Houston Forum

"The Best Revenge Is A Great Lifestyle"

October 31, 1986

Volume 2, Number 43

JAZZ IT UP WITH THE STARS

An Evening featuring Stars of Houston Jazz

- The Rob Landes Trio
- Montgomery, Plant and Stritch
- Kirk Whalum and Group Session

The Tower Theatre

Monday, November 10, 1986-7:30 PM

Tickets $20 each

Box Office Hours:
Friday & Saturday, November 7th & 8th-11:00 AM-6:00 PM
Sunday & Monday, November 9th & 10th-11:00 AM-8:00 PM
Tickets also available at Ticketron Outlets.

- Benefiting AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

All monies will be used in Houston.

Let's Get Real

By Randy Brown

YOUR VOTE: USE IT OR LOSE IT

A lot of people are registered to vote in this election. Of those registered, about half of them will actually vote. Sometimes in the gay community the problem is even worse. Why? Because we get people all riled up at rallies and functions and hand out voter registration cards, and then people sign up and forget about it.

Well, this is not a good time in the history of the United States to forget about voting, because the people who want to take away your rights are organizing their side to go out and vote.

The Pat Robertsons and the Jerry Falwells are getting a bunch of voters out there who are perfectly willing to dispose of the Constitution of the United States in favor of "law and order" and putting people who test positive on the AIDS antibody test in camps. This is not far-fetched. In California right now there is an initiative on the ballot to test practically everyone in the state and then give employers the right to fire people who test positive, as well as give landlords the right to kick them out of their apartments. It might pass, folks. These people don't care about health issues. They ignore the fact that a positive test does not mean that a person had AIDS or will ever get AIDS. They now have a tool for oppression.

They will use it.

And if it passes in California, believe me, it will show up in Texas. Even if it doesn't pass in California, it might show up in Texas anyway.

That is why this year's election of judges is important. We have to have people on the bench who are aware of human rights. For heaven's sake, do *not* vote for the candidates who are running on the Conservative Republican Party line. Check the GPC endorsements instead. Even if you're a Republican, watch out for those judges.

If you pass up voting this year because it's too much of a bother or you don't really like one candidate over the other (and I know the feeling on that one), you just might be putting a smile on the faces of people who want to see you dead. This may sound a bit melodramatic, but we are in a serious pivotal time in which human rights are being shut down in favor of small-mindedness and oppression.

And the forces of Fascism are using every tool of fear and loathing they have at hand. Face it, gays are not the most popular people on the face of the Earth. We have had to fight for every tiny bit of progress we have made just to be left alone in our own spaces, much less to be granted full rights of others in this country (like immigration and travel, acceptance in the armed forces, custody of children, etc.)

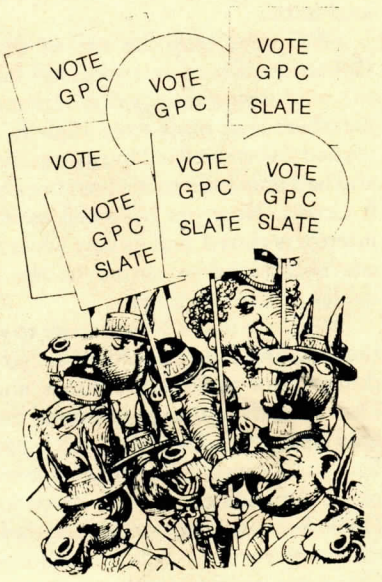
But we are about to face the most horrible battle imaginable.

And it begins on the ballot.

The people who want you dead or in camps are going to be out there voting. What are you going to do? How long will it take these people once they get control of the government (through non-voters apathy and laziness) to deny the vote to people who test positive on the AIDS antibody test?

You think it can't happen?

It can. It's already being discussed. And once ideas like that get going, it's notlong before they receive more and more support.



The only way to protect your rights is to exercise your vote. If you don't do that, we are all in trouble.

Remember to vote for Mark White because of his consistently better stand on human rights issues. And take the GPC's advice, too.

Whatever you do, don't forget the judges and don't go into the booth without knowing who to vote for.

It's your vote. For now. Use it or lose it.

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YEA! PARTY!
FRIDAY, OF COURSE!
HALLOWEENING INTO COME AS YOU
LIKE, COME AS YOU ARE, OR JUST
DON'T CHANGE FROM THE NIGHT BEFORE...

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 1986

... WE'RE MAKING IT HOT SO YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN...
"THERE'S GONNA BE A FREAKER'S BALL, Y'ALL!"
(YOU KNOW THE WORDS...) FROM 8PM
IN THE HIGH HOLIDAY TRADITION,
MIDNIGHT $100 BEST!

VENTURE-N

Amanda

by Amanda B. Recondwith

Dear Fans, Amanda is beginning to think that Houston is one big churning boiling pot with a million little bubbling bits coming and going from the surface to the bottom! Recently, we have been absolutely astounded at the number of changes happening around us in the fair metropolis, and it's beginning to have an adverse affect upon our usually placid frame of mind.

It seems that the most popular sign on Houston doors these days is *"Closed for Remodeling"*. Right now, there are several bars and restaurants with such signs pasted up on their locked doors, and it can be very confusing!

The other night, we were thinking of going out with friends for a fun night on the town. We put on our most daring Plunge To The Pink red satin Night Out Frock with the Strangle Tight Whoops Hoops purples sash and Butterfly Death Bow in the back. It's so tight, we can barely walk in the damn thing, but it certainly makes a statement! Who says fashion has to be practical! Anyway, we were dressed to the tits in a most beautiful ensemble, ready to paint the town red, and all that happened was a faint dash of rouge and barely anything else!

We went to a well known restaurant/nightclub and were astounded to find the doors locked and the windows dark! Try as we might, there was no answer, and we stared in disbelief as we noticed that a sign hung in the window saying *"Closed for Remodeling."* Well, we were most disappointed! It makes our heart sad to see so many places coming and going. So, to be completely morbid, we had Sebastian take us all through the city to things that *used* to be.

WE went past the site of the Old Plantation, where everyone still mourns the wild new evenings out. Amanda remembers that place only vaguely, since we had just arrived in Houston at the time and had only been to it a few times before it closed. Now, its hallowed cavernous interior is gutted, and its ugly white frame sits abandoned -a shrine to the disco babies of five years ago.

We drove down Westheimer to where the Loading Dock used to be. Now, its dim exterior advertises antiques, and our Dear Friends in the car lamented the lost wild days of drugs and sweat, pounding beat and stomping feet inside a very dark place. Amanda never really cared for the Dock, because it was simply too dark and there was never enough air conditioning. Our foam padding used to melt, making undressing rather like peeling wax off our chest!

Oh God, then we passed the sight of the old California Rack -Amanda's *first* gay bar. We think our Dear Friend Kevin was just being cruel now that we look back and realize what sort of place that was. There were things going on in there that still defy description, and for a young girl to have been so rudely exposed to such rude exposure . . .well, it's made us into what we are today!

Then, there's that old coral colored building with the pool off Taft -Houston's on Richmond, and the entire lower end of Westheimer that used to be full of people and parties -all empty and abandoned. It was really quite depressing, and we began to think that maybe we were better off staying at home with our cat and the maid.

Amanda certainly hopes there isn't much more "remodeling" done in Houston. Sometimes too much remodeling can leave a place uninhabitable.

DON'T MISS
HALLOWEEN
ALL WEEKEND AT THE BRAZOS: Cap off your parties with a ghoulish nitecap in "House of Horrors" -- BRB PATIO Friday Nite Costume Contest -- Cash prizes $100 1st Place 11:00 p.m.

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BRAZOS RIVER BAND

Join us Sunday for Steak Night. 6:00 pm 16 oz T-Bone
Salad Bar -- Baked Potato -- all the fixins $4.00

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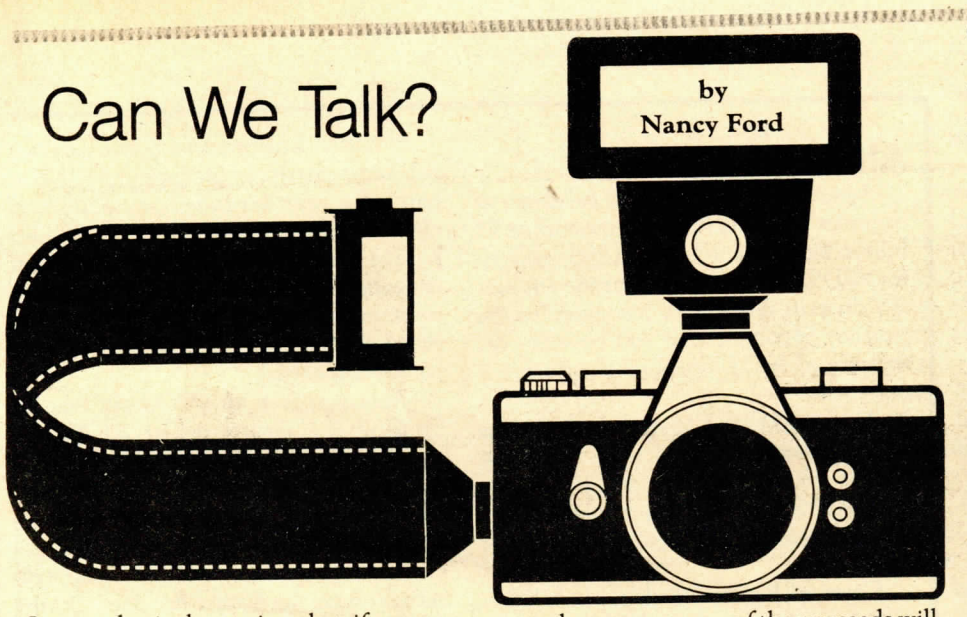
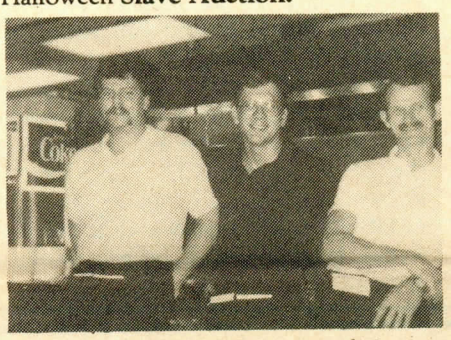
Can We Talk?

by
Nancy Ford



Let me begin by saying that if you are reading this edition of **The Forum** on Friday night, Howlin' Halloween, I hope you are reading in it one of the dozens of neighborhood clubs and restaurants that have pulled out all the stops for our National Holiday. Hot prizes for hot costumes are being offered at **Cutters, Venture-N, The Ripcord, The Galleon, Kindred spirits** (where one of the judges is the Forum's own **Bar Wilson, Rock "N" Horse,** and just about every other establishment in town that boasts electricity and run water. **NRG** will be divine with **Divine,** and **Chutes** will sell live flesh to the highest bidder with a Halloween **Slave Auction.**



Glamour boys Michael, Shane, and Terry at Charlie's Coffee Shop.

A poll was taken of some of the members of our community in honor of the holiday season. They were asked, *"If you had a choice to become anyone in the world for Halloween night, who would you choose to trade places with?"*

Jerry at the BRB "Marilyn Monroe. I've always wanted to be a sultry blonde."

Richard at the Barn "Papa Smurf" -in keeping with tradition.

Bob at GLC Tours "Juan Carlos, King of Spain, because he's good looking and really rich."

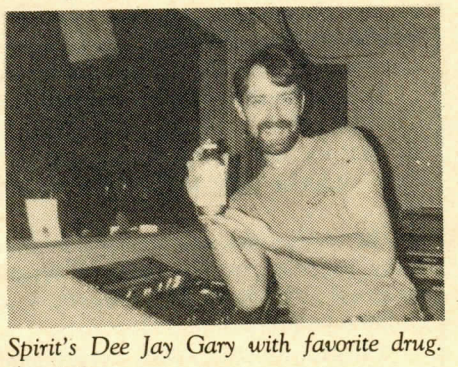
Bill Grimes, sculptor "I don't know. I don't want to pin myself down to just one person."

Ricky "Lucy" Lane at Mary's "Lucille Ball, of course."

B.J. Webb at Richmont Square Apartments "I can't think of anybody. I like me."

Lambda, our community's own chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous will host a Halloween Dance Friday night featuring live magical entertainment. Houston Lambders (?) are also getting ready for the annual **Round-up Celebration** to be held Thanksgiving weekend at **Stouffers Greenway Plaza.** Call 521-9772 for info.

Circle November 10th on your calendar for *"Jazz It Up With The Stars"* at the Tower Theater benefiting **The AIDS Foundation of Houston.** This musical extravaganza will feature **The Rob Landes Trio, Montogomery, Plant, and Stretch,** and Columbia recording artist/hometown jazz man **Kirk Whalum. Diane Crumb** of the Foundation says that every penny of the proceeds will stay right here in Houston to help meet urgent needs in our own city. Tickets can be purchased at the Tower box office or through Ticketron.



Spirit's Dee Jay Gary with favorite drug. Ascriptin.

I'm informed that I've been remiss in not mentioning the delicious bar-be-que buffet served at **Kindred Spirit's** Sunday night **Beer Bust,** prepared loving and expertly by **Mr. Mark.** So here you go, Mark. consider it mentioned. Tell me, do you deliver? **"8x10 Glossy"** continues

Kim and Terry, two more girls who just want to have fun. Which they do.

its stellar run each Monday and Tuesday evening. Call a friend and enjoy Kindred Spirits in an entirely new light.

Gail Gerrard giving fever to yet another helpless cabaret-goer.

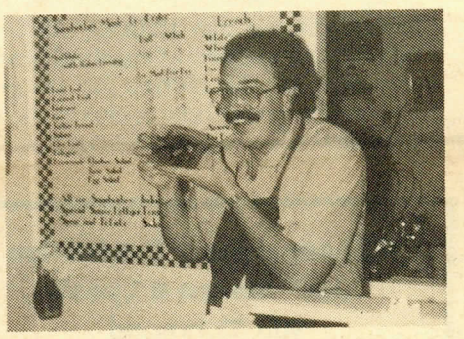
November 6th *Star Search* comes to **Cutters.** Well no, it's not the real Star Search with Ed McMahon. This one is hostessed by **Gail Gerrard** and will feature the talent of our friends and neighbors who are willing to expose their souls onstage in exchange for the possibility of winning valuable prizes. **Yours Truly** has been honored with the duties as one of the judges for this competition. Potential contestants should be aware that while no bribes will be tolerated, *personal favors* are *personal favors.*

In case you didn't know, **The Country Express Band** has been named *The* **Official Band** by the **TGRA** for this year's rodeo in November. In the meantime you can enjoy **Dennis Rodriguez** and the band Saturday evening at the **Rock "N" Horse.**

In the race to become the first Montrose publication to spell his name correctly *The Houston Forum* pulls ahead and commends **E/J's Mauro** (like Vic Morrow, only different,) for his **Camp Customer Drag Night** each Sunday. Also, get out your rabbit's foot: This is the week of the **Big Buick Giveaway.**

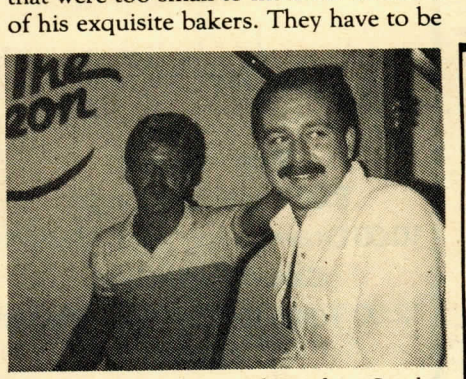
Hazelwitch Productions' Cherry Wolf (right) with birthday girl Margo.

Coming in on the heels of controversial comic **Kate Clinton** are **The Washington Sisters,** presented in concert November 11th at Christ the King Lutheran Church by **Hazelwitch Productions.** Listen for Hazelwitch's **Cherry Wolf** each Friday morning on KPFT-FM's *Breakthrough* with **Pokey Anderson.** *Breakthrough* is two stereo hours of women's music, news, and what's going on when and where. Incidentally, men can listen, too, and a lot of them do.



Checkerboard Deli owner David with Gummi Bears pictured here ***not*** *coming out of Montrose Mining Co.*

If you want a meal that sticks to your teeth as well as your ribs, visit **David** and his **Gummi Bears** (pictured here) at the **Checkerboard Deli.** David is one of the few members of a rare breed of restaurant owners who take intense pride in quality and reputation. This was demonstrated one cold, rainy day last week when he refused an entire shipment of potatoes that were too small to meet the standard of his exquisite bakers. They have to be



Meet Meatmen Jason and Randy at Sunday steak night at The Galleon.

big enough to hold all the goodies he stuffs them with, including your choice of nine different cheeses. The moral of the story: AT **Checkerboard Deli,** small potatoes are no small potatoes.

That's it 'til next Friday. Don't forget to vote for your favorite bartender this week!

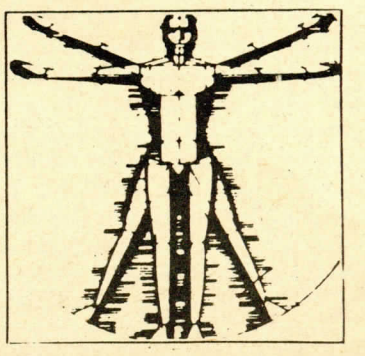
STOP THE PRESSES

Bunch K. Brittan has resigned as President of BOAT. (Bar Owners Association of Texas) The board has elected Jay Allen (the Galleon) to intrum President and recommitted the organization to it's original concept of a lobby effort to both protect the membership from unfavorable legislation and encourage legislation favorable to the needs of the membership.

The board took a hard look at the budget, cut all non-essential expenditures and have prepared a minimal Bare Bones Budget to continue the operation for the up and coming session in January, and at the same time retiring some of the long outstanding debt.

TGRA BULLETIN
November 1st is the deadline for early tickets (reduced rate)
There are 200 contesstants this year (a record) cowgirl and cowboy prize money is $1000 each. Hacienda Best Western on Market Center Blvd. is now accepting reservations.

J. BRIAN WONNACOTT, M.D., F.A.A.F.P.



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Fast Copy

By "Perfectly" Frank Carello

GETTING AN EDUCATION ANY WAY YOU CAN

Karen Morse is suing her former high school in Henniker, N.H., because she graduated from the school with honors two years ago, even though she could not read. Her family spent $17,000 for tuition at the Landmark School of Beverly where Morse learned the one R, and they want those bucks back, by gum. Morse said she got through school mostly by "just cheating." And she claims she didn't get an education! She says she has lost faith in the judicial system and adds, "It's not what they taught me in school." But she did learn how to cheat and how to sue. She has a great future as a corporate executive or a politician.

American ideals didn't hold up for four Russian immigrants who changed their minds and decided to return to the Soviet Union, just because they missed their families, their culture and couldn't find work here. What crybabies!

But it's better than being deported, especially if you're a Peruvian baby in Sweden. Last week about 20 men, armed to the teeth, stormed a flat in Stockholm and seized an 18-month-old girl whose parents are being expelled from the country. The parents were not in the flat, however, and the baby was born in Sweden. But I'll tell you one thing, that kid is not going to mess around with the Swedish authorities again, no sir. who the hell did she think she was anyway?

British novelist Jeffrey Archer resigned from his position as deputy chairman of the Conservative Party when he offered money to a prostitute to keep her from talking to reporters about an alleged affair they were having. He says they never met and he only offered the cash because she contracted him, saying that reporters were asking her about a possible connection. He though it best for all that she slip out of the country for a bit. It turns out that reporters *were* asking about a connection. In fact reporters on the News of the World are said to have encouraged her to contact Archer. What a great idea for the world of respectable journalism! Just create a scandle and mainulate the object of your invention into it. At least Arvher can write a book about it. It's a better plot than most of his, anyway. You see what a good education will get you?

Getting educated on drugs has taken a new twist in the light of wide-spread mandatory testing in the private sector. It seems that Evan W. Sloane, managing director of Question Authority, is marketing a two-minute taped message that gives tips on how to foil those tests. Fast Copy in no way advocates the use of drugs, but sure as hell believes in the constitutional protection against illegal search and seizure, so that number in SanDiego is (619) 976-8378 and the address is Question Authority, P.O. Box 151251, San Diego, Cal., 92115.

An example of how accurate tests are for drugs involves 19-year-old Elizabeth Horn whose mother sent her a package of candy bars, instant drinks and bubble bath. Horn is a student at Paris Junior College in North Texas. Well, it seems the package cracked and some of the instant tea started to leak out. The police tested it and it tested out to be hashish. Horn's lawyer went to the store, bought a similar jar of instant tea, brought it back to the station and *it* tested out as hashish. Even though Horn can read, she has filed a suit against the company that makes the drug testing kit that the police used. Go get 'em!

Judging from the piles of mud all over Texas, it seems the election is right around the bend. Fast Copy is sick to death from all the squabbling going on in the race for governor, but will grudgingly go to the polls and cast a vote against the one that he detests the most.

Then home to read a book. If that's impossible, does anyone know a good lawyer? I may not want to file suit, but I'd love the company.

NEWS SHORTS

The American Civil Liberties Union wants marriage between gays to be legalized and has started a campaign to achieve that goal. Since gays are not allowed to marry one another, questions of property, child custody and guardianship in the case of illness are all in a grey area legally.

The latest Gallup Poll shows that support for the legalization of gay relations is declining with only 33% in favor, 54% opposed and 13% with no opinion. This is drop in support from 1982 when 45% favored legalization, while 39% were opposed.

Gays in Chicago are circulating money stamped with "GAY$" to show the amount of cash spent by the gay community and to dispel the myth that AIDs can be caught by casual contact.

Activist Thomas Coleman blasted the citizen's committee who are working to bring the Democratic Convention to Houston saying that Houston did not reflect an atmosphere of equal rights for all people. He also charged that the gay community has not been consulted about the plans.

AIDS THIS WEEK

A panel from the National Academy of Sciences is asking the government for $2 billion for public education and research for AIDS, citing the fact that the amount is a drop in the bucket compared to the amount of money that will be spent for the care of AIDS victims if the money is not spent.

They said that 1 ½ million Americas were presently infected with the virus, out of which 250,000 would actually have AIDS by 1991. By that year they estimate that 175,000 people will die of the disease.

Cases of heterosexuals with AIDS is expected to increase with 7000 cases in the next five years and 3000 cases of infants with AIDs.

The panel want sex education classes to clearly define the nature of the disease to pre-pubescent children, give free needles to drug addicts and make testing more widely available, but not mandatory.

Federal health officials reported on October 23 that blacks and Hispanics account for 39% of AIDs cases, although they comprise only 18% of the population.

The disproportionate amount becomes more lopsided in the cases of female patients (51% blacks, 21% Hispanic) and children (80%black and Hispanic).

Allegations that AIDS experiments were sabotaged and information about research breakthroughs was suppressed at the Centers for Disease Control are being investigated by a team from the National Academy of Sciences.

One of the reports blocked from publication showed that commercially available spermicides will kill the AIDS virus within 60 seconds.

Houston Independent School district will soon distribute manuals on AIDS as part of a new expanded sex education effort. U.S. Surgeon General Everett Koops declared last Week that sex education courses in schools should be presented at an early age with information about AIDS, but HISD had already prepared its material.

Researchers at the CDC say that by revising the definition of AIDS, the number of total cases will reflect a 14% increase. In other words, they say that there are more cases of AIDS than the current official figures reflect, and revising the definition will add those who actually have the disease but do not fit the present definition.

Surgeon General Everett Koop said last week that fatalities from AIDS are expected to rise 12% by 1991 and that no cure is currently' available for the disease. He stated that it may be the end of the century before a vaccine is developed to protect against AIDS, if then.

Koop reiterated the medical position that there is no need for widespread blood testing or for quarantining most individuals infected with the disease.

Activist Ray Hill led a small group of protesters at the front of the federal courthouse in Houston this past Monday, claiming that the Federal government has been lacking in its support of AIDS research, treatment and education programs.

Researchers at the National Cancer Institute have found a new herpes-like virus that should lead to a new research in the battle against AIDs. The virus is known as human B-lymphotropic virus or HBLV, and it attacks a white cell that works in the human body's immune system.

14th Anniversary Celebration
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Mon - Nov. 3
8:00 Festivities Begin
10:00 Drawing for "Just" Marions Clown Collection
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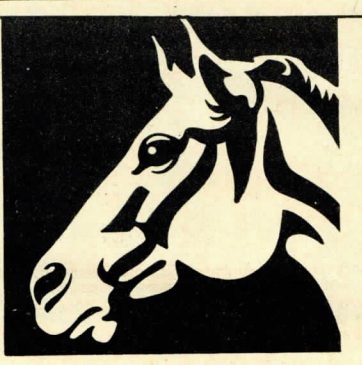

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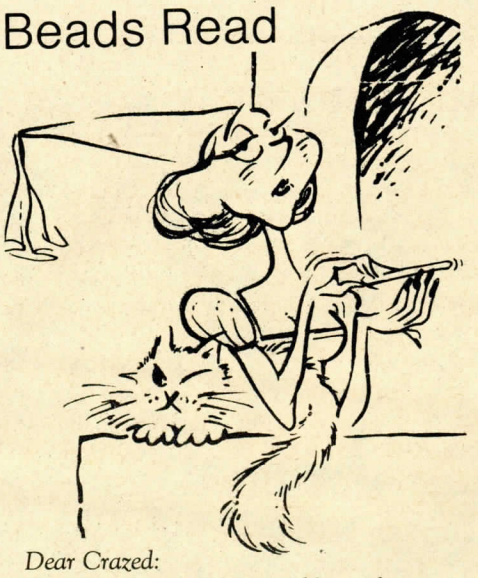
Mona Advice/ Beads Read



Dear Mona:
I have several big plants I recently bought and put in my living room. They were so pretty when I bought them, but now they're falling apart, losing leaves and branches and getting brown and ugly. I've watered them right, and they're supposedly getting enough light, but they're still dying. A friend told me to talk to them because they're lonely from being with all those other plants in the nursery. I'd feel ridiculous talking to my plants. What do you think I should do?

Signed: Green Thumb in Montrose

Dear Green Thumb:
I have two things to comment on. First, plants are supposedly sensitive to certain vibrations and even certain mental phenomena, but it is highly doubtful that your plants are actually lonely. I would think a plant would be most happy if it is alone and has plenty of room to grow and spread its branches. Secondly, if you are alone in your own living room, why would you be afraid of talking to your plants? In fact, why be afraid of talking aloud by yourself to yourself? Many people are afraid of what others will think even when alone, and Mona suggests that you talk to your plants and experiment with feeling okay about talking to yourself to yourself. There's nothing weird about it, dear.

Dear Mona:
My lover and I are always fighting. I can't get a word in edgewise, and he's always stomping out on me and spending the nights somewhere else. I can't find any solution to the problem except leaving him, but when I tell him I'll do that, he goes crazy! He locks himself in the bathroom and threatens to kill himself. Once, he got a knife and held it to his throat and said he'd cut it if I left! I don't know what to do. I'm scared to death he'll even read this, but I need help bad, and you can print this if it will help other victims like me. What would you do?

Signed: Crazed

Dear Crazed:
You have a very serious problem. If you are always arguing, though, and your relationship is miserable, do not hesitate to leave it. If your lover holds a knife to his throat, he is threatening you. I would walk out the door and let him put the knife away. He would probably feel pretty stupid after you've been gone awhile, and then he'd have to reconsider how he treats you. His conduct is inexcusable and childish, and if he really does slit his throat, then that's another issue. You can't help people if they won't help themselves, you know.

Dear Mona:
My inlaws are coming for Christmas, and I'm dreading every minute of it. They are nice people, but they always make me feel a little strange for being their son's lover. I never know how to handle them. They're very quiet around me, but when I'm gone, I always feel like they're talking about me behind my back. Am I just being paranoid?

Signed: Paranoid

Dear Paranoid:
You seem to have answered your own question. Treat them like you would treat anyone else -unless, of course, you feel paranoid about everyone else, too.

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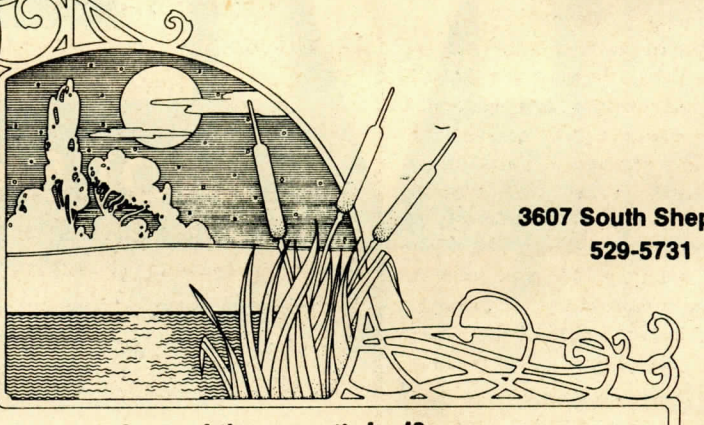

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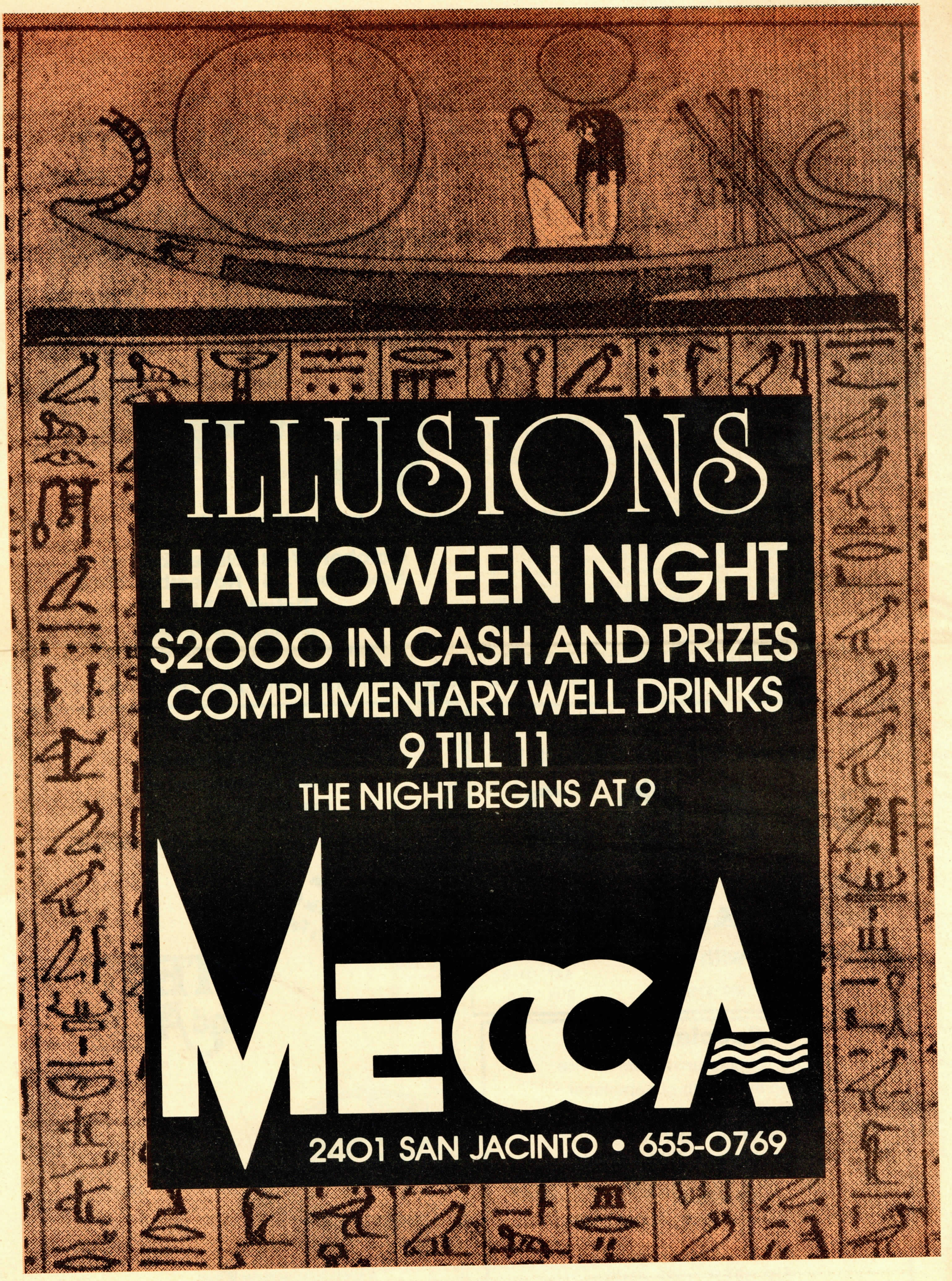
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Network

By Jeff Bray

There can be nothing more tragic than a person who is misused or misunderstood. Many of my friends are complaining lately that they're being mistreated (especially at work) because of their sexual orientation. They blame it on the recent AIDS publicity and the negative judicial system. They think that the Supreme Court and the State Legislature are against them personally because of who they are, without realizing that they are actually part of something much bigger. I have seen so many people go through so much turmoil in their lives because they are unable to fit into the "normal" mode of the society around them, and they find their lives far more troubled because of it. Many of them aren't gay, either.

It reminds me of my first job out of college. I was with the Credit Union League, working for the NCUA in marketing. I had a beautiful office, and lots of prestige and realize what a child I really was. Having a secretary and a company car were the ultimate luxuries for me. My reality was based on the reality of my parents and their culture, and I thought that if you had a good office job and lots of company amenities, the world would treat you more than well. I soon found myself falling into the same pattern everyone else was in. I got up in the morning, drank several cups of coffee, went to work, drank more cups of coffee, worked through the morning, went out to lunch, drank more cups of coffee, then came back and worked until 5, then went home and partied all night. Work, coffee, play and sleep were the only things left in my life -except for material comfort.

I went out and bought things like they were free. I spent money and stretched my credit and literally blew my charge accounts away until I was surrounded with toys and luxuries. But I had the job and the reality lasted as long as the job lasted.

Unfortunately, the job didn't last forever. One thing I wasn't prepared for was office politics and internal jealousy. I found myself being criticized for "not caring enough about my job." Basically, my supervisor hated the idea that I could come to work, do my job, and leave each day without developing an ulcer. She couldn't handle the idea of me actually enjoying my job while she was so miserable. So, she began to find things wrong with my work, nitpicking and harassing, until I couldn't handle it any longer. I found another job after months of mind boggling unhappiness and turmoil -but before I left, I let her know just what I thought of her.

Those days were long ago, but the same situations still comes about every once in awhile. After debating over the years whether something was wrong with me or not, I finally had to come to the conclusion that I am not like most ordinary people who go to work, then come home only to go back to work again. And after really pondering it over the years, I'm beginning to realize that perhaps not all of us were meant to fit into the nitches our parents made for us during the end of the Industrial Revolution.

All the square holes do not have square pegs for them. In fact, the square holes are becoming rotten and soft, and many different shapes are finding ways to fit. So, whenever I find myself feeling unhappy about my role in the modern world, I think of my past rude awakening and realize that I have always been different. Strangely enough, most of my friends fit into the same unfittable mold I fit into, and together, we go through life bewailing our differences and difficulties in dealing with the "Real World."

The truly wonderful fact is, however, that as time goes on, our differences will become more and more normal until we actually form another reality. Then, the next generation will be privileged to feel out of it.

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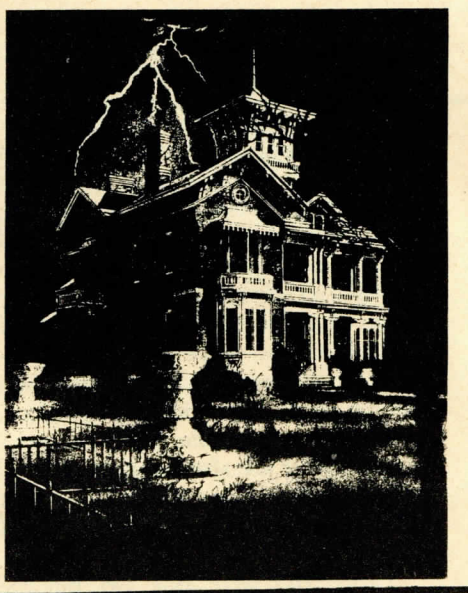

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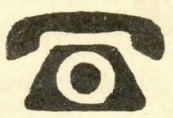

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Horoscopes

for Week of October 31, 1986 - November 6, 1986 — *by Sister Inez, Occultist and Psychic*

Halloween will be on a very dark night as the MOON will be new just two days later on Sunday. Appropriately, this will be a wonderful time for the ghosts and goblins to be out and about. Won't be so bad for a few drags either. The New MOON signals a new beginning in the area of our life transited by the MOON which I will cover in the individual horoscopes below. Other than the New MOON in SCORPIO, the other notable occurrance in the Zodiac will be the beginning of the MERCURY retrograde in SCORPIO. This is the last time during this year that MERCURY will go retrograde. This backward motion will last approximately three weeks and will again signal a period of difficult communications for all of us. During this period we will experience misunderstandings between ourselves as well as problems with communications in general (i.e., telephone problems, mail problems, TV and Radio problems, etc.). Just don't overreact to statements you hear second hand.

ARIES: This should be a rebirth in your sexual self. There has been a lot of activity in your sexual life and also dealing with your partner's money. This should signal a time for you to decide exactly what you want with your sexual self. All too often, we don't consider what a gift sex really is and we misuse our bodies until it is too late. Don't let this happen to you. You will have misunderstandings over sex and also with your partner's money for the next three weeks.
* Favorable Days: 4th
* Unfavorable Days: **31st,** 2nd

TAURUS: Again, there is an extremely lot of activity dealing with a partnership. You are possibly trying too hard to become involved in a relationship or the relationship you are currently involved with is under some strain. For the next several weeks you will have a lot of misunderstandings with your partner or lifemate. If you are dating someone, now is definitely not the time to form a relationship. Wait at least three weeks -if your relationship survives that long, it will probably last.
* Favorable Days: 4th, 5th, 6th
* Unfavorable Days: **1st, 2nd**

GEMINI: This is not a good time to change jobs, but it is an excellent time for you to change some of your attitudes concerning your employment. If you have resented some of your fellow employees, maybe you should look into yourself and decide exactly what is wrong with you -not the other way around. If you also do not like your job, now is a good time to look for another job, but wait at least a month before you make a change.
* Favorable Days: none
* Unfavorable Days: **3rd, 4th**

CANCER: This will be a powerful time for you since your ruler, the MOON, is joining the SUN. This should be a very energizing occurrance for you. The area most affected by this new burst of energy will be your love life. You will want to meet more people and get involved just on a dating level. Nothing serious. This is not a favorable time for you to get involved in a long term affair. With the backwards MERCURY in your house of dating, this could cause your conversations to be rather heavy. Lighten your "tete-a tete" somewhat.
* Favorable Days: 31st, 1st, 2nd, 3rd
* Unfavorable Days: **5th, 6th**

LEO: Again there is a heavy emphasis on your home life. The New MOON signals a new aspect to your home life. This could signal an excellent time for you to change residences. The retrograde MERCURY could cause some disagreements or misunderstandings in areas dealing with your home. Be very careful with all documents that concern your home. Do not trust the mail with these documents. They could get lost.
* Favorable Days: 2nd, 5th, 6th
* Unfavorable Days: none

VIRGO: You will be most affected by the MERCURY retrograde as this is your ruling planet. A word of caution:Think carefully before you speak and listen to what people say to you. Don't read in other words into what they say. Your neighborhood is in the forefront this week as well as your education. This is also a time when you should go to have your eyes checked or anything checked that deals with your five senses.
* Favorable Days: 3rd
* Unfavorable Days: none

LIBRA: This is a time for you to put plans for reinvesting your money to work. If you have been considering ways to increase your assets, now is the time to go forward. Do you have a savings account? If not, get one this week and establish a pattern of regular savings. Do not discuss your financial status with anyone. This could be misunderstood and could lead to someone being attracted to you for your money or not attracted to you by your lack of same.
* Favorable Days: **31st,** 4th, 5th, 6th
* Unfavorable Days: none

SCORPIO: This is the time of year to begin the new you. The New MOON occurs in each of our signs only once a year. During this transit we should change that part of each of us that we may not feel comfortable with. Be very careful with all matters dealing with communications. With the MERCURY retrograde occurring in your sign, you will be misunderstood quite often, and, more often than not, you will not get your way. You may want to buy some new additions to your wardrobe.
* Favorable Days: **1st, 2nd,** 5th
* Unfavorable Days: none

SAGITTARIUS: The inner you is in some need of changing. There have been many things that have bothered you lately. Now is the time to get rid of the bad patterns you have gotten yourself into. Be careful in criticising others as you could appear to be a hippocrit. You may have been working to correct some faults in your personality, but you need to do some more intense work on yourself during the next three weeks.
* Favorable Days: 2nd, **3rd, 4th,** 5th, 6th
* Unfavorable Days: none

CAPRICORN: Set the goals you have been working on and begin the work to achieve them. Be careful and do not tell anyone what you have in mind. For the next three weeks, begin working on a good foundation so when you do anounce your goals, you will be well prepared. There could be some communications difficulties among friends and loved ones during the next several weeks so listen carefully to what your friends are trying to tell you. The MERCURY retrograde will strongly affect your attitudes and relationships with your friends.
* Favorable Days: 3rd, **5th, 6th**
* **Unfavorable Days: none**

AQUARIUS: The New MOON will signal a change in status or career for you. There is a tremendous amount of activity in this area of your life. With the MERCURY retrograde occurring in this area, this could indicate some difficulty in getting a new career off the ground. Have no fear, what is occurring is the building of a strong foundation that you will not see the effects of until December. This indicates that you have a lot more to learn about your job.
* Favorable Days: 31st, 4th
* Unfavorable Days: none

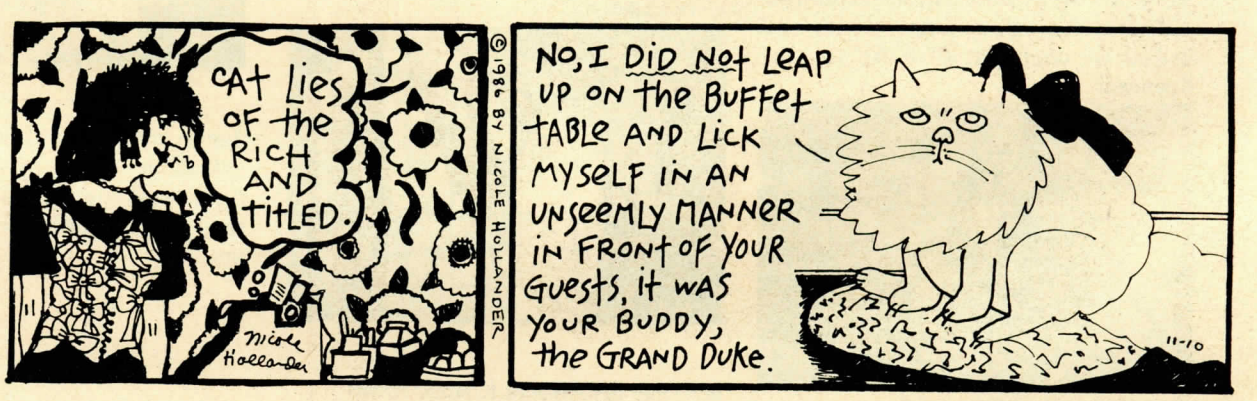
PISCES: A lot more learning is indicated by the position of the planets in your chart. Your thinking in one direction could lead you to make incorrect decisions. This attitude needs to be changed by carefully studying the areas that you think you know but apparently lack sufficient knowledge to be useful to anyone -including yourself. Have you thought that the only person you are fooling is yourself? How about doing a careful inventory of yourself this weekend, arrive at a conclusion, and put this conclusion to work by Sunday?
* Favorable Days: 1st, 5th
* Unfavorable Days: none

QUESTION: "I read your horoscope a few weeks ago and was completely confused by the "medically valuable gems" you kept referring to. Are these the same as birthstones? I always thought mine was a Topaz (birthday: Nov. 28, 1952), but you said my "medically valuable gems" were Quartz and Amethyst." KER

ANSWER: "First of all, Astrological birthstones differ from commercial "jewelry store" birthstones. Astrological birthstones are based on your Astrological Sun sign. "Jewelry store" birthstones are based on the Julian Calender date under which you were born and are designed to sell rings, bracelets, etc. They have no Astrological basis whatsoever. "Medically Valuable Gems" are another story altogether. They are based on mutually positive vibrations. Over many centuries, crystalologists have observed that some crystals help some people and other crystals help others. You do not have to wear any of the gems that I listed or even have them cut and polished, but at least purchase an inexpensive "uncut" variety and keep around your house. You have nothing to lose, and you will be surprised how healthy you will remain. Since you are a SAGITTARIUS, your birthstone is an Amethyst not a Topaz." **INEZ**

If you have any questions, please address them to SISTER INEZ, c/o Houston FORUM, 1110 Bayland, Houston, Texas, 77009. Please include your birthdate, birthtime, and birth place. If this is a question about compatibility, please include both individuals birth information.

SYLVIA by Nicole Hollander



Imelda

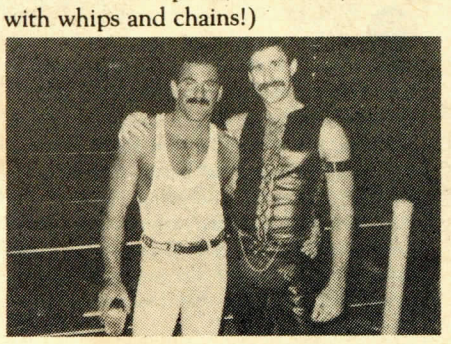
Kiddies, if you saw me Friday night, well let me explain -Mrs. Wonnacott (my dearest girlfriend) found us at the Lube wrestling at Chutes and after viewing K.C. win, said "Let's go to the Ripcord". We said (trembling), "Oh, do we dare?", and Mrs. Wonnacott said "not to worry, Mother Wonnacott will protect you." -- (Ha . . . have I got the sheep pulled in front of her eyes!)

When we arrived we were not simply pretty -we were so far down the road we couldn't even see the bend from where we were. (get the picture?) At any rate, Imelda found a man and, well anyway, that explains Friday night, Okay?

Saturday was not to be believed! After getting back to the palace on Saturday morning (did you catch that?) we finally got some beauty rest and headed out to Chutes for the Drummer Magazine tough customer party, to Judge the Mr. Chutes Contest, and take in the Leather Fashion Show put on by Eagle Leather.

Texas Tough Customers, Chutes

The place was packed with more men in leather than Imelda has ever seen before! The models for the Fashion Show were hot -repeat -HOT. and the Leather Show makes Imelda want a charge card at Eagle leather. . (You know I've always liked Black Bras -why not in leather? -- doesn't the thought just make you shiver? And as an ex-empress, we are very familiar with whips and chains!)

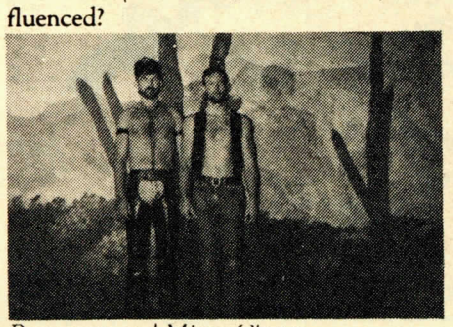


Eagle Leather models, Chutes

Jim Moss -the Drummer Representative took hundreds of photos of Texas Tough Customers, some of whom will appear in the 36 page insert, "a Drummer guide to the Hot Spots in Texas" as Texas Tough Customers. (January edition).

The contestants for Mr. Chutes were: Bob McCaley, Randy Masters, Robert Acema, Mike Lake, Tom Janitch, Robert Deola, Kyle Pennoch, Walter Shaw, Rick Holman, Tony Montgomery, Dale Piper, Larry Turner and Don Kesgai.

Judges were Big Jim of the Venture-N, Jerry from the Voice and Moi! -we decided early that although we judges couldn't be bribed we could be, shall we say -influenced?



Runner up and Mister Chutes.

First runner up was McCaley and Mr. Chutes is Walter Shaw!

Thanks to Ted Lentz, Drummer Magazine, Eagle Leather, Bob Kennedy, Jim Moss, and all the Texas Tough Customers for an evening not to be soon forgotten.

Ted Lunze, Chutes

News Flash -News Flash -News Flash Charles Armstrong turned thirtyish on Wednesday -there was a surprise champagne B-day party at JR's. Happy Belated Honey!

Sunday was a wonderful day. Imelda met her new friend K.C. at the Hunt Room on Kirby for brunch. Sweet William was there, as gracious as ever, and for a refined but relaxed Sunday Brunch the Hunt Room is the place to be. (be careful of the blueberry muffins, you will want more and too much of a good thing isn't always wonderful for one's hips.)

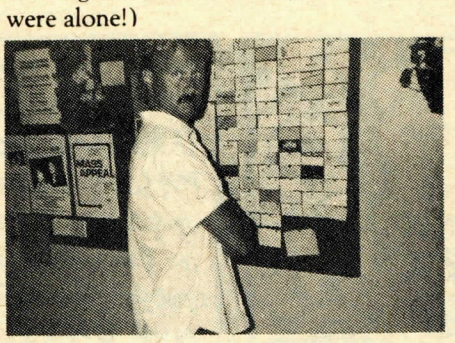
An afternoon trip to Pacific Street found Imelda at The Barn for a Cowboy Octoberfest. Polish sausage, sour-kraut, and cowboys everywhere! Oh, I wanna' be a cowgirl! Then, can you believe it? a trip down to Heaven gone Country for TGRA -Oh, I wanna be a cowgirl (do you hear me?!?!)

Then whom should I run into but Miss Ron and we ran over to "Just" Marion and Lynns to buy raffle tickets for

Marion's clowns ($1 each or $10 a doz.) "Just" M&L is celebrating the 1st anniversary at this location and the 14th in business with a free champagne gala on Monday and an election party on Tuesday. Bring your registration card and get your first drink free.

Then on to the Galleon for the Quest for Mr. Right and The Galleon's Steak night (also called Randy Smith's meat out) I think the quest was successful, I certainly met several new men and saw several friends I haven't seen for a long time. Thanks to Randy and crew for making everyone feel so welcome.

Monday was an uneventful day (we didn't get out of bed, and yes, Chola, we were alone!)



Who me? Jay Allen at Kindred Spirits

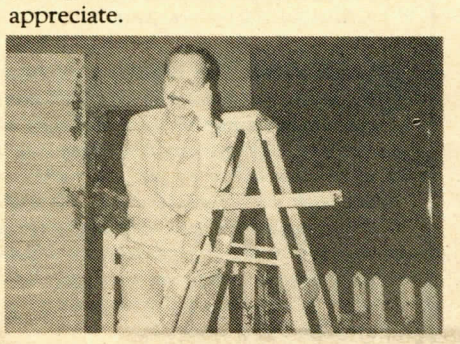
And speaking of Chola, have you noticed how much weight she's losing? We are proud of you!

Tuesday was such fun. Jay Allen just got back from Key West and we had a wonderful gossip session at Steak and Ale (do read their review) and then took in "8x10 Glossy" at Kindred Spirits.

The play is about 2 sisters together on the anniversary of their fathers death. The

Cast of '8x10 Glossy' Kindred Spirits

father had abused their mother and one of the sisters who had just broken up with her lover and the whole story revolves around the two sisters reaching out to each other, admitting we're glad Daddie's dead and the divorse and coming out of the younger sister. You really have to see to appreciate.

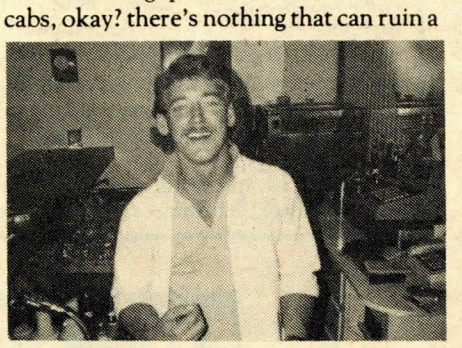


Joe Watts, Kindred JSpirits.

The play s full of very real feelings and if you miss it, well, you lose. Next showing is November 3-4. Call 623-6135 for reservations.

Vanna, Vanna, Vanna, Galleon

This weekend is Halloween and everyone is having parties -Be careful. take cabs, okay? there's nothing that can ruin a



Just in time for Halloween, She's back, Galleon

party weekend like a DWI, and every single bar in town is happy to call you one.

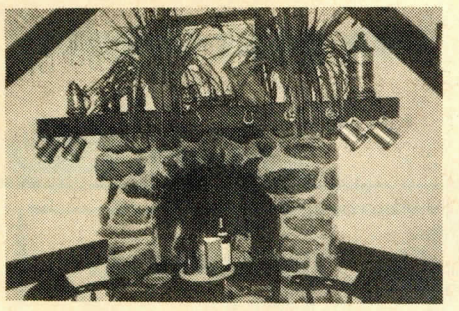
love, Imelda

STEAK AND ALE, South Shepherd

Talk about a tradition! Did you know that the 19th anniversary of Steak and Ale (South Shepherd) is the fourth of November?

Jay Allen and I had a wonderful visit last Tuesday evening.

Lots of Brass and dark wood, reminds me of an old English pub. Small separate dining rooms, tastefully decorated and with fireplaces in nearly every room, it's really very romantic.



Fireplaces everywhere!

Jay and I were meeting there and since I was a little early I ducked into the pub. Where I had an opportunity to meet Joey Heckman, Bar manager and trainer.

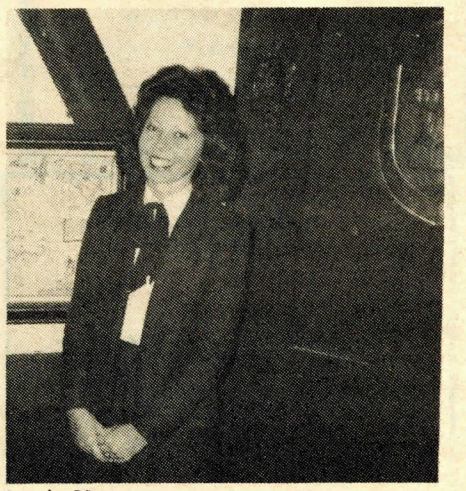
Joey Heckman, Bar Manager

Joey has been with Steak and Ale for four years and (trust me on this one) knows how to mix a drink and serve it too. (We think bartenders trained by Joey should be in Big demand)

The atmosphere is very relaxed and before you know it, you really feel at home. Conversations drift from table to table and everyone is welcome to join. Really a very pleasant change from most uptight bars in the big city.

Finally, Jay Allen arrives and manager/coordinator Linda Kreitz shows us to a very choice table, right in front of a beautiful fireplace.

Linda has been with Steak and Ale for ten years and is a real professional.



Linda Kreitz, manager

You can really tell the difference in the spirit of a restaurant when the crew consider you a guest, not just another customer. They are concerned that you are having a good time, that everything is perfect and go that extra step to really make you feel special, cared about and appreciated.

Jay had been out of town and we had so much to catch up on that our lovely

waitress, Martha, caught us unawares with "while you are going over the menu would you like a cocktail?" "Just a glass of white wine", says Jay. -Boy, that was a mistake -had we been paying attention to the wine list (instead of swapping gossip) we would have known that they have eight different wines by the glass besides the House wine -Thank goodness Martha is such a trouper. She has us sipping good wine, looking over the menu and still swapping gossip in no time at all.

Such a menu!

The beef is all prime, purchased on the hoof, and hung for 23 days. (Remember what I gold you about going that extra step to make you feel special, cared for and appreciated?) The seafood is fresh, fresh, fresh (never frozen) flown in daily.

The finest cuts of beef include prime rib (S&A's supreme specialty in my opinion). With a regular cut (8 oz) Hearty Cut (12 oz) or a special cut (16 oz) ranging from $9.95 to $13.95.

The New York Strip -a tender, 13 oz grilled sirloin strip for $12.95 or the fillet mignon, petite cut (6 oz) or regular cut (8 oz) ranging from $10.95 to $12.95.

My choices on the finest selections in the seafood would include, The Lobster catch -two steamed tails served with drawn butter -$16.95 (that's real inexpensive for lobster in my experience), The Alaskan King Crab Feast -steamed and served with drawn butter. (14oz) for $15.95. The Blackened Redfish (not on the menu but a special) and the Stuffed Flounder Maitre D', white flounder stuffed with crabmeat, shrimp and cheese, and bake until browned. ($7.95). All the dinners include a trip to the salad bar (it's beyond words except perhaps wonderful) and a hot loaf of bread.

The soups include the soup of the day, a think lobster bisque and my favorite a French onion soup topped with provolone cheese and stuffed with toasted bread.

Appetizers include: crab claws scampi, baked stuffed mushrooms and a traditional (and large) shrimp cocktail.

We finally decided on the French onion soup -it's just too perfect with the cooler weather just coming in, and with the salad bar would be an entire meal (if your watching your waist line).

Then we toured the Salad Bar everything jut so fresh and kept that way, one of the extraordinary items was onion rings! But the pasta salad and melon salad were real good too.

For our entree we choose a hearty cut of prime rib, an end cut thank you, and it was medium.

Although I could have chosen bearnaise, peppercorn and red wine sauce I settled on the traditional horseradish.

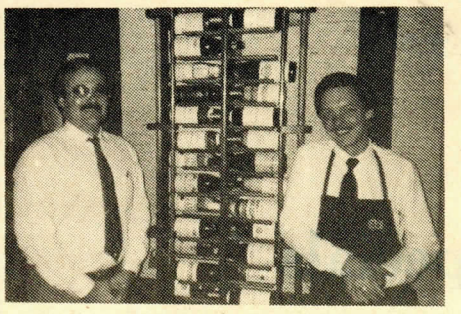
The entree was beautifully complimented by sauteed mushrooms in a savory Burgundy sauce. -I do want the recipe.

I really can't compliment line cook Chris Eduniki or general manager Rick Smith enough.

Chris Eduniki, General manager Rick Smith

They do know food and how to prepare it so that it's pleasing to the eye and sings in the mouth.

And while passing out some compliments, who ever put together the wine list did so with me in mind. The wines are ranged from dry to sweet, they are moderately priced, and the selection is abundant.



Joey and Rick with a selection of wines.

I was glad to see some of the drier German wines, and was pleasantly surprised at seeing blush wines (wonderful with fish you know). We settled on a nice little Beaujolais although it was a battle between it and the Cabernet. I did notice that there was a nice selection of champagne and quite a number of imported beers too.

We finished our meal with coffee and a liquor. (The liquor selection rivals mine at home -I didn't see pasha.

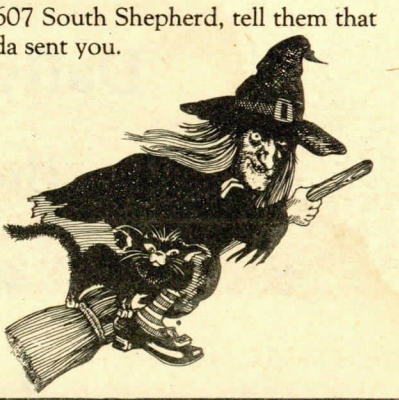
But who in their right mind drinks Pasha?)

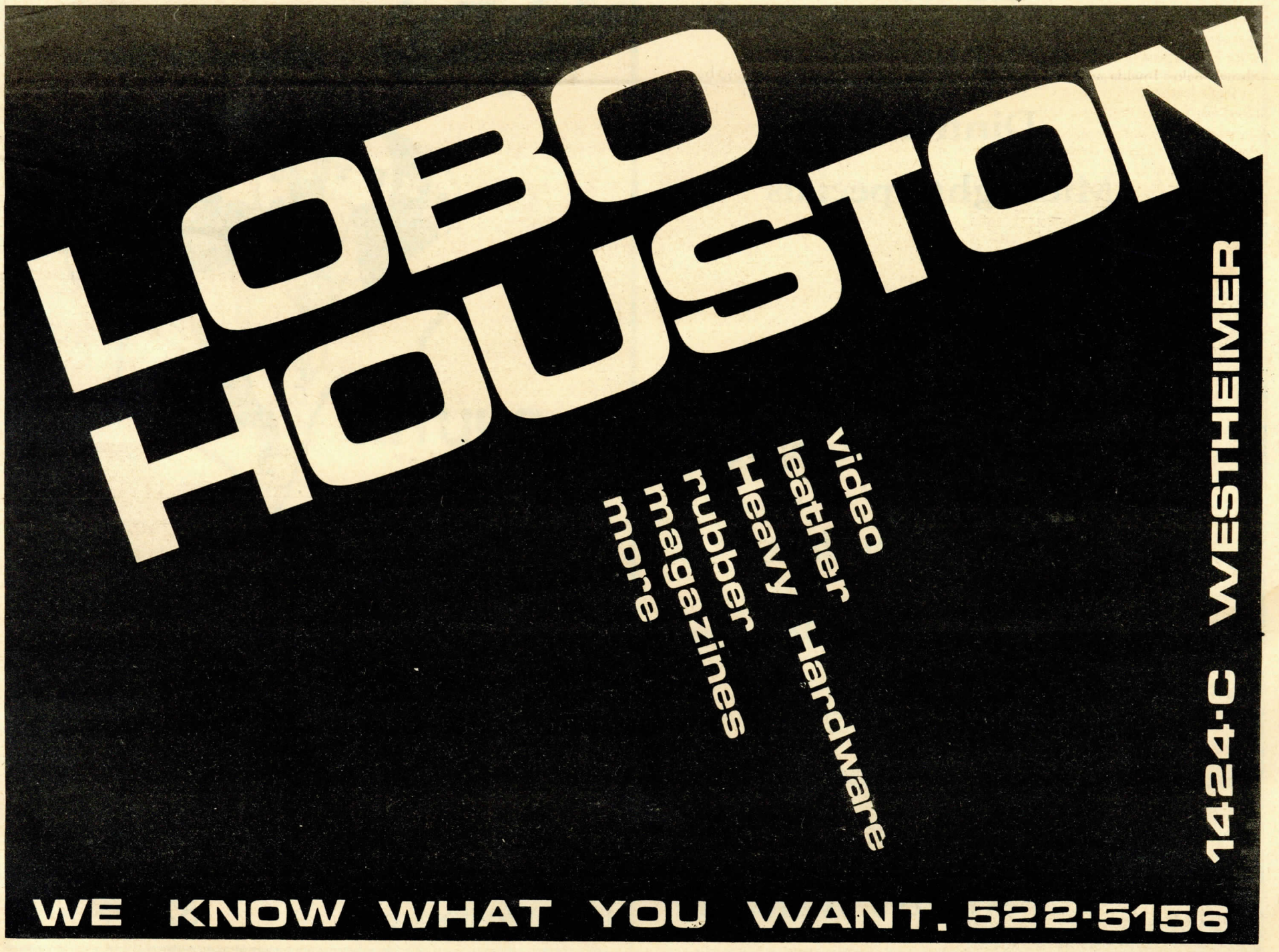
I didn't have desert (Jay Allen wouldn't have let me live the calories down for weeks) but Martha recommended the chocolate silk cake, In fact she even said it was sinful -and we trust her on this. The next time we go we will take someone along who's not tan and skinny so we can have desert.

In fact I plan on trying their new Sunday Brunch -with ten new omelets and egg benedicts, hot blueberry or strawberry muffins, fresh baked cinnamon rolls, and a fruit and salad bar stocked with fresh fruit, strawberry or blueberry yogurt, granola, vegetables, and salads and dressings. How can I go wrong?

So the next time you are in the mood for some great food, relaxed atmosphere, and a good time take your friends to Steak and Ale.

3607 South Shepherd, tell them that Imelda sent you.





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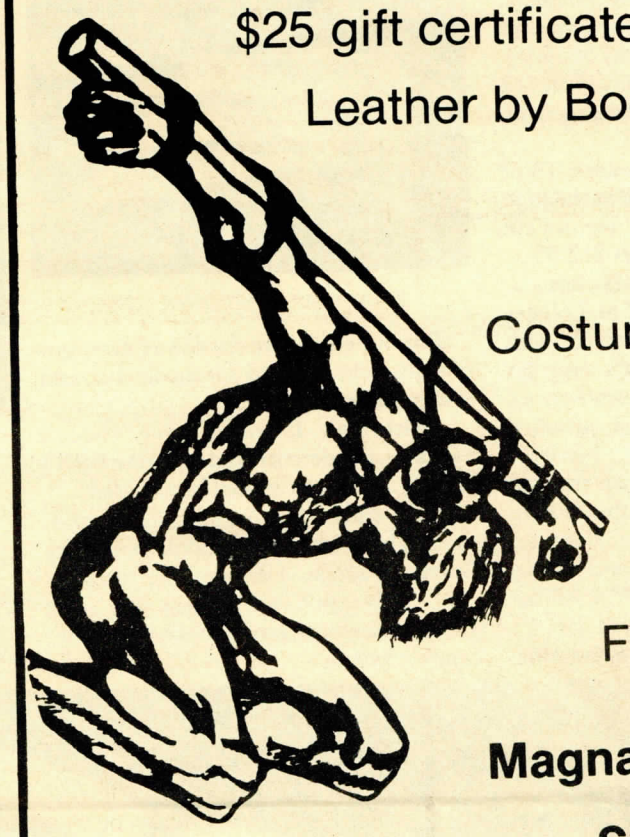

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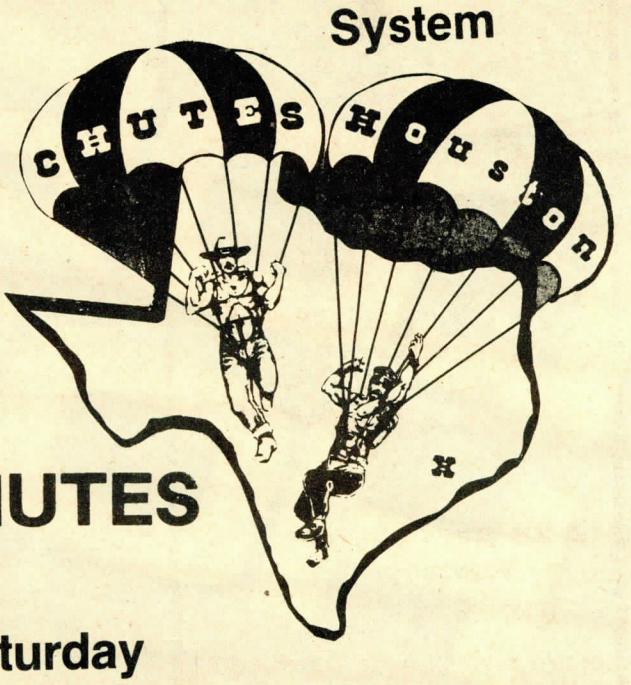

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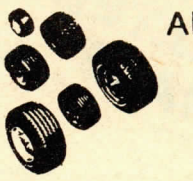
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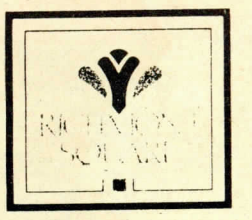
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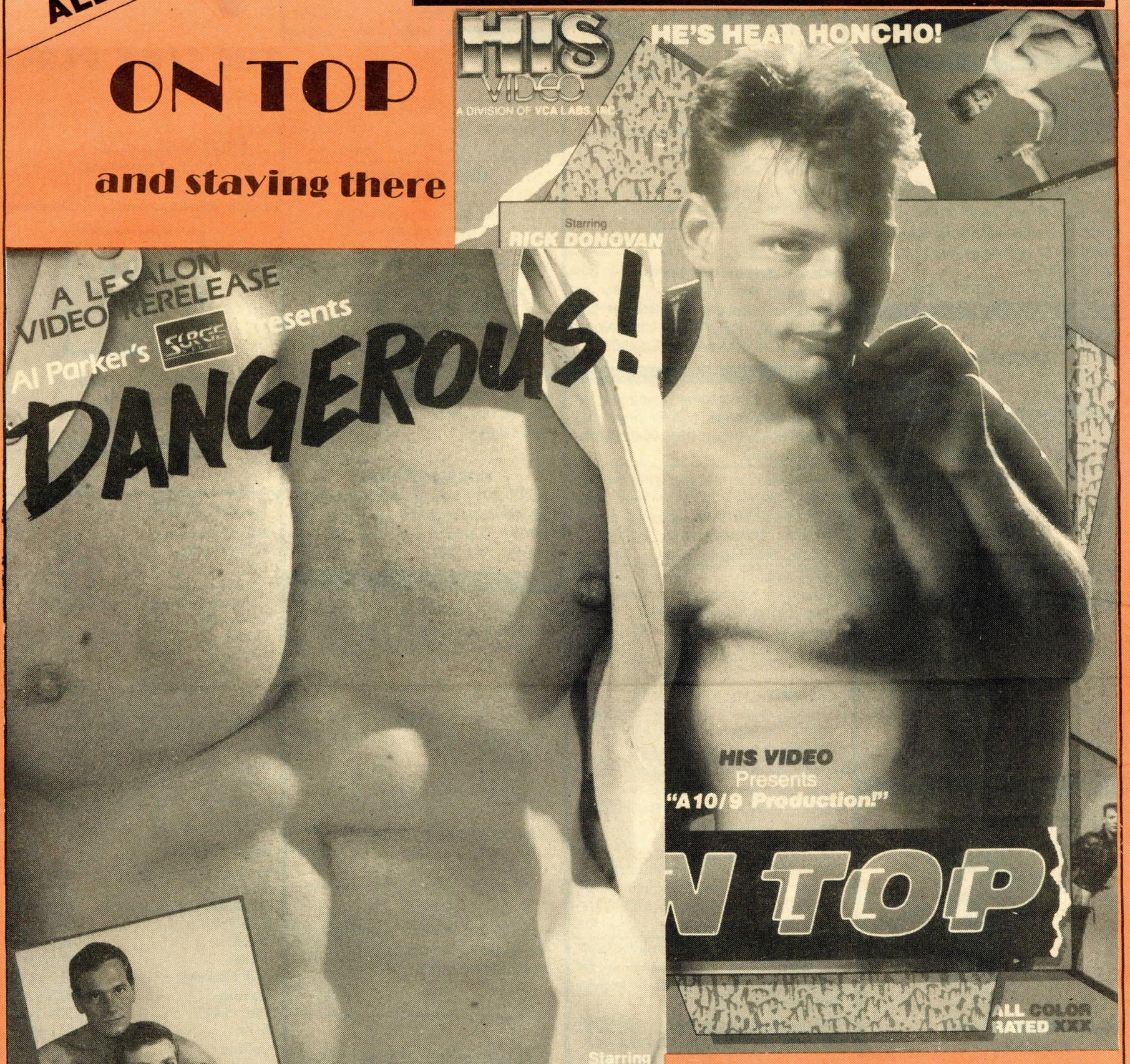

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