

1979

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&
THE MIDNITE SUN
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THE MIDNITE SUN

9pm, MARCH 21 & 22, 1978

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LXIX



Volume 1 No. 7

March 18-24



Queen of Queens
See page 5

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From the Editor

- Jeff Wesley

Are we Infallible?

Pride is a Gay person's most valuable asset...most of the time. Gay Pride questions the theory many non-Gays have that we are satisfied with the assumption ("aware" of the "truth") that we are somehow diseased, inherently evil, or at least abnormal; that our demands for equal protection and recognition by law may be construed to include the unspoken line "in spite of the fact that we are doing something wrong." There is a point, however, where logical limits may be placed on anything. There is a point beyond which a concept ceases to be believable and thus loses its effectiveness.

Because of the insistance some people have on an attempt to spread the idea that *anything* a Gay person does is *right* in the eyes of every other Gay person, many people outside of the community have concluded that it is a chaotic, uncertain community whose citizens have no respect for civilization, whose churches take no stand whatsoever on morality, whose family units are invariably disorganized and unstable. The real horror of stereotypes is not what others believe stereotypically about us, but what those people are successful in convincing us is true about ourselves.

At this time proud Gays should be working to destroy not only the old stereotypes but the new ones that we have helped give proof for in the eyes of many misunderstanding people. The image that we want to project is that we are human, capable of human error like anyone else; the point we want to get across is that in this fact we are no *different* from anyone else who shares the human condition. If we represent ourselves as believing that we are in some way *superhuman*, and if we persistently refuse even the most rational compromises and negotiations and deafen ourselves to criticism of any institution common to our lifestyle, it will certainly be difficult to convince people that our beliefs are valid.

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Disco

Comes Out! Grandma

In the third issue of LXIX, we ran a story about an unlikely fixture in our community, that little silver-haired lady who boogies with the best of us in the dance bars and calls herself *Disco Grandma*. Soon after that edition came out, we received a call from Grandma with a surprising request: she wanted to publicly reveal her true identity for the first time, and she wanted us to carry the story.

Mary Thelma Hansel is 76 years young and not too discreetly proud of the long, happy life she has had with her son **Jimmy Stuart** and son-in-law **Ronald Guillot**. Pictures of the "boys" paper her bedroom walls and painted portraits of them hang over the sofa in the living room. Her love for her own family grew into the special love she has for all Gays, and she feels deeply rewarded: she marvels constantly at all the love she has seen in the Gay community and cannot understand why so many non-Gays fail to see the beauty of it.

The Hansel/Stuart/Guillot home radiates the human warmth of its occupants with photos on walls, initials on doors, different parts of the house tailored to the tastes of individuals. The winter season appears to have obligingly overlooked that home; impossibly green and healthy plants thrive everywhere, including a a corn plant in a glass container rooted in rocks and a row of perfect,

(-continued on page 8)



blooming African Violets in the dining room window.

"Jimmy and Ronnie" celebrated their eighteenth anniversary Saturday, March 4. The three have been together for most of those years. Although **Disco Grandma** has only been going to the Gay bars since June of last year, the family has always enjoyed going places together.

Lately, Grandma has been sampling the smaller bars in addition to the discos. She and her son have visited the **Briar Patch**, the **Locker**, the **Venture-N**, and the **Surf's Up**. Ronald, however, refuses to go, insisting that he is not "a bar person."

The mere mention of the name **Anita Bryant** sends Mary Hansel into a rage. She says she would love to debate the anti-Gay "crusader" but that she would "get too mad" if she were given the chance.

"Of course, I can't really hate someone for being as dumb as she is," Grandma says, "but I hope none of her kids grow up Gay. Not for her sake, but for theirs. They wouldn't be accepted by her, and that's a terrible thing."

"I think of all the Gay kids just like I do my own sons," **Disco Grandma** says with genuine tears in her eyes. "I love them all and I'll tell anybody."

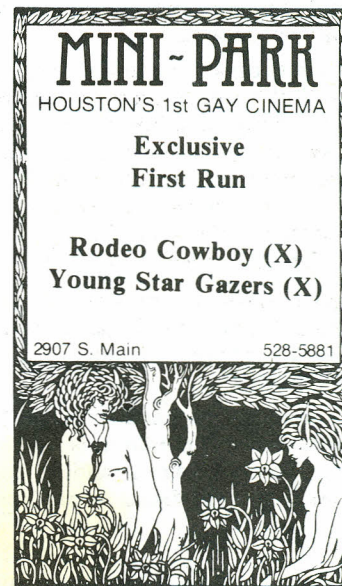
Disco Grandma has been invited to be a judge at the *Miss Gay Houston* pageant at the **Midnite Sun** on March 21 and 22.

Liberated States

The following states have revised their criminal codes to repeal their sodomy laws: *California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.*

The **Nebraska** law, which was passed by the state's unicameral legislature over the governor's veto, goes into effect July 1st.

Arkansas repealed its sex laws in 1976 but reinstated them in 1977 for same-sex couples.



THE GAY READER

REVIEWER'S NOTE: *Foregoing the usual review of a single book or publication of some kind, this week's review consists of thumbnail sketches of some of the periodicals being published by and for other Gay communities in this country (and one in Canada). Every Gay person — and especially those who consider themselves to be Gay activists — owes it to him/herself to be aware of not only what's happening elsewhere, but also of the vast diversity of activities, opinions, and circumstances of our brothers and sisters in other places.*

ADVOCATE: - The only national Gay publication at this point is bi-weekly; national only by virtue of its national distributor setup. At 75¢ per copy, it has survived charges of elitism aimed at its publisher, *David Goldstein*, cries of sexism aimed at its classified section (formerly "Trader Dick's") and choice of subject matter, and criticism for its handling of the *Coors* boycott. Still the only national Gay newspaper, it is published in San Mateo, Ca., with major offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles, and covers a broad range of Gay subjects.

R.F.D. - Magazine format, it is published quarterly, \$1.75 per issue, from Wolf Creek, Oregon. "A country journal by Gay men," it is hard to describe except to say it is both hilarious and serious, as well as rurally oriented. Uses lots of graphics, especially photographs, from its readers and solicits fiction, poetry, how-to's, personal experiences, features, you-name-it. Well-done in a fresh, brash and nebulous way. Recommended.

NEW GAY LIFE: - Monthly magazine format at 75¢ per issue, from Philadelphia, Pa. It has columns, features, news, interviews, photos, graphics, etc. Basically Philadelphia - oriented.

GPU NEWS - Monthly magazine format at 75¢ per issue, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Editorials, features, reviews, fiction, poetry, photos, other graphics, national news shorts and news in general. Good overall periodical.

GAY SUNSHINE - Quarterly tabloid size at \$1.50 per issue, from San Francisco, Ca. Interviews (most recent with Jean Genet), poetry, more poetry, fiction, reviews, articles, graphics and photos (not enough?). Different, superb and truly "A Journal of Gay Liberation."

FAG RAG - Published at Boston, Mass. by radical Gay activist collective, monthly, \$1.00. Political, sensuous, semi-pornographic (whatever that is), with poetry, special articles, news, graphics, photos, fiction, etc. Unafraid, serious and raging at the establishment and the more timid of our Gay brothers and sisters, it is unconservative and like a gale of fresh, ice-cold air to the average Gay. Will make you think even if you don't agree with its approach. Recommended!!!

BODY POLITIC — \$1.00 per issue, from Ontario (Toronto), Canada, a part of the Pink Triangle Press. It is published (ten times a year) as a "Gay Liberation Journal" by a collective, political, radical (to some) and dedicated to helping build the Gay movement and the growth of Gay consciousness. Obviously feared and/or hated by the Canadian establishment, it was raided earlier this year in a patent attempt to close it down following the article "Men Loving Boys Loving Men," but it is still publishing because of the courage of its staff and the support being mustered from Gay communities throughout the world. A good all-around publication deserving of help from every thinking Gay and Non-Gay - a *Cause Celebre* in the genre of the Florida orange juice and Coors beer boycotts.

GAYSWEEK - This two-year-old weekly at 50¢ per issue is based in New York City a West Coast office in Los Angeles. It is a newspapers newspaper with its only possible deficiency being a lack of graphics/ photos. Highly recommended.

★ ★ ★ ★

(-continued on page 22)

Ask Auntie

Dear Auntie,

How can I meet a real man at the discos?

-Lonely

Dear Lonely,

Try the Ladies' Room.

Dear Auntie,

My lover just gave me the keys to a \$68,000 Rolls. What do you think of that?

-Hustling

Dear Hustling,

Oh, you have the economy model.

Dear Auntie,

What do I need to really get into the leather scene?

-Anxious

Dear Anxious,

A white cane and roller skates.

Dear Auntie,

Wasn't that you I saw at the tubs the other night with a toothless old troll?

-A Fan

DAMMIT GLENN I told you those lights are too bright!



On Homosexual Teachers

An in-depth article on homosexual teachers appeared in the March edition of **McCall's** magazine. The article addressed the issue openly and directly, discussing the arguments frequently given for both sides and including a poll taken of the opinions of principals on the subject of possible job discrimination in cases involving homosexual teachers in public schools.

The article was inspired by the case of **James Gaylord**, a social studies teacher in **Tacoma, Washington** who was fired from his position in which he had served with an outstanding record for nearly thirteen years. "The specific probable cause for your discharge," the letter of dismissal sent to Gaylord said, "Is that you have admitted occupying a public status that is incompatible with the conduct required by teachers in this district, specifically, that you have admitted being a publicly known homosexual."

In an interview with **LXIX**, **Robert McCain**, assistant superintendent and personnel administrator for the **Houston Independent School District**, said that the district had no formal policies regarding either the hiring or dismissal of teachers on any grounds. McCain stated that "no one administrator actually has the power to hire or fire a teacher."

"The system has no absolute set of standards," McCain said, "because standards that are applicable today may no longer be so tomorrow, just as standards that were applicable yesterday do not remain so today."

While insisting that his own personal opinions were "irrelevant," McCain said that he believed each individual case is different and that he thought homosexual teachers sometimes cause problems.

"The question is," McCain said, "is this person causing problems with one or two people or with several...are several parents, teachers and students complaining that they cannot work with him?"

"Anything can go too far," the administrator said, "I don't run up and down the halls screaming that I'm heterosexual and I think it would be pretty ridiculous if I did. Small things sometimes can cause problems, too...a teacher in the district once asked me if I thought he should shave off his beard."

During the interview, McCain made the statement that he felt that "equal treatment for unequals is unequal." When asked his definition of "unequals," McCain said that he meant that since all people are different, no one is really "equal" to anyone else.

Gay radio in Houston! *Wednesdays*
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kpft 90.1 fm

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50th Week



THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Friday, March 10th, marked the Golden anniversary of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show's* phenomenal late-night run in Houston. The movie has been playing for fifty weeks at two ABC Interstate theatres, first at the Tower on Westheimer, then at the Alabama on Shepherd. Every week it has attracted an overwhelming crowd, bringing back the people who saw it the week before as well as bringing in new victims of curiosity.

Many fans have become cultist devotees of the movie, cleverly using the frenzy of the Friday and Saturday night crowds as an escape from the orderly confusion of reality that they get in large doses day-to-day.

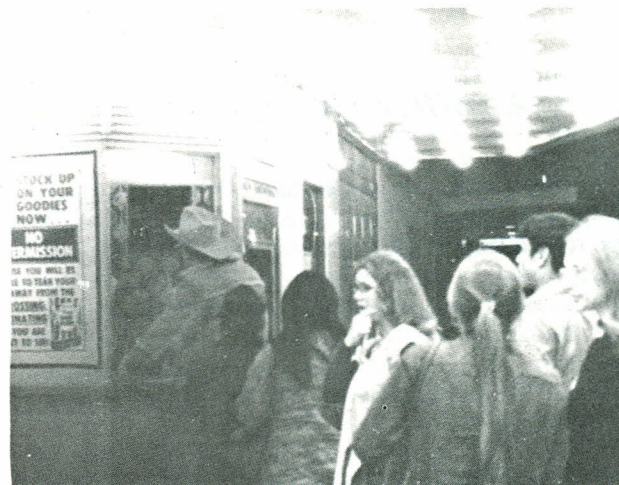
Among the crowd that appeared the night of the anniversary, many had seen the movie thirty or forty times. The most common reason fans gave for coming back was nothing in the movie itself but the crowd; it was the hysteria, the feeling of "unity in chaos."

One man who had seen the movie 26 times said that he was from "*Transsexual Transylvania*" and that he felt the movie was misrepresentative.

Harold Johnson, publisher of **Movie Guide**, went to see **Rocky** for the first time Friday. Asked what he expected from the movie, Johnson quipped, "a religious experience."



"Call it 'close encounters with this kind'," Johnson said. He and his companions posed for photographers in a psychedelically painted convertible with costumed groupies of the show.



Fanny Farmer, owner of **Mary's**, said that Friday was probably his 20th time to see the movie. "I think it's the most entertaining movie to come along in a long time, Farmer said.

Bookkeeping & Tax Service

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Another Bar Raided

In what the manager of the bar calls "a case of pure harassment," the **Old Surf's Up** lounge at 2909 Main was raided Saturday night, March 11th. Thirteen people were arrested, exactly the same number as were arrested in a similar raid at the **Venture-N**, 2923 Main, two weeks ago. "**Rebel**", manager of the Surf's Up, commented that the coincidence was strange; "It takes exactly thirteen people to fill up a paddy wagon!"

Of the thirteen people arrested, five were charged with not having proper identification, six with "public intoxication." The manager and a waiter were also arrested, allegedly at the insistence of a plainclothes vice officer, who had himself consumed six beers, according to the bartender, before the uniformed officers arrived.

Rebel, who was tending bar Saturday night, said that of the three who were charged with public intoxication, one was drinking nothing but tomato juice and one was drinking coffee. One, who was drunk when he came into the bar, Rebel had refused to serve. The man reportedly had asked if he could wait for a taxi in the bar and had been given a Seven-Up to drink while he was waiting.

Rebel was charged with serving a drunk, allowing a drunk to remain on the premises, and having no health card. He said that he intends to fight the first two charges.

"It's difficult in **Houston** (for Gay establishments to oppose police harassment)...because the bars will not work together. In **California** they have the *Tavern Guild*...Houston is about 15 years behind California," Rebel said. "The bars in Houston are too busy trying to hang on to their own little piece of the pie. They don't realize that we all have to work together to keep things like this from happening over and over again."

"there is one thing good I can say about the raid Saturday," Rebel said. "As far as I know, no one who was taken in was mistreated."

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Among others available (at Wilde 'N' Stein Books, 819 Richmond), but not all inclusively, are: the Lesbian publications - **LESBIAN TIDE**, \$1.00, bi-monthly, from Los Angeles, a radical feminist publication with "a wide variety of views from the Lesbian, feminist, and Gay communities;" **ALBATROSS**, a "Lesbianfeminist Satire Magazine," issued quarterly at \$1.47 an issue (that gets your attention, doesn't it?), by the Albatross Collective in East Orange, N.J. Relies on "feedback and input." From Boston, Mass.; bi-weekly **ESPLANADE**, 50¢, news, features, columns, photos, reviews and much advertising. Usually has a special photo feature of at least a sensuous nature. its competitor **GAY COMMUNITY NEWS**, a 35¢ weekly "dedicated to providing coverage of events of events and news of interest to the Gay community." More news-oriented, it also has reviews, features, photos and less advertising. Journalistically and visually, it is the superior (though probably less popular) of the Boston Gay papers.

One of the problems within the Gay world is the lack of communications. And this applies to INTER-Gay communities as well as between individuals or groups within any one specified community. It's often the age-old problem of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing.

The reading of periodicals by an individual - YOU! - can help break down this barrier. Being informed of all sides of an issue, knowing what your brothers/sisters are up to in other up to in other areas, opinions from the inspired and uninspired and the knowledgeable and the not-so-knowledgeable, different perspectives and viewpoints, all lead to being informed and having the ol' gray cells joggled and (hopefully) inspired on to new heights in the fight for Gay liberation and the never-ending battle of consciousness-raising - for ourselves and for the larger non-Gay community of which, whether we like it or not, we are very much a part.

A final note: Houston Gay publications were not included on purpose. As publications go, these in this city do not currently fit into the general category written about above. And, besides, I'm no fool: I don't want MY head chopped off! However, for what it's worth, there are several news-type periodicals now being planned and are scheduled tentatively for publication this spring. Love, peace and...courage.

-Hank Bonney

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Coors Boycott Ends

Representatives of the **Adolph Coors Brewery** of Golden, Colorado were in town Wednesday announcing to the **Houston Gay** community their amendment of the company's equal employment policy to include the words "sexual preference" in order to show that they do not "discriminate on the basis of sexual preference or background."

Bob Rousseau, director of corporate communications for the Coors company, said that input from Hill and other leaders of Gay communities led to a decision by the Board of Directors of the Coors company to adapt the policy.

Coors distributor **John Barksdale** commented: "This is a real victory for everyone. It represents the kind of recognition the community deserves...I think everyone should take it in the right spirit."

The two representatives appeared at the meeting of the **Gay Political Caucus** and on the **Wildenstein** radio show Wednesday night.

The GPC voted unanimously at their meeting to end the boycott of Coors beer. **Steve Shefflin** of the GPC said that the organization is "appreciative of the efforts of the Coors representatives."

"This shows the muscle of the community," **Shefflin** said, "what we can effect."

The first paragraph of the **Coors** equal employment policy reads as follows:



Recognizing the value of human resources to their fullest, we are taking this opportunity to reaffirm our policy of affording equal opportunity for employment to all individuals, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual preference, age, handicap, or national origin.

(Commentary)

Wednesday, March 15, 1978 marked the end of Houston's first successful product boycott. After months of resisting the sale of **Coors** beer, the Gay community has witnessed a complete capitulation by the **Adolph Coors Brewery** of Golden, Colorado. On March the 10th, the Board of Directors of the Coors empire voted to meet the terms of the Houston Gay community as adopted by the Houston **Gay Political Caucus**, i.e. to accept sexual or affectional preference as a part of the nondiscrimination policy of their corporate hiring practice, and to refrain from advertising in those publications that oppose human rights for Gay people.

Wednesday, representatives of the Coors company were present at a meeting of GPC to witness that organization voting to accept the action of the Coors board and to end the boycott of their product. That evening the local representative, John Barksdale, one of the distributors most hurt by the boycott, and Bob Russo representing the Colorado firm were guests on the Gay radio program hosted by Ray Hill on KPFT to discuss the ending of the boycott.



John Barksdale, whose distributorship includes much of the Gay community in **Houston**, was the man caught in the middle. His personal views on human rights were never in issue. It was unfortunate that a man who favors the rights of Gay people had to be the prime victim of the boycott.

According to **Bob Russo**, it was Barksdale's lobbying of the parent company that, in large part, contributed to the Board of Directors' decision.

A boycott is only effective if it is proven to have been significant *after* it is lifted. Demonstration of this significance helps to keep the acquired results intact. It would only seem fair that the Gay community of Houston show its maturity and now support strongly the company it recently opposed. It is with pride in our unity that we urge everyone to drink **Coors** beer once again.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

 *Piano Bar* 

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Houston Business and Service Guide

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Adonis II	1407 Richmond	523-0494
Adult News	4358 Telephone Rd.	649-9122
Adultz	714 W. Alabama	
After Dark	3400 Travis	528-9922
Bellaire News	5807 Bellaire	661-8840
Diner's	204 Westheimer	528-8950
Federal Road News	1640 Federal Rd.	453-6821
N. Houston Adult News	5102 Airline	692-5588
Studz News	1132 W. Alabama	

ADULT MOVIE THEATRES:

French Quarter	3201 Louisiana	527-0782
Mini - Park	2907 S. Main St.	528-5881

BARS AND DISCOS:

The Barn	710 Pacific	528-9427
Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	665-9678
Countryside	1322 Westheimer	527-9071
Cuddles	4714 S. Main St.	528-5054
The Cove	2912 S. Shepherd	524-0170
Dirty Sally's	220 Avondale	(To Open)
The Exile	1011 Bell	659-0453
The Galleon	2303 Richmond Ave.	522-7616
Hi-Lite Ranch	6800 S. Main St.	528-8730
Inside/Outside	1318 Westheimer	527-9071
Just Marion & Lynn's	817 Fairview	528-9110
The Lamppost	2417 Times Blvd.	528-8921
The Locker	1732 Westheimer	528-8844
Mary's	1022 Westheimer	528-8851
Midnite Sun	534 Westheimer	526-7519
Ms. Take II	2047 Marshall	528-3533
The Old Plantation	2020 Kipling	522-2353
The Old Surf	2909 Main St.	528-9164
Our Place	1419 Richmond Ave.	528-8903
The Pink Elephant	1218 Leeland	659-0040
Silver Bullet Saloon	1005 California	528-9653
Uncle Charlie's	805 Pacific	529-7488
Venture - N	2923 S. Main St.	522-9018

BATHS:

Club Houston Midtowne Spa	2205 Fannin 3100 Fannin	659-4998 522-2379
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CHURCHES:

Christ's Communion MCCR	908 B Winston 1414 Joe Annie	868-4590 526-8233
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CLOTHES AND JEWELRY:

All That Glitters	4315 Montrose	522-6976
Artisan Fashions	1731 Westheimer	523-0809
ETC.	4714 Westheimer	
Hodge-Podge	1338A Westheimer	522-6485
Manhole	1983 W. Gray	522-1089
Union Jack	4025 Westheimer	622-3100

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Crisis Hotline		228-1505
Dignity	P.O. Box 66821/77006	528-7644
Episcopal Integrity		526-0555
Gay Resource Services	Box 441 U. C., U of H/77004	4749-3489
Integrity/Houston	P.O. Box 3942/77001	529-7014
Lambda	5210 Fannin	433-8380
Lutherans Concerned	729 Manor	453-1143
Montrose Activities Center	815 Hawthorne	526-2668
Wilde & Stein Collective	KPFT, Wed 11-12 P.M.	526-4000

GYM:

The 2306	2306 Genesee	528-6235
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PET SHOPS:

Butler's Pets	1638 Westheimer	522-8832
Pet Shop, Bird Clinic	3118 Smith	529-7266

PLANTS AND FLOWERS:

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House of Plants	1634 Westheimer	528-1901
Pampered Plant	1225 Campbell	932-7505

RESTAURANTS:

Don's Le Patois	428 Westheimer	523-5595
The Mug	515 W. Alabama	528-8744
Petite Europe	2049 Richmond	526-6020
Somewhere	1525 Westheimer	528-7173
Two Greek Brothers	3215 Main St.	

SERVICES:

A. Burton Phone Services	4506 Montrose	526-6711
Aztec Remodeling Co.		529-7556
Brazos Paint and Body Shop	2599 Brazos	522-0722
Garners Cleaners	521 W. Alabama	523-4259
Reed Keys	1612 Westheimer	523-2927
Rus TV	125 Bennie	697-9536
Single Services	1621 Westheimer	524-9560
Specs of Houston	4709 Richmond	626-1161
Standard Key Co.	1615 Shepherd	862-2715
Terrace Travel	Almeda Rd.	522-1379
Lights by Marsha		665-7400
Black Dragon Tattoo	1207 Westheimer	529-9059

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