

## Of Love. ...

### Ready Or Not, Court Case Will Put Gay Unions In '96 Spotlight

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE  
*Houston Voice Editor*

Hawaii. The lyrical name alone of the island state evokes visions of sun-bleached beaches, bronze-tanned bodies, flower leis and the almost perfect tropical getaway. It is these images that have made the state the destination of choice for countless honeymooning couples through the ages. And it is perhaps the overwhelming centrality of the tourist trade to this state's economy that will contribute to Hawaii's leadership in accomplishing one of the farthest-reaching decisions in favor of gay and lesbian equality—possibly before the gay and lesbian community is prepared to deal with the expected backlash.

Already, it's been called the 'Blizzard of '96': a trial set for July of this year could very likely result in Hawaii's becoming the first state to grant same-sex couples the right to marry.

The case, *Baehr v. Lewin*, has been winding its way through the courts for over five years. The Hawaii Supreme Court, in 1993, ruled in favor of three gay couples who had been denied marriage licenses, agreeing that the denial appeared to violate the state's constitution. The court sent the case back to lower court for a trial, essentially ordering the state to prove a compelling interest for permitting opposite sex couples to marry while denying same-sex couples the right. Arguments are scheduled to begin July 15. Because the decision was not based on the federal constitution, the high court in Hawaii will have the final say; the matter cannot be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

(Continued on Page 5)



Photo by David Goetz

## ...And War

### Legislatures Awash In Anti-Gay Marriage Bills

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS

As conservatives aggressively react to efforts in Hawaii and elsewhere to let gays wed, several states are considering bills banning recognition of same-sex marriages.

California's Republican-controlled Assembly voted 41-31 last Wednesday to block the state from recognizing same-sex marriages. The bill goes next to the Senate.

Ironically, the action came on the heels of San Francisco's recent approval of "symbolic" civil gay wedding ceremonies for couples registering as domestic partners.

Also Wednesday, a House committee in Washington state approved a bill to ban same-sex marriages. While the full House may approve the measure, Senate passage is unlikely and Democratic Gov. Mike Lowry has pledged a veto.

And, a committee in Idaho's legislature introduced a bill Thursday that would make same-sex marriages performed in another state invalid in Idaho. (Continued on Page 4)

## Dialing for gay dollars

### Stiff Competition Over Long-Distance Market

By STEPHEN CHRYSLER  
*For The Houston Voice*

The significance of the gay market has become utterly apparent to telecommunications corporations. Many long distance companies now viciously

compete for the gay dollar and promise monetary support to gay organizations. Charges of anti-gay behaviors, fraudulent donation claims, and poor service are being flung between firms.

"If you have the ability to contribute to a cause that you care about by just selecting a certain long distance company, then it seems like a natural choice to me," stated David Smith, communications director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political group.

"Just because someone is marketing to the gay community and is providing a program doesn't really mean that they are committed to anything except getting gay customers and gay dollars," warned Jeff Vitale, owner of Overlooked Opinions, a gay market research firm and Community Spirit, the first major gay long-distance company.

"I've come across at least three major companies out there that are promoting affinity programs and to my knowledge and to the knowledge of the people that are supposed to be receiving the checks, the checks are not being gotten. Things that are promised are not being received. Promotions which are offered are not

being distributed properly," explained Gina Scialla, who owns GMS Auditing & Consulting Services, a New York firm that specializes in auditing utility firms.

These firms fall into two main categories, "affinity marketing" and "gay supportive." An affinity firm negotiates with a specific non profit organization to encourage its members and supporters to use that certain firm in return for the organization getting a percentage of what the supporters spend on long distance calls. "Gay supportive" firms, who advertise directly for long distance users, claim to disperse a percentage of the proceeds among a group of non profit organizations. Of such firms, Working Assets claims 1%, Pride Network claims 3%, and Community Spirit claims 3%. The non-profit organizations receive checks, but are not provided verifiable information about what each individual supporter spent. Such a system has led to complaints and accusations that some of these firms are not distributing the money properly. There have also been complaints about the affinity programs.

(Continued on Page 9)

## Controversial dance-theater work to premiere in Houston

By ANDREW EDMONSON  
*Houston Voice/Houston*

(HOUSTON)—Bill T. Jones and his travelling road show will roll into Houston in two weeks, trailing clouds of glory and a great deal of controversy.

The Society for the Performing Arts will present the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in the Houston premiere of *Still/Here* in the Cullen Theater at the Wortham Center. Performances are Friday and Saturday, Feb. 23 and 24 at 8:00 p.m.

*Still/Here* is a multi-media dance-theater piece that combines movement, music, dialogue and video to portray the impact of terminal illness on the individual: the personal struggle to celebrate life amid the pain and fear of death. Since its premiere in Lyon, France, in Sept. 1994, the piece has inspired impassioned, widely divergent responses from pundits and theater goers.

Is *Still/Here*, in the words of *Newsweek* dance critic Laura Shapiro, "a work so original and profound that its place among the landmarks of twentieth century dance seems ensured?" Or is it, as in the opinion of *New Yorker* critic Arlene Croce, "victim art": a performance piece whose very subject matter—individuals facing terminal illness—puts it beyond the pale of criticism, rendering impossible the task of objectively evaluating the piece as a work of art? (Continued on Page 15)

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# Community Calendar

by Carolyn Roberts

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

## Friday, Feb. 9

- \* Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.
- \* HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 523-8817
- \* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- \* 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- \* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.
- \* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 868-5039.
- \* Free Buffet at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 p.m.
- \* Film at MFA: Ermo at 8:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.

## Saturday, Feb. 10

- \* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 863-1860.
- \* After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.
- \* Film at MFA: Ermo at 7:30 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- \* A day of romance book signing at Main Street Books: Larry Hunter-"My Reflections Whispering Call" at 1:00 a.m.; Barbara Stephens-"Midnight Waltz" at 1:00 p.m.; Margie Walker-"Breathless" & "Sweet Refrain" at 2:00 p.m. Call 522-3555.
- \* AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston meets at 10:00 a.m. Call 521-1613.
- \* PR Ball 2 Cabaret de Monte Carlo at Clarion-Greenspoint. Call 528-9204.

## Sunday, Feb. 11

- \* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 863-1860.
- \* Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.
- \* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- \* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.
- \* Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-0638.
- \* Brunch at the 611 12:30 p.m. \$3
- \* Steak Night at the Brazos River Bottom. 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- \* Pool Tournament at Chances. 6:00 p.m.
- \* Houston Tennis Club meets at noon. Call 868-5039.
- \* The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. Call 529-8571.
- \* Film at MFA: Karin Mansdotter at 7:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.
- \* Psychic Fair at Borders Book Shop. 1:00 p.m. Call 782-6066.
- \* Hats Off to the Montrose Clinic fundraiser at City Streets. Call 520-2000.
- \* Integrated Arts for the Family sponsored by Houston Gay and Lesbian parents. Call 980-7995.
- \* Tracks in the Wilderness of Dreaming-book signing and reception for Robert Bosnak. 3:00 p.m. Call 524-8253.
- \* Houston Area Bears' monthly meeting at 4:00 p.m. Call 867-9123.

## Monday, Feb. 12

- \* AFH Creative Writing Class. 3:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.
- \* Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.
- \* HeartSong open rehearsal at the Community Room in Sharpstown Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.
- \* Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-1223.
- \* Agora meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 623-6796.
- \* Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. Call 539-0037.

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

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

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

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

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

\* Gay and Lesbian Readers group meets at Barnes and Noble. 3003 W. Holcombe at 7:00 p.m. Free! Call 349-0050.

\* Pool Tournament at the Brazos River Bottom. 8:00 p.m. Call 528-9192.

\* Free seminar for overcoming anxiety and shyness at Terrap. 7:30 p.m. Call 266-5111.

\* Houston Area Women's Center volunteer training. Call 528-6798.

\* Miss Camp America's monthly meeting. Call 520-STAR.

\* Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. Call 523-5539.

## Tuesday, Feb. 13

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

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

\* Southern Country gives dance lesson at the Ranch. 9200 Buffalo Speedway. 8:00 p.m.

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

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

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

\* Bereaved Partners/Spouses at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. Call 529-0037.

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

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

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

\* Free Dance Lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Call 528-9192.

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

\* Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents meets 7:00 p.m. Call 666-8260.

\* Lesbian/Gay Pride Week Task Force meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 529-6967.

\* Nutrition First!; Happiness Through Wellness seminar by Bart Loeser of AFH. Call 524-2374.

## Wednesday, Feb. 14

\* Shiela Lennon performs at Chances. Love Fest! Safer Sex workshop! 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.

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

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

\* Toopee's Coffee Bar has "Activity Night" with a complimentary buffet. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call 522-7662.

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

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

\* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 868-5039.

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

(Continued on Page 11)

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## Community Organizations Bulletin Board

### HPMA Social

The Houston Professional Men's Association February social will be a brunch at "Mesa—Taste of Santa Fe," 1971 West Gray, Sunday Feb. 11 at 1:30 p.m. and will include full buffet with complimentary champagne and mimosas.

The price is \$16.50. Reservations should be cleared through Steve at 520-9083. New members are welcome. For more information about the organization, call the HPMA phone-line at 866-4079.

### Lincoln's Log Cabin Celebrates

The Log Cabin Republicans—Houston announced it will be holding its second annual celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday Sunday Feb. 11 between 3 and 6:00 p.m. with Betsy Lake, retiring Chairperson of the Harris County Republican Party as the guest of honor.

Musical entertainment will be provided by West 42nd Street and will be held at Baich's Restaurant, 2016 Main (Main at West Gray) ground floor. Tickets are \$15.

LCR-H is a local gay Republican group that has had a significant growth in membership during the past year as gay moderates became involved. This year the group plans an active political season beginning with the kickoff of this annual celebration of the Great Emancipator's 187th birthday. For more information please call 529-9100.

### Dream Discussions

The Montrose Counseling Center and the C.G. Jung Educational Center are co-sponsoring the appearance of Robert Bosnak Sunday Feb. 11 from 3 to 5:00 p.m. at the Jung Center 5200 Montrose Blvd.

A noted Jungian analyst and author of the popular book, "A Little Course in Dreams" as well as "Dreaming with an AIDS Patient." He will be speaking on his new book, "Tracks in the Wilderness of Dreaming," which teaches practical methods to analyze dreams and is an invaluable resource for all of us who wish to understand our dreams, and consequently, ourselves.

A short reception and book signing will follow his presentation. The cost is \$5 per person. For further information telephone 524-8453.

### G&L Parents Plan

A Family Fun Workshop is planned by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents for Sunday Feb. 11 at 1:00 p.m. in the MCCR Fellowship Hall with Tina Sabuco from Arts Alive! leading in creative dance, drama, music and visual art using the theme "Traveling with Tina." No experience necessary, just be willing to have fun.

The HGLP Support Group will meet Tuesday Feb. 13 from 7 until 8:30 p.m. in the MCCR library. The topics of discussion include coming out to your kids, divorce, visitation, starting a family, and step-parenting.

The MCCR (Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection) is located at 1919 Decatur. More information about HGLP can be had by telephoning 980-7995.

### 'Sex and The Single Homo'

The new Houston group "Boy's Life" will sponsor its first "Boy Talk," a monthly discussion series, Wednesday Feb 14 at 7:00 p.m. at 315 Westheimer (offices of Suzanne Anderson Real Estate).

Boy Talk is being created to make a space where gay boys can grow into healthy gay men with an experiment in conversation that will bring together gay and bisexual men ages 18-30 in an open forum to talk about dating, sex, relationships, AIDS and the queer community. A different topic will be focused each month.

This month's topics include: is there more to being queer than just sex?; how not to get laid on your first date; how to say what you want when you want it. It should provide honest and provocative conversation on getting the love and sex you want.

For more information on Sex and the Single Homo or Boys Life call 523-9470.

### P-Flag at Crossroads

Parents and friends of lesbians and gays (P-FLAG) will have representatives at the next Crossroads meeting at 11:00 a.m. Saturday Feb. 17 and will present an overview of the organizations local activities, particularly within Houston area churches.

Crossroads is a spiritual, educational, and social support group for gays and lesbians who have served in full time church work in any capacity, or who may currently be serving on a church staff. To protect the confidentiality of members the meeting place is not publicized.

For further information contact Rev. Johnny Peden, a former Southern Baptist pastor and minister at 681-9082.

### School Teachers Network

Making Schools safe for everyone—straight and gay—is the goal of GLSTN, The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network.

Kevin Jennings, Executive Director of GLSTN will be the guest speaker at a meeting planned for 2:00 p.m. Feb. 17 at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Drive.

He will discuss the work which led to Massachusetts becoming the first state in the nation to ban discrimination against students in K-12 public schools. Discussion will also center around GLSTN's ongoing national efforts to make school safe for all youth.

Founded in 1990 in Massachusetts, it is the first national organization of gay and straight people committed to ending homophobia in schools. The group strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation.

Mr. Jennings has received national acclaim for his efforts. For more information please telephone 942-7002, then press 4.

### Volunteers Needed

AIDS Foundation Houston's (AFH) "Great SEXpectations" program is looking for gay and bisexual men to host house parties and or assist with outreach efforts.

Some training is required and interested individuals should contact Bart Loeser of AFH at 623-6796 for more information.

## Texas groups get grants from Hollyfield Foundation

(HOUSTON)—The Houston Area Teen Coalition (HATCH) now has funding to produce its acclaimed newsletter and distribute copies to school administrators and counselors throughout the Houston area this year. Steven's House, an intermediary care facility for people living with HIV/AIDS, will be able to purchase a much-needed fax machine. The Texas Human Rights Foundation received a grant that will go toward its recently launched Family Project, which aims to educate the gay and lesbian community about equal marriage rights and other same-sex partnership issues.

These projects are among the nine beneficiaries to receive checks from the Houston-based Hollyfield Foundation late last month. The organizations were honored for the work they have done to improve the lives of gay, lesbian and HIV-positive individuals at a special reception, held Jan. 25 at the Hollyfield Offices. Other recipients of the foundation's first granting cycle who received awards at the event were the AIDS Housing Coalition of Houston; The Center for AIDS: Hope and Remembrance Project-Research Initiative/



Hollyfield Foundation board member Donald Skipwith presents check for \$4,348.50 to Kevin Davidson of HATCH

Treatment Action!; the HIV Wellness Center (Austin); Omega House; the Houston Black Tie Dinner Inc. and DiverseWorks. Awards ranged from \$1,000 to \$6,400. (The largest grant, to the Center for AIDS, includes the value of one year's rent abatement for the organization in a building owned by the foundation).

The beneficiaries' reception also was dedicated to the memory of the foundation's first chair, Bill White, who died in 1995.

The Hollyfield Foundation is a private foundation founded by Joseph "Jay" Hollyfield Jr., a well-known Houstonian who died of AIDS-related conditions in 1994. It was Jay's vision that gay, lesbian and HIV-positive individuals live in a world where they may achieve their greatest potential without discrimination and persecution.

Presently, the foundation accepts grant requests from June to August from organizations designated as 501(c)3 non-profit corporations by the Internal Revenue Service. Grant requests are reviewed and recipients are notified in the fall of each year, and the grants are dispersed in January of the following year.

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# Flurry of bills seek to bar recognition of same-sex marriages

(Continued from Page 1)

Lawmakers said they introduced the bills when it became apparent that Hawaii's courts or Legislature might make same-sex marriages legal, and thereby grant gay couples the social, legal and financial benefits afforded married heterosexuals.

These measures were typical of a tidal wave of anti-gay marriage bills being considered by state legislatures across the country as conservatives mount a bitter battle over what they have called the top legislative goal of "pro-family" religious groups this year.

Action in other states last week:

—A hearing on a Rhode Island bill that would allow the state to recognize a marriage from another state only if the marriage "comports with and meets all conditions and requirements" of state law was postponed until lawmakers return from their February break.

—Tennessee Attorney General Charles Burson has been asked if legislation banning homosexual marriages is constitutional, and lawmakers will wait to hear from him before proceeding.

—A measure seeking to ban homosexual marriages in South Dakota was approved last Tuesday by the state House of Representatives. Representa-

tives voted 49-18 to send the measure to the Senate after supporters said South Dakota must protect itself against being forced to recognize marriages between people of the same sex. A similar bill passed the House last year, but it died in the Senate.

If same-sex marriage is legalized in Hawaii or some other state, the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause essentially requires other states to recognize those marriages. If states succeed in passing pre-emptive legislation denying recognition to same-sex marriages performed in other states, a lengthy and explosive legal battle in the federal courts is almost a given.

## IN MEMORY OF



**DAVID E. KRANZ**  
David Kranz, 37, passed from this world January 28, 1996. He was born in Orchard Park, New York and had been a resident of Houston

for 15 years. He is a graduate of S.U.N.Y. at Oswego, and has worked mainly in the food service industry. His greatest pleasures were fine cooking for friends and the piano. Surviving are his father and mother, Kenneth A. and Ilene L. Kranz; sister and brother-in-law, Linda and John Rooker, all living near Rochester, New York; several aunts, uncles and cousins; and a family of special friends. Arrangements are being completed. Instead of flowers, please continue kindness in his memory.

## Mardi Gras season underway in Houston, Galveston

(HOUSTON)—Throw me something...y'all? Well, perhaps it hasn't reached that level of colloquial indulgence, but Mardi Gras, Texas style is definitely developing a flavor all its own.

Locally, the community's with Mardi Gras are steeped in the colorful traditions of the annual New Orleans Carnival, portions of which had evolved into a major gay event by the early 1970s. Originally a religious observance—a day of feasting and celebration that preceded the first day of Lent—Mardi Gras was brought to New Orleans from France. The first krewes began in New Orleans as secret, men-only societies; in recent times, the krewes have expanded in number and scope. The 1960's saw the rise of the gay krewes.

The Houston-based Krewe of Olympus-Texas, which held its 1996 Ball last Saturday, Feb. 3, began its life as a New Orleans Mardi Gras Krewe. The krewe moved to Houston in 1991, after its membership in that city dwindled to about five.

Olympian John Weinland, this year's Ball Captain, explained that the ranks of all of the gay New Orleans krewes has thinned starkly by the late 80s. Some disbanded, casualties of AIDS and a deteriorating economy. Once, there were 11 to 13 gay krewes thriving in New Orleans; today, states Weinland, there are only three.

Some of the Olympus Krewe's original members had moved to Houston; the remaining members decided that their choices were either to fold, or move the group and try to reorganize here. "Actually, it was really the right time. We came right at the time of the resurgence of the Mardi Gras in Galveston...there was a lot of interest (in the celebration) at that time," Weinland recalled.

In Galveston, the gay aspect of Mardi Gras has also grown over the past several years, and that has contributed to the interest on the local scene as well, noted Doug Willis, Olympus' fund raising chair. The Houston krewe holds its annual Mardi Gras relatively early, and many of those who participate also attend Mardi Gras festivities in Galveston or New Orleans.

The extravagant, formal party is given a different theme each year. (This year's, for example, was "One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure: The



Hosts of the 'Mystery and Fantasy' Mardi Gras Party I

Garage Sale Ball"). The centerpiece of the event, as at most Mardi Gras Balls, is a parade of extravagant costumes. At the Olympus Ball, the costumes reflect the chosen theme.

While the krewe is primarily a social, rather than a fundraising organization, members take a collection at the Ball each year for a designated charity (this year, Stone Soup). Other events, such as the Fais Do Do in the fall, raise money for the non-profit organizations as well as the krewe, Willis said.

### New Party Kicks Off

While Olympus is currently the only Houston-based krewe, other local groups are getting into the fever and flavor of the celebration with Mardi Gras-theme parties that revel in fantasy and lavish costumes.

The "Mystery and Fantasy Mardi Gras Party I" was held Jan. 26 at the Magnolia Ballroom Annex; its newly formed host group says the affair will be an annual event.

### Silk Stocking Ball

In Galveston, the ninth annual Silk Stocking Ball will be held on Friday, Feb. 16 from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. at the Hope Arena Convention Center in Moody

Gardens.

Started in 1988 as a private, invitation-only Mardi Gras party, Silk Stocking has grown into one of Galveston's most exciting balls, with great music and outlandish costumes. The event, now also a fundraiser, is open to the public, with ticket prices ranging from \$60 per person for open seating to \$750 for a table seating ten.

All proceeds from this year's ball benefit Galveston County AIDS-related charities, organizers said. Last year, the ball gave \$10,500 to the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, the Gulf Coast Center, HIV Division, and the Hospice of Galveston County. This year, organizers hope to raise \$20,000 for charity.

This year's theme is "The Streets of New Orleans," and an exciting entertainment lineup is planned, including Doctor Rockit, the Texas Dixie Kings and Puppet Pizazz. Continuing its traditions, the Silk Stocking Ball will also feature a costume contest and the Parade of Costumes, with trophies awarded to the winners in several categories, and the winner of the annual Founder's Award will be announced during the ball.

Advance reservations can be made by calling 409-765-5891. Attire is costume or Bal Masque.

## HOUSTON VOICE

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# Marriage debate will bring intense focus on gay relationships

## News Analysis

(Continued from Page 1)

The strong possibility that the case will in fact succeed ("compelling interest" rooted in long-established, is the "final step" to which a state must submit its case to court scrutiny and is historically the most difficult to prove)—has prompted a chaotic fury among conservative legislators in several states. January saw an unprecedented rush nationwide to pass pre-emptive legislation in reaction to an impending court decision: laws that, in effect, void same sex marriages, or in some cases, any marriage performed out-of-state that is deemed not to comply with state laws (see related story).

Meanwhile, gay rights advocates were mounting their own scattered attempts at organizing a response, nationally and within their own states.

Early last year, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF) launched its Marriage Project for the dual purpose of continuing to litigate the marriage cases sponsored by the legal group—including *Baehr v. Lewin*—and alerting the gay and lesbian community and its allies to the urgency of the issue and the historic turning point that is being reached as a result of the Hawaii case. Lambda staff attorney Evan Wolfson, co-counsel in the *Baehr* case and director of the Marriage Project, said at the time that "The big question is not should or will we win the right to marry, but instead, have we laid the groundwork necessary to permit us to keep this right when we win it."

Or, to put it another way, said Wolfson: the gay community should take a lesson from its unpreparedness the 1993 battle over the military. The comparison is chilling: like the military issue, equal marriage rights is not an across-the-board priority among gay men and lesbians—in some circles, it isn't even a popular issue. Yet, like the Gays-In-The-Military debate of 1993, the issue promises to take on an enormous profile in the coming year, because it challenges the definition of an institution that the opponents gay rights hold dear—one for which arch-conservatives are likely to fight viciously to protect their perceived standards.

As the impact of the court decision unfolds, gays and lesbians are likely to see a glut of media attention far surpassing that of the gays-in-the-military spotlight of 1993. The marriage issue

will train the nation's scrutiny on every area of our lives, especially our relationships and families.

In the shadow of these factors, the advice from the likes of Wolfson, and other legally-attuned gay and lesbian leaders, follows the old cliché that the best defense is a good offense. Lambda's Marriage Project prepared itself to serve as a sort of cross-media clearing house for information intended primarily to spin the notion of happily wedded

an educational booklet covering many other legal issues of same-sex relationships and gay and lesbian-headed families, such as adoption, child custody and separation.

As well, last year, THRF conducted exhaustive research to determine whether a marriage test case could be won in Texas to uphold the recognition of a same-sex marriage performed in Hawaii, according to the group's executive director Michael Garbarino.

### The benefits that partners could share

Marriages aren't just declarations of love. They also bring legal and financial benefits that partners share, including:

- ▶ Government benefits such as Social Security & Medicare.
- ▶ Joint insurance policies for health, home & automobile.
- ▶ Retirement benefits.
- ▶ The right to make medical decisions for a partner.
- ▶ Family leave to care for a sick partner or child.
- ▶ Wrongful-death benefits.
- ▶ Immigration for a partner from another country.
- ▶ Domestic violence protection orders.
- ▶ Joint parental custody.
- ▶ Alimony.
- ▶ Tax advantages.
- ▶ Inheritance rights.
- ▶ Divorce rights.
- ▶ Hospital visitation rights.
- ▶ Confidentiality of conversations.
- ▶ Right to decide what to do with a partner's corpse.



gays and lesbians for a largely uninformed mainstream.

Other national political, legal and activist groups took heed, preparing their own marriage rights projects and packets. In October, 1995, the Freedom to Marry Coalition—comprising representatives of virtually every nationally prominent gay/lesbian and human rights group, as well as state and regional organizations—was organized to intensify the national education effort and bring it a more disciplined structure and plan its strategy.

State and locally-based efforts centering on the issue also are claiming a place on the front burner of the gay rights movement.

The Texas Human Rights Foundation recently launched its Family Project, devoted to educating the gay and lesbian community about the legal aspects of gay/lesbian partnerships and families. Among its activities, the project—which has received dedicated grants from the Houston-based Hollyfield and John Kellet Foundations—will sponsor seminars on the issue of equal marriage rights, and will produce

"We did the research to investigate whether or not (THRF) might sponsor a test case in Texas" in 1997, Garbarino said. "Surprisingly, based on the research we've done so far...we're encouraged."

Still, Garbarino acknowledged that "we cannot ignore the practical reality that public opinion on the issue of

equal marriage rights remains overwhelmingly against us. That's the peril. Assuming we win the right to marry, will we be able to keep it?"

Overall, this remains the most difficult question for gay/lesbian organizations attempting to address the issue. However, if history indeed repeats itself, another question perhaps takes on greater proportions. As this particular battle moves toward its most significant milestone, will a largely disinterested gay and lesbian community be able to get its act together in time to deal with the repercussions the already well-organized backlash will generate for other gay issues?

LLDEF takes a big-picture approach: denial of the rights enjoyed by married couples to couples of the same gender is, in fact, inherently discriminatory and will ultimately be revealed as such. Although many lesbian and gay couples are in long term relationships, and undertake responsibilities toward one another just as married couples do, they are denied the vast array of legal, economic and practical benefits that married partners enjoy—among them, the rights to obtain government benefits, file joint tax returns, obtain joint insurance for home, auto and family health, etc.

As well, Lambda notes that gays' are not the first loving relationships have been deemed "immoral" and "illegal." As recently as 1967, there were laws on the books in some states prohibiting interracial marriages. The wording of those laws, according to Lambda attorney's, bears an uncanny to that of bills currently being introduced in state legislatures nationwide.

## Bering Announces Plans for Donated House

Bering Community Service Foundation was named beneficiary of the home of Edwin Leslie (Les) Pierson, 1401 California. As a avid supporter of Bering's programs, Les arranged for Bering to receive his home and a portion of his estate as a gift at the time of his death.

The house, which is completely paid for, is a gift in memory of Les' mother, Mrs. Nettie Roberts Pierson. One can only imagine Bering's delight and appreciation of Les' benevolence! Title to the house was transferred from Les' estate to Bering in November and a formal dedication ceremony was held in December.

Bering is now looking for furniture for its new house. Bering will use the house for its Development and Out-

reach offices, which have outgrown their current space on the main Bering campus. At Bering, Development and Outreach has two distinct functions. The primary responsibility is to secure funding for client services through special events, private foundations, corporations, and donations. Additionally, this department handles all public relations, community awareness, and community outreach.

Donations of furniture are requested to defray the cost of setting up the house. Items needed include: conference/dining table with 8-10 chairs, sofa, pair of lounge chairs, three office desks, file cabinets, and office chairs.

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# HOUSTON VOICE MAIL

## Letters to the Editor

### *Punishing the HIV-Positive*

**FROM PATRICK BALL**

*Houston, Texas*

There are at least 1,049 service members who the Pentagon will have to kick out once President Clinton signs the annual defense authorization bill. They will lose their livelihoods—and potential retirement pay and medical benefits for their families—because of the singular mean-spiritedness of U.S. Rep. Robert Dornan, R-Calif.

Mr. Dornan attached a provision to the authorization bill requiring the Pentagon to discharge all HIV-positive military personnel within six months of the law's enactment. HIV-positive means infected with the fatal AIDS virus, but many who test positive remain healthy for years. (Magic Johnson returned to pro basketball last week after retiring in 1991 upon revealing his HIV infection).

The Dornan measure and several others that President Clinton found objectionable prompted a veto of an

earlier defense funding bill. Most of those measures have been eliminated in this bill, but Mr. Dornan insisted on striking again. The president says that he will sign it with reluctance, for the country's defense must be funded.

The Pentagon, unlike Mr. Dornan, has no problem with the relative handful of HIV-positive men and women in its ranks. They are never deployed where battle injuries could pose a risk of infecting others through bleeding. Many have re-enlisted since testing positive, and had made military service their career.

Implementing this policy will exacerbate concerns of those hiding their HIV-positive status for fear of losing their jobs. The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits job discrimination based on physical condition. Yet Mr. Dornan would make Uncle Sam guilty of that very thing. Reasonable, fair minded members of Congress should work with President Clinton to reverse this abhorrent, uncommonly illogical proposal ere it takes effect.

## SPORTS NOTES

### *Bowling Standings*

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports the following standings. Division A is headed by The Queen Sick Court, Party of Four and Dem Damn Dawgs. Division B reports In By 9 Dirty in first, Tennis Anyone? in second, and Five Easy Pieces in third. High scratch game of 258 was bowled by Jody Dunivant and series of 664 by Tom O'Dell. For more information call Gardy at 641-5424.

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening League is headed by Screw It! in first place, Sticky Wickets in second and To Wong Fo U? in third. For the men Mike Figliola bowled high scratch game of 256 and series of 664. For the women Peri Cain bowled high scratch game of 202 and series of 580. For more information call Tom at 522-9612.

The Wednesday Night Mixers has in first place, Half & Half; in second, 3 Tops and a Bottom; and in third, Robbed—Call 911. For the men Chris Bennett bowled high scratch game of 248 and Tom O'Dell series of 663. For the women Terry Shannon bowled high scratch game of 212 and series of 550. For more info call Tom at 522-9612.

The Monday Night Women's League reports first place is taken by Maybe, Maybe Not, second by Lesborados, third by Festive Foursome and fourth by In The House. For more information call Pat at 437-6218.

### *IBL Standings*

The Independent Billiard League of Houston reports the standings after four weeks of play with Bad Boys (Outpost) in first; Ripcord 3 (Ripcord) in second; and Demolition (Past Time) in third; and Ladies & the Tramp (Bacchus II

and Suicide Squad (E/J's) tied for fourth.

A special congratulations to Mondo Morales of the Bad Boys for scoring the first 8-ball break of the season.

The first IBL monthly meeting is scheduled for Sunday Feb. 11 at E/J's at 2:00 p.m. Season fees are due at the time. For more information please contact Gilbert Vargas at 524-9261.

### *HMBL Reports*

After the second week of play, the Houston Metropolitan Billiards League reports Coalition in first with a won games percentage of .833; Tight Racks in second winning .733 per cent of their games; J.R.'s Cue Crew with .633 and Jackson 5 fourth with .600.

The thought of the week from the rule book is "Any sanctioned player may change his player status only twice a season up to three-fourths of the season—(e.g.) Regular to Substitute to Regular OR Substitute to Regular to Substitute. Before any change can occur, change must be noted on an official "Change Request Form" supplied to the Team Captains and delivered to a board member before the next night of play before any change can occur. (Rev 4/94)

### *Softball Recruiting*

The Montrose Softball League, now beginning its 16th year, is looking for players to fill out team rosters for the upcoming season.

There are three divisions of play based on skill level so if you are real good, or maybe not so good, there is a place for you. Come have fun this summer. League play begins April 14 and player registration is mid-March. For more information contact the league office at 867-3913.

### **REPORT YOUR SPORTS!**

Send your updates, scores and information on coming events and tournaments to the HOUSTON VOICE, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105/Houston, TX 77006; Fax 529-9531; Phone 529-8490.

## Gays, lesbians and presidential politics

History longer, richer than many think

### Guest Commentary

By DAVID BIANCO

For the Houston Voice

Gay and lesbian voters in 1992 were energized by then-Governor Bill Clinton's promises on a wide range of community issues, from AIDS to lesbians and gays in the military. Gays and lesbians provided Clinton's election campaign with crucial dollars, volunteers and votes, helping provide the margin of victory in states such as Georgia and Ohio. But the gay and lesbian community has played an active role in many previous presidential campaigns, sometimes with significant support from the candidates.

In fact, the most important gay-rights organization of the 1950s, the Mattachine Society, was originally conceived as a way for gay men to support a presidential candidate: progressive former Vice President Henry Wallace. Gay rights pioneer Harry Hay attempted to organize among the gay men he knew in Los Angeles, and some of them suggested he call their group "Fruits for Wallace" or "Queers for Wallace." Hay instead proposed "Bachelors for Wallace," but the group never really advanced past the idea stage.

Perhaps because of McCarthyism, perhaps because of the lack of an appealing candidate, gays and lesbians as a group largely stayed out of the presidential elections of the 1950s and 1960s. But in 1972 the Democrats nominated a candidate who had publicly supported gay rights as early as 1970, George McGovern. Many gays and lesbians had worked hard for McGovern during the primaries, and in return, McGovern allowed a convention debate on including a gay-

rights plank in the party's platform.

Thus San Francisco gay activist Jim Foster and Buffalo lesbian activist Madeline Davis addressed the convention on national television in support of lesbian and gay rights. Twenty years later many newspapers reported Roberta Achtenberg's 1992 Democratic Convention speech as the first such address by an openly gay person, having apparently forgotten about the remarkable moment in 1972 when Foster told the convention and the nation: We do not come to you pleading your understanding or begging your tolerance. ... We come to you affirming our pride in our lifestyle, affirming the validity of our right to seek and to maintain meaningful emotional relationships, and affirming our right to participate in the life of this country on an equal basis with every citizen." Despite his earlier promises (he even ran ads in *The Advocate*), McGovern later backed off his pro-gay stands under the pressure of a homophobic general public. Sound familiar?

Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter declared support for gay rights early in 1976, and even sent his handsome son Chip to campaign in the Castro during the California primary. A month before the convention, however, he withdrew his support for a gay rights plank, effectively dooming the measure. Though activists threatened that 10,000 gays and lesbians would protest at a rally outside the New York City convention, fewer than a thousand actually showed up. During the general election, incumbent President Gerald Ford fared no better with gay voters, unable to even comment when Michigan gay activists buttonholed him about America's restrictions on gay immigrants.

In 1980, Carter again refused to support a gay-rights plank in the Democratic platform, and much of the gay and lesbian activist vote in the primaries went to Sen. Edward Kennedy. Of course, in the general election Ronald Reagan was the other choice, so most voters for whom gay rights was a main issue held their noses and voted for the defeat-bound President.

Early in his campaign for the 1984 Democratic presidential nomination, former Vice President Walter Mondale took the risky step of addressing over 1,000 gay activists at a human rights dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. Mondale was received enthusiastically, despite the fact that he never mentioned gay rights in his speech. A 100,000-strong gay-rights march outside the Democratic National Convention that year helped ensure the passage of several gay-rights planks, including one relating to AIDS research, in the Democratic platform.

Neither Governor Michael Dukakis nor Vice President George Bush aroused much enthusiasm among gays and lesbians in the 1988 elections. In fact, the only candidate who elicited strong support within the organized gay and lesbian community was Rev. Jesse Jackson, whose moving speech at the 1987 March on Washington and consistent inclusion of gays and lesbians in his "Rainbow Coalition" convinced many liberal gay Democrats that he was their best candidate in years.

The 1992 election is a familiar story, with all the Democratic candidates (Clinton, Tom Harkin, Jerry Brown, Paul Tsongas, and Bob Kerrey) coming out in support of gay and lesbian rights early in the primary season. In the general elec-

tion, of course, Clinton stood out from George Bush and Ross Perot in his consistent promises on gay rights and AIDS.

And what of the 1996 elections? The Republican candidates certainly have little history of support for the community's issues: Sen. Phil Gramm got elected to the Senate in 1984 in part by attacking his opponent's acceptance of money from a gay rights group. Sen. Bob Dole can't seem to decide whether he wants to accept gay money in this race. Pat Buchanan once called AIDS "nature's awful retribution" for gays' "war on nature." Rep. Bob Dornan is so homophobic his opponents entitled a biography and collection of his quotes *Shut Up, Fag*. And son-of-a-gay Malcolm Forbes, Jr. has yet to take a strong stand in favor of laws that would ensure that no American has to live the kind of sad double life his father lived.

Will gays and lesbians who feel betrayed by Clinton's abandonment on gays in the military and the Colorado case hold their noses and vote to re-elect the president who has taken more pro-gay steps than any other? Or will an independent candidate, perhaps Lowell Weicker or Jesse Jackson, present gays with a choice they can vote for with confidence? This month's primaries and caucuses kick off the election season, so we'll find out soon.

(Editor's Note: David Bianco, M.A., teaches gay and lesbian history and politics at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. If there's anything about the history of gays and/or lesbians you've always wondered about, you may contact him via his E-mail address: aribianco@aol.com.)

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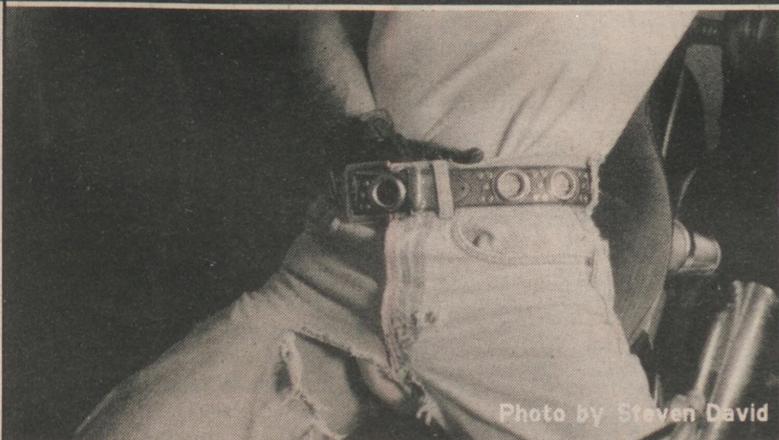


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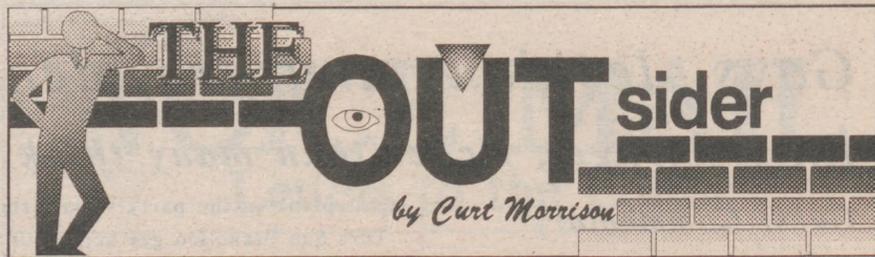
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### *The Conservative Case For Marriage Rights.*

Wednesday is Valentine's Day. Millions of Americans, including gays and lesbians, who have taken a vow of togetherness will be celebrating this special day with their significant others. Unfortunately, that's where the parallels end. While most Americans are able to demonstrate their love and commitment to their mates via a marriage license, gays and lesbians are not afforded that privilege. That is unfortunate, reprehensible and perplexing insofar that it belies logic.

As a gay conservative I believe in tradition, values and commitment, yet I am unable to consummate my relationship under the law of the land. Hawaii's legislative effort at legalizing gay marriages is being contested and its fate will be determined by the state's Supreme Court. At issue is the fact that a marriage license issued by any state must be legally valid in every other state. The matter does not appear likely to be resolved any time soon but it is certainly something the gay and lesbian community should hone their efforts on, for several reasons.

First and foremost is that it will make the religious right look even more ridiculous than they do now, if that's at all possible, to attack us on an issue that smacks of traditional values. How could they possibly continue to propagate our alleged idiosyncrasies if one of our main causes is obtaining the right to legal matrimony which, for all intensive purposes, signifies tradition insofar as values and commitment are concerned?

Secondly and perhaps more controversially, it is my opinion that gay marriages would be therapeutic for our community as well. Why? Because we have no foundation for our existence to base a relationship upon. It's as though sex is the main element for our existence, rather than love. Now, I am not saying that there are no gay couples out there who do not love one another. I am merely suggesting that we are not afforded the luxury of meeting soul mates in the same manner that heterosexuals are. Most heterosexual couples do not meet their spouse in a nightclub, park or bookstore for a good reason. They do not have to be clandestine about their attraction to another individual, simply because they are accepted by society. I believe that if gay marriages were legal, gays and lesbians would have more self-esteem and respect for themselves than they currently have.

Furthermore, gay marriages would lend credibility, credence and acceptability towards our existence as part of society over time. Once society realizes that most of us are no different, other than our sexual preferences, from them, they would also realize they have nothing to fear.

It would also accomplish another feat that would benefit our community as a whole. What? We would see a major decrease in relationship surfing. How? Simple: marriage forces people to seriously consider the ramifications of breaking up because there is more at stake. It is real easy to break up with someone when you are experiencing tumultuous times in your relationship, it is far more difficult to stay the course and try to ameliorate the situation and its origin. Marriage would provide you with the incentive to choose the latter and more difficult solution to your dilemma because you would not simply be able to walk away, it would be more costly and

there would be legal matters to consider.

To be sure, marriage is not the threshold of relationships, one only needs to look at the divorce rate in this country to attest to that fact; however, that is because divorce has become too easy and convenient, but that is fodder for another column in itself. My point is that as a community, we are more promiscuous than our heterosexual counterparts, we have a higher suicide rate, alcoholism and drug dependency rate, etc. The reason for this stems from the fact that we are not afforded the same rights and privilege that are bestowed upon the rest of society. Perhaps if we were allowed to demonstrate our love and commitment unconditionally, we would take our pledge towards that commitment more seriously with out fear of recourse.

I do want to make myself clear on one point, I am in no way implying that marriage would be a panacea for all of our problems as a community; however, it would be a significant inroad towards our efforts at obtaining the legitimacy that we have so long desired. We are living in an era where the decisions we make as to who we embark on a relationship with can have dire consequences and it is a travesty that it took a national crises such as AIDS to force us to analyze and change our behavioral patterns. Maybe the AIDS epidemic would not have had the major impact, or reached the proportions, that it has on our community if we had been able to legalize our unions at an earlier date.

The old adage that the truth hurts is very profound and yet by not acknowledging the truth, we do ourselves a disservice that can only result in detriment. Everyone, including our community, wants to be accepted. We may think that it doesn't matter or that it is irrelevant, but it does matter and its very relevant. When individuals or minorities are constantly berated, it is only to be expected that we reach a state of being bereft and feeling inadequate. It is human nature to resort to some sort of stimulus to counteract that depression and those repressed feelings. There are many ways we compensate for that void in our lives and most of them are not productive or conducive to a healthy lifestyle: drugs, sex, gambling, alcohol, etc. These are dangerous remedies and only provide our enemies the fodder they need to perpetuate the stereotypes that we or any other minority group are associated with.

Finally, another compelling reason it is absolutely necessary and essential for us to catapult the cause of gay marriages to the forefront of our agenda is the fact that the religious right is so vehemently against it. If we were to succeed in our attempts at legalizing gay marriages, they would no longer have their most effective method of turning public opinion against us and they know it. That is why they would oppose the concept with an ardent fervor, but I believe it would backfire and put the onus on them and ultimately force them to explain why they are against such a traditional aspect of the value system. In addition, if we continue to provide our opponents and/or enemies, through the course of our actions, with ammunition that they can turn against us, then we are partly to blame for our failure to achieve equality. After all, it is their reluctance to accept us that is part of the reason some of us have resorted to questionable behavioral patterns. They know that, and we should not assist them with their quest to destroy us or allow us to integrate with the rest of society. Think about it! Happy Valentines Day.

# The fierce fight over gay phone dollars

(Continued from Page 1)

Tom Kidd, national Marketing Manager for Preferred Telecom, a new Dallas based firm, was confident that his progressive internal policies, special new features such as a voice-controlled calling card, and generous donation percentages would make charities eager. He was badly surprised that major non-profit organizations such as Aid For Aids (AFA) in Los Angeles didn't want to receive a percentage of Preferred Telecom's sales unless Preferred Telecom paid thousands of dollars in advance and guaranteed up to \$10,000 per month. Kidd lamented that many non-profit organizations were disappointed in the actual donations of the current "charitable" long distance companies and felt their names had been used to hoodwink innocent people into using a sub-standard service—often at higher prices. The charities complained that more money was clearly being spent on advertising than helping the non-profits, Kidd said.

## Competition Gets Ugly

"Regrettably, leaders of gay and lesbian organizations have told us that they were promised quarterly royalties by Overlooked Opinions, but that the money has not been paid," and, we have already sent more than \$250,000 to Overlooked Opinions, nearly one-third of which (approximately \$80,000) was for charitable organizations. We became alarmed when we learned that the contributions have not made their way to the organizations that were supposed to receive them," reads a press release dated Feb. 25, 1994, for Trans National Communications' (TNC) then-recently formed Pride Network. The copy of the old press release was provided by Overlooked Opinions' attorney, Craig Clark of The Michigan-based E Pluribus Law Firm.

Overlooked Opinions' Jeff Vitale tells a different version of the story. Vitale claims that TNC withheld the computer data

that his firm needed to allocate the money to the gay non profit organizations as a way to steal his customers. At that time, his gay clients were using about \$10 million dollars of long distance service per year and were TNC's largest single group user. Vitale's attorney, Craig Clark, further claims that TNC began switching thousands of gay subscribers to their new Pride Network—illegally and without the subscribers consent or prior knowledge.

Vitale explains that he dropped TNC for a variety of reasons including customer complaints. He states, "They were being called 'Stupid Faggot' and (were told) 'I got another queer on the phone complaining about his bill'" by customer service employees at TNC. In defense of the charges, Community Spirit provided an extensive listing of every 1994 recipient of their charity. The non-profit organizations contacted confirmed the amounts received.

Working Assets also supplied their long list of recipients with exact amounts donated without being asked to do so. They automatically include it in all general information packages.

However, the Pride Network—the company that originally made the accusations—continually refused to supply its own list of all of donations to non profit organizations for verification. Michele Frost, director of the Pride Network established this report's deadline, then promised to send information to prove their integrity. A batch of reasonable-looking information arrived at the stated deadline. However, while a great deal of information was sent, the requested full list of donations was not. Repeatedly, problems were uncovered, and further innocence-proving materials were promised as the story deadline was pushed further back.

Two of the top three non-profit organizations on a short list of selected recipients could not verify the amounts claimed by Pride Network. Pride Network still refused

to provide the listing for the year in question, but instead sent the listing for the last quarter of 1995. The organizations contacted from that list did verify that they had received checks from the Pride Network.

Pride Network is owned by TNC, which is part of Trans National Group, an even larger Boston based corporation that is in a variety of businesses in addition to reselling long distance services to mostly non-gay groups, including right-wing organizations. Upon hearing of the details of the scandal, Dennis Lucarelli of GLAAD commented with dry humor, "Let's look at the bright side, here's one more major corporation targeting the lesbian and gay market. When the crooks go after us just like they go after everybody else, I think to myself, Boy, have we arrived."

## Not All Programs Equal

"There is a lot of greed out in the industry and some people capitalize by giving less than 5%. I think with all the money that is out there that less than 5% is despicable," commented Scialla. "The percentages could be very very fair. When I say that I mean, there is a lot of money to be made in these affinity programs."

She added that there were excellent and honest affinity programs available that gave non-profit organizations 10% or more monthly in cash, while the users and supporters get onto a major carrier such as MCI, Sprint, or AT&T at a much lower rate than otherwise available to an individual.

"I think when a non-profit organization and a for-profit corporation can forge a partnership that mutually benefits both of them and brings in new donors who might not otherwise support the organization, that that's a great thing. It provides an additional source of revenue that might not be available to us in any other way. We don't expend resources to bring in these new donors. It's not an expense that the donors don't already have," said Sue Belschw-

ender of the Gay Men's Health Crisis Center in NYC. She is extremely pleased with the program she put together with UniDial that gives her agency 6-7%, which is six times as much donation money as with some other firms. Her package also gives her agency's supporters a 24-hour-seven-days-a-week rate of 12.9 cents per minute anywhere in the continental United States. That rate is about half of what many other carriers charge individuals.

## An Auditor's Advice

Scialla offered this advice to those looking to join a group plan for long-distance service:

\* Ask "Who is actually the reseller?" and "Who is actually carrying the calls, customer service, and billing?"

\* Find how the calls are charged. Look for a flat rate of no more than 14 to 16 cents a minute to anywhere in the continental USA at any time of the day or night. Don't accept mileage based rates.

\* Look for six second incremental billing. It truly reduces costs and is becoming the industry standard. For example, Sprint promotes a 10 cent a minute rate, but many people were surprised that some versions of the rate charged a three minute minimum. A common 18 second call to an answering machine would cost six times more than with some other "more expensive" carriers who only charge for each six seconds used.

\* Everything should be backed in writing, including all specific rates and services. A verifiable AND audited commission statement to your chosen non-profit organization is mandatory. You and your non-profit should be able to easily check where every penny went.

\* Remember: "There are a lot of dishonest people offering these phone plans. People are in there for that quick buck. If the plan's representative can't supply you with these basic items, just hang up the phone."

## The 'Shocking' saga continues

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE  
Houston Voice Editor

(SAN ANTONIO)—By now, some mail order customers and readers of gay and lesbian publications in select markets might be getting just a bit confused.

By late last month, two different companies—one in San Antonio, the other in Dallas—had sent out promotional materials touting a new business and upcoming gift catalog, all bearing the name and distinctive magic-lamp logo of *Shocking Gray*, a San Antonio-based mail order firm that went bankrupt last summer.

The 'Shocking' set also sent out press packets, and the San Antonio firm released preview copies of two catalogs, 'Shocking Gray' and 'M2M.'

Contacted by the *Houston Voice*, which recently received all of the materials, each of the two firms vehemently laid claim to the legitimate use of the name, noting that they intended to inform their lawyers of the other company's continued use of it.

"We have the assets and facilities and we've been dealing directly with the

trustee since the beginning," said Mark Hamilton, marketing manager for Shocking Gray in San Antonio.

Glenn Chase, a San Antonio businessperson, says he bought the assets of the former Shocking Gray from the Bankruptcy Court auction on Nov. 28. He recently reopened the business' showroom at 1216 E. Euclid Street.

The new catalog, Chase said, would be sent out in summer, although copies are already available at the showroom address. The company hopes to repair any damaged relations with previous Shocking Gray customers who had unfulfilled orders at the time of the bankruptcy, and is offering 50 percent discount on merchandise to customers who can document their loss, he said.

The Dallas enterprise, SG Marketing Inc., had previously floated a preview flier for a spring catalog in gay publications in select markets. The company claims to have acquired rights to publish first. The Spring/Pride catalog will be out in April, said Charles McMullen, S.G. Marketing's chief operating officer.

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

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# Kolbe elects officers

The board of directors of the Kolbe Project elected 1996 officers and directors at their January meeting including: Mary Fleece, president; James Kuhn, vice president; Mary Ann Young, secretary; and Raul Martinez, treasurer.

Other directors elected were Coleen Barros, Kenneth Bohan, Robert Hugos, James McClendon and Michael Ross. Samuel Gutierrez was named general counsel.

Kolbe Project is an inner-city ministry of peace and reconciliation to

men and women who have been alienated from their church or have never known God's love through a church, especially those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered. It also ministers to men and women who are terminally ill, including persons with HIV/AIDS, as well as their families and caregivers. It was founded in 1990 by Franciscan friars who continue to provide its pastoral ministry. While Kolbe Project's origins are Roman Catholic, its Franciscan traditions welcome persons of any religious background, or none.



... Hand we link with hand;  
 ... Joined in love we stand.  
 ... We unite to Pray;  
 ... For Jesus is the way.

Words by Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1958

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## CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY - 2/9

- \* "Your Sacred Self" - study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. Kingdom Community Church. 4404 Blossom. Call 862-7533.
- \* Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. Kolbe House. 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182

### SATURDAY - 2/10

- \* Traditional Mass at 7:30 pm. Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872

### SUNDAY - 2/11

- \* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "Looking at Relationships from a Godly Perspective" & "Homosexuality & the Bible/Spirituality & Sexuality Integration" at 10:00 a.m. Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 a.m. Maranatha Fellowship, 3400 Montrose, Suite 600, 528-6756.
- \* Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) worship services. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
- \* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 pm 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.
- \* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.
- \* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533. "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 a.m.
- \* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. 1405 palm. Call 526-8095.
- \* Covenant Baptist Church. Worship service - 1:30 pm 6610 Alder. Call 668-8830.
- \* Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Seekers class 9:15 a.m. 1440 Harold. Call 526-1017.

### MONDAY - 2/12

- \* Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe House, 1509 Fairview. Call 522-8182
- \* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm, 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
- \* Sex Addicts Anonymous Support Group. Meets at MCCR. 7:00 pm Call 861-9149.

### TUESDAY - 2/13

- \* MCCR: CODA Support group meets at 7:00 pm, Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm, The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm Call 861-9149.
- \* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.
- \* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.
- \* Over Eaters Anonymous support group meets at MCCR - 6:00 pm. Call 861-9149.
- \* "Shepherd Group" meets at 7:30 pm for Praise, Prayer & Bible study. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756.

### WEDNESDAY - 2/14

- \* MCCR: Bi-net Support Group meets at 7:00 pm, Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm, Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm, Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 1919 Decatur. 861-9149.
- \* "A Course in Miracles" - Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm Call 862-7533.
- \* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 pm 1405 palm. Call 526-8095.
- \* "Shepherd Group" meets at 7:30 pm for Praise, Prayer & Bible study. Call Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756.

### THURSDAY - 2/15

- \* Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 pm 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.

## ASK THE PASTOR



Rev. Janet Parker

**Q: "Jesus was begotten of God. Is this true of the Holy Spirit? Was the Holy Spirit a part of God in the beginning that is now considered separate?"**

**A:** Many people have difficulty understanding the trinity aspect of God. One simple way to describe the triune God is by looking at water. Water is described as H2O, or two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen. It can be found as a liquid, vapor or solid (ice). No matter what form it is found to be in, it is still H2O. It is the same with God. God is our Creator. But God is more than just our Creator. God is in personal relationship with us as Parent. God is relating to us by the Spirit who is that invisible force of God that stirs our hearts and lives. God is also the Child,

coming down to earth to relate to humanity on a more personal level. All three: Parent, Spirit and Child, are the one and the same.

When Scripture says that Jesus was "begotten" of God, it means "single born." This tells us that Jesus was the only part of the triune God who was born of a woman in human flesh. The Spirit of God was not said to be born. In the beginning the Spirit, the Creator, and the Word (Jesus) were all present. The Spirit of God enters us through the birth of Christ in us. The Spirit of God is in Christ. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are born anew as babes in Christ.

When Jesus began his ministry he was baptized by John the Baptist. At this point in time the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove. God spoke from heaven and declared Jesus to be God's Son. From that moment on Jesus moved in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is described by Jesus as our Comforter (one who walks along side of us), our Teacher (who reminds us of the things Jesus said and taught), our Guide (who leads us into all truth), and our Counselor (who gives us wisdom and understanding). Jesus said, "It is better if I go away so that I can send you the Counselor" (John 16). Jesus was only able to be one place at a time. If He went away, He could send the Holy Spirit who could be in each person who accepted Jesus as God's Son. This way Jesus' work could be accomplished all over the world.

Before Jesus left the earth He gave one important direction for his disciples. In Acts 1:4,8 Jesus said, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Heavenly Parent promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The difference between the disciples work before Jesus was crucified and after He was resurrected is night and day. The disciples were given complete power and authority to do the work of Jesus. Jesus even told them, "Greater works than these will you do." This same power and authority is given to each believer in Christ who is born again---of the Spirit.

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

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# Community Calendar

(Continued from Page 2)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* Bi-Net of Houston meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

\* Valentine's Day Dance and Celebration at DiverseWorks! 6:00 p.m. Call 223-8346.

\* Nutrition First!; Happiness Through Wellness seminar by Bart Loeser of AFH. Call 524-2374.

\* Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus board meeting at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-1000.

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

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

\* Dedication Ceremony for AIDS Memorial Terrace and Garden of Angles Meditation Area at 1:00 p.m. Call 921-6668.

## Thursday, Feb. 15

\* Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 P.M. Call 629-1432.

\* Broadway Showtunes at J.R.'s. 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.

\* Art Classes at The Art League. 1:00 PM. Call 523-8817

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

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

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

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

\* Burger and Chili night at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

\* Steak Night at the 611 Pub. 6:30 p.m.

\* Dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m. Free. Call 880-0670.

\* Safer Sex for Lesbians at Ms. B's 9:30 p.m. Call 666-3464.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum 9th Annual conference starts. Call 213-964-7820.

\* Back to Basic: Understanding Medical Treatment discussion panel. 7:00 p.m. Call 524-2374.

\* National Organization of Women (NOW) meets at 7:00 p.m. Call 665-8NOW.

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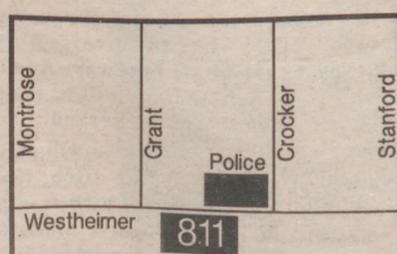
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**Celebrating 20 Years**  
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# Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



## Confronting Workplace Discrimination

If you're gay or lesbian and have a job, there is a book you must read: *Straight Jobs, Gay Lives* by Annette Friskopp and Sharon Silverstein (Scribner, \$32). Heterosexual managers would benefit from reading it, too. The authors believe that the workplace is the next frontier for gay rights, so they interviewed over 100 gay and lesbian alumni of the Harvard Business School, some from the Houston area, to understand issues such as being out versus being closeted at work, harassment, discrimination, health and insurance benefits, resources and support groups and how gay women and men experience the "lavender ceiling" in their careers.

Most gay people I know who are not self-employed (or employed by openly gay bosses or working for a gay-identified business) are partly to totally closeted at work. Some of the personal histories documented in this book have worked their entire careers in the closet; some have been out from their first day on the job. The fact that these Harvard Business School—privileged individuals have the reputation of being brighter, more diverse and more highly motivated than those without the coveted "golden passport" perhaps makes them feel they have more to lose by coming out. Maybe, though, the guts, style and confidence that saw them through the West Point of capitalism inspired some to go for it, and be out and proud in the business world as well.

What I understood from reading this book was that these gay and lesbian grads of H.B.S. are not that much different than you and I in their fears and comfort about their sexuality and their jobs. What else I found out might make you encouraged to be more at ease with whatever your degree of "outness" is.

\* Almost one third of the professionals surveyed had experienced on-the-job discrimination (including being blackmailed and fired) because they were known to be or suspected of being lesbian or gay.

\* Most incidents occurred in cities or at companies without regulations barring discrimination based on sexual orientation, especially at places in the Midwest, Texas and the South.

\* Although the salaries of a given straight or gay worker may be identical, the gay employee almost always receives less com-

pensation overall (by not being able to cover household members on group insurance, being unable to choose pension plans that include their partners, family use of company health clubs and other perks that married employees take for granted).

However, there were optimistic findings as well.

\* Those who were more out felt personal fulfillment in their careers and more loyalty to their company than those who were closeted. Whether closeted or out, most of the lesbian and gay workers felt that they had achieved the same promotions and income levels as heterosexuals within their industry.

\* Those who came out had a much easier time than those who were suspected of being gay, were "outed" or were found out. The more open they were, the less the respondents reported encountering discrimination.

\* Those who were completely open found that their bosses, peers and subordinates completely stopped their most homophobic jokes and comments.

\* Being out increased closeness to and support from key coworkers, bosses and mentors. Those questioned indicated that there were "meaningful improvements in the way they felt about themselves, their relationships, their careers, their companies and their colleagues."

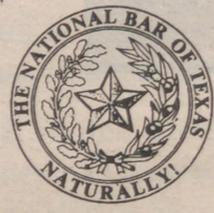
\* The companies that did not tolerate discrimination (and proved it with inclusive policies protecting sexual orientation) retained valuable and loyal employees and those that took no action lost gay and lesbian employees who felt vulnerable, and the opportunity to diversify and confront discrimination.

I have always been out at work. Occasionally, I have felt discriminated against because of my outness. After I read *Straight Jobs, Gay Lives* I wrote a letter to the corporate headquarters of my employer, Vencor Hospital. Instead of requesting a policy of nondiscrimination against lesbians and gays, I asked for what I specifically wanted: to include my life partner on my group insurance plan. Months later I received a polite answer: No.

I took a risk and I was denied. But at least now the main office in Kentucky knows what the Houston hospital has known for years: that I am out, committed to my family and will continue to try to share in the perks that my heterosexual coworkers take for granted.

# WARRYS

... naturally!!



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

## Valentine's Day Special

**Happy Hour ALL Day - ALL Night**  
**Sweetheart Slop Shot Pool**  
**1:00 pm**  
**Come play with Gaye and The Boys**

**MONDAY 8pm - 11pm**  
**\$1 Domestic Longnecks**

**TUESDAY**  
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**Movie Matinee 3:00 pm**

**SUNDAY 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm**  
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## 'Heart and Soul' Valentine's Day dance

(HOUSTON)—The Center for AIDS and Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services (AVES) are hoping to make Valentine's Day a "positive" experience for some people who otherwise might feel left out of the day's festivities, or let the occasion slip by. Wednesday, the organizations will present "Heart And Soul," a Valentine's Day dance and celebration for people with HIV and their friends. The dance is the first in a series of events being planned that are geared to expanding opportunities for people living with HIV and AIDS and increasing the overall visibility of that community.

The event will be held from 6-10 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14 at DiverseWorks ArtSpace, 1117 East Freeway. Admission is free. Refreshments will be available; no alcohol will be served.

Disc Jockey Dean Chachere will play a variety of music including disco, funk-rock, salsa and meringue. Chachere—who notes that he is HIV-positive himself—has produced numerous special events in the art and club scenes of Houston and New York. Chachere said that by participat-

ing in the event, he hopes to encourage others living with HIV to be open about their status.

The Center for AIDS is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing the latest treatment and research information to the HIV/AIDS community and advocating for new and increased local research projects. CFA publishes a monthly newsletter targeting the medical and research communities and the general public. The organization also publishes a weekly fax to over 150 doctors and researchers with the latest treatment updates; as well as hosting community forums. AVES promotes education, disease prevention, advocacy and direct care to the Latino community and other historically under-served populations, respecting differences in language, culture and sexual identity.

To obtain more information on the dance or other activities, contact Dean Chachere at 587-6834; Michael Peranteau at the CFA at 527-8219; or Michael Gurnas at AVES at 626-2837.

# Gay Today

by Glen Webber



## Do Gays Really Want Marriage?

Let's get out the champagne and have a drink. My birthday is coming up Feb. 24. I'll be 42 years old. Can you imagine. It is hard to believe. When I was in my twenties, I could never imagine being in my forties and fifties, but now I sure can. Anyway, Happy Birthday to me.

Now, on to a less subjective topic:

I want to congratulate a couple that I know on their 12 year anniversary of being together. They don't want me to use their names, so of course I won't, but they are wonderful people. They live a very nice lifestyle, and very quiet one.

Several years ago, my friends had a commitment ceremony, conducted by a gay minister. It was very lovely and touching. Everybody was crying, including the groom and the groom.

They are excited about the possibility of actually getting married one day. If same-sex marriage is legalized, they are going to do it. Well, good luck to them if they do. Sorry, though, but I can't share their enthusiasm for a legal institution that has proven itself rife with problems.

Right now 50 percent of all straight marriages will end in divorce. That is not a good statistic. And I can't imagine it being any different for gays.

I do believe that a lot of couples (gay and straight) who are together now should not be together. Many couples get together because they are lonely, or the sex is good. There are, of course, also long term couples—including some that I know—who are together because they have a genuine love and respect for each other. They realize that whatever happens they can make a difference in the relationship. Couples like that should be commended and recognized.

But does a government-issued license automatically make couples more stable? I think the facts speak for themselves. Divorce has become so easy that many couples now use it when they can't work out their problems. Getting a divorce is almost as easy as getting your driver's license. I think couples counseling should be mandatory before a divorce is granted. (I wonder how many gay couples get counseling before they break up?)

Proponents of marriage rights rarely mention the negatives that society has seen in heterosexual marriages, including domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, etc. They also usually don't talk about the legal responsibilities that come with such a profound contract, especially in Texas and other community property states.

The minute you become legally entangled with someone, you stand to lose eve-

rything you have. In Texas, if your spouse goes into debt, you are responsible for half of that debt whether you knew about his/her purchase or not and even if you later divorced your spouse. And anything you should purchase during the marriage is in law and title half your spouse's property.

Imagine this scenario: the guy you married decides to leave, and he wants your house and car and all your money. Can you imagine the lawyer telling you it is another thousand dollars to file paperwork? Have you considered the possibility of being left with nothing but heartache? I am not saying that gay couples are any less capable of commitment than non-gay couples. If you look at the statistics for straight marriages and divorces you will see a very disturbing trend. Why would we want to imitate it?

I was in a relationship for 13 years before my partner died two years ago. We had a pretty good relationship, despite the fact we had almost nothing in common. I think the thread that held us together is that we really liked each other and supported each other through thick and thin. He was the first person I ever saw deteriorate before my eyes. His last few days were horrible, as most last days are. Our relationship was no less important because we were not married.

Our community has some very important issues we must deal with. I think the most important issue is AIDS. What I mean is, those who can do volunteer work in hospices are our heroes. Those who can raise money are our heroes. Those who support politicians who support us are heroes. We need to continue to focus on the plight of our ill. They need us, and we need them.

It is also important that the community works to make sure the Texas Legislature recognizes gay bashing in the state hate crimes laws. When the legislature goes into session, we should all be writing letters and calling.

I believe we waste too much time on non-issues. For instance, some think we should have businesses sign forms saying they won't discriminate against gays. That is almost as stupid as gay marriage. We are having trouble deciding when to have the Pride parade. We are wasting far too much time on this issue. Have it at night when it is cool. Some think supporting the Republican Party will make a difference. Ha! We might as well jump in and let the sharks eat us for dinner.

Our community has a bad habit of wanting whatever straight people have—and of accepting, almost without question, that their way is the right way. Let's forget this marriage thing and continue to concentrate on the issues that really impact our community.

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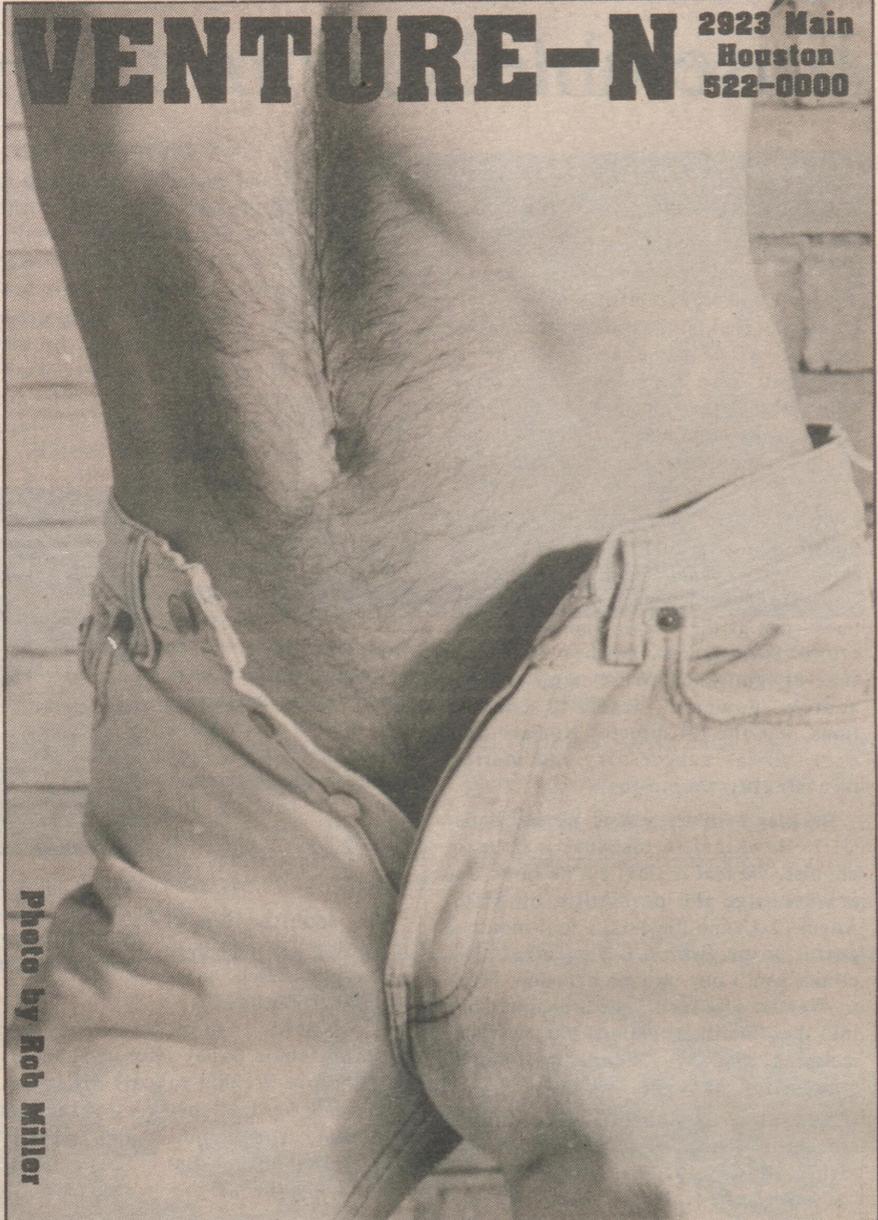


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edited by Ann Heron

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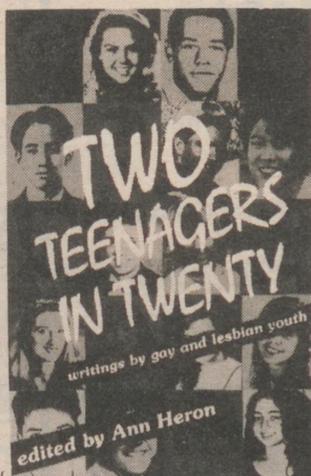
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# Ensemble's *Before It Hits Home* : 'good stuff'

## Theater Review

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

AIDS. So many stories have been written. Yet there are still so many stories to tell. One aspect which has not been covered enough—AIDS in the African-American community. An attempt to redress this deplorable situation is found in *Before It Hits Home*, by Cheryl L. West, which is being presented by The Ensemble Theatre.

West's play conveys much that is already known about the plague—denial, desertion, despair. Sadly enough these qualities extend across all manner of racial lines—just as the disease knows no socio-ethnic boundaries, neither does attitude or ignorance. West employs some acutely powerful dramatic conventions, but she (or director Ntozake Shange) utilizes unnecessary and ineffective staging techniques.

The play revolves around Wendal Bailey (J.D. Hawkins), a bisexual jazz saxophonist. Wendal is sick, but he refuses to acknowledge the possibility of AIDS. Angel (T-Lynne Bryant), a foul-mouthed gutter snipe, whom Bailey meets at a clinic, won't buy into his delusion. Much to Wendal's chagrin, she welcomes him into the "family," a coined phrase whose meaning, she says, Wendal will understand soon enough.

Wendal's relationship with his parents is in a state of semi-disarray. His father, Bailey, Sr. (Sterling Vappie), has never been pleased with Wendal's choice of career, and he refuses to call his son, angry and petulant because Wendal is lax in maintaining contact. Wendal's mother, Reba (Shirley Marks-Whitmore) is loving and gentle and eager to

hear from her son regardless.

Wendal's denial eventually gives way to grudging, angry acceptance. In the play's best scene, the action from two different scenes of "real life" is portrayed concurrently. Wendal tells both his lovers, Simone (Bryant) and Douglass (Adrian Cardell Porter), that he has AIDS. Though the action is clearly not taking place at the same time, the scenes are presented simultaneously, overlapping and intersecting one another.

Facing rejection and fear from outside his family, Wendal retreats to the comfort of his parents, his brother, his aunt and his young son. They, however, do not know Wendal is sick. And Wendal must face the torment of breaking his mother's heart with the news she will outlive him; of fueling his father's disapproval; of disillusioning his son.

The reunited family must first cross bridges already traveled, most notably Wendal's unfavorable comparison with his brother, Junior Bailey (Hosea Simmons, Sr.), before Wendal reveals his secret. And when he does there is hostility and ignorance from some, caring and compassion from others. But in both cases not from the sources one would expect.

West has done excellent work. *Before It Hits Home* is riveting drama, but the playwright does not maintain her focus. At one point, when Wendal is given the bad news, the physician treating him tells Wendal

he has a "responsibility to inform (his) partners." And this is repeated. The physician says it over and over. West's meaning is easily understood—the disease is on a rampage and spreading unchecked. But this is not breaking news. West's attempt to relay this through the physician's reiteration (the physician herself is the last person she admonishes to inform partners) is an effort wasted. This play is, after all, about Wendal Bailey and his loved-ones. A tangential dead-end adds nothing.



Wendal Bailey (J.D. Hawkins) and his father (Sterling Vappie) confront the challenges of AIDS in 'Before It Hits Home'

The performers here run the gamut of caliber. J.D. Hawkins is decidedly uneven. In the Prologue, when he is seen as Wendal the musician/performer, Hawkins is perfect. He has a sparkle in his eyes and a warm, inviting stage presence that practically welcomes the viewer to spend intimate time with the man and his music. He does less well in conveying the pain of acceptance, the fear of revelation and the anxiety of confrontation. Hawkins' performance descends to its nadir with his characterization of a bed-ridden, terminally ill patient. He shows far too much stridency and fails to capture the frailty of a dying man.

T-Lynne Bryant does well in both her roles. As the street-smart Angel, she packs in all the dirt, drugs and deranged sense of values one could imagine, yet still shows a tender affection for her unborn child. As Simone, Bryant brims with femininity and enthusiasm when life is good, and with anguish, disbelief and shock when

she learns Wendal has AIDS.

Sterling Vappie makes a hard-boiled, uncompromising Bailey, Sr. His surly barks and sour-puss attitude are ideal. Even more remarkable is Vappie's continued use of these traits when his character's attitude toward his son has changed. The essential personality quirks remain (as they should), but they are now directed and utilized in a different manner.

Shirley Marks-Whitmore delivers the best performance of the evening as Reba. She is nothing short of adorable. She is affectedly excitable, coquettishly fun-loving and displays unshakable maternal fealty. She also masterfully realizes a horrid sense of dread and a sickening denial. Marks-Whitmore is terrific.

Director Shange does well, generally speaking, with the material and with her performers. But some of her staging was sorely miscued. On two separate occasions sound effects are heard which are supposed to be the noises of the action taking place on stage. But the cues are never accurate, so the actors are left trying to match their movement with the work of the sound technician. And it looks terrible. Moreover, it's completely unnecessary. Wendal does a little tap dancing. Fine. This is not central to the story in any way, so it makes precious little difference whether or not the audience can hear the sound of actual tap dancing. The use of these overlaid sound effects was quite simply a mistake.

*Before It Hits Home* is a good play and the Ensemble has crafted a good production. There are minor irritations with both, but neither detracts so much that the play becomes unenjoyable. This is good stuff, and I hope we get more of it.

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Happy Valentine's Day	

# Celebrated gay artist no stranger to controversy



Bill T. Jones (Photo by Michael O'Neill)

(Continued from page 1)

In a fiercely articulate essay on *Still/Here* in *The New Yorker* in Dec. 1994, Ms. Croce launched her critical salvo that has reverberated through the worlds of art, culture and criticism. The *New Yorker* article elicited a firestorm of controversy, with intellectual heavyweights from across the political spectrum weighing in on both sides of the controversy.

But controversy is nothing new to the 44 year-old Mr. Jones. As a Black, openly gay, openly HIV-positive artist who doesn't feel the need to censor or repress any aspect of his personality, he has grown accustomed to being in the hot seat. In his work, he is constantly pushing the envelope by tackling such subjects as AIDS, life and death, race and gender, sexuality and faith.

By all accounts, Mr. Jones is extremely talented. He has been hailed by *Time* Magazine as "the most versatile and inventive of America's black dancer-choreographers." With his life partner and artistic collaborator, he founded the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in 1982. Since this time, the company has reached audiences of greater than 100,000 people each year, with performances in 30 states and 22 countries.

Mr. Jones was recently named resident choreographer for the Lyon Opera Ballet and received the coveted MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship in 1994.

Houston audiences have had several occasions to witness Mr. Jones's work. For Houston Grand Opera (HGO), he conceived, co-directed, and choreographed the stunning new opera *Mother of Three Sons*. In addition, in 1990 he choreographed the world premiere of Sir Michael Tippett's *New Year* under the direction of Sir Peter Hall for HGO.

Even given Mr. Jones's extensive experience with new works, the gestation of *Still/Here* was singularly unique. The piece evolved in a manner quite apart from the traditional choreographic process of weeks spent in the rehearsal hall with a company of dancers hammering out movement and steps.

Inspired by a conversation with a friend who had recently survived a double mastectomy, Mr. Jones conducted "survival workshops" for participants of all ages suffering from all forms of serious illness in ten cities across the United States over a period of one and half years.

Mr. Jones offered workshop participants an opportunity to express their emotions not only through language, but also through individual and group movement. From statements and

movements generated during these sessions, Mr. Jones created his piece *Still/Here* which serves as an expression of the suffering and the survival experienced by those with a terminal illness.

The first portion, "Still," is set to music based on the survival workshop dialogue composed by Kenneth Frazelle and sung by the folksinger Odetta. Dancers perform the movements and recite the phrases taken from the workshops as faces of the workshop participants appear on the screen and their voices are heard, one talking about test results and another relaying her feelings of emotional distress after surgery.

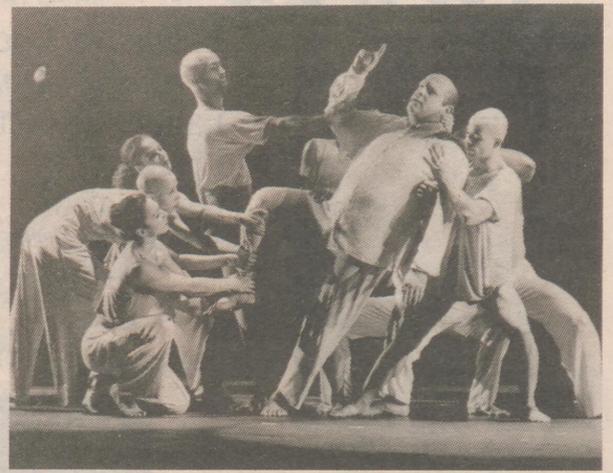
In contrast to "Still," the second part entitled "Here" focuses more on the fight against illness and the hope of survival, a theme strengthened by the rock compositions written by *Living Colour* artist Vernon Reid.

Body parts appear on the screens, and movements become larger, more energetic, and finishing with wild, excited movement. Throughout the entire

piece, superb mobile images by media artist Gretchen Bender and lighting designs by company member Robert Wierzel influence the contrasting moods of "Still" and "Here."

Tickets to *Still/Here* are \$22, \$26, and \$32; they are available at the Houston Ticket Center in Jones Hall and the Wortham Center, as well as Ticketmaster locations including Foley's, Fiesta, Sears, Sound Warehouse, and Blockbuster Music Plus. To charge by phone, call 227 ARTS (227 2787).

(A Lecture/Demonstration with Members of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance company is scheduled at Jewish Community Center Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Members of the



Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company in 'Still/Here,' a dance/theater piece examining the impact of terminal illness (Photo by Beatriz Schiller)

Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company will present a free lecture demonstration about the creation of *Still/Here* at the center, located at 5601 South Braeswood. For more information, call 227 1911).





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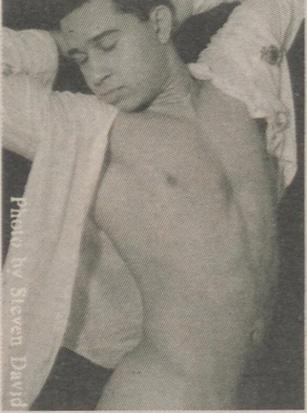
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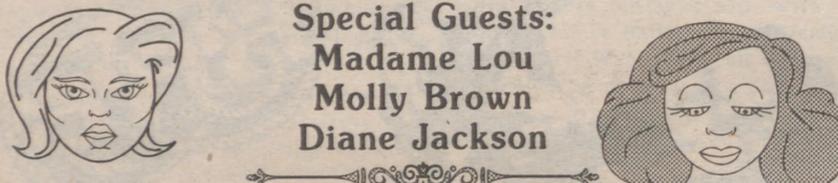


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# Former Houston Ballet soloist comes home as musical theater artist

## Interview

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

Joseph Woelfel, who now calls Houston home, is a man whose life has turned on fortuitous kismet. The most recent example of this for the former soloist with the Houston Ballet is his transition to musical theater: specifically, his role in the revival production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Carousel*, which is launching its National Tour at the Music Hall under the auspices of Theatre Under the Stars. His participation in this production, which occurred only because an agent happened to catch one of his ballet performances in a midwestern city, has opened up a different performing arts world for him, a world he intends to explore in more detail.

But Woelfel's entire career with the performing arts begin in a similar fashion. He enjoys telling of the time when he was a "star athlete in college" and he "drove by a ballet studio and decided to investigate—just as a lark." This lark led to full-time ballet studies with Jose Valenzuela in Tucson and with Warren Conover in Chicago, both of whom were nationally recognized instructors in the 70s. Following his artistic schooling, Woelfel joined the Pennsylvania Ballet in 1980, followed by the Pittsburgh Ballet in 1981.

After a successful stint in Pittsburgh, Woelfel joined the Houston Ballet in 1985 and performed as a member of the company's corps de ballet for two years. Then in 1987 he was promoted to soloist. Following his time with the Houston Ballet, Woelfel joined Ballet West in Salt Lake City, where he stayed for two years.

Since then, he has returned to Houston and established permanent residence. He goes to school and works as an independent artist in venues across the country, averaging around 70 performances a year. During this time Woelfel, already expanding his artistic resume, landed minor roles in several films, including *The Fantasticks* and *The Wild Wild West Revisited*.

Late last year, at a performance of *The Nutcracker* in Toledo, Ohio, where Woelfel was fulfilling a guest appearance contract, he was noticed by an agent with ties to one of the sponsoring organizations of the *Carousel* national tour. One dinner meeting later, Woelfel was auditioning for the role in New York City. He was given the part virtually on-the-spot and was hustled off to join the touring company which had already been rehearsing for two weeks.

Woelfel's introduction to musical theater is with one of the all-time classics of the art form. The original Broadway production received the 1945 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award as Best Musical. The current revival production garnered four 1992 Olivier Awards, including Best Revival, for its production at London's Royal National Theatre. In 1994, the same production team won five Tonys including Best Musical Revival, Best Direction, Best Choreography and Best Scenic Design.

Woelfel steps into the part of the Fairgrounds Boy for the National Tour. An

admittedly small part which is critical nonetheless because "it instigates dramatic flow." Woelfel describes his character as a "creepy, raunchy person." And this is a fairly sound description for the character, who is a young man working as a carnival (carousel) barker.

"He is the alter ego of the male lead on Earth. The lead, who also worked for the carousel, has come back and is able to see his daughter deal with the same kind of person he was when he was alive."

Woelfel appreciates the role because it represents a "more virile, aggressive character" than he has been given the opportunity to play in the past. But conveying a different characterization than that to which he had become accustomed has not been his biggest challenge. Interestingly enough, it is that artistic discipline with which Woelfel is most familiar—dance—that has proven to be the most difficult obstacle in moving from one artistic expression to another.

"I have to make very technical dancing not look like technical dancing." Woelfel elaborated: "There is a certain posture that is expected of ballet artists and performers, and we're trained to maintain that posture. But in musical theater, I can't maintain that posture. My bearing has to be more natural, more



Houstonian Joseph Woelfel

pedestrian."

Woelfel has also learned that the differences between dancing in the ballet and dancing in musical theater extend beyond the techniques employed on stage.

"When actors and vocalists are warming-up, it's not the same as when dancers are warming-up. I know what dancers are doing when they're doing warm-ups, but with the actors and vocalists I had no idea. More than once, I'd look up from my warm-up exercises and realize that everyone else had finished their routines, and they were waiting on me to finish before starting rehearsal."

Woelfel's professional commitment and self-effacing humor are evidence of precisely the type of enthusiasm and excitement that have made this revival such an acclaimed success. New York Times critic Vincent Canby said, "Forget every other *Carousel* you may have seen. This new *Carousel* is so fresh and moving that it's as if the Rodgers & Hammerstein classic were coming to life for the first time."

For Joseph Woelfel, it is the first time, but with the verve, vitality and versatility he brings to his role, it certainly won't be his last.

## Some bunny we can relate to

### Art Notes

(HOUSTON)—Nayland Blake: *Hare Attitudes*, ongoing in the Perspectives Gallery at the Contemporary Arts Museum through Feb. 25, features numerous rabbits in various forms, materials and guises, and according to the San Francisco-based artist, the exhibition's focus goes far beyond a good hare day. Drawing on the rabbit's traditional portrayal as a symbol of lust and fecundity, Blake's "rabbit" has evolved into the artist's iconographic surrogate for gay men (playing off the similar stereotypes of sexual promiscuity).

As a sculptor, performance artist, curator and writer, Blake has helped define gay culture during the past decade. Blake, who is of mixed racial parentage, has also created "reversible" rabbits which raise questions about skin color and race. The exhibition includes 11 works created by the artist since 1991 and is the first exhibition of Blake's work in the Southwest. It is the 95th exhibition in the Perspectives series.

"Nayland Blake is a thought-provoking conceptual artist who, with deceptively simple means explores complex and multi-layered contemporary issues," said Lynn M. Hebert, associate curator of the museum and curator of the exhibition. "In *Hare Attitudes*, Blake becomes somewhat of an archaeologist of contemporary culture, working with the rabbits traditional metaphorical potential and bringing it into the 90's. He draws from sources as diverse as the Easter resurrection, Renaissance iconography, *Brer Rabbit*, *Bugs Bunny*, *Harvey* and *Uncle Wiggly*."



"The Little One," 1994, from Nayland Blake's *'Hare Attitudes,'* currently at C.A.M.

Blake was born in New York City in 1960. He received his B.A. from Bard College, New York in 1982 and his M.F.A. from the California Institute for the Arts in 1984. In 1995, he co-curated the critically acclaimed exhibition *In A Different Light* at the University Art Museum in Berkeley, Calif.

The rabbit first appeared as a symbol in Blake's works when he was presenting a performance piece about magic and, on impulse, donned a rabbit costume. Since then, he has explored the depiction of rabbits through a multi-disciplinary approach focusing on his own personal history, literature, films, cartoons and children's books. Through this installations of costumes, puppets, dolls, chocolate figurines, photographs and video, Blake sets a stage and invites viewers to take on the role of a player, within it.

## HADA Show and Sale to benefit Bering Foundation

### Art Notes

(HOUSTON)—The Houston Antiques Dealers Association's (HADA) Spring Show and Sale, now in its 32nd year, will take place Feb. 15-18, benefiting the Bering Community Service Foundation.

This very popular four day show attracts over 150 exhibitors from 29 states in the United States, as well as from Canada and Europe. Approximately 10,000 antique buyers attend the much-anticipated event.

The 1996 Show featuring later hours will open to the public at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15. The show will continue Friday through Sunday, Feb. 16-18 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, running until 8:00 p.m. each day.

In 1995, HADA named the Houston based Bering Community Service Foundation as a beneficiary. A \$15,000 donation made recently helped fund the renovation and expansion of the Bering Care Center, which is the only adult day care facility in Harris County exclusively for persons with HIV and other related illnesses.

The HADA Show and Sale will feature antique furniture, silver, glass, porcelains, primitives, Orientalia,

ivory, jewelry, linens, lace, quilts, Pre-Columbian and American Indian artifacts, country, rugs, weapons, prints, maps, paintings, lamps, architectural items and antique garden furniture. Admission is \$5. Valet parking is available.

In addition, HADA funds HADA lectures which are held at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. The free lectures feature prominent authorities on subjects of interest to antique collectors. The next HADA lecture will take place at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 6:00 p.m. and again at 8:00 p.m., in the Brown Auditorium at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. "The Art Work of Louis Comfort Tiffany" will be the subject of the lecture by Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, Curator of American Decorative Arts, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Admission is free, but tickets are required. Free tickets may be picked up in the Museum lobby beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 15th. Limit 2 per person. Seating is limited.

The Houston Antiques Dealers Association was founded in 1964 to set a code of ethics and standards for antique dealers in Houston. For additional information on the show or the lecture, telephone (713) 662-4444.

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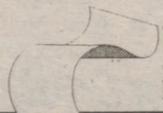
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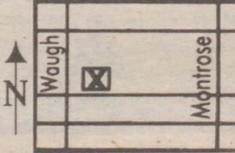
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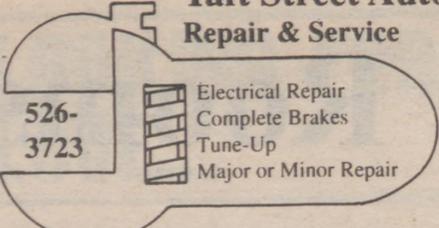
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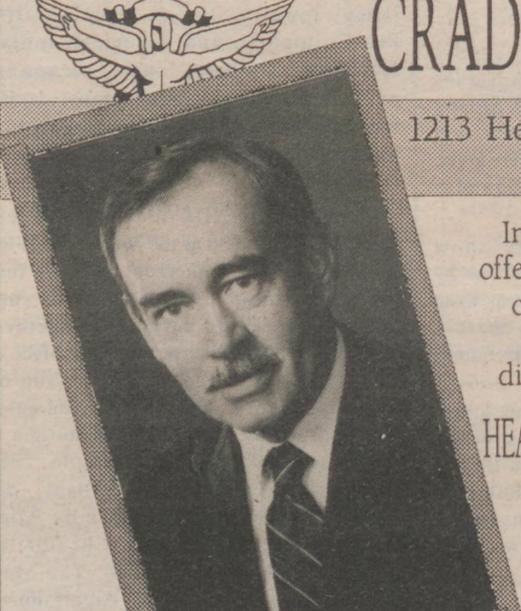
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# This & That!

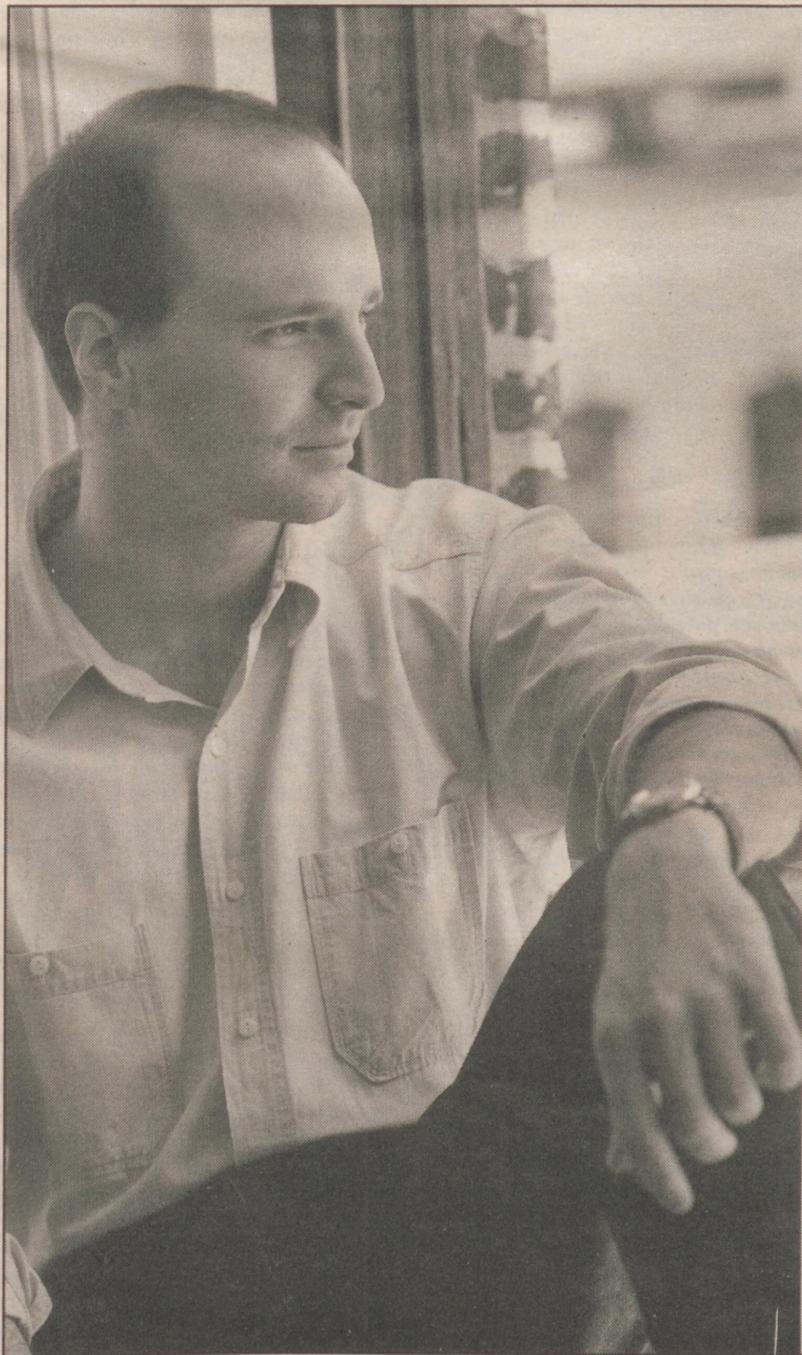
by Jon Anthony

Vanessa Redgrave's production company has obtained the rights to an unproduced Tennessee Williams play, *Not About Nightingales*, written in 1938. The play about hunger strikes and prison riots in Missouri in the late 1930's will have its world premiere at Houston's **Alley Theater** in March of 1997.... The trials and tribulations of celebritydom are increasingly evident. **David Letterman** is being sued by **Jane Bronstein**, who suffers from a thyroid condition, for violating her right to privacy. The Letterman crew filmed Bronstein at the U.S. Open with peach juice running down her chin while she was devouring the fruit. The scene was shown on his program and has been the subject of numerous gags. Letterman also referred to Bronstein as a "seductive temptress." **Fran Drescher**, TV's favorite nanny is suing *T.V. Guide*. The suit stems from a burned hand Drescher suffered as a result of a photo shoot. Drescher appears on *Oprah* Feb. 13.... **Joan Collins** will take the stand this week at a New York State Supreme Court trial, in her own defense, as a result of a lawsuit filed against her by *Random House* with whom she has a contract. The dispute concerns whether or not the *Dynasty* vixen is entitled to the remainder of her \$4 million dollar fee or if she has to reimburse the publisher for the monies she has already received. Collins delivered the manuscripts; however, the publishers were not pleased with the product. Collins is also busy statewide promoting her new film directed by famed director **Kenneth Branagh**, *A Midwinter's Tale*.... Speaking of Collins, another famous Collins, singer **Judy Collins**, will tie the knot with **Louis Nelson** on April 16.... **Elizabeth Taylor** has filed for divorce from **Larry Fortensky** citing "irreconcilable differences." Taylor, in a statement to the

press, stated the divorce proceedings will be handled privately and that the breakup was amicable.... ABC's *Champs* is going on hiatus. The sitcom, the first production under the Dreamworks banner headed by Hollywood moguls **Steven Spielberg**, **David Geffen** and **Jeffrey Katzenberg**, has mustered anemic ratings and will be retooled before it returns. **Dana Carvey's** new sketch comedy will debut March 12 in *Champs'* old time slot, Tuesday Night at 8:30 p.m.... NBC's new smash comedy hit, *3rd Rock From the Sun*, has bolstered the networks Tuesday night ratings and the windfall has catapulted its neighboring sitcoms to higher averages as well. NBC's Tuesday line-up of *Wings*, *Rock*, *Frasier*, and *The John Larroquette Show* resoundingly beat ABC's comedy block for the first time. As a result the Emmy Award-winning *Frasier* beat *Home Improvement* for the first time since the two powerhouse sitcoms went head to head.... **Richard Chamberlain** reprises his role of Father Ralph in this Sunday's CBS mini-series *The Thorn Birds: The Missing Years* airing at 8 p.m.... **ALF**, the affable alien returns to TV in the ABC movie *Project ALF* on Feb. 17 at 9 p.m. ALF will match wits with the military in the film based on the popular NBC sitcom of yesteryear.... The second album from the *Beatles Anthology* series will be released March 19. *The Beatles Anthology Volume 2* will cover their recordings from 1965 to 1968. A third and final album will be released at later date.... **Debbie Reynolds** will hit the big-screen for the first time since 1971 in the movie *Mother*, currently in production. **Albert Brooks** and *Northern Exposure's* **Rob Morrow** will co-star.... **Mary Tyler Moore** will visit the set of ABC's Wednesday night staple *Ellen* starring **Ellen DeGeneres**. DeGeneres, who visits **David Letterman**

Feb. 13., is currently promoting her new Touchtone Pictures film *Mr. Wrong* co-starring **Bill Pullman**. Moore's appearance on the sitcom will air Feb. 21.... **Michael J. Fox** will return to the small screen in a new comedy from the producers of *Home Improvement*. All the networks are in a major bidding war, trying to woo the hot film star to their line-up. Sources indicate that Fox could cap a better deal than *Bill Cosby* did with his multimillion dollar two-year commitment contract.... Veteran TV stars will be returning tenfold to the small tube this fall. **Bebe Neuwirth** (*Frasier's* wife on *Cheers*) will star in the ABC sitcom *Dear Diary* slated to debut in September. Meanwhile, **Mercedes Ruehl**, **Ted Danson** and **Mary Steenburgen**, **Gail O'Grady** (*NYPD Blue*), **Julia Sweeney** (*SNL*), **Richard Dean Anderson** (*McGyver*), **Scott Bakula** (*Quantum Leap*) and **Rhea Perlman** all have series commitment for the fall season.... **Jennifer Aniston** (*Friends*) will guest on the Feb. 12 episode of the FOX sitcom *Partners*. Aniston is married to **Tate Donovan**, the show's producer.... Sweeps month continues to heat up, especially on Sunday's the most watched night of the week. Even PBS has entered the fray. **Helen Mirren** reprises her critically acclaimed and popular British detective Jane Tennison role in this Sunday's *Prime Suspect: Inner Circles* airing under the *Masterpiece Theater* banner. Along with the aforementioned *Thorn Birds*, counterprogramming on Sunday consists of a new edition of the popular NBC *In The Line of Duty* movie specials entitled *Smoke Jumpers*, and an ABC movie, *No One Could Protect Her*, starring **Joanna Kerns**. To complicate matters, **Paula Abdul** will guest on the CBS sitcom *Cybill*. **Cybill Sheppard** will guest star on CBS *Almost Perfect* and **Tony Curtis** will appear in the long-awaited

matrimonial episode of ABC's *Lois and Clark*.... **Shelly Long** reprises her role of Diane from *Cheer's* on this Tuesday's *Frasier*.... **Bette Midler** guests on *David Letterman* Feb. 13. and will perform on *Good Morning America* Feb. 14.... **Jamie Lee Curtis** guests on ABC's *The Drew Carey Show* this week.... **Tim Curry** makes a rare television appearance on ABC's *The Naked Truth* starring the talented **Tea Leoni**.... **Sir John Gielgud** will star in a two-part PBS mystery show featuring Inspector Morse set to air Feb. 15.... **Top of the Charts:** The insipid comedy *Black Sheep* was #1 at the box-office on its opening weekend. The **Alec Baldwin/Demi Moore** vehicle *The Juror* was #2. *ER* topped the Nielsen Rating's this week. Female artist are showing their muscle power with respect to sales as they dominate 6 of the top ten spots on the Billboard charts. The *Waiting to Exhale* Soundtrack is the #1 album followed by **Tori Amos'** critically panned *Boys for Pele* (#2), **Alanis Morissette** (#3), **Mariah Carey** (#4), **Shania Twain** (#7) and **Enya** (#9). The #1 single in the country is still *One Sweet Day* with **Carey and Boyz II Men**. **Mary J. Blige** has the top R&B single, *Not Gon' Cry* and *Wonderwall* by **Oasis** is the top Modern Rock Track. **Dean Koontz's** *Intensity* retains the #1 spot on *The New York Times* Bestseller list and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's tome *In Takes a Village* tops the Non-Fiction list. This N' That would like to bid a grand farewell to two entertainment legends who passed on last week, **Gene Kelly** and **Audrey Meadows**. May their legacies live on. **Quote of the Week:** "[The Media] tries to make my family out to be this incredibly dysfunctional family and it's disturbing because my family is no different than any other family." - **Janet Jackson** talking to **Ed Gordon** on the BET program *Conversation*.



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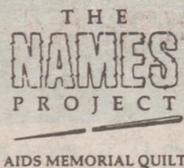
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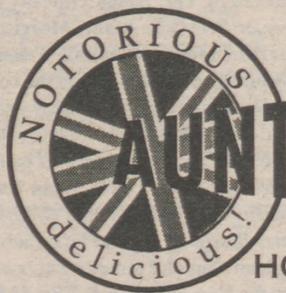
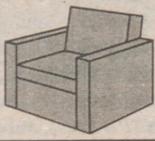
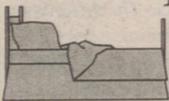
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# NEWS NOTES

Compiled by Mark Henry

### Magic Triumph

Magic Johnson had a triumphant week on many fronts. The HIV-positive basketball player returned to his profession in a much-heralded fashion. Johnson's affliction with the disease and his courageous public disclosure has been an inspiration to thousands of lesser known individuals who suffer from the ailment as well. Recent studies have shown that there are a significant number of HIV infected individuals who are doing fine, living longer and leading healthy product lives. Since the epidemic's identification in 1981, the life expectancy of people progressing to AIDS has roughly doubled, according to U.S. News and World Report. In addition recent polls indicate there is a growing public acceptance towards those who are inflicted with the virus. Johnson's plight and subsequent successes have earned him the honor of being the only celebrity to appear on the cover of the three major news weeklies (*TIME*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News and World Report*) simultaneously, as is the case this week. In the past, this has only occurred with heads of states, politicians or government officials.

### Forbes Criticized By Right Wing

Rising political phenom Steve Forbes has been targeted by The Christian Coalition and other religious right organizations for his stance on gay rights and abortion. Forbes, who has catapulted from obscurity to second place in National Polls and has tied front-runner Bob Dole in New Hampshire, has gone on record in support of allowing gays to serve in the military and has indicated he would not attempt to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*. *USA Today* reports that although Forbes backs President Clinton's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, he says that "If senior military leaders want it to change, it should certainly be changed." On gay marriages, Forbes has said, "I'm afraid I'm hopelessly conventional, so I believe that if you want to live together, that's fine, if you want a life together, fine." Texas Senator Phil Gramm has recently attacked Forbes specifically on his stance with respect to gay issues, and a campaign is being mounted by religious right organizations to attack Forbes on his social policy.

### Surgeon General Warning

The Surgeon General's office is planning to issue a new warning and its target may surprise you. The warning is not geared towards cigarettes or alcohol, rather couch potatoes. The warning will appear on sporting good supplies such as exercise equipment and sportswear. Government estimates suggest that approximately 60% of the public leads sedentary lives that are dangerous to their lives. Tom McMillen, co-chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports was more candid. "There's an epidemic of inactivity," McMillen intoned. The warning which will start appearing this summer says: The Surgeon General has determined that lack of physical activity is detrimental to your health."

### Narrow Public Support For Gay Conference

A poll conducted by The Mobile Register and the University of South Alabama show that 51 percent of Alabamians believe state law should not prohibit gay groups from meeting on public property. The poll stems from the controversy over a gay conference, the fifth annual Southeastern Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual College Conference, which is scheduled to Feb. 16-17 at the university. The con-

ference has drawn the ire of Attorney General Jeff Sessions who has threatened legal action against the University to stop it from hosting the conference. Earlier last week, U.S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson of Montgomery overturned a 1992 Alabama law that forbids spending state money on homosexual groups on the basis that the law is "naked viewpoint discrimination." The survey of 401 Alabamians also shows that 33% are in favor of such a prohibition and that 16% did not have an opinion either way, prompting pollster Sam Fisher to comment that "there's not an overwhelming majority in favor of such groups meeting, but not any significant opposition either."

### First Ladies Unite For Common Cause

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her French counterpart Bernadette Chirac, the wife of French President Jacques Chirac met with five women who are living with the AIDS virus to hear their concerns. The meeting partook at the Elizabeth Taylor Medical Center in the Whitman-Walker clinic. Clinton and Chirac were presented with "Dance of Life" pins worn by participants in a medical study. The women, participants in a four-year study on HIV and women expressed their concerns about health care, their self-esteem, help for their families, funding for AIDS research and educating others about the fatal disease. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala was also in attendance at the meeting. Mrs. Chirac, who is active for AIDS causes in France, told the women "I am sure we shall succeed," referring to providing a better life for women carrying the HIV virus which has recently started to have a bigger impact on women.

### Business/Media Capsule

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton told the National School Boards Association's annual conference that the public education system has served the nation well. Clinton agreed that the system needs reform, but does not condone spending cuts. ... Taxpayers will pick up most of the tab, primarily for security reasons, for Hillary Rodham Clinton's air fare to promote her new book *It Takes a Village*, currently #1 on the New York Times Bestseller list. Taxpayers also ponied up for Barbara Bush's *Millie's Book* book tour. Simon & Schuster will reimburse the government for the amount of a first-class air fare ticket for each leg of the trip for Clinton and two aides accompanying her, according to *USA Today*. ... AT&T decided on a name for the equipment company that is being created as a result of plans that stemmed from the three-way split of the telecommunications conglomerate. The company name will be Lucent Technologies and an IPO is planned for spring. ... Anonymous, the author of the best-selling political tome *Primary Colors* loosely based on the Clinton campaign of 1992, still remains reclusive and secretive as to his identity; however, he or she has added more money to their coffers. Warner Books has just purchased the rights to the paperback version for a whopping \$1.5 million and plans to release it this fall just prior to the elections. ... Speaking of books, St. Martin's Paperbacks will publish the first in-depth account of the du Pont case involving the slaying of wrestling star Dave Schultz. *Blood Money: The du Pont Heir and the Murder of an Olympic Athlete* will be out next month. That's pretty expedient considering that the incident occurred on Jan. 26. ... Unemployment rose last week as nearly 200,000 jobs were eliminated. The rate currently stands at 5.8%

The doors will close @ 8:00PM in preparation for

# THE 4TH ANNUAL

Honey,  
I LOVE YOU! 

but I'm goin' to the tubs

saturday  
FEB. 10  
10:00PM

PHOTO BY STEVEN DAVID

## Valentine Party

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# Men of Chicago Blow into 800 Pacific!



The Brotherhood of Pain presents a check to Stacy at the Bering Care Center.



At the Deviled Egg Taste-Off at E/J's.

## Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

### Past Events

This past Friday night, the Brotherhood of Pain and the Ripcord had a S/M carnival and "Slave" auction. \$1,118 was raised to be donated to the Bering Care Center!

### Friday, Feb. 9

The Men of Chicago heat up J.R.'s Bar and Grill tonight! Stop in J.R.'s tonight to start your weekend off with a gust of fresh meat from the windy city!

Do you play in one of the pool leagues? Well, the Lazy J has an 8-ball tournament tonight for league players only! Stop in and hit some balls around!

Warm up for your weekend tonight at Pacific Street. The doors open at 9:00 p.m. Pacific Street offers the lowest regular drink prices in town, some of the best sounds by Victor and, the one and only Lazer Wizard on lights!

Casey lights up the stage at Bacchus II tonight! If you want, you can join her on stage for karaoke!

### Saturday, Feb. 10

Patsi Kline and Evonne Supreme take the stage tonight at the Lazy J. This week's guest stars are: Madam Lou, Molly Brown, and Diane Jackson! The show starts at 10:30 p.m.

Every Saturday afternoon at Mary's you can enjoy hamburgers, 50c draft beer, and a movie on the patio! Join Scotty and the gang for a fun-filled afternoon at Mary's, naturally!

The P.R. Ball is tonight at the Clarion-Greenspoint! This year's theme is "Casino Royale!" Blackjack, roulette, and such will help raise money!

The Men of Chicago are blowing in hard tonight at J.R.'s. Be sure to check these new-to-Houston specimens of

manhood!

The Houston Area Bears present "Bear in Heat II" tonight at the Venture-N. Please wear red! Join the Bears as they heat up the Venture-N!

### Sunday, Feb. 11

Brunch it! The 611 Hyde Park Pub has brunch starting at 12:30 p.m. Be sure to have a tasty eye-opener, too!

You would have thought that I had too many import beers at Gentry last week! I told you they cost \$3.50 a bottle! NOT!!! They are \$2.50 a bottle! Maybe it was that 25th Jose Cuervo shot that made me make such an error! Well, import beers are on sale again for \$2.50! Stop in and have a cold one!

Miss BriarPatch-Bunny O'Hare has gone into her kennel of talents to bring you "We've Got A Heart-On for You" tonight, 8:00 p.m. at the BriarPatch. Over two dozen of Houston's loveliest will bring you a pre-Valentine. This show will benefit Stone Soup! Bunny is such a mess, she surely will tear the house up!

Steak night at the Brazos River Bottom offers a hunk-o-beef, baker all-the-way, salad, and ranch style beans for a measly \$6. The meat gets hot starting at 5:00 p.m. There is NO show this Sunday so get ready to dance, dance, dance!

All Sundays! All domestic beer! All well cocktails! All day! All night! All \$1.50! The Ripcord!

The Men of Chicago wrap up their 800 Pacific tour tonight! They will be making appearances at the Mine, J.R.'s, and Heaven!

Speaking of the Montrose Mining Company, stop in and enjoy a \$1 domestic longneck or join the optional \$2 beer bust with 25c refills of Miller Lite Draft on the patio! Men, music, the Mine!

Bacchus II's stage will be graced by Paivi Lee Love tonight at 10:30 p.m. She will be joined by talents from all over Montrose!

### Monday, Feb. 12

Get happy at the Brazos River Bottom all day and all night with happy hour drink specials! \$1.75 well cocktails and domestic long-necks will get you happy!

\$2 Margarita madness at Gentry is marvelous! The pool tables are free as well as the juke box! You can watch High Society as you sip on your \$2 Margaritas!

Paivi pants the pants off of patrons tonight at

E/J's. The strip contest starts at 11:00 p.m.

### Tuesday, Feb. 13

Do you have two bucks? If you do, stop in Mary's anytime today and enjoy a shot of Jose Cuervo! Cuervo Tuesdays are always festive at Mary's!

Kofi and Lindsay Love host the strip contest tonight at J.R.'s. The buns are toasted starting at 11:00 p.m.

This week's guest of the E/J's super show are: Regina Davenport, Leah Halston, Jessica Van Shelton, and the winner from the Saturday night talent contest. The gowns are on stage starting at 11:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, Feb. 14

The 4th annual "honey, I love you, But I'm Going to the Tubs" party swings into action at 10:00 p.m. tonight at Club Houston. Be sure to try out one of Madame Jeril's "Love Potion # 9" (did that mean he had 8 before this one?). There will be red hot men in hot pink towels, tasty sweet-heart buffet, door prizes, and men, men, men! The Club will close between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. in preparation for the party!

Bring your sweetheart or go looking for one at the Red Ball at Heaven tonight! Retro music & videos by LeRoy Peters, lights by Michael Pruitt and atmosphere designed by Lenny Cure! \$1 well cocktails will certainly get you in the mood for love!

Take your lover, almost lover, trickette, pal, or drinking buddy to Gentry tonight and enjoy Ambrosia shots all day and all night for the lovely price of \$2. Commander Catia cajoles candidates to capitulate clothes on command! The clothes go starting at 11:00 p.m.

Looking for love in all the wrong places? Check out the "Caged Love" party tonight at Pacific Street! Still haven't found love? Try one of Pacific Street's special "Love Potions" tonight!

Mary's helps you get happy all day and all night with happy hour prices! Gaye and the boys play slot shot pool today at 1:00 p.m.

Want to do something fun and non-alcoholic this Valentine's Day? A.V.E.S. and the Center for AIDS is sponsoring a Valentine's Day dance and celebration tonight at

DiverseWorks! There will be sweets for the sweet and music by the disco funk rock salsa soul DJ Dean Chachere! If you would like more info, call 527-8219.

Wednesday nights at the Venture-N feature \$1 longnecks! All day and all night!

Marlene and the staff at Chances invite you to their "Love Fest" tonight! Shiela Lennon will be on stage. There will be a quick, but informative lesson on safer sex! Be sure to register to win a free bottle of champagne!

Toss darts tonight at Cousin's! There is a \$3 buy-in and the bar donates to the tournament pot! Give darts a shot!



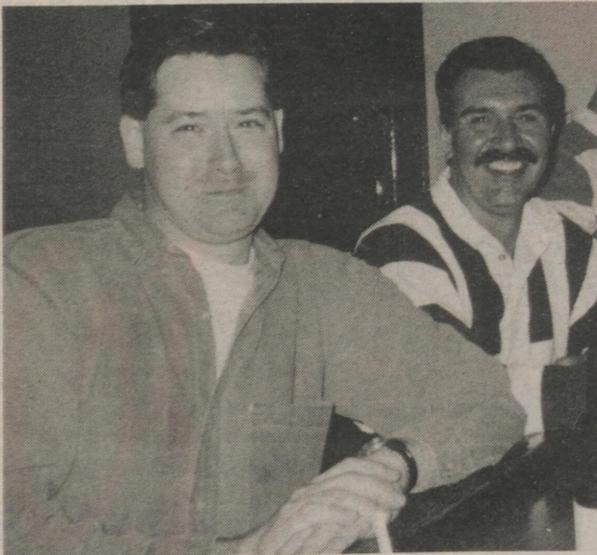
Creme de la Creme at the BRB!

### Thursday, Feb. 15

Gather at Gentry tonight for \$3 Skyy Martinis and grab glances at the boy toy dancers who start gyrating at 9:00 p.m.

Hamburgers and chili are on the menu from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. tonight at the Brazos River Bottom. You can work off all those calories with free dance lessons starting at 9:00 p.m. Scott and the Rainbow Ranglers are teaching C&W style dancing! Scoot down and give it a try!

Kofi and Regina Dane host the male strip contest tonight at Heaven! Hot men and reduced drink prices all night long! Heaven will be hot as hell tonight!



Having Cocktails at J.R.'s!



Handsome men serve you at the Venture-N!

# Burglars Bungle at Mary's. ...naturally!



The burglars made quite a mess at Mary's.

## Houston Soap

Part 2

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

### Other Important Stuff

The Mary's burglars strike again! This past Tuesday morning, some stupid thieves broke into the office at Mary's. The window AC unit in the office had been pushed into the office so the criminals could gain access. For all their hard work, climbing up poles and on to the roof, breaking windows and such, these numskulls got away with almost \$50 in change! If the thieves are reading this, which I doubt 'cuz they are pretty stupid, Gaye has installed a burglar alarm system and beefed-up security!

Munchies, located at 1617 Richmond is looking for lesbian and gay bands! New owner Mitch Burman opens the doors to anyone, gay, straight, any color, any ethnic group who likes music and likes the bar! If you have a group or want more info, call 528-3545.

There are still tickets available for the Silk Stocking Ball that will be held at Moody Gardens on Friday, Feb. 16. Call 409-765-5891 for ticket info.

Frank Parsley's photography will be on exhibit and for sale at J.R.'s through Fat Tuesday! Be sure to check out his Mardi Gras photos that are hot to trot!

White Brook Originals specialize in unique gift baskets for all occasions! Call Mike or David at 952-8411 to get more info.

Now & Again, a consignment shop of finer furnishings has change their hours of operations. Check out the ad on page 18 for all the scoop!

We welcome Margie's Flowers to our family of advertisers! Margie's Flowers wants you to say "it" with flowers! They deliver to the greater Houston area and offer a 10% discount for Houston Voice readers. For more



Ratrat helps me with the laundry!



Is Jimmy headed for Falcon Studios?

details, check out the ad on page 5.

"Toyer" is on the stage at the Houston Skyline Theater. Call 523-1530 for times and ticket reservations.

The Ripcord still has a few tickets for their bus trip to Mardi Gras in Galveston! The Brazos River Bottom's bus is sold out!

This week's features at the French Quarter are: "Stiff as Nails" and "Hot Copy."

The Names Project, Houston is still looking for donations of "stuff" to be sold at their garage sale. Proceeds from this sale will help send the Quilt to D.C. in October. Call 52-NAMES for more info.

### Birthday Corner

A Happy (warm and fuzzie) Birthday to December Bear of the Month Trey!

A Happy (I'll fix anything) Birthday to Les of Mary's!

A Happy (I Love to wear Easter bonnets) Birthday to Sissy!

A Happy (Chap-Snap-Can-Can) Belated birthday to Mitsy (hangs at PS).

A Happy Heavenly birthday to my dear departed friend Cal Moran.

A Happy (I'll have another drink or 20) birthday to Steve of Gentry.

A Happy (I'll pour you a good shot) Birthday to Darlene of the Outpost!

A Happy (Warm and Furry) Birthday to Barry G. of the Houston Area Bears!

### Rodent Droppings

Well, Ratrat and Harvey are exploring their new room! So far, so good! Sally, our 95 lb. dog, has already accidentally fallen into the hot tub. The bad part was the hot tub was not on and that water was really cold!

While unpacking, I found some more rodent droppings:

Charlotta (BriarPatch): I hear you are "pumping iron?" You do have a big old hunky body and the best bum-bum in town! Watch it! I hear Auntie Richard is talking about opening a gym!

Glen (PS): Are you SURE there is not a helium intake valve in your heels?

Bill Havard (BRB): Is it true you have a Chow dog guarding your "hole?"

Tom and Doug: I understand you might be opening an ice house in Iowa Colony! Are you gonna call it Bubba's Whore House or Bubba's Whipping Post?

Michael Allen: Five slaves in one night! I'm sure that is NOT you record!

Nicky Nockers (BriarPatch): I hear you are dieting? Getting ready for a one women show? Or just (not) feeding your ego?

Ray M. (Hangs at BRB): Got any more jewelry to give to the needy?

Dan (Brotherhood of Pain): So, you got to do a little paddling on the pool table this weekend! I know you enjoyed it!

Anita (Hangs at PS): I have heard tell of some interesting bedroom gymnastics! How ever did you hold that position for that long without passing out? Enquiring minds demand to know!

Sam (Hangs at BRB): I hear you have quite a pretty singing voice! You were overheard singing "I'm Just Another Pretty Face" while in the little cowboys room at the BRB!

Wilma (Mary's): Next time, please remember that your brand of sanitary napkins are NOT flushable!

Rabbit (Ripcord): Had a romp on a pool table lately?

JT (PS): Fan me some more!

Tom (J.R.'s): You are too old and cranky! I guess it was all that time working in those other types of bars!

Narene (Hangs at Mary's and BRB): How did they hoist you to the executive washroom at Mary's?

Papa Del (Gentry): I hear you are getting into water sports!

Crystal Rae Lee Love *Grandma pours a tasty cocktail on the patio of E/J's!* (Wazzieland) Mama

Jose says it is not polite to eat on the bus in public, or is that pubic?

Rex (Mary's): Oral sex with two people at the same time? My, aren't we talented!

Ken (PS): How did you get those cigarettes burns in the headliner of your new car? And where do you put the antenna of your car when it's not in use?

Brian (PS): Why are they calling you the queen of the door dings? And what were you and Ken playing spin the bottle?

Don Gill (Mr. Wonderful) and Rex (Mary's): Quiet! Quivering! Quim?

Lloyd (PS): Like you really need another hole to fill!

Richard (E/J's): Next time you try to play matchmaker, make sure they are not ex-boyfriends!

Marlene (Chances): That sure was a pretty "Olive" you dropped in Susan's orange juice! Also, I wear a size 6 1/2 ring and my birthstone is Sapphire!

Don (Hangs at BRB): Is it true that you make sure you get a double

dose of Penicillin before Judy gets home from out of town?

Chester (hangs at PS): So, I hear you are riding (or being ridden by) a hawg these days!

Joey (hangs at E/J's): Or should I call you the "Beer Looser?"

Officer Mark (Hangs everywhere): So, did you like the lace extension to your leather pants?

Tim & James (Hangs at PS): Well that is the true test of sisterhood when you share your

tricks!

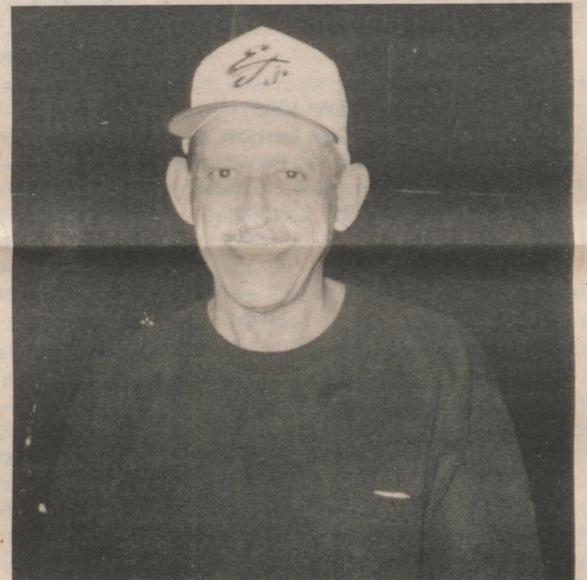
Leon (Mine): Yes, I do write about you! And I dropped by to see you last Monday night, and you were not at work! How can I visit you when you take days off!

Steve (PS): So have a new nickname? Should I share it with my readers? P.D. are the initials, can you guess?

Margie (Hangs at Chances): Have you danced on any table tops lately? Have you lost your glasses lately? Or have you been a good girl?

A note to Bruce and Albert: Violence solves no problems! Learn how to be adults and not act like bullies!

Cora (Hangs at Chances): Barbara in a



dress gets you drunk!

Jeanette (RSICSS): Is it true you left a full CC and Coke at Chances! Leaving in a hurry were you?

Lipps (Wolf Pack): Playing on the internet are we? Badboy Tx@aol.com, what a "screen name." I hear you are popular nationwide! Are you telling the truth about yourself?

Karen (Hangs at Chances): How did you get your new nickname "Moon-beam?"

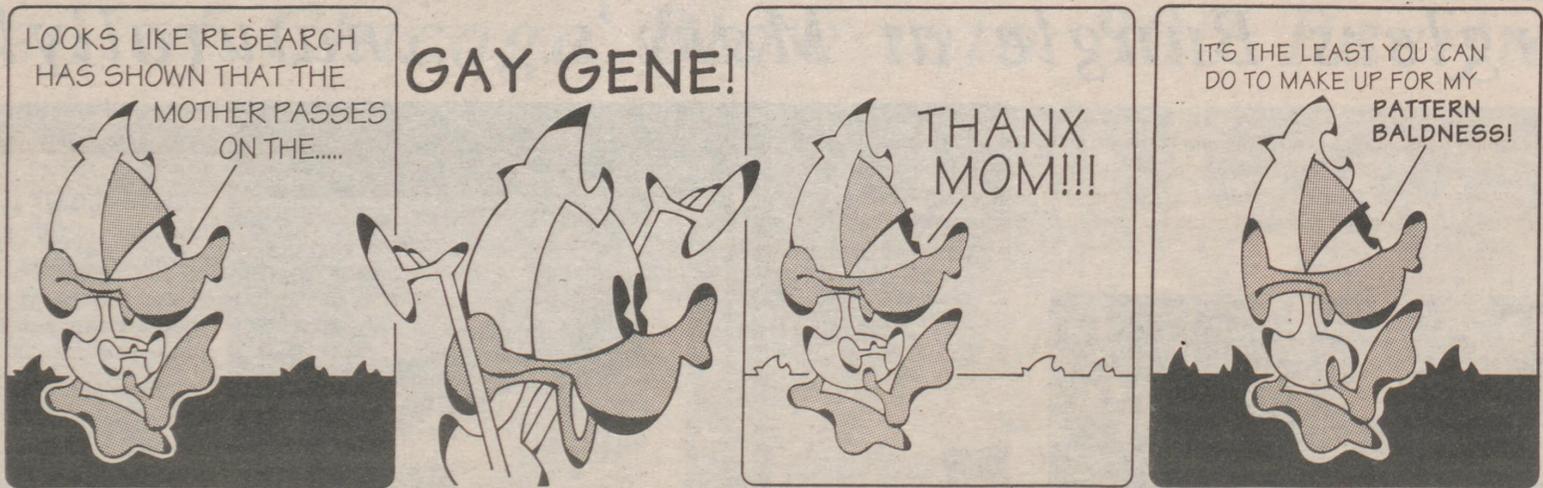
Well, the Wizard and I are still unpacking and enjoying moving (Yea! Right!) TTFN!

### Cuervolyn



I feel pretty, oh so pretty!

# such is LIFE!



## CLASSIFIEDS

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**STUDIO 911 - A HAIR SALON**  
Don Gill - (713) 521 - 0911 - 77006

**STEVEN DAVID**  
PHOTOGRAPHER  
787-0785

E mail: D.CARDS@IX.NETCOM.COM

### DATELINE

**NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!**

Dateline for everyone. Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Spanish. 1-900-420-8686, ext. 476. 24 hrs. \$2.00/min., t-tone required. 18+. Avalon Comm. (305) 525-0800.

### FOR RENT

Apartments. Condos. Houses. All Areas. Chris Bear (713) 268-2247. CITHOMES

HEIGHTS: Efficiency w/hardwoods, separate kitchen, screened porch. Bills paid. \$315/mo. Call 880-4676 (mornings).

### FOR SALE

When was the last time someone set off your Sirens? 10 musical diva strut their stuff on "SirenSong: A Celebration of Women in Music."

### HELP WANTED

Care for elderly man in Katy 4-5 days a week. Call 392-2995.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Advertising agency seeking part-time entry level administrative assistant. Must have excellent organizational and people skills. Room for advancement with a growing company. Call 627-1177, ask for Robert.

### PART-TIME EVENTS COORDINATOR

Needed to work in the Romance Dept. of the Houston Press. Part-time, should be a great people/idea person with contacts in the community. Please fax or mail your resume to: Elaine Reiter, Houston Press Romance, 2000 W. Loop S., Suite 1900, Houston, TX 77027. FAX# 624-1444

### STYLIST w/clientele needed for upscale salon inside the loop/Galleria area.

**GREAT COMMISSION & INSURANCE.**  
664-0959.

**WANTED: REALTOR** associate (must be licensed) for inner-loop's most progressive-expanding real estate firm. 529-8484. **SUZANNE ANDERSON PROPERTIES.**

**KENN KLEANING** is looking for full-time & part-time help cleaning offices & residences. Must be honest, dependable & have reliable transportation. Call 661-3243.

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

The **GAY & LESBIAN YELLOW PAGES** is hiring experienced salespeople. Call 942-0084 or fax resume to 942-0085.

The **VENTURE-N** is looking for bartenders and doormen. Applications accepted daily from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. at 2923 Main St. No phone calls, please.

Take a chance! **CHANCES** is looking for bartenders, barback & waitstaff. Call 523-7217 after 2pm. Ask for Marlene.

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

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

The **BRB** is accepting applications for bartender, doorman, floor & barback positions and security. Applications accepted daily until 4:00pm at 2400 Brazos. Photo required. No phone calls.

### MALE DANCERS NEEDED

Earn top dollars in finest facility in Houston. 527-8950

The **HOUSTON VOICE** would like to expand its contributing writer's list, as well as book reviewers. Call Jack at 529-8490.

### WORK WANTED

For professional house & yard work, call Ray (713) 846-3339. (pgr)

### INSURANCE

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Agent

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Homeowners  
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9 am - 9 pm, (713) 645-5252

GET RELAXED  
GET MASSAGED  
529-8808 - 603-5568 (pgr)  
(MT #010270)

Mention this ad during your massage and 10% of your fee will go to an AIDS charity. Bill (MT0431), (713) 864-2233

### MEN'S RESOURCES

**PENIS-NIPPLE ENLARGEMENT**  
Professional vacuum pumps with instructions. Gain 1" to 3". Permanent, safe. Enhance erection. Free brochures. Dr. Joel Kaplan (312) 409-5557. Latest surgical/non-surgical enlargement information: 1-900-976-PUMP (\$2.95/min)

### MORTGAGE FINANCING

**DEVINE MORTGAGE CAPITAL**  
(713) 916-2906

### MUSIC

#### CLASSICAL MUSIC

Interested in getting together in a small group to play for fun? Any instrument or voice. For more info. call Rudi (713) 524-8785.

### PSYCHICS

#### PSYCHIC VISIONS

Elaine Palmer specializes in reuniting lovers permanently. She can reveal your destiny, as well as your lover's. Tarot card, aura, sand crystal and palm readings available. \$10 special with ad. Call 528-0946, 2202 W. Alabama.

### ROOMMATES WANTED

HEIGHTS: Furnished 3/1, W/D, cable, utilities paid, smoker ok, prefer student. \$300/mo or swap portion for cooking, cleaning, etc. Call Frank 869-3331 evenings.

Oak Forest: Share 3/2/2, W/D, off-street covered parking. \$400/mo. bills paid. 682-2846 (leave message).

Meyerland: Share 2BR condo. Pets & smokers ok. W/D, cable & utilities included. \$350/mo. 618-5386 (pgr).

### SERVICES

**TEXAS MOVING, HAULING & CLEANING**  
520-8936

*GRAPHIC DESIGN and LAYOUT of Resumes, Newsletters, Letterhead, Business Cards, Envelopes, Advertisements, Flyers, etc...*  
Matthew (713) 279-0748 (pgr./voice mail)

### TAXES

**SEAN YARBOROUGH**  
TAX ACCOUNTANT  
862-3266

### TRAVEL

**CANCUN**  
HELP! I need to unload 3 timeshares, consecutive weeks, in July. Expensive, but worth it. Glen (713) 827-1013.

### MODELS AND ESCORTS

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Angie (713) 529-6937

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### Gr.Am.Puz. Solution

c.1996 GULF FEATURES, Puzzle TX164  
initialled names: Ronald Reagan, Ulysses Grant, Lewis Carroll, Grover Cleveland, Nova Scotia, H.L. Mencken, Omar N. Bradley

ACRE  
RHO  
ODIUM  
COSTA  
KHERBS  
WOODERRMUSAYS  
ALCABIGBEND  
LAMPZOOMICYF  
FLUXALLEGOLIGCAU  
CREWSPORTSCTONLK  
NBAMLIEASBSHSALE  
ECHOGONBBSIGVER  
COLORADOGENICWOP  
M SWOONBKV  
LWTYLER  
SEASETA  
DREGS  
ENE  
ATY  
WSW

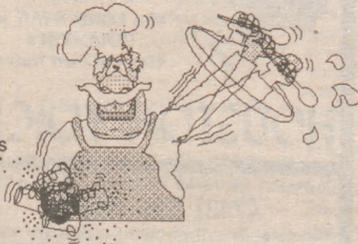
# RECIPES BY KUNTRY KIDD

Hi! About a month ago I gave you a recipe for "Pasta with Shrimp," and I told you it was from the Book "T.I.S.C." Well, I tried another recipe from the book I thought I would pass along to you. This one is "okay" in my book. The flavor is good, but to me it is lacking some kick from other spices. I think it needs more garlic, some salt and pepper, and possibly a couple of serrano peppers to go along with the cilantro. Give it a try and see what you think. For me you can almost never have enough garlic!

## Chicken and Cilantro

Serves 6

- 2-1/2 Tbs. oil
- 2 small green peppers, sliced in rings
- 1-1/2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken thighs
- 2 8-ounce cans of tomato sauce
- 1 C. cilantro, chopped
- 1/2 C. chopped onion
- 1 garlic clove, minced



Heat 1 Tbs. of oil in skillet; add pepper rings, and fry until soft, about 15 minutes. Drain on absorbent towels. Add the remaining oil and the chicken and sauté until done, about 25 to 30 minutes.

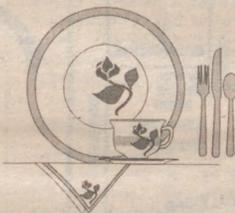
Meanwhile, put the tomato sauce, cilantro, onion, and garlic into a blender. Blend well. Pour entire mixture over the chicken. When contents of pan boil, reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 5 minutes. When chicken is tender, serve with pepper rings on top.

Another thing I might change on this recipe to make it more to my liking is to use chicken breasts. The white meat is my favorite, unless it is pan fried, then the thighs and legs are okay.

Of course there isn't anything much better than a plate full of fried chicken wings with a bowl of fresh salad and a cold beer. I'm a true gourmet!!!

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD

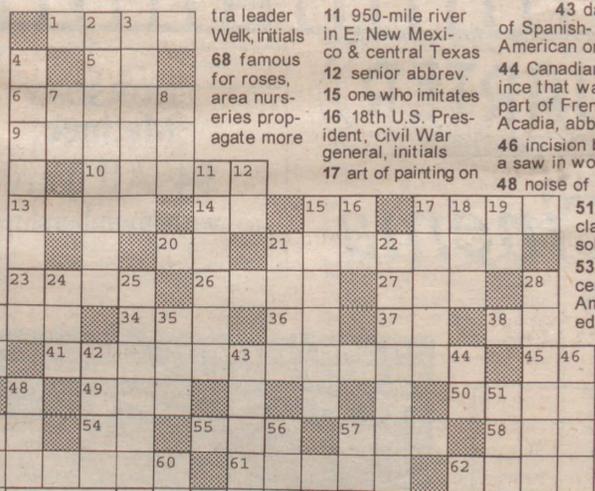


# The Great American Puzzle

## TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg

- ACROSS**
- 1 4840 square yards
  - 5 interjection to express surprise, as in "land ??!"
  - 6 merited loathing
  - 9 Spanish for coast
  - 10 seed plant that lacks woody tissue
  - 13 Texas county with Quitman as seat; lumber
  - 14 American actor



- 29 & president Reagan, initials
- 15 micron
- 17 comes out with
- 20 Golden State, abbrev.
- 21 west Texas nat. park in Rio Grande triangle, 2 words
- 23 light-producing device
- 26 increase with great speed
- 27 arctic
- 29 a flow of matter as a fluid
- 33 whole
- 34 self-esteem
- 36 Roman numeral 51
- 37 22nd & 24th President of the U.S., initials ("Honor lies in honest toil.")
- 38 chemical symbol for gold
- 39 workers on ships
- 41 Texas town with large roadrunner statue, 2 words
- 45 9th and 8th consonants of the alphabet
- 47 only major pro sports league with 3 Texas teams

- 49 rest
- 50 transfer of ownership
- 52 repetition of a sound wave
- 54 journey
- 55 WWII American General Bradley, initials ("If you will help run our government in the American way, then there will never be danger of our government running America in the wrong way.")
- 57 Ex-Gov. Richards' hair
- 58 Green Mountain State, abbrev.
- 59 largest river wholly in Texas & 1 of 2 U.S. rivers with this same name
- 61 of a gene
- 62 Star Trek Klingon now a member of Deep Space 9 crew
- 63 faint
- 65 1st and 8th consonants of the alphabet
- 66 German car
- 67 late orches-

- tra leader Welk, initials
- 68 famous for roses, area nurseries propagate more
- 11 950-mile river in E. New Mexico & central Texas
- 12 senior abbrev.
- 15 one who imitates
- 16 18th U.S. President, Civil War general, initials
- 17 art of painting on
- 40 Texas Ranger Museum located here
- 42 common Swedish name
- 43 dance of Spanish-American origin
- 44 Canadian province that was part of French Acadia, abbrev.
- 46 incision by a saw in wood
- 48 noise of a cow
- 51 to declare absolutely
- 53 20th century American editor &
- critic Mencken, initials ("Remorse is regret that one waited so long to do it.")
- 56 Lloyd, Clinton's retired Treasury secretary
- 57 books of sacred scriptures
- 60 nocturnal birds of prey
- 62 Mountain State, abbrev.
- 64 indebted to
- 69 symbol for chemical element radium
- 71 space for something
- 74 gains
- 77 the 2 semivowels in reverse order
- Solution elsewhere this issue
- c.1996 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE TX164

- than half the nation's field-grown rose bushes
- 70 oceans
- 72 acronym for estimated time of arrival
- 73 sediment
- 75 direction Austin to Bryan, abbrev.
- 76 noun suffix for quality
- 78 direction Abilene to Midland, abbrev.
- DOWN**
- 2 cattle trail from San Antonio to Abilene, Kansas
- 3 defeated utterly
- 4 Texas' smallest county in physical size
- 7 perform
- 8 damage
- dry plaster
- 18 one chosen at random
- 19 about 9-tenths of a meter, abbrev.
- 21 long machete used in Philippines
- 22 east Texas wilderness region, 2 words
- 24 short for Alfred
- 25 divisions of time
- 28 state political leader Stephen Austin's middle name
- 30 author "Carroll" of Alice in Wonderland fame, initials
- 31 large coffee pot
- 32 small 3-masted Mediterranean vessel
- 33 because
- 35 U.S. telephone company



# GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE



## HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9 - 15, 1996



**IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** Look towards the goal you've established for yourself in your career. Try to sidestep any minor difficulties and see the whole picture. Pay attention to your mental and physical vitality, and stay away from situations which will end in overspending, overdoing or overindulging.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20) You will see financial dealings improving this week. And it may be best to stick to time-tested realities. Steer clear of all who cannot be trusted, or seem to be working towards a goal purely for themselves. You enjoy change, variety and adventure.

**TAURUS** (April 21 - May 21) Think before you speak and to make sure you have all your facts straight. If you are involved in a love affair, it can be especially intense right now; and may be an excellent time for a proposal. If uncommitted, it's time to discuss the future with a potential mate.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21) This week may not be the best time to settle old grievances or new arguments, or try to make much of an impression with anyone. It may be best to adopt a low profile. Avoid hassling with a co-worker, for it's a no-win situation. There is high potential for monetary gains.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 23) Now begins a fortunate period for your family and home interests. It's time to make a list of changes you've been contemplating, perhaps a sale of real estate. Feelings are intense in the romance department, so sidestep a showdown that could be memorable.

**LEO** (July 24- August 23) Don't bottle up your feelings; express your anger in a positive way. Remember to speak clearly to avoid any misunderstanding. During this year, relatives are bound to play a bigger role in your life, and pleasantly so. Avoid arguing with family members.

**VIRGO** (August 24 - September 23) Expectations are high and you are apt to run into obstacles wherever you turn. It may be best to lie low, and not make waves, waiting for a more opportune time. Money trends are promising, but not immediate. People you deal with tend to be overemotional.

**LIBRA** (September 24 - October 23) Happiness and financial success are surely on their way to you. Someone may be trying to involve you in a financial deal which just does not feel right for you - hold your ground. There is delightful rapport with a mate, lover or close friend.

**SCORPIO** (October 24 - November 22) A new romance may be waiting in the wings for you. It might not be a new person, but somebody you already know, and hadn't realized the possibilities before. You will make great progress in self-knowledge and spiritual growth in the coming year.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23 - December 21) It's an excellent time for beginning a domestic project or closing a real estate deal. Most of the week will find you in an upbeat mood, possibly planning a get together with friends. Don't let minor money problems dampen your spirit - things will work out.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 - January 20) There seems to be questions from all sides regarding your career and business interests. But after this week, these problems will clear up for many months. Meanwhile, it may be best to postpone important decisions. There may be tension on the home-front.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21 - February 19) Your physical energy is at a low point this week. In the next few weeks, you are bound to make major decisions regarding your personal life, so think about your moves and plan accordingly. It looks like time to cultivate a whole new circle of friends.

**PISCES** (February 20 - March 20) This week will basically be another struggle for survival, primarily on the job, but also in other people's conflicts. It will be tense for awhile, and it would be best for you to tread very lightly on others' sensitivities. Keep business facts to yourself for now.

## Personal Instructions

### TO PLACE A HOUSTON VOICE PERSONAL AD --

Come to our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105. It's a good idea to write out (up to fifty words) what you want to say. The annual cost is only \$29.95 -- less than one dollar per week. (6months -\$17.50 and 3 months-\$10) At the office you will be given the functioning details. Ads can also be placed by mail, with payment enclosed, phone 713-529-8490, for details.

### TO RECEIVE RESPONSES TO YOUR AD:

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

### TO ANSWER AN AD BY PHONE - Call 1-900-454-3576. Listen to the instructions.

You will then actually be listening to the advertisers recorded message and can leave a voice message with your name and number. You can respond to more than one personal during the phone call. As individuals check their messages, they can respond to yours. OR you can pre-pay a special 800 account, listen and respond without the cost appearing on your phone bill. Call 529-8490 for more information.

**TO ANSWER AN AD BY MAIL:** Each ad has a five digit code. Write your response and

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

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

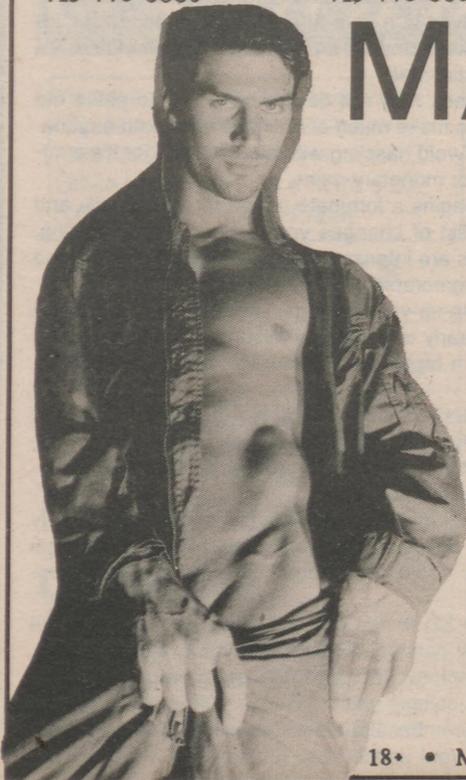
G - Gay, M - male; F - female;  
W - white; B - black;  
H - hispanic, A - asian,  
HWP - height, weight, proportionate,  
DDF - disease, drug free

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HOUSTON VOICE

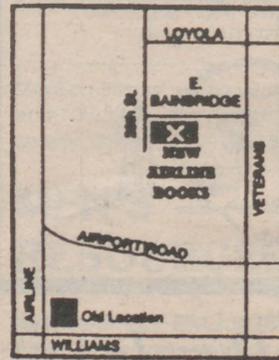
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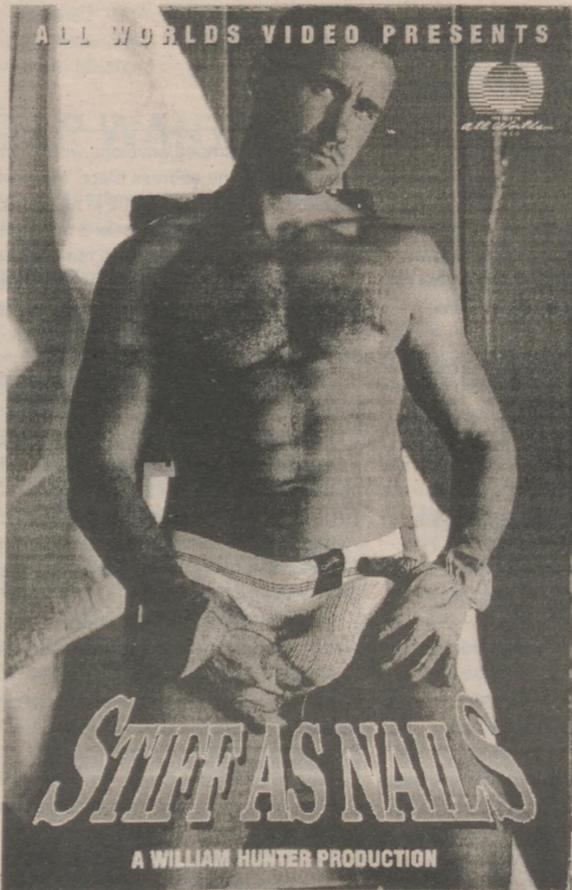
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# Houston VOICE Personals

## FURTHER INVESTIGATION NECESSARY

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

## WANTED: BOY

For long-term monogamous relationship with "gifted" GWM in early 40s. I am 6', 170#, auburn/hazel, w/moustache. A true "daddy". I am healthy and HIV-. You should be younger, attractive, masculine and DDF. Letter only w/photo and phone #. Ad 25719

## PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

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

## CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

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

## FEMININE GWF PRINCESS READY FOR ROMANCE

Are you looking for a young, mature, intelligent, attractive, faithful and moral special friend to share with? I'm ISO traditional type woman who insists on quality and is ready for a loving, passionate lover who is DDF, HWP and looking for a teddy bear to cuddle with. Spoil & be spoiled. Ad 25735

## FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

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

## I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED EXCEPT YOU!!!

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

## ATTENTION -NUDIST

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

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

## SWEET AND SPICY LOOKING FOR YOU!

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

## LONELY GHM

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

## PARENTING IS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

In search of a GWF, single or couple, to fulfill one of life's greatest enjoyments, having a baby. I'm a GWM, 38, 5'8", in very good health, college degree professional, who is considered good looking, mature, responsible and very sincere. I'm flexible pertaining to support, visitation and custody and am willing to discuss wide arrangement both during and after birth. Let's face it. Gay people make great parents and offer more love and support than many straight couples. Ad 25747

## "NOT ONLY ON WEEKENDS"

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

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

## POSITIVE MIND, BODY & SOUL

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

## D ... D ...

GWM, 6', 150#, beard, mustache, very healthy HIV+, non-smoker-drinker-drugs, straight appearance seeks same in bottom. For a great time anytime let's get together. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25729

## SEEKING HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

## SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

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

## GWM TOP

Seeks Latin/dark complexion, masculine, versatile bottom. Me: Physically fit, degreed, fun, versatile for the right man. Enjoy friends, weights, dancing, running, leather. Would like to connect with another mature, employed, addiction-free, serious man. I'm HIV-/good looking. No games. Call/write ONLY if we share similar goals/interests. Ad 25694

## READY FOR A STEADY

Interesting GWM looking for a special gentleman. I'm 38, 6'2", 175, brown/blue, professionally employed, healthy, happy, emotionally & financially stable, warm, caring & relationship oriented. I enjoy travel, Nautilus, family, friends & more. I'm seeking a compatible GWM, 30s to 40s, height/weight proportional, who is single, smart, funny, charming, HIV-, clean-cut & happy. Respond today -I'm ready! Ad 25720

## KIDNAP ME

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

## AFTERNOON DELIGHT

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

## SOUL/LIFE MATE WANTED

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

## AFFECTIONATE TEDDY BEAR WANTS CUDDLY CUB

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

## PARENTING, ANYONE?

Sincere, mature, responsible, stable, attractive, professional GWM desires to be apart of the parenting process. Lesbian couple, or lesbian single preferred to participate in one of life's greatest treasures. Joint-custody or custody to the couple with visitation for male frequently. With so much to give to a child, why waste it when gay couples and singles have proven that we are unbeatable as parents with more depth and love to give. Ad 25723

## NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

Mature, professional, very hairy body/hairy chest, Edwardian beard, (sign of Cancer) . You, mentally mature, non-smoker, into safe fun. Please respond to Ad 25916.

## EAST SIDE GWM SEEKS FRIENDS/POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP

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

## CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY

December 23, 1995 Randy, sign instructor, br: hair/eyes, goatee. Rm. 20-something M.T. Spa. Me: Br: hair/eyes, beard, hairstylist. Brief encounter was short, but not forgotten, nor is your beautiful smile. Would like to know you better under different circumstances, or meet again at M.T. Spa. Contact me and make the arrangements. Charles. Ad 25749

## GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES

I'm 43, married, 5'10", 160lbs., average looks, DDF, clean, top-cut-discreet. Ad 25598.

## TOPS LOOKING FOR SEX TOY

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

## THE FOREVER MAN

Professional, mature, masculine, successful, fun-loving GWM, youthful, 40, 5'11", 180#, well built and very attractive w/dark hair and blue eyes. Interested in a long term monogamous relationship based on loyalty, trust, and most importantly, passion. True love runs deep, and there is nothing quite like it. Ad 25717

## TURNED-ON BY INDIGENOUS CULTURES

Middle-aged GWM, intelligent, well-endowed, comfortably situated, seeking GM warrior/prince, ? years, descended from a culture native to the Americas. Photos appreciated; native attire a plus. Ittibaa-pisilli, ayokpuli, polooma; apaixonado se por, entusiasmo; en amor y compania. Ad 25733

## IF YOU KNOW...

how to follow orders, contact me. I am 46, 5'9", 190, hairy, aggressive and demanding. Ad 25673

## SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

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

## FREE TO LOVE

Professional, mature, masculine, successful, fun loving gay white male, 40, 5'11", 180#, well built and very attractive, dark hair and deep grey blue eyes, and interested in a very long term monogamous relationship based on loyalty, honesty and most importantly, passion. True love runs deep, and there is nothing else quite like it... to be devoted and committed to that one special person who is as equally into you as you are into him. Ad 25718

## HAIRY MAN WANTED

Attractive GWM, 30, h.brown/blue, 6'1", 155 lbs. smooth chested with facial hair, healthy, HIV+, top/bottom. Seeking attractive, clean cut GWM or GHM, 28-40, in Houston area. I like hairy chested, stocky men with facial hair, also top/bottom. If you enjoy friends, movies and nightclubs as well as quiet romantic evenings at home, lets get to know each other better. Prefer mail response with photo. Ad 25753

## SEEK SUBMISSIVE OLDER WHITE MEN

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

## LOOKING FOR LIKE/PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

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

## GWM PROFESSIONAL

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

## GENTLE LEATHER "DAD" SEEKS NOVICE "BOY"

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

## GO FOR IT!

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

## HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

## ABANDONED EXPECTING FEMALE SEEKS LIFE PARTNER

I am an attractive, feminine, 25 y.o., GWF w/long hair. I am 4 months pregnant, 5'7", normal weight of 135#. Taking time off from erotic dancing and college to have baby. I am ready for a long term love. Prefer mail responses w/ photo. Ad 25738

## INDIAN SEEKS COWBOY

Attractive, intelligent, Indian male, 30, brown hair/eyes, 5'4", DDF, not into active gay lifestyle. Interests include long walks, fishing, hiking, the beach and quiet evenings at home. Seeking stable GWM "Cowboy," 35-40, HWP, DDF, with similar interests for long-term monogamous relationship. Looks not important. All letters answered. Photo requested. Ad 25752

## FF BOTTOM HANDSOME & VERSATILE

Looking to meet dominant men into FF/Bondage/TT & other kinky for red hanky action. Ad 25751

## SIR, ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Sir, you are aggressive, demanding, roughly 35-50 and rough. You train, order, command, and expect excellent service. At your whim and pleasure, you discipline, humiliate, restrain, bind, and abuse. I can trust you and submit. All 5'8", 165, GWM fit parts safe in your hands. Call, write, your desire. Ad 25653

## VERY WELL ENDOWED

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

## BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

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

## LET ME MAKE YOUR HEART SMILE

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

## EUROPEAN GUY

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

## TWICE THE FUN!

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

## FOR \$29.95 PER YEAR YOU CAN HAVE AN AD IN THIS SECTION

To establish your own advertisement in the Houston Gay Personals call (713) 529-8490 (or if outside Houston (800) 729-8490) or come by our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105. Please have your ad written out. You will be given a box number as soon as we receive payment along with all instructions. Happy love making!

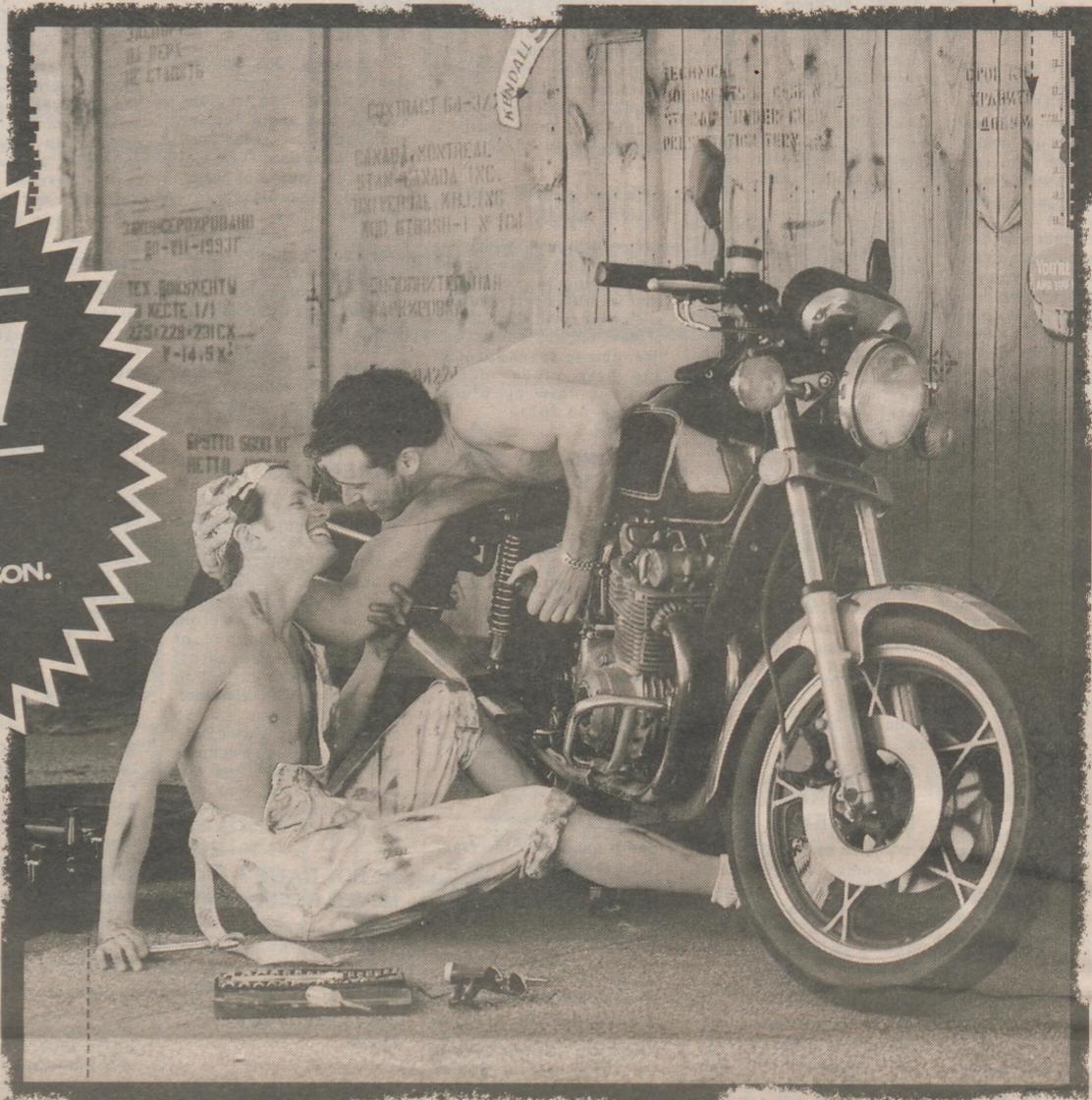
## LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON

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

For Instructions See Page 25

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