



THIS WEEK IN TEXAS
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Two Women Too by Tye Randall Jobe

TYE RANDALL JOBE

GRAMATICALLY GRAPHIC

Tye Randall Jobe, Writer, interviews Tye Randall Jobe, Artist
(with apologies to Truman Capote)

(He strolls in fashionably late, laughing a little too loudly, and greets the interviewer with several humorous barbs. He relaxes easily and gives an eager "let's-get-on-with-it" look. During the interview, he answers candidly and laughs often. He repeatedly runs one hand through his longish, black hair. Each of his words seems to have a physical expression; not unlike an interpreter for the deaf. His vocal inflections are as many. One soon gets the impression that being the center of attention comes easily and is welcomed with open arms, mind and heart.)



FEATURE

TRJ — Well, Tye . . .

TRJ — I prefer Randy. Tye is a bit stuffy. Besides, it isn't my real name. I affected it so that I could call my graphics business Black Tye. Showbiz.

TRJ — Well, Randy, you could sure use a haircut.

TRJ — You don't like it? It's my European artist look.

TRJ — You're not European, or an . . .

TRJ — Don't say it. Actually, it's my rock star image.

TRJ — Eddy Van Halen on bad drugs?

TRJ — Come on, be kind. Don't you think I resemble Valerie Bertinelli?

TRJ — On bad drugs.

TRJ — In dim light?

TRJ — Pitch black, maybe.

TRJ — This interview is off to a nasty start.

TRJ — Let's try again. What would you like to say?

TRJ — Where should I begin?

TRJ — Briefly.

TRJ — Briefly. I was born in a small town in Texas sometime after the discovery of America and before Teflon.



When I was four ...

TRJ — Briefer than that. Sometime after your first sexual encounter.

TRJ — When I was four ...

TRJ — Let's try a different approach. How about your work as an artist?

TRJ — I prefer graphic designer to artist.

TRJ — Why is that?

TRJ — Artists work from the inside out. I'm still, admittedly, superficial in my work. I let my eye do the guiding, rather than my gut. I seem to have an

eye for the right line at the right place.

TRJ — Graphically or grammatically?

TRJ — Take your pick. Basically, I like to make it clear that my work, for now, is governed by whether it has commercial appeal.

TRJ — Commercial, as in general public?

TRJ — Within reason. After all, I come from hearty mall-people-in-polyester stock. To that I've tried to add a flair for the fun and the theatrical.

TRJ — Do you think that the average

consumer is ready for your designs?

After all, some of them are a bit ... funky.

TRJ — Funky is in. With the ladies I've tried to capture a look, an attitude. I want people to know and recognize my style. For that, I've chosen to remain with a basic black-and-white look. I add red as an accent more than as a color.

TRJ — And the men? Ass-ettes, I believe you call them.

TRJ — Yes. The men are a different story. They are designed as tasteful

nudes with a sense of humor. Sensuality without eroticism. Eroticism without vulgarity.

TRJ — To whom will they sell?

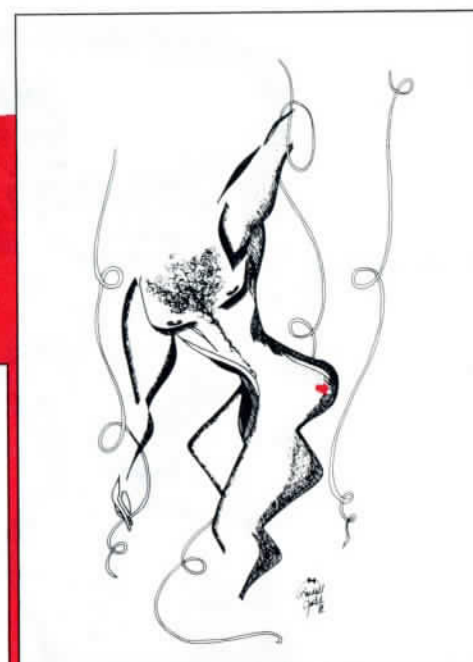
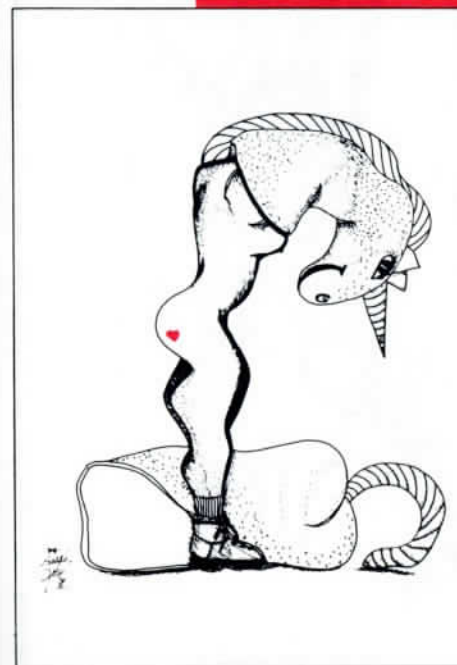
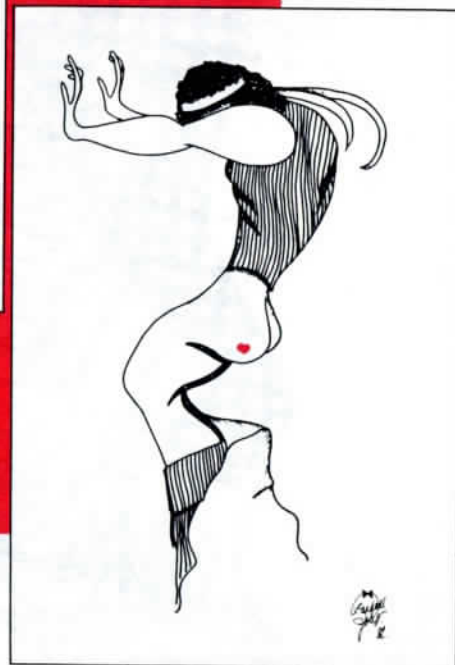
TRJ — To the tasteful gay male with a sense of humor.

TRJ — So, you are designing for a gay market?

TRJ — Originally, yes. But I've had terrific response from non-gays who appreciate the look.

TRJ — Any negative responses?

TRJ — There was a non-gay woman



at one shop who said that the men would not sell to gays because they weren't "vulgar" enough.

TRJ — How did you respond?

TRJ — I told her that I felt that was a rather detrimental remark to be making, considering her largely gay clientele. And then I called her a dirty ...

TRJ — I get the picture. For the most part, then, you seem to be gaining acceptance. Does that please you?

TRJ — When the cards sell, I'm pleased. At present, I am designing

more and more with mass appeal in mind. Clowns. Lots of clowns. It's somehow appropriate.

TRJ — Are you solely responsible for all of the ideas that become cards?

TRJ — Only for the finished design. Hilary Fields, my business partner, is instrumental in many of the concepts which we eventually use. She's the three Bs. Beauty, brains and backing.

TRJ — What does that make you?

TRJ — Okay, okay. Maybe she's not ALL the beauty.

TRJ — Besides yourself, any other interests?

TRJ — Well, I'm currently acting in and directing a show that I helped to write. It will be produced during Gay Pride Week. Get your tickets! Get your tickets before it's too late!

TRJ — He acts, he sings, he crawls on his belly like a snake! And what do you do with your spare time?

TRJ — I grant interviews to half-wit writers.

TRJ — Bitchy, aren't we?

TRJ — I think that sums it up nicely. Agreed?

TRJ — Agreed. Just one more question. What do you hope to gain from your endeavors as graphics designer, writer, actor, et. al.?

TRJ — Fame. Respect. Awards. Adoration. A *Rolling Stone* interview.

TRJ — Monetary gain?

TRJ — Cocktail money. That's all I ask. Cocktail money.

TRJ and TRJ — Make mine a double!

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