

AIDS: Fifteen Years and Counting

By Deborah Bell

Long ago and far away, in June of a year dated 1981, a weekly bulletin from the Centers for Disease Control reported that five Los Angeles gay men had died of a mysterious pneumonia. The reports started coming in slowly from around the country, mostly from large urban areas. What was going on? Gay men, were becoming ill, deathly ill, dying from this strange pneumonia or developing a rare form of cancer. The doctors and scientists went to work and discovered that the pattern of the illness was to compromise the immune systems of otherwise healthy gay men, causing them to die from opportunistic infections. The illness had no name and when it was named, it was called "Gay Related Immune Deficiency" (GRID). It is now called AIDS.

The San Francisco Bay Area Reporter article by Dennis Conkin (June 6) reports it this way: The Gay community started putting away the "If I can't dance, it's not my revolution" T-shirts and started putting on fund-raisers, condoms and protests. A decade and a half later, the disease has built the resolve of the community and torn it apart; it has taught the world a lot about virology and immunology, and robbed it of many of its best and brightest minds; it created leaders, and destroyed them. And it is no where near over.

This issue of the Houston Voice, a week before the Eleventh International Conference on AIDS which will be held in Vancouver takes a special look at where we have been and where we are and where we may be going. Let me warn you, this is a hard story to read, it was a hard story to write.

I interviewed a number of people in the Houston community who have been on the front lines of the battle against AIDS. They express in their own words their thoughts on the fifteen years of the epidemic.

Over the last 15 years, there has been a lot of denial, stupidity, selfishness and tight-fistedness on the part of the government at the local, state and national levels and the general population about the AIDS issue. But our community has responded in the most meaningful, generous and effective way in the face of that crisis. When it is all over we will look back and realize the wonderful people we really are - *Ray Hill, Civil Rights Activist*

What I think of more and more is the way more people are involved. When we had our dedication ceremony on Mother's Day it made me aware that more straight people are being affected and are becoming involved. In 1988, it wasn't like that. The majority of the 160 panels dedicated that day were done by straight people, more panels for straight people. From an education standpoint we need that involvement. - *Perrie Dolph, Names Project Houston Volunteer Coordinator*

It used to be that you got AIDS and you died. To me there is hope that wasn't even there two years ago. Patients are doing better, living longer and having a better quality of life. With the new drugs and therapies, it gives some people some time. Maybe they can hold on until there is a cure. The doctors are talking about it being a "chronic manageable illness," that seems to be what they want it to be -- what we want is a cure. There are so many more women infected now - it used to be uncommon, but it isn't uncommon anymore. - *Mary Helen Merzbacher, Volunteer Coordinator for the People with AIDS Coalition Houston*

No one in medicine had any idea that it would last this long. It was unlike anything we had dealt with before. The people who were getting sick were not an "attractive group" of patients in their opinion and they were not anxious to treat them. There was such a stigma. I remember one hospital asking me not to admit any HIV+ patients because they did not want to be known as an AIDS facility. Our biggest progress has been in the form of the multiple treatments that have been developed and how to use the drugs in combination, different doses. Treatment has really advanced but it has been difficult. We can't rely on a person's immune system to get them well as we do in treating other illnesses. The fact that insurance companies did not want to cover drugs that might have to be taken more often, four times a day as opposed to two and we had to work so that people with AIDS would be able to go on disability in order to get the care they needed. - *Dr. Crad Duren, whose Internal Medicine practice includes HIV/AIDS, diagnostics and therapeutics.*

I was so naive when it started. My hopes and desires was that it would all be over in a decade. I am hopeful with the new meds but I am also hopeful that people don't lose sight of the needs of those who are already infected. I fear there may be a funding decrease. They (medical establishment) talk in terms of the manageable chronic illness using diabetes as a model, but unlike diabetes, it is still terminal. People may feel less intense about it. There will still be people to help. What I try to deal with in counseling is that HIV has to be a way of life, people will have to change behavior to stay negative, to protect themselves, it is a way of life for our entire generation. From a religious view, it has been nice to see Bering joined by other groups giving money and volunteers. There are constant challenges. It is amazing that fifteen years into it that there are still people who are new to it. I have to deal with clients who have fundamentalist parents who are totally new to the issue. Early treatment is important and we have to take care of them. We have to. - *Rev. Troy Plummer, Bering Counseling Center*

There are a lot of us still around, who have been around since the beginning, who wonder that we are still here. We feel a bit guilty. We don't know what we may have done right or what have we done wrong? Many of us are on our second set of friends. Some have managed to stay negative and some, like me, are long term survivors. We are encouraged by the manageable chronic illness model and if we take the correct meds and get the right treatment, stop at-risk behavior, it might mean that our generation may still be around a while. My advice to anyone facing AIDS is first of all it is important to have really good friends -- that's number one for me. You also can't just sit around and wait. You can't give up and accept that your life is over, you have to live in a positive manner. I was diagnosed in 1986, when I came to Houston it was in 1981, just when the disease was first hitting. We really had sometimes then, but we still do and can, we just have to do so in a more aware manner. - *Brian Keever, activist and a person living with AIDS*

On the positive side is the way the medical community is now looking at the disease. You hear more and more about the possibility of it being "a manageable chronic illness." On the negative side is the rate of growth in other communities, it has leveled off in the Gay male population, which is still at high levels but it is increasing in women, people of color, heterosexuals and children. Many times it is a population that it is hard for social service agencies to serve. The early cases were seen in gay, upper class, educated, white males who had access to services and care. A different approach is needed. It is very difficult to find, educate, serve, and follow up with the people who are now becoming infected. One population where there is a huge increase is among IV drug users. These folks may have several different groups of friends and may drink with one group, smoke pot with another, and shoot up with yet another. But they are sleeping with people from all the groups, so their friends may not be aware of their IV

drug use and the risk for AIDS. The challenge for us as service providers is to shift our focus to deal with these different communities. With the new drug therapies and extended lives folks with AIDS now have there will be more needs to be met for a longer period of time. They will need counseling, medications, support, adjunct food care, which will a different budget issue from a governmental level. What keeps me centered and focused in an environment where everyone I come in contact with is HIV+ is to know that I am here for a reason, at this time and place for a purpose and it is a gift for me to inform and educate where I can, to do what I can. - *Rich Arenschioldt, Administrative Director Body Positive*

What I see as changed in the ten years I've worked in the HIV+ community is now most people are aware of what AIDS is and there's more compassion. Also there are now laws,

(Continued on page 12)



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Theatre Review

Poor Super Man—Loved it, Mean it!

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston
Theater LaB Houston continues its tradition of offering Houstonians theater from the edge with "Poor Super Man (a play with captions)" by Canadian Brad Fraser.

Though in spirit and story line a drama, this play is wickedly funny. Exceedingly serious, personal issues such as death, trust, betrayal, love and sexual identity are explored in sensitive (if somewhat less than insightful) manner, but the weightiness of the topics is concealed by the levity that is the cornerstone of communication between Fraser's characters.

The main thrust of the story is uncomplicated. David (Rodney Walsworth), a successful artist in Calgary, Canada, is in the middle of a creative slump. Finding no source of inspiration and being offered nothing more than routine pats of assurance from his two closest friends—Shannon (Adrian Cardell Porter), an AIDS-stricken hope-to-be transsexual, and Kryla (Anne Quackenbush), a bitter, lonely newspaper columnist—David decides to attempt a creative rejuvenation by returning to work as a waiter.

He finds a job in a quiet, out-of-the-way neighborhood, where he is certain no one will recognize him, in a recently opened restaurant—the Monterey Diner. The owners are a young married couple, Matt (Paul Nicely) and Violet (Celeste Cheramie), and so impressed is Matt that David actually brought a resume with him to apply for the job, that David is hired on the spot.

Appreciative of his jovial banter with the customers and his knack for knowing how things work best in food service, Matt and Violet quickly become fond of David, and are completely surprised when he informs them he is gay. Amiability leads to desire and attraction on the part of David; curiosity leads to desire and exploration on the part of Matt. And you know there's going to be a confrontation involving Violet.

Secondary to this story line is the situation with Shannon. Though she is David's best friend and roommate, Shannon has felt an increasing isolation, which is compounded when she learns that she does not qualify as a candidate for a sex-change operation because of her HIV-positive status. Facing the end of a shortened life, without achieving her goal of becoming a woman, Shannon ponders the inevitable and the manner in which she will face it.

Kryla's part in David's life is better defined. She and David have a bond born of AIDS and loneliness. Both have lost countless friends to the plague and both yearn for the presence of a significant other. When David appears to have found companionship in Matt, Kryla becomes angry and feels abandoned.

Thusly is Fraser's plot construction simple and effective. Where he has given "Poor Super Man" additional appeal is in his rapier dialogue. He has a blistering humor, and the one-liners come flying off the stage at breakneck speed. No subtlety here, because Fraser delivers his sense of humor in the same manner he delivers his sexuality—up front and on display.

Even more interesting (though not necessary) was Fraser's use of "captions." During the play, slides with a single word or phrase, were flashed on a blank wall. Fraser's stated intention in utilizing this was to make the audience more involved in the production. And in that regard it certainly works; if you're forcing them to read, you've involved them. But he shows no apparent regard for when they are used or what they are meant to convey.

Most often they are used to reveal the actual thoughts of one of the characters, while the spoken dialogue relays something quite different.

Matt: "I thought, if you didn't mind, I'd go out for a beer or something after work." Caption: "No." Violet: "You don't have to ask my permission."



Paul Nicely (left) and Rodney Walsworth in "Poor Super Man"

At other times they serve as a kind of title to the ensuing scene. And there were those captions that were absurdly gimmicky: Caption: "Meanwhile" immediately followed by a cut in the action back to the restaurant. And those that were preposterously redundant: Caption: "After the Rush" David: "Short rush."

All in all the captions work quite well. They're revealing without being distracting, and they provide a convenient mechanism for lots of laughs.

The production values match the material admirably. Director Ed Muth superbly utilized the small venue in conveying David's studio, a bedroom and the diner. Unlike many directors, Muth had to make no special effort to find humor in the play, because the humor is there aplenty. What was necessary was reining in the non-stop clip of the dialogue to allow for laughter from the audience. Muth recognized the potential for a problem, and he accounted for it in his direction. Not a single line was missed because of audience laughter drowning out the spoken text.

The cast was excellent, as good, solid performances from all involved were instrumental in the success of this production. Rodney Walsworth does a fine job as David. His performance was subdued and well-controlled, yet still relayed the unmistakable sense of superiority that is an inherent part of David's character.

Paul Nicely was great as the curious but scared Matt. An easy-going charm and a live-and-let-live attitude dominated his characterization. Also, Nicely's portrayal had a natural, unforced delivery, ideally reflective of Matt's nice guy demeanor.

It is the supporting cast, however, that deserves kudos for the best performances. Celeste Cheramie was nothing short of stunning as the wronged Violet. Her performance was an attractive combination of no-nonsense business acumen, spousal trust and affection, and amicable discourse. But all of this is swept aside in an explosion of furious indignation in the wake of matrimonial violation that is easily one of the best scenes in the play.

Adrian Cardell Porter is cutely amusing as the penis-laden Shannon. Though a bit awkward and unconvincing to start with (picture Wesley Snipes in "To Wong Foo"), Porter eases into the role, and the innumerable costume changes, well before the first act concludes. By the second act his performance has taken on a searing honesty that becomes heart-rending as Shannon faces her certain demise.

Anne Quackenbush is first-rate as the unhappy, lust-driven Kryla. Quick with a snappy retort and a facade of confidence, Quackenbush has a near-perfect stage presence for the role. She presents Kryla with an appropriately mild haughtiness and a laugh-so-you-don't-cry perspective that is ideally suitable for the character.

"Poor Super Man" is a remarkable piece of theater: vastly entertaining, metaphorically adept, narratively engaging, deftly directed and exceptionally acted. Theater LaB has done it again. Change your plans, because no one should miss this play.

What: "Poor Super Man (a play with captions)"

Where: Theater LaB Houston

When: Fridays-Saturdays through August 9

(Sunday performances July 21, 28 and August 4)

In My Own Voice

by Deborah Bell



The Best Of Times, The Worst Of Times

Right now is the best time in all of history to be a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and/or Transgendered person. We have made great strides since the Stonewall rebellion of 1969. We see modern culture reflect our lives as never before. Gays and Lesbians are a visual presence in books, television, film, and in all aspects of social, academic and political life.

Once, the only relatively safe places (in spite of the raids) were the bars and the bars are at the core of our community as a place to socialize, find entertainment and be among "family." They also have been very generous in the fund-raising so vitally need in our community. But beyond that we also have churches, sports teams, political groups, community publications, "How to be Gay" books, openly out politicians and entertainers, and even some recognized Constitutional rights.

While we still face discrimination and have to protect ourselves from the hate and violence directed at us, it is much easier these days to be open about our lives and love. There are so many opportunities, thanks to the advances we've made. We have to stop acting as if we have some dirty little secret to hide if we want everyone else to stop treating us as though there is something wrong or bad with us because of our sexual orientation or gender identity. We parade every June with the message of "Be out, be proud" yet I am painfully aware of the confines of the closet, however self-imposed it may be. Sometimes it just isn't safe and sometimes what we fear to lose is more than just the fear, it is often too dear a cost to pay. We all have to decide that for ourselves. We also have to know that sometimes our fears are much worse than the reality. Sometimes the scariest place to be out is with our families but what we find out by being honest and sharing the truth about our lives actually makes us closer and we learn that they really do love us (no matter what). The more of us who can be out make it that much easier for others.

It is also the worst of times. The fifteen years of the AIDS epidemic has ravaged our community. While more and more people are realizing "it's not just a gay disease" it still impacts the lives of gay men more than any other segment of the population. The rate of increase of AIDS diagnosis among gay males due to sexual transmission has decreased thanks to the education we have done in our community regarding "safer sex" and at-risk behavior—but the number of cases still is increasing.

Lesbians by virtue of sharing community with gay men have also been impacted heavily. We too are losing our friends, work as volunteers in the organizations, and help with the fund-raising. Those of us who work or have worked with the HIV+ community have had the experience of thinking a good week was one in which we only had one death. The true horror of AIDS goes far beyond that. It is not only about young people dying, but the incapacitation and destruction wrecked on their bodies prior to their

dying. Beautiful, talented young men who suddenly can not take care of themselves, who lose not only their health, but their jobs and savings. They sometimes have to go home to family to be cared for and where they will die. People with AIDS who volunteer in AIDS organizations and care for one another until their own illness requires them to stop. Grant you, this profile does not fit all the people who have AIDS. There are some not very nice people who are infected, and they don't suddenly become noble heroes because they have AIDS. They still need our care and compassion and sometimes it is a bit harder for us to give it.

Fifteen years—more than 300,000 gone; grief, a constant ache; the fear of forming relationships, of caring too much for someone who might soon die; the endless funerals and memorial services; the making of panels for the Quilt; the anger; the unbearable loss. The AIDS epidemic is so totally overwhelming it is almost too much to think about. One wonders how we have endured it all. But not only have we endured, we have survived and triumphed in many instances. The fact that the impact of AIDS has been greatest on our community is a understatement of profound magnitude. Plays, movies and books tell some of the story. So much progress has been made. Our community has risen to the challenge that AIDS has presented us. It forced us to be much more visible, much more out than many of us might even want to be. It has stigmatized us, and we as a community can never recover totally from the devastation, any more than the Jews can ever recover from the Holocaust (although there has been criticism for using this analogy. I can think of no other that demonstrates it more profoundly). It is such a constant in our lives.

Everytime we run into an old friend and they've lost weight, we wonder; everytime a friend says "I got my test results yesterday" and you hold your breath and say a prayer until you hear the words, "I'm negative" and you are allowed that blessed exhale of relief. And that split second seems an eternity. The guys you've worked with over the years as an activist, so many already gone and the ones who we know will be leaving far too soon. So many horror stories we hear. The parents who disown their child when they find out he is Gay before he even gets to the words "and I have AIDS." The families that push away their son's lover and steal his property. But then there are those families that become closer than ever and those friends who see us through, thank goodness.

Fifteen years—a generation of children coming of age, some already sexually active, with school board members and right-wingers wanting them to stay ignorant. Teens and adults experimenting with sex and drugs, the "straight" population who thinks it can't, won't happen to them—where will it lead? Infected young parents with HIV+ babies. While there have been so many advances and people are actually starting to use the word "hope" for the first time, I fear we are at the tip of the iceberg. I pray that I am wrong and what the next fifteen years will bring us is a cure. That's what we want, our friends back and a cure.

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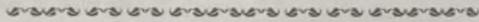
Michael F. Hanks died on June 22, 1996 in Houston, Texas. Preceded in death by his Life Mate John Timothy Tate, Michael is survived by his brothers, Don Hands of Waco, Tx, and Dale Hanks of Garland, Tx. Born in Palestine, Texas Michael lived for many years in Europe where he was involved in theater. A massage therapist by training, Michael will be remembered by his friends and audiences for the many plays he wrote, directed and acted in.

PETER ADAIR

Peter Adair, a documentary film maker who used the eloquent voices of ordinary people to chart the progress first of gay liberation and then of the AIDS epidemic, died on June 27 at his home in San Francisco. He was 53.

Adair directed the film "Word Is Out," and understated though it was, "Word Is Out" had a remarkable impact, coming at a time when images of homosexuals as everyday people, as opposed to psychopaths or eccentrics, were rare. "The silence of gay people on the screen has been broken," Vito Russo declared in the Advocate, a national gay newspaper. His last film, "Absolutely Positive," told how 11 men and women, Mr. Adair included, learned that they were H.I.V. positive and how they adjusted their lives to the disease.

Mr. Adair is survived by his life partner, Rudy Norton; his father, of San Francisco, and two sisters, Margo, of San Francisco, and Nancy, of Albion, California. His mother, Carolyn, who was co-editor of the book version of "Word Is Out," died in March.



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HOUSTON VOICE
The Voice of Houston for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered Community

ISSUE 819
 July 5, 1996
 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, 1995 as the Houston Voice

811 Westheimer, Suite 105
 Houston, Texas 77006
 (713) 529-8490
 (800) 729-8490
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 Contents copyright 1995
 Office Hours: 9am-5:30pm weekdays

Crad Duren/publisher
 Jack Leonard/general manager
 Matthew Pennington/production manager

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
 Deborah Moncrief Bell/editor

STAFF WRITERS:
 Jon Harrison, Mark Henry,
 B.R. McDonald, Carolyn Roberts,
 Javier Tamez,
 Glen Webber

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
 Jon Anthony, Sam Dawster,
 Andrew Edmonson, Kerry Kadell,
 Chris Lambert, Curt Morrison
 Jazz Paz, John Reed

CARTOONISTS
 David Brady, Scotty, Earl Storm

PHOTOGRAPHERS
 David Goetz, Kim Thompson

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Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Loving Life

I want to continue to thank of you kind readers for your letters and positive comments. You know how important your comments are to me. I listen and I care.

I would like to discuss with you my having AIDS. Many of you don't understand how I can have such a positive attitude since I'm sick. Sometimes I wonder myself, but here is my thinking. What choice do I have? I have so much life in me left that I don't want to waste it on sadness and depression. I don't want to complain (too much) about how I've lost my ability to function without help. I'm so grateful to have my parents (who are wonderful) support me.

My parents get the gold medal for being good parents. Since they have found out, they are learning everything they can about AIDS. They tell me about things they've read about trying to give me hope. I appreciate that. But I've said it before, I won't believe there will be a cure till they give it to me, and all my health problems heal. Hope is a wonderful thing, but being realistic is also important.

We are very lucky to have groups like AIDS Foundation Houston, PWA Coalition, Firm, Focus, and of course groups like Pet Patrol and Colt 45's. There is much help for those who need it. I feel badly that I need help, but I'm glad they are there. Everyone I've asked for help has given it and been very caring. I think Houston is lucky to have the amount of help available. Please take advantage of it.

I had an interesting conversation with a friend of mine in Krogers the other day. I'm using a walking stick now because I'm afraid of falling. He asked me how it was going. I said well, you know, I've been sick. He said "No, I didn't know." I got to thinking. Those who aren't positive can't imagine what it is like to be sick. They can't imagine the daily struggle just to get out of bed. They can't imagine the amount of medicine we take everyday, sometimes twice a day or more. They can't imagine how scared we can get when we are having a bad day. For many people, a cold or other illness makes our imagination run wild. We are victims of our own imagination. We must also face the fact that we will probably die before our peers, and must plan our own funeral. I think I want to be cremated and my ashes put in my dad's tomato garden (I wonder how it will make the tomatoes taste). Now I have to get my wishes in writing so they will be followed.

Negative people feel sorry for us, but they can't imagine what it is really like. I'm

glad they can't. I'm glad for all you who stay negative and I hope you never have to go through what I'm going through. That is why we push safe sex. We want you to stay healthy. We also thank you for your continued support in fundraising. Many of you made a difference in the amount of money raised.

Of course, doctors don't know everything. They are as smart as their experience in treating AIDS. The AIDS doctors in Houston are very good. I'm happy with mine. I have confidence that he is concerned about my best interest. But he doesn't know it all. Nobody does. But an educated guess is better than a stab in the dark. If you ever feel that your doctor serving you as well as you need, get another doctor. You are in control of so much in your life. Get with someone who cares about you.

I know a lot of you don't like to take your medicine. A lot of you have actually stopped taking it. I can't criticize your decision, but the medicine is there for a reason. I take a lot of pills twice a day, and I wish I didn't have to. But I will keep taking them as long as the doctor wants me to. Let me say this. Medicine can play tricks with your mind. It can even make you hallucinate (one pill did that to me). It can also make you nauseated. Please let your doctor know if you feel something is wrong. Hallucinating is a horrible experience. I was imagining people were there when they weren't. I remember finishing my shower and yelling for someone to bring me a towel. Of course, no one was there. It is very scary. And while I was enjoying my conversations with myself, it wasn't healthy.

Ironically, as bad as it gets, I think getting AIDS is the best thing to happen to me. It has made me realize that nothing can stop me. I've spent my whole life doing things without purpose. Now I have a purpose. I always thought of others but never did anything to really help people. With my writing, now I can help. As you know, I don't get paid for it. My only motivation is helping all of you. I hope I am.

One last thing. I plan on living for a long time. I plan on writing as long as my brain works. I plan on being a part of your life for as long as possible. I'm excited about my future. The only limits I have are limits I put on myself. I have to remember the saying on my bathroom mirror. I am not dead, I am not dying. I think I'm going to add the phrase, "I love life." Please make this your motto as well.

Glen Webber is a person living with AIDS and making the most of every day.

Eleventh International Conference on AIDS

If you want to follow what is happening at the upcoming conference in Vancouver, and you find that the coverage in the mainstream press does not provide you with enough details, there are several ways to find out more. You can participate in a free national telephone conference to be held on both Tuesday, July 9th and Thursday, July 11th at 3:15 PM EST. This phone conference, known as Beta Live (and sponsored by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation) allows you to listen and ask questions of treatment experts attending the conference. To register for Beta Live, call 1-800-707-BETA, before the conference call begins.

On Thursday, July 11th, there will be a

teleconference at the JW Houston Marriott Hotel at 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. 5150 Westheimer Rd.

There are also several ways to follow the conference on the Internet, with a number of web pages offering daily reports or extensive coverage from Vancouver.

The AMA/AIDS home page at www.ama-assn.org/special/hiv/hiv-home.html

Medscape's home page at www.medscape.com

The National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project's home page at www.aidsnyc.org/natap/index.html

The International Conference will have its own home page at <http://unix.ubc.ca:780/aids11/aids96.html>

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Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



Women's Resource Directory

The numbers are impressive: The Internal Revenue Services estimates that half of all businesses will be woman-owned by the millennium. Almost eight million women own businesses in this country presently, over one hundred thousand in Houston. And women, in business or not, make 82% of all buying decisions, whether they spend their own money or that earned by a man.

An informal poll of my friends and readers reveal that women prefer to do business with other women whenever possible, but sometimes lack the resources to recognize each other's products and services. (Have you ever tried to hire a woman plumber?)

Friends Meg Dunbar and Anita Louise felt the same way, and thought it would be fun and instructive to create a women's directory that we could all refer to for networking, inspiration and support. "We have LiB, and the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce," Anita said in an interview last week, "But women who are not in business might not know about them. We think they will like to use the WoRD."

They expected the project to consume their spare time for about twelve weeks. Over a year later the Women's Resource Directory, The WoRD, is almost ready for distribution. It will have about 150 pages of local, women-owned businesses from psychics to writers with articles about and by them, their listings on the World Wide Web, a schedule of events of interest to women and a guide to personal and professional resources available to women, an appointment calendar, and "wise women's words" sprinkled throughout.

Anita was a founder of Womynspace the original calendar/newsletter/newspaper for women in this area. She was a leader of The Peace Ribbon Project of 1994 and she teaches goddess classes.

Meg is a business person who specializes in matching executives with cor-

porations (a headhunter). She counsels new business owners through a program of mentoring. "I listen to what they want," she said, "and I listened to what women wanted for this directory." She and Anita poured over the more than thirty women's directories that are already published in the country. (Okla., 5 homa's is real pretty. Mostly illustrated in Indian art. Phoenix's just drips money!) Meg and Anita, and others listed in the WoRD, are available as speakers to your organizations and meetings.

These two women made a energetic team, combining their experiences and skills toward producing The WoRD. "Women need networking to survive in business," Anita said. "Networking and capital. According to The National Foundation of business owners, women-owned businesses pay their bills on time 68% of the time. Men owned businesses pay on time 43%. But it is still harder for women to secure start-up money and expansion loans to promote themselves."

"Purse string parity! That's what we want!" Meg declared. "And we want to be more visible to each other." And to create more jobs and wealth for us all.

The WoRD will be distributed free all year at all the places where we always collect our periodicals, and will be "custom delivered" to organizations, conventions, and trade shows. The Houston Public Library has reserved copies for their reference shelves and Meg and Anita will drop them off at all storefronts, conferences and institutions that request them, all over town, including Harris, Fort Bend and Brazoria counties by Labor Day. Updates are planned annually. The deadline for inclusion in the directory is July 15th. Call Meg or Anita at 242-0908, or e-mail them at wordweb@ghgccorp.com. for more details.

Jazz is a freelance writer who often solicits quotes and opinions from other local Lesbians on important and trivial issues. Please call her at 868-5153, ext. 2.

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THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

Democrat Dissension

The cultural divide within the Democrat Party is even more difficult to avoid than that of the debate over abortion in the Republican Party. One is more prevalent than the other thanks to the media focus on the latter and their reporting obscurity on the former.

Just this week Bob Dole confirmed that he would not choose his vice president based on his or her stance on abortion despite pressure from the religious conservative element of the GOP. Presumably, Dole's statement of position on the issue reflects his support of the "big tent" philosophy for the Republican Party. Moreover, if Dole selects a pro-choice running mate, sparks will fly at the convention in San Diego. Media predictions to the contrary, a raucous debate on the matter would ultimately benefit the GOP. Debate is essential for compromise. Dole himself has been quoted as saying differences are healthy, "...it's indifference I fear."

While the GOP may have their differences with respect to abortion and Gay and Lesbian civil rights issues, there are far more differences within the Democratic Party that could erupt rapidly depending on circumstance. Just last year Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin, a Democrat, criticized the President with the following statement: "I think most of us learned some time ago that if you don't like the President's position on a particular issue, you simply need to wait a few weeks." That was then, this is now: "Clinton has been very steadfast this past year. He has made clear where he is and what he can and cannot swallow, and he has stuck to it." Really! Of course Obey's decision to revise his criticism has nothing to do with this being an election year.

If anyone can truly tell me what this President stands for and substantiate it with a record of conviction and implementation, please speak up. Democrats are biding time on the heels of Clinton's current superiority in the polls. Their reaction may differ closer to the election, when those poll numbers shrink considerably. Most Americans are too busy on their vacations at Disneyland (thereby irritating the Southern Baptists). This may come as surprise to political pundits, but most people are not consumed at this particular month in the calendar year with making a decision as to whom they would like to see elected President of the United States. In fact, most voters decide the candidates' fate within two weeks of the actual election.

This should give some Democrats pause. There is an underlying fear among congressional Democrats that the President would sell them out without hesitancy if the end result would benefit his re-election chances. If precedence is any indication, they have legitimate reason to harbor those fears. Clinton's re-election strategy guided by Dick Morris (who has also been a Republican operative) is based solely on providing him a second term. The Democrats have been left to fend for themselves if they desire to regain a majority in Congress because that is not

the President's primary goal.

Morris is astute enough to realize that Clinton's popularity is based on his newly re-emerging centrist campaign strategy. The public may have grown accustomed to Clinton, however, that does not transcend into vehement endorsement of traditional Democrat principles concerning big government. "Voters are more likely to put Clinton than the Democratic Party in the middle of the political spectrum," reasoned Geoffrey Garin, a Democratic pollster. Clinton's recent shift rightward on many social issues such as the defense of marriage act, school prayer, tougher crime legislation, truancy laws, etc. (traditional GOP stances) has irritated many traditionalist liberals.

Congressional Democrats, all too familiar with the poll-surfing President's unpredictability, have devised a plan of their own. Tom Daschle and Dick Gephardt, minority leaders in the Senate and House, presented their own agenda to voters recently. (EDITOR'S NOTE: *The agenda is approved by the White House*) Similar to the Contract with America, the Democrat "agenda" contains measures concerning balanced budgets, pension reforms and economic security. Where it takes them remains to be seen. It is my opinion that the public relishes the idea of a balance of power and does not seem to eager to have Democrats control both the White House and Congress. They have experienced that first hand and are not likely to endure a repeat performance. The Democrats would be wise to realize that although Clinton has made a comeback in the polls, big government has not.

The question is: Can the congressional Democrats and the White House keep their differences in political philosophy quiet throughout the election cycle? That remains to be seen, but appears to be highly unlikely in the coming months when the budget debate begins anew. Clinton will undoubtedly be far more conservative economically than his congressional counterparts, especially when he has to face voters in November. Keep in mind that the congressional Democrats also have to face their voters in their district. Most of them represent liberal strongholds and they expect their candidates to be vocal on those issues. Clinton must be appealing to the entire electorate, not a segmented region.

Unfortunately, this year's election will not benefit our community as much as it might since both candidates have made clear their stance on our rights to engage in matrimony with those whom we share a deep affection and love. Nevertheless, there are many other issues that affect us as well and they should be contemplated during the decision process. This year's election promises to be more interesting than it appears on the surface. We will soon find out.

Curt Morrison (a pseudonym) is a member of the Log Cabin Republicans Houston and sits on the organization's state steering committee. The views expressed are his own and do not necessarily reflect those of Log Cabin or the Houston Voice

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PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

A Birthday Milestone

For those of you kind enough to read my weekly musings I have two confessions: I use my actual name and I am a Democrat. Granted, neither of these self admissions come as any shock. For those of you who may never have met or seen me, I am young and hunky. Yeh, and Bob Dole really is funny. Actually, I never qualified as a hunk anytime in my life and the last time I saw "young" it was someone's name.

Recently a couple of friends celebrated landmark birthdays, one turned (in itself, implies an about face) forty and the other hit the half-century mark. The fact that both are Lesbians may only indicate that Gay women are more comfortable with the aging process than us sex-driven men. A few decades ago I perversely recall thinking that by the year 1996 I would attain a then unthinkable age watershed, from whence all would be downhill and anticlimatic. Now, having reached that landmark, I'm having second thoughts.

Next month I turn sixty. God, that sounds old. And to everyone under forty I'm sure it seems ancient. And considering also that last November I lost the love of my life, even I figured I would either be calling that doctor in Michigan or scouting out a quiet spot in the Piney Woods to live out my twilight years with my basset hounds and books.

Well-meaning friends offer the usual bromides: You are as old as you feel (okay, so I really am nearly sixty going on eighty), think young (I once had a shrink who recommended that I "think straight" to cure my homosexuality—obviously it didn't work, even for him as he married my ex-wife and then came out). It is true that I do not think of myself as old—in my mind's eye I'm still somewhere around later 20s to early 30s, but, then, I mistakenly look in a mirror in the morning when I am exposed to myself and I behold not the twentieth youth but his grandfather.

The Wall Street Journal recently ran a special feature on American Opinions which included a survey of age categories: Youth 18-34, Boomers 35-54, and Seniors 55 and over. Well, first I am not terribly comfortable with the application of senior either before or after my name. It's bad enough that I have been a member of the AARP for a decade.

But on to the survey. Fewer seniors smoke than the other two categories. I have never smoked, let alone inhaled, so I am ahead of the game. Nearly half of seniors, eight times as many as youths, have a chronic condition requiring regular care. Alright, I have arthritis so I am with the program here. Sixty percent take vitamins—although all categories are high here—and I have been slugging away a host of some for more than a quarter of a century (I love these time terms with awesome impact).

Only 20 percent of seniors have a stressful job, probably because most of them don't have a job. Even two years ago when my high school class had a fortieth reun-

ion—which I did not attend—most of the male members were retired. I willingly go into my store seven days a week. I stopped worshipping the sun years ago, and the water has never sounded a siren call to my partially deaf ears. I've often wondered—obviously when absolutely nothing else came to mind—what do these retirees do? I've always had an aversion to movies or television during daylight hours, or checkers in the park.

Nearly all seniors have had their blood pressure and cholesterol checked in the past year. Guilty on this count, although barely. While I have a regular doctor that's primarily because my late better half tested HIV positive when the test first became available and we decided to deal with reality from the beginning.

I, however, avoided all the obvious tests for the aging. It was only because Bill—that's my better half for eighteen years—insisted, on his death bed, that I promise to have a physical. Even then I managed to put off this dying request for a few months and, when I finally gave in, I learned that I had extremely high cholesterol and a few too many pounds (a few as in a lot).

I was relieved to discover that even for cholesterol there is a pill, and while my doctor likes the results he still insists that I confront those two scary words—exercise and diet. Oh sure, ask a sixty-year-old to change a lifetime of well-formed bad habits, to sacrifice all those foods which call out in the night (why is it that foods which are "good" for you always taste terrible while those which undermine your health taste soooooo good).

Interestingly, my doctor also expressed some concern that I might rebound from Bill's death and seek out some disastrous relationship with a younger man (Bill was twenty years younger and I grant that youth has a far greater appeal, physically, than seniors).

There was a time, during his illness, when Bill expressed a similar concern that I would become the victim of some swarthy hustler who would take me for whatever I had. But Bill and I knew each other all too well, and in one of our many heart-to-hearts in that hospital room over those five weeks he acknowledged that knowing me so well, that I would never succumb to so reckless a behavior.

After all, it was Bill who recognized years before that it was my mental compulsions which blended so well with his physical drive which allowed us to survive as one for so long. So, in a strange sort of way, I welcome yet another hallmark in life and choose to welcome the beginning of my seventh decade, cherishing my memories of Bill and relishing the possibilities of the future.

Larry Lingle is owner of LOBO bookstore in Houston where he lives with his basset hounds and memories, which he often shares with readers of The Houston Voice.

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.

And Another Thing. . .

By SARAH DEPALMA

Let me tell you the logic behind having a column written by an openly transgendered individual. I proudly serve as the National Director of a transgender political and legal rights organization called, It's Time, America! In this capacity I often receive upwards of one hundred E-mails per day from all over the world. Some people may be surprised to know that at least one-third of the transgendered community self identify as gay or lesbian. Almost another one-third self identify as bisexual. Consequently my E-mail runs the spectrum from people who consider themselves gay/lesbian/or bisexual first, and transgendered last, to people who think gays/lesbians/and bisexuals are "queers" in the derogatory sense of the word. A lot of my mail is from non-transgendered gays/lesbians/bisexuals. As you might expect, this mail also ranges from people who think transgendered deserve equal rights immediately, to people who think transgendered are deviates who are totally unwelcome in the gay/lesbian/bisexual worlds. No matter what the individual view may be, the one thread that runs through my mail is ignorance.

It is clear that the four communities are talking at one another, not communicating with each other. One goal of this column is to turn down the rhetoric used by all sides and replace it with usable information. Obviously this information will be presented from a transgendered point of view. I would point out however, that the single most common comment I get from gays and lesbians is, "We don't understand you." In fact, I've heard this comment so many times it has almost become a mantra. Ok, I believe you. On the other hand, despite the fact that I am a nationally known transgendered rights leader and radio show co-host, only one gay/lesbian/bisexual organization in this city has ever invited me to speak to their group. Never mind that I've made this offer in person to the leaders of the many gay/lesbian organizations.

Never mind that I've made my offer to speak (free of charge I might add) in print and on the air. Only the gay/lesbian/bisexual group at the University of Houston has ever taken me up on the offer.

I've run into literally hundreds of people at various political and social events who seek me out to make the case that they can't accept or work on behalf of transgendered because they don't know who we are. Yet when I ask them if they have read any of my articles that have appeared literally all over the country, or heard any of my radio programs, the answer is almost always along the lines of, "No. I just don't think transgendered have anything in common with gays and lesbians."

Isn't the willful refusal to obtain new information on a topic almost the text book definition of prejudice? To paraphrase a Roman philosopher, "Those who willfully remain in ignorance are guilty of all the sins ignorance commits." I believe the gay/lesbian/bisexual community is better than that. I work with too many leaders on the local, state, and national level to believe otherwise. The aim of this column is to present issues of interest to the entire community, from a transgendered point of view, that will be found stimulating and thought provoking. Our communities are under common attack from outside bigots. Let's not help them through bigotry from within.

Next month: Definitions of sex, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation you may never have heard before.

Sarah DePalma is National Director of It's Time, America! and Chair of It's Time, Texas! transgender political and legal rights organizations working on behalf of transgendered of all sexual orientations and colors. She co-hosts "After Hours," on KPFT radio 90.1fm, from 12 Midnight Saturday to 3:00 a.m. Sunday. Listener participation is invited.

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Martins' is the brainchild of artist Jim Martin. He decided to combine his love of art and talents in the presentation and conservation of art and objects of arts. "I love what I'm doing," Martin says. "I am sometimes afraid if collectors knew how much fun, pride and pleasure I have they wouldn't take me seriously." The reality is that Jim takes himself and his work very seriously. In this, his second month of business, Martins' presents the first in a continuous series of fine art openings on July 13th. Show hours are 10:00am to 6:00pm with an artist reception from 6:00pm to 8:00pm The first show of Martins' Gallery will be a Group Show

with artists: Marvin Carter, Gerida Brown, Larry Crawford, Erwin Franks, Ted Brown, Martin Dean, Charles McDugaid and John Whitman. The following show is to be hosted in mid-August and will be an annual show in which Martins' will introduce a new Houston artist to the public, the show is called INTRODUCING and for this year will feature a young artist named Tod Waters. Martins' will feature their grand opening of the fine arts gallery in September.

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- FRIDAY - 7/5**
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 - * Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182
- SATURDAY - 7/6**
- * Services at 7:30 p.m. Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872
- SUNDAY - 7/7**
- * Service, 11 a.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship, (713) 773-4429.
 - * Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 10:30am.
 - * First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30am and 11:30am. 526-5200.
 - * Services at 5:30 p.m. Dignity Church, Call 880-2872
 - * Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 a.m. Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 a.m. Maranatha Fellowship, 528-6756.
 - * MCCR worship services with Rev. Jim Burns. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Call 861-9149.
 - * Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Call 880-9235.
 - * Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 a.m. Call 529-8225.
 - * Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533. "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 a.m.
 - * Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. Call 526-8095.
 - * Covenant Baptist Church. Worship service - 1:30 p.m. and education hour at 3:00 pm. Call 668-8830.
- MONDAY - 7/8**
- * Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Seekers class 9:15 a.m. Call 526-1017.
 - * Catholic Mass at 7:30 p.m. Kolbe Project, Call 522-8182
 - * MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m., Call 861-9149.
- TUESDAY - 7/9**
- * MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
 - * PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.
 - * Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 p.m.. These groups are open to all people. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.
- WEDNESDAY - 7/10**
- * Service, 7:30 p.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship, (713) 773-4429.
 - * MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 861-9149.
 - * "A Course in Miracles" - Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.
 - * Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 p.m. Call 526-8095.
 - * Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 p.m.. These groups are open to all people. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.
- THURSDAY - 7/11**
- * Healing Service with Anointing, 7:30 p.m. at Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.
 - * Bible Study, 7 p.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship, (713) 773-4429.
 - * Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. Call 880-9235.
- If you want an event listed in this section, please call (713) 529-8490.

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Rev. Janet Parker

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A: To fully answer this question, we must address what happens upon the death of the physical body as well as the status of the spirit of the person. Do the two remain together, or is there a separation? Scripture gives us a lot of insight as to what happens to both our body and our spirit. We must look at the whole of Scripture to determine the answer. Jesus told his disciples before his death, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, my servant also will be" (John 12:26). Jesus went on to say in John 14:3, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." "I am the bread of life. If anyone eat of this bread, they will live forever" (John 6:48,51). The Apostle Paul speaks of the love of God that will never be separated from the person who knows Christ: "I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38,39). Paul also says, "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please God, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due them for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (II Corinthians. 5:1,6,8-10). In I Corinthians 15:50 we read, "I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the dominion of God...We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'"

Scripture seems to be talking about two different occurrences. The first occurrence is what happens to the spirit of the person when they die. Even Paul while he was living said, "I may be absent from you in body, but I am present with you in Spirit." This indicates that our spirit and our body experience a resurrection at different times. Paul tells us that we will never be separated from the love of Christ. Upon our physical death, our spirit is in the presence of God. In the book of Hebrews 12:1 the author tells us that presently we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have died for the cause of Christ. They are cheering us on from the heavenly realms. It appears that our spirit is immediately ushered into the presence of God upon our death. The body waits for the second coming of Christ when He returns to establish a new heaven and a new earth. We are told that our bodies will be changed into one that is imperishable and is immortal. From the moment we are reconciled to Christ and become a child of God, our spirit is renewed and made whole. That relationship is never severed, not even with death. Death simply parts the spirit from the body and also imparts separation from those yet living in their mortal bodies. Once Christ returns to the earth, all things will be restored. We need not fear that we will remain dormant or "sleeping" for an indefinite period of time. God has promised never to leave or forsake us, not even in death.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932

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Reasons For Hope: Look how far we've come!

By The Boston AIDS Writers Group

The HIV affected community is filled with hope in anticipation of the International Conference on AIDS to be held in Vancouver this July. It is the first time since the epidemic began that there will be reports on successful therapies to control and even perhaps eliminate HIV from people living with the disease. Most importantly, people with AIDS who up until now felt that they were coping with a fatal illness, feel that they have a future with new hopes of managing HIV, feeling better, and living longer. In preparation for this upcoming worldwide meeting of scientists and activists, let's take a look at how far we have come and what we can expect in the future.

In 1983 the cause of AIDS was unknown, but it appeared that it took only two years to destroy the immune system. There was no treatment whatsoever for the disease, and, assuming the disease was caused by a germ, there was no way to test if a person was infected. Back then, doctors were reduced to fighting an odd and unpredictable list of infections to which the people who were afflicted inevitably succumbed.

During the next decade the Gay male community in the United States was hit especially hard, as were communities of color, hemophiliacs, and IV drug users. But in third world countries, such as sections of Africa, the devastation was extraordinary. In some places entire villages were left with only babies and the elderly. The World Health Organization projected that by the mid-nineties, 20-40 million people would be infected. For many years people got sick and died as scientists worked on what would prove to be the largest effort in world history to find what was causing this disease and a way to stop it.

By 1984 scientists discovered the virus that causes HIV disease, and soon developed a test for it that revolutionized our ability to cope; blood supplies could be screened to protect millions of people, especially hemophiliacs. The use of this test helped us to refine our understanding of how the disease was transmitted, so attention was focused on prevention, leading to the efforts to develop, with some success, "safer sex" as a cultural norm. The test also showed that the disease progressed much more slowly than was originally thought; it seemed to take many years before the onset of symptoms. This long period of infection without symptoms became known as the "latency" period.

Over the next few years, progress was made toward fighting the infections characteristic of AIDS (now known as opportunistic infections), especially pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP) which was the leading cause of death in the U.S. Gradually, people's lives were extended by the advent of prevention and early treatment of opportunistic infections.

By 1987, AZT, the first of a series of antivirals which seemed to slow down the virus was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Other, similar drugs, approved over the next eight years became known by their acronyms, and soon we had an alphabet soup of antivirals—AZT, ddI, ddT, ddC, 3TC. None of these drugs seemed to work very well, all had side effects which were unpleasant, and by the early nineties there was a cloud of gloom around those people affected in any way by HIV disease. It seemed that HIV was able to mutate around any drug that science could throw at it, so that the treatments were only doing a little good for a limited amount of time. In fact many people preferred to just cope with the illness without therapy, or turned to alternative medicine because the limited benefit from the drugs was not worth the side effects that they caused.

As of last year, the great mystery of the latency period has been solved. By using viral load tests (a new tool used to measure the number of viruses in the bloodstream), David Ho and his colleagues have shown that the virus never rests; there is an ongoing war between the immune system and the virus from the moment of infection. The body replaces cells that HIV destroys, and eventually without treatment virtually all immune systems will lose that war. Dr. Ho helped to clarify two things which were not well understood: why T cell levels continued to fall during the latency period, and why

HIV becomes resistant to drugs. First, it has been discovered that HIV destroys slightly more T cells than are being produced, so that over time there is a gradual decline in the number of T-cells in the body. Second, the virus reproduces so rapidly that drugs which do not drastically reduce HIV are overcome by viruses that are not affected by the drugs.

Despite the fact that the need to test different antivirals was hampered by ownership issues, concerns about profit, scientific secrecy inherent in the privatization of research, and the lack of strong leadership at the Federal level, scientists did make some progress toward fighting the virus. But until recently, no single antiviral was able to effectively control HIV. Then in 1994, the traditionally dour-faced scientists began to smile as antivirals used together in combination reduced the amount of virus (viral load) much more than when used alone, and this reduction seemed to allow for the redevelopment of a healthier immune system.

The first hint that progress was in the making was a study on a significant number of people with HIV which showed that AZT used in combination with 3TC reduced viral load by over 90% and kept it down for 18 months. T-cell counts rose as well, indicating that the immune system was less compromised and it slowly became clear that indeed lowering the amount of virus was the key to controlling the illness.

There are now nine approved antiviral drugs, and we expect that by the end of the year there will be eleven. All of these drugs are important in the fight against HIV because people respond to therapy in different ways, and need a variety of options from which to choose. For many, the days of suffering through severe side-effects or not using antivirals at all are in the past. For others, a safe and effective treatment regimen is yet to be found. However, most people can now choose the drugs that are best for them, and side-effects are now usually manageable, or at least tolerable given the potential health benefits.

Another advantage inherent to the variety of antivirals available, is that each works in a different way. One category of antivirals called "nucleoside analogs" (nukes) works by stopping the virus from infecting a cell; a second group works in the same place in the life cycle of the virus, but has different effects; these drugs are commonly referred to as non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors. A third group of antivirals which have been made available most recently, protease inhibitors, works differently from the first two by stopping the virus from reproducing. Attacking the virus in different ways simultaneously will make it harder for HIV to fight back.

Finally, a major breakthrough occurred in 1995, when it was shown that many people with HIV who used protease inhibitors in combination with the other antivirals reduced their viral loads below the level that can be measured by the current technology, and kept them down for 18 months so far. There is even new evidence that people who have never used any antivirals can use certain combinations of three drugs to achieve the same effect without using protease inhibitors. This is exciting because now research can be directed toward finding the best triple combinations of antivirals to fight HIV.

Furthermore, the discovery and commercial manufacturing of viral load tests (the first approved by the FDA just a few weeks ago) makes it possible to decide on a person by person basis when antiviral therapy is necessary, if it is working, and then when to switch therapies. Viral load tests make it possible to decide which combinations of antivirals are working for an individual, making managing the illness on a case by case basis a realistic option.

This year we have confidence that HIV disease can be defined as a chronic rather than fatal illness: many scientists and doctors believe that the disease is manageable with the available antivirals. But there may be even more exciting news ahead. In some babies, who have had viral load sup-

pressed to below detectable levels, there are indications that their immune systems might be returning to normal. This might well mean that there is simply no virus left. So clearly, one of the exciting conversations we expect to take place in Vancouver is whether or not it is possible to actually cure HIV disease—a hope that is real in 1996, but had never been taken seriously since the epidemic began.

Unfortunately, there has been less to report on other therapies which could directly rebuild damaged immune systems. This is in part due to the fact that these immune based therapies (IBT+S) have had a comparatively small amount of resources directed toward them, and a far more difficult time on the regulatory level than drug company products. Immune based therapies may be the only hope for repairing the damaged immune systems of people with more advanced HIV illness, and they offer a totally different approach for fighting the virus. For example, IL-2, a substance naturally produced by the body, when given as therapy can elevate T cell levels of people with more advanced HIV back up to normal levels. However, this therapy, like other IBT+s, has not been studied with the aggression and the finances characteristic of the development of antivirals. As a result, there are no long term studies that would determine if this type of therapy actually rebuilds immune systems and lengthens lives. Hopefully, the upcoming conference in Vancouver will shed some light on the development of immune-based therapies such as IL-2. The AIDS Writers Group will be in Vancouver to get the latest information on therapies from around the world.

Still, the most important news is that people with HIV illness now have a future.

The ideas expressed in this article are those of the Boston AIDS Writers Group and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Review Panel.

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NIAID Researchers Identify Second Fusion Cofactor for HIV

Researchers from two collaborating laboratories at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) have found that the strains of HIV most often transmitted from person-to-person require a cell surface molecule called CC CKR5, in addition to the primary receptor, the CD4 molecule, in order to fuse with the membranes of immune system cells. Fusion is an integral step in the process whereby HIV enters cells. The current report, from the laboratories of Edward A. Berger, Ph.D., and Philip M. Murphy, MD, will appear in the June 28, 1996 *Science*. The paper complements a recent NIAID study that identified another fusion cofactor—*fusin*—used by other strains of HIV for entry into immune cells (see *Science* May 10, 1996). "These and related studies show the rapid progress that can be made with a continuing investment in basic research," says Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala. "The science is moving rapidly, providing potential new targets for the development of drugs and other interventions."

In their experiments, the NIAID investigators found that "macrophage-tropic" isolates of HIV-1 fused readily with cells that have both CD4 and CC CKR5 on their surfaces, whereas the same viral isolates failed to fuse with cells expressing only CD4. Macrophage-tropic isolates of HIV-1 preferentially infect macrophages in cell culture experiments. These isolates are the main strains found in patients during the symptom-free stage of HIV disease, which may last for many years.

Previously, Dr. Berger and his group demonstrated that *fusin* acts as a cofactor for the entry of T-cell line-tropic HIV-1 isolates into immune system cells; these strains tend to appear later in infected people, coincident with the decline of the immune system. "Together with the recent identification by the Berger group of the receptor for T cell-tropic strains of HIV-1, the current identification of CC CKR5 as the receptor for macrophage-tropic strains of HIV adds considerably to our understanding of the mechanisms whereby HIV infects its target cells," comments Anthony S. Fauci, MD, NIAID director. "This information should prove extremely useful in the delineation of pathogenesis of HIV infection and should serve as a basis for designing new therapeutic strategies."

In addition to its role in fusion, CC CKR5 is a receptor for certain immune-signaling molecules—RANTES, MIP-1 alpha and MIP-1 beta—that are known to suppress HIV infection of cells. These three molecules belong to a family of molecules called chemokines involved in the body's inflammatory response.

When I considered with recent data from other groups, our new findings suggest that one mechanism by which RANTES, MIP-1 alpha and MIP-1 beta suppress HIV infectivity is by blocking the process of fusion used by the virus to enter cells," says Dr. Berger.

The researchers note that other groups have suggested that chemokines might be used therapeutically. "These new data provide a molecular explanation for the suppression of HIV infectivity by chemokines, and suggest that fusion cofactors may provide a potential target for rational drug design," says Dr. Murphy.

The new papers on chemokines and fusion cofactors raise intriguing questions about the wide variation in the natural history of HIV disease in different individuals, the investigators note. For instance, does an abundance of RANTES, MIP-1 alpha or MIP-1 beta, or a relative lack of functional CC CKR5 and related molecules, explain why some individuals have not become infected with HIV, despite repeated exposure to the virus? A number of NIAID-supported groups are working to answer this and other important questions.

The identification of two fusion cofactors suggests an immediate practical application: the production of a small animal model for study of HIV-1 infection. Such a model would be a potentially valuable tool for developing anti-HIV drugs and vaccines.

"Transgenic animals expressing human CD4 have been developed, but they support HIV-1 replication poorly," explains Dr. Berger. "Transgenic animals expressing *fusin* and CC CKR5 in addition to CD4 may be more useful."

Dr. Berger is chief of the molecular structure section of NIAID's Laboratory of Viral Diseases (LVD); Dr. Murphy is a senior investigator in NIAID's Laboratory of Host Defenses (LHD). Their co-authors include, from the LVD, Ghalib Alkhatib, Ph.D., Yu Feng, Ph.D., Christopher C. Broder, Ph.D., and Paul Kennedy; and Christophe Combadiere, Ph.D., of the LHD.

NIAID is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIAID conducts and supports research to prevent, diagnose and treat illnesses such as AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis, asthma and allergies. NIH is an agency of the U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

AIDS continued...

(Continued from page 1)

such as the Americans with Disabilities Act that covers HIV+ and AIDS. Having legal protections is a good thing. Our educational effort has been somewhat successful, but risk taking is still a factor. If someone has not been impacted personally, it is hard for it to be real to them. It is a major challenge to reach those people who don't see it as an issue in their lives. What is hard for me is the fact that people are still becoming infected. It's easily preventable and even hard to get. Percentage wise it has leveled off in the Gay male community but those numbers were really high to start with, how do they have to be? I'm afraid another generation will have to lose their friends. Someone may attend one safer sex workshop, and they may even be using condoms, but there is more to safer sex than that. Many of us are confused and scared about the risks involved in oral sex, but more people are not approaching it (having sex) as if everyone they are with is HIV+. Why would you decide not to use protection with a particular partner? If they don't tell you the truth about their HIV status then they are considering that person not at risk. They don't get concerned until they are with someone who they know is HIV+ and then it becomes an issue. They have a false sense of security because that person looks healthy and is sexy. I am working on a program that really focuses on the needs of younger men.

I'm a living example of how life can be for an HIV+ man. I have had it for 12 years - it has been luck and taking care of myself, in my emotional, physical, and spiritual life, because it is a real quality of life matter for me. I recently realized that, hey, I might still be around in my forties and I questioned if I want to be doing what I'm doing now (teaching safer sex education). I know I want to be involved with the issue of wellness. I advise people to catch it early (get tested), have it monitored, do your treatment and anti-viral drug combination cocktail. There is danger in hope, because what if AIDS wasn't deadly anymore. It is a scary thought because people might have a false sense of security and go back to risky behavior. And how is the government looking at this? Many politicians are looking at ways to cut funding. People don't have access or funding to get the treatments that are available now. If everyone at Thomas Street (Clinic) got what they needed as far as the viral loads, it would be more than the clinic's entire budget. People with AIDS have to ask for what they need, demand it, and fight for it. I want to help empower people living with HIV+, on how to take control of their lives, how to be happier, and find strength within themselves and not expect it to be done for them - Bart

Loeser, AIDS and safer-sex educator, AIDS Foundation Houston

What gets me is that we are fighting the same battles over and over, not only the disease, but the ignorance and prejudice. We are going to the same questions and problems with the new drugs as we did with AZT. The dosage and the expense. There is still a huge stigma. There are newly diagnosed people who don't even tell the people who support and love them the most. We are also lobbying and working as hard as ever to educate people and to get the funding. There are so many groups now, all clamoring for the same small amount of money. We weren't ready for AIDS in our community and we aren't ready for the new populations that are being affected. We have hope and we know what needs to be done, but will we have the funding? One thing, I'm not going anywhere. I'm in for the long haul and I will do whatever it takes. - Harry Livesay, LMSW, HIV Services and Education Specialist, Harris County Hospital Dist.

What I hope, is that in the next fifteen years we go out of business. There is far too far for us to go in that time. It will need to be a time of far more wide-spread compassion. AIDS was about death and dying, now it is about being HIV+ and long term care management and then death and dying. It is a paradox in many ways. It was life and death and now it is death and life. Personally, for me, it is about people and no matter what hope I have, remember that there has been far too much judgment. The government has people lobbying for tobacco and we know that kills people, but they don't put money into condoms and that saves lives! Passion sums up the progress of how one feels about it, passion about doing something about it, about caring, and in the long term, it not being an issue. AIDS has been an incredible story about love and those who have found their hearts. - Sara Selber, Executive Director, AIDS Foundation Houston

In fifteen years we have seen the AIDS epidemic grow from a gay man's disease to everyone's problem. It is a disease that holds a magnifying glass to some of America's ugliest social problems, such as homophobia, drug use, poverty, and racism. After 15 years, it is no longer acceptable to say that Americans are uncomfortable dealing with drug use and sexuality. And it is no longer acceptable to call for more studies or government-sponsored reports, when the prescription for saving lives is clear. It is up to all of us to write the story of the next fifteen years.

The Houston Voice salutes these caregivers and activists for their hardworking efforts, their compassion, and love.

Twilight of The Golds

New Heights Theatre, 339 W. 19th St., is proud to announce the Houston premiere of Jonathan Tolins' *The Twilight of The Golds*. The play, which debuted on Broadway in 1993, is a comic drama which poses a unique question: if your parents knew everything about you before you were born, would you be here now? When Suzanne Gold and her close knit New York Jewish family discover that she is pregnant, everyone is thrilled, until a prenatal test is performed by her geneticist husband, revealing the information that the child will be homosexual. The news forces the entire family to confront issues of bigotry, evolution, and the limits of love. The play is alternately humorous and poignant in its dealings with the sensitive issue of whether or not Suzanne should have an abortion. Suzanne's gay brother thinks she should continue her pregnancy and fights for her to do so.

The Los Angeles Times called the play "... a rich, articulate piece of work that speaks volumes to matters that are paramount to us today." The San Francisco Chronicle called it "... funny, thoughtful, and eerily topi-

cal." *The Twilight of The Golds* calls attention to a problem previously unaddressed, but which may well present itself in the near future. Softened by its comic overtones, the play is a richly textured drama about a fascinating issue.

The New Heights Theatre production features Tricia Cox as Suzanne Gold and Christopher McDowell in the pivotal role of her brother, David. Marcy Bannor and Kenn Cullinane portray the elder Golds and Christian DeVries acts the role of Suzanne's husband. *The Twilight of The Golds* is directed by veteran Houston director/actor William Hardy.

The production will have a gala champagne opening on July 11th at 8:00 p.m. Performances are scheduled Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. through August 10, 1996. Three Sunday matinees will be offered on July 21st, 28th, and August 4th, at 4:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$15 on Friday and Saturday evening and \$12 on Sunday afternoons. For reservations or additional information, please phone 869-8927.



Cast of *Twilight of The Golds* at New Heights

Personal Outlook

To Thine Own Self Be True

By **TABBI ARNOLD**

Initially the concept of having a female lover, after being married to my husband just a year, seemed impossible. The doubtful faces, the pressure to choose, and the reluctant words of negativity were a constant in my life. What I thought had great possibilities appeared to others to be just a delusion of my wishful thinking.

It all began nine months ago. She came into my life as quietly as she left. It was three weeks after my first wedding anniversary when I fell in love with her. It felt as if a bomb had been placed in my lap with bits and pieces of my "self" exploding. I frantically ran about trying to put my "self" back together.

I had no idea that deep below my heterosexual surface I was a Lesbian. I had often been fascinated with the female body, but I thought it was because I had grown up as a very fat child. I thought my envy was due to wanting to look like other women in thin bodies. What I have come to realize, though, is that I have also wanted to touch them, to lay with them. It was not just envy and fascination, but gentle tugs at my soul, screaming underneath my physically padded body, to be released.

Her brief appearance in my life was very painful. Having a relationship with her did not seem to be in God's plan, although I tried. She was to be a turning point; she was simply here playing a part in my life, and then she was gone.

My process was slow and painful, my discoveries tormenting and exciting. Through it all my husband stood by me and has continued to be my major support system. Throughout my despair over losing my first female relationship, he has remained faithfully by my side.

My need to be with a woman became my focal point. I began earnestly searching for the right one for me, often making mistakes I thought were unforgivable. I was moving in a world that I knew nothing about.

I was judged and discriminated against for my desire to stay married and also have a relationship with a woman. I was torn between being true to myself or being accepted by other people. The turmoil of

being rejected was at times so profound that my thoughts were frequently suicidal.

Today, after many months of internal changes, my mind at times even now wants to believe others instead of myself. During these times, though, I force myself to look at the facts instead of listening to what my magic, magnifying mind is telling me. I have painfully learned that I have to believe in myself, no matter what the cost. I have to trust myself and do what is right for me.

My husband, my lover and myself all agree that our circumstances are highly unusual. But, the fact remains, our relationships are working. Through Twelve-Step programs, therapy, and our desire to stay in recovery, we are committed to maintaining a healthy relationship between us.

Where once I was totally dependent on what others thought of our situation, I am now dependent on myself. I no longer need the approval and acceptance I once sought. It is not necessary to agree with or understand our relationship. It is only necessary that I continue to believe in myself and those whom I am in love with.

Tabbi Arnold welcomes communication and support from other Lesbians, she can be reached via E-mail at meyou@aol.com.

(Personal Outlook is a new feature of the Houston Voice. Submissions should be on IBM format disc when possible, with the document saved to text, include hard-copy with the disc—typed double-spaced, black on white paper (in lieu of a disc we can scan the hard copy). We are looking for true life stories, personal matters that concern us as a community or individually as a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgendered (G/L/B/T) person. Examples: Being a G/L/B/T person with a disability; What its like to live in the country; Being Gay Senior Citizen; and interesting coming out stories. Submissions must include a name, address, and phone number but may be printed under a pseudonym or anonymously. Please send to Personal Outlook, The Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer #105, Houston, TX 77006 or via E-mail at Houvoice@aol.com.)

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Business Owners Beware!

Notice from the Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages

There has been confusion in recent months regarding the Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages and its purported affiliation with another directory service catering to the gay and lesbian community.

The company which started in Jan. 1991, is attempting to clear the misrepresentation that they are in any way connected to UNITY yellow pages. Apex Publishing, Maleman Funzine, Blueboy, Inc. Apparently there has been some confusion among business owners who have been solicited for advertising, who thought they were advertising with the already established Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages when in fact they were paying for ads in the Unity Yellow Pages. There are also accusations that Unity never produced the promised directory. Due

to this confusion, the Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages feels that it has been misrepresented, and that the goodwill it has worked to establish in the community has been damaged.

Tom Jones, General Manager of the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages asks that if anyone is approached for advertising sales in a "yellow pages" type directory, they should confirm what company they are doing business with, especially in regards to advertising services that were paid for but not received by contacting the corporate office at 942-0084. This will facilitate their ability to police the use of their trademark and name as well as protect their customers.

"I'm really a fairy princess
pretending to be a waitress."

- Heather Graham
Don't Do It! (1995)

Community Bulletin Board

Rhinestones & Studs

Sponsored by the Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc., the annual pre-pageant party, Rhinestones and Studs, is slated for Friday, July 12 from 8 until 11:00 p.m. at the Kim Son Restaurant, 2001 Jefferson (@Hwy.59).

With five designated charities, the party will feature a variety of activities including a raffle, silent auction, sale of Miss Camp America tickets and entertainment by comedian Amy Boyd and various dance entertainers. The TOP NINE (contestants in the Miss Camp pageant) will also be on hand.

A \$2 donation is suggested at the door, a cash bar will be available and casual attire is recommended. Free valet parking will be available, noting that tipping is encouraged.

The designated charities are: AIDS Foundation—Stone Soup; The Assistance Fund; The Bering Care Center; Body Positive—Positive

Friend Program; and The NAMES Project—Houston.

Ribbon Cutting

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for PostNet, a member of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (GHGLCC), will mark the official and formal opening noon Tuesday, July 9 at 2620 S. Shepherd.

PostNet offers a full range of businesses support services including postal, copying, computers and other support items. Their telephone number is 528-7678.

AVES Volunteers

AVES (Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services) needs bilingual volunteers who are willing to answer Hotline calls or provide HIV/AIDS education to the community.

Volunteer orientation will be held at 6:00 p.m. Thursday July 11, Twelve Oaks Tower, 4126 Southwest

Freeway #1717. For more information or to RSVP call Betty at 626-2837.

Gay, straight, bi, drag queens, transvestites, transsexuals, femmes and butches are encouraged to volunteer.

Gay Mormons

Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons—Chapter At Large has launched a site on the World Wide Web to communicate and interact with gay and lesbian Latter-day Saints all around the world.

The Chapter at Large has a mission of reaching out to Affirmation International members who are not affiliated with the various chapters in the United States.

Affirmation International is a fellowship of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, their families and friends who share the common bond of the Mormon experience. Its purpose is to provide a supportive environment for relieving the needless fear, guilt, self-oppres-

sion and isolation that LDS gays and lesbians can experience in an era where willful ignorance about human sexuality is too often a reality.

Affirmation is a non-profit organization with offices in Lost Angeles. There are approximately 29 affiliated chapters and contacts in the US and abroad. The site is located at <http://members.aol.com/affirm-chlg/>.

Playwriting Competition

Fat Man Productions, a non-profit theatrical production company, announces its first annual playwriting competition to select a full-length, produceable play for its upcoming season. Entries will be selected by a panel of experienced professionals from the original works submitted by playwrights from Houston and the surrounding area by the Sept. 1, 1996 deadline.

Anthony E.P. Hill, founder of the three-year-old company, says he will entertain both two and three act entries, comedy or drama, which contain no more than six characters. He further requests that only minimal sets, costumes, props and technical effects be required for the production. Mr. Hill puts no restrictions on subject matter but asks that it be tastefully treated.

For more information about the playwriting competition, and to obtain the necessary entry form, call Fat Man Productions at 523-1530, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

HOG Breakfast

The Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) will hold its monthly breakfast meeting Saturday, July 13 at 9:00 a.m. a Le Peep Restaurant downtown at The Park (street level) across from the four Seasons Hotel (1300 Lamar, 3 blks east of Main).

You can park in The Park garage and have your ticket validated at the restaurant. Le Peep breakfast fare has been termed fabulous. Telephone Howard at 528-6174 for reservations, details or just show up.

HOG is a social group for Gays and Lesbians who enjoy the outdoors.

Quilt In Galveston

July 12 to 14, the Gulf Coast Center's HIV Division as well as co-sponsor, the 1996 Silk Stocking Ball, invites the community to come "experience the quilt" at Moody Gardens Convention Center. A special ceremony will be held Sunday, July 14 at 1:00 p.m. to dedicate new Quilt panels.

Display hours will be July 12 and 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and July 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is free and children are welcome.

For more information or to make arrangements to volunteer contact Sandi Simon, HIV Program Coordinator at 409/762-9982.

Volunteers are still needed for the Washington Display in October. Contact Perrie Dolph at 713/729-9662.

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Sunday, July 14th, 2pm to 7pm

A Christmas Carnival in July

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Benefiting LVL's PWA Holiday Fund

Friday, July 19th, 10pm - 2am
Rick Stancil & Band

Come on Down and Party with JT
Monday Morning, Tuesday Night
& Sat. Afternoon

Come On Down & Party with
your favorite Bartenders!



This & That!

by Jon Anthony

The "Independence Day" of reckoning has finally hurled into theaters to kick off your Fourth of July Weekend with a mixture of excitement and mayhem. The pre-destined blockbuster film opened this week amidst enormous fanfare and will undoubtedly surpass *Twister* as this summer's highest grossing release.... **Andrew Lloyd Webber** has amassed so many highly successful theater franchises that most people are unaware that the musical genius also produced a flop. The production entitled *Jeeves* premiered in 1975 to poor reviews and less than impressive box-office. Webber seems to have faith in that age old maxim - if at first you don't succeed, try again. Indeed, Webber is reviving the musical and is currently reworking the P.G. **Wodehouse**-inspired musical comedy about romantic entanglements and mistaken identities. Webber has re-written all but three of the shows tunes and the retitled production, *By Jeeves*, will make its U.S. debut at the Norma Terris Theater in Chester, Conn. October 17 prior to landing on Broadway.... **Chardonnay** is the most popular wine among consumers according to Wine Spectator magazine.... **Gloria Estefan** (whose new album, *Destiny*, featuring the smash hit *Reach* is climbing the charts) will be profiled on *Lifetime's Intimate Portrait* series Sunday July 7 at 9pm.... Veteran political activist and Clinton campaign adviser **David Mixner** chats with **Maria Shriver** on the July 10 episode of *Dateline NBC* at 8 p.m. Mixner, whose newly released memoirs is titled *Stranger Among Friends*, candidly discusses his "sense of betrayal" as a result of the President's positions on gay issues.... Immediately following Mixner, ABC's *Prime*



Time Live profiles the late playwright/composer **Jonathan Larson**. Larson was the author of the Broadway musical *Rent* which has garnered a Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize. Larson died of an aortic aneurysm last January at the age of 36.... In the 'this is not a joke' department - **Joey Buttafuoco** is moving to L.A. to pursue a film career. Only this time he wants to be taken seriously, i.e., he will keep his clothes on.... **Meg Ryan** and **Matthew Broderick** star in the upcoming romantic comedy film, *Addicted to Love*, directed by **Griffin Dunne**.... Beginning August 11, CNN's *Late Edition with Frank Sesno* will offer bi-weekly political analysis of the upcoming elections. Former Education Secretary **William Bennett** and former New York Governor **Mario Cuomo** have been selected as the counterpart commentators.... Controversy abounds over **Steven Bochco's** new CBS fall sitcom *Public Morals*, which has drawn the ire of some affiliates in conservative strongholds due to racy language content. The pilot episode of *Morals* (The show is about a vice squad unit whose primary responsibility is arresting prostitutes) has raised concerns about its level of foul language. **XXX Warning! adult language follows** - do not read if it offends you - look for the next set of Xs to continue - In the show the cops debate whether "penis" or "condom" should be used as their code word and refer to the female anatomy as "the pussyposse." **XXX** A Twin Falls, Idaho CBS affiliate has already indicated they will not air *Morals* if the offensive language isn't edited out. CBS spokesperson **Chris Ender** believes that the show is programmed in a "responsible manner." Bochco endured similar scrutiny when his hit drama, *NYPD Blue*, premiered on ABC a few years ago... Despite a TV GUIDE survey that shows 56 percent of respondents believe the show would be better off without her, Disney has

renewed **Kathie Lee Gifford's** *Live with Regis and Kathie Lee* contract for an additional year. Perhaps Mickey and Company felt that Kathie's pristine image will placate those religious conservatives who have initiated a boycott against Disney for their benefits to employee same-sex spouses? Or could it be that they really believe Ms. Gifford is an extraordinary talented talk show hostess with legions of loyal fans. Nah, that can't be it.... **Wayne Knight** (Newman of *Seinfeld* fame) co-stars opposite **Michael Jordan** and **Bugs Bunny** in the big screen Warner Bros. comedy caper *Space Jam* slated for release this fall.... **Prince** guests on **David Letterman's** *Late Show* Monday July 8. Prince has been working on his latest project, songs and stories for kids, with expectant wife **Mayte** who is due to deliver the purple one an offSpring around November. No word yet on the projects due date.... **Whoopi Goldberg** hams it up with Ms. Piggy and the gang on the July 7 episode of ABC's critically acclaimed *Muppets Tonight*, which airs at 6pm. The unlikely duo will perform a duet.... **Tywon Onn** (aka David) take note:



Deborah Harry will be the guest on **Lauren Hutton's** late night syndicated gabfest Monday July 8. **Lauren Hutton and...** airs nightly at 1am on UPN's Houston affiliate Channel 20. For those of you who are unaware, Harry is David's favorite singer and he defends her status in the music industry on a regular



basis.... **Trisha Yearwood** performs with the London Symphony Orchestra in a TNT special airing July 9 at 9pm on TNT.... A career retrospective of legendary country crooner **Lefty Frizzell** airs on TNT July 11 at 7pm on TNT.... **Christine Baranski** (CBS' *Cybill*) guests on **Rosie O'Donnell** July 9 at 9am on ABC affiliate Channel 13.... **Cher** visits with **Jay Leno** on NBC's *Tonight Show* July 12. Cher's latest hit, *One by One*, provides her with the distinction of ranking second as the female recording artist in the history of music with the longest span of top-40 hits. One by One is 50 year old Cher's 50th chart topping hit, according to Billboard magazine. Cher first topped the charts as a solo artist in 1963 with **Bob Dylan's** *All I Really Want To Do*. **Aretha Franklin** ranks first. Another Diva, **Tina Turner** is a close third.... **Jamie Lee Curtis**, **Richard Pryor** and theatrical producer **Florenz Ziegfeld** are a few of the subjects on this week's A&E Biography series airing nightly at 7 and 11pm.... **Top of the Charts**: Movie goes catapulted *The Nutty Professor* to the top of the box-office over the weekend last week. The **Eddie Murphy** remake of the **Jerry Lewis** classic re-establishes Murphy as a box office star. Professor took in \$25 million. **Metallica's** *Load* dominates the album charts and *The Crossroads* by **Bone Thugs-N-Harmony** remains the best-selling single in the country, according to Billboard. Ditto for **Dennis Rodman** and **John Grisham** whose titles, *Bad As I Wanna Be* and *The Runaway Jury*, respectively top the New York Times non-fiction and fiction best-sellers list. *Seinfeld* was the highest rated show of the week according to the A.C. Nielsen Co.... **Quote of the Week**: "The Internet is tailor-made for con men, the lonely and the bored. The word from here is beware." - **Ann Landers**, advice columnist and author of the current best-selling tome *Wake Up And Smell The Coffee*.

We Le' Phants would like to congratulate Cameron on winning the 1st Mr. Gay Space City All-American

Star Studded ^{7/6} Saturday Show
 Hostess: Tara Dion 11:00pm
 Special Guests: Kara Dion, Kourtney Van Wells, Black Velvett & talent night winner

South of the Border Night with Marilyn "Tostada" Marx
 Thursday, July 11, 11:00pm
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 • \$3.75 Pitchers & \$1.25 Mugs

7/5	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11:00 pm w/ TARA	FRI
7/6	Star Studded Saturday Show 11pm	SAT
7/7	\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day All Night	SUN
7/8	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11:00 pm w/ PAIVI	MON
7/9	Amatuer/Talent Night 11pm w/ PAIVI	TUES
7/10	Granny's Burgers!!	WED

Sisters Doing it for Themselves

By DEBORAH BELL

An alliance of Lesbians representing 15 community organizations met in a church basement on Saturday, June 29 to discuss needs, resources, and ideas. The meeting was called together by several community leaders so we could introduce ourselves and organizations to one another. It provided a networking mechanism so that each group could define its needs as well as the resources/assistance that each could offer to one another.

Heading the effort to have such a meeting was Cookie Davenport, President of LiB; Tori Williams and Joanne Reich of AssistHers; Anjeli Larkin-Byer, President of Sisters of Houston; and Jackie Doval of Nuevas Amigas and Gay & Lesbian Hispanics Unidos (GLHU). The group originally looked at over 70 groups to invite to this debut meeting. "We then tried to narrow it down to a manageable number by eliminating groups that are purely social or recreational. We ended up with a list of 25 organizations to invite to the first meeting," said Tori Williams.

The group had a "go round" in typical Lesbian fashion with each woman presenting information on their organization and what problems or needs existed where help was needed.

Tori went first describing the newly incorporated, AssistHers. The group was formed when a friend of hers was terminally ill and the woman and her lover needed support from friends. Women would take over meals and help out in various ways. Much like the Mautner Project in Washington, DC which was formed to help Lesbians with breast cancer and AIDS care teams—the group intends to form care teams and provide other ways of assisting Lesbians and their families during crisis. They are currently working on an 18 month project. They hope to provide 8 volunteers per client. The group will be the beneficiary of the Uncommon Legacy event with author Rita Mae Brown scheduled for Sunday, August 11.

Pat Gandy, President of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC) says there is a need for more Lesbians to be involved in the group. Lesbians have provided leadership within the organization and are taking important roles in party politics but among the general membership there are not as many women as men and they are needed.

Twentysomething, a group of young adults ages 20 to 29 address issues concerning Bisexuals, Lesbians and Gays. It is a caring information and social group for these folks and their friends. Twentysomething provides a safe and positive community atmosphere in which to share, learn and build friendships with each other. Carrie Laporte reported that there are about 75 members so far with about a two to one ratio of men and women, so more women would be welcomed. They also need leadership provided by sponsors or mentors. The group meets at Bering Church on Thursday nights for speakers and discussion and they also plan social activities.

African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA) is for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered people of African descent. More involvement by women is needed. The HOPE Project

which promotes AIDS awareness in the minority community is part of their mission reported Alicia Davis.

Gay and Lesbians Parents were represented by Glenda Redworth. She talked about how the group has meetings for families on the second Thursday of each month in a support group atmosphere. This is mainly for people who are in some type of family crisis, such as just coming out, how to tell the kids, divorce, problems with the kids, etc. Some are parents from former marriages, some are through artificial insemination or adoption and some of the people involved are "wanna-bes." A family activity is planned on the second or third weekend and they do a monthly newsletter. A special group for kids 'Just for Us' helps children in the 6th through high school grades. Houston hosted a national conference for their organization, which left them with an expense debt and they are still trying to retire that debt, so they need money, other resources and meeting space. Glenda cracked everyone up when she reported that the group needed more men, something not often heard at meetings of Lesbians. She explained that when the group first started there had been more men than women but now it was the other way around.

Judi Messina representing Heart-Song, Houston's Women Chorus explained that the group, which is composed of Lesbians and non-Lesbians considers itself "Lesbian Friendly." Some members are not Lesbians and some who are, worry about being outed due to their jobs (public school teachers). The group wants more visibility, more racial diversity and age diversity. They also really need women who sing soprano but welcome all women interested in singing. They are glad to sing at fund-raisers and various programs but they need plenty of advance notice so they can properly schedule and rehearse.

Lee Willis from the Montrose Activity Center reported that the center lost millions of dollars of funding for its alcohol and chemical dependent treatment program. They are currently getting some grant funding from both private and government sources but the need for money is always an issue. They want to do more outreach to the minority community. There are not any African-Americans on staff. The center is interested in broadening its education programs and offering diversity training. They need Lesbians to serve on the board.

Sally Huberts, from the Montrose Clinic joked about the confusion between the Clinic and the Counseling Center and their similar names. While the primary purpose of the clinic is HIV testing and counseling Huberts is on staff as a full time therapist that offers counseling at no charge as part of the community services program of the clinic. There is a women's program but it is in need of funding. They have a strong outreach to the deaf community and people at the clinic are deaf-culture sensitive. They need help in serving the minority women's population. They need professional (licensed therapists and medical staff) and they need publicity.

Next up was Carolyn Mobley of Metropolitan Church of the Resurrection (MCCR), where the meeting was taking place. Mobley is assistant pastor of the

church. She talked about the church and while women are involved in all programs and aspects of church life, they have never had an established women's program. They are looking into forming one. The Universal Fellowship of MCC has congregations in the United States and 15 other countries. It considers itself a non-denominational congregation with a special outreach to the Gay and Lesbian Community. The church also just held its first Vacation Bible School she was pleased to report.

A representative from the National Organization for Women NOW spoke on behalf of absent Houston Area Chapter President, Jeanne Sommerfeld, as Jeanne was attending the 30th National NOW Conference in Las Vegas. NOW has worked for Lesbian Rights as one of its priority objectives. There were Lesbians in NOW in the early years of the organization who did not want to be outed and were afraid their membership in NOW would do just that, and there were non-Lesbians who were afraid they would be identified as being Lesbians due to their NOW membership. NOW is active on a number of issues of concern to Lesbians and all women and has been at the forefront of taking action to remedy the discrimination women face. Houston Area NOW needs more active members to carry out the goals of the organization. They meet on the third Thursday of each month.

As Editor, I was representing the Houston Voice. I addressed the issue of having more coverage of the activities of the lesbian groups and the need to have the support of the community, including advertising dollars. The Voice can only offer so much based on its limited budget, so the more the community businesses support it, the better job it can do. The local focus of the Voice is an important point, since it is what people read when they want to know what is going on in the community. Also, offered to the group was training in how to do public relations and submissions to the Voice.

Pokey Anderson, one of the founders of the Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI) talked about that group and its concern for the health and well-being of the women in the community. They have been part of conducting a survey and sponsored a mammogram screening day. The group will be a beneficiary of The Houston Black Tie Dinner on Nov. 2. It is one of the few strictly lesbian groups of the twelve organizations slated to receive funds from this event. Pokey said she would be interested in tapping into the fund-raisers that are produced so successfully by men's service organizations, but did not know who to contact. She also pointed out that there are not any equivalent groups in the women's community.

Wearing yet a different hat, Pokey addressed her bookstore, Inklings which is co-owned with Annise Parker. She said that they have been serving as an un-official community center disguised as a business. She pointed out that most of the people in the room had posted flyers or held meetings at the shop at one time or another. The need for customers to keep the business going is crucial and the community needs to support the independent bookstores. The larger chains are driving many of them out of business.

Laura Hudman, Director of Marketing and Human Resources of Outsmart Maga-

zine said that they needed information from the groups to better cover women's issues. Their upcoming issue is focused on health. She reported that the deadline for publication is the first of every month. She brought along her friend Cay Dickson along so that she could help her report of the meeting.

One of the organizers of this meeting Cookie Davenport, President of Lesbians in Business, or as it has become known since its start five years ago, LiB-A Women's Empowerment Group, was the next speaker. She said that the group has been mistakenly perceived as a group for women who are self-employed or own their own business and that is not at all the case. The meetings are open to all women and membership is open to all self-identified Lesbians. With the intent to network and help women promote themselves and their work, there is in fact a strong social component to the group. The group meets on the third Friday of each month for a program meeting often with a prominent Lesbian speaker, such as the upcoming program with writer/activist Urvasi Vaid. The group hosts a number of special events throughout the year and has been especially successful with its New Year's Eve dance.

Anjeli Larkin-Byer, President of Sisters of Houston, also an organizer of this meeting spoke about her group which offers support, resources, social and discussions for African-American Lesbians. She said that they actually have one member who is Hawaiian, cracking everyone up by saying anyone who wants to identify as African-descent is welcome to do so as far as she is concerned, since we all evolved after all from the same woman who lived in Africa. She emphasized that as long as they were willing to pay the membership dues they were welcome. Anjeli further regaled the group by her declaration that the sometimes "incestuous" nature of our community sometimes makes it difficult for us to work together.

The main areas identified by the groups was the need for: Leadership, more women, more members, more activists, volunteers; Meeting space (free or low cost); money; resources; input; ideas; diversity; PR expertise; scheduling (so events don't overlap); visibility; involvement; outreach; and services for Women.

After a short break the group reconvened for a few suggestions on ways for all to accomplish their goals. One announcement concerned a new effort to raise money through a payroll deduction plan that is an alternative to United Way called Another Way Texas Shares. This organization often serves more progressive, liberal organizations. They are established in Austin and around the state (Texas Human Rights Foundation is a member) but so far the only Houston organization is The People with AIDS Coalition. This is a good opportunity for women's organizations in Houston to get in at this beginning level.

While no ready name for this alliance was decided, everyone agreed it would be useful to meet again. The next meeting of this "Sisters Summit" will be August 24th. Organizations interested in being involved can call Tori Williams at 552-9446 or Joanne Reich at 802-0115.



VOICE MAIL *Letter to the Editor*

Charlie's, Gay Friendly?

FROM A CONCERNED CITIZEN

In years gone by, Charlie's Coffee Shop was the place to meet and eat in the Gay community. For the past few years, it has lost its popularity, due to one reason or another.

There are still some of us who support this establishment on a regular basis in spite of these changes. However, in light of recent occurrences concerning one waiter in particular, I bring this matter to your attention.

This waiter was overheard a while back stating, "if I had my way, I would run all the 'queers' out of here." This caused a few more of the regular Gay patrons to leave with the intention of never returning as long as he was still employed. This supposedly was brought to the attention of management, but nothing was resolved. Depending on the day, you may get good service or you may more likely get served attitude. This from a person who is supposedly making his money in a service industry.

This same waiter was seen dealing with another customer who came in for coffee. The gentleman asked for his coffee, waited several minutes and then asked for his coffee a second time. He then picked up a coffee cup that was left on the table from the last customer and held it over the edge of the table. At that time, the waiter told him that if he dropped the cup, he would "Kick his ass." And the fellow again asked if he was going to get him a cup of coffee and the waiter's answer was, "I'll get you some damned coffee when you act like you've got some sense." The gentleman then promptly got up and left. This too was brought to the attention of management and again nothing has been resolved.

These incidents were bad enough, but today is the last straw for this regular patron. It has come to my attention that the waiter known as J.J. has once again shown his true colors. Today, an older gentleman (also a regular Gay customer) came into the restaurant, had his meal and got up to leave forgetting to pay his ticket, as he is frail and possibly suffers from dementia. This gentleman is a regular who comes in and sits alone bothering absolutely no one. His waiter went after him to remind him that he had not paid his ticket and J.J. also took it upon himself to get involved. The gentleman was coming back in to pay his ticket when he was accosted by J.J., who took it upon himself to threaten the man. After paying his ticket, the gentleman was waiting for his change and J.J. again approached the man and before the altercation was finished, J.J. had pinned the man's arm behind his back and pushed him down onto a table.

Now, I'm not sure what was said, but I can't imagine this older gentleman saying or doing anything to prompt this kind of action. Also, I can't imagine, after growing up in the service industry, that a waiter should be taking this kind of action. If there was a problem that extreme, call the police, that's one of the many functions that they serve. There is no reason for this kind of treatment of any customer, much less a regular one.

In a community as large and diverse as ours, we no longer have to put up with this kind of treatment. This archaic mentality has no place within an area that we call our own. As a proud Gay person, I will no longer frequent Charlie's as long as J.J. is still employed and am asking that others who respect the progress that we've made, will support me in this as well. There are many Gay owned and operated establishments, who give back to our community, that would appreciate our business. Instead of a place which obviously only welcomes our money. Thanks for allowing me to bring this to the attention of the community at large so we know what type of people and establishments that we are supporting.

Remember, if we allow it to happen, it will continue. As Gay people, we have a right to expect better from an establishment within our community.

The Houston Voice asked J.J. about the incident that took place and he admitted to it and says he will do the same to anyone who spills coffee. Management has not yet responded.

Thanks From The Queen Mother

FROM JACKIE EVELYN THORNE

It is an article of faith, learned from a much

wiser "drag queen" than I ever hope to be. Little Bobbie, who was show director during my days of performing at the Exile, that one should always express their gratitude for assistance rendered by others. Thus, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the entertainers that performed at Marlene Beago's and my show at Chances on June 28th. Due to their efforts, we were able to raise \$1,070. This will help fund the Red Ribbon Reading Room application for 501(c)3 charitable status, as well as begin the process of resurrecting the Marion Panzer Fund for breast cancer awareness, education and mammography cost assistance. Additionally, several cartons of books for the shelves of the reading room were received.

Not that I am any less grateful to the others, but I especially want to thank Empress XII Ruby Stone. Without her efforts this benefit would not have been anywhere nearly as successful as it was. Additionally I want to express my gratitude to my Reign XII counterpart, King Father XII Marlene Beago, for opening up her club for the Court's use. Despite all of her responsibilities relating to the club during the Pride events and the period leading up to it, she was always available for me to discuss various ideas for the show. The donation from the LVL-PWA fund, which we were challenged to match was proof of the concern that Marvin Davis and the organization he founded have for all of us.

Special thanks are due the other organizations which provided entertainers. The Southern Country cloggers were the high point of the evening, resulting in more applause than any other number. TGRA royalty candidates Javier Luna and Jamie Roberts also took time from their busy schedules to assist us. Ouisa, the Mother of Montrose, displayed her unique talents to the delight of all. Thanks to all of you.

As the finale said so well, truly, we are family.

Jackie Evelyn Thorne is Queen Mother XII of the RSICSS.

Entrapment Games

FROM LEON THOMPSON

Although our law abiding community finds it hard to believe, the latest sting by the Houston Police Department is taking place in San Jacinto Battleground Park.

Yes, it's the usual entrapment games. An officer tries to get you to expose yourself or he reaches into your car and grabs your leg, then with a partner manufactures a charge of indecent exposure.

No, I am not making this up—as some folks may think. This is Texas justice! It matters not that this park is in the town of LaPorte, which should be out of the HPD jurisdiction.

Many of us outdoorsmen were hoping the recent arrest of an FBI agent in Memorial Park in Houston would lead to a civil rights investigation and might stop the violations by HPD, but there is no sign of that yet.

Beware.

Kudos To Voice & Theatre Lab

FROM CHARLES C. PERRONCEL

What a Super production is Poor Super Man, and what a favor Theatre LaB Houston and the Voice decision makers have done our community. It took courage and commitment to the best.

Those of us who have lived David's plight of trying to "cure" the cute straight population, and those of us who have lived the double life of Matt's bisexual world will hear the ring of truth in every line.

On top of all that, is a cast which tums in flawless performances. There's not a weak link in the chain. They work like a well greased machine, churning inexorably to the sad liberation of the denouement. It is, at moments, more than one can stand. The willing suspension of disbelief is almost unwillingly wrenched from the viewer who must become a participant.

Cheers for Crad Duren, the Houston Voice management and staff, and to Theatre Lab for giving us this great gift.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Poor Super Man playing at Theatre LaB Houston and is underwritten by the Houston Voice. It opened to rave reviews. See review on Pg.2 —db

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SPORTS NOTES

Chain Gang Rides

The Houston Chain Gang Cycling Club was founded in 1990 to promote cycling activities and is planning its next rides for Saturday and Sunday July 6 and 7 both beginning at 8:00 am.

The Saturday morning ride will meet at Cleveland Park (corner of Jackson Hill and Memorial Drive) and be led by Barry. At 12 miles on fairly level terrain, this is considered an Easy Rider Ride.

The Sunday morning ride will begin at the Sam Houston Equestrian Statue and will also be led by Barry. This ride is also rated an Easy Rider.

For additional information on the Chain Gang Cycling Club, please telephone 863-1860.

Alaska Runners

FrontRunners return from the Anchorage Mayor's Midnight Marathon held

June 22. The runners reported good running weather and a surprisingly large crowd for a 26+ mile run in Alaska, at midnight. Larry Teeter picked up a 58th place finish completing the run in 3 hours and 18 minutes. Larry Hughes ran in 4 hours and 19 minutes while Al Salinas had injuries around mile 22 but was able to pull through with a good run the last mile.

Richard Peoples reports that he will be running in the Bare Buns Fun Run just outside of Seattle. This is a legitimate run where clothing is optional. For sure, most will be wearing at least shoes and of course a watch.

You don't have to be fast, naked or a marathoner to run with FrontRunners. For more information, telephone Rick at 522-8021.

Bowling Tournament

More than 240 bowlers from as far away as

Hawaii, Vancouver and Montreal will be arriving for the 11th Annual Texas Invitational Tournament with competition taking place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, this weekend.

The Friday evening schedule includes registration at the Marriott West Loop, the host hotel, and a Scotch Doubles at Emerald Bowl. The regular tournament competition starts Saturday at 9:00 a.m. with Singles and Doubles in two shifts. The bowling action Sunday has Team Competition starting at 9:00 am and concluding with the awards banquet at the hotel at 3:00 pm.

Social activities include time at Santa Fe Bar and Patio from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm Saturday evening with a continuance at J.R.'s and the Brazos River Bottom.

A fundraising Tournament, the beneficiaries for this year include: Milam House; Thomas St. Clinic; Lesbian

Health Initiative; and Body Positive/Houston who will be acknowledged at the awards banquet. After the banquet, many of the bowlers will be partying at Rich's.

For more information call Tom at 522-9612 or Andrea at 447-8133.

Lambda Rollers

Lambda rollerskating Club holds its next skate Night Wednesday July 10 from 8:00 pm until 10:00 pm at the Starlight Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road. Admission is \$5 and if necessary skate rental adds \$1. Everyone is welcome to skate, and a variety of events will be scheduled along with door prizes.

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please contact us at gayskate1@aol.com or telephone 933-5818 or visit the WEB Page site which is <http://members.aol.com/gayskate1/lambda.htm>.

Film Review Header

"Welcome To The Dollhouse"

REVIEW By K. DAVID COCHRAN

"What is it about seventh grade?" She's been called names by the popular girls. Her locker is decorated with those same caustic names. She's in love with the high school rock star. The one boy in her school who even knows that she is alive only wants to be around her to rape her. Such is the life of Dawn Wiener, the eleven year old central figure of the new film "Welcome to the Dollhouse."

Winner of the Best Picture Award at the 1996 Sundance Film Festival, "Dollhouse" is described by 36 year old director Todd Solondz as "a stark suburban comedy about a middle child in middle school in the middles of New Jersey. Sometimes hated, often reviled, seldom understood, Dawn tries in vain to put on a happy and friendly face as she struggles through the onset of what looks to be a long puberty. Life is generally grim, she sees, and sometimes it only gets grimmer."

"Is my experience, observation, and memory of this time of life unique? I don't think so," comments Solondz. "My film attempts to explore some of the realities of the transition into adulthood that this time in life throws into relief. It's not a 'coming of age' story, because I do not believe it is possible to come of age in seventh grade. The film is a comedy because that is the only way I know how to deal with excruciating torment, and I find something both funny and poignant in the struggle to endure humiliation."

And Solondz has had to endure his share of humiliation. A native of Newark, New Jersey, Solondz likes to tell of being at his creative peak by the age of eleven only to be reduced to "counting the days and checking them off" by twelve. In 1989, Solondz's first feature for the Goldwyn Company, "Fear, Anxiety and Depression" (he likes to call it "The Young and the Hopeless,") was such a disappointment that he was reduced to becoming an ESL (English as Second Language) teacher to newly arrived Russian immigrants; his



Heather Matarazzo as Dawn Wiener

dreams of film dashed forever. But time and friends made it possible for Solondz to revive his script for "Dollhouse," a project he knew would redeem himself "from the horror of my first feature experience."

One obstacle Solondz did face during this production was parents. There is no sex, nudity or violence in the film, but many parents were reluctant, if not unwilling, to allow their children to participate. "I would describe the material as 'unsettling' and some of the parents would retort, 'sick' or 'depressing,' which I took as a compliment."

Solondz did finally find his "Dawn" in a shopping mall, Heather Matarazzo. "Extraordinarily vivacious and friendly." "Alternately 'mature' and, naturally, juvenile." These are just a few of the director's comments about his leading woman. Matarazzo, who recently turned thirteen, is said to be very happy to have finished her own time in seventh grade.

Alternately painful and amusing, "Welcome to the Dollhouse" is a welcome change to other films that don't have a clue as to what real life is all about. "Welcome to the Dollhouse" is currently playing at the Landmark's River Oaks Theater.

Exercise keeps weight off better than diet

HOUSTON—(June 21, 1996)—Exercise alone, not diet and exercise, is the key to keeping the weight off, study findings show.

According to a two-year study conducted at Baylor College of Medicine's DeBakey Heart Center, people who exercise without following a restricted diet maintain their weight.

This, I confirms what we have known all along—people who diet fail at it because they feel deprived," said Dr. Ken Goodrick, an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Behavioral Medicine Research Center at Baylor. "By overcoming negative attitudes about exercise, people can learn to enjoy it and appreciate the benefits."

The study consisted of 127 overweight men and women who were placed in one of three groups—a diet and exercise group, a diet-only group, and an exercise-only

group.

The first year involved group instructional sessions led by registered dietitians. After the first year, the diet-only and diet and exercise groups lost the most weight. But the second year, both groups regained the weight. The exercise-only group lost weight and maintained the loss.

Exercise-only participants were taught the psychological and physical benefits of exercise and how to exercise vigorously, not strenuously. They gradually increased their exercise to 45 minutes three to five times a week.

The study findings were published recently in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association.

The DeBakey Heart Center is a joint program of Baylor College of Medicine and The Methodist Hospital supporting cardiovascular research, treatment and education.



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Community Calendar by Carolyn Roberts

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

Friday, July 5

* Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.

* HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. Call 523-8817

* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.

* 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Art Classes at AIDS Foundation Houston at 1:00 p.m. Call 526-1118.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 527-1348.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. Call 528-SAFE.

Saturday, July 6

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 863-1860.

* After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.

* Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. Call 780-4282.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. Call 528-SAFE.

* Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 a.m. Call 583-8408.

* Women in Combat: At Home and Abroad, a reception at the Jewish Community Center. 5:30 p.m. Call 470-6853.

* "Wallace and Gromit: The Best of Ardmman Animation" opens at the Landmark Theater. 7:30 p.m. Meet the artist before. Call 626-0400.

* Houston Symphony at Miller Outdoor Theater. 8:30 p.m. Call 520-3290.

* Astronaut Buzz Aldrin at Space Center Houston. 2:00 p.m. Call 244-2100.

Sunday, July 7

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.

* The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.

* FrontRunners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.

* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.

* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.

* Rainbow Riders go for a ride. Call

869-1686.

* Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-0638.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 a.m. Call 537-1348.

* P-FLAG meets at 2:00 p.m. Call 867-9020.

* Houston Symphony at Miller Outdoor Theater. 8:30 p.m. Call 520-3290.

Monday, July 8

* Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.

* HeartSong open rehearsal at the First Unitarian Church at 7:00 p.m. Call 947-1488.

* Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1223.

* Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. Call 539-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* AIDS Foundation Houston's Creative Writing Class meets at 3:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.

* Houston Area Women's Center Volunteer training. Call 528-2121.

* Miss Camp America's monthly meeting. Call 940-STAR.

* Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets at 5:00 p.m. Call 523-5539.

Tuesday, July 9

* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.

* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.

* Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00

p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* AIDA Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 488-4492.

* Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. Call 861-9149.

* PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 520-7870.

* Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Center. 8:00 p.m. Call 520-2083.

* Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Survivors of loss support group meets at 8:30 p.m. Call 778-2677.

* FrontRunners meet at 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.

* Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. Call 782-6066.

* Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's Ribbon Cutting for Post-Net. Noon. Call 523-7576.

* Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents support group meets at 8:30 p.m. Call 980-7995.

* AIDS Equity League meets at noon at Charlie's. Call 871-0092.

* Houston Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Committee meets to plan 1997 night parade at 7:00 p.m. Call 529-6979.

* Colt 45's Monthly Meeting. At the Brazos River Bottom. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-9192.

* Pesto Plus-a cooking class at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 3305.

* Tool Time-Surviving Home Maintenance Repair Challenges at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 1101.

* Biography—People Talking About Books About People at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 811-1981 X 6211.

* Introduction to Cooking 5X5X15 at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 3070.

* Intermediate and Advanced English as a Second Language at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-981 X 4110.

Wednesday, July 10

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 p.m. Call 537-1348.

* Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.

* GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.

* Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees. 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.

* Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 537-1348.

* Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 p.m. Call 933-5818.

* Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. Call 622-7250 for more info.

* Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m.

Call 529-0037.

* Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Women's Action Coalition (WAC) meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 867-9581.

* HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050.

* AVES offers free HIV testing at 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Bi-Net of Houston meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 467-4380.

* Healing and Happiness Through Wellness by Bart Loeser at AIDS Foundation Houston. At 7:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.

* Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-1000.

* Gay and Lesbian Hispanics Unidos meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 813-3769.

* The Mind/Body Connection: Alternative Approaches at 7:00 p.m. Call 524-2374.

* Basic Self-Hypnosis at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 5820.

* Clever Clever Techniques at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 3402.

Thursday, July 11

* Art Labs at The Art League. 1:00 p.m. Call 225-9411

* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.

* Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.

* KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Call 866-6505.

* Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. Call 622-7250.

* Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-3704.

* HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 942-0923.

* HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 p.m. Call 796-2272.

* Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

* HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. Call 782-4050

* Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. Call 738-RACE.

* Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 p.m. Call 629-1432.

* Free Aerobics Class at the Waistbasket at 7:30 p.m. Call 721-8282.

* International Conference in AIDS. Call 1-800-899-6888.

* Up Your Vitality at Leisure Learning Unlimited. Call 877-1981 X 3531.

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MEDIA ALERT

by Al Kielwasser

Demonizing Dykes

Over the past few years, the "National Enquirer" has attempted to reposition itself a trustworthy tabloid—the reputable exception in an otherwise disreputable market niche. To some extent, that effort has been sincere; the newspaper regularly scoops its competition on the "show biz" beat. After 25 years in the tabloid trade, however, the "Enquirer" is still peddling homophobic sleaze.

The newspaper's June 11 edition—a "special anniversary double issue"—contains a particularly offensive article, written by staff reporter Patricia Shipp. A huge headline sets the tone: "Pointer Sister Nightmare—Booze and Drugs with Lesbian Lover."

Shipp's article purports to be an "exclusive interview" with Bonnie Pointer, who "turned to the 'Enquirer' for help. ... and laid bare the Pointer Sisters' most shocking family secrets for the first time."

"Pop superstar Bonnie Pointer is desperately battling to save her sister June from a drugs-and-alcohol nightmare she fears is taking June straight to the grave," Shipp writes. "But heartbroken Bonnie says she's been thwarted by her baby sister's lesbian lover—who wants to keep June in a drugged-out haze so she can freely spend the stoned singer's money!" As if that weren't enough, Shipp adds: "The divorced singer's lesbian lover used to be her husband's mistress!"

Throughout the article, Shipp makes no distinction amongst "booze," "drugs" and "lesbian lover." All are collectively assumed in the "destructive downward spirals" of "June's demons." "We've all tried to intervene in this horrible situation," Shipp quotes Bonnie Pointer. "But June will physically fight anyone who tries to take away her 'stash' or her lover."

Even if such assertions are reality-based, Shipp's interview moves well beyond the "basic facts." June Pointer might very well be a lesbian AND a drug addict. In the "Enquirer's" homophobic fantasy, however, she becomes a LESBIAN DRUG ADDICT. The distinction is hardly trivial.

Whether motivated by malice or stupidity (or both), Shipp's style is a bigoted throwback. Historically, journalists have routinely included homosexuality on a "laundry list of social evils," reinforcing the spurious associations that fuel homophobia.

By contrast, heterosexuality is always incidental to scandal. When the drunks and drug addicts are straight, sexual orientation is not news. The "National Enquirer" has yet to run a headline decrying the nightmare of "Booze and Drugs with Heterosexual Lover."

ACTION/OPTIONS: Register complaints with Patricia Shipp, Staff Reporter, and Malcolm Hayes, Managing Editor, "National Enquirer," Lantana, FL 33464, 561-586-1111 (FL) or 310-657-9872 (CA), e-mail letters@nationalenquirer.com. Reaching a readership of millions, the "Enquirer's" circulation has ranked among the Top-25 magazines nationwide.

(Re) Viewing Lorde

To coincide with Pride Month, a number of PBS stations are broadcasting "A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde." Reviewing the documentary for "USA Today" (June 18), TV critic Matt Roush opens on a sour note: "Black. Lesbian. Feminist. Warrior. Poet. Mother. Sounds like the prototypical PBS profile subject, carrying a lioness' share of sociopolitical baggage. Audre Lorde chose these words to describe herself upon accepting the honorary position of New York state poet for 1991-93. (She would die of breast cancer in 1992.)"

Offering no credentials for his ability to judge either poetry or politics, Roush describes Lorde as "one of those activist-artists whose life may be their greatest work." He adds, dismissively: "One's appreciation for this loving film tribute may depend on how high the threshold for flowery statements of empowerment such as, 'I had to be everything I was.'"

Ultimately, Roush manages to rise briefly above his (unwarranted) condescension and he gives the documentary three stars

(out of four). "Filmmakers Ada Gay Griffin and Michelle Parkerson weave vignettes from Lorde's life story with snatches of her poetry and bluesy music over newsreel footage of the political realities that informed her work (the Rosenberg's execution, marches on Washington)," he writes. "... Lorde always found occasion to express her voice."

"Toward the film's poignant end, that expressive voice is cracked and strained from the ravages of her disease, but no less potent in its fusion of the political and personal," Roush concludes. "The intersection of art and life is where this 'Litany of Survival' flourishes."

"A Litany for Survival" is a co-presentation of P.O.V. and the Independent Television Service. "USA Today" boasts the nation's largest newspaper circulation, and reaches some six million readers daily.

ACTION/OPTIONS: As warranted, share constructive criticism ("USA Today," 1000 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22229, fax 703-247-3108, e-mail editor@usa-today.com) or supportive comments (PBS, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-739-5000 or 800-356-2626, fax 703-739-5295, http://www.pbs.org/insidePBS/email.html).

Briefs

Good Advice: Ann Landers—the undoubted queen advice columnist—has given a noteworthy boost to PFLAG's visibility and stature. In her top-syndicated column (June 18), Landers printed a letter from two PFLAG coordinators—Bob and Laurie—who thanked her "for stating that counseling will not change sexual orientation." The couple went on to recommend (in some detail) PFLAG's various services, and encouraged "both gay children and their parents contact their local chapter."

As the letter explained: "PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons, their families and their friends and offers support to help them cope with an adverse society. We provide education to enlighten an ill-informed public and advocacy to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunities for dialog about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human dignity."

In reply, Landers wrote: "Dear Bob and Laurie—I have received a lot of letters from parents who want to be supportive of their gay children. You are sure to get a big response. There are a great many people out there who need your help." Contact: Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, IL 60611-0562; Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1101-14th St., #1030, Washington, DC 20005.

Web Watch: "QWorld" (<http://www.qworld.org>) claims to be "one of the first (free) sites on the Web to offer interactive chat like that on the commercial online services." The site also features various information resources, including QZine (a monthly online magazine) and Visibilities (a lesbian magazine with an international staff). In its review of the site, "The Net" magazine notes: "Once you're ready to journey out of QWorld, the massive collections of links will help you follow the rainbow streaming through the net."

According to CRI producer Joe Dalton, "the record is doing very well. For many of the composers on this disc, 'Gay American Composers' will be their most successful recording, reaching a larger audience than they have before." Contact: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 900 N. Tucker, St. Louis, MO 63101, fax 314-340-3139, e-mail letters@pd.stlnet.com.

Soundbite: "It's not hard for audiences to find drag comedies, or the occasional liberal tearjerker. But other choices are more limited. Want to see a comedy in which the characters aren't funny simply because they're gay? Want to see a show about lesbians happily raising children? Then go see an independent film. ... because you won't see that in a studio release. Comic drag queens, Hollywood can handle. ... Happy lesbians and joyful gay sex scare it to death."—Stephen Whitty, staff film writer, in the "San Jose Mercury News" (June 17, 1996).

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Friendly and not so friendly skies

United Airlines' Gay and Lesbian Employees Unite

LOS ANGELES—Gay and lesbian employees of UNITED AIRLINES (NYSE: UAL) have joined forces creating a new employee group, UNITED AT UNITED.

A grass-roots organization, UNITED AT UNITED was originally formed by a group of employees at the Los Angeles reservations center. Recently, United Airlines has been making initial attempts to tap into the highly lucrative gay travel market. In response to this marketing endeavor, numerous inquiries by employees, as well as the changing work environment, UNITED AT UNITED has grown to be a system-wide (worldwide) organization.

"It is entirely appropriate that the world's largest employee-owned company strive to meet the needs of its diverse employees," states founder, David Tomb. "Diversity is something we as an airline have been professing for a long time now. Isn't it time we privately practice what we publicly preach?"

"In an effort to meet the changing needs of the traveling public, United Airlines has made some significant policy

changes. In 1995, the emergency travel waiver was changed to include "lifetime domestic partners." While this was a notable change, that policy only applies to the public; there are no policies in place acknowledging employees' "lifetime domestic partners."

Publicly, United Airlines will be sponsoring "the Quilt" in Washington, D.C. Ironically, last week a United employee in the same city lost his partner to AIDS. Even though both individuals were employees of United Airlines, the surviving employee was forced to take personal unpaid leave during his time of grief; any other employee would be given three days paid leave if the same occurred to an "immediate family member."

"United Airlines has made some bold, positive policy changes that we are very excited about," Tomb continued. "Now we want to encourage our company to continue in that direction, demonstrating consistency in attitude toward both our 'internal and external customer.'"

Some of the goals of UNITED AT UNITED include: acknowledgment of the contributions lesbian and gay employees have made to United Airlines' success; domestic partner benefits (including health, travel, family leave, and pension ben-

efits); specified diversity/sensitivity training; AIDS awareness and education; official policy regarding HIV-infected employees; monitoring allegations of harassment based on sexual orientation; and specific recommendations for charitable contributions.

Meantime, at Air France

An employee of AIR FRANCE claims the airline is guilty of discriminatory practices toward some of its employees for reasons of their sexual orientation. Air France, like all major and minor airline companies, offers employee benefits from transportation opportunities for themselves and their "loved ones." This opportunity permits them to obtain, for example, if they are flight crew, a reduced-price ticket for their children, their spouses or their "partners" so that they may accompany them for Christmas, New Year's, birthday or during their vacation. This privilege is quite justified when one is aware of the difficulties for airline personnel to lead a well-adjusted social or family life when they spend the better part of their time far away from home.

Hubert Perdigon, a flight

attendant with the French carrier reports that an Air France agent of heterosexual orientation can obtain this transportation opportunity for his/her partner in quite a simple fashion: it suffices to make a simple declaration on ones word. But if your "partner" happens to be of the same sex as your own, it is "mission impossible." In order to spend New Year's or a birthday together, your partner must pay the full-fare price, whereas the rest of the crew, if not gay, may choose to spend this time together with their loved ones (boy/girl friend, wife, husband and/or children).

"On many occasions I have addressed my concerns to the competent Air France service in order to know if change in company policy is being considered only to learn that Air France has no intentions of innovation in this matter," he states.

While the Air France aligns itself on the competition in a number of areas. That other European airlines companies (SAS, KLM, LUFTHANSA, AER LINGUS, SWISSAIR, BRITISH AIRWAYS) and North American airlines no longer engage in this type of discrimination seems to have escaped Air France's management. Mr. Perdigon says, "Air France should abide by the European Parlia-

ment Recommendation concerning sexual orientation, and here as well, Air France seems blocked." The example offered is that if a wife/husband were to die, Air France would automatically accord their straight employee several days of mourning for the deceased. A homosexual employee however, if their partner were to die, would have no other resource than to enter into a long explanation with management in order to obtain several days of leave. Mr. Perdigon suggests the it is time that "This hypocrisy and flagrant injustice should be stopped." He also wonders if a boycott of Air France by the Gay and Lesbian community would be helpful.

"Does France, the birthplace of the Rights of Man, consider all her citizens to be equal in the hope that injustice may be repaired?" he asks.

For more information or support: Hubert Perdigon, 8 rue du general Camou, 75007 PARIS FRANCE.

Complaints: AIR FRANCE, MR. Pierre Callard—JFK AIRPORT International Building—West Wing—Jamaica, NY, NEW YORK 11 430.

AIR FRANCE Mr. Bouloux—International Airport, P.O. BOX 251627, San Francisco, CA 94125.

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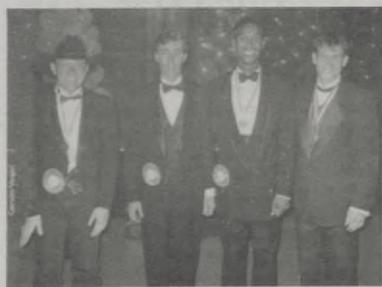
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Steve (1st), Robert (2nd), Cameron (Winner), and David (Mr. Texas All-American) at the 1st Mr. Gay Space City All-American.



NLA:H Guest bartending at the Venture-N

At 11:00 pm, watch the swimsuit male strip contest!

The one and only Sambvca Sisters and guests are putting on a show tonight at PastTime at 5:00 pm. "Wigs-R-Us" is a benefit for the Colt 45's Stone Soup program. Donations of canned goods and personal hygiene products are needed. Be sure to stop in, watch those crazy "girls," and have a drink or two with bartender Ed!

The fuzzy men and furry cubs of the Houston Area

Bears will be guest bartending "top" side this afternoon at the Venture-N. Their paws stir cocktails starting at 5:00 pm.

Head out to BerryHill II tonight and fall in love with the "Two of Hearts." This band starts playing at 8:00 pm.

Brunch on Sundays at the 611 Hyde Park Pub starts at 12:30 pm.

Meet your friends today at the BriarPatch! Wind down your weekend with giant martinis and send your requests to the keyboard. The BriarPatch, where extraordinary friendships begin!

The Ripcord offers \$1.50 well cocktails and domestic longnecks all day and all night this and every Sunday!

Trash! Trash! The Montrose Mining Company has trash disco all day and all night. Boogie, oogie oogie for \$1.75 well Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers, Cape

Cods, Madras, and Kamikazes and \$1.75 domestic longnecks! Check out the tropical patio which features the "double bust." Enjoy 2 busts for a \$2 (optional) buy-in. The traditional beer bust with 25¢ refills of ice cold Miller Lite Draft or frozen

Ritas for \$1 refills. The patio opens at 1:00 pm and the party lasts all night. The men, the music, the Mine!

Plaza 5200 offers up a heap of BBQ today! Grill your own steak, chicken, or sausage as well as ranch beans, stuffed spuds, and a big salad bar for only \$5 to \$7 per person.

Res-Erection Sundays present "The Return of Drag!" Enjoy an old-fashioned drag extravaganza with hostess Kofi and her guests National EOY '95 Coco and Miss Gay Texas US of A at Large '95 Whitney Paige. Plus the fabulous men of South Beach perform a Las Vegas style strip revue at 11:00 pm. The doors open at 7:00 pm and well cocktails are 50¢ until 11:00 pm. Or you can enjoy \$1.50 longnecks and frozen Ritas or \$3.50 Absolut vodka cocktails all night long!

Monday, July 8

Check this out! Incognito offers both male



Behind the bar at Pacific Street



Of course I'm a virgin!

and female exotic dancers tonight with MC Cookie LaCook and DJ Byron Sweat! Cool off with 50¢ draft beer all night long!

It is Karaoke night at BerryHill II. Join in this contest and maybe you will win the \$50 cash prize. BerryHill opens their doors at 6:00 pm and happy hour runs until 10:00 pm.

Something new on Mondays at Gentry. \$3 Skyy Vodka Martinis are on special all day and all night! The Boy Toys start at 9:00 pm.

Domestic longnecks are only a buck at Mary's, naturally this and every Monday starting at 8:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

Boxers, booze, and bods are on the menu at the Ripcord tonight! Stop in to find out which bartender has the biggest box!

Want to see something scary this morning? Well, check out the new Monday morning bartender at the Brazos River Bottom. Most of you have seen JT (Miss Montrose) in the wee hours of the morning, but not this early!

Tuesday, July 9

Mary's is the kind of bar

That isn't ever very far

Gaye, Cliff and the Gang

Serve up Cuervo with a bang

Be sure to put 2 bucks in the jar.

Head over to RockyJava any time today for a fabu selection of coffees, pastries, and tasty sandwiches! RockyJava is located at 220 Avondale.

Paivi Lee Love hosts the amateur talent contest tonight at E/J's. This is a great chance to try out a new act! The curtain rises at 11:00 pm.

Wednesday, July 19

Something different for lunch today? Head to the Trading Post Ice House and ask CJ to make you one of her world-famous sandwiches! You can wash it all down with \$1 draft beer! If you need directions, call 726-1963.

Take a mid-week break featuring beer specials starting at 5:00 p.m. Then at 8:00 pm, listen to the lilting sounds of Susan Maser. Where else but Mela's Tejano Country?

Mary's, naturally has drink specials all day and all night this and every Wednesday!

Hot beef on the patio tonight at E/J's! Burgers by Granny!

Sexy Shiela Lennon is on the stage of Chances tonight from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am. You too can join her for a little karaoke!



Yes, I AM a little devil!

Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

Congrats to Jackie Thorne and Marlene Beago on their fundraiser at Chances this past Friday. \$1,070 was raised for the Red Ribbon Reading Room and the Marion Panzer Breast Cancer Awareness Fund! Keep up the good work!

Congrats to Cameron, the 1st Mr. Gay Space City All-American!

Friday, July 5

It is "Boyz Nite Out" at with hot, hunky, horny male dancers bumpin' and grindin' to the beats by DJ Tony Powell! Check out Club Incognito tonight!

There is a special show tonight at Cousin's by the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star! Curtain time is 11:00 pm.

Friday fore play is the "only" way to start your weekend off at Pacific Street. The doors open at 7:00 pm with no cover until 9:00 pm.

In the mood for some C&W tonight? Scoot down to the Brazos River Bottom for Rick Stancil and the band. They will be on stage from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.

The guys and gals of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star will be guest bartending "top" side tonight at the Venture-N. They tip their tiara for tips starting at 9:00 pm.

The Lazy J and China Doll Productions present a talent/strip contest tonight at 10:30 pm. This show is sponsored by Leather Forever, Aphrodite Salon, and We Deliver Videos!

There is an 8-ball tournament tonight at the Lazy J. This tournament is only open to league players.

Red, white, and you video dance party tonight at Heaven. Salute to 75¢ well cocktails and \$1.75 Miller products all night long! DJ/VJ Steve Underwood makes you get up and dance, dance, dance!

It is RJ the DJ with all your favorite Tejano and Country tunes at Mela's Tejano-Country tonight!

"Absolut"-ly anything tonight for \$3.50 at Gentry except the Boy Toys. They start at 6:00 pm.

TGIF happy hour at J.R.'s Video Bar runs until 10:00 pm with ice cold doubles in big tall glass! There are hourly drawings for tickets to see the Alley Theater's "The Nerd" until 1:00 am. Don't forget that there is never a cover and always a groove at J.R.'s Video Bar.



Party Pals at Chances!

Saturday, July 6

Work on your summer tan without tan lines at Club Houston. Today and tomorrow, the Club Houston has a pool party from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm with a catered buffet and refreshing beverages.

Cool off this afternoon at the air-conditioned Trading Post Ice House! It is not JUST an ice house! They have \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day Saturday to keep your pool and dart games running smoothly!

Miss Zack, Sivi Ross, Paivi Lee Love, and Tony Santana fill the stage of Cousin's tonight at 11:00 pm.

There is no cover if you are in (or out of) erotic leather tonight at Pacific Street. The ultimate erotic party continues tonight. Go and explore your fantasies! Pacific Street, where real men still dance!

The stars on the stage of the Lazy J tonight are Diane Jackson and a secret guest. Join hostess and MC Patsi' Kline for this 10:30 pm show.

Join in the 800 Pacific block party tonight! 75¢ well cocktails! 9:00 pm to 9:30 pm at Santa Fe, 9:30 pm to 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10:00 to 10:30 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar and then to Heaven for no cover until 11:00 pm.

Shelby St. John and Stacy Grummer host a fundraiser for AVES at Bacchus II tonight at 9:30 p.m. The guest stars Day-Leigh Edwards, Regina Dane, Nicole Blake, and others will make this show a success. And get this, Nevada will be put in drag! (Did I miss hell freeze over?)

The star-studded Saturday super show at E/J's spotlights Kara Dion, Kourtney Van Wells, Black Velvet, and the winner of the Tuesday night talent contest. Join MC Tara Dion at 11:00 pm as she gets the show started.

Dance your tushie off tonight at Club Inergy!

Shut up and dance tonight at XTC!

Sunday, July 7

The doors of Incognito open at 6:00 pm. There is no cover and 75¢ well cocktails until 10:00 p.m. At 11:00 pm sharp, watch the talents of Porche Paris, Dominique Deveruax, Chanel Nicole, Chevelle Brooks, and Tiffany Brooks. MC Cookie LaCook starts off the show.

The Sunday stars at Cousin's are Miss Zack, Leah Halston, Ashlee Houston, and Ashley! This 11:00 pm show is always entertaining!

The "Chocolate Covered Cherries Band" aka Gistand & Chaney have the Motown sound today at Chances. They are on stage from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Oh La La! Get 99¢ well vodka juice drinks at J.R.'s Video Bar from noon until 11:00 p.m. Karaoke fun is from 6:00 pm to 11:00

Other Important Stuff!



Party pals!

Thursday, July 20

Work out, lay out, or just hang out at Club Houston. The Club has an outdoor pool, sundeck, steam room, dry sauna, whirlpool, Pro gym, free weights, gym instructor, dressing rooms, lockers, and really helpful staff!

Something new at Cousin's! This and every Thursday there is a talent contest with \$50 to the winner! Try your act out on the crowd at Cousin's!

It is steak night at the 611 Hyde Park Pub. The grill is lit from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Melon Balls are on special for only \$2 all day and all night at Gentry. The Boy Toys bounce on stage at 9:00 pm.

What is going on at the OutPost tonight? You will just have to stop in to find out!

South of the Border night at E/J's features the talents of Marilyn Marx and Jessica Lynn, Shelby St. John, Paivi Lee Love, and Rochelle Stevens. Be sure to try one of Granny's tacos and have a test tube shot of Tequila! The show starts at 11:00 pm.

Other Important Stuff

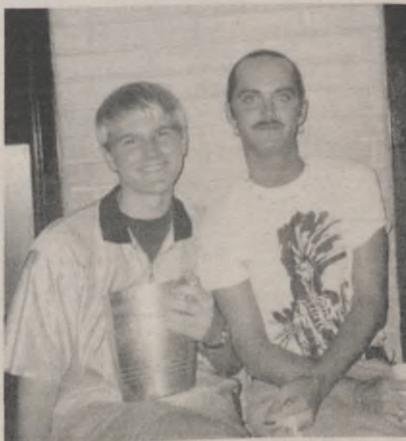
We welcome "Top to Bottom Cleaning" to our family of advertisers. Call Kelly Polasek or Miguel Vanegas @ 942-0178 to find out all they do! Check out their ad on page 18.

We also welcome the Chapultepec restaurant to our family of advertisers. They are open 24 hours a day. Be sure to clip the coupon on page 13 and tell them you saw it in the Houston Voice.

We also welcome Ms. Jackie to our family. Ms. Jackie can tell you all about your life, answer any questions, and she also does horoscopes. Call Ms. Jackie at 433-7999 or see the ad on page 19.

Mark your calendars for July 26, 27, and 28 for "Man to Man: Homosexuality Aiming at Wholeness," a psychodrama workshop for gay men. Call Director Marc Treadwell @ 800/673-4377 for more info.

"Rhinestones and Studs III," the Miss Camp America pre-pageant party is on Friday, July 12 @ 8:00 p.m. There is a raffle, silent auction, and special guest star,



Guarding the door at Heaven.

comedian Amy Boyd. Amy is the star of night clubs, cabaret, and video. She has been an entertainer at the Improv, Cruise Lines, 1994 Gay Games, and co-starred with Judy Tenuta, Lois Bromfield, Helen Reedy, and Georgia Ragsdale. There is a \$2 donation requested at the door. If you would like more info, call 949-STAR.

Comedian Shann Carr will be making another Houston appearance at the Mr. Texas Drummer Contest at Pacific Street during the August 9-11 weekend! If you have not had the opportunity to hear her, she will keep you rolling on the floor laughing. And besides that, the contestants for Mr. Texas

Drummer will keep your attention! I'll have more info as it becomes available.

Leather Leather is having a sale! Get more bang for your buck with no down payments, no payments, no interest for one full year, on approved credit of course! This special runs thru July 8. Leather Leather is probably the largest leather furniture specialty store in the U.S. Check out their showroom at 7519 Westheimer to see what I mean! If you have more questions, see the ad on page 4 or call 977-9393.

The annual Christmas in July Carnival is at the Brazos River Bottom on July 14! There will be games, cotton candy, homemade tamales, corn dogs, games, live entertainment and tons of fun. This benefits the LVL PWA Holiday Fund.

This year's Pride Parade and Pride Fest activities are available on a 2 hour VHS video hosted by local Access Houston TV celeb "Mad Dog" Matt Locklin and nationally known comedienne Nancy Ford. The "official" Pride Committee authorized video includes 3 camera set-up and footage of pre and post parade activities. One of the highlights includes Candace Gringrich's Pride Fest speech and a pride message and interview with Janis Ian. Call Mad Dog Matt at 902-2231. The video costs only \$19.96 and sales will benefit the Pride Committee of Houston and AIDS Housing Coalition Houston.

Steven David is still looking for print models. Call his photography studio at 787-0625.

This week's features at the french Quarter are "Men of Holland" and "Hard Corps."

Leather By Boots will be moving into their new location on July 10! The grand opening is July 13!

Whores! They are all whores! The Garden Party's theme this year is "Hooker's Ball." Tickets are available at Basic Brothers or by calling 524-1188.

"MWMT" Minority & White Men Together is the perfect solution for black, white, brown, yellow, red, gay, bi, and curious men. If you are tired of being single, then this group is for you. They will be having get-togethers, discussions, outings, and many opportunities to meet the kind of men you have been dreaming of and wanting to meet. For an invitation to the first mixer, call Michael at 867-9511.

Gentry kicks off their "Social Club" this week with \$1.50 well cocktails, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, and

\$3.50 Absolut Martini every day until 7:00 p.m. Gentry is a great place to meet up with friends or make new ones.

Basic Brothers, your out and proud clothing store, has jillions of neat clothes, jewelry, and accessories. Stop in the store at 1232 Westheimer and check it out!

Marlene and the staff of Chances are putting you on alert! Keep watching! The "Gong Show" is coming!

Birthday Corner

A happy birthday to Bob M. of the Houston Area Bears!

Poor Super Man

I went to see "Poor Super Man," a play by Brad Fraser, at Theater LaB Houston. (I'm no theater critic, that is Javier's job.) This was one of the most moving plays I have ever seen. I chuckled, giggled, laughed out loud, smiled, frowned, felt my heart wrenching and my eyes misting up. It is about love, life, lust, lies, and loss. This play covers just about every aspect of our community's subjects from homosexuality, lesbianism, heterosexuality, transgenderism, cross dressing, to have or not have children, married "straight" men sleeping with men, artists, working class people, smart and snappy journalists (I like that category), drugs, alcohol, and well, way to many to list. I felt like David, Matt, Shannon, Violet, and Kryla were actually there, telling me their story. It was really Rodney Walworth, Paul Nicely, Adrian Cardell Porter, and Anne Quackenbush doing superb acting. Don't miss the opportunity to see this play! Call Theater Lab at 868-7516 for ticket info! Stop! Put down this newspaper, do not pass go, and go to the phone right now!

At the Mine!

Rodent Droppings

It is getting closer! My first Ferret Owners meeting in 2 weeks! I can't wait! LW and I were out shopping Saturday and the pet store had a litter of 6 week old kits! I want another baby! But, we will have to wait until I can find a black-eyed white baby!

Disclaimer!

As usual my world coveted disclaimer is in force! The Houston Voice and I take NO responsibility for the contents to follow! There has been no investigation, no verifying of facts! I never let the truth get in the way of a good story!

On with the droppings: Scotty (Club Houston): I heard that you fell asleep at the front window with the "I'll be right back" sign on your head!

Mike (Gentry): "Oh Woody-ful for spacious skies. . . ."

Ronnie (Venture-N): So, you are the new slave boy!

Val (Gentry): You had to put up the sling on the couch twice?

John (Venture-N): I overheard this! "When John



The Texas Riders on a party run!

bends over, it looks like the Lincoln Tunnel!"

Eddie (PS): What is this I hear about you lowering your standards?

Michael (Venture-N): You have been doing WHAT on the balcony?

Craig (hangs at Gentry): So, who exactly does hang out at QT's?

David (hangs at PS): Torn between two loves are we?

Darla K. (hangs at Gentry): So how much does Victor (Gentry) charge? \$10 or \$25?

Doug D.: And I quote: "You don't judge people, you judge personality."

Jimmy (hangs at PS): So, I hear your new drag name is Fancy?

Jennifer Ellsworth: And I quote: "I know gravity has been cruel to me..."

Paul Stewart (hangs at E/J's): I hear you took 12 cans of Spam to Mexico and came back with 12 notches "on your headboard!" Spam is a delicacy and I guess you are too!

Lady Lee (hangs everywhere): I hear you have a new husband! I wonder how long this one will stay?

Ray M. (Hangs on any bar stool available): A little birdie told me that your stable is full again. How do you keep track of all of them?

Woody (BRB): You were overheard talking about rubber sheets and mineral oil! What ever do you use them for?

Overheard at Mary's: "He has a butt so big it could serve cocktails!"

JT (Miss Montrose): I see you just can't work anywhere else but a bar that has a "street" in its name!

Jim (Ripcord): And I quote: "I'm not looking for a relationship, just a financial backer!"

Barbara Walker (Ms. Chances): I hear you finally got laid!

Sam (BRB): So how was that again? "You put it in the slats and the fingers slide right into the hole!"

Have a great week!

Cuervolyn



JT and Tommie Sue Ellen behind the bar at the BRB.

CLASSIFIEDS

To advertise in the Houston Voice Classifieds call (713) 529-8490 or (800) 729-8490 if not in Houston. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

Free Month with 12 month lease. Call 667-5620 or stop by 5600 Chimney Rock, just south of 59. Open 9-6 daily.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Order by mail - OFFICIAL 1996 HOUSTON GAY/LESBIAN PRIDE PARADE VIDEO (2) hr. VHS tape. Just \$19.96. To: Infinite Index Independent, P.O. Box 66690, Houston, TX 77266. Benefits Pride Committee of Houston & AIDS Housing Coalition Houston.

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Ground floor. New company introducing "wealth building" program. Learn how to earn weekly income from home. Call (713) 686-8158 for info.

GREY PARTY 14

If you have moved or want more information please write to: P.O. Box 130773, Houston, TX 77219 or E-Mail GreyParty@AOL.com

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3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath townhouse condo; fireplace; vaulted ceiling and wall-to-wall mirrors in master bedroom, large fenced patio excellent for gardeners; 2 covered parking spaces; large closets plus attic and outside storage; air conditioner only a few months old; about 1,500 sq. ft.; friendly towards our community. Only \$26,000. Call 729-9316 for showing. Agent.

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MONTROSE: Large 1 bedroom duplex. C/A heat. Great location. \$395 - Thom 630-0955 or 813-5513 (pgr).

3600 MONTROSE - Penthouse 1/1. Stunning skyline view. Ultra contemporary. Marble & mirrors everywhere. Hi tech kitchen w/Sub Zero & Jenn Air. All bills paid. \$1,000/mo. Agent 523-1600.

Montrose: one bedroom apartment on bus line. Small quiet complex, security gates. Very low utilities. \$375/mo. Call (713) 521-7712.

SHARON PARK VILLAGE - Galleria area - Offering 1 & 2 bedroom apartments with 8 sparkling pools, fitness center and on-site store and dry cleaners. A gated community set in lush courtyards will complement your lifestyle. No application fee with this AD. Prices start at \$385. 1

FOR SALE

Bookcase headboard, king-size water bed frame w/reg. king mattress, 2 matching side chest of drawers and 2 bookcases. Good condition. All together - \$150! Ray 846-3339 (pgr).

HELP WANTED

DELI HELP

Cook/waitstaff: Are you working in a dead-end environment? Come work with winners. We are expanding and looking for you if you have a positive personality, have worked with food and can take the pressure of a fast-paced, customer oriented deli in the historic Heights. We provide excellent hours and working atmosphere. Call Doug Scott at 864-3354 for an appointment. **CARTER & COOLEY COMPANY.**

Now accepting applications for barbacks & door staff. Apply in person: 1318 Westheimer. Wed. - Fri., 1pm-3pm.

September Opening: Seeking dependable hard working student (mornings). \$7.50/hr. cash. Mail resume & recent photo to: 3703 Roseland, #17, Houston, TX 77006.

Experienced part-time framer needed for **MARTIN'S FINE ART GALLERY.** Send resume to 1641 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77006.

Seeking energetic, honest, dependable and hard working individuals who want the opportunity to grow with a service oriented company. Positions available include floor/desk staff. Apply in person only. No phone calls. **MIDTOWNE SPA, 3100 Fannin.**

HOUSTON'S #1 LEVI-LEATHER CRUISE BAR - THE MONTROSE MINING COMPANY - is accepting applications for honest, hardworking team players to work as bartenders, barbacks and doorstaff. Apply Mondays 12-2 p.m. with a recent photo. No phone calls. **MONTROSE MINING COMPANY, 805 Pacific, Houston**

Here's your chance! **CHANCES** is looking for bartenders, barback & waitstaff. Call 523-7217 after 2pm. Ask for Marlene.

The **CLUB HOUSTON** now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person. Mon. - Thurs., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 2205 Fannin

GENTRY is accepting applications for door, barbacks and bartenders. Please apply in person at 2303 Richmond Ave. from 2 pm to 6 pm. A recent photo is required. No telephone calls please.

The **BRB** is accepting applications for all positions. Apply between 9am - 4pm at 2400 Brazos. Photo required. No phone calls.

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LOOKINGFOR KATHERINE BEATY (K)
Trying to locate my old friend K. ANYone with any information please call Diana at 813-2927 (please leave a message)

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a rollercoaster - always safe, but doesn't always feel that way. **DADDY BLADE**
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RECIPES BY KUNTRY KIDD

Pasta again!! That's right! I tried another recipe last night that is pretty good. Each morning during the week, I start my day off with "Good Morning America." Great show for those of you that have never watched it. My good friend Maggie does, but Maggie is a smart "cookie." Their weather man, Spencer Christian, fixed a pasta dish that sounded interesting to me, so I gave it a shot. Another friend of mine, "Cuervolyn" will like it too because there is not on piece of meat in it. Instead of meat you use lentils. That right, lentils! It has an aroma similar to chile when you are preparing it. Give it a try, what have you got to lose?

Lentil Spaghetti Sauce

- 1 tsp. olive oil
- 1/2 chopped onion
- 1 clove garlic minced
- 1 15-oz. can tomato sauce
- 1/2 cup chopped tomatoes (I use Roma)
- 1 C. water
- 1/4 C. lentils
- 1/4 tsp. oregano
- 1/3 tsp. basil
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. thyme
- dash of tobasco



Heat the olive oil in a fry pan and sauté the onion and garlic, do not brown! Next add the chopped tomatoes and simmer for about 5 minutes. Next add oregano, basil, salt, thyme and tobasco and mix well. Bring to a boil and then turn down heat and simmer for 45 minutes.

When I made this I doubled the recipe, added more chopped tomatoes, and I think it could have had a little more tobasco sauce than what the recipe called for. But that is why cooking is sooooo much fun, you can play around with a basic recipe and either make it better or wish you had done what the recipe called for. This recipe is tasty and quick!

Use the sauce over your favorite pasta. I usually like penne, but this was really nice over angel hair.

Almost forgot! Use dry lentils and be sure to wash them before adding to the sauce. The dry lentils will be done after 45 minutes, and add a nice chewing texture to the pasta. You won't even miss the meat!!

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD



The Great American Puzzle

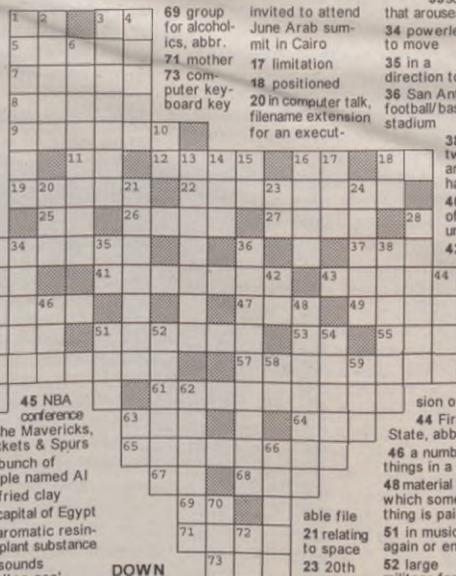
TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg
ACROSS

- 1 Canadian province with capital Regina, abbr.
- 3 the male
- 5 implicit
- 7 people of Ireland
- 8 ditch; moat
- 9 lonesome
- 11 Spanish for 'the'
- 12 old Irish alphabet

16 Latin for 'that is,' abbr.

- 18 type of electric current, abbr.
- 19 land-working peasants
- 22 worldwide computer network
- 25 OX upside down
- 26 wine
- 27 usually dry stream bed
- 29 shortened spelling of (Eleanor Nell) Gwynne, 17th century mistress of Charles II
- 33 1996 was San Antonio's 105th annual celebration of this
- 37 early 20th century American botanist, educator or Carver, initials ("Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses.")
- 39 make white
- 41 Shakespear
- 1604 tragedy
- 43 cut into shreds



DOWN

- 1 suppresses
- 2 arid southern African plateau
- 3 a man's own person, 2 words
- 4 Fred Mertz' wife
- 6 U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development, former San Antonio mayor
- 10 new way of saying hello
- 13 Pasadena nightclub where Urban Cowboy was filmed
- 14 Scottish for one
- 15 Treasure State, abbr.
- 16 only Arab League member not invited to attend June Arab summit in Cairo
- 17 limitation
- 18 positioned
- 20 in computer talk, filename extension for an execut
- 21 relating to space
- 23 20th century American jurist Warren, chief justice of U.S. Supreme Court, initials ("It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive.")
- 24 millions of registered voters in Texas
- 28 medium-sized American wildcat
- 30 19th century American poet Whitman, initials ("I don't trouble my spirit to vindicate itself or be understood; I see that the elementary laws never

- 31 WHY in a mirror
- 32 daughter of one's sister
- 33 something that arouses desire
- 34 powerless to move
- 35 in a direction toward
- 36 San Antonio's football/basketball stadium
- 38 between arms & hands
- 40 rulers of Russia until 1917
- 42 a ver-

- 44 First State, abbr.
- 46 a number of things in a line
- 48 material through which something is painted
- 51 in music, again or encore
- 52 large military force
- 54 Swedish-born American actress Garbo
- 58 the other Every brother from Don, initials
- 59 deviate
- 62 brightly shining
- 63 abbr. for foot-candle, 1 lumen per sq.ft.
- 66 cry of a sheep
- 70 American Automobile Association
- 72 10th and 9th consonants of the alphabet
- Solution elsewhere this issue

GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 5 - 11, 1996



IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: This should be a lively time for you in terms of business, career and moneymaking activities. Your income and earnings will increase slightly with potential for a much greater profit. Friction may arise within a romantic relationship. **ARIES** (March 21-April 20) Pay attention to your home life during the week. Certain family members need your input. Take the time to express your support and positive feelings - it will do wonders. Stay on an even keel where food and drink are concerned and exercise more.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) Time spent alone this week will be time well spent. There is an inner strength that you need to rediscover in order to be the best that you can possibly be. Learn to acceptance that which you will never be able to change, it will save you lots of energy.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) It will be easy to find fault with yourself if you rush into a situation with more energy than information. Others around you may seem like a threat, but generosity and helpfulness will maneuver you through any rough spots. It's time to overcome your fear of insecurity.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Good news about money will arrive this week, and just in time. Make the most of this financial situation, trying to invest as much as possible. A mate or child is in an argumentative mood, and seems to enjoy the conflict - cooperate when there is an open line of communication.

LEO (July 24 - August 23) You have a great deal to think about during the week, and may want to take time out to do so. Don't ignore what may seem like pesky symptoms, your body may be trying to tell you something. It's time to start following that dream you've had for some time now.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) You have lots of love to give to those outside your personal relationships - try to spend time with others who have no one. There may be a treasure waiting for you in a place that you least expect. Hard work will bring much satisfaction, and will benefit by helping others.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) Relationship issues are at the top of your list this week, and it is all good news. Whatever obstacles have kept you from any commitment or marriage have now been overcome, and love is in the air. Looking at the past may bring about some bittersweet memories.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) Learning something new during the week will install a joy and confidence that you should share with friends and loved ones. This may be a great time to plan a vacation which is long overdue. You seem to be approaching some type of success, beware of difficulties involved.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) If you are in a rut, do something about it and stop whining! Any solutions to this problem will probably not be solved quickly, but you can move onto something else until the solution becomes apparent. True words of love will make the evenings sweet.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) Moderation is the keyword for this week. Moderation will be a helpful guideline as the temptation to engage in extremes is present. Don't spread your plans and ideas all over the place, you are better off keeping them to yourself for the time being. Self-indulge.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) You may need to make some financial sacrifices this week in order to pay off some health bills. If you work at it, these can probably be paid off with little delay. This whole situation may bring back memories of not having enough to get by - remember, they are memories.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) If you are not giving from your heart, it is probably best to not bother. You may have to compromise when it comes to employment. Remember that prosperity is where you find it. Always keep your eye open for that perfect position, work towards your highest potential.

Personals Instructions for personals on the inside back page.

TO PLACE AN AD: There is no charge for listing a personal ad which must get to the Houston Voice offices in writing (in person, by mail or fax) and must include your name and address. The ad should contain less than 50 words. Specific words including sex, and others more obvious, cannot be used, and your ad should introduce yourself and let others know what you are looking for. You will be given a toll free number, a box number and a personal identification number (PIN) for use in recording (mandatory) a voice message and for use in message retrieval.

REGARDING SET-UP: A series of questions will be asked and these are designed to assist in the matching process - it's simply a matter of following the instructions while using the 800 telephone number. By the time you finish, you may have matches already waiting.

TO RECEIVE RESPONSES TO YOUR AD: The toll free 800 number will let you know if you have recorded telephone responses. (You can check twice weekly for free.) You can then listen to these responses on a 900 number using your box number and PIN. Responses can also be received by mail, see below.

TO ANSWER AN AD BY PHONE: Call 1-900-454-3576 (\$1.49 /min). Listen to the instructions. You will then actually be listening to the advertisers recorded message and can leave a voice message with your name and number. You can respond to more than one personal during the phone call. As individuals check their messages, they can respond to yours. OR you can pre-pay a special 800 account, listen and respond without the cost appearing on your phone bill. The blocks of time are also effective on telephones with 900-blocks. Call 529-8490 for more information.

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 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 plus postage per numbered envelope, and is available only with Houston Voice Personals.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: To place a Houston Voice personal ad you are required to participate in the "live voice" aspect of our personals by calling the special 800 number. You must record, in your voice, your ad. If you do not participate in the voice aspect, your ad may be discontinued without notice. The voice message can be as simple as "you read the ad, respond" to complex and informative. The ads, both print and voice, can not contain references to sexual acts or organs (FCC et. al.). If you are having difficulty recording your message, phone 1-800-780-4947 for assistance. Ads should be positive, describe what you want, undesirable qualities and characteristics need not be listed.

G - Gay, M - male, F - female

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HWP - height, weight, proportionate, DDF - drug and disease free

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Motel: Several miles to the gay bars.
Montrose Inn: 5 tiny blocks to the gay bars.

Motel: Drive to the gay bars & pay \$5 to park, if you can find parking. Or take a \$15 cab.
Montrose Inn: Walk to the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.

Motel: Drive back from the gay bars and risk the cops making you walk the straight line. Or take a \$15 cab.
Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.

Motel: Pay \$35 to \$95 a night for a room.
Montrose Inn: Pay \$41 to \$79 a night for a room.

Motel: Eat in their restaurant. Food for the masses. Pay plenty. \$1 soft drink machine.
Montrose Inn: Complimentary late night sandwiches & full breakfast the next day. Free soft drinks, juices, coffee 24 hours.

Motel: Cruise the parking lot and get threatened.
Montrose Inn: Cruise the hallways. Please!

Motel: The receptionist sneers at you.
Montrose Inn: The receptionist winks at you.

Motel: Washing machine? Ironing board? Hair dryer? Refrigerator? Stove? Microwave? VCR & gay movies? Are you kidding?
Montrose Inn: All of the above. Free to use.

Motel: Full size bed, everything else is plastic.
Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, hardwood floors, hardly any plastic.

Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m.
Montrose Inn: Handsome man next door knocking 11 a.m. to join him for breakfast. Checkout 1 p.m.

Reservations requested. 1-800-357-1228. The house at 408 Avondale.

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Can HIV be Eradicated from an Infected Individual?

Results of a Closed-Door Session

June 13, 1996, Washington, DC—The eradication of HIV from infected individuals may soon be within our grasp. This was the optimistic view of the world's leading AIDS scientists who convened for an urgent summit meeting on HIV treatment strategy this week.

"We're at a point in the disease where we can ask if drugs are potent enough to eradicate the virus," said Dr. Robert Schooley, Head of the Infectious Diseases Division at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. Counter to popular expectations, the eradication of HIV appears unlikely to come from a single breakthrough—a new drug, a vaccine or some other more radical approach—but from clever combination of existing and new treatments. In particular, it appears that nucleoside analogues, such as AZT, 3TC and ddI, will continue to form a foundation upon which newer drugs, such as the protease inhibitors and the non-nucleoside analogue, nevirapine, will be added to produce the cocktail.

The concept of complete eradication, unthinkable just 6 months ago, has become more likely based on findings from recent drug trials. In preliminary trials, combinations of two and three antiretroviral drugs dramatically reduced the amount of HIV in the bloodstream of infected people to levels too low to measure using even the most sophisticated technologies available.

Stimulated by these promising results, a "think tank" of renowned HIV/AIDS researchers gathered to weigh the optimism building around these recent and anticipated treatment advances. "There is now evidence that with a number of regimens, in a number of patient populations, of the possibility to completely suppress HIV replication," said conference chairperson, Dr. Douglas Richman, University of California, San Diego.

"The purpose of this meeting was to address how to apply these regimens to optimize the process and determine if HIV can be eradicated." The meeting, co-hosted by the scientific journal, Antiviral Therapy and the University of Amsterdam was designed to address the issues raised by the exciting possibility of eradicating HIV. Among topics discussed:

—Experimental techniques that are able to map the course of HIV disease from initial infection to death. These enable scientists to determine how and where HIV is replicating in the body. Studies indicated that some drugs may only eradicate virus from the blood, but not from other parts of the body either because the drug is not distributed to these tissues, or the virus hides undetected and only becomes active after a long period of latency. A practical example of this is that it appears AZT will continue to play a central role in the treatment of HIV because, to date, it is the treatment which penetrates the brain most efficiently

and has a well-established track record against AIDS-related dementia.

—The danger associated with patients' non-compliance with therapy that can lead to the rapid emergence of drug resistant virus, was also discussed. It appears that when therapy is restarted, the drug is then ineffective against this new resistant virus.

—The eradication of HIV infection in children was also discussed. In Europe, approximately 10-20% of children born to HIV infected women, if untreated, also become infected with HIV. Because of the nature of the infection in these children, and the fact that the infection is identified early in the course of disease before there has been significant damage to the immune system, it is hoped that use of very potent combinations of drugs will reduce virus to a level at which the immune system may be able to clear residual virus.

—The use of a potent triple combination regime of AZT, 3TC and indinavir was described as being very cost effective because of the likely long-term cost benefit in delaying or preventing symptomatic disease. The vast majority of patients taking this regime were shown to have virus reduced to undetectable levels in the blood.

—There was unanimous agreement that the clinical significance of complete virus load suppression was now beyond doubt. And that the goal of antiviral therapy should be to "hit early and hit hard." The rationale for early aggressive therapy was further reinforced from studies of immune function in those treated later in the course of HIV disease.

—One presentation described a study designed to address this problem. Due to begin shortly, the study will use transplanted thymus tissue to improve T-cell reconstitution in patients whose thymus has been irreversibly damaged by HIV. The technique has already proved to be successful in non-HIV-infected children born with severe immune dysfunction.

In theory, therefore, aggressive drug therapy early on in HIV infection may reduce the amount of HIV to a level that the still intact immune system can mop-up. The result is the focus that future promising tests and treatment strategies be made available as soon as possible.

The meeting closed on an extremely positive note with a future conference designed to address other critical issues in the management and treatment of HIV infection already being planned. As one of the Editors in Chief of Antiviral Therapy signaled, "The issues discussed and questions answered were unthinkable less than 3 months ago and signify the sea of change in availability of potent combinations of antiviral drugs."

A replay of the telephone press briefing held with conference chairmen will be available through Monday, July 8th by dialing 800/938-2304.

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by Forman Brown

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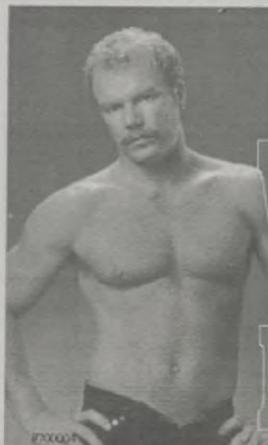
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HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women SEEKING Women

Men SEEKING Men

SFW I'm 5'3", with blonde hair & brown eyes. I'm a professional in the health care field. I enjoy the beach, the woods, the theater, movies & different restaurants. I'm a soft butch. I'd like to meet some new friends. I enjoy the company of a feminine woman. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & smoke-free. Call Ext. 5119

SF I'm sexy, 21, 5'6" & 152 lbs. I'm bi curious & in search of a sexy, bisexual female of any race. She should be 120-170 lbs, big-breasted & very elegant. Call Ext. 5117

SWF I'm 40. I'm looking for someone who is butch & romantic. I'd like to make a friend or more. Call Ext. 5114

SF Do you like dumpster diving, junking, camping or biking? I'm gainfully employed & looking for the same. She should be 35-50 & a non-smoker. No drugs. Call Ext. 5108

SBF I'm bi curious & I've had all of the satisfaction I can get from a man. I'm 5'7" & 162 lbs. I have big lips & a small waist. I'm looking for a woman of the same build who has blonde or brunette hair, for a night of fun. Call Ext. 5105

SBF I'm lonely, 34 & 5'4". I have short, black, curly hair. I enjoy outdoor sports, biking, swimming & fishing. I play the drums. I'm looking for a single, feminine Black female who is serious about life. She should have career goals. Call Ext. 5092

SF I'm from England. I'm 5'2" & 32. I'm new to Houston. I'm looking for friends to hang out & spend time with. I enjoy the theater, films & more. I'm open-minded. If I'm lucky, I hope to find someone who is more than a friend. Call Ext. 5062

SF I'm a short 5'2" brunette who is very active. I enjoy traveling, dining out, the outdoors, bike riding, etc. I'm looking for friendship & to have a lot of fun with people. Call Ext. 5025

SF I'm 23, 5'2" & 93 lbs. I have very short brown hair & blue eyes. So, if you're looking for a cute GQ-looking little boy, it's me. Call Ext. 5048

SBF Kidnap me. Take me on a hot air balloon ride. Seeking a female. Race & age are not important. Call Ext. 5037

SF I'm 36, 5'4" & 115 lbs. I have gray hair & hazel eyes. I like outdoor activities, camping, kayaking, canoeing, walking in the country & riding my motorcycle. I love animals. I like all music, except rap & hard rock. I'd like to meet someone 35-45, for friendship or dating. I'm not looking for a hard butch, but for a soft butch, androgynous or feminine woman. I would prefer to meet a non-smoker. No drugs, please. Light drinking is okay. Call Ext. 5020

SM I'm a man 32-48, well-built, attractive, comfortable with being a man, aggressive, playful & passionate, give me a call. You must enjoy being with a very attractive, well-built man. Call Ext. 5123

SBM I'm a professional. I'm 36, 5'11" & 165 lbs. I'm looking for someone to spend some time with. I enjoy movies, listening to music, cooking & quiet nights at home. Call Ext. 5124

SM I'm a smooth, tan, muscular & good-looking 32-year-old. I'm 5'8" & 150 lbs. I have brown hair & hazel eyes. I'm healthy & active. I like sports, cars & outdoor activities. I'd like to meet a larger man who has a hunky, hairy physique. He should enjoy being a top. He should want a handsome, rear-submissive man. Call Ext. 5123

SM I'm 6'2" & 210 lbs. I'm looking for a hairy-chested top who would be interested in a lot of anal intercourse. Call Ext. 5115

SM I'm 27, 5'7", 155 lbs. & from Spain. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm looking for friends. I'd like to meet a blonde guy who is under 30. I'd prefer to meet a bottom. Must be straight-acting. Call Ext. 5113

SM I'm 5'6". I have blue eyes & blonde hair. I'm looking for a guy who is a jock. I like to give blow jobs. I enjoy anal sex, kissing & hugging. Call Ext. 5104

SM I'm 28, 5'6" & 128 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I love music, cooking, wine tasting, walking on the beach & quiet nights at home. I'm an accounting professional seeking someone 30-40. A beard & a mustache are a plus. I'm hairless. I have a slight mustache. Call Ext. 5110

SBM I'm 26. Race is not important to me if it is not a problem to you. Give me a call if you are interested. Call Ext. 5087

SWM I'm 25, 5'11" & 198 lbs. I have masculine build, brown eyes, a military cut & a goatee. I'm straight-acting, with a good sense of humor. I enjoy working out, movies, reading & self-improvement. I'm in search of a stockily-built man who is masculine, with a goatee. He should enjoy being a top & be 25-35. Call Ext. 5103

SM I'm 5'9" & 160 lbs. I have dark hair & blue eyes. I'm a physical education teacher. I enjoy all sports. I'm looking for a masculine man who enjoys sports. Call Ext. 5118

SHM I'm 5'4", 130 lbs. I have light skin, brown hair & hazel eyes. I have a semi-muscular build. I like playing tennis, movies & working out. I'm looking for a single White male 20-35 who has a semi-muscular build. Call Ext. 5075

SM I'm 25 & straight-acting. I'm ready to experiment with the bottom since I have been on the top. Give me a call. I'm looking for well-endowed Black men to have a good time with. Call soon. Call Ext. 5116

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 137 lbs. I have black hair & brown eyes. I'm very cute. I like dining out, movies, walking on the beach, jogging & going to the gym. Looking for a gay White male 20-38 who is height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5049

SM I'm 40, 5'6" & 155 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a mustache & a hairy chest. I'm a loving & caring, but demanding guy. My son must be young, handsome, healthy & masculine. He must be intelligent, self-supporting & willing to satisfy my every need. If you are interested, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5083

SAM I'm 32, 5'4" & 140 lbs. I'm looking for a single White male for a possible long-term, monogamous relationship. I would prefer to meet someone who is straight-acting. I'm outgoing & looking for the same. I'm organized, flexible, romantic & loving, with a strong personality. Call Ext. 5106

SM I'm 5'8" & height/weight proportionate. I'm in my 40's & relatively new to Houston. I have brown hair & blue eyes. I'm interested in meeting other guys who are my age. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5102

SM I'm 43, 5'10" & 175 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm a professional man in the administrative field. I enjoy a quiet lifestyle. I enjoy movies & dining out, to name a few things. I'm nice-looking, drug-free & disease-free. I'd like to meet someone 30-45 who is masculine, with dark hair. Call Ext. 5101

SM I'm 32 & 200 lbs. I'm a bottom. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5095

SWM I'm a professional in my 40's. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & eyes. I'm darkly tanned & nicely shaped. I enjoy movies, cars, music & dining out. I'm in search of a younger Hispanic, Latin or Asian for dating which could lead to a monogamous relationship. I'm a social drinker & a non-smoker. I prefer the same. I have a lot to offer. Call Ext. 5099

SM Please give me a call. Call Ext. 5097

SWM I'm 35. I'm looking for a bottom. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5096

SM I'm 5'9" & 130 lbs. I'm masculine & outgoing. I'm looking for a Black man who would be interested in different cultures, since I come from Europe. He must be masculine & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5094

SHM I'm seeking a 35-50-year-old White male. I would like to share ideas & more. I'm 35, 5'10" & 167 lbs. I have a mustache, black hair & brown eyes. If you are this White man, call me. Call Ext. 5066

SWM I'm 45, 6' & 160 lbs. I'm healthy, down-to-earth & HIV-. I'm seeking an older Black male who is a non-smoker, for friendship. Call Ext. 5089

SM Where are you? If you are like me, you are getting tired of driving to the bars every Friday night to meet guys. I would like to meet some nice guys from this area. Call Ext. 5082

SHM I'm 31, 5'11" & 240 lbs. I'm seeking an older White male who is 55+, for discreet encounters. I'm disease & drug-free. I have nice legs. I like to kiss. Call Ext. 5085

SM If you know how to follow orders & you want to discuss possibilities, you can call me. Call Ext. 5018

SM I'm a hot, hunky bear cub looking for aggressive & demanding men who can satisfy me. If you are looking for a 220 lb. linebacker-type who is 6' & ready to serve you, give me a call. I will worship you. Call Ext. 5063

SM Can a high-grade guy like me, 6' & 182 lbs., find a super guy around here? I would like to find a friend & a top lover. You must be professional, sincere & normal. Must act straight & talk straight. I would prefer to meet someone 30-50. If you are out there, give me a call. Call Ext. 5080

SWM I'm 6' & 150 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & brown eyes. I'm 38. I'm looking for guys who are into bare-bottom spanking. Call Ext. 5079

SM I'm 50, 6' & 180 lbs. I can walk & talk normally. I'm looking for other tops who are normal & who would want to meet me. Please leave me your phone number. Call Ext. 5078

SM I'm 31, 5'10" & 155 lbs. I'm seeking someone who is interested in having fun. I'm looking for someone who is not a bodybuilder, but who works out on a regular basis. He should be 5'10" or taller. A sense of humor & a sense of adventure would be great. Call Ext. 5072

SM I'm 19, 5'7" & 190 lbs. I'm looking for other guys who are 18-30. I'm a college student. I have brown hair & brown eyes. Call Ext. 5069

SHM I'm looking for a masculine man who is height/weight proportionate & 40-50, for a possible relationship. I'm 34, 5'11" & 145 lbs. I have brown hair & green eyes. I'm easygoing, energetic & new to Houston. I would like to walk on a moonlit beach with someone special. Call Ext. 5067

SHM I'm seeking a one-on-one, monogamous relationship with a male who is older than I am. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have a swimmer's build. I work out on a weekly basis. I have short brown hair & medium-brown skin. I enjoy dancing, going out, staying home & cuddling. I'm a bottom. I'm seeking a 100% pure top. I'm seeking a 25-35-year-old male who is masculine. He must have a nice body & a nice personality. Call Ext. 5065

SM I'm 25 & 5'6". I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a gymnast's build. I'm looking for someone 25-35, for a long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5064

SBM I'm middle-aged, 6'1" & 190 lbs. I'm interested in meeting a height/weight proportionate, middle-aged White male 35+. He should want to get together for fun & a possible friendship. I'm not looking for a relationship. I'm looking for pure indulgence. I'm versatile. If you are healthy & masculine, give me a call. I would prefer to meet a versatile man, but at least someone who is capable of being a top. Call Ext. 5057

SM There is a memory that lives & flows through my veins. I'm looking for an attractive & muscular bottom. Can you help me? Call Ext. 5036

SM I'm a 39-year-old native Houstonian. I like dancing & 70's disco. I love hanging out & walking. I love art & writing. I also love festivals & politics. I'm a libertarian who is interested in global topics. I'm a Virgo & I'm really looking for a Taurus. Age is not important to me. I'm 5'5" & 120 lbs. Everyone says that I look about 10 years younger than my age. I can speak Spanish. I love French, German & other languages. Call Ext. 5052

SM I'm 37, 5'8" & 160 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm in good shape. I play tennis & golf. I also enjoy watching basketball. I'm looking for a guy 30-45, who enjoys sports, movies, dining out & the theater. He must be employed & have direction in his life. Call Ext. 5060

SM I'm 50, 5'9" & 190 lbs. I'm looking for someone who likes to cuddle. I would like to meet someone who lives in the Waco or Houston area. Call Ext. 5054

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 135 lbs. I have brown eyes & black hair. I'm looking for a White male 24-30 who is handsome. Call Ext. 5051

SWM I'm 40. Seeking submissive men. If you are interested, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5050

SWM I'm a muscular, professional, endowed man. I'm 39, 5'10" & HIV negative. I enjoy bodybuilding, sports, the arts & romance. I'm seeking a long-term, monogamous relationship with someone who is honest, passionate, endowed & HIV negative. Please, no bar flies, smokers or one-nighters. A Black male is a plus. Call Ext. 5045

SM I'm a snowbird in Houston, Texas. I'm a snowbird in search of Texas cowboy snowbirds who are gay White males, gay Hispanic males, 21-41, non-smokers, drug & disease free & masculine. I'm looking for someone to share love & life with. I'm a gay White male who is 45, 5'9", 191 lbs., a non-smoker & disease free. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm an honest, caring & loving man. I enjoy movies, theater, country-western music, dining out & quiet evenings. Let's melt our lives together as soon as possible. Call Ext. 5039

SHM I'm 30-year-old, HIV+, single Hispanic male. I'm very healthy & active. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs., with a 29" waist. I have brown hair, dark eyes, long eyelashes, a goatee & a tan line. I'm looking for an honest & sincere Black top man who is 6' or taller & HIV+, preferably. I enjoy the outdoors, picnics in the park, walks along the beach, the indoors, watching movies, etc. Call Ext. 5044

SM I'm 35, stocky & 200 lbs. I have a goatee & brown eyes. I enjoy quiet dinners, movies & occasional nights at bars. I would like to meet someone who has a nice personality & who is fun to be with. Call Ext. 5041

SBM I'm 5'11" & 185 lbs. I'm looking for a Black male 20-30. Looking for a possible long-term relationship. I like going out & bowling. I also enjoy spending quality time at home. Call Ext. 5038

SM I'm 6'4". I have brown hair, blue eyes & a mustache. I'm nice-looking & masculine, with a football-player's build. I'm interested in meeting other guys who are 40 or younger, for a good time. Call Ext. 5056

SWM I'm a masculine White male who is 40, 5'6", 140 lbs. & HIV-. I'm looking for Black males who are preferably feminine. Call Ext. 5035

SWM I'm 40, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. I'm looking for a Hispanic or Black male who is 35-50, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5034

SM I am 5'10" & 185 lbs. I am well-built & good-looking. I'm looking for men who are 30-45. Call if you are interested. Call Ext. 5016



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HOUSTON VOICE *Personals*

KIDNAP ME

Take me to your playroom. Bind me, use me, then release me in a couple of days. My captor(s): attractive, HWP, HIV-, serious master(s) and/or mistress(es). I am a successful intelligent WBIM, handsome, nice body & highly sensual, HIV-, HWP, with a weakness for the smell of leather who desires to be totally dominated. Ad 25711

GIVING MY HEART

GHM attractive, spiritual, realistic, looking for new contacts for friendship and future romance. Discover within this loving heart the great chances of meeting, talking, and sharing with me the magnificent gift of all times LOVE. Respond soon, letters are greatly appreciated. Ad 25758

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

FEMALES IN SEARCH OF TROUBLE...

are searching for you. All female SM/BD/fetish social group. We might have the answers to your questions. Ad 25736

HISPANIC WANTED

GWM 34, black hair/brown eyes, 180 lbs, attractive masculine looking, great sense of humor, down to earth, enjoys dancing, movies - a true romantic ISO a very cute hispanic male who has a smooth swimmers build, great personality and who is looking for a best friend first and lasting relationship later. Ad 25769

GWM PROFESSIONAL

40's, 5'11", 165 lbs, good looks, nice tanned body (HIV-). Enjoy movies, beach, cars, the sports, music & dining in & out. ISO younger HWP hispanic for dating. Desire monogamous relationship. Be DDF. I've a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25705

IF YOU KNOW...

how to follow orders, contact me. I am 51, 5'9", 190, hairy, aggressive and demanding. Ad 25673

SEEK SUBMISSIVE OLDER WHITE MEN

Oriental male looking for submissive older white men. Possible long term. I'm 34, 5'6", 160#, clean, discreet and HIV-, aggressive and demanding. Letters preferred. Phone and photos a plus. Let's fulfill both of our fantasies. Ad 25737

Mature GM, French active, HIV-, ISO other M, HIV- for your enjoyment. Ad 25762

GORGEOUS EUROPEAN ISO AMERICAN STUD

Very handsome European, 5'10", 165 lbs, nice body, HIV-, masculine, very sexy & hot, seeks good looking bi-males for fun times & more. You must be good looking, nice body & "big", dominant, straight acting, age 20-40. I'm looking for American honky-tonk, corn-fed type, I'm 28 yrs old & ready to satisfy. Ad 25760

WHERE'S MY EMILIO?

GWM, 29, 5'10", 198 lbs, brown/hazel, HIV-, non-smoker. Likes to travel, movies, eating in or out, C&W and top 40 music, animals, anything outdoors, hunting and fishing, shopping, going to the beach, and especially cuddling. Looking for a GWM w/similar interests. Letters preferred. Photo appreciated, but not necessary. Ad 25774

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

SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

Tall/Handsome/GWM. Loves to look, dance, a shop. Former LSU student turned paraprofessional, I.S.O. spontaneous, intellectual, politically incorrect friends. You must keep up w/fashion, latest dance music, and mel HWP & DDF. Ad 25702

UNCLE SEEKS NEPHEW

GWM, 60, 5'8", 300, br/bl beard, BOTTOM. Seeks 20s-40s any race TOP nephew-friend. Honesty/sincerity prime factor rather than physical attributes. Let's share respect, love, active physical-social relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, shopping, travel, beaches, cooking, dining in/out and the company of an affectionate nephew or chubby chaser. Letters preferred (photo appreciated). Ad 25775

SPECIAL BOTTOMS, GIVE ME A CALL

Submissive? Provide dedicated service and do it right? Take instructions and behave obediently? Boy/slave in need of bindings and discipline? Enjoy it all and more? Need put in your place with a demanding top? If serious GM, 25-40, fit, clean, easy going, nice guy, you call now! Ad 25653

Attractive male, 32, 5'9", 145#, sincere professional. Seeking monogamous relationship with someone who is sincere, HWP, non-smoker, and values family life. Interests: museums, traveling, dining out, and quiet conversation. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25722

WANTED: WHITE MALE

Indian male, 30, attractive, very shy and not into an active gay lifestyle, DDF, enjoys hiking, sports, long drives in the country, quiet evenings at home, interesting conversation and an overall active lifestyle. ISO white male over 35 with similar interests for long term monogamous relationship. Looks not important. Let's exchange letters and photo. Ad 25752

LET ME MAKE YOUR HEART SMILE

I'm 5'10", 165 lbs, extra nice legs, warm smile, big heart with lots of love to offer if our chemistry is right. I'm open to all inquiries, but prefer 25-35 bottom with smooth skin as I have a hairy chest. Now please note I'm also HIV-, but very healthy, active & loving. Please give me a chance & I promise you won't be disappointed. Prefer mail response. Ad 25754

CARING FUNNY & GOOD-LOOKING

Attractive & muscular, GWM, 38, 5'8", 175, HIV+, masculine, smooth skin, and clean shaven with dark brown hair and green eyes. I am romantic, very healthy, active, and love the outdoors. I'm a versatile bottom and prefer a masculine, lean or muscular, top with very healthy, active & loving. Please give me a chance & I promise you won't be disappointed. Prefer mail response. Ad 25767

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 25832

SOUL/LIFE MATE WANTED

GWM, 51, 5'10", 205 lbs, stocky weightlifter, HIV-, professional demeanor, active Christian, conservative straight lifestyle, seeks brawny, bear, linebacker, beefy hunk/chunk with similar attributes. Physically challenged encouraged to reply. Thanks! Ad 25727

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.

EUROPEAN GUY

I am 27 years old, 5'7", 132, brown hair and brown eyes, healthy (HIV-), warm and caring. I enjoy movies (foreign), music, animals, cars, etc. I'm looking for a compatible, masculine, professional man who is single, smart, funny and charming. Ad 25715

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON

GWF, early 30's, non-smoker, looking for GWF, 30-45. I enjoy movies, intimate dinners & the outdoors. Ad 25730

TICKLE-BONDAGE

Do you want to play? Reciprocation okay. You: Masculine white, oriental, or hispanic. Average or above average looks, HWP. Ages 18 through 45. Sex not necessary so non-gays welcome. Me: Handsome GWM, masculine, HWP, 185#, 5'11", good body, 42" chest, 32" waist, nice legs, brown hair, med.body/chest hair, Nice arms. Strong hands, creative mind, good sense of humor. Mail preferred. Ad 25776

DAD WANTED (FOR REAL)

Loving, professional, attractive white lesbian couple seeking a willing, loving, giving GWM or couple who wants to share and enjoy the gift of parenthood. Joint custody or custody to the lesbian couple with visitation rights for the male frequently. We love children and want to bring one into this world. Share in the joy! Ad 25765

"NOT ONLY ON WEEKENDS"

Single, black, female romantic seeks friend for possible relationship. Seeks woman who is certain of herself; her wants and desires. Interests include: movies, parks, special getaways, moonlit nights. Quality time very important, also hand-holding, good conversation, and a sense of humor. Must be stable, sincere and spiritually motivated. Ad 25740

WANTED: MASCULINE WHITE MALE COMPANION

HIV-Negative, 18-45, not overweight, to play dominos, cards, etc. 10am-2pm, weekdays, in my home. I am divorced masculine WM, 5'11", 155# ("skinny"), 40+ short brown hair, receding hair line, brown eyes, glasses, clean-shaven, smooth. Will exchange (revealing) photos. I have a Polaroid. Mail responses preferred. Immediate reply Ad 25766

WANTED: BLACK MAN

GWM, 29, 5'5", well proportioned, hazel eyes/dark blond hair, and big smile. I love outdoors, cooking, walking, movies, novels, and working out. Most of all I love to spend quality time with someone special. I am honest, caring and sincere. I would like to meet a GWM, 29-45, who is single, funny and charming, but most of all has a sense of humor. If you would like to talk or possibly meet give me a call. Maybe you can add a little laughter to my life. Ad 25770

LOOKING FOR A TALL GUY

Well built GWM, over 6', HWP, DDF/NS, 40's seeks aggressive GIB/HIM of similar size. You are HIV-, HWP, 35-50, employed professional and know what you want. I'm discreet, masculine, well-dressed, stable and employed. Also romantic, versatile and attractive. Brown/brown/mustache. Inside the loop home owner. All responses answered promptly. Ad 25759

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

I.S.O.: Masculine, hairy, HWP, HIV-, well endowed GWM for safe fun. No strings. Pure indulgence. ME: 40 yr., HIV-, 5'7", 160 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, w/S & P beard. Average guy. No hang-ups. Photo w/letter for response. Ad 25724

SWEET AND SPICY LOOKING FOR YOU!

SBF seeking healthy happy woman, I am looking for a loving friendship. Enjoy dancing, candlelight, music, laughing and a South-You Lady. Put a little spice in your life! I do want truth in all correspondence. Ad 25731

GHM, 31, 5'11", 170, BLACK HAIR/BROWN EYES

My interests are cooking, working out, jogging, sports, the outdoors and gardening. I would like to spend time with that special man. Oh, by the way, it's so hard to meet men in Houston who are honest and sincere. I am seeking GWM for friendship and possibly a long term relationship. I have a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25763

QUALITY MAN...

That's what I want. Dark complexion, Middle East/Mediterranean a big plus. Me: GWM, very fit, masculine, 5'8", 155 lbs, good looking. You: Masculine, "addiction-free", SERIOUS. I'm educated, professional, stable, healthy, great morals/values. Desire same. Letters preferred; all answered. Take a chance; let's talk, meet, dance. Photo gets mine. Ad 25694

TOPS LOOKING FOR SEX TOY

Two GWM lovers, both tops, one 42, one 26, trim, HWP seeking a rear end submissive bottom for three way - just plain trashy fun. Mail responses preferred or phone. Ad 25709

TWICE THE FUN!

Two good looking masculine guys, 25 & 30, interested in meeting business professional (25-45) for occasional hot, safe, discreet fun. Must be successful, masculine and in shape. Prefer mail responses, letter/photo. Ad 25721

LISTEN TO THE WIND BLOW

WATCH THE SUN RISE. GWM, good looking and professional seeking soul mate. Come out of hiding and enjoy the good life! Two males together can form a synergism and conquer the world. What are you waiting for? Ad 25761

BOYISH & SMOOTH

GWM, 28, HIV+ seeks GM over 30 for friendship, dating, and more. Interests include boating, bicycling, video games. Prefer large, endowed, hairy men. Photo please. Ad 25771

I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED EXCEPT YOU!!!

GWM executive, 40, 5'10", 170, attractive, seeks special guy for serious dating relationship. Enjoy movies, theater, travel, dining out, quiet romantic evenings. Prefer mature younger guy, 24-30, who needs that special person to make their life complete. If you think you deserve the best, call. Humble/Kingwood area a plus! Ad 25741

EAST SIDE GWM SEEKS FRIENDS/POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP

I am 35, 5'8", 145, brown hair, blue eyes, healthy, HIV-, happy, well built, attractive, masculine, and successful with strong work ethic. Interested in movies, music, plants, pets, dance, intimate evenings, versatile top. Seeking HIV- honest, sincere, attractive, healthy, financially stable GM with strong work ethic for friendships and possibly loyal, long term monogamous relationship. Not looking for someone well endowed, just intelligent with a kind heart. Send photo - mail responses preferred. Ad 25750

PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

And let'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

MAN OF PASSION

Hi quality GWM, 6'1", 178, 38, brown/blue, stable professional, healthy, honest, adventurous, some fun, intelligent, passionate, warm heart and soul, HIV-. I'm looking for one GWM who is 30-45ish, HIV-, stable, reasonably well adjusted and compatible. I hope to share excitement, laughter, support, intimacy and growth. Ad 25720

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES

I'm in my 40's, married, 5'10", 160lbs, average looks, DDF, clean, top-discreet. Ad 25598

FULL SERVICE BOTTOM WANTED

Should be compulsive GM whose needs can only be met by one-to-one relationship with mature, stable GWM top. Prefer slim, quiet type, but am not racial or ageist. I am 5'2", 175, brown hair & eyes, DDF, mature, stable and like quiet times with compulsive bottom rather than bars. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25773

LONELY GHM

31, 5'7", 135#, seeks GW or GHM for life-mate, monogamous relationship. Must be honest, sincere, 32+ year of age. I'm HIV-, short black hair. Enjoy traveling, being adventurous. You must be the same and versatile. No games. Photo please. Physical must be terrific. Ad 25739

WANTED: BOY

For long-term monogamous relationship with "gifted" GWM in early 40s. I am 8', 170#, suburn/hazel, w/moustache. A true "daddy". I am healthy and HIV-. You should be younger, attractive, masculine and DDF. Letter only w/photo and phone #. Ad 25719

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

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

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

AFFECTIONATE TEDDY BEAR WANTS CUDDLY CUB

GWM, 56, 6'2", 285, big bear, professional, clean cut seeks loving cub for companion, fun, and a devoted monogamous relationship. I want what I am: sincere, loyal, sense of humor, honest, masculine, caring, sensitive, trusting, lots of T.L.C., respect, genuine and unlimited passion, interests. Movies, art galleries/museums, dining out, quiet evenings at home, and lots of candlelight conversation and sharing. Discreet, NS, and DDF. U B 2. If you can relate, please respond. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25745

FURTHER INVESTIGATION NECESSARY

I can't be defined in a personal ad. It's merely an introduction. You must listen to my voice, look into my eyes, feel the gentle touch of my hand to truly get to know me. I am a man who enjoys being with a man. I'm 31 GWM who sports goatee and short hair. I'm employed, have several other interests and there's a bit more to me than meets the eye. Want to find out how much more, drop me a detailed letter. My only request is that you are attractive, sexy, intelligent and compassionate. I have a slight preference to fuzzy navels and goatees. C'mon, cross over. Ad 25755

GENTLE LEATHER "DAD" SEEKS NOVICE "BOY"

Attractive GWM physician, 35, 5'10", 160, new in town, seeks boy 18-24 with interest in light SM, B/D. Very understanding and patient. If you ever thought of getting into SM, but firm master, give me a call. Ad 25744

SOMEONE TO SHARE LIFE

Looking for someone to share life with me. A home, pets and comfortable closeness. Would like monogamous, almost platonic relationship. Tired of dinner alone? Respond. Maybe we can both finally "exhale." Please be over 30 years. Photo will get mine. Ad 25757

NO STRINGS -NO RINGS

GWM, 31, 5'10", 155. Seeking someone who doesn't want or desperately need to be married but would like to just have fun. I would prefer someone who isn't necessarily a bodybuilder, but at least works out on a regular basis as I do. If you have a positive attitude and a sense of humor, I would like to hear from you. Written responses with phone number preferred. Ad 25768

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

POSITIVE MIND, BODY & SOUL

Extremely handsome Gay Latin Male, 34, 5'6", 165#, blk/bw, mustache is currently seeking special friend. Me: Financially stable, very healthy, swimmers build, smooth body, versatile bottom, romantic, honest, passionate with high pos. attitude & self esteem, easy going man with great sense of humor & sensitivity. You: GWM 28-45, 5'8" plus, HWP, good looking, financially stable & healthy versatile top. If you've been searching for a man above average, with similar values & sincerity, here's your chance! No fens or druggies. Letters preferred, photo requested. Ad 25748



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