

HOUSTON

VOICE

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ISSUE 774

A Weekly Community News Publication

The ABC's of a BBS

Gay and lesbian Southern Hospitality

By GLEN WEBBER
Houston Voice/Houston

The personal computer has become an important link for millions of computer buffs who want to communicate with people around the country, and around the world. As the technology and the so-called "information super highway" have developed, so have computer bulletin boards. These boards are designed so that people with common interest may talk with each other about any topics they choose.

One of the most popular Houston-based gay and lesbian bulletin boards is the not-for-profit Southern Hospitality board. Founded by Houstonian Gary Verdine, it is specifically designed to allow gay men and women to communicate with each other. Whether you are looking for the perfect match or a forum in which to discuss politics; whether you are looking for someone into leather or other special sexual types or are a transgendered or bisexual person wishing to communicate with others, this board can help you find persons with similar interests and goals.

"I believe by putting all these groups together, they can communicate with each other and learn about each other," says Verdine. "Different message ques are assigned where users can talk with anyone they want and be able to leave a message for a later response." There are over 500 message centers around the

boards that you may leave a message, either for one specific person, or for everyone to read. Once you leave your message, others may leave messages in return.

(Continued on Page 3)

HRCF blasts Gramm over letter

(WASHINGTON)—On the eve of his tie with Sen. Bob Dole in the much-ballyhooed Iowa presidential straw poll, Texas Senator and Republican presidential candidate Phil Gramm courted support from right wing extremists with a letter condemning "the radical homosexual community" and backing an effort to oust a gay Des Moines School Board member.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund last week denounced Gramm for his letter seeking support from members of the anti-gay group *The Report*, which condemned the "radical homosexual community" for mounting an "attack on our children" and threatening "the very essence of our nuclear families."

The Iowa Christian Coalition is targeting Jonathan C. Wilson for defeat in the upcoming school board elections. Wilson recently acknowledged he is gay, amidst a controversy over a proposed change in the school district's curriculum.



Tennis legend Billie Jean King talks with Bering Care Center Bill Keller, Michael Hill and Donnie Kyle during a brief visit to Houston Tuesday. King visited the Care Center and Bering Dental Clinic as part of a national tour of AIDS agencies, and to announce the upcoming Virginia Slims Legends tennis tournament. The weekend of activities includes two days of tennis with the likes of Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Tracy Austin and King and two concerts. The Houston chapter of the Design Industries foundation for AIDS is the official charity of the event; Bering receives funds through DIFFA.

Business owners plan first annual Houston Women's Festival

Music, Art By And For Women

For Texans who enjoy women's music, October is shaping into a great month.

Early in the month, the Lone Star Women's Music Festival is scheduled to take place on the Guadalupe River in the Texas hill country, offering three days of music, workshops, comedy, and camping. Later in the month, Mary Chapin Carpenter is coming to Houston (well, actually the Woodlands). Look for her stimulating performance around the middle of October.

On the last weekend of October, mark your calendars for an exciting local "first." The first annual Houston Women's Festival is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Oct. 28. Many activities are scheduled for that afternoon, wrapping up in the evening with a concert billed as "a high energy empowerment event" to top off the festival on an upbeat note. The concert will feature a wide selection of musicians, including Houston talent as well as a headliner or two from Austin.

(Continued on Page 12)

Houston Voice publisher dies

Thomas Donald (Tad) Nelson, publisher of The Houston Voice, died of AIDS complications on Sunday, Aug. 20. Tad was 39 when he ended his long battle at Park Plaza Hospital, surrounded with an abundance of love and support from family and friends.

Tad joined the staff of The New Voice, then a gay regional newsweekly distributing in Texas and Louisiana, as an advertising representative in 1991. He was later promoted to sales manager, but was best known to Voice readers for his quirky, campy and often irreverent "Houston Soap" bar gossip column. He came on board as publisher in December, 1993, after acquiring the newspaper with his partner, and moved quickly to accomplish his vision of refocusing the Voice on its original target audience, the Houston gay and lesbian community. Under Tad's direction, the Houston Voice also expanded its coverage of the local arts and entertainment scene. Tad was a passionate fan of the arts, music and film, and he enjoyed covering entertainment events personally, writing reviews and meeting celebrities.

Tad had numerous accomplishments and adventures in life. Among

them, he was proud to be associated with Mary's Lounge, where he worked his way up from the position of barback to bartender and, finally, man-



ager. He enjoyed being a part of Houston's leather community and was an active participant in numerous events. While employed at Mary's, he was a member of the Sundance Cattle Company; the club honored him with a

lifetime membership when he later moved to Dallas. He also won the title of Mr. Fall Roundup.

Throughout his life, Tad enjoyed involvement with numerous local clubs and organizations, from the Urban Animals Skate Club to the "Joy Luck Club" with his friends from the Ripcord. He was a host of the Fantasy Ball and the Grey Party.

Tad was born on April 27, 1957 to Thomas Leighton Nelson and Minnie Marie Nelson in Fort Worth, Texas. He was a graduate of Eastern Hills High School and attended the University of Texas at Austin and, later, the Houston Community College School of Nursing. He held a variety of jobs, working for a time at Legends Hair Studio with his friend Jan; for The Container Store in Dallas with his friend Michael Murphy; and with the gift shop TLC, where he worked with his friends Bill and Gary. But it was his association with the Voice that Tad enjoyed for the last four years of his life. He was proud to have made a contribution to the Montrose community with his responsibilities there.

(Continued on Page 4)

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

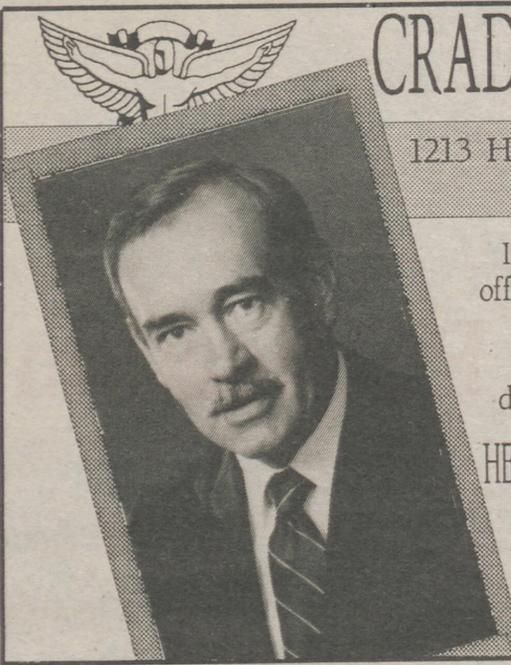
Gay Today	Pg. 5
The Outsider	Pg. 7
Is it in the genes?	Pg. 8
Bulletin Board	Pg. 11
Media Watch	Pg. 16
Houston Soap	Pg. 22-23

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Community Calendar

by Carolyn Roberts

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

- Friday, August 25**
- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.
 - * HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 225-9411.
 - * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
 - * CODA meets at MCCR at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
 - * Free Buffet at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 p.m.

- Saturday, August 26**
- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 520-1809.
 - * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.
 - * Dignity Houston meets for liturgy and social hour. Mass at 7:30 p.m. 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872.
 - * The Court guest bartend at the Brazos River Bottom. 9:30 p.m.
 - * Classical Music Discussion by Stephen Arthur of KUHF at Barnes and Noble. 3003 W. Holcombe. 1:00 p.m. Call 349-0050.
 - * Society for the Performing Arts presents 6th Annual "Fiesta de la Hispanidad. Miller Theater. 8:30 p.m. Call 520-3290.
 - * Films at MFA. 1:00 p.m. "Bigger's Vision," 7:30 p.m. "Mamma Roma. Call 639-7300.

- Sunday, August 27**
- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 520-1809.
 - * Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection worship services. 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
 - * Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.
 - * Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services at 10:00 a.m. New Location 3400 Montrose Suite 600. Call 528-6756.
 - * Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.
 - * Houston Mission Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.
 - * Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533.
 - * Dignity Houston Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. 1307 H Yale. Call 880-2872.
 - * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
 - * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.
 - * Out in Ft. Bend meets. Call 344-0638.
 - * Brunch at the 611 12:30 p.m. \$3
 - * Steak Night at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
 - * Hal & Jim's Yeah Buffet at the Venture-N 5:00 p.m. Donations to Stone Soup.
 - * Film at MFA. "Mamma Roma." 7:00 P.M. Call 639-7300.
 - * Pool Tournament at Chances. 6:00 p.m.

- Monday, August 28**
- * AFH Creative Writing Class. 3:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.
 - * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.
 - * MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

- * Pool Tournament at the Ripcord. 8:00 p.m.
- * HeartSong open rehearsal at the Community Room in Sharpstown Center. 7:00 p.m. Call 526-9095.
- * TMC Lambda Network meets at 5:00 p.m. Call 990-1980.
- * Gay and Lesbian Readers Group meets at Barnes and Noble. 3003 W. Holcombe. 7:00 p.m. Call 349-0050.
- * The Agora monthly meeting. 7:30 p.m. AFH. 3202 Wesleyan. Call 729-4267.

- Tuesday, August 29**
- * MCCR: CODA Support group meets at 7:00 p.m., Empowerment for Living support group and pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
 - * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
 - * PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.
 - * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 1509 Fairview. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.
 - * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. Call 522-8182.

- Wednesday, August 30**
- * Shiela Lennon performs at Chances. 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.
 - * MCCR: BiNet Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m., Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study, Lecture Series and Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 1919 Decatur. 861-9149.
 - * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.
 - * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.
 - * Tootpe's Coffee Bar has "Activity Night" with a complimentary buffet. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Call 522-7662.
 - * "A Course in Miracles" at Kingdom Community Church 7:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.
 - * Montrose Mixer at Helena's. 5:00 p.m. Call 520-9991.
- Thursday, August 31**
- * Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 P.M. Call 629-1432.
 - * Broadway Showtunes at J.R.'s. 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.
 - * Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.
 - * Art Classes sponsored by AFH. The Art League. 1:00 P.M. Call 526-1118.
 - * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
 - * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.
 - * Computer Nerd Session. 7:00 p.m. 529-1223.
 - * En*Light*en Up meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 528-6174.
 - * Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.
 - * KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Call 866-6505.
 - * Burger and Chili night at the Brazos River Bottom. 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 - * Steak Night at the 611 Pub. 6:30 p.m.
 - * "Becoming the Person You Always Wanted to Marry" discussion by Author Suzanne E. Harril. Barnes and Noble. 3003 W. Holcombe. 7:00 p.m. Call 349-0050.
 - * "Catholic School Girls" at the Theater LaB Houston. Benefit show for the Assistance Fund. Call 737-0339.

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A beginner looks into one of the newest ways to communicate

(Continued from Page 1) As a novice user, I tried to approach learning the boards with an open mind. I've always been a little afraid of computers. But the boards are easy. The instructions will guide you along step by step, and the "sysop," or one of the board monitors will be glad to help you along from the first level to the next higher one.

To become a member, a person must identify himself with his own password, and leave his name and number with the board. A monitor will call back to confirm that is the correct information and grant access. The members can then be tracked if necessary. X-rated messages are fine and you can get as descriptive or personal as you want with a fellow board member.

When you sign on, you are warned that you must be 18 years of age, and you must

not say anything that would break any laws regarding minors. The nine board monitors for Southern Hospitality do check all messages for this violation. If a person does solicit minors he will lose his access to the computer board.

Southern Hospitality is but one of several available boards to "chat" on. A very popular board is the political board, in which discussions about the headlines of the day are discussed, cussed and analyzed by fellow board members. The range of topics is unlimited, and people are quite frank about their feelings on different subjects. It is both fascinating and scary, at the same time.

Southern Hospitality has four available lines, meaning four persons may converse at once. Gary says his board receives 400 to 500 calls a

day. Gary, or one of his fellow monitors, are always available to answer your questions or take you further into the system. They want you to enjoy yourself and make new friends. To that end, the group meets once a week, usually Thursday nights at Chances, on Westheimer. You can meet Gary, and many of the board members who enjoy swapping stories and experiences on the boards. It is a great way to learn more about using your computer and meet very nice people at the same time.

I find myself exploring the different boards and talking with people from around the country. It's the easiest way to make contacts and determine if it should go farther.

One note of caution. Never give out any information that can be used against you. Don't give out credit

cards, Social Security numbers, your real address, as you don't know who might be watching your conversation. And if anyone says anything you deem inappropriate or dangerous, you can always disconnect the call and let the sysop or one of the other monitors know.

Many friendships have formed through the boards. This is a great way to judge people on what they say, not how they look. Whether you want friendship, sex, or good conversation with other men and women, you might find the boards a good way to start. Gary does ask for a \$5 a month donation so he may be able to upkeep the computer equipment. It could well be the best \$5 you ever spent. For more information on Southern Hospitality BBS, you may reach Gary Verdine at 529-1456.

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

A QUALITY OF LIFE ALTERNATIVE

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The value of your life insurance policy in a viatical settlement is determined by the specifics of your policy and your unique medical situation. Not every policy is suitable for viatication, but

settlement offers typically range from 60 percent to 90 percent of a policy's face value, depending on the specifics of your policy and medical history,

HOW DOES A SETTLEMENT WORK?

With your written permission, we gather medical and insurance records with which to determine your policy's value. Then, a settlement offer is presented to you. You may always decline the offer with no obligation whatsoever. Should you accept the offer, payment is made directly to you. You pay nothing else on your policy, and you owe us nothing.

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policy is the best financial alternative available to you. **Linked Benefits** can discuss all of the factors with you and your family in person, in detail, and can recommend an experienced Certified Financial Planner to assist you in planning the best outcome for your unique financial situation.

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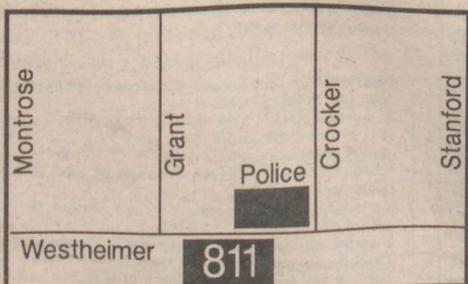


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IN MEMORY OF

Voice mourns publisher Tad Nelson

(Continued from Page 1) He is survived by his family from Fort Worth: his father Thomas L. Nelson and stepmother Helen Nelson; his sister Donna Nelson Smith and nephew Travis Leighton Smith. Also, his family in Houston: his sister Karen Nelson Craft and her husband, E. Ross Craft. Tad also left behind his life partner, Dr. Craddock Duren, as well as many, many other close friends and confidants.

Gifted with an incredible zeal for life and a wild sense of humor, Tad will be remembered by many for his numerous and diverse interests and activities. He was fond of music and enjoyed playing the guitar and singing. He loved the music of Joni Mitchell best. He also enjoyed working with Danny Villa and his dance ensemble. An avid movie buff, he was known to enjoy his huge collection of video tapes. And during the run of the television series "Dynasty," Tad would dress up in a white gown (with his bleached blonde moustache) and host parties for close friends as Crystal Carrington. Tad also collected all sorts of hats and unicorns, and he especially enjoyed the companionship of pets, such as his white, sulfur-crested cockatoo Skipper, his cats Orson and Pie-wacket, and his fish aquarium.

A special memorial service will be held at Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur, on Sunday, Sept. 10 at 1:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be sent to the Tad Nelson Memorial/HIV Service Fund, c/o Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, TX 77006.



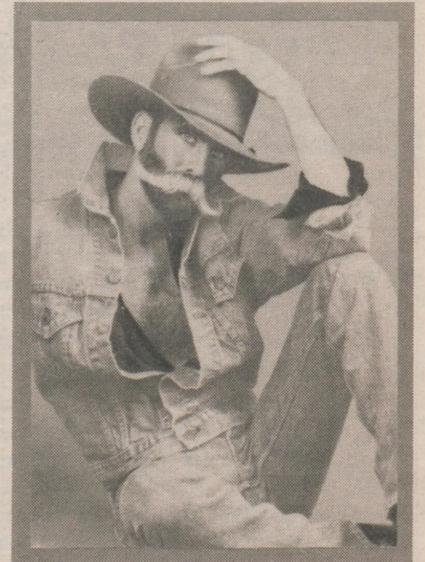
MARK D. ODOM

Mark Odom's life was as full of energy as one of his favorite books, "While the Band Played On." He was born in Burley, Idaho, during World War II. After graduating from high school, Mark served his country during the Vietnam War. He attended college in Idaho and Texas and moved to Houston during the seventies, where he started a corporate career with Transco. In the early eighties, he was one of the first one hundred people in Houston who were diagnosed HIV positive. Transco management at the time decided that a person with HIV would survive only six months, but Mark was an example of endurance. Thanks to the company's policy of early retirement, Mark was able to travel worldwide and to devote himself to activist causes.

At sunrise on Friday, August 11, 1995, Mark went to gay heaven. He had wonderful care from the nurses and doctors at Twelve Oaks Hospital. Mark was loved and respected by many friends: Don, John, Stanley, Johnnie, Richard, Bill, Luis, Gabriel, and his longtime companion, Sean, as well as many others in Houston, Denver, Burley, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and New York.

He is survived by his beloved Aunt Theo Hollinger of Issaquah, Washington, who was at his bedside, his father, Don, of Vancouver, Washington, and his sisters: Sue of Missouri, Kathy of California, and Mary of Washington.

In place of flowers, he asked that donations be made in his name to the Houston AIDS Foundation.



Bye for now...

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Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Life Passages and Gay Generations

I want to give my condolences to the family and friends of Tad Nelson, our friend and publisher, who passed away last weekend. Tad put up a brave fight, but as with all of those before him, the disease became stronger than the will to beat it. Every death from AIDS is a reminder of how precious life is. If you have a good friend you haven't talked to in a while, pick up the phone and call him (or her). If he is ill, don't be afraid to call. Your call will make his day.

Second, I want to congratulate my parents for celebrating 47 years of marriage. They have been able to find the common interest that all relationships must find in order to make their marriage work. This week, they both celebrate birthdays, and in relatively good health for people in their seventies.

As I get closer to turning 42 years old, I find myself going through the changes that hit most men and women in their forties. Not only do I have to worry about my AIDS-related health problems, but also the more common health changes that people in my age group start to experience—the physical aging, the cancer threats, maintaining my energy levels, things that are accepted as a natural part of life.

What seems so ironic, however, is how much I have in common with my parents. Almost all of their friends, many in their sixties and seventies, are having the health problems associated with old age. Every time I go home, I hear about their friends, and knowing most of them, I feel sad, because these are good people who now fight for their lives when they should be enjoying their "golden years." With every death, I wonder if my folks think it could as easily have been them.

And many of my friends, in their thirties and forties, who are HIV-Positive, are going through health problems that in the not-so-distant past, only the older generation worried about. I hear almost daily of people fighting to maintain their physical health, mental stability, and will to live a quality life. If you are like me, you may be the only one left of your

group of friends who is still alive. Why me? Why did Dr. John, Norman, Mike, George, and Kelse die, and I'm still here? I don't question why anymore. I realize I still have an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. That is why writing has become more than my lifelong passion. It's my life, now, and I hope I can make a positive difference in other people's lives.

Living that "quality life" is becoming increasingly difficult. I'm working a full-time job, writing for the Voice, working out regularly, and maintaining my house—all at less energy than I've ever had. But I'm determined to maintain this level until I can't. Am I crazy? No. I just am not going to give up living because I have AIDS. I still have too much living to do.

As I get older, I notice how much my priorities have changed. First, it is never too late to do things or start projects important to me. If, as the old cliché goes, life begins at 40, I think I'm off to a good start. I'm trying to maintain my new friendships with my hectic schedule. I'm more determined to stay healthy and have a positive outlook on life. I think maintaining a positive outlook is the key to staying healthy and happy.

I accept my HIV-positive status, and I make no excuses for getting the virus. My casual attitude toward sex was not a responsible attitude. The free love of the sixties didn't work in the eighties. After all, I knew what condoms were. I've known about condoms since I was sixteen. I knew that protection was necessary against STD's but ignored it because know one else was using it. In the days before AIDS, if you had a sexually transmitted disease, you just went to the clinic to get a shot. It's not that simple anymore.

So where am I today? I hope, like most of you, I'm adjusting to life in the nineties. I don't look at being alone as a bad thing. I don't feel that life is passing me by. I am still able to enjoy discovering new things about myself and finding out who I really am. Learning to be honest with myself is the hardest thing I've ever done, but it has been the more rewarding and satisfying thing I could ever do for myself.

Gay banned from nephew's christening

By RON KAMPEAS
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

LONDON, Tuesday, Aug. 15 (AP)—Simon Lawley says he fits Church of England godfather standards to a T: He's monogamous, stands up for his beliefs and has an abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless, Lawley is gay, which is why officials at his local parish banned him from the christening of his nephew and godchild, Freddie.

Lawley's sister and brother-in-law took the christening in April to another, more liberal parish, where the godfather was welcomed. But the ban once again opened up the debate on the place of gays in the church.

"No one asked me about my spiritual or moral nature or welfare," Lawley told the British Broadcasting Corp. on Monday. "As a practicing gay man, I was considered to be inappropriate as a godfather—and that I consider to be sheer bigotry."

The rector of St. Peter's church in Farnborough, Hampshire—a tweedy town just southwest of London where Lawley owns a restaurant said he had no choice once Freddie's mother, Elizabeth Toms, revealed that her brother was gay.

"The practice of homosexuality, as opposed to homosexual orientation, is not condoned in Scripture," Canon Alan Boddington said in a statement. The local curate was "therefore bound to give an opinion based on biblical teaching."

Boddington's comments reflect Church of England doctrine on gay clerics. In recent years, the church has allowed gays and lesbians to take up the cloth, as long as they agree not to have homosexual sex. Even senior bishops have been able to acknowledge their "ambiguous" sexuality.

There is no clear church ruling on godparents, however, and Lawley may be the first to press the issue.

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Business Notes

Business Highlight: Helena's

Helena's Restaurant opened May 20 in the former site of Missouri Street Station, 1117 Missouri Street, offering a versatile, eclectic menu and an atmosphere of affordable, casual elegance. Now, owner Sofia Rodriguez and manager Tery Davenport hope to bring back some fond Montrose traditions, including its Wednesday "Montrose Mixer" (formerly Ladies Nite), with a 5:00-10:00 p.m. Happy Hour, music by Donna and Charlene and a free full buffet. (Dinner will not be served during the Wednesday mixer). It promises a great opportunity to get together with old friends, or meet some new ones.

Helena's menu consists of out-of-the-ordinary appetizers and salads, along with sandwiches, burgers and pasta, chicken, fish and steak. The wine list offers choices of wines from Chile, Italy, Australia, California and New Mexico and they also have a new Martini menu, featuring watermelon, orange and lemon martinis.

Special features include live music Wednesday through Saturday with local guest appearances on Monday nights, inside seating for 90 and patio seating for 50 people. An exciting new menu starts Sept. 21. The restaurant also can do private functions, parties, wedding receptions, etc. Helena's is open Monday and Tuesday, 5:30-10:00 p.m.; Wednesday 5:00-11:00 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday, 5:30-11:00 p.m. (Phone: 520-9991).

BETTER ANGEL

by Forman Brown

Sixty years ago, *Better Angel* provided one of the few positive images available of gay life. Today, it remains a touching story of a young man's discovery of his sexuality in the years between the World Wars.

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HOUSTON VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Response to a Response

FROM LARRY LINGLE

Houston, Texas

Regarding Scot Hedrick's response to Glen Webber's column re: the Log Cabin Republicans, he—like his fellow cabineers—shares Newt Gingrich's propensity to see a "liberal" behind every bush.

His crediting the cabineers with passing the Ryan White reauthorization bill is certainly revisionist to say the least. The bill passed 97 to 3, hardly a toughie as the Hill goes these days.

And Hedrick's recitation of his conservative beliefs places him squarely in the camp of the likes of Bob Dornan and Jesse Helms, not Arlen Specter or William Weld. Even Pete Wilson would have been at odds with Hedrick until bitten by the presidential bug, the chief symptom of which is overnight conversion to the mean—and meanest—of public opinion.

Locally the cabineers seem more determined to emulate their "liberal" counterparts in the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus with internal wrangling and self-aggrandizing posturing.

Hedrick, like his fellow cabineers, prefers his cake and eating it too. He castigates Webber for linking certain issues with the struggle for gay and lesbian rights but prefaces this with a similar corollary with the tenets of conservatism and the community.

Like Webber, I say more power to the cabineers, the modern version of the Young Republicans—i.e. the Red

Guard of Capitol Hill—who dash in and out of the closet as it suits their version of a conservative gay lifestyle.

Thank You To Garden Party

FROM JACKIE AGUILERA

Vice President, Public Service, Colt 45's Inc.

If, as Baltasar Gracian said, "Man is born a barbarian and raises himself above the beast by culture," than many a "whore" rose to ladyship at "Whore to Culture," the 20th Anniversary of the Garden Party. This momentous occasion was marked by equally momentous generosity as the Colt 45's Stone Soup Fund and AIDS Trouble Fund were designated as two of the party's three beneficiaries. Through this gift, we will continue to purchase fresh meats and produce for Stone Soup and provide rental and utility assistance, as well as purchase eyeglasses through the University of Houston, when needed, for our clients through the AIDS Trouble Fund.

Twenty years of charity under the guise of many culturally enriching themes has yielded a crop of delicious debauchery that has elevated the sights and sounds of Houston on Sunday afternoons. For this, the Colt 45's salute the Garden party for their spirits and for all the hearts encased in rhinestones, feathers, leather, and suits that have supported the efforts of The Garden Party. With such a cornucopia filled with two decades worth of giving, the clients of all community assistance organizations have much to thank you for.



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THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

Political Assumptions Hinder Gay Rights Effort

Contrary to popular opinion, it is not a contradiction in terms to be Gay and Conservative. The notion that all homosexuals are liberal is an axiom whose origins derive from society's desire to categorize all individuals into a class. It is a nebulous concept, which creates and fosters an inaccurate perception of a group as individuals who are unable to think for themselves. The net effect of such categorization is that it can have dire consequences, if not redressed.

Similarly, the generalization of assuming that all Republicans are right wing radicals and all Democrats are left wing fanatics is just as ludicrous. These elements are fringe groups who happen to be the most organized, outspoken and well-financed, hence their prominence within their respective party apparatus and the public sector.

The truth of the matter is that the majority of minorities in America do not belong to the organizations which claim to represent them. Does this mean that they do not care about their heritage? No, of course not. It simply means that they do not agree with all of the political positions that these organizations espouse.

Where is it written that gay and lesbian individuals, simply because of their sexual orientation, have to concur with liberal ideology and its agenda. It is not anti-gay to have conservative views and all conservatives do not hate homosexuals. The fact of the matter is that there are many gays and lesbians who want major government reform. They want less taxation. They want less government regulation. They support capital punishment. They believe in individual responsibility. They want welfare and Medicare reform. In short, they are capitalists. These issues have nothing to do with one's sexual proclivities and should not be coalesced as such. To do so is nonsensical.

The pendulum of public opinion is tilting towards conservatism, like it or not. The American people are fed up with crime, high taxes, government interference and a legal system which dismisses individual responsibility. We, as the gay and lesbian community, are part of that American public and we should not allow our sexual orientation to stand in the way of addressing society's woes. It is imperative to our survival as a community that we are heard in all venues of the political spectrum, and that we not align ourselves with just one. Our minority status is based upon the premise that we all share the same sex-

ual orientation. That does not transcend into other issues and immediately place us into a specific political affiliation.

The Democratic party has traditionally supported gay rights and the Republican Party for the most part has ignored the subject (with the possible exception of Jesse Helms, whose views most conservatives don't agree with). What is troublesome about this is that in the 40 years that the Democrats had control of the Washington establishment, what significant piece of legislation have they incorporated to our benefit? They lead us to believe that our votes are important to them, however, as a constituency, we are not at the top of their list. They seem to believe that they can tell us what we want to hear and lo-and-behold, we will be good little soldiers.

Unfortunately, that was the case until recently. In the 1994 election, 36% of the gay and lesbian community, according to exit polls provided by CNN and published in The Advocate, voted Republican. Most of them admitted to doing so for the first time. This is demonstrative of an angry electorate. Apparently heterosexuals were not the only ones perturbed with business as usual.

If we as a community want to continue with the status quo, then we are on the right course. There is a reason we have not made as many inroads as we would like since Stonewall. There is also a reason why we do not have the influence at the polls we would like to think we have. (If we did, Annise Parker would be on the Houston City Council). The reason is simple. You can not exclude individuals with a common ground whose views are different from participating in the process. If we do, however, want to be a powerful minority with an impact on national policy, then we need to make inroads into more than just one political philosophy. We already have representation in the Democratic party. It is time we attempt to do the same with the Republican Party. We can begin to do this by slowly dismantling the postulate conjecture of equating homosexuality with liberalism. This is not to say that all gay and lesbians should be conservative—rather, we should merely be more open and inclusive of disparity. Failure to do so will result in an ill-fated paradigm of perjorative repercussions.

(NOTE: As a gay conservative, I would like to commend the Houston Voice for allowing me to express my views in an open forum. It demonstrates their awareness of the fact, that we as a community do not all think alike. In so doing they have created an element of fairness to all fractions).

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Hidden problems in the 'gay gene' debate

Guest Commentary

FROM THE COUNCIL FOR RESPONSIBLE GENETICS

for the Houston Voice

Do genes determine whether we are lesbian, gay, bisexual or heterosexual? This question has been stirring considerable debate among lesbians, gays, their supporters and friends, as well as among opponents of equal rights for lesbians and gays. On both sides, we find people who believe that sexual orientation is biological and those who believe it results from an individual decision or choice.

Why this fixation on a biological basis for lesbian's and gay's sexual orientation? Why does research into this question attract substantial funding?

Why do we focus on traits socially defined as "abnormal"? And why do we uncritically accept the terms of the debate?

Questions about the biological basis of sexual orientation were first raised about a century ago when the British sexual liberators, Havelock Ellis and Edward Carpenter, argued that laws against same sex activities be dropped because people engaging in such activities were biologically different from those having opposite-sex partners: they called such people "inverts." The use of the word "homosexual" as a noun designating a certain kind of person, (rather than an adjective referring to certain activities) dates from that period. Further, it is important to acknowledge that the creation of this new, presumably biological, typology did nothing to stem homophobic bias.

Sexual orientation, like any human behavior, involves complex and variable expressions, undoubtedly influenced by both biological and societal factors. By seeking a definitive behavioral root in genetics, we dangerously risk simplifying our world. As amply demonstrated by history, basing civil rights claims in biology presents a double-edged sword. In the short term, it may appear that we are winning nondiscrimination protections for ourselves, while in the long term, we are actually paving the way for genocide.

Some argue that a genetic component to sexual orientation will reduce discrimination. Yet discrimination exists in our society based on both biology (sex, skin color) and culture (ethnicity, religion), with legal protection provided (and lacking) for both classes of discrimination.

Perhaps it would be more productive to critically examine the social context that promotes an ideology of genetic determinism in which behaviors as varied as environmentalism, criminality, and "the propensity to being raped" are claimed to be genetic. As amply demonstrated by the women's movement, the perspective of biological determinism is tied to the maintenance of oppression, not the growth of liberation.

Why this fixation on a genetic component for sexual orientation? Advancing a genetic component for lesbians and gays remains an appealing argument for the following reasons: First, it counters the argument set forth by heterosexual bigots who assert that lesbians and gays constitute an "unnatural crime

against nature." Second, many lesbians and gays harbor intense guilt about their sexual orientation, feeling that it is somehow their fault. With a biological foundation, this guilt could be eliminated. Third, by advancing a biological basis, gay rights advocates assert that their sexual orientation constitutes an "immutable characteristic," thus affording lesbians and gays legal protection against discriminatory practices.

Despite these plausible assertions, we must not be misled by technical arguments into believing there exists a biological "it" to identify. None of the biological researchers claim that any single gene can determine sexual orientation. And most people are willing to grant that there may be biological components to sexual orientation, as there are to most other human activities. The question we must ask, given widespread homophobia and discrimination, is so what.

To direct attention on what causes individuals to assume a lesbian or gay identity illustrates a blatant display of homophobia. Theories focusing on the origin of homosexuality rather than heterosexuality assume that the latter represents the societal "norm." By not inquiring into heterosexual origins, scientists assume that it represents a naturally occurring process, thus eradicating any need to delineate its origin. This homophobic bias serves only to perpetuate a societal undercurrent that "homosexuality" represents a problem in need of a solution.

Judging from the history of discrimination against other biologically distinct groups of individuals—people of color, women—the existence of a biological basis has not prevented racism and sexism from being endemic. On the contrary, biological arguments have usually been used to bolster discrimination. American slavery was rationalized on biological grounds, as was the Nazi extermination of Jews (as well as on cultural grounds). And so was the exclusion of women from all economically lucrative activities, except the sale of sexual favors to highly placed men.

We are biological organisms and, to some extent, everything we do has biological components. However, questions about biological origins or determination often get raised about behaviors society considers "abnormal" or "antisocial." Violence, dishonesty, or intelligence have often been considered hereditary and racially linked traits. Although such attributions are made for historical and cultural reasons, and not for scientific ones, they regularly become the starting point for discussions about the place of biology and genes in behavior.

The present revival of earlier biological arguments coincides with a general broadening of genetic attributions to a wide range of physiological, psychological, and social characteristics. These include so-called tendencies to develop feared, but common health conditions, such as cancer or diabetes, and often equally feared behaviors, such as excessive alcohol consumption, suicidal tendencies, violence—and physical or psychological attraction to people of the same sex.

(Continued on following page)

Research into biological basis for orientation raises questions

(Continued from preceding page)

The scientific basis for these attributions is exceedingly weak. Genes, claimed to account for the transmission within families of schizophrenia, bipolar manic depression, and alcoholism, have all been contested with most reports eventually being withdrawn. Studies involving identical twins proposing to support these claims have also been severely criticized.

Do studies support the existence of a gay gene?

The most frequently cited study, now under investigation by the Office of Research Integrity (the federal agency responsible for investigating possible scientific misconduct, was conducted by molecular biologists at the National Institutes of Health under the direction of Dean Hamer. One of Hamer's collaborators alleges that Hamer selectively reported data in a manner which enhanced the study's results, thus calling into question the statistical significance of the results obtained.

Hamer's group examined DNA samples from self-identified gay men and other gay male family members. (A similar study on lesbians has not yet been published.) The researchers claim they have found a DNA segment, called a "marker," on the X chromosome (the chromosome men inherit only from their mother and not from their father). They say that most (though not all) gay men within a family share such a marker. They now hope that by better defining it, they will be able to identify a "gene for gayness" on the X chromosome.

There are several problems with this approach. One is that Hamer and his colleagues have not felt it necessary to check whether any of the straight men in these families share the marker in question. If even only a few of them do, it calls into question what the gene or the self identification signifies.

In fact, the definition of who is gay represents a major problem here. Hamer uses the extremely conservative estimate of two percent for the prevalence of homosexuality among American men. Most other estimates have been "considerably higher. He does that because he wants to work only with "real" gay consider men, that is, men who have essentially never veered from their sexual preference for men in their fantasies or activities and thus correspond to 5 or 6 on the Kinsey scale. But what does that mean for the population of gay men at large, many of whom do not fit this narrow definition? What about men who have had sexual relationships or marriages with women, or have fathered children, but now identify as gay? Are they not to be included in Hamer's definition? And if not, then where does that leave them regarding the broader social issue—the question of discrimination?

If advocates of genetic determinism want to argue that it is unfair to discriminate against lesbians and gays because they are merely acting out a script written in the language of DNA, then how about the large number of gay men who do not fit Hamer's extremely narrow definition of gay?

Another study, by the neurophysiologist Simon LeVay, claims that a specific area of the brain is smaller in

gay than in straight men. Its size in gay men, he claims, is more like that seen in heterosexual women (though in fact, he has no evidence regarding the sexual orientation of the women whose brains he examined). All of LeVay's observations were made on the brains of cadavers, and his evidence about the sexual orientation and practices of the people in life is entirely circumstantial. Furthermore, the "gay men" all died of AIDS, which is known sometimes to affect brain structures. Another criticism of this study is that there existed considerable overlap in the size of the structures studied, so that upon inspection, there would be no way to decide whether a given person in life had been "gay" or "straight."

What role do environmental factors play? Arguments for a biological basis for sexual orientation have been based on questionable studies of twins and siblings. Michael Bailey and Richard Pillard, researchers at Northwestern University and the Boston University School of Medicine, looked at twins and brothers. They found that for adoptive and non-twin brothers in their sample, about 10 percent were gay, a rate often attributed to the general population. The rate for fraternal twins was 22 percent, and for identical twins, 52 percent.

The fact that fraternal twins of gay men were roughly twice as likely to be gay as other biological brothers shows that environmental factors do play a role, since fraternal twins are no more similar biologically than other biological brothers. If fraternal twins experience envi-

ronmental influences, it does not seem surprising that this should be more true for identical twins, who the world thinks of as "the same" and treats accordingly, and who often share feelings of sameness.

Another environmental factor, homophobia, may have had an even more drastic effect on the studies' results. Bailey and Pillard did not simply study a random sample of gay and bisexual men. The studies' participants "were recruited through advertisements placed in gay publications in several Midwest and Southwest cities." Thus all the respondents read gay periodicals and probably are, to some degree, public about their sexuality. In addition, they responded to ads asking them about their brothers. Although the ad asked gay men to "call regardless of the sexual orientation of their brothers," men with gay brothers might well have been more likely to participate than men with straight brothers, especially if the brothers were homophobic or were not "out" to their families. Since many people believe that homosexuality is genetic, a straight man who has a gay twin might well feel that his own sexual orientation was "suspect," and refuse to participate in the study, finding the subject threatening.

Conversely, identical twins who are both gay might find the subject interesting and be eager to participate in a study. Both of these phenomena would bias the sample.

(Continued on Page 20)



SPORTS NOTES



Bowling League Results

With one week left to bowl the Inner Loop Sunday Evening League reports that A Quiver Runs Through It is in first place, while All Major Credit Cards Accepted is second and Sticky Wickets is third. High scratch game of 249 was bowled by Gardy Harvey and series of 653 was bowled by Ronnie Bayer for the men. For the women high scratch game of 238 was bowled by Margaret Denison and series of 617 by C.J. Joneson. Fall league begins Sept. 10 and Tom at 522-9612 has more information.

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports Party of Four is leading the playoffs with Doggie Style Too second and Behind Garage doors third. The rollofs are led by Keep it tight with Queens of the Damned in second and Scratch and Sniff in third. High scratch game of 246 was bowled by Kenny Harmon and series of 638 was bowled by Mace Adams. Fall League begins Sept. 11; Gardy at 641-5424 has more information.

The Monday Nite Women's League reports Legal Insanity is in first while Maybe, Maybe Not is second, Balls R

Out is third and Nine Is Fine is fourth. Fall League begins Sept. 11 and Pat and Marla have more information. Their telephone numbers are 437-6218 and 862-3630 respectively.

The Wednesday Nite Mixers report first place is taken by Tongue Wrestlers, second place by Daisy Mae & the Seedlings and third by Three Men AND a Tub. High scratch game of 224 and series of 643 was bowled by Mace Adams for the men while Marla Aizenshtat bowled scratch game of 226 and series of 573. Fall league begins Sept. 20. For more information, call Tom at 522-9612.

Lambda Skate Night

Lambda Rollerskating Club will host its next Skate Night on Wednesday, Aug. 30, from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Dairy Ashford Skating Rink, located at 1820 Dairy Ashford. Admission is \$5 which includes skates. Speed skates and in-line skates are also available for rent; skaters are also allowed to bring their own skates. The skating rink is located between Westheimer and Briar Forest. Everyone of all ages is welcome. For more information, call 933-5818.

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Worker Killed by Toilet

FLORIDA, Dec. 5 – Juan Jose Bonilla, 23 years old, a custodial worker, was struck and killed Friday by a portable toilet blown off the fourth floor of a building, the police said. “High winds evidently blew the toilet over the edge of the building,” a police spokeswoman said, “The toilet was on rollers.”

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Community Organizations Bulletin Board

Antique Sale to Benefit Bering

The Houston Antiques Dealers Association (HADA) Fall Show and Sale will be donating a portion of the proceeds to the Bering Foundation. The show is scheduled for Sept. 8-10 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Exhibit Hall A, and will feature its membership and dealers from other parts of America and the world.

Among notable items for sale are Steuben glass pieces and a major collection of European and American posters from the 1800's to contemporary and ranging in style from art nouveau to art deco. Additional items include antique furniture, silver, glass, porcelains, primitives, Orientalia, ivory, jewelry, linens, lace, quilts, Pre-Columbian and American Indian artifacts, country, rugs, weapons prints, maps, paintings, lamps architectural items and antique garden furniture.

The September show & sale is the first one to be held in the fall. For the past 31 years the HADA February show has attracted up to 9200 shoppers. A \$5 admission fee will be charged and valet parking is available.

EPAH Plans Casino Night

The Executive and Professional Association of Houston (EPAH) will host its fifth annual fund raising casino gaming night on Sept. 30 at the Allen Park Inn as a benefit for the Assistance Fund and Body Positive/Houston.

More than 300 guests are anticipated at the event which will begin at 7:30 p.m. and continue until midnight. In addition to "Las Vegas" style gaming, a raffle drawing, live and silent auctions will also be held.

Tickets can be purchased for \$15 at Basic Brothers, Crossroads, Body Positive/Houston, House of Coleman, LOBO, Inklings and the Assistance Fund (please call first if purchasing tickets through the Assistance Fund). Or, tickets can be purchased at the door for \$20. EPAH events over the past five years have raised more than \$100,000, benefiting various community organizations.

AFH Seeks Gay Outreach Volunteers

AIDS Foundation Houston's (AFH) Gay Outreach program is looking for

energetic, outgoing volunteers to assist in distributing information about and promoting safer sex in the gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities.

The outreach program primarily focuses on boosting participation in AFH workshops which explore and celebrate the whole spectrum of sexuality, intimacy and relationship-building issues for gay and bisexual men. It does its "recruiting" with volunteers—energetic, outgoing, friendly or outrageous—who position themselves outside gay bars and special events and inform passersby with games, condoms and lube samples and prizes.

Volunteers are asked to commit to at least two activities a month, which usually take place in late evenings primarily on weekends. Potential volunteers, or simply curious folks, are urged to contact Bart Loeser at AFH prior to the training session Sept. 16. Bart has been coordinating this program for more than seven years. For more information, call 623-67996.

"Lust, Love & Intimacy," A Workshop

An entertaining and enlightening discussion about dating and mating issues of the 90's titled "Lust, Love and Intimacy" will be presented Tuesday, Aug. 29 at the Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray by Bart Loeser of AIDS Foundation Houston.

Scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m., the free workshop will offer door prizes to all in attendance. Please telephone Bart at 623-6796 to register.

Community Gospel Introduces Dance as Worship

Community Gospel Church (CGC) is planning to introduce dance as worship this Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. service. The church is located at 501 East 18th Street (at Columbia).

The scriptures say "Praise Him in the dance" and CGC feels that this should be done: "We are all familiar with expressing feelings through dance, yet most are unfamiliar with expressing love and adoration for the Lord this way." As yet, the CGC has not determined how often the dance team will take an active role in the worship service but feels it will be a continuing event.

Former AIDS agency director sentenced to probation

GALVESTON, Thursday, Aug. 17 (AP)—A former top official of a southeast Texas AIDS organization pleaded no contest Wednesday to charges he stole money from his own charity.

David Petty, 42, the former executive director of the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, was sentenced to 10 years' probation by state District Judge Alan Lerner and must pay \$35,172.70 in restitution.

Representatives of the coal-

ition claimed Petty had stolen at least \$100,000, but the allegation went unproven. The coalition's board president, Pam Froeschner, wanted to see Petty serve time in prison.

Petty, who worked out a plea bargain arrangement with prosecutors, declined comment after the proceedings.

He was indicted in May 1994 in charges he took money from the charity for personal uses, Assistant Galveston County District Attorney Wayne Mallia said.

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Benefiting Bering Community Service Foundation

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Blackened Beef Pate *served with french bread* \$5.95
Coconut Shrimp *with orange horseradish dipping sauce* \$6.95
Helena's Potato Pancake *topped with red chili herb sour cream* \$4.50 -- with grilled beef or chicken add \$1.50

Salads

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Helena's House Salad *with artichokes, bacon, parmesan cheese with chicken* \$4.50 -- grilled or blackened add \$1.50

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Ranchero Chicken *3 layers of tortillas, black beans, red chili chicken, hot sauce, topped with cheese and flavored sour creams* \$8.95
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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

*Play probes role of government in people's lives**Theater Review*

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

There are a myriad number of ways to examine the politics of the welfare state. One of the potentially more interesting is at the intimate level of relationships. Specifically, two relationships and the friendships, false and genuine, which exist therein. Interesting, however, does not necessarily translate into compelling theater.

In *Benefactors* by Michael Frayn, old-style government liberalism, in the form of an idealistic, well-meaning architect, is pitted against populist demagoguery represented by a friend turned rival. Lest there be any doubt as to the playwright's allegori-

cal intent, he clearly spells it out in the play's opening monologue. Jane (Mary Hooper), speaking directly to the audience (Frayn's primary vehicle for advancing plot development), provides a background for the mini-drama which is about to unfold, and in so doing refers to the government and loyal opposition in analogy.

David (Andy Nelson) can barely contain himself (in that stoic, British sort of way) because he is the principal designer for a new, low-income, housing project in London. Jane conducts surveys to determine the requirements of the housing project and its future residents in support of David's work, and the two seem like a perfectly adjusted, young couple just starting out to make their mark. And they are doing so with youthful romance as shown when

Jane sits, straddling David's lap in the middle of a discussion on the project.

Colin (Jeremy Johnson) is a writer or artist of some sort (I'm sure it's specifically stated somewhere in the text, but I missed it.) He is married to Sheila (Lisa Marie Singerman), a mousy, plain, somewhat withdrawn woman, whose life is so devoid of luster she goes barefoot the entire time. They are a less successful couple living across the street from David and Jane. And their marriage is not a happy one.

Colin finds Sheila unappealing in the most fundamental of ways, illustrated early on when Colin requires someone to serve as a model of femininity. Though Sheila volunteers, Colin agrees that Jane would be ideal. And with Colin being so cold-hearted, Sheila, distraught at the possibility of los-

ing him, turns to Jane. In the way of offering comfort, Jane arranges for Sheila to work as a secretary for David, who after all will need office help as he becomes more involved with the housing project.

Sheila begins in a flurry of neurotic incompetence, breaking into tears when she is unable to successfully take a phone message. But she gains confidence, overcoming David's initial reservations about the situation, and eventually becomes indispensable to him. Jane's supplanting as the central figure in David's activities is skillfully displayed by Frayn in one scene: as David and Sheila are engrossed in project planning, Jane idly walks by in the background, humming, uninvolved in David's work.

*(Continued on following page)**Plans underway for first local women's music festival*

(Continued from Page 1) In addition to the music, plans for the festival include an art display of works from women painters, sculptors, and performance artists. Also, booths are being rented to individuals and businesses who wish to display their crafts, products, and services. To accommodate all of these events in one location, the festival is being held on an entire city block, south of downtown Houston, with easy access from the Gulf Freeway. The main concert hall is an aircraft hanger from Galveston which was taken apart beam by

beam, placed on a barge, and then shipped up to Houston for reassembly at its present location. The acoustics of this venue promise to be powerful.

The festival is being "ambiguously produced" by three local women. Each woman has a business that she has committed to sponsor the festival. The name of Planet Earth Productions should be familiar as a source of exciting women's entertainment in Houston since 1990, producing shows of Monica Grant, Deidre McCalla, and most recently, *Girls in the Nose* and *Jamie*

Anderson.

The second sponsor, Fem TV, has filmed, edited, and produced many excellent programs regarding women's issues and interests. Fem TV is carried by the local access channel.

The third partner, Active Imaginations, is new to the Houston area. The business designs and distributes "environmental conscious-raising" T-shirts. Stunning visuals, along with a narrative, on the specialty shirts profile endangered animals, birds, reptiles, and fish along with a nar-

rative on the history and future of the featured creature. This sensitivity to the environment has connections to the threatened survival of women, feminists, and lesbians is an issue explored by the festival itself, according to representatives. Active Imaginations is also designing a one-of-a-kind T-shirt specifically for the women's festival. The festival T-shirt will be available at locations around the Montrose.

Tickets for the Houston Women's Festival go on sale at the first of October.

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Michael Frayn's 'Benefactors' a thought-provoking work

(Continued from preceding page)

This development alarms Colin who begins to suspect that Sheila and David are having an affair. He protests Sheila's continued employment with David, but Sheila, possibly for the first time in their relationship, stands firm. This occurs at roughly the same time that David and Jane discover that Sheila is indirectly responsible for a newspaper article attacking David's plans before he has even had a chance to present them. Unfortunately their plans to fire Sheila are derailed when Sheila arrives and announces she has left Colin.

With his wife gone and his suggestive advances on Jane spurned, Colin disappears for a time and re-emerges as a squatter in one of the buildings slated to be demolished to make way for the housing project. He then becomes a candidate for Parliament, running on a platform opposed to the construction of the project under the premise that no one has a right to tell poor people how and where to live their lives.

Frayn's work makes some trenchant, if not quite biting, commentary on the problems faced by advocates of government housing (and for that matter other forms of state assistance). But he also comes dangerously close to racial pandering. Case in point: all of the street names in the housing project are African. A salute to cultural heritage? Perhaps. But more likely an indiscriminate generalization of housing project residents as black.

Frayn also makes a point about the role of government in personal lives.

"Why restore when you can pull down and rebuild," Jane asks referring to the project, but it's also a reference to a well-meaning government's efforts to redress wrongs by starting over. Another example: Colin mentions "progressive collapse" as he

The acting is sound and steady on all counts. Andy Nelson makes a soft-spoken, well-mannered David, ideally maintaining an unruffled demeanor. Pensiveness is clearly etched in Nelson's face, and his understated expressiveness marks well the

portrayal in moving from lumpishness to liveliness.

Vicki Weathersby's directing has all the strong, intelligent consideration that has been evident in her previous efforts. Weathersby genuinely seeks literary merit in the works she chooses to direct (no mere entertainment fluff for her by golly!), and she shows tremendous insight in assessing pieces on a metaphorical level. This is abundantly obvious in the finished product as evidenced by nuances in characters and the construction of mise-en-scene. Yet despite this, Weathersby made some staging decisions that were utterly baffling. Her motivation in having some of the characters speak with their backs to the audience is a mystery. Jane in particular did this a number of times, at one point actually concealing David as well by standing in front of him. In another scene, Jane, while wondering about the possibility of an affair between David and Sheila, methodically cracks the knuckles on each of her toes, first one foot then the other. Weathersby is an astute artist and her capacity for interpretation is as strong as any in the Houston theater scene, but her rationale on these points completely escapes me.

Benefactors is an intelligent, thought-provoking work. Though requiring a certain discipline of appreciation, its reflections on contemporary political debate make it worth the effort.

What: *Benefactors* **Where:** Curtains Theater, presented by JM Productions **When:** through Sept. 10



A serious comedy by Michael Frayn, features (clockwise from top) Lisa Marie Singerman, Jeremy Johnson, Mary Hooper and Andy Nelson

justifies his candidacy for Parliament. A clear indication of the end of cradle-to-grave liberalism. But Jane maintains a different tack: "People want to be told what to do." Translation: government knows best. The play is rife with such allusion and is indicative of Frayn's work—complex and studied throughout.

controlled excitement and accepting resignation that are features of the characterization.

Mary Hooper shows collected grace and even temperament as Jane; Jeremy Johnson gives an opportunistic, rather devious, turn as Colin; and Lisa Marie Singerman gives a striking

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Iowa atty general clears way for anti-gay, anti-abortion initiatives

BOISE, Idaho, Monday, Aug. 14 (AP)—Attorney General Alan Lance on Monday cleared the way for the Idaho Citizens Alliance to begin collecting signatures on its controversial anti-gay and anti-abortion initiatives.

Lance released the ballot titles that will accompany the initiatives—the final step required by alliance founder Kelly Walton and his ally begin their search for 41,335 registered voter signatures.

The secretary of state's office for-

warded the documents to the alliance about mid-afternoon on Monday along with a cover letter detailing the legal requirements for the form of the petitions and an admonition to avoid bold-faced type declaring the alliance's personal title for the propositions.

The anti-gay initiative is labeled by the alliance as "The Family and Child Protection Act," and the anti-abortion initiative is called "The Mother and Parental Child Protection Act."

Walton was also asked to submit the

printed petitions to the secretary of state for review before signature gathering begins, but he is not legally required to do that.

The alliance has until next July 5 to come up with the signatures needed to put the propositions on the general election ballot.

Both initiatives were revised following Lance's initial evaluation of their legal viability, but critics maintain each remains flawed.

The anti-gay initiative, a revision

of the one voters only narrowly rejected last fall, prohibits state or local laws protecting homosexuals from discrimination. Eliminated were controversial restrictions on library access to materials containing information on or about homosexuals or homosexuality.

The anti-abortion proposition would prohibit all abortions on a viable fetus as determined by federal law and court ruling. That is currently after the 20th week of pregnancy.

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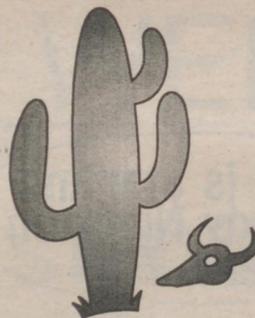
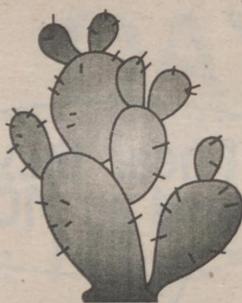


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The Voice Reader

A Flock of Flaunting Femmes

Reviewed by Jazz Paz

(*The Femme Mystique* by Leslea Newman, Alyson Publications, June 1995, \$11.95 paper)

If the femme is the only licensed driver in a butch/femme couple, she will also be the likely chooser of the car purchased and the holder of the keys (therefore opener of car doors). Does this put her "in the driver's seat" of the relationship? What if the butch of her dreams actually pays for the car, maintenance and insurance?

These are among the questions explored in the newest offering from Leslea Newman, the author, columnist and self-declared femme who gained media celebrity as the author of the children's book *Heather Has Two Mommies*. I love this book—

written by femmes, former (read: temporarily not practicing) femmes—(Once a femme, always a femme. There are no "former" femmes)—femme-wannabes, femme admirers and, of course, femme fatales. I love Leslea Newman for collecting and editing it and for its name, *The Femme Mystique*. I know, there still exist those who consider themselves the "real dykes," who believe that lipstick, heels and ruffles mean "buying into the patriarchy" and are oppressive to all women. They would like to dictate to the rest of us our politics, and how to dress appropriately (to them). Not oppressive? They are the ones who should be reading this book!

This book. (Sigh.) This book explains how to tell androgynous butches from closet femmes (the butches like plain m&ms) and how to tell a beautiful straight woman from a high femme. (Ask.) And even, for the slightly confused, How To Tell if You're a Femme. (By Talin Sata Shahinian: "Do you



Leslea Newman's latest book attempts to explain *The Femme Mystique*

know how to do a French manicure? Do you keep your nails as long as you can without hurting your lover?") But being femme is not what you might expect, either: "I do not do men, I do not do femmes; I am a lesbian." (-Amy Warner Candela).

With sweet and sweetly mean photographs of femmes and their partners to decorate the soft (and sharp) words of this spectrum, *The Femme Mystique* should be a textbook for all lesbians. And it will be as much of a controversy and issue of (courteous) debate among women as the Regular Guy brawls that ensued among gay men years ago. But if, in the end, you are moved to decorate your home in all the shades of pink, adopt a little fluffy white poodle for a pet and observe romantic anniversaries for every occasion (the day we met, the day we moved in together, the day we married, Valentine's Day, your birthday and my two birthdays); and notice (but not pout) every time your partner goes ring-less, then this is your book. And if you are the butch, you'll like it.

AIDS advisory council member says group running out of time

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Thursday, Aug. 17 (AP)—A member of President Clinton's AIDS Advisory Council says the group is running out of time.

At least 10 members of the group have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, or they have AIDS. Seven members are still left to be appointed.

"If there is not something done in a year, we will dissolve ourselves because we don't want to be a part of window dressing," says Debbie Runions, a member of the council.

"We don't have time to be a part of something that is not going to move us forward. But we do believe that (Clinton) is committed."

The group has been organizing for three years.

Runions, who has HIV, joined 23 other members of the council in Washington last month. They met with the president, Vice President Al Gore and AIDS Policy Director Patsy Fleming.

One of the suggestions was to hold an AIDS summit. Nashville has been listed as a possible site.

"People living with the virus need to feel that something is going to happen. They need to feel that," Runions said. "You'd be amazed at the number of people who have lost heart and feel abandoned. They need to know that the president cares."

Although the group has asked that the summit take place by the end of the year, Runions acknowledges it is a lofty, near unattainable goal.

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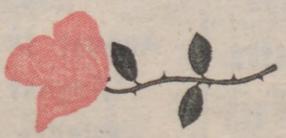
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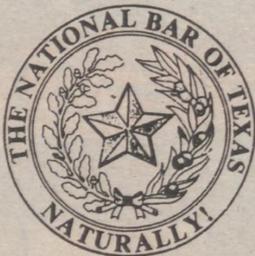


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GLAAD MEDIA WATCH

by Al Kielwasser

Boycott Blues

The American Family Association (AFA) is a well-financed heterosexual supremacist group, self-described as "a Christian organization promoting the Biblical ethic of decency in American society with primary emphasis on TV and other media." For several months now, the AFA has been waging a national boycott campaign against the Unilever corporation, claiming the company promotes "TV sleaze" by advertising its products on programs like "NYPD Blue." Among other things, the AFA has condemned "NYPD Blue" for its inclusion of a gay character that is NOT portrayed with abject derision.

The August 1995 issue of the "AFA Journal" reports that the "boycott of Unilever apparently is achieving what many reasonable appeals to the company failed to produce—a re-evaluation of the programs they sponsor on TV." The AFA cites an internal memo sent by Unilever president Richard Goldstein to several of his company executives. In the memo, Goldstein states: "While we will not yield to the threat of a boycott, we have reflected on the points made by the AFA and others. There is, without question, a rising tide of sentiment that supports a reduction in the violence and explicit sexuality from many sources to which we and our children are exposed. Therefore, we will re-evaluate our programming selection practices, challenging our current assumptions about what is appropriate for a company as diverse as Unilever."

A powerful advertising force, Unilever's huge product line includes cosmetics (Calvin Klein), colognes (Elizabeth Taylor's Passion, Obsession fragrance), toothpastes (Aim, Pepsodent, Close-Up), and soaps (Caress, Dove, Lifebuoy, Lever 2000). The company also manufactures Q-tips, Breyers ice cream, Imperial margarine, Lipton tea and soups, Popsicles, Ragu Italian foods, and Vaseline brand products.

Expressing pleasure at the recent turn of events, AFA president Donald Wildmon has advised his supporters "to continue to observe and promote the boycott, while at the same time to thank Goldstein and encourage him in changing Unilever's practice."

Additionally, Wildmon has called upon his homophobic cult to attack Barricade Books, a New York-based company that dared to oppose the AFA's boycott. After the AFA placed a full-page ad promoting the Unilever campaign in *The New York Times*, Lyle Stuart, president of Barricade Books, wrote to Unilever and announced that his company had begun a counter-boycott.

Finally, this month the AFA also announced a related advertiser victory. According to the "Journal," Celestial Seasonings, maker of popular teas and cough drops, "has written an AFA supporter that the company will no longer advertise its products on ABC's soft core porn television series 'NYPD Blue.'"

**** To resist the AFA's censorship campaigns, send the appropriate feedback to Richard A. Goldstein, President, Unilever United States Inc., 390 Park Avenue, New York, NY, 10022, tel. 212-888-1260 or 800-598-1223, fax 212-906-4411; Lyle Stuart, Barricade Books, 150 Fifth Avenue

#700, New York, NY 10011, tel. 212-627-7000, fax 212-627-7028; Mo Siegel, Chairperson, Celestial Seasonings, 4600 Sleepytime Drive, Boulder, CO 80301, tel. 303-530-5300, fax 303-581-1249; Steven Boccho and David Milch, Executive Producers, "NYPD Blue," Steven Boccho Productions, 10201 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90035; Ted Harbert, President, ABC Entertainment, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067, fax 310-557-7170, e-mail abcaudr@ccabc.com.

Facing Facts

On August 14, the Merrimack, New Hampshire School Board voted 3-2 to "ban teachers and guidance counselors from presenting homosexuality in a positive light." Incredibly, the new policy effectively prohibits the discussion or distribution of anything FACTUAL about homosexuality, including textbooks and other educational media.

Similar policies are overtaking school boards across the nation, a sad though not unexpected trend. In the wake of mounting scholarship—historical, psycho-social, cultural and physical—the intellectual grounds for demonizing queers is quickly eroding. Because they literally cannot face the facts, avowed homophobes seek to suppress the truth; they must replace education with indoctrination. As these bigots realize they can no longer challenge the truth, they will increasingly seek to censor it.

Unfortunately, there are no federal protections that could defend the children of Merrimack, and that situation will only get worse.

The children of Merrimack—stuck where they are—must now settle for the unequal opportunities of a profoundly inferior curriculum. Many of these children, no doubt, will carry the wounds of that deprivation through the rest of their lives.

**** Direct criticism to Chris Ager, School Board Chair, Merrimack School Department, 36 McElwain Street, Merrimack NH 03054, tel. 603-424-6200, fax 603-424-6229. To help ensure the high profile and intense public scrutiny of this travesty, send letters-to-the-editors of New Hampshire's larger newspapers, *The Union Leader*, (Box 9555, Manchester, NH 03108) and *The Telegraph*, (Box 1008, Nashua, NH 03061). For more information about on-going efforts to combat homophobia in educational media (particularly textbooks), contact "GLAAD/Project 21," 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103, tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-826-5203, e-mail glaadp21@aol.com.

Parental Discretion Ill-Advised

When it comes to lesbian and gay programming, most public television stations have a far better record than their commercial counterparts. Perhaps that's why it is especially frustrating that so many of these well-meaning broadcasters continue to treat just about anything queer as if it were toxic television. "Warning announcements" and "viewer advisories" are prominently displayed before, after and even during programs that deal with lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender issues.

(Continued on following page)

'Warning': gay rights documentaries make PBS stations nervous

(GLAAD Media Watch, continued from preceding page) A recent case in point involves the world premiere of a new documentary program, "The Question of Equality." This four-part series, which "explores the efforts of lesbians and gay men to secure equal rights protections and to live openly without fear of violence or discrimination," debuted August 14th on Northern California's major PBS outlet, KQED.

Unfortunately, KQED interspersed the series with a standard litany of cautions. Once again, the disparaging mantra of "parental discretion" and "unsuitable subject matter" was gratuitously attached to lesbian and gay programming. Adding insult to injury, KQED used this particular broadcast as part of a "special pledge night" soliciting lesbian and gay dollars.

When asked about the unequal treatment given to "The Question of Equality," KQED staff could not explain the practice. Instead, they could offer vague references to "sexual content" and "partial nudity" (hardly explicit themes in "The Question of Equality" at any rate) and a promise to "look into it."

Actually, there is a familiar "reason" lurking beneath the warning labels affixed by KQED and other PBS stations. The homophobic bias that motivates their use is quite clear. Programs that AFFIRM lesbians and gays are treated as matters of legitimate controversy, while those that ATTACK our lives are not. PBS has never advised "discretion" whenever Bill Buckley bashes gays on "Firing Line."

By contrast, PBS stations routinely recommend "parental discretion" in regard to programs like "The Question of Equality." This warning, in particular, is unconscionable. It bolsters the widespread notion that homosexuality is strictly "adult subject matter." Queer youth are left to gag on the resulting censorship, which pervades nearly every aspect of their lives.

Ultimately, broadcasters must recognize that lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are entitled to fair and accurate information about who they are, REGARDLESS of any parent's desire for ignorance. "Parental discretion" warnings degrade this right and empower homophobic adults, giving them explicit permission to oppress their own lesbian or gay child (which they do with great success, if statistics on youth suicide and forced homelessness are any indicator).

In her book "Tendencies," Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick notes: "I've heard of many people who claim they'd as soon see their children were dead as gay. What it took me a long time to believe is that these people are saying no more than the truth." In such a climate, the relentless appeal for "parental discretion" constitutes, in itself, a potential for harm that must vigorously be warned against.

Of course, public broadcasters desperately deny any complicity in the harming of homosexuals. They prefer to ignore their role in what Sedgwick describes as "the systematic separation of children from queer adults" and "their system-

atic sequestration from the truth." "Seemingly," she concludes, "this society wants its children to know nothing; wants its queer children to conform or (and this is not a figure of speech) die; and wants not to know that it is getting what it wants."

KQED and other PBS television stations ought to know better, whether they want to or not. For as long as they bracket queer subjects with discouraging, ignorant and insulting warnings, these broadcasters only affirm the homophobia that their broadcasts seek to challenge.

**** Send feedback to Mary Bitterman, President, KQED, 2601 Mariposa Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, tel. 415-864-2000, fax 415-553-2456, e-mail tv@kqed.org; Kathy Quatrone, Acting Head/National Program Service and Bob Ottenhoff, Chief Operating Officer, Public Broadcasting Service, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314-1698, tel. 703-739-5000, fax 703-739-0775, e-mail www@pbs.org. Produced with funds from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (in the U.S.) and Channel Four Television (in the U.K.), "The Question of Equality" should achieve fairly wide coverage; ensure that your local CPB/PBS station has scheduled the series "without warning;" insist that queer programs—and queer audiences—are treated with unqualified dignity, equity and respect.

Media Briefs

Radio Activity ... "Homo Radio" is an on-line mailing list for anyone involved in "putting together a radio show targeted at the gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender community." The focus of the list ranges "from college radio to network radio to syndicated programming to international short-wave broadcasts (and everything in between!)." To join in, send an e-mail message to majordomo@abacus.oxy.edu, with the one-line message "subscribe homoradio."

Mayoral Drag Race ... The race for Mayor of Palm Springs, California is quickly gathering national (and even international!) media attention. With the slogan "Vote for Kitty to Save Our City!," mayoral candidate Kitty Cole — "the ultra glamorous drag celebrity" — has been giving press interviews both day and night. As such, this local campaign could well serve as a global forum for drag visibility and awareness. Cole's upcoming whistle stops include an August 30th taping of the nationally-syndicated "Sally Jesse Raphael" show. For air dates, call the talk-show directly (tel. 212-582-1722) or contact the Cole campaign (tel. 619-770-3441, fax 619-320-2027).

(To notify GLAAD/SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, or to request GLAAD membership information, please call our Administrative Office (415-861-2244) or 24-hour Media Watch Hotline (415-861-4588). You can also write to: Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103. Fax: 415-861-4893. E-mail: glaadsfba@aol.com. URL: http://www.gaytrek.com/gaytrek/glaad.html.)

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I cannot personally conclude that Jesus was a liar or a lunatic. The conclusion I come to is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, as he claimed. When I discuss this with most non-Christian people, it's interesting how they respond. They usually tell me that Jesus as a moral, upright, religious leader, a good man, or some kind of prophet. I then share with them the claims Jesus made about himself and then the material that I've shared over the past two weeks about the possibility of Jesus being a liar, or a lunatic. When I ask if they believe Jesus was a liar, there is a sharp "No!" Then I ask, "Do you believe he was a lunatic?" The reply is "Of course not." "Do you believe he is God?" Before I can get a breath in edgewise, there is a resounding "Absolutely not." Yet one has only so many choices.

The issue with these three alternatives is not which is possible, for it is obvious that all three are possible. But rather the question is "Which is more probable?" Who you decide Jesus Christ is must not be an idle intellectual exercise. You cannot put him on the shelf as a great moral teacher. That is not a valid option. He is either a liar, a lunatic, or Lord and God. You must make a choice. "But," as the Apostle John wrote, "these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and"—more important—"that believing you might have life in His name" (John 20:31).

The evidence is clearly in favor of Jesus as Lord. Some people, however, reject this clear evidence because of moral implications involved. They don't want to face up to the responsibility or implications of calling him Lord.

Thomas Aquinas wrote: "There is within every soul a thirst for happiness and meaning." I believe that everyone wants to be happy. Everyone wants to find meaning in life. We all want to answer the age-old question: "Who am I?" "Why in the world am I here?" "Where am I going?" We all want to be free. Freedom is not going out and doing what I want to do. Anyone can do that, and lots of people are doing it. Freedom is "to have the power to do what you know you ought to do." Most people know what they ought to do but they don't have the power to do it. They're in bondage.

Meeting the person Jesus Christ can give you meaning and answers to life, and the power to be free. He is only a prayer away.

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

RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY

Episcopal bishops bring retired colleague to church trial

By DAVID BRIGGS

Ap Religion Writer

FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

MINNEAPOLIS, Saturday, Aug. 19 (AP)—Episcopal bishops have voted to bring a retired colleague before a formal church trial because he ordained an openly gay man.

Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning said Friday that at least 75 bishops have voted to move forward with charges that retired Bishop Walter Righter of Iowa violated church law by ordaining a homosexual deacon in 1990. Righter was assistant bishop of Newark, N.J., at the time.

A minimum of one-quarter of the church's 297 bishops had to vote by this week to proceed with the trial or the charges would have been dismissed. Church officials did not release the vote totals.

In January, 10 bishops filed charges accusing Righter of violating his ordination vows by ordaining a man openly having a gay relationship. The bishops said Righter was "teaching a doctrine contrary to that held by this church."

Righter has denied the charges, saying

church doctrine in this case does not limit a bishop's right to ordain a "canonically qualified candidate."

The case will go before a Court for the Trial of a Bishop, consisting of nine other bishops. Action would be taken by a majority vote and possible penalties include admonishing Righter.

However, no sentence could be imposed unless the findings by church courts were approved by a two-thirds vote of all the church's bishops.—AP-DS-08-19-95 1729EDT

161671 ZI GAY RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WILL BE JAILED IN ZIMBABWE, MUGABE WARNS 08/16/95 10:36 a.m. 1591 characters 30 lines ** The Associated Press (c). All rights reserved. **

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—In a fresh onslaught against homosexuals, President Robert Mugabe on Wednesday dismissed criticism by international gay rights activists and said if they venture into Zimbabwe they will be jailed.

Mugabe said that he had received reports of demonstrations outside Zimbabwean diplomatic missions in Britain and South Africa by activists protesting his outspoken anti-gay sentiments.

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Will potential misuse arise if a gay gene is found?

(Continued from Page 9) What will these researchers do if bigots begin to use the idea of a "marker" or "id gene" to predict which male fetuses are gay for purposes of termination, or in young boys in order to provide "remedial" education, reprogramming or physical therapies? Hamer has said he will patent the gene, if he finds it, so that it cannot be misused. Is patent law a realistic way to protect against homophobia? What would be the proper use of such a gene? And what is the point of searching for it in the first place?

Regardless of whether or not biological constructs dictate one's sexual identity, lesbians, gays, and bisexuals should be afforded protection against discrimination resulting from their sexual orientation. Society presently affords individuals protection against discrimination predicated upon one's marital status, political affiliations or religion,, none of which require a genetic predisposition to invoke legal protection.

The scientific argument for a biological basis for sexual orientation remains very weak. The political argument that it will bolster gay pride or prevent homophobic bigotry is flawed and runs counter to

experience. The lesbian, gay, and bisexual community does not need our "deviance" tolerated because we were born "that way" and thus cannot help ourselves, as opposed to societal recognition of our having chosen a valid lifestyle. What society needs is an end to discrimination, an acceptance of all human beings and a celebration of diversity, whatever its origins.

For Further Reading:

Bailey, Michael and Richard C. Pillard, A Genetic Study of Male Sexual Orientation, Archives of General Psychiatry, Vol. 48, 1991, pp. 1089-1096. Hamer, Dean, and Peter Copeland, The Science of Desire, Simon and Schuster, 1994. Hamer, Dean, S. Hu, V.L. Magnuson, N.Hu, A.M.L. Pattatucci, Science, 261,321 (1993). Hubbard, Ruth and Elijah Wald, Exploding the Gene Myth: How Genetic I Information is Produced and Manipulated by Scientists, Physicians, Employers and Law Enforcers. LeVay, Simon, The Sexual Brain. LeVay, Simon, A Difference in Hypothalamic Structure Between Heterosexual and Homosexual Men, Science, Vol. 253, 1991, pp. 1034-1037.



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FRIDAY 5:30 PM
COUNTRY COOKIN' - Mini Buffet

IMBL Meeting
2 PM SATURDAY

Saturday
Michael Smothers
Show
benefiting Paivi
11 pm

Sunday Afternoon
Stella Awiggins
Legs too High Birthday
Party

Photo by Steven David

Down the hall faintly through the fog you see him. He's coming your way...



Photo by Steven David

An event like no other. First the "Porn Stars" and then the "Drag Queen" parties, now something entirely new! Houston's first Fog Party! Join us for a night in the fog! The lights will be out, the fog will be everywhere and so will the men!

The Fog is coming your way on Saturday, August 26 at 11 PM!



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CLUB
 HOUSTON

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The Club Houston will be closed from 9 PM - 11 PM in preparation.

Hurricane '95 blows in \$20,000



Strike a pose!

Houston Soap

CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

Hurricane '95 hit Houston. The Bayou City Boys Club provided shelter for the masses. This hurricane whirled in over \$20,000 for the following charities: Omega House, Names Project, and the HIV/AIDS Educations and Services, Houston Red Cross! You blow girls! My personal thanks to the BCBC for their continuing services to our community.

The Sundance Cattle Company celebrated their anniversary this past weekend! You MOO Girl!

Handsome men were at E/J this past Sunday! Christopher Graham, Oscar Parades, and Thomas Rodriguez entertained the crowd with enthusiasm.

Friday, August 25

Rich's kicks off their 12th anniversary weekend! Major party!

The Lazy J has a super new beer special! Today and tonight, domestic longnecks are only \$1.25! Wow! This special is also in effect on Sundays!

Paivi hosts the finals for the male strip contest tonight at E/J's. Be there by 11:00 p.m. and watch all the fun!

Boy Toys boogie boldly, barbarically brandishing bodacious buns beginning at 6:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

Doug Lake is having his birthday party tonight at the Venture-N. Come and wish him a happy, happy!

J.R.'s is a great place to wind up your week or start your weekend!

Saturday, August 26

The Fog will NOT be lifting! The Club Houston is having a party like none other! Be there at 11:00 p.m. and feel your way thru the fog! For more info, see the ad on page 21.

Rich's celebrates its 12th anniversary tonight with 12¢ drinks all night tonight! What a party!

PastTime presents its first preliminary to the "Tribute to Selena" contest. If you are interested in entering, be there by 10:00 p.m. This contest will conclude on Sept. 16th. For more details, call 529-4669.

"To Dallas, with Love" happens tonight at the Dallas Eagle. Good luck to



Stephen Haddock (Montrose Softball League) receives a \$1000 donation from Randy Jobe representing J.R.'s.

all the Houston people that made the trip to Big D!

Girls just want to wash cars! The female line of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star will be sudzing your vehicles this afternoon at Gentry. Also, the BBQ pit will be lit! Details! OK, The car wash is from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and the BBQ is from noon until 4:00 p.m. BBQ plates cost only \$3 and a car/truck wash is not much more! Don't forget that you can enjoy happy hour prices at Gentry until 10:00 p.m. tonight.

The WICS (Women in Comfortable Shoes) band will be playing tonight at Chances! Stop in and hear the great sounds of Linda, Betty, Raci, Cheryl and Susan! They have perfected their music! The band starts at 9:30 p.m. Seats go fast, so call Chances as soon as possible to reserve your spot. The number is 523-7217.

Tonight at the Venture-N, the Texas Riders are having their 3rd annual "Daddy's Boy" auction! The auction starts at 10:00 p.m. If you would like to enter, call 771-9726 to get all the details.

Miss T.T. has a great lineup tonight at the Lazy J. See the talents of Miss Hispanic Texas—Vanessa Raye, Miss Galveston Emeritus—Veronica DeVore, the Island Diva—Misty Valdez, and Diane Jackson. This super show starts at 10:00 p.m., but get their early, 'cuz the good seats fill up early.

Burgundy Woods! Who? Burgundy Woods of the Midnight Sun fame will be returning to E/J's tonight as part of Brittany Paige's show "Return with a Revenge" tonight at E/J's. Also featured are; B.J. Williams and an extra special guest. Show time is at 11:00 p.m.

Members of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court will be guest bartending tonight at the Brazos River Bottom. Please stop in and say HI!

Clip the coupon on page 15 to get in free tonight at Ean's Cabaret. They have luscious ladies bumping and grinding until 2:00 A.M. Ean's is located at 112 Travis.

Sunday, August 27

Rack 'em girls! Chances has a pool tournament this afternoon starting at 6:00 p.m. It is only \$3 to buy in and the bar matches the pot!

Shasha Boom will be raising funds tonight at E/J's to help her get to Miss Texas. Bring dollars to this 10:00 p.m. show!

Tonight at Gentry there is a "Juke Box Jambo-ree" at 9:00 p.m. This is a benefit for the Omega House. The entertainers will be performing your selections off the CD juke box. This should prove to be a hilarious show. After this unpredictable show, men will be taking all their clothes off for the Sunday Frenzy male strip contest. Gentry, as always, provides you will a full evening of entertainment.

Mary's, naturally, is having their annual dog show! It starts at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon. The categories are: Prince



Hey Guys!

Charles, Heinz 57, Munchkin, Jeff Stryker, Daddy Marlene, Pussy Galore, David Lettermen, Priscilla, Delta Burke, Jenny Craig, Medusa, Tweedle Dum/Tweedle Dee, Gerber Baby, and Judges Award. Bring you and your pooch by 2:00 p.m.

Shelby St. John, candidate for Miss TGRA '96, presents "Revival," featuring the Church of the Neon Cactus tonight at the Brazos River Bottom. Show time is at 8:00 p.m., but git there early to enjoy steak night.

Monday, August 28

10%! According to most statisticians, the gay/lesbian/trans/etc represent 10% of the population! Well, Pacific Street offers no cover to any of the 10% that wear a clothing that represents our 10%. Slip on your favorite t-shirt, gay jewelry, or pink triangle and head in to Pacific Street and enjoy our 10%.

Honky-Tonk nights at Gentry! \$1 Miller Lite, free pool, juke box, and all the HOT nuts you can suck.

Come watch the Monday night football games at Chances!

Tuesday, August 29

Help! The Skyy lounge! Dr.Pink! Pacific Street towers! Love Beads! Join Dr. Pink and his infamous \$3 Skyy vodka martinis all night tonight! Get your shots before you head to the Skyy Lounge (except Damita Jo, you are already immune!)

Is it Fall yet? The Brazos River Bottom seems to think it is! They are having a Fall white sale... all white well liquors are on sale! Yes, only \$1 for your favorite white well liquor... all night... plus all domestic longnecks are only \$1. The Brazos River Bottom, where you can boot, scoot, and boogie down!

Wednesday, August 30

What happens on the last Wednesday of the month? Most people know that it is the "Bear of the Month" contest at the Mine. How could you not know?

Shiela Lennon sings her country sounds tonight at Chances. She takes the stage starting at 9:00 p.m.

It's back! The Wednesday night mixer at Helena's Restaurant. Dinner will NOT be served, but they will have great music and tasty cocktails. There will be a free buffet from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and happy hour prices from 5:00 p.m. 'till 10:00 p.m.

Catia Lee love is the MC tonight at Gentry for the strip contest. Oh, baby, oh, take it off! Show time at 11:00 p.m.

Dennis invites you to play Pictionary tonight at the Brazos River Bottom. It sounds like fun!

Midtowne Spa offers half price night tonight. They also offer a free dinner buffet! Sounds like a full night of food and fun at Midtowne Spa.

Thursday, August 31

It is all about male bodies! Body worship, skin trade and tattoos! The "Body Contest"

is tonight at the Montrose Mining Company! Starting at 11:30 p.m., be the: "Best Chest," Best T-shirt," Best Buns in Levis," or "hottest tattoo"! The MC and "dominatrix" Regina Dane will award \$25 to the winners in each category! Don't forget that they also have \$1.75 prices on all Budweiser products and premium vodkas are only \$3.50. A BIG night at the Montrose Mining Company!

Other Important Stuff

There is a nasty rumor circulating around Montrose that Mary's will be closing at the end of this year! NOT! I have on the best authority that Mary's, naturally, has a lease on the building and property until 2007! I have seen the lease! Rumors, gossip! If you want to know the scoop, ask me! Don't listen to idle chatter!

"Rear Entry" party will be at the Montrose Mine on Sept. 1. More details as they become available.

Bistro 224 has extended their coupon in the Houston Voice. Check out the coupon on page 5.

20% to 50% off the entire stock at the River Oaks Antiques Center sale will be happening this weekend.

E/J's is always offering many types of talents for your enjoyment. Starting Sept. 7th, they will be having a weekly comedy night! E/J's is looking for a host/hostess to MC this weekly comedy show. If you are interested, call Brittany Paige at 710-4343.

Please welcome Helena's to our family of advertisers! Check the ad on page 11 to see what the menu has to offer!

The Houston Antiques Dealer's Association is having a show and sale next weekend. For more info, see the ad on page 11.

There is a gay friendly computer service/repair company here in Montrose. They service the computers of the Houston Voice. Oh, sister, do we have computers. If you have a hardware/software problem, call Sure Solutions at 681-4203. Tell them the Houston Voice sent you!

Looking for a caffeine fix? Stop in at Cafe Brasil to enjoy a great caffeine fix.

The Avondale Pizzeria will be closed until August 28th for remodeling. Don't fret, good things are in the works!

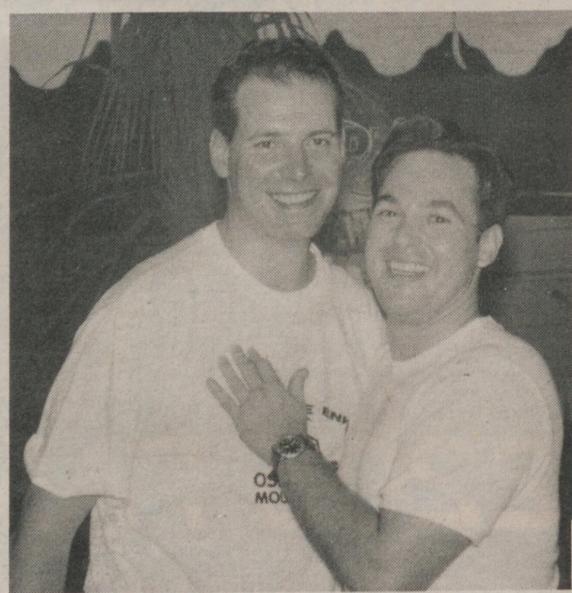
Press release of the week: "The Westheimer Street Festival and the Board of Directors invite one and all to enter this year's fall poster competition. A cash prize of \$250 (purchase award) will be awarded to the artist as winner of this open competition. The winning poster art will be reproduced as both a poster and t-shirt for this years Westheimer Fall Street Festival." If you would like more info, call Larry Crawford at 526-2744.

Did you know that Leather By Boots has rainbow welcome mats?

"Fire in the Hole" and "To The Hilt" are this week's features at the French Quarter!

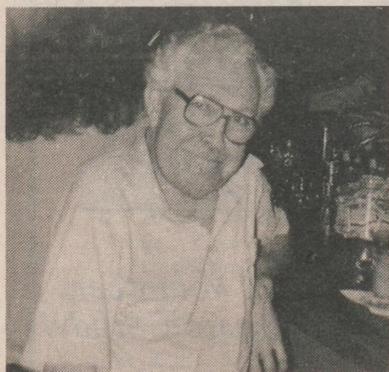


Hurricane '95 blows thru Houston



Are we having fun yet?

Birthdays, rodent droppings, and a personal message



Ratrat and Harvey's fan Thomas

Houston Soap Part 2

Birthday Corner :

Happy Birthday to Parker! She hangs out at Chances; Doug Lake, computer junkie turns 40 this week; my dear friend Greg Killips; George of Mary's fame; Don Robinson; my friend, fellow chicken lover, Don Gill; Devin... Mary's, naturally; Larry Arbo, Leatherman extraordinaire! (The only other man I love like a husband); Robert Harwood of the BRB fame; J.D. LaRue of the Court fame. Sammy that hangs out at Mary's is having one too!

Rodent Droppings

Personal note from Carolyn/Cuervolyn :

I came to work for Tad and Crad at The Houston Voice in Feb. 1993 as a sales person. My job consisted of selling ad space for the Houston Voice. I had been working for the Voice about six months when Tad approached the "sales department" about writing HIS "Soap" Column while he and Crad were going on a three week trip. At that time, Don Dowden, Ron Bleakly, and I took on that challenge. The first week, the "guys" decided that I (I am somewhat computer literate and know how to use a keyboard) should type "it" up. The second week, they (Don and Ron) still did not know how to type, and well, by the third week, it had been assigned to me. Tad returned from his vacation and asked me to continue slamming out this weekly mishmash of people, places, and things. I was honored. Tad made this column what it is today in the Houston Voice years ago, and I am honored to try to carry on his thoughts and traditions. We are all going to miss him.

On With Rodent Droppings

I feel guilty! The Wizard and I spent the weekend in Galveston, and well, we left Ratrat and Harvey alone for one night! Come on, they live in a cage! Sally (95 lbs of dog) spent the weekend at our good friend Al's home. LW and I had a wonderful time in Galveston. We had sex on the beach (and not the cocktail!), toured the Bishop's Palace, drank at the Kon Tiki, Evolutions, and Switch! But, what was so cool, Sunday afternoon when we got home, I pulled Harvey out of his cage and we sat on the sofa, Harvey in my lap pretending to be a lap cat! He was so calm, loving, and affectionate that I thought I someone had slipped him Thorazine. I guess Harvey missed us! He licked both of us with his sandpaper tongue. After about 45 minutes on Harvey's affection, he jumped down to the floor and attached my feet... with all his sharp teeth! Go Fig! I guess rats will be rats!

I don't have many rodent droppings this week. This is what I have:

Tommy Sue (BRB): Are you carrying Devin's baby?

Brian Kever (TWT): I understand that your chili is SO hot on Thursday that the fire department has been called!

Michael (I met at PS): Honey, don't give up on men! There are many to choose from.

Dowden (BRB): Wet Spot!

AND I hear that you were doing impressions of "The Supremes" on the patio! Care to comment?

Crystal Lee Love: I understand you have a "gold card" from the French Quarter! Which movie do you like/lick the most?

Kody (Chances): Or should I call you the "Trash Queen?"

Trixie Truxstop: I have been told you have a fetish for pussy! Meow, meow, hiss, hiss, scratch!

Susan Masar (Chances): SO, you now have BIG speakers? I always knew you had big lips!

John (Kuntry Kidd): So, even you hang out at Mary's! Pet the birdies for me!

Daddy Dan: Who is Daniel Obert Jacobson? Or is it really Daniel Covert Jacobson? Everyone knows that you are very secretive about your self... except me! I know the real Daddy Dan! But, did your mother not like you? Who names their kid Obert? (PS, my middle name is Alice, a nice name.)

Kirk (BRB): I understand that you have learned how to kiss by standing in front of a mirror... sucking a lemon! Is that true?

Tina (Chances): Have mattress, will travel?

Larry Joe (Hangs at E/J's): How was your trip to Memphis?

JT (QT's): Any action would be good action? Life in the bars can be rough, but really, girl, Manny wants you!

Susan Scott (Houston Voice): Sleep eating again! So, you woke up with brown spot all over your bed! I'm glad you found the silver wrappings of a Hershey Kisses on the floor, or we would have thought you had eaten lots of prunes!

Thomas (Friend of Ratrat and Harvey): Thanks!

Roxanne Lee Love (E/J's): Is "Nasty Girl?" or Boy?

Ed (E/J's): I understand you are still looking for a 24 inch? Is that for you or your bicycle?

Bar Wilson: What is a "prop" used for?

David Roberts: Or should I call you Helen Enback?

I received this letter in the mail, no return address, no signature. This is what it said: We just thought you should know. The best gay "Bridges of Madison County" Montrose style love story of this summer! E/J's has the beginning of a great summer of "true love" story with two special men: the Bar Singin' Buddies Anonymous' singer Chris C. and his new good looking, sexy, Kenny T. These two men are the best of what gay courtship and setting up house is about in this day and time. Just ask the famous "Dirty Sally." You just can't pull them apart! When will we see that ring on Kenny T's hand? Rumor has it that the famous Michael L. from Houston Gems has been working on a great ring. What will the "Honky Tonk" man (Chris C.) come up with for his new love? Ok, so I did it this time, no questions. Next time, call me, I'd love to talk about this, I hate anonymous letters! I can be reached at 529-8490, or my pager 616-7147.

Huggs

Cuervolyn



Jessie B., Loretta Lick, Cassie Nicole and Buffy Galore perform at Switch in Galveston

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HELP WANTED

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

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

Plumber's Helper: Experience aplus, but not necessary. Own transportation required. Call B.J. at 997-8840

GENTRY is seeking hot men for the boy toy dancer group. Please apply any Wednesday or Thursday from 8pm to 10pm at 2303 Richmond. Ask for Jim Hurst.

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CALL AND LET THIS GORGEOUS, WELL-DEFINED, BISEXUAL BLACK MALE make your fantasies come true and put you mentally in a spell! Domonique, (713) 759-4100.

RICK. YOUNG COLLEGE STUDENT
Blue eyes, blond hair. Hard body. 24 hrs. Hotel calls welcome. 526-1598

smoother, oak-aged Tequila.

PHOTOGRAPHY

IMPERSONATORS - DANCERS - ENTERTAINERS
Call **STEVEN DAVID** for a special package price on headshots & promo. shots. Call 787-0785.

ROOMMATE WANTED

ROOMMATES DISCOVERED
Houston's best roommate referral service. Call 468-5663

SERENE SETTING
Kirkwood @ Bissonet. 2BR/2BA house with den. \$450 + 1/2 utilities.
Call 530-2205

SENIOR CITIZEN SEEKS ROOMMATE to share 1 BR - own bed (you provide). No stereo, no telephone calls, not hot showers. Must love cats (30 at last count). \$1000/mo. Life is harsh. Your Tequila shouldn't be. **SAUZA COMMEMORATIVO.** The smoother, oak-aged Tequila.

AUTO PARTS

PONTIAC LOVERS
'66 Pontiac 389 motor, 390 hp for sale or parts. \$250 or best offer. Call 334-7744 or 508-9884(pgr).

CARS

Mercedes Benz 450SL 1976. Pristine condition! 60,000 miles. \$17,500. Call 869-5602

MOTORCYCLES

'81 Yamaha Maxim 650, 4 cylinder. Totally rebuilt. Everything new. Runs excellent. Saddlebags & helmet included. \$1,500 or best offer. 334-7744 or 508-9884(pgr.)

WANTED TO BUY

Wanted: Used Levi's.
Up to \$25.00 paid. 956-8740

DO YOU HAVE KAPOSI'S SARCOMA?

We Need Volunteers for a Research Study!

- ▶ **TOPICAL GEL**
- ▶ **ALL PATIENTS RECEIVE STUDY DRUG**
- ▶ **NO COST TO PATIENT**
- ▶ **PARKING IS PAID**
- ▶ **IF YOU BENEFIT, TREATMENT MAY CONTINUE**

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U.T. Dermatology Research Center
(713) 794-5232

Puzzle Solution
c.1995 GULF FEATURES Puzzle TXS140
initialled names: Oscar Wilde, Warren G. Harding, Abraham Lincoln

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CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Rates:

For 1 issue - .75 per word/\$4.00 additional for a **BOLD** headline.

For 3+ issues - .65 per word/\$3.25 additional for a **BOLD** headline.

Deadline: Deadline for placing a classified ad in the HOUSTON VOICE is noon Tuesday prior to publication. No credit or billing services are offered on Classified advertising.

Classified Orders: Complete this form and mail it along with your classified ad to the HOUSTON VOICE, 811 Westheimer, #105, Houston, TX 77006.

Category _____

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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2 Hours for \$4
make friends or relationships
FREE Voice Mail Boxes
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\$50 monthly subscriptions
(Visa, MC, Checks or M.O.)
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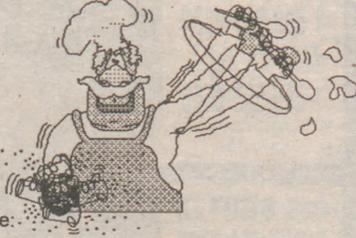
\$4 the 1st minute & 65¢ each addl.
2hr. access for 1 min. cost press "8"
18+ • MultiChannel • (214) 761-6066

RECIPES BY THE KUNTRY KIDD

Hey ya!!! Last night I had some people here for dinner, and I fixed a new recipe for a really unusual vegetable dish. It's my significant other's recipe, and I hope you will enjoy it as much as we did. If he keeps coming up with such good recipes, I think I may have to hand the "Kuntry Kidd" column over to him.

Gemüse Gratinee

- 5 large parsnips - sliced thin
- 3 large carrots - sliced thin
- 1 small zucchini - shaved (I used the large holes on my shredder)
- 1/4 c. minced onion
- 1/2 c. chopped parsley
- 1/2 large bell pepper - chopped
- 1/2 c. bread crumbs (I used Italian crumbs)
- 1/3 c. grated Romano or Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 c. honey
- 2 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 2 Tbs. flour



Mix all the above and stir in the following sauce:

- 2 c. creamed cottage cheese (put in blender and puree)
- 2 packets Sweet 'N'Low
- 1 Tbs. lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp. coriander
- 1/2 tsp. cardamom
- 2 tsp. basil
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 Tbs. Worcestershire

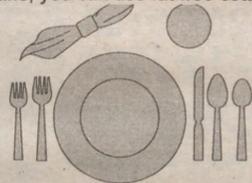
Sprinkle top with 1/4 lb. grated cheddar cheese and more Romano or Parmesan. Bake at 400 degrees for 45 minutes covered, and 15 minutes more under the broiler with the lid removed.

You may have to make some changes in this recipe. Parsnips will probably be impossible to find now. I lucked out and already had some I purchased awhile back. An alternative could be rutabaga or jicama. Here's your chance to experiment with some of your favorite veggies.

To make this a little easier on your waist line, you can use fat-free cottage cheese and also low fat cheeses.

UNTIL NEXT WE EAT!

KUNTRY KIDD



The Great American Puzzle

TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

- 1 Marilyn Monroe's real first name
- 4 fuss
- 5 airport designator for Dallas/Ft. Worth's largest airport
- 7 long-handled tool
- 9 Clinton's Gore
- 10 accustomed
- 13 airport designator for Houston's Intercontinental
- 14 prank
- 17 mid-Aug. hurricane that threatened N.Car. & Va. but didn't move onshore
- 20 abbrev. for lines
- 21 people employed
- 23 organ of hearing
- 24 site of Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, set to open Sept. 2
- 27 baby
- 31 site of Sept. 4-15 int'l women's conference
- 33 19th century Irish wit Wilde, initials ("The one person who has more illusions than the dreamer is the man of action.")
- 34 beheld or espied
- 35 telegraphy code
- 37 animal's shelters
- 38 one skilled in healing arts, abbrev.

- 40 Prince Bismarck, creator of the German Empire, 1871; or Preminger, Austrian-born American producer
- 43 Chambers County seat
- 45 cynical
- 47 Shannon, 1st woman cadet at The Citadel, drops out
- 49 move slightly
- 50 thin stream
- 52 19th century English poet, Alfred, Lord
- 53 1st 2 initials of American actors Robinson & Marshall
- 56 airport designator for Dallas' Love Field
- 57 initials President Eisenhower's first & middle names
- 58 29th U.S. President Harding, died in office, initials
- 60 a tire bursts while your driving
- 61 row
- 63 rich mine

- 66 agreement
- 67 Roman numeral for 150
- 68 simple
- 70 agreed

DOWN

- 1 where Oilers owner Bud Adams is threatening to send
- 19 hotel
- 21 ache
- 22 Silver State, abbrev.
- 23 throws out
- 25 awakened
- 26 engagement
- 28 exist
- 29 fluffy scarf
- 30 Max, German-born artist, founder of Dada & surrealism
- 31 at the back
- 32 Gem State, abbrev.
- 36 satisfied to the full
- 38 dam
- 39 Golden State, abbrev.
- 41 Volunteer State, abbrev.
- 42 vocal
- 44 large coffee pot
- 46 cola soft drink
- 47 perceive with your fingers
- 48 prefix for 'not'
- 51 a number of things in a line
- 54 where Sam Houston traveled

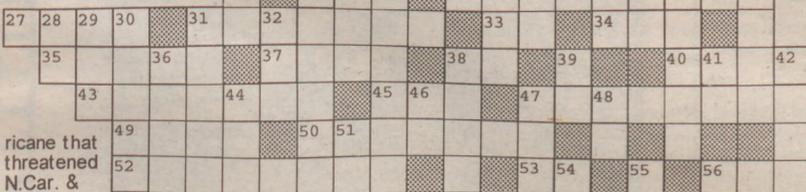
to take command of the rag-tag Texan army that later defeated Santa Anna

55 airport designator for Houston's Hobby

56 daylight time abbrev.

59 shout in contempt

60 N.J. Demo senator says he won't seek re-election



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 68 69 70

62 version of indefinite article used before a vowel sound

64 direction San Antonio to Tyler, abbrev.

65 16th U.S. president, assassinated, initials ("If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it.")

67 Roman numeral for 900

69 prefix for again or anew

Solution elsewhere this issue

C.1995 GULF FEATURES, HOUSTON, TX, PUZZLE TXS140

NATION/WORLD

Report: first gay couple weds in Latvia

RIGA, Latvia, Monday, Aug. 14 (AP)—A gay couple took their vows over the weekend in an unofficial but highly publicized wedding that activists hope will help overturn a law against homosexual marriage, news agencies reported Monday.

Astra Indricane and Birgit Bohvinger exchanged rings and a kiss on a cinema stage decorated with flowers and candles in the Latvian capital of Riga on Saturday.

In line with Latvian tradition, the

two women laid flowers at the Freedom Monument in downtown Riga after the ceremony. Some passersby cheered as others booed, news agencies said.

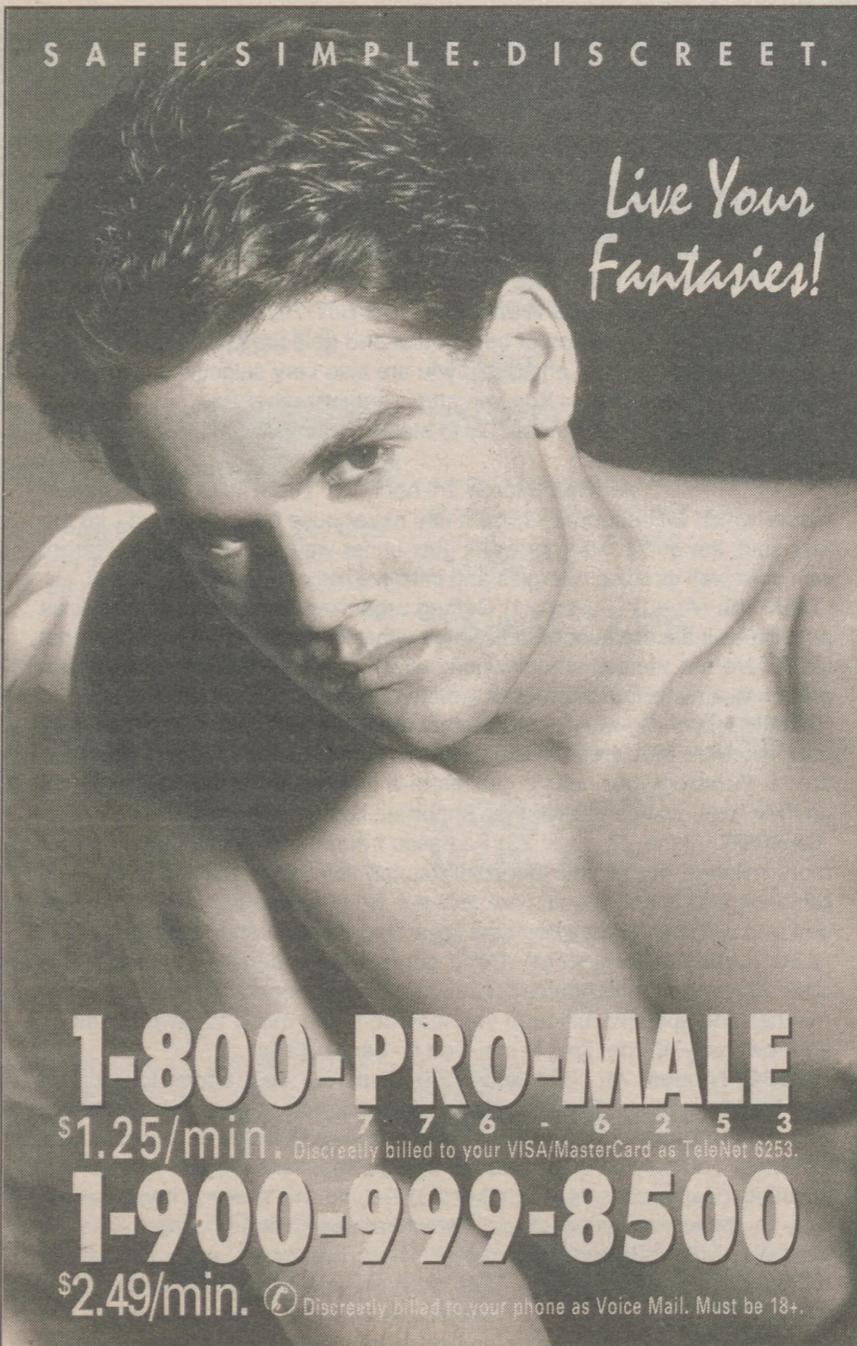
A 1991 law prohibits gay marriages, so the couple registered their union with an advocacy group, the Latvian Association for Sexual Equality.

Gay activists said they hope the high-profile wedding will boost awareness about gays in Latvia and lead to a repeal of the law.

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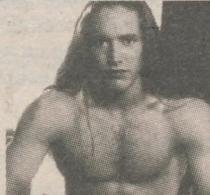
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 Adults 18 and over only



SEX INFO
 1-800-204-9687
 Adults over 18

SEX CRAZED STUDS
 1-800-207-8106
 Adults 18 & over only



DO IT NOW
 1-809-563-0324
DO IT ALL
 1-809-563-0566
 Int'l long distance rates Apply. 18+.



BEST SEX CONNECTIONS
 1-800-945-5225
 1-800-934-0136
 Adults 18+



BIG BRUTES
 1-800-964-6328
HOT & HORNY
 1-800-388-4847
 Adults over 18



DIRTY SEX MESSAGES
 GET YOURS NOW
 1-800-709-2231
 Adults 18+ strictly



SEX CALLS
 1-800-815-6672
 1-800-216-1201
 Adults over 18



JUMP RIGHT IN
 1-800-709-2230
 1-800-678-2557
 Adults over 18 only



GREAT SEX BY PHONE
 1-800-207-8108
 1-800-216-1204
 ADULTS 18/OVER



Carl's Club For Men 1-800-234-4865
 The 69 Line 1-800-815-6669
 Adults over 18 only

New! **HOT INTERNET ACTION**
<http://www.listing.com/manstop> 18+

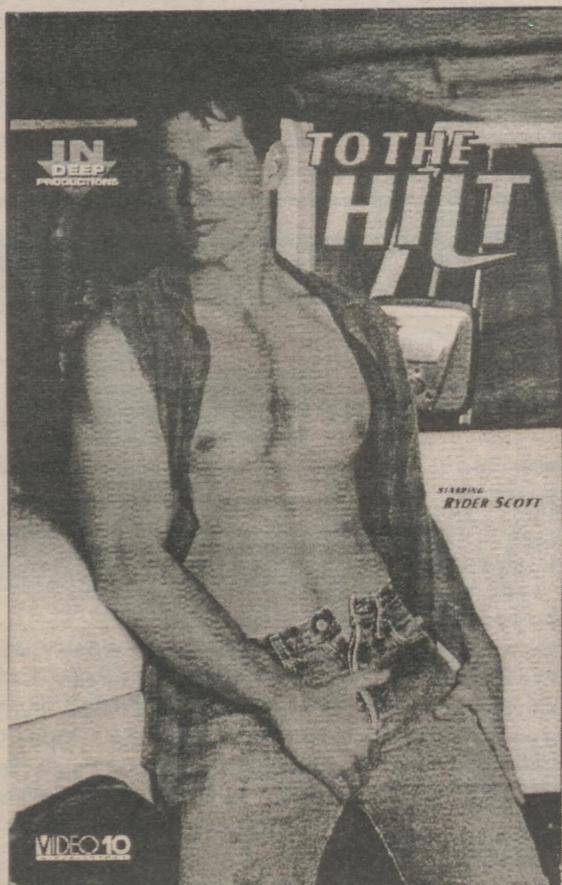
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MIDNIGHT MATINEE SPECIAL
 Sunday thru Thursday
 Midnight til Closing
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 \$4 All Day
 with membership

All Male Cinema
 presents



TO THE HILT
 and
FIRE IN THE HOLE

Friday & Saturday
 11am - 3am
 Monday-Thursday
 11am - 1am
 Sunday
 1pm - 1 am



Houston VOICE Personals

NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

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

VERY WELL ENDOWED

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

LOOKING FOR LIKE/PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

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

WHO KNOWS...

Seeking conversationally stimulating, visually appealing, physically active, socially acceptable person to first take a walk with, then whatever comes next. I'm mature, the aforementioned and HIV+. Mail responses, please. Ad 25710

SPECIAL SPECIFIC SERIOUS BOTTOMS

Need to submit? Need to service and do it right? Good at taking instructions? Need discipline? Naughty lately? Need bound? Know your place with a demanding top? Your call. If GM, 25-40, fit, clean, healthy, easy going, bright, nice guy, then I am expecting your call. Ad 25653

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES

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

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

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

SPECIAL OFFER

Interesting GWM looking for a special gentleman. I'm 37, 6'1", 175, brown/blue, professionally employed, healthy, happy, emotionally and financially stable, warm, caring & relationship oriented. I enjoy travel, Nautilus, family, friends and more. I'm looking for a compatible gentleman, 30s to 40s, who is single, smart, funny & charming. Why not respond today! You may make a new friend, maybe a lot more!! Ad 25720

SEEKING HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

GOOD LOOKING & FIT

Inexperienced 24 yr. old male looking for a straight acting college student or young professional, between the ages of 18-24, for discrete friendship and maybe more. Ad 25716

ATTENTION - NUDIST

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

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

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

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

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

PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

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

SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

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

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

GO FOR IT!

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

Attractive male, 5'9", 145#, sincere professional. Seeking monogamous relationship with someone who is attractive, HWP, honest and willing to make a commitment. Interests include museums, dining out, the outdoors, travel and good conversation. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25722

SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

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

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

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

HAIRY DADDY SEEKS BOY

Boy should be 21-40, weight proportionate to height, open-minded. Daddy is 50, 5'9", 180, bearded. Let's discuss possibilities. Photo exchange will be required eventually. Ad 25673

FIRST TIME

5'6" medium build middle aged straight black male beginning to find myself attracted to other straight appearing males, black or white, small to medium build. Not macho. Wish to talk or meet with others experiencing or those who have experienced the same. Never had an affair. Would like to hear from you. Ad 25714

MATURE MASCULINE TOP

Seeking meaningful relationship with masculine bottom. Me: GWM; good looks; lean, firm body; professional; HIV-. You: sensuous; good shape; employed; no addictions. Latin, Mediterranean a plus. I want what I can deliver: honesty, trust, respect, love, monogamy, intimacy, commitment. Letters preferred; include phone. Photo optional. I'll respond. Ad 25694

TOP SEEKS BOTTOM

Top needs to satisfy/eliminate basic urges and seeks bottom to use for this purpose. I'm HWP, mature, good looking, HIV+, generally nice and I enjoy doing it especially when the bottom gets happy. Mail responses, please. Ad 25706.

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

LOOKING FOR BILL:

Your name is Bill, a GBM I met in the Ripcord. You said you were taking a friend home, but you were late in returning to the bar. I would like to get in touch with you. Ron Ad 25134

FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

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

BLACK MALE SEEKS WHITE MALE

37 year old black male, HIV+, 30 waist, 6', 155, healthy and active. Seeking GWM HIV+ age 25-40 for monogamous relationship. Must be sincere. No one nighters please. Ad 25681

GWF COUPLE LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

Lesbian couple in our mid-30's looking for a single person, or couple, for a non-sexual friendship. We enjoy movies, music, the Rockets, Reba and Melissa. Ad 25641

NOT A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

GM, 53, own home SW, college degree. Hobbies: gardening, genealogy, roses. Interests: cinema, dining out, cooking, travel. Seeking a few good friends to share activities. Discreet, n/s. Age/gender/race not a barrier.

FREE TO LOVE

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

INSTRUCTIONS

TO PLACE a Houston Voice Personal Ad --

Come to our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105.

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

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

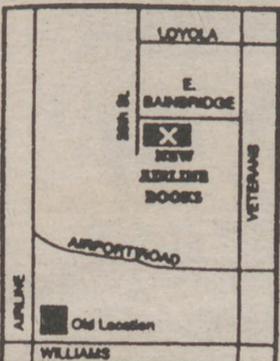
TO ANSWER AN AD BY PHONE - Call 1-900-454-3576. Listen to the instructions. You will then actually be listening to the advertisers recorded message and can leave a voice message with your name and number. You can respond to more than one personal during the phone call. As individuals check their messages,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

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

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS: To take advantage of the \$29.95 per year offer, you are required to participate in the "live voice" aspect of our Personals by calling the special 800 toll-free number. You must record, in your voice, your Ad. If you do not participate in the voice aspect, your ad may be discontinued without reimbursement. The voice message can be as simple as "You read the ad, leave a message" to complex and informative. The ads, both print and voice, can not contain references to sexual acts or organs (FCC et al. regulations). If you are having difficulty recording your message, phone 1-800-780-4947, for assistance. Ads should be positive, describe what you want, undesirable qualities/characteristics need not be listed.

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

★ Airline ★ Adult Books



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(504) 468-2931

BEST SEX HOT SEX FANTASIES 212-339-8741 No credit card needed. Adults over 18 only.

Custom phone sex action - fast and easy. 312-578-5413. Adults 18+ only. No Credit Card Needed.

MAXIMUM PLEASURE 1-800-934-0132 Try it NOW! Find out HOW! Adults 18+. No credit card needed.

TALK LIVE TALK SEXY NO CREDIT CARD 1-800-945-5225 Adults over 18 only.

NEW SEX CALL SAMPLES Horny Studs Will Turn You On! 212-339-8739 Adults over 18 only.

Dirty sex samples • No Mastercard • No Visa • No bull! 213-346-1087. Adults over 18.

Two men direct 215-474-2855. ADULTS 18 AND OVER. Hot action - 24 hours.

FAST SEX PHONE - NO MC • NO VISA FIND OUT HOW 1-800-934-0130. ADULTS 18+

Fun for married men 1-800-234-4865 Adults 18 & over

SEX CALL SAMPLES Special Interests? You Know What I Mean 312-578-5416. Strictly Adults Over 18 Only. No Credit Card Needed.

COME ALIVE!!! - THE HOTTEST SAMPLES!!!! 24 HOURS - 215-474-2850 Adults 18 & over only. No major credit card needed.

Get off now! Sex phone action 1-800-876-8477. 18 + ONLY

MEN OF COLOR. 1-800-806-7782. ADULTS 18/OVER.

Sex party samples 212-339-8738. 18+ only. No cc needed

EASY ACCESS 415-249-4949 NEW SEX SAMPLES • No major credit card needed. Adults Over 18 Only.

SUPER HOT PHONE SEX • BEST SEX EVER 312-578-5415. Adults over 18 only

Understanding men who need guys who can help please hot male desires and fulfill private love fantasies. 1-800-388-4847. Mature adults 18/over

HOT PHONE SEX 1-800-815-6671 Adults 18+ Only. HOT SAMPLES

GIVE & TAKE - Call for HOT SEX INFO 212-339-8734 Adults 18 or over only.

HOT SEX SAMPLES 415-249-4955 You must be over 18 to call. No credit card needed.

Talk from men who need adult conversation. 1-800-709-2235. You must be 18+

LOVE PHONE ALL NEW • SPECIAL OFFER 1-800-204-9687 Adults over 18 only.

Watch Them Flex! THESE MEN ARE ON THE LINE TO PLEASE YOU. 212-339-8740 FIND OUT HOW! No Mastercard or Visa needed. Adults 18 & over only.

SEX FANTASY - THIS IS AS HOT AS IT GETS. 1-800-207-8108, 18+

Hot group action. Pick your pleasure 1-800-727-2883. Adults 18+ only.

SECRET SAMPLES BETTER THAN EVER 212-339-8733 18 & over only. Connections For Men • 24 Hours

Another Double Play.

NEW

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SERVICE HAS ARRIVED!

COMPLETELY
FREE
INTRO. SPECIAL
CALL NOW!

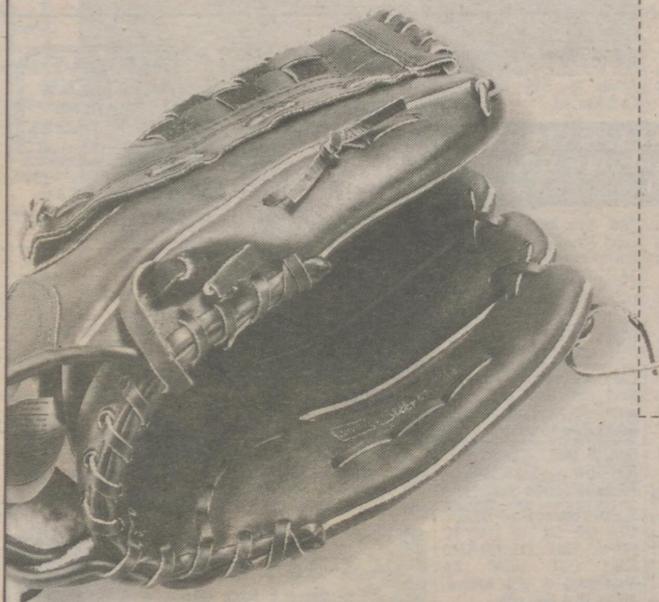


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INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS > ATTACHED AND
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DATING > ALTERNATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Free to Call* to Record Your Ad & Browse Through Ads.
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for a Limited Time.



MANLINE™

917-3939

WHEN ASKED, ENTER SECRET CODE 803

IMC DOES NOT PRE-SCREEN ITS CALLERS AND ASSUMES NO LIABILITY WHEN MEETING WITH SOMEONE THROUGH ITS SERVICE.
ADULTS 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER ONLY. *FREE TO CALL WITHIN THE 713 AREA CODE. TOLL CHARGES MAY APPLY IF CALLING FROM OUTSIDE THE 713 AREA CODE.