

Everett Quinton's childhood dreams of drag come true again as stepmom to 'Cinderella' at Wortham

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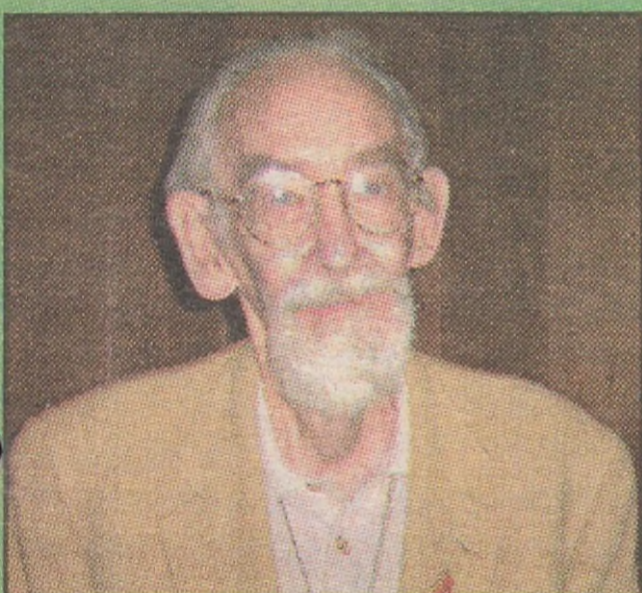


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Deborah Rogers is tapped as president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, along with five new board members. Two more board slots will be filled next month.

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Openly gay Alvin minister Lew Wiggs, who was among the first to serve people with AIDS in the early '80s, retires from the clergy. The Reverend says though he's 'hanging up his robes' he'll remain active in local AIDS service organization.

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Actors Theatre production of 'Elizabeth One' takes a psychedelic look at the Virgin Queen.

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Anti-gay Anglican group takes root in South

Break-away group from Episcopal Church has base in South Carolina

by ERIC ERICKSON

A break-away group of the Episcopal Church USA that urges conservative stands on homosexuality and women may be led by bishops from Africa and Asia, but has its base in the American South.

Headquartered on South Carolina's Pawley's Island near Charleston, the Anglican Mission In America opposes what it sees as a growing acceptance of lesbians and gay men in the Episcopal Church.

In less than a year, the AMIA has grown to 38 congregations, including two in the Florida panhandle and an Alabama church that severed its ties to the Episcopal Church

last year and recently lost a court battle over ownership of the church building.

Last month, the AMIA continued its defiance of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. George Carey, the head of Anglicans and Episcopalians worldwide, by consecrating four priests as new bishops in the splinter group.

While the AMIA currently has only 72 priests and six bishops, leaders in the 77 million member Anglican Union—which includes 2.3 million members of the Episcopal Church USA, the U.S. branch of Anglicanism—are taking the split seriously.

"Are you... aware that action of this kind takes you perilously close to creating a new group of churches, at odds with the See of Canterbury and the rest of the [Anglican] Communion?" Carey wrote to Emmanuel Kolini of Rwanda and Datuk Yong Ping Chung of Singapore, the two archbishops

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Episcopalians from 114 congregations across the country gathered at the first conference of the Anglican Mission in America in January on Pawleys Island, S.C. The splinter group formed, in part, over the Episcopal Church's gay-friendly approach to gays. 'Sex is designed for marriage between a man and a woman. Period,' said Harry Griffith (inset), executive officer for the Anglican Mission in America.

Openly gay judge appointed



Steve Kirkland will be sworn in next week as an Associate Justice of the Municipal Court of Houston, becoming only the second openly gay judge in Houston's court system, along with Judge John Paul Barnish.

Steve Kirkland joins John Paul Barnish as only out justices serving Houston

by KAY Y. DAYUS

Not only will Steve Kirkland be adding Honorable to his name when he is sworn in next week as an Associate Justice of the Municipal Court of Houston, he will also become only the second openly gay judge in Houston's court system.

Kirkland was nominated by Houston City Council members Annise Parker and Gabriel Vasquez and approved by City Council prophetically during Pride week last month. Appointed by Mayor Lee P. Brown, Kirkland will join openly gay John Paul Barnish as a Municipal court judge within the next week or two. Barnish was appointed during Brown's first term in office.

"It's a great honor," Kirkland said of his appointment. "It's an honor for any individual to be appointed by the mayor, but even greater for someone who is openly gay. There is a great deal of trust involved. The individual is a reflection of the administration that appoints you."

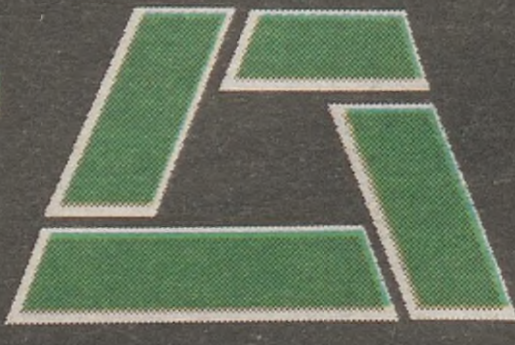
He said that it is more significant for him to be appointed

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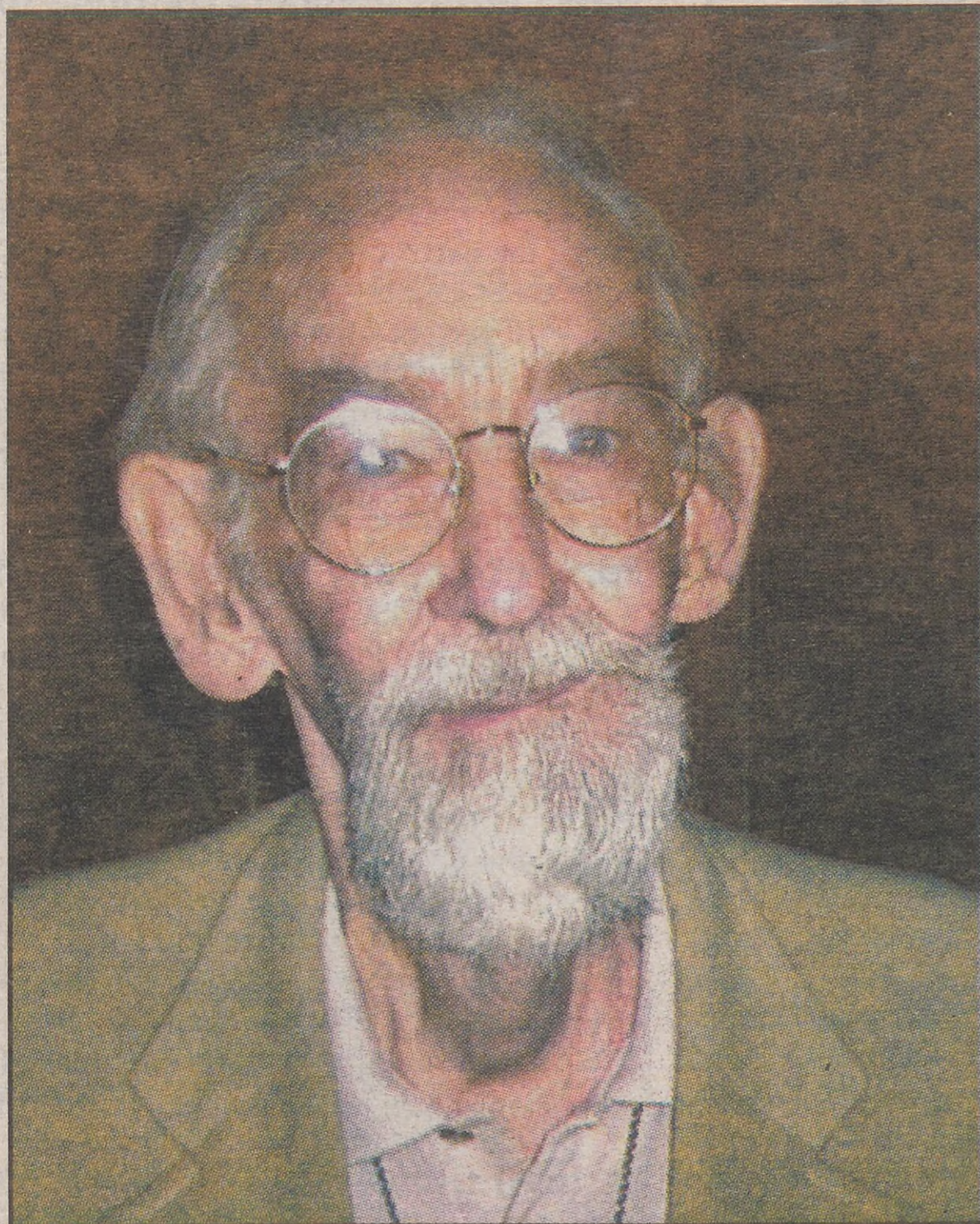
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Minister, AIDS activist, retires from Alvin church



Rev. Lew Wiggs

Rev. Lew Wiggs will continue work with AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area

by ROBERT B. HENDERSON

The Rev. Lew Wiggs, 72, will officially retire from the ministry in May with a final sermon at Alvin First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The event marked the culmination of many years of ministry begun as a Baptist, then Methodist and finally non-denominational.

As a gay man, Wiggs said he had not been the target of discrimination so far as he knew, but he has seen it repeatedly being visited on other gay people. His first life partner was killed in an automobile accident in the '50s. He is currently single.

As a Baptist minister Wiggs noticed his board of deacons were acting strangely one Sunday morning. The chairman asked if he would meet with them following the service. He preempted the anxiety by saying, "I suppose you all have decided I'm a queer. Is that all you wanted to talk about today?" He never heard another word about it. He stayed there until he was drafted for the Korean War.

As a Methodist, he said the current military policy was in effect. He was never asked. He never told.

Wiggs is currently the executive director of the AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. He has been there since it was formed and plans to continue after his retirement from ministry.

Throughout his ministerial career he has rarely served congregations large enough to pay a full salary. He has consistently had to be involved in non-church work to make enough income to sustain himself. He worked as a building contractor for many

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Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus elects board

Deborah Rogers gets nod as president

by ELLA TYLER

Deborah Rogers was elected president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus on July 11 and five new board members were selected. Rogers, formerly the Caucus secretary, has been acting president since May, when Sean Carter, then president, and several other board members resigned.

The new board members are Mark Wood, Zeph Capo, Jewel Gray, Harlan Bennett and Carla Hinson. They join incumbent board members Jeff Dorrell, Ken Jones and Brian Martin. Roy McCarthy was named an honorary board member emeritus in honor of his long-standing volunteer commitment and in honor of his presence at the Stonewall riots.

Two more open board positions will be filled at the regular meeting in August.

"The cool thing about this board is that we have a good ratio of men and women, several professional types and very visible Republican and Democrat leaders," Rogers said. "We have a suburban mom, too!" she said, referring to herself and Hinson, her partner, and Gray. Gray lives in rural Fort Bend County and is a foster mother.

Dorrell is a lawyer and a former Log Cabin Republican president and Wood is a



Deborah Rogers, who has been serving as acting president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus since May, was elected as president of the group last week, along with five new board members. Two more board positions will be filled in August.

stockbroker and the president of Stonewall Democrats. Capo is an organizer for the teachers union, Rogers said.

"I'm also pleased that we have some younger people, too," Rogers added. "Carla and Zeph are in their late 20s or early 30s."

"The meeting was energizing and electric with excitement and purpose. I want to encourage any who would like to be a part of this to join the Caucus. We have lots of work ahead of us," Rogers said.

INFO

Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

713.521.1000
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 e-mail: voter@hglpc.com

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around the nation

New Census numbers continue to reveal rise in gay couples

WASHINGTON—Data from the 2000 U.S. Census released Wednesday showed an increase in reported same-sex “unmarried partners” in South Carolina, West Virginia, Arizona and Maine, as in all other states for which Census data has been released thus far. South Carolina reported 7,609 same-sex households, up from 1,067 reported on the 1990 Census—a 613 percent increase. But Census officials have warned against directly comparing the two numbers because of changes in the ways some data was processed in the two Census counts. All 46 counties in South Carolina reported same-sex couples, although most—70 percent—live in urban areas. West Virginia reported 2,916 same-sex unmarried partners on the 2000 Census, a 850 percent increase from only 307 in 1990. More than half, 53 percent, live in rural areas, while 47 percent live in urban areas. Arizona reported 12,332 same-sex unmarried partners, while Maine reported 3,394. Data from six additional states, including Florida and Georgia, is scheduled for release July 25.

Parent company of gay Web portals cuts staff in reorganization

SAN FRANCISCO—On July 13, PlanetOut Partners Inc., parent company of Web portals Gay.com and PlanetOut.com, underwent a corporate reorganization that resulted in a 10 percent reduction in staff, its third round of layoffs since last November, according to *Press Pass Q*, an e-mail newsletter for gay journalists. The reorganization included layoffs for 12 employees and revision of duties for others, the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network reported. Bryce Eberhart, PlanetOut’s corporate communications director, told *Press Pass Q* that the cuts were made to focus the company’s resources. The merger between PlanetOut.com and Gay.com, which was announced last November, led to “redundancies and inefficiencies,” the impacts of which are still being felt, Eberhart said. “It’s kind of like we are balancing our checkbook. We realized we needed to position our company for the future and concentrate on the three things we do best—aggregating content, premium services and e-commerce,” he said. Much of the original content on the sites will be eliminated, replaced with news, features and columns originating elsewhere on the Internet.

Lesbian state senator in MA to run for open congressional seat

BOSTON (AP)—State Sen. Cheryl Jacques, a 39-year-old lesbian and former prosecutor, has officially entered the crowded race for the 9th District congressional seat. Jacques, a Democrat, took out nominating papers July 13 with the secretary of state’s office and formally announced her bid during a news conference on Sunday. The seat opened when 15-term incumbent Joseph Moakley died of leukemia on Memorial Day. Jacques, the fifth state senator to formally enter the race, is also running for lieutenant governor in 2002. She decided to enter the congressional race at the urging of hundreds of supporters who wanted a broader choice of candidates, she said. She sponsored one of the few bills to become law this year, a measure to allow victims of violent crimes and sex crimes to testify at parole board hearings. Political analysts think the winner of the Sept. 11 primary will easily win the general election on Oct. 16 because the district is so heavily Democratic.



Massachusetts state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, a lesbian, announced plans to run for an open congressional seat. If successful, she would become the fourth openly gay member of the U.S. House.

Fifth city in IA adds sexual orientation to anti-bias ordinance

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Des Moines has become the fifth city in Iowa to add a sexual orientation clause to its anti-discrimination ordinance. The revision means the city outlaws bias based on sexual orientation in housing, employment or use of public accommodations in the city. Des Moines joins Ames, Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and Davenport in having legal protection for gays. Iowa state laws don’t include an anti-discrimination law based on sexual orientation. Opponents and supporters debated the change for weeks before the Des Moines City Council decided to add the provision by a 5-2 vote. “The issue for me is Des Moines coming into this century, maybe last century,” said Barb Ettlson, a lesbian. “It’s the fact that we all contribute to the community, pay our taxes and raise kids. Des Moines has finally come to that conclusion.”

Economic panel pulls out of study on Cincinnati’s anti-gay policy

CINCINNATI, Ohio—Under pressure from city officials, a group that concerns itself with the economic development of Cincinnati withdrew its support earlier this month from a study on the social and economic impact of the city’s anti-gay rights policy, the *Cincinnati Post* reported. The withdrawal occurred shortly before the City Council voted on Downtown Cincinnati Inc.’s budget—and after council members questioned DCI’s participation in the study. The study is designed to gauge whether residents’ attitudes have changed since voters overwhelmingly approved the charter amendment—known as Issue 3—in 1993, according to the *Post*. The amendment prohibits the council or any other city entity from enacting or enforcing any measure that gives “minority or preferential status to gays,” making it illegal to seek protection against discrimination. Since its passage eight years ago, the amendment has cost the city \$64 million in lost convention business, city officials said. The study, expected to start later this summer, will assess the policy’s social, political and economic impact on Cincinnati.



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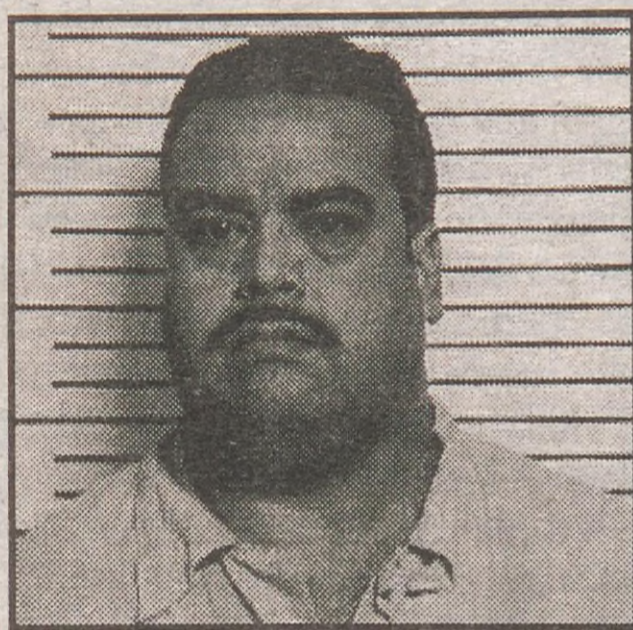
police beat

IA gay man faces felony charges of criminal transmission of HIV

IOWA—Aaron Dahlberg faces charges of criminal transmission of HIV under an Iowa law passed three years ago making intentional transmission of HIV a felony. The law carries a prison sentence of up to 25 years, the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* reported. An Iowa City man, referred to as "Victim No. 1," told police in mid-April that he had had two encounters of unprotected anal sex with Dahlberg before learning of Dahlberg's HIV status. The Iowa City police report cites other "victims," according to the *Gazette*, with one living in Cedar Rapids. The Cedar Rapids man, who has tested negative for HIV twice since his encounters with Dahlberg and identified only as "Victim No. 2," told the Associated Press, "It's been horrible and the Cedar Rapids police won't do anything. ... He knew all along that he had it." Dahlberg countered in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* that he was innocent and called the investigation "a waste of criminal justice resources," adding, "It's kind of scary, this mad witch hunt in some of these Midwestern states."

Brother of murdered gay man criticizes Oklahoma governor

OKLAHOMA (AP)—The brother of a gay man who was shot, stabbed and burned by a Mexican national said officials have not sought input from the family about efforts to stop the inmate's execution. "The governor is a busy person. He is taking the time to talk with [Valdez's] attorneys and the attorney general and to listen to the [Mexican] president," said Sammy Barron, whose brother Juan Barron was killed by Gerardo Valdez in 1989. "Well, that is fine and dandy. None of those people are the ones going through what we are going through. My family, we are the ones getting neglected. We are not getting our input heard." Gov. Frank Keating's 30-day stay of Valdez's execution has expired. But Attorney General Drew Edmondson said Tuesday he will wait for Keating's decision on a commutation recommendation before requesting a new execution date.



A stay from Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating stopped the June 19 execution of Gerardo Valdez (pictured above), who killed a man after an unwanted sexual advance.

Case still open in April death of lesbian activist in MT, police say

RONAN, Mont.—Although police have said the early April death of Tary Mocabee, a lesbian environmental activist, was an accidental drowning, they have not been able to close the case, according to the *Missoula Independent*. "At this point, we're still at an accidental, unknown cause. We've done initial interviewing and have come up with nothing as far as criminal activity goes. But we're not going to put out a cause of death if we're not sure," Det. Jay Doyle said. Elements adding to a suspicion of foul play are Mocabee's outspoken environmental activism that often put her at odds with her neighbors, a series of romantic relationships and break-ins on her property, according to the newspaper. "I just feel very uneasy about it. If there was anybody in better shape than Tary, I don't know who it would be," said Steve Reum, a former police chief and neighbor of Mocabee's.

Families of slain gay couple in Fiji dispute claims of teen sex

FIJI—Although Fiji police have charged a suspect in the July 1 murders of Fiji Red Cross Director John Scott and his partner, Gregory Scrivener, the police are continuing to investigate accusations made by the accused that the couple engaged in sex with underage males, according to the *New Zealand Herald*. In light of the investigation, a social worker has told Fiji's TV3 that six teenage prostitutes went to the couple's home June 29, the night before the murders, to exchange sex for food and cash. The families of the murdered men have been highly critical of the investigation, challenging attempts by the police to link the deceased to pedophilia and drug use. Scrivener's sister, Janice Giles, pointed out that on the evening the couple is said to have been visited by the six prostitutes, they attended a Red Cross fund-raising ball. Apitia Kaisau, 23, whom the police have charged with murdering the couple, is currently undergoing psychiatric evaluation.

AZ hate crime victim says misdemeanor sentence falls short

ARIZONA (AP)—Franchot Opela, 27, was convicted on Tuesday of assault on beating Fabian Padilla in February 2000 outside a Tucson bar. Deputy County Attorney Jeff Jacobson said the beating was a result of Opela's "perception of the victim's sexual orientation." Padilla testified Opela called him a "faggot" as he walked outside to smoke a cigarette. The two started arguing and then traded blows. Padilla wound up flat on the ground while Opela beat on him with both fists, witnesses said. They said Opela and several of his friends at the bar then drove away, leaving Padilla bleeding. Opela was found guilty of misdemeanor assault, sentenced to 12 months of unsupervised probation and 40 hours of community service, and ordered to undergo eight hours of anger counseling and sensitivity training.

"I don't think it was fair," Padilla said.

—From staff and wire reports

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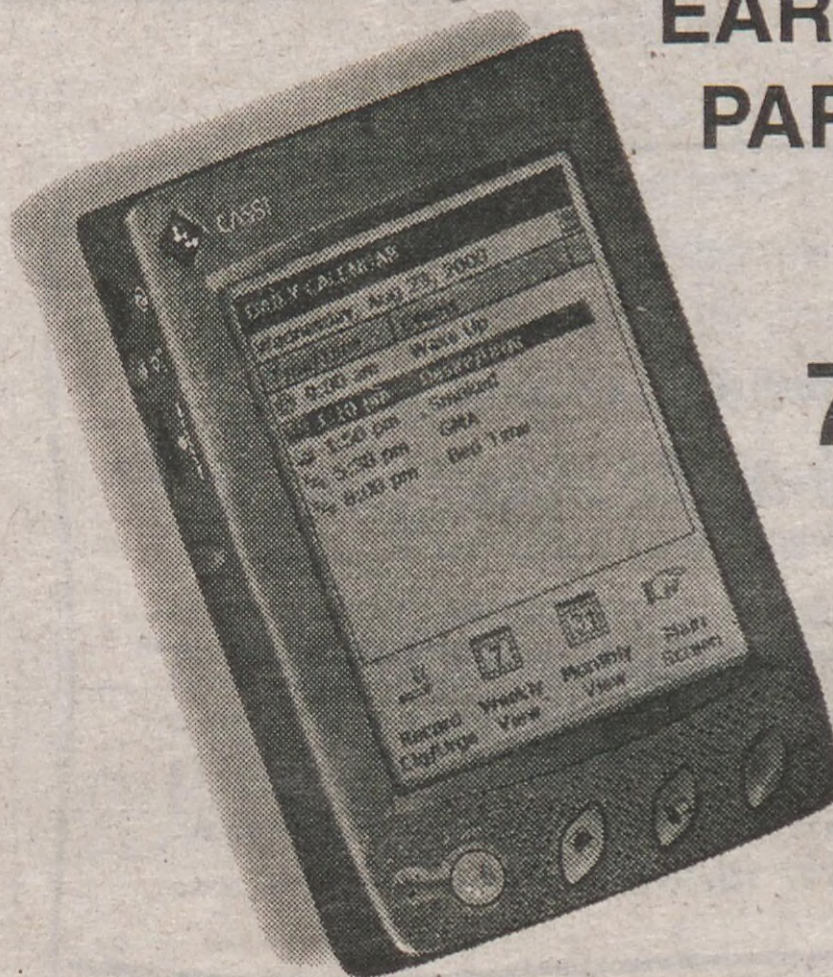
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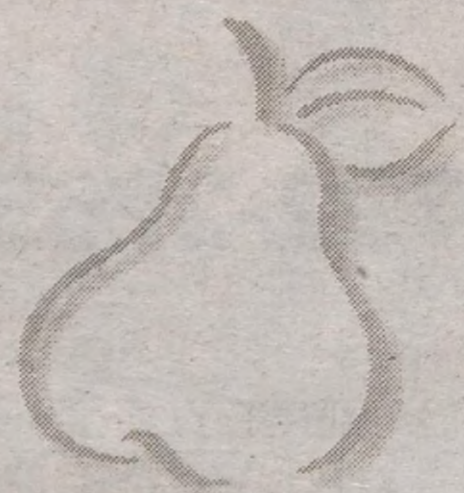
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Ruling clears way for gays in Germany to wed beginning next month

KARLSRUHE, Germany—Germany's top court cleared the way on Wednesday for the introduction of same-sex marriages when it dismissed efforts by two conservative regional states to block a new law, Reuters reported. Starting next month, lesbian and gay couples in Germany will be able to wed in registry offices and share a common surname. The constitutional court in Karlsruhe dismissed appeals by the states of Bavaria and Saxony to block the law, court officials said. Under it, gay couples will be entitled to the same inheritance rights as heterosexual couples and foreign partners of German gays and lesbians will be allowed to join them in Germany. Bavaria's conservative Christian Social Union (CSU), sister party of the opposition Christian Democrats, blasted the court ruling as a "black day for families." The law will come into force although the constitutional court still has to give a final decision on whether the law contravenes the German constitution. A decision is expected next year.

Defendants plead innocent as Egyptian trial of alleged gays opens

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Protesting and sobbing, 52 men arrested at an alleged gay gathering pleaded innocent Wednesday at the opening of a case that has shocked conservative Egypt and raised human rights concerns. Two were accused of religious offenses and others with debauchery and having gay sex. Some entered the courtroom covering their faces with towels to hide from cameras. The defendants were arrested May 11 on a Nile river boat restaurant. Police originally said they were having a gay sex party, but prosecutors later changed tack and said the group was meeting with a self-styled preacher. The trial has caused a storm in Egypt, where homosexuality is seen as a sin. International human rights groups have protested the arrests. "We only want mercy," cried one defendant from the courtroom dock, over the din of wailing family members. "We've been detained without any evidence against us," yelled another. After Wednesday's hearing, the case was adjourned until Aug. 15.



Some of the 52 men accused of breaking laws covering obscenity and public morality covered their faces as they entered a state security court for their trial Wednesday in Cairo. The dozens of men pleaded innocent.

Nova Scotia court ruling grants gay couples right to adopt children

CANADA (AP)—A landmark court ruling July 9 gives Nova Scotia same-sex couples the right to adopt children, and makes the province one of few that legally recognizes homosexual parents. A provincial Supreme Court judge handed down a decision that stated the law preventing same-sex couples from adopting was unconstitutional and discriminated against all unmarried couples. The ruling means the children of unmarried common-law couples will now be able to register their relationships with both parents, inherit under the Intestate Succession Act and receive maintenance from both parents. "The evolution of the concept of family and the importance of family to children... support the contention that this exclusion is unjustified," Justice Deborah Gass said in her ruling.

Budapest mayor fails to block gays from popular youth festival

HUNGARY—The mayor of a section of Budapest that serves as the site of an annual youth festival that draws tens of thousands of visitors from across Europe has failed in his attempt to block gay organizations from participating. In the contract securing the event, Pepsi Island Mayor István Tarlós sought to include a prohibition against "homosexual education programs," according to the Hungarian gay advocacy group Habeas Corpus. "[This clause] can be used to exclude four GLBT/feminist [non-government organizations] that have been granted free entry and some additional in-kind support at the Island. It deeply hurts the human dignity and pride of the Hungarian gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities," the group said. According to the BBC, Tarlós backed down July 13, offering public regret that he could not ban gay groups from the festival in the name of protecting young people. "It really feels like the Hungarian movement of sexual minorities has won its first victory," Gábor Kuszting of Habeas Corpus announced July 14.

Slovenia, Venezuela draw hundreds to first Gay Pride celebrations

SLOVENIA—Joining with countries that make Gay Pride an annual summertime celebration, Slovenia and Venezuela held their first such events this month. Slovenians marked the occasion July 6 in the capital, Ljubljana, with a protest march organizers called "Bypass Around Intolerance—A March Against Homophobia." About 300 protesters marched past a bar that allegedly denied admittance to two gay men last month, then to the mayor's residence where the group unsuccessfully called on him to address the crowd. The Venezuelan event on July 1, relatively more festive, drew about 1,500 people to Caracas, according to the Associated Press. The crowd marched through the city to salsa and meringue beats, amid balloons, rainbows and other festive accoutrements. "If people are afraid to come out and march, fear gains power," said

Jose Merentes, head of Amnesty International's Venezuelan unit promoting human rights for gays. "We're trying to defeat the power of fear."

—From staff and wire reports



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"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and STAFF REPORTS



Camryn Manheim

"If somebody chooses not to come out because they're concerned about their career, family or what will happen at their children's school, it's their privilege to keep that quiet. However, on a social level, if you are a person who wants to make a contribution to the planet, it behooves you to come out if you have the strength to do so. ... I know a lot of celebrities who walk that line and are struggling with whether to come out or not."

—Actress Camryn Manheim, from ABC's "The Practice," at the Los Angeles premiere of "Hedwig & the Angry Inch"; Manheim, who is single and recently adopted a child, said at the event that she wanted to be a lesbian, according to the July 17 *New York Daily News*

"As a straight, single, childless, peace-loving woman in her 30s, I will ... point out that marriage, child-rearing, and military service are not so much dreams to me as outright nightmares. I feel the same way about marriage, parenthood, and joining the Marines as I do about modern dance or voting Republican—people should be allowed to do those things, but why would they want to? I find it fascinating and heartbreaking that gays and lesbians must wage these ongoing legal battles to win the basic right to engage in activities (such as getting engaged) that I would cross international borders barefoot to avoid."

—Sarah Vowell writing in the *Stranger*, June 21

"Males of all species are especially poor at monogamy, and we predict that sexual monogamy in gay relationships would be particularly rare. Put two sperm-squirters together, and the likelihood is that one or the other or both—following their biology and perhaps in spite of their 'higher' yearnings—is/are going to be unfaithful. ... Biologists used to believe otherwise, but DNA testing has revealed that while some animal species, mostly birds, are socially monogamous, virtually none are sexually monogamous. Even geese and swans cheat."

—Judith Eve Lipton, M.D., and David P. Barash, Ph.D., writing in the Seattle weekly newspaper the *Stranger*, June 21

"Like you, I've suffered. We've all been misunderstood. We've all been made fun of. But I'm not going to allow people who don't like me to rent space in my brain."

—Former televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker Messner speaking at Tampa, Florida's gay PrideFest party, July 8



Tammy Faye

"Once homophobia declines, we are bound to witness the emergence of a homosexuality that is quite different from the homosexuality we know today. With the strictures on queerness removed, and same-sex relationships normalized and accepted, it is very likely that more people will have gay sex but, paradoxically, less of them will identify as gay. This is because, in the absence of homophobia, the need to assert gayness becomes redundant."

—Leading British gay activist Peter Tatchell writing at rainbownetwork.com, July 7

"The other day, thousands of gay men and women marched the streets of New York waving banners and celebrating their sexual orientation. Not because it was Gay Pride Day, but because it was Saturday."

—Late-night comedian Conan O'Brien, in a broadcast after New York City's Gay Pride Parade



Conan O'Brien

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CRITERIA OF THE EXPANDED ACCESS PROGRAM FOR TENOFVIR DF (disoproxil fumarate)

Gilead Sciences has opened an Expanded Access Program for TENOFVIR DF, an investigational reverse transcriptase inhibitor, dosed as a single tablet once daily. TENOFVIR DF is being evaluated in combination with other agents in clinical studies for the treatment of HIV.

ENTRY CRITERIA

The TENOFVIR DF Expanded Access Program is now available for adult patients who have failed HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy), have limited treatment options, and in the opinion of the treating physician, require TENOFVIR DF to construct a viable combination of antiretroviral agents.

For more information on how to enroll, please contact your physician, your local AIDS community-based organization, or the district public health office. If your physician would like to participate in the program, he/she can call 1-800-445-3235 or visit the Gilead Sciences website at www.gilead.com.

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EDITORIAL

Closeted bigotry at the White House

by CHRIS CRAIN

Gays and other minorities may one day look back on George W. Bush as the president who asked America to vote as he says, and not as he does. Last week's embarrassing public flip-flop on whether to exempt religious charities from state and local civil rights laws is only the latest example.

Time and again, White House public pronouncements seem premised on a political understanding that it isn't expedient to look intolerant or anti-gay, even while their actual policy decisions undermine what little legal protections exist for gay and lesbian Americans.

The White House has been in particularly heavy spin rotation since July 10, when the *Washington Post* broke the story about an internal Salvation Army memo alleging a backroom deal under which the nation's largest religious charity would throw its considerable clout, and as much as \$1 million in lobbying funds, behind the president's faith-based initiative. In exchange, the Bush administration agreed to a change in federal regulations that would exempt religious charities receiving money under the initiative from state and local civil rights laws protecting gays.

Once the news broke, the Bush people backpedaled, claiming that Salvation Army officials had only met with low-level White House staff, and had misunderstood the administration's position: There was no quid pro quo deal. Even under duress, the White House stayed on message: We don't undermine state and local civil rights laws in exchange for money and lobbying support; that's old-Washington thinking.

But by Thursday, the *Post* had reported that Karl Rove, the president's senior political adviser, was intimately involved with the courting of Salvation Army support. That damaging revelation undermines White House credibility on whether there was a deal, and much more will undoubtedly come to light as House Democrats hold hearings on the matter.

In fact, every indication is that Rove and the White House entered into something like the "firm commitment" the Salvation Army said it had obtained. Until very recently, the Salvation Army hadn't even taken a position on the president's faith-based initiative. Now it's throwing \$1 million behind the effort. That smacks very much of faith-based support—faith in a corrosive deal cut behind closed doors.

Is this the "new Washington" we can expect from George W.? Bill Clinton may have rented out the Lincoln bedroom, but Bush appears willing to sell outright our civil rights laws, and for less money.

The Salvation Army snafu is just the latest example of how the president's message is gay-friendly while his policy is decidedly unfriendly.

In the presidential debates last year,

he insisted that he favored hate crime laws, but preferred alternative legislation that in reality gutted the hate crime bill proposed by the Human Rights Campaign and other civil rights groups. He scored political points by reminding voters that as the governor of Texas he signed a hate crimes law, when in reality the law he signed was unenforceable. His Republican successor even signed new legislation this year that gave Bush's law some teeth, and a specific provision addressing anti-gay hate.

Once elected president, in a flip-flop that echoes the Salvation Army gambit, Bush publicly backed away from a statement by Chief of Staff Andrew Card that he would dismantle the AIDS czar's office. Though the president ultimately appointed a gay man to the post, the position bears little resemblance in influence and authority from the same job within the Clinton administration.

And even if the White House is to be believed that no deal was cut with the Salvation Army, the second public pronouncement on July 10 from Pennsylvania Avenue was just as misleading, and much more disturbing. At the end of a very bad day, the Bush people issued a statement saying that after a

and benefit policies, and even to refuse services backed by federal funds to those who do not repent of their homosexuality.

In a statement issued on behalf of the Salvation Army, the charity claims not to discriminate against gays, internally or in the provision of services. But the Salvation Army is engaged in the same form of closeted bigotry as the White House. The Army evangelizes a fundamentalist interpretation of the Bible and requires "officers" and "soldiers" in the Army to adhere to those beliefs.

In San Francisco, the Salvation Army showed its true colors when it turned down local government funding for social services, rather than accept the city's "Equal Benefits Ordinance" that would have required it to offer domestic partner benefits. What kind of charity deprives the poor of services because it cannot countenance the extension of health insurance to the loved ones of its employees?

A right-wing charity makes decisions like that, and is free to do so in a country that respects religious freedom. But the federal government cannot and should not give public effect to such bigotry by handing over taxpayer dollars to a religious charity while exempting it from local civil rights laws.

Whether or not the Bush administration cut a deal with the Salvation Army, this much is clear: Bigots can do business with this White House.

rapid review, the administration would not support the regulation sought by the Salvation Army, exempting charities receiving faith-based money from state and local civil rights laws.

On the surface, the White House sent the message that religious charities would not be permitted to discriminate, against gays or anyone else covered by state and local civil rights laws, if they received faith-based federal money. But in reality, Bush only withdrew support for the proposed regulation because the actual legislation implementing his faith-based initiative, now pending in the House, already carves the exception sought by the Salvation Army and other conservative religious charities.

The language in the House bill is vague and the word "gay" appears nowhere, but the effect is just the same: If a state or local government is distributing even a small amount of federal funds to a faith-based social service provider, then state and local civil rights laws cannot be imposed in a way that alters the charities' "religious character," "its form of internal governance," or "control over the definition, development, practice and expression of its religious beliefs."

For the Salvation Army and other conservative faith-based charities, that means the freedom to adopt anti-gay employment

And to make matters worse, the House bill supported by Bush limits the exemption by carving out certain categories, including race, national origin, disability and age, and insisting that faith-based funding recipients *not* discriminate on those bases.

This is the worst form of government-supported bigotry. If the White House truly believes, as Vice President Dick Cheney articulated last week, that "a key part" of the faith-based initiative is not to alter the particular religious character of the charities being supported, then that philosophy should apply across the board.

It might well fall within the religious beliefs of some faith-based charities to discriminate in hiring and the provision of services to inter-racial couples, for example, or on some other basis the Bush administration is unwilling to countenance. But the president's policy, if not his rhetoric, is picking which bigoted religious beliefs to regulate and which to exempt from regulation.

And while the White House practices its closeted bigotry, the public is learning more about how the president's beloved faith-based initiative inevitably entangles church with state, and in ways that are ugly and unsupportable. This is not the compassionate conservatism that a minority of the electorate put into office.

VIEWPOINT

Shame on Emmy for shunning ground-breaking 'Queer As Folk'

BARRY M. FREIMAN

The recently announced prime time Emmy nominations sent a mixed message to gay TV viewers and certainly added fuel to the fire that keeps young gay actors from taking those first steps out of the Hollywood closet.

On the one hand, many of "our shows" were nominated for Emmys, leading those who advocate for visibility to claim a victory. On the other hand, "Queer As Folk," the one gay-themed show deserving of nomination and whose nomination would really have been a victory, did not receive even one nomination.

Not for Sharon Gless. Not for Peter Onorati. Not for cinematography. Not for music. Not for costumes. Not for make-up. Nothing.

Some have been applauding Hollywood's bravado in recognizing the fine work done on programs like "Will & Grace," and on miniseries like "Armistead Maupin's Further Tales of the City," and HBO's "Ellen Degeneres: The Beginning."

These shows garnered Emmy nominations notwithstanding and, in some cases, because of their gay content. Many argue that they are to our generation what shows like "All in the Family" and "Good Times" were to a generation of burgeoning feminists, gay activists, black activists and others in the 1970s.

But "Will & Grace" and its gay

contemporaries really haven't pushed the envelope. And that's okay.

"Will & Grace" is entertainment. Its creators developed the show as a sitcom, more in the "wacky group of friends" vein than in the "comedy flows out of tension" vein. It's the latter type that broke ground in the '70s.

Like it or not, 'Queer As Folk' is our generation's 'All in the Family,' but the meatheads who hand out Emmy nominations prefer the wacky gang at 'Will & Grace.'

Comedy writers today have either been forbidden by political correctness or simply forgotten how to write shows like "All in the Family" and "M*A*S*H." Instead, every sitcom now follows the mold of "Mary Tyler Moore."

But "Will & Grace" is arguably no more or less gay to middle America than "Frasier." Recently, MSNBC aired a special on "Gay Hollywood" and interviewed a woman standing in line to see a "Will & Grace" taping. She loved the show, but still believed that gay people should all be put "on an island somewhere."

That's the irony of "Will & Grace." You can laugh at the antics of Will and Jack and their gal pals and still be a hateful homophobe.

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences did go out on the ledge a

bit more by nominating Showtime's "Further Tales" for an Emmy as Best Miniseries. Last time out, "More Tales" received five Emmy nods and won none. Now, am I a naysayer or a pragmatist in predicting that Armistead doesn't stand a chance against Disney's "Anne Frank"?

is by its Hollywood peers.

"Queer As Folk" is not just entertaining, controversial, and erotic; it's historically significant in the same way that the sitcoms of the early 1970s were historically significant. At times, "QAF" is the most intelligent show on television. And while that isn't always saying much, often that is saying quite a bit.

Certainly Sharon Gless' portrayal of Debbie Novotny is a standout and worthy of recognition.

An even more potent Emmy miss was the incredibly understated performance by Sherry Miller, who guest stars as Justin's mom.

Sure, sometimes, the show is as banally written as "Melrose Place" or "90210." But the difference is that we're dealing for the first time with a cast of same-sex characters, and that's what makes it important.

This is our generation's "All in the Family," whether we know it or not. And Brian Kinney, the show's single-minded heartthrob, is our Archie Bunker. I just hope the little blonde dingbat survives into next season.

And that those meatheads over at the Academy join the rest of us here in the 21st century.

Barry Freiman owns an attorney placement firm in Rockville, Md., and is a freelance writer who has contributed to online news and entertainment sites. He can be reached at barryfreiman@home.com.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner

Airplane
Story
part 2

Now I'm runnin' my hand up & down his leg. Cute little white boy muscles got me excited.



And he says "Ehem", real stagey, "S'cuze me, gotta use the restroom". And I wait a couple'a minutes, and then real causally, I decide I gotta use the john myself.



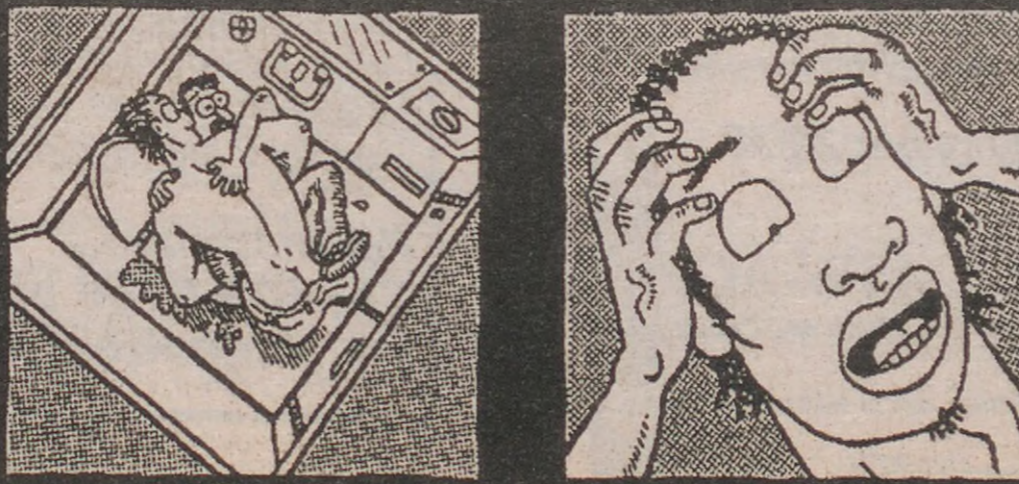
I get the wrong door the first time, but then I find my hot new bud. But y'know, those lavs are SMALL. We're thrashin' about, tryin' to find a comfortable position. He's kind'a perched on the seat, y'know? Which seems to be workin' nice...



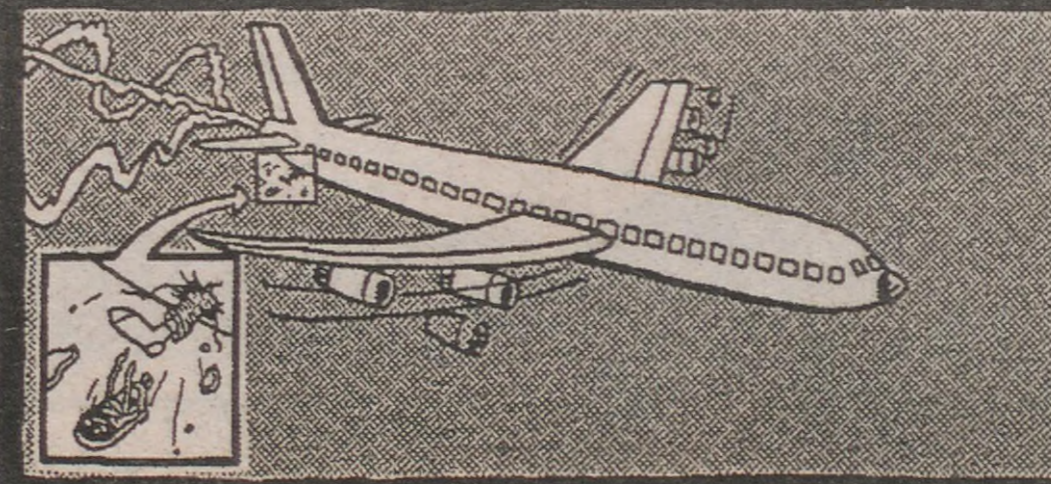
But then, Oh Jesus! His foot slips! And suddenly, his whole freakin' leg is in the toilet! And he's getting' sucked down that nasty hole!



And now this kind'a air raid siren is soundin'! And I start to scream!



And the Captain is on the PA sayin' we gotta make an emergency landing, cuz some fool has kicked a hole in the bottom of the plane.



New NGLTF report studies Latino gays

Racism, poverty, social structure among leading factors that contribute to high HIV rates

by WILL O'BRYAN

WASHINGTON—The Policy Institute of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force released a new report July 12 that explores some of the reasons Latino gay men in the United States have a disproportionately high HIV infection rate.

According to the latest data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the infection rate for young men who have sex with men is 2.5 percent for whites, 3.5 percent for Latinos and 14.7 percent for African Americans.

Latinos and African Americans account for 69 percent of new HIV infections, primarily among those men who have sex with men. Latinos are three times more likely than whites to be diagnosed with AIDS; African Americans are eight times more likely.

Much of the information in the new report—which is the byproduct of an earlier study financed by the National Institutes of

Health—is applicable to both African-American and Latino gay communities.

"This trend attests to the compounding negative effects of multiple sources of discrimination," said Rafael Diaz in an NGLTF statement marking the release of the report. "If we are to be effective in our fight against AIDS and any other public health tragedies that feed on human powerlessness, HIV prevention workers and advocates must be agents of social and cultural change."

The report's co-author, George Ayala noted the study's citation of three primary reasons for the high infection rates in people of color communities.

"Now it's kind of sexy to talk about health disparities, but rarely do people talk about what causes the disparity," said Ayala. "No one ever says racism, no one ever says poverty, no one ever says homophobia."

Ayala said the report explains how homophobia, poverty and racism have more to do with HIV infection rates than, for example, teaching someone how to put on a condom.

The researchers questioned 912 Latino men who have sex with men in three cities—Los Angeles, Miami and New York—between October 1998 and March 1999. Among their findings: 70 percent of respondents said they thought their homosexuality hurt or embar-



Ingrid Rivera, a racial and economic justice policy analyst at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute, said a new report discovers some of the reasons behind high HIV infection rates among Latino gay men.

assed their families; 62 percent said they had been sexually objectified because of their ethnicity; and 61 percent responded that they had run out of money for basic necessities in the year prior to being polled.

According to the report, of those polled, "men in the 'high-risk' group [those who reported unprotected anal intercourse with a non-monogamous recent partner] reported more experiences of homophobia, racism and poverty than their 'low-risk' counterparts."

Within the high-risk group, 67 percent reported being victims of verbal abuse as adults because of their homosexuality, compared to 45 percent in the low-risk group. Among the high-risk respondents, 34 percent said they had suffered police harassment for their homosexuality, compared to 17 percent in the low-risk group.

Among the low-risk group, 58 reported being sexually objectified because of their eth-

nicity, relative to 75 percent in the high-risk group. Being treated rudely because of ethnicity affected 49 percent of the high-risk group compared to 32 percent of the low-risk group.

In the year prior to being questioned, 54 percent of the men in the high-risk category had at some point run out of money for basic necessities, compared to 39 percent of the low-risk group. In the high-risk group, 29 percent had to look for work in the year prior to being questioned, compared to 19 percent in the low-risk group.

"Homophobia, racism, poverty ... in fact, our study did show a relationship between those," Ayala said. "I think our study is a powerful reminder to researchers and activists not be apologetic about adopting a progressive agenda."

"We know that those things affect our health. We really need to move beyond the right to purchase property, or health care for domestic partners," he said. "We really need to return to a politic that is really about social change."

Ingrid Rivera, a racial and economic justice policy analyst at NGLTF's Policy Institute, said the report taps into previously unquantified conventional wisdom.

"A publication like this is a stepping stone," Rivera said. "It validates what people working in HIV already knew, but didn't have the statistics. It makes it easier to get the funding. ... It definitely will serve as a model for work that we will do in-house or work that we will try to push for other researchers."

INFO

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health news

Men need not apply: Eggs fertilized without using sperm in Australia

ADELAIDE, Australia—Researchers may have found a way to fertilize an egg with cells from any part of the body, rather than sperm, according to a new study that offers hope to lesbians and infertile men, Reuters reported. Australian infertility scientist Orly Lacham-Kaplan told Reuters that if the research, which has been done only on mice, is successful in humans, babies could be born without any input from men. "If, as a technology, it would be used as a treatment for infertile couples then I would accept it very well. However, I think we need to draw the line where it is used, and I believe a lot of ethical groups would draw the line," she said. Lacham-Kaplan's research unit at the Monash University's Institute of Reproduction & Development in Melbourne has so far been able to fertilize mice eggs with somatic cells from non-reproductive parts of the animals' bodies.

Medical advances wipe out need for IN residential AIDS care home

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (AP)—A residence for people with HIV or AIDS will close in December because it is no longer needed. Although Fox House has had financial difficulties since it opened five years ago, officials said it is being closed because medical advances have made it obsolete. The five-unit apartment house was designed as a hospice for people dying of AIDS, said Deb Wilkin, director of a Bloomington Hospital department that provides HIV/AIDS services. Though there is no cure for AIDS, doctors have developed mixtures of medications that can prolong life expectancy and enable patients to live in independent housing. Only one of Fox house's apartments is occupied, and once it is vacated the facility likely will not accept any more residents, said David Carrico of the Center for Behavioral Health.

Virus 'blips' don't mean AIDS drugs aren't working, new study says

CHICAGO (AP)—Two new studies suggest that the slight blips in virus levels that many people with AIDS experience while taking drug cocktails do not necessarily mean the treatment is failing after all. The findings could have significant implications for AIDS treatment. Doctors generally try to suppress the AIDS virus to levels undetectable by routine tests. Up to now, doctors believed that when HIV rises back to detectable levels, it means that the virus is becoming drug-resistant and that the patient has to switch medications. The new studies suggest that slight, intermittent surges in virus levels do not always mean the virus is becoming drug-resistant, and switching drugs may not be necessary. "Unnecessary regimen switching may result in disruption of a patient's medication routine, toxic effects from new drugs, and premature discarding of useful drugs," according to one of the studies, led by Dr. Diane Havlir of the University of California in San Diego. The studies were published in the July 11 edition of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.



Drug regimen switching may not be necessary for people with HIV, according to a study led by Dr. Diane Havlir, who showed that 'blips' in virus levels don't always mean drugs are failing.

Drug company withdraws support, putting future of AIDS drug in limbo

LOS ANGELES—After more than a decade of testing, Immune Response has not produced convincing evidence that its AIDS vaccine, known as Remune, helps patients. And on July 6, the pharmaceutical company Pfizer announced that it was pulling out its partnership with Immune Response to develop Remune after it had reviewed results from a clinical trial, the *New York Times* reported. The decision could mean an end to the new clinical trial Pfizer was conducting, a trial that represented the best hope of proving that the drug works. Immune Response will take over the trial, but it was unclear how it will pay for it. The company has only about \$12 million in cash, enough for six months. After the announcement, stockholders of Immune Response filed a class action suit in Southern California claiming "false and misleading statements concerning the efficacy of [the] AIDS-treatment drug Remune."

HIV conference in Argentina calls for better access to treatment

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—An international conference on HIV has ended in Buenos Aires with delegates urging better access to medication for all those carrying the virus. The meeting, which brought together 3,000 scientists, health care workers and representatives in non-governmental organizations and drug companies, ended July 11 with an appeal from International AIDS Society President Stefano Vella to improve care for sufferers from the developing world. It is "our commitment as doctors to foster access to more care, treatments and prevention in the South of the world," Vella said. Among the issues examined at the conference were the optimal time to start treatment of an HIV carrier, the latest advances in developing a vaccine against HIV and the most recent breakthroughs in understanding how the virus works. Attended by delegates from around the world, some at the conference remained critical of drug companies, despite the recent decision by some manufacturers to lower prices of the drugs to help African countries meet their growing crisis involving HIV.



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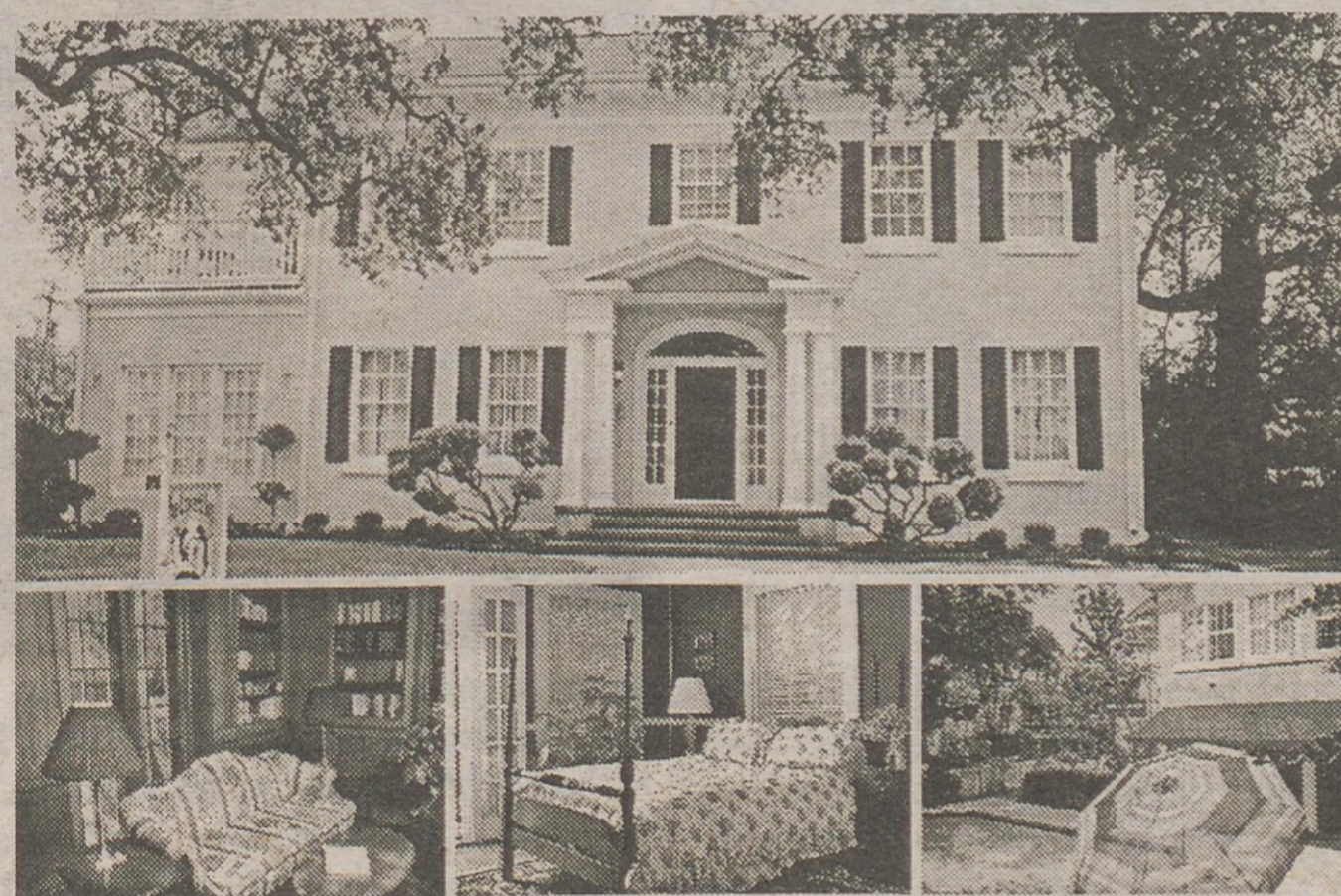
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AMIA: Sex designed for marriage between men and women

>Continued from Page 1

who consecrated the new bishops.

AL church grows after split

Last October, Rev. Tim Smith and Mobile's Christ Church, the oldest Episcopal congregation in Alabama, voted to break from the Episcopal Church USA and join the conservative AMIA.

After the separation, the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast brought suit against Christ Church claiming ownership of the congregation's church building. Smith said this week that the diocese was successful in its lawsuit and will gain ownership of the structure this October.

Still, "we're excited," Smith said. "It's probably hard for people to believe. Basically, we're a congregation that's unified and growing."

Smith said the Christ Church congregation is larger now than when it split from the Episcopal Church last year. Initially, he said, it did lose about 10 percent of its members, but have since gained others back who want to worship with a conservative and more orthodox group.

Last summer, the Episcopal Church USA acknowledged that its parishioners include unmarried couples living in long-term relationships and that those relation-

ships deserve pastoral care. The resolution made no distinction between straight and gay couples, which some congregations saw as a go-ahead to offer same-sex union ceremonies in their churches.

Some Episcopal bishops also have ordained non-celibate gay men and lesbians as priests, and bishops who oppose such ordinations have been unable to muster enough support to stop them from happening.

"We would certainly believe that homosexuality, as the Bible states, is a sin," Smith said. "It's something that can be forgiven through the grace of God and one can receive healing power from God to leave behind."

While the social philosophy of Smith's congregation's seems to drastically differ with the Episcopal Church, he maintains it is not a primary reason for his congregation's split. Rather, he said, the move to separate from the Episcopal Church stems from what he calls a lack of respect for the authority of scripture.

AMIA: Bible opposes homosexuality

"The [Anglican Mission in America's] stand [on homosexuality] is having to do with what we consider the biblical direction," said Harry Griffith, AMIA's executive officer, outlining what he calls conflicting beliefs between scripture and actions of the Episcopal Church.

"Sex is designed for marriage between a

man and a woman. Period. So it doesn't speak to homosexuals or straights personally, it speaks to that condition of life," Griffith said.

The AMIA's approach to scripture may be gaining popularity. With almost 40 congregations now, the AMIA is talking with other churches about becoming a part of the Anglican splinter group, Griffith said.

"We're not running ads or prospecting for churches," he said. "What we do is respond. Whether it's an independent church, whether it's an Episcopal church, we respond when they find us."

Many of the churches joining AMIA are former Episcopalian congregations, but some are congregations newly formed specifically as members of AMIA. Along with Mobile's Christ Church, two congregations in the Florida panhandle also voted to leave the Episcopal Church and join AMIA last September.

Episcopal Church opposes schism

While AMIA leaders in both Africa and America have said they are simply reacting to an Episcopal Church they believe is growing too liberal on social issues, Episcopal leaders said the group is promoting division and jeopardizing the denomination.

But Alabama's Smith said he isn't concerned about the policy. He said his bishop is the Archbishop of Rwanda, who is a recog-

nized archbishop of the Anglican Communion.

Whether or not the splinter churches are true members of the Anglican community is a complicated study of religious structure. Beneath the surface are battles over individual issues that have divided denominations for several years.

Aside from acceptance and ordination of gay men and lesbians, Episcopal churches also disagree over whether to ordain women as priests and bishops.

Politics driving religious splits

Gary Laderman, associate professor of American religion history at Emory University, said the splintering of churches from larger denominations is not new.

What is new, Laderman said, is the importance of political issues in religion and their power to influence religious organizations.

"Part of what we're seeing in the post-'60s religion world in America is a much stronger focus on identity issues," Laderman said of issues including the acceptance of gays.

INFO
Anglican Mission in America
 P.O. Box 3427
 Pawleys Island, SC 29585
 843-237-0318
 www.theamia.org

Kirkland is second gay judge appointed by Brown

>Continued from Page 1

judge because, "it sets me up as a role model; an example to younger gays."

He added that Brown has shown that he is fairly committed to diversity on all fronts with his appointments to a degree that no other Houston mayor has been.

"He (Brown) appointed a liaison to the gay community, John Paul and now me. And he has shown his commitment with the anti-discrimination ordinance," said Kirkland.

Kirkland said the Brown knows he is gay. "My gay political background is no secret," he said referring to his work with the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus since the early 1980s when he first met Parker.

He and Parker have been friends and associates since. Kirkland said his one great disappointment on receiving the judgeship was that he had to relinquish his role as treasurer for Parker's campaign team.

"I had to resign as Annise's treasurer because as a judge I cannot endorse candidates and I cannot solicit money. I valued that association."

Kirkland, who hails from west Texas, earned an undergraduate degree in history from Rice University and a law degree from the University of Houston in 1986. He worked for Texaco as an environmental litigator until 1998 when he resigned



Newly appointed Municipal Judge Steve Kirkland (far left) attended the July 15 'thank you' reception honoring the passage of the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act. The event, held at Carter & Cooley's in the Heights was hosted by State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, (second from right) and Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston. Ellis was unable to attend the event, but his district director Shelley P. Davis (second from left) and Hannah Liebman (far right) attended to represent the senator's office.

We must keep striving to keep doors open to all members of society and tear down the barriers.

—Steve Kirkland, Municipal Court of Houston Associate Justice

to work to start his own practice.

Since then, he has built up a light corporate practice and worked on the board

of the Washington Avenue Community Development Center, an organization dedicated to "mitigating the effects of

gentrification in this area," said Kirkland. Currently, he is interim executive director for the organization.

His partner of almost 15 years, Mark Parthie, shares his passion for developing the neighborhood around the old Sixth Ward the right way and serves on the board with him.

With a gentle manner and soft voice but with a determined glint in his eye, Kirkland said he wants to be a fair judge with compassion for the every man or woman who enters his court. He wants them to be able to have complete access to the system and to know the system cares.

"I want them to know that they have the chance to put their opinion forth and that it helps our society function."

He is already a "judge in training," shadowing other judges to learn the ropes and he is about to be measured for his robes. Then he'll really feel the part. But, he said, "I am the new kid on the block. I'll probably get the graveyard or some other less desirable shift," referring to the fact that court is in session around the clock.

He said that longtime gay rights activists, Ray Hill and Phyllis Randolph Frye, are his heroes and that others must pick up the cause and continue the fight.

"We must keep striving to keep doors open to all members of society and tear down the barriers," he said.

Gay Alvin minister says he never encountered discrimination

➤ Continued from Page 3

years. He built high-end homes in River Oaks, Tanglewood and Memorial areas of Houston for 23 years.

In 1981, Wiggs was diagnosed with a rare type of throat cancer. His physician told him he probably had about six months to live.

"My doctor also told me about these five men who the chaplains were afraid to see and asked if I would mind visiting them. That was my first experience with people who had what we now call AIDS. It was just KS [Kaposi's sarcoma] in those days. I started [working with AIDS patients] towards the end of 1981," Wiggs said.

"Of course, those people died and I did their funerals. It just kept mushrooming until I was appointed a member of the Texas Department of Health Task Force on AIDS in 1984. That's when Dr. Bernstein, the commissioner of health, had the idea he ought to quarantine everybody with this new disease.

"I became part of the group who convinced him otherwise. We set up what is now the HIV/AIDS Services at the Texas Department of Health. I was on the committee writing the universal precautions all the medical people are using now."

Almost from the beginning it became Wiggs' full-time work. He said the need was great among people with AIDS and most churches were not open to them. Even their families were not open to them. It was a

need to be filled, according to Wiggs.

He was able to bring many families back together. He has officiated the funerals for about 400 AIDS victims and has become an

The disease [AIDS] came on drastically the first four or five years. The first four or five years my agency was in existence we lost 40 or 50 clients per year. Last year, we lost three clients. We're serving about the same number each year as we served in the beginning.

—Rev. Lew Wiggs

authority on death from AIDS, although he had no intention of taking on the particular expertise. He has made presentations at state AIDS conferences in Texas and Oklahoma on death and dying from HIV.

"For me, personally, I think it kept me alive. I recognized a real need there. I worked very, very hard to provide for the need. I think it probably saved my life.

"I think it made it harder to sit back and let go like many people do, when they are diagnosed with cancer. I probably would have died in my six months but I didn't ever slow down," Wiggs said.

He noted that one glimmer of hope is the fact that far fewer people are dying from HIV/AIDS today.

"The disease [AIDS] came on drastically the first four or five years. The first four or five years my agency was in existence we lost 40 or 50 clients per year. Last year, we

lost three clients. We're serving about the same number each year as we served in the beginning.

"The new drugs have kept people alive much longer. The quality of life has improved tremendously for most people. There's a few for whom the drugs don't work. There is a few who can't tolerate the drugs. Most of them have adapted and they live full, rich lives. Right now I don't have any sick clients."

Wiggs became acquainted with the Rev. Todd Williams, pastor of Alvin First Christian Church, when they were exploring the possibility of merging two food pantry operations to make their funding go further. He found Williams sympathetic.

By working together they were able to become members of the Houston Food Bank providing more goods and better variety for their clients.

Wiggs decided he ought to join a church and became a member of Alvin First Christian Church. Williams and the congregation have received him well. Wiggs does not hide his sexual orientation but does not announce it either. Even though many members of the congregation must have concluded he is gay, he said it has not affected their receiving him warmly.

Williams said Wiggs has been a tremendous mentor for him and his congregation in Alvin. He feels his voice should continue to be heard because he is effective in advocating for the rights of everyone.

"He has always been honest with who he is. With Lew Wiggs, what you see is what you get. For me that has been a tremendous lesson. One I hope I can adapt to. It's not easy," Williams said.

Though Wiggs said he'll continue work with AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area, he is planning on a full retirement from the ministry this fall.

"I am retiring from the ministry completely. My final retirement date will be in September," Wiggs said.

"This is a sort of a farewell to ministry type thing. I have been an ordained minister 53 years. It is kind of a celebration of that... It's kind of a way of hanging up my robe, so to speak."

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Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • JULY 20, 2001



Life's still a drag, but that's good

by D.L. GROOVER

If you're at all familiar with the underground New York theater scene, you know his name. If you're acquainted with drag theater and the likes of Ethyl Eichelberger, Charles Busch and Julian Bond, you know who he is. If you like camp and B-movie stars, you've been aware of him for more than 20 years.

I'm talking about Everett Quinton, one-time grande dame and artistic director of NYC's Ridiculous Theatrical Co., partner and lover of RTC's founder Charles Ludlam, star of such RTC classics as "The Mystery of Irma Vep," "Salamambo," "Phaedra," "Mother Truckers," and his own one-person "A Tale of Two Cities" and "Hunchback of Notre Dame."

When real estate prices went through the roof in NYC, the RTC finally closed its hallowed doors in 1996, that's when Quinton put away the dresses and came out as a straight actor in TV series like "Law and Order" and movies such as "Natural Born Killers" and "Pollack."

But now, one role has frilled him up again: the evil Stepmother in Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella," playing July 24-29 at the Wortham Theater under the auspices of the Houston Broadway Series. He's been in his fairy tale costume since November and has four more weeks to go during this tour.

"I was submitted to read for the role of Lionel, the Prince's steward," says the gravel voiced actor with his subtle yet distinctive New Yawwk accent, "but the casting director knew my work from the Ridiculous and suggested I read for the Stepmother. This is the story I got anyway and I'm sticking to it."

"There are things that come along that you really want, for me anyway, and your spirit goes whole hog. No stepmother, no Cinderella. It's one of those 'half the work, all the glory' roles. I'm having a ball with it."

For 20 years, Quinton was a stalwart member of Ludlam's Greenwich Village-based RTC, who assumed the artistic directorship upon Ludlam's death in the late '80s. Running an experimental, cutting-edge theater troupe has never been a financial piece of cake, and when the founding father died, RTC, always struggling, never fully recovered. One of New York's most fabulous theater institutions disbanded five years ago, but Quinton's eternally indebted to Ludlam's inheritance and mentorship. His effects on him were indelible.

NYC's grande dame Everett Quinton vamps it up as the evil stepmom in 'Cinderella' at Wortham

> Continued on Page 17

Liz, you old Regina!

Actors Theatre production takes psychedelic look at Virgin Queen

by D.L. GROOVER

In the New York avant-garde theater movement, La MaMa Experimental

Theatre, founded by Ellen Stewart, has been a shining beacon around the world. For 40 years at its various East Village homes, La MaMa has thrived, influencing drama from bad boys Sam Shepherd to Tom Egan to Tennessee Williams.

Once so cutting-edge dangerous, the company now has its own cultural center and artists' residence, La MaMa Umbria International, near Spoleto, Italy, where productions are worked on through the summer. From its founding in 1961, La

MaMa has been a temple to contemporary drama, and writer Paul Foster a leading acolyte.

Award-winning author and recipient of National Endowment for the Arts, Rockefeller, and Guggenheim grants, a British Arts Council fellowship, as well as being a co-founder of La MaMa, Paul Foster likes the play of history, witness his "Tom Paine," "Heimskringla!" (a recreation of Leif Eriksson's journey to America), and "The Hessian Corporal." He also likes to use the improvisational method and the invaluable contributions actors make to the work, and that Italian Pirandello style where we, the audience, are made aware of the theatrical magic unfolding in front of us. Sometimes this takes the form of actors acting actors, as in his 1971 commedia dell'arte-inspired ELIZABETH ONE, given a spirited reading at Actors Theatre of Houston.

Here, in this free-wielding production directed with vigor by George Brock, is a



Actors Theatre of Houston's production of 'Elizabeth One' has a decidedly hippie flair with Sir Francis Bacon taking a joint while explaining his swirling universe.

hippie's look at the Virgin Queen, as if a traveling theater troupe from Woodstock decided to put on a show. Before the play begins, the actors exercise their vocal chords with tongue twisting patter and exercise their bodies with contortions and yoga.

> Continued on Page 17



Hey, Houston



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Quinton dreamed of drag at an early age

> Continued from Page 15

"It was a cold February night." Quinton starts his story like one of RTC's priceless parodies. "I met Charles Ludlam while cruising Christopher Street," he says with a laugh. "My joke is that I met Charles Ludlam and fucked my way to the bottom."

"I remember walking back to do the nasty at his house, and he said he was writing the 'Gay Hero.' And it was at a time in my life when I thought, 'Oh, wow, we need a gay hero.' He was writing 'Caprice' at the time, and he explained that hero doesn't mean 'Here I Come To Save The Day,' but meant the person taking the journey, the protagonist."

"What really opened my eyes was when he said that people are just gay, not unlike any other people in the world, some have ulterior motives, some are good. We're not gay because our parents dropped us on our heads, or that there's something wrong with us. We're just gay, and we live lives like people live lives—with the good and the bad. It was so uplifting."

Young Quinton had never heard anything like this before. It struck a nerve, deep. The following weeks at Ludlam's theater were revelatory for him. While watching

Ludlam make up for a benefit performance of "Camille," Quinton had a breakthrough moment. "I am saved," he thought, "I'm home." He learned his craft from the master actor, and went on stage accidentally when all the other actors were busy in other roles. His first role was in drag.

"I knew I was a drag queen when I was a little kid. I always thought I was cuckoo. Little gay kids don't get respected, and there's no one to say you're fine. If anyone found out I was doing Bette Davis in the bathtub, at least I'd get a beating, I don't know what else would come from it. And yet, here I was. It was the first step in my, what?, salvation as a gay man."

"Every so often, it overwhelms me, that what he had to say got in. I certainly have a tendency to fuck things up. Give me a shot and I'll fuck it up. But what he had to say I got. He was brilliant. I didn't fuck it up."

"When I left Ridiculous, I thought I'm never gonna act in drag again. It was a major part of my career and something that I love. It's an aspect of my personality. And now that I'm older and more liberated, it's a part of me that I cherish and honor."



"When I first started going out, people were still into imitating the stars. And that kind of faded which is great because you don't have to imitate the performer, you can just be yourself."

But even he has to acknowledge he's unique. His closet isn't full of sequined frocks or Joan Crawford pumps, just one wig and two sets of boobs, large and extra-large. The wig's from a years-old audition at the Food Channel for a proposed drag queen cooking show that didn't get off the ground. What a shame, that would surely have put Emeril in his place.

"I don't just do drag. My resume is pretty much 50/50. And I like it that way. I think you have to have that balance, but I also love that I am a major drag queen."

"I'm the odd ball drag queen, I have nothing in my closet. As you need it, you go out and get it. I don't like to rely on hairdressers, so I just go and get those Jerry Curl wigs. You pull it right out of the bag and just put it on. It works."

"I don't paint up pretty. It's not good for me to go out in public, only on stage." Then he confesses, "I can't walk in those shoes."

When informed about Houston's own gay country/western bar, the Brazos River Bottom, and all the tight jeans contained within, he laughs.

"Hmmm, cowboys. Rope me and throw me down. I feel so 'Dallas.'"

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INFO

Cinderella

July 24-29

Wortham Center, Brown Theater

713-629-3700

'Liz' cast plays multiple characters with comedic zest

> Continued from Page 15

They play a rapid mind game of "numbers and months" to keep them agile. The 11 tireless actors, who get to play a multitude of characters, interact abundantly with the audience and make asides and generally cavort with braggadocio like self-satisfied children.

Sir Francis Bacon, explaining his swirling universe, tokes on a joint. You half expect to smell pot throughout the play. On the whole, this is not a bad thing; the Elizabethan period seems besotted with smugness anyway, and to be fair, the Elizabethans deserve to pat themselves on the back for the genius quotient they effortlessly produced.

A judicious use of pruning shears could shape this wild piece into wondrous topiary that Lambeth Palace would envy. It's all very '70s and more self-conscious than need be, but for some reason, it works.

The play itself is beautifully concise, a Renaissance Reader's Digest version of Miss Gloriana's life and times.

There's the fun of viewing a period in history that never ceases to amaze. There's the fun of meeting a playwright whose other works we want to see live on stage. And finally there's the ultimate fun of sharing another fascinating glimpse into the life of that "ham-colored open book," who was as "simple as a tub of eels," that "white flower without perfume," that "good Queen Bess."

Long may she reign!

INFO

Through Aug. 18

Actors Theatre of Houston,
2506 South Blvd.

713-529-6006

Bayou Calendar

Pump Boys and Dinettes

Life on Highway 57 is given musical praise in this joyous, family entertainment that wouldn't harm a flea. Created by a whole phalanx of performers, this sung-through show has never stopped serving up its whopping down home paper plate charm since its premiere in 1981. There's a gas station at the crossroads between Frog Level and Smyrna, across the way is the Double Cupp Diner. The four gas monkeys and two greasy spoon waitresses dream of beer, tips, love and Dolly Parton. All this, and the performances are free. Golly.

Through July 28; 8:30 p.m.

Miller Outdoor Theatre, 100 Concert Drive, Hermann Park
713-284-8350

The Woman in Black

Believe in ghosts? You may after shivering through the Alley's Summer Chills production. Playing for 13 years in London, Stephen Mallatratt's adaptation of Susan Hill's thriller novel will have you making an appointment for the manicurist to fix the nails you've bitten off during the performance. To exorcise the curse that a mysterious woman in black put on him when he was a young solicitor at an eerie estate, Arthur Kipps has hired an actor to relive the experience and remove the horrid curse. So he hopes. There are creaky floorboards, fog, thunder, howling wind and shadows lurching about the old haunted house on Eel Marsh. Chilling and atmospheric.

July 20 through Aug. 12

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas
713-228-8421

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus

Does the sight of muscular men in spangled tights catching each other by the waist and flipping them over their heads drive you wild? Have you ever wondered how many people with bulbous red noses can jam themselves into a toy car? When you see a magnificent Bengal tiger, do you go "ahhh?" When you see the magnificent blonde female trainer babe, do you go "ahhh?" Then, ladies and gentlemen, I give you the circus, the original greatest show on earth. Now, don't tell me you've never been to the circus, smelled the elephants up close and personal, and gotten sick on cotton candy and candy apples. It's something you must do at least once in your life. Did I mention the muscular men in tights?

Through July 22

Compaq Center, 10 Greenway
713-629-3700

Lost and Delirious

If you've ever seen "The Children's Hour," "Madchen in Uniform," or "If," you know what can happen when you're far away at school. Here, in Canadian Lea Poole's adaptation of Susan Swan's coming-of-age novel "The Wives of Bath," main character Pauline (Piper Parabo) an intelligent young girl and free spirit is placed in a well-heeled girls' boarding school by her uncaring mother. Unbeknownst to new roommate Mouse (Mischa Barton), Pauline and third

roommate Tori (Jessica Pare) have formed quite an erotic attachment in their attic dorm room. It's a grand passion; they are soul mates, helped along by the words of Shakespeare and overly goood soundtrack. When the two girls are caught all snuggled in their bed, Pauline relishes the romantic, outcast/rebel role, but Tori, unwilling to have any confrontation with her conservative parents, freaks out and quickly becomes involved with a guy. Pauline is devastated at the betrayal, and in a metaphor the size of the Titanic, takes a liking to an injured bald eagle.

Starts July 20

Greenway Theatre, 5 Greenway Plaza
713-626-0402

Houston Ballet Academy Choreographic Workshop

You never know where future talent will pop up, but you can be assured that good stuff is in evidence at the Ballet. In collaboration with the American Festival for the Arts Summer Music Conservatory, summer students show that they know the steps and how to dance them. Houston Ballet's summer session is renowned in the dance world for its professionalism and concentrated six-week program. Tickets are \$5, and may be purchased at the door on the night of the performance.

July 25 & 26, 7 p.m.

Houston Ballet Academy, 1921 W. Bell
713-535-3201

Fellini Satyricon

Not since the heady Paramount days of von Sternberg and DeMille has a movie director

imprinted his vision so indelibly on celluloid as does Federico Fellini in his nightmarish 1970 adaptation of Petronius' Nero-era

"Satyricon." Truly one of the gayest movies ever made, it's pansexual theme all but kicks you in the groin. The garish set designs, the opulent costumes and wigs, the stunning surreal photography by master cinematographer Giuseppe Rotunno, and the late-'60s faces and lithe bodies of Martin Potter and Hiram Keller serve Fellini like honored guests at Trimalchio's banquet. A series of fresco images and fragmented dramaturgy, the film is poor Petronius, but rich, creamy Fellini. So rich and heavy, though, it's easy to overdose and become sick.

July 20, 21, 22, 25; 7 p.m.

& 9:45 p.m.

Rice Media Center, Entrance #8, University Blvd. & Stockton Dr. 713-348-4853

H.E.A.T. party

Houston Employees Affinity Team, the first diversity group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered city employees, will have its first official meeting the day after City Council is expected to vote on the proposed non-discrimination ordinance. Organizers say any city employee in support of the ordinance is welcome to attend.

July 26, 6-8:30 p.m.

Decades, 1205 Richmond
713-794-9113



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-Steve Warren, HOUSTON VOICE

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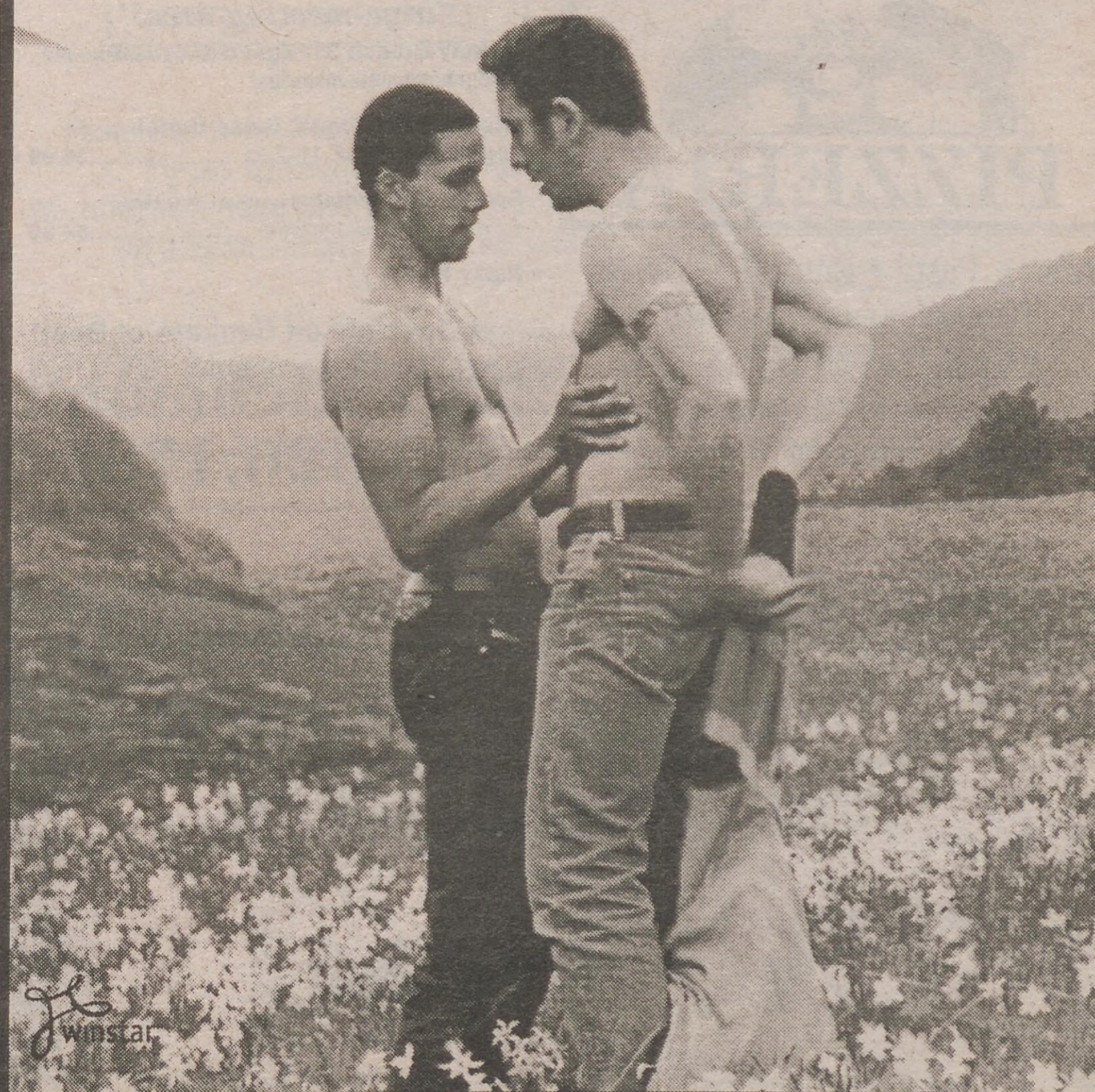
-Brandon Judell, AMERICA ONLINE / indieWIRE

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-Louis B. Parks, HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

French fusion

Café Perrier appeals to purists, eclectics alike

by TRAYCE DISKIN

CAFÉ PERRIER advertises serving "not the same old French," and one glance at the menu reflects the Latin and Asian influences that reflect the diversity and richness of Houston cuisine. In fact, Café Perrier is a prime example that Houston food is fusion food, with Country Pate with cornichons and greens (\$6.95) listed right under Tartar of Salmon with wasabi and pickled ginger (\$7.95) and Shrimp Quesadillas with roasted peppers (\$7.95).

Except for a pommes frites or French Onion Soup (\$4.95) here and a béarnaise sauce or gratin there, the appetizers and entrees all eschew purist French for something more eclectic and innovative, at least on paper.

Purists and fusion lovers will both appreciate the distinctly French ambiance. Crisp white table linens, dark, solid wood furniture and a beautiful heavy oak lighting fixture all contribute to the understated elegance of a Parisian café. The interior perfectly matches the locale on Mid Lane, a quaint tree-shaded block lined with expensive shops that radiate a charming European vibe, that is until one turns the corner and hits Pottery Barn, Central Market or the Gap.

The wait staff at Café Perrier also makes it easy to forget one is dining in chain-laden Houston. Although referring to customers in the third person may seem pretentiously unnerving at first ("Is Madame ready to order yet? Would Madame prefer another glass of wine?") and send you turning your head for a look at this elusive beauty, their professionalism and menu expertise make the dining experience a delight.

When it comes to translating a fusion menu into successful dishes, however, Perrier runs into some difficulties. For appetizers, I chose the Mussels with spicy coconut curry and kaffir leaves (\$7.95) over the more traditional Mussels Mariniere with basil white wine (\$7.95). The mussels themselves were nearly minuscule and withered-looking in their, by comparison, hulking shells.










While the mussels' flavor wasn't as briny or bland as the size might suggest, the sauce was all curry, and no coconut. While the silky white hue seemed evidence of coconut milk, I guessed it had been severely watered down. I appreciated the spicy kick, but part of what makes coconut curry so delectable is the rich mingling of flavors and seasonings.

My companion's Shrimp and Lobster Bisque (\$4.95) suffered a similar irony. The tangy tomato base was perfectly good, but it lacked the touch of cream that lends a bisque its richness. Perrier does

Café Perrier

1304 Westheimer
Houston, TX 77027
713.355.4455

FOOD FILE

- Food: 
- Service: 
- Value: 
- Scene: 
-  Opt for bread, water at home
-  OK, if you really must
-  Fine for most
-  Worth the drive, so live a little
-  As good as it gets

hit the mark, however, with the Seafood Ceviche with lime and cilantro (\$5.95), and the leafy, fresh Warm Bacon Salad with hot bacon dressing (\$6.95).

The entrees only corroborated our experience with the appetizers. For example, while we were happy to see the Coconut-Fried Shrimp with corn and pineapple salsa (\$14.95) on the menu, the coconut was again MIA. The pineapple corn salsa gorgeously entrances the eye and palate with its confetti like pieces of corn, fruit and beans, but we couldn't detect a trace of coconut on the fried shrimp. Instead, a crumbling, greasy batter coated each flaccid piece.

The Blackened Tuna with mango salad and chipotle vinaigrette (\$15.95) suffered from a similar absenteeism. While my rare tuna was expertly cooked, with tender, succulent edges and a fresh, sashimi grade center, there was hardly a speck of mango swimming in the initially unidentifiable brown sauce.

The chipotle vinaigrette was also non-existent, and in its place pooled a tart balsamic vinaigrette. Topped with shriveled, but well-seasoned mushrooms, the fish tasted best alone, sans any of the surprising accompaniments.

It's safest to stick with dishes with more traditional ingredients, so at least diners may eat what they've chosen. The Red Snapper topped with crawfish and crabmeat lemon butter (\$16.95) featured plump crabmeat and succulent fish. The Sirloin Steak with béarnaise and new potatoes (\$14.95), and Veal Scallopini with pesto linguini and crabmeat sauce (\$15.95) are also rather good choices.

Desserts and coffees are all up to standard, especially the Tiramisu (\$5.95) with moist cake and decadent mocha cream. French or otherwise, Perrier needs to concentrate its efforts on starting with the right ingredients to make its promising menu a reality.

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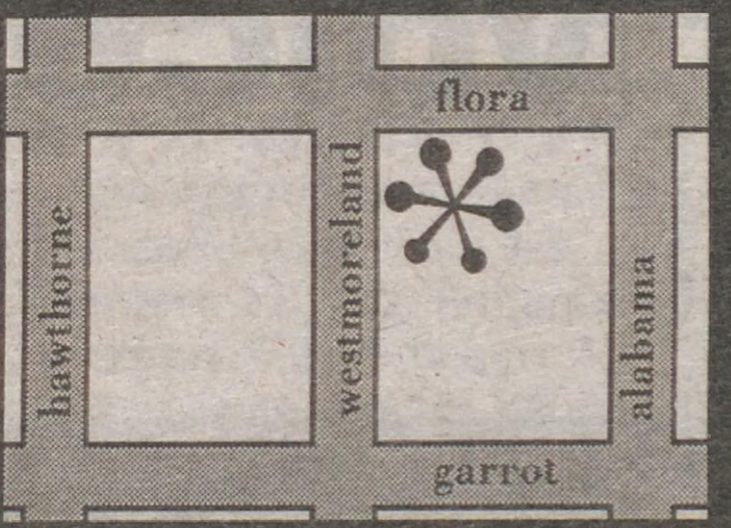


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saturday, july 21

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Asians and Friends Bar night. Guava Lamp. 713-626-6300
Houston Outdoor Group. Astros game at Enron Field. 713-868-1873.
Classic Chassis Car Club. Pool Party. 713-797-8615.
Houston Area Bears. Social at Mary's. 9 p.m. 713-867-9123.
"What is in a Name?" Men's Gathering. Community Gospel. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-4461.

sunday, july 22

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion. 1:30 p.m. 713-5200. church@firstuu.org.
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Poetry Night. GLBT Interest Group for the Texas Library Association. 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Soccer Skills Clinic for Women. 9:30 a.m. www.hwsa.org. 713-523-2089.
Houston Outdoor Group. IMAX. 832-251-6063.

monday, july 23

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0000.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.
gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, july 24

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.
HTGA Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

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calendar

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
 Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
 Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. @ hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
 CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.
 Bi-Net Houston. Men's Social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Power Dating. 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Bi-Net Houston. Men's social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

wednesday, July 25

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & EJ's. 713-830-3000.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-5818.
 Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
 Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 -9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Center for AIDS. Women's mixer. 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing and counseling 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio. 6:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.
 Center for AIDS • Women's mixer • 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.

Houston Area Bears. Dinner and meeting. 7 p.m. 713-867-9123.

thursday, July 26

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. 2 hours free Line Dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Therapy Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Gay Houston Social Group for All Ages. 8 p.m. @ Lobo, 3939 Montrose. http://gh.ezhst.com. 713-526-9318.

friday, July 27

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
 Houston Tennis Club. Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 -9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Movie Night. 7 p.m.. • 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.



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Occasions

Birthdays

Sean Carter will be celebrating his birthday with a fund-raiser for the Lesbian & Gay Community Center and H.A.T.C.H. with his show "My Next 30 Years" at the Brazos River Bottom on Sunday, July 22. A silent auction and light buffet begins at 7 p.m. and the show is at 8:30 p.m.

Four Seasons members Marianne H. (7/21), Perrie D. (7/22), Bob W. (7/23), Byran C. (7/24), Jim B. (7/25), Troy C. (7/25), Don J. (7/26), Mike W. (7/27) are celebrating the changing of the birthday season.

Asians and Friends member Khoi N. has a birthday on July 27.

Classic Chassis Car Club member Chris B.'s birthday odometer turns over on July 21.

Club Rainbow will be celebrating owner Alexis's birthday the entire weekend of July 21 & 22.

Former lounge entertainer Thumper Knight Leigh is wishing for a new pair of red stilettos on her July 24 birthday.

Houston Area Bears member Jeffery M. lumbers out of his cave for a birthday on July 26.

Ken Claude, masseur extraordinaire, kneads in a birthday on July 27.



Alec Smoke and Perrie Dolph celebrate the gay occasion of their 25th anniversary on July 22.



The Houston Voice terribly underexposed the July 13 birthday of our favorite shutterbug, Dalton DeHart. Please forgive us, Dalton!

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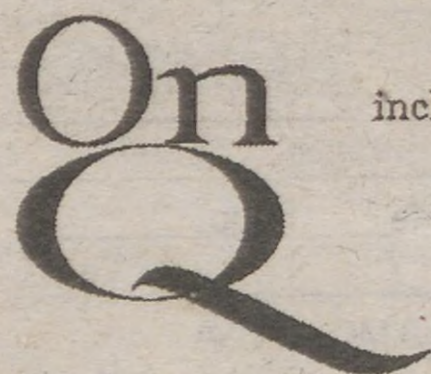
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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

July 20 - 26

ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

You sure are ahead of the curve when it comes to artistic brilliance during this very creative cycle, sweetie. Everyone else seems to be running out of ideas. A fantasy can come true with a Scorpio, but you have got to keep it a secret—that's part of the fun!

TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

Don't screw around with someone who only wants one thing: trouble. This is not a time to put your reputation at risk. You are awfully close to figuring out what you are supposed to do with the rest of your life. Think back to what you really wanted when you were a kid and to try to follow that path. A Leo will light the way for you.

GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

Be nice to yourself, Gemini. The planets are pulling you in two conflicting directions. Only by being gentle on your sensitive psyche can you know which is the way to go. The good news is that every step you take will absolutely bring you closer to reaching your goal. A Libra wants to do something luxurious with you in bed.

CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

Jupiter gives you a bunch of opportunities for pleasure and profit in late July, so for God's sake, take one—or several! Force yourself to shift into a more positive and productive attitude. A Pisces will show you the way.

LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

The Sun will spend its first full week in your sign for this year beginning the week of July 23, so enjoy the glory that is your due. You could experience the confidence and optimism that's been missing from your life lately. A Cancer brings you closer to your higher self—and your hotter self, too!

VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

Stop wasting time in chat rooms and in a fantasy world of your own making, Virgo sweetie. And you don't have to take an ex-lover's calls or e-mails. You have real love right in front of you—why can't you just enjoy it? Spend time with a Gemini who's genuine in his or her intentions.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

Don't limit yourself by just doing the same old trendy things. Be a trailblazer. Jupiter at the top of your chart should bring you the career success you desire but more public exposure than you are used to. Try making amends to people you've screwed over, sweets! Begin with a Capricorn.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

Mars in your money house could bring you the dough you've been hungry for. You could get the breaks you've been hoping for in your work life, but first you need to give yourself a bit of a break and take a day off. Enjoy some quality of life with a sunny Sag.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

Your charm can get to high places and low places during late July. The choice is yours. Your psyche is really on your side right now, and so is a Scorpio. The answers to your problems are mysterious, but can be found in your dreams. Seek them out.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

Your love life couldn't possibly be more dramatic during late July. It's high season for sexcapades with all the wrong people. Rather than seeking out 20 partners, you should set your sights on a Taurus who understands you from the inside out.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

Don't push your luck where a job offer is concerned. This is the perfect time to be gracious, take what's offered to you, and bide your time. An Aries finds you fabulous, whatever your job title is. This is a truly romantic—but unsettling—time of the year for you, honey.

PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Be kind to your body, Pisces. If you show it the respect it deserves, it will serve you well in all your adventures. Don't let a negative person drag your heart around. You may be prone to naiveté, but that's better than being a wet blanket. You need a life-loving Libra to bounce off of.

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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