

A Weekly Community News Publication

Texas legislators tout HIV home test kit Hate crimes forum set

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE
Houston Voice Editor

Getting tested for HIV could become a decision as quick and stressless as planning a trip to the local drugstore if proponents of a new home test kit pending approval by the Food and Drug Administration get their way. In Texas, where the kit's legal use would require a change in state law, two state legislators known for HIV/AIDS advocacy and support of gay rights issues identified themselves among those supporters, touting the new over-the-counter product at a community hearing in Houston Tuesday, sponsored by the AIDS Equity League and attended by about 30 local service providers and activists.

Rep. Glen Maxey (D-Austin) and Rep. Debra Danburg (D-Houston), were joined by Austin gay business leader and lob-

byist Bettie Naylor in supporting legislation that would allow the kits to be sold in Texas. Under current state law, such a product would not be allowed because it does not provide face-to-face counseling for those being tested.

The issue may wind up being one of the very rare instances, particularly in terms of AIDS issues, where legislation supported by Democrats Maxey and Danburg also gets support from more conservative members of the Texas House. In Washington, as the FDA considers an application filed by Direct Access Diagnostics, a division of Johnson & Johnson Inc., to market the device, leaders of conservative groups have voiced support of the concept. They say it would encourage people to be tested who otherwise would not and that opposi-

tion to the tests has come primarily from those associated with clinics and service providers who currently administer the test, not from the general public or people with AIDS. (According to the conservatives, availability of an over-the-counter test would reduce the demand for these groups' services and opponents believe that would hurt clinics' funding).

But many attending the meeting Tuesday voiced other concerns about the test, primarily with the fact that obtaining test results—and post-test counseling—would be conducted over the telephone. Others expressed concerns about the test producers safeguarding the confidentiality of those being tested, and about the expected retail price of the kit, around \$30.

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A public forum on anti-gay violence was scheduled to take place Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Diverse-Works Artspace, 1117 East Freeway.

The forum was planned as "an opportunity to discuss ways of combating the homophobic violence that intrudes daily in the lives of gay, lesbian and bisexual people," said organizers.

According to the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, in just the past five years a dozen gay men have been murdered in Texas, including Houstonians Paul Broussard, Philip Smith and Michael Burzinski. "These are just the cases we know about," added forum organizer Michael Crawford. "Most anti-gay attacks go unreported

because the victims fear being discriminated against by the police and the court system.

One goal of the forum is to build a strategy for pushing for stronger hate legislation in Texas.

"The sentences given to the few gay bashers who are caught are a joke and an insult to all gay people. The inadequate sentences say to us that the taking of queer lives is not a serious crime," Crawford said.

Among the panelists expected at the event: Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas; Terry Richardson, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, and transgender activist Sarah DePalma.

Controversial San Francisco health commissioner picked to head NGLTF

By KIM I. MILLS
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 6 (AP)—The new executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is facing opposition from some other activists, who think her politics are too far left to suit Washington.

Melinda Paras, 41, was tapped Monday to lead the group, the oldest national gay lobby, founded in 1973. A San Francisco health commissioner who has been active in the Filipino and gay communities for 20 years, Paras has spent the last four months as interim chief operating officer of the 32,000-member task force.

Paras has belonged to Marxist political groups and was arrested and deported from the Philippines in the 1970s, accused of working with guerrillas attempting to overthrow then-President Ferdinand Marcos.

Paras resigned last year as deputy executive director of the Shanti Project, a San Francisco AIDS service provider, amid charges that sloppy accounting records could not explain where the group had spent more than \$300,000 in public funds. There was never any money missing, she said in an interview.

Michael Petrelis, a founder of the group Lesbian and Gay Americans, said he did not think her politics would be acceptable to mainstream gays.

"I don't know if a gay leader with a record of jail time trying to overthrow Marcos, and a record of trying to support leftist Marxist causes, is what the gay movement needs right now," he said.

But the task force gathered a broad array of endorsements from other leaders of the gay movement before announcing Paras' appointment. Elizabeth Birch, a lawyer for Apple

Computer Inc. who was recently selected to head the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the other Washington gay-rights lobby, called Paras "a gifted manager."

Paras' predecessor, Peri Jude Radevic, returned to her old position as public policy director after the task force developed budget and personnel problems. Paras says she hopes to restructure the organization and nurse it back to financial health.

In an interview, Paras said problems arose at Shanti because San Francisco was overwhelmed by the AIDS epidemic. When the Ryan White AIDS funding law went into effect, she said, Shanti suddenly had a large infusion of cash and "we did not have some of the internal systems necessary to account for the changes in contracts."

Paras said the incoming GOP-controlled Congress will make future

federal legislative victories difficult.

And the expected elevation of such legislators as Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., who will lead the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "does not bode well for us." Long viewed as a foe of the gay community, Helms tried this year to cut funding to school districts that teach tolerance of homosexuality.

But she voiced optimism about the possibility of gains in the courts, and in society generally. She said she expects to see domestic partnership benefits extended to gays by more businesses and a rise in diversity training that includes homosexuals.

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From MITCHELL LICHTENSTEIN
New York City

Now nice for Leonard Earl Johnson (columnist, Yours Truly In A Swamp in recent interview with Eric Shaw Quinn, author of novel "Say Uncle") to suggest me for the potential movie of "Say Uncle!" I'm very touched that I've stayed in your mind long after "The Wedding Banquet" is out of the theaters. I'm eager now to read Quinn's book.

I enjoy reading your articles, they're personal, thoughtful, and they relentlessly stress the importance of being out. Keep up the good work!

Just finished filming a thriller in Nantucket and before that did "The Wedding Banquet." I plan to leave

soon to do a movie in Hong Kong. Hope all's well with you.

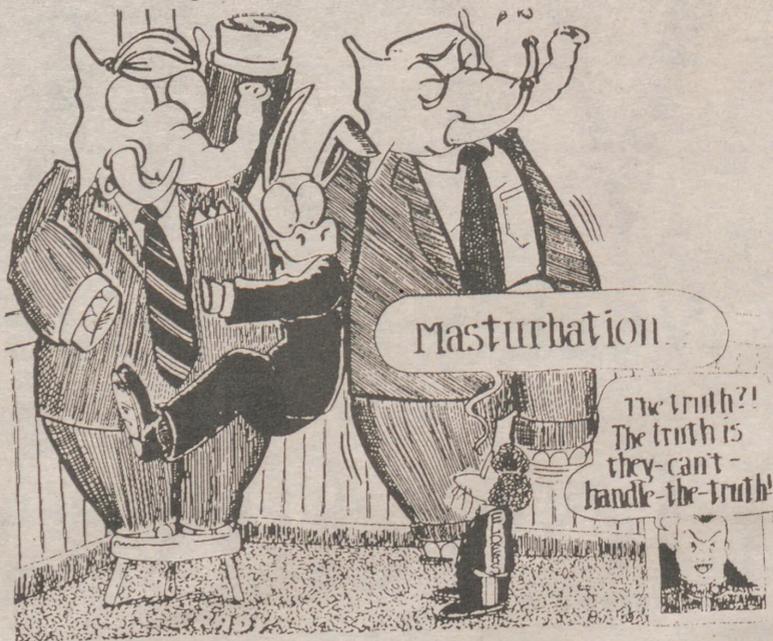
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*Feeling Wonderful,
Naturally*

From STEVE MAYSE
Houston, Texas

Well, they've done it to me again! What a wonderful feeling, being a part of that huge crowd at "Mary's" last night as they lit their beautiful Christmas tree. People talk about "going home for the holidays," but sometimes we forget about what we see every day. I can't think of a better thing than to be among the men and women I live and work and play with, day in and day out; than to be at a gathering of genuine good cheer beneath the Angels of Friends Past. Mary, Mary Christmas!

Brady's Corner



TABC: happy hours can't be quite so happy after Tuesday

Sweeping changes in the Texas Alcoholic Beverages Commission's "happy hour" rule go into effect on Tuesday, Dec. 20, placing numerous restrictions on reduced price drink promotions and complimentary cocktails just in time for the holidays. The change will force at least three Houston gay bars to change existing promotions, according to one representative, who added that reduced price drink events will likely continue in an adapted form.

The amendment to the agency's policy on such promotions, which has been in effect since 1986, was enacted in response to requests from the organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which earlier in the year had asked the Commission to consider banning "happy hours" altogether.

"While an outright ban was at that time further than the commission members thought to be reasonable, in that it interfered with a business's right to free enterprise, it was apparent that there were certain abuses that needed addressing," stated TABC in a Dec. 1 press release. "After several months of working with MADD, the Texas Restaurant Association and interested club and bar owners, some compromise language was reached."

The main points of the new amendment: It will allow only one complimentary drink to be served to any cus-

tommer during any business day; no more than two drinks may be served to any individual customer at one time; and no bar may charge a cover charge and then sell discounted drinks.

Gay bar owners and managers are exploring their options.

"It will change some of what we do very dramatically," said Scott Lewis, promotions director for Heaven, a disco owned by Charles Armstrong Investments and which has been offering a 25-cent drink night promotion.

Another local gay disco, Rich's, and numerous non-gay bars offer similar promotions, Lewis said.

Beer busts, such as one offered by the CAI's Montrose Mining Company, will also have to change their format, said Lewis. One option with beer busts, he said, is to slightly increase the cup price and stop the buy-in price (considered a cover charge by the agency), allowing a continued special and meeting the conditions of the new law.

Since 1986, TABC has banned "all you can drink for one price" promotions. However, clubs around the state have since sought to get around that prohibition by charging a fixed door charge, then selling drinks for a penny, nickel, dime or quarter. The new amendment, according to TABC, hopes to close that loophole.

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Friday, December 23 &
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All CLASSIFIED and DISPLAY
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12:00 Noon, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23
for ISSUE 740 — Friday, December 30

Early discount deadline for
Issue 740 (December 30)
is Wednesday, Dec. 21
at 1:00 P.M.

Notice:

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Offices will close at 1:00 P.M.
Friday, December 30 &
all day Monday, January 2
in observance of NEW YEARS

All CLASSIFIED and DISPLAY
advertising deadlines will be
12:00 Noon, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30
for ISSUE 741 — Friday, January 6

Early discount deadline for
Issue 741 (January 6)
is Wednesday, Dec. 28
at 1:00 P.M.

Gay leaders, AIDS activists criticize Surgeon General's firing

From STAFF and WIRE REPORTS
U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders, forced to resign last Friday as reports of Elders' remarks at a World AIDS Day appearance reached the White House, "put public health above politics," according to Tim McFeeley, outgoing executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

"Joycelyn Elders was a voice for millions of people who had no one else to speak for them. She focused the nation's attention on the public health problems faced by women, the poor, people of color and people with HIV and AIDS," McFeeley said in a prepared statement. "She brought new understanding to public health problems that many of her predecessors were unwilling or unable to face head on. She spoke eloquently of

the impact of anti-gay discrimination on public health, particularly HIV/AIDS, suicide and violence."

According to news reports, Elders' comment to reporters at the World AIDS Day event that school-based sex education programs should perhaps include discussion of masturbation provided the final impetus for the Clinton administration to give the outspoken public health chief her walking papers. But several previous statements by Elders—including references to the impact of homophobia on such issues as youth suicide and hate crimes in her keynote speech to a national gathering of gay and lesbian journalists this year—have sparked controversy.

Her ouster is being interpreted by some as an effort by Presi-

dent Clinton to underscore a step to the right on certain issues, intended to help redefine the President as a social moderate as he prepares to work with a newly Republican-controlled Congress.

Norm Nickens, board chair of the National Minority AIDS Council, warned that the Surgeon General's unceremonious dismissal "may be an early warning sign about the future of U.S. public health policy, particularly as it affects the sexual well-being of American citizens."

Elders said that although "some Administration officials and I have some honest differences over the issues," she remains friends with President Clinton. Elders' resignation will be effective Dec. 31.

Some of Elders' controversial statements

Friday, Dec. 9 (AP)—Some of Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders' controversial positions and quotations:

Sept. 27, 1993—Elders urges drug and alcohol education in kindergarten.

Dec. 7—Says the government should consider legalizing drugs as a means of reducing the crime rate.

Feb. 25, 1994—Says the Medicaid system "had to be developed by a white male slave owner" because it supports "healthy, uneducated people which can only be slaves."

March 18—Endorses adoptions by gay men and lesbians, says an irrational fear of sexuality is behind

anti-gay behavior and denounces certain sexual attitudes of conservative religious groups.

April 22—Says lesbians should be able to join the Girl Scouts, as she defends earlier statements saying the Boy Scouts should admit homosexuals.

June 22—Refers to conservative Christian critics as the "un-Christian religious right," which she accuses of "selling out our children in the name of religion."

Dec. 1—Tells a World AIDS Day audience that masturbation is "a part of human sexuality" and "a part of something that perhaps should be taught."

Remember lost loved ones at Christmas with joy and celebration

By TAD NELSON

Houston Voice/Houston

Christmas is a time of celebration. Christmas is a time of love. Christmas is a time of remembrance. Christmas is these things to each of us and a lot more to some. Christmas can be an empty, lonely season through which those who have lost a loved one must suffer the joy and celebration of others. I've been there as have many of the rest of you. Especially those of you who have lost a lover or close friend to AIDS.

My first and worst loss was that of my mother to brain cancer when I was fourteen. Mom epitomized Christmas in our home. She shopped all year long and stashed presents that we never knew

existed. She baked a virtual pastry shop of Christmas goodies. She created a lavish Christmas dinner. She decorated our home to the T and even made many of the decorations herself. And she created an atmosphere of love in our home during the holidays that was easily sensed by my sisters and father as well as our friends and visitors to our home. There was nothing throughout the year that was more special than Christmas at the Nelson house.

After Mom died, Christmas was depressing. Dad tried, but things were never the same. I hated the season. I had no reason to celebrate. For the first time in my life I realized that all this time I thought Christmas was about presents, but I was fast discovering it was about

love. The season brings together families that are distanced for even a brief time and the love that is shared is great. I couldn't ever again feel that love from my mother who I depended on for everything and I was devastated by the holiday. For nearly seven years following her death, I avoided going home for Christmas. Dad didn't understand my dilemma and I was hurting him.

Not going home doesn't resolve the situation. It won't make the feelings or the holiday disappear, and the hurt will remain until you can realize the problem and do something personally to straighten things out. If you have had a loved one die recently and Christmas depresses you, don't withdraw from your friends and family, instead find a

way to celebrate the deceased's life at this special time of year. Christmas is also a time for remembrance.

This year the members of Miss Camp America Foundation set up a "Tree of Remembrance" in the lobby of the Multi Service Center on West Gray. It was a beautiful tree with specially engraved ornaments for each member of the organization from years past who have succumbed to AIDS. Area bars are selling Gift Tags or Ornaments for a small donation which is then passed on to local charities, on which you "remember" you lost loved one by writing their name. These tags then hang for everyone to see around the perimeter of the bar.

(Continued on Page 14)

Size-obsessed scientists keep picking our brains

Gaymerica

By TODD SIMMONS
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

It's confirmed: Gay men are bigger.

A team of Canadian scientists has shown that a key portion of the brain linking areas governing speech and spatial perception—the good old isthmus of corpus callosum—is substantially bigger in gay men than in their straight brothers.

Well, what did you think I was talking about?

The team made its announcement at a neurological conference in Miami Beach (can you stand it?) and the general interest media went after it like Newt Gingrich after the last piece of pecan pie.

"STUDY PROBES HOMOSEXUAL BRAINS," blared a Nov. 17 headline in from the usually reserved Associated Press. "Sexual orientation may be part of a larger package of brain characteristics, so that gay men as a group may have a different pattern of mental skills than heterosexual men."

It took a study to prove that?

The research was not without its flaws, chief among them its sample size: just 21 men. But for the most part, media explained the study with fairness and accuracy, linking this latest finding with those from earlier research showing other differences

in structures between gay and straight brains.

No doubt reporters were guided to the light, though, by a quick response from Peri Jude Radecic, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. NGLTF learned of the story early and put out its own news releases, which helped to spin the story in a positive direction.

Radecic called the study "an important addition to the growing body of evidence indicating a biological basis for homosexuality in some people," but rightly cautioned that such findings must be used "in the most ethical ways, and precautions must be taken to ensure that the studies are not used against any individuals or groups."

Superior marks to all involved.

But all of this makes me wonder: when do we get down to the real size question? Anytime our opponents are willing to measure up, I say we meet 'em with pants in hand.

Sorry. Couldn't resist.

Reading The Right

Often, we get the most accurate pictures of the far right by reporters from independent community newspaper and radio, which generally aren't as tethered to the corporate bottom line as their big-media colleagues and consequently aren't as vulnerable to far right boycotts and other intimidation.

Cases in point: Barbara Bernstein, an Oregon-based independent radio reporter/producer, and George Howland Jr., editor of *The Stranger*, a Seattle-based weekly paper.

Bernstein seems to be one of the few reporters with links to a national medium to pick up wacko claims by leaders of the Oregon Citizen's Alliance that gays founded the Nazi Party. These statements were hardly state secrets: Bernstein got them from "OCA Forum," the anti-gay organization's public access cable show.

Here's an excerpt, straight out of the mouth of Scott Lively, OCA membership coordinator: "It wasn't just that homosexuals were involved in the Nazi Party, homosexuals created the Nazi Party, and everything that we think about when we think of Nazis...actually comes from the minds and perverted ideas of homosexuals."

Lively had been pushing this garbage around rural Oregon for months at meetings from which reporters were routinely barred. However, when the Jewish Federation of Portland got involved, calling the statements "Holocaust revisionism," Oregon media finally gave the story a decent ride. But from outside the state, nothing but silence.

From everyone, that is, but Bernstein and Howland.

Bernstein put together a report for *Pacifica National News*—a small, left-

leaning network—that spread the story in detail well beyond the northwestern confines of Oregon. Howland penned a column on the issue, "The Big Lie," which he then distributed around the world via the Internet (dutifully noting that neither the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* nor the *Seattle Times* had offered any coverage of the story).

Thanks to Bernstein and Howland, activists in cities across the nation can add these statements to the growing list of proof that the far right is, indeed, a danger not just to gays and lesbians, but to everyone.

And I, for one, say thanks. Next time I'm in the Pacific Northwest, I'll know where to find my news.

Hottest Ticket

One final piece of mid-term election trivia: at last count, openly gay and lesbian candidates won at least 40 of 65 races they took part in this year. The last tally to come in gave Chuck Carpenter a state House seat in Oregon, making him the first openly gay republican to win election to a state legislative body.

On light of this clear gay mandate, Oliver North and Michael Huffington are rumored to be considering changing their affiliations to run as queers in '96.

(Todd Simmons is a writer and editor based in Florida. Column Copyright 1994, Empire Syndicate).



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News of 'AIDS cure' for investors' eyes only

(Continued from the previous page)

Hargett describes Taft Industries Inc. (a.k.a. The Taft Group) as a company that manufactures such health/beauty related products as breath spray and cosmetics. He describes himself as a business person who "sets up distributorships all over the country" for various products, and says he became involved with the doctors when he met with them to discuss a line of health and beauty aids developed through research in Africa.

The style of the pitch, and its impressively articulated but non-specific language, are easily recognizable to anyone familiar with the regenerative sales trend known as Network Marketing.

In the course of researching this story, the Houston Voice found two other individuals involved in this growing, and sometimes cultlike enterprise, who were also aware of the discovery and impending announcement of the Cure for AIDS. Like Hargett, they were looking for savvy investors to get in on the ground floor with their own share in what the single most earth-shattering event of the century: The Cure.

Trouble is, they're all different cures.

They share a common thread in combining alternative treatments which have been or are currently being tested (such as antioxidants), and common-sense natural therapies which have proven value in improving the lives of people with HIV (i.e., good nutrition and vitamins). They also have in common a disavowal by the affiliated laboratory or researchers that their product is, in fact, an AIDS cure; coupled enthusiastic, sometimes manic assertions by individual agents seeking investors or distributors who say—and train others to say—that it is.

Getting back to Viron and the approach to the arts reps: I spent the better part two days on the telephone, calling every research organization and clinical trial or treatment hotline I could locate a number for. Despite Ericsson and Hargett's assurances that most of the research community was quite familiar with the African studies and many aware of Gallo's impending announcement, no one I contacted had ever heard of Viron—not even San Francisco's Project Inform, known to monitor alternative therapy research or AIDS Treatment Data New York, which maintains an extensive database of research that includes research in

developing countries. "We try to be very thorough in surveying the whole landscape (of research)," said Richard Jefferies of the New York group.

Jefferies offered to search his computer files of research in Africa supervised by the World Health Organization, and for any information on Ericsson, Benkendorfer or Viron. He found three papers by the Ericsson and/or Benkendorfer in peer review journals related to HIV; no mention of Viron.

Greg Folkers of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (the division of NIH that includes AIDS research) also searched his database, finding the same three articles: like the others, he knew nothing about Viron.

I did, however, eventually find someone who'd heard of the stuff, who said he was "very familiar" with both Ericsson and the impending "cure" announcement, and was in fact quite eager to discuss it. That was Dr. John Renner, spokesperson for the Midwest Council on Health Fraud. Renner was surprised that so many people in Houston had not heard of the cure for AIDS—especially since there are so many of them; by his estimate "about 200" either on the market, or scouting for investment security. Texas and Utah, he said, are the hot spots for this type of activity.

Dr. Renner said he doesn't doubt the claims by Ericsson, who he says he's been following for about a year, that the Viron project has numerous serious supporters and investors among influential Houstonians. Then again, he notes, "Dr. Heimlich just raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in California to inject malaria into people." As for Dr. Gallo's announcement, due in the next 45 days, Renner says "That was true six months ago."

"I think its more of an investment securities scheme than anything else," he said. "What's happened, is these people have figured out that it's easier to find investors at 25 to 50 grand per bite than patients at five or six grand."

The saddest part, he added, is that such schemes hurt legitimate AIDS research in the long run by making the public highly skeptical of anything new. For people with AIDS and their advocates, he said, "It's a double whammy."

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From left to right: Linda Hunt, Tracey Ullman, Danny Aiello, Sally Kellerman and Kim Basinger in Robert Altman's "Pret-A-Porter (Ready to Wear)"

Pret-A-Porter (Ready to Wear)

Robert Altman; Miramax Films

Opens: Christmas Day at the Greenway 3 Theaters

Director Robert Altman has come a long way from the early days of his career, marked by movies like "Brewster McCloud" and "McCabe and Mrs. Miller." He has moved into a film genre that is uniquely Altmanian. Beginning with "Nashville" and continuing to the present with this current release, he will forever be known as the director with the mega casts, including a virtual who's who of Hollywood past and present.

And the stars come out for Mr. Altman. This stellar group included Danny Aiello, Lauren Bacall, Kim Basinger, Cher, Rupert Everett, Teri Garr, Linda Hunt, Sally Kellerman, Ute Lemper, Sophia Loren, Lyle Lovett, Marcello Mastroianni, Stephen Rea, Tim Robbins, Julia Roberts, Lili Taylor, Tracey Ullman and Forest Whitaker to name only a few. And also in typical Robert Altman style the flow of the film is confusing to say the least. This isn't the type of film during which you can easily take a cigarette or refreshment break. I guarantee that when you return to your seat you will be thoroughly lost.

Every year in Paris, the top designers and supermodels stage the world's hottest fashion show called "Pret-a-Porter" which is Francais for "Ready to Wear." So what's the big deal about a bunch of beautiful waifs and their fag designers parading in ridiculous drag that will never sell off a department store rack? This time they are all suspects to the murder of the Head of the Paris Fashion Council, Olivier de la Fontaine played to his bitter end by Jean-Pierre Cassel. What do Olivier and Mama Cass have in common? They both choked to death eating a ham sandwich—only no one knows this except a mystery man made ever so funny by Marcello Mastroianni.

Other outstanding performances include the forever beautiful Sophia Loren as the indifferent wife of de la Fontaine who is more than happy to see him go; Kim Basinger as Kitty Potter as television fashion reporter with a southern drawl that will make your mama slap herself. Poor Kitty is a little blonde, shall we say and you get the feeling that she just doesn't under-

stand what's happening around her. A great line comes when she questions her assistant about why she didn't know that de la Fontaine was color blind and her assistant responds, "Because I didn't write it on your cards!" With that in mind do you suppose somebody should have written not to buy any small southern towns on Kim's cards? Oops—old news.

Teri Garr plays her usual airheaded self, but this time she is in Paris shopping for her transvestite husband played by Danny Aiello. Danny makes a truly ugly woman but doesn't look too bad when thrown among amidst partiers at a local Parisian crossdresser bar. What a hoot! There's a lot of slapstick involving a trio of competing high fashion magazine editors played by Tracey Ullman, Sally Kellerman and Linda Hunt. And Tim Robbins and Julia Roberts Play a sports reporter and a Houston Chronicle fashion reporter who are forced to share accommodations and then can't seem to make it out of bed together. Robbins covers to his job by re-editing Parisian television reports by phone to his city desk. Interesting concept.

Aside from the great casting, the direction by Altman is superb and the costumes by Catherine Wilson along with the high-fashion by designers Christian Dior, Christian LaCroix, Trussardi, Gianfranco Ferre, Claude Montana, Vivienne Westwood, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Sonia Rykiel and Yves Saint Laurent are a sight for the eyes. The Paris setting is beautiful as one would expect and the runway shots are a much needed break from the busy dialogue (partly in French and English.) The soundtrack will also be a hit with music by CeCe Peniston, the Cranberries, Janet Jackson, the Rolling Stones, U2 and many other great artists.

This lively send up of the fashion world is "a carnival-like sprawl and feather light farce, complete with sex, greed and murder—some things never go out of style." Opening Christmas day at the Greenway 3 Theaters at 5 Greenway Plaza East. This film is extremely funny and flows like one of the Blake Edwards comedies such as "A Shot In The Dark." It is not only light movie fare but also gives one an insight into the behind scenes world of modeling. Recommended. (Not for parents of small children who are prudish when it comes to sex and nudity).



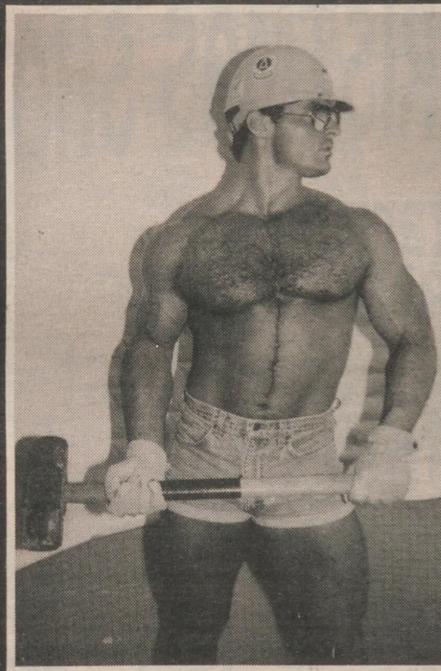
Even though we are closing, this is not a time of sadness, but instead, a time of celebration; a time for mirth and merriment and a time to enjoy with you the success that has been The Crystal Dolphin.

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MC's: Brian Keever and Don Gill

Fourth annual NLA:H Toy Drive; AFH poster giveaway; Pride Week logo judging

Quick Notes

National Leather Association: Houston is holding its Fourth Annual Toy Drive for Kids With HIV/AIDS. Casa de Esperanza, a center for children in crisis, including children with HIV/AIDS, is again the beneficiary this year.

New, factory wrapped toys, stuffed animals, disposable diapers and/or money are being collected throughout the Montrose area until Dec. 21. The following businesses and Houston Voice advertisers are supporting this drive: Basic Brothers, Brazos River Bottom, Gentry, Leather by Boots, Leather Forever, Mary's, Pacific Street, Venture-N and the 611. Two additional sites joined the drive since our flyers were printed: Ragoo's Cycle and Tattoos in 16000 block of Clay (way, way outside of the Loop, westwardly), and, through the efforts of Joel, resident of The Gardens, there is a box at his back door in The Gardens. (The project also extends many thanks to Firedancers/

Houston Tribe whose Dec. 3 Christmas Barn Party named Casa as one of its four beneficiaries in an effort to support NLA:H). Cash donations may be made at any location except the Gardens, or checks and money orders made out to NLA:Houston specifying "Toy Drive for Kids" may be mailed to NLA:Houston, P.O. Box 66553, Houston, TX 77266-6553. If you would like further information on NLA:Houston or the Toy Drive call 713-527-9666.

Free Posters

AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH) will be giving away free copies of their award-winning safer sex poster series as gifts for the public over the

holiday season. The three posters—featuring sexy men "prepared" with condom in hand—were developed in 1989 to promote the safer sex workshops and house parties still offered by AFH. "The house parties are a fun way to discuss the sexual issues that concern and affect us today in a safe, small group environment," states program coordinator



A panel of judges with design and advertising backgrounds conducted preliminary judging last weekend at Gentry, narrowing competition in the Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week logo contest to five finalists

Bart Loeser. "So many gays and lesbians are taking risks out of ignorance or denial, and yet don't consider the opportunity for learning how to be sexual without risks."

The free workshops are offered regularly at the AFH office or for anyone who wishes to host groups of their friends at any time or place. The poster series can be obtained at the AFH office at 3202 Wesleyan Annex during normal office

hours. For further information, please contact Bart Loeser at AFH, (713) 623-6796.

Logo Contest Part I

The Pride Committee of Houston held the preliminary judging in its logo contest last Friday, Dec. 9 at Gentry. Five finalists were selected in an interesting crop of designs

submitted by local artists, graphic designers and community members. Judging was conducted by local professionals in the fields of design, advertising and marketing.

The designs used diverse images and symbols—from familiar triangles to butterflies to the state of Texas—in logos representing this year's Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week theme, "Silence to Celebration." The final judging will be made by members of the 1995 planning committee at the next general meeting, Tuesday, Dec. 20 at the Hollyfield Foundation/HGLPC building, 2700 Albany. The logo that is chosen will be used on merchandise (such as T-shirts) produced for Pride Week 1995, as well as in all promotions of 1995 Gay and Lesbian Pride activities. For more information on Pride Week or to participate in the planning of this year's event, call 529-6979 (or show up for the meeting).

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BRITTANY PAIGE
Week # 6

WED

Return of
LUCY'S STEAK NIGHT
ON THE PATIO
6 p.m. 'til

PWA Coalition moves; Gay 90's gets regular time slot

Quick Notes

The People With AIDS Coalition Houston Inc. has moved from the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center on West Gray to an office building at 3400 Montrose Boulevard. The offices moved to the new location on Nov. 1. Staff, clients, volunteers and friends of the coalition celebrated with an open house to show off the new facility on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day.

Lynn Pannill, executive director, said the move was necessary because of an increased client base and the addition of staff members. "We are quickly becoming a large organization and needed more space to effectively serve our growing client base," Pannill said.

The new location houses seven separate staff offices, a conference room and a client day room, where clients can network, watch television, play games or socialize. There is also an on-site warehouse with a separate entrance, which will be used to store household items for the Coalition's New Beginnings Household restart program. One of the Coalition's largest ongoing support programs, New Beginnings matches displaced people with AIDS with household necessities such as beds, tables and chairs, and sheets and towels. Previously, items had to be stored at a remote location.

Gay 90's

Access Houston has given Monti-

cello Entertainment, producers of Gay 90's," a regular time schedule for at least two months. The show will air at 10:30 p.m. each Monday during the months of January and February, 1995, said Steve Thomas, the show's producer.

"Having a regular time slot will help the community immensely," said Alan Bourgeois, executive producers.

The time slot will also help in attracting sponsors for the gay and lesbian program, he added. "This will help a great deal. Sponsors will know that at a certain time, on a certain day, people will be watching or taping the show. Viewers are the most important fact for sponsors and now, with our regular time slot and new rating system, we will be able to gauge the number of people who watch the show."

"Gay 90's" is a news magazine cable show which airs on Public Access cable channels. For the Houston area, the channels are Warner Channel 17; TCI Channel 41 and Phonoscope Channel 11.

"Gay 90's" has been airing for six months. The show covers stories that relate to the gay and lesbian community and is "committed to showing what the gay and lesbian lifestyle is about in truthful and honest ways," according to the producers. A subscription service is available for those who do not have cable. For more information, call Monticello Entertainment at (713) 949-3119.



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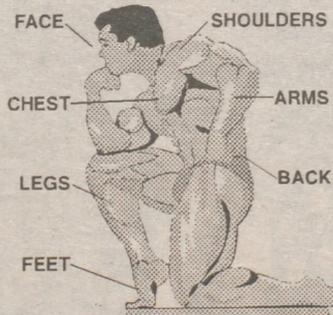
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Lambda
Rollerskating Club to
hold Christmas skate
Monday

Sports Notes

Lambda Rollerskating Club will host the next Gay/Lesbian Skate Night on Monday, Dec. 19 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Dairy Ashford Skating Rink at 1820 Dairy Ashford. This is Lambda's annual Christmas skate and they are asking everyone to bring a toy for our annual Toy Drive benefiting Casa De Esperanza. Toys can be for infants or older children.

The first 50 people to arrive will receive jingle bells for their skates. Admission of \$5 includes skates, or skaters may bring their own (in—lines welcome).

Lambda Rollerskating Club will also host a picnic in Memorial Park on Sunday, Dec. 18th at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring a pot luck dish; drinks will be provided by LRC.

These are the last LRC skating events for 1994. The group will not skate on Monday, Jan. 2. The first 1995 skate night will be Monday, Jan. 16. For more information on the LRC or any of its events, call 933-5818.

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Anti-prostitution crusader files to open Nevada's 1st gay brothel

By MARTIN GRIFFITH
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

CARSON CITY, Thursday, Dec. 8 (AP)—The former president of Nevadans Against Prostitution has filed an application to open Nevada's first gay brothel.

Milo John Reese of Reno is seeking approval from Nye County officials to open a men's-only bordello near Pahrump sometime next year.

"Yeah, people might look at it funny that I'm trying to do this," he said Thursday. "But I'm crusading against AIDS ... The issue is brothels are a good place for gays to go to have safe sex."

But George Flint, executive director of the Nevada Brothel Association, said he thinks Reese filed the

application in an effort to discredit Nevada's legalized heterosexual brothels.

Reese's group recently sent letters to the news media warning that someone was trying to open a gay brothel in Nye County and such a business would pose a health risk.

"When nobody comes forth with a true application, he files one," Flint said. "What he's trying to do is keep things stirred up so the Legislature will address prostitution and ban brothels."

Prostitution is illegal in Reno and Las Vegas, but is legal in certain rural counties under state law.

Flint said he doubts whether Reese has the financial backing to open the brothel. Reese's action discredits

his past anti-prostitution efforts, he added.

But Reese insisted he has sufficient backing from a group of Las Vegas investors and is serious about the plans. He declined to identify the investors, however.

"I have all the money I need," he said. "It'll cost us \$50,000 to start out ... All you have to do is put some trailers up ... I've already spoken to some Realtors about some land about three miles outside Pahrump."

Reese said he recently severed his ties with the anti-prostitution group after a five-year stint as its leader, but he still opposes Nevada's legalized heterosexual brothels.

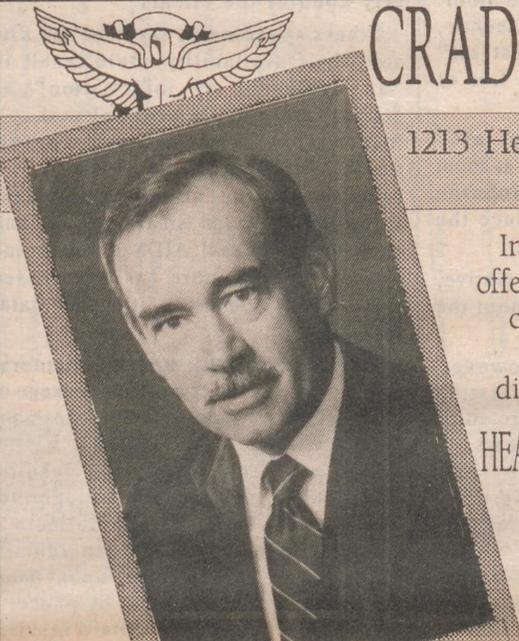
"I'm against them but they're here to stay," he said. "It's been a headache

fighting them and I spent a lot of my own money ... They're too entrenched in Nevada. They're a legacy of the wild, wild West."

Asked how a gay brothel would be any better than a heterosexual one, he replied, "There's a lot more abuse at heterosexual brothels with women getting pushed around. You wouldn't have that problem at a gay brothel."

The Nye County Commission has directed the sheriff's office, which handles brothel license applications, to conduct the process as it would for any other applicant.

Deputy District Attorney Rachel Nicholson said the application was sent back to Reese because it failed to identify investors and specify an exact location.



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Change in law would allow sale of HIV home test in Texas

Maxey, noting that he initially opposed home testing, said he changed his mind in the course of surveying others' opinions. "My first reaction was that everyone (getting an HIV test) should get face-to-face counseling," he said. "This was until I went out on the street and did my own little survey, and asked people about their experiences in being tested." Maxey said he learned that many people feel a great amount of stress and pressure while being tested in a clinic setting.

AIDS activist Gene Harrington said the expected \$30 price could prove prohibitive to minorities and the poor, rendering the product, "in essence, a white middle class home test kit" unless the company made some free or reduced price kits available.

The state health department estimates the cost of testing for HIV at about \$2.50 per person. Johnson & Johnson has estimated its cost to produce the kits at about \$12.50 per unit.

"There is definitely a profit motive, and there all still concerns (about the price," agreed Maxey.

There is also evidence, however, that the availability of home testing would be an attractive option to some people at any price. In recent years, an increasing number of private laboratories in Houston have sprung up to offer HIV testing at wide ranging prices—anywhere from \$25 to \$100—while other test sites offer services free or at a much lower cost. The option has attracted a previously unknown,

broad base of people who actually prefer an impersonal approach with minimal discussion.

Moreover, a national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control in 1992 showed that the majority of Texans who have been tested for HIV say they did NOT receive counseling as part of the test.

Danburg also noted, in response to questions about the phone counselors' qualifications, that not all persons who currently administer the test—including physicians—are adequately trained or knowledgeable enough about the disease to properly counsel the clients.

Others speaking in favor of the kits said their availability could result in "an explosion of information" as statistical and demographical information from a large, previously untested population is reported to the state—particularly information from small towns and rural areas. Texas' AIDS problem and needs could be more easily assessed than before because of the new data, they said.

The home test kit under consideration would be sold as a part of package of services that would also include laboratory testing of the sample, verification and reporting of test results, and counseling over the telephone. The person being tested collects a blood sample, which is then submitted to the lab. The tests are anonymous and results are given orally by phone; a code number is used to obtain results.

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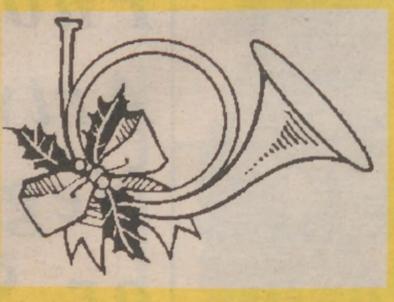
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computer can now have ready-to-use, legally licensed artwork that can be placed in anything they want to print.

Collections of artwork are sold with 20 to 30 works from each artist. These collections range in subject matter from tender to erotic. There's also a collection of male party images that can be used for customized party invitations, and collections of work on gay and lesbian lifestyle are in the works.

Beth Sampson of cq.LinQ. Inc., the company responsible for "OutClips" said she formed the company because "I was impressed by the number of computer users uncovered in research being done on the gay and lesbian market. I believe that our community needs quality images to present ourselves and communicate with one another. As a design-conscious community, we send hundreds of invitations, letters, and faxes and many of us are involved in newspapers, newsletters and communications that need a professional look. Professionals will love them, and the rest of us will use them because we love to look professional!"

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**To some, holidays also a season
 for remembering**

(Continued from
 page 3)

Mary's has what has been known throughout the years as "the community Christmas tree" atop their bar only this year it's soul decoration is a giant AIDS ribbon and a group of heavenly angels representing the souls of those who have died of AIDS that have come to guard us through the holiday while we celebrate. There are also some special ornaments on sale at Crossroads Market on West Alabama that are ceramic



Mary's special community Christmas tree

AIDS ribbons produced by a San Francisco entrepreneur known as "The Christmas Fairy" and adding a few of these to your tree at home would be another way for each of us remember.

My point here is, Christmas is coming each year whether we like it or not. As children it was the most wonderful time of the year whether times were tight for our parents or not. Don't let your bereavement destroy this season of love for you and those who may be now important to you. Instead use this special holiday as a way to celebrate the lives of those who have gone before us. We've all got to go sometime

and sure as the sun will rise each morning and set each night, we will leave behind loved ones who will miss us dearly. Start a tradition each Christmas and find a way to remember those who will not be with us again for the celebration.

If you can heal your own broken heart the memories of the holidays will be a joy again, not only for you, but for those who are now sharing their lives with you. Don't try to push the memories under the carpet and replace them with current lives and loves, but take the time to remember. One day you too will be remembered.

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Alternative arts organization fears devastating impact of GOP agenda

By KIM ANTLEY
 Houston Voice/Houston

The Republican Party's so-called "Contract With America" would have a devastating effect on funding for the arts, and gay and lesbian artists are likely to be among the first and hardest hit, according to administrators of a local alternative art space.

"A lot of what has happened to the NEA (already) is because of homophobia," said Lorin Bradley, performance director at DiverseWorks.

The "Contract" signed by Republican members of Congress calls for the elimination of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts, Bradley said. Funding of "out" work is at stake; these artists should be allowed to share their experiences and this is just a protest of what the NEA does, she added.

"We are definitely not mainstream," said Chris Rincon, gallery administrator. "DiverseWorks is alternative." The elimination of the NEA or a decrease in its funding would affect the structure of DiverseWorks, where 12 percent of its budget comes from the NEA.

Neither Texas senator is for the endowment, and DiverseWorks cannot lobby Congress because they are a non-profit organization, said Bradley, formerly a senior art specialist with the NEA.

The goal of DiverseWorks is to gain national exposure, said Rincon. "We have space for art that would not be in the Museum of Fine Arts or in the Museum of Contemporary Art," said Rincon. DiverseWorks has been in Houston for 10 years and has gained a certain amount of prestige, he added. "Our programming can reflect social problems in a timely manner."

DiverseWorks has recently applied for a challenge grant through the NEA. This would award them \$300,000 in funding that they would be required to

match. This grant would allow them to make new programs more accessible to the community.

The NEA is also instrumental in the re-granting program at DiverseWorks. This program is also funded by the Warhol Foundation for the Arts and the Rockefeller Foundation. The re-granting program allows artists to apply for an initiative grant through DiverseWorks. "The federal agency no longer has control over who gets (re-granting) money," said Rincon.

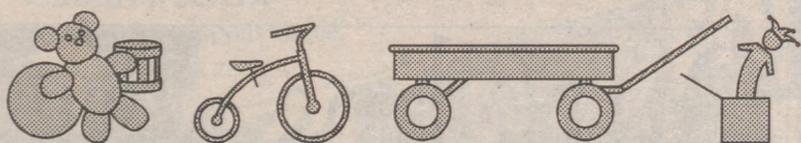
The re-granting program will be phased out in 1995 and will be completely gone by 1996, said Gary Larson, public relations specialist with the NEA.

I would bet DiverseWorks gets more money from the federal level than from the state level, but I don't know that for a fact," said Larson. The NEA receives 18,000 applications a year for funding and 14,000 of those are rejected. "It's not easy to get money from the feds," he added.

According to Rincon, certain organizations that apply for NEA funding will always get the money. "We can pretty much count on it," he said. "DiverseWorks is a multi-disciplinary arts organization with a pretty good track record in Washington," said Larson.

Larson does not expect the NEA to be demolished entirely. "I doubt they will do anything quite so drastic." However, some possible changes may include a budget cut, restrictions on granting and greater accountability for money awarded to organizations. Another change Larson said has been mentioned by Republicans is that support for the arts and culture should be "privatized," which would mean no federal funding.

Larson anticipates the NEA will know more in late January after the president submits his budget to Congress. "Maybe the Republicans won't be as tight fisted as they seem when they're campaigning," he said.



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Philadelphia court says hospital may bar HIV-positive doctor from surgery

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, Dec. 9 (AP)—A hospital chain was justified in banning an HIV-positive orthopedic surgeon unless patients were told of his HIV status, according to a federal court ruling.

U.S. District Judge James McGirr Kelly ruled that Dr. Paul Scoles posed a "direct threat" to patients when performing surgery even though the risk was minimal.

"So long as Dr. Scoles performs surgery, that risk to his patients will continue to exist," Kelly wrote in a 20-page ruling released Thursday. "Furthermore, the potential harm could not be more severe."

Scoles had filed a lawsuit against his former employer, Mercy Health Corp., two years ago claiming the company was in violation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans With Disabilities Act that went into effect in 1992.

The lawsuit, filed under pseudonym of "Dr. John Doe," said Mercy Health was wrong to ban him from operating rooms unless he told patients he had the virus that causes AIDS.

Scoles' lawyers said the ruling would discourage health-care workers from seeking HIV tests for fear of losing their jobs if they are found to be infected with the virus.

His lawyers cited a 1991 study by the Centers for Disease Control that said only one in 41,600 to one in 416,000 patients would be at risk becoming infected from a surgeon.

The only cases in the country where patients have been linked to HIV from their doctor are the six who contracted the virus from Florida dentist Paul Acer, according to Scott Burris, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union who is representing Scoles.

"We remain very confident in two things," Burris said. "Paul Scoles is not a threat to his patients ... and a disabled person who is not a threat to anybody else is entitled to be protected against discrimination based on fear."

Mercy Health won a court ruling in Delaware County that allowed them to send letters to 1050 of Scoles' former patients informing them of his HIV status. None of those patients has tested positive for the virus, Scoles' lawyers said.

Scoles, who began using his real name in court papers earlier this year, claimed that he was forced to leave another hospital because of Mercy Health's disclosure.

"They've driven me out of business," Scoles told the Philadelphia Inquirer. "Mercy Health's machinations have made it impossible for me to get medical insurance."

The judge said Scoles still may seek a trial on claims that the Mercy Health wrongly removed him from two occupational health programs where he did not perform invasive procedures. Mercy Health operates several hospitals in Philadelphia and Delaware County.

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Seattle bishop nixes same-sex church ceremony

SEATTLE, Friday, Dec. 9 (AP)—Dr. James A. Black and Thomas W. Monnahan were supposed to be busy preparing for a church ceremony to celebrate their lifelong commitment. Instead, the gay couple is busy sending out cancellation notices.

The men had planned a same-sex union at St. Mark's Cathedral on Sunday. But the ceremony was nixed this week after a bishop objected.

Black said all he and Monnahan wanted to do was celebrate their nearly decade-long relationship and to exchange vows "in the name of God and in the presence of friends and family.

"The message of the founder of our faith (Jesus Christ) is one of love and compassion, not hate," the 52-year-old Black said. "This was going to be a celebration of love, commitment and joy."

Episcopal Bishop Vincent Warner, who heads the Diocese of Olympia for Western Washington, asked Tuesday that the ceremony be stopped.

He said the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops agreed in August to continue dialogue on all issues of human sexuality, including the blessing of same-sex unions. But approval for such

weddings has not come, he said.

"It really is painful for me to be in a place where I can't be more supportive," Warner said. "But the fact is, as a church, we haven't found a way to do that."

Meanwhile, Monnahan, 39, prepared cancellation notices for friends and family members coming from as far away as England and Vietnam. More than 450 guests had been invited.

The Very Rev. Frederick Northup, dean of St. Mark's, and the Rev. Canon Linda Strohmer, St. Mark's pastoral minister, were to officiate Sunday's service, and were willing to proceed without Warner's blessing.

But Black and Monnahan decided Wednesday to cancel the ceremony, saying it "would not open the doors for others because it would not change the second-class status of gays and lesbians in the eyes of Bishop Warner."

Black said he made a "stupid mistake" thinking the love and support he and Monnahan found at St. Mark's, their home church, was representative of the Episcopal Church.

"I hope there will come a day when the dragon of prejudice will be killed,"

Black said.

Northup wrote a letter to congregational leaders last month, pointing out that St. Mark's and many other parishes across the country display a sign that says, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You."

"Do we mean that?" he asked.

The national Episcopal Church and the local diocese have both passed resolutions that gays and lesbians should receive the full pastoral care of the church, and to deny couples a blessing of their lifelong commitments would be to deny that full care, Northup contended.

Although many Protestant denominations' official stance does not condone such unions, some individual pastors and congregations do offer gays and lesbians commitment services.

"My view is the church ought to celebrate love where fidelity and commitment are present," said the Rev. David Kile of Seattle First Baptist Church.

The Catholic Church does not recognize same-sex marriages and the official stance of the United Methodist Church is not to condone homosexuality.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

Obtain a copy of the AIDS Benefit Calendar, created by Jeff Palmer and Joe Pascale as a gift for yourself or a friend. When you give it at Christmas time, include a note about the special autograph party at L'Art Erotique benefiting Alpha 2 Omega Foundation and Omega House on Tuesday, February 14, 1995.



This benefit will be at Wierzbowski Gallery, 1431 West Alabama, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
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MCCR announces Christmas events

Quick Notes

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) and its music ministries recently announced a schedule of multicultural Christmas season events. On Sunday evening, Dec. 8 at 6:00 p.m. the church, in association with the Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association will have a Posada. This is a tradition from Mexico where Mary and Joseph travel on mule to various homes in the neighborhood looking for a place to stay. As they travel, the neighbors fall in behind them singing Christmas carols, until they end up at the church where there are invited in to stay. The "Mary" will be riding a miniature horse and is actually with child.

The second portion of "A Christmas Celebration" will be a concert at 7:00 p.m. and will feature the MCCR Sanctuary Choir, Jubilation,

HeavenSound (handbells), Shades of Grey (a string trio) and Gloryland Singers. The concert will be held in the main Sanctuary at MCCR. Admission to the concert is a new toy. These toys will be given to children with AIDS.

The final portion of "A Christmas Celebration" will be a Birthday Party for Jesus which will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the parking lot next to the church. Entertainment will be a visit by Santa Claus, various musical groups and refreshments. The parking lot will be decorated for the holiday season.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at 10:45 p.m., MCCR will have its every beautiful and moving Candlelight Service. This is a very well attended Service and is SRO for those arriving late. For more information about the above event, other programs or directions to MCCR, please call the Church at (713) 861-9149.

Arizona Supreme Court upholds right of employers to fire gays

By WILLIAM F. RAWSON
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

PHOENIX, Wednesday, Dec. 7 (AP)—The state Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal of a lower court's ruling that allows employers to fire gays solely because of their sexual preference.

The high court refused without comment to review a May 5 decision by the state Court of Appeals that said state law does not prohibit an employer from dismissing a worker solely because he or she is a homosexual.

The case involved Jeffrey L. Blain, who worked for Golden State Container in Phoenix. Blain sued the company after he was fired, claiming he was dismissed because he is gay and has AIDS.

The jury was instructed by the trial judge that it should find in Blain's favor if it were determined that he was fired because he had AIDS, but that it had to rule for the company if it were determined he was fired solely because he was gay.

The judge said the Arizona Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on disability, which includes people who have AIDS. But

there is nothing in the law to protect gays from such discrimination, he said.

The jury found for the employer and the decision was upheld by the state Court of Appeals.

The appellate judges said they recognized that "sexual preference has nothing to do with job performance" but that it is up to the Legislature, not the courts, to define what is a protected right.

State and federal law prohibit discrimination based on sex, age, religion, race, handicap or ethnic origin. There is no such protection based on sexual orientation.

The Supreme Court's refusal to review the case does not set a legal precedent because it was not accompanied by a written opinion. However, it signals that if gays are to secure the protection of the law, they will have to rely on the Legislature, not the courts.

Bill McDonald, chairperson of the Arizona Human Rights Fund, said the chances of persuading lawmakers to extend protection from job-discrimination to gays appear to be remote.

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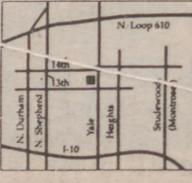

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In the Bible, the word "mystery" is referring to several things that God is doing that we don't necessarily understand but we know it is coming. Let me give you five ways that the word "mystery" is used: 1. The incarnation is referred to as a mystery in that it is the revealed secret of true piety (religious devotion) (1 Tim. 3:16). 2. The death of Christ is seen as a mystery. This remains a mystery to those who do not believe, but has been revealed in all of its majesty to those who do believe. (1 Cor. 2:1,7) 3. God's purpose to sum up all things in Christ (Eph. 1:9) and especially to include both Jews and Gentiles in the New Testament Church (Eph. 3:3-6) is referred to as a mystery. We do not understand how it will be done. It is a plan that God is actively working out and revealing to us stage by stage. 4. Another mystery is the change that will take place at the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51). We are told that we will receive imperishable bodies at the resurrection. We cannot presently comprehend this, but we will understand it as it happens to us. 5. The final mystery is God's plan by which both Jew and Gentile, after a period of disobedience by both, will by God's mercy be included in God's dominion (Romans 11:25-32).
A simple way for you to test whether or not the mystery is revealed to all is by sharing your faith and understanding of Jesus' life, death and resurrection with someone who does not believe in Christ. To tell them that He has already come to earth and will be returning again would sound ludicrous to them. To you it makes good sense. You wait with expectation and wonder. To the unbeliever the Holy Spirit is not available to interpret the mystery. To them it remains hidden.
This is the season to share our faith. It is the perfect time to tell others about the One who has come to reveal God to you. Maybe someone you know and care about will find room in their heart this Christmas for the Christ child to be born in them. Pray that the "Mystery of our Faith" will be revealed to all! It can be! God can remove the veil from their eyes so that they will be able to see and comprehend and believe! All it takes is the want to.....Do you want to?
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Julie Harris shines in 50th anniversary revival of 'The Glass Menagerie'



Julie Harris (right) as Amanda and Calista Flockhart as Laura give stellar performances in Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" on Broadway

A Place on Stage

By ANDREW EDMONSON

Houston Voice/Houston

(Editor's Note: This is the second article in a three part series focusing on theatrical productions in New York and the surrounding area of interest to the gay and lesbian community).

"Yes, I have tricks in my pocket, I have things up-my sleeve. But I am the opposite of a stage magician. He gives you illusion that has the appearance of truth. I give you truth in the pleasant disguise of illusion," explains Tom Wingfield in the opening moments of "The Glass Menagerie."

With these simple lines in 1944, Tennessee Williams opened a work that was to be hailed as one of the great American family plays. And he launched a career that would forever change the face of the American theater.

Psychologists have penned thousands of books about the emotional dynamics of the family. But few writers have ever evoked the terrible ambivalence of family—the way in which the ties that bind can also strangle and destroy—with the crystalline clarity and eloquence that Williams did in "The Glass Menagerie."

Thus, it is fitting that the Roundabout Theater should present a fiftieth anniversary of "The Glass Menagerie," which is currently being performed through Jan. 1 at the Roundabout/Criterion Center in Times Square. Unfortunately this leaden, uninspired Broadway revival fails to live up to the promise of William's text.

The plot of "The Glass Menagerie," as with so many of William's works, is highly autobiographical. The Wingfield family lives in a thread bare apartment next to a dance hall in Saint Louis.

The mother Amanda is a fading Southern bell from an aristocratic Southern Family who is struggling mightily to keep her family's head above economic water. Son Tom is a would-be poet who pens verse on the inside of shoe boxes during the grinding days he spends in a factory job at the Continental Shoemakers. Daughter Laura is a shy young girl who walks with a slight limp, lives in a rich inner world of her own, and is unable to endure the stress of a typing course at a local business college.

The fourth character is their unseen father, "a telephone man who fell in love with long distance," whose presence hangs palpably in the air in the cramped St. Louis apartment, despite the fact that he abandoned his family years ago.

Amanda realizes that Tom has a longing for travel and adventure that won't be accommodated by a 9 to 5 job in a warehouse. But the one goal that Amanda has for her daughter is that she find and marry a young man who can take care of her.

Amanda asks Tom to help find Laura a gentlemen caller, "that long delayed, but always expected something that we live for." Tom obliges by inviting an old high school chum, Jim O'Connor, over for an evening that will ultimately tear the Wingfield family apart.

On paper, the Roundabout revival showed enormous promise. Five time Tony winner Julie Harris, familiar to television viewers as Lilimae Clements on the CBS series Knots Landing, was to star as Amanda, a role that has been a piece de resistance for such great actresses as Helen Hayes and Jessica Tandy. Zeljko Ivanek, a two time Tony nominee was to portray Tom.

And director Frank Galati, a former member of the acclaimed Steppenwolf Ensemble and an associate director of the Goodman Theater in Chicago, was to have returned to Broadway with his first production since he won two Tony Awards for his work on "The Grapes Of Wrath."

Galati does interesting things with the script. He returns to the idea of projecting slides, with snatches of text from the play or haunting images, on a screen at the back of the stage, as Williams indicated in his original stage directions for the play.

The director also succeeds in coaxing interesting performances from Ms. Harris and Mr. Ivanek. Unlike previous Amandas, Ms. Harris isn't relentlessly self involved or grandiloquently self dramatizing. She is a mother who obviously loves her children dearly, who touches them often, moving their hair into place, with great tenderness. Ms. Harris suffuses Amanda with a winning radiance and grace that make the ultimate schism between parent and child all the more painful.

The role of Laura is portrayed by Calista Flockhart, who gave a luminous performance as Emily in an otherwise lackluster production of "Our Town" at Houston's Alley Theatre several seasons ago. Miss Flockhart is thin and waif-like, amply conveying Laura's intense fragility. And she gamely attempts to make Laura's pathological shyness credible and moving. Unfortunately her line readings too often degenerate into the same repetitive pattern: a breath, lifeless Southern whine that becomes predictable and annoying.

(Continued on following page)

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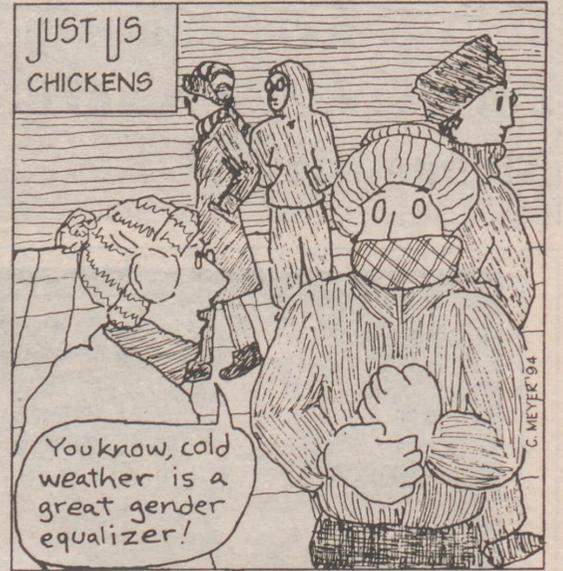
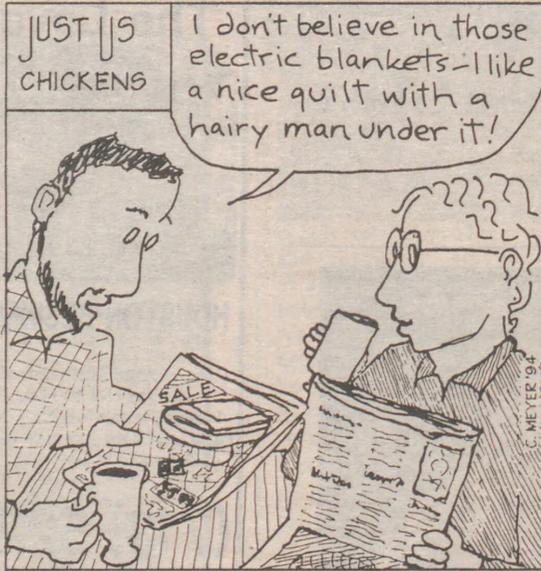
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- HIV+
- Have a CD4 (T4) count less than 200
- Neutrophil count between 750 and 1,000

All participants who complete the 24 week study will be offered free Neupogen® for life.

Call Paul Simmons, RN of Houston Clinical Research Network at (713)520-2034 for more information on this and other HIV trials.

HCRN is the clinical research division of Montrose Clinic.

Plodding production but outstanding acting in this Broadway 'Menagerie'

(Continued from previous page)

But the production is dogged by far more grievous defects. The pacing of the play drags on at a snail's pace. In scene after scene, lines between characters are punctuated by long pauses that stall the play's momentum and prevent the emotional temperature of the work from ever rising above lukewarm.

And the encounter between Laura and her Gentleman Caller—so crucial to achieving the play's sense of profound disappointment and pathos—is singularly un compelling.

The biography for Kevin Kilner, who is making his Broadway debut as Jim O'Connor, indicates that he has performed this role before at a resident theater. He is certainly physically well-suited for the part; he's tall, handsome, and hulking. But his line readings are flat and tin-eared.

There are frequent references throughout the second to Jim's great charm and vitality. He was the high school golden boy, destined for great deeds. But Mr. Kilner is so lacking in energy and charisma that it is almost impossible to believe that he was once the adored high school heart throb.

And there are no romantic sparks between Ms. Flockhart and Mr. Kilner. For the play to pack its full emotional wallop, the intimacy and emotional rapport between Laura and her gentleman caller must be palpable.

We should secretly hope that perhaps this one encounter will turn out well for Laura, that Jim will return for dinner again, that some type of relationship might possibly blossom between the two of them.

Such is not the case in the Roundabout revival.

Perhaps the most telling moment in this production occurred when Jim and Laura accidentally bump into a table while, irretrievably breaking Laura's beloved glass unicorn. This is a shattering moment for Laura, and it foreshadows the crushing emotional blows that are to come. The audience should, to some degree, share Laura's sadness and sense of loss.

At this crucial point in the Broadway revival, the audience tittered.

There are several possible explanations for this response. Perhaps William's poetic symbolism—a unicorn losing its horn—seems a bit too obvious and heavy handed to us today. Or possibly, after 50 years of being taught over in high school English courses and being performed endlessly in resident theaters, the text seems cliché.

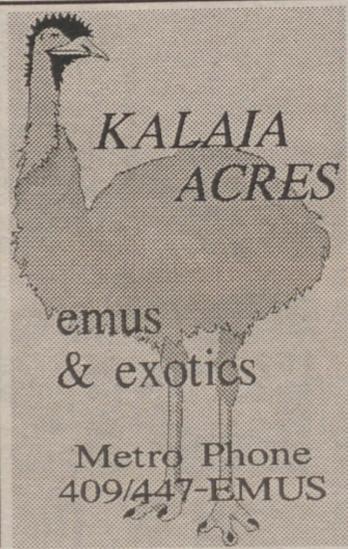
Whatever the reason, it does not bode well for a production of this play.

Whatever the production's shortcomings are, they somehow recede in the mind as one remembers the shining moments of Julie Harris' performance as Amanda.



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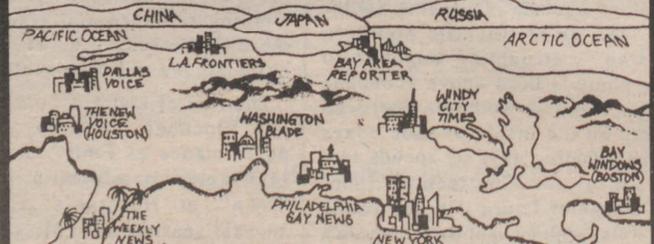


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CUERVOLYN'S CALENDAR



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

12/16 * The Bar Association for Human Rights (BAHR) annual Holiday Party at Kim Son. Call Gary at 622-1320 for info and reservations.

12/16 * Coalition of Colors & White People Healing Racism meets at MCCR. Call 861-9149 for info.

12/16 * Gay Men's Chorus performs in Galveston. Call 1-800-821-1894 for reservations.

12/16 * Hyde Park Gallery Artists' Reception. 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

12/17 * Demo by the Brotherhood of Pain at the Ripcord, 10:00 p.m. This will be the last demo until further notice. Call 521-2792.

12/17 * Holiday Stocking Stuffer—An annual event to collect toys and distribute gifts to hospitalized HIV/AIDS patients. Call 524-2374.

12/17 * Houston Wrestling Club's Holiday Party. RSVP at 863-1860.

12/17 * "Special Friends and Secret Pals" gift exchange at Chances. Call 523-7217 for more info.

12/17 * Miss Zack's Review at the Lazy J.

12/18 * Gentry's Annual Christmas Show. 9:00 p.m. "Happy Homo Christmas." Visit Santa and his Elf for photos.

12/18 * Lambda Roller Skate Club meets for a picnic at Memorial Park. Call Keith at 933-5818 for directions.

12/18 * Toy Drive for AVES (Children with AIDS) at Club Inergy. Call Valentine at 626-2837 for more info.

12/18 * Hot Chocolate and Tiffany Areiagus perform at Heaven.

12/18 * FIST (Females in Search of Trouble) Fundraiser at Pacific Street.

12/18 * "A Christmas Celebration," 6:00 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. 1919 Decatur Street. 861-9149.

12/18 * Bering Care Center Benefit show at Rich's.

12/19 * 3rd Annual Clubber's Christmas party at Pacific Street. Vote for the Bar Whore of the Year!

12/19 * "Toys for Tois" Skate Night sponsored by Lambda Roller Skate Club. Dairy Ashford Skate Rink. Call Keith at 933-5818 for info.

12/19 * Gay Fathers—A support group meets at Grace Lutheran Church at 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181 for info.

12/20 * Pride Committee of Houston General Meeting. 2700 Albany. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-6979 for info.

12/20 * Protect—HIV—Discus-

sion Group meets at Bering Community Church. Call Marty at 520-7870 for info.

12/20 To 22 * Workshop for Gay and Lesbian Couples. Call 529-1913 for info.

12/21 * Benefit for the Pet Patrol at the Venture-N.

12/21 * Men's Network meeting at the Montrose Counseling Center. Call Greg at 529-0037 for info.

12/21 * Chain Gang Cycling Group takes a ride around the Loop. Call 863-1860 for meeting place and info.

12/23 * Fellowship Friday at Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. 6:30 p.m. Call 861-9149 for more info.

12/23 * Trash Disco Party at Rich's.

12/24 * Christmas Eve Service at Maranatha Fellowship, 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 3131 W. Loop South.

12/24 * Christmas Eve Candlelight Holy Communion Worship Service at 10:45 p.m. Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. 1919 Decatur.

12/25 * Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m. at Maranatha Fellowship, Holiday Inn, 3131 W. Loop South.

12/25 * "Antler Dance" at Rich's.

12/26 * The Lambda Network meets at 5:00 p.m. at RAS W-204 (School of Public Health Bldg.) Call 523-5539.

12/29 * Rainbow Ranglers fundraiser for the Colt 45's at the Brazos River Bottom. Call 880-0670 for info.

12/31 * Miss Cousins Contest.

12/31 * L.i.B.'s New Year's Eve Party at the Double Tree. Call 759-0202 to get your reservation in early!

12/31 * Bayou City Boy's Club Party at the Wyndham Warwick. Call Stacie at 529-6071 or Brad at 529-9712 for info and reservations.

12/31 * "No Booze Blues" New Year's Eve Blow-out party at Cappuccino Plus. Call 526-6933 for info.

12/31 * Jodi Watley performs at Rich's.

01/14 to 21 * Winterfest '95 in Park City Utah. Gay Ski Trip sponsored by Travel Heights (861-0378) and Travel in Pride (621-0247.)

01/19 * Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents (HGLP) General Meeting at the Montrose Library. 7:00 p.m. Call 980-7995 for info.

01/21 * "Night in Black Leather"—a benefit for the Bering Care Center hosted by Don Gill and Soiree Aubergine at the Venture-N, 9:00 p.m.

02/04 * Montrose Clinic's 2nd annual Bowl-a-thon. A fundraiser for the Clinic's Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs. Call Steve Nettles at 520-2015 for more info.

Thank God for Curriculum Theory... (whatever it is)

Yours Truly in a Swamp

By LEONARD EARL JOHNSON

Houston Voice/New Orleans

This year for Thanksgiving I went to Lafayette, the charming Cajun Capitol of Louisiana, where colloquial French and remarkable food are common.

After dinner, I read "From La Porte, Texas through the Straits of Florida to the Promised Land," a story of a handsome stowaway inadvertently asleep in my cabin aboard a ship bound for Rotterdam, in 1980. In the story, sailing through the Straits of Florida we take on seven Cuban Boat People adrift from the Mariel Boat Lift.

The plot is lively and usually evokes a gasp of praise at finish, or a belch easily so interpreted. When I finished this time, "The Thanksgiving Seven" sat in silence. "I have read you in to a trance," I say.

This was a gathering of old and new college chums, some of whom went to school together in Carbondale, Illinois during the fabled 1960s. Now we live in Lafayette, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Berkeley, California.

One of the old-timers, and three of the new-comers currently pursue PH.D.s. Being the group's long-term college dropout, I retell an old undergraduate joke, "PH.D. means Piled Higher and Deeper." The Thanksgiving Seven no longer appreciate such dated humor."

Two of the celebrants study at Lafayette's University of Southwest Louisiana. USL-ers are known for life's zest, and are lovingly called "Rajun Cajuns."

Two study at Louisiana State University, at Baton Rouge. LSU is known for big-school football, and National Public Radio commentator Andrei Codrescu—who proves for us to the rest of the world that we have people in Louisiana who can read and write. (Codrescu is from Rumania and reads with a fabulous Rumanian accent, but he lives in Louisiana now, by God, and he can read as good as people in Illinois!).

One old friend, married, straight, and long a biology professor at USL, said this was the first time he had heard me read of gay things, and he thought the subject had slowed everyone's response. A PH.D. candidate from Baton Rouge said not so for her. She always likes waiting to see how the conversation starts before contributing—academia is indeed the land of ponderous thought.

She went on, "It is like Curriculum Theory."

Curriculum Theory?

Curriculum Theory is, for her, a post-modern theory of education holding—among other things—that everything is the classroom. "All experiences lead to understanding and perspective," our post-dinner teacher points out.

Several around the table are scientist and mathematicians. Scientist and mathematicians do not take quickly to such social relativity. The word "Chaos" is heard floating up from this group.

Chaos, also post-modern, is a scientific view holding that, say, a butterfly flapping its wings in Rio de Janeiro can move air currents in a rippling effect that affects the course of hurricanes in, say, Louisiana. This is not something easily measured with scientific instrumentation, and is viewed mostly with a jaundiced-eye muttering, "Chaos," belonged to the biologist at USL, who is married to the Curriculum Theorist at LSU.

Curriculum Theory and Scientific Chaos are harder to understand than gambling in Louisiana, which is forbidden by the Louisiana Constitution. So we throw the dice for something called "Gaming," which is legally defined by the Louisiana Legislature—if not Webster's—as not-being gambling. Which makes some outlanders think Chaos's butterflies are flapping around in our Louisiana heads. But we no longer take umbrage at such observations, because now we have Andrei Codrescu who reads on the radio.

Jim Sears, not at our holiday table, is a high priest of Curriculum Theory. He is now at the University of South Carolina, went to school in Carbondale, and wrote Growing Up Gay In The South. Once, during a convention of educators in New Orleans, the Curriculum Theory wife, Jim Sears, and I spent a long Saturday-night/Sunday-morning studying the little ripples emanating from the Bourbon Pub/Parade.

The Bourbon Pub/Parade is a French Quarter bar/disco with worldwide reputation. The Theorist priest and I went off to find sacramental beer, leaving the straight Theorist wife alone in a sea of young lesbians and gays. After Thanksgiving dinner, she told how young dancers whirled passed, while Sears and I were gone, asking, "What was I doing at this queer Fais-do-do (dance)?"

She should have told them she was a student of Curriculum Theory studying butterfly ripples.



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Cliff, Rev. Gill and Gaye at the Mary's Christmas tree lighting ceremony

Houston Soap, Part 1

By CAROLYN LARSON

Houston Voice/Houston

Happy Holiday!

Past Events

There is a new "Mr. Gentry!" Thomas Rodriguez has won this coveted title! The 1st alternate is Danny Bryant, and 2nd alternate is Billy Bailey! Congrats to all involved!

This past Saturday, several local groups got together for the Community Christmas Sale at Rich's. Special congrats go to all the groups and Gary Archer (of Rich's) for raising over \$550 for the Bering Care Center. Rich's would like to thank all the groups involved! Also, the Rich's Christmas party on the 11th featured the talents of Jaki Graham on stage. She was fantastic and sang her heart out. A great time was had by all!

"Rudolph, the Un/Cut Reindeer" showed his red nose at Past Time this past Sunday. This was a benefit show featuring the "talents" of the infamous Sambvca Sisters! Congrats on raising \$875 for the Pet Patrol! A special thanks to Mark (owner of the Red Room) and Carlos (owner of Past Time) for their generous donations!

The Annual Montrose Community Christmas Tree lighting at Mary's had quite a crowd. I estimate about 200 men and women of Montrose came to watch Rev. Gill of MCCR pull the string to light up the tree! Be sure to take a look at the roof of Mary's to see this message-sending Christmas tree!

Friday, 12/16

Warm up with the sexy Boy Toy dancers tonight at Gentry. They take the stage starting at 6:00 p.m.

Weekend Warm-up at Pacific Street tonight! There is no cover if you bring a toy (\$5 minimum value) for the National Leather Association: Houston's Toy drive for Children with AIDS. What a great way to have fun and help someone at the same time!

Paivi hosts a male strip contest tonight at E/J's. She makes the hunky guys take their clothes off starting at 11:00 p.m. Be sure to get there early and enjoy one of Lucy's cheeseburgers!

Saturday, 12/17

Mary's, naturally, has a great Saturday Special! \$5 for a 12 Oz. T-bone and all the fixings, a \$1 beer bust buy-in, with 25¢ refills and a free movie matinee! Sounds like a great "cheap" place to take a date! Hopefully your date is not as cheap as the prices at Mary's!

DJ Doug Summers spins the sounds you want to hear at the 611 Hyde Park Pub. He gets the place bumpin' and grinding... oh, I should have said the male dancers bump and grind! Well, I bet all of the above happens!

Tonight at the Lazy J, Miss Zack's Review takes the stage at 11:00 p.m. The



Are you happy to see me or is that a pickle in your Calvins?



Jaki Graham and Jerry Ramsey (asst. manager) smile at the crowds at Rich's

special guests are: Regina Dane, Miss BRB 1995, Brandy Houston, Miss Lazy J 1995 and Janne Johnson! Be sure to get there early, 'cause the Lazy J fills up early!

The Saturday Super Show at E/J's starts promptly at 11:00 p.m. This week's guest are: Taylor Kennedy and Chevelle Brooks. The lovely Brittney Paige is your hostess with the most-ess!

Sunday, 12/18

Courtney Van Wales is the special guest MC at the Bering Care Center Community show tonight at Rich's. The beautiful Kelly Lauren joins many local entertainers, as well as the "Rich's Fun Girls!" There will be 25¢ well drinks and \$1.50 longnecks to help your over spent wallet!

It's a "Happy Homo Christmas" at Gentry tonight. Have your photo taken with Santa and his "elf" starting at 5:00 p.m. Then, sit back and enjoy the totally gay Christmas Revue that starts promptly at 9:00 p.m.

This Sunday (as usual) George is on the patio of Mary's... naturally, showing football and serving cold beer. The beer bust is only a \$1 buy-in and 25¢ refills!

Tonight at the Brazos River Bottom, Jamie Roberts presents "Country Christmas," a benefit for the Colt 45's General Charities Fund. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.

The talents of Porn Star Dallas Taylor fill the cages of Pacific Street tonight. Dallas Taylor won the 1994 Erotic Video Award for "Best Cum Shot!" Be sure to get there early to avoid the cover charge. There will be photos and autographs. This benefits the Q-Patrol! If you can drag yourself away from the show inside, wander out to the patio and visit the women of FIST. We will be having a fundraiser on the patio. We have some "paddle-ettes" for sale!

The Holiday Buffet at the BriarPatch promises to be one of the best ever. Lots of holiday foods, good cheer, and of course, the sounds of Christmas. It is a tradition at the BriarPatch, so mark your calendars!

Hal and Jim's Yea!Buffet! starts at 5:00 p.m. Each week Hal and Jim donate their culinary talents while the Venture-N donates the food! The menu var-

ies every week, so you never know what delicious entrees will be ready for you!

The 611 Hyde Park Pub has a complimentary brunch every Sunday starting at 12:30 p.m.

Hot Chocolate and Tiffany Ariagus return to Houston to perform with Houston's own Lindsay Love. The show is called "Holiday Divas" and when you see these three perform together you will know why! The show begins at 11:00 p.m. at Heaven! Don't be late!

This Sunday and every Sunday Chances has an 8 ball tournament. There is a \$3 entry fee and the bar matches the pot! The balls are racked at 4:00 p.m.

Monday, 12/19

"Coiffeur Shop Talk" with Vanna from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. every Monday at Gentry. Vanna will burn your "ears" off with \$1.50 well drinks and longnecks!

Looking for a way to git "over" you weekend? The Brazos River Bottom has Happy Hour all day and all night every Monday!

It is the 3rd Annual Clubber's Christmas Party tonight at Pacific Street! There will be presents, pictures with Santa, and tons of fun! This is your chance to vote for "Bar Whore of the Year!" I never miss one these parties!

Tuesday, 12/20

2-4-Tuesday! What does that mean? Could it possibly mean that you can get a chilled shot of Cuervo for only \$2 a shot? I wouldn't know! I never, ever, in a million years go to Mary's on Tuesday!

J.R.'s Corona Tuesday's have really taken off! Corona is Texas' most popular import and at only \$1.50 I can see why! Plus, come and see why they say everything is bigger in Texas when Kofi takes the stage at 11:00 p.m. for Tuesday night's Jockey Shorts contest. You might think that Kofi is Marsha Wash!

Wednesday, 12/21

Dyan is still doing "it." She hosts the male strip contest at Gentry every Wednesday. The cheeks get red starting at 10:30 p.m.

Hump day/night at Mary's...naturally. They offer Happy Hour prices all

day and all night every Wednesday!

It "Long neck Night" at the Brazos River Bottom. This means that longnecks are only \$1.75 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. What a bargain!

Tonight at the is the Venture-N's Christmas Yea!Party! The "Hope" Christmas tree drawing is also tonight. David and the staff ask you to join them for food, drink specials, music and fun!

Throw on your favorite flannel shirt, thermal underwear, Levi's and hiking boots and experience the hot men and hot sounds of the Montrose Mining Company as they celebrate "Bear's Night Out!" All domestic longnecks are only a buck all day and all night! Tonight is very special as the Montrose Mining Company has their "Bear of the Year" contest. Come and root for your favorite winner or 1st runner up from this year-long contest. The contest starts at 10:30 p.m. with Don (Mr. Everything) Gill and Brian Keever as the MCs! This is one not to be missed!

The delightful country sounds of Sheila Lennon fill the stage at Chances tonight. She will be performing all your favorites!

Lucy heats up the grill on the patio of E/J's tonight for her infamous "Steak Night!" For only \$5.50 you can get a hunk of beef, cooked to your specifications, a salad and a baker...all-the-way! The grill gets hot starting at 6:00 p.m. and stay lit as long as Lucy does!

Thursday, 12/22

It is half price day/night at the Club Houston. Damion slashes the prices every Thursday! You can enjoy the fine facilities of the Club Houston, even if you are on a budget!

Show you current gym card to the doorman at Pacific Street tonight and he will let you in free!

Other Important Stuff

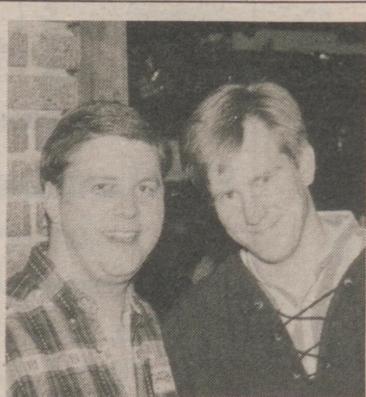
It is official! Rich's has booked the sensational Jodi Watley to entertain the Rich's crowd on New Year's Eve!

Get your official Mary's Sweatshirt! They are now on sale at Mary's.

The Brazos River Bottom has daily "Blue Light" drink specials! Be sure to git down to the Brazos and dance all night!

Don't forget that Pacific Street has an in-bar Pulse machine! It is safe and convenient!

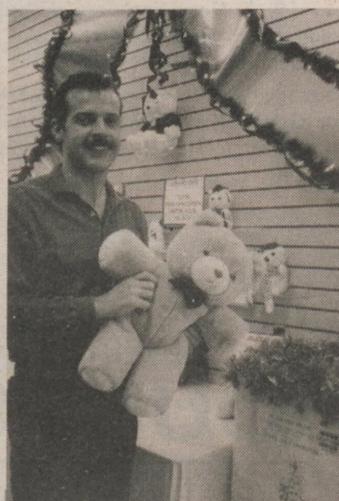
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Chris and Darren partying at Gentry

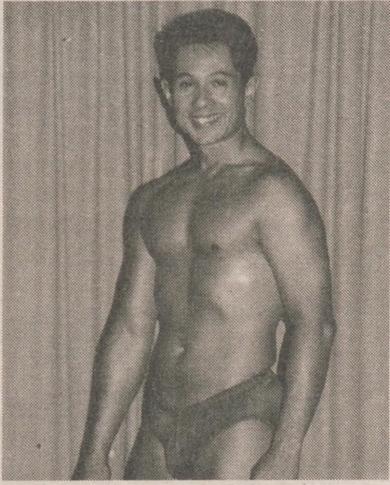


Kelly Lauren and Dave Hemmer (production manager) are gearing up for the Bering benefit at Rich's



Ken Claude (Amore florist) donates a T-Bear to the NLA:H's toy drive donation box at Basic Brothers

More holiday info, very special specials and rat droppings...



The new Mr. Gentry 1995, Thomas Rodriguez

Houston Soap Part 2

I have a list of the performers that are on the Grand Piano at the BriarPatch. They are: Monday * Wayne: Tuesday * Marci Rae: Wednesday * Theresa Meumet: Thursday * Wayne: Friday * Jerry Cater: and Saturday * Wayne. There is NO karaoke, it is always live! The BriarPatch is located at 2294 W. Holcombe. The BriarPatch is alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas. You probably won't see another bar in town with the decorations the BriarPatch has; nutcrackers, bells, Santas, and string after string of "huge" lights!

Niko Niko's has a great special going on for Houston Voice readers! You can buy one entree and get the second for half price! See the coupon on page 9. My favorite is the fried shrimp plate!

Looking for a place to spend Christmas day? The 611 Hyde Park Pub is having their Christmas Party from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. There will be loads of food and fun! Also, the 611 Hyde Park Pub has started a new "thing." It is a "Birthday Drawing." Every day, you can draw a month and date out of a hat, and if it is your birthday, you win the pot! The pot goes up \$3 per day. The last winner, Bart Honsel won \$218. Not bad for "trying your luck!" I may have to stop there every morning on my way to the office for cheap Vodka drinks, and a kiss from Ralph to try my luck!

I have an idea for a most unique gift for your single friends! Give the gift of love! Alternative Visions has opened their Houston office! Alternative Visions is a video introduction and relationship service. Call 526-8223 and make an appointment to find out more about their unique way of matching people. This winter will be too cold to spend it alone!

Basic Brothers continues to collect donations from customers for Stone Soup, as well as toys and stuffed animals for the NLA:H's Toy Drive. In addition to serving as a collection point for these worthwhile causes,



Chante' Moore, MCA recording artist and Rick Birgel of Planet Music

Basic Brothers is also offering gift wrapping for the holidays with a donation to the charity of your choice. And, of course, the fourth annual "Share the Warmth" (providing clothing gifts for the Bering Care Center) Christmas Party continues. Basic Brothers would like to thank all the customers who have made these events so successful, and invite all holiday shoppers to stop in and become part of "Share the Warmth!"

Press release of the week: A new club has formed in the Houston area for gays and lesbians! The Party Club! We meet every Tuesday at Dave and Buster's for dinner at 7:30 p.m. and then bowl, play videos and other fun games the establishment has to offer. Call 952-4048 for details." Also, I have been informed that they have 20 free tickets to the opening of "Ready to Wear" for the Dec. 21 premier! Call 952-4048 for more info.

I was outside the Loop last week to visit Bob and Kim at A Man's Resale! I went in looking for a few used men for sale to give as gifts!! No, really I went out to do a little holiday shopping! I had not been there in quite a while and I was pleasantly surprised by the quality and quantity of their merchandise. They have a bunch of leather jackets and pants as well as designer suits, shoes, boots, jeans, casual wear and dress shirts! It is well worth the trip to 14020 Memorial!

Last week I had the pleasure of going to the Lovett Inn for a business function. This place is lovely! If you have out of town guests coming in for the holidays, call 522-5224 and reserve a room!

Chances, located at 1100 Westheimer (next to Charlie's) has changed their hours of operation. They now open at 10:00 a.m. Monday thru Saturday and noon on Sunday! Be sure to check out their daily drink and shot specials!

Hollywood Food Stores have a great selection of Colt 1995 Calendars on sale. They also have a unique gift basket for only \$19.99. It has a Colt Calendar, a packet of condoms, a bottle of lubricant and some imported candy!

The Staff of Midtowne Spa are gear-



Harley...What's wrong? Did David (VN) hide your box of bones!!

ing up for one heck of a New Year's Eve party! They are not quite ready to let the cat out of the bag yet, but I'll keep you informed!

If you want to spend your New Year's Eve dining at the Penthouse, you better get your reservation in now...they are almost completely booked up for that night! Call 522-0745 before it is too late.

Birthday Corner

A Happy Birthday to Mike (NLA:H)! I hear in lieu of twinkies you want "cupcakes!"

Ratrat's Cage Droppings

Well, it is that time again! The usual disclaimer is in force. This part of Soap is only for the trash I hear, or is faxed to me! I take no responsibility on the information! I scraped the bottom of the cage and found:

Brian (TWT-NLA:H): See what happens to you when you roll around in the mud! You land in the hospital! I have heard that someone has pictures of your "roll in the hay." Be afraid, be very afraid! Also, be sure to get Dean's (NLA:H) copy of Drummer magazine back to him in the pages not-stuck-together form!

Wendi and Trudi (Alternative Visions): Next time you "Waltz across Texas" or your office, be sure to move the phone cords! I know this move to Houston was a "trip," but, really, pick up those feet before you trip and go boom!!

Del (Gentry): What is it with this "Happy Homo Christmas?" I know, you just wanted to "don we now our GAY apparel!"

Steve (NLA:H): So, Daddy is out of town! Why is he making you wear your collar in his absence? And I hear he didn't give you the gate opener either! Have you been a bad little boy?

Scott Lewis (800 Pacific Street): Such a short "dirt list" for me this week! Too busy chasing down hunky Hispanic guys to stuff your into your holiday stocking!

Orlin (NLA:H): Heard you are good with your hands, but only 3 fingers to bowl a 204! What could you do with all five? Make a fist?

Gaye (Mary's): You have been spotted twice at Mary's after dark lately! Are you finally becoming a night owl, or was this a freak of nature?

Randy (Mr. Houston All-American): So you claim to be bi-sexual! Does that mean you sleep with both Lindsay Love and her evil twin "Iggy?"

Nelda (Texas Leather and Lace): I hear you are pretty handy with a dildo!

Bobby (PS): Good to see you "up" and "around!"

Eric Bush: Why do you keep leaving porno quality pictures of yourself on Don's (Schnauzer) desk?

Tom (Mr. Sparkle): You "peed" girl!

Rita Charles (Chances): What is it about Saturday...Glowing?

Meg (Mary's): I am glad to see that you finally learned how to clean an ash-tray!

A special get well to Skip from all your friends at Mary's!

There is NO Houston Jack's party this month!

Wilma (MSL): Why were you hanging out at E/J's? You wanted a drink so bad you couldn't wait for Gentry to open? Also, when can I borrow that lovely gold beaded dress?

Suzanne Anderson: What's the matter honey, those nasty straight men still hitting on you?

Woody (Penthouse): How did long did the doctor say you have to wear your hair like that?

Is BIDA really a Cajun word? I understand it translates to "boutie in da air!"

Message to the MAFIA guys: I know, it is not fun unless it is messy and painful!

Bobby Fife (Texas Riders?): Your car spend more time at PS than mine or Lazer Wizard's does!

Jeff (Sambvca Sister): Yes it would be a miracle, you getting "some" and Don getting it "up!"

Kip (PS): What is it honey! You were only riding in a convertible, I was driving one!

Kirk (Penthouse): Welcome Honey! I guess it is your job to make sure the bartenders ALWAYS have cold Cuervo for me!

Mystery Fxer: Thanks for the info!

If Soap wasn't up to its usual nastiness, it is because I did this one sober! Boring! I called for reinforcements and a bottle of Cuervo is on the way to the office. It's ok. It is well past the hours we are open and I am "not on the clock" so to speak.. get here...please.. or I may have to scream very loudly! Heeeeeeeelp!!!

Oh good, .mdf the CUerVo GoT hee-eere jjjust in thee nLck of TiME!!

HuGGGGGs and Kissssssssses
CUerVoLyNnnnnn



No, Bill, they aren't back to haunt you—trust me, it's an OLD picture

"DIRT ON CUERVOLYN" CONTEST

There were no entries received this week. It seems everyone is afraid of Carolyn and/or her pen. Come on — get those entries in!

In Issue 702 (April 8, 1994), Carolyn Larson began an infamous career writing the Houston Soap column. Although her first anniversary has yet to approach, it's time to give her back some of the *rat droppings* she has reaped among us all.

So continuing during the month of December, the Houston Voice will publish some of **your** dirt, lies, etc., which most of you have on the Cuervo 'girl.'

You may MAIL your entries to: Cuervolyn Dirt Contest, c/o Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006; or CALL it to us at (713) 529-8490 during regular business hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) or FAX it to (713) 660-6808 (not our regular fax number) and we promise she won't have access to be able to edit your entries, but please keep them clean enough to print.

Prizes will be available to the best entry each week as judged by the staff of the Houston Voice (with the exception of Cuervolyn, of course.)



Dennis hands winner Bart Honsel \$218 for the Birthday Drawing at the 611, as Ralph gives moral support



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Surviving the season: how to have a happy, stress-free holiday

By GREG CASON, MA
 FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

(Editor's note: Gregory Cason is a mental health educator with the Montrose Counseling Center).

About this time of year, there seem to be as many articles and talk shows featuring the ravages of holiday depression, some going so far as to recommend anti-depressant medication, as sugar cookie recipes. Most point out that suicide and hospital admission rates for severe depression go up. Neither is true. (In fact, psychiatric emergencies tend to be rather low).

So why are there these common misbeliefs? You can chalk this one up to a combination of stress and anxiety and the belief that we "should" feel good at this time of year. There is no question for anyone, whether they take part in the celebrations or not, that this is a hectic time. The malls are full, the streets are full, parking is sparse, people are going away, relatives are coming (or we're going there), more mail needs to go out, work becomes interrupted, finals are taking place...and so it goes.

People tend to spend more, eat more, drink more, sleep less, and generally feel like their aroma therapy candles are being burnt at both ends. Even those closest to us become caught up in the fervor and so we all start to feel a little more isolated, even though we are all preparing for a day or group of days when we "should" feel closest. The stress becomes enormous and the social supports few.

Those of us who are lesbian or gay and going home for the holidays may feel special pressure from our families, our jobs, old friends or even ourselves that we "should" step back into the closet in order to maintain "peace and harmony" for those who just don't understand." We may leave our lovers at home or even choose to stay away from our families completely because of their stipulations or our own fear.

Another very real problem is the prevalence of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) which is sadness and other depressive symptoms that result from winter weather. Although it is less common in Texas than the northern states, there are still many who suffer from its effects (as many as 35 million nationwide).

The only way to have a "perfect" holiday season is to give up the idea of perfection. The turkey might burn, your lover might not like his or her gift, your co-worker may not be happy the fact that we brought our same sex partner to the New Year's party, the worst storm of the year may blow through, or your family may break out into its annual Christmas Day squabble. Let's face it, when you get this many people together, something is bound to happen.

The "shoulds" are a big problem. There is nothing wrong with a goal of having a warm, loving atmosphere where the loved ones can just be together. But, most of us get caught up in the need to buy the perfect gifts, have the perfect food, or the need for ourselves and those around us to act in the

perfect way.

Here are some ways to let go of the "shoulds:"

—Don't strive to make this year "the best ever." Instead, prepare as best you can and then sit back and enjoy the show (and it always is a show!).

—If you do feel sad or lonely, don't hold it back. It's normal at this time of year. Call a friend or write a letter to help you feel reconnected. If it feels very bad, call a therapist to talk about it.

—Don't be a "Norma Desmond" (from Sunset Boulevard) about the holidays! If we get caught up in trying to make this holiday as good as one in our past, we are sure to set ourselves up for disappointment. Try something new!

—Don't do things you don't want to do. Skip the boring parties, the people you never really liked, and even seeing your family if that makes you unhappy. Be polite about it though; there is no reason to hurt others' feelings. A nice "regrets" note or phone call will do.

—Don't drop any bombshells at the family dinner. Mom has enough stress and Dad is doing his best to deal with problem relatives. If this is the year to tell the family about your sexual orientation, or your health status, or the fact that you're moving to Tunisia, either go home early or wait until later that night or the next day. A more relaxed atmosphere will help everyone cope with the news a little easier.

—Plan ahead. Shop now. Do a little at a time. Make lists. Check them twice. If

you forgot something (like batteries or Auntie Jean's favorite wine), laugh about it first. It's human.

—Don't drink too much or plan on being high. Substances may make you feel better for the moment, but always end up making you feel worse and more depressed in the end.

—Help someone else: an anonymous gift, a donation, or help brightening up a hospital ward. These activities bring back the good feelings of the holiday season for all who are involved, but especially the giver.

—Just show up. The greatest gift you could give anyone is your love. Let go of what you "should" do, or what "could" happen, and just be there.

The holidays are a time of stress and expectations. Lowering a little of each will make the holiday a little better. But, if you feel that the sadness you are experiencing is more than a case of the holiday or seasonal blues, make an appointment with a therapist and talk about it. Have a lower stress and "should-free" holiday season!

(The Montrose Counseling Center's MEN'S NETWORK, an educational and social program for gay and bisexual men, will host a forum to discuss the issues and maybe find some solutions on "How to Have a Happy Holiday" on Wednesday, Dec. 21, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at 701 Richmond. Admission is free; donations are requested. For more information, call 529-0037).

HOUSTON

VOICE

BLUE PAGES

DEC. 16, 1994
ISSUE 738

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Houston Voice may contain
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HOUSTON PERSONALS

BY MANFINDER

Houston **MASCULINE BM** 6' musc, very masc, pretty vers int give me a call- ☎13373

Houston **QUIET EROTIC EVENINGS:** GWM iso GB or minority male 6' brn/blu gt shape u/B 18-35 slim to musc smooth and into good safe fun, quiet erotic eyes, give me a call like to talk to you - bye! ☎14570

Houston **BIKING COWBOY:** Todd I'm a cowboy into hats, lither boots, big belt buckles if u know what I mean, like to ride & if u like to ride let me know, into lither, if ur int motorcycles, like to ride fast & hard, if u like the same, let me know- ☎17892

Houston **LOOKING FOR A FRIEND:** David, 36, like to meet 18-30 white male asian male or hisp male iso a friend, looking for friends 5'10 blnd/blu, hope youre gdkg too -lets see what happens ☎17925

Houston **18 YR OLD:** Billy, and I'm 18, go to school, just looking for some guys to meet like goodlooking ones with big sexy bodies, dk brn hair and a face to die for- ☎18239

Houston **JUST MOVED HERE:** Austin, 22, brn/hzl, 6', 165, dk cxion, lkg for someone to meet just moved here and like to hook up with some people give me a call- ☎18240

Houston **INTO B/D:** Frank, 31, brn/brn in shape gdkg slve, bd, int in contacting me- pls call- ☎18283

Houston **JOHN 22,** brn/brn great shape, looking to meet guys in the area, give me a call- , looking forward to meeting you- ☎16793

Houston **ROCK AND ROLL!** Dave, 30s, like to meet 18-30 White, Hisp, or Asian into rock and roll and good times- ☎17925

Houston **TWENTY AND TAN:** Austin 6', 165, dk brn/hzl, tanned, good body, like to hear from some guys, 20 yrs old like to get with some cute guys ☎18240

Houston **CHRIS AND BRIAN,** 19 looking for someone to join us, looking for a vry hot guy, 19 dk brn lu 6'3 190 hot -blnd/brn dk body huge pecs- like for someone to join us asap- ☎18543

Houston **OPERA FAN:** 52, prof'l guy, looking for a rel, tp guy, int are theatre, opera and going out to restaurants, having fun, interesting guy seeking same- ☎2922

Houston **ANYTHING GOES:** GWM iso GBM, GHM or GAM 6' brn/blu, 170, good shape u should be slim, smooth or musc build, into good safe fun, anything goes type of person, give me a call- ☎14570

Houston **TALL AND FURRY:** Mark, looking for GWM or GHM into well end'd men, GWM, well end'd, 6'7, blk/blk, must ,hairy, 32, athletic, outdoors act, iso someone to get together with- ☎18943

Houston **TWO STEPPIN'** Eric 5'9 180

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well built, work out every day looking for someone that wants to have a great time country dancing, movies, just cuddling up together- ☎18968

Houston **WHATEVER COMES UP:** Dave 29 goodlooking WM, brn/grn, 135 very end'd, iso people for friendship fun and whatever else may pop up-Greenway Plaza area ☎19025

Houston **POWERLIFTERS:** Ray, 41 BM iso serious bonding and friendship with males with a musc build 18-35, super musc bound power lifters, 200-300 partial to bi racial men, give me a call- ☎19105

Houston **MEXICAN/ITALIAN:** 30 y/o Mexican/Italian, 5'3, blk/hzl, non drinker, like to go out, dancing, quiet eyes with that special someone int in BM 25-35 want to date, give me a call- ☎19223

Houston **LINGERIE AND SPANKING:** 5'7, 165, well built, dk tan, enjoy outdoors, like lingerie, spanking and group fun- enjoy it all give me a call ☎32000

Houston **OLD MOVIES:** Jerome, 6'1, 190, brn/brn, like music, old movies, cooking, animals, smoker 26, int in meeting people the same age or older same ht or taller, looking for a poss long term monog rel- ☎18561

Houston **HOLIDAY PAL:** GAM student, looking for someone to hang out with in Houston during the holidays- ☎19004

Houston **LAMAR UNIV FRAT BOY:** Alex, Lamar Univ, frat boy iso someone to be friends with, poss rel, like outdoors, like to go to clubs, like a nice personality, likes nature hope to hear from you- ☎19183

Houston **JOHN 20 Y/O,** 5'7, blnd/blu, iso meet very goodlooking under 30, ☎19131

Houston **HISPANIC BODYBUILDER** 28, white hisp bodybuilder, excellent physique, ub under 32 lean and musc fit for competition, excellent physique, ☎19343

Houston **DORR,** int in meeting BM for friendship poss rel, give me a call- ☎15550

Houston **FRIEND OR LOVER:** Darrell, 28 BM int in looking for rel or friendship, 6'1 230 like dining, clubs movies, real good time, like to meet new people, like to meet in the area give me a call- ☎15650

Houston **HAIRY BEAR:** WM 31, 200, 5'11 brn/blu, stocky, hairy- iso friends age, race, wt, not impt- ☎15631

Houston **GBM 20,** looking to hook up with 18-35 give me a call- ☎15864

Houston **ONE ON ONE:** David, GBM 6' 180 shrt dk hair/brn eyes must iso someone for a one on one rel movies, reading, cooking, eating out, good conversation, give me a call ☎15872

Houston **DARRELL, 27** looking for a rel, like to go out and have a good time 6'1 220, BM interested in meeting- ☎15984

Houston **BLUE EYED EXEC:** Glenn 37 WM prof'l 5'9 165, gdkg, blu eyes, iso a

man of any race who is sensitive affec, masc for friendship poss rel if that sounds good, call! ☎16051

Houston **UNIV OF HOUSTON:** 22, 145, dkhair/brn hisp attr student int are; like music, country, Depeche Mode, like dance & club music, like to travel- iso someone my age 18-25, race not impt looking iso someone to hang out w/ maybe more- ☎10323

Houston **BLONDE ROCKER:** David, 5'11, 170, blnd/blu long blnd, looking for someone that would like to be a friend- talk on the phone, lets be friends first iso guys in their 20s who like to rock and roll- ☎16601

Houston **HOUSTON AREA:** Darrell 27 BM 6'1, 220, int in meeting guys from the Houston area, like to meet for poss relationship, like to dine, movies, club scene, int give me a call- ☎16935



Houston **LKG FOR SUPERMUSCLE:** Ray, 41, BM iso some strong bonding and friendship with the build of a supermuscular football player, if ur 200 -300 super hard muscle 18-35, like to hear from you- ☎14068

Houston **GOOD EROTIC FUN:** Mike GWM iso GHM or minority guy 38 brn/blu, 6' work out in good shape, u shold be 18-35 slim, smooth or musc build, into good safe fun, good erotic fun, give me a call like to talk to you- ☎16964

Houston **LKG FOR AN OFFICER:** Ray 41 BM like to hear from all military personnel, law enforcement 18-35 if u have that big broad brawny brutish build, 200 -300 lbs of solid muscle, if ur weightlifting or powerlifting, gve me a call- ☎17302

Houston **HUSBAND MATERIAL ONLY:** Scott - 24 latin male 165 5'10 med skin short black hair, must seeking monog rel, older than me- intimate, fun, sensual and understanding- ☎7136

Houston **PREPPY PUPPY,** 5'10, 145, med bld, dk/brn attr hisp 22 int U of H, int in 18-24 preppie, looking for the same but not necces, movies dining out, clubbing, var of int- ☎10323

Houston **CRUISE DIRECTOR,** new to area, 25, 6' 200, lkg for someone to be friends, poss rel, like to get out and see Houston life- ☎12731

Houston **BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN,** Kevin 5'9, 126, blu, short blnd hair, smooth, feminine ☎12762

Houston **LOOKING FOR FUN,** Austin, 22, 5'10 150 brn/hzl, looking for guys 18-28 for fun friendship or whatever- ☎13054

Houston **NEW FRIENDS,** Robert attr Hisp 24, new in town, looking for new friends, poss Mr. Right, I'm 5'7, 155, blk/blk, like to meet mature GWM or GHM for movies, long walks, all around togetherness- ☎13068

Houston **NO STRINGS FUN!!** Are you tired of ads that scream honesty in relationship?: good safe fun! w/o strings, friend dating-what a concept! 39 GWM 5'10 180, dk/brn beard, med build, hairy body , ub 25-35, pref a GWM dk hair/lt eyes, hairy a + ☎13083

Houston **GREENWAY PLAZA AREA:** Dave, 29 WM 5'7 135 brn/grn, lkg to get together fo fun or other activities, hope to hear from you soon- ☎13113

Houston **MASCULINE MUSCULAR,** Mike, 6' brn/blu, 170, GWM looking for a GHM, 18-35 smooth slim musc masc into some good safe fun- like to hear from give me a call- ☎13172

Houston **LOCAL GUYS ONLY,** GHM 23, 5'9, 175 looking to meet someone in the area- ☎13362

Houston **WEST CHASE AREA,** BM 6', 200, like to go to gym work out, dk cxion, int give me a call- ☎13373

Houston **CHEEKS AND CHAPS,** Dallen, 36 grad student UH, 6'4, 195, brn/brn leather into leather bars, like to meet guys who like to have fun, play around, all that

good stuff give me a call if UR interested, ☎13400

Houston **FREDERICK,** 26 BM: looking for masc men of any race, like to have fun eat out, movies and some sports- ☎13504

Houston **CARAMEL LOVER,** Chocolate's too rich, vanilla's too plain, but caramel drives me mad! David 34 5'10, 185 attr intell like to have a good time brn/brn lkg for attr intell GHM tall beefy guys, romant aggr tops, in the area best- ☎13486

Houston **LOOKING FOR DOMINANT,** Mike looking for some guys to have fun maybe date, 31, 5'10, brn/hzl, and I'm also passive, int in GWM same age or younger, int in meeting, give a call for more info- ☎13639

Houston **THREE OR MORE,** GWC 34 & 32: 6' 170 blk/green, hairy, 5'9, 165, swimmers build, brn/brn looking for other gay couples or males for fun- ☎13704

Houston **HOBBY AIRPORT AREA,** Ricky, 5'10, 150, med bld, dk hair/brn hisp 22 student, , JR's type, preppy, don't like to go out much, ISO same, not ser rel, 18-24 ht/wt prop who likes going out once in a while things besides clubs- ☎10323

Houston **JEFF,** gdkg wm looking for someone to get together with ,young, give me a call- ☎13747

Houston **BEAR MAN,** GM 31, 5'11 200 brn/blu hairy looking for bi or gay male -age/race not impt- ☎13881

Houston **ROOM SERVICE,** Hunter, UH student, in hotel mgmt, like movies, theatre, dance, like musci, inti in good personality, like to hear from you- ☎14057

Houston **MALE BONDING,** Ray, 41 BM iso a strong bonding & close friendships with males 18-30 w/ musc build, if ur 200-300 lbs of rock hard muscle, powerlifter w/a football players bld, gve me a call-any race, or size- ☎14068

Houston **THE BEST WOMAN,** Sean 32, str wm 5'10 140, strb blnd green lkg for 18-35 TV or TS to help me be the best woman for company and pleasure- ☎14223

Houston **STUDENT SEEKING SAME,** 22, 5'10, 145, med bld, hisp, dk/brn, attr, student, iso my age 18-22 var int, like to go dancing, not really into clubs- ☎10323

Houston **HISPANICS ONLY-** Kurt 35 5'7 150 blnd/blu beard int in hisp guys only-give me a call- ☎14545

Houston **EROTIC EVENINGS,** GWM looking for GBM u should be musc to slim, smooth, into alot of good safe fun, erotic fun filled eyes @ home 6' brn/blu 170, gdkg, give me a call- ☎14570

Houston **MANLY BOTTOM,** Eric 22, top BM iso a nice manly bim, if ur interested, lv your name and number race not impt- ☎14850

Houston **ATTN: BODYBUILDERS,** Mark 5'7 165 musc masc BM iso same, Body builders's esp, for friendship poss rel if ur attr lv a message- ☎14794

Houston **IDEAL GUY FOR ME,** iso masc dark top safe person, liek coffeehouses books, age race ht, not impt - honestly describe yourself ☎15114

Houston **A GOOD START,** Jason, 22, 6'3, 190, energeti outgoing, good sense of humor, looking for 18-25 someone to start as friends, poss rel- ☎15210

Lesbian Personals

FEMALE ONLY PERSONALS

Houston **SIMONE** 20 BF looking for other black single pr'l women ☎5750

Houston **TWO FOR FUN:** 22 blnd/blu like to go out and have fun looking for a woman who likes to have fun too. ☎6159

Houston **MONTROSE AREA:** Linda looking for a life mate quiet times at home good times out bars are just ok, looking for someone to give me what I need I have alot to give too ☎5761

Houston **SHELLEY** 31 I'm new to this- voluptuous soft lips looking for other women who like to play-no strings attached. ☎1605

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San Diego judicial nominee new target of conservatives' ire

SAN DIEGO, Tuesday, Dec. 6 (AP)—The new Republican majority in the U.S. Senate may throw a monkey wrench into the nomination of a local judge to the federal bench.

San Diego Superior Court Judge Judith McConnell has caught the eye of some Senate conservatives because seven years ago she awarded custody of a 16-year-old boy to his gay father's homosexual partner instead of to the boy's mother, after the father had died.

The mother, a Pentecostal Christian who had previously engaged in a long and bitter custody fight with the father, was supported at the time by several well-known conservative groups.

Some of those same groups are now predicting that in a changed political atmosphere McConnell's chances of becoming a federal judge could be in trouble.

"I think that decision was way over the edge in most people's judgment," said the mother's one-time attorney, conservative Washington attorney Michael Farris, an unsuccessful Christian Coalition candidate for Virginia's attorney general this year.

Farris said an editorial in the Washington Times criticizing McConnell "has made the rounds on Capitol Hill."

But other legal analysts, including Marianne Lombardi of the conservative lobbying group Coalitions for America predicted senators would look at McConnell's entire record, not just one case. "Unless something else really controversial comes up, they'll approve her," Lombardi predicted.

McConnell was recommended for an open seat on the San Diego federal bench last year by Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. and nominated by President Clinton in August.

But the Senate Judiciary Committee, which considers judicial nominations, did not act before the end of the congressional session, so now McConnell must be recommended and nominated again.

A White House spokesperson would say only that the president is looking at vacancies and has not decided upon nominees. But some conservatives predict Clinton will think twice

before renominating McConnell.

"The conventional wisdom is that there are a few judges who have attracted controversy—Judith McConnell is one of them—and that in a (changed) political climate the White House will take a different sort of calculation," said Thomas Jipping, another legal analyst for Coalitions for America.

McConnell refused to comment, as did the staffs of two influential Republican senators on the judiciary committee, Orrin Hatch of Utah and Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

A spokesperson for Boxer, Sam Chapman, said he expects McConnell to be renominated by Clinton and then confirmed by the Senate.

Chapman said McConnell's 1987 decision in the custody case has been misrepresented. The mother walked out of the final hearing, leaving the judge to rule without having heard from both sides, Chapman noted.

And McConnell took over the case after a juvenile court judge had already given custody to the father, and after the mother had kidnapped her son and lived in hiding for almost two years.

When the mother and boy returned to San Diego after being in hiding, the boy, then 12, was placed in foster care and then returned to his father at his request.

The father died of AIDS when the boy was 16. The boy requested and was granted the right to stay with his father's lover in Palm Springs.

What angered conservatives, in particular, were McConnell's statement to the teen-ager, after her ruling, that he was lucky to have a person "who will provide you with a stable and wholesome environment."

"It showed her religious bigotry and lack of sensitivity to a natural parent," said Beverly LaHaye of the conservative Christian group, Concerned Women for America.

LaHaye and other supporters say McConnell seemed to be implying that a Pentecostal Christian home was not a wholesome environment.

But Chapman said the judge's decision could not have been all that bad because the youth, now 23, is married and working as a deputy sheriff in a Midwestern state.



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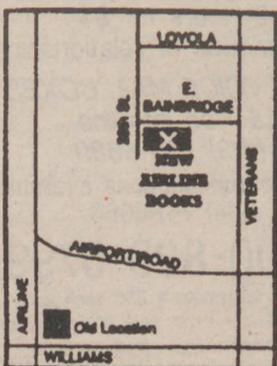
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Mississippi lawyer says fear of sex assault, AIDS made teen kill gay men

By GINA HOLLAND
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

LAUREL, Miss., Thursday, Dec. 8 (AP)—A 16-year-old accused of murdering two unarmed gay men acted in self-defense, his lawyer says, because he was afraid of being sexually assaulted—and of being infected with AIDS.

This defense strategy has drawn protests from gay activists, who see it as an attempt to play upon jurors' fears and bigotry.

"AIDS is a panic word, and they've used it very effectively in this case," said April Richards, president of G.L. Friendly, a south Mississippi gay alliance. "We could have happy hunting on gays and lesbians in the state because they can get away with it."

Over the objections of prosecutors and national gay groups, Circuit Judge Billy Joe Landrum ordered HIV tests on the two victims. Landrum hasn't decided whether to release the test results or allow them to be used in the trial, scheduled to begin Jan. 30.

Defense attorney J. Ronald Parrish said if either victim was HIV-positive, "it would be no different than if they had a loaded weapon and pointed it at an individual."

But District Attorney Jeannene Pacific called the AIDS issue "totally irrelevant. It has no other purpose than to inflame jurors."

Marvin McClendon, a high school sophomore, is charged with killing Robert Walters, 34, and Joseph Shoemaker, 24. Both were shot in the head at close range, and their bodies were dumped next to abandoned railroad tracks near a swamp.

Police accounts show Shoemaker, a factory worker, and Walters, who was in the commercial art business, left a party late Oct. 7 and went cruising for sex. They found McClendon near his house in Laurel, a town of about 19,000.

Authorities have said McClendon was a troubled youth looking for money.

Parrish tells a different story: that McClendon agreed to help the victims buy drugs, but they instead drove him to the tracks and tried to force him to have oral sex.

"One of the men let the seat down and said, 'Now you've had it nigger.' The other one grabbed his leg and that's when the shooting started," Parrish said.

Parrish said McClendon did not know if the men had AIDS.

"He certainly had a concern that in addition to getting raped he could be infected with the HIV virus," Parrish said Thursday.

Tyler Fletcher, chairperson of the criminal justice department at the University of Southern Mississippi, said using AIDS in the defense argument may be

enough to sway a jury.

"If the jury looks at a young man trying to protect himself from the onslaught of a deadly disease, who knows what they might think?" he said. "The thing that makes it difficult to deal with is the social implication. (Parrish's) job is to take advantage of any fears."

Attorney General Janet Reno has been asked twice to intervene, most recently after the judge ordered the AIDS tests. A Justice Department spokesperson said Reno has not decided whether she has jurisdiction.

Parrish said gay groups' clamoring for justice landed his client in "one of the filthiest jails in Mississippi."

"As far as I'm concerned the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is no better than the Ku Klux Klan. They act just like a lynch mob," Parrish said. "I'm not going to sit around and let a bunch of gays and lesbians lynch a 16-year-old black boy. They can go pick on somebody else's carcass."

Beth Barrett, spokesperson for the Washington-based National Gay and Lesbian Task Force which is one of the groups calling for Justice Department intervention, said Parrish is using "despicable" tactics.

Arkansas court: same-sex partnership assets may be divided

By ROSANNE PAGANO
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

ANCHORAGE, Wednesday, Dec. 7 (AP)—A Superior Court judge faced with dividing the assets of a lesbian couple must adhere to state law governing certain heterosexual unions.

"This is a useful precedent," said Anchorage lawyer Alison Mendel, who handled the state Supreme Court appeal for one of the women, who claimed a Palmer judge made a mistake in dividing up the couple's real estate and interest in an Arabian horse-breeding business.

The couple's sexual orientation was not a factor in the trial court's ruling or in the Supreme Court review, announced Friday.

Mendel, who is active in civil rights issues, said the Palmer case was the first time the justices had applied Alaska's domestic partnership laws to same-sex unions.

"The Supreme Court said we have to do what's fair," Mendel said, adding that simi-

lar rulings involving same-sex couples had been entered in other states. The appeal dealt only with technical issues over how the couple's property should be divided.

Writing for a unanimous court, Justice Warren W. Matthews said the dispute goes back to 1985 when the two women, identified in the opinion by their initials only, began a relationship that broke up in 1991.

Confidentiality generally is reserved for juvenile cases, and the court routinely identifies parties in marital property disputes. But Mendel, who represented appellant D.M., said she wanted to conceal the names to protect the women from reprisals at work or elsewhere.

The Supreme Court opinion also referred to a "history of domestic violence" including an episode that occurred two days before D.A., the appellee, signed a property division agreement in April 1991.

HOUSTON VOICE CONNECT LINE HOT PERSONALS

MAVERICK, 24 yrs. old. Wants to meet GM between 20-30 years old. Into clubbing, partying and sex. You will not be disappointed. Mail Box 1198

MICHAEL, 23 year old slender blond hair, brown eyes. Recent U of H grad, classical musician who likes reading, music, clubbing, staying at home. Looking for friendship and possibly more. Mail Box 1199

CHRIS, 5'11" 150 lbs. brown hair/eyes. Looking for older brother type between ages of 37 - 45 to give me the discipline I need. I want to get spanked, paddled and humiliated. Mail Box 1223

GERIK, goodlooking GWM, 5'8", 153 lbs, excellent shape, athletic build, smooth body. Looking for masculine, well endowed man under 35. Mail Box 1284

LEE. 30 years old straight acting/looking; I look 25 years old. Live in Galveston area. I have dark hair/eyes, and like working out lifting weights and biking. Looking to meet 22-30 yr old W/HISP G/BI M who is sincere, and honest for friendship leading to relationship. Mail Box 1296

DOUG, lives in Houston area. 5'11", 175 lbs, 29" waist, 17" arms, very muscular. I work out a lot! You must also. Looking for muscular guys for a good time. I like to wrestle! Mail Box 1291

MICHAEL, 6', 180 lbs, brown hair, hazel eyes, tan. Looking to meet people all over the country. I live in Texas. Want friendship plus more. Mail Box 1303

Let me rub your feet! **RAY**, 6'1 1/2", live in Houston, 195 lbs, good shape, clean shaven, hairy chest. I love feet! Total discretion, no reciprocation required. Mail Box 1313

BRIAN, 30 years old, live in Houston. 5'10", short dark blond hair, 165 lbs, blue eyes, moderately hairy, 33" waist. Looking to meet friendly guys for discreet fun and friendship. Mail Box 1351

RICHARD, older guy looking to meet younger men for discreet, safe fun. You must be young, slim and smooth. Mail Box 1377

PAUL, successful businessman looking for right guy for worldwide travel. You must be 18-24, attractive, versatile. I am a wild, older guy (39) and will compensate you accordingly. Mail Box 1378/1387

MATTHEW, 5'10", 155 lbs, brown hair, green eyes. I like movies, clubbing and working out. Mail Box 1389

CHARLES, lives in Houston. 45 years old, good shape, 5'10", 160 lbs, brown hair and eyes. I am bottom who likes to experiment. Mail Box 1504

JOSE, 5'7", brown eyes, black hair. Looking to meet white guys. I like to cuddle. Mail Box 1523

GM, black hair, black eyes, looking to meet new friends. Mail Box 1639

JOHN, new to Houston, 5'11", brown hair, blue eyes, looking for real men. I am a former college football player. Mail Box 1678

JIM, 45 years old, looking for younger friends for companionship. Mail Box 1719

GENE, GBM, 6'2", 225 pounds, in good shape with hairy balls and dick. Looking for someone under 35 for good times. Mail Box 1746

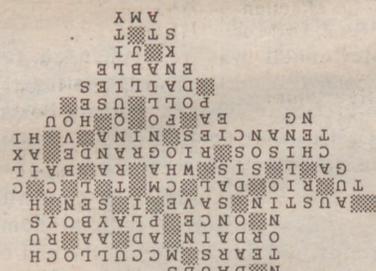
LITTLE SAM, 5'10", 145 lbs, short blond hair, moustach, hairy, 7" uncut dick. I'm into hot sex and leather. Mail Box 1787

ANDY, New to Houston. 25 year old highly educated Asian. New to scene, looking for a teacher. Mail Box 1819

FRANK, 26 years old, new to Houston. 6'3", 185 lbs, blond hair, blue eyes, hairy chest and legs. Mail Box 1829

MARK, 23 years old, 6', 185 lbs, muscular, brown hair and eyes. Into safe hot sex. Mail Box 1864

To respond to a Houston Voice Hot Personal, you must join the Houston Voice Connect Line. To get in touch with any of the members above, enter the talking personals menu and follow the directions. If the personal is not on the system, you may still respond by going into option 7 from the system services menu (leave a message for a member). It is only 10¢ per minute (plus any normal toll) and your first 30 minutes are free! To join see our Connect Line ad on page 16.



The Texas Puzzle solution

Initiated names: W.H. Auden, San Antonio, Newt Gingrich, Lyndon Baines Johnson

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Houston Gay Personals

WANTED:

part-time houseboy/servant who knows how to be of service. Master is 44, 5'9", 180lbs, demanding, lives in Montrose. Ad 25134

ROMANTIC

Professional, adventurous, very attractive, fun, very masculine, in very good shape, 5'10", young 39, 180#, very dark hair and blue eyes, interested in a relationship with another man of quality and serious about a relationship. Stable and secure, monogamous, with a good direction in life and appreciation for all it has to offer including love that endures. Ad 25670

NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

Mature, professional, very hairy body/hairy chest, Edwardian beard, (sign of Cancer). You, mentally mature, non-smoker, into safe fun. Please respond to Ad 25916.

SEEKING YOUNG MAN

If you are an affectionate young GAM, GWM or GHM, boyish looking, slender and smooth this appreciative older GWM business executive wants to meet you - object safe and discreet play. I want to please you. Ad 25635.

WELL ENDOWED, HEALTHY, MASCULINE CUTE GWM

outgoing, DDF/NS wants to meet other(s) the same for friendship and safe fun. If you are well-endowed, masculine, attractive, under 45 years of age, weight in proportion height, outgoing, not into S & M, DDF/NS, and want to meet the same respond to Ad 25749.

WELL DEVELOPED BODY/MIND PETITE FEMME

GWF, early 20's, 5'1", 108lbs, long brown hair, athletic but fluffy, intelligent, beautiful, sensitive, warm and romantic. Seeking only those butch women who are intelligent, charming, humorous, protective and emotionally expressive and open. I love to share but you have to be special. Safe too! Gallant, charming dykes preferred. Ad 25675

LOOKING FOR MEN OF COLOR

Great-looking, muscular, sexy GWM, 30, 6 ft. tall, 185lbs., smooth body seeking hot, safe fun with Black, Hispanic or Asian men (21-40). No relationships wanted. Action and pleasure expected. You won't be disappointed! Ad 25531.

WANTED! HOT TOP!

Who is healthy, vers., hairy, well endowed, over 30 for safe fun; tit action & blindfold. I'm a WM, 5'10", 180#, 41, Galleria Area. New to Houston. 3 comes A+. Ad 25797

PREFER OLDER MEN?

If you are young, slender and healthy, free of drugs and alcohol and would enjoy gay fun times including full body rubs with a sincere professional I want to meet you. Call Joe at (713) 318-7188 (Pager)

HELIUM HEELS???

If you are a bottom who enjoys his "legs in the air", contact this 38 year old, blue-eyed, clean cut, endowed safe top who visits Texas from Atlanta. Ad 25676

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUD-DIES

I'm 43, married, 5'10, 160lbs., average looks, DDF, clean, no drugs, married-top-cut-discreet. Ad 25598

LOOKING FOR FRIEND IN WEST HOUSTON

GWM, 44, 5'5", 175lbs, DDF, looking for friends in West Houston/Bear Creek area. Professional, stable guy looking for other professionals. 30's to 40's, also DDF for friendship, fun, possible relationship. I like animals, cooking, movies and quiet evenings at home. Smoker, light drinker not into heavy bar scene. If interested in a short hairy guy please respond to Ad 25671.

LOOKING FOR DADDY

GWM bottom, son, 28, 5'10", 165lbs., bl/grn, clean shaven, smooth, looking for dominate men or a group of men who are over 40 for fun only. Hairy and burly are a plus. I am into B/D, leather, verbal abuse and more. Ad 25683

ATTENTION - NUDIST

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

Looking for friendship/companionship and possibly more. I am a WM, 51, DDF, non-smoker, professionally employed, a "stay-at-home" person. Average looking, tall and slim, recently divorced. I like quiet evenings, enjoy cooking, gardening, the beach and the outdoors. If interested respond to Ad 25674.

WARN HEARTED, CONSERVATIVE, DDF/NS GWM

BR/br, slim, smooth, articulate, thoughtful, professional. Enjoy jazz, classical, techno, the outdoors, honest conversation and intimate evenings snuggling between the sheets. Interested in warm and caring, GM, DDF/NS, W/PH, 30's to 40's, ready to begin anew. Please respond to Ad 25745.

I'M LOOKING FOR BOTTOMS, ALL KINDS

Like to submit, be passive? Like to service? Like following instructions? Like B & D? Naughty boy lately? Just want fun times with an aggressive hot top? Your choice? If GM, 25-45, fit, clean, healthy, easy going, bright, nice guy, then I am waiting for your call. Ad 25653

MARRIED MEN

Spend quality time day or night w/semi-retired GWM in Houston. Ad 25328

Jose, 5'8", hazel eyes, black hair, looking to meet a Hispanic or WM for possible relationship and having a good time. Ad 25679

WHITE MALE, DDF, 24, 5'9", 270LBS

I have a desire to have a safe experience being with another man for the first time with a straight acting male, DDF, (21-35) for my first experience. You must be a nice clean-cut person with a good heart. Will answer all! Hope to hear from you. Ad 25677

SETTLED PROFESSIONAL, 52 Y.O.

GWM, 6', moustache, Blond/Gray, Green, 175lbs, HIV+, caring, shy but good listener. Far N.W. Houston. Interested in meeting settled, healthy men over 30. Prefer NS, no drugs. Personality more important than looks. Enjoy all music, dancing, old movies, staying fit, travel and quiet evenings at home with you. Ad 25678

THE COWBOY WAY

WM, 28, passive, adventurous, boy/slave looking for a masculine cowboy Daddy who competes in rodeos. Looking for bull riders, steer wrestlers, bare back bronc riders, calf and steer ropers. Ad 25668

HAIRY DADDY SEEKS BOY

Boy should be 21-40, weight proportionate to height, open-minded. Daddy is 49, 5'9", 180, bearded. Let's discuss possibilities. Photo exchange will be required eventually. Ad 25673

READY, WILLING & ABLE

GWM, 37, 175, brown/blue, healthy, happy, professionally employed, stable and fun. I enjoy nautilus, travel, snow skiing and more. I'm comfortable to be around and relationship oriented. Am looking for a GWM who is 30s to 40s, professionally employed, in good shape, smart, funny, charming, single and relationship oriented. If that's you, why not get in touch with me today. You may make a new friend, maybe a lot more! Ad 25680

LESBIAN GWF COUPLE, MID 30'S

Looking for a single person or couple for friendship, no sex, going to movies and evenings on the town. Ad 25641

SEEKING A QUALITY SINCERE SPECIAL PERSON

GWM, 39, attractive, DDF, NS, br/hazel, masculine bottom seeks attractive, DDF, endowed aggressive top for dating and/or possible relationship. Prefer a relationship oriented person. Weight prop. not as important as personality (prefer age 35-50) beard or moustache desired but not mandatory). Call John between 6:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m. weekdays, 10:00 a.m. till??? weekends or leave message with phone number to call you back. (713) 868-1932.) Please! No games, no bullsh.. or otherwise just your sincere interest.

Bi-senior, close to 70. Still capable and active, would like to meet other old guys. Any description, for fun. Not looking for any special relationship. No objection to younger men who have no objection to older men. Ad 25667

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

LOOKING FOR NO BANKERS HOURS

Me: GWM, 37, 6'2", 180lbs, br/br. Work from 3:00 p.m. till midnight and looking for somebody with similar work hours, hospitality, business for monogamous relationship. Ad 25662

To advertise call Houston local number (713) 529-8490 Mon.-Fri. 9-5.

To respond to an advertiser and to hear his actual voice describing himself and the people he would like to meet, call 24 hours 1-900-454-3576. (\$1.49/min. on your phone bill. You must be 18+.) OR you can call (713) 529-8490 Mon.-Fri. 9-5 for more information or to establish a pre-paid toll-free answering account.

QUEER WHITE BOY

GWM, 39, 5'11", 160lbs., wants to meet straight acting GW/HM liberal Democrat for companionship and maybe more. I'm blue collar, very straight acting, laid back, lean, muscular, fearless. I enjoy the outdoors, animals, drinking beer, rock and roll, quality smokes, partying with friends, occasional bar hopping and quiet evenings at home. Ad 25651

TRUST THIS BOTTOM

Me-late 30's, good body, masculine, hairy, bearded, seeks men for fun times & friendship. You-30's to 50's-top. Facial hair &/or large tool a plus. Also like movies, music, working out, travel, good food & good conversation. A great time will be had by all! Ad 4070

DO YOU KNOW WHAT LOVE IS?

Caring, sharing, a best friend, no games. Honesty. I know you're out there. I'm a GBM, 41, w/h proportionate, affectionate and honest. HIV+, but healthy. Interested in guys who "know what love is" and looking in all the wrong places. How about a quite evening at home!!! Ad 25758

White male has a good home in Orange for same who is homeless and would like to relocate. No drugs, no gimmicks. Will help pay traveling expenses. Only serious minded call collect after 3:00 p.m. (409) 883-2206.

SEARCHING FOR A YOUNGER SELF

Good looking, handsome, GWM, 6', 185, professional, br/br, healthy, happy, enjoying a rich full life, theater, ballet, opera, classical music, art, antiques, old movies, and candle light dinners. Lacking only a special discreet someone in their 30's to early 40's, intelligent, romantic, clean cut, good looking, handsome, fun loving, and drug free, sincerely looking for a long term monogamous relationship. Ad 25699

LOOKING FOR LIKE/PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

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

MR. RIGHT?

I am looking for you. Do you like hiking and camping in national parks? Do you like College/Pro sports? Bicycling, tennis, movies, shorts, t-shirts, C & W music, and quiet evenings at home? I am a healthy GWM Democrat, 39 yrs., 6' and 170lbs. I am looking for an honest, monogamous relationship. Are you? Ad 25636

TO: WADE -FROM: RALPH

Wade, I have been trying to reach you the best way I know how. I lost your number during my move to Allen House Apts. from my mothers in the first week of August 1994. If you would like to call me please do so at (713) 522-5561. I'm 6'1", black male, 150 lbs. I was at your Christmas party in 1992 before I moved to Austin. Ad 25681

FOR \$24.95 PER YEAR YOU CAN HAVE AN AD IN THIS SECTION

To establish your own advertisement in the Houston Gay Personals call (713) 529-8490 (or if outside Houston (800) 729-8490) or come by our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105. Please have your ad written out. You will be given a box number as soon as we receive payment along with all instructions. Happy love making!

All ads in this category should be strictly individual to individual. No commercial offerings. Nothing for sale. No promotions.

NO GAMES, NO PAIN, NO EX'S!

Me: GWF, soft butch, small build, musician, nurturing, strong, independent, patient, witty, loves intimacy, N/S. You: Feminine, preferably fluff, sorta shy, patient, intimate. Absolutely no reboonds or emotional baggage. Ad 25553.

REAL MAN PROBLEM

No one qualifies, could you be it? Me GWM, 30, masculine, 160, 5'10". Would like to meet 20 to 40's young at heart, outgoing, funny, masculine, large endowment, honest, hwp. Looking for fun or relationship. Also must be good looking. Ad. 25640

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President of Mississippi gay group says she was snubbed by governor's aides

JACKSON, Miss., Monday, Dec. 5 (AP)—The president of a Gulf Coast gay group said she was snubbed Monday by Gov. Kirk Fordice aides.

April Richards of Ocean Springs, president of GL Friendly, said she had scheduled a morning meeting with Fordice chief of staff Mark Garriga and staff lawyer Greg Hinkebein.

Richards said she was told the meeting was cancelled after driving to the capital city.

"I'll probably cry when I get over being angry," she said. "We (gay activists) were ignored again."

Richards wanted to talk with state leaders about the murders of two gay

men in Jones County. She is protesting the use of AIDS virus tests in the investigation of the slayings of Robert Walters and Joseph Shoemaker.

"We had to cancel the meeting this morning because Henkebein got called out of the office," Fordice spokesperson John Arledge said, adding that he was "miffed" by Richards' complaints.

"I think this probably has a little more to do with their particular agenda than the criminal investigation in Jones County," Arledge said.

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Amilcar (713) 521-1506 Pager (713) 762-6645

TOM, 25, BL/BL, 6'2", IN/OUT, (713) 521-7007 HM, (713) 648-5567 PGR

JOE, HOT ITALIAN, I DELIVER! 24 HOURS (713) 531-5391 - Pager (713) 264-6609

Best of both worlds. Awesome, hot Latin transsexual 36C-24-36. Clean, very discreet. (713) 529-6937 Angie.

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Studies show good results from new combination therapies and protease inhibitors

AIDS Treatment News

By BILL PASTEUR, M.D. AND PAUL M. CASILLAS

More on AZT/3TC

Last week we reported data from studies presented at the 2nd International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection held in Glasgow, Scotland from 9/18-9/22. Of particular interest were the results of two clinical trials of AZT/3TC combination therapy which showed pronounced increases of T4 cell counts and decrease of viral load. These changes were noted to be the strongest and longest lasting of any combination therapy studied to date (T cell count of 49 above baseline and significant decrease in viral load at 1 year). This response was seen even in patients who had previously been on AZT for at least 6 months.

The reason for the synergistic action of the AZT/3TC combination was discussed. Laboratory studies of the virus from patients in the above studies show that resistance to AZT develops at a much slower rate when on the combination. The studies suggest that 3TC somehow blocks the important viral mutation that confers resistance to AZT. Similarly a study from the University of Rome showed that addition of saquinavir (Roche protease inhibitor) to AZT had the same effect of delaying emergence of AZT resistance. This effect was still seen at 12 months.

New Protease Inhibitor from Abbott

Sven Danner from Amsterdam presented preliminary results of a new protease inhibitor, ABT-538. After the initial four weeks of treatment with this oral drug T4 increases of 74 to 150 were seen. There were reductions of p24 antigen of 80 to 90%. At that point placebo patients were reassigned to the drug and all patients followed for a total of 12 weeks.

At 12 weeks T4 counts increased by average of 300 to 400 and some increased as much as 600. 100% decreases in p24 antigen were sustained. Viral load, as measured by branched DNA assay, dropped by as much as 2.75 logs.

Other protease inhibitors currently being studied are Merk's L-735-524 and Roche's Saquinavir. The Abbott drug has shown the strongest

effect so far (roughly twice as strong as the Merk drug which up until now was leading the pack). This is great news but the question remains: how long will the antiviral effect last, and when will viral resistance emerge?

Triple Combination: AZT/DDI/Nevirapine

Margaret Fischl, University of Miami, reported the first results from ACTG 241, a trial of therapy with the above combination. In this study the triple drug therapy was compared to AZT/DDI combination. After 10 months T4s went up by 40% in the 3 drug group and 25% in the 2 drug group. These numbers were not statistically significant.

Survey Reveals Lack of Information

A nation wide survey called "Living with AIDS in the 90's" was recently conducted among organizations that offer services to people with AIDS. The survey was conducted at the National Skills Building Conference which was cosponsored by the National Association of People with AIDS, the National Minority AIDS Council, and the AIDS National Interfaith Network.

Among the 423 surveyed there was a large percentage who were of the opinion that the people they serve need better understanding of the following issues: understanding and management of OIs (opportunistic infections), therapeutic treatment options, what to expect at each stage of disease, when to seek treatment for various symptoms experienced, nutrition, prevention of OIs, how to obtain health care services and how to obtain support services such as counseling.

Challenges faced by AIDS service organizations, according to the respondents, include: lack of funding, patient denial of disease and unwillingness of clientele to modify current behavior (e.g. adopt safe sex practices, living healthier lifestyles, etc.)

(Paul M. Casillas is a Houston-based medical issues writer who is also a volunteer for local AIDS organizations and a frequent participant in HIV-related research trials. Dr. Bill Pasteur is a researcher at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston).

Bowling leagues report standings

Sports Notes

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening League reported the following standings. First place team—Fish-N-Pole, second place—Beavers and Buttheads and third place—Bambi's Bandits. For the men high scratch game of 277 and series of 722 was bowled by Rodney Seller. For the women, Andrea Black bowled scratch game of 225 and series of 582. For league information call Tom at (713) 522-9612.

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports Division A standings in first, second and third place—4 Non Blondes, Punga Pirates and Mixed Nuts. Division B standings are 5 Easy Pieces, The Point After and Nellie by Choice. High scratch game of 257 was bowled by Rob Warren and series of 644 by Chris Bennett. For more information call Gardy at (713) 641-5424.

The Monday Nite Women's League: First place—Maybe, Maybe Not; second place, Lesbosados; third place—Balls Are Out and 4th—We Try Harder. For more information call Pat at (713) 437-6218.

The Houston Thursday Nite Mixers reports first place team is Download and Unzip, second place is Pat and Company and third place is #6, Yes It's Our Name. High scratch of 216 was bowled by Chris Bennett and series of 596 was bowled by Jody Dunivant for the men. For the women, Carol Clark bowled scratch of 205 and series of 518. For more information call Tom at (713) 522-9612.

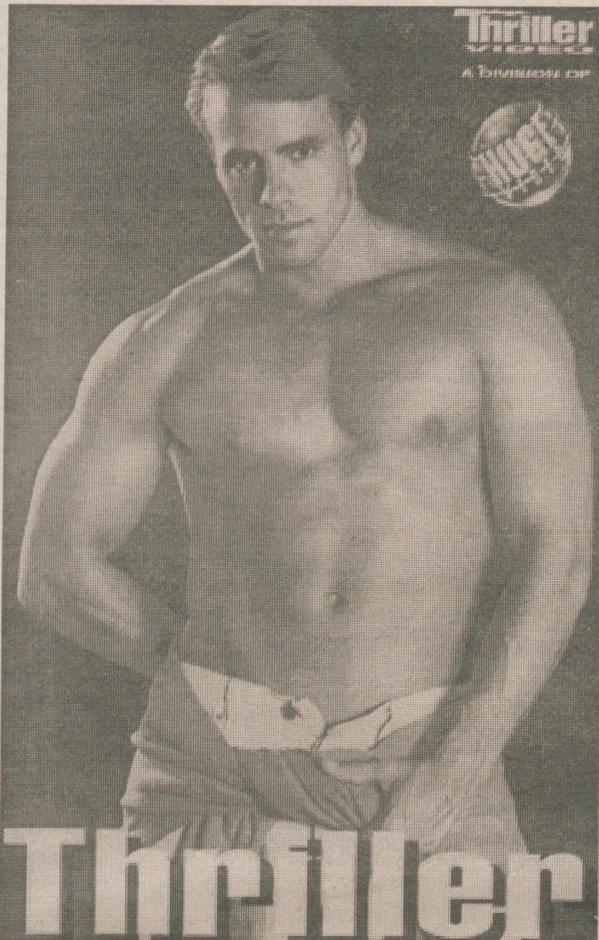
Candlelight No Tap Doubles This Saturday, Dec. 17 at 8:00 p.m. at Palace Lanes. Bring a partner or come single—registration begins at 7:30 with bowling at 8:00 p.m. Fee is \$11.00. For more information call Tom at (713) 522-9612.

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First, before you call, write out your ad. Use up to six (6) words in a bold headline and up to fifty (50) words in regular type. Call us at Houston (713) 529-8490 or Nationwide (800) 729-8490. After you've read your ad to us, and we prepare it to go to print, we will give you an 800 toll-free telephone number, your personal 5-digit ad number and your secret 4-digit personal identification number (PIN). Call the 800 number using a touch-tone phone and follow the verbal instructions to record, in your actual voice, your ad. (Somewhere in the verbal ad, say what city you live in.) Cost is \$24.95 for up to a year. We will mail you a bill. You can change your ad as often as desired during the year, but you must call us every four weeks to keep your ad running.

• **To PLACE a Personal Ad by Mail:**

Write out your ad using up to six (6) words in a bold headline and up to fifty (50) words in regular type. Then mail it with your check for \$24.95 to the Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006. Please enclose your name, mailing address and telephone number where you can be reached during the daytime. We will mail back to you an 800 toll-free number, your personal 5-digit ad number and your secret 4-digit personal identification number (PIN). Call the 800 number and follow the verbal instructions to record, in your actual voice, your ad. You can change both your voice and written ad as often as desired but you must phone or write us every four (4) weeks to keep your ads running.

• **To RESPOND to a Personal Ad by Phone:**

Call 1-900-454-3576. Listen to the verbal instructions. A charge of \$1.49 per minute will appear on your telephone bill. You can respond verbally, leaving your name and phone number, to as many personal advertisers as you wish. You can browse through all the personal advertisers until you hear someone that interests you. As the individual advertisers periodically check their incoming verbal mailboxes, they will retrieve your response. Call (713) 529-8490 (Houston) or (800) 729-8490 (Nationwide) for more information about this service or to obtain information about a pre-paid toll-free answering account. You must be 18+ to use this service.

• **To RESPOND to a Personal Ad by Mail:**

Place your written response inside a blank sealed envelope and write the 5-digit ad number on the envelope. Place this envelope along with \$2.00 inside another envelope and mail to the Houston Voice Personals, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006. Your response will be forwarded to the advertiser the same day received by first class mail. You may mail multiple responses in the same envelope, but enclose \$2.00 for each response mailed. Responses received without fees will not be forwarded nor returned. Call (713) 529-8490 in Houston or (800) 729-8490 Nationwide for information about this service or to obtain information about a toll-free answering account. You must be 18+ to use this service.

• **To RECEIVE Responses to Your Personal Ad:**

We will forward to you daily, unopened, at no charge, all responses received by mail. To see if you have any verbal messages waiting, call the 800 toll-free number we gave you when you placed your ad. If the recording says you have verbal responses waiting, have your 5-digit code and secret 4-digit PIN handy and call 1-900-454-3576 to retrieve your verbal messages. A charge of \$1.49 a minute will appear on your phone bill. Call (713) 529-8490 in Houston or (800) 729-8490 Nationwide for information about this service or to obtain information about a toll-free answering account. You must be 18+ to use this service.

• **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

To take advantage of this \$24.95-per-year offer, you are required to participate in the "live voice" aspect of our Personal Ads by calling the special 800 toll-free number you will receive when you place your ad. You must record, in your own voice, your personal ad. If you do not participate in this "live voice aspect" your ad may be discontinued after the first week without reimbursement. If you do not desire to participate, you may instead purchase a personal ad at the rate of 55¢ per word weekly. Additionally all ads, both in print and voice should not contain references to sexual acts or organs. All ads should be "positive", that is describing only those people or traits desired. People or traits not desired should not be listed.



GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE



HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 16 - 22, 1994



HOUSTON VOICE readers born this week share their birthday with Barbette (aka Vander Clyde) born in Round Rock, Texas in 1904. If you've seen Victor/Victoria and wondered what all the fuss was about when Julie Andrews, looking very much like Julie Andrews, would sing and dance in female attire and then—as the audience went berserk—remove her wig and reveal herself to be a man, still looking very much like Julie Andrews, it was Barbette whom she was supposed to be impersonating. For Barbette was the American female impersonator who was the toast of Paris in the late '20s, and the highlight of his act occurred when, at the end, after his trapeze gig, he removed his wig and showed himself to be a man. If he looked like Julie Andrews, it is doubtful that Jean Cocteau would have engaged Barbette for his most famous role—as a lady in a theater box in the

surrealist film, "Blood of a Poet".

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) The brightly colored Holiday lights add to your Christmas cheer and give to you a real sense happiness and feeling good about yourself. Add more decorations to your home and work station to further the excitement of this Holiday time. During the past year there were times when you doubted your worth and wondered if anyone really cared about you. Before another person is able to truly love you, you must love and accept yourself. Now is the season to do this. The planets are exactly in the right position.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) Saw you at the Community Tree Lighting celebration at Mary's last Sunday. You looked and smelled good in your leather jacket. Gaye and Cliff were impressed also. Saturn, your ruler in Astrology, will make you even more effective in your communication skills and involvement with Community activities. You are an extra talented person, and sometimes things do not turn out nearly as well when you delegate a project to another less knowledgeable or talented person. Sometimes you are the only person to pull a project off really successfully.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Jupiter rules your eleventh house and will be perfectly positioned to add to your social successes this Holiday time. The main error you will be tempted to make, is to not be out and about. No one is going to be discovering you, sitting alone in your room. You will need to chose your clothing more carefully to fit into the scene and project the type of image that will be noticed positively by the other person. Stop being so bland and nondescript in your style. Go for the hunk or honey you really want.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Mars will be influencing your marriage plans for the next two weeks and this may make for a bit of excitement, perhaps more than you have bargained for. One of the problems that you have had in the past, is setting your sights on too sedate and dull a type of a person. And then when you discovered whom you really wanted and needed, it was necessary to go out side of the relationship for needs to be met. Pay attention to Mars at this time, the warrior knows who is best for you.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Try not to live a great deal in your past, as the mistakes and bad judgment calls were not on purpose. Especially if you are single this Holiday season, watch for signs of depression and interest in doing things that are against your best interest, e.g. unsafe sexual acts. Spend time with friends who are outgoing and upbeat. Strongly consider having some other single friends in for dinner on Christmas Day.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Thanks for bringing some of your home made fudge to The VOICE office. I always enjoy putting good tasting things into my mouth. And while there are some new and unsettling events going on in your life, I strongly see eventual success and things working themselves out better than ever imagined. This is the important time to put your arms around your special person and offer encouragement to her/him.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Mercury is your sign ruler, and will stress cooperation and doing projects together. You have excellent skills in motivating people and getting major projects accomplished. From having a friend use their finger in tying knots on Christmas packages to major legal problems, you will do better this month with a team approach. A fault that you have is the over trusting of people. Their attention to detail and ability to plan for the future is much less than yours.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) The full moon on the 17th will cause an increase in energy levels and you will become even more restless than you often are. Try to channel this drive into valid projects, not just non productive make work events. You need to get going on a serious career direction. As you are not going to be a cute twenty-ish type of person for ever. You interest in skipping the bottom of a work ladder is not the way it is done. As Tad will tell you, everyone has to be a bottom sometime.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 22) Surround yourself with all of the festive lights and colors that you may. Your skin will look attractive with the light from the trees and garland on it. Try mailing a Christmas card to your old boyfriend/girl friend. As they will be surprised to hear from you, but happily so. Be upbeat, as if you were the recent winner of the Lottery. Consider baking some cookies for you neighbors, and you will be surprised as to how warmly your gifts of Holiday cheer will be accepted.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 23) Thanks for telephoning our Community's friends at the Kolbe House and the Pet Petrol to volunteer this Season. I had no idea so many Virgo's read this column. Uranus moves through your fifth house of romance during the next two weeks. Unfortunately the attractions will be ones of lust rather than true love. Will be nice to be able to date someone for the Holiday's even if it is likely to be only temporary. The clone look in clothing will work especially well for you this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) Continue to be cautious about your Holiday spending. Try to keep a written total of what is on your credit card at this time. You tend to run the balance up so quickly. When you pair off, try to find a person who is much more financially conservative than yourself. Begin to save up for the world premiere of the Houston Grand Opera's production of "Harvey Milk". Tickets are now available and the opera will be a world class event. This is a must see.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) Watch your Holiday impulsive spending habits, as with your Libra friend above. The recipes in this week's issue of THE VOICE are worth while adding to your collection. If you are unable to get a woman/man with these recipes, something is really wrong. Be sure to get the Christmas greeting cards off on time, especially to distant friends who are anxious to hear from you. You are going to be noticed by a special person during the next week while you are out and about. Be ready to be seriously cruised and quickly decide if you are going to follow it up.

TELL 'EM YOU SAW IT IN THE HOUSTON VOICE

THE TEXAS PUZZLE

Includes Clues About Texas, Current Events & Standard Crossword Clues

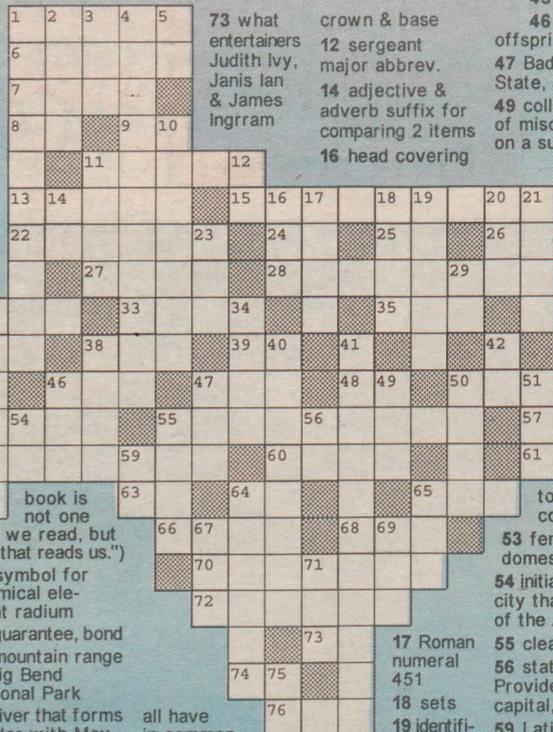
By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

- 1 slumbered
- 6 cars
- 7 state with Raleigh as capital, abbrev.
- 8 Last Frontier state, abbrev.
- 9 abbrev. for trademark
- 11 smears
- 13 splits, rips

- 15 county at the geographical center of Texas
- 22 admit to the clergy
- 24 commercial in this newspaper
- 25 Associate in Arts, abbrev.
- 26 symbol for metallic element ruthenium, used to harden platinum for jewelry
- 27 one time only
- 28 Bob Wills' band was the Texas ????????
- 30 Texas city with America's largest urban bat colony
- 33 rescue
- 35 Japanese money, 1/100 of a yen
- 36 2nd day of the workweek, abbrev.
- 37 Spanish for river
- 38 airport designator for Dallas' Love Field
- 39 Roman numeral for 900
- 44 Peach State, abbrev.
- 46 female kin
- 47 English-born American author Auden, initials ("A real

- 73 what entertainers Judith Ivy, Janis Ian & James Ingram
- 12 sergeant major abbrev.
- 14 adjective & adverb suffix for comparing 2 items
- 16 head covering
- 48 symbol for chemical element radium
- 50 guarantee, bond
- 52 mountain range in Big Bend National Park
- 55 river that forms border with Mexico, 2 words
- 57 dismiss
- 58 possessions of lands
- 60 Columbus ship
- 61 a greeting
- 62 Ga. GOP congressman Gingrich, initials
- 63 every individual one, abbrev.
- 64 field officer, abbrev.
- 65 airport designator for Houston's Hobby
- 66 in 1966 this Texas tax was abolished
- 68 application
- 70 daily newspapers
- 72 to supply with the means to do something



all have in common

74 abbrev. for saint

76 Jimmy Carter's daughter

DOWN

- 1 Roosevelt organized the famous Rough Riders here, 2 words
- 2 chance, fortune
- 3 acronym for approximate time of reaching a destination
- 4 at the tip of Mustang Island, once known as Ropesville, 2 words
- 5 a lot of the 20th letter of the alphabet
- 10 harmonious
- 11 pedestal section between

- crown & base
- 12 sergeant major abbrev.
- 14 adjective & adverb suffix for comparing 2 items
- 16 head covering

- calcium
- 43 Roman numeral 161
- 45 perform
- 46 male offspring
- 47 Badger State, abbrev.
- 49 collection of misc. info on a subject

- 50 UT-Austin's longhorn mascot's name
- 51 airport designator for Houston's Intercontinental
- 53 female domestic fowl
- 54 initials of Texas city that is home of the Alamo
- 55 clear a crop
- 56 state with Providence as capital, abbrev.
- 59 Latin for 'that is,' abbrev.
- 64 sides of something
- 65 he is, contraction
- 67 solemn lyric poem
- 69 perceive by eyesight
- 71 36th U.S. president, following Kennedy, initials ("If we are to live together in peace, we must come to know each other better.")
- 75 symbol for very hard, metallic element tantalum, used for light bulb filaments

- 17 Roman numeral 451
- 18 sets
- 19 identification slip
- 20 weep
- 21 make quiet
- 23 Silver State, abbrev.
- 29 over
- 30 8th month of the year, abbrev.
- 31 senior, abbrev.
- 32 the laying of tiles
- 34 repetition of a sound wave
- 38 another spelling of disk
- 40 forerunner of Mobil which arose from Spindletop oil discovery
- 41 "sea" where Apollo 11 landed
- 42 symbol for chemical element

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Support the BERING CARE CENTER

RECIPES BY THE KUNTRY KIDD

SUMMER SAUSAGE

- 2 lbs. very lean ground beef
- 1 cup water
- 2 tbsp. tender quick salt
- 1/2 to 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. onion powder
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. liquid smoke

Mix well
Make 3 to 4 rolls and wrap each roll tightly in saran wrap.
Put in refrigerator for 24 hours. Unwrap, place on cookie sheet. Bake at 300 degrees for 55 minutes for 4 rolls. If you make 3 rolls bake at 300 degrees for 1 hour and 5 minutes.
Cool. Wrap in saran wrap and leave in refrigerator for 24 more hours.
When you are ready to eat the sausage, it will look reddish in color, but that's okay, it is cooked. When you take it out of the frig to cook, it will look a little slimy, but it's okay too, it's from the salt.

Try the recipe, I thing you will be surprised how good it is.

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD

