

DiverseWorks...

The annual gay and lesbian performing arts series will accent youthful talent and energy during its multi-faceted run in June. For more information, please turn to page five.



HRC taps Gary Grant, activist extraordinaire

Houston now has own action coordinator

By B.R. MCDONALD
For the Houston Voice

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) unanimously approved Gary Grant, a 14-year veteran of political activism, to serve as the local HRC Action Coordinator for the Houston area.

The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization. Its lobbyists have an unparalleled track record of effectiveness with congress. The HRC also "provides campaign support and educates the public regarding



Cleve Jones, co-founder of the Quilt, speaks at the formal dedication ceremonies held at the Main Street Theater. For more details, please turn to page 9.

the rights of gay and lesbian Americans." In 1995 they were able to contribute \$750,000 to Political Action Committees, and this year they surpassed that to reach a million dollars. Grant—along with other regional Action Coordinators across the country—will be part of an intensified effort to encourage localized, grassroots activism nationwide for gay and lesbian causes.

In a phone conversation Tuesday evening, Grant stressed that, "safety is the key word here." The focus of the HRC is to create an atmosphere where "gay Americans can be open, honest, and safe at home, work, and in the community." Accomplishing that takes a quick mind, dedication, and knowing the right people.

What qualifies Gary for this responsibility is what makes him so unique for the job at hand.

Grant married his childhood sweetheart at 20 and spent the next 12 years living the heterosexual lifestyle. He fathered two children, and at 32, divorced. To this day, he says, he and his ex-wife are best of friends. (That in itself would seem to qualify him as a negotiator!).

His political activism was off and running when he co-founded Gay Fathers of Houston and ACT UP Gulf Coast. As one of the original members of Queer Nation, Grant organized marches and various functions, drawing attention to the political questions of the time, flexing his muscles as an organizer. Gary also served on the board of directors for both the (then) Gay Political Caucus and the AIDS Equity League. With activism as his middle name, Gary also was a member of Q-Patrol, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, and Cure Aids Now. Gary's ability to mobilize is key, and the HRC believes he can do the job. He calls his efforts a "labor of love" and remarks that he wants to re-invent the term sexual "orientation" to say "Naturally Homosexual."

(Continued on Page 6)

Spectrum raises more questions than money

by Jon Anthony & Sheri Cohen Darbonne
for the Houston Voice

Barely two weeks after its heavily promoted 'Concert of the Stars,' Spectrum '96 and its producer, the local non-profit organization Town Meeting Inc., is already awash in controversy over alleged financial mismanagement—the same type of controversy that dogged the first annual event, Spectrum '95, organized by Town Meeting Inc. president B. Alan Bourgeois.

Last week, the *Houston Voice* reported that RuPaul, the concert's headliner, had never agreed to appear at a \$100-per-plate awards luncheon honoring the entertainer and local movers and shakers at La Strada on May 4.

This week, the *Voice* was informed that an initial payment to secure RuPaul for

his performance at Rich's may have been obtained under questionable circumstances.

The executive chef at La Strada, Morgan (who uses no surname), told the *Voice* that he ponied up \$6,000—money he inherited from his brother who died of AIDS—for what he believed would be a fundraiser for the Bering Community Services Foundation.

"My understanding from the beginning was that it was going to be a fundraiser for (the Bering Foundation and the Assistance Fund), which helps people pay insurance whenever they become ill," he stressed. Having just moved here from California, Morgan said he wanted to "get involved in the community." The chef added that the money needed was equal to the money his brother left him, and he thought that it would be a fitting tribute to his brother if his assistance would benefit a good cause. "That's why all the advertisements and stuff (were) in honor of my brother," he said.

(Continued on page 4)



Bonnie Tyler

Catching up with a musical 'free spirit'

By JON ANTHONY
For the Houston Voice/Exclusive

Listening to elevator music while on telephone hold is not one of my favorite pastimes; however, when the individual you are holding for is international recording artist Bonnie Tyler, you make the necessary sacrifices. Lo and behold, the music stops. "Finally," she exclaims in that guttural voice that is very familiar to many fans throughout Europe and the U.S. "I am sorry that this interview has been so long in trying to get together," states Tyler with genuine sincerity, referring to the fact that the *Houston Voice* had arranged two prior interview sessions that did not materialize for various reasons. Our third, and successful, attempt has lent credence to the age-old axiom, the third time's a charm.

(Continued on Page 11)

Home Testing Approved

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the controversial HIV home testing kit Tuesday which will enable individuals to privately take their own blood samples, mail the sample to a laboratory, and receive the results via telephone.

Designed to detect the presence of HIV, the test kit, sold as the Confide Kit, will be available in Texas and Florida in June, and nationwide in early 1997. The announcement was met positively by most AIDS experts while there were some negative voices heard.

"This empowers people to take control and get tested when and where they want," explains Steve Michael of the activist group ACT-UP. Critics worry about the counseling aspect and whether or not it is beneficial to provide such a diagnosis over the telephone.

The kit is relatively simple to use. You prick your finger, place three drops of blood on a special card and mail it to the lab. One week later, you call a toll-free number and learn your results. If you are positive, a counselor provides you with those results, if negative, you are informed by a recording. The entire process is accomplished with complete anonymity.

If you are interested in obtaining the kit, you can call 1-800-THE TEST. The kit costs \$40 and will be available next month.

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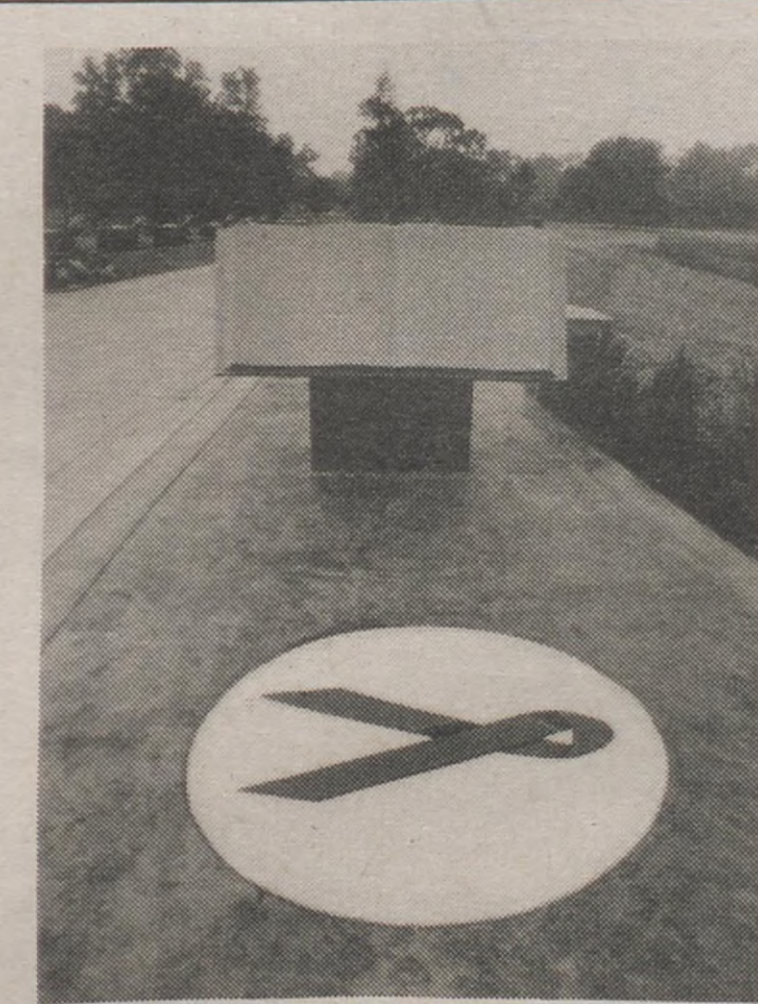
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The Foundation for Interfaith Research & Ministry and Forest Park Lawndale

Community Calendar by Carolyn Roberts

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call me at 529-8490 or fax the facts to me at 529-9531.

Friday, May 17

- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.
- * HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 523-8817
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 527-1348.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. Call 528-SAFE.
- * Free Buffet at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 p.m.
- * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.
- * Using the Resources of Business Incubators to Accelerate Business Growth Luncheon at 11:45. Call 932-7495 X 42.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Two Friends at 8:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: Discover Houston Tours' Restaurant Walks. Call 877-1981 X 3007.

Saturday, May 18

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 863-1860.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.
- * Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. Call 780-4282.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. Call 528-SAFE.
- * Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 a.m. Call 583-8408.
- * Determining Your Entrepreneurial Exponents for Starting a Business. 9:00 a.m. Call 932-7495 X 40.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Two Friends at 7:30 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: Crabbing—A Beach Party. Call 877-1981 X 0213.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: Introduction to Alternative Energy. Call 877-1981 X 1220.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: Earth Skills Exploration. Call 877-1981 X 0310E.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: How to Create a Livable Income in Networking Marketing. Call 877-1981 X 9205.
- * Art Opening at New Gallery. Claire Ankenman and Laurent Boccara. 6:00 p.m. Call 520-7053.

Sunday, May 19

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.
- * Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.
- * Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-0638.
- * Brunch at the 611 12:30 p.m. \$3
- * Steak Night at the Brazos River Bottom. 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- * Montrose Softball League plays at the Tim Hern field starting at 11:00 a.m. Call 867-3913.
- * Montrose Ice Picks skate at noon. Call 629-1432.
- * Pool Tournament at Chances. 6:00 p.m.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 a.m. Call 537-1348.
- * Paintathon at DiverseWorks at 1:00 p.m. Call 223-8346.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Two Friends at 7:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: Passin' a Fine Time. Call 877-1981 X 7102.
- * Book signing at Borders Book Shop. Meet mystery writer Kate Ross. 3:00 p.m. Call 782-6066.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: Naturally Healthy Pets. Call 877-1981 X 0955.

Monday, May 20

- * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.
- * HeartSong open rehearsal at the First Unitarian Church at 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.

- * Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1223.
- * Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. Call 539-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Pool Tournament at the Brazos River Bottom. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-9192.
- * Gay and Lesbian Readers Group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 349-0050.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: I Love Paris—An Armchair tour. Call 877-1981 X 7250.
- * Log Cabin Republicans meet at Renata's, 2066 Lexington. Call 529-9100

Tuesday, May 21

- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.
- * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.
- * Southern Country gives dance lesson at the Ranch. 9200 Buffalo Speedway. 8:00 p.m.
- * Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * AIDA Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 488-4492.
- * Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. Call 861-9149.
- * PROTECT support group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 520-7870.
- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Center. 8:00 p.m. Call 520-2083.
- * Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Survivors of loss support group meets at 8:30 p.m. Call 778-2677.
- * Free Dance Lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Call 528-9192.
- * Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. Call 782-6066.
- * Chat and Chew at Gentry. 7:00 p.m. Call 623-2767
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: Growing Herbs in Houston. Call 877-1981 X 1230.
- * Borders Book Shop Video Club watches Shindler's List at 7:30 p.m. Call 782-6066.

Wednesday, May 22

- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 p.m. Call 537-1348.
- * Shiela Lennon performs at Chances. 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.
- * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.
- * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.
- * Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopies. 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.
- * Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 537-1348.
- * Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 p.m. Call 933-5818.
- * Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. Call 622-7250 for more info.
- * Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

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Community Organizations Bulletin Board

Diva To Join Gay Men

In a benefit for the AIDS Foundation Houston's Stone Soup Pantry celebrating Broadway and popular music, Marsha Carlton, and others will join the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston as a kick-off to Houston's Gay Pride Week activities Saturday June 15.

The production titled "gmch://taking.center.stage" will be held at the Cullen Theater in Houston's Wortham Center. Tickets are \$10, \$15 or \$20 and are available now at the Wortham Center box office or by calling 227-ARTS.

Houston Reception For Newt Gingrich

Tomorrow, (Saturday 18th), Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, in town fundraising for radical right congressman Steve Stockman, will be targeted by Queer Nation and other progressive activist groups in a protest scheduled for 11:15 a.m. at the Marriott Galleria, 5150 Westheimer.

The protest will be for the Speaker, the racist, sexist, homophobic agenda of the G.O.P. and Stockman, who became notorious in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community by calling for a federal investigation of the decades-old Kinsey report on sexuality.

For more information please call Paul

Mullan at 942-9752.

Roses From Kolbe

Thanks to a special grant from the Rothardt/Dizinger Foundation, Kolbe project volunteers will be delivering roses once each week to HIV/AIDS patients in Park Plaza Hospital.

Announced by Kolbe's hospital ministry directory Brother David Crank, OFM., he stated, "We are pleased that Hans-Willi Rothardt and his foundation have made it possible for the Kolbe project to let our brothers and sisters in the hospital know they are important and that they are loved."

The Kolbe Project, founded in 1990, is a ministry to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered person of all or no faiths. Its hospital ministry serves HIV/AIDS patients at Park Plaza and Twelve Oaks hospitals, as well as their families and other caregivers.

"Faux Cage" Auditions

LoneStar Entertainment and Houston's Laff Stop have announced they will be producing a new show, "Faux Cage." A "Le Cage" type Las Vegas show will be produced professionally at the Houston Laff Stop Saturday nights beginning mid-June.

For more information or to schedule an audition, please call 840-1166.

Gay Today

by Glen Webber



A Tapestry of Emotion

The greatest honor and most emotional moment any gay man or woman can experience is visiting the AIDS Quilt. It's importance to our community cannot be put in a few words. Where the experience becomes really emotional and personal is when you see one of your friends' name on a panel. You realize he should be standing next to you to share your sorrow.

The first time I saw the Quilt, I saw the name of Keith Stewart. He was my best friend in San Francisco. He was the sales director for *Drummer Magazine*, and a very hot leather man. I loved him so much and he loved me. I wanted to cry, and maybe I did a little. I found the whole experience of seeing the quilt panels covering the floor of the Brown Convention Center overwhelming.

The Quilt has begotten its own offshoot traditions. Often, after a loved one dies of AIDS, survivors get together and have a Quilt party. Creating a panel for this monumental memorial is a great way of closure, as well as a way of assuring that your friends who died will not be forgotten. I do know of many ill people who have already made their own quilts. To them it is a final acceptance of their illness and death.

I have a great honor coming to me next week. Continental Airlines is unveiling its AIDS quilt panel, a gigantic 12 X 12 panel honoring employees lost to AIDS. My great honor is that I wrote a poem which was embroidered on the quilt panel. They are going to ask me to sign it in front of everyone present. (I told them to put a little sign in noting that I am not dead).

The panels of the Quilt now number over 36,000. Can you imagine if all those panels were still people and we were at the Bunny Party having a great time? Can you

imagine how crowded the clubs would be if all our friends were still here, and we were all together having a Saturday night bar-hop? Can you imagine a past when the only illness most of your friends had were hangovers and bad hair days. ...

I never made Kelse a quilt panel, but his (and now my) Aunt Lillie was working on it. I will try to remember to ask her when we next talk. She is very nice, and a beautiful woman to be 85.

If you are going to make a panel for the quilt, make it like you were writing a story. You can look at many of the quilts and imagine the exciting lives they had. I believe every one of you dear readers have lost someone to AIDS. And when you see them near death, you pray they go. Isn't that ironic, we pray to see them get well, and then we pray to see them die.

Many straight people don't understand the emotional impact of the quilt, until you take them. You can look into their eyes and see tears and sadness. Perhaps they will be more tolerant of gays and support AIDS research.

I don't want a panel for myself. While it would be an honor, there is no honor in being dead, no matter how brave the fight. I hope that all you good friends and dear readers can.

I guess if I were to have one, I would like some of my poetry on it, and maybe some of my photos from my pretty boy days when I appeared in magazines. Although I didn't wear much clothes in those photos, I enjoyed doing them. To bad they have quit asking me to pose nude.

Those of you who are lucky enough to go to Washington D.C. to view the quilt must remember we are left to carry on the torch. We must remember we are the lucky ones. We must always defend ourselves and the gay community when someone starts badmouthing us. And, we must love ourselves so much, that we are able to do this.

BASIC PERFECTION



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Let the light shine on Spectrum

(Continued from Page 1)

Morgan contends that all the bartenders and waitstaff donated their time so there could be more money for charity.

As well, Morgan said he discovered that American Airlines never paid for RuPaul's ticket, which Bourgeois had assured him that they were going to do. "Alan...said that they had an agreement with American Airlines but American Airlines didn't pay for it. So, it was paid out of proceeds; it was like \$2,200. That's when I started raising eyebrows. It's like if you're going to give the world away, you're not really going to make money," explained Morgan. "And he finally...came clean and said that after they do all of there event and stuff like that, than at the end of the year if there's any money left over, then they donate it.

Morgan says he contacted Bourgeois last Monday concerning repayment of his loan. He had earlier received a check from Bourgeois, he said, but a phone call to the bank had confirmed that funds were not available. According to Morgan, Bourgeois stated that he had informed the bank to contact him when the check hit the bank, so that he could run to the bank and deposit the funds. Morgan told him that he would like to be extended the same courtesy that he had provided and receive the funds in the manner of a cashier's check. He even offered to pick Bourgeois up and take him to the bank. Bourgeois said he would take care of it and bring him his money. To his credit, Bourgeois did bring a cashier's check in the amount of \$5,000 to

Morgan, however, the amount should have totaled \$6,600, 10% of which was interest.

The story is characteristic of several experiences related to the *Houston Voice* by various individuals regarding their business dealings with Bourgeois.

Richard Oncken is one of those individuals. Hired by Bourgeois to narrate a video for Meadowood Ranch, a proposed gay resort in East Texas, Oncken met Bourgeois at Barnaby's. The pair agreed that Oncken would receive an emolument of \$75 for his services along with an all expense paid weekend, according to Oncken. Oncken claims that he played havoc trying to receive his remuneration and that he ended up spending money on accommodations because Bourgeois never had an agreement with the lodge. Oncken does say that he finally received a \$30 Circle K Money Order for his efforts after "relentless hounding."

Oncken contends that Bourgeois "should never be allowed to be a responsible party for any alleged fund-raising event. We should go one step further and warn leaders of other city's gay and lesbian communities of his history here. The "board" which he refers to in his published responses last week should be identified and their responsibility determined," said Oncken. "Is this the same board which organized the Spectrum '95 event? Who chooses these people and based on what criteria? What is their statement regarding this mess and what can we expect next from Town Meeting, Inc.?" he questions. "At best, I would hope dissolution. The very

least acceptable response would be eliminating Mr. Bourgeois from it's leadership and reorganizing with responsible, credible people at the helm. We deserve answers and this community must demand nothing less," concludes Oncken.

Bourgeois has a history of questionable business and financial dealings and brushes with the law; still, he has made a positive name for himself in some circles of the community for his promotional skills and self-declared passion for advancing community causes and unity.

There are many individuals who have an opinion concerning B. Alan Bourgeois, pro and con. On one side are detractors who claim that he has done the community more harm than good through disastrous mismanagement of his various efforts, past and present. These individuals say they would like Alan and Town Meeting to be held accountable for their actions. They would like to see the books and determine what exactly is going on. They are frustrated over Spectrum '95 and '96 and feel that these events could cause high-profile celebrities to second guess making an appearance in Houston for any benefit to raise funds for our community.

Bourgeois' supporters, however, say that only the positive should be accentuated and that his heart is in the right place. Some say that it is unhealthy to investigate matters that might embarrass our community. Some also are strong supporters of the concept of Spectrum. Some don't believe anything was mishandled.

The ultimate decision is up to the community, to decide who and what they believe.

In the interest of balance, the *Houston Voice* contacted Alan Bourgeois to allow him to respond to some of the allegations. In order to ensure accuracy and eliminate the risk of misplacing a quote in contextual form, Bourgeois comments are printed in a question and answer forum, as follows:

H.V.: Did you ever decide at the board meeting what you were going to do for ticket holders?

A.B.: At this point and time because of pending legal action, us against them, we have no comment.

H.V.: I didn't realize that legal action was pending.

A.B.: Well, they made agreements that they did not fulfill. A letter was referred to (dated) the 6th of March, which could be impossible, simply because we never discussed it as there was no contract until the 12th of March.

H.V.: So the legal action was not initiated on their behalf?

A.B.: No, it's us against them.

H.V.: Do you know Morgan

A.B.: (Yes).

H.V.: According to Morgan, you told him that American Airlines was going to provide the flight at no cost.

A.B.: Right...We were advised that they would be a sponsor of Spectrum '96.

H.V.: Did they follow through?

A.B.: Right now, we're still trying to find out what happened.

H.V.: Who did you speak to at American?

A.B.: I'd rather not. There is no need to even get into this. This is between us and them and we don't want to jeopardize any potential agreement down the road.

(Continued on Page 15)

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Omega House, an eight bed residential hospice for individuals in the terminal stages of AIDS. Volunteers are currently needed on weekdays to help with supportive functions such as cooking, housekeeping and administrative assistance. If you are interested, please call Claudia Commo at 523-1146.

HOUSTON VOICE

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May 17
Jessica Van Shelton

May 24
Rochelle Stevens

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May 18
Hostess: Katrina La Shawn
Special Guests:
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Bill Gonzalez



DiverseWorks announces '96 'Beyond Desire'

DiverseWorks annual gay and lesbian performing arts series takes center stage in June, with the accent on youthful talent and energy.

This year, young artists breathe new life into *Beyond Desire: New Lesbian and Gay Performance* while more experienced performers lend maturity and strength to the exciting program. Former Pomo Afro Homo Brian Freeman reads with hot mama poet Ana Sisnett. The moving, amazing School's OUT project for queer youth is back. And just when you thought "12 Minutes Max!" couldn't get any wilder, they've culled promising 20-somethings for a special Pride edition. *Beyond Desire* is held annually in honor of Pride Month to present the best in theater by gay and lesbian artists. And no, you don't have to be gay to attend!

All events at DiverseWorks, 1117 E. Freeway (N. Main at Naylor). Call 228-0914 for reservations.

Highlight of the series include:

—Pretty, witty and wild! a reading by Brian Freeman and Ana Sisnett Friday, June 7, 8:00 p.m., \$10, \$7 members & students.

Born in black Boston and based in gay San Francisco, writer/director/performance artist Brian Freeman pens personal narrative pieces that cover everything in between. He describes them as "bell hooks meets Mary J. Blige." In 1991 he formed the performance group Pomo Afro Homos, which toured the U.S., Canada and Europe for four years, creating scandals in North Carolina, battling censorship in Alaska, and selling out theaters from New York to Glasgow to Houston. Now solo, Brian is preparing a performance piece to be presented this June in San Francisco, where he leads an ongoing writing and performance workshop for lesbian, gay, bisexual and questioning youth called *Drama-Divas*. He recently appeared in the black lesbian feature *Watermelon Woman* which won a top award at the Berlin Film Festival. Brian will read from new work and past Pomo favorites.

A Panamanian-born poet living in Austin, Ana Sisnett draws on African, Latin American and Caribbean oral traditions. Sisnett's "deep, brown cello" of a voice and mesmerizing presentation take her audience on a deep, woman-centered journey as she charts the emotional landscapes of love, sexuality, family—and community, spirituality, race, class and immigrant experience. But she's not all poet—she's also Techno-

mama, head of a Foundation for a Compassionate Society program that trains women to use the Internet and links activists world wide. Sisnett, whose popular poem "Mango Tree Love Song" is available in *The Arc of Love: An Anthology of Lesbian Love Poems*, will read from her just released cassette tape, *Glimpses*, and unpublished work.

—12 Minutes MAX! OUTbursts! Saturday, June 8, 8:00 p.m., \$12, \$10 members, \$7 students

Artist, advisory board member and Alley Theatre dramaturg Travis Mader has brought together gay and lesbian young adults for this special Pride edition of 12 Minutes Max! Witness the emergence of the next generation of queer artists. OUTlandish performances include "Calling," Sixto Wagan's memorial for a friend who died of AIDS; "Forced Flesh," Ray Ogar and Andrea Nitsch's multimedia dirge of obsession and loss; "Loss of Love," performance with pop sound environment by Tom Jackson; a special guest excerpt of School's OUT, and more! Remember, each performer has only twelve minutes in which to entertain and enlighten you, so set your watch and prepare to be OUT-raged!

—Mary Ellen Strom's School's OUT/The Naming Project, A DiverseDialogues Residency; June 21, 22, 23. Fri & Sat., 8:00 p.m., Sun 2:00 p.m., \$12, \$10 members, \$7 students

School's OUT again! With class and sass, a spirited team of lesbian and gay young artists investigates what it's like to be young and queer. Gay youth make up one of the most isolated, at-risk groups in the country, and School's OUT/The Naming Project gives them an outlet for their fresh and potent voices. This unique project, in which the team develops a multimedia performance through an intensive workshop in performance and media making, returns to Houston for a second year.

School's OUT/The Naming Project is presented in association with ACCESS Houston, HATCH (Houston Teen Coalition of Homosexuals), Houston Community College Photography and Media Department, and Southwest Alternate Media Project (SWAMP).

DiverseWorks is located at 1117 E. Freeway (off N. Main at Naylor). Gallery hours are Wednesday—Saturday, noon—6 p.m., or by appointment (223-8346). Admission to the gallery is FREE.

New study suggests why HIV-positive people tire easily

(GALVESTON)—The molecule best known for forming the protective outer coat of the AIDS virus may now have a new claim to fame. It also disturbs sleep patterns, according to research at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

As described in the *May American Journal of Physiology*, injecting a protein called gpl 120 into the brains of rats causes them to sleep longer and wake up more often than normal. The effects mirror that observed in HIV-positive individuals, two-thirds of whom are plagued by a so-called "debilitating fatigue" that can severely disrupt their lives and endanger their jobs. The new research may offer both a reason for that condition, and a precaution for HIV treatment.

Most HIV-positive people develop sleep disturbances long before the more obvious signs of AIDS begin to impinge on their health. The problem is so prolific that sleep distur-

bances are considered a reason to test for HIV infection. While other studies previously have correlated HIV infection with sleep disturbances, the UTMB research is the first to demonstrate that a specific component of the virus may trigger the reaction. Researchers say the discovery represents an important step forward in figuring out the non-immunological effects of the virus.

"We know next to nothing about what HIV does in the central nervous system in terms of behavior," says Mark Opp, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences and lead author of the study. Gpl 120 and a related protein, gpl 160, have reached the human phase of testing for use as vaccines. "Our concern is that the use of these substances as vaccines could induce some detrimental side effects" such as drowsiness at inappropriate times.

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Boy Toys 9pm — \$2 Domestics

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Boy Toys 9pm — \$2 Kamikazes

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Houston Voice

Gary Grant named local HRC coordinator

(Continued from Page 1)

One of his first projects, he revealed, will be to "form a coalition to rally in response to the upcoming ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on Colorado's Amendment 2." For those readers who aren't sure what Amendment 2 is, read on. "Amendment 2 is a statewide ballot initiative passed in Colorado in 1992. It would ban the State of Colorado and any political jurisdiction within the state from passing or enforcing laws protecting civil rights based on sexual orientation."

Grant says he will be holding his breath every Friday until the Supreme Court

decision is handed down. That could be any Monday in May or June. As soon as the decision is rendered, a press conference will be held downtown, at Tranquility Park, at 7:00 p.m. on the day of the ruling. (If interested in participating call 664-0551 for more information).

Although the job is just four weeks old, Gary finds his phone is ringing off the wall. Access, access, access, is the main theme and HRC's world wide website facilitates that. The web address is <http://www.hrccusa.org> for those who want to jump on. The site also provides a means, for those who are not yet out of the closet, to "get involved in fighting for

their rights." In addition to the opportunity to be anonymous, the website provides access to powerful tools for the "armchair activist." Reportedly, its as simple as typing in your zip code and getting information about your representative in congress instantly. The website also allows you to send messages directly to members of congress, via e-mail. The theme of access, and communication via the internet between gays and lesbians, is also in the foreground of Gary's game plan.

Additional information about the various projects the Human Rights Campaign is working on, or what legisla-

tion the HRC is trying to get through congress is on the website as well. Local organizational work and information on congressional candidates being endorsed by the HRC is also available on the website. Mr. Grant's diverse background and unarguably active participation on almost every level of political activism lends him to open up dialogue with a widely varied, and powerful group of individuals and organizations. To put it bluntly, he has valuable contacts when it counts. Congratulations Gary Grant, The Human Rights Campaign—Action Coordinator for Houston!

Former lesbian lover given role in raising child

ST. LOUIS, Thursday, May 9 (AP)—A court has given the natural mother custody of her 2 1/2-year-old son but says she has to consult with her former lesbian lover on all parenting decisions.

St. Louis Family Court Judge Thomas J. Frawley this week also ordered the two women to split the child's time equally between them. The child will change residences every Friday.

The second woman raised the child from an infant and Frawley said that separating the child from her would harm him emotionally.

Family law experts said that Frawley's ruling may open the way for other people, such as stepparents or live-in companions, to use the "equitable parent" concept to seek continuing contact with a child, after their relationships

with the child's parent have ended.

"I think this is an important step in recognizing that a child can be harmed by the interruption of a relationship with an adult whom the child views as a parent," said Susan Appleton, a family law expert at the Washington University School of Law. "A child's affection and trust aren't based on neat legal definitions of who counts as a parent."

Although the "equitable parent" concept has figured in custody decisions elsewhere, and in inheritance cases in Missouri, this is apparently the first custody case in Missouri in which it has been cited to justify continuing contact between a child and an unrelated adult.

The case started last summer when a 35-year-old warehouse worker known in court records as A.L. sought legal and

physical custody of the child.

A.L. said that her former lover, Y.R., an unemployed mother of four, gave her the child within days of his birth, in June 1993, and that he spent all but one night of his life with her until last June. She says she returned him to his mother after she was threatened with prosecution.

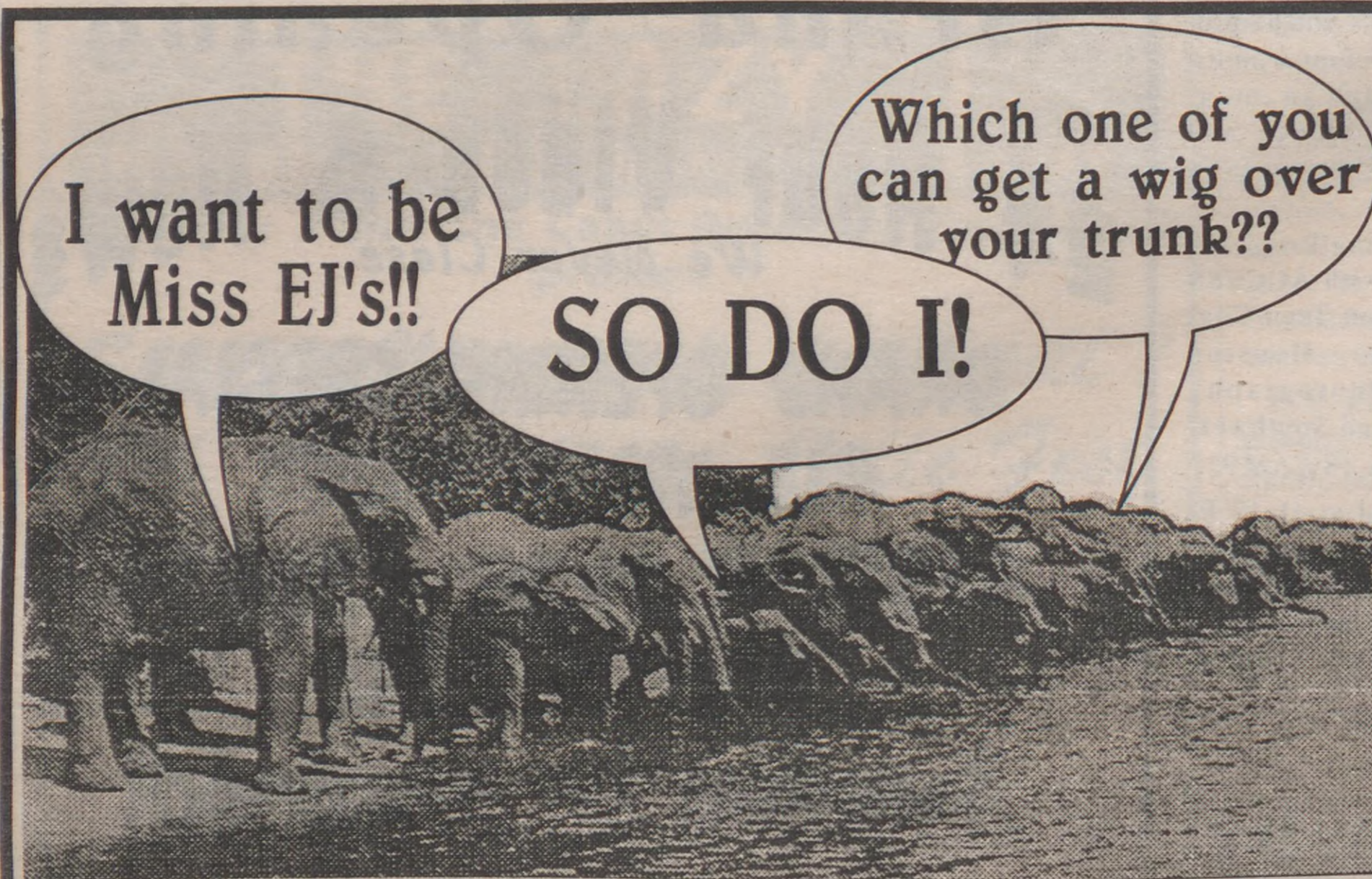
A.L. was seeking full legal and physical custody of the child. Leigh Joy Carson, the attorney Frawley appointed to represent the child, supported her position.

During a two-day trial last month, Y.R. denied that she had been A.L.'s lover or had promised A.L. that she could raise the child, although she admitted leaving him with A.L. for weeks at a time. She said that she gave the child A.L.'s surname only because A.L. was his godmother. Fra-

wley said in his order that he believed A.L.'s version of events, not Y.R.'s.

The mother's attorney, Allen Harris, argued that A.L.'s sexual orientation made her unfit to rear the boy. But Frawley said her sexual orientation was not an issue because of evidence that the child's mother had also engaged in lesbian sexual activities. Frawley put limits on both women's sexual activities: no overnight adult visitors in their homes while the child is present.

Frawley said the case was a reflection of changing social relationships and required a "functional approach" rather than a "traditional, stricter formal approach" to defining family.



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Hosted by Paivi Lee Love

SAT

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SUN

5/20 MALE STRIP CONTEST
at 11:00 pm w/ PAIVI

MON

5/22 Granny's Burgers!!

WED

5/23 South of the Border Night
with Marilyn Marx

THURS

Log Cabin/Moderate Republicans oust religious right leader

By CURT MORRISON

Houston Voice/Houston

Lynnda Paukune's recent election victory over incumbent Al Clements as senate district chair of Republican Senatorial District 13 last week was significant on several fronts. The contiguous effort on behalf of Log Cabin Houston and other moderate Republicans to oust Clements from the position initially began out of frustration with religious right tactical maneuvers prevalent at the March 20th Senatorial District convention and ended up becoming the catalyst for change. Paukune's election marks the first time a senate district in Texas has been taken back from the religious right.

Clements is closely affiliated with Steven Hotze, the leader of the anti-gay forces in Texas who is a driving force behind electing religious right candidates. The acrimonious upset was a devastating blow to the religious right, whose minions appeared to be stunned beyond belief when the vote was tallied. After the meeting, one precinct chair who voted for Paukune effused: "It was beautiful, I wish I had pictures of it. It was just beautiful." Clements, who chaired the equally acrimonious Senate District Convention in March is a staunch right wing religious right zealot. His "back yard" loss will most likely be an embarrassment to him in front of his peers at the state convention where he will reside as the chairperson of the Resolutions committee.

In addition to the chair, moderates won 10 out of 12 seats, three of which were won by members of Log Cabin. The real impact, however, will be forthcoming—two years from now, when the next convention convenes.

As proof, Paukune cites an event that took place at the senate district convention last

week. The event was an "impassioned" speech by Dale Carpenter, state president of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas. According to Paukune, Carpenter's message stressed cohesiveness and from her perception encompassed the majority opinion of those in attendance. "Dale was very articulate, very bright. He had a lot of charisma and the crowd was enthusiastic, until he told them he was gay," remembers Paukune. "A small segment of the participants booed, but that was clearly not the majority consensus."

Paukune also stressed that she does not want those who supported Al Clements to feel they don't have a voice, "because they do." "If we turn around and act exclusionary like they (religious right) did, then we've accomplished nothing," said Paukune.

Paukune had some strong political allies who offered her tremendous support. "The moderates came out in force. They put a lot of work and effort in the movement to defeat Al Clement's," explained Alison Bell, wife of former City Council At Large candidate Chris Bell. "Organization and lots of motivation were the key," Bell said. "Motivation which stemmed from the frustration of the Senate District 13 mistreatment of moderates at the behest of Al Clements," she ascertains. Bell added that she believed Lynnda will be a voice for everyone. Paukune promises to fight for the removal of hateful language and planks aimed at gays and lesbians. "We're very excited," concluded Bell.

One of the more colorful exchanges occurred at the caucus when Al Clements attempted to silence Olga Soliz as she stood up to address the delegation. Soliz is the precinct chair person of the moderate precinct delegation that was shut out of the convention, chaired by Clements

last March. Soliz made it abundantly clear she was not going to be silenced. "I'm going to talk," she announced. "You shut me out of the convention, but you can't shut me out now," admonished Soliz.

"But I didn't, the credentials committee did," Clements protested. "Yeah, but you stuck all of your kids and your wife on the committees," retorted Soliz. Clements has 14 children. "I was like a raving mad woman," said Soliz. "He is a liar and a cheat and he stacked the committee." Soliz, who is ecstatic about Clements' defeat, never believed in her "wildest dreams" that the caucus would unseat Clements. "This is a man who has violated, who has cheated, who has done everything unconscionable to anyone who does not vote his way, the extremist religious right way."

Local gay leaders credited much of the foundation for the changes to gay and lesbian organizing efforts. According to Pat Gandy, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Clement's ouster should provide encouragement to continue the fight for gay civil rights. "I think it was great...fantastic," asserted Gandy.

"The bottom line shows that we can have a positive impact in the Republican Party. The cause is not hopeless as long as we work hard and don't give up. A newly energized mainstream Republican movement can arise because Log Cabin, among others, has stood up to intolerance," noted Dale Carpenter, state president of Log Cabin Republicans.

For his part, Clements seemed relatively at ease with the outcome. "She won fair and square. The majority of the people favored her over me," he responded. For the record, the vote was 32-18 with 1 abstention. Clements stated that the "convention delegates were selected

back in March and that is entirely separate and those delegates vote on the state platform." He also does not believe Paukune's victory will have any effect on the platform whatsoever. "Lynda doesn't have anything to do with the convention, she's not a delegate," argued Clements. "I'm still convention chairperson for the district," he added. "Senate District 13 is not typical of Harris County, the state or anything else, it is a liberal district and I don't think it will have any significance. The majority of delegates at the state level appear to be socially conservative," he opined.

Clements suggested that his removal from the post was masterminded by moderates, not Log Cabin Republicans. "Some of their members are precinct chairmen. They had a part, but only some effect. It was pure moderates."

Not so, according to many of the heterosexual moderates who were in attendance, including the aforementioned Bell, Soliz and Gwynneth Smith, former president of Planned Parenthood.

"Log Cabin members initiated the campaign to oust Clements. As a result, other moderate forces joined. Together we sought out moderates and lobbied everyone to participate and made an all out effort to get them there," said Marion Coleman, vice president of Log Cabin Houston.

According to Clements, however, Log Cabin Republicans are not even "an official Republican organization."

"They have not made an application to be one of our affiliates and therefore have never been officially approved. They can use the name because it's not copyrighted," states Clements. Asked if, in his opinion, the party would approve such an application, he responded: "No, they would not."

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CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY - 5/17

* "Your Sacred Self" - study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. Kingdom Community Church. 4404 Blossom. Call 862-7533.

* Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. Kolbe House. 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182

SATURDAY - 5/18

* Services at 7:30 pm. Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872

SUNDAY - 5/19

* Friendship Sunday at Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 10:30am. Free Lunch at 12 noon. 2515 Waugh Dr. (@ Missouri)

* First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30am and 11:30am. 5200 Fannin at Southmore. 526-5200.

* Services at 5:30 pm. Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872

* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 a.m. Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 a.m. Maranatha Fellowship, 3400 Montrose, Suite 600, 528-6756.

* MCCR worship services with Rev. Jim Burns. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 pm 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.

* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533. "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 a.m.

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. 1405 palm. Call 526-8095.

* Covenant Baptist Church. Worship service - 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00pm. 6610 Alder. Call 668-8830.

* Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Seekers class 9:15 a.m. 1440 Harold. Call 526-1017.

MONDAY - 5/20

* Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe House, 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182

* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm, 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

TUESDAY - 5/21

* MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm, The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm Call 861-9149.

* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.

* Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 pm. These groups are open to all people. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

WEDNESDAY - 5/22

* MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm, Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm, Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 1919 Decatur. 861-9149.

* "A Course in Miracles"- Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm Call 862-7533.

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 pm 1405 palm. Call 526-8095.

* Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 pm. These groups are open to all people. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

THURSDAY - 5/23

* Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 pm 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.

* MCCR worship services, 7:00 p.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

If you want an event listed in this section, please call (713) 529-8490.

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Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "Does God already know the choices we will make and the path we will choose, or do we determine them by the choices we make?"

A: It sounds like you may be asking whether the choices you make in life really matter, or has God already determined everything for you. If we go back to the Garden of Eden, we see God creating humanity and giving them freedom of choice. God directs them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but does not keep them from disobeying that directive by eliminating their ability to choose. I believe that God knew the choices

they would make before they made them. At the same time, Adam and Eve determined their fate by the choices they made in the garden. In other words, God's knowing what I will do before I do it does not interfere with my ability to choose.

As we begin our journey of faith in relationship with God through Jesus Christ, we must learn to recognize God's voice. The closer and more intimate the relationship, the more we will know and understand each other. The Psalmist said this of Moses' relationship with God as compared to the children of Israel: "To Moses You revealed Your ways, but to the children of God You revealed Your acts." The more intimate we become with God, the more we will live our lives in synchronous harmony. My decisions will more likely be in accordance with God's will for my life. At any moment I can step into the realm of disobedience and walk away from God's will. God will know about these choices before I make them, but will not interfere with my freedom to choose.

In the Old Testament God told the children of Israel about the consequences of their choices. If they worshipped and served God they would be blessed. If they disobeyed they would be cursed. The book of Deuteronomy, chapter 28 gives us this story. We also see that no matter what God's children did, God always loved them and provided a way for them to be restored in relationship. In Jeremiah 29:11 we read, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD.

Our choices do matter in the realm of the path we take and the experiences we have in life. No matter what you go through, it is just as Joseph said to his brothers who sold him into slavery: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Genesis 50:20) Whether we make wrong choices that wound us, or others do things to us to harm us, God has the ability to turn things around for our good!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932

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Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



One of Those Days

Some days are just like that. Babies get sick after their immunizations. City of Houston Health Department nurses flatter me with the name of "Momma," but provoke me to fury sing-songing, "Now Momma, if she had gotten these shots on time (Yeh, about a year ago, before I was her "Mami") she would have tolerated them better. Let's try to keep up to date on her health care now, shall we?" She pats my hand comfortingly, not recognizing that hers on mine seems very much like a deadly assault and that I am likely to react in kind.

But because the baby is made ill and then requires a detour home for a bath—no need to confirm what they already say about "people like that"—we are fifteen minutes tardy for our appointed time to collect commodity cards that we can exchange for sugary breakfast "food." I haven't been accused of "tardiness" since I was in elementary school. But recipients of "community services" seem to be recognized by their "service providers" as pesky little irritants that have no other "appointments" arranged by other arrogant "providers" that they couldn't meet in a week if they were relying on Metro.

The other "free" services offered (required of?) of us are dispensed with similar "Now, now, we know what's best for you" biases by Ladies Benevolent, with less education and manners than their "recipient" but with much, much more expressed attitude. To be eligible for these taxpayer contributions one must be poor (which we were not prior this) and cringing. It helps a lot to have been

raised Catholic. We also know how to genuflect.

If, however, when we seek "services" outside the "agreement" (read: order, issued by the governing body who sought to make use of us as Free Temporary Babysitters, not to be confused with Temporary Managing Conservators) we are immediately choked. (NO, you can NOT allow another family member to babysit this child! You absolutely DO NOT have the power to agree to surgical medical treatment for her chronic ear infections! And yes, we encourage visitation with the baby's abusive, neglectful, errant parents! She needs to know who her family is! NO, we don't know when this case will be resolved, QUIT ASKING US! What's a matter, don't you enjoy taking care of her? And here, fill out this form 16543-P-kSc. Again."

Some days are just like that. And some nights we just cry. We weep for our now shriveled dreams for our own future, which seemed so close, and almost paid for. We worry about the dwindling resources we had promised our college student sons and how we will pay for day care next week. We grieve for this baby's tragic hurts, and for her perilous future. And sometimes we just cry because we feel sorry for ourselves.

Today, we are crying because we have heard a rumor, a wisp of a suggestion, a whisper that maybe—no promises, except not to repeat what I'm sharing with you now—maybe we'll get to keep her. Forever. Or until she becomes a teenager, stamps her foot and declares she's running away. Whichever comes first.

Sob.

NAMES Project founder attends Houston ceremony



AIDS Memorial Quilt co-founder Cleve Jones, right, joined Houston NAMES Project representatives in a moving dedication ceremony at Main Street Theater. The new local panels will be included in upcoming DC '96 display

Fifty-Three New Panels Dedicated

By PERRIE DOLPH
For the Houston Voice

More than 300 loved ones and friends of the AIDS Memorial Quilt gathered Sunday evening at the Main Street Theater for the Houston Memorial Panel Dedication Ceremony. Fifty-three new panels were added to the national list, which now numbers in excess of 36,000; the new local panels will be included in the DC '96 Washington display on the National Mall, Oct. 11-13.

Cleve Jones, the Quilt co-founder, accepted the new panels on behalf of the National NAMES Project Foundation. Jones was also the evening's keynote speaker and joined Flo Selber, founder of MAP (Mothers of AIDS Patients) at the

speaker's mike in two moving tributes to our many departed friends. (Jones was also the guest of honor at a reception the previous evening).

Among the panels dedicated were two very large 12 X 12's, one from Marshall Field's of Houston (in its trademark greens and golds) and the other from Continental Airlines, its design featuring many puffy clouds depicting lost employees. Continental's panel will be formally dedicated on Thursday at Intercontinental Airport, where it will be accepted by Anthony Turney, executive director of the national NAMES Project.

The SRO crowd was enthralled by the beautiful music provided by Terry Pierce and Jerry Atwood, which concluded the evening's ceremony with the lighting of 300 candles and the singing of "Over the Rainbow."

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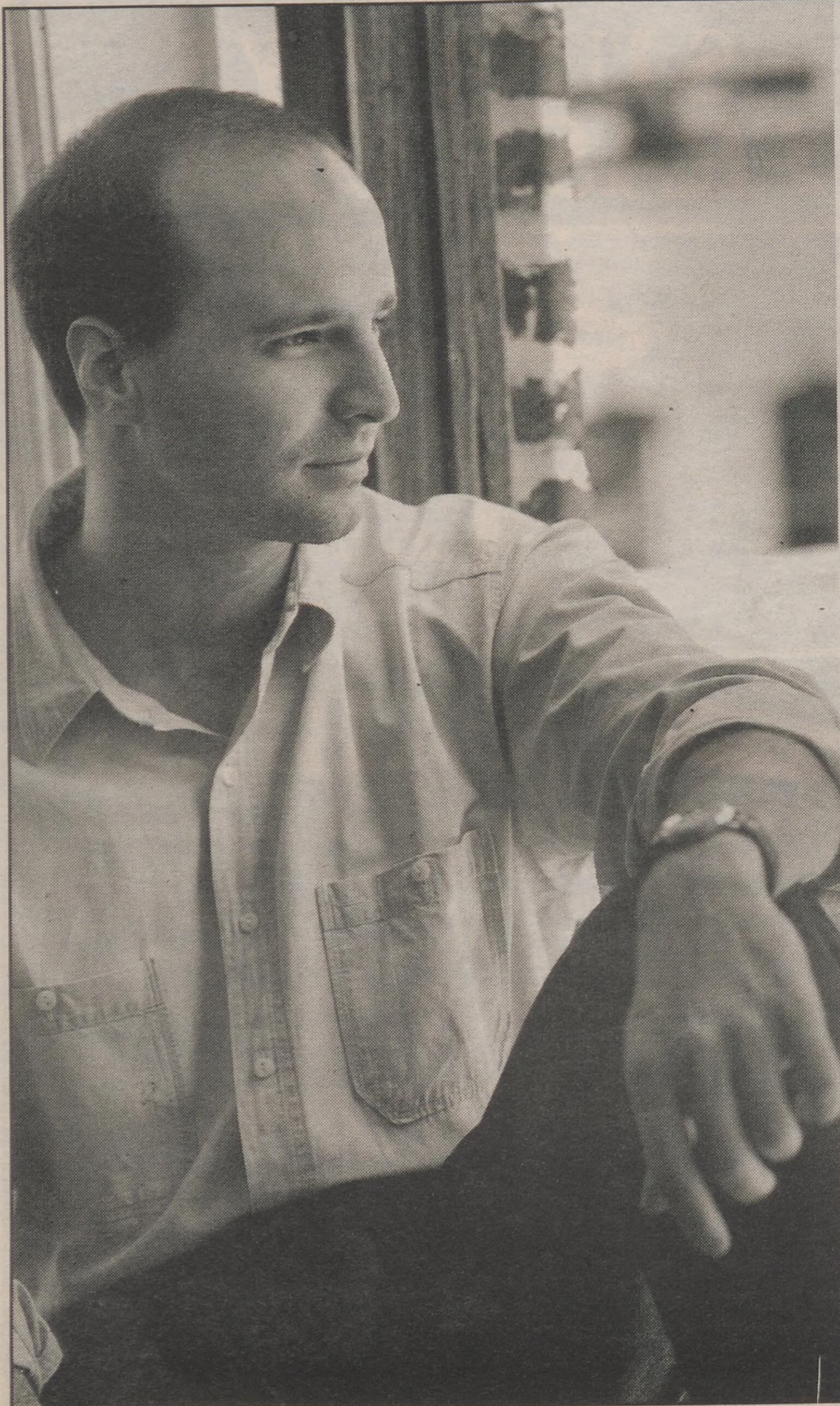
by Jon Anthony

Eddie Murphy, whose appearance on *Late Night with David Letterman* last week angered several gay groups nationwide, issued an apology for remarks he made in 1981. "I'm not homophobic and I am not anti-gay. I know AIDS isn't funny. In 1981, I did a show for HBO called *Delirious* and I touched on the subject of AIDS. I was 21 years old and just a kid," said Murphy, who insinuated that AIDS could possibly be transmitted through kissing during the show. "Keep in mind that in 1981, AIDS was a new disease to most of us, and no one knew exactly how it could be transmitted. I think it is unfair to take the works of a misinformed 21 year old and apply them to an informed 35 year old man....I deeply regret any pain all this has caused.".... NBC has announced its fall schedule this week. The proud peacock, currently the #1 rated network has added seven new shows to its slate. *Mr. Rhodes*, a sitcom about a prep school teacher starring stand-up comedian **Tom Rhodes**; *Something So Right*, a comedy starring **Mel Harris** and **Jere Burns**; *Men Behaving Badly*, based on the BBC series of the same name, stars **Justin Bateman**, **Rob Schneider** (*SNL*) and **Ron Eldard** (*ER*); *Suddenly Susan*, a sitcom about young woman, portrayed by **Brooke Shields**, recovering from the demise of a long relationship; *Dark Skies*, a sci-fi drama about surviving an alien invasion; *Pretenders*, a suspense drama concerning a top secret organization; and *Profilers*, a drama about a woman who attempts to catch the serial killer who murdered her husband. In a surprise move, the network picked up the low-rated ABC sitcom, *The Jeff Foxworthy Show*. Shows that are not returning to the line-up include: *Brotherly Love*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Home Court*, *Hope & Gloria*, *In the House*, *JAG*, *Malibu Shores*, *Sisters* and Wednesday's *Dateline NBC*.... Nick at Nite has

obtained the rights to three new classic series of yesteryear, *The Odd Couple*, *Happy Days*, and *Newhart*. *Couple* debuts June 3, *Days* starts Sept. 23 and *Newhart* premieres next January.... NBC's heavily promoted *Mad About You* three-part cliffhanger concerning characters Paul and Jamie's marital woes drew higher than normal ratings for the first episode. It ranked 9th for the week. The season finale airs this Sunday May 19 at 7 p.m.... Speaking of finales, *Murder, She Wrote*, closes shop this Sunday May 19, as well. *Murder* has been a TV staple for 12 years and although the show was tired, star **Angela Lansbury** will be missed.... Citing the collaborative efforts necessitated to complete the production of *Victor/Victoria*, **Julie Andrews** declined her nod as a Tony nominee for Best Actress, saying "I could not have done it alone." Andrews, who guests on *Late Night with David Letterman* May 23, was angered that none of the other cast or crew were nominated.... **Christopher Connelly** and **Nancy Griffin** have resigned as editors at *Premiere* movie magazine. The pair contend that the "editorial integrity and credibility" of the magazine had recently been compromised. Apparently, the magazine's owner Hachett Filipacchi ordered a story focusing on actor **Sylvester Stallone's** financial involvement in the Planet Hollywood restaurant chain killed. **David Pecker**, CEO of Hachett denies the allegations and claims the resignations stem from "differences in editorial direction. Connelly will discuss the matter with **Tom Snyder** May 24 on his late night show following *Letterman*.... **Tony Randall** will replace ailing **George C. Scott** in the Broadway production of *Inherit The Wind*. Scott is being treated for an aneurysm and won't return. The play closes May 19, according to *Daily Variety*.... **Bill Cosby** is

contemplating naming his new CBS sitcom *Not Dead Yet*. The show is based on the BBC series *One Foot in the Grave* and is expected to be on CBS' fall schedule.... PBS' two part *Savage Skies* garnered huge ratings for the network. The documentary about inclement weather nearly doubled their share of the audience.... ABC's *Roseanne* beat NBC's *3rd Rock From the Sun* last week for the first time since the two sitcoms went head to head. The episode featured Dan Conner suffering a heart attack.... **Jim Carrey** hosts *Saturday Night Live* this week. *SNL* airs on NBC Saturdays at 10:35 p.m.... **Anne Rice** sold the film rights to her early novel *The Mummy* for a hefty \$3 million. 20th Century Fox won the rights to the book in a contentious and heated bidding war.... **Diana Ross**, in Monaco for the upcoming World Music Awards slated to air on ABC June 3, was seen sporting a blond wig and a purple marabou coat. Diana's prodigy **Michael Jackson** is also in Monaco, assumedly for the same purpose.... **Elizabeth Taylor** and **Cher** will head the AmFAR AIDS benefit at the Cannes Film Festival. With Liz there, perhaps Michael will pop up?... Another AmFAR benefit will be held in New York at the famed Studio 54. The event, Last Dance, sponsored radio station WKTU will mark the closing of the infamous disco's doors forever. **Gloria Gaynor**, **Cher**, **RuPaul**, **La Bouce** and **Jodi Whatley** will entertain the VIP crowd. Tickets are \$200.... **Tim Conway** guests on the season finale of CBS' *Cybill* May 20.... **Grant Shaud's** final appearance as Miles on CBS' *Murphy Brown* airs May 20 at 8 p.m. Brown will return next year for its final season.... **Susan Lucci** is favored to take home the coveted Best Actress award at the Daytime Emmy Awards airing May 22 on CBS. After 15 nominations and no trophy, Lucci's win would be a fitting tribute to one of daytime's greatest vixens of

all time.... Poet/Actress **Maya Angelou** chats with **Lauren Hutton** on her early morning program May 22. Hutton airs at 1 a.m. on UPN Channel 20.... An encore showing of **Mariah Carey's** SRO concert at Madison Square Gardens airs on Fox, May 23 at 8 p.m.... **Jean Harlowe**, **Rita Hayworth**, **Betty Grable**, **Jayne Mansfield** and **Marilyn Monroe** are the subjects profiled on A&E's *Biography* series this week. *Biography* airs at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. weekdays.... **Milestones: Luis Miguel Dominguin**, a matador whose rivalry with his brother was fodder for an **Ernest Hemingway** novel, *The Dangerous Summer*. Dominguin, 69, was romantically aligned with **Ava Gardner**. Illustrator **Garth Williams** died at the age of 84. Williams classic illustrative works included *Charlotte's Web*, *Stuart Little* and *Little House on the Prairie*. **Top of the Charts:** As expected, *Twister* blew away the competition and swept up \$41 million in box-office receipts to claim the #1 position. *Twister* had the biggest May opening weekend in cinema history. *ER* dominated the Nielsen ratings last week. On the music front, **Bone Thugs-N-Harmony's** single *The Crossroads* claims the #1 position as the hottest song in the country. Surprise! Surprise! *Fairweather Johnson* by **Hootie and The Blowfish** remains on top of the album charts. *My Maria* by **Brooks & Dunn** is the hot country song, **The Cranberries' Salvation** is the top modern rock track and **Olga Tanon's Basta Ya** is the hottest latin track. *Moonlight Becomes You* by **Mary Higgins Clark** and **Christopher Darden's In Contempt**, co-written by **Jess Walter**, are the hottest selling fiction and non-fiction books according to the New York Times best-seller list. **Quote of the Week:** "President Clinton told working Americans he feels their gas pain." - **Jim Miklaszewski** on a *Today* show report on rising gasoline prices.



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Feature Interview: Bonnie Tyler

(Continued from page 1)

Tyler, who began her foray into the music industry in the late 1960's, has had quite a remarkable career. A native of Swansea, South Wales, Tyler embarked on a club circuit tour throughout Great Britain with her first band, *Imagination*. She proudly cites Tina Turner and Janis Joplin as her musical influences and credits them with inspiring her musical career. After nearly a decade of honing her vocal skills performing in nightclubs, Tyler emerged as a solo artist in 1976 and achieved massive success with her first single, *Lost In France*. The song became a Top 10 U.K. smash that launched her debut album *The World Starts Tonight*, released in 1977, which in turn became a precursor to her phenomenal success. As a result, Tyler released her second album, *Natural Force*, in 1978 and became an international sensation. The album spawned the hit song "It's a Heartache." "Heartache" reached the Top 5 in the U.K., and in the United States, it was one of the first songs to reach the top of the pop and country charts simultaneously. All said, the single sold more than six million copies worldwide and catapulted the visceral vocalist into the mainstay of international pop culture. To this day, the song is still one of the most requested songs of her repertoire. "I'm doing it ('Heartache') every night," says Tyler as she cheerfully begins singing the chorus over the phone.

Tyler is currently on tour in Europe. "I'm right bang in the middle of touring. I've done 16 shows so far. I'm off tonight, so I'm going out for a nice meal with the band tonight," she relates with relief and excitement.

At the time of the interview, Tyler was in Berlin and slated to perform the next evening at the ICC. "Next, we're off to Vienna for five shows...I'm doing several T.V. shows in Germany and then I'm doing some gigs in Copenhagen," Tyler explains. A busy schedule indeed, and Tyler seems energetic about the entire process. She seemed particularly excited about one upcoming event. "And this is the best bet, right, I go home for one day to go to the Bahamas for two weeks and do three shows, but the rest of the time I'll be on the beach," she laughs. Tyler recorded several songs off of her new album, *Free Spirit*, in the Bahamas and is looking forward to returning.

A master of self-promotion, Tyler said she would love to visit Houston and perform in one of the clubs here as she laughingly, but with serious undertones, suggests that all they would have to do is contact her record company. "Why don't you look into it...I'd love to come."

"I'm really happy with *Free Spirit*. I think it's the best album I made since *Hide your Heart* (released as *Notes From America* in the U.S.) or maybe *Faster Than The Speed of Night*," observes Tyler about her new album. *Free Spirit*, her 12th album, has just been released on the Atlantic label and is her third collaborative effort with Jim Steinman, whose work is synonymous with Meat Loaf. "It was ten years ago that Ian called me a 'free spirit,' but it wasn't until now that I've truly felt like one," laments Tyler in explaining how the album's moniker was partially inspired by Ian Dury, of Blockheads fame.

Tyler said she enjoyed working with Jim Steinman again. "We did a dance version of (Meat Loaf's) 'Two Out of Three Ain't Bad...' and it's getting good reaction I'm told from the record company around the club scene," she informs. Another Tyler track, a high energy remake of Air Supply's "Making Love (Out Of Nothing At All)" is making the rounds as well. Both songs were penned by Steinman. "They were sending them around to clubs to see what the reaction was, before they decide which one they were going to release." A decision was made and "Two Out of Three Ain't Bad" has been released to radio and clubs as the first single. It has garnered rave reviews and is currently climbing the charts.

Tyler's biggest smash to date has been "Total Eclipse of the Heart," also a Steinman tune. "Heart" reached the top of the U.K. charts and spent one month at the perch of the U.S. singles chart. It was one of the biggest selling singles of 1984. The song garnered Tyler the Grammy Award nomination for Best Female Artist and the video was an MTV staple for months. The song returned

to the charts last year as a remix dance hit for Nikki French. I asked Tyler why she didn't record the dance version herself. "I used to say, we should do a dance version of it. But then when Nikki did it, it was too late then, I mean obviously, it's very lucky for her," responded Tyler. "I love (that song)...every night, I never get tired of singing it. The audience goes nuts when we start it, they just love it you know. They light sparklers and they're all swaying back and forth. It's fun," Tyler says of her signature song.

Tyler fondly recalled how her musical partnership with Steinman came to fruition: "I was a very big fan of Meat Loaf's *Bat Out of Hell* album. After 'It's a Heartache,' a big hit back in 1978, everything seemed to go down hill at that time for about three years. And I thought well I better move into the direction that I feel comfortable in, and not more towards the rest. But my managers at the time wanted me to go more country." "Country!?" I interjected. "Yeah," she responded in a concurring tone. "So I decided I wouldn't re-sign with them. I thought well, I'm going to go more towards the rock side of it and if it's successful great, but if it isn't, I'll be happy doing it. So I thought well I'm going to ask Jim Steinman if he'll produce me, but I didn't expect him to say yes, but I thought well he's the one I really admire most, so I must ask him. My manager got in touch with his manager and he asked him. He said they'd think about it and to sent them some material. I sent him a few albums that I'd made. He liked my voice, but he didn't like the albums, obviously. But he decided that yeah, he'd like to work with me. It took about three weeks to decide. Then I went over three weeks later and he had written "Total Eclipse of the Heart" for me. I couldn't believe it when I listened to that for the first time, it gave me the shivers," she remembers.

Steinman was not the only music legend Tyler wanted to work with. The other was David Foster, and again, Tyler's relentlessness prevailed. "I worked with David Foster, which was great, I mean, he's just so good, you know," she recalls with enthusiasm. Foster, a legendary music producer and highly acclaimed 12-time Grammy Award winner, produced Bonnie on her rendition of the Simon & Garfunkel classic "Bridge Over Troubled Water." "(Foster) played piano on that track...and I recorded it in the Bahamas in a wonderful studio there." Although Bonnie likes the song, it was not her idea to record it. "I wanted to work with David and I had been asking him for a few years now to work with me and he'd always been busy and this time he said 'Yes, Bonnie,' and I thought yeah great," Tyler enthused. "And (Foster) said: 'But, there is one song in particular that I feel that you would do really well' and when he told me what it was, I said, Oh my God, this is such a classic. I was frightened to touch it, but he put my mind at rest. He's got such a brilliant reputation," remarked Tyler. Foster eased Tyler's fears by explaining his reasons for wanting her to re-record the classic tune. He told me: "Listen, I know this song is a classic, but I can just hear how you could do it. And I will make a superb production of it."

"I'm not going to argue with that (logic), am I," questions Tyler. "So I said okay, if you're really sure I'm not going to mess it up." Tyler thinks Foster did a "fabulous" production of the song. "Just when you think it's written to its highest peak, it sort of lifts again and again." She muses, however, that recording the song was a sad experience for her. "It reminded me of my younger brother who was breaking up with his wife. She had fallen in love with someone else. By the way, they are back together now. Nothing to do with the song, but I believe she came to her senses. But he's so lucky, he's such a bloody gorgeous boy and I got so sick in my heart for him. And, you know that, the lyrics are: 'When you're weary, when you're feeling sad, when tears are in your eyes, I will dry them out.' It's exactly what I would want to say to him. I told him that when I sang that song, I was thinking of you and I really cried my eyes out and he said: 'I know that.'"

(Continued on Page 16)



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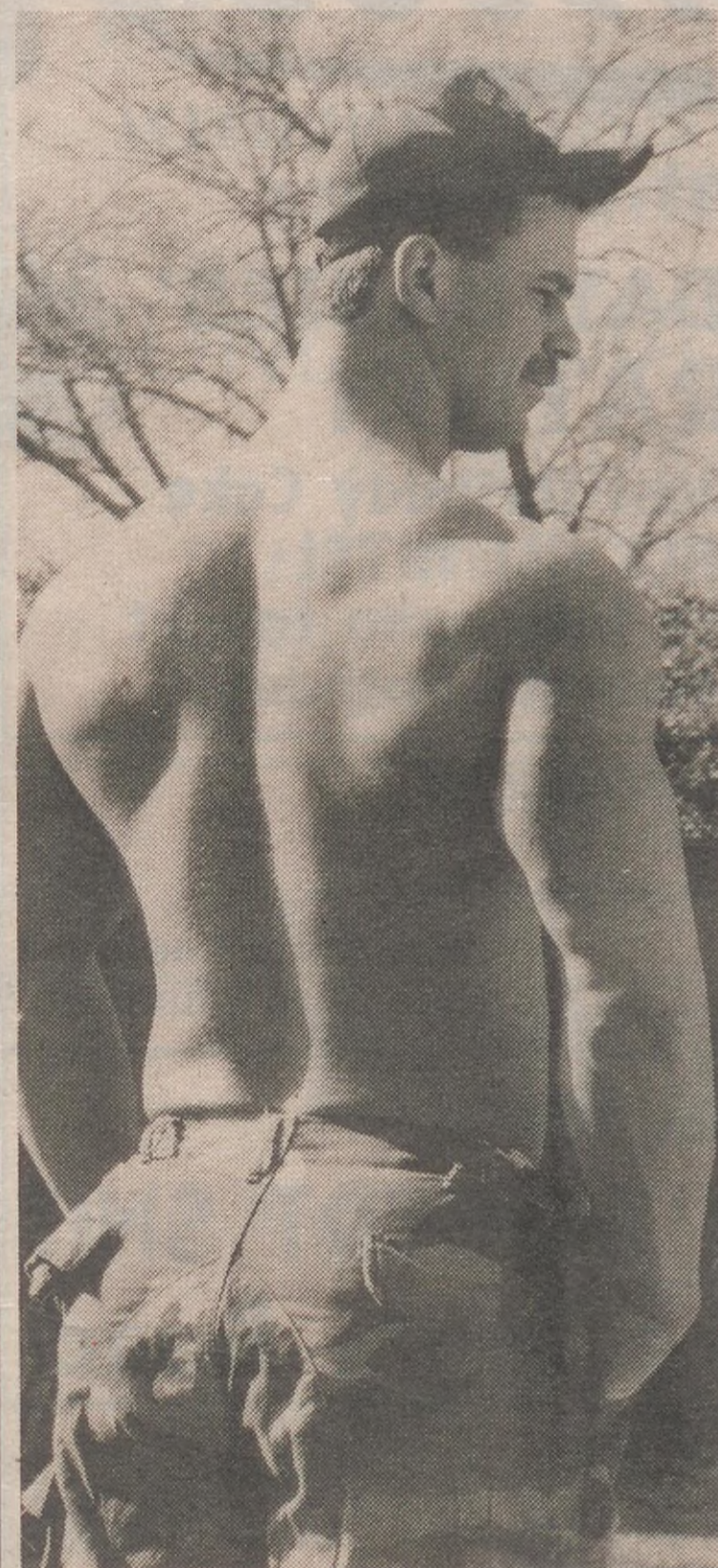


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PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

Unspectacular Campaign Plods On

If the past week is any example of Campaign '96 we're in for a long, dull (as in Dole) summer. In a 45-minute, basically incoherent speech about Asia, Dole accused Bill Clinton of being soft on China. Later, in a much heralded—six months in preparation—address on crime the "presumptive" Republican candidate cited the President as soft on crime. At the same time Clinton, in another American first, testified in a criminal trial.

Except for the two cited forays outside the halls of the Senate, Dole continues to pursue his highest goal by hammering away in his beloved Senate. He is pushing a bill to outlaw same-sex marriages—obviously one of the "hot" issues of the campaign, and one the focus groups have declared as safe territory. This is one of those double-barreled shots at Clinton: Dole caters to the Religious Right while putting Clinton in the unenviable position of either appearing anti-traditional family or alienating his gay and lesbian support. Chalk one up for Gipper the Somewhat Younger.

The issue of the moment, however, is the Republican drive to repeal that dastardly gas tax of 4.3 cents. While the *New York Times* reports that even its repeal will not be noticed at the pumps, Big Oil's journalistic ally, *The Wall Street Journal*, weighed in with a lengthy explanation as to how complicated life is for the oil companies. They have to mix the gas to suit the climate and the state—why, in California those darn regulations about pollution force them to concoct a gas that cannot be marketed in any other state. Any consumer able to comprehend the Journal's windy explanation is entitled to one low-scale job in petroleum.

There was, however, one statistic offered by *The Times* which set off alarms in my aging brain. For those, like myself, who counter all this talk of high costing gas by the admonition that "I remember when gas was a quarter a gallon," the *Times* pointed out that, adjusting for inflation, that 1950s quarter is now worth a buck seventy five. For those slow with the pump, that makes even today's high "high" cost seem a bargain.

But what that statistic said to me is that my first real job (excluding cutting grass, picking up pop bottles, or parking cars—yes, cars, not buggies) as a soda jerk which paid me a quarter an hour would be comparable to working for a buck seventy-five today. No one works for a buck seventy-five today. Was I a victim of the Eisenhower years, a Republican congress?

Now the social Darwinists out there—meaning today's Republicans—would counter that a 15-year-old had no need for a living wage when he's in high school and living at home. And they might be right. All I had to buy with that ten dollars a week was whatever clothes I had to wear and lunches at my pre-cafeteria high

school, to say nothing of saving a little for college in those pre-federal loan days.

For this reason, the coincidental fight in the Senate over the gas tax and a rise in the minimum wage bears a unique relevance. Those who hawk the Republican Party line, after skewering the figures, contend that only the young and part-timers would be affected by the minimum wage, while such an increase would cause others to lose their jobs because of the added burden to big business.

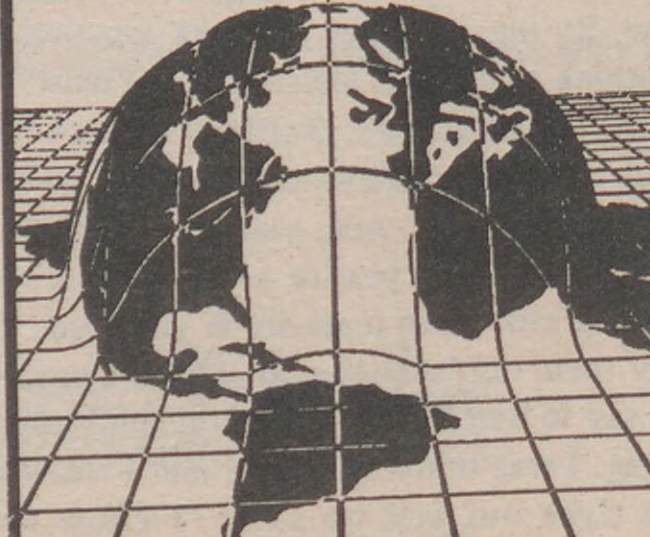
Talk about having your cake and eating it too. First, there are hundreds of thousands of jobs—full time jobs—that would be affected. One of the problems of our changing economy is that too many new jobs are minimum wage level. And a lot of those part-time jobs are held by workers holding more than one position. But the most ludicrous of all facts in this wage picture is that of executives quaking at the salaries and perks amounting to millions a year. In the words of Molly Ivins, how about a *maximum* wage law? Come on folks, no one—not even Troy Aikman—is worth \$65 million dollars a year.

But getting back to the campaign, if these issues are to spark a revival of Doleism, I've yet to see a flickering flame. Dole's current strategy apparently is to wage war on that battlefield with which he is most familiar—the Senate. At least there he spouts complete sentences and understands all the tricks of the house. Understandably he is in no hurry to return to the stump, where he is better known for such truisms as "like many of you out there I was born."

But this is not to underestimate Dole. He is clever. Mad Dog Alfonse D'Amato is not attacking fellow Republicans without a reason. And he is not co-chairperson of Dole's campaign by chance. If you follow the bouncing ball between D'Amato, Buchanan and Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition it leads directly to the abortion issue. Let other Republicans air their differences on this issue now and by the time of Dole's convention in San Diego it will, he hopes, be a non-issue.

In the meantime, we have Dole formulating a strategy to win back women's votes and in a speech for that purpose he came up with the novel line of "Balanced budget and an end to deficit spending." Leave it to Bob Dull to strike at the heart of the problem. I can't wait for his next encounter with the Log Cabineers—all of us remember the fiasco over the campaign contribution bouncing around like a hot check—when he'll ask for their votes on a platform of balanced budget and an end to deficit spending. After all, Log Cabineers are Republicans because of their fiscal conservatism, i.e. their quest for a ring up on the middle class scale—the A list so to speak.

The only suspense in all this is Dole's running mate, the person who will be a breath away from the presidency, and considering it's Dole's breath we're talking about, that's a pretty important gasp of air.



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HOUSTON VOICE

THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

Gays For Sale?

"The President's against same-sex marriage. We'll have to look carefully at the legislation that's under consideration," replied White House spokesperson Mike McCurry when asked if the President would support the current congressional legislation to ban same-sex marriages. Now, that is news. Certainly I thought, this must be a mistake. President Clinton is a champion for all minorities, he feels our pain and he is the only catalyst to those extremists on Capitol Hill. After all, is this not the same man that is considered by many gay and lesbian communities to be the most pro-gay President to date?

It is, indeed! And this was no mistake. President Clinton has many faults but stupidity is not one of them. This is an election year and polls show that 80% of the general public are opposed to same-sex unions. Remaining true to his convictions, if he even has any, certainly did not enter the foray. Of that you can be certain. In fact, Clinton is politically astute enough to have figured out that the gay and lesbian community will support him, regardless. And unfortunately, he is probably correct.

According to Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), the measure is a "sleazy" attempt to cause friction within the ranks of Clinton supporters. "The Republicans are saying, 'We'll get the Democrats in a box because the President either will have to support the bill... or get all the gays and lesbians mad at him.'" Oh, I see, when the Republicans engage in polemics it's "sleazy," when Democrats engage, it is always in the interest of compassion, care and understanding. I fail to see the compassion, i.e. et. al. in this instance. Sleazy attempt or not Mr. Frank, President Clinton is the leader of your party and if he truly supported the concept of same-sex unions, he should champion it. At issue, besides politics, is whether or not the president supports the concept and according to the White House he has held that view since 1992. As a community we deserve an answer, not some dispensatory rhetoric. The answer however, may not be in our best interest. Read on.

"The President's against same-sex marriage, he believes this is a time when we need to do things to strengthen the American family," McCurry intoned. Finally, the truth comes out. One can only conclude that: a. the president believes that legally recognized homosexual unions will undermine family; or b. that he does not believe gay unions should be construed as family. Keep in mind, these statements came from the White House, they have the president's endorsement. Apparently, we are worthy enough constituents to solicit support from except when it's time to pay homage.

Yes, the Republicans are playing politics. As are the Democrats. They have played foot loose and fancy free on a host of issues from medicare to energy to wages, all in an effort to embarrass Republicans. Well, turnabout is fair play and crying foul will not ameliorate the matter. State your position, not based on the latest polling data, but simply on behalf of your beliefs. According to McCurry, the president has not decided whether he will sign the pending legislation or veto the bill. Of course, he hasn't. He needs to weigh the political benefits and/or wrath that will undoubtedly occur as a result of this legislation. Either the president supports same-sex unions or he doesn't. It's real simple, vote your conscience.

Comparatively, presumptive nominee Bob Dole has always stated his opposition to same sex unions and has been chastised from our community for it. In contrast, the laconic Dole, in spite of his nuances, has also made it quite clear that he

is and will be a pro-life candidate. Dole did certainly not arrive at the decision to be pro-life by reading opinion polls. If that were the case, he would have declared himself to be pro-choice. He based his decision on convictions. I have more respect for an individual who states his position on an issue out of pure conviction, instead of the individual who requires polling data to reach a decision—even if the decision is something I do not agree with. Furthermore, I have no respect for a public figure who claims to be a supporter of my rights, then reneges on those promises and attempts to placate me all in one breath. I'd much rather have someone tell me directly that they unequivocally do not support my rights as a gay individual. Politicians should be held accountable for their actions and have some modicum of integrity.

It is evident that President Clinton has been sounding more conservative as the campaign season gradually heats up. Unfortunately, it is all rhetoric. This president would do anything or sell any constituency if it meant he would get re-elected. He has no principle and he is devoid of convictions. Ted Kennedy is a liberal. Jesse Helms is a conservative. Both are extreme. Nevertheless, they mean what they say and their actions speak louder than their words. That, in itself deserves some respect. Clinton, on the other hand, is a liberal who realizes the country is not. As a result, he will campaign as a conservative, placate the liberals by suggesting that he has to be moderate to win and tell the public whatever he thinks they want to hear—this week. The idea of convincing the public, through sincere articulation, of liberalism's good points appears to be a novel concept to the president. When Ronald Reagan ran for the presidency, conservative was not a popular word. That did not stop him from convincing the electorate that it was the medicine they needed. I guarantee you, Reagan did not accomplish this by poll surfing.

To paraphrase an old maxim: You can't eat your cake and have it too. Clinton will no doubt attempt to do just that. And, if we as a community truly believe in our civil liberties, we will not stand for it. I can already hear Democrat apologists, like the aforementioned Frank, coming to the president's defense. If the gay and lesbian community can ridicule Republicans as being extremists when they spout anti-gay rhetoric in the name of family values, then we as a community should advocate the same rationale in our critique of the President, who iterated the same nonsense. To do any less would demean our credibility and create a perception of hypocrisy.

A Farewell and Appreciation

As you may be aware, our friend and colleague Sheri Cohen Darbonne, has resigned from her post as Editor of the *Houston Voice*. This is the last issue that Sheri will have put her indelible mark on. Sheri's decision to resign was based on personal reasons. In my opinion, we should respect her decision. For years, Sheri has been an instrumental part of the *Houston Voice* and has always been generous with her vast knowledge. Although, Sheri and I have had our differences (what editor and writer have not), she has always been fair and straightforward. As a result, I have developed a tremendous amount of respect for her, her acumen, her willingness to assist, and her heartfelt efforts at trying to make a difference in our community. And, she did in many positive ways. She will be missed, in more ways than one. Good luck, Sheri.

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New release showcases Tyler's 'Spirit'

Review

By JON ANTHONY

Houston Voice/Houston

"Some Things Are Worth Waiting For," proclaims the sticker pasted on the cover of *Free Spirit*, Bonnie Tyler's latest (her 12th) release. Indeed, Tyler delivers one of her best albums to date. It ranks right up there with the multi-platinum *Faster Than The Speed Of Night* LP, circa 1983.

At times a mixed bag due to various producers, the positives far outweigh the negatives on this offering from Tyler. Her distinct voice has become her trademark, and Tyler uses that visceral and throaty delivery to her advantage throughout these musical selections. Tyler's version of Jim Steinman's "Making Love (Out Of Nothing At All)" is phenomenal. Her rendition will erase from memory the song's initial release by Air Supply. Produced by long-time collaborator Steinman, Tyler manages to take you on a musical odyssey, all the while managing to retain the song's surrealistic character. Quite impressive.

Steinman, who produced Tyler's international smash, "Total Eclipse of the Heart," also produced Tyler's cover of "Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad," a classic

originally recorded by Meat Loaf. By and large, "Bad" is one of the album's best attributes. Again, Tyler manages to take the song and give it the necessary edge. As a result, the song, the album's first single release, should have no difficulty catapulting to the top of the dance charts. Tyler's fierce vocal acrobatics are piercing and the song is ripe for heavy club play.

Other highlights on the album include "Forget Her," "Time Mends A Broken Heart" (written by Jeff Lynne and Kiki Dee) and "Sexual Device." The latter includes two versions, the radio mix is adequate, however, the Vari Mix rocks the house. It would be a fitting follow-up to the mesmerizing "Two Out Of Three Ain't Bad."

Tyler emotionally encompasses a broad range of musical styles on *Spirit*. "Driving Me Wild" is a vintage, uptempo rock song that is perfectly suited for Tyler's gravel-voiced vibrato. "Givin' It All," a soulful ballad that engulfs your attention, and the melancholy "Make It Right Tonight," both written and produced by Andy Hill are two of the album's most original standout tunes. The production, along with Tyler's distinct vocals are enthralling.

Bonnie Tyler is a stylist, similar to Rod

Stewart or Tina Turner. She is not a singer's singer. She interprets a song and makes it her own. Her instincts are impeccable when honed. She is at her best when the producer lets her just go with the song. Bonnie is not one of those artists that can, nor should she, be restrained. Unfortunately, there are several occasions on the album where it is quite evident the production does not blend with Tyler's textured vocals. "Nothing To Do With Love" and "You're The One" are the two most obvious examples. Her vocals are not up to par and these songs are overproduced.

Free Spirit demonstrates beyond a doubt how Tyler's musical ability has matured in the last decade. She seems more self-confident in her delivery and from the overall sound of the album, Tyler appears to have enjoyed recording these songs. The cover of Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" is simply awesome. Her rendition adds a new dimension to the poignant power house ballad and her vocal acrobats manage to scale the musical heights of this classic melliflously. This *** album has an eclectic array of musical variances and Tyler manages to encompass most of them with ease. *Free Spirit*, a great party album, is available on Atlantic at record stores everywhere.

Community Calendar

(Continued from page 2)

Wednesday, May 22

- * Women's Action Coalition (WAC) meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.
- * Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Bi-Net of Houston meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 467-4380.
- * "The Bible and Homosexuals" series by Ralph Lasher. At MCCR at 7:30 p.m. Call 861-9149.
- * Developing Business Skills workshop. 7:15 a.m. Call 932-7495 X 48.
- * Queer Nation meets at 2700 Albany at 7:30 p.m.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: How to Talk to Anyone About Anything. Call 877-1981 X 5323.
- * Leisure Learning Unlimited: The Vegetarian Chinese Dinner. Call 877-1981 X 3447.

- * Basic of Aromatherapy. Free. Call 520-5487.

Thursday, May 23

- * Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 p.m. Call 629-1432.
- * Broadway Showtunes at J.R.'s. 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.
- * Art Classes at The Art League. 1:00 p.m. Call 523-8817
- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.
- * Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.
- * KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call 866-6505.
- * Burger and Chili night at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- * Steak Night at the 611 Pub. 6:30 p.m.
- * Dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Free. Call 880-0670.
- * Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. Call 622-7250.
- * Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-3704.
- * HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 942-0923.
- * HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 p.m. Call 796-2272.
- * Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- * HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050



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Sunday, May 19th

Miss Gay Pride Contest

For more Info contact Ruby Stone 520-8999

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| Mark Your Calendars | June 16th | Mr. Montrose Contest |
| | June 23rd | Gay Pride Parade |
| | June 28th | BRB's Denim Party |

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Sunday May 26th

BRB's Robert, Candidate for Mr. Prime Choice
Special Guest including the '95-'96 Bitches of the BRB

Come On Down and Dance Your Boots Off!!

Spectrum... Q&A

(Continued from page 4)

H.V. Okay, what about Coors?

A.B.: What about them?

H.V.: Morgan contends that you said they would be a sponsor as well.

A.B.: We had been working with them, yes.

H.V.: And they fell through, as well.

A.B.: Right. At this point in time, they have not finalized their end of whether or not they were going to participate.

H.V.: What about Entertainment Tonight?

A.B.: What about them?

H.V.: According to Morgan, Kathy Griffin contacted him and told him that Entertainment Tonight would be covering the event.

A.B.: I did not set that up and it was a surprise to me on Saturday when I found out about it.

H.V.: Morgan contends that you presented this event as a benefit for the Bering Foundation which persuaded him to front the \$6,000.

A.B.: I never presented it in that fashion. I made it very clear to him on several occasions that this is a fundraiser for Town Meeting and if any money was left over, it would go to the beneficiaries, Bering and the Assistance Fund.

H.V.: So they are the beneficiaries of any excess funds?

A.B.: Right.

H.V.: Will there be any?

A.B.: We're still working on getting charge card approvals and things like that. ... What is the reason for all of this?

H.V.: In the interest of fairness, I want to grant you the opportunity to respond to Morgan's allegations.

A.B.: What are his accusations?

H.V.: Well, besides the aforementioned, he claims that when he contacted you about insufficient funds to cover the check you wrote him, you had asked him to deposit the check and that the bank would contact you when it reached them so you could in turn go to the bank and deposit the funds. He also said that he asked you to bring him a cashier's check, which you did, however, not for the full amount. In addition, he says that he clearly stated that he did this in honor of his brother's death and in the name of charity. Is that true?

A.B.: He and I had discussed it as well as him and Kathy had discussed it. He was under his own ideal as far as what was going on and stuff. And after Kathy and him had spoke and after I and him had spoken, we made it very clear on what it was. We made sure we did not mislead anybody anywhere along the line. We never authorized any indication that this was a fundraiser for Bering or the Assistance Fund, as it was not. They were beneficiaries of Town Meeting and if there was anything that was left over, yes they would get it, however, it was not a fundraiser for them. We never indicated that at any time.

H.V.: What about the money?

A.B.: His restaurant. His manager at the restaurant said they would issue out what they were holding for us, \$1944. From that they would issue a check to him for the \$1600, he would be paid off and the remaining balance would go to us.

H.V.: Morgan said that you received a check for \$15,000 from Rich's and after calling the bank, the check was not deposited.

A.B.: I never received a check for \$15,000. I explained to him the situation. Hold On, I've got somebody here... Okay, you guys are blowing this out of proportion. It sounds like he's pissed, so he's trying to create something that's not even existing. Very clearly, it was important to us to make sure he got paid off. We had a check in our possession, we were expecting to receive another one from his establishment which he chose to hold instead of giving to us.

H.V.: Why were there not sufficient funds for the check you wrote?

A.B.: He never deposited the checks to begin with. That's number one. He was instructed that the two checks that he was given, to deposit them on Thursday. I had arrangements with my bank officer, he would notify me when they came through. At that point and time, we would deposit cashier's checks that had been issued, one which was from Rich's, the other which was supposed to be from La Strada. At that point and time, those checks would be deposited and the officer would authorize them to be paid.

H.V.: Why would you wait? Why not just deposit the funds and accrue interest?

A.B.: We don't have an interest bearing account. It was what we chose to do to make sure that there were no problems down the line. As we have had problems before with checking accounts, the debts from last year, we wanted to make sure nothing happened.

H.V.: If Town Meeting is not a fundraising organization, what exactly is its purpose?

A.B.: (Angrily) Okay, look. You guys are going to print whatever you want anyways.

H.V.: Not true. We didn't print whatever

we wanted last week. We printed your comments verbatim.

A.B.: You guys didn't print exactly the truth. ...

H.V.: Again, we printed exactly what you said verbatim.

A.B.: Okay, you printed exactly what was also said (by others), which I said was not true.

H.V.: It's only fair to print both sides.

A.B.: Why you guys are even doing this is beyond me. As far as I'm concerned, the *Houston Voice* is just out to create issues that aren't even existing.

H.V.: What about the ticket holders who would like a refund?

A.B.: I told you because of pending legal action, we have no comment.

H.V.: Okay, Alan. You argue that we're picking on you and that Town Meeting is a positive for the community and an overall benefit. What benefit has the community received and have any funds been given back to the community from Town Meeting as a result of either Spectrum '95 or '96?

A.B.: No, because we have lost money on the first one and on the second one, at this point and time, we don't have all the figures in. It looks like we will be breaking even and

hopefully maybe make some money. It depends on what other responses we get from VIP holders.

H.V.: So what exactly is the benefit to the community?

A.B.: One, the entertainers that have participated have gotten more exposure for them, so they have benefited. Okay, the community got to find out who these people are, so that they can support them. Number two, businesses that have supported it, through the business expo and sponsorship, have gotten more business because of their recognition, because they've been seen out there, people then start supporting them more. So (Spectrum) built up a stronger business community in that respect. Politics, what issues have been brought up in Town Meeting have been dealt with. Example, the Gay Chamber of Commerce. That was brought up in Town Meeting, now there is one and that came out of it. I can continue to go on down the list. There has been more positive than there has been negative. But you guys, the *Houston Voice* have not discussed that. Your article is an example of that. You talked to three people who were not satisfied out of 1000 who attended.

(Continued on page 24)

Mr. Prime Choice 1996



a contest for men over 40

MAY 31, 10pm:

Meet Contestants & Judges,

Dallas Eagle: Mark Frazier

1st Mr Prime Choice: Ben Moore

Mr. Int. Drummer: David Walker

JUNE 1:

A Night of Fantasy by
J.D. Buchert (Mr. Int. Fantasy)

Guest Bartender:
Mr. Int. Drummer, David Walker

JUNE 2, 9pm:

MR. PRIME CHOICE CONTEST

Emcees: Don Gill & Don Dowden

(still accepting entries)

Entertainment by:

Mr. Alan Gibson

(AND REMEMBER:

B.O.P.'s Slave Auction, June 14)

RIPCORD

<http://www.hic.net/ripcord/journal.htm>

Bonnie Tyler interview

(Continued from page 12)

Tyler believes that it is easier to record a song if the ditty has some significance or meaning that you can relate to. "I try to mean everything when I'm singing it. Love songs I find easy to interpret. It's the other songs like 'Sexual Device' and 'Dragging Me Wild,' I find that I can't really relate to. I then turn it around as if I'm singing to my live audience, because I've got such a great following, you know, the places are all sold out and everything. I have a bit of fun with those songs and play to the audience and like having a joke set up. There is no way I could ask an 18-year-old boy to be my Sexual Device and be serious, you know what I mean?" jests Tyler.

Tyler has worked with some of the industry's most recognized talents. In addition to Steinman and Foster, she has worked and/or toured with Meat Loaf, Todd Rundgren (formerly of Utopia), Desmond Child, Shakin' Stevens and Cher. "I did the *Hide Your Heart* album with (producer) Desmond Child and then his following album was going to be for Cher. So he said while I was there would I do something with a song called 'Perfection' for the album, so I said yeah, no problem at all, but I didn't get to meet her," Tyler recounts disappointedly. "She sent me a huge bouquet of flowers for doing it, cause I didn't want anything for doing it. She sent me like a five foot arrangement." So, is there anyone Tyler would love to work with that she has not been able to as of yet? Yes, Brian Adams. "I'm sure we would

sound good together. I've done a few of his songs, but I'd like to actually do one with him," she broods. Asked if she has met him, Tyler replies: "Yes, I've actually sang with him on stage in a stadium in Portugal. In the Bum Seeger football stadium, he was head of line-up, you know. And I was about sixth or seventh row by the band and he asked me to get up and do a couple of numbers with him. He didn't have to ask me twice darling, I was there like a rabbit," she laughs. "I was great, I really enjoyed that." She recalls that she has heard him say "Bonnie Tyler" in interviews when asked "Is there anyone you would like to do a duet with?" "You never know, we'll see what happens," concludes Tyler.

Tyler will be performing at several high profile ceremonies and celebrations in the coming months. "I'm doing, hopefully, Gay Pride in New York on the 9th of June. I've been told it's 99% sure, now. Four songs partly, they want. And I'm hoping that I have got it. You know, you never know until it's signed, sealed and delivered," says Tyler.

"I've always been played in gay clubs. Actually, 'Holding Out for a Hero,' was made a hit in the U.K. through the gay clubs," proffers Tyler, who believes that her large gay following stems from the enormity of her music style and her dance hits such as 'Hero.' "I've got loads and loads and loads of gay friends. My nephew lives with me, my nephew is gay and we spend time with his gay friends all the time. I just get on with it,"

Tyler states matter-of-factly.

Candid, humorous and insightful, Tyler is one of those rare artist who makes an indelible impression on you whether you like her or not—and it would be difficult to dislike her. Her acerbic wit and malleable demeanor are refreshing. Her responses during our interview were always fun—filled with witty anecdotes and self-deprecating humor. For example, I commented on how beautiful she looked on the *Free Spirit* album cover. Her reply: She laughs. "I've never been beautiful, darling. I've never relied on anything except for my voice and I'm too down to earth to accept any compliment about that, because I know different. It's a good picture, taken on a good day. That's all."

But Bonnie, I replied, C'mon, you've got piercing eyes and a beautiful smile. "Yeah" she chimes, "my eyes are probably my best feature. Everybody asks me do I wear blue contact lenses. I don't. They are my own. I did buy a pair of green eyes once, because I always wanted green eyes. I bought a pair of green contacts, I had a green jacket on and I just...well, let's just say I looked ridiculous. I took them out, I put them in the pouch in the pocket of my jacket. Somebody stole my jacket, so they had a pair of eyes to match. I've never tried colored contacts since."

Bonnie Tyler is more than just an international recording artist. As the album title suggests, she is truly a free spirit.

The Tangled Tale of the Westheimer Street Fest

Guest Commentary

By ANNISE PARKER

For the Houston Voice

(Note: The following was submitted in response to an article that appeared in *Houston Voice* Issue No. 811 about the Westheimer Street Festival).

I found last week's article on the Westheimer Street Fest interesting, although somewhat lacking in detail and historical context. This is in no way intended as a criticism of the reporter, who did a good job of putting the pieces together, but rather as an observation of just how complicated a topic this is. As a neighborhood activist and immediate past-president of the Neartown Association, the umbrella group which encompasses the 21 Montrose area civic associations, I am familiar with the event, the people who make it happen, and the opposition.

I'm not sure how this event became such a cause celebre for so many in the gay community, other than that it takes place in "our" backyard. It should be noted that the event is not "gay," nor is the opposition anti-gay. In fact, you will find members of the gay community on both sides.

The Heights Fest shows that large public festivals can occur in residential neighborhoods. But differences between our festival and the Heights Fest are instructive. The Heights Fest is alcohol free. Our festival is funded by beer sales. The Heights Fest occurs on public property, namely the median of Heights Boulevard, and a single entity controls the booth spaces. The Westheimer Street Fest occurs on private property, and individual property owners lease their space as they see fit. The primary organizing entity can change from year-to-year. The Heights Fest has live music on several stages, coordinated by the organizers. The Westheimer Street Fest has live music limited only by the number of sound permits issued. The Heights Fest occurs only once a year. The Westheimer Fest occurs twice a year, over two weekends. Without trying to give an exact chronology, let me give some background. The fest started many years ago as something like a block party centered around the old Liberty Bank (think Blockbuster). The festival grew each year, adding artists and other vendors, but drawing from the surrounding neighborhoods and being very much a "Montrose happening."

The Westheimer Colony Association is the group created by the original organizers to manage the event as it grew. It is a 501(c)3 organization, making it tax deductible and able in turn to give grants to other charitable organizations. The fest became a very successful fundraising tool for The Westheimer Colony Association. Surrounding property owners started leasing their space to the highest bidder and the "spontaneous (street) festival" grew right along with the official art festival. Acknowledging liability concerns and the increasing size of the event, The Westheimer Colony Association gradually tightened and limited their oversight to a defined area that could be secured. They started charging admission. Then the large lot leased by The Westheimer Colony Association for its portion of the fest was sold and redeveloped (new Walgreens). That being the last suitable open space in Montrose (and with perhaps some concerns about the street fest), The Westheimer Colony Association moved their event to downtown Houston, and out of the picture. The street fest on Westheimer continued to happen on the same spring and fall dates as The Westheimer Colony Association's downtown art fest. No one was in charge, and therefore no one was responsible for all the major expenses of such an event—primarily security, toilets and cleanup. None were provided. It was an absolute nightmare for many nearby residents. (thousands of people swilling beer on a hot afternoon—use your imagination).

Neartown and local civic associations tried to impose some order on the fest one year. They put up the money for portable toilets, etc., and decided to charge admission to cover expenses. Their, perhaps heavy-handed but well-intentioned, efforts were repulsed by a number of property owners along Westheimer. They forced Neartown to drop the idea of admission fees, as that would deny citizens access to a public street (The Houston Festival has now established precedence for this, however). The civic groups were forced to go to voluntary donation buckets, which failed to generate sufficient funds.

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The Tangled Tale...

(Continued from preceding page)

After the first Westheimer Street Fest Inc.-coordinated event, a Neartown committee composed of representatives of the most affected civic associations (which I chaired) was created to try to forge a workable compromise between those who liked the fest and/or made money from the fest, and those who were tired of the problems. For the first time there was an entity to negotiate with. We worked out a 15-point list of minimum standards for the event which has greatly mitigated the negative impact of the fest on the area.

But wait. There is another group who wants a piece of the action. The Biannual Westheimer Street Fest. Last spring they got to the city first and reserved the street-closing permit. This put them first in line for the beer permits—and most of the money. The Westheimer Street Fest Inc., to their credit, lived up to their commitments on safety, sanitation, etc., despite the loss of income. Biannual did their own thing. The obvious problem of accountability resurfaced.

Let me digress a moment. For whatever altruistic motive may exist for the groups who want to hold the festival, everything comes down to money. A festival of this size, if done right, generates enormous expense, although there is also the potential for substantial profit. What generates the money? The beer booths. Whoever holds the beer permits (granted by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, but with the approval of the police department) makes the money. Property owners make their money by leasing to vendors. And vendors make their money by selling their products. But the only way to finance the festival overhead—and the only possibility of a big return—is through the beer permits.

The Westheimer Street Fest Inc. has the 1996 street-closing permits. Biannual has the 1997 permits. The Westheimer Street Fest Inc. now has a positive track record, and their efforts to keep lower Westheimer clean year round have made a real impact. Biannual is an unknown quantity. You can't negotiate in good faith if you don't know from year-to-year who is going to be in charge.

The "bad" years soured many local residents on the entire concept. This uncertainty about who will be in charge of the fest has become the last straw. They have now decided to do whatever it takes to stop it. Nothing less than the elimination of the fest will satisfy that contingent.

Do they have a point? The last few festivals have been safer and cleaner. Crisis areas of security, toilets and clean-up have been generally successfully addressed. One neighborhood complaint the organizers have tried to address and failed, through no fault of their

own, has been the cacophony generated by the multiple sound permits issued by the city. The solution at this last fest? Have a police sergeant on site with sound meter in hand and a designated person to be an official complainant when necessary. Awkward, but effective.

But there appear to be some insurmountable problems.

The festival is a victim of its own success. It simply attracts too many people into an area not able to safely accommodate them. Montrose has inadequate/barely adequate parking on normal weekends. The street fest brings up to 100,000 people into the area. Quite simply, where do the cars go?

Consider that no other residential area has as many street closings. Lower Westheimer, and vicinity, is behind only Memorial and Allen Parkway, as they come out of downtown, in amount of time closed to traffic. In addition to the four days of the spring and fall street fests, it also is closed during the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade in June. The post-parade street fest often closes another nearby street, and the Greek festival does the same over three days in October. For a business owner on Westheimer, that is at least five days that you are cut off from your normal clients.

The festival grows each year. It is also gradually moving west along Westheimer, well beyond the street closing limits. On these properties, festival organizers can't even exercise the minimal control they have over properties within the official fest boundaries, and they contribute nothing to the overhead expenses.

Because alcohol sales are currently the only way to finance festival expenses, the event often resembles one large beer bust. Most of the neighborhood complaints have been generated about drunken, rowdy, 20-something males from the 'burbs. (I am personally tired of hosing various body fluids off my building after each fest!)

Montrose Boulevard is a major traffic artery. Closing the Westheimer intersection throws detouring traffic down streets already partially blocked by on-street festival parking and pedestrians. Residents can be literally trapped in their homes.

Anyone who likes the festival needs to consider the negatives which are inseparable from it.

Opposition to the fest didn't develop overnight, but after years of irresponsible behavior by festival goers and property owners who couldn't take the long view. Civic associations, like any other organization, speak for their members. If you live in the immediate area of the festival, you need to join and make your voice heard, pro or con.

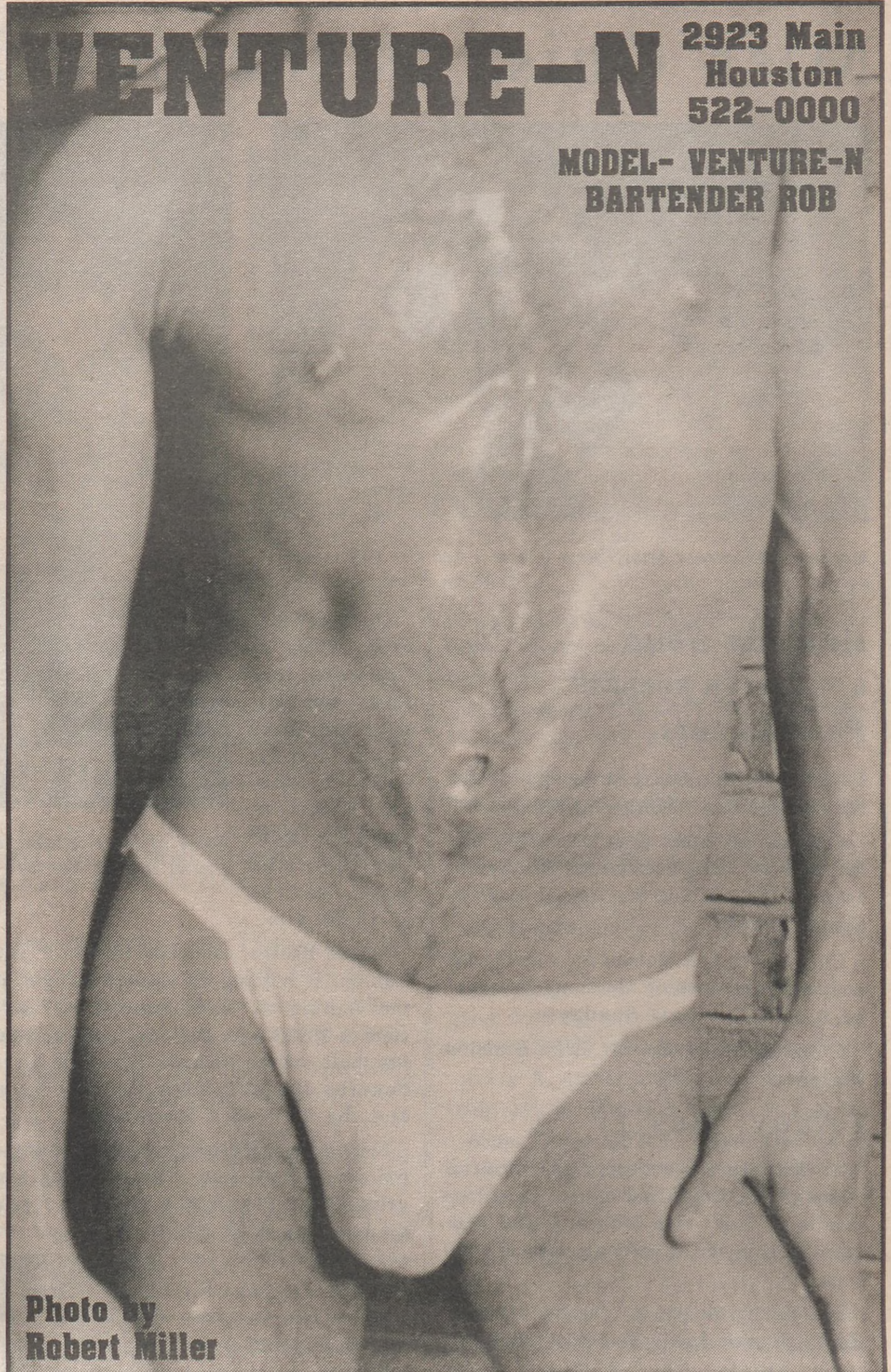


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FRIDAY, MAY 17, 9:00pm till ??

Guest Bartenders on the "TOP"



The Court



SATURDAY, MAY 18, 10:00pm

Armon Brown, Candidate for

Mr. Prime Choice presents

"Prisoners of Lust"

Prisoners will be sold for their crimes of lust. A fundraiser for the LVL PWA Holiday Fund and the Colt 45's Stone Soup

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 5:00pm till ??

Guest Bartenders on the "TOP"



Houston Area Bears

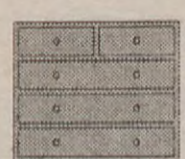


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Wish List

people
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Dressers

End Tables

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Silverware

Dishes

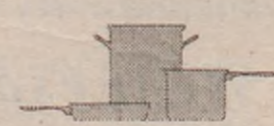
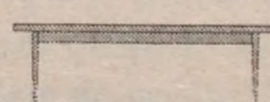
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Coffee Tables

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Wheelchairs



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Miss Ouisa is the new Mother of Montrose!



Mother of Montrose Miss Ouisa (Center) and her stiff competition.



Some of the Houston Area Bears on the prowl at the Venture-N.



\$23,000 was donated by TGRA

Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

Congrats to Miss Ouisa for being crowned the coveted new "Mother of Montrose."

Congrats to Father King Dot! While his/her muff was being scrubbed at the "Scrub-a-Muff" over \$2000 was raised to go to Stone Soup!

Congrats to Eric Roland for winning the coat hanger award of "Mommy Dearest" at Rich's this past Sunday!

Congrats to the new Mr. E/J's Brandon Martin.

Friday, May 17

The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star will be guest bartending "Top" side tonight at the Venture-N. Join the royalty starting at 9:00 p.m.

Headlining tonight at Cousin's are Miss Zack, Frankie Lane, Sivi Ross, and Victoria Nicole. The spotlights shine starting at 11:00 p.m.

Casey belts out C&W hits tonight at Bacchus II. You can join in the fun with karaoke. The stage lights flash at 9:00 p.m.

There is a birthday bash tonight at the Santa Fe side of J.R.'s for Randall Jobe, Reid Mitchell, and Reno Wist. The bash is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Lazy J and China Doll Productions serve up Jessica Van Shelton and a slew of contestants for the strip/talent night competition. The contest starts at 9:00 p.m.

Warm up to the Boy Toy dancers tonight at Gentry. Be sure to take advantage of Gentry's \$3.50 special price on Absolut-ly anything!

Saturday, May 18

SHHHH! It is a surprise! Join Mela's Tejano Country staff and friends as they throw a birthday bash for Mela! There will be food, fun, a DJ, and more. The birthday candles are lit starting at 9:00 p.m. There will be a \$2 cover!

The Super Saturday Show at Cousin's features the talents of Miss Zack, Nikki Collins, Brandi Houston, and Kara Dion! They dance on stage starting at 11:00 p.m.

Armon Brown, candidate for Mr. Prime Choice, is hosting an auction tonight at the Venture-N. "Prisoner of Lust" will start at 10:00 p.m. Prisoners will be sold for their crimes of lust! This fundraiser benefits the LVL PWA Holiday Fund and the Colt 45's Stone Soup.

Sexy male dancers are on the stage of the 611 Hyde Park Pub. The bumping and grinding starts at 9:00 p.m. Don't forget the beer bust. A \$2 optional buy-in gets you refills for 25¢.

Celebrate your birthday at Chances tonight! Join the crazy May babies' birthday bash at 8:30 p.m. There will be entertainment, a giant birthday cake, and tons of fun!

The Saturday Super Show at the Lazy J highlights the talents of Katrina La Shawn and her guests Tricia Blake, Molly Brown, Miss T.T., and Michaelay. Show time is 10:30 p.m.

Wayne tickles the ivories tonight at the BriarPatch. Be sure to request your favorite songs to sing along.

Sunday, May 19

Thousands of Houstonians will gather in Sam Houston Park-Downtown to walk and roll for Southwestern Bell's "From All Walks of Life" benefiting 17 greater Houston HIV/AIDS service organizations. Registration starts at 7:00 a.m., and the Walk begins at 8:30 a.m. You can pick up pledge forms at all area Kroger Stores, Starbucks Coffee, or Al's Formal Wear. For further info, call 629-WALK.

The 6th Annual Cajun Belle Fest hits the Lazy J today starting at noon! There will be food, fun, a chance to dunk your favorite Montrose personality, the Miss Cajun Belle Fest contest, and well, just a day of fun!

Stop in the Ripcord today for \$2.50 well cocktails and domestic longnecks. These prices are good all day and all night!

Robert Harwood, candidate for Mr. Prime Choice '96, proudly presents "Prime Performances" with some of Houston's finest entertainers at Mary's, naturally today starting at 4:00 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the Colt 45's Stone Soup and the LVL PWA Holiday Fund.

The Sunday shows at Bacchus II always have a splendid cast and they

are ready to entertain you! The show starts at 11:00 p.m.

The annual Miss Gay Pride contest will be at the Brazos River Bottom tonight at 8:00 p.m. Join Empress Ruby Stone and her contestants for this contest. If you are hungry, don't forget the best little ol' steak night in town.

Gentry has a full line up today! There is an 8-ball tournament at 5:00 p.m.; the Montrose Softball League's party starts at 6:00 p.m.; the Boy Toy dancers start at 7:00 p.m.; "Balls and Bras," the 30 minute drag show from Hell starts at 7:30 p.m.; Black Velvett takes the stage for the Sunday night male strip contest at 11:00 p.m.

Mela's Tejano Country is having a fundraiser today! Starting at 3:00 p.m., BBQ plates will be only \$3. At 8:00 p.m., Xavier Luna, candidate for Mr. TGRA '96 will host the show. There is a \$1 cover! Please join in the fun and help raise some funds!

If it is Sunday, there must be a drag show at Cousin's. Join Miss Zack, Michaelay, Leah Halston, and a secret special guest. The show starts at 11:00 p.m.

Those furry men of the Houston Area Bears will be guest bartending this afternoon, starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Venture-N.

Monday, May 20

The Club Houston offers half-price lockers this and every Monday! The Club Houston is a great place to work out, lay out, or just hang out!

Groove Mondays at J.R.'s Video Bar feature the talents of DJ extraordinaire Michael DeGrace. Cool crowds, lava lamps, candles, flower power, and quarter mania begin at 9:00 p.m. Be sure to check out the gorgeous go-go boys!

The Boy Toy dancers pump pounding pleasures tonight at Gentry. The Boy Toys are poised starting at 9:00 p.m.

Big Gary and Ed of the Ripcord will be guest bartending at the Venture-N tonight from 7:00 p.m. until closing. Stop in and say HI!

Tuesday, May 21

Cuervo Tuesdays continue at Mary's, naturally with \$2 Cuervo shots all day and all night!

Stop in the Brazos River Bottom this afternoon and get a look at Mike, the new hunky bartender!

BerryHill II offers tantalizing titty dancers this and every Tuesday. The doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Big Mama Marci plays magical music this and every Tuesday at the BriarPatch.

Wednesday, May 22

Mary's, naturally offers "Drink Till He is Cute" drink specials all day and all night! The doors open at 7:00 a.m. for Jerry's tasty cocktails.

The Dive, Houston's newest daytime bar offers, \$2 well cocktails and domestic longnecks today and every week day

from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. In case you don't know, the Dive is in the Ripcord!

Wild Wednesdays continue at Gentry. Commander Catia cajoles contestants for the male strip contest. The buns are bare starting at 11:00 p.m. The Boy Toys start at 7:00 p.m. for those of you who can't or should not stay out late on a "school night."

Shiela Lennon graces the stage of Chances tonight. You can join in the fun, too!

Thursday, May 23

Head up to BerryHill II tonight to take a peek at their nearly naked male dancers. The doors open at 6:00 p.m. and happy hour runs until 10:00 p.m.

The lockers at Club Houston are half-price today and every Thursday. The rooms are also half-price!

The grill at the 611 Hyde Park Pub heats up at 6:00 p.m. The steaks are grilled until 9:00 p.m.

Other Important Stuff

Mary's, naturally will be celebrating their 26th anniversary on May 27.

Mark your calendar for May 25. Colleen and Sandy of W. 42nd Street will be singing the blues for you at Bacchus II!

Be sure to check out the half price special at 24 Hour Video and News. All video tapes are half-price. They have a great selection of kink, foreign, bondage, TVs, lesbian, and gay new releases. Be sure to clip the coupon on page 5.

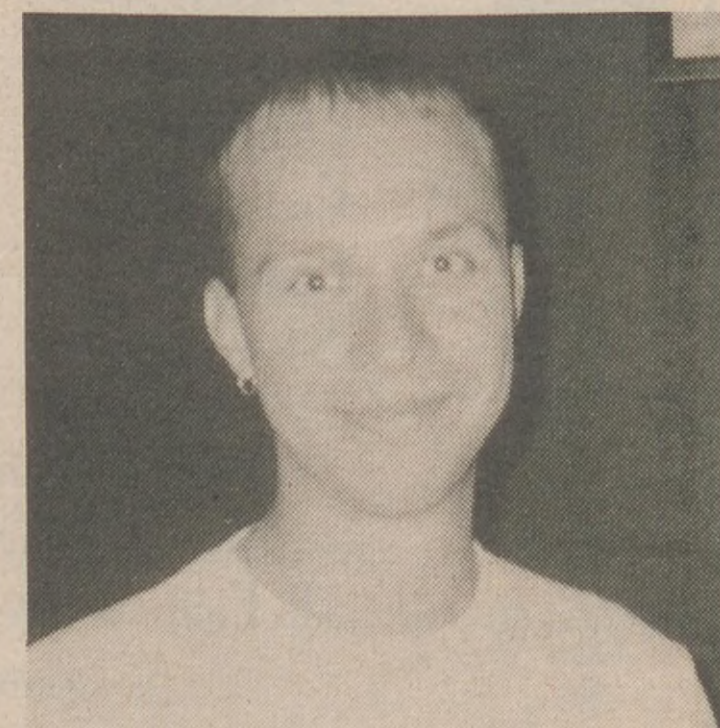
Now showing at the Company Onstage, "Catch Me if You Can." This play, an ingenious whodunit, gets off to a racing start and careens onward through an evening of mirth, murder, and excitement. For ticket info, call 726-1219.

We would like to welcome CL Realty to our family of advertisers. Lyn Robertson is offering 1, 2, and 3 bedroom condos from \$12,000 to \$34,000, flats and 2 story townhouses in areas receptive to our community. If you would like more info call Lyn at 729-9316.

Check out the two new 1-900 numbers on page 17. They might find you date or answer your questions of life.

A new group has formed called Able Queers. They will have their first meeting on May 20. If you would like more info, call James at 523-1332.

"The Drunkard" is coming in June to Stages Repertory Theater. If you would like more info, call 527-0220.



A new face at the Pacific Street door!



Bathtime at the Brazos River Bottom.

Dirt, Lies and Trash!

Who will be the new Mr. Chances? The contest is on June 1!

Who will be the new Daddy of Montrose? The contest will be at Mary's, naturally on June 16.

Special Notes

LoneStar Entertainment and the Houston Laff Stop have announced they will be producing a new show, "Faux Cage." This "Le Cage" type, Las Vegas show will be produced professionally at the Houston Laff Stop every Saturday night beginning in mid-June. The show will begin at midnight. "We expect the show to grow to Thurs-

day thru Saturday in a short amount of time," says Bernie Goldman of LoneStar. Anyone interested in scheduling an audition, please call 840-1166.

Sydney Seaward, KNWS anchor women has been waging the war on the other epidemic, breast cancer. She is also fighting for the right to choose her treatment of choice. Please come join the fight on May 22 at J.R.'s Santa Fe bar. If you would like more info, please call 523-9611.

Birthday Corner

A happy whipped birthday to Michael White of NLA:H, the Court, and way too many affiliations to list!

A hot and spicy birthday to Mela of Mela's Tejano Country!

A happy bear hug birthday to Houston Area Bear Tom B.

A happy birthday to the Houston Voice's own Jon Anthony!

A happy birthday to Randall Jobe, Reid Mitchell, and Reno Wist of J.R.'s fame!

A happy birthday to Lee Brown of the Ripcord fame!

A happy (put me in a crown) birthday to Rita Blvd!

A happy birthday to Armand of the Montrose Inn!

A happy birthday to Barbara Walker!

Rodent Droppings

Something special next week in the rodent droppings! Remember last year at this time, while the Lazer Wizard and I were cruising in the Bahamas, Helga Sue Von Hurte was the guest dirt spreader?

Well, unfortunately Helga Sue met an untimely demise at the hands of her Italian-Polish (Yankee born) drag mother. So in her place Tequila Rose will make a guest appearance in this space next week. Be afraid, be very afraid!

A special thank-you to Don Gill for taking photos to be used in Houston Soap! Thanks, honey!

On with the droppings!

Jim Halbert: You missed your calling! NOT! I hear you are a wannabe dick dancer! But really, shedding your leather kilt and dancing on the bar top at the Venture-N! I thought most dick dancers were under thirty!!

Rob (Venture-N): Or should I call you Sister Whorerita?

Jeff (hangs at Mary's): Just off the boat and no shower!

Michael (Venture-N): And I quote "I'm not a slut, I'm a slush!"

Tequila Rose (Miss Montrose): So, how was your experience with training nails?

Meg (Mary's): So, you lasted not even one minute on roller blades and have the sprained ankle to prove it!

Ouisa (Mother of Montrose): I hear you will shake your bootie for \$1.25. NOT!

Darla K. (hangs at Gentry): Have you found any banana nuts at the grocery store?

Tiffany (Ms. Texas Leather Pride & FIST): So, you judge the square footage of a room by how many cartwheels you can do in it?

Nelly Kelly (NLA:H): I understand that you can make really good pork chips!

David (Ripcord): And I quote "I barely have caller ID, what is a web site?"

Damion (Club Houston): Did you really make love to a big bowl of your mother's potato salad?

Shirley, Jim, Barry, Boots, etc. at Leather by Boots: I guess your boots will have to do some walking! So just where will I have to go to see all of ya'll? And why does your new store location have an industrial strength elevator and an apartment in the back?

Robert (BRB & Mr. Prime Choice candidate): Do you know what a dictionary is? How about spell check?

Vera (BRB): I have a message to you from Damion (The Club Houston): I love you and miss you! I have reserved a room for

you!

Bill (Basic Brothers) and Scott (Charlie's): I guess this is a serious relationship! What kind of matching glasses do you want? What about a silver pattern? You can register at Tiffany's and at Leather by Boots!

King Father Dot (RSICSS): I hear you can really twist a tassel!

Skip Willet and Guy: Congrats on the pregnancy! I hear they did a sonogram and found a little boy with 5-inch Joan Crawford red F**K-me pumps on his little feet and a tierra on his cute little head! It's gonna be a drag queen! I guess you won't hand out cigars, but lipstick instead!

Bo (Charlie's): Or is it Bobo? Your customers at Charlie's will miss you! Good luck at your new job!

Ginger Snap (RSICSS): I hear you have diarrhea of the mouth! You can't keep a secret and love to gossip! Personally, I love gossip!

Shaboom (E/J's): What kind of vacation lasts until Sept. 1? Are you are sluffing off.

James (aka J.J. La Rue): Congrats on being the 1st LaRue daughter!

Tommie Sue (BRB): I hear your middle finger is sore. I wonder what went wrong?

J.D. La Rue and Ruby (RSICSS): I hear Ruby gets to keep the baby!

Ruby (RSICSS): Where can you find infant size hi heels in ruby red?

Daddy Blade: Honey, what have you done



Russell and Gary of MSL

to get picked on this much? I ragged you several times, and now Tywon Onn has done the same!

Shaboom and CW (E/J): Birthdays like the last one will age you faster.

Pineapple (ex-J.R.'s): The real-world jobs will make you go home earlier, won't they?

Woody (BRB): Why do you have yellow socks?

Eddie (hangs at E/J's): Don't drink the water.

Sam (BRB): What is this I hear about you going camping next week? Are you going to get "nelly" with it this time?

Jerry R. (J.R.'s/Heaven): Congrats from one of "Jerry's Kids" at J.R.'s.

Brian Keever (TWT): I hear Damita Jo made an appearance not on her knees, but on her back in a sling with about 9 guys in attendance!

Tom (Ripcord): I hear you have an addition to your family! But really, naming a ferret "Chinch!" I guess when I get a little low on rodent droppings, you will have some to spare!

Tierra: I hear you have 5 children! But, what names, Scarlett, Trasha, Linda Lou, Simona, and Ava!

Robert (BRB): I understand that you took your pet cockroach to food service managers class! Talk about a "throw down" roach!

Franki (hangs at Chances): I hear you are growing cucumbers and hook neck squash! Talk about growing your own marital aids!

Margie (Margie's Flowers): And I quote: "I could have been a princess!"

Raci (Chances): But, really is it Gracie or Crazy?

Buddy (Owner of the Lazy J): I hear the bar was so busy last weekend you had to play barback! Did you get any tips?

Carl (hangs at the Venture-N): And I quote: "I'll have another slice of carrot cake!"

Barbara Walker (Montrose Clinic): So, you are marketable!

Kody (Chances): I hear that you and Barbara share the same pair of lace panties!

Marlene (Owner of Chances): Do you really prefer loofa sponges over cucumbers?

Have a great week!

Cuervolyn



"I'm winning!" at the MSL Casino night!



Partying at the BriarPatch!

More Other Important Stuff

Good luck to Paivi Lee Love at the Miss Gay Pride Contest!

Have you checked out the new Crossroads Market Bookstore and Cafe? It is in the old Tower Theater on the corner of Waugh and Westheimer. Well they have tons of books and a quaint cafe which serves many types of coffee, espresso, cappuccino, teas, and more. They have a Granita Sundae on the menu. It is described as a frozen cappuccino with chocolate and whipped cream! Sounds low calorie to me!

May 26, at the Brazos River Bottom, Robert, candidate for Mr. Prime Choice will be hosting a fundraiser. Special guests include the 95/96 bitches of the BRB.

Don't forget, there is never a cover charge at the Venture-N and my old friend Jose Cuervo is always \$2.50 a shot! Jim, the owner, is nuts. He has lowered the drink prices to \$1.75 all day and all night from Sunday thru Thursday and on Friday and Saturday starting at noon and ending at 7:00 p.m.

There is still time to enter the "slave auction" that will be held at the Ripcord on June 14. If you would like more info, call 942-8402.

The Red Ribbon Reading Room is still looking for donations. Please call Steve at Leather Forever at 526-6940.

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Trade Winds" and "Here Comes Peter."

Mark your calendars for May 26! The White Party will be a "Foam" party at Heaven. Also that night is the release party for Everything But the Girl's new album!

There is a new soft drink on the market! Go fig! "Josta" claims to make you feel horny! Well, Heaven has 1000 20 oz. bottles to be given away on May 24 and 25.



The sado-botinist strikes at the Ripcord!

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TAKE ONE
(Movie Reviews)

With a twist of excitement

by Jon Anthony

Unless you've been sleeping for the last few weeks, you've heard all the hype encircling Twister, the new thriller from Warner Bros. Let me assure you immediately, the movie lives up to its hype and then some. From the beginning, the audience experiences the destruction that one of these behemoth storms can create. Twister is a gem that manages to both thrill and enthrall you simultaneously. It's a whirlwind of excitement from beginning to end.

Directed by Jan De Bont (Speed), written by Michael Crichton (Jurassic Park) and Anne Marie Martin and executive produced by Academy Award Winning director Steven Spielberg, Twister is this springs must see action packed extravaganza. The film is laden with spectacular visual and special effects.

Helen Hunt, of NBC's hit comedy series Mad About You, and Bill Paxton (Apollo 13) co-star in the film. Hunt portrays Jo Harding, the leader of a band of jaunty young university scientists who chase tornadoes in the name of advanced science. Harding, who we learn in the beginning of the film witnessed her father's death during a tornado, is on a mission to strategically place her contraption named Dorothy in the vortex of a tornado. Dorothy is equipped with small balls that would transmit valuable scientific data about tornadic behavior, potentially saving countless lives in the future. This is not an easy feat, in order to accomplish this, Harding and her gang have to place themselves directly in the tornado's path and manage to stay ahead of the swirling monstrosity. This requires anticipating every erratic move.

Naturally, the producer's felt compelled to provide a nemesis in an effort to keep the plot entertaining. Enter Dr. Jonas Miller (Cary Elwes), a pompous corporate-sponsored dimwit whose cadre is better financed and has the latest state of the art research equipment on hand. The rivalry between the two factions is unnecessary, quite tepid and formulaic. This movie did not need the distraction, it entertains without the good vs. evil routine. The race is on throughout the film to be the first team to launch their equipment.

Paxton portrays Meteorologist Bill Harding who arrives at the Oklahoma



countryside site with his fiancée in tow to obtain Jo's signature on their impending divorce. Banter ensues, when lo-and-behold, the crew must hit the road to chase a tornado that just touched ground. Bill, reluctant on the surface yet excited beneath, joins Jo and his old crew for old times sake on this latest chase. And so does his fiancée, humorously portrayed by Jamie Gertz.


Twister is an action packed joy ride that is sure to be one of this years biggest box-office hits and deservedly so. Hunt is terrific as Jo Harding, tough yet feminine. She never loses composure or falls into stereotypical female-in-distress mannerisms. She is on a mission, one that's personal and she makes no bones about it.

Tornadoes have intrigued mankind for centuries. They enthrall us with their beauty and instill fear in us through their devastation. A tornado can demolish a building in a matter of seconds and leave a neighboring site unscathed. They are fascinating and mysterious. They are mesmerizing beyond comprehension. Interestingly, the National Weather Service, despite the latest technology, still cannot confirm whether a tornado has, or has not, hit the ground without relying on human observation.

Don't miss out on this exciting adventure. Twister is a riveting and exhilarating experience that must be viewed on the big-screen. Waiting for it to hit home video will not have the same effect. A non-stop tour-de-force from beginning to end, Twister is a **** delight.

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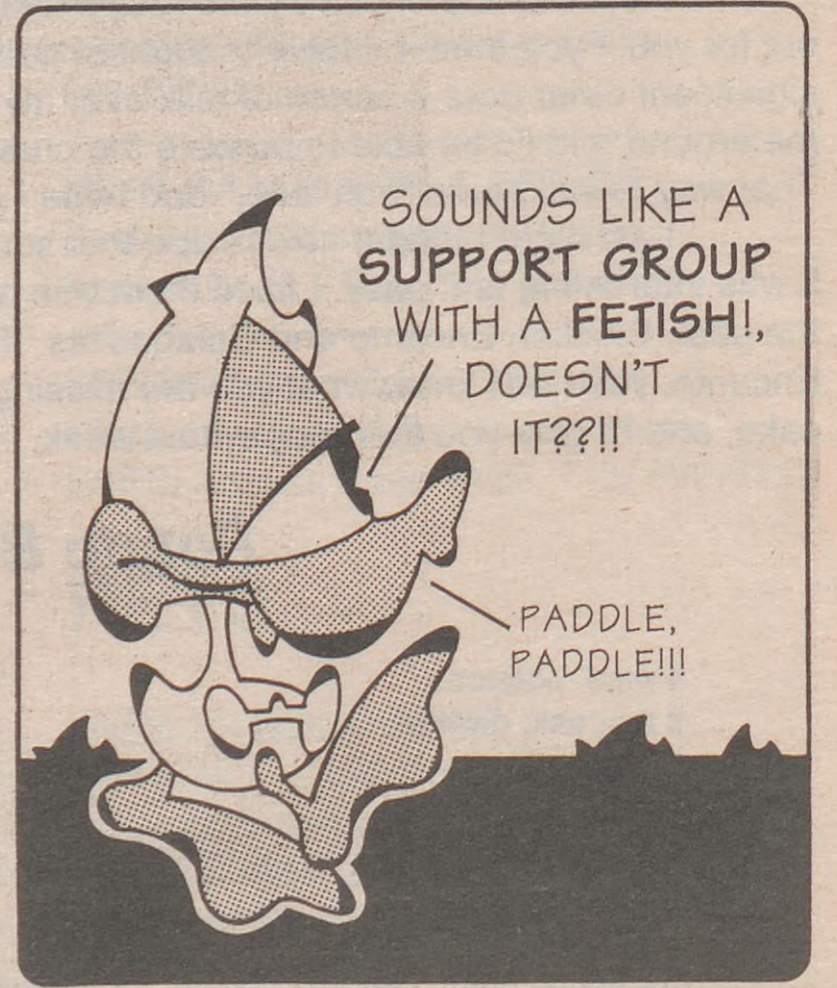
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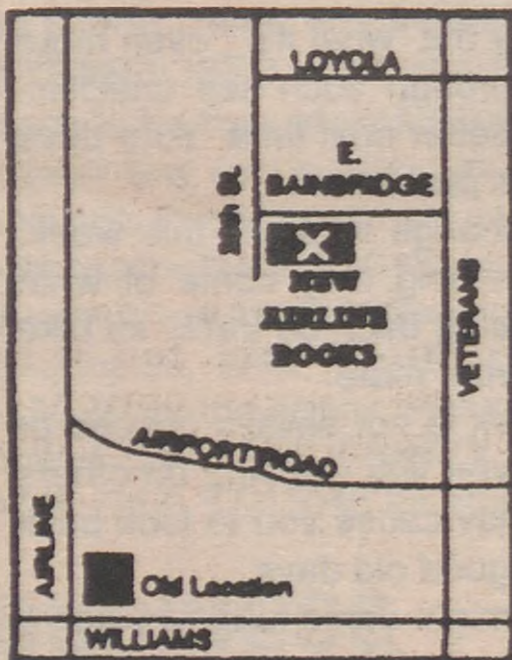
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Spectrum...

(Continued from Page 15)

H.V.: C'mon Alan, you sent out an open letter to the community claiming that RuPaul changed her plans at the last minute, when in fact, that is not true.

A.B.: Yes, it is true. We have a witness who was there on Saturday, myself, another board member plus the management staff who finalized the agreements with us.

H.V.: A written agreement?

A.B.: Excuse me, everything does not have to be in writing. If somebody promises you something, your going to take them for their word, aren't you?

H.V.: No, and neither would most people. We live in a society that is litigious. People who get married sign contracts. Especially on something of this scale, contracts would be considered the norm.

A.B.: That is very clear. That is very clear. Hindsight is great. We believed based on previous things that we have no reason to believe that they would not fulfill their agreement. Now, it didn't happen. We are sorry it didn't happen. We have taken steps to satisfy those people who have complained. If anybody else has a complaint, we encourage them to call us and as long as we get a written letter, we will respond. We are not here to create havoc in the community. ...if we were, we'd have said tough luck.

H.V.: Basically, what you are saying is that Morgan is wrong, RuPaul and her people were wrong. Everyone was wrong except you.

A.B.: I didn't say Morgan was wrong. I can see where he was coming from. Kathy and I were very specific when we talked to him. It was an unfortunate thing. I have no control over his people or what he thinks. We made it clear on what our understanding was. It was a fundraiser for town meeting and if any money was left over, it would go to a beneficiary, we were very clear on that issue. Do you think I enjoy having legal problems? (Elongated) Wrong!

H.V.: Do you know Richard Oncken?

A.B.: Sounds Familiar

H.V.: Let me refresh your memory. He contends that he worked with you on the Meadowood Ranch project you were affiliated with and had similar problems.

A.B.: You know, there are alot of people out there who will be more than glad to tell you a whole bunch of shit, negative about somebody. That what society is at this time. You yourself made that point by saying that people sign palimony suit agreements. It is very clear that this is a very negative community and they'll be more than glad to talk negative stuff about you. Unfortunately, the *Houston Voice* is good example of that as well. You all didn't print anything positive. Pinque was able to sell CD's and get exposure. Karel got exposure on TV.

H.V.: How does that benefit the com-

munity as a whole?

A.B.: It's getting people out there who are gay, lesbian or gay friendly, getting them the recognition that they deserve. That's a right that they should have.

H.V.: If I'm hearing you correctly, the only people who benefited were recording artists and businesses affiliated with you. What benefit does that have to the common gay and lesbian in the community.

A.B.: It has a lot. Just think about it. If you have an entertainer whose a local entertainer or a national entertainer, it doesn't matter and they're gay or gay friendly and they're out there fighting for the cause through their songs, through just being themselves. That has a positive effect that trickles down.

H.V.: When individuals pay out there hard-earned money for a fundraiser, they assume that money is actually going to be raised and allocated back into the community, not into business and entertainment artist coffers. That's the perception of a fundraiser, i.e raising money that will truly benefit the community. It seems like, everytime someone raises an allegation, you always have a reason why your not at fault and contend that they misunderstood you. I haven't heard you admit that perhaps you did make some grave mistakes.

A.B.: I have made my mistakes very clear to you when you called me the last time. I said unfortunately, we should have had it in writing. I made that very clear to you then and I made it clear to you in this conversation.

H.V.: You could at least admit that you shouldn't have (promoted) the event as though it was confirmed. They didn't ask you to do that. They didn't ask you to sell tickets with RuPaul's name on it, for a luncheon, for a hundred dollars.

A.B.: (Silence). ...What else do you have.

H.V.: That's it.

The discussion concluded on a dour note. Alan contends that the *Houston Voice* did not contact any of the board members. True enough. We were unaware of who the board members were and attempts to find out were not successful. Bourgeois did provide us with the names of several board members. We spoke with Harold Myer, who claims that he was disappointed and confirmed that there was a verbal agreement for RuPaul to appear in the VIP lounge after the show, but declined to say whether there was one for the luncheon. Myer said that RuPaul did honor her contract as written. It should be noted that Bourgeois contacted me later that evening after our initial discussion to apologize for his belligerent demeanor and tone during our conversation. Bourgeois says he is frustrated and making attempts to pay all the debtors through monthly increments.

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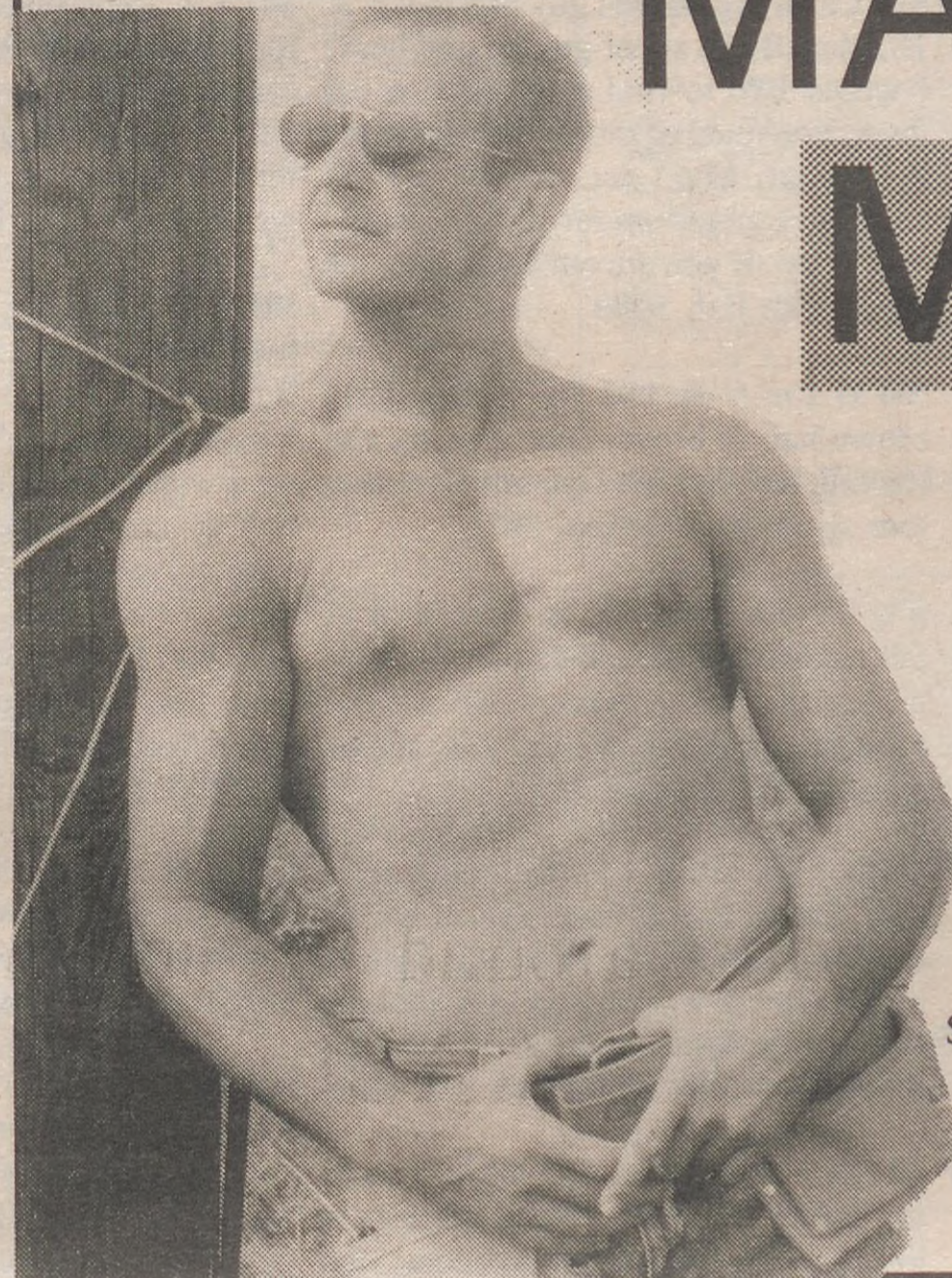
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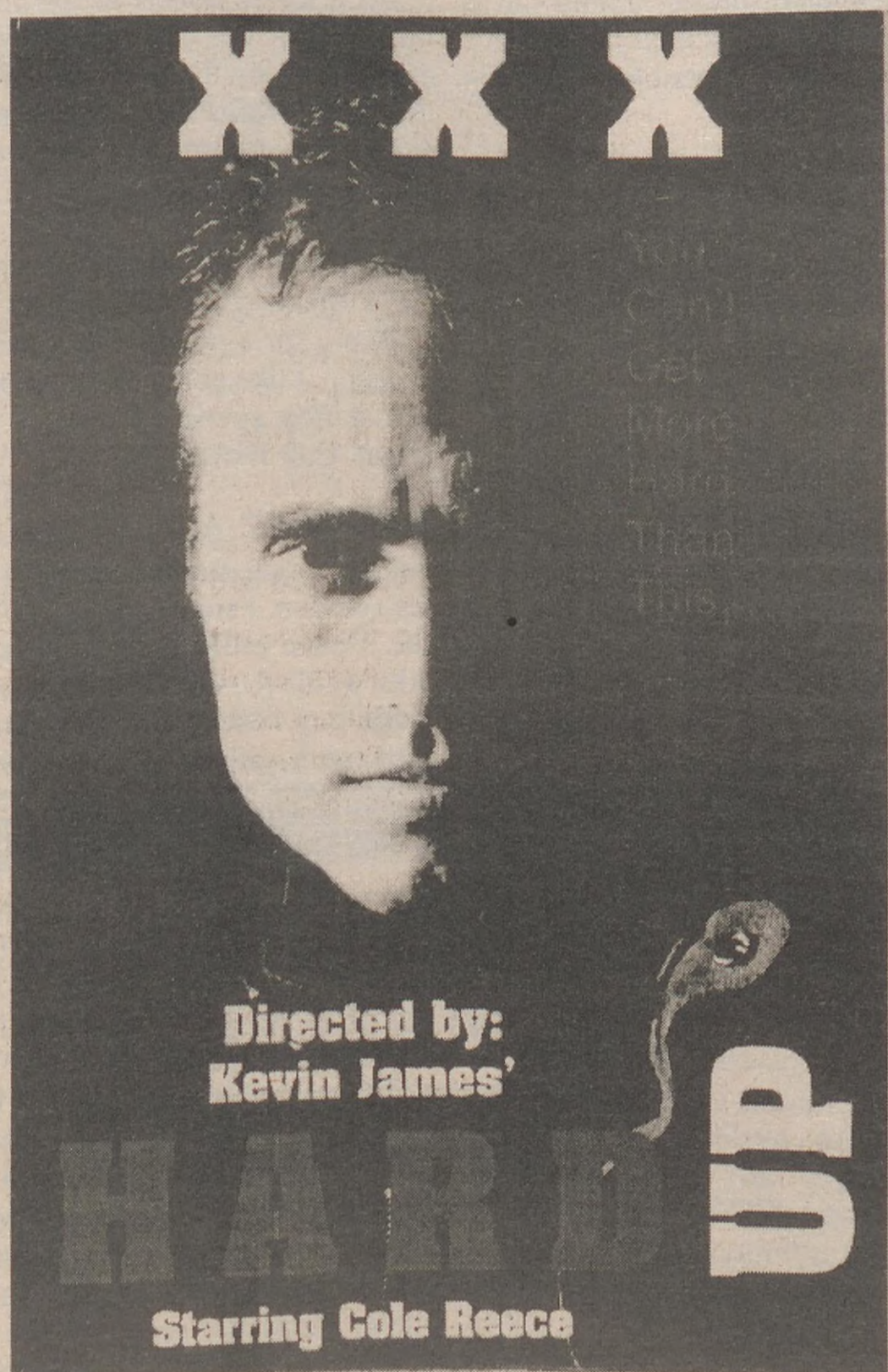
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HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women SEEKING

Women

SF I'm from England. I'm 5'2" & 32. I'm new to Houston. I'm looking for friends to hang out & spend time with. I enjoy the theater, films & more. I'm open-minded. If I'm lucky, I hope to find someone who is more than a friend. Call Ext. 5062

SF I'm 23, 5'2" & 93 lbs. I have very short brown hair & blue eyes. So, if you're looking for a cute GQ-looking little boy, it's me. Call Ext. 5048

SBF Kidnap me. Take me on a hot air balloon ride. Seeking a female. Race & age are not important. Call Ext. 5037

SF I'm a short 5'2" brunette who is very active. I enjoy traveling, dining out, the outdoors, bike riding, etc. I'm looking for friendship & to have a lot of fun with people. Call Ext. 5025

SF I am 36, 5'4" & 115 lbs. I have gray hair & hazel eyes. I enjoy outdoor activities, camping, kayaking, canoeing, walking in the country & riding my motorcycle. I love animals. I like all types of music, except rap & hard rock. I'm interested in meeting someone 35-45, for friendship or dating. I'm not looking for a hard butch, but I am looking for a soft butch, androgynous or feminine woman. I would prefer to meet a non-smoker. No drugs, please. Light drinking is okay. Call Ext. 5020

Men SEEKING

Men

SM I'm 19, 5'7" & 190 lbs. I'm looking for other guys who are 18-30. I'm a college student. I have brown hair & brown eyes. Leave me a message. Call Ext. 5069

SM Can a high-grade guy like me, 6' & 182 lbs., find a super guy around here? I would like to find a friend & a top lover. You must be professional, sincere & normal. Must act straight & talk straight. I would prefer to meet someone 38-50. If you are out there, give me a call. Call Ext. 5080

SWM I'm 6' & 150 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & brown eyes. I'm 38. I'm looking for guys who are into bare-bottom spanking. Call Ext. 5079

SM I'm 50, 6' & 180 lbs. I can walk & talk normally. I'm looking for other tops who are normal & who would want to meet me. Please leave me your phone number. Call Ext. 5078

SHM I'm 5'4" & 130-lbs. I have light skin, brown hair & hazel eyes. I have a semi-muscular build. I like playing tennis, movies & working out. I'm looking for a single White male 20-35 who has a semi-muscular build. Call Ext. 5075

SM I'm 31, 5'10" & 155 lbs. I'm seeking someone who is interested in having fun. I'm looking for someone who is not a bodybuilder, but who works out on a regular basis. He should be 5'10" or taller. A sense of humor and a sense of adventure would be great. Call Ext. 5072

SMI I'm looking for a masculine man who is height/weight proportionate & 40-50, for a possible relationship. I'm 34, 5'11" & 145 lbs. I have brown hair & green eyes. I'm easygoing, energetic & new to Houston. I would like to walk on a moonlit beach with someone special. Call Ext. 5067

SHM I'm seeking a 35-50-year-old White male. I would like to share ideas & more. I'm 35, 5'10" & 167 lbs. I have a mustache, black hair & brown eyes. If you are this White man, call me. Call Ext. 5066

SM If you know how to follow orders & you want to discuss possibilities, you can call me. Call Ext. 5018

SM I'm a hot, hunky bear cub looking for aggressive & demanding men who can satisfy me. If you are looking for a 220 lb. linebacker-type who is 6' & ready to serve you, give me a call. I will worship you. Call Ext. 5063

SHM I'm seeking a one-on-one, monogamous relationship with a male who is older than I am. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have a swimmer's build. I work out on a weekly basis. I have short brown hair & medium-brown skin. I enjoy dancing, going out, staying home & cuddling. I'm a bottom. I'm seeking a 100% pure top. I'm seeking a 25-35-year-old male who is masculine. He must have a nice body & a nice personality. Call Ext. 5065

SM I'm 25 & 5'6". I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a gymnast's build. I'm looking for someone 25-35, for a long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5064

SWM I'm 37, 5'8" & 160 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm in good shape. I play tennis & golf. I also enjoy watching basketball. I'm looking for a guy 30-45, who enjoys sports, movies, dining out & the theater. He must be employed & have direction in his life. Call Ext. 5060

SM I'm a 39-year-old native Houstonian. I like dancing & 70's disco. I love hanging out & walking. I love art & writing. I also love festivals & politics. I'm a libertarian who is interested in global topics. I'm a Virgo & I'm really looking for a Taurus. Age is not important to me. I'm 5'5" & 120 lbs. Everyone says that I look about 10 years younger than my age. I can speak Spanish. I love French, German & other languages. Call Ext. 5052

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 135 lbs. I have brown eyes & black hair. I'm looking for a White male 24-30 who is handsome. Call Ext. 5051

SWM I'm 40. Seeking submissive men. If you are interested, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5050

SM I'm 6'4". I have brown hair, blue eyes & a mustache. I'm nice-looking & masculine, with a football-player's build. I'm interested in meeting other guys who are 40 or younger, for a good time. Call Ext. 5056

SHM I'm 32, 5'11" & 165 lbs. I have black hair & light brown eyes. I love the outdoors, sports, cooking & dining out. I'm full of joy. I'm seeking a White male for friendship or a possible long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5055

SM I'm 50, 5'9" & 190 lbs. I'm seeking someone who likes to cuddle. I'd like to meet someone who lives in the Waco or Houston area. Call Ext. 5054

SWM I'm a muscular, professional, endowed man. I'm 39, 5'10" & HIV negative. I enjoy bodybuilding, sports, the arts & romance. I'm seeking a long-term, monogamous relationship with someone who is honest, passionate, endowed & HIV negative. Please, no bar flies, smokers or one-nighters. A Black male is a plus. Call Ext. 5045

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 137 lbs. I have brown eyes & black hair. I'm cute. I'm looking for a boyfriend who is a White male, 24-34. He must be handsome. Call Ext. 5049

SM I'm a snowbird in Houston, Texas. I'm a snowbird in search of Texas cowboy snowballs who are gay White males, gay Hispanic males, 21-41, non-smokers, drug & disease free & masculine. I'm looking for someone to share love & life with. I'm a gay White male who is 45, 5'9", 191 lbs., a non-smoker & disease free. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm an honest, caring & loving man. I enjoy movies, theater, country-western music, dining out & quiet evenings. Let's melt our lives together as soon as possible. Call soon. Call Ext. 5039

SM I'm 35, stocky & 200 lbs. I have a goatee & brown eyes. I enjoy quiet dinners, movies & occasional nights at bars. I would like to meet someone who has a nice personality & who is fun to be with. Call Ext. 5041

SM There is a memory that lives & flows through my veins. I'm looking for an attractive & muscular bottom. Can you help me? Call Ext. 5036

SWM I'm a masculine White male who is 40, 5'6", 140 lbs. & HIV-. I'm looking for Black males who are preferably feminine. Call Ext. 5035

SWM I'm 40, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. I'm looking for a Hispanic or Black male who is 35-50, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. Please leave me a message & I'll get back to you. Call Ext. 5034

SM I'm 5'7", 140 lbs., Latin & fair-skinned. I'm interested in a Black or Hispanic man who wants to hang out a bit & have some fun. Call Ext. 5033

SM I'm told that Houston has the fourth largest population living with HIV. Okay, you guys, where are you? Why don't you give me a call? What do you have to lose? I'm in my mid-30's, caring, funny & good-looking. Give it a shot, maybe you'll like what you find. Call Ext. 5032

SM I'm 34 & 220 lbs. I have brown hair & green eyes. I'm looking for a man who is totally romantic, likes red wine & soft music. I'm looking for that perfect man who will appreciate me the way I am. Call Ext. 5030

SM I'm half-Spanish and half-White, 25, 5'7" & 135 lbs. My interests include biking, movies, quiet evenings at home. I'm looking for a White male who is 25-35 & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5026

SM I'm 35, 6'1", 175 lbs., straight-acting & straight-appearing. I'm looking for the same. Someone who knows what it's like to love a man & is comfortable with a man. Call Ext. 5024

SHM I'm 30-year-old, HIV+, single Hispanic male. I'm very healthy & active. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs., with a 29" waist. I have brown hair, dark eyes, long eyelashes, a goatee & a tan line. I'm looking for an honest & sincere Black top man who is 6' or taller & HIV+, preferably. I enjoy the outdoors, picnics in the park, walks along the beach, the indoors, watching movies, etc. Call soon. Call Ext. 5044

SBM I'm 5'11" & 185 lbs. I'm looking for a Black male 20-30 years of age. Looking for a possible long-term relationship. I like going out and bowling. I also enjoy spending quality time at home. Call Ext. 5038

SM I am in search of a masculine, height/weight proportionate, HIV- male for safe fun. I am 41, HIV-, 5'7" & 160 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes, with a salt & pepper beard. I'm an average guy with no hang-ups. If you are interested, call me. Call Ext. 5019



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HOUSTON VOICE *Personals*

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Tall/Handsome/GWM. Loves to look, dance, & shop. Former LSU student turned paraprofessional. I.S.O. spontaneous, intellectual, politically incorrect friends. You must keep up w/ fashion, latest dance music, and me! HWP & DDF. Ad 25702

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how to follow orders, contact me. I am 46, 5'9", 190, hairy, aggressive and demanding. Ad 25673

FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

Affectionate older GWM seeks a young man for discreet and safe fun. I like to please young men, especially if they are slender, boyish and smooth. DDF please. Ad 25693

EUROPEAN GUY

I am 27 years old, 5'7", 132, brown hair and brown eyes, healthy (HIV-), warm and caring. I enjoy movies (foreign), music, animals, cars, etc. I'm looking for a compatible, masculine, professional man who is single, smart, funny and charming. Ad 25715

ATTENTION NUDIST

GWM, 45, 5'6", 142#, br/hazel with salt and pepper beard, DDF, smoker and a nudist. This nudist would like to get together for social non-sexual encounters. Just the enjoyment of viewing each other's bodies. Ad 25772

VERY WELL ENDOWED

Attractive GWM, 39, 6'1", 175 and HIV-. Dominant top/daddy type. Seeking the intimacy lacking in a world of casual encounters. I.S.O. younger masculine bottom "boy" that's muscular and attractive. Interests include movies, clubs, intimate evenings, and camping. Respond by letters only; with phone and photo please. Ad 25700

MAN OF PASSION

Hi quality GWM, 6'1", 178, 38, brown/blue, stable professional, healthy, honest, adventuresome, fun, intelligent, passionate, warm heart and soul, HIV-. I'm looking for one GWM who is 30-45ish, HIV-, stable, reasonably well adjusted and compatible. I hope to share excitement, laughter, support, intimacy and growth. Ad 25720

TOPS LOOKING FOR SEX TOY

Two GWM lovers, both tops, one 42, one 26, trim, HWP, seeking a rear end submissive bottom for three way - just plain trashy fun. Mail responses preferred or phone. Ad 25709

CARING FUNNY & GOOD-LOOKING

Attractive & muscular, GWM, 38, 5'8", 175, HIV+, masculine, smooth skin, and clean shaven with dark brown hair and green eyes. I am romantic, very healthy, active, and love the outdoors. I'm a versatile bottom and prefer a masculine, lean or muscular, top with a hairy chest, mustache or beard a plus. Prefer mail response. Ad 25767

KIDNAP ME

Take me to your playroom. Bind me, use me, then release me in a couple of days. My captor(s): attractive, HWP, HIV-, serious master(s) and/or mistress(es). I am a successful intelligent WBIM, handsome, nice body & highly sensual, HIV-, HWP, with a weakness for the smell of leather who desires to be totally dominated. Ad 25711

PARENTING, ANYONE?

Sincere, mature, responsible, stable, attractive, professional GWM desires to be apart of the parenting process. Lesbian couple, or lesbian single preferred to participate in one of life's greatest treasures. Joint-custody or custody to the couple with visitation for male frequently. With so much to give to a child, why waste it when gay couples and singles have proven that we are unbeatable as parents with more depth and love to give. Ad 25723

POSITIVE MIND, BODY & SOUL

Extremely handsome Gay Latin Male, 34, 5'6", 165#, bk/brw, mustache is currently seeking special friend. Me: Financially stable, very healthy, swimmers build, smooth body, versatile bottom, romantic, honest, passionate with high pos. attitude & self esteem, easy going man with great sense of humor & sensitivity. You: GWM 28-45, 5'8" plus, HWP, good looking, financially stable & healthy versatile top. If you've been searching for a man above average, with similar values & sincerity, here's your chance! No fems or druggies. Letters preferred, photo requested. Ad 25748

FURTHER INVESTIGATION NECESSARY

I can't be defined in a personal ad. It's merely an introduction. You must listen to my voice, look into my eyes, feel the gentle touch of my hand to truly get to know me. I am a man who enjoys being with a man. I'm 31 GBM who sports goatee and short hair. I'm employed, have several other interests and there's a bit more to me than meets the eye. Want to find out how much more, drop me a detailed letter. My only request is that you are attractive, sexy, intelligent and compassionate. I have a slight preference to fuzzy navels and goatees. C'mon, cross over. Ad 25755

TWICE THE FUN!

Two good looking masculine guys, 25 & 30, interested in meeting business professional (25-45) for occasional hot, safe, discreet fun. Must be successful, masculine and in shape. Prefer mail responses, letter/photo. Ad 25721

DAD WANTED (FOR REAL)

Loving, professional, attractive white lesbian couple seeking a willing, loving, giving GWM or couple who wants to share and enjoy the gift of parenthood. Joint custody or custody to the lesbian couple with visitation rights for the male frequently. We love children and want to bring one into this world. Share in the joy! Ad 25765

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUD-DIES

I'm in my 40's, married, 5'10", 160lbs., average looks, DDF, clean, top-cut-discreet. Ad 25598.

LOOKING FOR LIKE/PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

Looking for a fellow professional with a strong work ethic. Interested in a long term relationship with someone who enjoys nice quiet weekday nights, followed by busy weekends. I'm 36, 6'1" and 175lbs., DDF. You should be between 28 and 38, established in your career, DDF and proportionately built. Life is good and I would like it to get better with the right man. Ad 25656

SEEK SUBMISSIVE OLDER WHITE MEN

Oriental male looking for submissive older white men. Possible long term. I'm 34, 5'6", 160#, clean, discreet and HIV-, aggressive and demanding. Letters preferred. Phone and photos a plus. Let's fulfill both of our fantasies. Ad 25737

LISTEN TO THE WIND BLOW

WATCH THE SUN RISE. GWM, good looking and professional seeking soul mate. Come out of hiding and enjoy the good life! Two males together can form a synergism and conquer the world. What are you waiting for? Ad 25761

GO FOR IT!

GWM seeks man of color to make my dreams come true. Looking for love. Tired of games and one night stands. You can't lose what you don't have. Ad 25692

SOMEONE TO SHARE LIFE

Looking for someone to share life with me. A home, pets and comfortable closeness. Would like monogamous, almost platonic relationship. Tired of dinner alone? Respond. Maybe we can both finally "exhale." Please be over 30 years. Photo will get mine. Ad 25757

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

Professional GWM, 49, blonde-blue, clean shaven, 6', 165, swimmers body. I.S.O. part-time play buddy. You are good-looking, 30 to 50, HWP, drug free, without hang-overs. CALLS ONLY. Ad 25704

LONELY GHM

31, 5'7", 135#, seeks GW or GHM for life-mate, monogamous relationship. Must be honest, sincere, 32+ year of age. I'm HIV-, short black hair. Enjoy travelling, being adventurous. You must be the same and versatile. No games. Photo please. Physical must be terrific. Ad 25739

NO STRINGS -NO RINGS

GWM, 31, 5'10", 155. Seeking someone who doesn't want or desperately need to be married but would like to just have fun. I would prefer someone who isn't necessarily a bodybuilder, but at least works out on a regular basis as I do. If you have a positive attitude and a sense of humor, I would like to hear from you. Written responses with phone number preferred. Ad 25768

I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED EXCEPT YOU!!!

GWM executive, 40, 5'10", 170, attractive, seeks special guy for serious dating relationship. Enjoy movies, theater, travel, dining out, quiet romantic evenings. Prefer mature younger guy, 24-30, who needs that special person to make their life complete. If you think you deserve the best, call. Humble/Kingwood area a plus! Ad 25741

GHM, 31, 5'11", 170, BLACK HAIR/ BROWN EYES

My interests are cooking, working out, jogging, sports, the outdoors and gardening. I would like to spend time with that special man. Oh, by the way, it's so hard to meet men in Houston who are honest and sincere. I am seeking GWM for friendship and possibly a longterm relationship. I have a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25763

SPECIAL BOTTOMS, GIVE ME A CALL

Submissive? Provide dedicated service and do it right? Take instructions and behave obediently? Boy/slave in need of bindings and discipline? Enjoy it all and more? Need put in your place with a demanding top? If serious GM, 25-40, fit, clean, easy going, nice guy, you call now! Ad 25653

WANTED: BOY

For long-term monogamous relationship with "gifted" GWM in early 40s. I am 6', 170#, auburn/hazel, w/moustache. A true "daddy". I am healthy and HIV-. You should be younger, attractive, masculine and DDF. Letter only w/photo and phone #. Ad 25719

WANTED: WHITE MALE

Indian male, 30, attractive, very shy and not into an active gay lifestyle. DDF, enjoys hiking, sports, long drives in the country, quiet evenings at home, interesting conversation and an overall active lifestyle. ISO white male over 35 with similar interests for long term monogamous relationship. Looks not important. Let's exchange letters and photo. Ad 25752

Mature GM, French active, HIV-, ISO other M, HIV-for your enjoyment. Ad 25762

EAST SIDE GWM SEEKS FRIENDS/ POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP

I am 35, 5'8", 145, brown hair, blue eyes, healthy, HIV-, happy, well built, attractive, masculine, and successful with strong work ethic. Interested in movies, music, plants, pets, dance, intimate evenings, versatile "top." Seeking HIV-honest, sincere, attractive, healthy, financially stable GM with strong work ethic for friendships and possibly loyal, long term monogamous relationship. Not looking for someone well endowed, just intelligent with a kind heart. Send photo -mail responses preferred. Ad 25750

PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

And lot's of fun! GWC, barely 30's, one's versatile, one's top only. Both well endowed, HWP, DDF, tired of bars. You: GWM, 18-30, HWP, DDF, versatile or bottom. For: Safe 3-Way Fun, Friendship and Companionship. Ad 25695

SWEET AND SPICY LOOKING FOR YOU!

SBF seeking healthy happy woman. I am looking for a loving friendship. Enjoy dancing, candlelight, music, laughing and a Southern Lady. Put a little spice in your life! I do want truth in all correspondence. Ad 25731

FEMALES IN SEARCH OF TROUBLE ...

are searching for you. All female SM/BD/fetish social group. We might have the answers to your questions. Ad 25736

"NOT ONLY ON WEEKENDS"

Single, black, female romantic seeks friend for possible relationship. Seeks woman who is certain of herself; her wants and desires. Interests include: movies, parks, special getaways, moonlit nights. Quality time very important; also hand-holding, good conversation, and a sense of humor. Must be stable, sincere and spiritually motivated. Ad 25740

LET ME MAKE YOUR HEART SMILE

I'm 5'10", 165 lbs, extra nice legs, warm smile, big heart with lots of love to offer if our chemistry is right. I'm open to all inquiries, but prefer 25-35 bottom with smooth skin as I have a hairy chest. Now please note I'm also HIV+, but very healthy, active & loving. Please give me a chance & I promise you won't be disappointed. Prefer mail response. Ad 25754

WANTED: MASCULINE WHITE MALE COMPANION

HIV-Negative, 18-45, not overweight, to play dominoes, cards, ETC. 10am-2pm, weekdays, in my home. I am divorced masculine WM, 5'11", 155# ("skinny"), 40+ short brown hair, receding hair line, brown eyes, glasses, clean-shaven, smooth. Will exchange (revealing) photos. I have a Polaroid. Mail responses preferred. Immediate reply. Ad 25766

GORGEOUS EUROPEAN ISO AMERICAN STUD

Very handsome European, 5'10", 165 lbs, nice body, HIV-, masculine, very sexy & hot, seeks good looking bi-males for fun times & more. You must be good looking, nice body & "big", dominant, straight acting, age 20-40. I'm looking for American honky-tonk, corn-fed type. I'm 29 yrs. old & ready to satisfy. Ad 25760

SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

New to the gay scene. Recently divorced. Looking to make new friends/acquaintances. I am a WM early 50's but people say I look 40, DDF, non-smoker, permanently employed. I am average looking, tall and slim, hazel eyes, blond hair. I like quiet evenings, enjoy cooking, gardening, country and western music, the beach, and the outdoors. If interested, respond to Ad 25674.

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON

GWF, early 30's, non-smoker, looking for GWF, 30-45. I enjoy movies, intimate dinners & the outdoors. Ad 25730

AFFECTIONATE TEDDY BEAR WANTS CUDDLY CUB

GWM, 56, 6'2", 285, big bear, professional, clean cut seeks loving cub for companion, fun, and a devoted monogamous relationship. I want what I am: sincere, loyal, sense of humor, honest, masculine, caring, sensitive, trusting, lots of T.L.C., respect, genuine and unlimited passion. Interests: Movies, art galleries/museums, dining out, quiet evenings at home, and lots of candlelight conversation and sharing. Discreet, NS, and DDF U B 2. If you can relate, please respond. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25745

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

GWM, 33, 6'1", 285, christian, professional with big heart. I'm nice looking, short brown hair and mustache. Seeking that special someone with lots of love to give for monogamous relationship. Interests include movies, intimate evenings, helping people in need, yard sales, flea markets, and my church. Ad 25708

LOOKING FOR A TALL GUY

Well built GWM, over 6', HWP, DDF/NS, 40's seeks aggressive G/B/H/M of similar size. You are HIV-, HWP, 35-50, employed professional and know what you want. I'm discreet, masculine, well-dressed, stable and employed. Also romantic, versatile and attractive. Brown/brown/mustache. Inside the loop home owner. All responses answered promptly. Ad 25759

GENTLE LEATHER "DAD" SEEKS NOVICE "BOY"

Attractive GWM physician, 35, 5'10", 160, new in town, seeks boy 18-24 with interest in light S/M, B/D. Very understanding and patient. If you ever thought of getting into "leather" with a gentle but firm master, give me a call. Ad 25744

SOUL/LIFE MATE WANTED

GWM, 51, 5'10", 205 lbs. stocky weightlifter, HIV-, professional demeanor, active Christian, conservative straight lifestyle, seeks brawny, bear, linebacker, beefy hunk/chunk with similar attributes. Physically challenged encouraged to reply. Thanks! Ad 25727

GIVING MY HEART

GHM attractive, spiritual, realistic, looking for new contacts for friendship and future romance. Discover within this loving heart the great chances of meeting, talking, and sharing with me the magnificent gift of all times LOVE. Respond soon, letters are greatly appreciated. Ad 25756

Attractive male, 32, 5'9", 145#, sincere professional. Seeking monogamous relationship with someone who is sincere, HWP, non-smoker, and values family life. Interests: museums, traveling, dining out, and quiet conversation. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25722

GWM PROFESSIONAL

40's, 5'11", 165 lbs, good looks, nice tanned body (HIV-). Enjoy movies, sports, cars, the beach, music & dining in & out. ISO younger HWP hispanic for dating. Desire monogamous relationship. Be DDF. I've a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25705

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

Mid 30's, professional, healthy, sincere, good sense of humor. Seeking other HIV+ men for friendship but I'm primarily interested in entering a serious relationship with an honest, caring and loving man. Ad 25632

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

I.S.O.: Masculine, hairy, H.W.P., HIV-, well endowed GWM for safe fun. No strings. Pure indulgence. ME: 40 yr., HIV-, 5'7", 160 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, w/S & P beard. Average guy. No hang-ups. Photo w/ letter for response. Ad 25724

QUALITY MAN...

That's what I want. Dark complexion, Middle East/Mediterranean a big plus. Me: GWM, very fit, masculine, 5'8", 155 lbs, good looking. You: Masculine, "addiction-free", SERIOUS, I'm educated, professional, stable, healthy, great morals/values. Desire same. Letters preferred; all answered. Take a chance; let's talk, meet, dance. Photo gets mine. Ad 25694

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