

HOUSTON

VOICE

July 21, 1995
ISSUE 769

A Weekly Community News Publication

House slashes funds for NEA, NEH

(WASHINGTON)—The House of Representatives on Tuesday passed legislation that would cut federal funding of cultural institutions by about 40 percent, a move perceived as the initial step toward the Republican goal of eliminating the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. The bill, supported enthusiastically by congressional conservatives, would begin the process of dismantling the programs over a three year period. Under that plan, the NEA would cease to exist after two years; the NEH after three.

The House bill was approved on a vote of 244-181. Arts supporters are turning their attention to the Senate, where the agencies reportedly have more support.

The NEA-PBS debate: budget concerns or hidden agendas?

(Second in a two-part series examining proposed cuts in federal funding of cultural organizations).

By STEVE CHRYSLER
For the Houston Voice

Many federal programs including The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), and PBS stations are fighting for their very survival as the Republican controlled Congress and Senate push to slash funding and eliminate the programs all together. The attacks on these federal programs are complicated and multi-pronged; by attacking the funding of one project, funds are indirectly cut to others, such as PBS.

Much debate exists as to why these programs are being cut. Jill Bond, Executive Director of People For The American Way's National Headquarters in Washington, told to Houston Voice in a recent interview that "the censors have become adept at using fiscal excuses to silence voices they disagree with. The arts have become the tar-

get in a vicious culture war." Bond went on to say, "Rather than going after the ideas, people are going after the symbols of those ideas" and explained that art simply reflects a society's feelings and ideas and that attacking art won't stop the underlying anger and discontent in our society.

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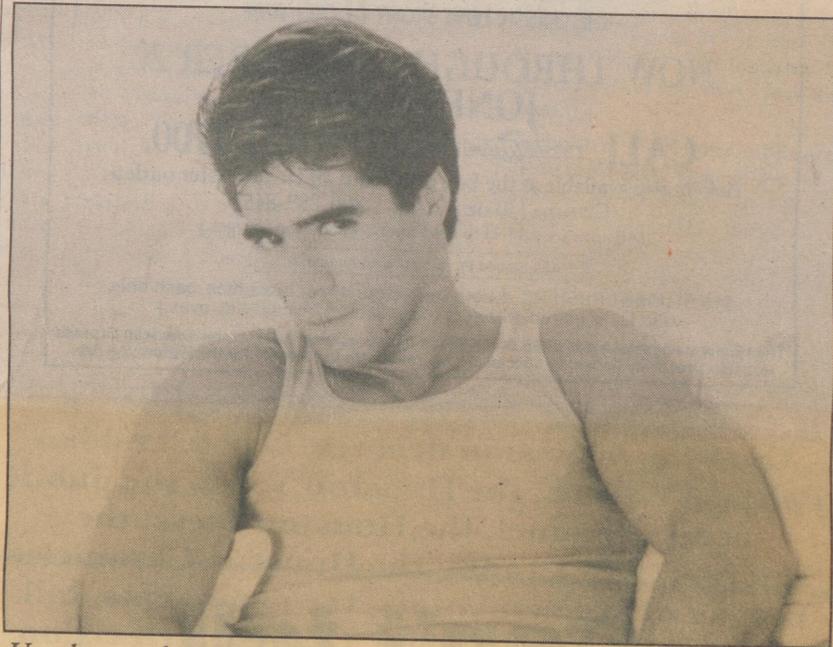
Texas' largest law firm adds gays to non-discrimination policy

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE
Houston Voice Editor

Gay lawyers and activists reacted excitedly to the news that one of the nation's largest law firm, Houston-based Vinson & Elkins, has formally amended its written non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation.

Harry Reasoner, managing partner of the firm, downplayed the significance of the change, characterizing the move as "merely a formal correction of an omission" in the policy's wording. But gay rights advocates, in an unattributed press release circulated last Friday, praised the inclusion as a step forward and an "important signal" that discrimination is unacceptable.

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Up close and personal with adult video star Chris Stone...Page 23

Votes expected on Ryan White

(WASHINGTON)—Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) is expected to call the bill to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act up for a vote in the full Senate on Monday, a move that would override the stalling tactics of homophobic Sen Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), according to the Human Rights Campaign fund. Dole said on the Senate Floor last Thursday that he would call the vote July 24 "and we expect him to keep his word," said Douglas Hattaway, HRCF communications director. As well, Hattaway noted, the House version of the reauthorization bill has finally moved out of committee and is expected to be brought up soon for a vote in the full House of Representatives.

Helms created a furor when he told the New York Times two weeks ago that he wanted to cut funds for AIDS patients—because, he said, they got the disease through "deliberate, disgusting, revolting conduct." But with 63 cosponsors in the Senate and broad bipartisan support, the bill is believed to carry enough supportive votes not only to not only pass, but to head off a possible filibuster attempt by Helms.

However, the bill still faces the threat of "weird" or homophobic amendments being attached. A mandatory testing amendment similar to one expected in the House might also emerge on the Senate floor, Hattaway said. Unlike the House, the Senate does not require advance approval of amendments.

A House committee voted unanimously last week to extend the CARE Act, the main federal law that provides assistance to people with HIV/AIDS, as some lawmakers vowed to broaden the law to require testing for all newborns or pregnant women.



George Rodriguez of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development presents a certificate to the Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group's Michael Springer representing a \$2 million grant from HUD for services to homeless teens...Story, Page 20

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LOCAL/STATE

Gay leaders, lawyers praise Houston firm's policy addition

(Continued from Page 1)

The change was announced in a July 13 memorandum sent to all employees of the firm. It was formally approved by the law firm's managing committee some time ago and has just now been made public, sources within the firm indicated.

The memorandum, a copy of which was received by the Houston Voice on Friday, indicated the non-discrimination policy included in the firm's employee manual would be amended to state that "employees and applicants for employment shall receive fair and equal treatment regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental handicap, veteran status or sexual orientation." The policy applies to all employees of the firm, including lawyers, secretaries, paralegals, and others. The new policy covers employment, promotion, demotion, transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay and other forms of compensation, and selection for training, as well as other aspects of employment.

Reasoner said the policy addition was "only a change in the formal sense," stating that it has long been a policy of Vinson & Elkins not to discriminate and that the firm has previously made statements to law schools assuring that the non-discrimination policy extends to sexual orientation.

However, gay attorneys say the written change is significant, even if primarily symbolic.

"I think it's very progressive...it's a good thing," said Chris

Bacon, a former Vinson & Elkins employee who served a term as president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus while employed there. Bacon, who now works for the U.S. Justice Department, said of the policy: "It's largely a symbolic move...it doesn't provide a whole lot of legal protection, because employee manuals usually include a disclaimer that states the manual doesn't create a contract" between the employer and employee. However, in a case of harassment or discrimination, Bacon said, the policy would provide grounds to discipline the guilty party. "It gives them a sword," he said.

Bacon said that on a national level, more and firms are adopting inclusive policies against discrimination, especially in progressive cities such as New York and San Francisco. As well, he noted, "Many of the elite law schools won't even allow a firm to conduct interviews" of prospective employees if the firm does not have such a policy.

Mitchell Katine, a Houston attorney and former president of the Bar Association for Human Rights, said the move was reflective of a broader positive trend in the local and state legal communities towards a more balanced attitude toward gay and lesbian people and issues.

Last October, noted Katine, the State Bar of Texas passed a rule that prohibits attorneys from "willfully manifesting, by words or conduct, bias or prejudice on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex or sexual orientation" toward any person

involved in a legal proceeding, whether plaintiff or defendant. "Of course, (there were lawyers who) were opposed, who made the usual arguments of opposition...but all of the lawyers voted on this, and it passed. It is now in the rules of professional conduct that you can't discriminate against anyone in a proceeding."

This December, the Houston Bar Association will be sponsoring its first all-day seminar devoted to sexual orientation and the law. The seminar will cover such topics as gays and lesbians in the military, diversity in law offices, family law matters, same sex marriage issues, litigating gay and lesbian issues, the Texas sodomy statute and hate crimes legislation, transgender issues and real estate matters. The state wide disciplinary rule will also be discussed, said Katine.

And while employee policies such as the one adopted by Vinson & Elkins are still not commonplace with Texas law firms, he said, "hopefully, with the larger firms leading the way, this will be changing." Katine added that his firm, Williams, Birnberg and Anderson, has such a policy.

Leaders of gay political organizations also viewed the firm's action as encouraging. Terri Richardson, president of HGLPC, called the policy change "an important step towards removing the obstacles faced by gays and lesbians in the workplace."

In general, Richardson said, professions and companies are moving toward adopting workplace policies against discrimination in part because they are reacting to a cur-

rent, rising atmosphere of intolerance and prejudice. "I think part of what we're seeing is a subtle way of responding to some of the hate rhetoric, a positive response" from employers, she said. As well, she notes, more professionals and conservatives have themselves been coming out of the closet as gay or lesbian, helping to dispel "the two-headed monster" view of gay people.

Log Cabin Houston Gary Van Ooteghem, who was fired from his position with the Comptroller of Harris County in 1975 because he was openly gay, observed that "if we had such a policy in the Comptroller's office, they would not have dared to fire me for being gay."

Vinson & Elkins, with satellite offices in Dallas, Austin, Washington, D.C., and other cities, employs over 1600 people world-wide. More than half that number are based in Houston. It ranks as the fifteenth largest law firm in the nation, and has more attorneys in Texas than any other firm.

The firm joins three other prominent Houston-based law firms in adding sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy. Baker & Botts, Mayor, Day, Caldwell & Keeton, and Porter & Hedges have previously amended their employment policies to protect gays from discrimination. Nationally, more than two-thirds of the largest one hundred law firms have done so. Among the largest Houston-based law firms, only Fulbright & Jaworski has not yet added protection for gays to its formal policy.

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by Dan Woog

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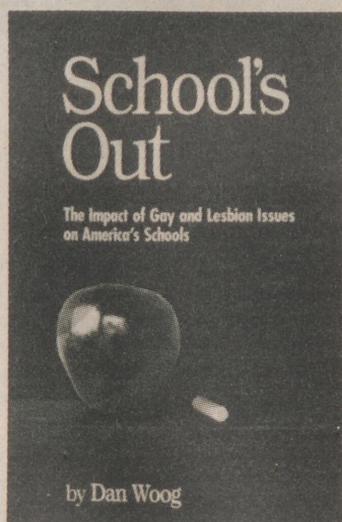
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State threatens HIV prevention funding cuts for Dallas County

DALLAS, Wednesday, July 12 (AP)—A state agency has threatened to withhold \$248,000 in funds to fight HIV if Dallas County continues to oppose distribution of condoms and needle sterilization kits.

The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse complained to County Judge Lee Jackson that Dallas County isn't delivering the services required of recipients of the HIV program.

The commission, which has been plagued by fiscal mismanagement that was uncovered by a state audit, is operated by a state conservatorship board.

The warning to Jackson came from J. Michael Weiss, chairperson of the conservatorship board.

After federal and state health agencies joined AIDS activists and doctors in criticizing Dallas County's move in April to halt condom distribution, the county allowed condoms to be passed out only by volunteers in field outreach programs.

The TCADA said the program's apparent reliance on volunteers to deliver services it's paying for violates the intergovernmental agreement. The notification to Jackson, in the form of a July 6 letter, also questioned the ban on needle sterilization kits and some "safe sex" literature.

Dr. Randy Farris, director of the Dallas County health department, said he would "see what we can work out with" the state.

Jackson said that he's not going to let a state funding threat affect county policy.

"The Commissioners Court is not going to agree to reinstate distribution of bleach kits for people using illegal drugs," said Jackson, whose court is voting on the issue next week.

The county's decision last month to backtrack on its complete ban on condom distribution was enough to save a \$1.79 million grant from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control to the county to maintain a training facility dedicated to treating sexually transmitted diseases.

HOUSTON VOICE

A Weekly Community News Publication

ISSUE 769
July 21, 1995

Published Fridays

Established 1974 as the Houston Montrose Star, re-established 1980 as the Houston Montrose Voice, changed name to The New Voice in 1991 incorporating the New Orleans Crescent City Star, re-established December 1, 1993 as the Houston Voice

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Contents copyright 1995

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HEALTH

Is Houston's water safe for people with HIV?

Research Groups to Host Community Forum

By L. JOEL MARTINEZ

For the Houston Voice

In March and April of 1993 in Milwaukee approximately 400,000 persons became ill with diarrhea after drinking water contaminated with a parasite called cryptosporidium. How could so many people be infected at once? How dangerous is cryptosporidium? In a scenario that seems like bad science fiction the parasite got in the municipal water system and spread quickly throughout the city, making thousands of people sick after they drank tap water.

In most people infection with cryptosporidium causes cramping, diarrhea, accompanied by abdominal pain, vomiting, headaches, and anorexia. Usually, however, the body is able to rid itself of the infection within a few days or weeks. In people with compromised immune systems, such as people with HIV/AIDS, infection with this parasite can be severe and sometimes result in debilitation and ultimately death. In fact, of the people that were affected in Milwaukee approximately 100 died. Many of these were people with AIDS.

Cryptosporidium has only been rec-

ognized as a human pathogen (something that causes disease in humans) since 1976. It is a parasite that lives primarily in animal and human feces. As a result of this much of the surface water (i.e. streams, rivers, lakes, etc.) that has been tested has been found to contain cryptosporidium. Recent studies testing various sites showed that 65-95% of the surface water sites tested showed signs of cryptosporidium. Water from underground sources, because it not likely to come in contact with animal feces, is generally clear of this parasite. Houston water comes primarily from surface water taken from the Trinity River and Lake Houston. Because of the higher risk that surface water carries the city has begun aggressive testing for the presence of cryptosporidium in both their raw and treated water. But, even with this type of testing, problems remain for persons with compromised immune systems.

Science has not determined with certainty how much cryptosporidium must be present in water before it is infectious to people. Work done by a local scientist, Dr. Herbert DuPont of St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, indicates that it takes very little cryptosporidium in the water to infect persons. Also, scientists do not know whether persons with HIV/AIDS

and other ailments that cause immune suppression can be infected with smaller amounts of cryptosporidium than people with intact immune systems. And finally, scientists do not know if certain strains of cryptosporidium are more infectious than others.

So, given these facts and given the fact that the tests for gauging the amount of cryptosporidium are not entirely reliable, it is hard to say with certainty at what point municipal water poses a substantial risk for persons with AIDS. The problems in Milwaukee were caused by a breakdown in the filtration system. Such breakdowns could occur any where and at anytime. And persons at high risk of developing severe infections should also keep in mind that municipal water is but one source of cryptosporidium that is waterborne. Cryptosporidium can also be found and transmitted by contact with recreational water. Bathing in lakes, rivers, hot tubs and swimming pools can also pose a danger because water can be ingested unintentionally.

Cryptosporidium is a highly resistant parasite, able to withstand being soaked in chlorine and even bleach. Because standards for the presence of cryptosporidium have not been set by governmental agencies it is possible that it can be found even in water that

meets all federal and state clean water standards. When cryptosporidium is ingested, the eggs of the parasite called "oocysts" (pronounced oh-oh-cists) are excreted in the person's feces. Thus, a person can also be infected by exposure to another person's feces.

What is the water situation in Houston? Can the Milwaukee incident occur in Houston? How can persons with HIV/AIDS best guard themselves against this serious threat?

Two Houston organizations, Research Initiative/Treatment Action! of the Center for AIDS Hope and Remembrance Project and the Houston Clinical Research Network of the Montrose Clinic will present a community forum titled "Water Safety & Cryptosporidium: Assessing the Risk in Houston" on Tuesday, July 25, 7:00 p.m. at the Doubletree Hotel, 400 Dallas Street. Dr. DuPont, a world renowned authority on cryptosporidium, will be among the featured speakers who will address the questions above. Also, Roger W. Hulbert, of the city of Houston/Water Quality will discuss the present water testing situation in our city. Information and exhibits will include information on varying brands of bottled water. For more information, call 527-8219.

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Arts cuts first phase of attack on liberal programs

(Continued from Page 1)

Conservative and mainstream publications have reported about how the Republican victories in the last national election were made possible by the Hard Right and how these Hard Right groups are asking the new government to repay its efforts by crushing the liberal stronghold of arts and media. The Washington Times reported on the conservative media watch-dog group Media Research Center's leader, L. Brent Bozell. "Mr. Bozell, while euphoric over the Republican victories in last week's elections, said the conservative movement is 'being undermined every day' by television programs, movies and music."

"When You Break The Media, You Will Break Liberalism."

Bozell sees the current media as the enemy of conservatism, and was quoted in Human Events' Conservative Spotlight Column as complaining that the liberal agenda in the entertainment industry and news

media is radical and overwhelming, and saying that, "We've recently seen with the crime bill (and with health care when you break the media, you will break liberalism."

Z Magazine reports, "(Pat) Robertson's Christian Coalition is now an undisguised faction of the Republican party." Z continues: "Some (of the Christian Right) will keep challenging the existing power structure by running for elected office. Others are quietly building parallel institutions in law, education, and media. One does not have to agree with the Christian Right's policy agenda to see that this is good, common sense organizing." They report in the same article, "On any given issue there is tremendous synergy between what happens over the airwaves, in the courtrooms and in churches behind the scenes."

The Republican controlled congress is in debt to and influenced by the Radical Christian Right, a group that see the arts and media as liberal minded and hope to either eliminate the government arts and media programs or frighten them into becoming mouthpieces of the hard right con-

servatism that brought their people to power. In a letter to Sen. Pressler, People for the American Way states, "The extraordinary set of interrogatories which you have submitted to CPB not only smack of political intimidation, they also raise fundamental First Amendment concerns. Indeed, as the content and tone of the questions make clear, your calls for privatization have everything to do with ideology and very little to do with balancing the budget."

Congress and Control Restrictions

The NEA has gotten so much media attention for it's funding of outspoken gay or anti-religious artists that Virginia Cohen, the NEA's Public Affairs Specialist, commented, "Some people have the impression that is all we do. I always have to remind people that less than 0.004 percent of what we've funded in our entire history has come to any kind of controversy." When asked if this bitter fight for survival will cause the NEA to back away from controversial art, she continued, "Not at all. Again our primary new criterion is artist

merit. Some art will be controversial. We do not make decisions based on the content of artworks. In fact, Congress requires us not to, if you look at our legislations. Some Congressmen have tried in the past to come up with some kind of content restrictions. But, they have been basically eliminated because of the federal courts. It just doesn't work that way."

Many representatives in both the Congress and Senate are still undecided in their position on the cuts and are under continual pressure from the radical Christian Right to defund these programs. The American Arts Alliance has set up an emergency 1-900 number to help make it easier for people to support the arts funding. It costs \$1.99 per minute to call 1-900-370-9000 where the proper representatives will be found by zip code, a message composed for the caller, and delivered. They are also asking people to call their representatives through the Congressional switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and demand a stop to the funding attacks on these programs.

Task Force reports mixed record in state legislation

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Thursday, July 13 (AP)—Rhode Island this year became the ninth state to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

But about half of the 97 gay-related bills acted upon by states

this year are anti-gay or have been defeated because they would have protected gays and lesbians from discrimination, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said.

In its first state-by-state survey of gay-related measures, the advocacy group found that 15

of the 97 measures have been signed into law.

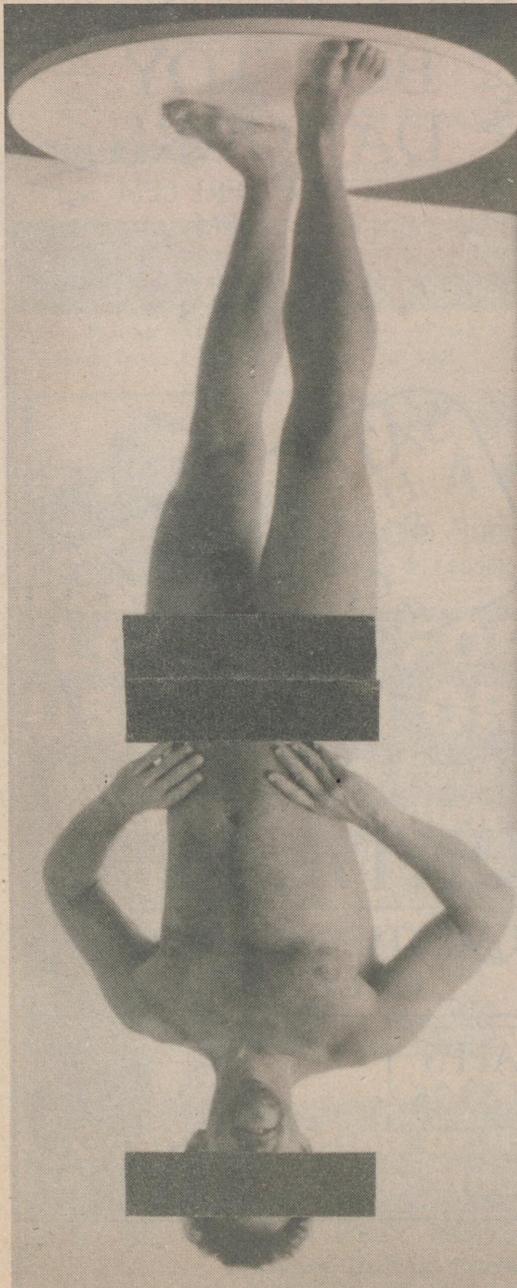
Six of those 15 were deemed anti-gay, one was a non-discrimination measure specifically covering sexual orientation, and the remaining eight included sexual orientation among a list of cate-

gories deserving protection.

"This survey documents what activists have been telling us all year," Robert Bray, a task force field organizer, said Wednesday at a news conference. "The national climate of divisiveness and intolerance is playing itself out at the state

and local level."

Many of the anti-gay measures focused on family and education, curtailing rights to adoption and foster care, and legislating negative references to gay-related issues and individuals in education, Bray said.



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Gay Today

by Glen Webber



War And Metaphor

I had the good fortune recently to see the Broadway hit "Miss Saigon." The musical takes place during the Vietnam War.

I'm old enough to remember Vietnam. It was a tragedy born out of our need to destroy a culture different from ours. In 1968, I was starting high school. The Tet offensive was launched that year. Our government sacrificed hundreds of our young men on that battlefield, with only medals to honor their deaths. I'll never forget a December, 1969 issue of "Life" magazine. In it were the pictures of over 300 young Americans, killed in one week in Vietnam. Pages and pages of young faces, all with innocent smiles, barely out of school, facing the cruelest irony of life: dying without a cause; sacrificing their lives because someone told them to, with no sympathy from our unfeeling government.

Over 50,000 men died fighting in Vietnam; 50,000 men who could have otherwise changed the face of society. Who knows the number of brilliant doctors, dedicated scientists, caring teachers, and creative geniuses in all fields who could have added layers of fabric to our lives. And society still lives with the pain of their deaths. With over 100,000 men injured physically and mentally, the battle will be fought until that generation dies, and the war becomes history.

The battle of the AIDS virus is our generation's Vietnam. For over 15 years, we've been battling this enemy; an enemy that takes no prisoners. When the AIDS virus was identified in 1982, the government did nothing, because the virus was named the "Gay Related Immune Deficiency Disorder," or GRID. For over a year, as thousands were dying of rare and fatal infections caused by this hideous virus, Uncle Sam turned his head. I suspect that if the virus had been immediately labeled as "related" to heterosexual activities, action would have been taken right away.

It was only after 20,000 of our generation died, that the government was forced to take some kind of action. They acknowledged the virus's existence.

President Reagan, who is now "paying for his sins" with his own fatal illness, could have been a hero. Instead, he let his hatred of his fellow man get in the way. By the time money was granted for research it was too late. Almost as many people were dead or dying as were killed in Vietnam. But our generation's deaths garnered no medals or flags: just condemnation for being sick, total isolation from compassion, and shame for being gay.

In the last 15 years, great strides have been made. Many of us are living longer. But with all the money being spent, why has no cure yet been found? Are we spreading the money between too many different research teams? Are most of these research teams after big discoveries, or are they after big bucks? Do the large pharmaceutical companies really want to see an AIDS cure? Is there more money to be made through drugs that prolong life than a total cure? And, why does the FDA take so long in approving experimental drug treatments? Who makes these decisions anyhow? How many more will die before a cure is found?

I salute the thousands of men and women who have made the AIDS battle their own battle, from those who fight the disease to stay alive, to those who die with dignity, to those who devote themselves to legitimate research, to those groups and individuals raising money, to those men and women being a buddy when a lonely man needs a friend.

I'm sad we have lost many of our generation's brilliant doctors, dedicated scientists, caring teachers and creative geniuses in all fields who were changing the fabric of society when this virus hit. I'm hurt that society doesn't care or doesn't know our loss. I'm angry that we continue spreading this disease through unsafe sex when we know better.

The deaths from Vietnam will haunt us forever. The deaths of AIDS will haunt us forever. But I know that when a cure is found, and we can get on with our lives, we will never forget our brothers and sisters. Society must start valuing every life that is lost to AIDS, drug abuse, and violence, or we will continue to lose those people who could otherwise make a difference.

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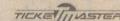


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Quick Notes

The Hunger Relief for AIDS Food Drive kicked off Monday, July 10, with employees of Southwestern Bell Telephone presenting the first donations to representatives of six area food banks. The Hunger Relief for AIDS drive will accept donations until August 6, 1995.

During the summer months, many area food banks find themselves turning to the community for help serving their clients. This summer, six HIV/Food Assistance Programs are benefiting from the first annual Hunger Relief for AIDS Food Drive. Donations will be distributed to clients of the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA), AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc./Stone Soup, Brentwood, Diocesan AIDS Ministry, Houston Challenge Foundation-Challenge/FIRM Co-op, and the WAM Foundation. Combined, these organizations provide service to over 5000 persons living with HIV/AIDS or families affected by HIV/AIDS.

Items that are most needed include non-perishable food products (food pantries are not able to use bulk items), personal care/sundries such as shampoo, deodorant, diapers, toothpaste, etc., which are not available through food stamp programs.

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All cash donations will be accepted at any Southwest Bank of Texas drive-through and lobby, or they may be sent to Hunger Relief for AIDS, P.O. Box 27459, Houston, Texas 77227-7459. For more information about donations, locations or services, call 629-9255. Sponsored in part by:

Goods, Southwest Bank of Texas, Star Furniture Stores and the Alley Theater. Cash donations may be made at any Southwest bank of Texas drive through or lobby. Sponsors include the Houston Chronicle, Texas Triangle, KXJT-FM, KTMD—Channel 48, KUHF-AM and BFI.

For additional information on Hunger Relief for AIDS information call 623-6796 or access <http://www.powersource.com/powersource/hunger-relief>.

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HOUSTON

VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Spectrum Director Blasts Critics' 'Inaccu- racies'

FROM B. ALAN BOURGEOIS

Houston, Texas

I had an idea, a plan that would hopefully unite a community together on several levels, allowing for the positive growth and happiness of the community to shine in a time of hatred and illness.

I never realized that there are so many people in the community that are only concerned about the status quo or about their own posturing within the community. Forgetting and ignoring that for many, this community is the only family they have.

I am forced once again to respond to negative letters that have appeared in various papers.

Mr. Lingle, God bless him, seems to have a way with writing negative letters and commentaries. I would like for someone to please find one positive letter he has written over the years and send it to me. I need something refreshing. Enough said about the inaccuracies of Mr. Lingle's letter.

Ms. Lavner's letter has left me very angry and upset, by not only the inaccuracies in her letter, but by how the Houston Voice handled the situation. I will correct Ms. Lavner first.

Ms. Lavner fails to mention that she received \$900 cash from me on the day of her performance. Her fee was \$1,500. We did issue a check for \$618 which has since been returned unpaid. It was made clear to Ms. Lavner to immediately cash her check as the funds would be there. She instead choose to wait a few days. Unfortunately for us, the funds were eaten up in bank charges.

I did send a letter to Ms. Lavner, per my attorney's recommendations. In the letter I offered to pay for her returned check fees, plus we added an additional 10% interest fee to the amount owed. That is something that we did not have to do, but wanted to do, to keep Ms. Lavner from losing any money. Based on the date of her letter, it is clear that she did not wait for a response.

Ms. Lavner fails to mention the fact that she received airline tickets, hotel and food expenses from us. Ms. Lavner spent no money to attend Spectrum '95. She in fact was able to sell her tapes and make money. None of her time or money was donated to raising any money for the beneficiaries, which was the main focus of most entertainers attending.

I would like to point out that other performers such as Sons & Lovers, DV8 and Suisse K are also owed money by us, but have agreed to our payment plans. They have even gone as far as to ask to be part of Spectrum '96. I would like to commend those people for being understanding and truly community-oriented.

Now to address the handling of the letter by the Houston Voice.

It has been a standing policy of the Voice to print letters received by the editor if space allows. It is something that insures free speech. However, to print a letter that is full of inaccura-

cies and slanderous statements is not in the best interest of the community or of the individual who is attacked in the letter.

Ms. Darbonne (Houston Voice editor) failed to properly investigate the letter and verify its accusations. I say this from fact, as Ms. Darbonne did not contact me and question me about the letter.

When I questioned her about the person who I supposedly threatened, which is completely against my character, Ms. Darbonne advised me that she had a name, but had not spoken to the person to determine the validity of the statement prior to publishing the letter.

I hereby suggest that the Houston Voice create an editorial board consisting of the General Manager, the Editor and the Senior Sales Representative, to review such slanderous letters prior to publishing them.

It is clear that there are a lot of unanswered questions about why Spectrum '95 lost so much money, and to help answer those questions I have given Ms. Darbonne a copy of our final financial statement. I welcome her investigation, I just hope she does a better job than she did with Ms. Lavner's letter.

I and the board of directors of Town Meeting, Inc., have nothing to hide. We did the best job possible with the resources we had available. That is the bottom line. For people to say, "Well, if you had done this or did that," does not help us now. Those same people should be part of the planning process and be willing to stick it out, even when a majority votes against them.

Now I must advise many of my critics of some of the positive things that I have done for this community over the past few years. I created a fitness video for people who are HIV positive and I have donated the tapes to many people at my own cost. I created "Gay 90's," a cable television show that promoted every aspect of Houston, which is only off the air due to my involvement with Spectrum '95 and my dear friend's moving to Los Angeles. Finally, I created Spectrum '95. I went against the odds and did something I believed in for the whole of this community, not for profit and surely not because I wanted gray hair either.

Any person can see that there were many positive things about Spectrum '95, some of which was exposure and some money raised for the non-profit groups involved with the event. The generous growth from the event on an economic level. The unity within the community from those who did participate, plus much more.

In conclusion, it is clear that if someone is not a part of something, or is not at something, they are in no position to "say" something as fact. It is a rumor that is dangerous and harmful to people and especially to our community. No matter what your status in the community, please be responsible by not spreading a rumor, find out the truth. The truth about myself and Spectrum '95 and how things were handled is available to anyone who simply asks. From someone who is determined to improve the quality of life in our community.

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HOUSTON
VOICE MAIL
Letters to the Editor

Clinic Medical Director Responds

FROM K.W. BOCKMAN, M.D.
Houston, Texas

I would like to thank the Houston Voice for the opportunity to respond to the article about the Montrose Clinic in the July 7 edition of your paper. It is difficult to know exactly how to respond to something that seems to have been crafted for maximum negativity. I think it is important to point out that most of us who were singled out by name for criticism were not interviewed prior to the publication of this "story" for what would have been a decidedly different account of the events of the last year. It would be extremely inappropriate to debate the merit of actions regarding staff employment at the clinic in a public forum. Suffice it to say that the Board of the Montrose Clinic came to a unanimous conclusion regarding Ralph Lasher and it is they who should field inquiries about that action. The other staff members who have been discharged, many of them friends of Mr. Lasher's, were given every opportunity to work in good faith with the new administration.

Eileen Hegar, who was appointed permanent President after an exemplary performance as interim President, is a very fair and patient woman, but even she has her limits. She has a big organization to run and has to depend on a competent and cooperative staff. I believe any good manager would have made the same staff decisions and probably a lot sooner. In my opinion the Montrose Clinic was burdened by dead wood and very bad habits at the time Ralph Lasher left. As to whether my serving as Medical Director of HCRN represented a conflict of interest, anyone who knows anything about community based drug trials knows they are not money makers. Pharmaceutical companies do not reimburse well for community based research. Drug trials take a phenomenal amount of time and resources. In private practice it would make more sense financially simply to spend that time seeing other patients. None of us do drug trials for the money. We do them to make promising new therapies available to our patients that would not otherwise be available. It is often difficult to find a physician who is capable of supervising another drug trial because of the amount of work involved.

The position of a paid Medical Director was a requirement of the AMFAR contract and is the same at all of the 12 sites. The suggestion that my position was "written in" as reported by Larry Woolman is a misrepresentation of the facts and

Larry knows this. I can believe many things coming from the lips of Larry Woolman, but moral indignation is not one of them. From the beginning, it was not my intention to serve as Medical Director indefinitely. I told Eileen Hegar the first time I spoke with her about the position that I would do it only until a suitable replacement was found. Chris Jimmerson too, plans to pursue other interests as soon as it is feasible. Neither of us cares who participates in these organizations as long as it is done at maximum benefit to the community.

Something left out of the Voice article is that while Ralph Lasher was Executive Director of the Montrose Clinic he reviewed all contracts, including those with drug companies and AMFAR. He expressed no reservation regarding their propriety at the time.

Far from shifting the focus of the clinic from the clinical side, it is the clinical services that received the bulk of the attention in the last year. HCRN was already running smoothly. In the last year, the clinical services have been updated and standardized. The clinic now meets State and OSHA guidelines for safety. Access to drugs, needles, and other medical supplies is now properly restricted. New services including an eye screening clinic, a dermatology clinic, and soon to open nutrition clinic have been added. In order to obtain much needed malpractice insurance we had to restrict patient care to those with some type of medical license. The individual who represented himself as a "physician's assistant" has some training, but, in fact, has no license. Patient visits are now done by appointment out of respect for the time of the clients and volunteers. Response to the changes has been extremely positive as measured by patient satisfaction surveys. Scores of people have commented to me personally how gratifying the improvements in the clinic are to the community. This is, after all, where it really counts.

Rather than "breaking with potentially devastating force" this story elicited only a few groans of "not again." I think it is a mistake for anyone to view their involvement with a community service organization as a career position regardless of the quality of work being done. All non-profit organizations deserve our scrutiny to ensure precious resources are used wisely. The Montrose Clinic and HCRN are now open to such critical review. It is my belief that printing the snipings of disgruntled former employees without a thorough check as to their veracity does not represent the best in journalism.

The Houston Voice welcomes well-written, insightful and to-the-point commentaries for our opinion/editorial pages. We also welcome "counterpoint" articles that represent a different view on the issues approached in articles we have already run. We reserve the right to edit for length, format and clarity. The views expressed in guest commentaries and letters to the editor published in the Houston Voice are those of the writers. We seek to provide a broad-based forum which reflects the varying points of view of our rich and diverse community. Selection for publication is at our discretion. Send articles to: The Houston Voice, Attn.: Editor, 811 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713-529-9531.<

Former vice president: Not stuck

FROM LARRY WOOLMAN

Houston, Texas

I am writing this letter in response to your excellent article about the Montrose Clinic, as well as to clarify certain facts. As the most senior employee at the Clinic, I feel it most appropriate for me to make the following clarifications.

First, as for the comment by Ms. Hegar about the dismissed employees' inability to be "team-players" and "some people who will resist those changes," I take exception with this. To my knowledge it is extremely difficult to make those comments about any of the senior staff. I personally have seen more changes in the Clinic during my almost nine years of service than anyone else and not once was "stuck in the past." If I was unable to be a "team-player," there is no way I would have worked there for that long. Shortly after the termination of Mr. Lasher, the senior staff had a team building retreat, and everyone came away with a renewed sense of "team" and enthusiasm. However, all those terminated staff members were excluded from any "team" effort after that.

Having worked for Mr. Thomas Audette, Mr. Ralph Lasher, and Ms. Eileen Hegar, I can truthfully tell you that the management style described by Mr. Nix could only describe the management style of Mr. Nix and Ms Eileen Hegar. During my time with Mr. Audette and Mr. Lasher never was the staff, senior or otherwise, afraid to make comments or suggestions to improve services. They always knew what was going on and what to expect, there were no internal surprises or chaos.

During my time as Director of Clinic Operations and then as Vice President of Administration, I was always proud of the fact that we generally had over one hundred active volunteers at any one time. We were able to provide services to any and all those who came to the Clinic for medical services. A few years ago, we requested that the Texas Department of Health come to Houston and do an audit of all clinic policies and procedures. Dr. Charles Bell, Bureau Chief, Bureau of HIV and STD Control, Texas Department of Health, personally came to the clinic for two days to conduct this audit. Except for minor administrative changes, the results of this audit were excellent. I agree with Ms Hegar that "we were providing services in a setting that was less than professional," but this issue was not addressed by this audit. To the contrary, we were commended for our ability to provide professional services in a less than professional setting and with a volunteer staff.

It is very difficult for me to accept the comment made by Ms Hegar that Clinic services are expanding, not deteriorating. How can that statement be made when the hours of operation for clients have been reduced? No matter how difficult it was, we always were open at night for the convenience of our clients and because the City Health Department clinics were not open at night. My understanding of the founding of the Clinic was to provide services when no one else did. These changes in hours only hurt the clients who depend upon the clinic for their

health care.

It is extremely disconcerting that the Board of Trustees have not personally investigated any of these issues. I can only assume, by their lack of action, that they do not care what the reputation of the clinic is or they believe only what they are being told in their monthly meetings. I suggest to each one of them, that they simply ask questions of individual staff members and volunteers so they may get a true picture of how bad the clinic has gotten in this past year.

I want to make it perfectly clear at this time that I am still very loyal to what the Clinic used to stand for and am only speaking out now because of current events that will jeopardize that reputation. Regardless for whom I worked, the Clinic and client services always came first. I admit that at first I mourned the loss of my job but do not want anyone to feel this is only an attempt to regain my previous employment.

Here Today...!

FROM PATRICK BALL

South Central Regional Director, Log Cabin Federation

In response to Glen Webber's "Gay Today" column titled "Gone Tomorrow...?" (Houston Voice Issue 768, July 14, 1995):

The situation you portray could become a reality, except you overlook the truth that gay and lesbian Republicans are already countering the radical fundamentalist right within the Party. They love being addressed as the "Religious Right," but they are not synonymous with the Republican Party nor are they representative of all religion. They are but another minority within the Republican Party.

Log Cabin Republicans are actively organized and have drawn the line in the Party against the advance of these radicals. We do not cede control of the Republican Party to these homophobes and we are successfully presenting who we are to the Party moderates. Just like in the military, there are and have always been gays and lesbians in the Republican Party.

For those who rely on the judicial system to protect our rights, reread Webber's scenario of appointments of federal judges. These appointments are made by elected officials and ratified by elected officials! Many of the judicial positions in Texas are elected. Log Cabin is paying attention and questioning candidates about their views. We are recruiting acceptable candidates to run for office, from precincts up, and educating those republicans in office about us.

It may seem unusual to some that we are not giving up ground in the Republican Party, but neither should gays and lesbians give up in the Democratic Party. In 2001, there should be a choice of homophobia-free candidates from all political parties.

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The Voice Reader



Summer Reading—potato chips and heart-break

By **CHRIS LAMBERT**

The Houston Voice/Houston

("My First Time," edited by Jack Hart, \$9.95 paperback, Alyson Publications, 1995).

Well, it's 99 degrees, the heat index is obscene, and you need some light summer reading for the poolside. Alyson Press has just what you need in "My First Time." This book is an anthology of short, usually one or two pages, descriptions by gay guys (sorry, sister-half) of their first significant sexual experience—the experience that shouted "Yes, I've found the hormonal pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and this is what I want to keep on doing!"

Jack Hart, the editor, has correctly provided a minimal arrangement for these 78 true-life tales. There is a short introduction. The stories proceed chronologically from the 1930's to 1993, divided into six eras. Each time period, like the one called "The Wonder Bread Years (1949—1959)," has its own short introduction. First names and the age of the writers when IT happened are included. Otherwise the editor gets out of the way.

This book requires no heavy mental lifting. You can skip the intros and just dive in. The stories are sexy, serious, sad and occasionally ludicrous. You slide from one story to another almost effortlessly. This book is a big bowl of word potato chips, lightly salty, oily, and addictive. Munch, crunch, "Oh, God, this is a GOOD one..." This book is nicely lubricious fun. Sorry, no pictures.

But the book is not merely soft core. IF you want, you can get more than entertainment from this book. It is interest-

ing how the sexual stereotypes—strip poker, the overnight stay—really do happen. Even more interesting, there is a definite change over the decades in the emotional response to the defining experience. The older stories seem happier. Perhaps because there were no options in the earlier years, the contact was merely uncomplicated sex without any overtones of lifestyle choice. The later stories tend to be more angst-filled as the writers realize that they are at a turning point in their lives. As gayness became an option, fear and anxiety are added to the usual adolescent confusion. Freedom to choose means choices must be made. It means responsibility. A one night stand can echo for a lifetime. It seemed to me the first time moved from 13 to about 18 as worries mounted and the act was overshadowed by the implications. Also, I was a little bothered by the very young age of some of these stories, say five and six. Call me pedophilophobic.

Still, you can skip all the sociology and go straight to the, ahem, meat of the book. This is a nice sunscreen and daiquiri book.

A Double-Edged Heart Breaker

("Prayers for Bobby" by Leroy Aarons, \$22.00 hardcover, HarperSan-Francisco, 1995)

The second book is altogether more serious. The subtitle for "Prayers for Bobby" is "A mother's coming to terms with the suicide of her gay son."

Bobby Griffith jumped from a Portland interstate bridge into the path of an 18-wheeler on August 27, 1983. Through three years of interviews with the family and friends Leroy Aarons has successfully chronicled not only the sad life and death of Bobby but the positive aftermath of the tragedy. (Continued on following page)

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Photo by Steven David

HOUSTON

VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Among the 'Disgruntled'

FROM STEVEN

Houston, Texas

I would personally like to thank the person(s) responsible for the recent article about the "New Montrose Clinic." I am a 25 year old, white, gay HIV-positive male. For as long as I can remember the Montrose Clinic has been a place of information and hope to the gay community. When I came out in my teens I knew if I ever had a problem or concern about HIV related issues, I could simply drop in or call and those questions could be answered or at least my anxiousness eased by its staff. I think many people in the community, especially teenagers, looked at the clinic as a beacon of hope and felt secure in the stability of what it stood for and provided. To put it plain and simple, the light has gone out, leaving alot of HIV positive people, like myself, feeling lost, confused, and neglected.

When I was first diagnosed at the clinic, I was offered an array of different avenues to choose from, and left feeling there was hope or at least there

were options for me. Recently I lost my job, and found I have no income or insurance (like a lot of people in the community), and I went to try and find what my options were at the clinic. What I received was probably the most cold and callous treatment from anyone in this profession of health care. I had called to find out about getting a case manager and finding out about a gold card. The tone in the person's voice I spoke to turned from professional to snide and belittling. When I then asked if she had other numbers or suggestions about getting one she said no, and hung up on me. Before, when I called the clinic, if they couldn't help they were understanding and tried to point you in the right direction. It seems to me from this and my other recent attempts to get information or help, they basically ignored me after finding out my income by leaving me on hold, or in person, leaving me to wait in their "new clinic" for over two hours, with no help.

I know people will be accusing you of listening to disgruntled ex-employees, well I thought you would like to hear from a disgruntled ex-patient. A lot of people I have talked with shared the same feelings.

Book reviews: summer releases diverse

(Continued from preceding page)

There are actually two stories in this book. The first is about Bobby, an average kid growing up in an average family in an average California suburb. The family has problems, but things are normal enough. And then Bobby, third child and second son, realizes at age 15 that he is gay. He tells big brother Ed, who eventually tells Mary, the mother. Mary had always been an active Christian, feeling warm, cocooned and sheltered by her bible verses and the church's assurances on what was right and proper. Her world, that is her family, had been neatly defined. No thought was involved. Mary and her family's cruise-control life was challenged by Bobby. Mary assured Bobby that homosexuality was a sin (How not?) but it could be cured. They would pray and struggle together against the forces of Satan.

The heartbreak in this story is that everybody loves everybody else. Everybody is trying to "help" Bobby. Bobby is devastated to think that he is doomed to hell. He tries to change. He fights. Hard. The descent into the fires of self loathing, alienation, despair and hopelessness is horrible and predictable. In the end, well, in the end Bobby kills the pain.

The second story picks up where Bobby ends his. Mary was not the type to accept quietly her son's death as the will of God. Bobby had left a journal into which he had poured all his confusion, fear and self-hatred. Mary read and began to question the how and why. It takes great strength to dissolve the glue of one's life and begin again but this remarkable woman did. It wasn't just working through grief and guilt. Mary had to know about her son's soul.

Mary's search for resolution took years. She finally became convinced that her church had misled her and that she had, from the best of intentions, put

her son in an emotional box from which the only exit was labeled death. Her reaction was NOT rage. Her reaction was action. This mild, unsure, and retiring housewife got involved. She discovered MCC and P-FLAG. She told Bobby and her's story. Imagine, amid all the theory and rhetoric and discussion comes this gray haired, soft spoken lady and tells one from the heart. "I loved my son and my ignorance killed him."

Mary needed to tell this story. Call it expiation. But the leaders quickly realized that THEY needed Mary to tell this story. She and her story made the papers, school board meetings, congressional hearings, the Sally Jessie Raphael Show. Mary went where she was needed and bared her heart. Her quiet guide to purgatory is a story to melt the heart of a Falwell. Mary was publicized and pushed. She became the poster mom of gay grief, and Lord, Lord, ain't there a lot of it? And she (and I) think Bobby is pleased.

The book is equal parts Bobby's destruction and Mary's renaissance. The parts balance and the whole story is compelling. The Griffith family saga is part of the gay saga.

Mr. Aarons, perhaps influenced by Mary, tells his story in a very plain and unadorned style. As a one-time editor of the Oakland Tribune, he seems to be terrified of any sentence over nine words long. There are some minor problems in coordinating Bobby's and Mary's story. There is repetition. I, for one, could have used less of the dry I-am-just-a-reporter style. Still, the story is worth the style.

Finally, at the end of the book are lots of names and numbers of organizations. Like Mary, maybe you could get involved.

In any case, both books, in different ways, make nice summer reading. Enjoy.

Gay Iowa state worker wins settlement

DES MOINES, Iowa, Friday, July 14 (AP)—The state of Iowa has agreed to pay \$70,000 to settle a lawsuit filed by a gay man who said he faced harassment by women who ran his division at the state Department of Employment Services.

Douglas Liebert was the only man working in the division. He said he faced anonymous threats at work, and was fired after refusing to undergo a psychiatric examination.

Liebert filed a civil rights discrimination lawsuit against coworkers after earlier filing a sexual harassment complaint against them.

Under terms of the settlement, Liebert will get \$29,174 for personal injury and emotional distress and \$2,526 for lost wages. The state will also pay \$33,598 for Liebert's attorney fees and \$4,701 for other costs.

"This is a wonderful result," said Randall Wilson, legal director for the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, which helped Liebert in the case.

"It is very difficult to elicit sympathy and obtain relief for men or homosexuals asserting discrimination claims in court. Often men are not seen as victims of emotional injury, and many people do not care if homosexuals are mistreated."

U.N. launches new effort to tackle AIDS

GENEVA, Friday, July 14 (AP)—Accused of not doing enough to fight AIDS at the local level, the United Nations launched a new program Friday headed by a doctor who helped isolate the deadly Ebola virus in Zaire in the 1970s.

The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, or UNAIDS, will focus on coordinating grass-roots efforts in such hard-hit countries as Zimbabwe, which has 52 separate AIDS programs, said Dr. Peter Piot.

"We are here for a very long battle," Piot said. "It is clear this is not the Ebola outbreak that we can tackle with a few simple measures."

Piot was one of the scientists who isolated Ebola in a remote region of Zaire in 1976. An outbreak this year in central Zaire killed nearly 300 people.

The new AIDS program is to coordinate the work of six agencies, including UNICEF and the U.N. Population Fund. The previous program, run by the World Health Organization, was criticized for focusing on vaccines and concentrating its staff at its Geneva headquarters.

The budget for Piot's agency is expected to be \$140 million over two years, including \$28.5 million pledged by the U.S. government this year.

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Community Organizations Bulletin Board

Milam House Announces Prize Winners

Milam House, a project of AIDS Housing Houston Inc., announces the winners of the summer raffle drawing held at its recent Bastille Day benefit. The benefit was hosted by board member Roberta Diddel. The prizes were generously donated by the respective companies:

Kent Smith won the first place prize of two round trip airline tickets on American Airlines. Second prize, a bed and breakfast package at the Lancaster Hotel, was won by Kathy Godnar. Walter Meek won third prize, a \$75 gift certificate to Pappas Restaurants.

AIDS Housing Houston extends thanks to all businesses and organizations who allowed the sale of raffle tickets at their locations, including J. Christopher of Houston; Kroger; the various community bowling leagues, the Montrose Softball League, the Ranch, Ripcord, J.R.'s, Pacific Street, Venture-N, Brazos River Bottom, Briar Patch, Gentry, Mary's and others, as well as to the companies that donated the prizes and to all who purchased tickets.

In other news, Milam House Productions is presenting its third annual summer theater benefit, with proceeds benefiting Milam House. This year's production, "Time of My Life" by Alan Ayckbourn, is a serious comedy centered on the lives and relationships of the Stratton family. Through a series of scenes in a restaurant, we see the family's rise and fall through engagement, marriage, divorce, financial power and ruin.

"Time of My Life" will be presented at Skyline Theater, inside the Houston House apartments in downtown Houston, July 27-29; August 3-5 and August 10-12. All performances will be at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each; additional donations to Milam House will be accepted at the box office. Res-

ervations: 526-1482.

'Lesbian and Gay Voices' Moves to Thursday

Radio 90.1 KPFT's "Lesbian and Gay Voices" program changes its time slot next week. The show, which has been airing on Fridays, will be heard on Thursdays from 9:00-11:00 p.m. beginning July 27, 1995.

Lesbian and Gay Voices is a Montrose based radio program that works to inform and entertain the gay and lesbian community. The producers welcome questions, comments, suggestions and ideas from the audience and community. Call the program's voice mail line at (713) 866-6505.

Switchboard Announces August Training

In early August, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston will hold a weekend training session for anyone interested in volunteering for the Switchboard.

GLSH volunteers provide a valuable service by using the Switchboard's extensive resource guides to connect callers to community organizations, businesses and professionals and inform callers about upcoming community events. Volunteers are also trained in providing vital safer sex information and lending an understanding ear when callers are coming out of the closet. Training gives Switchboard volunteers the tools to assist the gay and lesbian community, but it also teaches participants important communication skills they can use every day.

Training will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, August 4. The Friday session will end at 10:00 p.m. Training on Saturday, Aug. 5 and Sunday, Aug. 6 will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. each day. Call (713) 529-3211 to sign up for training or to get more information.



SPORTS NOTES



Bowling Leagues Report Standings

The Inner Loop Sunday Evening League reports Sticky Wickets is in first place, A Quiver Runs Through It is second and Another Ex is third. High scratch game of 278 and series of 745 was bowled by Tom O'Dell for the men. For the women high scratch game of 222 was bowled by C.J. Joneson and series of 576 was bowled by Peri Cain. For league information, call Tom at 522-9612.

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports Division A standings of Lube It or Lose in first place, Doggie Style Too is second and Four Blond Beavers is third. Division B is headed by Duck Sausage with Striking Beauties in second and Party of Four in third. High

scratch game of 279 was bowled by Ron Grose and series of 702 was bowled by Kenny Harmon. For more information call Gardy at 641-5424.

The Monday Nite Women's League reports Legal Insanity is in first while Maybe, Maybe Not is second. Nine is Fine is third and Walking Wounded is fourth. For more information call Pat at 437-6218 or Marla at 862-3630.

The Wednesday Nite Mixers report first place is taken by Tongue Wrestlers, second place by Gutter Girls and third by Daisy Mae and the Seedlings. High scratch game of 264 was bowled by Mace Adams for the men and series of 604 by Rodney Seiler. For the women Susan Snider bowled scratch of 233 and series of 604. For more information call Tom at 522-9612.

GLAAD MEDIA WATCH

by Al Kielwasser

Newsweek Discovers 'New Sex!'

On June 21, 1993, an embracing lesbian couple filled the ubiquitous cover of "Newsweek" magazine. "Lesbians have always been the invisible homosexuals," the caption announced, "now these women are stepping front and center." This week, the magazine has similarly discovered bisexuals. Newsweek's July 17 cover story declares: "A new sexuality emerges... Now it's coming out in the open—in pop culture, in cyberspace and on campus."

Of course, bisexuality is hardly a "new sexuality." But it IS news to much of the mainstream press and—consequently—to much of the public. In that regard, this cover story is a particularly welcome (and long-overdue) contribution to bi visibility.

Across seven well-illustrated pages, the article paints a fairly affirmative portrait of bisexual identities. Significantly, the authors manage to avoid much of the sex-negativity and "voyeuristic" style that has marred similar attempts. And while the article touches upon a broad range of subjects—myths, history, media, sex, love—not a single bigot was quoted for "balance."

Newsweek's coverage is not perfect, of course. In contrast to (or perhaps because of) the article's emphasis on bisexual identity, there is relatively little said, directly, about bisexual politics. The authors' gloss over such concepts as "community" and "movement," though these are fundamental to the very "emergence" announced on the magazine's cover.

Nevertheless, the article is still a groundbreaking achievement for a mainstream medium... especially one of this stature. This issue of "Newsweek"—vivid, unapologetic and (literally) covered with bisexuality—will reach several MILLION readers.

* Encourage "Newsweek" to continue providing fair, accurate and diverse coverage of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender subjects; send comments to Richard M. Smith, Editor-in-Chief, "Newsweek," 251 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019-1894, fax 212-445-4120, e-mail letters@newsweek.com.

Support from Home (box Office)

July 19 marks the season premiere of "The Larry Sanders Show," which is entering its fourth year on the Home Box Office (HBO) network. In the season's second episode, scheduled for July 26, the cast will be joined by a continuing gay character. The new addition will be played by the (VERY) out gay actor, Scott Thompson (formerly of "Kids In The Hall").

Scott Thompson's appearance

should continue HBO's good record on lesbian and gay representation. Last year, the network made a positive contribution to lesbian visibility with "More Than Friends: The Coming Out of Heidi Leiter," which portrayed the story of a high-school senior who comes out to herself and her parents, falls in love, and takes her girlfriend to the senior prom. This year, HBO's Sports Division hired Martina Navratilova as a Wimbledon commentator; such high-profile positions are rarely given to lesbian or gay athletes (unless they are closeted). And next year, in February, HBO will debut "The Celluloid Closet," a documentary film based on author/activist Vito Russo's seminal history of homosexuality in the movies.

* Supportive feedback can be sent to Home Box Office, HBO Building, 1100 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036.

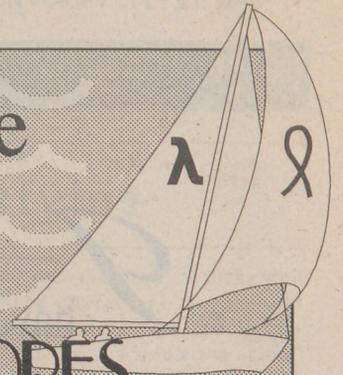
Media Briefs

* Gay-Per-View... Last month, the "Wall Street Journal" reported that Tanqueray vodka and Pierre Cardin "have signed on to sponsor the television show "Freestyles," hosted by Amanda Bearse, the openly lesbian actress from the "Married... With Children" TV series. The paid program will run this summer on cable channel VH-1 with features that appeal to both gay women and gay men. "Freestyles" has since premiered, on July 16 and 17. VH-1 even placed an ad for the program in "TV Guide" (July 15-21, San Francisco Metropolitan Edition, p. 87). However, the "Freestyles" ad avoids ever using the words "gay" or "lesbian," simply describing the program as "A Show About Freedom... With Style." Contact: Viewer Services, VH-1, 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, tel. 212-258-7800 or 212-258-8000.

* In The (Computer) Life... The July 1995 issue of "ComputerLife" magazine includes a brief guide to on-line information resources on AIDS/HIV treatment and prevention ("Online Life Savers," by Rebecca Freed). Among the sites to see, the magazine recommends the Queer Infoservers page (<http://www.infoqueer.org/queer/qis/health.html>)—"notable for its sheer number of links"—and the Safer Sex Page of the University of California/San Francisco (<http://www.cmpharm.ucsf.edu/troyer/safesex.html>), which provides "educational resources such as newsletters, GIFs, and video clips on safer-sex techniques."

(To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, or to request membership information, please call our 24-hour Media Watch Hotline (415-861-4588) or write to Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation/San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103; tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaads-fba@aol.com.)

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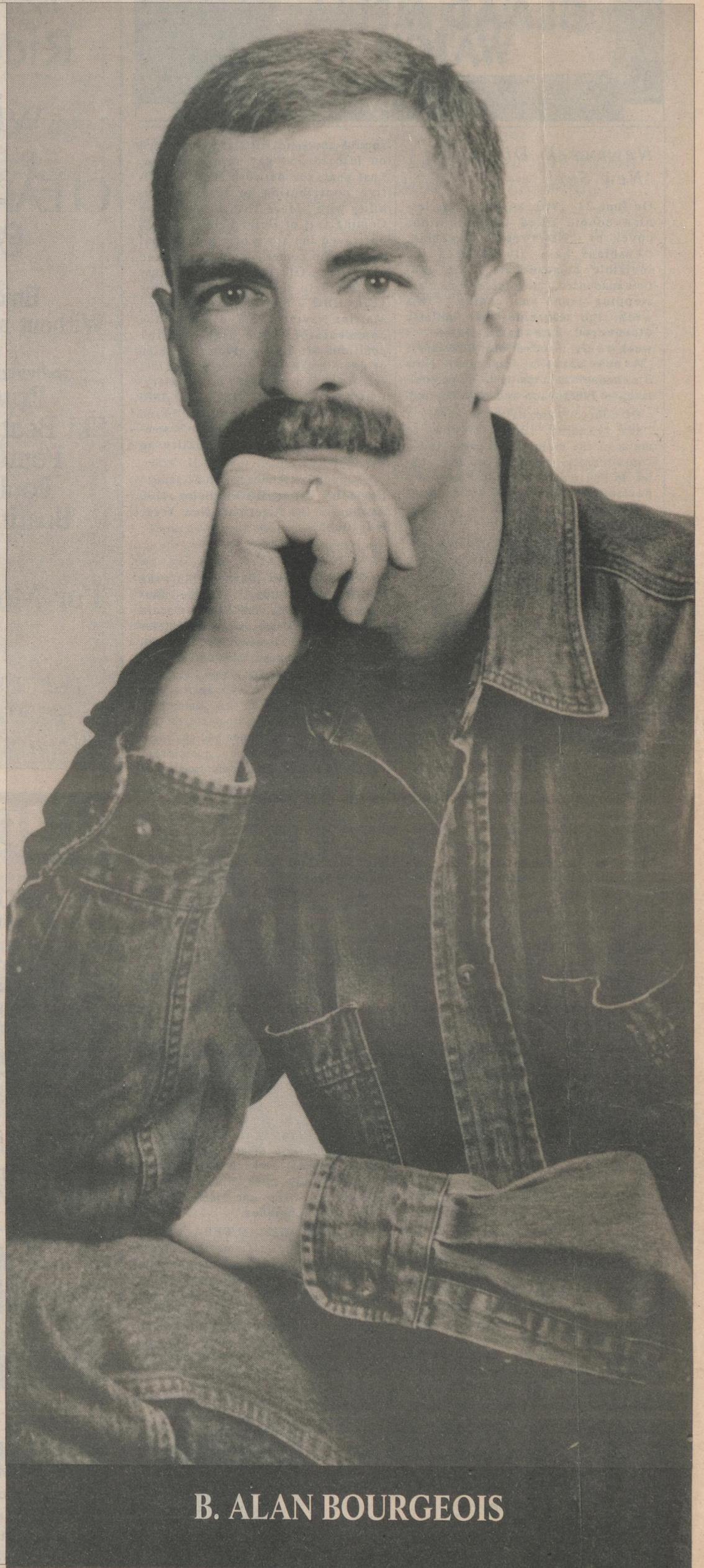
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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

'Miss Saigon' intense, powerful and emotionally satisfying

Theater Review

By GLEN WEBBER

Houston Voice/Houston

The Cameron Mackintosh production of Miss Saigon at Jones Hall is a deeply intense musical, showcasing a tragic love story against the backdrop of the Vietnam war. The story concerns a young prostitute, taken from a small Vietnamese village destroyed by fighting and put under control of a pimp, who wants to use her to make money from the American G.I.'s. Her first customer is a young American, who falls in love with her.

Matt Bogart plays the young American soldier. He has that handsome

clean cut All-American look, with a beautiful voice that conveys the emotions of a man torn between the love for this beautiful young lady and the horrors of war. For a young man just out of the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music he has a long exciting career ahead of him.

The role of the young prostitute, is played alternately by Deedee Lynn Mango or Christina Paras. Miss Mango starred in the first performance, and her voice was hauntingly beautiful and powerful, a perfect match for Mr. Bogart's. She conveyed believably the emotional merry-go-round of a young woman in deeply in love and a young woman desperately trying to save her relationship with the Ameri-

can G.I.

The other main character, the pimp, is portrayed with enthusiastic zeal by Thom Sesman. An imposing man with a deep voice, he owns the stage when he is singing, and sets the tone for every scene he is in. His vast musical experience brings a added layer of intensity to this production.

The technical achievements are incredible. The sets for the bar scenes are appropriately depressing and scary, and the scene in which the Americans escape Vietnam conveys what the horror of Vietnam was all about. And the ending; well, I wasn't ready for it. While I didn't cry, everyone around me did.

Bravo to the talented actors who brought these characters to life, and made us like them despite the circumstances of their lives. I salute the actors' deeply emotional voices that touched my soul more than once. I applaud their ability to bring us the horror of war so convincingly, and I am grateful they brought out a passion so strong it makes us feel alive. The music is the wrapping paper that pulls together the whole show and says "Gotcha." Between the sets, the acting, and the music, you are in Vietnam.

You will not forget these haunting melodies as they will stay in your head for a long time. And that's a good thing.

(Miss Saigon will be playing through Sept. 2nd at Jones Hall).

Men face civil sanctions in Maine gay-bashing attack

PORTLAND, Maine, Tuesday, July 11 (AP)—The state has taken civil action against two men accused in a gay-bashing attack that left the victim with a broken nose and fractured eye socket, Maine Attorney General Andrew Ketterer said.

The civil complaint asks a judge to issue a permanent injunc-

tion ordering Stephen Dobson and Rick Mitchell, both of Portland, to stay at least 100 feet away from the victim of the July 1 attack, Ketterer said Tuesday.

Besides keeping Dobson and Mitchell away from the victim, the state's civil action seeks to prohibit them from assaulting, threatening, intimidating or

harassing people on the basis of sexual orientation.

The victim, William Clark, 28, of Portland, was taunted, beaten and kicked on the ground outside Blackstone's Bar. The attackers yelled "Fag, how does this feel?" as they kicked him, according to the civil complaint.

Dobson, 19, was arrested Monday night on criminal charges of aggravated assault and harassment by characterization. Dobson remained in the Cumberland County Jail on Tuesday, pending arraignment Wednesday.

Two other men who participated in the attack remain under

investigation, said Portland Police Chief Michael Chitwood.

The attack is one in a string of recent hate crimes in the state's largest city, Chitwood noted. Somalis were attacked last month because they were black, and shots were fired recently into the home of an Iraqi family, the chief said.

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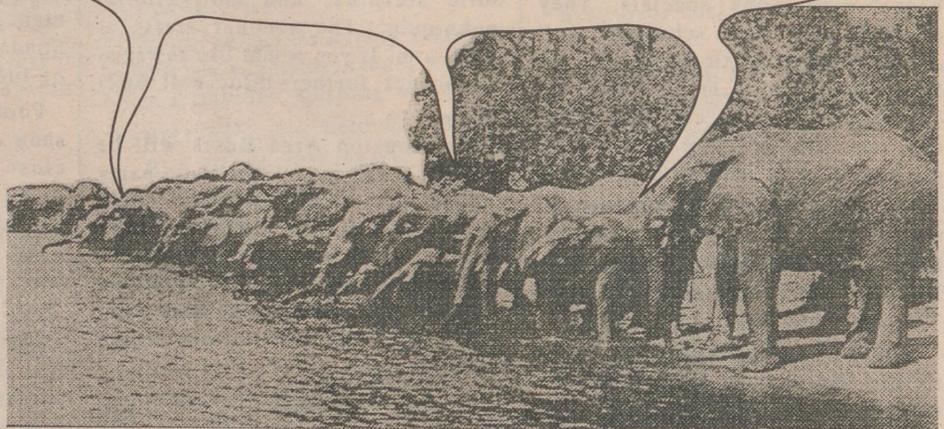
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A New Miss Kitty Litter! Christmas in July!!



Julie and John jailed by TGRA at Christmas in July at the BRB



The Hosts of Christmas in July at Rich's

Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

Miss Renee Monroe sponsored by the Court is the New Miss Kitty Litter '95. Peaches, sponsored by the Lazy J, came in a close second with only 1 point difference, and 3rd place went to Thumper, sponsored by the ToyBox! This contest/fundraiser was last Sunday at E/J's. At press time, \$375 in cash was raised and \$125 in pet supplies was donated to the Pet Patrol! Keep up the good work! Meow! Woof!

The Christmas in July Carnival was held at the Brazos River Bottom this past Sunday. TGRA's warrants were arresting as they helped bring in the \$1250.25 raised. Congrats to all involved!

The "Christmas in July" party at Rich's was packed. The hosts did a super job getting everyone in the spirit of giving! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Friday, July 21

The ToyBox has a country cookin' mini-buffet tonight starting at 5:30 p.m. They also have started NEW happy hour drink specials. They offer Cuervo shots, schnapps, well drinks, and domestic longnecks for \$1.50 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This happy hour special runs Monday thru Friday! Stop in and find someone to play with at the ToyBox.

Stop in and check out the new stage at Club 403. Tonight's "celebritytease" are Dionne Warwick, Annie Lennox, and Whitney Houston. The show starts at 11:00 p.m.

Jody Whatley has a new song ready to hit the charts. It hits Heaven tonight for a Jody Whatley video party. There will be 100 copies of her new CD single "Affection" to be given away. Get there early to win your copy!

Paivi takes the stage of E/J's tonight! She is helping the amateur male strippers take of almost all their clothes! What a tough job! The clothes hit the floor starting at 11:00 p.m.

The 611 has a buffet this afternoon starting at 5:00 p.m. This week, Spot is preparing Shrimp on a stick, Braised Beef, and other goodies.

Fleshy Friday's at Gentry! The Boy Toys who dare to be bare dance for your pleasure starting at 6:00 p.m. and keep it up 'till closing time!

Saturday, July 22

"A Parody On Queens" tonight at Club 403! This is a benefit for the Loving Arms foundation, hosted by Mr. Club 403, DeVohn. The show

starts at 10:00 p.m.

Where can you go to see scantily clad, gorgeous and exotic female dancers? Well, if you are a woman, you can go to Ean's Cabaret. Ean's is located at 112 Travis. There is a coupon in this week's issue to get in free! Femme de Femme!

New Price!! \$5.50 gets you a 12 oz. T-bone steak and all the fixin's at Mary's, naturally, starting at 3:30 p.m. until all the beef is gone! Other specials at Mary's Sunday's include: \$ 2 Burgers, \$2.25 Cheeseburgers, 50¢ Draft beer, and the movie matinee is free! One stop for all day fun!

Porno Star Chris Stone will be performing at the newly remodeled Midtowne Spa tonight. There will be a free buffet and beverages, door prizes by We Deliver Videos, and a special performance by Black Velvet. This ought to be a hot time at the Midtowne tonight!

Jump-start your life with Anabolic PoWer! This is a practical, comprehensive approach to HIV disease wasting/reversal with the use of elements of PoWer-Program for Wellness Restoration: proper nutrition, supplementation, resistance weight training, anabolic steroids, and motivational techniques. The seminar starts at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to register or get further info, call 862-1243.

The Houston Area Bears will be joining in the moonlight swim party tonight at the Club Houston. There will be a Hawaiian buffet and beverages, a guest DJ, and a host of heavenly male dancers. Join Damion and his staff as they throw one of the hottest parties for the summer at the Club Houston.

The Saturday night show at Cousins features many local talents. The show starts at 11:00 p.m.

Tonight at the Lazy J, the birthday cake will be ablaze! There is a birthday party for Bill Gonzalez and Erica

Lane. The show will start at 10:00 p.m., featuring Erica Lane, Miss T.T., Frankie Lane, Miss Peaches and Thomas Rodriguez!

Bring a date and prepare to spend a delightful evening at Chances. Sheila Lennon will be on stage starting at 9:00 p.m.

The Misfits will fit behind the bar at the Brazos River Bottom tonight starting at 9:30 p.m. Stop in and say Hi! to them as they serve cocktails and attitude on the back patio of the Brazos River Bottom.

Sunday, July 23

Free BBQ at the ToyBox this afternoon. Lip smackin', finger lickin', sauce drippin' down your chin good! They start this orgy of food at 5:00 p.m.

The Sunday beer-thing continues at the Venture-N from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Hal and Jim will be cooking starting at 5:00 p.m. The Venture-N, home of the blue-light special!

Gentry has an 8-ball tournament this afternoon starting at 5:00 p.m. Later, Black Velvet presents "That's What Friends Are For." This is an all star show starting at 8:00 p.m., followed by the Sunday night Male Strip frenzy at 10:00 p.m. Sundays at Gentry offer many types of fun!

Porno star Adam Heart will do a live show tonight at Heaven. He will be up close and personable after his 11:00 p.m. show to sign autographs and get a snapshot of you and him! Take advantage of this opportunity to see his attributes in the flesh!

The Brazos River Bottom has a full line up of stuff today! First off, you can enjoy steak night, then, at 8:00 p.m., the Colt 45's present "2 Hot 2 Handle," a fundraiser benefiting the Colt 45's Stone Soup! Go hungry and bring lots of dollar bills!

Cool down with ice cold beer at the

Montrose Mining Company this afternoon. Hot men drink \$1 domestic longnecks or join in the beer bust for \$2, and 25¢ refills of Miller Lite Draft. The patio of the Mine is always full of some of the handsomest men in town.

Brunch is served at the 611 starting at 12:30 p.m. Made to order omelets, French toast, and an array of tasty treats.

The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star Houston, Inc. and Emperor XI Jerry Morin and Empress XI Crystal Rae Lee Love present "We're Half Way There," a variety show benefiting the Colt 45's charities and to support Coronation XII. The show starts at E/J's at 7:00 p.m. and should prove to be a full evening of entertainment.

Temple can be a religious experience... only at Rich's on Sundays!

Tonight at the Ranch there is a fundraiser to help Houston Force softball team to go to N.A.G.A.A. The show starts at 6:00 p.m. and features KC, Sheila Lennon, and Sheri! if you would like more info, call 777-1161.

Monday, July 24

It's Cool! It's pool! The Venture-N has just installed a new AC, so it is really cool! The pool tables are free tonight! Stop in at happy hour for \$1.50 well drinks and beer from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Ripcord has a pool tournament tonight starting at 8:00 p.m. It is only a \$3 buy-in and the bar matches the pot!

Paivi does it again tonight at E/J's. Striping starts at 11:00 p.m.

The Lesbian Ladies of Laughter will be at the Laff Stop tonight. Nancy Norton, Laurie Davis and Nancy Ford will keep you rolling on the floor laughing. Showtime is 8:00 p.m. Call 524-2333 for ticket info.

Tuesday, July 25

The Skyy Lounge? Dr. Johnny Pink? Stop in to the Pacific Street "Towers" and enjoy \$3 Skyy or Absolut martinis in classic stemwear. I'm gonna have to stop in and see this for myself!

J.R.'s "Man of the Month" is chosen tonight! The large talents of Kofi will take the stage starting at 11:00 p.m. to find Mr. Cancer '95. You can watch the show sipping \$1 domestic longnecks or \$4 Texas-Sized ice cold doubles!

Cuervo! \$2! Mary's! Naturally!

It is week # 2 in the 8 week long search for talent at E/J's. The contest starts at 10:30 p.m.



You can find these handsome men behind the bar at the Montrose Mining Co.



Thumper, Rene (winner), Peaches and Brittany Paige at Miss Kitty Litter '95

More to do this week! and Rodent Droppings!!!



Hanging out at Chances...Again!

Houston Soap, Part 2

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Wednesday, July 26

It is too hot to "Bear" it, so bare it tonight at the Montrose Mining Company. They offer \$1 domestic longnecks. There is free pizza on the patio at midnight.

Shiela Lennon takes the stage tonight at Chances with her sounds of country tonight.

The weekly Wednesday Wienie Waivers War wages on tonight at Gentry. First salute is at 11:00 p.m., with Major Catia at the helm!

This and every Wednesday, Midtowne Spa offers 1/2 price night. For a mere \$5, you can get a locker, \$7.50 for a room, and \$10 gets you a video room! They also have a dinner buffet.

Tonight at E/J's, the grill is full of hot beef! Yes, steak night continues at E/J's. Stop in and chow down!

Thursday, July 27

Looking for some good sex? Head to Pacific Street tonight. Arousal starts at 9:00 p.m. The towel boys will heat you up as the bartenders give you "Screaming Orgasms" and "Blow Jobs." There is no cover when you present your Club Houston card or a membership to any gym.

It is week #6 in the search for talent at Club 403. Jessica Van Shelton hosts this weekly search. Get there by 10:00 p.m. if you want to be in the 10:30 p.m. show!

Milam House Productions presents "Time of My Life" tonight at the Houston Skyline Theater.



Marty, Amy, Michael M., Thea Vidale and Scott Lewis at Heaven

Curtain time is 8:00 p.m. This is a benefit for Milam House. The show continues on, so if you can't make it tonight, call 759-0701 for times and reservations.

Broadway hits 800 Pacific Street tonight! Randy Jobe hosts a sing along tonight at J.R.'s at 9:00 p.m. \$3.75 gets you any top shelf cocktail all night!

The grill is lit at the 611 tonight starting at 6:30 p.m. This week they will be offering not only hot hunk-o-beef, but young men, I mean chicken on the grill. It is only \$5 for dinner.

Club Hedo shows its face tonight at Rich's. Look for the Club kids and have a great time!

Other Important Stuff

Basic Brothers is having a sale! Wigs and shoes! Get your checkbook or pulse card out and do a little shopping!

The Clear Lake Boat Club offers the luxuries of boat ownership without all the hassles! There is a coupon in this week's issue for 50% off your 1st months membership. If you would like more info, call 334-7744.

Brasil Coffee house opens at 7:00 a.m. so you can get your caffeine fix early. Stop in for breakfast and enjoy their cozy atmosphere.

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Total Deception" and "Intrusion"

Birthday Corner

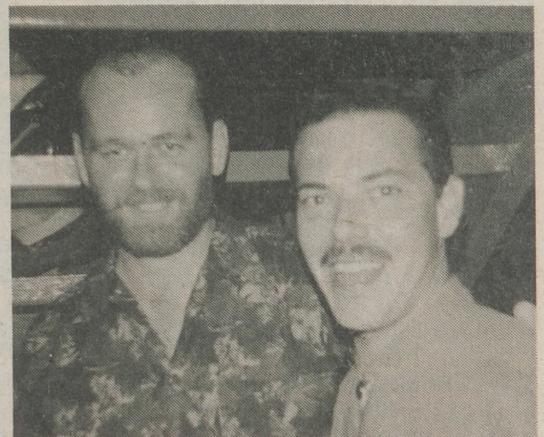
Brittany Paige, Drag Queen Deluxe, has to put on just a little more make-up, cuz she was a little older this past week!

Erica Lane and Bill Gonzalez of the Lazy J are blowing out a bunch of candles this week!

Rodent Droppings



The Birthday Boys and Miss Georgia



Smile for the birdy. ...

Disclaimer!

Disclaimer! Disclaimer! I'm sure

by now everyone knows the drill! This is stuff I hear, or one of my spies heard! I never verify facts, I just type whatever I think is funny! None of this gossip is meant to be vicious or to hurt someone's feelings, but, come on, if we can't laugh at ourselves...

The little critters are going to the vet this week! It is time for their yearly checkup! This is a reminder to all you pet owners! Don't forget to take your pet to the vet once a year! They need check-ups like people do! Since I got Harvey as a full grown ferret, I don't know how he is going to react to getting a shot! I guess I'm gonna have to give him a lollipop afterwards! I cleaned their cage and found this crap on the bottom:

Lady B: (ToyBox): So, you are the newest bartender at the ToyBox! What do you have in your box to play with?

Rick (MMC): I hear you are making quite a name for yourself designing drag outfits! Where did you get your training?

Dennis A. (611): Maudy? An old nickname for an old queen!

Ramon and Larry (611): Or should that be Bonnie and Clyde!

Michael (PastTime): What is next? Are you going to enter HPD's cadet training class?

Byron (BRB): Is having a hangover really an exactable excuse for missing a Monday morning meeting?

Bart (611): So, hold that thought! Bill (Basic Brothers): You sure know how to handle a stiff rod with balls on the end!

Bill Havard (BRB): I know it is hard to wait for someone to bring you a cucumber husband, but how come by the time you get one, it is yellow... with age? ALSO, what color were those silk panties? With lace?

Dirty Sally (E/J's): I hear you are not fire-proof!

Jay (611): Have you ever heard of plastic wrap?

Marty (hangs at Heaven): The husband hunt continues!

Vera (BRB): I hear you did not go to last week's staff meeting 'cause you had morning sickness! Please, girl, at your age, it is probably because you needed a plumber!

Barbara (Chances): You want to go fishing? For what? Blonde, bru-

nette or redhead?

Kelley Lauren: I hear you were seen lounging on the bar at Rich's with only a string of pearls to decorate your body! Better yet, I know someone who has photos!

Christopher Graham: I understand you have a new name. The first name is Tina? Now, what was that last name... Dick? Wienie? Oh, yeah, It is Tina Penis! What I want to know is how you got this name!

Buddy T: And you don't smoke!

Jim Check (LBB): I hear people think you are Vanna's sugar daddy! Come on, you dress alike, wear the same jewelry, and have matching rings!

Lee Davis (MSL): Have you been screwed yet?

Shirley (LBB): I hear you are not a veterinarian! Why doesn't Leather by Boots carry opera length rubber gloves?

Mitch (Hangs at the ToyBox): I hear you got lucky! That must be why you have been smiling ear to ear!

Barry (LBB): I heard Vanna has been doing a little painting, but not her nails!

Miss Alabama (BRB): I understand that you don't wear any underwear while in drag! I hear that everyone at the BRB found this out when you fell head over heels backasswards off a bar stool!

Crystal (RSICSS): Empress V of the stockyards? Whose pen did you wallow in to get this title? Maybe we should call you Piglet!

Gimmie Pillsenlicher: Keep it up.. you are a star!

John Dye (Colt 45's): Just what were you doing in the pool at Mark's (Renegades) party! The "Slut of the Pool" award comes to mind!

Talk to the head, cause he can't be bothered. Over it!

Miss Harrel (Xmas in July): Entry from the rear! Cher Chez Le.Femme!

Kofi: I loved your lyrics to "If You're Gay and You Know it!"

Jerry Moran (RSICSS): Talking to your pillow again! How many cocktails did WE have in Ft. Worth?

I have a pet peeve! You can purchase drugs that come without childproof tops, why can't I find any non-childproof disposable lighters! I found a few at the Hollywood food store, but they all had either a naked man or women on them! What's the deal! If you know where I can find some non-pornographic non-childproof disposable lighters...call me!

Huggs and kisses,

Cuervolyn



Ray West, Ed Garza & Terry Smith at Rhinestones and Studs II

Resource Group receives \$2 million grant for homeless youth housing

The Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group has been awarded a \$2 million grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide transitional housing and supportive services to homeless HIV-positive or high risk adolescents. George Rodriguez, director of HUD's regional office, formally presented the grant to The Resource Group Monday, July 17, for a collaborative project between four service provider agencies: The Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA); Covenant House, Texas, Houston

Institution for the Protection of Youth (HIPY) and Hope Center.

Through the grant, each group involved in the project will provide services to a different target group of homeless adolescents, explained Michael Springer, executive director of the Resource Group. Each participating agency will provide housing and supportive services (such as case management, counseling, life skills training, mentoring programs, continuing education, parenting skills training, etc.) for the various target groups. The project takes a new

approach designed specifically to work with the hard-to-reach adolescent homeless population, because approaches used with adults have not been successful with this population, Springer explained.

Extensive outreach and linkages with shelters will facilitate the entry of adolescents into this transitional housing project, with the goal of encouraging them to complete their high school education, receive vocational skills, acquire employment and permanent housing and modify the behaviors that put them at high risk for acquiring and/or

transmitting HIV.

On hand for the presentation were Page Michel and Rhonda Robinson of Covenant House; Gary Blackburn of Hope Center and Steve Lange of HIPY.

The Resource Group is the largest community-based HIV/AIDS organization in the state of Texas. With the addition of this new grant award, the organization will be administering state and federal grants amounting to nearly \$7 million, which funds services to people with HIV/AIDS through nearly 40 agencies in the Houston area.



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Rev. Janet Parker

ASK THE PASTOR

Q: "Is it wrong to have desires for a fellow member of my church? We both are females."

A: It is perfectly natural and desirable for people within the same congregation to date one another. There is nothing better than Christians dating each other. The fact that you are both females is not a problem. God has created homosexual, bisexual and heterosexual people. It is important that you come to understand how you can serve God AND celebrate your sexuality which God created also. This is called "Integration."

Many people have trouble thinking about God and sex at the same time. Many of us have been taught that the two don't mix.

Maybe you are thinking that you shouldn't have such thoughts in church. It is very natural to look around and find someone attractive. It is very natural to find your heart racing when you see someone that you would like to date. What we do with those thoughts determines whether or not they are out of control. We can have an attraction for someone and not let it get to the lust stage. It is normal to desire to date someone when you are single. Dating is a process whereby two people get to know each other. Dating doesn't necessarily mean that you immediately fall into bed together to get acquainted. Dating is a good place to build a friendship and determine your compatibility before sexual intimacy has become a part of the relationship.

God is very much interested in you being fulfilled spiritually, emotionally and sexually. God designed you to be spiritually alive and sexually alive. It all comes together when you understand the concept of love (I Corinthians 13). In dating the woman that you are attracted to in church, take the time necessary to get to know this person. Realize that you are both a part of the church. When you are in relationship to other people spiritually, it is important to know that whatever you do, it will affect others that you already know. Seek out the support of the rest of the church when you date. Don't keep things a secret. Ask for their prayers and encouragement. TAKE YOUR TIME! Love and trust are not built overnight or in a week or even a month.

Some people are scared to date a person in the church for fear that if it doesn't work out someone will have to leave the church. If you allow the relationship to slowly blossom, you can maintain your other relationships within the church and not "lose your place" if things don't work out. Dating should not mean losing your individuality or your previous friendships. It is important to keep as much of a support system while you are dating as it was for you as a single person.

If you are still wrestling with your sexuality, take the time to work this out BEFORE you begin dating another person of the same sex. Homophobia is a great destroyer of relationships. Why not accept yourself as God made you and bring a "healthy" you to the relationship. At that time it will have the potential to be one of the most wonderful experiences of a lifetime!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION,
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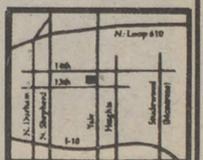
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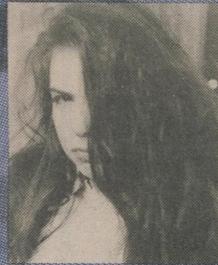
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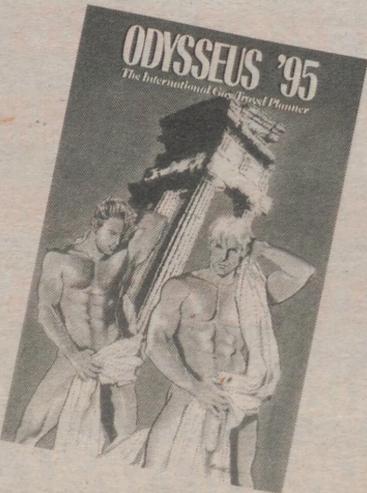
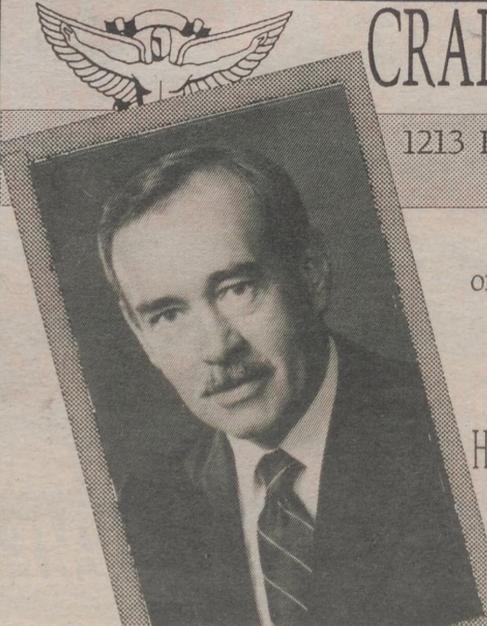
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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Meet Chris Stone: adult video star and 'regular nice guy'

By GLEN WEBBER
Houston Voice/Houston

In the world of adult entertainment, video actor Chris Stone ranks among the best of the best. Stone was recently honored by the Adult Video Hall of Fame as one of the top ten stars in his field. With his masculine good looks and muscular body, this performer knows how to please his audience. In a recent interview, we discussed his career and future hopes.

Chris Stone was born in Costa Rica, and moved to the United States almost five years ago. He has been a featured performer in adult videos since then. A very friendly and outgoing man, he says, "There is no reason not to be nice. If we actors and performers become snobs or think we are better than anyone else, we lose our fans. We create our own reputations."

Chris enjoys his video work, but separates his screen persona from the off-screen person. When asked what he thinks when he sees himself on

screen, he replied, "When I see my videos, I look at the performer, not the real me. I'm acting. I don't see the real me, the person I am at home. My life in the acting field is not my life at home. My home life is fairly quiet. We have a small group of friends not in the performing field."

Chris maintains his muscular body with regular workouts. He adds, "I work out five days a week with two hour daily workouts. I try to keep myself in shape. Sometimes, I wish I could open a box and find something to keep me in shape, but I enjoy working out a lot."

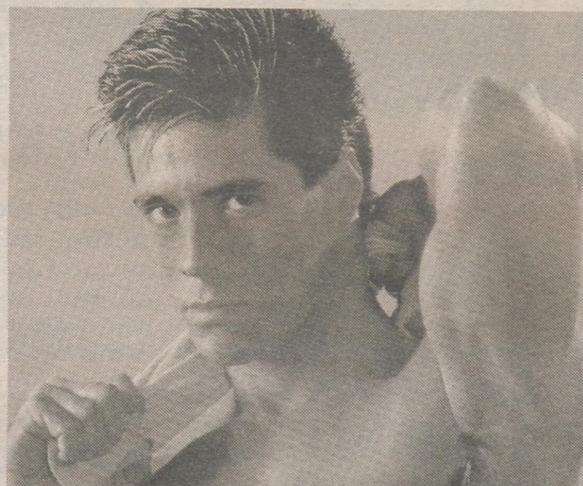
Both in his films and personal life, he emphasizes safe sex. "Playing safe is very important. I have played my roles a very safe way. If someone doesn't want to play safe, I won't get involved. I believe in using condoms and other methods of protection to prevent the spread of AIDS and other venereal diseases." He adds, "I don't smoke, drink or do drugs, and I

won't be involved in videos in which other performers are doing drugs."

Although Chris maintains a home in Southern California, he spends a lot of time in Baltimore with his lover. They travel together on many of Chris's personal appearances. "He has no problem with my performing. He enjoys it as much as I do."

As for his future plans, Chris says, "I would love to get more into acting one day. I would like to get involved in soap operas or acting on Spanish Television."

"I'm looking forward to visiting Houston and meeting each and every person who enjoys adult videos,"



he adds. "I hope they get to know me as both a performer and regular nice guy."

(To get the full picture of adult video star Chris Stone, be at the Midtown Spa Saturday night at 11:00 p.m. He will have an autograph session after his performance).

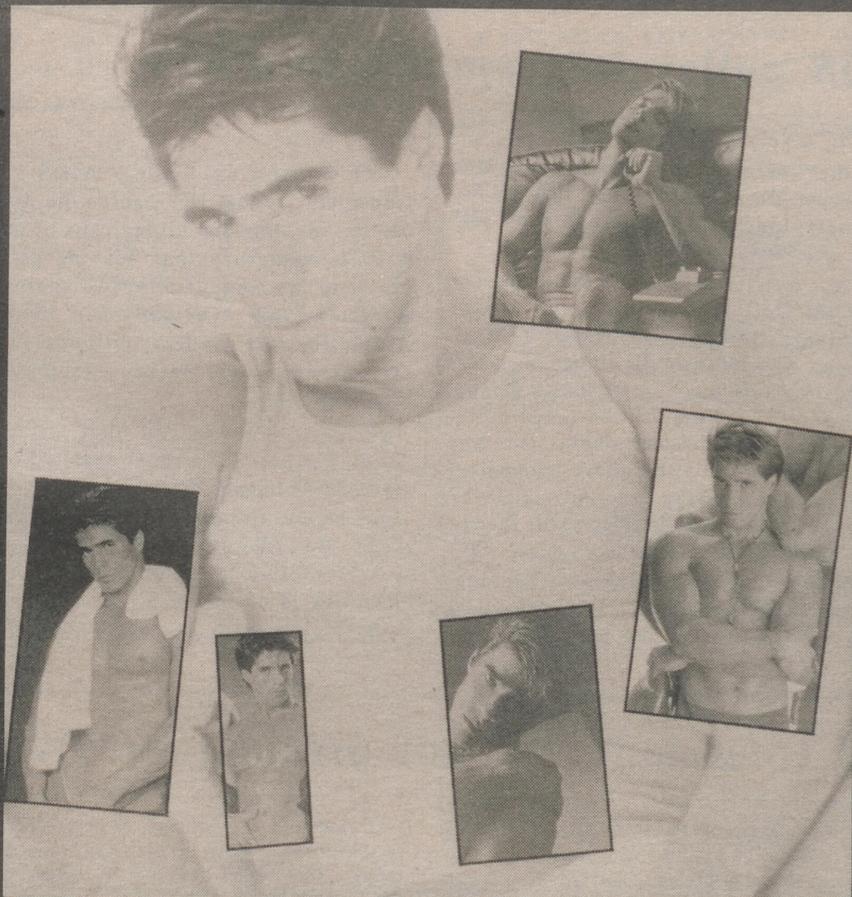
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NATION/WORLD

Shalala defends AIDS policy in response to query

By **PHILIP BRASHER**
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Thursday, July 13 (AP)—Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, responding to a Minnesota congressman who questioned the government's AIDS policy, says it would be "unconscionable" to spend money researching alternative theories about the disease.

In a seven-page letter to Rep. Gil Gutknecht, Shalala said there is no doubt that the HIV virus causes AIDS.

"Infection with HIV has been the sole common factor shared by AIDS cases throughout the world," Shalala said in the letter dated Monday.

In a March 24 letter to Shalala and other federal health officials, Gutknecht had demanded proof that AIDS is contagious and questioned the "HIV = AIDS hypothesis."

His query was based on the theories of Peter Duesberg, a University of California-Berkeley molecular biologist who believes HIV does not cause AIDS. Gutknecht, a freshman Republican, fired the aide who prepared the letter after it became public. But Gutknecht stood by the query, comparing Duesberg to the ancient scientists who questioned the flat-earth theory.

Gutknecht's chief of staff, Matt Miller, declined comment Thursday on Shalala's letter, saying the congressman's staff had not reviewed it

yet.

The consensus among AIDS researchers is that HIV causes the disease by invading and killing cells of the body's immune system, leaving people with weakened defenses against infections that eventually kill them. A positive test for HIV antibodies is considered proof that a person has been infected.

Shalala acknowledged that "much remains to be known about exactly how HIV causes immune deficiency" or why some people exposed to HIV don't get AIDS. But, she said, "this incomplete understanding does not indicate that the virus is harmless."

Most of the government's research

since 1983 has focused on HIV "because the scientific evidence so clearly indicates that it causes AIDS," she said. Studies conducted in San Francisco and Africa proved that to be the case, and evidence of HIV infection has been found in virtually every AIDS patient who is tested, she said.

"To deviate funds from scientifically sound findings to those that lack evidence would be unconscionable," she said.

Among other things, Gutknecht asked how much money had been spent studying alternative theories, including Duesberg's. In her reply, Shalala cited one such investigation, which she said cost \$850,000.

British study: AIDS treatments do not prolong survival

By **RANDI HUTTER EPSTEIN**
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

LONDON, Friday, July 14 (AP)—Patients in advanced stages of AIDS respond better to treatment drugs than do those who start taking medicine immediately after becoming infected, a new British study found.

The lead investigator, Dr. Mark Poznansky of St. Mary's Hospital in London, said Thursday he hopes the results will provoke debate among experts about "what we are really doing for patients with medical interventions."

In other words: Are the side effects of treatment, such as nausea and vomiting, worth it?

The study of 436 patients, to be published in Saturday's British Medical Journal, implies that AIDS drugs delay symptoms but do not prolong survival, researchers said.

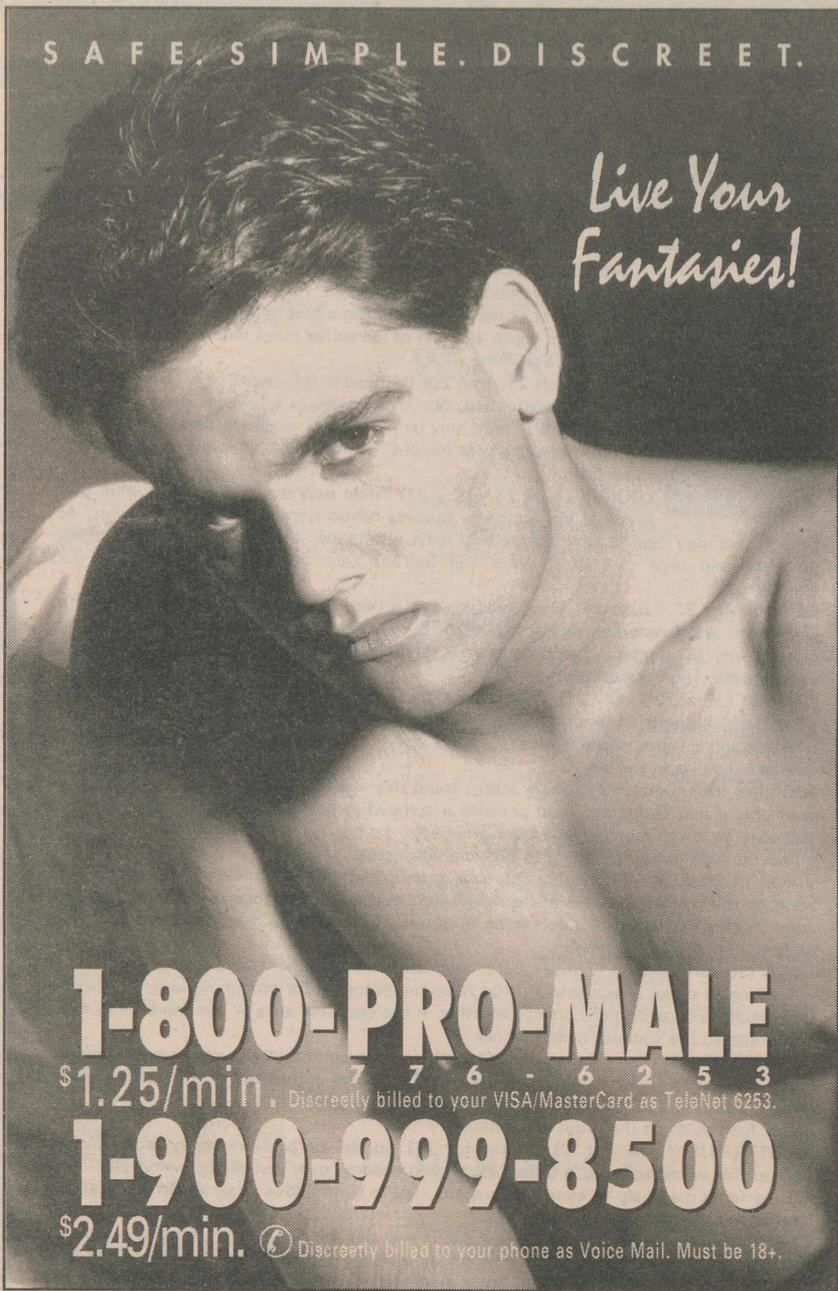
The question of whether and when to administer AIDS drugs has vexed both doctors and patients, who during the past few years have come to realize that neither

a cure nor a vaccine is imminent.

"I think it is pretty clear that there is a benefit but it is small and short-term," said Dr. Henry Sacks, head of the AIDS clinical trials division of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. "I think this study is consistent with that."

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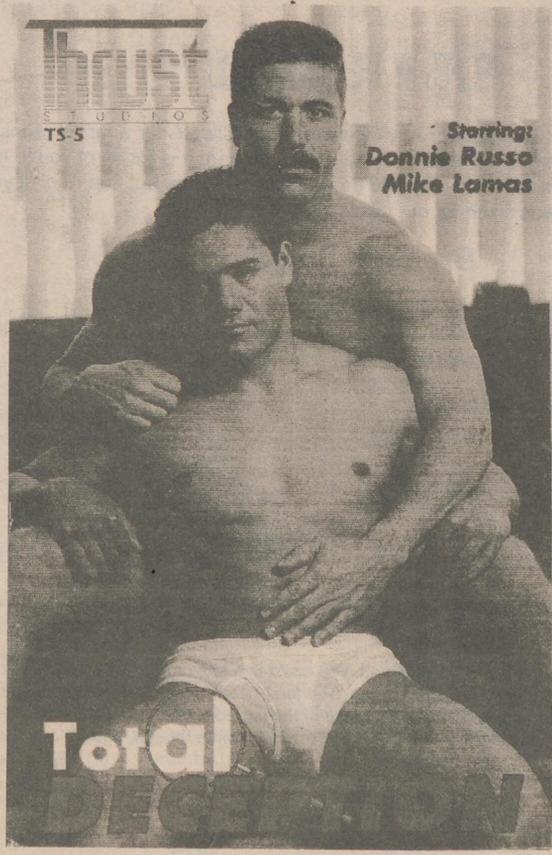
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Houston VOICE Personals

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

FIRST TIME

5'6" medium build middle aged straight black male beginning to find myself attracted to other straight appearing males, black or white, small to medium build. Not macho. Wish to talk or meet with others experiencing or those who have experienced the same. Never had an affair. Would like to hear from you. Ad 25714

ATTENTION - NUDIST

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

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

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

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

GWF COUPLE LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

Lesbian couple in our mid-30's looking for a single person, or couple, for a non-sexual friendship. We enjoy movies, music, the Rockets, Reba and Melissa. Ad 25641

BLACK MALE SEEKS WHITE MALE

37 year old black male, HIV+, 30 waist, 6', 155, healthy and active. Seeking GWM HIV+ age 25-40 for monogamous relationship. Must be sincere. No one nighters please. Ad 25681

GO FOR IT!

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

GOOD LOOKING & FIT

Inexperienced 24 yr. old male looking for a straight acting college student or young professional, between the ages of 18-24, for discrete friendship and maybe more. Ad 25716

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CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFE-MATE

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

VERY WELL ENDOWED

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

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

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

LOOKING FOR BILL:

Your name is Bill, a GBM I met in the Ripcord. You said you were taking a friend home, but you were late in returning to the bar. I would like to get in touch with you. Ron Ad 25134

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SEEKING HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

I am in my early 30's, healthy, HWP and am interested in developing a relationship with a sincere, honest and caring man. You must be professional/business-like, able to speak spanish and have proper documents to travel out of the country. Ad 25712

SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

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

FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

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

TOP SEEKS BOTTOM

Top seeks bottom for workouts. Nice guy, nice looking, no strings, do-it first, then talk. HIV+. Mail responses only. Ad 25706.

NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

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It's a good idea to write out (up to fifty words) what you want to say. The annual cost is only \$29.95 -- less than one dollar per week. (You must restate [by phone] your desire for the ad to keep running every four weeks.) At the office you will be given the functioning details. Ads can also be placed by mail, with payment enclosed, phone 713-529-8490, for details.

TO RECEIVE RESPONSES TO YOUR AD: A toll-free 800 number will let you know if you have recorded telephone responses. You can then listen to these responses on a 900 number using your personal code and pin (personal identification number). Responses can also be received by mail, see below.

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TO ANSWER AN AD BY MAIL: Each ad has a five digit code. Write your response and seal it in a stamped envelope with the five digit code in the address place. Place your sealed response and \$2.00 in an envelope and mail it to us, we will affix a mailing label and the intended person will receive your response. This service costs \$2.00 plus postage per numbered envelope, and is available only with the Houston Voice Personals.

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