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Chase to offer domestic partner benefits

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Gay employees of financial giant Chase Manhattan Bank will receive domestic partner benefits beginning in January under an expanded health benefits policy announced this week, company officials said Thursday.

The broadened policy will affect the company's 50,000 U.S. employees, including some 9,000 in Texas, said David Byford, a Chase vice president

and spokesman in Houston. The company joins more than 500 others across the country that offer such benefits to gay employees.

"The reason that we are doing this is that we have a diverse group of employees," Byford said. "This will help ensure that Chase Texas remains



an attractive place to work and do business."

The new policy will allow Chase employees to enroll in their medical or dental plans another qualifying adult in their household: a same-sex or opposite-sex domestic partner, a child or a family member.

The directive was delivered to Chase

employees through an e-mail this week from corporate headquarters in New York.

The idea to expand health benefits to domestic partners came from employees and management, Byford said.

The move by Chase comes a month after NationsBank announced it would add similar benefits as part of

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GAY TV?

Without 'Ellen' will gays become invisible on television?

A handful of sitcoms offer some options

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

While the dust settles from the great war-of-words between ABC and Ellen DeGeneres, gays and lesbians are still waiting to see if the Big Four television networks will program sitcoms with homosexual leads. No doubt, DeGeneres made TV history last year for her classic coming out episode, and the fact that 36 million people watched means America will never be the same.

How's that?

"All of our studies indicate that once a person has a lesbian or gay person in their life, they tend to be much more supportive of our issues," said David Smith, communications director and senior strategist for the Human Rights Campaign. "DeGeneres became the first gay person many people came into contact with for the first time. It had dramatic impact on our culture in a number of different ways."

Even so, "Ellen" and DeGeneres had some pretty big shoulders to stand on. Networks began assimilating gays into their story lines in the early 1970s.

Beginning the trend in 1971, CBS' "All In The Family" was the first prime time show to feature a homosexual role when Archie Bunker (Carroll O'Connor) discovered that his drinking buddy Steve, a masculine, working-class stiff, was gay.

By 1977, the Bunkers dealt with homosexuality once again when Edith (Jean Stapleton) learned that her deceased cousin was a lesbian who left her entire estate to her lover.

That same year, "Three's Company" featured Jack (John Ritter), a straight man pretending to be gay who lived with two women, while the offbeat comedy "Soap" incorporated the story line of an openly gay Jodie Dallas (Billy

Crystal), who wanted a sex change operation, yet had a close encounter with a woman and a child with her.

Without missing a beat, the 80s experienced a proliferation of gay and lesbian roles, with "Dynasty's"

Steven Carrington (Al Corley, Jack Coleman) leading the pack on prime time in 1981, and the daytime soap "All My Children" featured Donna Pescow as Lynn Carson, a lesbian psychologist, in 1983.



Doug Savant played Matt, a gay character for several seasons on Fox's popular "Melrose Place."



When ABC dumped Ellen DeGeneres and her groundbreaking sitcom earlier this month, it left television without a leading gay character.

By the end of the decade, "thirtysomething" featured two gay characters in bed, but the bold move cost the show more than \$1 million in revenue, and an axed summer repeat.

Gay and lesbian casting blossomed in the 90s, with supporting roles on popular sitcoms like "Melrose Place," "Frasier," and "Roseanne." By 1996, Candace Gingrich presided over the wedding of two lesbians on "Friends," and two lesbians made and kept the grade on "Mad About You."

By the time DeGeneres came out in 1997, America was pumped and

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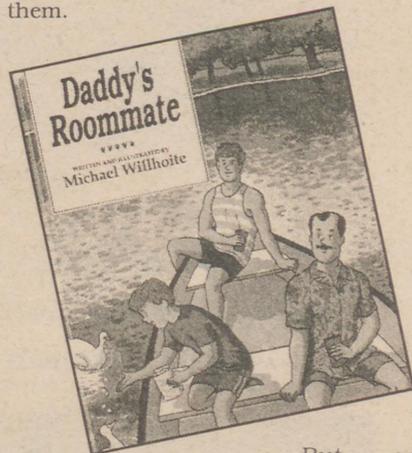


Finale: Supermodel Cindy Crawford (left) joined Ellen DeGeneres in the May 13 episode of "Ellen," the sitcom's last after five seasons.

Pastor's protest prompts library book donations

WICHITA FALLS, Texas — Instead of ridding public library shelves of "Heather Has Two Mommies" and "Daddy's Roommate," a Baptist minister's protest will end up putting more copies in circulation.

Robert Jeffress, pastor of the 4,400-member First Baptist Church, was shocked when he learned that the Wichita Falls library was lending the books about children with homosexual parents. When a church member checked out the books and brought them to Jeffress, he wrote a check for \$54 to the library after vowing never to return them.



But so many people wanted to read the books after publicity in the Wichita Falls Times Record News that library administrator Linda Hughes is having to apply library guidelines designed to limit how long patrons have to wait. The policy calls for obtaining more copies when six or more people are waiting for a book.

"We have ten holds on each one of these books," Hughes said. "We are past the point at which we would have to buy more copies and we're getting more requests."

Sympathetic book lovers donated 15 copies, Hughes said.

Jeffress said he finds no irony in the situation and defends his decision to object to materials originally bought with public money.

"We wanted to highlight the problem in our community," Jeffress said. "I

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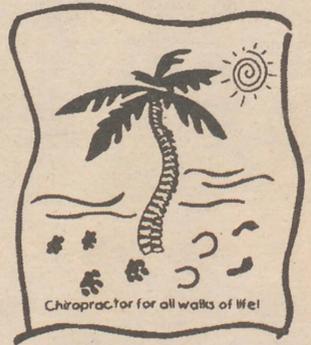
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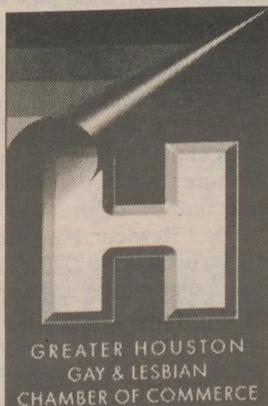
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LOCAL

Body Positive to open wellness center in early July

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

People that are HIV positive will soon have a new 3,500-square-foot facility to seek wellness services in a variety of areas.

By early July, the Body Positive Wellness Center at 3400 Montrose will address the needs of HIV-positive people in six areas: occupational, physical, social, spiritual, intellectual and emotional.

Providing the services under one roof is a new approach, said Anthony Bianchi, president of the 24-member board of directors for the wellness center.

"It is certainly unique for Houston and it is one of a couple in the nation,"

he said. "Someone can come here and take care of everything."

The center, perched on the sixth floor, will include weight-resistance and nutrition training and is a collaborative effort of Body Positive Houston, The Women's HIV Coalition, The Houston Buyer's Club and the Program for Wellness Restoration.

Renovating and equipping the facility cost about \$80,000, a tab picked up through donations, fund-raisers and grants, Bianchi said. The center hopes to raise \$25,000 through its Great Gatsby event on Saturday at the Lovett Inn, he said.

The center will enroll about 50 clients at a time in a 12-week program

to include weight training, massage therapy, meetings with a nutritionist, seminars and classes.

Clients will be referred by their doctors and a sliding fee scale will be used so people with low incomes won't be ignored, Bianchi said.

"Those who need it the most will get it (access) first," he said.

Opening the wellness center has ballooned Body Positive's annual budget five-fold, from \$50,000 to \$250,000.

"We've gone from one staff member to opening a facility that will provide greatly expanded services," Bianchi said.

A grand-opening is set for June 18 and the center should be open to clients by July.

Workshops to Target Latino Community

Houston's gay and lesbian Latino community will be the target of four monthly workshops by Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services beginning in June.

The workshops will be offered on the second Wednesday of each month during June to September to help educate and empower the community, officials said.

The two-hour workshops will include sessions on political activism, coming out, queer theory and building communities and will be held at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center at 803 Hawthorne Ave.

"There are a large number of Latino gays and lesbians in Houston and yet there are n support services geared directly toward them or a place they can feel comfortable seeking language and culture sensitive information in time of need," said Angela Mora, AVES' executive director.

For more information, call 713-626-2837.

HIV-Positive Children Attend Camp for a 'H.U.G.'

Some 40 HIV-positive children and their caregivers took part in an inaugural camp sponsored by AIDS Foundation Houston at Camp Foral All near Brenham last weekend.

Organizers, which hope to turn Camp Hope, Understanding and Giving (H.U.G.) into an annual event, provide recreation to children through horseback riding, team sports, fishing, canoeing, arts and crafts and swimming. Caregivers attended workshops led by an expert on children and families living with HIV/AIDS.

"HIV positive children face the very same pressures as infected adults — daily medications that often have severe side effects, restrictive lifestyles, continual prejudice and discrimination from an ignorant world around them," said Mike Mizwa, education director for AIDS Foundation Houston. "It's important for them to experience normal activities such as camp."

Political Lobbies Sponsor Fund-raiser

Democrat Gary Mauro, campaigning to unseat Gov. George W. Bush in November, will headline a fund-raiser for three gay rights lobby groups set for June 4.

Mauro will attend a reception before a showing of "Fit to be Tied" at Stages Repertory Theater at 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets for the comedy are \$20; \$100 for two tickets and

a reception with Mauro. Funds benefit the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee, the Lesbian gay Rights Lobby of Texas and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

For more information, call 713-521-1000.

Exxon Donates \$25,000 to Fight AIDS

The Montrose Clinic received \$25,000 from Exxon recently for HIV/AIDS research, adding to the company's donations of \$175,000 to the clinic over the last five years.

"Exxon is delighted to continue its support of Montrose Clinic," said Barbara Barnett, Exxon's community relations coordinator. "We are proud of the association we have with the Clinic and appreciate this opportunity to again demonstrate our commitment to assisting with its HIV/AIDS

research."

Exxon donates more than \$5 million a year to organizations in Houston.

Houston Clinical Research Network, the research arm of Montrose Clinic, is a community-based research organization established in 1989 to conduct HIV/AIDS related research and clinical trials.

Housing Funds Available for Rural PWAs

The PWA Coalition has housing assistance funds for people with HIV or AIDS in four outlying counties to help provide rental or utility assistance.

Residents of Austin, Colorado, Walker or Wharton counties should contact the coalition at 1-800-999-0325 for more information. Clients must show proof of need, HIV status and residency.

Softball Action



Some 14 teams from Texas and Pennsylvania took part in the Lone Star Classic Softball Tournament hosted by the Montrose Softball League at Cullen Park May 22-23. Lobo (above) took first place in the competitive division, while the Dallas Travelers captured first place in the recreation division. Rich's (below) took second place in that division. —Photos by Dalton DeHart



GAY TV/from page 1

primed for the taking. Middle-class reservations gave way to sexual curiosity for the coming out episode, and for the first time in TV history, a gay prime time lead played a gay character.

Yet DeGeneres created a nationwide conversation about gays and lesbians. While her decision to make the show more gay might have been more than America could tolerate, DeGeneres' had an impact on pop culture.

"If your group is not portrayed on television, then you're invisible in our society," said Beth Olson, a University of Houston professor of media and gender. "'Ellen' made gays and lesbians more visible, and exposed peo-

ple to a segment of our society that many may not understand."

Gays on television also push families to discuss gay and lesbian topics.

"Television acts as a vehicle for conversation between parents and children, and it gives them an opportunity to discuss gay issues," Olson said. "Television presents them in a non-threatening, comedic way, and allows families to say, 'What do you think about this?'"

Some gay advocates see prime time TV as an important evolutionary device for mainstreaming a community that is still considered a fringe group looking for special rights. Yet the most evident sociological impact begins with America's youth.

"When we talk to young people, we

recognized that gay and lesbian children are identifying themselves at a much earlier age," said Nancy McDonald, national president of PFLAG, an organization for parents with gay children. McDonald suspects that this trend is media driven, and "a positive role model such as 'Ellen' facilitates that because she was so upbeat."

McDonald said that parents should use wholesome TV shows as a tool for teaching self-acceptance to their gay children.

"When kids begin recognizing that they're attracted to the same sex, where do they go?" she asks. "Whatever can be positive and upbeat (from pop culture) to teach our kids that they're OK the way they are is certainly appropriate since there's so many negative things in the traditional avenues of information and support."

Sure, sitcoms are a satirical form of entertainment, and Americans find the extreme stereotypes of gay life (like a flamboyant hairdresser) the most entertaining. But there's a positive, albeit, subliminal after effect.

"Satire really serves a number of functions," said Bill Simon, a University of Houston professor of sociology. "The most important one is to generate laughter. The ability to laugh at ourselves has a curiously healing effect. It becomes a moment of solidarity, even with the person who is victimized."

"Second, it allows us to sometimes speak a kind of truth for other reasons that cannot be said out loud," he said.

Yet gays' and straights' opinions differ concerning the ability of pop culture to change society's attitudes. In a recent industry survey, 79 percent of heterosexuals said that "Ellen" didn't change their feelings about gays and lesbians. On the other hand, 59 percent of "homosexuals believe the show positively changed the ways straight people feel about gay people."

"Public perceptions towards gay men and women are rapidly changing not because of television, but because most Americans already know someone who is gay," said Dave Mulryan,

president of Mulryan/Nash, a New York advertising firm that helps mainstream businesses target gay consumers. "For the majority of Americans, 'Ellen' was not new ground."

The networks seem content to tinker with gay roles next fall. NBC is considering a new comedy, "Will and Grace," as an addition to its season lineup. The sitcom features a gay lawyer and a straight female interior decorator who live together in a set up similar to the movie "Object of My Affection."

"It's fantastic," said Bill Horn, assistant entertainment media director for GLAAD. "I don't know what the future holds for the lead gay character in terms of relationships, but as an individual and a gay man, it's fantastic, and I loved it."

GLAAD monitors trends in pop culture, and reports that next fall, gay sitcom characters will return on ABC's "Spin City," and NBC's "Mad About You."

"The TV lineup is already looking extremely positive with regards to lesbian and gay inclusion," said Chastity Bono, GLAAD Entertainment Media Director.

But as more gays and lesbians roles are included in prime time, some statistics show that violence against homosexuals increases as well.

"When 'Ellen' came out, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs documented a rise in hate crimes during that month," said the Montrose Counseling Center's Gary Norman. "That indicates an environment where it's more acceptable to perpetuate hate crimes."

In its random survey of 1,000 adults, Murray/Nash found that mainstream viewers have no problem with gays on TV, but are quick to channel surf if a show is not considered entertaining. That's a clear signal says pollsters that networks should not unilaterally abandon gays on prime time.

"I think the trail is still being blazed, for both men and women," said the HRC's Smith. "But we're making progress on every front."

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PASTOR/from page 1

really hope people will look at the book and see what their tax dollars are supporting."

He compared his effort with proposals to protect children from tobacco advertising, saying homosexuality "is responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands every year through AIDS."

Jeffress said he and other pastors will press the city council this summer to order the library to remove the

books or at least put them behind the counter, where only adults could ask for them.

"Heather Has Two Mommies" features a girl who has two lesbian mothers. "Daddy's Roommate" tells the story of a boy whose father is gay and lives with a boyfriend.

Both sides say they've received a groundswell of support. Hughes, the library administrator, said she has received about 35 letters, "about 9-to-1 in favor of keeping the books."

CHASE/from page 1

its \$66.6 billion merger with BankAmerica, which has offered health insurance to partners of gay workers since January 1997.

AT&T and two of its unions reached agreement two weeks ago on a contract that includes domestic partner benefits for gay employees.

"It seems to be snowballing right now," said Kim Mills, the Human Rights Campaign's education director. "When you see companies like Disney and IBM — these are not big risk taking corporations — and yet, they have studied the issue and that is a bellwether to business in general that it is OK to do this."

With a strong economy keeping unemployment low, companies hope to retain employees through improved benefits, Mills said.

"Unemployment is so low that it is very important to be able to attract and keep the best employees. A lot of companies are doing this through

benefits packages," Mills said.

Workers are also more vocal, which forces employers to look at partner benefits in terms of fairness, she said.

"Companies are beginning to understand when it is expressed to them by their own employees as 'you don't pay me the same as the heterosexual, legally married guy that sits at the desk next to me.' When you put it that way, they see it as a matter of fairness and equity," Mills said.

In 1990, only a half-dozen employers offered health and other benefits to same-sex couples. Now the number stands at more than 500 and includes household names such as Disney, Kodak, IBM, Hewlett Packard and Reebok, according to the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights lobbying group in Washington, D.C.

"It seems to be about one corporation a week over the last year. It is moving into the biggest companies and the Fortune 500. It is certainly an amazing indication when we see banks this size do it," Mills said.

Hundreds volunteer for AIDS shot as part of vaccine study

by MARTHA IRVINE

CHICAGO — Dr. James Sullivan's mother grabbed the phone when she heard doctors were volunteering to be injected with a weakened strain of the AIDS virus in a search for a vaccine.

"You will not do this," she ordered in a message left on her son's answering machine.

He didn't volunteer for that live virus test.

But he didn't tell her then that he was about to roll up his sleeves for a different series of experimental shots — ones that could contain just the protein envelope that covers the AIDS virus and a canary pox germ carrying three genes found in HIV.

"I'm doing this bold and wonderful thing," says the 35-year-old infectious disease specialist, who treats AIDS patients at his Chicago practice and who also has lost many friends to the disease. "The epidemic is extremely real to me. I've seen thousands and thousands of people die."

Sullivan is among 40 people — all gay men or female partners of IV drug users — who volunteered for a vaccine study at Chicago's Howard Brown Health Center and the University of Illinois-Chicago. Hundreds of others are taking part in similar studies from New York to Nashville and Denver to San Francisco.

Volunteers get little compensation — no more than \$25 a visit — and often must make a two- to five-year commitment. There are booster shots, and nurses and doctors must draw pint after pint of blood to see how a volunteer's body is reacting.

And if they are injected with HIV

material instead of a placebo, the volunteers may have a false positive test for the virus, even though they won't actually be infected with HIV.

"Just by participating, people open themselves up to social stigma," says Dr. Cathy Creticos, principal co-investigator for the federally funded vaccine trial in Chicago.

Sullivan, one of a handful of volunteers who've decided to go public, says the complications of a false-positive test almost kept him from volunteering for the study last fall.

"Could it ruin my career?" he asked himself, knowing that a doctor who tests positive — even false positive — risks losing patients.

He also worried that, if his five-year relationship didn't last, he wouldn't be able to convince another partner that he wasn't really HIV-positive.

"Would I be 'unmarriageable?'" he wondered.

Since the early 1990s, about 25 AIDS vaccines have been studied in the United States. Researchers are testing some of those for safety and immune response, with varying success rates.

No one has gotten permission from the federal Food and Drug Administration to do so-called Phase III studies, tests requiring as many as 20,000 volunteers to see if a vaccine really works. VaxGen Inc., a small California-based biotechnology company, hopes to get such approval for its vaccine this year.

In a speech last year, President Clinton called for an AIDS vaccine in the next decade, saying it could be the country's next "moon shot."

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the



Injecting: Susan Cole of Kent, Wash., holds her cat Per-Per in Kent, Wash. Cole, an AIDS vaccine volunteer, is one of a group of people participating in research trials at the University of Washington to help scientists unlock the secrets of the HIV virus and find a way to prevent it. Hundreds of others are taking part in similar studies from New York to Nashville and Denver to San Francisco. —Photo by Peter Haley.

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, says the decade goal is "still quite reasonable."

But many researchers and volunteers think the government is moving too slowly in a world where an estimated 16,000 people are infected with HIV each day. They support tests using a rare strain of HIV found in a small number of people who never developed AIDS symptoms.

"Where it has been required in the past, shortcuts have been taken and rules have been made flexible in order to advance the greater good of human-

ity," says Jose Zuniga, deputy director of the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care and one of the volunteers who has offered to be injected with HIV itself.

Sullivan said that he still hadn't told his mother about the Chicago study and the fact that he won't know for at least a year whether he's been injected with the experimental vaccine or a placebo.

And he didn't know for sure if she'd heard about it from news reports. "I haven't gotten a call yet, so I would guess not."

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Audit Faults NC for Lax Oversight of AIDS Group

SMITHFIELD, N.C. — The director of a publicly funded North Carolina community AIDS organization wrote himself checks while funneling thousands of dollars to his mother, according to an audit that resulted in state police probe. "I am sure there are other audits out there, but this is the most critical in memory of a public health program," said deputy state health director Chris Hoke. The State Bureau of Investigation was presented information developed during an audit of Drugs and AIDS Prevention Among African-Americans, which operates in Johnston County. The audit faults state officials for shoddy oversight of the agency, which received \$1.2 million in federal money between 1994 and 1997, even though the agency failed to deliver mandatory audits for three years running.

School: Winning Poems Send Wrong Message

COLUMBUS, Miss. — Two prize-winning, student-written poems have drawn the ire of a Columbus school board member. The poems were published in Columbus High School's literary magazine, "The Merlin." Both won first place in the magazine's annual contest. One poem suggests homosexuality and the other deals with alcoholism.

"Forbidden Love," written by a 17-year-old Columbus High girl, is a young girl's playful reminiscence of a former lover who treated her badly. Although the girl, Jane, never complained or got mad, she eventually decided to ask her lover to leave. The

lover, David, was happy to go. Ending with the lines, "David was never happy with Jane. But he will be with Steve," the poem implies the girl's former lover is homosexual.

Glenn Lautzenhiser, board vice-president, said the poems send the wrong message to students. He requested that those teachers responsible come before the board at its June meeting to explain why the poems were chosen, and why the taxpayers should pay for the publication of such poems.

"The students were very proud of their work," Brewer said. "They felt like they put out a very successful magazine. I would hate for this to spoil all the hard work the students did."

Anti-Gay Farming Comments Spurs Call for S.C. Hate Crimes Law

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Comments accusing gay people of threatening South Carolina's farm industry show the need for a hate-crimes law, according to Tom Turnipseed, a Democratic candidate for state Attorney General. Turnipseed was referring to statements made May 18 by Republican agriculture commissioner candidate Jim Gordon, who said he would fight the "homosexual agenda" that threatens traditional family farm values. "We can't have farming based on Bob and Bob being married and a new definition of marriage," Gordon said. Turnipseed responded to the comments by saying the state needs a get-tough law that protects not only blacks, but also women and gays, citing two recent attacks on a 40-year-old Lancaster lesbian.

—From staff and wire reports

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Controversial Minister Leaves Nebraska

OMAHA, Neb. — The Rev. Jimmy Creech, who created a rift in his First United Methodist Church in Omaha by performing a union ceremony for a lesbian couple last fall, is leaving Nebraska. Creech, who was not re-assigned to the Omaha church by Nebraska Bishop Joel Martinez, said Friday he would step down from the pulpit June 7.

He was expected to stay through June, when his senior pastor, Donald Bredthauer, is to assume the head ministerial duties at the church. But Creech said delaying his departure "only makes it more difficult. It is important for me to step aside and let the church go."

The 1,900-member congregation split on the issue of same-sex marriages. Since a national church trial this spring acquitted Creech of disobeying church rules, more than 400 critics have been holding separate Sunday services at an Omaha high school.

Creech said he will take a leave of absence from the Nebraska conference of the United Methodist Church and spend the summer with his family at a resort island off the coast of North Carolina. He said he and his wife intend to clean cottages and take other odd jobs while on the island. Then, he said, he will move the family to Raleigh, N.C., where he lived before taking the Omaha appointment in July 1996. He said he is uncertain what he will do while in Raleigh.

Creech said he has no regrets about performing the union ceremony or the resulting fallout. He said he is proud of the couple he

united and the integrity they have shown. Nonetheless, he told the *Omaha World-Herald*, leaving is difficult.

Rainbow Flags in Orlando Cause Controversy

ORLANDO, Fla. — Rainbow flags will fly on more than 300 light posts in downtown Orlando during June, National Gay Pride Month. But not everyone is happy that the city approved the flags, according to the *Orlando Sentinel*. "I feel the flagpoles belong to all of the citizens, and I feel it is the height of arrogance for any political group to ask the city to allow them to use their flagpoles to make a political statement," said John Butler Book, a Maitland television and radio evangelist. Book said he is gathering support among area churches, members of which were urged to call City Hall with their objections. Book is asking those who object to the flags to wear black armbands to the City Council's June 1 meeting to express their displeasure. City rules allow nonprofit groups to fly flags from public light posts if they publicize a free event of general interest to the public, said Tom Kohler, chairman of the city's Downtown Development Board. "They met the requirements," Kohler said of Watermark, the gay newspaper in Orlando that is sponsoring the Pride flag display. It is spending about \$15,000 to fly six-color rainbow flags, which include no writing, from 363 city poles. "The rainbow flag represents freedom and unity through diversity, and that's what we are attempting to celebrate," said Keith Peterson, Watermark's associate publisher.

—From staff and wire reports

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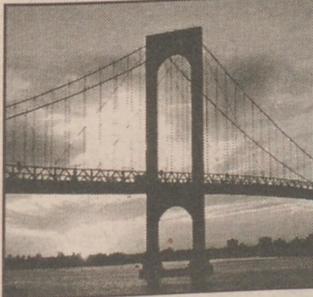
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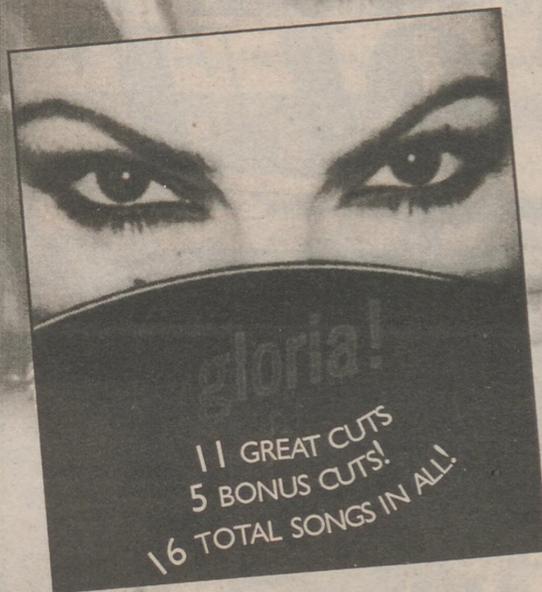
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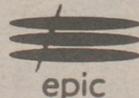
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Parents Plan Trip So Kids Won't See Gay-Pride March

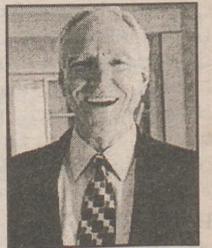
LAWRENCE, Mass. — Having failed to stop the Lawrence City Council from granting a permit for the city's first gay pride parade June 14, a group of anti-gay parents plan to take 400 children to a New Hampshire amusement park that day. "We don't want them to experience what we feel is against God's will and society as a whole," said Ramona Alcantara, one of the trip's organizers and mother of a 12-year-old boy. She said the group would try to get school buses donated for the daylong trip. Pride parade organizer Ingrid G. Rivera said, "All they are doing is showing their lack of education and ignorance and perpetuating stereotypes and discrimination. They are teaching their children (that) if someone is different from you, you must question and fear them."

Senate Confirms Hochberg, Stalls on Hormel

WASHINGTON — The Senate confirmed a gay businessman to be deputy director of the Small Business Administration on May 22, but a battle continued over the stalled ambassadorial nomination of James Hormel, who is also gay. By voice vote, the Senate approved Fred Hochberg, who has headed an investment firm and was president and chief operating officer of the Lillian Vernon Corp., a direct marketing company. He is also a former co-chairman of the Human

Rights Campaign, a gay and lesbian political organization. Republicans said Hochberg's confirmation showed that the GOP was not blocking Hormel

because of his homosexuality, rather because of what they describe as his aggressive pursuit of a gay political agenda. The nomination of Hormel, a 64-year-old San Francisco philanthropist and Democratic Party donor, has been stalled since last year. Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) recently compared Hormel to David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader from Louisiana.



Hormel

Democrats Rule Gays Must be at National Convention

WASHINGTON — The full body of the Democratic National Committee voted unanimously in a meeting May 16-17 to include first-ever language requiring state parties to specifically include gay and lesbian representation as part of the delegate selection process for the 2000 Convention. "Gay and lesbian Democrats and our community have taken a significant step forward," said Jean O'Leary of California, Chair of the DNC Gay & Lesbian American Caucus and member of the DNC Executive Committee. Of the 4,925 delegates and alternates to the 1996 National Democratic Convention in Chicago, at least 146 were openly gay or lesbian.

—From staff and wire reports

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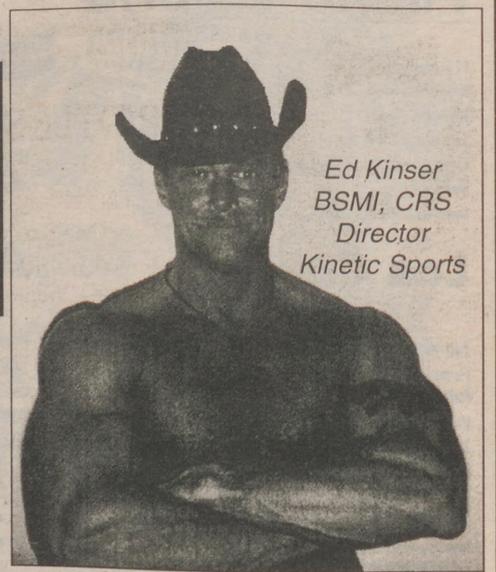
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Patricia Salvato, MD-Medical Director

Gays Get Bad News in Two Midwestern Churches

One openly gay Midwestern minister found out this week that he is no longer a priest, and a straight, gay-friendly pastor lost his job. In Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Rev. Jim Lucas' was stripped of his priesthood by the Christian Reformed Church governing body on May 21. Church leaders said the vote wasn't anti-gay, but a necessary step to support doctrine on homosexuality. The decision by Classis Grand Rapids East, a group of 16 churches, ended years of debate. In Nebraska, the Rev. Jimmy Creech, who created a rift in his First United Methodist Church in Omaha by performing a union ceremony for a lesbian couple last fall, is leaving the state. Creech, who was not reassigned to the Omaha church by Nebraska Bishop Joel Martinez, said May 22 he would step down from the pulpit June 7. The 1,900-member congregation split on the issue of same-sex marriages. Since a national church trial this spring acquitted Creech of disobeying church rules, more than 400 critics have been holding separate Sunday services at an Omaha high school.

Court Reinstates Gay Ohio Teacher

CINCINNATI — A federal court order, believed the first of its kind in the nation, has directed the reinstatement of a southwest Ohio sixth-grade teacher whose contract was rejected because he is gay. Bruce Glover's lawyer, Alphonse Gerhardstein, said May 19 that the Williamsburg Local School District in

Clermont County denied Glover's sexual-orientation was the reason it decided not to renew, but Cincinnati U.S. District Court Judge Susan Dlott believed otherwise. Glover, 47, a former insurance broker, got his first full-time teaching position during 1995-96 on a probationary contract, but was denied a contract the next year. In the ensuing court case, the judge ruled Glover's homosexuality was covered under the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution, and "what the court held was that it is not a proper governmental purpose to target a gay person for doing a good job as a teacher and just get rid of him because he's gay."

New McNally Play Won't Come to Broadway

NEW YORK — A new Terrence McNally play that features a homosexual Christlike figure isn't coming to Broadway after all. The Manhattan Theater Club said it has dropped plans to stage the award-winning playwright's "Corpus Christi" this fall. The play features a Christ-like figure named Joshua and has references to him having sex with his disciples. "Because of security problems that have arisen around the production of this play, the Manhattan Theater Club is unable to mount this production responsibly," its producers said May 14 in a prepared statement. McNally would not comment. The recent announcement of plans to produce the play sparked an outcry from religious groups. McNally, who has won three Tony Awards for his plays "Master Class," "Kiss of the Spider Woman" and "Love! Valour! Compassion!" was nominated this year for his book of the musical "Ragtime."

—From staff and wire reports

LOBO

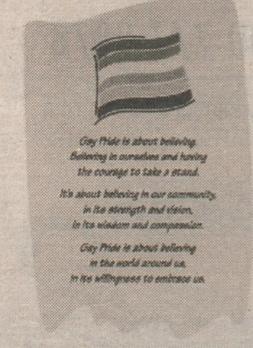
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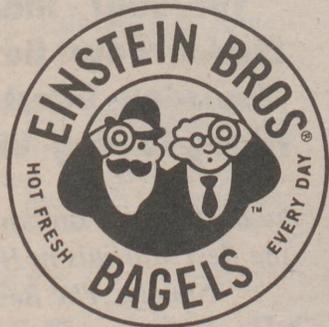
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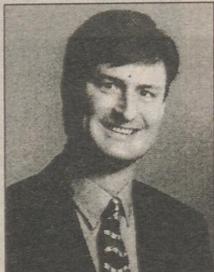
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Six Deaths Among Viagra Users

WASHINGTON — Six people have died after taking Viagra, the new miracle remedy for impotence, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said May 22. Pfizer Inc., the manufacturer of the pill, advised the FDA of the deaths, and had warned May 21 that Viagra was not approved for use by women and could cause dangerous side effects if used with other medications. "We don't know if it was taken alone or in combination with other drugs," the FDA spokesman said. "We are investigating." Pfizer has said that the drug could cause dangerously low blood pressure if used with medications containing nitrates or nitroglycerin. Typically, men who are taking nitroglycerin suffer from serious heart disease.

Study Finds Condoms Rather Than Abstinence Work Best

CHICAGO — Safe-sex lessons for children work best if condom use is emphasized rather than abstinence, researchers found in a study of low-income blacks. A separate finding underscores a compelling need for the grown-up subject matter: although their average age was just 11, 25 percent of the youths were no longer virgins. "We shouldn't underestimate that and we have to begin earlier to give children the kind of information they need to protect themselves," said Princeton University psychologist John B. Jemmott III, the lead author of the study. "We can't wait because we may be waiting until after they've already had sex for the first time." The

study of 659 inner-city Philadelphia youths sought ways to stem the high rate of sexually transmitted diseases among black adolescents. The authors evaluated which programs work best at curbing the riskiest behavior: unprotected sex. "If the goal is reduction of unprotected sexual intercourse, the safer-sex strategy may hold the most promise, particularly with those adolescents who are already sexually experienced," the authors wrote in the May 13 *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Studies Say New Drugs Effective in Treating HIV-Related Skin Disease

New treatments for skin diseases commonly suffered by AIDS patients are showing promise. A drug is being used in the treatment of pruritic papular eruption (PPE) of HIV-infected persons, according to a study published in the June 1988 issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*. PPE, also described as severe itchy and pimple-like, is a common skin disease associated with HIV infection that appears on the lower extremities, according to the study. Results of the study included a reduction in pruritus for 10 of the 11 patients involved. Final data from a Phase II study of Panretin for patients with AIDS-related Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) resulted in an overall response rate of 37 percent (23 of 62 patients), including two patients with complete response, investigators from the AIDS Malignancy Consortium (AMC) reported at the 34th Annual American Society of Clinical Oncologists (ASCO) meeting in Los Angeles.

—From staff and wire reports



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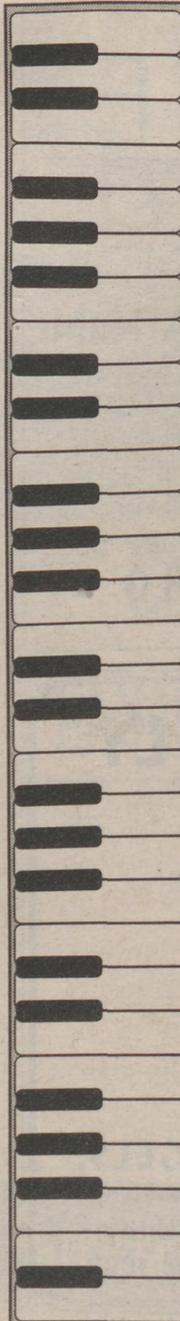
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Study: Smoking Lowers Breast Cancer Risk

WASHINGTON — Women with gene mutations linked to high rates of breast cancer may actually lower their risk of the disease by smoking cigarettes, according to a study published May 20. But researchers cautioned that smoking poses far greater risks from other tobacco-related diseases, including other cancers. "This study is interesting scientifically, but it should not encourage anyone to smoke," said Jean-Sebastien Brunet, a researcher at the Women's College Hospital of the University of Toronto in Canada. He was lead author of a study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. The study examined the breast cancer history of 372 women who had mutations of the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes. By some estimates, about 80 percent of such women will develop breast cancer. Brunet said the incidence of breast cancer was 54 percent lower among heavy smokers than among nonsmokers. Brunet said the study was scientifically valuable because it suggests that some action of smoking or of some of the 1,300 compounds in cigarette smoke may be protective against breast cancer. He said more research could lead to a drug that would protect against mutation-related breast cancer, but without the serious health risks of smoking.

Hepatitis C Still Deadly, But New Treatment May Offer Hope

BOCA RATON, Fla. — While Hepatitis C, a viral infection that claims more than 10,000 lives each year, is four times more prevalent than HIV, a new drug combination may offer hope. On May 4 the FDA's Antiviral Drugs Advisory Committee recommended approval of combination treatment with ribavirin plus interferon alpha for hepatitis C which had not been cured by interferon alone. Until now the only approved U.S. treatment has been alpha interferon, which cures only about 10 to 20 percent of patients. Combination treatment with ribavirin appears to at least double the cure rate. As many as 40 percent of persons with HIV are also infected with hepatitis C. Some HIV physicians report more of their patients dying from liver cirrhosis caused by this disease, than from AIDS. A hepatitis C clinical trial data so far is from patients who are HIV negative. The first trial for persons with both infections is starting now in 17 U.S. cities, which includes Atlanta. Call the American Foundation for AIDS Research at 602-340-1207 for more information. It is estimated that about four million Americans have hepatitis C, but only about one million know it.

—From staff and wire reports



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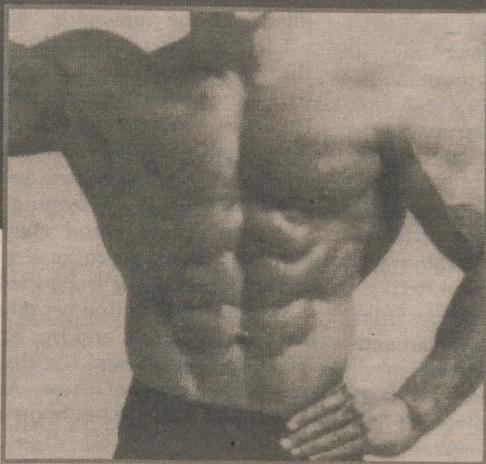
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ISSUE 918
MAY 29, 1998

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Finding Myself

The ramblings of a man coming into his own identity

by P. BUTLER.

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It was quite a carnival ride. But after gallons of liquor, hundreds of prescription pills, years of therapy, mountains of unread self-help books, numerous "group encounters" and death-defying acts of depression, the roller coaster fell off its track.

My ex-wife could not take any more reality. She went off to "find herself." I have never understood that statement. Aren't we always with ourselves. No matter where we travel? Then I really don't see the point in traveling.

My ex-wife was unhappy with her life. I realize now I was not the complete cause. It's a shame, but she probably won't ever be totally happy, and she deserves the best in life. We all do. My therapist tells me this weekly. I no longer take ownership of my ex-wife's happiness. That's up to her, her new husband and her therapist.

My, that felt good to say.

But even with that deck of cards, I played the game the only way I knew, even after I split from the wife. I dated a variety of good, true-hearted women, each in varying sizes and pressed attire with a 99-cent rental under one arm and a casserole under the other. After a few months, I realized I was much happier renting my own videos and making my own casseroles.

After almost a year of loneliness, I found myself with an invitation to spend a religious holiday with a "gay" person. My new friend (a "gay" person) invited me out for a drink on what he said was the gay national holiday — Halloween.

I went gladly. Anything had to be more exciting than those damn ground beef casseroles. Now, my friend worked with me and thought he had me all figured out. He did. But he didn't know I hadn't figured it out for myself yet. That was a shock for both of us.

But it didn't take long before the "figuring" stopped, and I began to come into my own reality. Quickly, I realized that I much preferred to serve my casseroles to a man.

Please do not think I was in denial. I never allowed myself time to think about it, so I never thought to deny it. Everyone knows that good boys from good families grow up, get married, have 2.3 children, a three-bedroom two-bath brick house and join the Kiwanis Club. That was the way of the world.

And then, at 40, to come to the same realization that everyone else came to back in high school was frightening.

Mother of God, I like boys. I liked them a lot. I like them in "that" way.

But I couldn't. I had two children and a mortgage. Just imagine, coming out at 40-ish? I didn't know anyone named Abba nor had I even heard of that stoned wall.

But I managed to throw myself into the "gay lifestyle" with a true spirited gusto. I bought three bottles of cologne. I had my hair "highlighted." I memorized lines from several Bette Davis movies and prayed to Madonna nightly. If I were to be gay, I wanted to be the best.

Then, during a visit to "the club," calamity struck, a man asked me for more. He asked me to dinner. He wanted to take me to a restaurant without a drive-thru. He wanted to get to know me with my clothes on first. In fact, he didn't even mention the "s" word.

I was petrified. I became Lot's wife. Then I was struck with a blast of insanity and asked him if he would like to come to the house for a drink first.

Now I had three days to repaint the living room, clean the oven, undergo cosmetic surgery and liposuction and dear God, what do I do with the children?

Their mother was finding herself with a 21-year-old at the time (damn her), and there was "no room at the inn." Or as she put it, "It's not convenient." Excuse me? When have children ever been convenient?

I could call their grandmother and let her spoil them.

Years before, two emotional cripples fell into an abundance of "like," married, bore two children, bought a brick split foyer in the suburbs and limped into a land of shadows—filled with deceit, pain, lies, and long dry spells of silence.

Wrong. Granny's protesting for migrate workers' rights and underprivileged lettuce. Why did it seem that I was the last one to start finding myself?

Okay, I had the answer — the children could spend the night down the street with our neighbors, the Brady Bunch. I called the neighbors and told them the honest truth: "My long-lost half-brother was coming into town to meet me for the first time, and I felt this was something I needed to do alone."

It worked. There had been an "Oprah" on that just last week. Two sisters met for the first time after being separated at birth. The neighbors never knew how really close the "sister" concept was to the truth.

The big day was here. I cleaned. I recleaned. I scented. I prayed. I giggled a lot. I hummed Abba songs. The impossible was going to be pulled off. I was going to look the part of a mature homosexual with his own teeth and most of his own hair.

I was empowered. I lit votive candles everywhere. I poured the liquor into a decanter. I waited, carefully, trying not to wrinkle, rumble or erupt before the doorbell rang.

Hallelujah. It rang. Victory was at hand. He would never know my true age. He would never know about the kids. Nor that I was a former statewide vice president of the PTA.

I opened the door and there stood the five-foot-four object of my desire. He brought me a single yellow rose wrapped in green paper from the Food Giant. He smiled a smile as big as his cowboy hat and he brushed my check with the softest of kisses as he entered the front door.

We walked to the kitchen for ice and water for his George Hickel when "what to my wondering eyes should appear" but my boy child's dirtiest tennis shoe floating in a sink filled with the nastiest of brown water.

I felt myself transformed back into Lot's wife (later my therapist would refer to these feelings as anxiety attacks) as two white streaks ran across the kitchen counter. Lucy and Ethel were on the loose again. Due to economy, the two mice were living with us on the weekends this winter. There was no heat after school, so the classroom pets had to be "farmed" out for safekeeping. But the girls didn't enjoy their caged environment and when the chance availed itself, they would repeatedly run for the border.

Then the doorbell sounded again. I excused myself and ran to the door to find my daughter's Girl Scout leader there with three scouts and our share of cookies. I collected the 76 boxes and closed the door. We were top sellers for the pack two years in a row. As I turned, I found my Prince Charming stirring his bourbon and branch with a number two pencil.

"Couldn't find a spoon. You're a breeder, huh?" he asked.

"Yeah," I said.

"Boy and a girl, right?" he asked.

"Yeah," I said.

"No cat?" he asked.

"Three dogs, two birds, a snake, and Lucy and Ethel on the weekends," I said.

"Not queer long, huh?" he asked.

We never made it to the restaurant that night. We warmed up a casserole, opened a box of snickerdoodles and ate by votive candlelight.

We laughed out loud. We talked for hours. Considering everything, I felt it turned out to be a rather good first date. I called him a couple of times the next week. He never returned my calls. And I thought it went so well, huh?

P. Butler is a freelance writer whose column appears regularly in Alabama Forum, that state's gay and lesbian newspaper.



Cruising A Generation

Visual tips and shorthand for prudent patrons



by MARK KING

There were enormous oil barrels stacked around the bar. Painted black. Actually, just about everything was painted black. Cigarettes floated in the near darkness like fireflies, flushing and brightening, then gone.

If you are in a gay bar and they have barrels sitting around, that means you are in a Men's Bar. It's a kind of decorating shorthand for "butch."

There are other visual tips on the cruising super-highway. Sawdust on the floor means they like men with facial hair. A pool table denotes a friendly place, but pinball machines are an apology for a bar with low entertainment value. If they have a barber's chair somewhere, it means ... well, I don't really know what that means. Maybe they used to be a T.G.I. Fridays.

On this night, I stood leaning against some butch barrels with my arms crossed, like most of the men in their tank tops and harnesses. The position is great for pec exhibition, although it did look like we were all pouting because the DJ wouldn't play our request. The other men spent a lot of time scratching their shoulders (same muscle effect) or rubbing the back of their heads (good armpit move). In fact, what with all the scratching and rubbing, the room looked like one big nervous tic.

The night was growing old and the natives were dateless.

The crowd was a pile of oily rags, waiting to combust. Sexual tension abounded. If one overly enthusiastic gentleman dropped his Levi's, the rest of the jeans in the room would probably have hit the floor like a domino pageant, fanning out from the initial point of contact.

Having a lover back home meant my anxiety level was lower than most; I was just cruising for sport. I relaxed into the scene, arms planted across my chest, and remembered teaching my best friend Charles the fine art of cruising a generation ago.

It was LaFitte's, a Bourbon Street bar in New Orleans, that was Charles' first gay bar experience. It

was 1979. I was eighteen; Charles only a few years older. I practically dragged him in by the earlobes. There were little alligators on pullover shirts everywhere, and blasting from the sound system was the voice of a shrill young woman who wanted to be taken to Funky Town right that very instant. Charles and I were dressed in strict accordance to the Official Preppy Handbook.

"Thumbs in pockets, Charles," I instructed, and Charles assumed the position I had choreographed for him in my living room. He leaned against a wall, head cocked, thumbs hooked in his khakis, his fingers splayed above his crotch. He looked a bit awkward but he would get used to it.

"Now when you see a guy you like," I went on, "remember, don't look away. Stare him down so he knows you mean business." I giggled at the sight of him.

"Jeez, Mark," Charles said without breaking formation, "Do I have to stand like this? And I can't see without my glasses."

"He can see your glasses on the second date."

"Ugh," Charles squinted.

"There's a bath house two blocks away," I offered, "if you just want to cut to the chase."

"You're out of your mind if you think I'll go there."

"Oh Charles, if you catch something we'll get you a shot for it. Wanna try? It's only ..."

"No" Charles protested, scanning the bar with renewed fervor. "I'm looking, I'm staring, I've got my thumbs hooked. I'm fine here, really." I remember wondering how I could effectively mold Charles into a proper gay man if he continued to behave so prudently.

It was a lot more fun cruising then, I thought as I leaned against barrels 20 years later. What is the difference now? Why the thinly veiled desperation? Is it age? The presence of death in the equation?

I wandered near the dance floor and was struck by an odd development. In my day, you didn't step on the dance floor unless you were dancing with some-

Yet the look of marvel on their faces was a comfort of sorts, an answer to a jaded bar patron who doubted there could be fun, even joy, to be found in the chase and the crowd and the sparkling disco ball.

one — I'm sure I must have covered this with Charles — and if you danced by yourself you were either on major drugs or someone had left your cake out in the rain, if you get my meaning. Now, guys just saunter onto the floor alone and start their groove things. When did the solo stuff start? Is there a newsletter for these changes, or a mailing list of some kind?

Through the heavy strobe lights I spotted two newcomers, both impossibly young, one leading the other. The one being pulled across the room was taking in the scene as if he'd just been dropped in Munchkinland, while his more forthright friend giggled and skipped through the bar without a care. The sight of them together looked hauntingly familiar to me.

I watched them come my way, parting the sea of the older and the wiser. I smiled, a friendly glance that made contact but was never acknowledged by either, as was their youthful prerogative. And yet the look of marvel on their faces was a comfort of sorts, an answer to a jaded bar patron who doubted there could be fun, even joy, to be found in the chase and the crowd and the sparkling disco ball.

I returned my attention to the swarming dance floor. A remixed Donna Summer song faded in and the mob let out a tribal roar. I grinned, uncrossed my arms, and strutted alone into the middle of the dancing, cheering crowd.

Mark King lives in Atlanta and is a columnist for *The Washington Blade*. He can be reached at marksking@aol.com.

Freak Show

Trashy talk shows only view of black lesbians, gays



by KAREN SHOFFNER

While the now-canceled "Ellen" did its part to make goofy and awkward white lesbians more visible in the mainstream, it seems it's now up to Jerry Springer to bring black lesbians and gay men to the mainstream.

Since getting cable television a few weeks ago, I have watched the circus hosted by the former mayor of Cincinnati turned purveyor of trash TV talks shows on many a morning. Each time I've seen Springer's show, I have been rendered incredulous. It isn't just the fights that are allegedly staged that stretch belief, but it's the situations and people, too. Lies, betrayals, greed, sexual jealousy, passion, lust and dark motives of all kinds — all the stuff of our lives and sometimes great literature are reduced to the sort of entertainment only the truly prurient can enjoy.

Although the show is taped in Chicago, virtually all the white guests seem to come from below the Mason-Dixon line. It's slightly more difficult to determine where the show finds its black guests, but I'd venture to say that they fall into a rather narrow category — urban blacks who speak black English. (I could be wrong, but this does, however, beg the question of just what sort of image of white Southerners and blacks that Springer seems to want to convey.)

Black or white, the average Springer guest displays an astonishing aptitude for stringing together numerous profanities. To top it off, Springer himself delivers a smug homily at the end of each show, essentially chastising the guests for their degeneracy and depravity.

It was a slightly nerdy white male colleague who pointed out the service Springer actually performs. Mike and I don't know each other very well, but we have both watched Springer, which helps form a bond. Of the show, he said, "They're obsessed with black gay men and lesbians. They're always shocked to see them." But then he added, "It's the only place in mainstream culture where you see them."

A black gay male character on "Spin City" notwithstanding, he's right. Chicago Bull Dennis Rodman? I think he's just talk. Actress/rapper Queen Latifah played a lesbian in "Set It Off" a couple of years ago, a movie that is noteworthy primarily because of its failure to take its place in mainstream consciousness in the way that Jerry Springer has. Crooner Johnny Mathis? He was closeted in his heyday and where is he now?

I know I exist, and I consider myself just a part of the natural order of things. But it wasn't until I talked to Mike that I realized what a curiosity I must be to some people, both black and white. The notion that there aren't black homosexuals is what I find curious.

I read an article a few years ago about Afro-American studies and gay and lesbian studies in colleges and universities in which a black professor, who wished to remain anonymous, said that gay and lesbian studies were irrelevant to blacks because, well, there just isn't any homosexuality among blacks. His theory, such as it is, goes something like this. Equality reigned between the sexes in Africa whereas it didn't in Europe, and it is this inequality that led to homosexuality among Europeans, apparently. Ludicrous? Certainly, but this professor

As a black lesbian, I must say that it's a little unsettling that it has taken the likes of Jerry Springer to validate my existence in the mainstream. I'm still pondering what that means for civilization as we know it.

believes it.

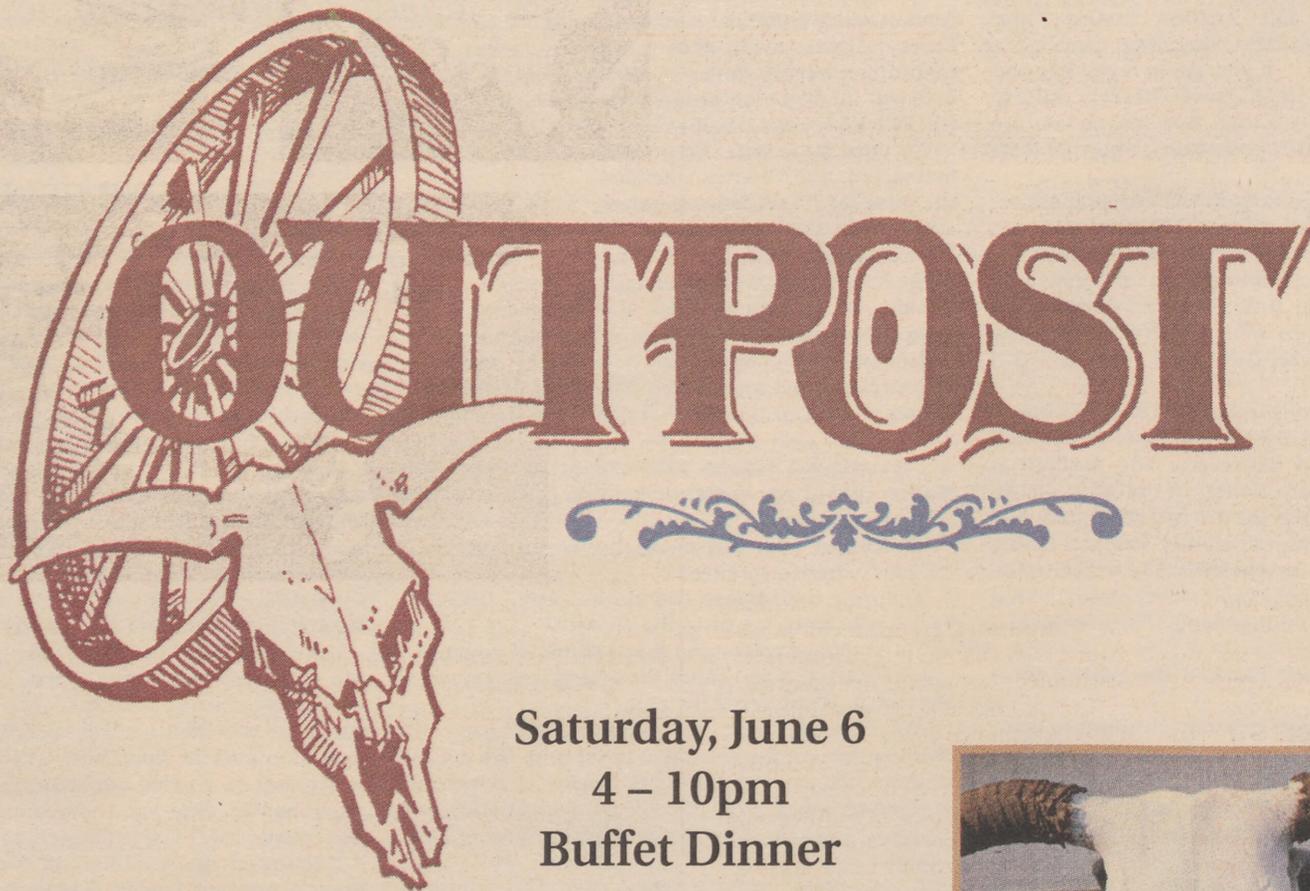
As a black lesbian, I must say that it's a little unsettling that it has taken the likes of Jerry Springer to validate my existence in the mainstream. I'm still pondering what that means for civilization as we know it.

But I should add that I would be more upset about my kind not necessarily appearing in the best light on national television were it not for the fact that nobody appears in his or her best light on that show. The point of being on the show is to be entertaining, which in Springer Land means personal lives in disarray, flying chairs and fists, women pulling each other's hair out and everyone hurling obscenities. Now that I think about it, Jerry Springer is downright egalitarian. How ideally American. I feel something welling up within me. It feels like, yes, it's pride. Today, I am indeed damn proud to be a black American lesbian.

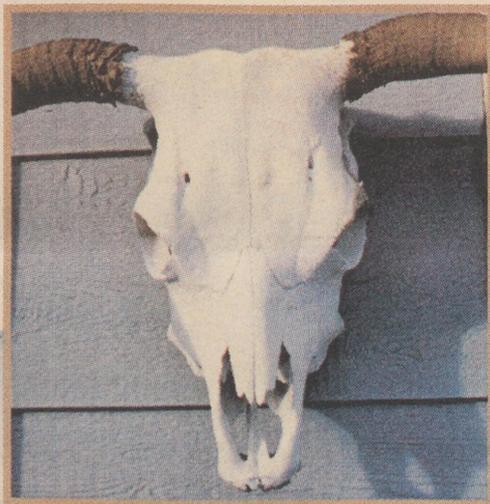
God bless America and Jerry Springer.

Karen Shoffner is a freelance writer in Northampton, Mass.

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Paper finds temporary printer; activists decry church actions

by LAURA BROWN

A gay newspaper in Georgia has found a new printer, just days after it was dumped by a firm pressured by local church members.

Southern Voice Publisher Chris Crain is considering legal action against *The Gainesville Times*, which started printing the Atlanta-based gay newspaper about four weeks before it dumped the paper May 19.

Although *Times* Publisher Chris Jensen called the timing of the decision merely "unfortunate," it came just days after several churches in Gainesville called on their members to cancel subscriptions to the *Times* because of their work with "the Homosexual Southern Voice."

Southern Voice and *Houston Voice* are both owned by Window Media in Atlanta.

The *Times* had agreed to continue printing the paper until June 8, but Crain said he decided to temporarily move *Southern Voice* back to its former printer.

"I feel like our print job (last) week was sabotaged — not by the publisher or people high up in the *Times*, but there are people on the print floor who are hostile to *Southern Voice*," Crain said, explaining the early move. "The kinds of errors in printing and trimming are so basic that they can only be sabotage."

Some bundles of last week's *Southern Voice* contained large black ink smears across several pages of advertising and copy, while most were trimmed so poorly that a paper fringe hung from the edges.

Crain said the move back to Atlanta Offset is temporary, and the paper is "continuing to review options" for find-

ing a permanent printer. Atlanta Offset and the *Times*' printing company, Southland Publishing, are both owned by the national media chain Gannett, which also owns USA Today and Atlanta's NBC television affiliate.

"If 47 ministers can bring a Gannett newspaper to its knees, we have to think twice before we choose another Gannett-owned printer for our newspaper," he said. "Gannett has shown an absolute lack of courage." Crain declined further comment on possible legal action.

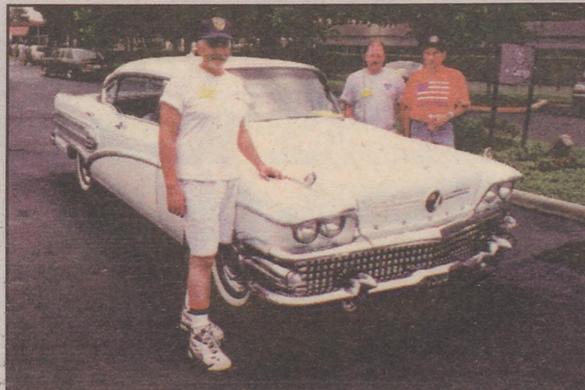
Jensen declined comment to *Southern Voice*, referring instead to a statement issued by Southland Publishing last week.

"We will continue to work with any group ... regardless of its religious, racial or lifestyle affiliations, provided the organization and its needs are legal and within the bounds of accepted business and printing practices," the statement said. "Recent operational and press scheduling conflicts have made it necessary for us to reevaluate our commercial printing commitments ..."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the national media watchdog group, included the printer cancellation in a "Media Alert" distributed throughout the country.

"The very wording of (the Gainesville *Times*' statement) causes us great concern," said GLAAD Executive Director Joan Garry. "It is a vague and indirect response to a very serious and potentially precedent-setting matter. We find it unacceptable that the *Times* will not specifically address their decision to no longer print this

Classic Cars



More than 85 classic cars arrived for the Golden Girls 10th Annual Invitational Car Show in Houston on May 24, hosted by the Classic Chassis Car Club, Houston's gay car club. Among the participants were (clockwise) John Sarkisian and his '64 Chrysler Crown Coupe Imperial, Larry Ulibarri's '69 Cadillac and the '58 Buick Roadmaster of Conrad Fertitta and Gary Barnes. — Photos by Dalton DeHart

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Friday-May 29

- Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel done to Christian music for body, soul, and spirit. 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Communion and Prayer Service at 10:00 am; at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday-May 30

- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday- May 31

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 10:30 am at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service "Preaching the Gospel" at 11 am. 713-528-6756.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. (A Study in the Book of Joshua.) 4305 Lillian 880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm. 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.
- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.

- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Faith and Hope Fellowship Service at 11:00 am. 713-520-7847.

Monday-June 1

- Low impact aerobics done to Christian Music for body, soul, and spirit at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Catholic Mass at 7:00 pm at the Kolbe Project. 861-1800

Tuesday-June 2

- MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm Orchestra rehearsal at 7:30 pm. 861-9149.
- PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- Maranatha Fellowship MCC has groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Women & Spiritually Series at 7 pm. At the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800.

Wednesday- June 3

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149.
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Healing Service at 8 pm. the Kolbe Project. 713-861-7212.

Thursday- June 4

- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847.
- Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Choir Practice at 6:30 pm. Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>

If you want an event listed in this section, please call Carolyn Roberts at 529-8490 by 12 Noon Mondays.

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Friday, May 29

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at E/J's 6-10 pm and at the Midtowne Spa 10 pm to 1 am, Inergy at 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713/864-8468
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Free Yoga classes at 6 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Recovery and Beyond-relationship group meets at 8 pm. 713-333-9092.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- Chain Gang social at 7 pm. 713-768-8793.

Saturday, May 30

- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at Brick's II 4 to 8 pm and the 611 Hyde Park Pub 8 pm to midnight, Toyz 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group meets. 713-526-1017.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- The Movie Club meets. 281-835-5312.

Sunday, May 31

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am. 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders: A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 am. 713-864-8468.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- PWA Holiday Charities meet at noon. 713-521-0911
- PFLAG of Houston meets at 2 pm. 713-867-9020.

Monday, June 1

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 1pm to 7 pm 713-626-2837
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic: Mary's 9 am to 1 pm; and Cousin's 8:30 pm to midnight.
- Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30 pm. 713-681-1309
- Greater Houston Gay/Lesbian Chamber of Commerce meets. 713-523-7576.
- "Disability Insurance Update" seminar at the Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

Tuesday, June 2

- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 7pm. 495-8009.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck.

- 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic Club. Body Center and Mela's 8pm to Midnight.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Bering Support Network-Lunch Bunch Gang meets at 7 pm. 713-526-1017.
- HIV + Support group for men over 50 meets at 7:30 pm. 713/527-9106.
- HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer at 7 pm. 713/527-8219.
- Love, Lust, and Intimacy discussion group meets at 7 pm. 713/524-2374.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- Lesbian Health Initiative meets. 713-526-7828.

Wednesday, June 3

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Chances 6 to 10 pm, Nighthawks pm to midnight and the Ripcord 10 pm to 1 am.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713/864-8468.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4:30pm . 713/791-1412.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey team recruits at 6:30 pm. 713-802-1248.
- Free Yoga classes at 7 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 1 to 7 pm. 73-626-2837.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Rainbow Ranglers at 8 pm at the BRB.
- Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. 281-933-5818.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 623-6796.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus meets at 803 Hawthorne. 713-521-1000.

Thursday, June 4

- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at the BRB from 4 to 8 pm and QT's 8 pm to midnight.
- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main . 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- FrontRunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Gulf Coast Transgender Community meets at 7 pm. 713-780-4282.

MARYS

SUNDAY MAY 31

2pm til...

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Night in Black Leather



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The Daddy of
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Applications available
at Mary's

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\$1.50 Well Vodka
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Announcements

Free Legal Workshop on Disability Insurance. HOUSTON-Montrose Clinic & local attorney Mitchell Katine will present the fourth in a series of HIV information seminars. The seminars will held once of month through October 1998 and will address a variety of legal issues surrounding HIV in the workforce. The next scheduled workshop is *Disability Insurance Update, Monday, June 1, '98 - 7p.m. @ 215 Westheimer.* To reserve seats or for more information, call Montrose Clinic at 713.830.3025.

YOU TOO CAN ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE FOR \$15.00 A WEEK
CALL MARSHALL at 713.529.8490.

CALLING ALL SWBT EMPLOYEES ACTIVE OR RETIRED!!!

Come OUT! and show your colors by proudly supporting the Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. If you are interested in being a part of the spectrum unit in the parade, please call 713.871.2922 for more information. Spectrum is the organization of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, trans-gendered, and gay friendly SWBT employees.

Give...
Donate your car to the American Lung Association of Texas, and receive a tax deduction toward your itemized tax return!
and receive!
Call 1-800-252-LUNG.

PWA Coalition Needs Volunteers. The People With AIDS Coalition is currently recruiting volunteers to assist in its direct client service volunteer programs. Volunteers are needed at the Coalition's main offices, serving clients in the Warehouse Program, Ticket Program, and assisting with Administrative functions. The Coalition also needs assistance in its volunteer program at Thomas Street Clinic. All volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. To find out more, please contact Jackie Wear at 713.938.1533 or Michael Miller at 713.522.5428.

HOPWA Funds Available for Rural Counties. The PWA Coalition has housing assistance funds for People with HIV or AIDS residing in Austin, Colorado, Walker and Wharton Counties. These funds are provided by a contract with the Texas Department of Health. Individuals or families residing in these counties in need of rental or utility assistance should contact the Coalition directly at 1.800.999.0325.

HOUSTON'S HOTTEST HEALTH CLUB JUST GOT HOTTER!!!

FITNESS EXCHANGE has added 2 more *Precor EFX's* for a total of 10 and more new *CYBEX* equipment is on the way this **MONTH!!!** Celebrating **20 YEARS** in HOUSTON. 4040 Milam Street @ West Main, Houston, TX 77006, 713.524.9932.

Tanqueray's® TEXAS AIDS RIDE® - seven days from Austin through Houston to Dallas. October 5-11 benefiting 44 AIDS service organizations throughout

the Lone Star State - is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help spread the word about the ride. For more information call 713.521.RIDE (7433).

The Pride Parade deadline is coming up fast, June 1st is just around the corner! Jim and Tina are asking for assistance with the parade applications. If you are a member of or know of any business and organizations that have yet to receive a Parade packet, please call and let us know. Thank you! Pride-line: 713.529.6979 Pride-fax: 713.529.6929.

!! FREE HIV/AIDS ART WORKSHOP !!
The Glassell School of Art located at 5101 Montrose Blvd. will be offering FREE Art Courses to those with HIV/AIDS! Classes are offered every Friday until August 1st., from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. All instruction, materials, and even lunch are provided free. Come explore the healing power behind your creativity! For information call 713.639.7500 or 713.526.1118.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998
The official Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998 merchandise is now available. T-shirts, tank tops, sleeveless muscle T's, caps and commemorative pins all feature the 1998 theme of "Unified, Diversified, Electrified." All proceeds help bring you PRIDE 1998. Call Fred, for more information, at 713.522.9752.

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Help Wanted

RECEPTIONIST/Permanent Part-time: Rapidly growing weekly gay newspaper seeks experienced receptionist. Position requires excellent phone/organizational skill and Microsoft Office '97. JOIN the fastest growing gay media company in the country. We are an equal opportunity employer. Send resume (*NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE*) to: **Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Ste. 105, Houston, TX 77006** or fax it to 713-529-9531.

Furniture Sales - Full or Part-time. Experience a plus. References needed. Call Robert at #1 Quality Furniture 713.914.0666.

The Houston Pride Band, a volunteer, non-profit organization is looking for a conductor/artistic director. Duties will include: providing artistic direction, conducting at weekly rehearsals, and participating at bi-weekly board meetings. For more information, please contact Russell Williams at 713.524.0218, or send email to HousTxBand@aol.com

F/T year round financial manager needed to oversee annual budget of \$750,000. Duties include cash flow management, creation of monthly financial statements, bank deposits, A/P, and weekly payroll. Reports to Managing Director and works with Finance Committee. Peachtree Accounting preferred. Salary mid-twenties. Donald Hightower, Managing Director, Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, #101, Houston, TX 77019 or fax 713.527-8669.

CLUB HOUSTON is now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person* Mon. - Thurs., 10am - 2pm at 2205 Fannin.

Mary's naturally is accepting applications for part-time maintenance. Apply Tues. - Thurs., 9am - 2pm, see Walter or Gaye.

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for management trainees, bartenders, door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group health insurance. **JR's BAR & GRILL** and **THE MONTROSE MINING CO.** are looking for honest, self-motivated and customer service oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. To join our family of clubs, apply Monday through Friday between 1pm and 5pm at JR's, 808 Pacific. A recent photo is required. No phone calls please.

Midtowne Spa - Houston
*** NOW HIRING***
For more details call 713.522.2379

The **Fitness Exchange** is now hiring for receptionist/trainer. Must be people oriented and willing to work on some weekends. We are also looking for a detail oriented housekeeper. Please come by 4040 Milam to apply.

Brazos River Bottom is now accepting applications for a full-time Country Western DJ. Apply in person Mon-Sat, 8:00am-1:00pm.

CHANCES & The NEW BARN
Taking applications for speed bartenders who can come to work sober and unescorted by current lover. Your pay is commensurate with your professionalism. We need folks who want to work & serve our valued customers! If you are sick & tired of not earning a decent take home pay come work with us & be delightfully surprised! No Jerks need apply!

GENTRY is accepting applications for full time barbacks. Apply from 2pm to 6pm @ 2303 Richmond. No Phone Calls Please.

Help Wanted! Houston-Join the friendly staff at Montrose's favorite men's dance bar: Pacific Street! Applications now being accepted for Bartenders, Door & Floor positions. Recent photo required. Apply Mondays & Fridays, Noon - 4pm. No Phone Inquires, Please.

General Labor: 713.942.8600

Nighthawks is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time is Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

Items For Sale

ESTATE & YARD SALE
SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH @ 7:00A.M.
Furniture including: drop-leaf table, bookcase-headboard bedroom set, cedar chest, small antique bar, china closet, and king-size bed. Dishwasher, A/C unit, clothes, lamps, linens and much more!
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FREE customized information by mail, fax or in person. \$500/month & Up. HomeWorks Apartment Locators. 713.521.REAL (7325).

AIDS Emergency Housing - Montrose
 Bed Space available at TLC House for HIV infected males. Weekly rental, no deposit, bill paid, free laundry/phone. No drugs/alcohol - Social Service vouchers welcome! AIDS Housing Coalition Houston. 713.521.1613.

Real Estate For Sale

GREAT HOUSES IN MONTROSE & THE HEIGHTS
 Call Bill Baldwin-Agent
 281.731.8314

Roommate

CLEAR LAKE

Roommate needed to find and share 2 Bedroom apartment. Quiet, Non-Smoker & No Pets.

TIM: 713.524.9891

Bisexual Male looking for a room to rent (within the loop) by June 1, 98. Pager 713.902.3998.

Want To Buy

Fast Cash, Highest Price Paid. We buy antiques, estates, furniture, collectibles, jewelry, etc. Pick up available. 281.391.7515 or 713.994.5986 pgr.

WebSites

www.HoustonGayWeb.com

Personals

Curious? Meet someone new. Record and listen to ads FREE. Use code 7070. Must be 18+ years. 713.526.9393.

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- 1-617-378-1869
- 1-678-539-6633
- 1-212-796-3365
- 1-704-319-2065
- 1-473-441-1065
- 1-268-404-7440
- 18+ Only
- LD Rates Apply

Small Red Hankie Group ages 30's to 50's seeks trim recruits, all races. Mike 713.355.4022.

Houston's Newest, Hottest Gay Dateline. Meet local men & women NOW. 1.900.285.0074 ext. 8850. Must be 18+ \$2.99 per minute.

Curious? Meet someone new. Record & Listen to ads FREE. Use code 7070. Must be 18+ years. 713.526.9393.

MEETING GAY & BI LOCALS
 FREE to Browse & Respond to

- Voice Ads!
- 713.225.5500
- PUB #625 (18+)

SOME LIKE IT HOT! Find sexy guys for play on *The Confidential Connection!* 18+ Record, Listen & Respond FREE! Call 713.892.5566 use code 7126.

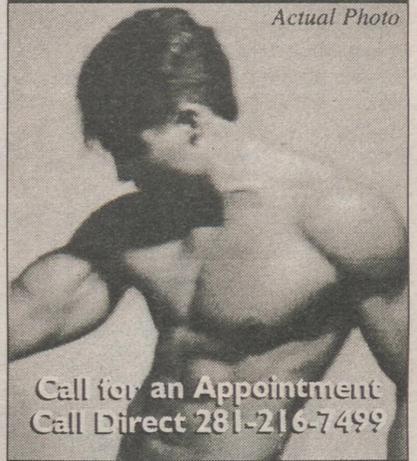
24 MEAT! Talk to men waiting for fun on Club Voice-MALE™! 18+ Try it FREE! Call 713.850.7900 use code 7900.

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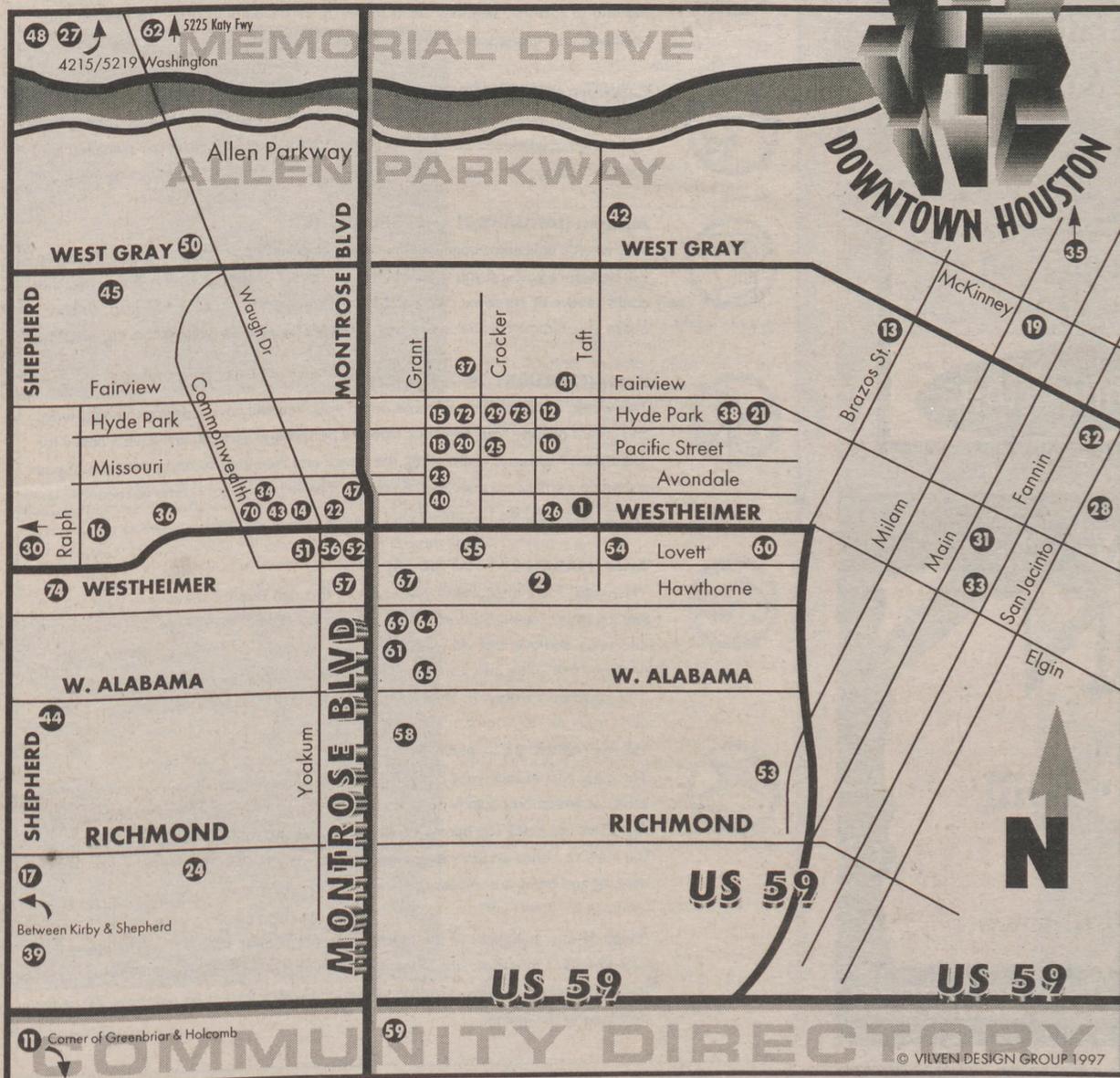
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Houston Voice Policy. Prostitution is illegal in Texas. State law prohibits the placement in this category of any such ads which might suggest sollicitation. The Houston Voice will not knowingly accept any ads of this type.



COMMUNITY DIRECTORY



ACCOMMODATIONS		
1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale 713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd 713/522-5224
BARS & CLUBS		
10	611 Hyde Park	713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe 713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview 713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos 713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview 713/528-9204
16	EJ's	2517 Ralph 713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond 713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific 713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney 713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific 713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Tuam 713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer 713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific 713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond 713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific 713/523-0213
26	QT's	534 Westheimer 713/529-8813
27	Mail Box	4215 Washington 713/864-2977
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto 713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview 713/521-2792
30	Vintage Bar on Midlane	4356 Westheimer 713/355-3093
31	Nighthawks	2923 Main 713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin 713/659-4998
33	Midtown Spa	3100 Fannin 713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer 713/521-9533
35	Club Spy	112 Travis 713/228-0007
36	Racials	1318 Westheimer 713/942-CLUB
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker 713/522-7366
38	Mela's Tejano Country	302 Tuam 713/523-0747
39	Metroplex	2165 Portsmouth 713/520-5000
48	Viviana's	5219 Washington 713/862-0203
RESTAURANTS		
40	Baba Yega	2607 Grant 713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview 713/522-0106
42	Fox Diner	905 Taft 713/523-5369
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer 713/522-3332
44	Cafe Edi	3102 S. Shepherd 713/520-5221
45	Mesa Grill	1971 W. Gray 713/520-8900
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St. 713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES		
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray 713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer 713/942-0147
52	Eckerd Drugs	1007 Westheimer 713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam 713/524-9932
54	Alternative Health Center	404 Westheimer 713/627-9355
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer 713/529-8490
56	H.E.B.	1009 Westheimer
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose 713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939 S Montrose 713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose 713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer 713/520-2000
61	Image Cleaners	3407 Montrose B4 713/527-0880
62	Preferred Graphics	5225 Katy Fwy 310 713/862-3312
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne 713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama 713/523-2521
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose 713/520-8000
69	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose A5 713/522-7373
CLOTHING SHOPS		
31	Black Hawks Leather	2923 Main 713/520-6224
70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer 713/522-1626
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview 713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview 713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer 713/529-6299

Chances

AN ALL PEOPLES BAR
DEDICATED TO
COMMUNITY UNITY.

SATURDAY, MAY 30 · 9pm

THE BIG PARADE

hosted by Barbara Walker and Bob Bouton
benefits Pride Committee of Houston



SUNDAY, MAY 31 · 4pm

BEER BUST

\$3 Buy-in 25¢ Refills

Come bend an elbow with us.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3 · 9pm

Shiela Lennon's Karaoke night.



FRIDAY, JUNE 5 · 9pm

Susan Masar

Sing R&B and Soul.

GET A DATE/MATE NIGHT

Ladies Night!!

Sing along with Sheila Lennon and
sign up for a FREE Personal ad.

Staff members of the *Houston Voice* will
help you write your FREE
40 word personal ad.

Join us at

Chances

1100 Westheimer on June 10 - 8:00-11:00 pm
For more information call 529-8490

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VOICE
One Community! One Voice!

Connections

THE NEW BARN

Friday, May 29 · 9pm

Bridgett

The best damn chick DJ in town

1100 Westheimer · Houston · 523-7217

GALAXY GAYZER

by JOSEPH MOLINA

May 29 — June 4, 1998



Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

Happy birthday Gemini. Assertive Mars faces off with power-oriented Pluto turning up your Homosexual flame. You will have a larger amount OF energy to accomplish your goals and complete anything you set out to do. Although because of the influence of Neptune and Uranus, you may feel disconnected from your source. At the begging of this new cycle, fear of the responsibility it will require to attain your goals could cause you to hesitate. No matter what, you must stay focused and pattern your year ahead.



Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)

This week, you must focus so that movement can occur. There is success before you, yet it is still to be won. You may feel as though your life is going nowhere as movement that seems like obstacles occur. Fear of change could hold you back momentarily. You must stand on your feet and hold your ground as challenges come. At the end of the week, do not worry. You'll look in the mirror and see your old homosexual self back to normal.



Leo (JULY 24 — AUGUST 23)

You are at the beginning of a new phase. A message could come to you that at first could be discouraging. This could be a hidden event that is a blessing in disguise. You need to learn from the experience. Your life is being rerouted to a needed direction. At first it could seem difficult, but remember that this is only the begging.



Virgo (AUGUST 24 — SEPTEMBER 23)

This week queer Virgos will need to pay attention to the inner emotions occurring. A stand still could occur, enabling you to be reflective and experience silence. Money that may not actually be yours could be burning a hole in your pocket — maybe candle holders, new sheets for the bed or diamonds.



Libra (SEPTEMBER 24 — OCTOBER 23)

This week, a stressful situation could reach its boiling point. The fulcrum which provides stress will give and the universe will show you ways out of it. Unprepared, an opportunity to break through this pressure will manifest, and you will move away from your difficulties.



Scorpio (OCTOBER 24 — NOVEMBER 22)

This week a healing process is occurring within. Through the influence of Uranus and Neptune, people who are not in accord with your vision of success will leave. You would be wise to set free those that are holding you back. You must be careful not to be too hard on yourself as the universe forces you to be honest and true.



Sagittarius (NOVEMBER 23 — DECEMBER 22)

At the beginning of this week, you will experience a sense of confusion — a dream that you just can't seem to wake up from. You are coming out of a daze and are at the end of turmoil. You may need to be sly or deceitful in order to resolve your problems. Try taking some time off or go to the beach.



Capricorn (DECEMBER 23 — JANUARY 20)

Why is it that love never comes when we want it? Or why is that department store sale always a week too late? Although the timing may be a little off, romance and good friendships are very likely. I see you shopping, walking and spending a buck.



Aquarius (JANUARY 21 — FEBRUARY 19)

This week's indicators begin with a warning against pride and arrogance. A choice will be before you and you would be wise to give it proper attention. For some, this could be love or romance. You will have the opportunity to allow the artist to come out in you, although you run the risk of being scattered and losing this opportunity.



Pisces (FEBRUARY 20 — MARCH 20)

This week, the dreamer will come out in you. You will have a desire to paint, write and create beauty. Your romantic side will be sparked and you will have a desire for soft music, nighttime walks along the beach and nice long soaks in the tube. If you are single, romance is probable. If you are married, it is a good time to reconcile lingering issues and set the past free.



Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

This week, Mars encourages you to break through tension standing in your way. A fear of failure could hold you back from success and earthly power. Momentary doorways and avenues will open up. If you can hold on too all of what is yours, a harmony will settle into your life. The universe may bring you a gift or inheritance. This could be a means to an end, money for a trip, new furniture or a new home.



Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

The early part of this week could manifest as stress and difficulty. An overwhelming sense of limitation could arise that could produce a feeling of confusion about life. Ask if you are being too hard on yourself. By the end of the week, you will fall under the spell of Venus and the stress will lift around you. You will find yourself dating, dancing and being a hopeless romantic.

Joseph Molina, a student of the psychic sciences for over 15 years can be reached at 713-524-4411 for private appointments or e-mailed at joemo@swbell.net. Look for his upcoming website at www.AstralWind.com and watch for him on Montrose TV at the beginning of the month.

Important Stuff

The Houston Voice, Chances and Connections are having a "Get a Date/Mate" night on Wednesday, June 10, at 8 p.m. Houston Voice staffers will be on hand to help you write your FREE woman to woman ad to appear in the Houston Voice Personals. Register to win free movie tickets and T-shirts. If you would like more info, call Carolyn at the Voice at 529-8490.

CORRECTION. In last week's issue, I screwed up. The contest at Chances was NOT the Mr., Miss, and Ms. Chances, but the Mr., Miss and Mr. Gay Pride. Too many Cuervos, too many scribbled bar napkins. I apologize for any inconvenience that may have caused.

"Let's Get Campy" a benefit for the Colt 45s Stone Soup at the Briar Patch. Join Rachel Montana and Friends for this show on Sunday, May 31 at 9 p.m.



Susan picks up the young ones at The New Barn.

The Montrose Angles would like to thank Einstein's Bagel's for "overbaking" last Saturday. The angels were not only able to feed their regulars, but also the Star of Hope. ThunderCloud Subs, especially Ron Muse have been helping the Angles, too.

Milestones

Happy belated laughing birthday to Vicki Shaw. Happy (dancing) birthday to Jimmy Arispie. Happy (Sundancin') anniversary to Helen and Cindy. Happy (Cocktailin') birthday to Woody of Gentry. Happy (6th) anniversary to Steve (Sil) and Vanna (Gentry). Happy 1 year anniversary to Raci and Kim. Happy 10th anniversary to the Lovett Inn.

Get mobil hugs to JD Topaz. She is recovering from back surgery and is preparing for knee surgery. Feel better hugs to Curtis (Misfits). He is recovering from tonsillitis.



Tequila Rose at Salt Lake City's Coronation.

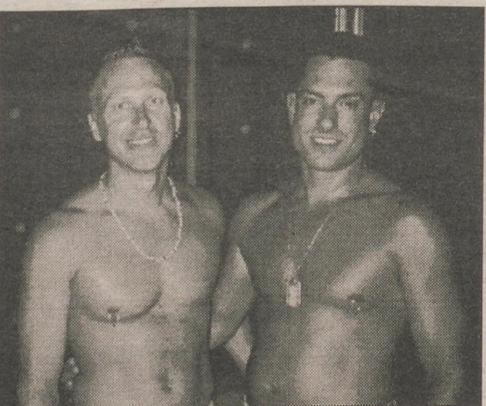
Rodent Droppings

I was in Wisconsin singing happy 100th birthday to my grandma this weekend. I had a wonderful time. Seeing my frail grandma partying well into the wee hours of the morning with my siblings was an emotional rollercoaster. Wisconsin is beautiful this time of year. I visited places I spent happy times at in my youth (yes, I was a kid at one time and no, I was not born with a Cuervo bottle in my mouth.)

The droppings are slim this week. I'll scoop more this weekend. If you have some you would like to share, I will be guest bartending at Rich's this Sunday, May 31 from 5 to 9 p.m. This is your opportunity to hand deliver your own droppings.

My usual disclaimer is in force. Lies, gossip, and trash. If you want real news written by professionals, please turn to page one and start there.

- Stan (BootBlack at Nighthawks): "I did not get laid, but I did learn a lot."
- Jim Sorgini (Mr. Unchained): Why did you take binoculars to IML?
- Stepanski (Cheveron): Welcome to the family.
- Twister (BRB): When you pull a beer from the beer box, do you really have to bend over that far?
- Pat Petty (Miss Camp): How did you get your tongue blistered?
- Jerry Morin (RSICSS): I have a message for you: "I love you." Love, JD Topaz.
- Bart (611): Less is more? And why are you looking like a leopard? And I hear you passed out on the patio with your mouth so wide open that a family of fruit flies moved in.



At Club Spy.

Creth (Misfits and Black Hawk Leathers): If there was a "Queen of the Hot Tub" title in Key West, I hear you would win. I hear you fell asleep (or was it passed out) naked by the hot tub. Someone woke your up abruptly and you fell in. Waking up wet?

Tequila Rose (in Utah): Yes, Miss Keever does have my 1-800 number.

Bart and Chester (hangs at 611): Are you in love this week?

Mario (BRB): When Miss A told you to "rent a wreck," she didn't mean call Vera to see if she was available.

Keith V. (RSICSS): How was your overnight visit at the luxurious county hotel this past Monday night?

Bob Bouton (way too many titles too list): How was Emperor Andy?

Vanna (Gentry): And I quote: "I'd give up San Francisco on Tuesday to move to the suburbs and have babies on Thursday"

- Big Don P. Where are you? Still doing the "shake and bake?"
- Michelle (Chances): Why are you looking for Vicki's ovaries thru her mouth?
- Michael (Nighthawks): I hear you were doing it in the sand with a married man.
- Bear (hangs at the BriarPatch): I hear you were behind "bars" this past week.
- Tino (611): How many margaritas did you have at Cafe Adobe?
- Earline and Lisa (hangs at Chances): Rub a dub dub, three babes in a tub.



Pet of the Week Shadow. Owner Mary Todd and The Empress.

Bill (hangs at the 611): Can I come over for dinner with the fireman?

Spider (Bud Man): Sorry you missed the BRB's delivery last week. Don't let the fans down again. Vera will never be the same.

Mary Jane (hangs at Chances): How did you break your headboard?

Lady Lee (BRB): Is it true you use a toilet bowl brush to scrub Woody's back?

Cloviss ((611): How is dinner with Chef Kim? Is beef for dinner tonight?

Curtis (Cousin's): I saw you cruising Main and Richmond last week. Looking good.

Keep sending in your Pet of the Week.

Have a great week,

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ATTRACTIVE HISPANIC
GHM, 32, 5'6", 145lbs, dark/brown, employed and stable, enjoys quiet times, long drives, sports. Seeking good-looking, straight-acting W/HM, 23-35, slim-muscular build, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎1152

CONROE
WM, 38, 5'10", 170lbs, short black with gray streaks/green, moderately hairy, seeks hairy male, 38-45, N/S, D/D-free. Conroe/woodland area, please. ☎1154

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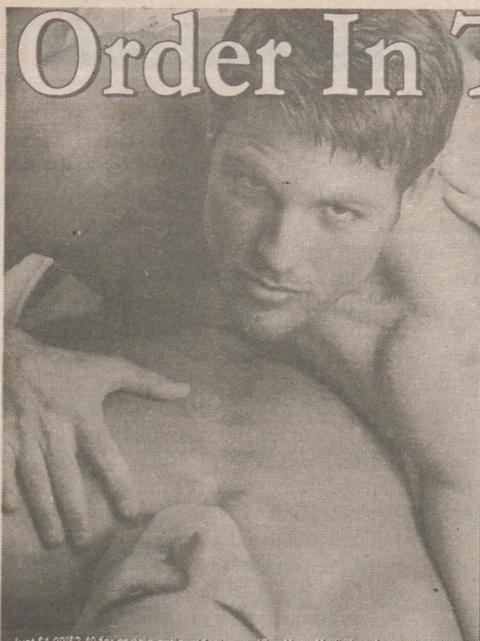
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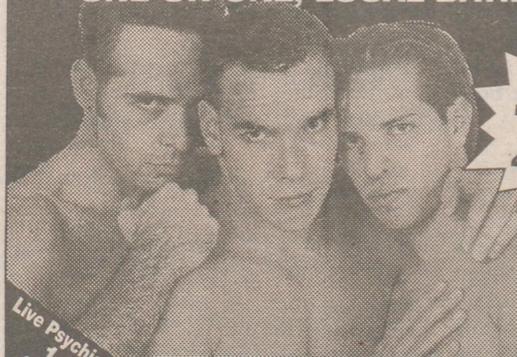
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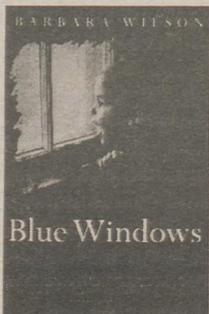
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Hard as Nails

BOOK REVIEW

'Blue Windows' a personal look into Christian Science

"Blue Windows — A Christian Science Childhood," by Barbara Wilson; Picador, 344 pages, \$14.



by ELLA TYLER
Lesbian writer Barbara Wilson has penned several excellent mysteries and I was anticipating reading this book, though I didn't expect to be held captive.

It couldn't be put down.

Wilson's account of life as the daughter of a devout Christian Scientist, combined with a history of this interesting and little-understood religion, is fascinating.

The book is particularly interesting to anyone who observed the rising

popularity of Unity Church, "New Age" writers like Deepak Chopra and Louise Hay, and "positive thinkers" like Norman Vincent Peale and Napoleon Hill, author of "Think and Grow Rich".

However, Wilson says, unlike followers of Peale and Hill, "we were not enjoined to be happy — or to make money — but to know the essential nature of reality, which was good, and to set ourselves free of illusion or error, which made us think we suffered."

Wilson's first real encounter with what it meant to be a Christian Scientist came when she was six. Coming home from school with a bandage and Mercurochrome on her scraped knee, her mother was indignant. "Who put this on you? What's this orange stuff?"

When Barbara explained that it was supposed to kill germs, her mother's

response was "there are no such things as germs in God's universe. We have absolutely no need of materia medica". Then her mother read the Scientific Statement of Being.

Wilson's differences from her classmates went much further than Mercurochrome and Band-Aids. She and her brother were not allowed to take the newly invented polio vaccine, and they were not allowed to attend science classes. During that period, Wilson was sent to the library and read mythology and fairy tales.

Christian Science, according to Wilson, denies the existence of evil, and by extension, disease.

The book also chronicles attempts at suicide by Wilson's mother when the author was 10. Mrs. Wilson had a lump in her breast that was growing bigger, despite her prayers. After weeks of

despair, she attempted to kill herself by drinking Drano. Mrs. Wilson then became enmeshed in the medical system, but it could not cure her, either, and she died two years later.

Wilson's father soon remarried, and Barbara acquired an alcoholic step-mother who was just like a fairy tale step-mother — cruel and abusive.

As an adult, Wilson began to discover that her childhood beliefs, which she had never examined, were still dominant. She was reluctant to seek care for her illness, and continued to deny unpleasant things in her childhood. She began to research her family's Irish roots and then began to look at the influence of Christian Science on herself and her family.

Wilson turned what she discovered into something worth reading. "Blue Windows" manages to be both personal and universal, as well as historic and contemporary.

WILDE/ from page 28

was important not to dump on Bosie."

In Gilbert's film, Wilde becomes the good parent Bosie so desperately lacked. It is the older man's concern for the younger, in fact, that prevents him from ending their relationship.

"He was very protective of Bosie. Bosie was frequently threatening suicide and I think Wilde was genuinely, and not unjustly, frightened that Bosie could do that," Gilbert says.

Above all, Gilbert says, he did not

want to make Wilde a brittle comedy in which its hero's many witticisms were blithely repeated. Yes, Wilde was funny, but his humor was pointed. "We've become more aware of the seriousness behind the wit," Gilbert says, "though Wilde wouldn't have liked it to be emphasized. We sense that he writes out of a knowledge of his own moral complexity. We sense always that he's trying to enlarge our sympathies."

To prepare for the role, Fry says, he gave Wilde's work a concentrated reading and also read works about

him. "The great Victorian virtue was sincerity," Fry says. "Well, Hitler was sincere. Authenticity is much more important, as Wilde knew."

Wilde's enlightened views on sexuality also moved him, Fry says. "He was much more interested in sins of the spirit than in sins of the flesh. Your penis only lasts for 30 years if you're lucky, but your soul lasts longer. That's what counts."

Though Gilbert regrets having taken some chronological liberties for the sake of keeping the narrative manage-

able, the director says that on balance he is pleased with the film and Fry's performance in the lead role.

"Stephen is one of the few actors you would ever meet who could actually improvise Wilde-sounding lines," Gilbert says. A few of Fry's inspirations have been preserved in the film. When someone asks him if his character Lady Windermere was modeled on anyone in particular, the movie's Wilde responds "Every woman in this room." Fry's ad lib smoothly followed. "And most of the men," the actor added.

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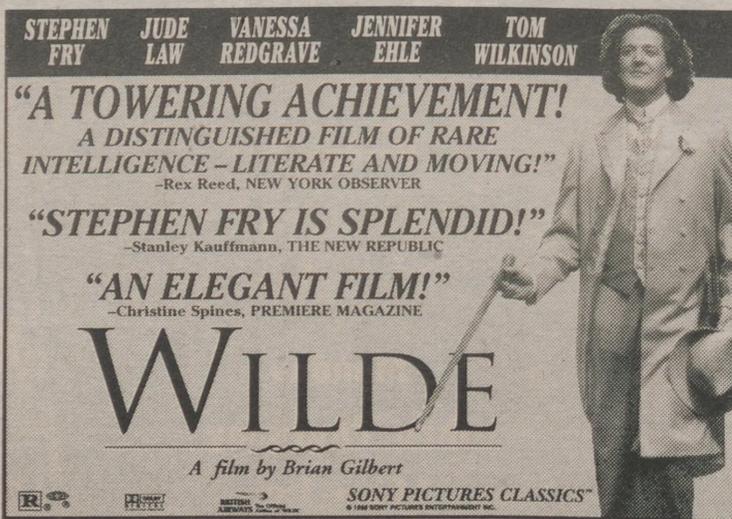
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"Mickey Mantle — FBI kept a file on the Yankee slugger. Did Hoover hope 'switch hitter' meant something else?"

—Listed under "Losers" in *Newsweek* magazine's "Winners and Losers" column, May 18.



"If many of our (gay) spokespeople are to be believed, equality with straight America is best won by demonstrating that we can be monogamous spouses, tidy neighbors and loyal soldiers. ... True gay liberation is not about gay people conforming, but rather about the whole world transforming."

—Editorial in the national gay magazine *The Guide*, May issue.



"People think that there are a lot of gay people in figure skating, but actually there are not — there are hardly any at all. The ice dancers, the pairs skaters, they're all together as couples, or they're married."

—Skating champ Rudy Gallindo (left) to *Cleveland's Gay People's Chronicle*, May 1.

"Viagra (the new anti-impotence pill) is already in short supply; gay porn studios are threatening to hijack trucks and hold up neighborhood pharmacies, so go get those prescriptions filled now, before it's too late."

—*Windy City Times* columnist Michael Beaumier, May 7.

"Had I considered coming out five years ago, it would've been very difficult. But right now, I'm experiencing the same emotions that my friends have told me they felt when they came out: this great clarity and this great peace. There have been no repercussions, no hate mail. I think people have had so many good times with my music that my coming-out is easier for them to accept. It's like, 'Well, look at the great music, look at the great shows — does it really matter?'"

—Rob Halford (Rob Halford), lead singer of the heavy metal group Judas Priest, to the *Advocate*, May 12.



"Lately we've been talking about me having a kid. And if I do that, I'm gonna have to do it, you know, like in the next five minutes. I'm getting old."

—Ellen DeGeneres on ABC-TV's "Primetime Live," May 6.

"('Ellen') became a program about a lead character who was gay every single week. And I just think that was too much for people. ... Jerry Seinfeld's character in his program is a heterosexual male. Now, I think when you watch the program, you have a sense every week that he's a heterosexual male. But the theme of each program isn't that he's a heterosexual male. ..."



"She's absolutely right (that) we would not ask a black person to modulate the fact that they were black at all. But our society, our audience, has been dealing with racial issues and is much more open to differences in race than they are differences in sexual choice, sexual tendency. So there's a reality that exists here that she wanted to ignore."

—ABC-TV President Robert Iger on "Primetime Live," May 6.

"A woman will allow herself to be clouded by her emotions. Her reasonable thought becomes completely unreasonable over the most ridiculous thing. It's a girl thing. It's a cosmic joke that I'm a lesbian, because I understand men so well but women are a complete mystery to me. They're unpredictable. I don't call myself a woman, I'm a butch; it's an entirely different gender. You just never know what (a woman's) gonna do. You never know what they're gonna say."

—Comic Lea DeLaria (Right) to *Los Angeles' Lesbian News*, May issue.



"A lot of people think that ACT UP's tactics wouldn't work now. I'm here to say that's simply not true."

—Author and gay/AIDS activist Larry Kramer to Britain's *Positive Nation* magazine, May issue.

"A lot of people are fed up with the mental Prozac that passes as gay culture. What they are realising is that it isn't great and good to be gay anymore than it is great and good to be human. Being human involves the whole gamut of emotions and feelings, and being homosexual is just the same."

—Mark Simpson, columnist for Britain's *Attitude* magazine, to London's *The Pink Paper*, April 24.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Wilde World

'Wilde' moves viewers under the surface with power



Brat: Jude Law as Lord Alfred Douglas, Oscar Wilde's petulant boyfriend in "Wilde."

by GREG VARNER

There are two worlds, Oscar Wilde remarked — the world we live in but need not discuss, since everyone can see it, and the world of art, which we must talk about because otherwise it would cease to exist.

It's a pleasure to talk about the new film, "Wilde," which has as one of its primary virtues the convincing way it recreates the claustrophobic strictures of Victorian London. In fin-de-siècle British society, appearances mattered more than anything. As Wilde understood so well, this not only strengthened social stratification in a class-based culture, but also encouraged rampant hypocrisy. People could get away with terrible things, Wilde saw, as long as their facade of respectability was intact.

If one said the right things, wore the right clothes, and played one's public part, one's private reality, however different, stood a good chance of being ignored. "Wilde" is at its best when showing how this hidebound world of

appearances could straitjacket its citizens. Wilde's magical, scintillating plays held up a funhouse mirror to his society, in which the chinks in its armor were brilliantly exposed. His heroes said shocking things to a scandalized public but were models of private virtue. His villains were usually respectable but unbending, censorious dragons who could not forgive the human weaknesses of others. With the darts of paradox, he waged a concentrated assault on an arthritic moral code.

In life as in art, Wilde shocked his society. Bad enough that he was evidently living a gay life, though married to Constance Lloyd; even worse, he was fraternizing with young men from the lower classes. The horror.

In return, his society brought him down. Though he was perhaps the greatest man of English letters of his time, neither near-universal esteem nor the two hit plays he had running simultaneously on the London stage in 1895 could save him when he was tried on a charge of "gross indecency," i.e., homosexual conduct. He was given the maximum sentence of two years at hard labor.

Aside from helping its audience understand the constraints imposed by the Victorian emphasis on superficial appearances, another strength of Wilde is the way it conveys the harsh reality of such a prison sentence. To see Wilde and other prisoners pointlessly working the heavy treadmill or walking hooded in the yard drives the experience home with more vividness

than most books can provide.

Another of the movie's pleasures is its script, by the openly gay writer Julian Mitchell. Dialogue this good or literate is seldom heard, partly for the simple reason that Wilde used the English language extraordinarily well. The best lines, in fact, are the ones Wilde actually wrote or spoke, though the movie never feels as if it is simply a rehash collection of bons mots.

Opening in a Colorado silver mine in the 1880s, where Wilde goes underground to lecture shirtless miners on art, the movie promises to take viewers under the surface of things. It largely lives up to that promise, ending just short of Wilde's premature death.

The film's major weakness has to do with its fast pace during its final third. The sequences showing Wilde's trials and their aftermath are telescoped too tightly. The action is too highly accelerated. The movie's creative team may have felt it was best to keep the film shorter, or that the trial has become too familiar. Still, the courtroom repartee between Wilde and his examiners revealed something essential about him, and if only a few more lines of it were included, it could have added to the audience's appreciation.

One of the great questions Wilde's many biographical commentators raise is why he repeatedly went back to his troublesome lover, Lord Alfred Douglas (called by his nickname, Bosie), despite his stated resolve not to do so. Mitchell's script credibly proposes that Wilde was motivated by

simple human concern for Bosie, who was a petulant, destructive brat.

And it's to Mitchell's credit that he shows Bosie in as sympathetic a light as possible — as a spoiled, hot-tempered aristocratic youth — but not as a one-dimensional villain. The real villain of the piece, of course, is Bosie's father, Lord Queensberry, who spearheaded the attack on Wilde in the name of saving his son from the horrors of sodomy. (More truthfully, perhaps, it was a way of attacking Queensberry's son and his ex-wife, Bosie's mother.)

Another trap "Wilde" successfully avoids is that of taking disturbing liberties with the truth. It necessarily departs from historical truth — chronology is fudged and reasonable conjecture is presented as fact — but "Wilde" never feels like a lie. Credit for this must go to the excellent cast as well as to Mitchell's script.

And this sexual frankness is, perhaps, the movie's primary raison d'être. The last time Wilde's story was told on film was almost 40 years ago; it's time for a contemporary account. A hundred years after the real Oscar Wilde was released from prison, this movie about his rise and fall has fresh power to move.

What: Sneak preview of "Wilde"
When: June 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Landmark Greenway III, Greenway Plaza
How: Pick up free passes at Crossroads Market on Westheimer

Super Saturday Night Fever



Sunday, May 31 · 11pm

Viva Las Vegas

9th Annual Miss EJ's Pageant

Staring former Miss EJ's Paivi Lee Love, Lee Chardon, Tara Dion and reigning Miss EJ's Roxanne Lee Love. Special guest Dyan Michaels & Regina Dane.

Saturday, May 30

Tiffany LeShea

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Tuesdays & Thursdays
 Week #2 Preliminary
 Winners of the Tuesday & Thursday preliminaries return for finals.
\$500 Cash - Winner Take All



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 Mug Club 7am - 10pm
 \$3.75 Pitchers & \$1.75 Mugs

FRI	5/29	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
SAT	5/30	SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER at 11 pm
SUN	5/31	\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day and All Night
MON	6/1	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
TUE	6/2	Amateur/Talent Night, 11 pm with Dyan Michaels. Burger night with Derald
WED	6/3	Burger night with Grandma
THUR	6/4	Amateur/Talent Night, 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love. Burger night with Grandma

MOVIE REVIEW

'Bulworth' stabs at urban ills, stops short of answers



No Bull: Warren Beatty stars as a no-nonsense U.S. Senator in 'Bulworth'.

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

In "Bulworth," Warren Beatty is a man desperate for a career makeover. Counted in that crop of 70's heart-throbs soon to be put to pasture by a frat pack of pretty boys headed by Leonardo DiCaprio, Beatty tries to reinvent himself by probing inner city urbanity with chic political satire.

Beatty plays Sen. Jay Billington Bulworth, the moneyed toy of powerful cash-rich corporations and the white power establishment, who's on

the verge of morphing into a "new" Democrat, the kind that's about as different from a Republican as Pepsi is to Coke. They both taste the same, but one's just a little sweeter.

As the liberal's liberal, however, Beatty unearths and rehashes what everybody knows about politics: the guys with the most money win. And that's the problem. Bulworth's senatorial office is like a Labor Day telethon, with staffers checking for cleared campaign checks in exchange for senatorial meetings. Sure, that would hardly be a surprise to anybody, but it's hollowed Bulworth's soul to the core.

He's a shell, a political skeleton, a suicidal hack. On the eve of returning to California for his reelection primaries, he finagles a \$10 million life insurance policy for his daughter, and hires an assassin for himself. Wallowing for days in his own tears, Bulworth is

about to cash his last check.

But something changes. Tired of his own pack of lies, Bulworth turns the other cheek and gets truthful — brutally truthful. He stops at an African-American church and tells them that politicians won't care about them unless they "put down (their) malt liquor and chicken wings and get behind somebody other than a running back who stabs his wife." He one-ups a gathering of Jewish Hollywood producers, and tells them that their movies are trash. To keep their cash flowing, he tells them, staffers always "put the big Jews" on his schedule, and include a line bashing Louis Farrakhan to keep them happy. That's a lot for your constituents to tolerate, rich or poor, but isn't Bulworth's brashness right on the money?

Sure it is, and that's the problem.

But Bulworth morphs his message after he spends the night partying at a black nightclub, and instead of just preaching the truth about political corruption, he starts rapping it. As if inoculated with a truth sermon laced with a boom box beat, Bulworth "gets jiggy wit it" with a pack of fly girls gallivanting around town in his stretch limo. His newfound blackness gives him soul and hipness, a far cry from a suicidal white guy on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Bulworth's found new life in the urban concrete jungle, and his outbursts

spin an unusual political dynamic that's made the establishment very nervous.

Yet, it's clear later on in the movie that Bulworth's political shamanism isn't much less of a sham than the establishment's. By attempting to be a cool white guy who feels the pain of urban decay, Bulworth trades one political yadda, yadda, yadda for another. Sure, there's a lot of talking at people in "Bulworth," but where is the talking with people?

If the solution to urban disenfranchisement were old white guys rapping the truth, that would be an easy fix, and one that wouldn't work. Still, fixing the system and talking about it are two different things, yet "Bulworth" doesn't do much more than affirm the uncanny myth that "your vote doesn't count."

HOUSTON VOICE RATING * * * 1/2
MPAA Rating: R

Run Time: 107 minutes

Genre: Political comedy

Director/Script: Warren Beatty

Cast: Warren Beatty, Sean Astin, Amiri Baraka, Christine Baranski, Halle Berry, Don Cheadle, Ariyan A. Johnson, Joshua Malina, Laurie Metcalf, Michele Morgan, Wendell Pierce, Oliver Platt, Richard Scott Sarafian

Theaters: Angelika Film Center, 713-CALL-AFC, \$6.75.



In awe: Mathew Broderick as Dr. Nick Tatopoulos in "Godzilla".

REVIEW from page 28

Isn't that just like Hollywood?

Quickly, Godzilla emerges from the Atlantic to scathe Gotham's skyline, ripping into buildings acciden-

tally with it's clumsy tail. As New Yorkers frantically scramble in the streets, the movie's flimsy havoc pales in comparison to the Japanese mobs who fled from Tokyo when the original Godzilla plowed ashore. But at least Toho Studio's archaic Godzilla had some bizarre, endearing characteristics, and somehow, after all the destruction, you felt an odd communion with the atomic beast. Not so with this new Godzilla.

And what about Matthew Broderick? As Dr. Niko Tatopoulos, Broderick comes off as a novice, a line reader, and a completely unbelievable one at that. Indeed, Broderick is immensely capable, and his stellar career encompasses numerous plethoric capabilities. Remember him as Arnold's sweet gay lover in "Torch Song Trilogy," and the disenchanting army soldier

in "Biloxi Blues?" So then, what's the problem? Is it the script? Or is Broderick just bored? All of the above.

Broderick's facial expressions vary somewhere between the extremes of "you're stepping on my foot, please get off," to "I think it's time for my union break."

Ultimately, New York's latest date with misery comes off as a muffled jumble of gripes. The true rip off: "Godzilla" wants oh so desperately to be the next "Jurassic Park," but this latest megaglob of terror is incredibly less frightening than T-Rex racing to snatch people out of a jeep. There's a cinematic sloppiness to "Godzilla" that stifles the imagination. Even when 'zilla's eggs hatch in the Garden, the hunt is nothing less than a shoddy variation of the raptor chase in "Jurassic Park."

Sadly, "Godzilla" can't touch the terrifying realism created by Steven Spielberg, or the repeat business generated by the public's fascination. But one thing rings true about this latest preoccupation with size: the bigger they are, the harder they fall.

HOUSTON VOICE RATING * 1/2
MPAA Rating: PG

Run Time: 139 minutes

Genre: Disaster

Director: Roland Emmerich

Script: Dean Devlin, Roland Emmerich

Cast: Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno, Maria Pitillo, Hank Azaria, Kevin Dunn, Michael Lerner, Harry Shearer, Arabella Field, Vicki Lewis, Doug Savant, Raymond Ramos, Julian M. Phillips, Madeline McFadden, Bill Hoag

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner

OUT ON THE BAYOU



HOUSTON VOICE • MAY 29, 1998
A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

INTERVIEW: STEPHEN FRY

'The love that dare not speak its name'

Movie's lead found role model in Wilde's work

by GREG VARNER

Not every actor is lucky enough to play his role model, but Stephen Fry says he was practically fated to play Oscar Wilde in the movie that opens in Houston June 5.

Growing up in the 1970s, Fry says, he had no positive gay role models until he read Wilde's work.

"Reading was the only way I found any sense of myself," Fry says. "Wilde was a great role model." Wilde's personality — "He was an extraordinarily kind, sweet-natured man," Fry says — was only part of what he found so attractive. His verbal skills, both in writing and in conversation, also commanded admiration.

"He was so linguistically gifted that it's almost hard to grasp," Fry says. "He was almost a Mozart of words. Verbal prodigies are unusual. Chess prodigies are much more common."

As it happened, Fry resembled his hero physically, growing up to be an actor who stood over six feet tall, with a bit of a paunch. That's why it almost looked like destiny when he landed the title role in Wilde.

"I'd have felt a bit miffed if I hadn't been invited to at least audition for the role," he says.

Being gay also helped him play Wilde.



Wilde: Stephen Fry (left) found a positive gay role model in Oscar Wilde, the man he portrays in 'Wilde,' which opens in Houston June 5. Fry (above) joins Zoe Wanamaker, Michael Sheen and Jennifer Ehle.

'WILDE' REVIEWED, page 26

Wilde's lover, Lord Alfred Douglas) is far too sensible for that.

"Wilde's" director wanted the movie to be candid.

"The main thing is I want them (audience members) to encounter this wonderful man," director Brian Gilbert says. "I've always been drawn to Wilde. That such a lovable and wonderful man could have been hated because of his (homosexual) nature is a terrible injustice."

Another goal of the film, Gilbert says, is that it should be absolutely clear about Wilde's sexuality. Wilde was imprisoned on account of "the love that dare not speak its name," and a wall of silence has often obscured the truth.

"It's terribly important to be candid," Gilbert says. "Otherwise there's no point in doing it." An additional concern was that Wilde's lover, Bosie Douglas, should not be portrayed as a simple villain — even though, as Gilbert says, "He so evidently seems unworthy. But it

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MOVIE REVIEW



Lizard: The streets of New York take the brunt of Godzilla's fury in the TriStar pictures movie "Godzilla."

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

What is Hollywood's beef with New York City?

Last year, reptilian aliens in 15-mile wide space ships blew the smithereens out of the Big Apple in "Independence Day." Three weeks ago, a runaway asteroid pulverized Manhattan (and the entire eastern seaboard) in "Deep Impact."

Last week, a retooled version of

BIG LIZARD A BIG BUST



"Godzilla" smashed treasured Gotham landmarks, and laid a batch of atomized eggs in Madison Square Garden. What on earth is going on?

If "Godzilla" is any indication, a lot ado about nothing. After a year of constant hype and hip commercial teasers, Houston audiences filled suburban

megaplexes to find out for themselves if "size does matter." Yeah, size matters in lots of things, but the size of brains didn't figure much into the equation when producers assembled this 90's update of the Japanese classic. Sure, the B-movie versions of Japanese actors wearing rubbers suits are such a farce today you can't help but smirk in contempt, but even a smirk acknowledges some sense of satisfaction or frustration that's preferable to a request for your money back.

As the latest addition to a contemporary crop of creature features, "Godzilla" doesn't deliver on much of its hype, not even when the oversized digitized lizard lands in New York.

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May 29 - May 31

The Second Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival begins its second week, this time at DiverseWorks on East Freeway.

On May 29 at 8 p.m., "Dark Sun, Bright Shade" (57 minutes) takes an intimate look at the psychological challenges of political, social and sexual relationships in China. Similarly, "Thick Lips, Thin Lips" (6 minutes) exposes the violence generated by a kiss between an Afro-Caribbean and an Asian. Finally, John Lindell's 7-year personal video collage "Just Another Love Story" (28 minutes) concludes the evening.

On May 30 at 8 p.m.: An evening of experimental video dubbed "QuAC (Queer Artists Collective), and the Houston premiere of "Pierre and Gilles, Love Stories" (57 minutes).

On May 31 at 6 p.m.: "Pride Divide" (57 minutes). Like the battle of the sexes ignited by ERA, the gay rights movement had its own intra-community gender gap crisis. Director Paris Poirier's histrionic documentary is a balanced exposé of competing queer agendas that divide, rather than unify, a supposedly united community.

Immediately following the film, a local panel of outspoken Houstonians comment on our city's gay history (7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.). DiverseWorks Artspace, 1117 East Freeway, off N. Main at Naylor. Tickets: \$6, \$5 for DiverseWorks members. 713-223-8346.

June 2 - June 5

Now in its 12th year, the Houston Symphony is ready to kick off its popular summer concert program "Sounds Like Fun!" Crafted to peak the imaginations of kids, orchestra members dressed as life-sized instruments greet families at the chamber's Instrument Petting Zoo, where participants get a chance to finger what makes an orchestra tick. Conductor-in-Residence (and newly wedded) Stephen Stein programs classic Americana, like "Strike Up The Band," and the kids get to keep a special event book with a Good Listener Certificate.

This is the last time Stein will lead the program, as he leaves the Symphony this summer to pursue studies to become a rabbi. Stein will sign autographs after each performance. June 2: Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, 10:30 a.m.; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m. June 3: Pasadena Convention Center, 10:30 a.m.; Sylvan Beach Pavilion, 7:30 p.m. June 4: Humble Civic Center, 7:30 p.m. June 5: Reagan High School, 10:30 a.m. Free.

June 4

Tickets are on sale for Stages Repertory Theater's summer production of "Fit To Be Tied." Described as a bizarre *manage et trois*, "Fit To Be Tied" turns the tables on family values in this Southwest premiere directed by Michael Scheman, as a strange love attraction forms between Arloc Simpson and a boy angel during a Christmas show at Radio City Music Hall. When mama moves in, the obsession goes triangular. The play runs until June 28. Stages Repertory Theater, 3201 Allen Parkway. Tickets: June 4 preview: \$5; after \$12 to 15. Performances Wednesday to Saturday at 8 p.m., Sun. at 5 p.m. 713-52STAGES.