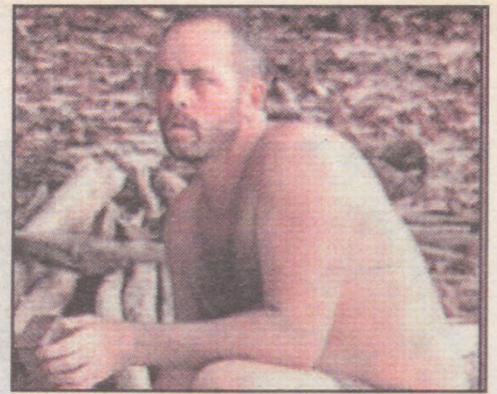


'SURVIVOR'

Self-proclaimed 'fat naked fag,' Richard Hatch, beat out 15 other contestants for \$1 million on the popular CBS show.

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INSIDE



Nacho Duato became Spain's first out ballet dancer and choreographer, and now, a gay icon in his native land.

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What did Anne and Ellen's relationship and breakup teach both straights and gays?

Page 9



'The Mineola Twins' offer double dose of comedy at the Little Room Downstairs.

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Local BSA protest draws small crowd

Organizers say next step is a letter-writing campaign

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The local protest against the Boy Scouts of America Monday drew only a handful of protesters outside the BSA building on Bagby, but organizers say the fight isn't over.

The quiet demonstration was part of a nationwide protest against BSA over the organization winning a Supreme Court ruling allowing BSA to discriminate against open gays.

Local protest organizer, Bruce Reeves, says he was disappointed by the small number of protesters, but not discouraged.

"It wasn't the best of turn outs, but I think we got a really good response from the media," Reeves said.

He said he also thinks the local BSA got the message of the protest.

"I think they definitely were aware that we were there. But I think it's going to be a long time changing the minds of the Boy Scouts of America," Reeves said.

When contacted by the *Houston Voice*, the BSA local office refused to comment on the protest, but issued the following statement:



PHOTO: TERRY SULLIVAN

Five demonstrators participated in the local Scouting For All protest against the Boy Scouts of America Monday. Sue Null, far left, protest organizer Bruce Reeves, John Kellett, Judy Reeves and a man who wished only to be identified as Terry, demonstrated before the BSA building on Bagby for more than two hours Monday.

"We respect everyone's right to hold and express their opinion. We simply ask people who disagree with the position of the Boy Scouts of America to respect our rights as a private, voluntary organization.

In fact, the vast majority of members of

the Boy Scouts of America wholeheartedly support our position, and our membership has grown significantly in recent years.

The Boy Scouts of America has empha-

> Continued on Page 12

Bisexuals often shunned by both genders

Segment of the GLBT community frequently labeled 'confused' or 'indecisive'

Editor's note: The following is part three in a four-part series on discrimination within the gay community. Other stories in the series, available in the archives of our Web site www.houstonvoice.com, explored labels used to define various segments within the gay population and issues faced by the transgendered.

by ELLA TYLER

If Prince Charming rode up and lifted me up on his white horse and said 'Oh, by the way, I'm bisexual,' I'd say 'LET ME OFF,'" said one middle-aged gay male, who

we will call 'Bill.'

He explained, "I think they (bisexuals) are squirrely and can't make up their minds, or maybe they are too inexperienced to know what they like better."

Part three of four

However, he says that among his vast circle of friends and acquaintances who are gay men or lesbians, he can think of only one person who now identifies himself as bisexual.

"I know lots of men and women who have been married, but their basic feelings were not heterosexual. They, because of society or family pressures, found themselves married before they found themselves. Even if they called themselves bisexual, they are not."

Bill's comments summarize the prejudices found in the gay and lesbian commu-

nity about bisexuals, according to J., a woman who identifies herself as bisexual.

"When I came out as bisexual in a therapy group, the women were supportive, but after a few months they began to say 'we need to find you a nice girl so you can be a real lesbian.' They don't take bisexuality seriously; they think we're people who are not ready to commit to being homosexual."

Even among people who accept the idea that bisexuality is an independent sexual preference, there's prejudice, she says.

"I hear, 'I don't have anything against bisexuals, but I wouldn't want to date one.' When I ask why, women say 'she might leave me for a man.'

"Somehow, the idea of being left for a 'straight' person seems much worse than the idea of being left for another lesbian. It's

> Continued on Page 10



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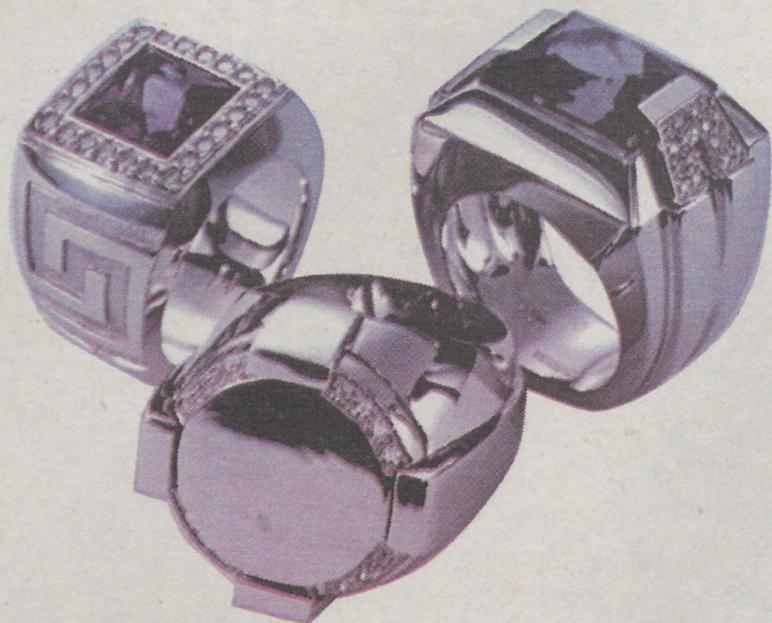
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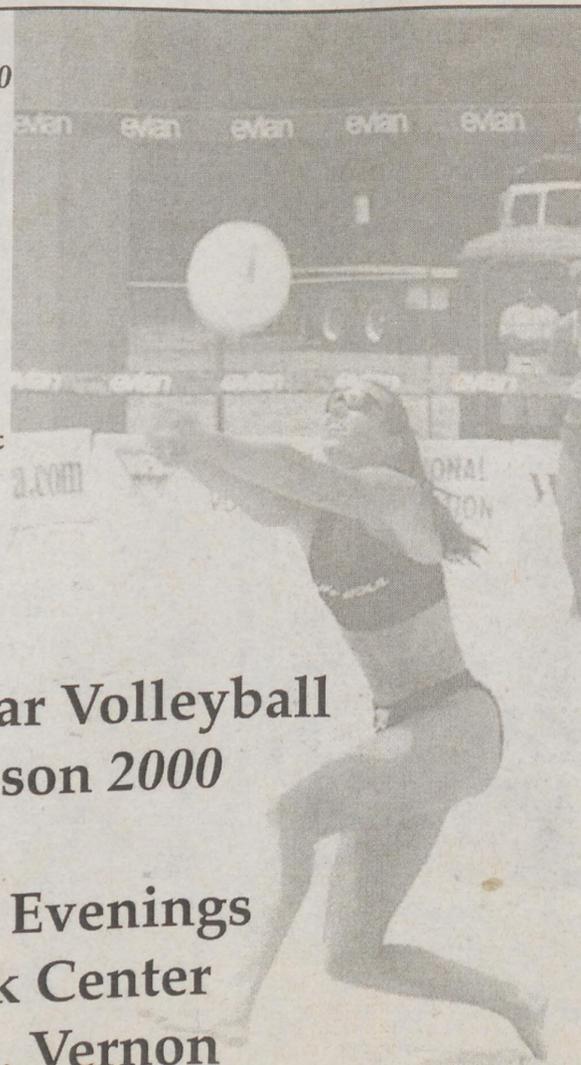
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San Antonio group sues city for discrimination

Esperanza Center says SA unjustly pulled funds, but gay leaders say group is too political for arts funding

by GIP PLASTER

After more than two years of waiting, leaders of a San Antonio group that mixes art with politics and gay and lesbian issues with racial, cultural and economic concerns got their days in court this week.

Lawyers for the Esperanza Center, which co-sponsors the city's gay and lesbian film festival and runs a variety of other programs, claim the city of San Antonio discriminated against the center in 1997 by completely cutting off arts funding to the group at a time when funding was only cut back for other arts groups.

But two prominent San Antonio gay community leaders say they supported the funding pull.

Esperanza director and co-founder Graciela Sanchez, however, said she is confident that the federal judge hearing the case will side with the center and rule that the city practiced viewpoint discrimination.

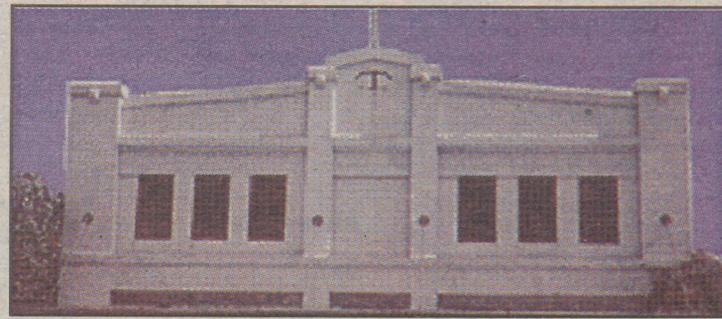
"I think based on all the facts, we have been able to show that they city council has come up with many, many reasons to defund us, and all are viewpoint discrimination," she said.

Sorting out the facts

The lawsuit, filed Aug. 4, 1998, came on the heels of a Supreme Court ruling in the case of NEA vs. Findley that said the government cannot discriminate against groups that promote "disfavored opinions."

The suit was filed by Esperanza and two groups under its fiscal umbrella, the San Antonio Lesbian and Gay Media Project and the arts group VAN. It makes four assertions.

First, it claims that the denial of funding amounted to viewpoint discrimination, a violation of the First Amendment. Vocal protesters objected to the center's support of the gay and lesbian film festival,



own merit-based criteria in allocating arts funds.

"I don't believe there's any one reason why they didn't get funding," deputy city

I don't think they have a right to public funds for arts organizations because they're a political organization. There is a difference between an artist who happens to have a political message and a political message whose vehicle is art.

—Dan Castor, political action coordinator,
San Antonio's Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus

and those protesters influenced the council, the suit claims.

Second, the suit claims Esperanza was defunded to "appease the public animus" against the group because of the film festival. If true, that is a violation of the 14th Amendment.

The suit also claims that the council violated the Texas Open Meeting Acts by deliberating about the funding in private and that the council did not fund the center in 1998 in retaliation for Esperanza's lawsuit.

The lawsuit seeks \$420,000—an amount that includes the funding the center would have received from 1998 to 2001—as well as an injunction requiring the city to follow its

attorney Michael Hodge, the city's lead council for the case, told the *San Antonio Express-News*. "Some of the council has a 'back-to-basics' priority. They didn't have any interest in arts at all. They wanted to cut arts, so they supported any cut for the arts that anybody suggested."

In 1997, allocations for most art groups were cut 15 percent. But Esperanza lost all of its \$62,500 in city funding and an additional \$14,000 from the Texas Commission for the Arts that was withheld by the city.

The case is now in the hands of U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia. After waiving opening statements and hearing oral arguments, the judge said he wants both

> Continued on Page 15

Verse with verve

Local poets to perform at community center Sunday

by ELLA TYLER

Though lyrical verse and the vitriol of politics seem an unlikely match, local poets Simone A. Cunningham, Michael Locke and Alex Morua will read their works at "Poetry, Passion and Politics," Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

After they read, community poets and spoken-word-artists are invited to participate in the "open-mike" segment of the program.

"We're very excited about the evening," Tim Brookover, HLGCC communications director and board member, said. "I think

it's the first time we've done a poetry reading, and I'm sure we never have had an 'open mike' event before. There's a lot of talent in the community and I hope some of the writers come to read."

Cunningham will read from her chapbook "Suite 69, Volume 1: Black Lesbian Erotica." She has also published "Confessions of a Womanizer." Her work is available in print and on the net.

Locke's work has been published in some poetry journals and he is working on a book combining black and white photography with his own poetry and the work of other poets. Locke is an active member of the Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition and the founder of a non-profit group called Truth in Multi-Cultural America, which works to "promote harmony among diverse populations."

Morua was a member of the now-dis-

banded Queer Artists Collective and has read his poetry at Diverse Works and Nuestra Palabra. Morua is a political activist who is the field director for Progressive Voters in Action.

The theme for the evening, Poetry, Passion and Politics, "comes from the fact that these poets are involved in political and social justice issues," said Brookover. "I don't know how much political content will be in what is read, but I think we will be hearing about both sexual passion and passion for a cause in these works."

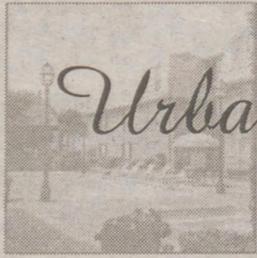
Admission is \$10 and refreshments will be available. A part of the proceeds of the event will benefit the community center.

INFO

Poetry, Passion and Politics

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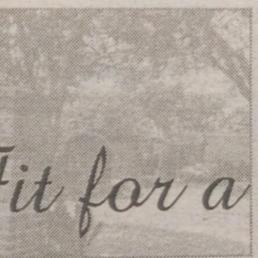
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Q & A

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around the nation

ICLU drops suit on behalf of gay man who was denied chance to adopt

INDIANAPOLIS—The Indiana Civil Liberties Union has dropped a discrimination lawsuit on behalf of a gay father who accused a county welfare department of blocking his adoption of a 9-year-old girl who was later molested by her adopted father, the *Indianapolis Star* reported. Craig Peterson's suit alleged that Bruce Stansberry, Madison County child welfare director, violated Peterson's rights when he stopped Peterson from adopting the sister of three boys he had already adopted. Peterson claimed Stansberry prevented the adoption because of a public outcry against gay adoption by politicians, church leaders and the girl's foster parents. Sean Lemieux, an ICLU attorney, said that interviews convinced him that Stansberry's department had followed appropriate procedures. Peterson said the three boys pray for their sister nightly and wonder why they aren't allowed to see her. The girl's foster father, Butch Kimmerling, who was successful in adopting the child, confessed months later to molesting her, and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. The child lives now with Kimmerling's wife; the three brothers were adopted by Peterson.

Civil unions bill key issue in divisive campaign for Vermont governor

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Gov. Howard Dean announced Aug. 18 that he was abandoning public funding for his re-election campaign, saying he would spend as much money as it takes to counter the "fear-mongering" and "hate-inciting" campaign of his anti-gay Republican opponent, Ruth Dwyer. An angry Dean said he would be outspent by 4-1 if he took public financing and Dwyer didn't. "I am not going to fight this campaign with one hand tied behind my back," Dean said at a news conference a day after Dwyer's Aug. 17 comments on a radio talk show. During the show, Dwyer said she believed the National Education Association was promoting the "homosexual agenda" and said she did not support the state's hate crimes law. Dean said Dwyer's campaign was being indirectly supported by outside groups, many of which are opposed to Vermont's civil unions law, which he signed into law in May. Playing on a slogan used by many Vermonters opposed to the law that gives marriage benefits to same-sex couples, Dean said he couldn't let Dwyer "take Vermont back."



Gov. Howard Dean, who received warm accolades during the Democratic Convention last week in Los Angeles, is in a bitter re-election campaign with Ruth Dwyer, who has built her campaign in part around opposition to the state's civil unions law.

Toledo encourages A&M to implement policy

WASHINGTON—The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Wednesday urged Texas A&M University President Ray Bowen to implement a nondiscrimination policy covering sexual orientation and to hold a substantive meeting with student leaders to discuss the issue.

Last week, Texas A&M unveiled on its Web site a new nondiscrimination policy that "prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status." Bowen then abruptly announced that implementation of the policy was being delayed.

In an Aug. 23 letter faxed to President Bowen, NGLTF Executive Director Elizabeth Toledo urged the president to reconsider his decision. "Absent a clear, official statement on this matter, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students remain vulnerable to unfair and unequal treatment and are discouraged from reporting victimization to campus or civil authorities," Toledo wrote.

Philadelphia Jewish federation taps first-of-its-kind gay CEO

PHILADELPHIA—One of the nation's largest Jewish federations has hired as its leader an openly gay man, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported Aug. 16. Harold Goldman will serve as president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia starting in October. Goldman, executive vice president for the agency for many years, will be the first openly gay chief executive of a major Jewish federation. Despite the view of some traditional Jews that homosexual activity is forbidden by Jewish law, Philadelphia federation officials say there has been no criticism so far of Goldman's appointment. "From our perspective, his sexual preference is irrelevant," said Susan Bodner, the federation's communications director. An Orthodox rabbi agreed. "I can't condone his behavior because it goes contrary to Jewish law, but it's no different from someone not observing Shabbat," said Rabbi Joshua Toledano.

Conservative group wants Mich. mayor prosecuted over same-sex union

FERNDALE, Mich. (AP)—A conservative Christian group has asked that police investigate whether the city's mayor violated a state law by officiating at a same-sex union. Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association of Michigan, said he wants Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard to investigate whether Mayor Charles Goedert violated a state law when he officiated a June 22 ceremony between two men. Violation of the law, enacted in 1930, is punishable by a \$500 fine. Goedert said the ceremony carried no legal weight and he would do it again if given the chance. Sheriff's Department Capt. Michael McCabe said the department has received no complaint from Glenn, who said he e-mailed it. "Even if it did come in, we don't

handle requests by computer," McCabe said. "He would have to come in and fill out a formal request like everyone else."

—From staff and wire reports



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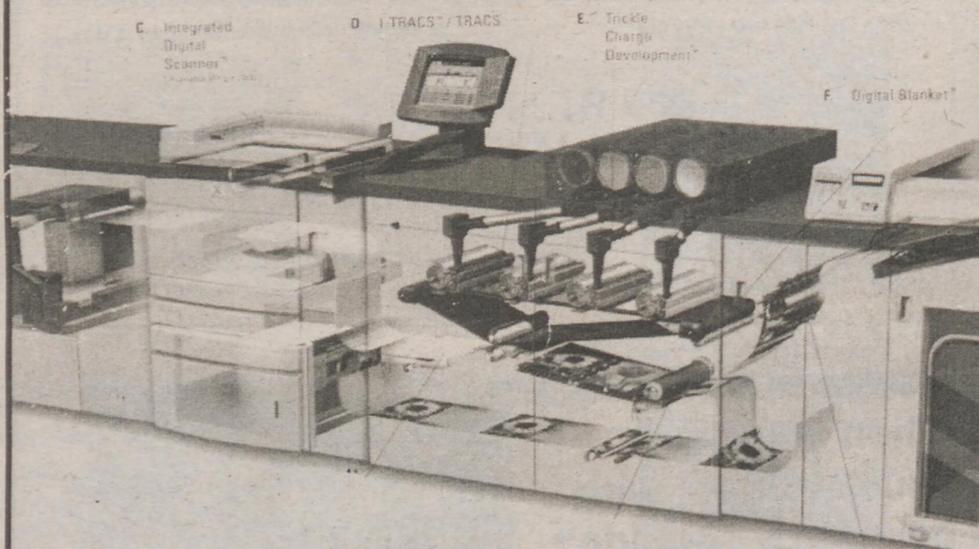
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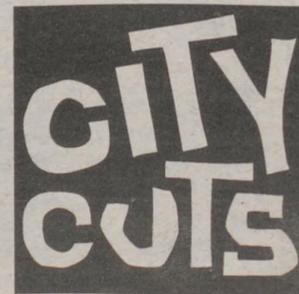
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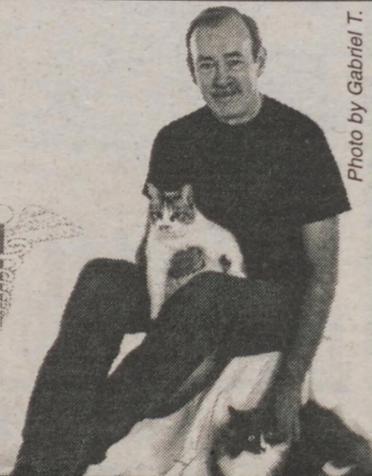


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Openly gay player, Richard Hatch, wins 'Survivor'

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. (AP)—He was taunted for his penchant for nudity, condemned as manipulative and even called a snake by a fellow castaway.

On Wednesday, Richard Hatch earned another label: millionaire. And he said Thursday that he has no regrets.

The 39-year-old corporate trainer took home the cash prize and a new car on the final episode of CBS' hugely popular "Survivor," confounding those certain his scheming would cost him in the end.

"I didn't think he'd win it," said Andrew Gold, co-owner of Golds Wood Fired Grill & Cafe, where Hatch ate almost daily while he trained for the show. "He wasn't worried if people liked him or didn't like him. You can hate him for that or call him arrogant. Obviously, it worked."

Outlasting Susan Hawk, Rudy Boesch and Kelly Wiglesworth, Hatch became the sole survivor from the original 16 who marooned themselves on the remote tropical island Pulau Tiga at the series' launch in May.

The final choice—between Hatch and Wiglesworth—was handed down by a jury of seven former tribe-mates. Their vote—some complete with personal vitriol—was a squeaker: 4 to 3.

"I wouldn't change anything that I did," Rich told the jury in a final statement.

Then, waiting for the ballots to be tallied, he admitted, "I can't breathe."

When "Survivor" host Jeff Probst finally called out his name, there was a sprinkling of applause from his fellow castaways. Rich looked stunned.

His sister Sue Hatch, however, leapt out of her chair at the Sportsticket bar in Middletown. "Good for him," she said. "He played the game well and he deserves it."

On the CBS "The Early Show" Thursday, Hatch was asked whether it bothered him that so many people in the country thought he was manipulative.

"Not at all," he said. "Good TV. I really don't care. That's not me."

"There was so much that I couldn't control but there was much that I could, so I tried to," Hatch said.

Hatch said that he had no trouble keeping the secret of his victory from family and friends.

"It was so easy," he said. "I didn't want them to know. I had no interest in spoiling what turned out to be incredible fun for the people I know and everybody else."

But one of his sisters, Kristin Hatch, told the "Today" show that Hatch had lied to her, swearing her to secrecy and telling her he came in fourth. "He wanted to surprise me," she said.

Like his relatives, Hatch's friends said he gave no hint he was the winner—even though it had been several months since he returned from the island. The only sign of his new wealth: major renovations on his house.

"He walked in, I saw him, and I said, 'What happened?' and he would only say 'What do you think? How do you think I



did?" said Karen Massaro, a fitness director. "Believe me, I tried to get it out of him."

Jumping on the reality-TV bandwagon, CBS launched the 13-week "Survivor" show May 31 to breathe life into a prime-time schedule largely filled with reruns. The show had been taped during 39 days last spring.

Hatch quickly became the contestant everyone loved to hate. In his professional life, he specializes in team building and conflict resolution. On the remote island off Borneo, he used lies and subversion to form an alliance that helped him win.

"That's a side of Rich I've never seen before," said Smyth. "In real life Rich is a warm, fun guy to be around. He's funny."

Said contestant Jenna Lewis on "The Early Show": "I just felt like he was playing a different game than I was. He said from the beginning, 'I had the check written out.'"

The victor began reaping the spoils of fame even before Wednesday. Hatch will spend next week as the host of a morning talk show on a local radio station and he's featured with the final four in a "Got Milk?" mustache advertisement. He's been hounded by autograph seekers and, openly gay, has been inundated with marriage proposals from men and women.

But when Hatch got back home he faced an unforeseen challenge: Just days after returning from the island last April he was charged with second-degree child abuse.

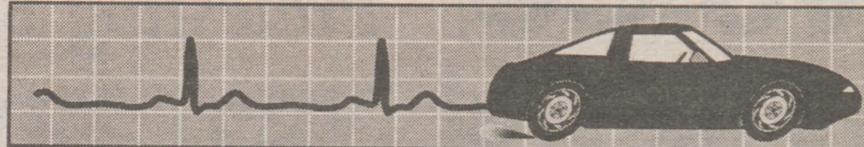
His then 9-year-old son told police Hatch pulled him by the ear and wrapped his hands around his neck when the youngster grew fatigued on a run. The criminal case is pending. Hatch is suing police and state child welfare officials for false imprisonment and defamation and is seeking more than \$1 million in damages.

Hatch said Thursday the charges were "all absurd." He said he and his son were out for a run and "he didn't do what he was supposed to do ... and created a stir."

INFO

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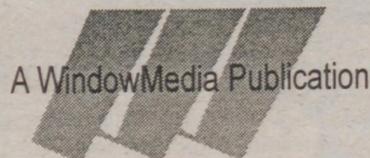
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EDITORIAL

Protesting BSA should include funding sources

By ROBERT B. HENDERSON

One of the advantages of youth (there are many) is the certainty our moral choices are the only correct route and any reasonable person should want to follow them. I have no particular quarrel with regard to the Supreme Court decision and the right of the Boy Scouts to choose their leaders.

To do otherwise might well mean some really bizarre anomalies might have to be tolerated such as tolerating witches as members of Christian churches. The question hangs on to what degree the Boy Scouts is a public institution.

Having said that does not mean I agree with the Boy Scouts excluding gay people from adult leadership and the lesson they teach participating youth by representing gay people as unfit to be role models. It is emphasized to parents repeatedly that unspoken but demonstrated values are powerful teaching tools. For example who gives the more powerful lesson—the theoretical atheist who likes to talk about there being no God or the practical atheist who behaves as though there was no God?

It is too easy for us to gather ourselves in "righteous rage" and go in for "the kill," rather than to attempt to change an organization. Boy Scouts is so established it has a life like the March of Dimes—the disease it was organized to fight went out of existence but the charity went on. Nobody is supposed to rain on a money-gathering machine like that.

One of the Boy Scout fears is the gay community is out to destroy them. They don't hear very well. The court case was about inclusion, not about outlawing them. The fear of destruction may be a projection of their own response rather than listening to the gay community. But like the story of the mule you had to hit between the eyes with a 2x4, you have to get their attention. Protests marches and picketing may well serve the purpose. But there are other ways also. Speaking through United Way by way of funding reduction and adding sexual orientation to their diversity statements is another way of getting their attention. First, it is useful to hear what Boy Scouts and United Way say of themselves.

Bill Lucas is the president/scout executive of the Sam Houston Area Council. According to Lucas, the council operates under the guidelines of the National Council of the Boys Scouts of America in Irving, Texas. The National Council has a congressional charter extending the provisions of the charter to the 318 local councils.

The National Guidelines are very detailed, according to Lucas, such as requirements for membership and advancement procedures.

Reflecting on the Supreme Court Decision, Lucas said, "It didn't affect us. We've had no change in the way we operate. In Texas or in Houston there was no change because of the Supreme Court decision."

Not only are gay people not allowed to be adult leaders, youth who claim to be

atheists are forbidden membership in Scouting. Lucas said atheists are excluded because they can not adhere to the Boy Scout Oath—"On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country..."

He said they don't define "God." They leave the definition of "God" to the youth's parents and religious leaders. Presumably with such a broad toleration of definition, the parents could belong to a coven of witches and be teaching their youngster witchcraft with the approval of the leader of the coven.

vides funding for the Montrose Clinic and the Montrose Counseling Center, according to Gomez.

"United Way is a volunteer organization. We have volunteers who go out to agencies. They look at the programs. They make the funding decisions in terms of funding the best programs at the best agencies," Gomez said.

He said each agency is required to agree to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Statement and a Diversity Statement. The diversity statements differ from agency to agency and are accept-

I respect everyone's right to their own beliefs and to be what they want to be. We hope they will respect our right to choose our leadership based on who we think they ought to be or the kind of example they ought to set for young people, role model.

— Bill Lucas,

Sam Houston Area Council president/scout executive

When asked what disqualifies a gay person from adult leadership, Lucas said, "I guess it's the fact the Supreme Court says we have the right to choose our leaders that we feel like set the example most parents would want their young people to follow."

Asked in follow-up if it might disqualify people with long noses he responded, "Not to my knowledge."

Asked why it specifically disqualified gay people, Lucas responded, "I really don't want to comment on that. I respect everyone's right to their own beliefs and to be what they want to be. We hope they will respect our right to choose our leadership based on who we think they ought to be or the kind of example they ought to set for young people, role model. We don't get into it any further than that."

Lucas went on to add they don't select the adult leaders but rather a committee of parents selects the leaders. He said he wouldn't say a gay person wouldn't be a good role model.

In the event funds and "in-kind" meeting places were withheld because of the exclusion of gay people as adult leaders, Lucas said, "If it were to happen, I guess we'd have to operate without that support. Fortunately, we have had very little of that, if any."

"I think you'll find our local United Way is standing very strong with the Boy Scouts of America. They're a good source of funding for us. We support them. Our board supports them. Our employees are 'fare share' givers and have been since 1923. It's been a great relationship."

Mario Gomez, director of media for the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, said they fund more than 250 programs in more than 80 agencies in five county areas around Houston. As well as providing funding for the Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts, United Way also pro-

ed by the volunteer reviewing committee. When he checked the resources, Gomez said the United Way of Texas Gulf Coast does not have a written statement on non-discrimination including sexual orientation.

While there is a national federation of United Ways, the local organization is autonomous. Although United Ways in Florida, Arizona, Michigan, Massachusetts and New Hampshire are reviewing their funding of Boy Scouts because of the exclusion of gay people from adult leadership roles, Gomez said it would not necessarily prompt a review by the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast.

"All decisions are local. All fund-raising is done locally. All fund raised here, stay here. That process is done by a local board of volunteers, not only here, but by United Ways across the country. So each United Way is autonomous within their own community. United Way volunteers determine what kind of dollars each agency and each program receives," Gomez said.

He said they have received concerns from people in the community with regard to the Boy Scouts. They are passing on the concerns to the volunteers going through the review process with agencies and their programs.

"The volunteers will take this input from the community and that will be factored into their decision. Again, the volunteers will decide what the next steps will be," Gomez said.

He said the way to contact the United Way with concerns about the Boy Scouts discrimination against gay people is by e-mail to president@unitedwayhouston.org or by letter to United Way, P.O. Box 924507, Houston TX 77292-4507, Attention: Community Impact.

All this may not change anything, but at least we will have "complaining rights" having done what we can do.



VIEWPOINT

Anne & Ellen: a true (gay) love story

by LUCAS J. MIRE

"Color me Anne Heche," said the voice on the other end of the receiver. "I think I might have met the right woman."

My friend Val had been mistaken for a lesbian for as long as I could remember. Happily married to a man for nine years, she always laughed it off. Then suddenly, cupid played the "Anne Heche" card and at 38, Val was rethinking her sexuality.

I thought about this. I know, I know, this kind of thing happens all the time and plenty of people—Elizabeth Toledo, the executive director of the National Lesbian & Gay Task Force, is a good example—are late to the coming out party.

But ever since Anne Heche and Ellen DeGeneres held hands on "Oprah," got photographed with President Clinton, and very publicly worshiped at their eternal love flame—which almost reduced their careers to a puff of smoke—America has taken more time to self-reflect over their sexuality.

At least my straight friends did. "If it could happen to Anne, maybe it could happen to me," they open-mindedly mused.

Like it or not, Ellen and Anne put a palatable face on lesbianism—and love between people of the same gender—in a way that hadn't been done before.

When Rob Jackson and Bob Paris split, people called them hypocrites for writing books about making love and commitment last between gay men.

I'm sure the same thing will happen to Anne and Ellen.

Sure Rob Jackson and Bob Paris did their share of "Donahue" appearances back in the day, but they weren't famous enough to become a full-fledged pop-culture phenom. When the Jackson-Parises split, the gay "community" went through the roof, calling them hypocrites for writing books about making love and commitment last between gay men.

I'm sure the same thing will happen to

Anne and Ellen. What a disappointment.

Even in the age of civil unions and commitment ceremonies, often times our relationships aren't honored as "real" and no one truly expects them to last.

When gay relationships end, it's considered a failure. When couples decide to go their separate ways, people want to

Anne, anyway, argues a friend? What about Melissa Etheridge and Julie Cypher? They've held it together for a long time and managed to stay humble about it, even in the face of tabloid terrorism over the parentage of their kids.

I say it's not the same. We didn't come out with them, see them fall in love. They didn't gush as much, and they didn't seem to have as much at stake. We care about Ellen and Anne more.

What's most important is that whatever existed between Anne and Ellen not be trivialized to petty gossip, cocktail anecdotes and a catchy soundbite. The bravery they showed, the contempt they endured, the love they exemplified shouldn't be forgotten or be reduced to dinner party speculation about why it ended.

Last year I spoke to Betty DeGeneres and passed a letter to Ellen and Anne. In the letter I told them that they gave me hope of finding real love. And while life goes on, and relationships make their transitions, they still do.

I don't consider Anne and Ellen's relationship a failure. I think it succeeded wildly in getting straight people, like Val, to look at themselves, and in giving gay people, like me, proof that you can be that proud of someone, that free to explore who you are and that much in love.

Lucas J. Mire is a pop-culture addict from New Orleans and a graphic designer for Southern Voice; he can be reached at LucasMire@aol.com.

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Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

DOG DAYS
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 WE FIND LOIS PACKING FOR THE DEMOCRATIC SHOW.

HAS ANYONE SEEN MY CHARTREUSE "LADIES' CHOICE"?

IN THE DISH-WASHER.

UH... IS THAT REALLY SANITARY?

OH, YEAH. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO KEEP YOUR TOYS CLEAN.

GOOD TO KNOW. WELL, I'M OFF TO MY SPINNING CLASS. BE CAREFUL OUT THERE. DON'T BE A HERO.

I'M SO GLAD I DECIDED TO DO THIS! I FEEL LIKE A YOUNG PUNK AGAIN! YOU SHOULD COME, GINGER. IT'LL TAKE YOUR MIND OFF MISSING DIGGER.

MM-HMM. ENCOUNTERS WITH THE L.A.P.D. ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR POWERFUL RESTORATIVE EFFECT.

YOU SHOULD AT LEAST THINK ABOUT GETTING OFF THE COUCH. WHY DON'T YOU GO FOR A JOG? YOU USED TO DO THAT A LOT.

BACK BEFORE DIGGER'S RHEUMATISM GOT BAD.

C'MON. YOU'VE BEEN LYING THERE SO LONG IT'S STARTING TO SAG.

AND SHE'S NOT TALKING ABOUT THE COUCH.

SHORTLY... I GUESS THIS ISN'T SO BAD. IT'S KIND OF A NICE DAY, AND AFTER ALL, LIFE IS FOR THE...
 ...LIVING.

BACK AT HOME... TELL ME YOU'RE NOT DRIVING THAT WRECK TO L.A.

OF COURSE NOT. JUST BECAUSE I'M RECAPTURING MY LOST YOUTH DOESN'T MEAN I SUDDENLY GOT STUPID.

WE'RE GOING IN LAUGHING DOG'S VAN.

HEY, LOIS! DIDJA GET THE "DEPENDS"?

YEP. WE CAN STAY U-LOCKED TO STAPLES CENTER TILL THE COWS COME HOME.

WESTVILLE
 PAP PARA VIDEOS FREE MUMIA FOOD FIRST
 SCHOOLS NOT SAYS
 WAGER 2000
 (SEE SANCTIONS ON ROAD SHOW)
 PRO-CHOICE
 (LOIS) YES
 (LOIS) OH MY!

Studies prove existence of bisexuality

> Continued from Page 1

as if the whole community were being abandoned."

With these two barriers to trust—a disbelief in the existence of bisexuality and a conviction that expressing a preference for the opposite gender is an abandonment of the gay/lesbian community—it's not surprising that bisexuals are invisible in the community.

"Either they are not here, or they are not out as bisexual," says Tim Brookover, a volunteer with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center. "I can't think of anyone who is active in the community who is out as bisexual. That doesn't mean that there are not bisexuals in the community."

Judy Reeves, of the Gulf Coast Museum and Achieves of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender History, says, "We put bisexual in our name because we believe everyone has a place in the community and is important to the community."

However, when asked if she knew anyone who is out as a bisexual, Judy replied, "I know one once, and he and his wife had a very happy life together. He had male lovers, but was deeply in love with her too."

Jackie Thorne, who is active in the gay, lesbian and transgendered communities, concurs.

"I agree that bisexuals are pretty much invisible in the greater GLBT community. I think it has more to do with the gay/lesbian discomfort with relating to people who are bisexual."

"People who are not bisexual think that if a person says he or she is bisexual, it implies that he or she is capable of and has made a conscious choice, which negates the idea that sexual orientation (and gender conflict also) are innate matters that one is born with."

"I also firmly believe that more people are capable of being bisexual, given the right person and the right circumstances, than will ever admit it. Again, the idea of sexual orientation being a choice."

Tony Carroll, a psychotherapist who works with gay, lesbian and bisexual clients says research confirms that bisexuality does exist.

"The very little amount of scientific research that has been done on bisexuals indicates that bisexuality is every bit as real as hetero or homosexuality. Some researchers think they see evidence in gene structures," Carroll said.

"Bisexuality is the most complex of the issues of sexual preference. There's a huge continuum of sexual behaviors and their lives are very complicated," Carroll said. "There's a huge amount of prejudice in the gay community against bisexuals—they are seen as people who don't have the balls to be gay—but there's also internalized homo-

> Continued on Page 12

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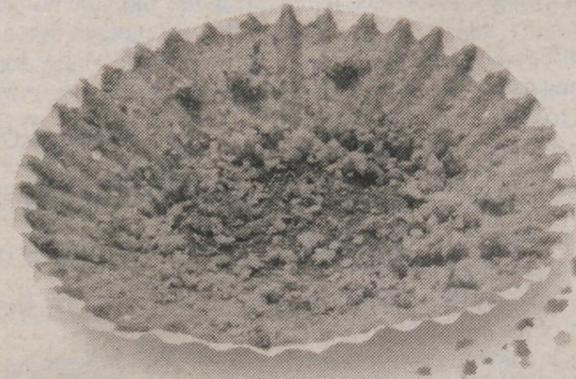


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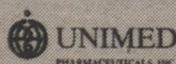
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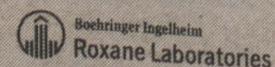
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Bisexuals face discrimination from gay, straight communities

> Continued from Page 10

phobia among bisexuals.

"Bisexuals tend to see themselves as ostracized and misunderstood," Carroll said "And at least some small part of that is their own conflict.

"Many bisexuals lead real double lives and keep it all secret. The pain and conflict is incredible. They think they don't have to come to terms with their homosexual issues because they can be heterosexual.

"I don't know if people can change being bisexual, but they can work on being clearer

When I came out as bisexual in a therapy group, the women were supportive, but after a few months they began to say 'we need to find you a nice girl so you can be a real lesbian.' They don't take bisexuality seriously.

about what's happening and resolve conflicts. "Many people think bisexuals have the best of both worlds, but often they have neither of either."

One bisexual man who prefers to be

anonymous said, "Sometimes it feels like purgatory."

The secrecy and double lives that Carroll refers to creates one area of mistrust and resentment against bisexuals. Bill claims

that bisexuals have spread AIDS to the heterosexual population.

Keville Ware, of Montrose Counseling Center, agrees that the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases is one of the costs of secrecy about sexual behaviors, but says "AIDS is also spread by IV drug abusers and by men who, though they have sex with men do not identify themselves as either bi or homosexual."

Ware does not believe that all who call themselves bisexuals are homosexuals who haven't "made up their minds."

"I tell clients that they do not have to chose," he says.

Scott, a bisexual male, says, "Perhaps I could change, but I've spent so long repressing my sexuality that I just don't want to anymore."

Contemporary theories about bisexuality owe a lot to the work of Fritz Klein, a psychiatrist who wrote "The Bisexual Option" first published in 1979 and revised in 1993.

Klein writes "the Kinsey scale (which measured peoples sexual experience and response on a seven point scale ranging from exclusively heterosexual to exclusively homosexual) did not meet the needs of understanding what exactly sexual orientation means—too many questions were still left unanswered."

Klein invented a grid that measures sexual attraction, sexual behavior, sexual fantasies, emotional preference, social preference, heterosexual vs. homosexual life style, and self-identification. Klein's grid scores these factors on a seven-point scale for three time periods, the past, present and ideal. As the scale indicates, people who call themselves bisexual can behave in a variety of ways.

J says "I know people who call themselves bi who are celibate or monogamous or who have known they were bi for years before they ever made love to someone of the same gender."

J says it's easy for bisexuals to be invisible.

"If I'm with a guy, people assume I'm straight, and if I'm with a woman they assume I'm a lesbian, which is natural. The burden is on me to come out as bi." However, she complains, "People seem to think that because we are attracted to men and women that we are automatically lusty after everyone, so when I come out as bi, I must be very careful."

GiGi Raven-Wilbur of Bi-Net says "Many gay and lesbian groups have added bisexual to their name or mission statement which is a giant step, but the attitudes are the same.

"Last year, we decided to work on organizing a conference rather than participating in Pride activities. We haven't decided what to do this year."

However, Raven-Wilbur also said, "When I first saw the word bisexual, I thought, if there's a word for this, there must be others like me."

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CONTRAINDICATIONS

Marinol (dronabinol) is contraindicated in any patient who has a history of hypersensitivity to any cannabinoid or sesame oil.

WARNINGS

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

PRECAUTIONS

General: The risk/benefit ratio of Marinol (dronabinol) use should be carefully evaluated in patients with the following medical conditions because of individual variation in response and tolerance to the effects of Marinol.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with cardiac disorders because of occasional hypotension, possible hypertension, syncope, or tachycardia (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

Marinol should be used with caution in patients with a history of substance abuse, including alcohol abuse or dependence, because they may be more prone to abuse Marinol as well. Multiple substance abuse is common and marijuana, which contains the same active compound, is a frequently abused substance.

Marinol should be used with caution and careful psychiatric monitoring in patients with mania, depression, or schizophrenia because Marinol may exacerbate these illnesses.

Marinol should be used with caution in patients receiving concomitant therapy with sedatives, hypnotics or other psychoactive drugs because of the potential for additive or synergistic CNS effects.

Marinol should be used with caution in pregnant patients, nursing mothers, or pediatric patients because it has not been studied in these patient populations.

Marinol should be used with caution for treatment of anorexia and weight loss in elderly patients with AIDS because they may be more sensitive to the psychoactive effects and because its use in these patients has not been studied.

Information for Patients: Patients receiving treatment with Marinol (dronabinol) should be alerted to the potential for additive central nervous system depression if Marinol is used concomitantly with alcohol or other CNS depressants such as benzodiazepines and barbiturates.

Patients receiving treatment with Marinol should be specifically warned not to drive, operate machinery, or engage in any hazardous activity until it is established that they are able to tolerate the drug and to perform such tasks safely.

Patients using Marinol should be advised of possible changes in mood and other adverse behavioral effects of the drug so as to avoid panic in the event of such manifestations. Patients should remain under the supervision of a responsible adult during initial use of Marinol and following dosage adjustments.

Drug Interactions: In studies involving patients with AIDS and/or cancer, Marinol (dronabinol) has been co-administered with a variety of medications (e.g., cytotoxic agents, anti-infective agents, sedatives, or opioid analgesics) without resulting in any clinically significant drug/drug interactions. Although no drug/drug interactions were discovered during the clinical trials of Marinol, cannabinoids may interact with other medications through both metabolic and pharmacodynamic mechanisms. Dronabinol is highly protein bound to plasma proteins, and therefore, might displace other protein-bound drugs. Although this displacement has not been confirmed *in vivo*, practitioners should monitor patients for a change in dosage requirements when administering dronabinol to patients receiving other highly protein-bound drugs. Published reports of drug/drug interactions involving cannabinoids are summarized in the following table.

CONCOMITANT DRUG	CLINICAL EFFECT(S)
Amphetamines, cocaine, other sympathomimetic agents	Additive hypertension, tachycardia, possibly cardiotoxicity
Atropine, scopolamine, antihistamines, other anticholinergic agents	Additive or super-additive tachycardia, drowsiness
Amitriptyline, amoxapine, desipramine, other tricyclic antidepressants	Additive tachycardia, hypertension, drowsiness
Barbiturates, benzodiazepines, ethanol, lithium, opioids, buspirone, antihistamines, muscle relaxants, other CNS depressants	Additive drowsiness and CNS depression
Disulfiram	A reversible hypomanic reaction was reported in a 28 y/o man who smoked marijuana; confirmed by dechallenge and rechallenge
Fluoxetine	A 21 y/o female with depression and bulimia receiving 20 mg/day fluoxetine X 4 wks became hypomanic after smoking marijuana; symptoms resolved after 4 days
Antipyrine, barbiturates	Decreased clearance of these agents, presumably via competitive inhibition of metabolism
Theophylline	Increased theophylline metabolism reported with smoking of marijuana; effect similar to that following smoking tobacco

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenicity studies have not been performed with dronabinol. Mutagenicity testing of dronabinol was negative in an Ames test. In a long-term study (77 days) in rats, oral administration of dronabinol at doses of 30 to 150 mg/m², equivalent to 0.3 to 1.5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 2 to 10 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, reduced ventral prostate, seminal vesicle and epididymal weights and caused a decrease in seminal fluid volume. Decreases in spermatogenesis, number of developing germ cells, and number of Leydig cells in the testis were also observed. However, sperm count, mating success and testosterone levels were not affected. The significance of these animal findings in humans is not known.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. Reproduction studies with dronabinol have been performed in mice at 15 to 450 mg/m², equivalent to 0.2 to 5 times maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 90 mg/m²/day in cancer patients or 1 to 30 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients, and in rats at 74 to 295 mg/m² (equivalent to 0.8 to 3 times MRHD of 90 mg/m² in cancer patients or 5 to 20 times MRHD of 15 mg/m²/day in AIDS patients). These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity due to dronabinol. At these dosages in mice and rats, dronabinol decreased maternal weight gain and number of viable pups and increased fetal mortality and early resorptions. Such effects were dose dependent and less apparent at lower doses which produced less maternal toxicity. There are no adequate

and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Dronabinol should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nursing Mothers: Use of Marinol is not recommended in nursing mothers since, in addition to the secretion of HIV virus in breast milk, dronabinol is concentrated in and secreted in human breast milk and is absorbed by the nursing baby.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse experiences information summarized in the tables below was derived from well-controlled clinical trials conducted in the US and US territories involving 474 patients exposed to Marinol (dronabinol). Studies of AIDS-related weight loss included 157 patients receiving dronabinol at a dose of 2.5 mg twice daily and 67 receiving placebo. Studies of different durations were combined by considering the first occurrence of events during the first 28 days. Studies of nausea and vomiting related to cancer chemotherapy included 317 patients receiving dronabinol and 68 receiving placebo.

A cannabinoid dose-related "high" (easy laughing, elation and heightened awareness) has been reported by patients receiving Marinol in both the antiemetic (24%) and the lower dose appetite stimulant clinical trials (8%) (see CLINICAL TRIALS).

The most frequently reported adverse experiences in patients with AIDS during placebo-controlled clinical trials involved the CNS and were reported by 33% of patients receiving Marinol. About 25% of patients reported a minor CNS adverse event during the first 2 weeks and about 4% reported such an event each week for the next 6 weeks thereafter.

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence greater than 1%.

Rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317). Rates were generally higher in the anti-emetic use (given in parentheses).

Body as a whole: Asthenia.

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, vasodilation/facial flush.

Digestive: Abdominal pain*, nausea*, vomiting*.

Nervous system: (Amnesia), anxiety/nervousness, (ataxia), confusion, depersonalization, dizziness*, euphoria*, (hallucination), paranoid reaction*, somnolence*, thinking abnormal*.

* Incidence of events 3% to 10%

PROBABLY CAUSALLY RELATED: Incidence less than 1%.

Event rates derived from clinical trials in AIDS-related anorexia (N=157) and chemotherapy-related nausea (N=317).

Cardiovascular: Conjunctivitis*, hypotension*.

Digestive: Diarrhea*, fecal incontinence.

Musculoskeletal: Myalgias.

Nervous system: Depression, nightmares, speech difficulties, tinnitus.

Skin and Appendages: Flushing*.

Special senses: Vision difficulties.

* Incidence of events 0.3% to 1%.

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN: Incidence less than 1%.

The clinical significance of the association of these events with Marinol treatment is unknown, but they are reported as alerting information for the clinician.

Body as a whole: Chills, headache, malaise.

Digestive: Anorexia, hepatic enzyme elevation.

Respiratory: Cough, rhinitis, sinusitis.

Skin and Appendages: Sweating.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Marinol (dronabinol) is one of the psychoactive compounds present in cannabis, and is abusable and controlled (Schedule III (CIII)) under the Controlled Substances Act. Both psychological and physiological dependence have been noted in healthy individuals receiving dronabinol, but addiction is uncommon and has only been seen after prolonged high dose administration.

Chronic abuse of cannabis has been associated with decrements in motivation, judgement, and perception. The etiology of these impairments is unknown, but may be associated with the complex process of addiction rather than an isolated effect of the drug. No such decrements in psychological, social or neurological status have been associated with the administration of Marinol for therapeutic purposes.

In an open-label study in patients with AIDS who received Marinol for up to five months, no abuse, diversion or systematic change in personality or social functioning were observed despite the inclusion of a substantial number of patients with a past history of drug abuse.

An abstinence syndrome has been reported after the abrupt discontinuation of dronabinol in volunteers receiving dosages of 210 mg/day for 12 to 16 consecutive days. Within 12 hours after discontinuation, these volunteers manifested symptoms such as irritability, insomnia, and restlessness. By approximately 24 hours post-dronabinol discontinuation, withdrawal symptoms intensified to include "hot flashes", sweating, rhinorrhea, loose stools, hiccoughs and anorexia.

These withdrawal symptoms gradually dissipated over the next 48 hours. Electroencephalographic changes consistent with the effects of drug withdrawal (hyperexcitation) were recorded in patients after abrupt dechallenge. Patients also complained of disturbed sleep for several weeks after discontinuing therapy with high dosages of dronabinol.

OVERDOSAGE

Signs and symptoms following MILD Marinol (dronabinol) intoxication include drowsiness, euphoria, heightened sensory awareness, altered time perception, reddened conjunctiva, dry mouth and tachycardia; following MODERATE intoxication include memory impairment, depersonalization, mood alteration, urinary retention, and reduced bowel motility; and following SEVERE intoxication include decreased motor coordination, lethargy, slurred speech, and postural hypotension. Apprehensive patients may experience panic reactions and seizures may occur in patients with existing seizure disorders.

The estimated lethal human dose of intravenous dronabinol is 30 mg/kg (2100 mg/70kg). Significant CNS symptoms in antiemetic studies followed oral doses of 0.4 mg/kg (28 mg/70 kg) of Marinol.

Management: A potentially serious oral ingestion, if recent, should be managed with gut decontamination. In unconscious patients with a secure airway, instill activated charcoal (30 to 100 g in adults, 1 to 2 g/kg in infants) via a nasogastric tube. A saline cathartic or sorbitol may be added to the first dose of activated charcoal. Patients experiencing depressive, hallucinatory or psychotic reactions should be placed in a quiet area and offered reassurance. Benzodiazepines (5 to 10 mg diazepam *po*) may be used for treatment of extreme agitation. Hypotension usually responds to Trendelenburg position and IV fluids. Pressors are rarely required.

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INFO

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Gay Democrats leave convention energized

The 2000 Democratic National Convention saw a record number of gay speakers, delegates, including several from the Deep South

by DAVID GOLDMAN

If Al Gore and the Democratic National Committee took a risk by giving gays, lesbians and other progressive forces prominent roles at last week's convention in Los Angeles, their gamble seems to be paying off—at least so far.

Less than one week after the convention's final gavel, an ABC News/Washington Post poll showed that Republican nominee George W. Bush's 14-point lead had vanished and Gore was on top, for the first time since March, with a five-point lead among registered voters.

This much-coveted post-convention "bounce" came after the gayest major party convention in U.S. history.

A strong gay presence in media coverage was virtually assured by the attendance of more gay and lesbian delegates than at any previous Democratic National Convention. A total of 212 gay delegates attended, com-



Sen. Joseph Lieberman, the Democratic pick for vice president, was one of several high-profile politicians who addressed the gay caucus of the Democratic National Committee last week.

pared with 140 at the Democrats 1996 convention.

In contrast, fewer than 20 gay delegates attended this year's Republican National Convention in Philadelphia.

Some gay delegates who attended from Southern states returned home hopeful that the party's outreach to gay voters would not go unrewarded.

"I believe that for the first time in many years we have a very clear-cut choice between the two major parties," said David

W. White, who made history as the first openly gay delegate from Alabama. "If the gay and lesbian population does not get out and vote and push for someone who's come out for us, and a party that's come out for us, we're going to pay for that mistake for the next eight years.

Both on the floor of the Staples Center and behind the scenes, media reports and first-person accounts suggest that gays and their issues were often in the spotlight:

- On Aug. 14, lesbian rock star Melissa

Etheridge got a rousing welcome when she sang "America the Beautiful" during the opening session.

- Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch made history on Aug. 15 when she became the first leader of a major gay group ever to address a national convention.

Her speech was received with special enthusiasm by the Texas delegation in a gesture of repudiation of their Republican counterparts. At the Republican convention earlier this month, some Texans removed their hats and prayed silently to protest a speech by openly gay U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe.

- Earlier on Tuesday, the convention was addressed by Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), the first lesbian elected to the House of Representatives, and by Juanita Owens, a lesbian member of the San Francisco School Board.

- DNC Chairperson Joe Andrew was among non-gay speakers eager to court gay voters.

- In a gesture of inclusiveness, the DNC's gay caucus renamed itself the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus. Paying court to the caucus were a who's who of Democrats, including Hillary Clinton, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, AFL-CIO Vice President Linda Chavez Thompson, Health secretary Donna Shalala, Housing secretary Andrew Cuomo and Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

PHOTO: DON GEORGE

BSA protesters deliver petition to headquarters in Irving

> Continued from Page 1

sized traditional family values since our founding. We believe avowed homosexuals do not provide a role model for Scouts that is consistent with the Scout Oath and Law."

Reeves said his next step in protesting the BSA is to organize a letter-writing campaign to the Sam Houston Council of the Boy Scouts, the policy-setting council over Houston.

"A good step for the Houston Council is to adopt a policy of non-discrimination. That's what some councils and some troops have done.

"It's really a matter of trying to change policy in a grass roots manner," Reeves said.

In Irving, demonstrators were turned away from the national Boy Scouts of America headquarters Monday after presenting a 55,000-signature petition protesting the organization's ban on gay troop leaders.

Fewer than a dozen demonstrators, some wearing Boy Scout uniforms, were met by a security guard and not allowed past the front desk. A secretary who refused to give her name said she would forward the petition to the organization's president, who was out of town. The protesters had hoped to talk with leaders of the organization or at least schedule a meeting.

"We're disappointed," said Dave Rice, a former Scout leader in Petaluma, Calif. "We don't like confrontation. We like to sit down,

shake hands and discuss a solution that's mutually beneficial."

Rallies against the Boy Scouts were planned in at least 36 cities and 21 states as part of a nationwide protest.

In Indiana, protesters marched outside Boy Scout council offices in Bloomington and Kokomo. About two dozen protesters in Kokomo were greeted by a lone opponent holding an open Bible who called homosexuality forbidden.

"You have to allow people to learn from each other. That's what the Boy Scouts is all about," protester Anna Thiel said.

The Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in June that Boy Scouts can bar homosexuals from serving as troop leaders. The ruling may also permit the 6.2 million-member organization to reject gays as members.

The Boys Scouts consider homosexuality contrary to their oath requiring Scouts to be "morally straight."

"We recognize the rights of all people to hold opinions different than ours," said Gregg Shields, spokesman for the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. "We stress that we are a private organization and that no one is forced to be a Boy Scout. People who share our values and beliefs are welcome to join."

In Bethesda, Md., about 30 protesters turned out at the Boy Scouts National Capital Area Council.

The Rev. Steven Baines of Equal Partners in Faith in Washington, said he wants the



Boy Scouts to know "not all people of faith support their discrimination policy against gays and lesbians."

One of the demonstrators in suburban Dallas, Steven Cozza, 15, of Petaluma, Calif., said he formed a nonprofit organization called Scouting For All several years ago after his father was removed as a Scout leader for supporting gay rights.

Cozza, who said neither he nor his father is gay, left the Boy Scouts about six months ago after becoming an Eagle Scout. Cozza said he no could longer support the program because it discriminates.

"Scoutmasters are people to look up to. What's wrong with being influenced by a gay man? Someone's sexuality has nothing to do with his character or personality," he said.

About 20 people walked the sidewalk Monday morning outside the Boy Scouts'

San Francisco Bay area council office in San Leandro.

They chanted "Being gay is OK. Scouting is for all," and toting signs saying "Blatant Bigots" and "True leaders teach love and tolerance, not hate and bigotry."

"I'm not here to be disrespectful to the Boy Scouts of America. But we can't be silent," said Jan Tyler, a Bay Area Cub Scout leader. "Gays and lesbians are in every niche in our society, and to exclude them based on sexual orientation is ludicrous."

INFO

Sam Houston Council of Boy Scouts of America

1911 Bagby

Houston, Texas, 77002

Fax: 713-659-6729

www.bsa.scouting.org

www.scoutingforall.org

health news

Glaxo says possibly fatal side effects of Ziagen well documented

LONDON—Pharmaceuticals company Glaxo Wellcome confirmed a press report Aug. 20 saying that its HIV treatment drug Ziagen can cause serious and sometimes fatal reactions in patients, Reuters reported. An unknown number of patients have died as a result of so-called hypersensitivity reactions to Ziagen, which was launched in the U.S. and Europe last year. Glaxo said about four percent of patients showed some susceptibility to this reaction. But a spokesperson said the company had always kept doctors and patients informed of the possible side-effects, even before the drug was licensed. "This has been so well documented that it is very well known, especially within the HIV community," he said, adding that as the number of people using the drug grew and they were carefully monitored, it was hoped that the proportion of adverse reactions could be brought down.

Clinton names former head of AID Atlanta as presidential envoy for AIDS

WASHINGTON—President Bill Clinton has named former Atlanta Sandra Thurman as presidential envoy for AIDS cooperation, Reuters reported. Thurman will become the first U.S. presidential envoy to deal exclusively with a global health issue. "AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Africa, and increasingly threatens Asia and the former Soviet Union. It is reversing hard-won advances in life expectancy and economic growth, and imperils the stability and security of nations," Clinton said in a statement. "Now, Sandy will use America's growing efforts as leverage to encourage other countries to expand financial commitments, to step up prevention efforts and to increase access to care and treatment worldwide." Thurman is a former executive director of AID Atlanta. She will retain her current position as director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy.



President Clinton has named Sandra Thurman, his current national AIDS czar, to the AIDS envoy post.

Scientists discover how TB hides in body, offering new drug target

NEW YORK—Scientists have discovered how tuberculosis bacteria lie low for years while waiting for their chance to attack, giving drug companies a new target for fighting a disease that kills 2 million people around the world each year. A hallmark of tuberculosis is that after a person inhales the bacteria and their lungs become infected, the immune system walls it off, but cannot kill it. The microbes can hide out in white blood cells for years. When something weakens the immune system, like AIDS, diabetes, or the steroids used to treat asthma, the bacteria begin multiplying and bring on the full-blown disease. What scientists have discovered is how the bacteria survive until the time to reproduce is right. They found that the target is an enzyme called ICL that allows the bacteria to change what it feeds on, and remain alive during what is called the persistence phase. Finding a drug that will attack the bacteria during persistence would make it unnecessary for TB patients to endure six months of hard-to-maintain drug treatments. The team of researchers reported their findings in the Aug. 17 edition of the journal *Nature*.

Lesbians may forgo health exams at rates higher than other women

LONDON—Lesbians are not immune to sexually transmitted diseases, but most of them don't get screened, the *Chicago Tribune* reported Aug. 16. London researchers surveyed and examined more than 600 women at two lesbian health clinics and found genital warts in more than three percent and cervical smear abnormalities in about one percent. About 120 of the women had never had sexual contact with a man. Lesbians "were significantly more likely to believe they didn't need cervical screening," said Dr. Julia Bailey, a gynecologist at Royal London Hospital. Nearly half had never had a cervical smear, compared with 12 percent of heterosexual women. Another study, reported in the *Western Journal of Medicine*, found that lesbians seek mammography and cholesterol screenings half as often as heterosexual women. Concerns about contraception, pregnancy or fertility often prompt women to see a physician, said researcher Dr. Audrey Koh, an obstetrician/gynecologist at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco. "Without such concerns, a lesbian is less likely to present to a physician until some other need arises," she said.

Lesbian cancer project to hold first national conference next month

WASHINGTON—The Mary-Helen Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer (www.mautnerproject.org) said it will present Healing Works: the First National Conference on Lesbians and Cancer, Sept. 21-23 in Washington, D.C. "Healing Works is an unprecedented advance in the field of lesbian health," says Mautner Project Executive Director, Kathleen DeBold. "For the first time ever we are bringing together the many constituencies who share a common vision of increasing care, services, research, programming, and organizations for lesbians with cancer, their partners and caregivers." The Project also announced its sponsorship of a book edited by lesbian journalist and cancer survivor Victoria A. Brownworth called "Coming Out of Cancer: Writings from the Lesbian Cancer Epidemic."

For more news, visit
www.houstonvoice.com

—From staff and wire reports

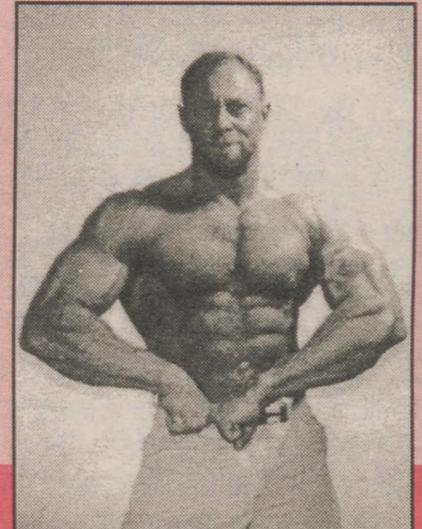


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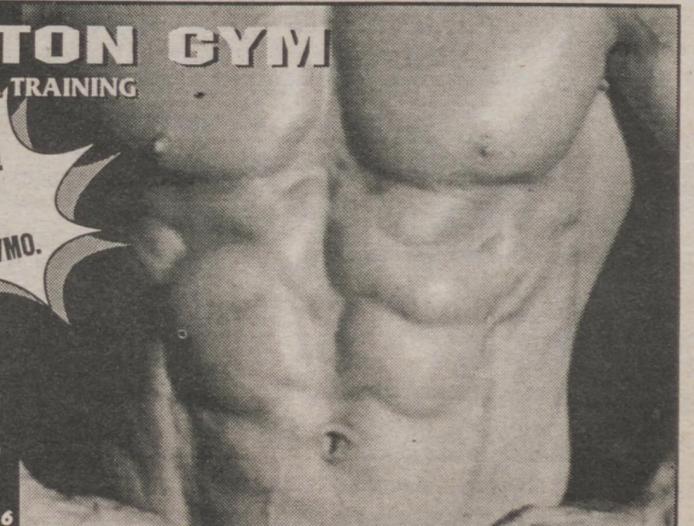
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Community center experiencing growing pains

'Your queer home in Houston' starts drive for new quarters

by KAY DAYUS

The Lesbian and Gay Community Center at 803 Hawthorne is bursting its seams and likely looking for a place to expand in the near future, says Maria Minicucci, president of the center's board of directors.

An ad hoc committee of their board members has been formed to explore the possibility of moving to bigger and better quarters than the cramped space on Hawthorne in the heart of the Montrose.

"The community center is now in its third year of being alive and well. For Houston this is great, because it's important to note that this is the third attempt to try to create a community center in Houston," says Minicucci. She adds with a touch of pride, "We are victorious in the fact that we now have a vital and active community center."

Since Minicucci took over the reins at the center, and with the help of an active board, the center has become home to eight groups and various programs that did not exist before her reign. And even though people are comfortable in the old two-story house, Minicucci says they are practically standing on top of one another.

Even though it's crowded, "People who walk into 803 Hawthorne feel completely at home, so we've recently renamed it 'your queer home in Houston,'" says Minicucci.

In a way, the center has become its own worst enemy because of its success and growth. But, says Minicucci, "we can only be on top of each other so long and enjoy it," noting the need for a larger facility.

Minicucci says they don't yet know if they will lease or buy a new building; it's all in the talking stage right now. First, a com-

munity-wide meeting is planned to get feedback and input into just what might be needed for the center's future.

Groups that are currently involved with the center and those wanting space in the center are invited to the meeting. "There's the Lesbian Health Initiative, AssistHers, LIB and PFLAG possibly looking for space in the center," says Minicucci.

And, she adds, current tenants are growing and needing more space. Tenants include, Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH), the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the Pride Committee, Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, Q-Patrol, the Texas Human Rights Foundation, the Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

Since Minicucci has been with the center, the number of programs offered has grown from one to around 10. Some of these include, What Lesbians Do, the Coming Out Group, free and anonymous HIV testing, the Montrose Writers Group and Lesbian Film Night.

The center is also a forum for local artists to show their work.

"We encourage local artists to display their work there. We give them a reception—an opening night of their very own," says Minicucci.

Minicucci stresses that she and the board do not want to make plans for a new center independently. "We want to do this as a community. No matter how big a space we end up with, we still want to retain that community spirit that right now is very



The Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center is rapidly outgrowing its current facility at 803 Hawthorne. An ad hoc committee has been formed to research other housing options for the center.

CREDIT: TERRY SULLIVAN

viable at 803 Hawthorne.

"The possibilities are endless," says Minicucci, in reference to what kind of building, whether they lease or buy, or whether they can get the city of Houston to donate a building. The city of Houston? "Yes," says Minicucci, "We can dare to dream."

Minicucci praises the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce for helping the center grow during the past year. "They helped us recruit board members and helped us with a huge fund-raiser last October, which we hope to repeat again this October."

Kevin Davidson, president of HATCH,

says they are supportive of the center's quest for new quarters. He says HATCH has their administrative offices at the center, but their programming is at another site. He says they would stay with the center if they move "depending on the layout and the facilities." Of prime importance is a place that is "anonymous, safe, secure and comfortable," for the teenagers in HATCH.

The center is run wholly on volunteer efforts and people are not officially asked to pay to attend programs. However, says Minicucci, "We do say, 'if you want to drop a couple of bucks in a jar, we'd appreciate it.'"

Minicucci has a Ph.D. in human behavior and is the founder and director of the Center for Creativity, Knowledge and Change here in Houston. She is also a freelance writer.

Although she has been in Houston only a little over two years, Minicucci has been involved with the community center for almost all that time.

"I became involved with the center because I firmly believe that a sense of community is vital and integral to a person's sense of well-being and because community is needed to accomplish social change."

Minicucci says about the center's possible move, "The reality is, as much as we love our queer house in Houston at 803 Hawthorne, we are very cramped and need a bigger place."

Obituary

Kenneth Myles McNames

Kenneth Myles McNames passed away peacefully at his home July 23 with his longtime friend of 18 years, Sandi Bubbert, by his side.

He was preceded in death by his lifemate, Michael Duddy in 1988.

He is survived by a host of friends in Houston and his loving family, Ruth McNames, mother, Detroit, Mich.; Nancy McNames, sister, Goodyear, Ariz.; Keith McNames, brother, Salem, Ore.; Peter McNames, Patrick McNames and Robert McNames, all of Detroit and sister Linda McNames Eideh of Madison Heights, Mich.

"Goodnight, sweet prince. Say hello to Michael, Anthony and Myles for me." Sandi.



INFO

**Houston Lesbian and Gay
Community Center**

803 Hawthorne
713.524.3818.

Decision on Esperanza vs. San Antonio expected in two months

➤ Continued from Page 3

sides to file additional arguments in writing.

The center presented 23 witnesses over less than 15 hours of trial time.

Sanchez said they were told that a decision in the case will not come for at least 60 days. If a decision in favor of the center is reached, testimony would have to be offered about damages.

Although she said the judge took steps intended to cut the length of the trial, she said the judge seems fair.

"I think he wants to do the right thing and I think he knows the city may appeal and he wants to write the best opinion he can," she said.

Sanchez said the judge commented that the case was the "most interesting" he had heard in his six and a half years on the bench.

Strained relations with gay groups

Getting a clear picture of the organization's objectives is difficult. Sanchez, who is an out lesbian, describes the organization as a group of people, primarily San Antonio natives, who want their "true stories or true histories" presented to the city.

Sanchez labeled the group a "cultural arts-social justice organization" that takes a "holistic" approach.

"The people of Esperanza dream of a world where everyone has civil rights and

economic justice, where the environment is cared for, where cultures are honored and communities are safe," the center's Web site says. "The Esperanza Center advocates for those wounded by domination and inequality—women, people of color, lesbians and gay men, the working class and poor."

The Spanish word "esperanza" is translated "hope."

"Esperanza has never claimed to be a gay organization, but in the 13 years we've been in existence, we've been seen primari-



ly as a gay organization," Sanchez said.

But when Esperanza's funding was pulled, six prominent gay men—whom Sanchez notes are all white—signed a letter to the city supporting the defunding of the center.

Among them was longtime activist Dan Castor, now the political action coordinator for the city's Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. He was directly involved with

Esperanza for a three-year period a decade ago.

"I experienced what can only be called shameful tactics by the organization to silence any opposition, particularly by white gay males," Castor said.

He said he was "demonized" by the group after disagreeing with some decisions and said he was eventually told he was no longer welcome at meetings. The banishment was ironic, he said, because he supports many of the groups' leftist, ultra-liber-

anger rather than as a protest.

"I don't think they have a right to public funds for arts organizations because they're a political organization," he said. "There is a difference between an artist who happens to have a political message and a political message whose vehicle is art."

Another signer of that 1997 letter is San Antonio Gay and Lesbian Community Center director Michael McGowen, but he now advocates a more conciliatory approach to Esperanza.

Although he said Esperanza's leaders did not support efforts to start the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, he said his problems with the group are in the past.

"I recognize that I've had my differences with them and that on the community center we're working at cross purposes. I'd like to forget all that," McGowen said. "People have differences and I'd like to move on."

The city of San Antonio could be guilty of discrimination in this case because it has discriminated before, McGowen said.

McGowen pointed to a travel advisory issued by the community center that cited hundreds of arrests of gay men in city parks for indecent exposure and related offenses as an example of the city's previous discrimination against gays.

"I see many parallels in the way the city has treated the Esperanza Center and the way it has treated the gay and lesbian community in general," he said.

al views.

When he was asked to sign the letter supporting the city's decision, he signed.

"I allowed my name to be placed on a letter written by someone else who was very damaged by all of it. It's a decision I regret," he said.

Castor said he still supports the city's decision to pull funding from the group but he regrets signing because he signed in

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Out on the Bayou

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HOUSTON VOICE • AUGUST 25, 2000

Spain's gay icon

Nacho Duato displays strength of convictions, talent in Houston Ballet production of 'Without Words'

By DL Groover

"Everyone in the world knows I'm gay."

With this simple declarative sentence, Nacho Duato, the internationally renowned choreographer and dancer once voted Spain's most eligible bachelor and sexiest man, came out September 1999 in "Zero," Madrid's foremost gay magazine.

In a country infamous for its overbearing "machismo" and laced with Catholic homophobia, Duato's self-outing might have been a death knell to his career as artistic director of Spain's national ballet company, Compania Nacional de Danza.

But, as he explained, the Iberians value truth and honesty with the same passion they overtly display in their hot-house culture. If anything, his revelation increased his stature and caused him to become Spain's preeminent spokesperson for homosexuality.

This October, he celebrates his tenth year as artistic director of the company, while his works are repertory staples in dance companies throughout the world. His latest piece, the modern, yet romantic, "Without Words" opens Houston Ballet's 2000-2001 season Sept. 7.

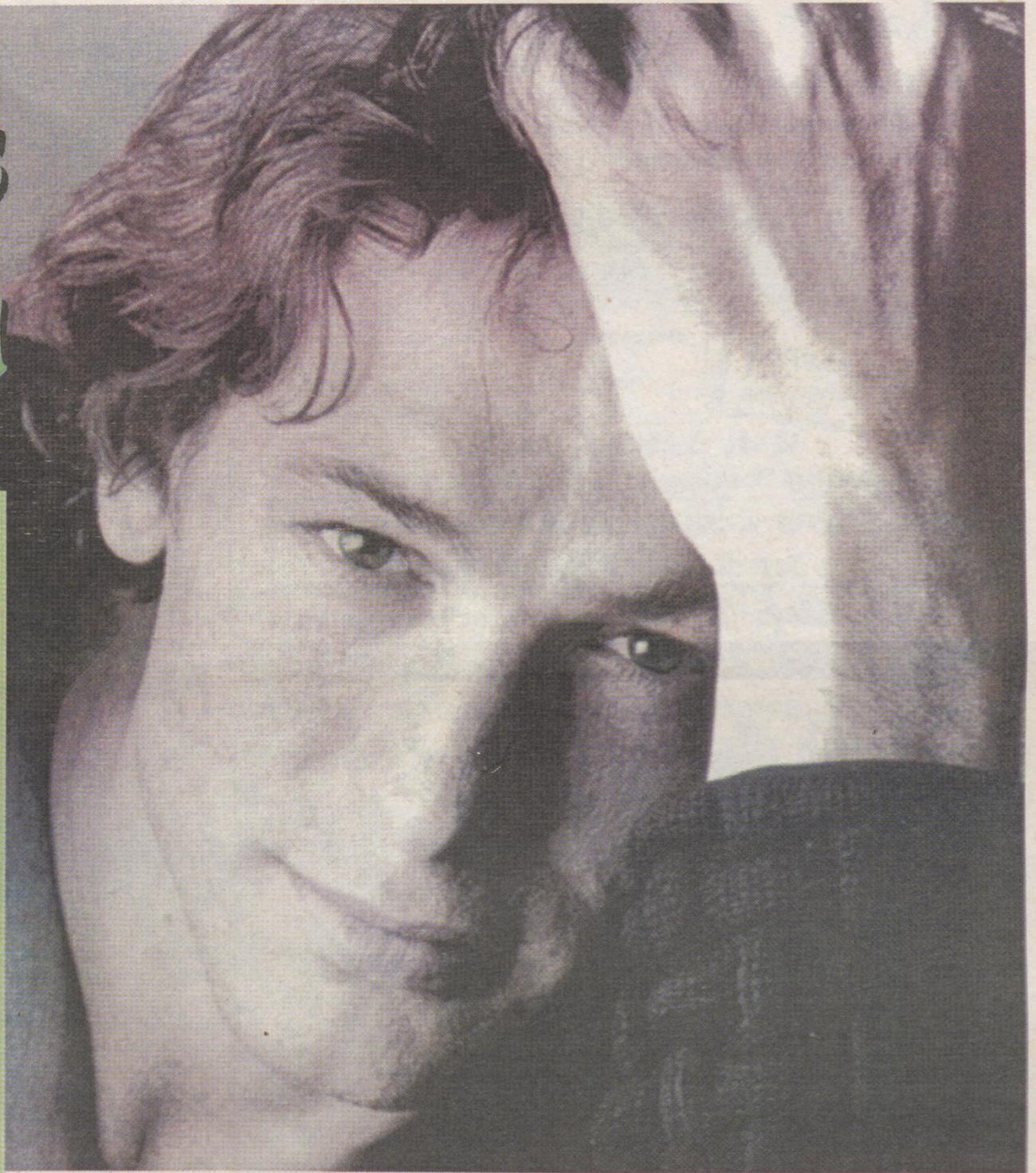
"When I decided to come out, I didn't realize the effect on people that it had," said Duato. "Since then, so many people have come out. I've received so many letters from young people and not so young, saying that I give them strength and confidence of saying it to their family and saying it to other people and accepting it themselves. I think it's great."

The effect is still potent, evidenced by a Madrid newspaper article from last week that he described. In the story a closeted father, hearing his daughter gush over Duato after seeing a television report on his coming out, finally comes out to his family. Buoyed by the emotional euphoria, he suggests that they all make a pilgrimage to the Vatican and recommend sainthood for Duato for pushing so many people to come out and be free.

Duato laughs when retelling this, justly proud of his accomplishments, although the nettlesome paparazzi can be a chore.

"At the beginning, the first two months were terrible because all television and papers wanted me. Every time there was something about homosexuality, they would call me. I became a little bit like the image of the gay flag

> Continued on Page 22



The 'Follies' of it all

Show will benefit AFH

by KAY DAYUS

That venerable variety show, "Follies," has been taken out of storage, dusted off and is set to be performed next week at Ovation, 2536 Times Blvd., by an esteemed and experienced ensemble of Houston actors.

Mark your calendars for Aug. 30 or 31 for this

AIDS Foundation Houston benefit and for what producer and director, Paul Hope, says is one of his favorite shows ever. "For years it has always been a fantasy of mine to do a concert of Follies using all local people and all veterans."

Hope, an Alley Theatre resident player for the past 10 seasons and most recently in the Alley's Summer Chills month, assisted in the original Houston performance of "Follies," at Theatre Under

> Continued on Page 23

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look at 'Mineola Twins'

by D.L. GROOVER

Any show that must be reviewed immediately after the blazing emotional heft of "Rent" is asking for trouble, but I'm pleased to say that Paula Vogel's THE MINEOLA TWINS, now playing at the Little Room Downstairs, filled in the theatrical gap quite handily.

Best known and lauded for her Pulitzer Prize-winning drama "How I Learned to Drive," Vogel can always tap into the American consciousness with sparkling ingenuity and trenchant social commentary about how we live our lives today. Here, in her latest play, she dives head first into those teeming waters known as the American Woman.

Part satire, part parody, verging perilously close to situation comedy at times, she nonetheless examines with surgical wit and great charm just what the female of the species is up against. And up to. She paints with a broad brush, but what better way to rub our noses in it? Sometimes a cartoon can give us a much clearer picture than photo realism.

The eponymous characters are two identical twins, Myrna and Myra Richards, the distaff yin and yang, madonna and whore, Patty and Kathy. Even the stark set is divided diagonally on the floor: white and black, no gray. In dream sequence and chronological order we watch the "evil" Myra and "too good" Myrna evolve from the Eisenhower era through the Nixon, then Bush administrations, as we are treated to a vast comedy panorama that skewers our consumer society and attempts to make sense of our convoluted social history.

If you're a child from the '50s, the atom bomb preparedness drill that begins the play is both hilarious and chilling, as are all the rifts on virginity, Madison Avenue, suburbia, anti-war demonstrations, politics, shock therapy, conservative talk radio, homosexuality and the word "mauve." This comedy may skim the surface as we time trip through America, but its constant pricking draws blood.

In this world, men have no place. The twins' father is nonexistent, Myrna's fiancé is played by the same actress who plays Myra's lesbian sweetheart, husbands are philandering boobs, and the sisters' sons, to the women's horror, become mirror images of their aunts. Even the Boys who double as stage hands and set the scenes like cheesy vaudevillians are just as likely to appear in negligees as they are to portray sullen Secret Service agents. To be fair, all genders get bent.

Playing the dual roles of Myra and Myrna, Kara Greenberg pulls off this tour de force with amazing aplomb and an abundance of charm. We feel as if we're watching actual sis-

ters enact their love/hate relationship. Both of these bizarre bad seeds have sympathetic sides, and Greenberg manages to find the right balance. She gives softness to Myra and a lovely edgy quality to conservative Myrna.



Peter Gehring and Kara Greenberg play dual roles in Paula Vogel's comedy, 'The Mineola Twins,' playing through Sept. 16 at the Little Room Downstairs.

Natalie Maisel in the dual roles of Jim and Sarah physically seems to change before our eyes. Jim's a caricature: manly, gruff and horny who "just blends in." Although Maisel doesn't take Jim to another level, I'm not sure there's any other place to go with him, but her Sarah is pulled together and terribly sexy. Peter Gehring, playing both sons, holds his own against Greenberg's power house. When Kenny snaps, ranting that he's got to get out of Mineola, we believe him. In over-the-top performances, the Boys of Greg Gordon and Drew Bettge, whether in bra or tight black leather pants, drew hearty applause for their shenanigans.

Produced on a shoestring, the show is nevertheless rich in imagination. The dream sequences, using stop motion vignette and voice-over, are terrific, as are the sound effects. Large rectangular black boxes double as bed, lunch counter, or bank window, and the quick shifts between the entrances of Myra/Myrna are unobtrusive.

Perhaps because of its very nature, this sketch-like farce has no ending; it certainly doesn't have a final scene that ties all loose ends together. Maybe that's the point. Are the twins from Mineola, Long Island, really one persona? Can America in the '90s produce one healthy complete woman or man?

For all the laughter in "The Mineola Twins"—and there is a great deal of it—we are left with a haunting pictogram: Myrna and Myra facing each other in the mirror, arms outstretched, as they slowly drift apart. Vogel's comedy isn't perfect, but for a short time in the theater I forgot all about "Rent."

INFO

"The Mineola Twins"

by Paula Vogel
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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Old-world charm?

Fred's doesn't quite live up to promise offered on menu cover

by TRAYCE DISKIN

The menu for FRED'S ITALIAN CORNER RESTAURANT features a quaint ink sketch of the ideal cobblestone corner—storefronts lined with crates of fruit, wrought iron balconies, and two children with a hoola hoop safely dawdling underneath the street lantern's two street signs, Greenbriar and Holcombe Boulevards.

While the only thing recognizable on the real street corner are the names on the street signs, now swaying between traffic lights in this busy Medical Center intersection, the interior of Fred's strikingly emits old-world neighborhood charm.

With cramped, communal tables, plastic checkered table cloths, and wooden walls hung with colorful reviews, maps of Italy, and family photographs, the atmosphere suggests the kind of establishment that serves no-frills, homestyle cuisine at half the prices of some of our trendier choices.

Our slightly irritated friends appreciated the host's friendly concern as they waited for my companion and I to appear. Although Fred's was bustling with waiting customers, the staff insisted my friends stay put at their table and help themselves to the complimentary bread and olive oil, rather than give up the much-needed table until we arrived. When we did finally show, we could hardly begin the apologies before our server took drink and appetizer orders.

We chose the Fried Eggplant (\$3.25), which featured four thick disks of eggplant coated with a dark, crunchy, oregano-tinged batter. The fruity marinara on the side sizzled as I spooned it on, and the pillowy inside texture of the eggplant oozed forth a deep, delicious flavor. The Italian Sausage and Peppers (\$4.95) featured a large platter of squiggly, gleaming green pepper and onion slices, as well as two well-cooked sausages hidden underneath.

The entree selections range from house specialties featuring seafood and meat dishes to more than 10 separate ravioli and Tortellini selections. For those who like to combine their southern Italian with good old American, there are seven Neapolitan Pizza choices as well.

One of our friends immediately ordered the Sicilian Pizza (\$7.75) with shrimp, parsley, garlic and eggs. Although the thinly sliced hard-boiled eggs made a fresh addition to the minimal sauce and cheese, the shrimp was overcooked and cakey, as if it were cooked to perfection, and then wood-burned along with

the rest of the pizza. The Gnocchi (\$6.95) similarly disappointed another friend, who compared its texture to "Playdough left overnight with the top off." The dumplings' crumbly, salty bite left her taste buds with little more than a slight garlic aftertaste.

Things began to look up with the Tortellini with Marinara (\$6.95), stuffed with delightfully fresh ricotta and a light Marinara which allowed the tender pasta and herbs to come through strong and zesty. Baked in a small casserole dish and covered with a silky sheet of mozzarella, this dish most approximated our earlier expectations for those unparalleled homestyle meals.

My Fettuccini Pesto Cream (\$8.25), however, lived up to very little. More cream than pesto, I could hardly detect a hint of basil, much less any garlic or lemon. The cream barely coated the thick, congealed noodles and I eventually gave up, choosing to sample the handful of sautéed mushrooms thrown on top. The mushrooms slices were thin and greasy, and added an unwelcome tartness to an already bland dish.

Surprisingly, the quality of service began to mirror the downward trajectory of our food. As soon as our entrees were served, we saw nothing of our waiter until we finally flagged him down for dessert. The Cannoli (\$4.95) was worth waiting for—thick, creamy filling dotted with tiny nuggets of toasted pistachio. The Tiramisu (\$4.95) was dry and more impressive in its thick layer of icing than in the quality of the cake itself.

As we waited and waited for the check to arrive, I silently searched for a reason to return to Fred's. The sheer plethora of dishes and cozy, casual atmosphere may not be as alluring as the romantic street corner inked on the menu, but the authentically low prices might just force me to give the uneven food and service, just one more try before giving up entirely on this potential gem of a restaurant.



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FOOD FILE
Food: ☹☹☹
Service: ☹☹☹
Value: ☹☹☹☹☹
Scene: ☹☹☹☹

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BOOK REVIEWS

Buff not quite enough

'Adonis Complex' examines the impact of buff media images on men's psyche

by J.S. HALL

An outsider visiting any large gym in a metropolitan area would assume that the men working out there would be understandably proud of the results of their efforts. That observer would probably be mistaken.

Despite their impressive physiques, many men still feel inadequate, thanks to the constant barrage of impossibly buff and ripped men that now flood the media. And since "real" men aren't supposed to care—or talk about—their appearance, they suffer in silence.

Ironically, as women have become more educated in resisting the lure of society's impossible standards, more and more men are falling prey to those who profit off their insecurities.

The first book to address this burgeoning phenomenon, **THE ADONIS COMPLEX: THE SECRET CRISIS OF MALE BODY**

OBSSESSION is a long-overdue clarion call.

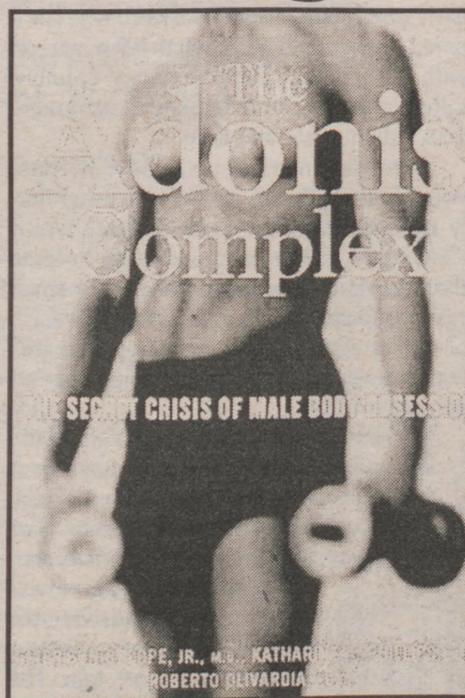
The authors take pains to point out that there's nothing inherently wrong with wanting to be healthier and having a fitter body, but when this desire becomes excessive, that's when the problem begins.

For example, if your social or business life starts suffering, or the gym becomes an all-consuming obsession, then the Adonis Complex is likely at work.

But what is the so-called Adonis Complex, and why has it appeared only recently? This obsession with appearance and perfection can manifest in different ways—compulsive weightlifting and exercise; body dysmorphic disorder (in which one fixates upon a trivial flaw, or not seeing their bodies as they truly are); eating disorders like anorexia, bulimia or binge eating; and steroid and nutritional supplement abuse.

From a young age, men and boys are bombarded with images of what they should look like. Boys as young as seven and eight now express displeasure at their body appearance!

Personal accounts from sufferers of the Adonis Complex reinforce the authors' findings. By turns heart-rending, pathetic and



appalling, these tales illustrate the Catch-22 situation many straight men find themselves in. Insightful comparison charts and quizzes like the Body Image Test and Adonis Complex Test will help guys see whether or not they suffer from the Adonis Complex and offer different methods to change their behavior.

Impressively, "The Adonis Complex" explores the phenomenon among gay men, but its examination is cursory at best.

It touches upon issues like muscle bulk equaling health ("I'll be damned if someone with HIV looks healthier than I do," exclaims one seronegative test subject) and other gay-specific issues, but not in any satisfying depth.

The authors assert that "the difference between gays and straights [with regard to the complex] is narrower than most people would think. ...The Adonis Complex may just be more announced in the gay community, not necessarily more pronounced."

They then ingeniously insist that because gay men don't usually suffer the same "body image taboo" issues that hets do (another stereotype), they're more likely to address these issues.

Although addressing this issue in the gay community ought to be a book unto itself (and not merely a chapter), Pope, Phillips and Olivardia make a compelling case for further examination of this debilitating phenomenon that afflicts so many. If more men picked up this book instead of their weights, the results could be unbelievably positive.

INFO

'The Adonis Complex: The Secret Crisis of Male Body Obsession'

by Harrison G. Pope, Jr., M.D.,
Katharine A. Phillips, M.D., and
Roberto Olivardia, Ph.D.

The Free Press, 314 pages, \$25.00

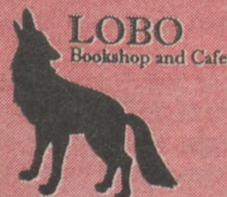
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"Huge numbers of gay people and their families have Republican values, but they are shut out of the Republican Party. The loud voice of a few suffocates the good voice of the many."

—GOP strategist Mary Matalin (right), co-host of CNN's "Crossfire," at a July 31 event hosted by the Log Cabin Republicans during the GOP convention in Philadelphia



"I'm feeling the kind of exhilaration I felt when I first moved to San Francisco, I think because Montreal is so friendly and so, to my eyes, foreign. And I enjoy a certain anonymity here that allows me to go crazy. I've always felt the one drawback to fame was that it makes anonymous sex impossible, but in Montreal all sorts of possibilities present themselves!"

—"Tales of the City" author Armistead Maupin to Montreal's Hour, July 20; Maupin was in Montreal for several months filming "Further Tales of the City"



"Many Americans continue to believe that homosexuality is immoral and not just because the Bible tells them so. ... This is one of the few areas where Americans of all religious inclinations feel so strongly that they are willing to risk the tag of intolerance to express or hold to their points of view. ... It is unfair, then, for anyone to automatically conclude that people who express moral reservations or even disdain about homosexuality are bigots, or to publicly attack them as hateful. These are sincerely held, morally based views."

—Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) (left), now the Democratic nominee for Vice President, in a July 1998 speech on the senate floor

"The gay audience is more open and just basically more faithful. They just have continued to follow my career over the years. I guess they just like to hear good singing. Basically, I think that's it."

—Martha Wash (of "It's Raining Men" fame) to Michigan's Between The Lines, July 13

"Q: Is there such a thing as being a 'little' gay?"

"A: It is not uncommon for some youngsters in their early teens to engage in homosexual acts, like mutual masturbation. These are young people who are just starting the process of becoming sexually mature and are into experimenting with their new sexual abilities. This doesn't make them gay, but it might fit in with your question. Once a person has become sexually mature, then most probably they are either heterosexual or homosexual and not a little of each."

—Sexpert Dr. Ruth Westheimer (right) answers a reader's question in her Aug. 18 syndicated column



Danburg: "Mr. Chisum, you're trying to make it criminal even between the opposite sex, even if they are married?"

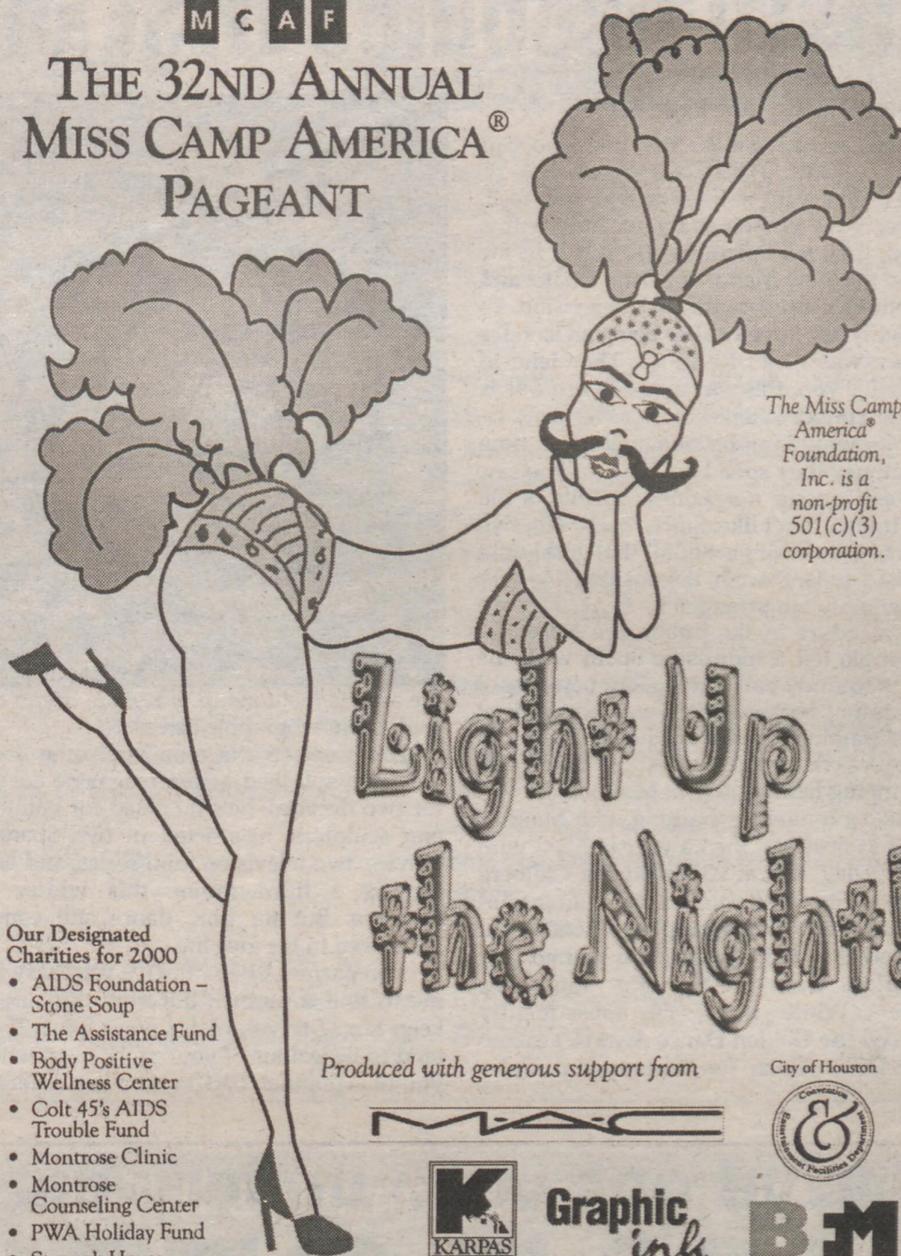
Chisum: "Especially if they are married. I can't believe anyone would do that if they were married."

Danburg: "If my husband and I were having sex and it touched my anus, do I need to go turn myself in to some health official?"

Chisum: "I suggest your husband goes to see a doctor about his aim."

—A legendary exchange between Rep. Debra Danburg (D-Houston) and Rep. Warren Chisum (R-Pampa) on the floor of the Texas Legislature during a 1993 debate over Chisum's proposal to extend the state's homosexual sodomy law to heterosexual sex, as reported by the *Austin Chronicle* in a Aug. 10 story about efforts to challenge the law in court

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Duato becomes first out ballet dancer in Spain

➤ Continued from Page 17

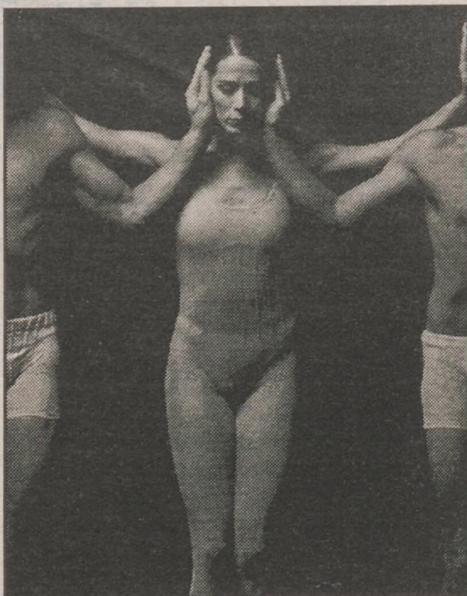
of Spain, since I was the first one who said it.

"I didn't want to become that, but, well, I have. Now, as soon as I'm walking with a friend, they take pictures and put it in the paper: the 'new friend' of Nacho Duato, and then there's more pictures on television. To suddenly say I'm gay after being an icon for women was a bit of a shock. They tend to vandalize you, this sort of thing, but this is the pressure of Spain.

"You would not believe how much time and money they spend on, how do you say, love and gossip magazines. So this is the only thing I don't like. Since I came out, I've become a little bit part of all that gossiping. On the whole, though, it's positive."

Certainly no stranger to fame, Duato's been a fixture in the public eye his entire career. He left a repressive Spain when he was 17 to study ballet at the Rambert School in London, because there was no classical ballet training in Spain. Under Franco, all dance was flamenco. He paid for his classes by slinging hamburgers at McDonalds.

He continued his training with Maurice Bejart in Brussels, then a year in NYC with Alvin Ailey, and at 23 joined the Cullberg Ballet in Stockholm under the guidance of avant-garde choreographer Mats Ek. Spotted by Jiri Kylian, he joined his Nederlans Dans Theater and "found his home." While there, he subsequently received the Golden Dance Award, a somewhat Dutch Oscar for dancers, and under



the artistic mentorship of Kylian, began his prolific choreographic career.

His handsome face and tall lithe body has been splashed across magazine covers for two decades; he's modeled for painters and sculptors; he's acted in two Spanish movies, two television mini-series, and he's filming a third movie this winter in Morocco. But for him, dance still comes first. Even in his love life.

"No partner," he said. "It's very easy for me to find a partner, but very difficult to keep him. I travel a lot, I work a lot. They tend to be jealous of your work. And when you're a popular person, you get different

attention—looks in the street, people asking for autographs—and then the other person feels like a shadow. I had lots of problems with that.

"Also, it doesn't work with another famous person, because I tried that, too. There's competition, and that's also horrible. But, I'm fine now.

"I have it very clear, dance goes first. I'm not your typical dance director. But we don't all have to be the same. They sometimes criticize me for that."

After he retired from dancing three years ago, he realized how much he missed performing, so he returned to face the footlights where he loves to be. Next July he'll dance with his company when it tours Los Angeles, Spoleto, and NYC.

"I'm like Hitchcock of ballet. I do small appearances. I can't direct the company if I'm not more involved on stage. I can't be just a director. I can't be on the other side completely. I need to be in touch with my body and with the dancers. As long as I'm able, I'll do it. Of course, I'm not dancing the same things I danced 10 years ago."

He's hoping his frenetic schedule allows time for him to come to Houston to oversee the final dress rehearsals of "Without Words," his sensuous take on various Schubert songs. Duato has replaced the vocal line with solo cello, which imparts a special soaring beauty to the songs without any specific meaning.

"These Schubert songs are very romantic," he said. "Just listening to the sound, I decided to make beautiful pas de deux.

Most of them talk about love, or love for nature and country, but when you take the words away, the meaning is even larger. You can be much more abstract and put in your own ideas. You don't have to follow the words.

"It turns out to be a ballet inspired by the music but taking away all the typical things from the romanticism: very simple stage, naked bodies, some photographs that appear. It's still romantic, but in a minimalist way."

Invariably, dancers rename the pieces they're dancing. It's a form of honoring the work as well as mitigating all the hard work involved. Duato laughs out loud when he hears that his ballet is called "Without Clothes."

"They are these skin-colored tights, see-through, sort of. I got inspired by Rodin. This work is quite sculptural, so I wanted the dancers to be like the sculptures from Rodin, which are naked. Many people talk about the costumes, because there are no costumes, really. It's funny, they get shocked by something like this when it's just the human body. It's nothing to be shocked about, doing beautiful positions and talking about love and dance and spiritual things."

INFO

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'Follies' benefits AFH

> Continued from Page 17

the Stars (TUTS) in 1971. He says some of next week's cast were in the cast of that earlier show.

"Some of them are now old enough to do the show," he said referring to the fact that "Follies" is about the reunion of old former dancers of the Weismann Follies (reminiscent of the Zeigfeld Follies). He says many of next week's performers are veterans of 1960's and early 1970's theater in Houston, and it will be a reunion for them too.

"Charles Krohn and Bill Hardy go back to the early days at the Alley. And some were in 'The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas' at the old Tower theater in Montrose. Some were with the Houston Grand Opera." The Tower has been long closed and now houses a video store.

"Follies," based on a book written by James Goldman, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, is the story of two couples who meet again after many years at a reunion of the Weismann girls. Since its debut on Broadway in 1971, "Follies" has achieved a sort of cult status, says Hope.

Hope didn't say the show was a benefit performance until after he had assembled the cast and worked out the details. "I thought why not make it an AIDS benefit? There are a lot of people in the gay community, and in the theater community in general, that would love to come and see a lot of

old divas together."

And, he added that the show "has a survivor aspect—a message about surviving and not regretting the past and learning from the past and making the future better. Lots of people think of it as a kind of downer show but I think it is a show that has a lot of hope at the end."

Ken Kelly, director of communications for AFH said the foundation is fortunate to be the beneficiary of the show's proceeds. "We still have a need to provide education and help to the community and we're very happy for people like Paul Hope."

AFH is a non-profit organization that provides positive social impact through the innovative management of HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases. "We provide housing, food and support services for the Houston community along with a strong education program," says Kelly.

Hope is looking forward to the show, he says. "I think it'll be the most fun thing you'll ever see or the biggest white elephant. It'll probably be something in between, but probably closer to a fun thing."

INFO

Follies
Ovations, 2536 Times Blvd.
Aug. 30-31, 8 p.m.
713.623.6796

Bayou Calendar

The Barber of Seville

Rossini's sparkling opera masterpiece was planned, composed, rehearsed, and staged within three-and-a-half weeks. When Donizetti, no slouch himself when tossing out the next opera, heard this he replied, "Well, he always was lazy." Ebony Opera Guild supplies the rich voices for Rossini's best.

Aug. 25, 26, 8:30 p.m.
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Follies

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Aug. 30, 31
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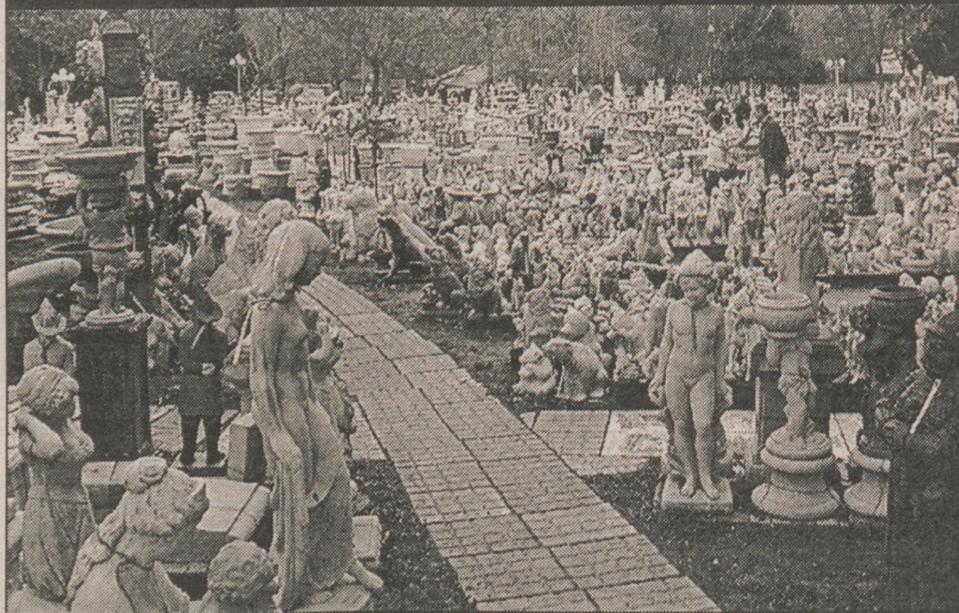
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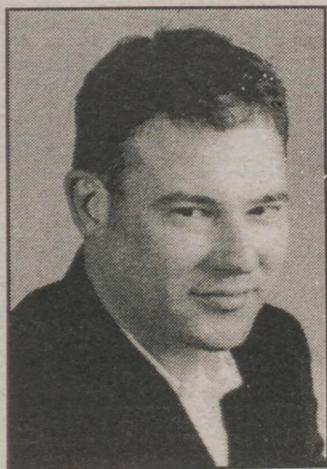


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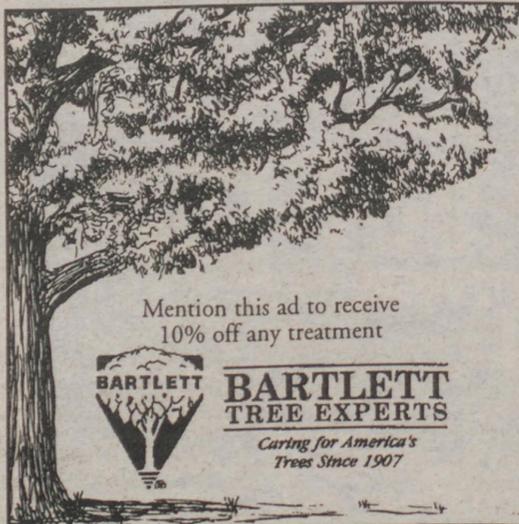
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ON THE FRINGE: INTERIOR DESIGN

Snap, crackle, pop your way to antiques

With a few strokes of a brush, any old piece of furniture can be made into an antique

by STEPHEN CALVERT

Many of my friends and interior design clients will find it surprising, but I am going to encourage and endorse the use of antique reproductions. Of course, I prefer and hold sacred the importance of the care and preservation of historical home furnishings.

I don't want to condone the substitution of authentic antiques for poorly made or misrepresented pieces. But I do want to lead you to the enjoyment of pieces, whether old or new, which adopt the wonderful characteristics of true items of age.

Great pleasure can be derived from combining furniture and home accessories, of different periods in time, of different styles and originating from many countries, to breath the fresh air of individuality into your home. It should be a gathering place for friends and family; a reflection of your personal taste; a place to work and play; a place for children to grow up, and a place to share your life with the one you love.

It is because of the many faces of your home that it makes sense that we decorate it with many colors, textures and types of woods and textiles. You can get ideas from this column, design magazines, home shows on TV and even from well meaning nosy friends. But the bottom line is that you have to be comfortable with the home in which you live.

Find those things which make you feel good. Sit in front of a piece of furniture for several minutes and look at it. Does it give you a cozy feeling? Would you be proud to own it? Does it have great features but needs some work? Are you willing to invest the time and money to give it new life?

It is easy to buy beautiful furniture. But I want you to transform just one old piece from your basement or attic into a piece of beauty again. You don't need experience or have to be artistic. You don't even have to spend a lot of money.

With two colors of water based paint, crackle glaze and a paintbrush, anything—furniture, lampshades, ceramics, picture frames, jewelry boxes, waste cans, candlesticks—can receive the look and charm of a

country farm. Used as the primary decorative style or to coordinate, compliment or accent any style from urban modern to European Classical, crackle painted pieces continue to have great appeal.

Crackle glaze is a transparent medium and makes paint crack. Also known as crackling compound and peeling paint medium, crackle glaze is commonly used to achieve the look of old farmhouse furniture, aged due to the use of lower quality paints, changes in temperature, or general wear and tear.

Despite the simplicity of the technique, you can achieve a wide range of effects.

When there is a strong contrast between the color underneath and the color on top of the glaze, the result will be very dramatic. If the two colors are similar or even identical, the effect is more subtle and textural.

With care, you can control the size of the cracks. A thin layer of crackle glaze causes smaller cracks than a thicker layer, while applying a thick coat of paint on top of the crackle glaze creates fewer cracks, but bigger ones. The surface of the piece being painted needs to be absorbent enough for the crackle glaze to adhere, but not so much so that the crackle glaze sinks into the surface, leaving nothing for the topcoat of paint to react with.

The topcoat itself must always be a water-base paint or it will not react with the crackle glaze; if it is applied too thickly, the crackle glaze will be unable to penetrate it. Two or three thin coats of undercoat will give the best results. You may wish to apply the crackle glaze on specific areas only, so that the crackling will be limited to certain areas and give an authentic aged look.

Another important hint is to dilute the topcoat of paint so that the paintbrush will flow easily across the crackle glaze. Do not go over an area twice with the brush. That might cause the entire finish to peel or clumps to form.

The cracks will form in the same direction as your brush strokes. That allows for all the cracks in one direction, a random pattern, or the formation of real wood-like finishes by simulating the wood's grain and pine-knot like formations.

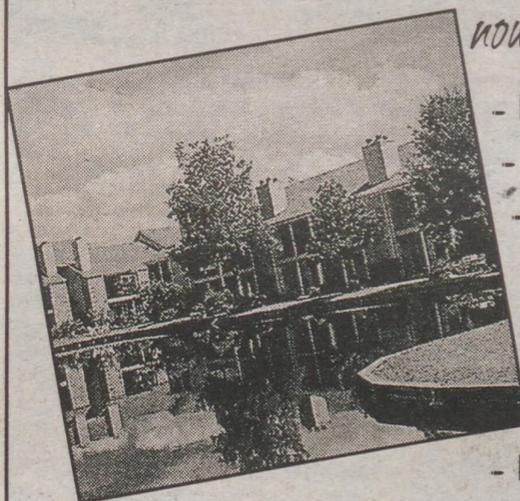
You cannot mess up this project and the final result may surprise you. It will add interest, texture and warmth to your home.

Stephen Calvert owns and operates At Home Atlanta and can be reached through this publication.

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Saturday, August 26

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
 Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
 Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
 Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.
 Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition*Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.
 Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. • Lesbian Island Association. 3 p.m. 713-528-3818.
 Houston Outdoor Group. Meeting and newsletter mailout. 713-522-7809.
 Names Project-Houston monthly garage & fabric sale. Commonwealth and Waugh Dr.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
 First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
 Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.
 Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
 First Unitarian Universal Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. www.firstuu.org.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 9 a.m. 713-522-8021.

Monday, August 28

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
 Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
 AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.
 gayDAR. Wellness community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
 Katy Overeaters Anonymous. 6 p.m. 281-398-4224.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • HG&L Switchboard board meeting. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Stonewall Democrats. Meeting 7 p.m. stonewallhouston.hot-mail.com

Sunday, August 27

New Hope Christian Center Worship Service. 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.
 Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
 Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
 Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
 Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
 Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
 Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
 The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

Tuesday, August 29

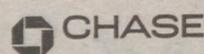
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
 Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.
 Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

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Charge up your plans to participate in EMPOWER 2000 and help support this energetic effort from The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Held at the George R. Brown Convention Center each year, EMPOWER 2000 endorses National Coming Out Day and entertains everyone with the: Business Fair, Job Fair, Health Resources, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Sports & Outdoors, great food, drink, as well as special interest seminars.

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calendar

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. 713-410-7215.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. 2001 Pride week volunteer interest session. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Wednesday, August 30

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.
BINet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting. 713-467-4380
Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. www.houstonprideband.org.
Katy Overeaters Anonymous. 6 p.m. 281-398-4224.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents meeting and newsletter mailout. 7 p.m. 713-284-4939.

Thursday, August 31

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer 713-526-1118.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston. (GLOBAL) Meeting. 4 p.m. 713-743-7539.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818

Friday, September 1

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. Movie Night. 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
Mishpach Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Men's Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

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



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- August 27 Reception following evening service to honor the Minister of Music for five years of service
- August 28 Board Meeting
- Sept. 9 Prayer Breakfast
- Sept. 17 Worship Participant Training
- Sept. 17 Maranatha Fellowship MCC Anniversary Weekend with guest evangelist, Rev. Elder Jerri Ann Harvey featuring a special healing service
- Oct. 22 Congregational Meeting

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Occasions

Birthdays

Belated birthday hugs to Ken L. for his 45th birthday on Aug. 22.

Mr. Wonderful, Mr. Super Fundraiser, Mr. Fabu Hairdresser Don Gill blows out his birthday candles on Aug. 25.

The *Houston Voice's* own Ken Burd is advertising his birthday on Aug. 26.

David S. of the CCCC rolls his birthday odometer over on Aug. 26.

The one and only Earl Dutton toasts in a birthday on Aug. 26.

Hot and handsome Devin (of EJ's fame) pours his birthday cocktail on Aug. 28.

Bob (Mary Todd) Meyers adds a birthday on Aug. 29.

Delightful Tamin has Lulu pour his birthday cocktails on Aug. 30.

Anniversaries

Which anniversary will David S. and Pat P. been celebrating on Aug. 31? Only their "Big Hair" hairdresser knows for sure!

Houston Voice writer Robert Henderson and Adam Gallardo turn another page in their 15 years Sept. 1.



This is Dixie Whiskers, our pet of the week. Dixie's favorite passtimes include pestering former pet of the week Pebbles, rolling around in the dirt, and shredding anything in the house of her owner, Sheryl Marquez.

The *Houston Voice* welcomes your special occasions. Send e-mail to croberts@houstonvoice.com. Fax: 713-529-9531. Mail: Occasions, *Houston Voice*, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006. Please include a telephone number so occasions can be verified and considered for publication.

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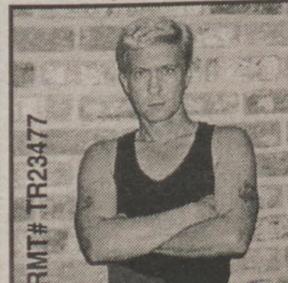


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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

August 25 - 31



ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

The new moon in your health sector on Aug. 29 should give you just the boost of physical and spiritual awareness that you need. It's easy for you to make the changes you need in your life during this cycle. The key is to concentrate on the minutiae. A Taurus digs it when you slow down and enjoy yourself.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Jupiter opposite Pluto in your money houses suggests that you could be doing a lot better financially. You could stand to do 50 percent more gambling and 50 percent more cautious planning. If there's any hint of unvirtuous selfishness running through your behavior, give it a rest. Sexually, you were born to serve a Scorpio in the days ahead. Get busy!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

You may need to revamp your home a bit while the Sun and Mercury are stirring up excitement and nervousness in that area of your life. Muse over how to integrate your true self into your love life and how to bring other people into your bizarre little fantasy world. Do some naked Feng-Shui-ing with a Libra.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Put together some pre-Labor Day festivities and you may be surprised by how many pals pop in to say, "I've missed you." The Sun is currently in your communication sector, so if you have a smidgen of writing or public speaking talent, now would be the time to get down with it. An Aquarius speaks your language in bed.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

The new moon on Aug. 29 falls in your financial sector, which suggests that money-making plans made now can reap great benefits over the next six months. Put worries about your old age aside and concentrate on recapturing your youth now. A Gemini can make you feel mighty real.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

The Sun, Mercury and new moon could conspire to bring your life full circle in a most positive way. Align yourself with your talents instead of fighting against them. If you've been collaborating with various people, now may be the time to strike out on your own. A Pisces will happily stand in your shadow... for a little while.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

This is a great time for you to push a complicated relationship to the limit and see what it's made of. Do what you do best and focus all your smarmy, sexy, sweet charms on one special person. A Virgo is ready to worship the ground you walk on.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

When push comes to shove and you need a little love, you need to ask yourself what you are really longing for, darling. Stop judging others so harshly and admit that you're the one with mondo-slut potential! A Leo can't bear to hear you spout false morality any longer.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

This is the best time of year for you to flash your sweetest smile and ask for forgiveness from those ex-lovers (and future lovers) whom you've accidentally dissed. Look for a lover who can bring out the best in you. Go to extremes with a Capricorn and you may finally find the perfect balance you've been (unconsciously) yearning for.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

The new moon on Aug. 29 falls in your house of travel and adventure, so book a flight or book a room in a local dive and have some exotic sex. Use your gifts to hook up with folks who can give you what you desire. Start with a Pisces.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Mars in your house of love is inducing the open, receptive side of you to come out with a vengeance. A business partnership could lead you to the kind of success you've been yearning for. However, you may have to give up just a tad of creative or intellectual control. An Aries can teach you the deliciousness of letting go in bed.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

The time has come for you to put a relationship trauma behind you and look for something new to fill that empty space. Your job? Like a "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," you just need to hang on. A Cancer won't let you self-destruct.

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

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