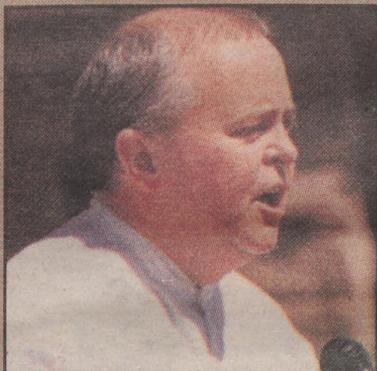


Lesbian rocker gets the attention of a nationwide audience with latest CD.
Page 13



INSIDE



Glen Maxey, the only openly gay member of the Texas Legislature, may have been just the first casualty of GOP-led redistricting.

Page 3



Judy Shepard, right, mother of Matthew Shepard, stopped in Houston as part of area events coordinated with the local debut of 'The Laramie Project.'

Page 3



Among other theater offerings, 'The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told' has been held over next month for more performances.

Page 15

Lesbian mom fights custody battle



Conroe resident Connie Danielson hopes a Tuesday court hearing will result in a judge awarding her custody of her daughter, Chelsea, 10. Danielson lost custody of Chelsea about five years ago after the child's father argued in court that Danielson was an unfit mother in part because she is a lesbian, she said.

Conroe woman's five-year struggle for her daughter may conclude at hearing next week

by PENNY WEAVER

Connie Danielson and her partner, Kim Gayheart, hope the end of this month means a new beginning for their family and Danielson's 10-year-old daughter, Chelsea.

For five years, Danielson has battled the young girl's father in court for custody. A hearing Tuesday morning in front of a Houston judge finally is expected to determine who retains custody of Chelsea.

"As much evidence as we have, I think that we'll gain custody. But you never know. I thought that I'd keep custody last time," Danielson said this week. "I'm nervous as can be. I'm already starting to be a nervous wreck."

Danielson, now 32, gave birth to Chelsea in 1991 when seven years into a relationship with her female ex-lover. The father is the ex-lover's best friend. According to

> Continued on Page 7

Gay 'FOBs' one year later on

They may be out of the White House, but they're still keeping busy and have strong views on the current occupant

by LISA KEEN

One of New York City's famous slogans, immortalized in song, goes, "If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere." If Washington, D.C., has a slogan, it is one muttered under the breath and sounds more like, "If I can make it there, I'll be hot for four to eight years."

In some ways, only one person ever really "makes it" in Washington, D.C., and that's the president. Others may hold important positions and command armies of influence around the globe. But, in the nation's capitol, everyone's professional

worth is pretty much gauged by how close they are, or how close they can get, to the president.

And since the president changes every four to eight years, the players' sphere of influence changes on the same cycle. Everyone, from politicians, journalists, gay civil rights activists, and even party animals, is subject to this phenomenon.

Most affected, however, are the hundreds of presidential appointees.

ROBERTA ACHTENBERG was an assistant secretary at the Department of Housing & Urban Development, under President Clinton. Before she came to Washington, she held elective office on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and was one of the Clinton campaign's top advisors on getting the gay vote.

When she took the HUD position, she became Clinton's first openly gay appointee, in fact the first openly gay appointee by any president. As the first, she

> Continued on Page 9



Former President Bill Clinton has stepped out of the spotlight—and so have some of his gay appointees.



I W Marks

3841 Bellaire Blvd. 713-668-5000
 Open Mon.-Sat. 10-6 Thurs. 10-9
 Convenient Storefront Parking
 Always Free Giftwrapping

**houston
voice**

For Your Valentine...the Sweetest Gift

Love
is in the air!



Call the Houston Voice today to
place your Gift of Love display ad

Jan 25, Feb 1, Feb 8 issues

SPECIAL VALENTINE RATES!

713.529.8490 OR 713.529.9531

[phone]

[fax]

Gays face tough road in Texas Legislature

Political party leaders agree that state redistricting means gay Texans will have to work harder to be heard

by PENNY WEAVER

As March primaries approach and races for the Texas Legislature shape up, gay activists are gearing up for renewed challenges at the Capitol.

"There's hope, but there's a lot of work to do," said Mark Wood, president of the Stonewall Democrats of Houston, the local chapter of the nationwide gay political organization. "We're really concerned and disappointed about the turn of events and hopeful that we can cultivate friends in the Legislature and continue with protecting our community's rights."

Census 2000 gave state officials the figures needed for routine once-a-decade redistricting. The party with a majority in the Legislature controls the new district lines, and for Texas last year, that was the GOP.

Steve Labinski, president of the Austin chapter of Log Cabin Republicans, the nationwide political group for gay Republicans, said the GOP had a chance to improve on districts drawn by Democrats after the 1990 Census.

"Ten years ago, Democrats really gerrymandered the districts," Labinski said. "They were really tilted around. I think the Republicans actually did a pretty good job at

drawing really compact, fair districts [this time]. I think they're much more representative of real districts. They don't look like geese — they're pretty compact."

Still, political watchers on both sides of the aisle acknowledge the partisan nature of redistricting.

"The Texas Democrats are going to have a lot of turnover," Labinski said.

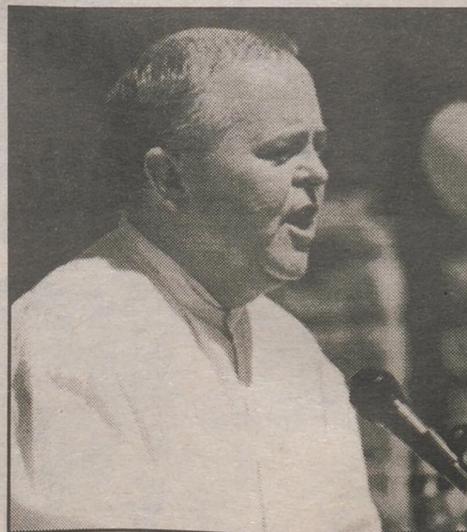
Wood, like many other Democrats, decries the GOP-drawn districts, which, after several challenges, were approved late last year by a federal panel of judges.

Redistricting has forced more than one gay-friendly Democrat out of the Legislature or into a district that will be tough to win. Glen Maxey, the state's only openly gay lawmaker, announced his resignation after new district lines put him into the same area as two other liberal Democrats.

Also known as a friend to gays, Dallas Democrat Harryette Ehrhardt bowed out of a run for re-election to the Texas House after much of her voting base was lost to redistricting. She had represented the heavily gay Oak Lawn district of Dallas.

Ehrhardt's work included the Non-Discrimination in Education bill, which would have protected gay youth in Texas public schools. The measure won support in the House but fell short of Senate approval.

In Houston, gay-friendly Rep. Debra Danburg, also a Democrat, faces a tough re-election battle after boundaries were shifted in her district. Fellow Democrat Scott Hochberg, who also represents a portion of Houston and Harris County and is known as a friend to gay constituents, now will run to stay in the Legislature in a different dis-



Glen Maxey, the state's only openly gay lawmaker, announced late last year that he will not run for re-election this fall as a direct result of redistricting.

trict due to new lines in place for this year's election.

"He has a good shot at that, but it's always harder to try [for re-election in] a new district," Wood said. "[These lawmakers] have all been pushed out of office by this sad and obvious manipulation of the rules to further party lines instead of representing the voters."

Losing gay-friendly legislators, even if they are replaced by other sympathetic politicians, still is harmful to gay political causes in Texas, according to Wood.

"It's a big step backwards," he said. "It's devastating in that these are people who have a great sort of corporate history about what's been done before, what everybody's

hot buttons are as far as lobbying for issues we care about. When you get a new crew in, then you're starting over. Even if some of the people are sympathetic to you, you have to not only educate them but reconvince them of the needs for protecting our rights."

But Labinski said Republicans improved many districts, including Hochberg's, which Labinski noted was about 40,000 people below the average for all state districts. The lines are based on population, with an average number of voters as a goal for each district.

This election and new boundaries bring a chance for gay Texans to reach representatives in both parties, according to Labinski.

"Texas has been a two-party state for many years. Now, more than ever, gays must learn to work with both parties," he said.

In the same way, the parties can work harder for voters.

"The new districts will force more Republican legislators to reach out to gay voters that [they] may have never had [reach out] to before," Labinski said. "Before, they've been drawn into really safe districts in suburbia. The representatives that are running are going to have a lot more gay constituents, and I think that's good."

But Wood is less optimistic about the effects of redistricting for gays statewide.

"When you lose your friends that have been in the Legislature for a long time, you lose seniority," he said. "They only meet every two years and it's a long cycle. If you make a mistake, then it takes a quite a while to put the pieces back together."

"This is a huge setback and we've got work to do," Wood added.

Obituary

Tom Lehman, 71, retired postal employee

Thomas "Tom" Lehman, 71, died Sunday, Dec. 16, 2001, in a fire at his home in Houston.

Born in Jonesboro, Ark., on Jan. 26, 1930, he attended Kansas State University to study horticulture, then entered the U.S. Navy Reserve, where he trained as a submariner. Later he moved to New Orleans and then to Houston, where he worked in the import/export business. He was employed by the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier until his retirement in 1992.

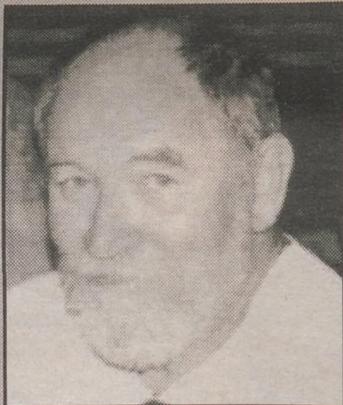
He enjoyed and supported the arts, poetry, dance and music, especially the opera, according to friends. His greyhound dogs were his pride and joy.

He was a volunteer for the Names Project Houston and The Greyhound Pets of America Houston.

Survivors include his sister-in-law, Mary Lehman of Mountain Home, Ark.; nephew, Clay and wife Lynelle Lehman of Little Rock; niece Peggy Owens of Del Tona, Fla.; cousin, Jean Lehman of Weslaco; and dear friend Al Campbell of Houston.

Lehman will be remembered as a passionate man and compassionate friend to many, according to his family and friends.

Memorials may be made to the Greyhound Pets of America Houston, P.O. Box 741176, Houston, TX 77274.



'Confronting Hate in Our Community'



A number of gay activists and supportive Houston residents attended a live broadcast town hall meeting Jan. 17 on Houston PBS. Among special guests were (from left) Louvon Harris of the James Byrd Jr. Foundation for Racial Healing; Tanaz Choudhury, president of Tan Ches Global Management Inc. of Houston; and Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard. The discussion was part of several community events surrounding the Houston premier of 'The Laramie Project,' which looks at the townspeople and reactions around the brutal killing of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyo. The play runs at Stages Repertory Theatre through Feb. 10.



Because flowers alone
just won't do
for Valentine's Day.

The 
Melting Pot.
a fondue restaurant

Dip into something different.

This Valentine's Day, treat your sweetheart to a romantic fondue dinner and your love will really blossom. Make reservations now to ensure your spot. Just call 713.532.5011 today.

6100 Westheimer, Houston

Judge: Ban on 'straight pride' shirt unconstitutional

ST. PAUL (AP) — Woodbury High School violated a student's constitutional rights last year when the principal ordered the student to remove a sweatshirt with the words "Straight Pride" written on it, a judge has ruled. U.S. District Judge Donovan Frank ruled that the school's dress code was unconstitutional when applied to the student, Elliott Chambers. Though Frank noted that there are circumstances when a school can prohibit student expression ordinarily protected by the U.S. Constitution, he said the school failed to demonstrate that Chambers' sweatshirt could disrupt school activities. Chambers and his family, as plaintiffs, and officials from the South Washington County School District, as defendants, agreed to the ruling, which was filed Jan. 2. Chambers, currently a junior at Woodbury High, wore the sweatshirt to school in January 2001 as an expression of "preference for the traditional and wholesome way to approach sex... which is God's plan," his mother, Lana Chambers, said at the time.

N.Y. mayor to march in St. Pat's Day parade

NEW YORK (AP) — Mayor Michael Bloomberg plans to march alongside Cardinal Edward Egan in this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade, ending any buzz that he might skip out on the tradition that excludes gay groups. "The mayor believes the best way to change an organization is to do so from within," the mayor's press secretary, Edward Skyler, told the Daily News. This year's parade would mark the 12th time that the Irish Lesbian & Gay Organization is banned from marching under its own banner. The parade this year also is dedicated to the "Heroes of 9/11," many of whom are Irish-American. More than one million spectators are expected to line up along Fifth Avenue to view the 241st annual parade. It is run by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a fraternal Roman Catholic group. Hillary Rodham Clinton drew fire from gay groups when she took the walk as a Senate candidate.

Calif. bill on gay couples' rights abandoned for now

SACRAMENTO — An assembly member has abandoned for now a bill that would have expanded California's legal rights for gay couples, the Associated Press reported. An aide to Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) called the move a "strategic decision" because the lawmaker believed it would be difficult to win support for the measure in a statewide election year. Several conservative and religious groups protested the proposed legislation. Koretz intends to bring back the legislation, modeled after a Vermont law, next session in some form, aide Scott Svonkin told AP. Gov. Gray Davis signed a measure last year that provides about a dozen rights enjoyed by heterosexual married couples to more than 16,000 registered gay, lesbian and senior domestic partners in California. The Sacramento Bee reported that Koretz plans to reintroduce the legislation next year.



California Assembly member Paul Koretz (D-California) made a 'strategic decision' to abandon plans for a bill to expand legal rights for gay couples this year.

around the nation

Pa. family settles foster parent lawsuit over ban

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP) — A county agency that refused to let a couple become foster parents because one of their children has AIDS has settled a lawsuit brought by the family and agreed to change its policies. The settlement, which also includes a \$100,000 payment to the couple, was approved by a federal judge on Jan. 17. The couple, identified in court papers only as John and Mary Doe, sued Centre County and its Children & Youth Services agency in 1999 after their foster parent application was rejected because one of their adopted sons, then 10, had AIDS. In 1998 the agency had adopted a policy that couples with HIV-infected children could only care for foster children with AIDS and HIV. Mary Doe had been named Foster Parent of the Year by the New York State Foster Parents Association before moving to Centre County. She adopted seven of the eight children in her care.

Mich. activist's anniversary gets governor's tribute

DETROIT (AP) — Henry Messer, a founder of gay advocacy group the Triangle Foundation, was surprised to receive a tribute signed by Gov. John Engler in recognition of he and his partner's 50th anniversary. "It was very nice. We had a nice chuckle," said Messer of Dearborn Heights. He told the Detroit Free Press that he couldn't believe Engler had signed it, because Michigan Republicans don't generally support gay marriages. The tribute doesn't specifically refer to his union with Carl House as a marriage. As it turns out, Engler was surprised by his endorsement, too. Engler spokesperson Matt Resch said the tribute requested by state Rep. Pan Godchaux (R-Birmingham) was signed on a machine. Had Engler read it, he probably would have sent it back unsigned, Resch said. But Engler won't rescind the tribute. Engler gets hundreds of requests for tributes each month for birthdays, wedding anniversaries and Boy Scout awards. Tribute requests are not screened by the governor's staff, which relies on sponsoring lawmakers for accuracy.

— From staff and wire reports



For more news, visit www.hovo.com

We would drop everything to increase your business!

Sex Sells! Period!

call today

atlanta 404.876.0789 texas 713.529.8490 new orleans 504.821.9041

eclipse

The **KOLBE** Project

Offering Peace & Reconciliation to the Alienated

1030 Heights Blvd.
Houston, TX 77008
ph. 713.861.1800
www.kolbeproject.com

CALENDAR

<p>Friday, Jan 25 Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "Moulin Rouge"</p> <p>Monday • Jan 28 Eucharist 7:30pm</p> <p>Friday, Feb 1 Morning Prayer 10am</p> <p>Monday • Feb 4 Eucharist 7:30pm</p>	<p>Thursday, Feb 7 Potluck 7pm Alternatives, Guest Speaker</p> <p>Friday, Feb 8 Morning Prayer 10am</p> <p>Saturday, Feb 9 Breakfast 9:30am</p>
--	--

IN THE HEART OF MONTROSE

EXTREME METAL LOFT-STYLE 3/2/2. INCREDIBLE HOME. INCREDIBLE VIEWS. \$289,000

morgan rockwell

PROPERTIES

713.526.5777
www.morganrockwell.com

HOUSTON ▼ DENVER ▼ PHILADELPHIA ▼ LOS ANGELES ▼ MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL

ALTERNATIVES

BREAK AWAY

FROM ALCOHOL, DRUGS,
DEPRESSION & ANXIETY

ALTERNATIVES is the nation's only GAY OWNED AND OPERATED alcohol, drug and mental health program whose leadership has provided over 25 years of pride and service to the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Community.

ALTERNATIVES specializes in treating HIV/AIDS-related grief and loss. Our HIV specialists are available to address all medical concerns. Medicare, Medicaid & most insurance accepted. JCAHO Accredited

Tips on Choosing Gay Treatment Ask:

- ▼ Are you in a safe & secure Gay Owned and Operated facility?
- ▼ Will you be treated in a Dedicated Gay Unit?
- ▼ Will you be cared for by experienced Gay Professionals and Gay Support Staff?
- ▼ Is your Treatment Center dedicated to the Gay Community and supportive of our causes?

Beware of :

- ☑ Treatment centers and programs that exploit the gay community.

Call Today: 1-800-DIAL-GAY (1-800-342-5429) www.alternativesinc.com

Keep up the Pace with Premier

cingular
WIRELESS

FREE PHONE FREE

Nights and Weekends with any Home Plan of \$29.99 or higher



Motorola 2282

200 Cellular Minutes Free Caller ID, Call Waiting and Voice Mail FREE Nights and Weekends \$29.99 month	450 Cellular Minutes Free Caller ID, Call Waiting and Voice Mail FREE Nights and Weekends \$49.99 month
900 Cellular Minutes Free Caller ID, Call Waiting and Voice Mail FREE Nights and Weekends \$69.99 month	1500 Cellular Minutes Free Caller ID, Call Waiting and Voice Mail FREE Nights and Weekends \$99.99 month

NEXTEL
How business gets done.

SAVE \$100
on the **NEW i50sx**
Now Only **\$49.99**



Get Right Through 5000 5000 TOTAL MINUTES 500 Anytime Minutes 2500 DirectConnect Minutes 2000 Night & Week-end Minutes FREE VOICE MAIL & CALLER ID INCLUDED! \$49.99 month	Get Right Through 8000 8000 TOTAL MINUTES 1000 Anytime Minutes 4000 DirectConnect Minutes 3000 Night & Week-end Minutes FREE VOICE MAIL & CALLER ID INCLUDED! \$79.99 month
---	--

VoiceStream
WIRELESS
Authorized Dealer

FREE PHONE Save \$79



Motorola 2282

75 Whenever Minutes 500 Weekend Minutes Free Caller ID, Voice Mail and Detailed Billing \$19.99 month	600 Whenever Minutes 2000 Weekend Minutes Free Caller ID, Voice Mail and Detailed Billing \$39.99 month
1000 Whenever Minutes 2000 Weekend Minutes Free Caller ID, Voice Mail and Detailed Billing Share between 2 phones at NO EXTRA CHARGE!! \$69.99 month	2000 Whenever Minutes 2000 Weekend Minutes Free Caller ID, Voice Mail and Detailed Billing Share between 2 phones at NO EXTRA CHARGE!! \$99.99 month

Premier
PAGING & WIRELESS
www.callpremier.com

Communicate with Us.
Houston **713.465.8883**
Stafford **281.575.8500**

Rate Plans subject to change without notice. Please call Premier Paging & Wireless for complete details. Discounts and coupons may not be combined. Approved credit and one year agreement are required.

Mother a 'nervous wreck'

➤ Continued from Page 1

Danielson, the two lesbians separated soon after her pregnancy and Danielson then raised the child alone for five years.

It was then that Chelsea's biological father, Sammy Magana, filed for custody and began to fight for her in court.

"It was because I was gay" that Magana tried to get custody, according to Danielson, and his attorney argued that in court, she said. Although Danielson was not shown an unfit mother, Magana was awarded custody of Chelsea. At the time, he and his wife lived with her four children and had a nanny who lived next door, Danielson said.

Neither Magana nor any attorney representing him or his family could be reached by press time for comment on the case.

Danielson is represented by Bellaire attorney Stephanie Proffitt, who also could not be reached for comment by press time Thursday.

Since losing custody of Chelsea five years ago, Danielson has continually fought to regain full custody and also to keep visitation rights. She alleges that Magana's parents have raised Chelsea, while she was granted joint custody and Chelsea visits on the first, third and fifth weekends of the month.

For more than a year, Danielson has shared her life with partner Kim Gayheart.

The two live in Conroe, and Gayheart has two teen-age sons.

Both women said they have lunch frequently at school with Chelsea, who is an honors student.

"She's a good kid," Danielson said. "She wants to do sports but she can't because she lives with her grandma and grandpa."

They allege that Magana has not kept the courts up to date with his address and place of employment. According to Danielson, she only knows that he lives somewhere in Sugarland.

The lesbian couple fear that Chelsea's father's family will use Danielson's sexual orientation against her in court this week.

"The grandparents are playing the gay card. I can tell you they're going to play the gay card," Danielson said.

Chelsea is close to Kim and is in the JFU or Just For Us, a group for youth who have gay parents.

Both Danielson and Gayheart already are anxious about this next day in court. Danielson said stress keeps her from being able to go to sleep or stay asleep for long.

But the couple try to be optimistic about their chances in court this time. They hope to welcome Chelsea home on a full-time basis soon.

"It's real hard," Danielson said. "I think she'll be with us come Tuesday. I hope."

**houston
VOICE**

Wanda L. Faulkner/Rivera
Houston Voice Sales Manager
WFaulkner@houstonvoice.com
(713) 529-8490 - Office
(281) 722-3403 - Pager

Reach OUT to New Markets!

Jim Nixon
Eclipse Regional Sales Manager
JNixon@houstonvoice.com
(713) 529-8490 - Office



When you're ready for greater success with:

Tony Carroll,
LMSW-ACP

Psychotherapist
Counseling
Consultation

713-527-0000

1006 Missouri St.
Houston, TX 77006

Relationships

Love

Happiness

Sex

Life

Inner Peace

Career

Call For An Appointment

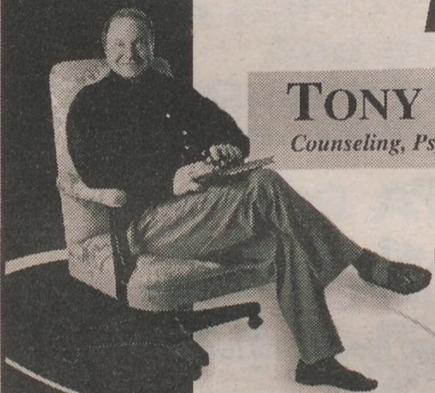
713-527-0000

TONY CARROLL, LMSW-ACP
Counseling, Psychotherapy, Workshops for Individuals and Couples

houston
Therapist.com

www.HoustonTherapist.com

Serving Houston's Gay and Lesbian
Community Since 1983



A Gal Pal Social

Lucky Seven

Mix and Meet Speed Dating for Lesbians

A Fun, Fast and Carefree Way to Meet New People!

Speed Dating

6 to 8 pm \$20

Saturday, February 9, 2002

Club Meteor

2306 Genesse @ Fairview

Seven-minute conversations

Seven different women

Seven Mini First Dates

One Fun Evening!



For more information, access: www.hwfestival.org/events.htm

Brought to you by the Athena Art Project producers of the Houston Women's Festival

MEGA phone SM

Megaphone is NATIONWIDE!
For your local system call (800)289.1489



Houston
(713)225.5500
use code 2647

24 Hour Customer Service 800.289.1489 * 18+ **Locals Cruise ALL Ads FREE**

Build Your Business!

for as little as \$40 per week

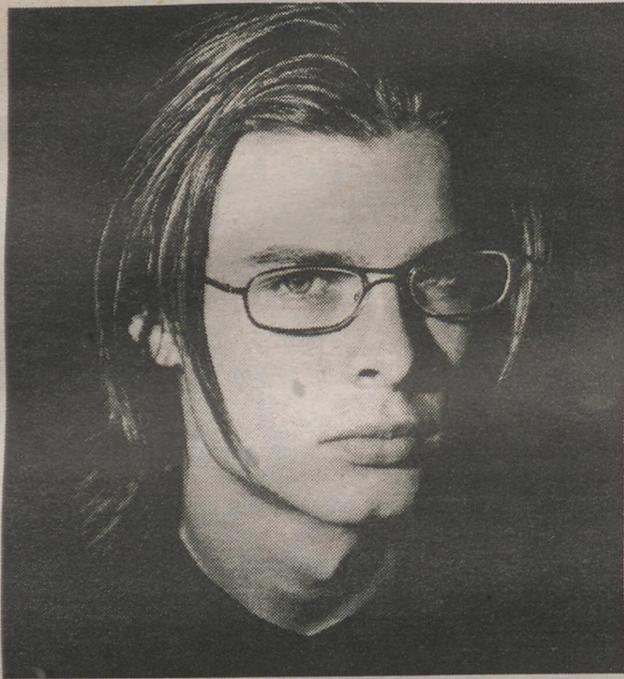
Contact
WANDA FAULKNER
Houston Sales Manager



for details
713-529-8490
713-269-5743



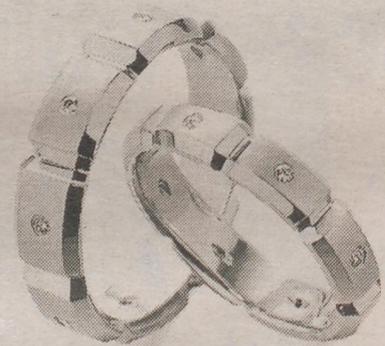
Uncensored Visions



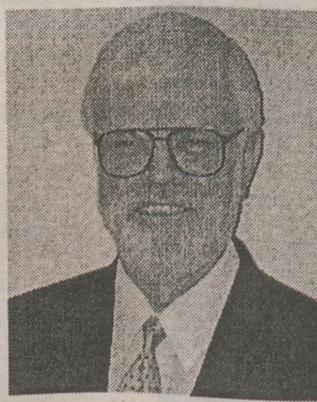
I.a. Eyeworks
Eye Elegance
FINE EYEWEAR

3966 Westheimer, Highland Village • Houston, TX 77027 • 713-622-4411

Holy Union Rings



JEFF COOPER
PLATINUM



Ask for Cass our Holy Union Jewelry Specialist

- Holy Union Rings and Loose diamonds our specialty
- Custom jewelry designers
- Appraisals by on-staff GIA Gemologists
- Certified Swiss watchmaker on premises
- World famous brand watches

IW Marks
Houston's Bridal & Diamond Headquarters
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10-6 • Thu. 10-9
3841 Bellaire Blvd. • 713-668-5000
www.iwmarks.com

Clinton's White House gays still shape national politics today

> Continued from Page 1

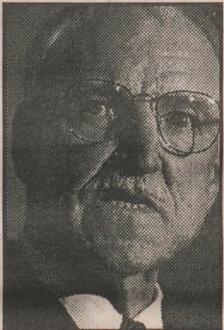
was greeted with fierce opposition from Sen. Jesse Helms.

But Achtenberg won confirmation as assistant secretary for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity and occupied a post closer to the president than any openly gay person had ever been.

Today, she's back in San Francisco, working as vice president for Public Policy at the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, not as much clout as she had as a San Francisco Supervisor but a position that keeps her in a mix of housing, education, and economic issues that could serve an administration well when another Democratic takes the White House.

President Bush has yet to appoint anyone to fill Achenberg's old job, nor has he appointed an ambassador to Luxembourg. That's the position to which President Clinton appointed openly gay Democratic activist **JAMES HORMEL**.

Like Achtenberg, Hormel faced blistering opposition in the Senate. In fact, Hormel was able to take his position only after President Clinton used a "recess appointment" maneuver to get Hormel into the slot, in 1999, without Senate confirmation. He continued in that position until Clinton left office



one year ago.

Today, Hormel is focusing his attention on the Small Change Foundation, a philanthropic organization that supports "social justice and education" efforts. Meanwhile, President Bush has appointed his own openly gay ambassador — Michael Guest, as ambassador to Romania — just five months after taking office.

The Bush administration did not release any information about Guest's sexual orientation at the time, something Hormel said he found "odd," given that Secretary of State Colin Powell took the special step of administering the oath himself to Guest, with his partner standing beside him.

"The secretary swore him in, and that's something that happens without great frequency," said Hormel. "It's very special. I was about only the third person that [Clinton's Secretary of State Madeleine Albright] had sworn in in her entire service. It's something that is a statement in itself."

Reached in New York this week, Hormel said he had not heard of the Family Research Council's claims that "some" U.S. embassy employees in Romania had complained that Guest had included his partner in some embassy events.

Hormel's partner, Timothy Wu, did not live at the U.S. embassy in Luxembourg with Hormel because Wu was serving as a White House fellow, in Washington, at the time. But Hormel said Wu did attend some events with him at the embassy and that there were

never any complaints. In fact, on Wu's first visit to the embassy, Hormel recalled, Luxembourg's foreign minister hosted a dinner in Wu's honor.

As for President Bush's performance thus far, Hormel said he was "reluctant to pass judgment ... at this point."

"It's really not particularly clear," said Hormel. "I think that, before Sept. 11, there were many sorts of road signs that his interest in issues involving civil rights and environmental issues were, at the very least, limited, if not questionable. But since Sept. 11, the primary focus of government has been on other matters."

Hormel acknowledged that Bush signed the D.C. appropriations bill that includes language allowing the District of Columbia to implement DP benefits, but Hormel nonetheless criticized the president for saying "nothing publicly to support domestic partners or any other gay-related issue."

Hormel said he was pleased that President Bush had made four openly gay appointments during his first year in office, but said that record compared poorly to President Clinton, who appointed 29 in the same time period.

Over his eight years in the White House, President Clinton made more than 150 openly gay appointments, according to a White House Web site. Where are the others now and what do they think of the Bush administration so far?

KEITH BOYKIN was one of Clinton's

first gay appointees, as special assistant to the president and director of news analysis. He left Washington for New York City, soon after President Bush entered the White House, planning to work on a novel based in Harlem.



But the project has since changed dramatically, said Boykin, and the new book, his third, has now become more of an autobiography. He hopes to have in print by early to mid 2003. In addition, Boykin writes a monthly column for Gay.com and, next month,

returns to a national lecture tour, speaking on various issues involving sexuality, spirituality, and race.

KAREN TRAMONTANO was a high-ranking policy adviser at the Clinton White House and stayed with President Clinton through July 2001, as chief of staff for his transition team. Now, she's vice president of the Greentree Foundation, which is turning a Whitney family estate into a meeting center for the United Nations.

Tramontano is also working with Clinton and others on the design of an international economic development project and is working with the International Labor Organization in Geneva to help it develop a more public presence in the United States.

ON YOUR NEXT VISIT TO HOUSTON

Stay with us!

Montrose Inn

A 7-ROOM ALL-GAY B&B

We're right *IN* the neighborhood.

And priced right!

Queen bed, cable TV, phone. Walk to 15 gay bars.

408 AVONDALE

800-357-1228

713-520-0206

montroseinn.com

MONTROSE SOFTBALL LEAGUE



Invites you to
Recruitment Day
2002

Sunday, February 10th
10am until 3am
Memorial Park Fields 4 & 5

Softball • Prizes • Food

Come play softball, receive information, meet various members, and join the Montrose Softball League for an experience of a lifetime!!

Beginner • Intermediate • Advanced Levels

Call 713-867-3913 or visit our website
www.montrosesoftballleague.com for more information

* Fields located on Picnic Lane in MEMORIAL PARK just south of Memorial Drive

* Rain out day will be held Sunday, February 17th

houston voice

STAFF

Executive Editor
Chris Crain

Editor
Penny Weaver
editor@houstonvoice.com

Production
Kyle Willis

Contributors
Trayce Diskin, Lisa Keen,
Ella Tyler, Lawrence Ferber

Webmaster: Douglas Wright

Photographers
Dalton DeHart, Kimberly Thompson

Advertising Sales
Wanda Faulkner
Sales Manager
wfaulkner@houstonvoice.com

Edward Anthony
Account Executive
eanthony@houstonvoice.com

Administration & Sales Support
Carolyn A. Roberts
croberts@houstonvoice.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
212-242-6863

A WindowMedia Publication

Publisher- Window Media LLC
President- William Waybourn
Editorial Director- Chris Crain
Financial Director- Chris Reid
Sales Director- Peter Jackson
Art Director- Rob Boeger
Marketing Director- Eric May



the chamber
the greater houston gbt chamber of commerce

CHARTER MEMBER

Established 1974 as the *Montrose Star*.

500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 529-8490
Fax: (713) 529-9531
www.houstonvoice.com
Contents copyright 2000
Office hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays

To submit a letter

Letters should be fewer than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for content and length. We will withhold names upon request, but you must include your name and phone number for verification. Please send mail to Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006; fax (713) 529-9531 or e-mail to editor@houstonvoice.com. Opinions expressed therein do not reflect those of the *Houston Voice*.

All material in Houston Voice is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced without the written consent of Houston Voice. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, writers and cartoonists published herein is neither inferred or implied. The appearance of names or pictorial representation does not necessarily indicate the sexual orientation of that person or persons.

Houston Voice accepts unsolicited editorial material but cannot take responsibility for its return. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any submission.

All rights revert to authors upon publication. Guidelines for freelance contributors are available upon request.

Issue 1109

EDITORIAL

Gay Houston stands still for a beating

by PENNY WEAVER

There's been no marching in the streets in protest, angry faces and fists of rage in the air. Gay Houstonians are going on about business as usual these days.

There have been no protests, few heated public discussions and even less organizing or long-term activism. Shame on us.

Gay political influence in this city and this state has recently taken more hits than Eminem would if he walked into Mary's on a Saturday night, but few gays Houstonians seem to have batted an eye.

Last fall, a (slim) majority of Houston voters approved an amendment to the city charter — the infamous City Prop. 2 — that bars this bustling metropolis from offering insurance and other benefits to the domestic partners of city employees. In Houston, a female city clerk who marries a man today can be assured he is covered on her insurance tomorrow. A male city worker can be assured he can never do that for his male partner of one year, or 10 years, or 20 years.

We took it quietly.

Oh, there were activists. Many of them — gay and straight — joined the "No on City Prop. 2" movement and struggled against the ignorance of folks like Dave Wilson and the misguided Houstonians for Family Values. Progressive Voters in Action helped lead the fight, with volunteers walking door to door, drumming up support. They shouldn't have had to.

Anyone can look around Houston and see there are plenty of gay folks to get something done at City Hall. The same can be said across Texas. Will it take something of the magnitude of James Byrd Jr.'s brutal death to motivate us?

Republican-powered redistricting at the state level has cut a bloody swath right through gay political power in Austin. Party-pushing GOP map crafters did all they could to erase Democrats — particularly more liberal reps — from existing districts. Of course, had they controlled redistricting, Dems would have done the same thing to the GOP, but it wouldn't have impacted gay political influence the same way.

Because the most gay-friendly state representatives are generally Democrats, the cuts slice particularly deep for us. Forced into a new district and into competition with two fellow Dems, the state's only openly gay legislator, Glen Maxey, announced his resignation. In Dallas, another ally, Harryette Ehrhardt, also lost much of her base of voting support to redistricting. She, like Maxey, won't run again for the Legislature.

Gay-friendly Democrats Debra Danburg and Scott Hochberg, both of whom represent Houston-area constituents, now face

be kept in office. Gay voters can flex our muscle and show that candidates who listen to us can expect our support on Election Day. Activists can help show that gay-friendly lawmakers can succeed in Texas.

We seem to have lost a sense of outrage in Houston that we have second-class status and are denied our basic civil rights simply because we love someone with the same set of chromosomes. The courage of only a few lawmakers to stand up and fight for those rights in the State of Texas seems to go unnoticed.

PVA managed to recruit many volun-

We seem to have lost a sense of outrage in Houston that we have second-class status and are denied basic civil rights simply because we love someone with the same set of chromosomes.

tough re-election races in newly drawn districts. The success of these lawmakers in this fall's elections will be a direct indication of whether gays will have our voices heard in state politics.

The number of gay-friendly votes in the Legislature will translate into either better or impossible odds to pass pro-gay measures in Texas. Lest we forget, a primary architect of the new district lines was Texas Attorney General John Cornyn — now a candidate to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate.

Time to take a stand

Ah, a chance for gays to stand up in Houston and across Texas and be heard — to raise voices in long overdue shouts — presents itself. In fact, there are many opportunities this political year to be heard, and, in many ways, these chances are more vital in this state than several in other recent political seasons.

Longtime foe and conservative Sen. Phil Gramm will retire, and gays have a chance to replace him with friendlier representation. Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and U.S. Rep. Ken Bentsen of Houston both have good records on gay issues.

Friends like Danburg and Hochberg can

teers to walk door-to-door, even as many more gay Houstonians simply sat at home, unheard, apparently uncaring.

Maxey made history in this state, but when he stepped down he elicited a shockwave that faded barely beyond the steps of the Capitol. Kirk, Bentsen, Danburg and others may deserve to be carried on the shoulders of thankful gay Texans, but in too many cases, we're at home watching "Queer As Folk" instead.

Not everyone can be a Dianne Hardy-Garcia, who so far has devoted nearly a decade of her life full-time to fighting for gay rights in Texas. There are only so many Annise Parkers, Grant Martins and Alex Moruas in this state. But these leaders cannot facilitate change alone.

Activism does not have to mean marching in the streets. Outrage is not limited to loud protests at City Hall. Not every advocate of gay rights can devote themselves to political life.

But every person can vote. Every Texan can encourage friends, neighbors and family members to vote. Any gay man, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered person — and straight ally — can educate those around them about the importance of gay civil rights.

There is a fine line between contentment and complacency. No gay Houstonian should be content with the strong showing against City Prop. 2; we still lost. No Texan should sit back and do nothing as gay voices like Glen Maxey's get stifled.

When we continue to be denied basic equality, in this day and age, every one of us should be incensed and determined to effect change. We should be ready to lead protests in the streets, to raise our voices until we are heard.

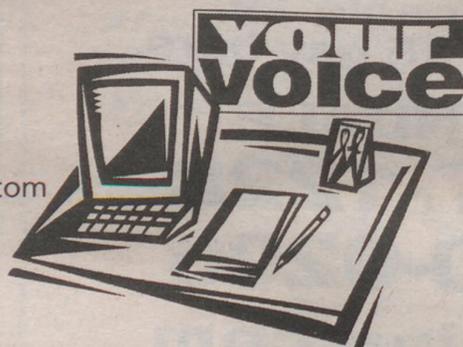
At the very least, each of us — in whatever way we choose — should be active in the fight.

Penny Weaver is the editor of the *Houston Voice* and can be reached at editor@houstonvoice.com.

Let us know what you think!

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

Houston Voice,
500 Lovett, Suite 200,
Houston, TX 77006
fax: 713-529-9531
e-mail: editor@houstonvoice.com



OTHER VOICES

Calif. civil union bill mainstreams deviance

While Americans remain focused on the war on terror and the doings at Enron, a decisive battle in the culture war will be fought out this month in the California State Assembly.

At issue is Assembly Bill 1338, which would extend all the benefits of marriage to the pairings of homosexuals, known as "civil unions." ...

That such a bill could become law in a state that not long ago was the bastion of conservatism should send a sobering message to the Right. Those who told us that we had won the cultural war were whistling past the graveyard.

But why is the counter-culture of the 1960s succeeding in its overthrow of our traditional Christian-based culture, when all our great religions and all our sacred books from the Torah to the New Testament to the Koran teach that homosexuality is unnatural, immoral, and ruinous to body, soul and society alike? ...

Why are so few willing to fight when the awful consequences of the homosexual lifestyle are before our eyes every day? Not only are all-male couplings inherently barren, male sodomy has been the principal means of the transmission of the virus that causes AIDS, which has taken the lives of as many Americans as World War II. ...

How can a practice that, if universally

indulged, would lead to the extinction of the species be normal and moral and good, as the state of California may now be about to declare urbi et orbi? ...

The truth must be spoken again and again. All lifestyles are not equal. And by the way in which they define themselves, male homosexuals are killing themselves. The state of California may declare otherwise, but that will not make it true.

Conservative commentator Pat Buchanan, writing Jan. 16 in Townhall.com, a conservative Web site.

All for trans rights, just not at work

There are some columns you write knowing that 20 years down the line you may be ashamed at their shortsightedness. This column might be one of those. We'll see.

For now, at least, I will not count myself among the supporters of the transgendered community's efforts to outlaw the employment discrimination they undoubtedly suffer. Archie Bunker, save a place on the Barcolounger for me. I'm with you on this one. Increasingly, gay and lesbian rights groups are adding transgender rights to their bailiwick. ...

There was tremendous resistance at first to employment discrimination protections for gays and lesbians. But I see a distinction between their struggle and that of the transgendered.

Part of the growing acceptance of homosexuality was a recognition that gays and lesbians are not just the flamboyant extroverts we see strutting in the Greenwich Village Halloween parade, they are our neighbors, relatives, friends and co-workers. Society came to learn that most gays and lesbians maintained social norms of behavior, except of course in their intimate and family lives — the areas we grant the most personal liberty and room for difference.

That's not true of the transgendered. They portray their difference in a highly visual and

HOLLYWOOD WRITERS' MOVIE RATING SYSTEM

G	GENERAL AUDIENCES	
No Gay Content Admitted		
DG	DE-GAYED	
ALL ORIGINAL GAY CONTENT REMOVED		
DG-73	PARTIALLY DE-GAYED	
Some Gay Material May be Inappropriate for Producers over 73		
R	REJECTED	
CONTAINS ADULT GAY CONTENT. ACCOMPANYING GAY FINANCING REQUIRED		
NC-69	BIG SCREEN GAY SEX SCENE-	
NO CHANCE IN HELL		

BRADY'S CORNER © 01-14-02

therefore confrontational way; they wear it on their sleeves, so to speak. While those who flout gender lines in public should have the right to do so safely and without the threat of violence, is it fair to force employers to accept that behavior in the workplace?

Robyn Blumner is a syndicated columnist working for the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times.

not the only kind of hate worth talking about.

Three Saudi Arabians were beheaded New Year's Day. The story got precisely no U.S. media attention, as far as a Nexis-Lexis database search could reveal. [The three Saudi men] were executed for "committing acts of sodomy." The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Interior issued a statement announcing that the three were convicted of homosexual acts.

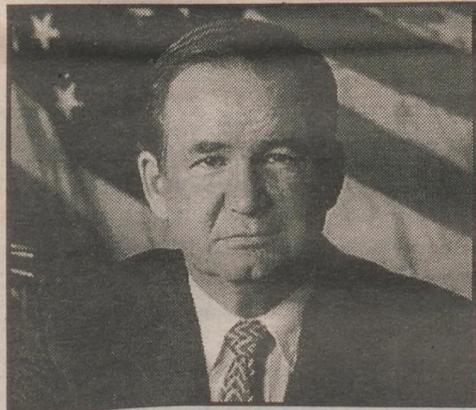
Why do Saudi clerics hate queers and foreigners and who knows who else? Alone in the United States, the good folks at the Gully have solid analysis of the New Year's Day's events: "Like the Christians thrown to the lions by the fading Romans, the deaths of [the three Saudi men] were not about religion, but about politics. About power. And the House of Saud's increasingly tenuous grasp on it."

Journalist Laura Flanders, host of Working Assets' online radio show, writing Jan. 9 for WorkingForChange.com, a progressive Web site.

Why do Saudi clerics hate gays so much?

Months ago, the question on many media lips was, "Why do they hate us?" Why did the Islamic world seem to be so hostile to the United States?

After three months of war, ABC's "Nightline" revisited the topic Tuesday night. "Do they still hate us?" What a turnaround it would be if Koppel, et al, would take "us" out of the picture. Hostility to the United States is



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



www.dykestowatchoutfor.net



Osaka
japanese restaurant

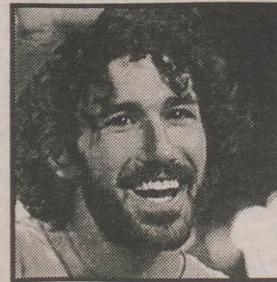
Grand Opening!

We offer you the **BEST** sushi & service.
Come give us a try!

515 Westheimer
Suite E.
Houston, TX 77006
•713-533-9098•



on the record



Ethan Zohn

"Yeah, he was a little bitch,"

"Survivor" winner Ethan Zohn, when the heterosexual soccer player talked with radio shock jock Howard Stern about Brandon, a gay contestant on this season's show

"They said, 'Black men shouldn't be gay.' Then they started throwing rocks at us."

Eric Miller, 25, who was treated at a Harlem hospital after being shot in the stomach on the evening of Jan. 11 by two men, who were also African-American

"To me, it's like talking about a tonsillectomy. If Marshall were still alive, I wouldn't have to be explaining to another woman that I'm a woman. He would be standing here saying, 'How dare you ask my wife these questions?'"

J'Noel Gardiner, a 44-year-old male-to-female transsexual in Levenworth, Kan., when asked by the New York Times to comment on attempts by her stepson to invalidate her marriage to her late husband, Marshall Gardiner, the former chair of the state Democratic Party, in an attempt to block her from sharing in his \$2.5 million estate

"It's an illusion, it's an image she's trying to project, but it doesn't change the laws of God."

Joe Gardner, J'Noel Gardiner's stepson, who is challenging her inheritance from his father's Levenworth, Kan., estate on the ground that Gardiner, a transsexual, is not a woman and mentally ill, invalidating her marriage

"There was the image three years ago, when I came here and spoke about my life, of the gay woman being huge and powerful and muscular. I was thinking to myself: 'Look at [Lindsay] Davenport and the Williams sisters, how big they are.'"

Lesbian tennis player Amelie Mauresmo, recalling the 1999 Australian Open, when Martina Hingis angered fans by taking a swipe at Mauresmo's sexual orientation and her physical appearance, saying, "She's here with her girlfriend, she's half a man."

"Before the Taliban arrived in 1994, the streets were filled with teenagers and their sugar daddies, flaunting their relationship. It is called the homosexual capital of south Asia. Such is the Pashtun obsession with sodomy — locals tell you that birds fly over the city using only one wing, the other covering their posterior — that the rape of young boys by warlords was one of the key factors in Mullah Omar mobilizing the Taliban."

Times of London correspondent Tim Reid, writing about the return of "ashna," or teenage boys walking hand in hand with older men, in the streets of Kandahar, Afghanistan

"In the days of the Mujahedeen, there were men with their 'ashna' everywhere, at every corner, in shops, on the streets, in hotels: It was completely open, a part of life. But in the later Mujahedeen years, more and more soldiers would take boys by force, and keep them for as long as they wished."

Torjan, 38, a soldier loyal to Kandahar's new governor, Gul Agha Sherzai, in an interview with the Times of London about "ashna," meaning "beloved," the teenage boys involved in sexual relationships with older men

"When he's walking along the corridor with the scarf and he plays the fake, imaginary piano — it's strange, because that was the '70s for me, and he got it. It's so bizarre. ... It freaks me out."

Elton John, on the impersonation of him by NSync's Justin Timberlake in Elton's new video, "This Train Don't Stop There Anymore"



Harry Britt and Mark Leno

"I wanted to give him a kiss, but he wouldn't let me."

Gay San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, on his interaction with campaign opponent Harry Britt, a former supervisor who is also gay

"That's right. You younger guys spread disease."

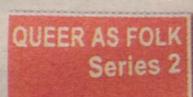
Former San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt, responding to Leno's comment, at least according to Leno, whose former lover died of HIV and hepatitis; Britt denied the story, which was confirmed by another observer, in the San Francisco Chronicle, but said he could not remember what he said

QUEER AS FOLK

Own the British version that started it all....








Bronze Package
Series 1 & 2
Was ~~\$90~~ now only 84.95!
(save \$5)

Silver Package
Series 1 & 2 and the soundtrack
Was ~~\$105~~ now only 89.95!
(save \$15)

Gold Package
Series 1 & 2, the soundtrack
and a behind the scenes documentary
Was ~~\$130~~ now only 99.95!
(save \$30)

Order online at c1tv.com/houstonvoice or at 1-877-919-2188

Out on the Bayou

houston voice • January 25, 2002

Buffalo girl

New Yorker captures hearts of queers and middle America with latest CD

by LAWRENCE FERBER

Rocker Alison Pipitone listens to the blues, and even plays them. But is she a blue person?

"What's the difference between a three-ring circus and the New York City Rockettes?" Pipitone asks, setting up a punchline. "A three ring circus is a cunning array of stunts."

The rest of Pipitone's joke isn't something quite printable in most newspapers. "Is that a blue joke?" Pipitone says with a chuckle.

"It is? I like jokes like that, so I guess I am blue."

"Shake It Around" (Slice Records) is Pipitone's fourth solo album of sandy-voiced rock tunes. Option Magazine had dubbed it a collection of "poetic tales of minimum wage America with the pure, white-knuckled intensity of really loud rock n' roll."

According to Rockstar magazine, which called Pipitone one of the most beautiful voices in music today, the singer conveys a "sarcastic, playful cockiness."

"Shake it Around," recorded at home on an 8-track recorder, features flourishes of blues, rock, and good ol' Springsteen-esque Americana on tunes like "Flags Fly," "Country" and "Hartland Blues," on which Pipitone intones towns like Nashville, Tenn.; Asheville, N.C.; and Austin, Texas.

Considering the country's renewed interest in all things American, she's shakin' it around at the right time.

"I guess I consider myself very American," she nods. "But I'm not rocking from the heart of America. I'm rocking from the heart of myself."

"I've always written since I was tiny, like 4 years old, stories and poems, and it's just been the one consistent thing in my life I think. For me it's coping with emotions and I'm very lucky because a

lot of times it touches other people too and it's a way of connecting."

"Besides," she adds, "you're supposed to always write what you know and that's what I did. I couldn't find myself writing about Vancouver when I didn't happen to go there. I'm a realist, that's what I am — a realist rocking from the heart of America!"

In a telephone interview from her Buffalo, N.Y., home, Pipitone is both wry and good-humored while discussing her recent album and past, which began in the snowy city.

"I love Buffalo," she insists. "I lived in LA for 10 years and this is the best city to come back to. If you live here your whole life it sucks, but if you get out there and go to a city and live for a number of years then you appreciate all the little things you never saw before. I do very well in a small city."

Come 18, while attending USC, Pipitone bought her first guitar — a \$125 Peavey — and formed a band with a brother and two sisters: the Monas.

"Looking back, half of me is proud and half is highly embarrassed," she admits of the experience. "Now I see that it was the first time the four of us were together in 10 years or something and I think we were trying to establish normalcy, but everybody in my family is pretty much musically talented so we started out super bad and ended up pretty good."

It was one "horrible" summer circa 1995 that the Monas finally disbanded, two sisters had fled the coop and they'd suffered a few dispiriting "close calls" with record labels. So a burnt-out Pipitone applied for graduate school in Buffalo, was accepted, and absconded back home.

Also at the time Pipitone finally acknowledged her attraction to other women, which she admits complicated the Monas' final days.

"I guess I came to the [final] real-

ization when I fell in love with my bass player's girlfriend," she recalls with an uneasy laugh. "I kept it to myself pretty much."

After some time away from the West Coast and the Monas' gravesite, Pipitone's blood began to boil with music again. So she picked up the guitar and fashioned a first solo album, "Life in the First Person."

Two additional albums later, Pipitone was courting a growing audience of queers and blue collar suburbanites with her tunes. She's also courted major record label interest, although those experiences have only encouraged her current indie approach.

"It took me a long time to learn my lesson," she says. "I heard so many things from labels. I did a demo deal for Columbia a couple of years ago — and the way they were talking I thought that was a shoe-in."

"I spent six months working on this stupid demo in their studio, going back and forth to New York all the time with their producer and then they ended up passing up on me. That's when I decided 'screw it, I'll just do whatever I want whenever I want.'"



Lesbian rocker Alison Pipitone says she's a 'realist rocking from the heart of America.'

appts

ongoing

DiverseWorks continues a preview of its silent art auction items up for sale at the organization's fund-raising gala, "Illumination." The works will be on view through Feb. 2 and can be bid on by attendees at the Feb. 16 auction. On the block are works by 30 artists including John Calaway, Fernando Castro, Bill Davenport, Hillary Harnishfeger, Patricia Hernandez and Dolen Smith. DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway. 713-223-8346. www.diverseworks.org.

ongoing

Houston Grand Opera presents "Eugene Onegin" starting tonight. This opens the opera's winter season. The Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky tale is set in 19th century Russia and adapted from Aleksander Pushkin's poem. It relates the story of a jaded young aristocrat, Onegin, who is adored by the beautiful but shy Tatyana. He spurns her and flirts with her sister Olga, provoking Olga's fiancé and leading to a tragic duel. Through Feb. 8. Houston Grand Opera, Wortham Center's Brown Theater, Texas at Smith. 713-227-ARTS. www.houstongrandopera.org.

monday, jan 28

As part of the Margaret Root Brown Houston Reading Series, authors Sherman Alexie and Lorrie Moore will read from their work, offer an on-stage interview, sign books and take questions from the audience. Alexie's work includes short-story collections "The Toughest Indian in the World" and "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven," which was the basis of his award-winning screenplay, "Smoke Signals." Moore is considered one of the great masters of the short story. Her works include "Self-Help" and "Birds of America," both collections of short stories, and the novels "Anagrams" and "Who Will Run the Frog Hospital?" \$5 donation as admission. Readings begin at 7:30 p.m.; doors open at 6:45 p.m. Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. www.inprint-inc.org.



Author Lorrie Moore will read from her work and meet readers at a Monday book reading.

FITNESS EXCHANGE

**Voted Best Gym
Last 5 Years!**

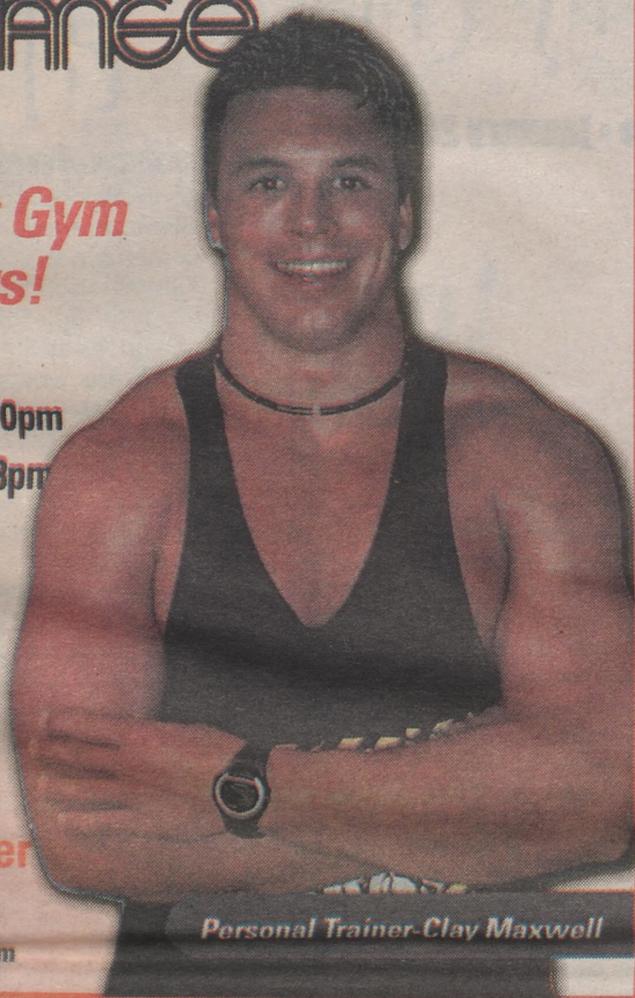
Mon - Fri • 5am - 10pm
Sat & Sun • 8am - 8pm

4040 Milam
Houston

713-524-9932

**Personal Trainer
Available!**

www.fitnessexchange.com



Personal Trainer - Clay Maxwell

**Houston's Largest
Adult Boutique
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
And Thanks for Your Business in 2001!

- Menswear
- Loungewear
- Thongs
- G-Strings
- Sexy Gifts
- Leather
- Novelties
- Videos / DVD's

Σrōs 1207 713-944-6010
A Boutique / Open 7 days a week
10 am to midnight!
Minutes from downtown! Take I-45 south to
College Exit & go left 3 miles to Spencer & Allen Genoa
One Hour XXX Photo Lab On-Site! Discreet & Confidential



Your Trees Deserve the Best of Care!

All Phases of Tree Care Residential and Commercial



**BARTLETT
TREE EXPERTS**

www.bartlett.com

1719 West 24th St., Houston, TX 77008

718-862-4777

Certified Arborists:
James Doyle & Timothy Leach

Guided by The Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories and Experimental Grounds, Charlotte, NC

**Flowers are for
when you want to say more...**

The Gay Rose

1-800-GAY-ROSE
1-800-429-7673

The Gay Rose is The Gay & Lesbian Community's National #1 for Sending Love With Flowers
Serving the Gay & Lesbian National Community Since 1992

out on the aisle

THEATER CALENDAR

Stages explore science, souls

Theater troupes present plays on a wide range of topics going into February

"An Experiment with an Air Pump"

Main Street Theater presents Shelagh Stephenson's time-bending drama exploring the scientific exploration and its effect on human values. The play's title refers to a painting that English artist Joseph Wright completed in 1768. In the painting, several people gather around as a lecturer demonstrates what happens to a bird when it's kept in a glass bowl and deprived of oxygen. Much like the characters in Stephenson's play, everyone in the picture has a different reaction to the experiment, which epitomizes the dilemma of reconciling scientific exploration with human feeling.

"An Experiment with an Air Pump Through Feb. 24"

7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays
3 p.m. Sundays
Tickets: \$20 Thursdays, \$25 Fridays and Sundays, \$30 Saturdays
Main Street Theater
2540 Times Blvd.
713-524-6706
www.mainstreettheater.com

"Lipstick Traces"

DiverseWorks of Houston hosts the cult classic "Lipstick Traces: A Secret History of the 20th Century" by Greil Marcus. The Austin-based theater collective Rude Mechanicals presents the piece with its unique blend of physicality, intelligence and caustic wit. In the play, the tenacious Dr. Narrator joins forces with the Sex Pistols' manager and cultural bellwether, Malcolm McLaren, to trace the history of the negationist impulse by digging through the dustbin of the past. The production

revisits infamous historical events such as Johnny Rotten's first audition for the Sex Pistols, a dada evening at the Cabaret Voltaire and Michel Mourre's 1950 siege on Notre-Dame.

"Lipstick Traces"

8 p.m. Jan. 31, Feb. 1,2
Tickets: \$20 general admission
DiverseWorks
1117 East Freeway
713-335-3445
www.diverseworks.org

"The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told"

Theatre New West has held over its performances of this Paul Rudnick comedy. Set to originally end Feb. 2, the production now will run through Feb. 23. The play details the lives of Adam and Steve and Jane and Mabel in the Garden of Eden. For adult audiences; contains nudity.

"The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told" Through Feb. 23"

8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
Tickets: \$20
Theatre New West
1415 California St.
713-394-0464

"No Exit"

Dos Chicas Theater Commune presents an encore presentation of Jean-Paul Sartre's "No Exit" this week and next. In the piece, three damned souls are brought together in a one-room hell, where their actions take on a twisted system of judging and being judged by one another, illustrating what can happen when people refuse to make choices and take responsibility for them.

"No Exit"

8 p.m. Jan. 25,26, Feb. 1,2,8,9
Tickets: \$10 or \$6 for seniors and students
Dos Chicas Theater Commune
Heliotrope
411 Westheimer
713-201-0193



Steve Bullitt and Adam Clarke play Steve and Adam in Theatre New West's 'The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told,' now in an extended run on stage.

"The Best Dramatic Bonbon Of the Season!"
-Houston Press

"Engaging, Entertaining...A Winning Production"
-Houston Voice

"...Fun and fine entertainment. Rating A"
-Texas Triangle

THEATRE NEW WEST

PRESENTS

HELD OVER THROUGH FEBRUARY 23

THE MOST FABULOUS STORY EVER TOLD

BY **PAUL RUDNICK**
DIRECTED BY **JOE WATTS**

ADAM & STEVE
JANE & MABEL
2
COUPLES
ONE GARDEN OF EDEN

STEVE BULLITT & ADAM CLARKE
NATALIE MAISEL & JENNY YAU

ONE HILARIOUS NEW COMEDY
FEATURING: BELINDA BABINEC, TANYA BRYAN, MARY HOOPER, TAAVI MARK AND MICK PETERSEN

FOR MATURE AUDIENCES - CONTAINS NUDITY
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS THRU FEBRUARY 2 CURTAIN: 8PM

1415 California Street, Houston Texas 77006
Reservations call : 713-394-0464

SCHMERLER AGENCY

Your Community Insurance Agency!

713.661.7700

For Auto, Home, Renters Life, Health, Business Insurance and much more.

6575 W. Loop South, Ste. 185
Bellaire, TX 77401
www.SchmerlerAgency.com

Regina
Jeffrey
Jason
Ray
Rob

New South Kitchen & Bar

Sunday
Famous Gospel Brunch
Thursday
Fried Chicken
\$3.75 Foxmopolitans



Cafe Zorro • 905 Taft • 713.528.9691

Nuevo Wavo Latino Cuisine
Lunch only M-F 11am-2pm

Available for private parties & events, evenings & weekends

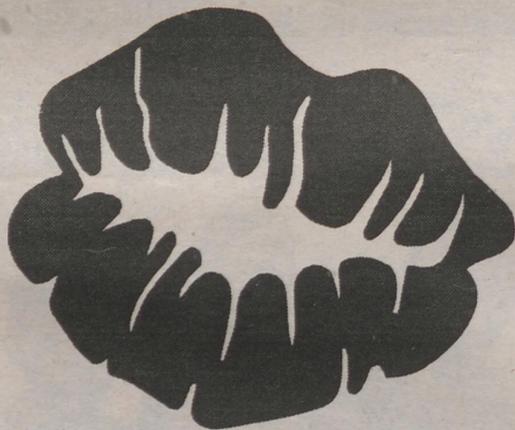
HOURS

Monday-Thursday	11am-10pm
Friday-Saturday	11am-11pm
Sunday	11am-9pm



Yummy Valentine Deal!

- Buy 1/2 dozen Donuts, get 2 Free!
- Buy 1/2 dozen Kolaches, get 2 Free!
w/ad Expires 2/01/02



1103 W. Gray @ Montrose
713.524.4005 / 713.524.4880 Fax
Monday-Saturday, open at 5am • Sunday, open at 6am

eating out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Cole's hits and misses

Restaurant offers refreshing atmosphere, disappointing lack of pizzazz in cuisine

by TRAYCE DISKIN

In a city where even the most sophisticated of restaurants reside in hulking strip malls, I'm always impressed when an establishment can make me feel like I'm dining in a country inn, or, even better, an urban side street with a view of trees and streetlamps, instead of parking lots and freeway ramps.

Cole's Restaurant, located in a formerly empty strip in the heart of Montrose, transforms its nondescript location with its formal, yet intimate interior. With smart and stylish touches, such as the pink beaded candle lamps, and the dim, rosy lighting, Cole's creates the cozy elegance of an English tea room, and the warmth of a continental bistro.

Unfortunately, Cole's doesn't lavish similar attention to the cuisine, and dishes seem to clash on the menu as well as on the palate. As appetizers, for instance, Cole's offers dishes such as Escargot, Marinated Cucumbers, and Chicken Skewers with a sour cream sauce. Of course there's nothing wrong with variety, but the choices struck us as rather haphazard. Even with the most ambitious of fusion menus, it helps to have some harmony among ingredients and themes, other than a preponderance of sour cream and cream cheese.

The Escargot (\$8.75) were served stuffed into mushroom caps and topped with goat cheese, and then baked. While the snails themselves might have been tender and juicy alone, or if seasoned simply with garlic and herbs, the goat cheese was suspiciously pungent, and smothered each snail under its bitter, cakey top. The result was an unsavory mouthful of unsettling flavors. The Chicken Skewers (\$6.50) may be a safer choice, or the far sexier Shrimp Roulades (\$8.75), stuffed with spinach and roasted red bell pepper, and served with an orange cilantro lime tequila sauce.

The entrée list seems similarly unfocused, although it was the actual content of our meals that disappointed us the most. The Ahai Tuna (\$17) was beautifully seared sushi-style, although the sesame coating seemed tossed on, cold and untoasted, as an afterthought. The freshness of the filet needed only a splash of seasoning to make it complete, and I eagerly anticipated lightly dipping each piece into the spicy soy wasabi sauce. When I took the first bite, however, it was clear the sauce was missing two key descriptors — "spicy" and "wasabi."

The sauce tasted identical to the trusty Kikoman's sitting inside the door of my

fridge (and it was just as cold). The accompanying sides also had traces of the typical kitchen cabinet, with room temperature, unseasoned corn and hearty, but rather tame garlic mashed potatoes.

Though bearing the restaurant's moniker, Cole's Chicken Breast (\$16) is anything but a signature dish. The diminutive breast stuffed with mushrooms, garlic, onions, Provolone cheese, and marinated in sherry and was overcooked and underseasoned. The hopeful flakes of red and green pepper in the corn offered no reprieve. As one friend put it, "good ol' Mexicorn — the same as Mom used to open and heat."

Try, instead, the Rack of Lamb (\$20.75) stuffed with mint pesto and coated with mustard. Searing the meat locks in the flavors and allows the sweet and sour to subtly mingle throughout each piece of meat. For vegetarians, Cole's Vegetarian Lasagna (\$12) makes a curious substitution that defied our entire concept of vegetarianism. Instead of noodles, Cole's uses Swiss chard. Aren't noodles, for the vegetarian, the safest thing about a lasagna?

The menu notes that it's "layered just like a lasagna," with vegetables and tomato sauce, which is quite true. But take away the egregious simile and what you have is a stewy vegetable casserole, with wilted greens, that bears little resemblance to its name. At least the vegans at the table should be content.

Vegetarians, however, might want to opt for the array of pasta dishes (\$10) in a tomato basil. For carnivores, additions such as chicken, tuna, shrimp, pork, or crab claws cost a little extra, but might liven up an otherwise pedestrian dish.

Sadly, the same need applies to Cole's overall, where a lovely dining room can't hide the lack of culinary flair.

Cole's Restaurant

Cole's Restaurant
2100 Waugh Dr.
713-942-2100

Food:

Service:

Value:

Scene:

Opt for bread, water at home

OK, if you really must

Fine for most

Worth the drive, so live a little

As good as it gets

FOOD FILE

homefront

Say 'no' to drugs (for plants)

Picking the right varieties of plants and knowing a few tricks can tame bugs in the garden

by ELLA TYLER

I use very few pesticides in my garden, just what the yard man applies. We have a "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

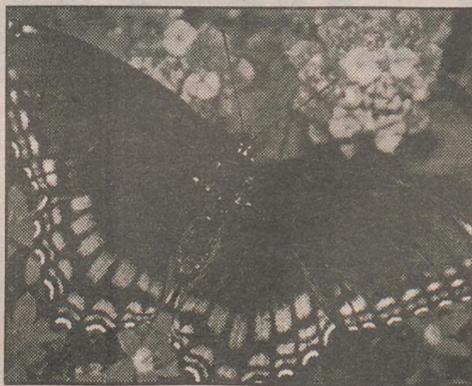
My decision to limit pesticide use was made more than five years ago when the EPA's film for nursery workers was shown in one of my horticulture classes. I looked at the protective gear that should be worn when applying the same chemicals that are used in home gardens, and decided to live with bugs and fungi.

My resolve was tested literally as soon as I got home. My mother reported that the roses had aphids. I blasted the bushes with a strong spray of water, which knocked lots of aphids off the plants. My mother bought ladybugs at the nursery. Both adult and larvae eat aphids, so it is important to keep the ladybugs around long enough to lay eggs. In the evening, we put water-softened raisins at the base of each bush, carefully deposited a few ladybugs, and covered them with straw. Nature, in a manner of speaking, took its course, and the roses were fine.

I'm not sure that I'll be able to continue that relaxed attitude if giant bark aphids come to infest my live oak trees. Although I don't have them, I've seen plenty. They are gray or black, long legged, and a bit bigger than a really healthy mosquito. Some have wings; others do not. They suck plant juices from the tree and excrete a sap-like material. They are unlikely to harm an established, healthy tree and the "honeydew" is easily washed off, but they are icky.

These aphids like cool, wet weather so they will go away when the weather warms up. Their natural predators, like ladybugs, will return as the weather warms up, too. If you must do something about them, knock the aphids off the tree with a strong blast of water, and then spray with insecticidal soap. Insecticidal soap is very effective on soft-bodied insects like aphids but does not seem to harm ladybugs. Other insecticides, even natural ones such as neem oil, take a toll on good bugs too.

One of the reasons I'm careful about chemicals is that birds and butterflies and other wildlife are as important to my garden as the roses and other plants. Wildlife will make a home in your garden if you provide food, water, cover and a place to raise young. My yard has five birdbaths, an overgrown thicket of bamboo and pyracantha, and several big trees. It is also equipped with an obedient human, my mother, who sprinkles Southwest Fertilizer's custom-blended bird seed every



The Red-spotted Purple Butterfly is native to Texas and a much more pleasant insect than unwanted aphids.

day, refills empty bird baths and chases away cats.

The yard is full of food plants — oaks, pines, sweet gum, holly, eleagnus, and viburnum, for example — so the bird seed isn't necessary, but it does bring the birds to a place where they can be seen. Since I began using leaves for mulch, the birds are even more active. They putter around in the rose garden looking for bugs and sunbathing.

The birds that visit regularly include Inca, white wing, mourning doves, blue jays, cardinals, mocking birds and sparrows. Migrants like robins and hummingbirds show up spring and fall. Other birds drop in from time to time. Pigeons aren't a problem, perhaps because the seed mix doesn't have corn. I also have squirrels and occasional visits from an opossum.

I recently discovered the National Wildlife Foundation's Web site at www.nwf.org, which has a big section about backyard wildlife habitats. Two other Web sites, www.birdsource.com and www.eNature.com, are interesting. eNature allows me to enter my zip code and produces a list of the wildlife in my area. The list covers a big area, from and including the Gulf of Mexico to the state line north of Dallas. Did you know that several kinds of whale have been seen in the Gulf of Mexico?

My antique roses have thrived despite the no-chemicals plan. The tea roses have not done as well, but they have been neglected in other ways, too. I cleared some space in the rose garden and have plans to add some modern roses. Some newer varieties are black spot resistant, and I am going to try some. One key to a "keep your plants off drugs" program is to choose plants that are resistant to common diseases and insects.

I also have to build a garden for the statue of Pan that I got at Fraziers in Hempstead. It has an incredible array of ornaments for your garden and lots of products to spoil your birds. So you and your yard both reap the benefits of shopping around at Houston-area garden and landscaping businesses.

professional cabinetry • closet systems built

IF YOUR CLOSET HAD LOOKED THIS GOOD...



YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE COME OUT!



For a free design consultation, call (713) 688-8808
Visit our showroom: 3556 W. TC Jester

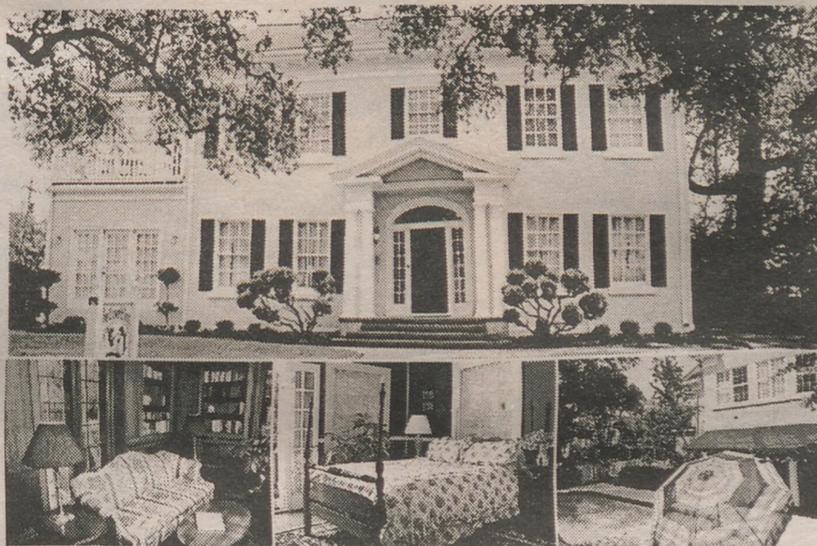


closet • home office • garage • pantry

THE LOVETT INN

Distinctive Lodging and Catering Accommodations

Call us for your next out-of-town guest!



Historic Accommodations • Corporate Meeting Rooms
Banquet Facilities • Jacuzzi Suites • Pool/Hot Tub
Near Downtown, Museums and Medical Center
We do catered events for up to 200 people!

501 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006
(713) 522-5224 • (800) 779-5224
Fax (713) 528-6708 • lovetinn.com
YOU'LL LOVE IT!

Maranatha Fellowship MCC

Maranatha Fellowship MCC is on the Move!

Sunday Morning Services At Our New Location & Time:

3333 Fannin, Suite 106, at 10AM

For more information, call the church office 713.528.6756

*Please Join Us For Sunday Morning Service And Experience
The Love That Maranatha Fellowship MCC Has To Offer!*

January 27th "Salvation - Receiving God's Gift" Rev. Janet Parker

February 3rd "The Covenant of Grace in the Old Testament" Rev. Janet Parker

February 10th Guest Speaker

Please Join Us in 2002 for Praise and Worship

We Would Love To Have You Visit Us!

Church Service begins at 10am and
nursery is available for small children.
Mid-week "Home Group" services on
Tuesdays and Wednesdays

For more info...
713-528-6756 or email
maranatha@ev1.net

Maranatha
Fellowship

Metropolitan
Community Church

"Building Community Through Compassion"

community calendar

saturday, jan 26 every saturday

All-Spanish Worship Service/Culto en español. 6 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2026 W. 11th. 713-303-9403 or 713-861-9149

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.

Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

Q-Patrol walks the streets 9:30 p.m. Convenes at community center. 713-528-SAFE.

E-mail: qpatrolinc@aol.com
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • Center cleanup, 10 a.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 3 p.m. • STAG (Some Transgenders Are Guys), 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, jan 27 every sunday

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education, 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available, 10:30 a.m. Panel discussion, 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930.

Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269. Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service, 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 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.

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.

The Women's Group. Meeting and discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion, 9:45 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service, 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum, 10 a.m. Service, 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in 2-5 p.m. • LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty), 2 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

monday, jan 28 every monday

AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

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

gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom, 713-726-8736.

www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/
Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsals, 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, ext. 208.

HIV testing. STD exams and treatment. Free. AVES. 1-6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.

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

Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800. Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8-10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, jan 29

Houston Outdoor Group General meeting and newsletter mailout. Don & Ray, 713-522-7809

every tuesday

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang, 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700. For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.

Gay youth. New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience

JOIN NOW & SAVE!!!

HOUSTON GYM

New Cybex
New Pre-Cor
New Facility!

713-880-9191

1501 DURHAM

Mon-Fri 6am-10pm

Sat 8am-8pm • Sun 8am-6pm

community calendar

necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.
HTGA. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.
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.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming-Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

wednesday, jan 30

Houston Area Bears. Dine out, 6:30 pm. Location TBA 713-867-9123. www.houstonareabears.com

every wednesday

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner, 6:30 p.m. Various support groups, 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas St. 713-793-4026.
Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
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.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.

thursday, jan 31

every thursday

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.
Free HIV Testing. By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
Gay Houston. New social group for all ages. 7 p.m. 713-526-9318.
Hep C Recovery. Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

HIV Art Therapy Program. 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.
Houston Women's Rugby Team. No experience necessary. Practice, 6:30-8:30. Westland YMCA. Kay, 713-208-1529.
Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
STD exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Spanish Charla Conversation Group. Empire Cafe, 7 p.m. Email charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 6-9 p.m. • Monthly board meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

friday, feb 1

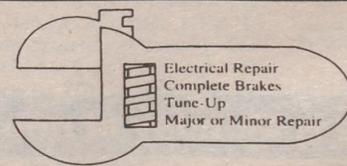
Service of Healing. For persons living with HIV/AIDS. Christ Church Cathedral Golding Chapel, 1117 Texas Ave. 7pm first Friday of each month. 281-331-4851.
every friday
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Govinda Yoga Club. Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
Kolbe Project. Morning prayer, 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
Lesbian & Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol. Walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Hawthorne Men's Club, 7:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818

volunteer/self-help

Gay & Lesbian Help line. For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Staffed by volunteers of all ages. 6-11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 888-340-GLBT.
Peer Listening Line. Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.
Volunteers needed. Trauma volunteers needed at Memorial Hermann Hospital to comfort and support family members in the emergency and trauma departments. 866-666-6772.

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES



**American & Foreign
TAFT STREET
AUTO**

Auto Repair & Service

713-526-3723
1411 Taft Houston, TX. 77019

**if your hair
isn't BECOMING to you,
you should BE COMING to me.**

**DON GILL
STUDIO 911**
713-521-0911
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

KAEHLER CLEANING

Make Ready • Residential & Commercial •
Continually the Best
713.861.6181

In Business Since 1989
Perfection Plus
 Domestic Services
 Specialists in Detail Cleaning
 FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
 BONDED FOR YOUR PROTECTION
 MOVE-INS/MOVE-OUTS • SPECIAL PROJECTS
 WEEKLY - BIMONTHLY
 IN BUSINESS SINCE 1989

**\$10⁰⁰ OFF
First Cleaning**
 We Supply All Cleaning
 Products & Equipment
 FREE ESTIMATES By Phone
 (713) 895-2766

CHIROPRACTOR
Dr. Richard W. Fletcher

- Neck/Back Pain
- Auto/Work Injury
- Medicare/Medicaid

1245 Yale • 713-862-3897
 In The "Heights" at 13th & Yale
 (Yale is 1 Block West of and parallel to HEIGHTS BLVD.)

Appointments: Monday-Saturday

Se Habla Espanol

**THE TIRE PLACE
Inc.**

- Alignment
- Brakes

1307 Fairview
 (3 blocks west of Montrose)
713-529-1414

**MASSAGE
by Ken**

713-524-4759

Ken Claude **RMT#28519**

Penis-Enlargement.net
 FDA Approved vacuum pumps/surgical. Gain 1-3". Permanent & safe. Enhance erection. FREE Brochures! Latest enlargement info: (619)295-HUNG or 900-976-PUMP (\$2.95/min.)

- AUTO • HOME • LIFE •
- LOW COST AUTOS
- LOW COST RENTERS
- MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS

**TONY MAY
INSURANCE AGENCY
NATIONWIDE
INSURANCE**

713-807-8264

**NATIONWIDE
INSURANCE**
 Nationwide is on your side

**LAWRENCE
CONSTRUCTION**

- Carpentry • Repairs
- Remodeling •

936.563.5180 / 936.760.5531
Lawrence Gilstrap

Serving Houston's Gay Community for 15 years

houston classifieds

Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIBL 2002

NIGHT IN BLACK LEATHER • March 2, 2002 • Rich's • 7pm

DAY SHELTER

Needs new or used clothing and shoes in good condition • Contact Etalia or Ruth at 713-528-5667

FLU SHOTS

MONTROSE CLINIC

\$20 • Walk-in • Monday-Thursday 9am to 8pm • Friday 9am to 6pm • 215 Westheimer • 713-830-3000

MR PRIME CHOICE

We are looking for "Prime Choice" vest of our former and deceased winners. Vests are to be placed in the archives. If you have one or know where any of the vests are, please call Don Gill at 713-521-0911

EMPLOYMENT

SONOMA IS REOPENING BY POPULAR DEMAND

Now hiring all positions • Apply in person • 1415 California • Mon-Fri • 1-4 pm.

MEDICAL BILLING SPECIALIST

Experience in Medicaid and Medicare required • Fax resume to Clinical Director @ 713-880-3023.

STAGES THEATRE PART-TIME

Ticket Box Office • Flexible hours • Some nights/weekends • Fax resume to 713-527-8669 • Attn: Marketing Director

SOUTH BEACH JR'S MINE

800 PACIFIC AVE

Taking applications for all positions • High Volume • Gay night club • Group health insurance offered • Apply in person Wednesday thru Friday • 1 to 4 pm. Recent photo is required.

Classifieds work - call 713-529-8490

MONTROSE CLINIC FULL TIME-EOE

Seeking individual to Supervise 6 member team of health educators • knowledge of HIV/STDS • Must be familiar with GLBT community • Fax resume to 713-830-3023. www.montroseclinic.org

FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Offering free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals. Including job preparedness, training, resume development, and job searching assistance. For more info call 713-981-1543

LOVETT INN

Houston's Premier gay owned and operated lodging facility is now accepting applications for full and/or part time positions • Evenings and weekends required • Call 713-528-6433 11am to 4pm for more info or fax resume (with photo) to 713-528-6708 or send to LovettInn@aol.com

FOR SALE/RENT FABULOUS

Glamorous • Prestigious • Those are just a few of the words that describe THE premier address in Montrose • Come experience your stunning new community today • Up to one month free! AMLI Town Square • 713-522-4111 • www.aml.com

MIDTOWNE/MED CENTER MUSEUM AREA

1700 sf • Prairie style duplex • 10 ft ceilings 3/1 1.5 • Carpet • Hardwoods • W/D • No pets • \$1000/mo • 713-526-8634.

Heights updated 2/1 • All appliances included • \$1075/mo. + deposit • 713-868-6154.

Small 1b apartment on Heights Blvd. • No pets • Available immediately • New carpet and paint • water-paid • 713-862-1900

RIVER OAKS

DRAMATIC 1/1 • San Felipe & Kirby • Floor to ceiling windows • Small complex • \$750 • 2415 Mimosa • 281-580-2762.

1/1 great apartment in 4-plex • Ground floor • Hardwoods • W/D • Lots of windows • Monitored alarm • Approx 800 SF • No pets • \$600/mo • 281-748-6711.

MONTROSE COTTAGES

1/1 Garden Cottage • \$300 and up • Reserved for People Living with AIDS • 90 day MAX • Phone, furnished, AC • Maid paid • No deposit • Sliding scale fee • No drugs or Alcohol on property • AIDS Housing Coalition AHCH • 713-521-1613

OFFICE FOR RENT

Second floor office available at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center • 803 Hawthorne • 14' X 12'6" • Nonprofit GLBT organizations preferred as tenant partners, but all inquiries welcomed. Call Tim Brookover @ 713-524-3818

Furnished rooms in Montrose from \$295/week • For single, quiet person • Free cable tv, breakfast, parking, maid service • With queen bed, kitchen, & laundry access Montrose Inn • 408 Avondale • 713-520-02061

FOR SALE

GAY NIGHTCLUB

Large or small gay nightclubs in Reno, NV • 15 owned slots • Building and Land • Best Bus Bkg • 800-208-9021

PRIDEREALTY.COM SALES/RELOCATION

HEALTH

FREE YOGA CLASSES

FREE yoga classes every Friday @6:30 p.m. • 3115 West Loop South #21 • No restrictions • No reservations needed • 713-439-0455

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Its time to get those projects done! Decorating ideas • Planning • Refinishing services. Call JuneRose J.R. Futcher • 713-521-7863.

MASSAGE THERAPY



MASSAGE Absolute Let-Go
Houston Metro
713.942.2399
• Montrose Location
• 7 days/evenings
• Visa/Mastercard
• Outcalls welcome

Q Puzzle

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17			18							19				
20								21	22			23		
24							25					26		
	27			28	29	30						31		
				32								33		
		34	35	36					37	38	39			
40								41						
42				43	44	45					46	47	48	
49				50							51			52
53				54				55	56	57				
58			59				60	61						
62							63						64	
65							66						67	

"LEAVING THE CLOSET BEHIND"

ACROSS

- Non-PC purchase?
- "___ a nice guy like you doing in a place like this?"
- Put aside, as time
- Oddball comedian Philips
- Leonardo DiCaprio's 1996 title role
- Where <Aida> premiered
- One way to come out
- Batman's buddy
- Gives in
- Figure skater Babilonia
- CD followers
- "Jeffrey" won one
- Men on top, perhaps
- "Ally McBeal" actress Lucy
- One way to come out
- Way to address a dominatrix
- Bills stuffed in a stripper's G-string
- One way to come out
- L-___ (parkinsonism treatment)
- Premed subj.
- One way to come out
- He cared for Samuel
- Sexually appealing, like David Duchovny?
- "___ Need is the Girl" (song from <Gypsy>)
- On the ___ (fleeing)
- Friend of Eeyore and Tigger
- What one may do to avoid a sexually-transmitted disease
- It might be wrapped around your package
- One way to come out
- Wet spot on a blanket of sand
- "...the bombs bursting ___"
- Word before whiz or whillikers
- Beautiful young woman
- They're found in some fruits
- Fast way to the U.K.

DOWN

- Part of MGM
- You may watch one reproduce in biology class
- "Keep your pants on!"
- ___-tit (small bird)
- Rosie O'Donnell, for one
- City north of Des Moines
- ___ Aviv
- In greater need of Viagra, maybe
- Burned to ___ (incinerated)
- "7 Faces of Dr. ___" (1964 Tony Randall vehicle)
- Slanderer, in legalese
- Openings of porno flicks
- They make French kisses "French"
- Nair alternative
- NASA "thumbs-up"
- "The Pleasure of His ___" (Fred Astaire flick)
- Wellness gp.
- ___ Claire, Wisconsin
- What the religious right has waged against the gay community
- "He Who Gets Slapped" star Chaney
- Work long and hard
- What rose-colored glasses represent
- Slangy affirmative
- "The Wedding Banquet" director Lee
- "Diff'rent Strokes" actress Charlotte
- When the plane is due to land, briefly
- Fantasized about obsessively
- From the beginning
- "Hinky Dinky Parlay ___" (Popular World War I tune)
- Kind of dancer or fruit
- Archibald or McMillan of basketball
- "The Trolley Song" has many
- Omits a syllable
- Map within a map
- Worship from ___
- French cheese
- Ian McKellen and Elton John
- Tuck's partner
- Yoko of "Double Fantasy"

FIND A DATE \$7.98

The internet's funnest lesbian and gay dating service!



Try it for Free!

www.edwina.com

\$7.98 monthly charge. Price subject to change.

Edwina and Edwina character are trademarks of Metropolis, Inc.


RESURRECTION
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Turn over a new leaf in 2002!

Join us for Worship Services
Sunday 9 & 11am • Wednesday 7pm

2025 W. 11th St. @ T.C.Jester
713-861-9149 ♦ www.resurrectionmcc.org

Answer to Puzzle on Page 20

T	S	S		S	R	E	S	C	O	R	E		H	P	M	Y	N
E	E	G		R	I	N	A	I	N				S	S	S	O	A
S	D	S	E	N	D	S	E	R	I	E	T	O	F	R	I	E	T
N	A	I	N	S	T	A	I	N	A	B	S	T	A	I	N	L	A
L	L	I	A	L	L	I				Y	X	O	F		L	I	E
			E	N	C	E	A	V	E	N	G	E	A	N	C	E	W
							A	N	A	T						D	O
			S	T	S		R	E	N	T	S	P	A	R	E	T	O
S												M	A	V	A	M	
E							P	K	R		W	O	R	K		A	T
U							L	A	C	E							
L							L	I	U		S	O	E	O	S		O
G							E	F	G								R
N							R	O	B	I	N						T
O							C	A	I	R	O						E
T							A	L	L	O	T						M

My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



Jan. 25-31

ARIES (March 21 to April 20)
 The full moon on Jan. 28 falls in your house of creativity and could inspire you to take an art class or do something dramatic on your own. Self-expression is key. You can't hold all those feelings in. Life is not a teen movie, darling! An Aquarius wants to baby-sit with you, though.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)
 Wait a good couple of days after the full moon (on Jan. 28) before making any sudden moves in your personal life. A lover needs to think - really. That means without undue pressure from you, sweetie. A fellow Taurus gives you comfort.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)
 You can change your work situation if you follow your logic completely. Your own fears are getting in your way. Sure, you can give everyone else advice, but have you looked into the mirror lately? Accept a Pisces' tough love!

CANCER (June 22 to July 22)
 The full moon on Jan. 28 falls into your money house and could bring you a new freelance opportunity. If it involves your people skills, grab it! A Gemini wants to grab you in early February.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)
 This is the right time for you to express your real feelings to a love interest, darling. The full moon in your sign on Jan. 28 will put the right words in your mouth. An Aries is open to you and your wiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
 Look around and ask yourself, "Am I happy in my day job?" If you've been restless for a while, it's time to come up with a plan. A Capricorn could hook you up with new connections. Take advantage of what the universe throws your way. Catch it!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
 Feeling unsure of your own motivations, sweetie? Well, you should be! Question yourself before you question others, babe. Introspection leads you to right action, which leads you into the arms of a Leo.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
 Saturn will work with you if you work with it, babe. You need to find the right people to invest in your talents, darling. Step one: say no to freaks and geeks who have dissed you before and will surely dis you again. A Gemini is on your side.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
 You sure can pick 'em honey. If you're dealing with a love interest who's slightly wacky - to say the least - perhaps you should finally set some boundaries, baby. Or better yet: call the whole thing off. An Aquarius is ready to start something better with you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
 Pluto is stirring up the melancholy part of your nature, Capricorn. Allow yourself to feel a little desperate, darling. Your hunger will be ignited and at last you'll make a move in the direction you really want to go. A Leo is waiting for you and getting impatient.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
 The Sun conjunct Venus and Neptune in your sign on Feb. 1 should inspire you to take your love life to a much higher (and deeper!) level. Be as brave in action as you are in your heart. A Scorpio is more aware of your brilliance and fabulousness than you realize.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)
 This is the perfect time to do a cleansing ritual geared towards shutting up the critical voices in your head. Whether it's mom or dad or an ex, you can quiet those censors. A Sag would never throw a wet blanket over your fire.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

directory

DON'T LOSE ALL YOU'VE WORKED FOR...

Protect your partner or family!

INCOME REPLACEMENT—buy it before you become sick/disabled for 30 days or more

INNOVATIVE LIFE—it has many new features (eg-it grows cash fast!)

LONG TERM CARE—covers nursing home, home care, adult day care, etc.

*other insurance policies available

CALL BREENA KOBY

SALES AGENT

(O) 281-240-7028/281-564-3736

(M) 832-443-7972

LET'S TALK!

Build Your Business!

Lesbian
 escort service
 studz & fems

Valentine Offer! 3rd Caller Wins Free Date!

stress management for women only!

call *Catilina* 713.545.5471

soulmate health if you are unsure about changes that should be made in your life

call 281.575.8800 or 713.869.6318

TAROT CARD
 and psychic readings

love job 1414 Heights

Targeting the expansion readership of the Houston Voice...Houston's only GLBT newspaper. CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS: Wanda Faulkner - sales Manager 713-529-8490 or pager 281-722-3403. WFaulkner@houstonvoice.com



The Other Video Store

901 Richmond @ Roseland,
 2 Blocks East of Montrose

713-522-4485

private men's health SPA • membership required • full gym • sauna
whirlpool • steam room • pool • sundeck • private dressing rooms

Honey I love you
but I've gone to
THE CLUB

Valentine's Celebration 2002

Houston Feb 8 • Dallas Feb 9 • 10:00pm til.

Live DJ • Catered buffet & beverages • Party favors

2200 Fannin • Houston • (713) 659-4998

2616 Swiss Ave • Dallas • (214) 821-1990

www.the-clubs.com

ANOTHER FINE CLOUTY/VS/CA GRAPHIC