parties. Needless to say things have just

gone too, too far! This is NOT Montrose!!!

James returns from an extensive business trip and unbenownst to Randy he has his own frolic planned. Randy is summarily instructed to drain the pool and an ice truck—brimful is ordered to the home. What in the world is James up to now???

Some neighbors are not waiting to find out! Even in today's depressed real estate market, 3 new "For Sale" signs have been hoisted on Bryn Mawr Place, at rock bottom, bargain basement (Filenes') prices!!!! What has the world come to???

Fiction

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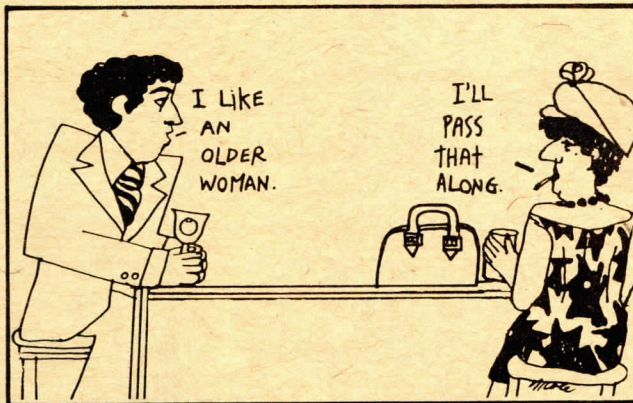
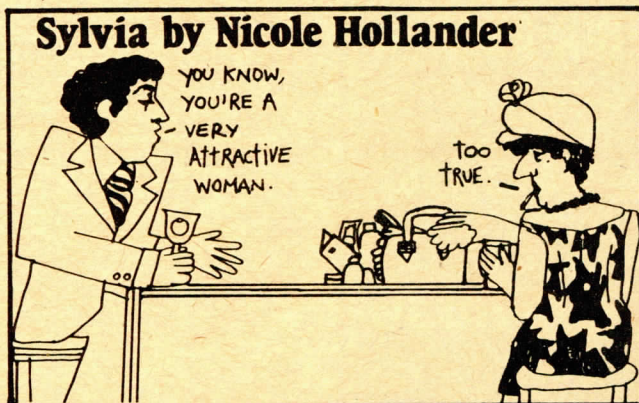
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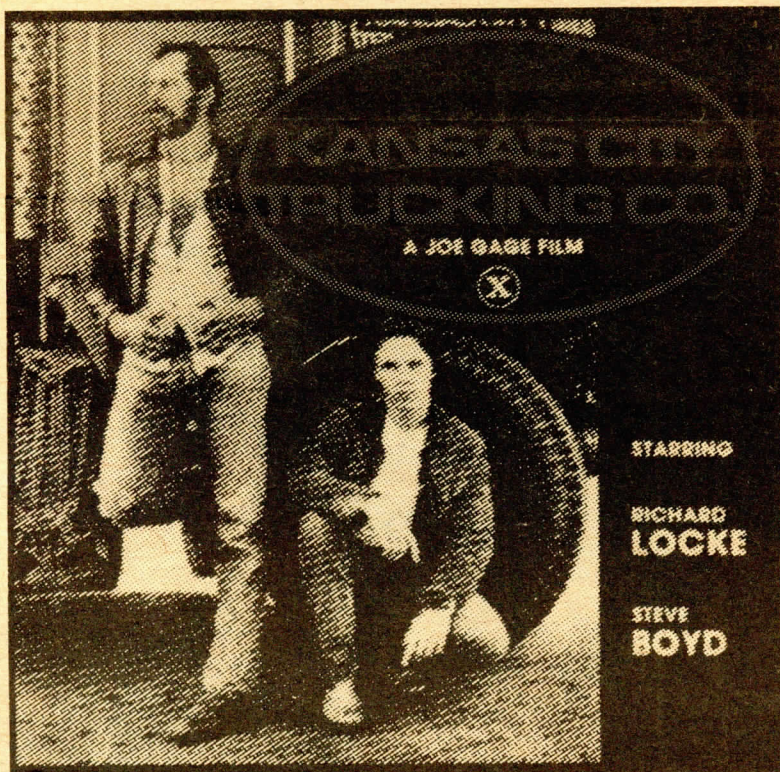
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