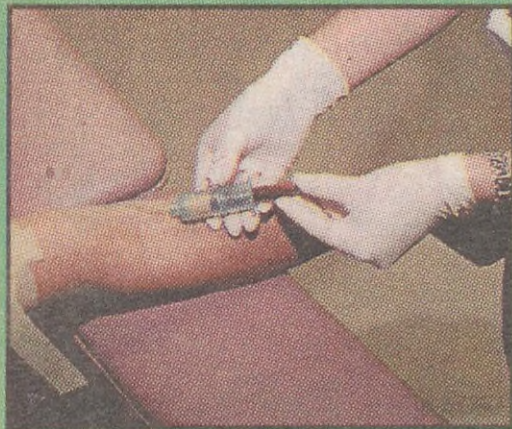




## INSIDE



The Houston Health Department is concerned about a dramatic rise in syphilis cases among gay and bisexual men. Have you been tested?

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The fourth annual Big Bang celebration helps fete the Fourth and raise funds for Body Positive Wellness Center. The party also offers a great view of Independence Day fireworks atop the 3400 Montrose building.

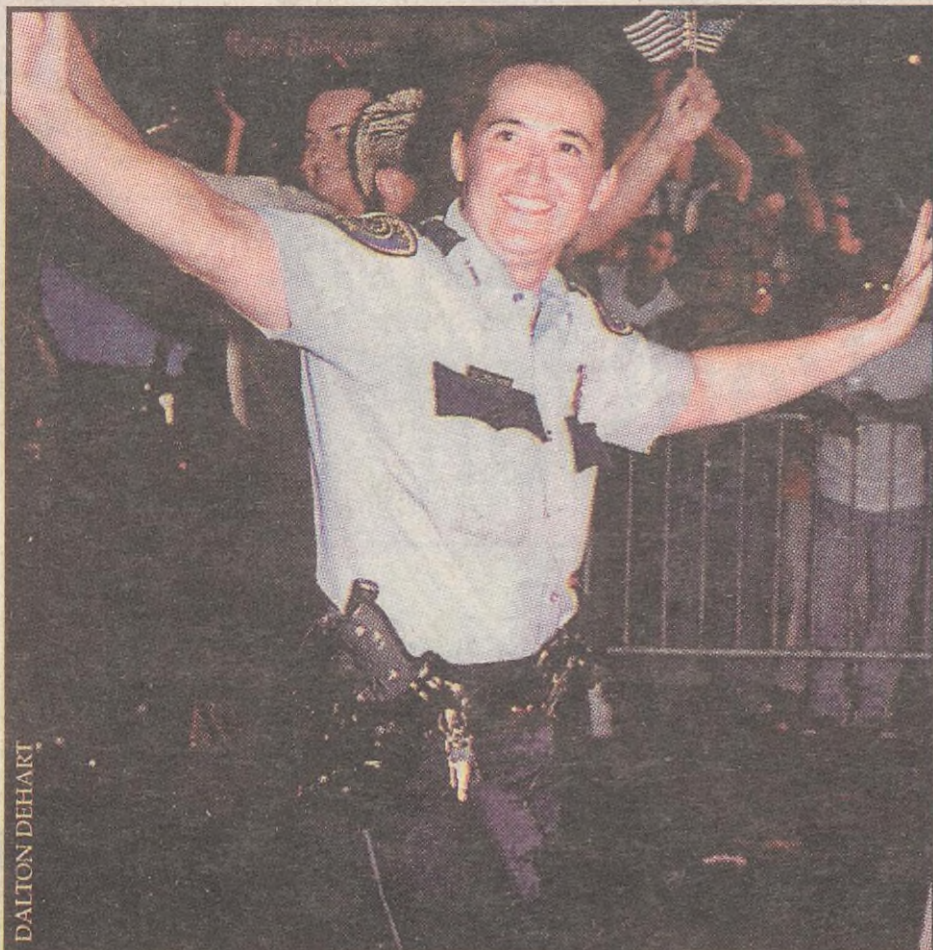
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Tropical Storm Allison caught many Houstonians off guard during the first full week of hurricane season. Make sure you're prepared should another storm threaten the Gulf Coast.

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# HPD marches in Pride Parade



Houston Police Officer Ann Waltman, an 11-year veteran, waves to the crowds during the Houston Gay Pride Parade, June 23. This year marked the first time HPD had an entry in the parade.

Gay officers participate in department's first-ever entry in the event

by KAY Y. DAYUS

Last Saturday's marathon Pride Parade and Sunday's Pride Festival signaled the end of month-long celebrations in Houston. This year's celebration became more diverse than ever given the history-making Houston Police Department's official entry in the parade.

The crowd roared and whooped for all the floats, but arguably the loudest reception was for the HPD contingent in two police cars. The four HPD officers rode and walked the length of the parade route along Westheimer from Hazard to Whitney.

Two of those officers, 11-year veteran, Ann Waltman, and Joy Smith, an 8-year veteran, both said they were gay.

"I welcome them with open arms," said Jack Valinski, executive director of the Pride Committee. "It was history in the making when you consider that Stonewall involved a riot with a police department. The crowd went wild when they got to the reviewing stand."

"It kind of feels like we're opening doors, opening doors to ourselves and toward the community," Waltman told the *Houston Chronicle*.

Valinski said the parade costs the city of Houston and HPD a huge amount of money and a lot of coordination, but he said that working

> Continued on Page 10

## Justice for all?

On anniversary of Boy Scouts v. Dale, verdict measured by more than ruling

by PETER FREIBERG

With the first anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Boy Scouts decision this week, the furor over that organization's anti-gay policy shows no sign of dying down. The Scouts are now on the defensive, say activists and observers, with mainstream institutions and straight individuals often leading the opposition.

The 5-4 ruling last June 28 said the constitution's guarantee of free expression gave the Boy Scouts of America the right to bar openly gay leaders and members. The case centered on James Dale, an openly gay New Jersey scoutmaster who was ousted.

But while the Supreme Court ruling ended the dispute over the BSA's legal right to discriminate, the debate over whether the Scouts should discriminate has accelerated,

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The Supreme Court ruling a year ago that the Boy Scouts had the legal right to ban openly gay members like James Dale (center) unleashed a barrage of actions against the Scouts that has been building momentum over the past 12 months.

# Thank You, Houston

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# Syphilis cases on the rise for gay, bisexual men

## Men having sex with men account for 35 percent of new syphilis infections in city

by KAY Y. DAYUS

Syphilis is increasing at an alarming rate in Houston's gay community. In the first four months of 2001, new syphilis infections among men who have sex with men (MSM) accounted for 35 percent of the total cases as opposed to 17 percent during the same period in 2000, according to the Houston's Department of Health and Human Services.

"After several years of declining syphilis cases in Houston, an increase from 13 cases to 28 in four months is alarming and unacceptable in this day and age," said John Paffel, HDHHS Sexually Transmitted Disease prevention program manager.

Paffel said that Houston seems to be following a trend that began in San Francisco and Los Angeles County some months ago when there was a marked increase in syphilis cases among gay and bisexual men. Research also shows a similar trend in major European cities with large gay populations.

What makes this more ominous is that health officials also are noting that many of those diagnosed with syphilis also are infected with HIV. This translates to the fact that gays are letting their guard down against AIDS.

"Having syphilis makes HIV so much easier to transmit," said Paffel. According to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, the genital sores caused by syphilis in adults also make it easier to transmit and acquire HIV infection sexually. There is a two- to five-fold increased risk of acquiring HIV infection when syphilis is present.

> Continued on Page 11



The Houston Department of Health and Human Services has noted a dramatic rise in cases of syphilis among gay and bisexual men in Houston. The Montrose Clinic offers free testing for syphilis. For more information, call 713-830-3000.

# Paul Broussard's murder: Houston's Stonewall

## Ten-year anniversary of Montrose killing honored with candlelight vigil

by D.L. GROOVER

"What's Stonewall?" asked the young woman innocently.

I couldn't believe it. We were adding another hideous layer of Mylar streamers to the car that was part of our entrant in the Pride parade when the inevitable discussion came up. That's the one where everybody bitches about how hot it is in Houston, and why can't we hold the parade in the winter.

"That would be like having Christmas in July," I said. "It's just not the same. It wouldn't be honoring Stonewall."

And that's when she blew me away with her wide-eyed question. Although I wanted to slap her silly for being so ignorant of our shared history, I calmly gave her a succinct history of that famous bar in 30 words or less.

"Oh," she said without emotion, and went back to tying the streamers to the bumper.

Our fabulous history didn't seem to faze her one way or the other. It had no impact whatsoever. The only reason we—and she—are able to hold this parade; the only reason we—and she—are here at all, out in



Paul Broussard

the daylight sporting all things rainbow; the only reason we—and she—can feel proud and happy to be gay, is because of Stonewall.

But then I started to think. If the young don't have a clue about the seminal event in our history, what else don't they know, don't they appreciate, don't they feel? If Stonewall's a vacant stare, what of Paul Broussard?

Ten years ago this Wednesday, in the early morning bar-closing hours of July 4,

Without warning, all the doors flew open and the mob attacked.

The teenagers from the Woodlands, hopped up on beer and LSD, came at them with 2X4's studded with nails, some wore steel-tipped work boots, some had "queer rocks," used only for gays, and one had a knife. They whooped and yelled like they were at a football game.

In their adrenaline rush, Cary and Rick, though bashed by the boards and hit in the face, instinctively scrambled away in terror

In a sad way, the death of Paul Broussard is Houston's Stonewall. From that day forward, the gay community vigorously stood up and demanded protection. No more, they shouted.

Paul Broussard and two of his best friends, Rick Delauney and Cary Anderson, were attacked by 10 teenagers as the three walked to their parked car on Drew.

They had celebrated the national holiday bar-hopping and ended the evening dancing at Heaven. A week before, Paul and Cary had been egged and called a "fag" by a passing car while walking down Montrose. Cary later said that neither he nor Paul thought it a big deal, it happened all the time in Montrose.

It was a little after 2 a.m., when the three reached the 1000 block of Drew. Two cars passed them, then one returned. A young guy called out if they knew where Heaven was. Paul's friend, Cary, pointed off in the distance and told him it was now closed. Suddenly, the second car pulled up. The guy in the first car signaled to the second.

of being killed. Paul wasn't so lucky.

It was over quickly. When they heard the squealing tires, Cary and Rick, 30 feet away, raced back toward Drew. They heard the moans before they saw him lying in a bloody heap. Paul was crying and unrecognizable from all the blood flowing from his face. He had been stabbed twice, but the friends didn't realize how serious his injuries were: broken ribs, crushed testicles, his head kicked numerous times by steel-toed boots.

In final ignominy, his pockets had been rifled as he lay dying. Paul mumbled incoherently about a client at his bank and a CD that was coming due. He also said he wanted to go home. Then he lost consciousness.

After a breakfast at Denny's, the current and former students from Woodlands'

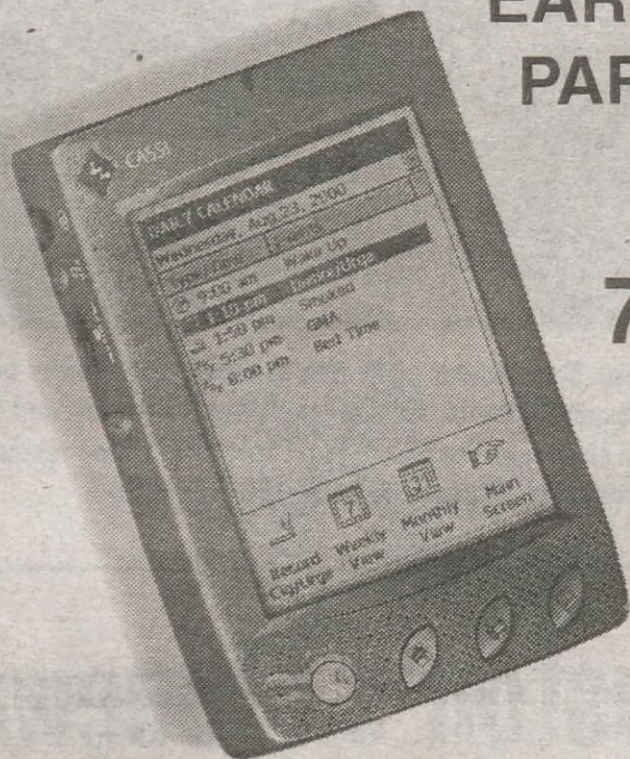
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# around the nation

## One million do Gay Pride in San Fran, gay unions launch event in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—In New York City, three dozen gay couples helped kick off that city's 32nd annual Gay Pride parade last Sunday by celebrating their partnerships. "We'd like to be recognized as a couple," said Sheneen Ellis, as she stood with her partner, Alona Hartnett. They were surrounded by their five children as two ministers and a rabbi blessed them in ceremony at the entrance to Central Park just before the Heritage of Pride parade. "The mothers are better than having only one," read a sign carried by one of the children, 10-year-old Calhea Johnson. In San Francisco, about one million people gathered for that city's 31st



Gay Freedom Day Parade, which has become California's largest public event. "This is a great opportunity to raise the visibility of the gay community," said openly gay City Supervisor Mark Leno, who served as one of the parade's five marshals. "I never thought people would expose themselves to this extent. You don't see this in Minnesota," said Sally Christenson.

About one million people flooded the streets of San Francisco Sunday for the city's 31st Gay Freedom Day Parade, one of the largest Pride events in the nation.

## DC commission says Boy Scouts guilty of bias in expelling gay scout

WASHINGTON—The District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights has ruled that the Boy Scouts of America violated the city's anti-discrimination law by expelling two adult Eagle Scouts in 1992 for being gay, the *Washington Post* reported. A panel of three commissioners found June 20 that the two men "were subjected to humiliation, embarrassment and indignity" when the Boy Scouts revoked their membership, and ordered the Scouts to admit the men as adult members and to pay each man \$50,000 in compensatory damages, plus attorney fees. Commission Chair Frank Wu said this case was different from that of James Dale, whose loss before the Supreme Court has been widely interpreted as giving the Scouts the right to ban gay scoutmasters. Wu said that Geller and Pool were not public activists and their membership would not send a message to the children they would supervise. Scouts' attorney George A. Davidson predicted the decision will be quickly overturned.

## Brandon Teena's mother asks NE court for \$490,000 from sheriff

FALLS CITY, Neb. (AP)—The mother of Brandon Teena, the transgendered person whose murder was dramatized in the 1999 movie "Boys Don't Cry," asked a court for \$490,000 from a former sheriff and county government for failing to protect her child. Joann Brandon's attorneys made the request at a hearing ordered by the state Supreme Court to refigure an earlier damage award of \$17,000. Teena was murdered eight years ago by John Lotter and Marvin Nissen when they discovered he was a biological female. Joann Brandon sued then-Richardson County Sheriff Charles Laux, and said he should have protected Teena. In 1999, District Judge Orville Coady found that Teena's lifestyle contributed to his death, but earlier this year, the Nebraska Supreme Court overturned part of that ruling. Brandon's attorneys then asked for \$250,000 for wrongful death and \$240,000 for Teena's emotional distress. Coady gave attorneys on both sides a month to submit written arguments making a ruling.

## Drug company loses lawsuit for misusing woman's photo in AIDS pamphlet

NEW YORK (AP)—Merck & Company has lost a defamation suit for misusing a woman's photo in an AIDS drug brochure. Justice Mary Werner granted summary judgment June 13 for a woman who claimed she had been defamed when Merck and its advertising agency, Harrison & Star, used her photograph in a Crixivan brochure without her permission. "The broader message... is that big companies cannot play with the rights of individuals with impunity," said Meredith Braxton, the woman's lawyer. Court records were sealed to protect the woman's identity. The judge ordered a trial for compensatory and punitive damages. Braxton said her client would seek \$72 million dollars because Merck made \$562 million in revenues in 1997, the year it created the brochure. The pamphlet described the woman as a 19-year-old with two children, suggesting she had contracted AIDS through sexual promiscuity. But the woman, a suburban housewife and mother in her mid-30s, did not have herpes and contracted HIV from her husband. The woman had signed a waiver when her photograph was taken, but had expected it to be used only for educational purposes.

## Sponsors tweak employment bias ban before again introducing to Congress

WASHINGTON—Sponsors of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act are considering minor changes in the bill before reintroducing it in Congress next month. Among the changes approved by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) is the deletion of a clause that deals with the business-related activity of exempt religious groups and the addition of new language in response to a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that weakened the Americans with Disability Act. Senate Democrats are also looking for a new Republican co-sponsor, since the bill's previous co-sponsor, Vermont Sen. Jim Jeffords, has become an independent. If enacted, ENDA would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

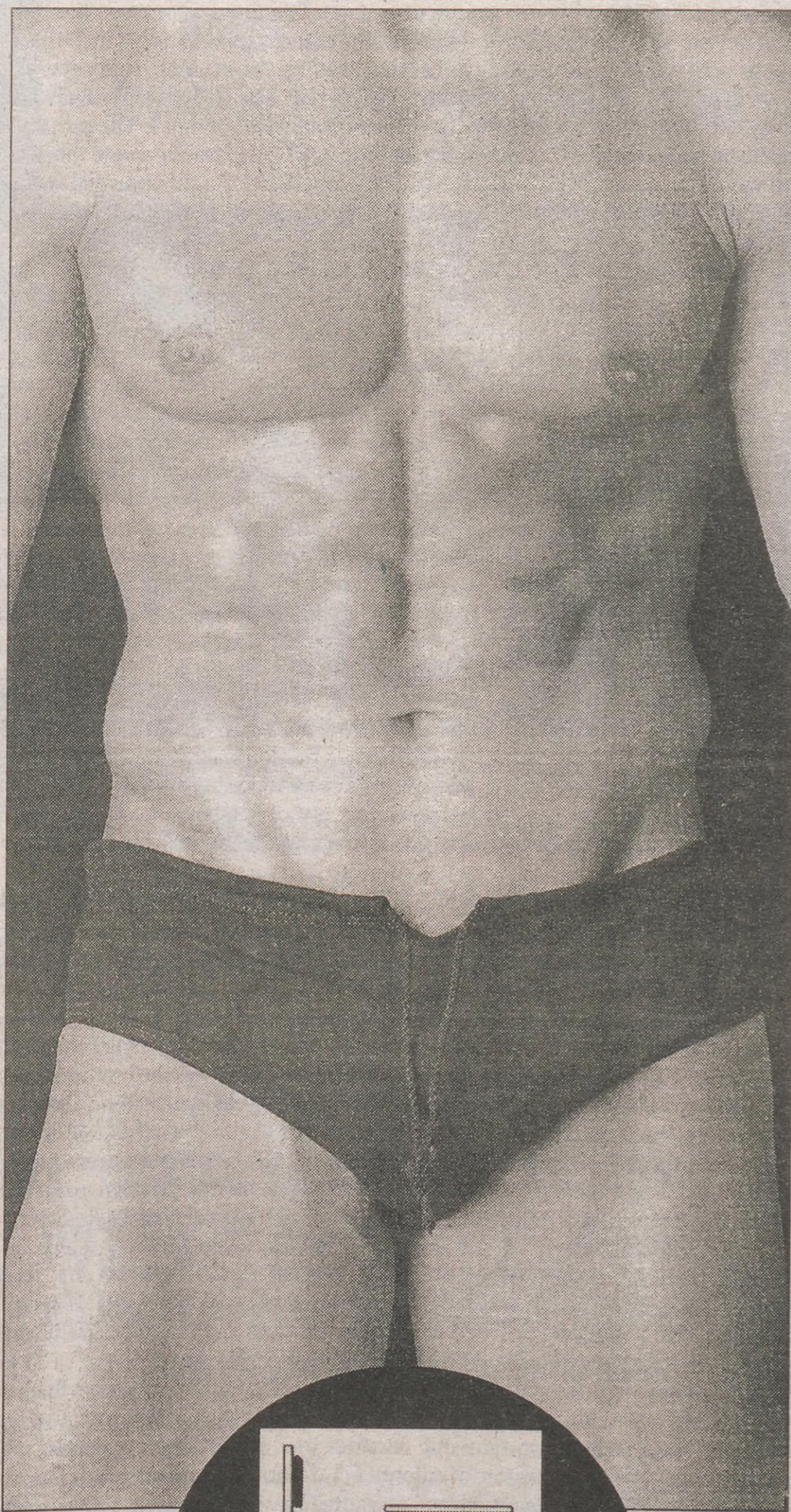
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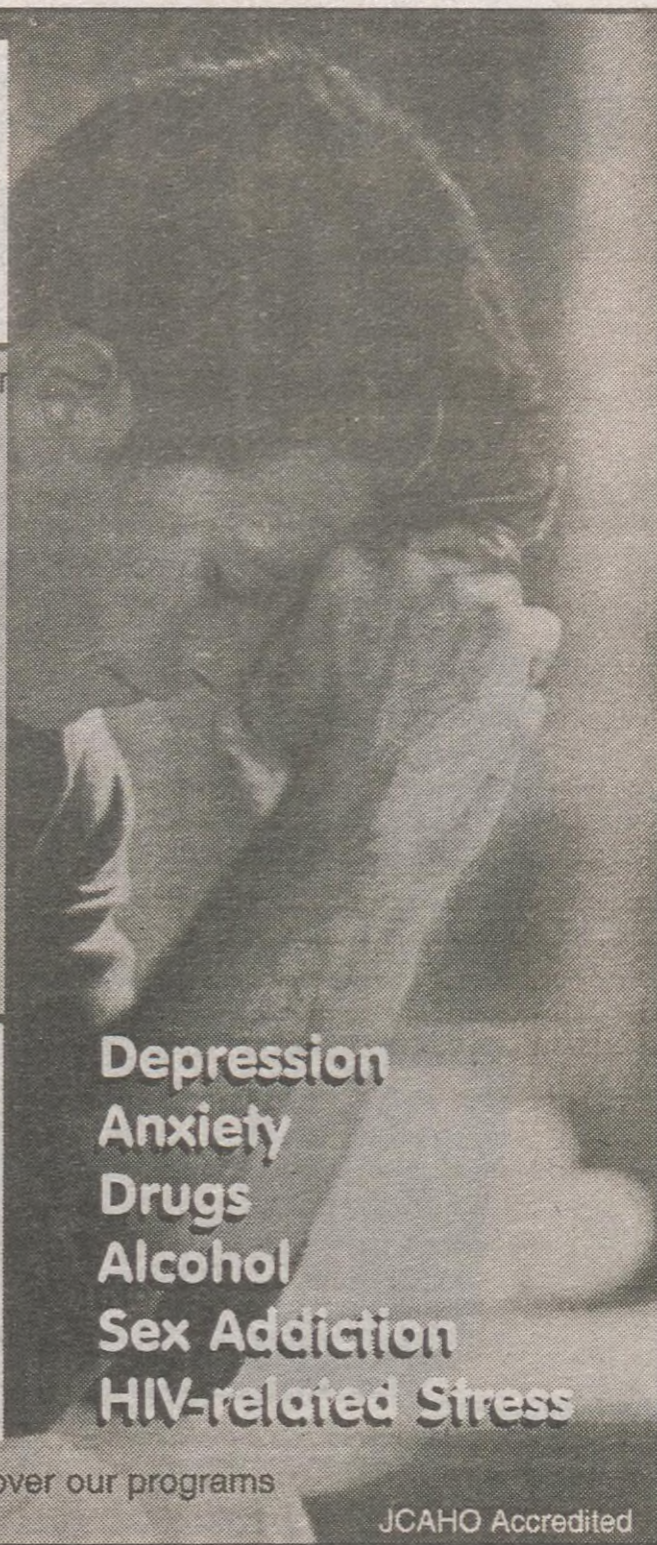
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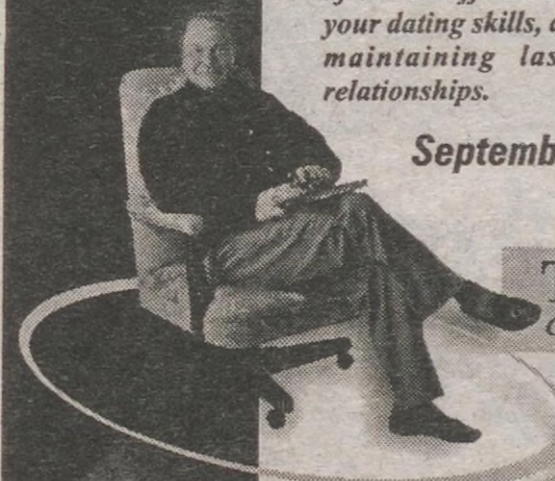
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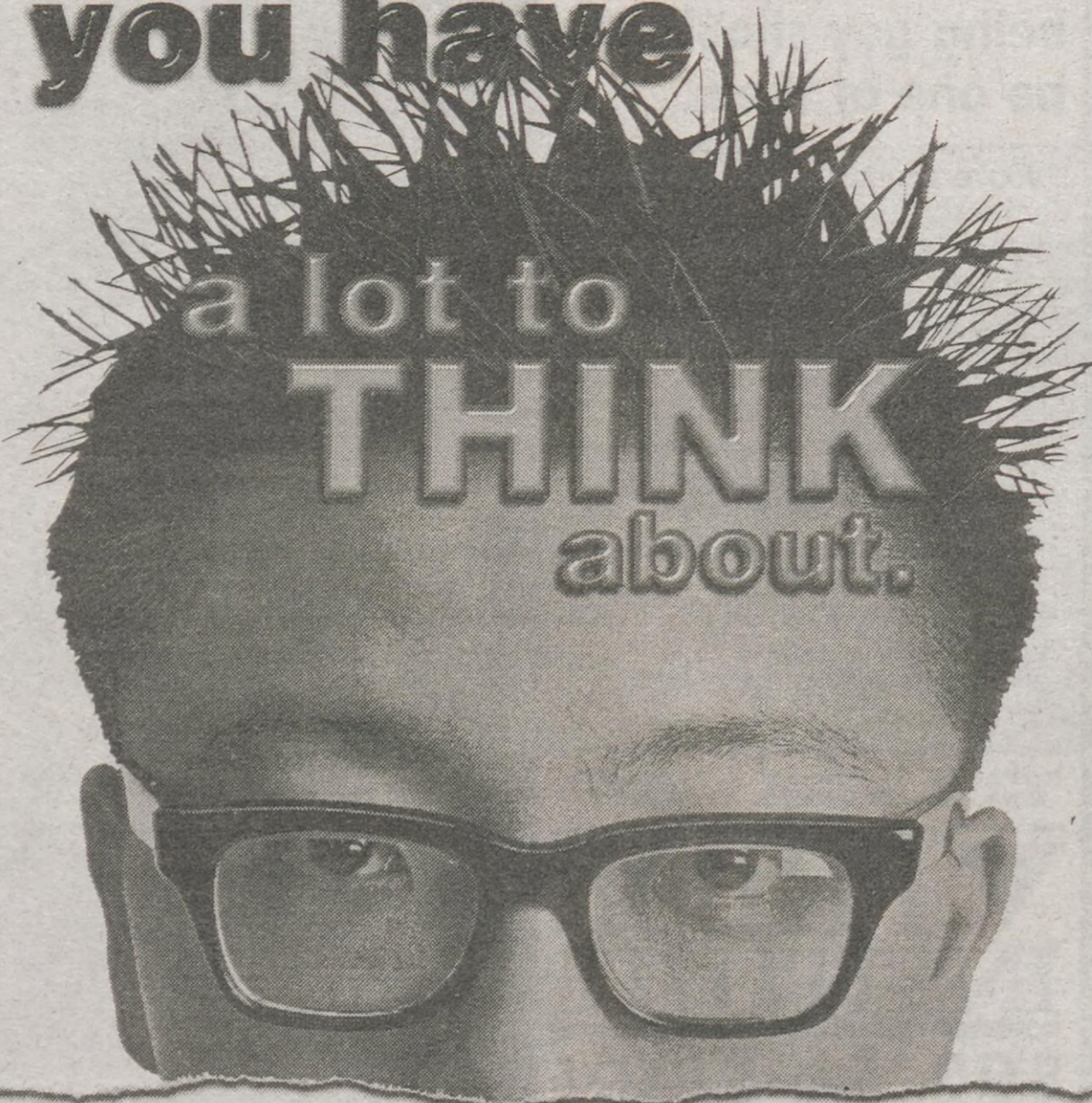
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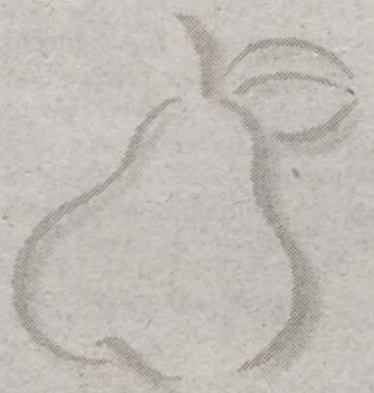
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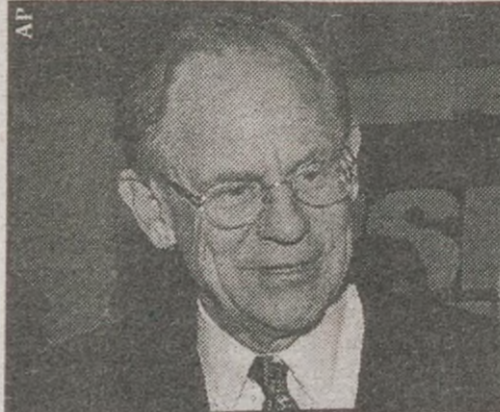
## health news

### AMA resolution says groups that ban gays feed youth suicides

CHICAGO (AP)—Members of the American Medical Association have proposed a resolution that would ask national youth groups not to ban gays because such policies could drive young people to suicide. AMA members are proposing the resolution in response to the Boy Scouts of America's ban on gay scoutmasters. The group discussed the resolution, which does not explicitly name the Boy Scouts, at the association's national meeting. Patricia Dunn, public policy director at the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association, said several studies have shown that gay youths face an increased suicide risk. The AMA proposal also said that teen suicide rates are lower in states that have anti-discrimination laws. The proposed resolution was to be sent to the AMA's 547-member House of Delegates for a vote this week. The resolution would become official AMA policy if approved. Dunn said approval would be "a major step," putting the weight of a "national credible organization" behind the issue.

### DE creates first-in-nation system to quickly track, respond to STDs

DOVER, Del. (AP)—The reporting of AIDS infections will be one of the last programs implemented in Delaware's first-in-the-nation, statewide computerized communicable disease reporting system, Delaware state health officials said. The system was created with \$1.8 million in federal funds, and will help the medical community respond quicker to outbreaks of sexually transmitted diseases, food-borne illnesses and a whole range of other illnesses, said state epidemiologist Leroy Hathcock.



U.S. Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.) helped obtain funding for a new high-tech system to track STDs so health officials can respond more quickly.

"The main purpose of the Delaware electronic reporting system is to save time and save lives," said U.S. Rep. Mike Castle (R-Del.), who helped obtain federal funding for the project. The system, which will replace a paper-based system that Hathcock described as slow and "extremely cumbersome," will link doctors, hospitals, clinics and laboratories with state public health officials, allowing quicker reporting of diseases. Under state law, health care officials must report 65 different communicable diseases—including AIDS, influenza, hepatitis and meningitis—to the Division of Public Health. The AIDS and sexually-transmitted disease reporting system will be among the last to be brought online because of the extra privacy safeguards that must be implemented.

### Researchers use new technology to track how HIV causes 'cell suicide'

WASHINGTON—University of California at San Diego researchers have used new technology to track with unprecedented precision the progression of cellular damage that follows an HIV infection, Reuters reported. Their study focuses on the way CD4+ T cells are induced to commit cellular suicide by the invading virus. "The virus is extremely clever. It doesn't just hit the cell randomly, kind of shooting holes in it. It actually initiates the process of programmed cell death," said study co-author Dr. Daniel Masys. HIV invades and swiftly overpowers the immune cell's DNA, inserting its own viral blueprints into the cellular machinery, poisoning genes and altering the cellular energy source, the researchers said. It then suppresses the immune cell's DNA repair mechanism, and induces the cell suicide process called apoptosis. "HIV actually suppresses more genes than it turns on as the process unfolds. Basically, the cell perceives this invasion and shuts down and commits apoptosis," Masys said. The study appears in the journal *Genome Research*.

### First injections of experimental HIV vaccine delivered in Trinidad

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP)—Researchers testing an experimental HIV vaccine have injected the first of 40 volunteers in Trinidad. "The inspiration to join the program came from knowing people who had been infected, that motivated me to help somehow," a 28-year-old volunteer said. He was injected with the first shot of the combination vaccine, which consists of two components, one manufactured by Aventis Pasteur, a French company, and one by San Francisco-based VaxGen. Both are synthetic vaccines that cannot infect a person with HIV, according to the U.S. National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, which is sponsoring the trials. A Trinidadian government ethics committee gave its approval in November. The Caribbean, with a 2 percent HIV infection rate, has the highest incidence of AIDS after Africa.

### Center provides support for heterosexuals infected with HIV in Florida

NORTH MIAMI, Fla. (AP)—A group that supports heterosexuals infected with HIV is thriving in South Florida. The Center for Positive Connections is a non-profit organization that grew from a handful of people meeting weekly to a busy, social group of mostly heterosexual men and women that supports as many as 1,000 people infected with HIV. "Heterosexuals think they're not at risk. What they don't know is what they are afraid of," said group founder Sheri Kaplan, who was diagnosed with the virus in 1994 after getting a routine blood test. Of the more than 80,000 Floridians infected with HIV, about 18 percent became infected through heterosexual sex. Positive Connections offers counseling and support groups to the newly diagnosed as well as long-time people with AIDS, in addition to holistic treatments that include massage and acupuncture. "It's serving a whole community that previously had no place to go," Kaplan said.

—From staff and wire reports



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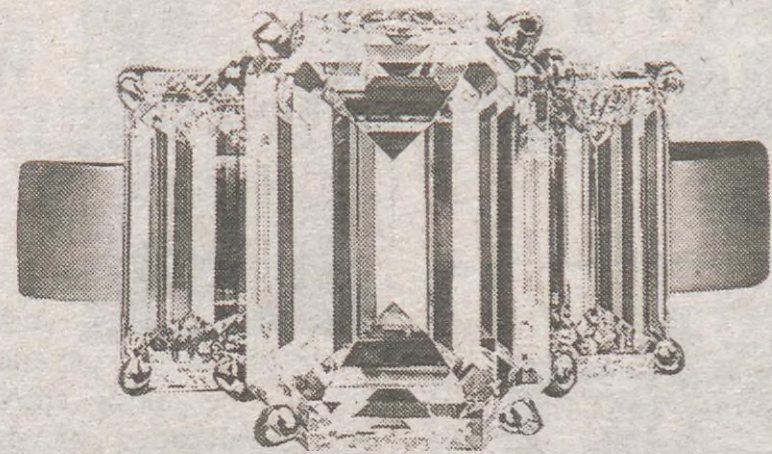
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## PLANT LIFE

### When the most important heterosexuals in your life break up

by DREW PLANT

I couldn't exactly write either a Mother's Day column or a Father's Day column this year. That would

be taking sides. You see, after four decades of marriage, my parents divorced earlier this year, leaving me something of an orphan.

The first phone conversation with my father after the divorce filing was an Ally McBeal moment. No, no one re-recorded a schmaltzy pop music classic for me to ponder as I wandered around the city reflectively. Rather, it occurred to me about one sentence into the call that I was regressing. My age became 20-something, then 17, then 12 and then about 4.

I was sitting in my chair at work, spinning around and feeling like my feet couldn't touch the floor.

No matter how old you are, Mommy and Daddy are a matched set. Book ends. Yin and Yang. Bogey and Bacall. Food and water. Fire and rain. You can take the two apart, but they will both always be Mommy and Daddy.

Still, the whole divorce mess—or correction, depending on your perspective—transports the adult-child to the role of child-adult. You are suddenly helpless. But maybe not.

Both parents seem to think your

counsel is necessary, wise and comforting. An ironic and somewhat sad compliment under the circumstances. And maybe a tribute to them both, too.

Most troubling is the fact that there is no script. There is no Right Way to handle it. Much advice from many fronts, yes, and all of it appreciated, but none of it is wholly applicable to your own situation. It's happened before to too many people too many times, but this is your own to feel and navigate and contemplate.

Even those closest take different approaches. My sister retreated, maybe denying the situation a bit by busying herself. She was Switzerland, and as that tiny neutral country stayed often incommunicado. No radio contact. She has her own marriage and three kids to look after, whereas I don't have the added sting of having to worry about breaking this news to anyone.

I chose to be Switzerland too, in my own way, listening a lot and playing the room for laughs. I offered practical advice where I could—to both parties—and tried to erase my memory banks after each phone call.

Still, there were many, many uncomfortable moments—usually in response to statements like, "Do you know what she's done now?" There were games and there was name-calling. But these weren't childish games and the names

do hurt, sticks and stones aside.

I did my level adult best and usually felt child-helpless no matter what. I reflect on my own bad record with intimate relationships and tried not to draw any parallels between my track record and the longer-building, more catastrophic loss at hand. There is just no comparison.

I also fielded a lot of morbid questions like, "My God, how long were they married? How old are they? What really happened?"

One parent is bitter: My father feels like a bad ending negates what's gone before. He actually wanted an annulment. Still, I think somewhere deep down he also senses a new beginning.

One parent is hopeful: My mother sees opportunity and chooses to count past triumphs. She feels she gave it her all and just couldn't give anymore. I think she has "handed it over," as we say in the South, and looks toward a new, very different life.

As for me, I have no great wisdom to impart. I'm not any better at this than I was at the beginning, but maybe I am better for it.

Your parents will handle it, your kids will rise to the occasion and anyone else who loves you will do their darndest.

Drew Plant lives in Atlanta and can be reached at drewbob@mindspring.com.



## SLOUCHING THROUGH SODOM

### Our vaunted rainbow can be all about colors

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

Every gay man is burdened by his homosexuality. No matter how many times we get the monkey

off our back, society is right there to put it back on.

But not all our burdens are of heterosexual descent. Some have a lineage that traces back to our own kind.

A prime example is my friend Steve. He's got two burdens—he's gay and African-American. But unlike most gay black men, he's added a third: He only dates white guys.

"Single & Looking" is shorthand for heartache. "Single & Looking for a Man Outside Your Race" is longhand for disaster.

If you don't believe arctic winds can blow in the heat of summer, try being black in a roomful of white gay men. Talk about unpredictable weather. A warm, sunny room can go cloudy and cold without warning.

Steve counts on the unpredictability, though. As he once told me about white gay gatherings, "If you don't like the weather, wait 15 people."

Recently Steve overheard a white guy berating another white guy who had dated Steve. "How could you date some-

body like that," he hissed, shooting a glance at Steve. "That," in this instance, was a polite way of saying "nigger."

The guy who said it is a waiter at an expensive restaurant. In retaliation, Steve made a reservation and asked the maitre-d for a table in the guy's station. Steve ran the waiter ragged, ordered the most expensive things in the menu, and then left the biggest tip the guy's probably ever gotten.

He left a note that said, "Enjoy," and signed it, "That."

Chris Rock once said, "There ain't a white man in the world who would trade places with me—and I'm rich and I get all the chicks I want." The same thing is true with gay white men. We wouldn't trade places with gay black men, no matter how rich or how many guys we could get.

I know I wouldn't. Not if I had to put up with the crap Steve does. His job takes him to New York a lot and no matter how high he raises his hands or his voice, taxis just drive past him. Especially the empty ones looking for passengers to pick up.

A fellow African-American co-worker gave him some advice: "Do what I do—wave a couple of 20s in your hand." It works, Steve told me, but not always. Even green is transparent when

it's held up by black.

Steve puts up with enough humiliation from straight white society, so why does he put himself through the same thing in gay life? Why does he only date members of a race whose members frequently sneer at him behind his back?

When I asked, Steve batted the question right back to me: "Why are you attracted to the men you're attracted to?"

The truth is, I don't know. I don't think anyone can explain the chemistry that drives them to one person but not another.

In the best of circumstances, looking for love is like looking for air. It's everywhere but you can almost never find it. For Steve, and other African-Americans who only date white guys, looking for love is like looking for gold. It's almost nowhere yet somehow they find it.

But sometimes, when I look at black guys like Steve, who pretty much rule out the idea of going out with other black men, I wonder if there's something going on there other than love.

And it makes me wonder: Is love color-blind or color-bound?

Michael Alvear lives with Zoey & Zack, his lesbian Labrador and girlie-boy Vizsla, and can be reached at mikealvear@aol.com.



VIEWPOINT

# The key to a lasting gay marriage, from one who knows

by KEN ROSS

On June 23, my lover Bill and I celebrated our 20th anniversary with friends. When asked how it is possible to have a wonderful relationship for so long, this has been my answer:

*First, make certain that you're capable of being half of a great marriage.*

Are you a giving person, or a taker?

Are you able and willing to give and receive unqualified love?

Are you patient and willing to defer some of your "needs" to tomorrow?

Are you forgiving? Do you realize that we are all human and all make mistakes?

Are you willing to trust the right person totally?

Are you optimistic and open to the future, or are you bitter and cynical?

Do you care enough to take the risk?

*Second, choose the right person:*

A good human being—someone who is giving, loving, supportive, caring, patient, trusting, trustworthy, honest, loyal, optimistic, happy and open.

Someone with whom you are compatible—in bed, yes, but also with common life goals, spending and saving habits, a common spirituality, agreement on the number and how to raise children (if any), and mutual interests.

Someone who turns you on, emotionally, intellectually, socially and sexually.

Someone with whom you can be very close friends, and spend the rest of your life.

*Third, make the commitment to a successful marriage.*

When you decide that a person is the

right one, and that person decides that you are the right one, commit to each other and the marriage, two becoming as one, before God and everyone else.

one another.

Plan the future together.

*Fourth, learn to deal with differences and conflicts.*

Never assume you have the right to treat your partner worse than strangers; in fact, you should treat him better than anyone else. And expect the same in return.

Love and care totally, and accept nothing less in return.

Commit to common life goals, spending and saving habits, but allow your partner to be an individual, with different interests (whether it be poker night, or whatever).

You are not Siamese twins. Nor will you ever find a partner without (what you consider to be) faults. If your partner is willing to quietly tolerate your annoying habits, return the favor. The essence of love is unqualified acceptance.

Be willing to give anything, and expect nothing less in return. Be totally loyal. Support your partner whenever and however you can. Be that person's home and oasis away from the stress of the outside world.

Never assume that you have the right to treat your partner worse than strangers; in fact, you should treat him better than anyone else. And expect the same in return.

Agree on mutual expectations and limitations, and follow them religiously. Be totally trustworthy, and trust your partner totally. Never deceive or lie to

If you disagree, say so. Talk it out, honestly, openly, clearly, rationally and dispassionately, but expressing the degree of importance to you. If you cannot come to a consensus, either compromise, or allow the person to "win" who has either the strongest opinion, or the most vested interest in the decision, or the most expertise in that subject.

If you are true partners, you will rejoice in the other one "winning."

Never say or do anything to harm or hurt your partner. If your partner says or something that hurts you, do not be quietly hurt and carry a grudge. Speak up: "Did you mean this the way it sounds to me?" Very probably, the answer is no, a miscommunication.

If your partner did mean to harm or injure you, deal with the issue immediately, directly, honestly and openly. "Why would you hurt the one you love?"

When your partner realizes that you are not the enemy and the anger has been misplaced and hurtful, he will apologize. Forgive him totally, and accept him back totally. A great marriage is more about compassion than passion.

**Let us know what you think!**

Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Include a name and phone number for verification.

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## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



# Krewe of Olympus wins overall parade award

➤ Continued from Page 1

with them had never been easier. "It was an incredible pleasure working with HPD this year," he said.

Valinski said he appreciated the city's efforts with the parade and especially their help in alleviating the mosquito infestation caused by the recent flooding.

"The city sprayed for bugs the night before the Festival and the Parade. The cooperation was incredible."

According to HPD's Media Relations, around 75,000 people lined Westheimer for the nighttime parade. If correct, that's a much smaller crowd than the estimated 150,000 last year.

Valinski disagreed with HPD's count.

"I have no real way of knowing, but I don't think that's correct. I think there were a lot more people. [Houston City Councilwoman] Annise Parker told me she thought the crowd was bigger this year too," said Valinski.

This was the parade that wouldn't end. Beginning at 8:45 and finally winding up a little after midnight, it was possibly the



**Krewe of Olympus won the award for best overall float in the Houston Pride Parade, June 23.**

longest in Houston's Pride history. "There were 135 units and we started the parade exactly at 8:45 and the last float passed the reviewing stand at midnight," said Valinski.

Valinski agreed that the parade was a little long and that the Committee will proba-

bly have to look at ways to make next year's parade shorter. But, he added one of the problems holding up the parade, is unit breakdowns. "It takes time to move it and the rest of the parade gets held up."

Major awards were given to nine floats with Krewe of Olympus capturing the best overall float. Best walking unit went to the Texas Renaissance Festival, whose members were decked out in old time English costumes; best out-of-town unit went to Razzle Dazzle from Dallas; best lighting, non-professional unit, went to Rich's, while Miss Camp America got the nod for best lighting, professional unit.

Hollywood Foods won best non-professional motorized unit and EJ's won best professional motorized unit; Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church won for the best commemoration of Pride and Chase Bank for best interpretation of the theme.

The Pride Festival, resurrected after a 5-year hiatus, also was a success said Valinski. "We feel good about the Festival. About 2,000 showed up. We were very concerned because it's new on the agenda. But it was

very positive; we pretty much filled up Garden in the Heights."

He added that he thought the \$5 and \$8 tickets were a great value given all the entertainment on hand.

Valinski, who has helped spearhead the Pride events since the early '90s, said he would be back for next year's festivities if he's wanted.

"If they want me, I'll be back. It takes a lot of time from my life but it's worth it when the community comes out like this. I have a great committee to work with and could never pull it all off without them."

He said the committee would love comments from the community about the parade, festival and other Pride events.

INFO

**Pride Committee of Houston**

713.529.6969

# Urban Scout councils request lifting gay ban

➤ Continued from Page 1

with opposition mounting.

The extent of the opposition surprises some analysts. Kenneth Sherrill, an openly gay political science professor at New York's Hunter College, asked, "Who would have thought there would be a backlash against the Boy Scouts for discriminating? ... But in fact, the Boy Scouts have been on the defensive and we have not."

Calling the reaction to the Boy Scout issue a "watershed," Sherrill said, "We're now faced with a national consensus that's becoming increasingly overwhelming: that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is wrong."

"Gays are winning the public opinion fight," said Larry Gross, an openly gay professor of communications at the University of Pennsylvania. He pointed to the small but growing number of Scout troops disavowing the anti-gay policy, adding that it has also "become an issue in United Ways, in corporations and in schools."

"It brings many allies; people who say, 'I don't want my children learning discrimination,'" Gross said.

None of this means that gays have won, or even nearly won, the battle. The BSA, despite internal dissent, is not yet budging. And the religious right is seeking to use the Scouts issue where it can, as in its petition-gathering effort to force a referendum on the 6-year-old gay civil rights ordinance in Broward County, Fla., or in forcing a Sept. 11 recall election of openly gay Tempe, Ariz., Mayor Neil Giuliano.

## Gays gain momentum

Nevertheless, the momentum appears to be on the gay side. On Tuesday, a newly declared itself: The American Medical Association's House of Delegates voted

overwhelmingly to adopt a resolution urging "youth-oriented organizations to reconsider exclusionary policies that are based on sexual orientation."

Allen Dennison, the Rhode Island doctor who initiated the resolution, called its passage a "significant breakthrough." Gay kids, Dennison said, need "nonjudgmental support" in youth groups.

The growing dissent within the BSA is reflected, according to a June 15 report in *USA Today*, in a request from eight presidents of urban Scouts councils that the BSA revoke its gay ban.

The presidents of Scouts councils in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Orange County, Calif., proposed the change this month at an annual meeting of Scout leaders.

"I don't think the policy is going to change overnight," said Chicago Area Council president Lewis Greenblatt. "There is a movement by the urban councils that is going to start a dialogue that I don't think can be ignored because we represent quite a few Scouts."

Gregg Shields, the BSA's spokesperson, did not respond to requests for an interview on this and other Scouts-related developments. He told *USA Today*, "These council presidents don't necessary represent their entire councils. Nine dedicated volunteers have that opinion, and we'll take that... under consideration."

The depth of feeling on the Scouts issue—on both sides—was demonstrated last week when PBS stations across the country showed *Scout's Honor*, an award-winning documentary featuring Steven Cozza, a straight teenaged Scout, and a straight Scoutmaster, Dave Rice. Together with Steven's father, Scott Cozza, they helped found Scouting for All, a group opposed to the gay ban.

At least two religious organizations—Concerned Women for America and the American Family Association—urged supporters to protest to PBS and lobby local stations not to air the show. In response, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation sent out an alert calling on supporters to thank PBS and local stations.

## Congress steps in

The debate over the BSA's policy sometimes emerges at the national level, as it did June 14: The U.S. Senate voted 51-49 to approve an amendment by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) aimed at withholding federal funding from school districts that refuse to give the Boy Scouts "equal access" to meeting space.

Evan Wolfson, a former attorney with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund who argued the Boy Scouts case before the Supreme Court, said the closeness of the Senate vote is another indication the momentum is toward the pro-gay side on the Scouts and other issues.

"The idea that we would almost defeat this Boy Scouts rah-rah amendment would have been dismissed out of hand just a few years ago," Wolfson said. "When you look at what's going on across the country, the picture's even better."

Most of the Boy Scouts debates and battles are local, with United Ways, school districts, corporations and local governments asked to reject funding and other support for Scouts groups.

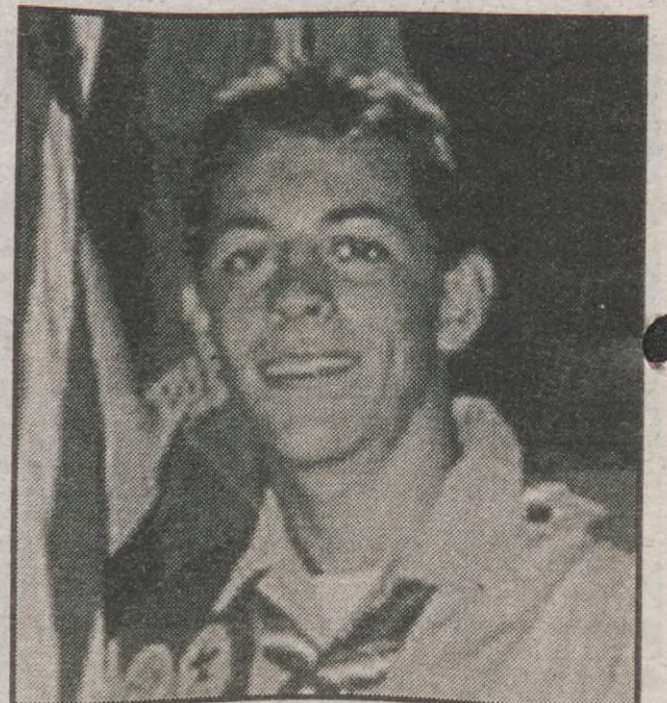
The *Chronicle of Philanthropy*, which surveyed the nation's 400 largest United Ways, found that at least 50 have taken steps to "create, revise or newly apply" their anti-discrimination policies in recent months.

But at least 27 United Ways, the *Chronicle*

reported, have taken formal stands recently to assure local Scouts of continued funding. And many others say community backing for the Scouts is so strong they don't need to review their policies.

According to Lambda Legal, at least 21 school systems have taken steps to disassociate themselves from the Scouts. But in March, a federal judge in Fort Lauderdale made it clear that Broward County's attempt to bar Scouts from the schools because of the BSA's anti-gay policy was illegal.

The ruling emphasized that under the federal Equal Access Act, a group cannot be treated differently from others—for example, prevented from meeting in schools—simply because of its viewpoint; all groups must be treated equally.



**Steven Cozza's crusade in California to convince the Boy Scouts to accept openly gay members and leaders became a focus of the documentary Scout's Honor.**

# Q-Patrol staging candlelight vigil honoring Broussard

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McCullough High School drove back to their homes in the Woodlands, high-fiving each other across the two cars. They came down to the Montrose to "beat up some queers." They succeeded.

Eight hours after the grotesque beating, Paul Broussard, 27, died at the hospital.

Broussard's murder caused a fire storm of protests and activism by the gay community. A large demonstration at Westheimer and Montrose demanded more police protection.

City Council debated putting more policemen in the Montrose; Houston City Councilman Vince Ryan called on then-governor Ann Richards to push "hate crimes" legislation in the upcoming session; the Houston Police Department was spurred to complete its belated study on hate-crime statistics; 7-month old Queer Nation staged protests in the Woodlands; Q-Patrol was formed to be a visible deterrent to hate crimes around the bar area; the Montrose Clergy Association held rallies in support of hate-crime legislation.

Perhaps the most enlightening effort, especially for the straight community, was the month-long undercover police sting in the weeks following the July 4 murder and bashings. Posing as gay, some officers were



**Q-Patrol, seen here participating in the 1999 Pride Parade, was formed in the aftermath of the Paul Broussard murder in 1991. The group, which serves as a watchdog against hate crimes, will hold a candlelight vigil July 4 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Broussard's death.**

punched, sprayed with mace, hit by tree limbs, baseball bats, or bottles, and egged. Many of the officers said at the time that they finally understood the daily fear gays faced.

The arrests came less than a month later, due to the gang's indiscriminate bragging and HPD's intense manhunt. Because of various levels of participation in the mur-

der/beatings, the 10 defendants were tried in different groups.

Broussard was not the first Houston man murdered because he was gay. He wasn't the last. Three months later, in the same area of the Montrose as Broussard's killing, Phillip Smith was shot in the face by John Darrington who killed Smith because

he didn't like gays.

The police stings ended, the hate crimes bill withered for 10 years, the homicide rate declined, while the bashings and "faggings" vacillated in frequency and degree. In a sad way, the death of Paul Broussard is Houston's Stonewall. From that day forward, the gay community vigorously stood up and demanded protection. No more, they shouted. It's a demand that hasn't been met, and we won't allow anyone to forget it. We should be screaming every day.

To honor the memory of Paul Broussard and the 10th anniversary of his brutal death, join Q-Patrol for a special candlelight vigil on the 1000 block of West Drew at midnight, July 4. Before the service, why not join Q-Patrol at 9:30 p.m. for their regular surveillance patrol of the Montrose bar area? The walks are fun and for a good cause—your safety.

INFO

## Q-Patrol

July 4, 9:30 p.m.

Meet at Houston Lesbian & Gay  
Community Center, 803  
Hawthorne

713.528.SAFE

## Many diagnosed with syphilis also are HIV-positive

➤ Continued from Page 3

"Twenty years before AIDS, we used to see tremendously high rates of syphilis in the gay population," said Paffel. But, AIDS education and awareness programs fostered safe-sex habits, thus reducing the risk of syphilis. "We hardly saw syphilis for many years," he added.

Ironically, because nationally, syphilis cases were at their lowest levels ever in 1998, the CDC had targeted syphilis for eradication. But in 2001, eradication is no longer in sight.

According to the CDC, syphilis occurred nationally primarily in persons aged 20 to 39 with the highest incidence in men aged 30 to 39 in 1999. Cases of primary and secondary syphilis in the same year showed that of the total reported cases, 75 percent were in the African-American community, one of the highest examples of racial disparity in health status. Sixteen percent occurred in the white community, 8 percent in Hispanics and other races 1 percent.

However, Houston does not follow the national model according to Paffel. "In MSM syphilis cases, from January to May of this year, ages ranged from 18 to the upper 50s with the majority between the ages of 30 to 39."

He noted that Houston's racial model also takes a different path. "Racially and ethnically, there's no significance. We're seeing it along all racial lines," he said.

However, once diagnosed, syphilis is very treatable, said Paffel. A single dose of

penicillin will cure a person who has had syphilis for less than a year. Larger doses are needed to cure someone who has had the disease longer. There are alternative antibiotics for those who are allergic to penicillin.

Treatment prevents further damage but will not repair damage already done. The CDC warns that sufferers undergoing treatment must abstain from sexual contact until the treatment is completed. They should also notify partners so they too can be tested.

More importantly, syphilis can be prevented very easily by having protected sex or from abstaining during infection. But given the new and powerful drugs to combat AIDS and the longer life span for HIV/AIDS sufferers, it appears that gay and bisexual men are lowering their guard against AIDS, said Paffel.

However, condoms do not provide complete protection since the syphilis sores can sometimes be in areas not covered by a condom. Because syphilis sores can be hidden in the rectum, vagina or mouth, it is not obvious that a sex partner has syphilis.

Paffel urges all gay and bisexual men to have the simple syphilis blood test and if they test positive to undergo treatment immediately. He also urges those who test positive to name all their recent sex partners.

A problem in the gay community that is not so prevalent in heterosexual life is getting gays and bisexuals to name their sex-

ual partners. "We're only about half as successful getting MSMs to name their partners as in the heterosexual community. It may be fear, distrust or that the partners are anonymous," said Paffel.

HDHHS has stepped up its prevention program in light of the rash of recent syphilis infections. "Our staff has increased our prevention activities in the bars, bookstores, bathhouses and other areas frequented by men who have sex with men," Paffel said.

They are also working closely with the Montrose Clinic to ensure they gain access to as many prevention venues as possible.

The CDC warns that having had syphilis does not protect a person from getting it again. Antibodies are produced as a person reacts to the disease; after treatment, these antibodies may offer partial protection for a short time. But as the antibody levels decrease in the blood, people become susceptible to syphilis again if they are sexually exposed to syphilis sores.

The bottom line, said Paffel, is "If you're at risk; get tested."

INFO

## HDHHS

713.794.9281

Montrose Clinic

713.830.3000

## Symptoms of syphilis: The great imitator

Syphilis is a disease not to be taken lightly and often referred to "the great imitator," because its early symptoms mimic those of many other diseases. The time between infection and the first symptom can range from 10 to 90 days.

The primary stage of syphilis is often marked by the appearance of a single sore or chancre, but there may be multiple sores.

The chancre lasts a few weeks and heals on its own but if treatment is not administered, the infection progresses to the secondary stage.

In this stage, one or more areas of the skin break into a non-itchy rash of rough, red or reddish brown spots. The rash clears up on its own. Other symptoms can include fever, swollen lymph glands, sore throat, patchy hair loss, headaches, weight loss, muscle aches and tiredness. At this point, sufferers are the most infectious.

If not treated, the disease proceeds to the late or latent stage. The person still has syphilis but there are no overt signs or symptoms. But because it remains in the body, it may begin to damage the internal organs such as the heart, brain, nerves, eyes, blood vessels, liver, bones and joints.

Source: Centers for Disease Control

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# "quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER

"I didn't understand it then, I don't understand it now."

—Singer Melissa Etheridge, on her reaction to learning that her former longtime partner Julie Cypher was "no longer gay," as quoted by *USA Today*, June 15



Melissa Etheridge

"I watch gay porn because the plot is better. The sex is hotter. Porn isn't really about what you want. It's a stimulant. I find sex very stimulating."

—Comedian Lea DeLaria to *Genre* magazine, June issue

"I pray to God that people are relating to Emmett and that men who are effeminate see a champion in Emmett. I love the fact that he's effeminate and not self-loathing."

—Peter Paige who plays Emmett on Showtime's "Queer As Folk," to the *Advocate*, June 19

"Someone I met on a sex phone line... came over, we had sex and it turned out he was a huge fan of mine. It was on a tour, I was very lonely. Now I have to watch myself with the lower forms of picking people up. They're starting to recognize me now."

—Singer Rufus Wainwright to *Genre* magazine, July issue

"There's no room for subtlety on Gay Pride Day."

—Patrick Carney on the 200-foot pink triangle he has erected on Pride Day for six years atop San Francisco's Twin Peaks theater, which hovers over the Castro district, to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 17

"It's a wonderful example of gay-male characters written as straight women."

—Larry Gross, professor of communications at the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication, on HBO's "Sex and the City," to the *New York Times*, June 17



Dorothy Allison

"In this culture it's a whole lot more frightening to be poor than to be queer. Being poor isn't pretty and it doesn't have a sense of humor."

—Lesbian author Dorothy Allison to the *Village Voice*, June 20

"There has always been an authoritarian agenda in [Michelangelo] Signorile's outing jihads. By using activism to rehabilitate gossip, journalists like him validate the collapse of privacy."

—Richard Goldstein in a June 20 *Village Voice* article on Signorile's column about personal ads seeking barebacking allegedly placed by HIV-positive gay writer Andrew Sullivan

"In New York City... most of my friends plan a weekend getaway and flee town at Pride. It's too crowded, they complain. It's old hat. It's for out-of-towners and tourists. It isn't relevant anymore. Been there, done that."

—Syndicated gay press columnist Mubarak Dahir, June 21

"My best fans are gay men. Everything they do, they do well. ... They have a special talent. I'd rather spend an evening with four or five gay guys than a heterosexual group. They're always aware of what's happening. They're far more interesting than women."

—Singer Connie Francis to Boston's *Bay Windows*, June 7



Connie Francis

"Conservative gays and lesbians sometimes fear that men in leather jock straps or go-go boys in day-glo bikinis [at the pride parade] harm 'our' image. But except for religious zealots who dislike us anyway, spectators are probably more impressed that the men are healthy, good looking and in such good shape."

—Syndicated gay press columnist Paul Varnell, June 22

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# Circuit parties, drugs go hand in hand, study says

New CDC study shows drugs, risky sex common part of circuit parties, driving some AIDS agencies to find other sources for income

by ERIC ERICKSON

Most gay men at circuit parties use recreational drugs, while about 30 percent engage in risky sex, though nearly two-thirds of the party-goers see condoms at the events, according to a new study from the federal Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

The results of the study confirm what some already suspected about circuit parties, but researchers—until this study—hadn't backed up those suspicions with hard numbers, said Dr. Gordon Mansergh, a behavioral scientist with the CDC and co-author of the study.

"People have hunches about [circuit parties]," Mansergh said. "But until it's seen quantitatively and physically, there really is no proof. It's all from somebody's subjective view of it."

But even without the research, published in the June edition of *American Journal of Public Health*, some AIDS service agencies that have relied on circuit parties

to raise funds in the past have distanced themselves from the events.

Researchers interviewed 295 gay and bisexual men in the San Francisco area who said they attended at least one circuit party in the last year. Some 95 percent of the men said they used a psychoactive drug during their last circuit party weekend.

The most common illegal drugs used were ecstasy and ketamine. High percentages of men in the study also reported using crystal meth, gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), marijuana and cocaine.

The study also showed that 28 percent of the men said they engaged in unsafe sex. Almost half of all subjects who reported having multiple partners did not practice safe sex.

But the study also showed that 63 percent of the men saw condoms offered at the events, while a third of the men saw safe-sex information and drug-safe partying information.

Mansergh said that if the men took the condoms, research shows they were likely to use them.

## Events promote safe sex

Ninety-seven percent of the men in Mansergh's study were gay, with the other three percent bisexual. More than half of the subjects were thirty years old or older, held a bachelor's degree of higher and made more than 40,000 dollars annually.

The CDC study showed that nearly two-thirds of the men said they saw condoms

offered at circuit parties; a third said safe sex information was also available.

"At a time when we're struggling with increasing STD rates with gay men, this is a likely venue that you could implement some interventions that could potentially make an impact on a high risk population," Mansergh said.

Even with the startling results in the study, Mansergh said the research showed that circuit parties do have a positive side.

"These parties are really important to some men," Mansergh said. "They're social events and life affirming for a lot of guys and we see that in their motivation for going to a party."

Of the 10 reasons men said they attend circuit parties, "getting high on drugs" was number six, while "having sex" came in at number nine. Topping the list were "listen to music and dance," "be with friends," "meet people" and "feeling of community."

"These events are a celebration of life and being gay," said Matrix Entertainment's Chris Dunn.

"We enjoy what we do, we enjoy putting together these incredible shows and productions. They don't have to do all these drugs. They can actually come and the music and the energy and the show and the lights also makes you high," Dunn said.

"So [guys] can come and dance and have a good time. When they're there and they're screaming and they're throwing up their hands, it's like that's my reward. That's my drug," he said.



R.O. YOUNGBLOOD

Some 3,000 gay men turned out last Saturday for Voyage 2001 at Philips Arena during Atlanta Pride. The circuit party came just days after a new study documented high rates of illegal drug use and risky sex at similar events.

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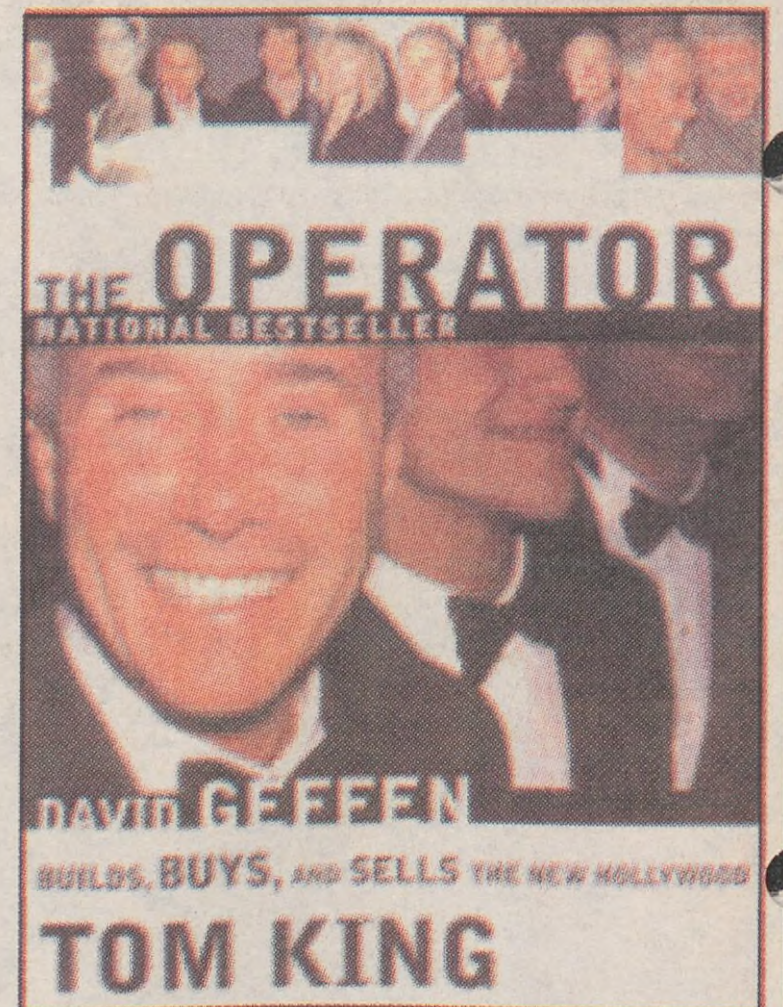
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# Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • JUNE 29, 2001

## 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION GIVES 'BIG BANG' FOR THE BUCK

Event will benefit Body Positive Wellness Center

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT



It's the fourth big celebration for the Fourth. Rocketing on the tremendous success of Independence Day blasts from the past, Body Positive Wellness Center expects to shatter all previous party records with their annual spangled Big Bang Celebration.

As always, the event benefits the Body Positive, one of Houston's most innovative and successful programs assisting individuals with HIV and AIDS. The Wellness Center, located just a few floors below the penthouse party venue at 3400 Montrose, provides individualized treatment for men and women dealing with the many complications associated with HIV disease.

Since 1988, the Wellness Center has focused on the total health and well being of the HIV-positive individual. As a pioneer in the treatment of HIV-related wasting syndrome, the staff and board of directors of Body Positive

realized that there was a direct correlation between longevity and the preservation of lean body mass, something crucial to the long term health of those with HIV.

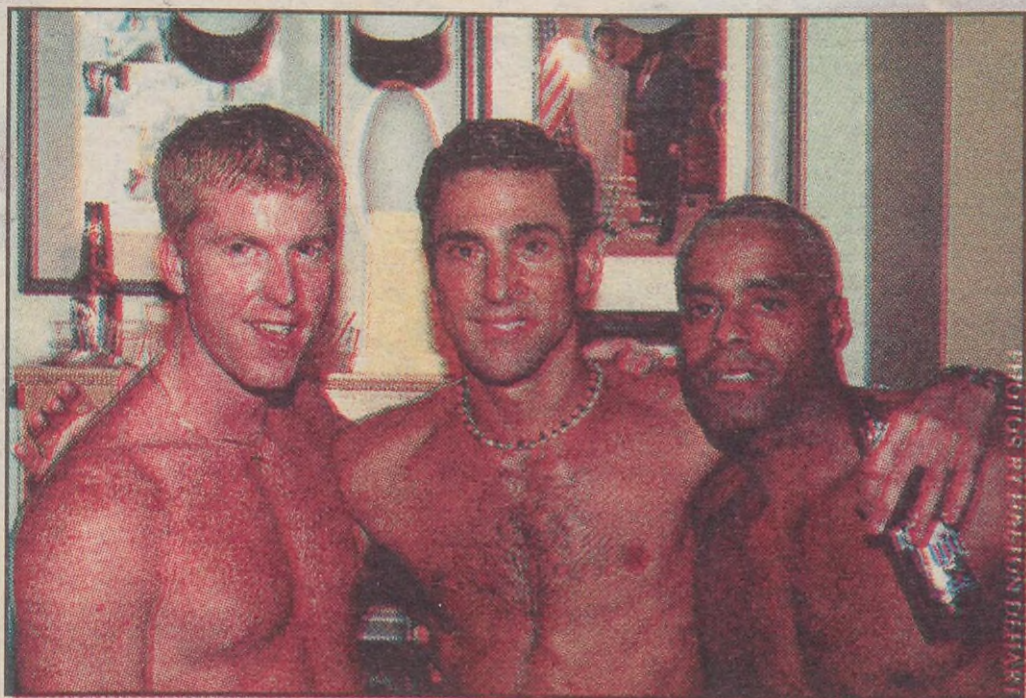
In 1998, Body Positive, the tiniest community-based AIDS service organization in Houston, took a huge risk. Under the guidance and vision of Nelson Vergel, the organization decided to open a full-service wellness center, effectively increasing its budgetary needs 10-fold almost overnight. From that humble and nerve-wrecking beginning the Wellness Center emerged and is now a well respected collaborative effort between Body Positive and The Montrose Clinic.

This Wellness Center offers nutritional counseling, a full-scale workout facility, chiro-



> Continued on Page 20

Revelers at last year's 'Big Bang' celebration enjoyed the view of July 4 fireworks from the balcony at SkyBar, 3400 Montrose.



## Kiss me, you fool

Masquerade Theatre produces 'Spider Woman' with little polish, but ample shine

by D.L. GROOVER

Never underestimate the power of theater. Case in point, Masquerade Theatre's stirring rendition of Kander and Ebb's *KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN*. This much-heralded adaptation of Manuel Puig's 1976 novel about the force of fantasy to overcome overwhelming realism is brought home neatly in this small theater's venue.

Due to the male leads, some nifty dance sequences, and Phillip Duggins' bare bones direction, we quickly forget the spit and cardboard sets and lack of Broadway spectacle and polish with which the original seduced us. Even the low amperage of the Spider Woman herself, Deanna Julian, can not dim the magic.

As you may know, this is the tale of two prisoners forced to share a cell during Argentina's fascistic regime where torture, brutal conditions and psychological repression were all part of the daily routine.

Molina, a 37-year-old window dresser, has been picked up on morals charges. He is a flamer nonpareil, who weaves stories from favorite movies to keep himself sane even in the outside world. As punishment he's put in with mucho macho Valentin, a political prisoner and socialist ideologue. As a bribe, the warden promises Molina his freedom if he can discover Valentin's outside compatriots.

In the musical, brutal existence inside the

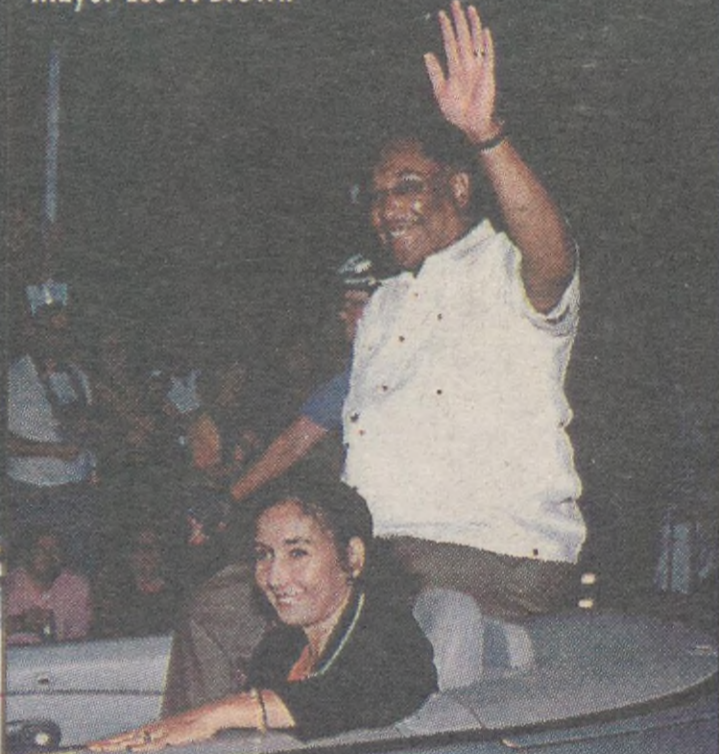
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Kathy Hubbard & Annise Parker

Mayor Lee P. Brown

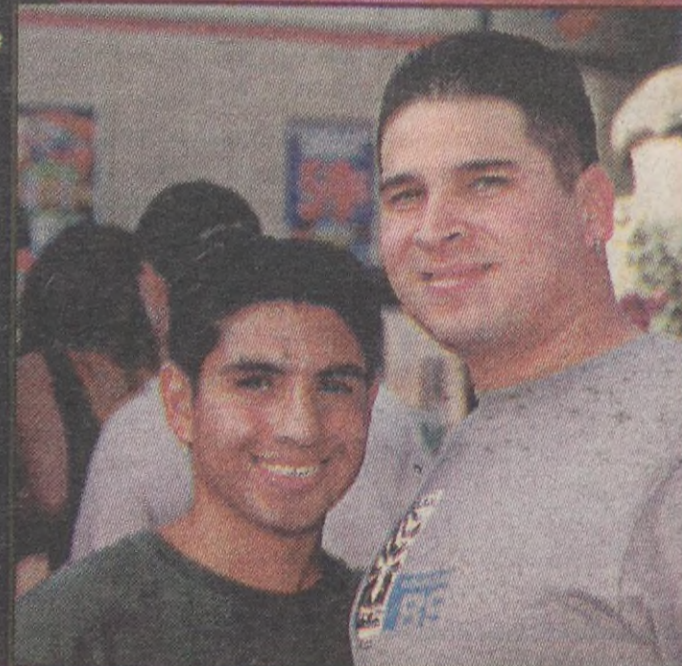
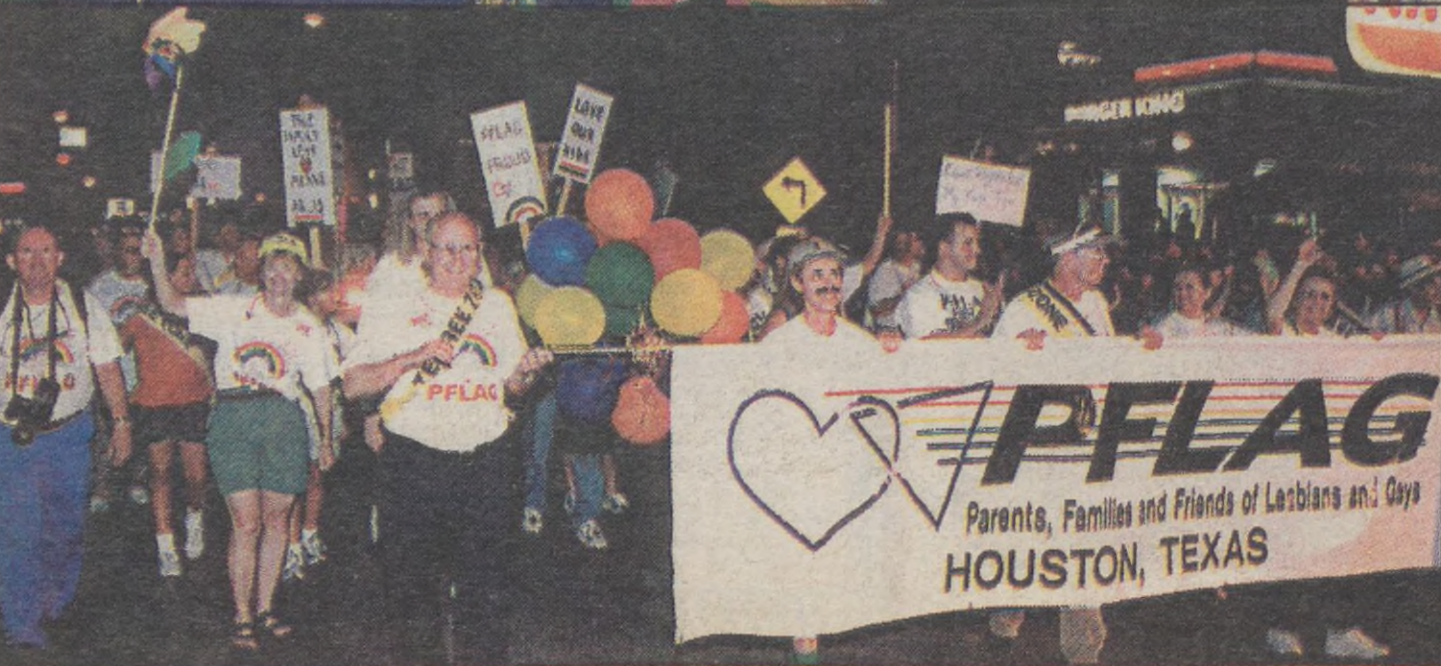
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U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee



H.A.T.C.H.



Parade Judge Donna Garrett



Protestors left long before the parade ended.

## Skybar again playing host to 'Big Bang' celebration

> Continued from Page 17

practic care, massage therapy, yoga and various educational programs to all HIV-positive individuals, regardless of their ability to pay.

"We are now able to offer a unique continuum of care, from preventative to treatment to side effects management," Katy

Caldwell, executive director, said.

This annual event, held again this year at Scott Gertner's SkyBar, in the Penthouse at 3400 Montrose, continues pride-like celebrations with fireworks-watching, buffet-eating and late night partying on July 4th, starting at 4 p.m., with value-priced drinks

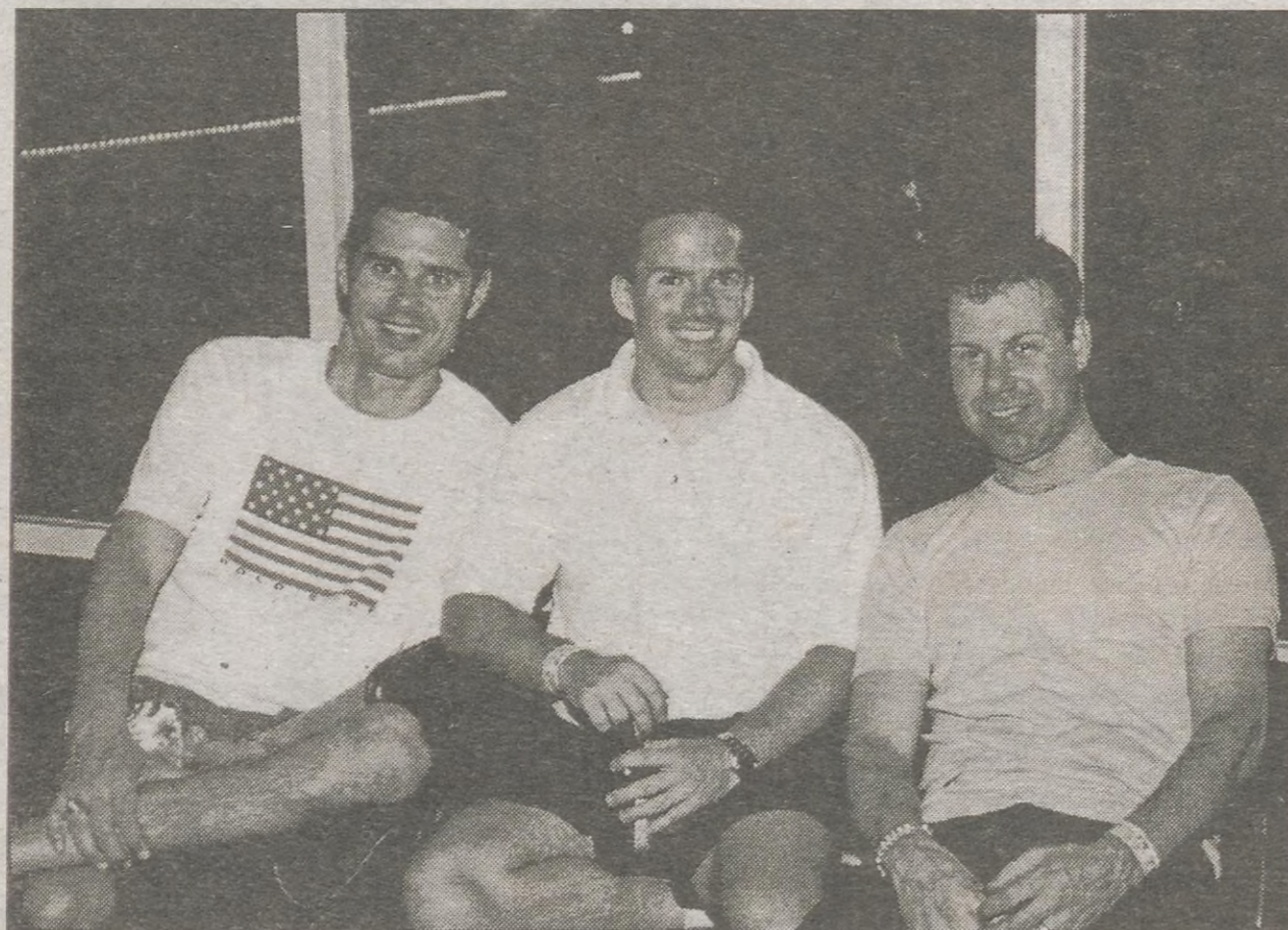
and a special holiday version of Karaoke to the event off to a humorous start.

In its previous three years, this "Big Bang" has been one of the best party values around—this casual and festive evening is quite a bit different from other, higher priced fundraising events that help to fund worthy HIV/AIDS organizations. The admission price gives you a complimentary full buffet courtesy of long-time underwriters La Strada, Riva's, Sonoma and the SkyBar. The buffet runs from 6-8 p.m. and plenty of food will be available at one of the five buffet stations scattered throughout the top floor venue.

All of the restaurants are known for their excellent quality cuisine, and this even should be no exception. If you need a little libation to wash the feast down, nickel beer and 99-cent well drinks will be available from four to seven p.m. Assorted drink special will continue throughout the evening.

DJ notable Michael Tank will again begin his magic spin at 7 p.m., transforming the SkyBar into a massive dance club until the wee hour of 2 a.m.

"Big Bang" is the best of all possible parties: dazzling views of Houston's fireworks, delicious food from some of the city's best eateries, drinks of all shapes, sizes and prices, and dancing that puts some "fire" in everyone's 4th!



INFO

### Big Bang

July 4, 4 p.m.-2 a.m.

SkyBar, 3400 Montrose

Tickets: \$25

713.830.3006

www.MontroseClinic.org

## Masquerade Theatre conveys powerful story of 'SpiderWoman'

> Continued from Page 17

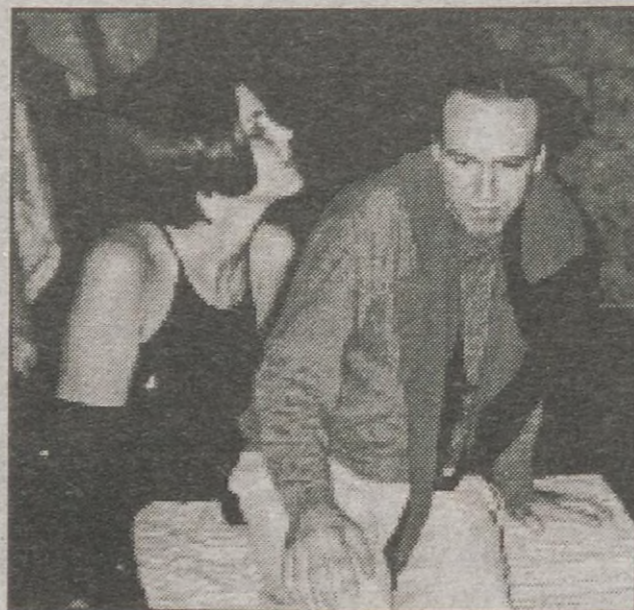
walls is ameliorated by Molina's fantasies that break them down. Gradually, through mutual hardship and growing respect, the two men form a loving bond, giving to each other the better part of their natures.

When Molina is released, he does a political favor for Valentin which gets him killed. We are supposed to view this non-selfish act as Molina becoming a man, but in Terrance McNally's somewhat timid book, it comes off as another example of "the only good queer is a dead queer." When Valentin makes love to Molina, we aren't sure if he's seducing Molina for his own political ends, or if he truly accepts and loves him.

The threadbare psychology doesn't harm this rousing musical, though, whose tunes are infused with a Latin-inspired beat and whose book is replete with Molina's outrageous bitchy wit.

If the spectacle and spangles of the fantasy numbers are low-rent in this version, it works in Masquerade's favor. Too much Technicolor flash would overwhelm the postage stamp-sized stage. The grimy chorus boys work like troopers and put over Frank York's inventive choreography with hearty enthusiasm and the pizzazz of a Zeigfeld show.

The male leads are downright impressive. Illich Guardiola is a gruff, machismo-layered dissident, who at first is loathe to shed any of his protective armor. As the musical progresses, he softens considerably and finally offers himself to his cellmate,



Deanna Julian as the Spider Woman and Luther Chakurian as Molina.

giving Molina the impetus to turn his life around. His love seems genuine, not suspect as in the musical's book.

Luther Chakurian does a true star turn as Molina. He plays down the campier aspects of the character so we see the survivor underneath the silk kimono. He's an impressive singer, belting out his signature piece "Dressing Them Up," or smoothly plaintive in "Mama, It's Me." He brings this show to life with a pro's command of the stage.

Anyone stepping into the high heels of the Spider Woman has to contend with the mythic Chita Rivera, who managed at the advanced age of 60 to beguile and insinuate herself into legend. The Spider Woman is the ultimate femme fatale, a combo platter

of Louise Brooks, Dietrich, Rita Hayworth, Garbo, and any other movie temptress you care to name.

Deanna Julian, looking smashingly radiant in her jet-spangled gowns, doesn't quite manage to walk comfortably in such stellar pumps. She should bowl us over with Aurora's audacity, her sexual smolder, her mystery. Miss Julian is restrained and tentative, only coming into her own by the second act's "Russian Movie." There's a Spider Woman in her. She just has to learn how to scramble nimbly around the web without getting caught herself.

Stephanie Bradow, as Molina's mother, Kaytha Coker, as Valentin's lover Marta, and Russell Freeman, as the sadistic warden, bring these secondary characters to life. The women are especially moving in the haunting "Dear One." When their voices are joined by Molina's and Valentin's, the quartet transforms into a great chorus.

This Tony award winner, powerful, tuneful, cleverly staged on its B-movie budget, manages to pack a wallop and leave you thinking. This musical has ideas in its head, and Masquerade Theatre conveys them very well, indeed.

INFO

### Kiss of the Spider Woman

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# Bayou Calendar

## Key West

In Jack Heifner's romp, two mis-matched buddies decide to visit Key West for their routine yearly vacation, and to their chagrin situations become much more than routine. How could they not with horny houseboys, Swedish hunks and randy priests sharing the guest quarters. And there's a soupcon of nudity to keep you alert.

Through Aug. 18  
Theatre New West, 1415 California St.  
713-522-2204

## Tootsie

Dustin Hoffman's greatest role and most appealing performance occurs in Sydney Pollack's 1982 comic romp. The rest of the cast (Terri Garr, Jessica Lang, Bill Murray, Dabney Coleman, and director Sydney Pollack as Hoffman's exasperated agent) sparkles with him. Although the film never quite lives up to that hilarious montage of magazine covers, male liberation gets a serio-comic kick in the ass in order to achieve enlightenment. Dorothy Michaels rules. What a woman!

June 30, 8 p.m.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center,  
803 Hawthorne  
713-524-3818

## Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History

Beginning June 30 through the end of July, our family/community museum of all things gay will operate under normal hours: Saturdays, noon til 6 p.m.; Thursdays, 6 to 9 p.m. Come to the open

meeting July 5, 7 p.m., and learn how you, too, can become a part of this burgeoning, vital institution. To make an appointment for an outreach program or to visit GCAM at another time, call 713-227-5973.

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1609 West Main, #4  
www.gcam.org.

## Last Chance for the following shows:

### Oedipus Rex

Abandoned baby, flight from home, inadvertent patricide, incest, a really mean Sphinx, plague, and that's before the play begins. Arguably, the greatest model of Greek tragedy and one of the most powerful dramas ever, Sophocles' mighty play only won second place when it was entered in an Athenian contest. Hmm, critics. Dos chicas productions sets this epic of sturm und drang Freudian chaos in the Watergate era. Did you know that "Oedipus" means "swollen feet?" See, Tricky Dick's phlebitis makes sense now.

Ends June 30  
Midtown Art Center, 1423 Holman  
713-927-4623



Alan Hall as  
Oedipus

## Night and Day

Tom Stoppard among the savages. Granted, this could be anywhere when the glib, utterly clever Mr. Stoppard tackles a subject, but this play from 1978 strands us in Africa amidst the terror of political revolution. Like most of his work, there are multiple themes and multiple viewpoints. Here, the smug western newspaper men (Joel Sandel, among them) end up in a figurative cauldron when their responsibility in covering events becomes entangled with their limited personal views and the Idi Amin-like despot, President Mageeba. They're also entangled with Ruth (wonderful Leslie Maness), who gets to air her views directly to us.

Ends June 30  
Main Street Theater, 2540 Times Blvd.  
713-524-6706

## Twigs

George Furth, busy as an actor in "Oh, God," "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," "Blazing Saddles," "Shampoo," "Sleeper," and Myra Breckenridge," found time to write the books for Steven Sondheim's "Company" and "Merrily We Roll Along," as well as his own "Precious Sons," "The Act," and the 1971 comedy/drama "Twigs," which won a Tony award for Sada Thompson during its premiere run. In this production, it's a little like getting hit over the head with a 2x4. Matter of fact, it's a lot like getting hit over the head. Marcy Bannor, playing all four roles—three sisters and their mother—eats the scenery like a last meal. Nervous comes off as neurotic; a breakdown becomes psychotic; feisty Ma comes out dotty; only

normal Dorothy shines. When this dramatic bashing was over, my head hurt.

Ends June 30  
Little Room Downstairs Theater, 2332 Bissonnet  
713-522-5737

## Brooks and Dunn

The sexy cowboy duo, lugging their numerous awards and a truck full of stage gizmos, show up at the Woodlands for an afternoon of their characteristic honkytonk, boot-scootin' tunes. Guaranteed, Kix and Ronnie will have you out of your seat and dancin' in the aisles. Opening for the boys will be Keith Urban, Montgomery Gentry and Toby Keith.

June 30, 3 p.m.  
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands  
281-364-3010

## Houston Symphony

Somewhat dried out after Allison, the music, like the proverbial show, must go on. Bring your picnic hampers and July 4 adult beverages to their patriotic All-American concert at Miller Outdoor Theatre. (Blame the confusion and chaos of the recent storm for the inclusion of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture"). Join the multitudes who will all smell alike: can you say "Off?" While all seats are free, some of the plummier locations require a ticket. Pick them up at the box office on Wednesday between 11:30 and 1 p.m.

July 4, 8:30 p.m.  
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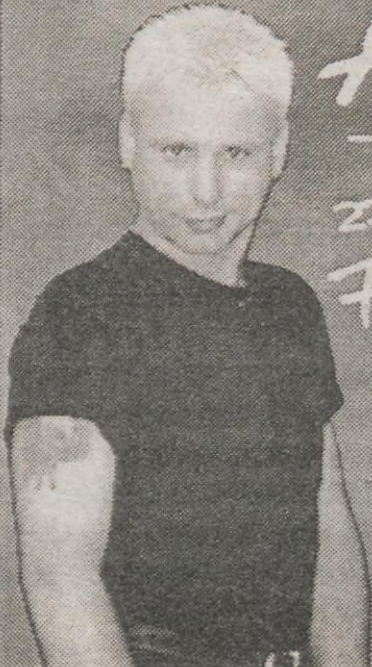
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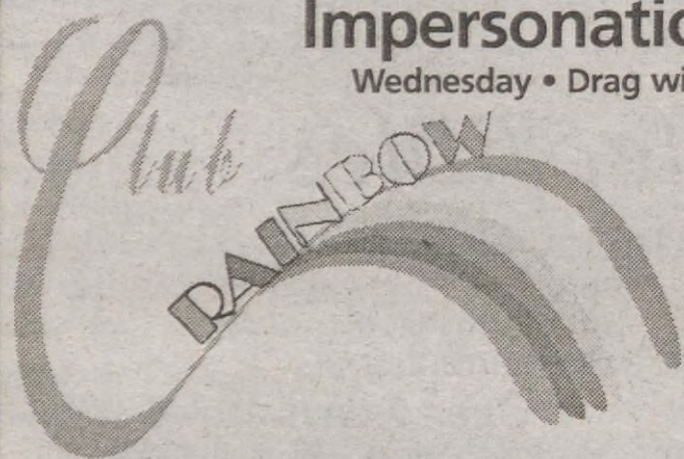
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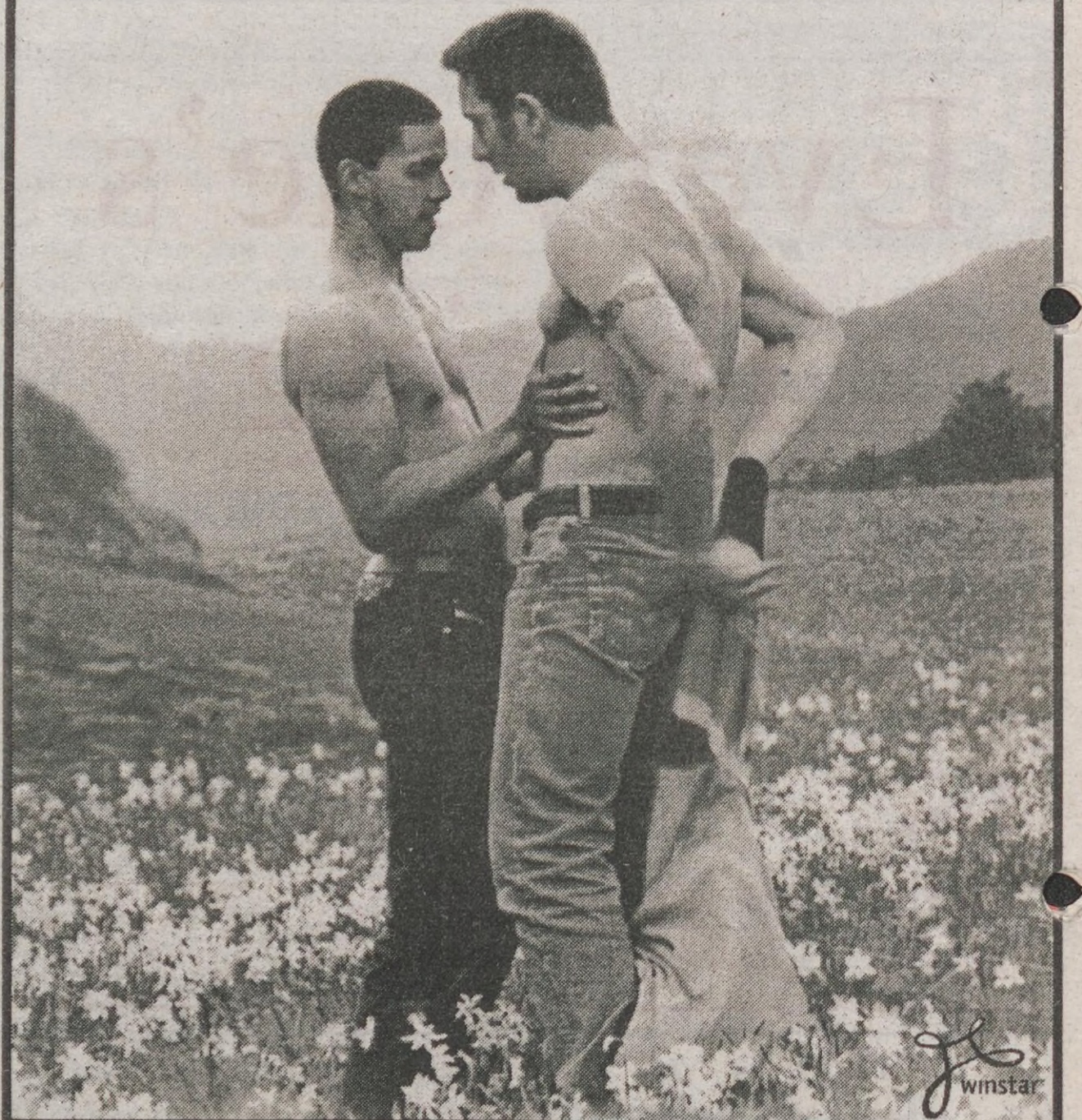
-Lawrence Ferber, HX

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# Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Sparse start

Kubo's doesn't live up to menu's claim of 'signature' dishes

by KATHREEN LEE

Japanese restaurants in Houston have two distinct ambiances. The first variety offers a cozy cramped interior, usually furnished with some form of bamboo-hewn fixtures and one lithe kimono-donned woman brusquely serving all six tables. The décor is generally minimal with maybe one or two colorful peacock fans and a folding screen featuring geishas in coy poses.

The second variety also features minimalist décor, which stems, however more out of an affectation to be chic and modern than out of a lack of available furnishings. Replete with voguish lighting fixtures, dark cherry wood lacquered tables, exposed plumbing and high-back chairs that radiate a metallic sheen, this second variety does not betray any hint of being a Japanese restaurant.

KUBO'S SUSHI BAR AND GRILL in the Rice Village falls under this latter category.

Located right next to Two Rows and a crawfish sandwich shop, Kubo's offers its diners a classy atmosphere, but the McRestaurant décor, not to mention the grocery store background music, makes it difficult for patrons to forge any connections with the sterile environment.

While the food is acceptable, it is not exceptional or unique enough to warrant the current prices... Given that the restaurant has only been open for two weeks, Kubo's still has time to adjust to the startup flaws.

Named after its own Japanese chef, Kubo's boasts "signature sushi dishes and authentic Japanese fare" which the chef developed during his long tenure as a chef in Japan. A quick perusal of the menu, however, belies their claim. For instance, outside of their sushi options, the entrée selection only offers seven different choices, with four being typical Japanese staples such as chicken teriyaki or shrimp tempura.

The noodle dishes also do not feature any "signature" options and are limited to udon with your familiar choice of meats or vegetables (\$7.50-\$9.50). Kubo's does advertise, however, that they only use Angus beef or free-range chickens for their dishes.



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Kubo's Teriyaki Chicken (\$9.50) served with grilled bell peppers and shataki mushrooms, which used free-range chickens, was disappointing, particularly because of the meat. The teriyaki marinade did not wholly permeate the chicken and the meat was somewhat dry and rough.

With respect to the sushi, one friend commented that while the fish tasted fresh, the pieces were too small for the charged prices. For instance, one order of Tekka Maki (tuna roll) which comes with eight pieces, is \$4.50. This would normally be a great price, however, the meager tuna chunks within the rolls were inadequate and left my friend hungry for more.

For those sushi virgins who have not ventured into the raw meat market, the Rainbow Roll (\$15) would be a good starter with seven pieces featuring different varieties of raw fish, including salmon, tuna, squid, yellow tail, eel, shrimp and snapper. Unlike the other rolls, this particular order offered larger slices of fish and sufficiently satiated my hungry friend.

Unlike some other Japanese restaurants in Houston which entices its patrons with a familiar and intimate atmosphere and/or fresh sushi at a reasonable price, Kubo's offers a barren environment devoid of familiarity or distinctiveness. While the food is acceptable, it is not exceptional or unique enough to warrant the current prices. Given that the restaurant has only been open for two weeks, Kubo's still has time to adjust to the startup flaws.

My suggestion to Kubo's would be to diversify their menu, augment their portions and supplement their décor with something more intimate and less austere. My suggestion to the diners would be wait for these adjustments.



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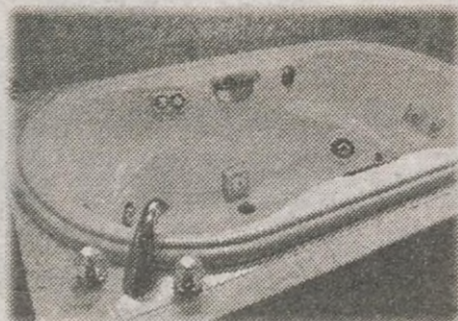
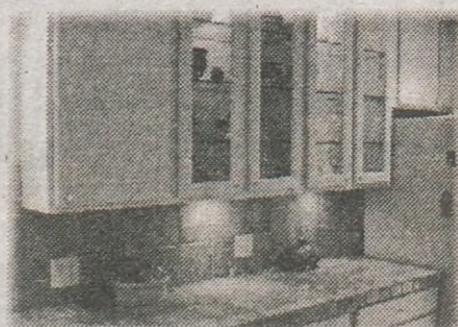
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# Homefront

## Be prepared

Don't get caught off guard if another tropical storm or hurricane approaches

by ELLA TYLER and DEB MURPHY

Tropical Storm Allison came so early in the hurricane season that most of us did not do our annual hurricane preparedness rituals, whatever they are. Unfortunately, Allison was not like a vaccination; we are not protected for the rest of the season. Just because we've had one devastating 'weather event' this year, we are not immune from others.

In our years of living in hurricane prone areas—South Florida, Bermuda and the Texas Gulf Coast, Deb and I have distilled our preparedness rules to these four: get ready now, stock up on essentials, pay attention to what is going on, and stay put, if possible.

"Get ready now" means more than just going shopping for batteries and cans of Vienna sausage.

Think about your life and what you are responsible for. If you have a long commute, dependent relatives or a public safety type of job; you need to make different preparations than someone who does not have these cares.

Get an area map and put it in the car. Locate shelters, high ground and evacuation routes. If you must be out driving and hear that one street is flooded but that another is passable, you'll be able to figure out how to get there.

Get the car serviced and have new wiper blades put in. See where your car's vital parts are. Some new ones have electronics on the underside, and driving through anything deeper than a puddle will wipe them out. If you have a long commute, find a safe place to stay near your job and keep an overnight bag in the car.

Look around your property. Wind and wind-blown debris can cause a great deal of damage. If your trees have weak or diseased limbs, call a professional tree company and get them taken down now. If something is loose or rickety, fix it now.

Locate all the "stuff" that is light enough to be blown down or around in a heavy wind. You don't have to remove it now, but if you know where it is, it will be faster to secure if necessary.

"Stock up on essentials" means be ready to survive at home without electricity or other utilities for a few days. Until you're without it, it's hard to think about everything that electricity brings us—lights, air conditioning, refrigeration, the pilot light for the gas stove, the microwave. Electricity also is required for the pump at the gas station, the ATM machine, the Burger King.

Get batteries for the flashlights and test them; try not to keep too much stuff in the freezer; and get some food that doesn't require refrigeration or cooking, that you like to eat. Don't forget a hand-operated



Tropical Storm Allison served as an early warning signal for hurricane season. The torrential storm caused major flooding throughout Houston, but the early strike to the city doesn't mean the storm season is over.

can opener. Even if you always eat out, you must keep something to eat in the house. Restaurants might not have electricity either. Get bottled water for drinking; you can fill the tub for the rest of your water needs.

While you're stocking up, lay in a supply of whatever you would go out in the pouring rain to get. Stash a bottle of booze, a carton of cigarettes, a few candy bars or a good book or two. Anyone who works in retail will tell stories of customers who come out in near-flood conditions for something that seems unessential.

"Pay attention to what's going on" means checking out the weather once a day or so during hurricane season, which doesn't end until November. If there is a hurricane watch, pay closer attention and begin last-minute preparations. The radio or TV will tell you what else you need to do.

A watch means that the storm might hit within the next 36 hours. Dig out the small battery-powered radio and find a weather station. A watch is also a signal to expect some kind of bad weather. Hurricanes spawn tornadoes, thunderstorms and intense rain. If you are in a place or situation where evacuation is a good idea, get ready to go.

A warning means that the storm is expected to hit within the next 24 hours, but it also means some kind of bad weather will arrive sooner. This is the time to fill the bathtub with water, secure the stuff that will blow around and stick close to home. This is not the time to call all your friends to come to a hurricane watch party and get drunk. If the hurricane really does arrive, this is not the time to be the least bit impaired.

Lastly, stay put, if at all possible. The most dangerous place to be in a hurricane is outside, on foot. Remember, the biggest danger from hurricanes and tropical storms is flooding. The next is the combination of flooding and electricity.

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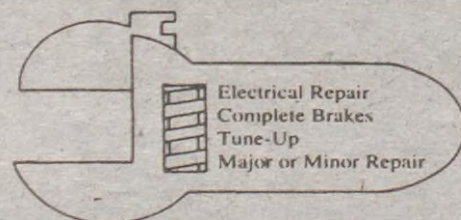


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# community

### saturday, june 30

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.  
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama.  
713-528-6665.  
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.  
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.  
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.  
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Movie Screening. Tootsie. 8 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### sunday, july 1

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.  
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.  
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.  
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.  
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.  
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.  
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.  
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.  
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930  
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.  
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Bisexuality. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Polamory Houston Discussion Group. 3 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
PFLAG-Houston. Monthly Meeting. 713-867-9020.

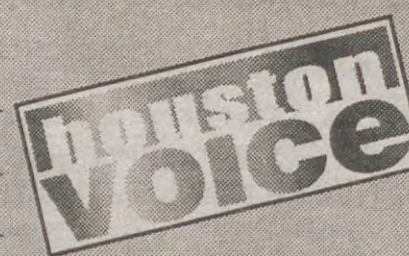
### monday, july 2

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.  
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.  
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.  
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.  
gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### tuesday, july 3

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.  
HTGA Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.  
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.  
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.  
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.  
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

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# calendar

Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. @ hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

Bi-Net Houston. Men's Social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7:00 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Lesbian Health Initiative. Monthly meeting. 713-603-0023

## wednesday, July 4

**\*\*Some events may be canceled due to the Fourth of July holiday.\*\***

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.

BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380

Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796. Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.

Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Center for AIDS. Women's mixer. 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing and counseling 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio. 6:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne • 713-524-3818.

Classic Chassis Car Club. Monthly meeting. 7 p.m. 713-780-4282.

Houston Outdoor Group. 4th of July party. 713-271-3319.

## thursday, July 5

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.

Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. 2 hours free Line Dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

HIV Art Therapy Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • What Lesbians do. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## friday, July 6

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.

STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.

Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Myk's Butch Night, late night action flicks: TBA • 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.

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July 8<sup>th</sup>

"From Isolation to Community"

Rev. Janet Parker

July 15<sup>th</sup>

"Who Is My Neighbor?"

Rev. Janet Parker

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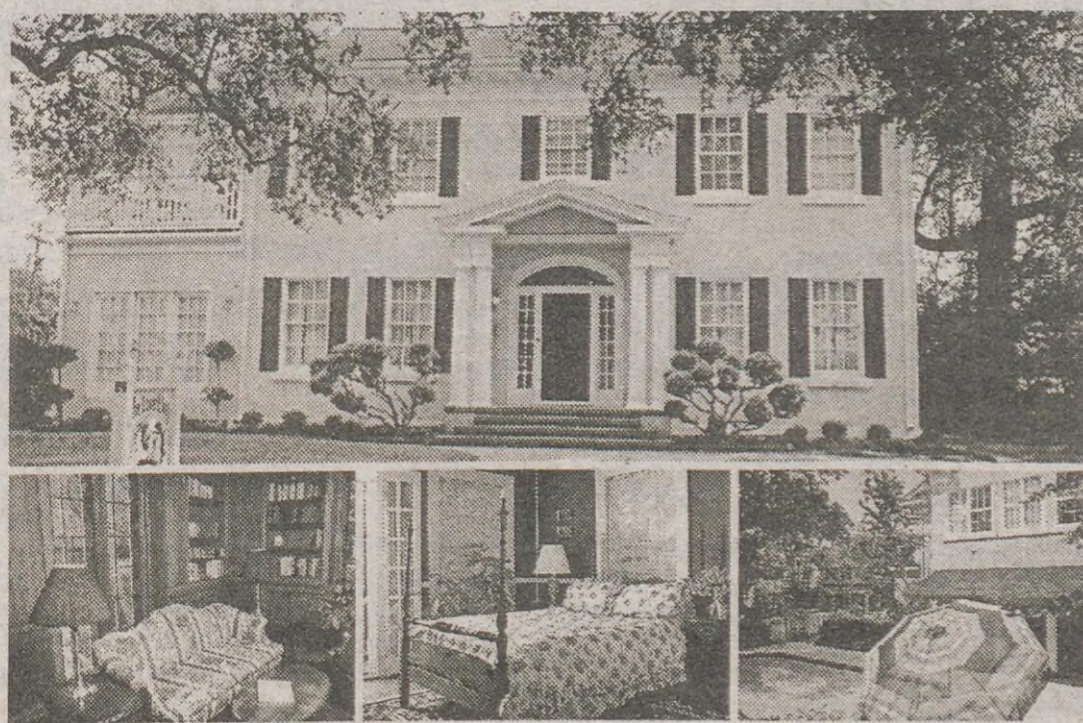
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### COMMUNITY RESALE CLOSING

On August 15, 2001 after 16 years. We wish to thank our donors and volunteers. This is a good and strong community which cares for its neighbors. We are seeking someone who has the capital and energy for to begin a new program. The present site will not be available. Please contact us between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday thru Saturday. 713-528-2555

### COMPUTER PRO VOLUNTEER

Advisor needed to help set up Quick Books 2001 • AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston • 713-521-1613

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### PARTY HALL BINGO HALL

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### Youth Empowering Advocates

Outreach center for homeless youths is seeking donations: Clothing hygiene supplies towels books videos & backpacks. Call Andrea @ 713-523-9324

### EMPLOYMENT

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### PART-TIME/TEMP

Montrose writer with ADD needs extremely well-organized assistant to fix home/office chaos. Personal references required • 713-522-0184.

### RESURRECTION MCC PARTTIME PIANIST

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Experienced bartender needed • Apply in person after 4 p.m. • EJ's • 2517 Ralph • NO phone calls PLEASE.

### WARE HOUSE ASSISTANCE

Part-Time • Good driving record • HIV/AIDS knowledge preferred • 1-5 p.m. • Mon-Fri • Fax resume to PWA Coalition • 713-522-2674.

### MEATRACK DOOR PERSON

Hiring • Full or Part time • Apply on line at [www.meatrack.org](http://www.meatrack.org) or call 713-409-0587.

### PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Creative dynamic professional with experience community outreach, group & individual counseling, and program development and management. LC or MSW-ACP. Forward resume and qualifications to: Bering memorial UM, c/o COSM. 1440 Harold St., Houston, Texas 77006. NO phone calls please.

### MIDTOWNE SPA

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### CLUB HOUSTON

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## Occasions

### Belated Birthdays

Scott T. (Miss Kentucky) and Harold M. (Miss Texas), two of the top nine for Miss Camp America had fabulous big hair birthdays on June 27.

### Belated Anniversary

Trish and Phyllis Frye celebrated 28 years together on June 23.

### Birthdays

Marion Coleman has no plans to retire, but will turn 65 June 29.

Asians and Friends members Eric P. (7/01), Roy R. (7/05) and John McK. (7/06) celebrate their birthdays this week.

Jim (Uncle Bunko) Lockhart is celebrating his 34th birthday on July 6.

Maranatha Fellowship MCC member Kelly P. celebrates a birthday on July 6.

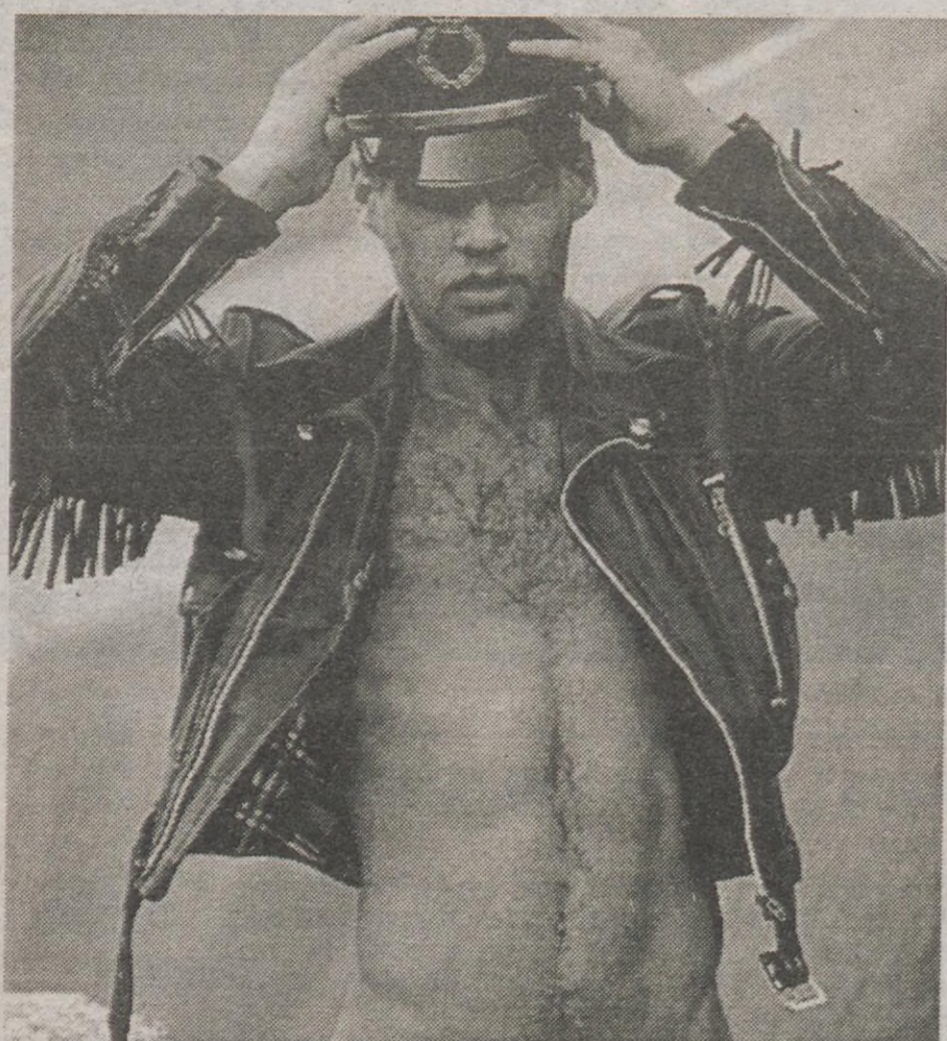
Houston Area Bears members Ray G. (6/30) and Chuck G. (7/06) are lookin' for big bear hugs on their birthday this week.

Classic Chassis Car Club member David T. watches his birthday odometer turn over on July 5.



### Pet of the Week

This is Astrid. He is about 3-years-old. A beautiful Tabby Point Siamese mix, his owners abandoned him at the shelter after they brought him in for shots. Call 713-433-6421, or stop by the Houston Humane Society, 14700 Almeda Rd., to find out more about taking Astrid home.



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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

June 29 - July 5



**ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)**

A difficult angle to your Sun is making you feel constricted by a loved one. Be careful of people who are desperately needy. Hang out only with people who know how to nourish and care for you. Stay away from certain nuts who have become staples in your everyday life. A Leo will protect you.



**TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)**

You are close to achieving a personal goal. But with Saturn in your very personal second house, you are going to have to fight for it. Step out of your cautious Taurus modus operandi and put on an exciting new hat—and nothing else! A Cancer wants to ogle you.



**GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)**

Your personality is at a powerful high in July, dear Gemini. You may want to hide in the background, but it's time for you to get out front. Atmosphere-setting devices (music, incense, hallucinogens—or a sensual substitute for them) increase your sexuality. A Capricorn wants to rock your world.



**CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)**

You are full of good intentions during this time, but you may not be able to follow through on all of them. Try to prioritize, darling. The lunar eclipse in your house of love on July 5 could bring you scads of leering looks and serious offers of love. A Virgo puts in a most attractive bid for your heart.



**LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)**

Your sincerity is your greatest attribute during this highly optimistic cycle. This is a great time for you to explore a mystical or spiritual approach to life that has always intrigued you, but perhaps has frightened you, too. Don't let an Aquarius corrupt you—unless it's in bed.



**VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)**

Venus hits the top of your chart starting July 6 and ushers in a slow but steady cycle of career success. You're going to have to trust your instincts in business, baby. Stop looking to someone higher up for answers. You are the real boss—of yourself. And a Sag knows it.



**LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)**

You need to cut yourself some slack where dating is concerned. If those you've been flirting with are misinterpreting your behavior, let them stew. You are closer to realizing who "the real you" is than you have been in years. A couple of steps back lead to some real leaps forward, mayhaps into the arms of a sexy Taurus.



**SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)**

Venus finishes up a stint in your house of love during the first week in July, and you may attract a warm-hearted but hard-headed new love interest. Don't worry so much about being pinned down in a relationship. A Gemini wants to know you (in the biblical sense—and every other one, too), not own you.



**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)**

Mars and Pluto conjunct in your sign could bring out the compulsive gambler and the compulsive whore in you, dear Sag! Venus in your health sector could help you improve your energy and stamina, by day and by dark. Your heart chakra needs a makeover, too. Spend time staring into the soulful eyes of a Scorpio.



**CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)**

You actually can have a relationship that's sexually fulfilling and that's secure, too! Simplicity is the key, dear. You are in the midst of a very romantic cycle, but during the first week in July you may have to deal with a theatrical family event as well. A Pisces offers you a safe haven.



**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)**

You are your own best friend during early July and should spend as much time alone as you can. Venus moves into the most creative sector of your chart on July 6. Take this opportunity to work like an artist, babe. You know you have it in you. A Libra will applaud you when you take a wild (but pure) risk.



**PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)**

Early July is a potential date-a-thon for you as Venus finishes up a stint in your mad-cap third house. Go easy on yourself when it comes to money matters, Pisces. Yes, you made some big mistakes last year, but history doesn't have to repeat itself. Learn how to take a real compliment—especially if it comes from the lips of a Virgo.

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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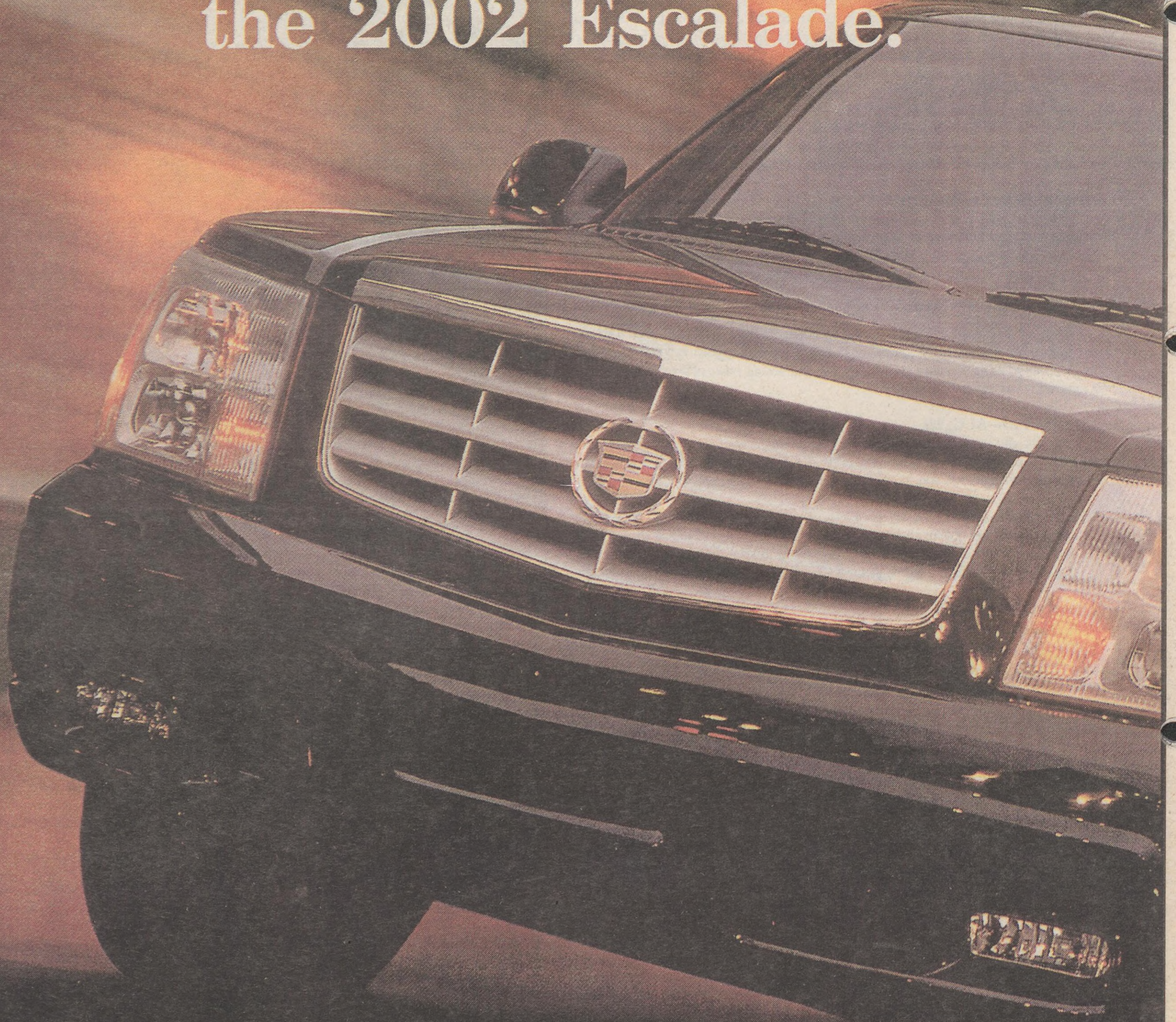
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