

August 1988
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Gaypulse

El Paso

Free

The Voice of El Paso's
Gay/Lesbian Community

OUR HISTORY And Lots of Sequins

by A. Nolder Gay

The line grew, stretching off the wooden ramp, down the sidewalk, past the end of the building, until it jumped past the firehouse and doubled back along the adjacent street. Babies in strollers were there, and retirees; schoolchildren and college students; couples and singles, gay and non-gay; women and men of all colors together. There were people remembering someone who had died of AIDS, people living with AIDS (including some brought by ambulance), people coping with the epidemic. Most, it seemed, were ordinary people, not necessarily personally touched by AIDS, but drawn out of decency, curiosity, and concern.

Every gay writer in the twenty cities through which the AIDS Memorial Quilt will pass must be struggling to find the right words through which to express the phenomenon. Words are not what the quilt is about, but words are all I have. As I was staffing the entrance to the old Columbus Avenue armory (now the Park Plaza Castle) on Friday afternoon, I heard one woman, evidently a reporter, say to another, "First I'm going to cry my eyes out. Then I'm going to write my story." Here's my story, a thing of scraps and pieces, like an uncomplete panel for the quilt.

I am not one of those talented and dedicated people who brought this off. I can barely sew on a button, let alone design and produce a panel. I did send in some money and asked for fliers to distribute, so I was notified of volunteer training sessions and signed up for one of them. I thus became one unit in the small army of six hundred or more Bostonians whose legs, arms, voices, and hearts were enlisted as volunteers. We were the foot soldiers of this gentle revolution.

Since I had answered project office phones for seven continuous hours on Thursday I did not see the exhibit being set up. On Friday morning, then, I went in a couple of hours before my five-hour stint as a greeter began, in order to spend some quiet personal time with it. Spread all over the drill floor, draped against the walls, suspended from the ceiling in double ranks were the names. Only a quarter of the panels could be displayed, but in that great space they appeared to me like the banners of fallen knights, hanging gloriously in a medieval hall.

Then, of course, one centered on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Gay Republicans Needed for Republican Convention August 15-18

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Gay Republicans who live in, or plan to be in, New Orleans for the National Republican Convention are being sought by the national gay Republican organization.

United Republicans for Equality and Privacy, known as UREP, is looking for individuals to assist them in planning activities during the convention in this southern city.

UREP serves as a link between the gay community and the Republican Party in several states with local gay Republican clubs in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, the District of

Columbia, Dallas, Chicago, Baltimore and Orange County (Calif.). Clubs are currently being formed in Madison Wisconsin and Phoenix, Arizona. UREP leaders are hopeful they can start a group in New Orleans as well.

UREP Board of Directors Peter Thompson of Chicago and Barry Adams from New York will need assistance in setting up a press conference, reception and other activities in New Orleans.

Please contact: Barry Adams, P.O. Box 172, White Plains, New York, 10605.

United Airlines to Provide Special Discounts on Flights to Washington, D.C. for NAMES Project's Quilt Display

SAN FRANCISCO -- Visitors and participants traveling to Washington in October to view the return of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, can take advantage of United Airlines' special discount air fares.

Discounts range from 5% off applicable fares from First Class to Ultrasavers, to 35% off full-coach fares. Discounts will be applied to the best available fare, subject to restrictions and exact fare is guaranteed when ticket is issued. Full MILEAGE PLUS credit is awarded on all discounted fares.

To arrange for these special discounted tickets, interested parties simply need to:

- 1) Call the United Airlines Convention Desk at 1-800-521-4041, 8am - 11pm EST.
- 2) Give The NAMES Project account number: 8664N.

Discounts are available only on

United flights within the United States. Seats may be limited, so call early for best availability. Reservations can also be made through a local travel agent, but requests need to be made through United's Convention Desk for discounts to be applied.

800 Number Available for Hotel
Information and Reservations

A toll-free phone number has also been set up to help visitors find hotel accommodations for the weekend. The number is 1-800-554-2220. Reservations can be made at this same number with a major credit card.

The NAMES Project National Office will benefit each time air or hotel reservations are made through these toll free numbers.

NAMES Project Calls for March on Washington

Candlelight March to
Follow Unfolding of AIDS
Memorial Quilt

SAN FRANCISCO -- The NAMES Project Foundation has announced plans for a massive candlelight march in Washington, DC on Saturday, October 8, 1988 following the display of the NAMES Project Quilt on the Capitol Mall. At dusk, thousands of mourners will light candles and move slowly from the Mall to the Lincoln Memorial. Leading the procession will be representatives from various parents' groups from around the country, there to express their concerns about AIDS and its impact on us all. Marching alongside those parents will be several government leaders who will participate in a brief ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial.

Other events planned for the weekend include concerts, films, conferences and the premier performance of a new play based on the stories behind the NAMES Quilt. This weekend of AIDS awareness and fundraising events marks the first anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights and the Inaugural Display of the NAMES Project Quilt.

Toll-Free Information Line Established

To encourage participation in the return to Washington, the NAMES Project has installed a toll-free telephone information line. "800-USA-NAME is now available for general information about the October 7-11 events", said General Manager Michael J. Smith, "We will also have toll-free lines for travel and housing information operating by August 1." Those wishing to be in Washington to view the Quilt and participate in related events are urged to plan now, as hotel accommodations are already being booked.

August 15th Panel Deadline

Those wishing to create memorial panels for inclusion in the October display may still do so. Panels **MUST** be received in San Francisco by August 15. Mail them to:
The NAMES Project
2362 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

Donations to defray costs of the weekend can also be sent to the above address.



OUR HISTORY (CONT.)

individual panels. Whether or not people were looking for particular names, there was a kind of reverent compulsion to pause in tribute before each panel. One needed time to study its design, to puzzle out what it meant for individual lives, to relate to the loving care of those who commemorate and celebrate in this way the life of some person worthy of love and remembrance.

A Donelan cartoon on one of the NAMES Project posters shows a gay man making a panel on his sewing machine, while another gay face with angel's wings whispers over his shoulder "And sequins...lots of sequins." There were indeed lots of sequins, lots of denim, lots of creel work, lots of color and life. There were chef's caps and teddy bears, college insignia and photographs, rainbows and stars. One man is commemorated, God bless him,

with a swirling green taffeta ball gown and a pair of black pumps. One panel reads "She Died in Prison; We Cannot Say Her Name." There is one "For My Brother," whose parents will not permit even his first name to be used. Boston AIDS Action created a striking panel showing a map of the state inscribed "We Will Remember Your Names."

I thought I could handle it. I knew only a few of those commemorated; I'd gone to their memorial services (plus a few others); I'd done my grieving. Or so I thought. Until I came to the panel for a beautiful, talented man I'd known who died on Memorial Day, 1987, at age thirty, two weeks after being diagnosed. Then it hit me like running into a brick wall, or like the sharp chest pain the Boston Marathon runner encounters on "Heartbreak Hill."

The organizers seemed to be everywhere at all times, and I cannot fathom how they did it. We volunteers, who mostly worked four or five hours at a stretch, were on enough of an emotional roller-coaster as it was. But we found we could put our own feelings aside most of the time as we helped someone find a particular panel, or talked quietly about the NAMES Project and what it meant with someone waiting in the line. I did much of my private grieving in the depths of the night, waking up around three A.M., thinking about what I'd seen on the previous day's stint, wondering where I was going to get the strength for the next one. Or dampening my pillow with healing tears over the beauty and love emanating from the quilt itself; or with tears of rage and frustration; or some nameless deep sorrow which comes when a human situation is unbearable, yet has to be borne.

During the last five hours of the exhibit, on Sunday afternoon, I roamed the floor of the Plaza Castle, walkie-talkie in hand, as the "quilt captain" for half the display. My job was to encourage, support, and relieve the wonderful, caring women and men who carried one of the roughest emotional burdens, monitoring a quilt section. I frequently joined them in handing out paper tissues and supportive hugs to those overcome with grief. Most of us volunteers had never met before, but we worked together in love, knowing that this experience would both teach us and transform us.

The quilt is not going to cure AIDS or end discrimination or change the world; we have to do that ourselves. But it is the single most effective educational device toward humanizing the effect of the epidemic that I have so far seen. In its very awesomeness, its beauty, and the collective human investment it represents, it teaches us a variant of Camus' famous dictum. That is, the task for our day, and through the sad times to come, is to love and to create, in the very midst of the desert. For what I learned as a NAMES Project volunteer is that love can overcome even the sharpness of death, can successfully challenge death's dominion. The quilt teaches that love is ultimately stronger than death itself, and we have to hold onto that.

Through this experience also I have been enabled to enter more deeply into the pain of younger gay men in their twenties and thirties, who have buried more of their friends in the last few years than their grandmothers have, who fear their own risks, who have lived more closely with AIDS than I ever will. The quilt experience has strengthened my belief that we never really lose those whom we have loved, that they are in some sense still there for us. Through the NAMES Project we not only come to know their names, but in some sense we are all able to be there for them still. At seven P.M. on Sunday night, as those of us still in the building joined hands around the quilt and observed a moment of reverent silence, we knew that we had to keep being there for them, and for all those living with AIDS, and for each other.

The reporter had the sequence wrong. First you write your story. Then you cry your eyes out.



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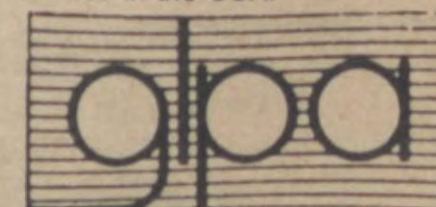
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TAKE YOUR VACATION AT THE NAMES PROJECT!

Preparing the Quilt for the Washington, D.C. display, October 8 & 9 will require the efforts of hundreds of volunteers over the next three months. The NAMES Project needs part-time and full-time volunteers in the San Francisco workshop now through October 1, 1988.

The Quilt's 20-city, 4-month national tour has resulted in the creation of over 4000 new panels. At its present rate of growth, the Quilt will exceed 10,000 names by the August 15th deadline for inclusion in Washington. The D.C. display could easily stretch from the Washington Monument to the steps of the capitol.

Tasks at the workshop include sewing Quilt panels together, answering phone inquiries, working with national media, planning events for the October 7-10 weekend in D.C., creating fabric walkways, producing flyers, posters, and leaflets about the events, arranging shipping and transportation, and communicating with NAMES Project chapters across the country.

The NAMES Project cannot be responsible for your transportation, housing or other costs, but can offer you the chance to be part of the NAMES Project and see San Francisco. (August and September promise S.F.'s best weather!). If you can offer any amount of time, please call Marcel Miranda, Office Manager at the NAMES Project, 415-863-5511.

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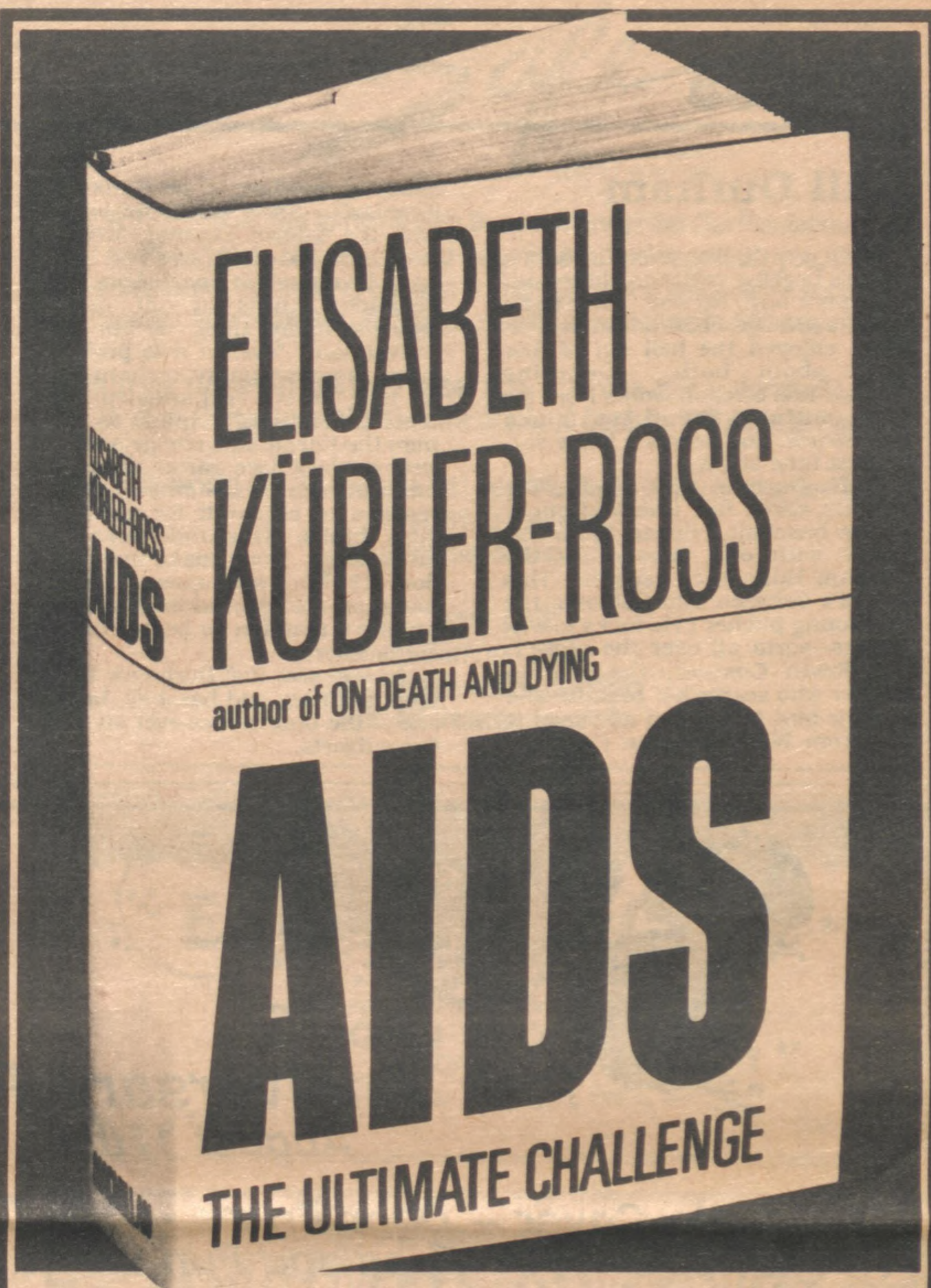
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Movies

by Steve Warren

Bull Durham

With a title like *Bull Durham* a movie's begging critics to chew it up and spit it out. No way. I don't give a shit about baseball or hetero sex, but I enjoyed the hell out of this movie about both. Debuting director Ron Shelton works from his own script, the best since *Moonstruck*, and scores a home run his first time at bat.

Bull Durham is loaded with insights about life, love and minor league baseball. Susan Sarandon sleeps with one member of the Durham Bulls each season. This year it's between Tim Robbins, the wild young pitcher ("He fucks like he pitches--sorta all over the place"), and Kevin Costner, the veteran catcher who scares her because she can't tie him to the bed and read to him from Walt Whitman ("A guy'll

listen to anything if he thinks it's foreplay"). She's got to be on top and she knows Costner, without being sexist about it, won't let her.

"I love macho male bonding," Sarandon quips in one of the movie's many jibes at its own conventions, "even if it is probably latent homosexuality rechanneled. As long as it's rechanneled, who cares?" Training Robbins as if he were the Karate Kid, she gets him to wear a black lace garter under his uniform. He jumps when Costner reaches to adjust it for him, but later thinks, "This underwear feels kinda sexy. Don't make me queer, does it? No, I ain't queer." Macho hangups are also addressed in an umpire's reaction to being called a cocksucker.

So you see, *Bull Durham's* about more than sex and baseball, but it's one of the best movies ever on those two subjects.

RED HEAT

Red Heat opens in a Soviet coed bathhouse, where men pump while women soak, and nobody touches each other. The men, including Arnold Schwarzenegger, wear little aprons that cover them in front but have only ties hanging down the cracks of their asses in back. Arnie beats the shit out of some guys there; but it's okay--he's a cop. Later his partner tells him he's lost the nickname "Iron Jaw" and is now known as "Round Head" instead: "Actually, I'm circumsized myself."

His Russian partner also predicts that as bad as the drug problem has gotten in the USSR in the last ten years, "In another ten years it'll be like Miami." Then his partner is killed and Arnie's sent to Chicago after the killer, who is over here arranging for drugs to be sent to the

Soviet Union. Amid a lot of political talk, both comic and serious, Jim and Arnie destroy most of the city in pursuit of their man, including shooting up a hospital to get a transvestite nurse who murders a witness.

Directed by Walter Hill, *Red Heat* is a well-paced action film. Schwarzenegger and Belushi are good individually, but haven't much chemistry as partners; I'm not eager for their almost inevitable reteaming in Moscow in *Red Heat II*. Actually, *Hot Neon* would have been a better title for conveying the attractive production design. James Horner's music combines American and Soviet idioms in interesting ways, and thanks to *glasnost* Russian threatens to replace Spanish as the movies' second language.



11th Anniversary Party! August 17th

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Books

Unbroken Ties: Lesbian Ex-Lovers

Carol S. Becker
Alyson Publications

Reviewed by Marcy Adelman, Ph.D.

A book has finally been written to help us understand what happens when lesbian lovers break up, how we recover from the wounds, and what we learn from these experiences. *Unbroken Ties* is Dr. Carol Becker's summary and analysis of her interviews with forty lesbians of different racial and socioeconomic backgrounds about the breakup of their partnerships. The book explores the diverse ways that women coped with the end of these relationships and the creative ways in which they rebuilt their lives.

Throughout *Unbroken Ties*, the women speak in their own voices about why their lover relationships ended, how they recovered from their breakups, and the process of building ex-lover relationships. In the first part of the book, the women tell us about their losses and disillusionments. I found myself reliving my own losses and was reminded of how hard we try to make our relationships succeed.

From the patterns that emerged in these interviews, Dr. Becker discerns five situations that lead to the breakups: polarized differences, traumatizing affairs, passive withdrawal by one partner, dissatisfaction with a chaotic relationship, and simply growing apart. Becker's comments on the issue of nonmonogamy are refreshing and insightful. She writes:

Affairs don't always destroy lover relationships; sometimes they are used to enhance them. The effect of affairs depends on many factors: the resiliency of the relationship; the intentions of each of the women; how traumatic the actual affair is to the couple's relationship; the extent to which the affair evokes old wounds. Affairs, then, are not automatically good or bad for relationships. They can be used to renew or sever the primary relationship. Irreparable trauma to a relationship is just one possible out-come within this complex matrix of issues and events.

Her description of dysfunctional, crisis-oriented relationships is clear-sighted and compassionate. Becker states,

By engaging in these dysfunctional relationships women make unconscious attempts to fix wounded aspects of themselves by fixing their lovers. Roles and problems polarize, and crises provide the illusion of movement and change. Current relationship dramas repeat the unseen and unhealed wounds of each partner's past life.

The second half of the book brings us to the healing process. The women begin the task of rebuilding their lives by refocusing on their needs and priorities. They discover a new appreciation of themselves and describe the rebuilding of their social relationships--with friends, children, family members, new lovers, and ex-lovers. These chapters will be welcome and helpful reading for any women in the process of recovering from a breakup.

The strength of *Unbroken Ties* is its focus on how we acquire greater empathy for our own needs and



strengthen our self-esteem by grieving our losses. Dr. Becker has written an empowering book about a painful topic. This ground breaking work will be immensely helpful to therapists with lesbian and gay clients and will be a comfort to women experiencing the breakup of a lover relationship.

Dr. Carol S. Becker was born and raised in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Mercy College of Detroit in 1964. She continued her graduate training in Clinical Psychology at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and completed her M.A. in 1968 and her Ph.D. in 1973. An offer of a tenured-track job in university teaching drew her to California where she has been teaching and doing psychotherapy since 1973.

Currently, Dr. Becker is a Professor of Human Development at California State University-Hayward. She has offices for the private practice of psychotherapy in San Francisco and Berkeley. *Unbroken Ties: Lesbian Ex-Lovers* is Dr. Becker's first book.

Gay Signs

J.E. Kneeland
Hay House, Inc.

With the recent media attention given to astrology, a renewed focus in this ancient science may be awakening. History tells us that world cultures utilized astrology to study and understand man's destiny and his role in the universe. From Imhotep to Plato and Socrates, from Ptolemy to Galileo and Copernicus, ancient rulers and respected astronomers studied astrology alongside astronomy. However, in time, political and religious sovereignties caused astrology to be reduced to an "occult" science--having no real inherent value. But in light of its recent attention, astrology's usefulness--as a tool to guide mankind--may reemerge as a positive expression in today's world.

Gay Signs, an astrological guide for homosexual men by J. E. Kneeland, is aimed at assisting gay men to understand and appreciate who they are, and affords them the opportunity to re-examine certain beliefs and attitudes they may have about themselves. Mr. Kneeland presents an affirmative direction on how to transform negative aspects into positive challenges so readers can move toward healthier and more fulfilling lifestyles.

The lesson of astrology is that every 'negative' has a positive, and the challenge for each individual's chart is to take what might appear to be problems and turn them to benefits....

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S. A. F. E. would like to thank Bob Bonaventure of the Old Plantation, our special guests Tasha Kohl and Naomi Sims, and especially you, the community, for making our first annual Black and White party such a success. Approximately 400 people attended and over \$1,500 was raised.

Due to the success of this fund raiser S. A. F. E. was able to donate \$1,000 to S. W. A. C. for the establishment of a food bank for PWAs in El Paso.

S. A. F. E. would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new board members to the team.
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any lesbian mother,
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—Mary Katherine Poulet, in *Sojourner*



This inspiring book takes a clearheaded and comprehensive look at the timely issue of lesbian motherhood. Considering such questions as alternative insemination, custody in divorce cases, and the feelings of children raised by lesbian mothers, *Rocking the Cradle* discusses both the problems and the rewards encountered by lesbians with children.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



Although common astrological forecasts found in daily newspapers spotlight Sun signs, *Gay Signs* stresses the significance of Rising signs in determining one's personality traits. One is more likely to get a better picture of

himself by reading the forecast listed for both his Rising sign and Sun sign.

In some ways, your Rising sign is even more important than your Sun sign...The placement of the Moon, Mercury, and Venus are extremely important, and in gay charts, some of the slow-moving planets, such as Uranus, Pluto, and Neptune, are critical...

Mr. Kneeland lists all Sun sign/Rising sign combinations for easy reference. His final objective, as once sought in earlier times, is to provide guidance in understanding the spiritual challenges of life.

As stated in the Foreword by author Louise L. Hay,

J.E. Kneeland has expressed here a great depth of astrological knowledge, and he shows a wonderful ability and style in sharing his understanding with us. Gay Signs is the first book to help the male homosexual of our culture to see a cosmic view of his life...

Leonard Matlovich Biography Portrays the Making of a Conservative Gay Activist

In September 1986, Leonard Matlovich, the controversial gay rights activist, learned he had AIDS. Despite his natural optimism, Matlovich sensed it was time to tell his story, and began collaborating with the writer Michael Hippler on his biography. The book was finished shortly before Leonard's death, and will be published in the spring of 1989 by Alyson Publications of Boston.

While Matlovich's image as a politically conservative gay man broke many preconceptions about gays and lesbians, Matlovich wanted to leave behind a deeper, lasting portrayal of both his life and beliefs. The resulting book is filled with Leonard's thoughtful reflections on his childhood, his break with the military, his role as a gay rights activist, and his battle against AIDS.

In the book, Hippler details Matlovich's five-year court case against the U.S. Air Force which began in 1975 when he was discharged for acknowledging his homosexuality. Matlovich's coming out was part of a plan to force the Air Force to change their policy of discharging gays and lesbians.

The book also records Matlovich's instantaneous gay celebrity that resulted from his appearance on the cover of *TIME*, and how it changed his life. While Leonard relished his leadership role, he was surprised by resentment among long-time activists, and by the criticism he received for accepting a financial settlement

from the Air Force in 1980. "Some people accused me of selling out when I took the money," Matlovich counters in his biography, "but I didn't see it that way. No, from my point of view it was a victory, for I showed that you can take on the military and win."

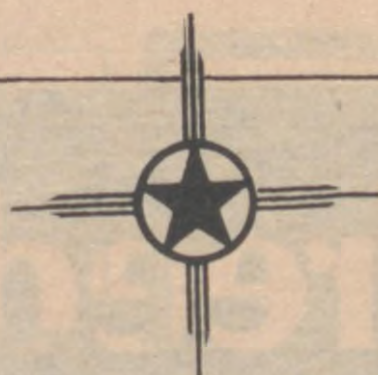
In an especially poignant part of the book, Leonard speaks movingly about his fight against AIDS and how it changed him. The political conservative became "radicalized in a conservative kind of way" by the Reagan Administration's mishandling of the AIDS crisis. Matlovich was arrested at the June 1987 civil disobedience protest in front of the White House.

"For a conservative Republican who has always believed in law and order," confesses Matlovich, "it was an incredible experience to break the law deliberately. But I would do it again and again, for I was always too much of a goody two-shoes before."

"Several years ago, well before he was diagnosed with AIDS," remembers Sasha Alyson, publisher of the Matlovich biography, "Leonard told me he was sorry that Harvey Milk had been cremated, because he thought it was important for future generations to have a physical grave site at which to remember Milk. By the time he died, Leonard had not only created a memorial for Harvey Milk, but he had also created one for himself with his tombstone and a biography through which people could remember what he stood for."



Leonard Matlovich (right) with Michael Hippler



SOUTHWEST AIDS COMMITTEE COMMUNITY UPDATE

Southwest AIDS Committee, Inc. has experienced a great deal of growth in the past year and we felt it was time to update you on our programs, policies, staffing, volunteers and our funding programs. We have been providing education and services to the El Paso Gay Community since 1984 and expect to continue to provide those services until there is no need for us. That time will come when there is a cure for AIDS!

Grants

Levi Strauss Foundation - \$36,000 - this grant provides education in english and spanish to the El Paso community. The public service announcements you have seen on TV are part of that grant. SAFE has provided us with additional funds to produce these for the movie theaters. Part of an additional grant from the Chicago Resource Center also paid for this production. The Levi grant also provides us with a paid educator.

Hightower Foundation - \$7,500 - provides us with an Administrative Assistant - \$1,800 - Women, Children and AIDS Workshop at UTEP School of Nursing.

AIDS Medicaid Waiver Seed Grant - \$20,000 - this particular grant from the state of New Mexico Department of Human Services provided us with funds to purchase our telephone system, office furniture, computer equipment and start up salaries for this important program. Under this program SWAC employs a Case Manager for PWAs in southern New Mexico.

New Mexico Department of Health and Environment - \$57,000 - under this grant, we hired a Hispanic educator for southern New Mexico and executed a number of projects including posters

and billboards. We also produced in spanish and english a 15 minute video production on AIDS in the Hispanic community.

Community Development Block Grant - \$10,000 - this is one of the most important fundings to date in that this is the FIRST time the city of El Paso has openly recognised the need for organizations such as SWAC. This grant will allow us to continue our assistance to diagnosed and newly diagnosed HIV positives and those with ARC and AIDS.

We do not compete with other El Paso organizations for funding. Much of our support comes in the form of private donations from concerned citizens like yourself and your friends. Most of our grants are specific and directed towards areas of the community where no one has had the foresight to attempt to reach. For instance, SWAC feels that there is a great need to better educate Gay men about Safer Sex and has written a large funding request to do a one year program to properly educate those that wish to be educated and have fun at the same time. We have also requested some \$700,000 to provide an alternative care facility for PWAs and a home for the indigent stricken with AIDS. Ambitious, yes! Necessary, yes!

SWAC and Confidentiality

We have worked very hard to set up a system whereby we can effectively protect the identity of HIV positive individuals, persons with ARC and AIDS. SWAC never releases the name of any individual without specific permission. Occasionally, someone will ask "How's my friend doing?" or "Is so and so positive?" and we are unable to answer. Confidentiality is of the highest concern to us and we make every attempt to keep that information strictly limited to those persons who have an absolute need to know. We caution everyone to know who you are dealing with before you release your health status to them. It is a violation of the Texas Communicable Disease ACT to release the name of any individual who is HIV positive or has AIDS to anyone without the specific permission of that individual. That law is to protect everyone.

Programs

Advocacy Program which utilizes volunteer "Buddies" to assist with day to day functions of PWAs; social work assistance program which finds resources within the community to which PWAs might avail themselves; food bank which was started in a major way with a donation of \$1,000 from SAFE and continues operation by Metropolitan Community Church of El Paso;

Adopt A Patient program under which local churches agree to assist an individual PWA; Dental Clinic which will be available at no cost to PWA or SWAC on a monthly basis; case management under the State of New Mexico's Medicaid Waiver Program which pays for patients' medicines, doctor visits, nursing and homemaker services; Medical Advisory Board which will assist in finding physicians willing to work on a sliding scale; Psychological Assistance Program whereby psychologists are available on a free or sliding scale basis; Speakers Bureau which does presentations on AIDS to the community; AIDS in the Workplace Educational program; PWA support groups; Loving Others Support Group (friends and relatives of PWAs); and Case management of HIV/AIDS individuals who attend weekly HIV Clinic at Texas Tech School of Medicine; and, of course, SWACs on-going condoms/education project for Gay Men.

The majority of our programs are established for both English and Spanish speaking individuals.

Volunteers

SWAC continues to seek volunteers from all walks of life. Judy Buntin, our Director of Volunteer Services is herself a volunteer. Doug Carnell, Chairperson of SWAC received the 1988 Volunteer of the Year Award from the Volunteer Bureau of United Way of El Paso. The rewards in doing volunteer work are great and we encourage all of you to get involved now. Without our volunteers we would be unable to provide many of our programs.

Staff

All the SWAC staffers are underpaid and overworked but believe by doing more than is required they can and do make a difference.

Terry Call, Executive Director was approved to that position in June of 1987. This was a full time volunteer position until February of 1988 when sufficient funds were received to pay a minimal salary. Favorite quote, a professor from Vanderbilt University speaking to the President's Commission on AIDS: "We can all talk about AIDS until we are all dead." He believes there will be a cure for AIDS but until there is we must all do what we can to help.

Ramon Flores, Case Manager/Educator was a SWAC volunteer until this position became available. Ramon is hard working and dedicated to providing service to those with AIDS. Ramon is also a Board Member of Metropolitan Community Church.

Judy Buntin, Director of Volunteer Services is herself a volunteer. Judy came to SWAC after a "famous" El Paso drag queen friend told her about what we do and why we do it. Judy spends many hours each day helping SWAC provide service to the community.

Edith Franco, Case Manager for the New Mexico Department of Human Services AIDS Medicaid Waiver Program and the first paid staff person hired by SWAC. SWAC was introduced to Edith at a dinner party given by a SWAC volunteer who has AIDS. When this position became available Edith was hired and has proven to have outstanding abilities. During a recent Medicaid Audit, the

Auditor commented that Edith's case management records were the best they had ever seen.

Felipe Luna, Hispanic Educator for southern New Mexico had very little knowledge about AIDS when he was hired in February of this year. He is now considered an authority on Hispanics and AIDS and has attended numerous seminars. His openness and honesty in dealing with AIDS has helped all the SWAC staff realize that AIDS is a concern for all of us.

Keith Wilkinson, Administrative Assistant, came to SWAC from the US Army. Keith helps us in every way imaginable in the office. Ask and he knows where it is or at least where it's supposed to be. He also coordinates day to day activities for the staffers.

SWACs Board of Directors is a listing of Who's Who of AIDS in El Paso. The Board members are: Douglas R. Carnell, Chair; Mr. James Carr, El Paso businessman; Earl W. Gorby, M.D. retired from El Paso City-County TB Clinic; Frank Osbourne, Jr., El Paso businessman; Lawrence Banegas, AIDS prevention specialist with Dona Ana County Health; John Karr, El Paso civic leader; Lynn McNichol, RN, AIDS nurse at William Beaumont Department of Infectious Diseases; Terry Pasqualone, Attorney at Law; Paul Casner, M.D., Director of the HIV Clinic at Texas Tech; Robert Bonaventure, El Paso businessman; Yvonne Flores, RN, Texas Department of Human Services; and Tony Bengert, El Paso City-County Health.

You and AIDS

The AIDS epidemic may or may not be affecting you right now. It isn't you are one of the few Gay El Pasoans who have not in some way been affected. Today, tomorrow or sometime in the near future AIDS will surface in your life. You may be HIV positive, or have a friend or lover who is infected. You may have a friend who will be diagnosed with AIDS. You will be affected!

What Can You Do

Now, today, start taking better care of yourself. Do all of those things your mother always told you were good for you. Recognize who you are, know your friends, support those around you. If you drink, do so in moderation. If you smoke quit or cut down. If you smoke pot, do so in moderation or quit. If you use cocaine get some help and quit. Eat right everyday. Exercise and get proper rest. If you have stress in your life try to deal with it in an effective way and get rid of it. If you are in a relationship make it monogamous or practice Safer Sex without fail. If you meet someone you want to have sex with talk about Safer Sex before going home. If they don't believe in Safer Sex explain to them that your life and theirs are too important to risk not practicing Safer Sex. Let them know that unsafe sex means no sex. Conduct yourself as though you and your partner are HIV positive. Never practice unsafe sex because your partner insists or because you don't have a condom. Learn about your sexuality and make every attempt to be comfortable with that sexuality.

Something else you can do is to get out and help. SWAC and our community need you. Volunteer for SWAC, SAFE, MCC, RBA, the El Paso Alliance or any other community group a few hours a week or month. If you donate to charity consider these groups when you donate. If you are involved in politics, remember human rights and how they are obtained. Get involved in your community for if we don't help ourselves how can we expect help from others?

The Last Word

SWAC is here for you in whatever way you might need us. If you have ideas for programs, see a need that's not being met, have a question about our funding, need information, want to help, or just want to see what we are about, please call our office 915/ 533-5003 or stop by (916 East Yandell) and we will gladly assist you in any way we can. We're here for you!

The space for this article was paid for by a friend of SWAC.

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The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force is out for gay and lesbian freedom. Freedom to live our lives openly and proudly. Freedom from second-class status, violence and discrimination. Freedom to love. And nothing less than freedom will do.



Anti-violence Project
Director Kevin Berrill testifies
before Congress.

The Task Force Lobbies Congress and the Executive Branch to push for gay and lesbian civil rights and for a balanced response to the AIDS health crisis. NGLTF also lobbies at the state level, in the private sector, before professional organizations, unions, religious groups, and feminist and progressive groups.



Task Force staff at work

The Task Force Works as a resource center for over 2,000 local gay and lesbian groups, as a research and information hub on gay issues, as a nerve center for the gay liberation movement.



Anti-violence poster

The Task Force Organizes

to end violence, to repeal laws that criminalize gay/lesbian sexuality, to fight stereotypes of gay people in the media, to press for the civil rights of people with AIDS and HIV antibodies, to push reproductive freedom, domestic partnership and much, much more.

Come out for freedom! Join us!

☐ I'm OUT FOR FREEDOM, and here's my membership fee at the outrageous rate of \$30.00!
☐ I'm already a member, and I know freedom isn't free! So here's my additional donation of \$_____
☐ Please send me more information about NGLTF and NGLTF membership.

Name _____
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City/State/Zip _____
As a Task Force member, you receive: ☐ a subscription to our informative quarterly newsletter ☐ topical mailings on a wide range of subjects ☐ Task Force publications for free ☐ invitations to special events across the country, and ☐ the chance to select and serve on our Board of Directors.

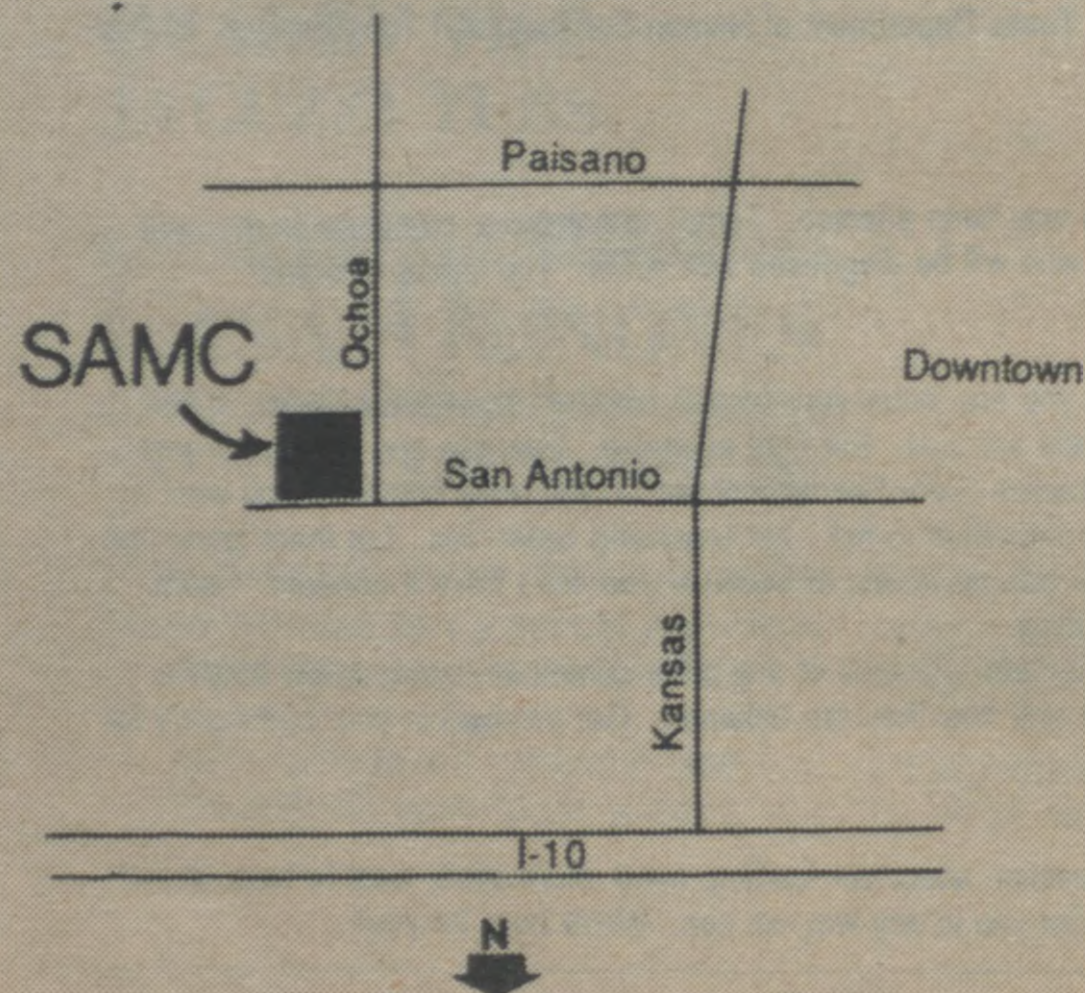
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FRIDAY: FREE Buffet

SATURDAY: Dance to Oldies/CW/Pop music
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Mira K. Chisme

I'm sure by now, that you've all heard about the **Blue Goose** (the latest addition to our gay community). It is being promoted as a place for good times and good friends and not the same ole' hole (I heard that!) It's small and cozy yet with enough room for dancing. The owners have really done a super job of remodeling the bar inside and out.....And speaking of goose, **Moella** cooked everything but! We couldn't figure out whether we were at a chicken patch or what. Frankly, I wanted to make Gucci bags out of the guests. Daryl insisted on a pair of boots, oh well! It was a fun party with lots of evrything. There was even a girl that was totally fascinated by **Henri Lewis** -- or maybe she was just jealous. Everytime she passed by Henri she practically shoved her chest in his face. Maybe she thought she was a "Mister Microphone". **Parano** made everyone laugh with his version of "Nobody Loves a Fat Girl". **Chiquita**, my long-lost-love was also there holding up the ball. Of course all in **Tom's** honor.....To my OLD friend, **Jim Sierra**, happy birthday! He will be celebrating at **Cliff's** and maybe we'll get invited. Remember that Cliff's is available for partys for a reasonable price.....**SAFE** is planning another benefit at the **Old Plantation**. Scheduled for early September, the festivities include a sock hop and a show, etc. It is through these functions, that money (such as the \$1,000 grant awarded to **SWAC** by **SAFE**), is raised to distribute to the various organizations.....A food bank is starting up in our community. **Lowell Clark** is happy to announce that everyone is willing to cooperate. We might also mention that **Jim Carr** of the **Briar Patch** was the first to volunteer his services. Lowell will be happy to answer any questions if you give him a call at the MCC.....**Kim's Kitchen** is doing very well. She makes the greatest sandwiches....Off to Dollywood we go! **Carol Portillo** will be going to Nashville to sing on "You Can Be a Star". Good Luck, Carol. Our best wishes go out to you.....The **Montana Brothers** (AKA the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly) are losing one of its members. I'm SO SURE we'll miss you, BABE. Perhaps she can start the Montrose Brothers in Houston.....The **OP** will be celebrating their 11th anniversary this month. **Sabrina Ross** heads off the list of entertainers for August, followed by **Donna Day** on the 14th. The following Sunday, **Fifi LaRue** will be joined by **Tish**, **Moella**, and **Beverly Nicole** for a night of fine local talent. By the way, Happy Birthday, FIFI!! The month will end with the male dancers. On September 4th, "Live and Otherwise" will take place at the OP. It will feature talent from the various organizations and bars in our community. More on this next month. Congratulations to **Starlet** on a job well done on her last performance. It showed alot of promise. On the top of the list of hot potentials, is **April Michaels**. She's gorgeous! And on that note, Adios!



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| ♂♀ Cliff's Lounge, 701 E. Paisano..... | 533-3558 |
| ♂ Diamond Lil Club, 308 S. Florence..... | 546-9332 |
| ♂♀ The Old Plantation, 219 S. Ochoa..... | 533-6055 |
| ♂♀ Our Memories, 2031 Myrtle..... | 533-6969 |
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Services

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| AIDS Information Line..... | 541-4266 |
| El Paso Alliance..... | P.O.B. 5495, EP, TX, 79901 |
| Lambda Al-Anon, 3800 D Piedras..... | 562-4081 |
| Lambda Alcoholicos Anonimos, 2201 Mills..... | 542-1227 |
| Lambda Alcoholics Anonymous, 3800 D Piedras..... | 562-4081 |
| MCC, 2201 Mills..... | 542-1227 |
| Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays..... | P.O.B. 5659, EP, TX 79901 |
| Pulse Publishing..... | P.O.B. 13280, EP, TX., 79913 |
| Rio Bravo Association, 7600 Franklin Dr..... | 775-0645 |
| Southwest AIDS Committee, Inc., 916 E. Yandell, | 533-6809 |
| Tillman Health Center, 222 S. Campbell..... | 541-4511 |
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A816

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