

All things artistic in Bayou City are now just a mouse click away. Check out the sites for everything from the Houston Ballet to Art Cars.

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INSIDE



Gloria Swidriski, pictured with her husband Edward, claims if Houston Police had taken her son Marc Kajs' (inset photo) complaints seriously, he would still be alive. Kajs was shot and killed by his ex-boyfriend in front of a Montrose restaurant in March 1998. The ACLU is now helping Swidriski appeal her case against the city.

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Houston Police Officer Ann Waltman, who participated in HPD's first entry in the Pride Parade last month, encountered harassment from her supervisor when she started out as a rookie cop in the Montrose 11 years ago, but says times and attitudes have changed for the better.

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Internet listservs like the Houston Activist's Network, are replacing word-of-mouth as the vehicle for spreading information to the local gay and lesbian community. Regardless of your particular interest, it's likely there is a gay e-group in Houston to suit you.

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Census reflects gay cultural change



Increase in same-sex 'unmarried partners'

JOHN NAIL/GRAPHIC

Reported same-sex 'unmarried partners' increased an average of 411 percent in 2000 Census data released so far. A decade of public discussions of gay couples may have influenced the rise, including gay plaintiffs who sued to marry in Hawaii and Vermont (left), gay celebrity couples like Anne Heche and Ellen Degeneres (top right), and even gay rights opponents such as U.S. Rep. Bob Barr (bottom right).

Higher percentage of self-identified same-sex 'unmarried partners' caps decade of dramatic rise in national discussion of gay couples

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

The U.S. Census Bureau on Tuesday released data on same-sex "unmarried partners" for five additional states, showing a continuation of the trend of dramatic increases visible thus far.

Gay couples reporting their relationships on the Census rose 583 percent in North Dakota, 429 percent in New Mexico, 385 percent in Colorado, 295 percent in Oregon and 271 percent in Maryland, according to the new numbers.

With data from almost half the country now available—21 states plus the District of Columbia have been released—reported same-sex "unmarried partners" have increased an average of 411 percent across those states. Data for Texas has not yet been released and, as of yet, is not on the Census Bureau's schedule for release.

Same-sex unmarried partner data reports for the remaining states will continue to be released each week through

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Surgeon General's 'Call To Action' a boon to gays

First-of-its-kind report on sexual health encourages dialog within communities and with health care providers

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

This past week, Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher released his "Call to Action to Promote Sexual Health and Responsible Sexual Behavior." This is the first such document released in the department's 200-year history, and one which includes specific references to and positive statements about the gay community.

The report is the result of two years of scientifically based research by dozens of experts in the field of sexuality, public health and behavioral science.

One of the three principle editors, Dr. Michael Ross, University of Texas professor of public health, lives and works here in Houston. When the surgeon general began planning for this report, he chose Ross as one of its editors, due to Ross's international stature and 25 years of published research in the areas of sexuality and human behavior.

"The first thing to note, is that this 'Call to Action' is a

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One of the three principle editors of the Surgeon General's report on sexual health, Houstonian Dr. Michael Ross, is a professor of public health at the University of Texas. Ross said 'the surgeon general stated that he wanted to include information about gays and lesbians and the discrimination they face' in the report, the first of its kind in the 200-year history of the surgeon general's office.

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Coming out from behind the badge

HPD Officer Ann Waltman downplays significance of marching in Pride Parade

by KAY Y. DAYUS

Houston Police Officer Ann Waltman came out to all of Houston when she walked in uniform alongside an HPD police car in last month's Houston Gay Pride Parade, but the only flak she caught was from her mother.

"She was mad a me when she read about it in the Chronicle, but she won't talk about it," said Waltman.

It wasn't Waltman's initiative to be in the parade, the first time HPD has officially entered, but she was receptive to the idea and says she's glad she did it.

She was approached with the idea the Monday before the Parade by Brooks Ballard, with the Houston's Human Rights Campaign and a member of Houston's Police Advisory Board. She thought it was a great idea and agreed. Ballard then took the proposal to Chief of Police C.O. "Brad" Bradford for approval.

It seems that by Thursday it was a done deal, but then Waltman needed to find others to ride with her in the parade.

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Houston Police Officer Ann Waltman started her career with HPD at the Montrose storefront station 11 years ago, but transferred to a northeast station after six months because of harassment relating to her sexuality. Two years ago, Waltman transferred back to Montrose and says attitudes toward gay men and lesbians in the department have changed for the better.

Message boards, e-groups, are the modern grapevine

E-groups replacing word-of-mouth in spreading gay news, activist's messages

by ELLA TYLER

I heard it through the grapevine.

Not anymore. Today news comes from the listserv, the technical name for e-mail groups like Han-net and HoP-ON. And, though it's harder to sing "listserv" than "grapevine," messages don't have to be passed on from person to person in a slow and inaccurate method.

Kenneth Carson, who moderates a monthly Internet chat with mayoral liaison Janine Brunjes, is a big fan of e-groups. "I belong to more than 35 groups. Many of my groups are adult in nature but not all," he says.

"I joined Han-net [Houston Activist's Network] primarily to keep in touch with the GLBT community since I don't get out into it very much," Carson says, "and I moderate, (manage) two groups—a science fiction discussion group and a Houston history group."

Carson started the book group because, "I really wanted to discuss GLBT science fiction/fantasy books without someone complaining about the 'queer guy's' choice of subject matter."

The history group began, Carson explains, "because of a thread of personal reminiscences about Houston history on Han-net a while ago. I enjoy history and don't want it to become lost. I decided to turn these stories into a permanent archived format."

Han-net was started three years ago by Brandon Wolf and now has about 300 members.

"It really does seem to be a list for activists," Wolf said. "Other people join and drop out, probably because they aren't interested. Wolf thinks Han-net and other e-groups are popular because, "everyone can participate on their own terms. Unlike meetings, they don't have to be at a certain place at a certain time. Removing those two limitations has increased involvement a great deal."

Han-net is an unmoderated group, which means that members may post directly to the list without being edited or censored. Wolf says this has advantages and disadvantages.



"I think one reason it is popular is because it really is wide open—an open mic for anyone to express their view," he said. "On one hand, that makes it interesting, and at times, provocative. Members get pissed off at times, but they know that Han-net is available when they want to express their views."

"There were times I thought flame wars would shut the network down. But in the end, everyone has seemed to have learned how to live with the good and the bad, and to focus more on the good, than the bad."

HoP-ON (Houston Political Organizing Network) was organized after Han-net.

Postings include press releases and action alerts from national, state and local gay and allied organizations. Clarence Bagby, its moderator, approves messages for posting. This month, he is in Long Island, working on a political campaign.

"I think people are members of HoP-ON because they want someone else to cull through the voluminous amount of Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community organizing opportunities. The quantity of e-mail can be quite overwhelming. They want someone to filter it, to boil it down to the important stuff, so that they don't have 40 or 50 messages every day."

Bagby says he belongs to a lot of list-

Han-net is a neat on-line salon, where the best and brightest in our community can come together and synergize.

—Brandon Wolf

s, including National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, GLAAD, and the Baptist Peace Fellowship. "I find the information very helpful and enjoy the scheduled chats about specific topics," he said.

Melanie Black's list of e-groups demonstrates the diversity of interests represented by these groups. She reports her list of e-groups includes Emotions Anonymous, a 12-step group for dealing with emotional problems like stress and depression; the Council of Magickal Arts, covering the local pagan community; Bi-net, FEMNET and

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Because where I go
from here is up to me.

**Think Ahead.
Plan Your Future With VIRACEPT®.**

Because it's strong and effective. Keep your viral load down with the #1 prescribed HIV medication of its kind.* VIRACEPT works with you to keep your life on track.

Because it's easy to live with. VIRACEPT's easy dosing schedule and manageable side effects have been helping all kinds of people continue to lead their lives on their own terms.

Because it saves future options. When choosing a treatment plan, it's important to consider what options you will have in the future. Studies show taking VIRACEPT early on leaves you with choices in treatment for later. Ask your doctor about your future with VIRACEPT.

VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

VIRACEPT is indicated in combination with other antiretroviral agents for the treatment of HIV infection. The most common side effect of VIRACEPT is diarrhea, which can usually be controlled with over-the-counter treatments. Some prescription and non-prescription drugs and supplements should not be taken with VIRACEPT, so talk to your doctor first. For some people, protease inhibitors have been associated with the onset or worsening of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia, changes in body fat, and increased bleeding in hemophiliacs. **HIV drugs do not cure HIV infection or prevent you from spreading the virus.**

Refer to the important information on the next page. For more information, call toll free 1-888-VIRACEPT or visit www.viracept.com.

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VIRACEPT® (nelfinavir mesylate)

Tablets and Oral Powder

Information for Patients about VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)

Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human
Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

Alert: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with VIRACEPT. Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH VIRACEPT".

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. Although VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, VIRACEPT can help reduce your risk for death and illness associated with HIV. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in the number of CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT should be taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), EpiVir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking protease inhibitors. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the face, legs and arms may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Medicines you should not take with VIRACEPT:

- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat, also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others)
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Mevacor® (lovastatin, for cholesterol lowering)
- Zocor® (simvastatin, for cholesterol lowering)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events:

Rifampin® (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with: Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:

- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegreto® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.

Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

Special considerations

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with VIRACEPT, talk to your doctor about possible drug interactions and side effects. If you take Viagra and VIRACEPT together, you may be at increased risk of side effects of Viagra such as low blood pressure, visual changes, and penile erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, you should seek immediate medical assistance to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

It is not recommended to take VIRACEPT with the cholesterol-lowering drugs Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible drug interactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between VIRACEPT and Lipitor® (atorvastatin) and Baycol® (cerivastatin); talk to your doctor before you take either of these cholesterol reducing drugs with VIRACEPT.

Taking St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort with VIRACEPT is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease VIRACEPT levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to VIRACEPT or cross resistance to other antiretroviral drugs.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:

Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)

EpiVir (lamivudine, 3TC)

Zerit (stavudine, d4T)

Videx® (didanosine, ddl)

If you are taking both Videx (ddl) and VIRACEPT:

Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood is unchanged. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Viramune.

Sustiva™ (efavirenz)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. A dose adjustment is not needed when VIRACEPT is used with Sustiva.

Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:

Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 15-20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily or 1250 mg (five tablets) two times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include nausea, gas and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. Your doctor may prescribe the light blue VIRACEPT Tablets either as 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or as 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. VIRACEPT tablets are film-coated to help make the tablets easier to swallow.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 1250 mg (five tablets) taken two times a day or 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 to 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily				
Body Weight		Number of	Number of	Number of
Kg	Lb	Level Scoops*	Level Teaspoons†	Tablets
7 to <8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	—
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1 1/4	—
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1 1/2	—
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1 3/4	—
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	—
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2 1/4	—
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2 1/2	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3 3/4	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do not mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do not heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do not add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

Call 1.888.VIRACEPT

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around the nation

Gay-themed music festival postponed until next year over lineup shuffle

NEW YORK (AP)—Sinead O'Connor's surprise departure from this summer's Wotapalava tour has forced the postponement of the gay-themed concert festival until next year. The tour, the creation of Pet Shop Boy Neil Tennant, had been scheduled to begin in Miami on July 13 and hit several venues across the South, including Atlanta on July 15. Billed as the first openly gay concert tour of the United States, it was to feature O'Connor, Rufus Wainwright, the Pet Shop Boys, Soft Cell and others. O'Connor pulled out last month, citing family concerns. Organizers said Monday that because of the difficulty of finding a suitable replacement, they've been forced to postpone the tour until next year. But organizers said last month that they had replaced O'Connor with Grace Jones. "We have made this decision with the greatest of reluctance," said Tennant in a statement released in New York City. "But it seems impossible to proceed without a complete lineup of artists. We look forward to coming to America next year." Fans who purchased tickets can get refunds wherever they purchased them, organizers said.

NY high court says lesbian couple can sue college over housing rules

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A medical school's policy of allowing married students, but not gay partners, to share college housing may violate New York City anti-discrimination statutes, the state's highest court ruled July 2. The Court of Appeals ruled that a lesbian couple should be allowed to sue Yeshiva University for bias based on sexual orientation. The decision overturned two lower courts, which found that the college's policy was not discriminatory because it applied to not only homosexual couples but also to unmarried heterosexual couples. The Court of Appeals sent the case back to a trial court. The students, Sara Levin and Maggie Jones, have graduated from Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. The case is being pursued by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund and other anti-discrimination groups.

Appeals sent the case back to a trial court. The students, Sara Levin and Maggie Jones, have graduated from Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. The case is being pursued by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund and other anti-discrimination groups.

Maggie Jones (right), along with Sara Levin, sued Yeshiva University over a policy that denied housing to same-sex couples. A New York court ruled Monday that the lawsuit can proceed.



APA considers revoking exemption for religious schools over gay bias

WASHINGTON—The American Psychological Association is considering removing a religious exemption in its accreditation standards for colleges because it could be used to justify gay discrimination, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported. The exemption allows religiously affiliated institutions to use preferential treatment for people who adhere to the institution's faith. Removing the exemption could force the colleges to accept gay students and teachers or cause their psychology department to lose its accreditation. "It may come down to forcing such schools to decide between eliminating their school of psychology or abandoning the faith tradition that gives them their unique character," said Patrick Korten, spokesperson for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty. The APA is the only organization approved by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit graduate programs in psychology, and in many states graduates of unaccredited programs do not qualify for licensure or employment. "I think it really is a little bit early to raise the alarm bells because we really are in an information-gathering stage," said APA spokesperson Rhea Farberman.

NEA delegates to consider gay-friendly resolution during convention

LOS ANGELES—The 9,000 plus delegates to this week's National Education Association convention will debate a resolution that encourages consideration of the "complex and diverse needs" of gay students in curriculum development, the *Honolulu Star Bulletin* reported. The resolution calls for development of programs for gay students, involvement of gay educators in developing classroom material, recognition of the importance of gay people as role models and accurate portrayals of gay roles and contributions to society. Existing NEA resolutions endorse similar curriculum development and role model emphasis for American Indians, Latinos, Asians, Pacific Islanders and blacks. In Honolulu, educators discussed whether to oppose the resolution because of the impact it would have on the state's abstinence policy, while the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported that Utah educators would oppose the resolution.

Jury awards straight WI professor \$294,000 in lawsuit alleging bias

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Jurors awarded a University of Wisconsin-Whitewater professor nearly \$294,000 after finding school officials retaliated against him for complaining about sex discrimination he allegedly suffered from his lesbian department chair. Steven Albrechtsen, 45, filed complaints with university officials in 1997 and 1998 claiming that lesbians who were running his department treated him unfairly because he is a heterosexual man. He claimed that officials gave him a low merit pay raise and did not let him teach two summer classes he had previously taught. Jurors awarded Albrechtsen \$250,000 for emotional distress and \$43,840 for lost income and determined that university officials retaliated against him but did not discriminate. "The bottom line is that this is about right and wrong, and basically right came out on top," Albrechtsen said. University officials denied the allegations.

—From staff and wire reports

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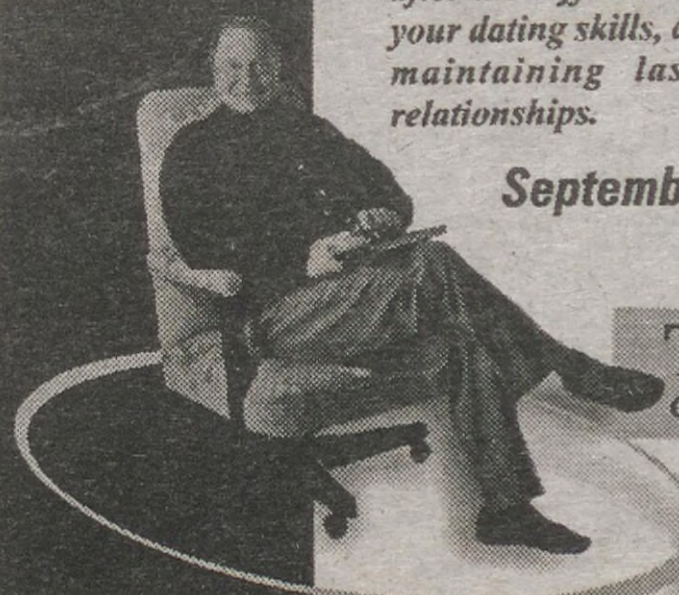
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ACLU helps mother of slain gay man appeal suit against Houston

The American Civil Liberties Union is charging that a federal judge wrongly dismissed a lawsuit against the city of Houston in the death of a gay man murdered by his ex-lover. The ACLU on Thursday filed papers in the case with the federal appeals court in New Orleans on behalf of Gloria Swidriski, the mother of Marc Kajs who was shot and killed by his ex-boyfriend, Ilhan Yilmaz, in front of a Montrose restaurant in March 1998.

Federal Judge Melinda Harmon dismissed the suit in April ruling that Swidriski could not sue the city over her claims that police ignored Kajs' requests for protection homosexuals are not a "protected class," and thus are not entitled to make claims under the Equal Protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Swidriski claims that if HPD had taken her son's complaints seriously, Yilmaz would not have been able to carry a concealed firearm. She alleges that Houston police routinely deny protective services to gay victims of crimes.



Marc Kajs

"We cannot let this ruling stand," said Matt Coles, director of the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project. "These particular parts of the Constitution exist to make sure that all people are treated equally under that law—certainly including lesbians and gay men."



Gloria Swidriski, mother of slain gay man Marc Kajs, pictured with her husband Edward, claims if Houston Police had taken her son's complaints seriously, he would still be alive. Kajs was shot and killed by his ex-boyfriend in front of a Montrose restaurant in March 1998.

Swidriski's appeal will go to a three-judge panel of the appeals court, who may decide to schedule a hearing for later this year, or may issue a decision based only on the written briefs in the case.

"The arguments the city made that were adopted by the district judge are so out of line with many, many years of litigation on this topic, that I would only hope that they (the three-judge panel) would reverse it," Robert Rosenberg, a Houston attorney representing Swidriski told the Houston Voice. "Since the 1880s, the courts have repeatedly found that everyone is entitled to equal protection. That what all the precedence says."

He said that should the federal appeals court uphold the ruling, Houston "would be the only place in the country where lesbians and gay men are not entitled to equal protection."

— Wendy K. Mohon

Teen says he killed friend because of guilt over gay relationship

A Katy teen-ager told investigators this week he was compelled to kill his friend due to guilt over their homosexual relationship.

Jon Paul Marsh, 17, will be tried as an adult for the March 20 murder of 14-year-old friend Nathan Mayoral.

Marsh, 16 at the time of the slaying, was released on \$75,000 bond early Tuesday. Under conditions of his bail Marsh must wear an ankle monitor, remain under a 24-hour curfew and have no contact with the Mayoral family.

Marsh told Harris County Sheriff's detectives he didn't want what he termed an "inappropriate" relationship with Mayoral.

"It was the last thing keeping me hating

myself," Marsh told investigators.

Mayoral's body was found eight days after the March 20 slaying in a west Harris County field. A partial fingerprint on tape used to bind the body in a sheet was used to link Marsh to the crime.

Marsh told investigators he beat Mayoral with a ceramic plant saucer, slammed the boy's head against the ground several times, then stood on Mayoral's neck and beat his head with a hammer.

Mayoral's parents told the Houston Chronicle they don't believe their son was gay.

"I don't feel like Nathan was a willing participant, or he'd still be alive today," said Tony Mayoral, his father. "Whether he was or he wasn't, I love him still the same."

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by LISA KEEN

VIEWPOINT

An editor changes seats and considers the view

The job of newspaper editor—even in the summer—is a little like driving a snowplow through a blinding storm: You've got to keep your focus on the road in front of you. News is piling up with such speed and force that all your senses must be tuned into the job of steering your vehicle along the roads most traveled. The better you know those roads, the more likely you can find them, clear away all that obscures them, and enable the reader to see the world clearly enough to get where he or she wants to go.

A commentator, on the other hand, is more like a backseat driver. No matter what the weather, the commentator is there to tell readers who to pass, what lane to be in, when they've missed a turn, where they should be going, and how to set the radio dial.

I used to be a newspaper editor. I started as assistant editor of the *Washington Blade* in 1981 and became its top editor in 1983. I stayed in that seat—and as executive editor of the New York sister paper we founded in 1997—until May of this year.

My tenure as an editor began just as the AIDS epidemic was emerging and the gay movement was being jolted and bolted into enormous growth, so I never really knew a "dry spell" news-wise. The adrenaline was always pumping—there was a climbing death toll, a barrage of anti-gay amendments, sex scandals, outings, new presidents in the White House, new majority parties in Congress, landmark decisions in the Supreme Court, national campaigns by right-wing religious zealots, breast cancer, Census data, and microscopic differences in the ears of gay people and straights.

It was my responsibility, as editor, to see that the mountains of information were shoveled up, so to speak. Shoveled up, measured, and reported so readers could be apprised of how deep the morass, how dangerous the travel.

But after 20 years, just about everything becomes routine—even the most exciting jobs—and I was ready for a change. With the sale of the *Blades* to Window Media, the parent company of *Houston Voice*, I had the opportunity to hand the editorship over to new and capable guardians and take my 20 years of experience, climb into that metaphorical backseat that is commentary, and venture to speak my view of the road.

First, I'd like to say something about

those commentators in the backseat.

I've been entertained by their banter, generally speaking, but not often well served. Nowadays, too many commentators seem more occupied with filling a niche: The Conservative, The Liberal, The Witty Liberal, The Indignant Conservative, the Conservative Wit, and so on—than with filling a need for real analysis.

After 20 years of editing a gay newspaper, holding my personal opinions deliberately in check, I'm ready to speak my mind.

Though I have my doubts about George W. Bush's qualifications to lead and govern this country (primarily because I haven't seen him exhibit any without a script), I've grown weary of The Irreverent One's demeaning of the president as a mere "boy toy" to Uncle Dick.

I am equally irritated by the Self-Righteous Bully's pretense of "amusement" that some people believe "the presidential election has been settled not by the people but by judges." That any voters have reason to think so is not particularly funny.

The niche-filling tendency is, I presume, an effort to meet the market's demand. Perhaps, sometimes, we do want quick and entertaining validation of our own gut feelings—someplace we can go to for 700-plus words of ammunition with which to defend views we already harbor. Perhaps we just need a little reassurance that our opinions can be justified and defended at the next dinner party when Mister or Ms. Know-It-All increases the volume on the monologue and glances our way for permission to speak ad nauseum.

If we're conservative, we can pick up the *Washington Post* so The Scowler can play it again and again about how Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia (a judicial terrorist born at least two centuries too late) is unfairly pilloried when, in the world according to George W., Scalia's really the world's best interpreter of what the authors of the Constitution meant to say 200 some years ago.

If we're liberals, we'll hunt down the Twang of Texas to hear that life-saving drugs cost too much because pharmaceutical companies spend twice as much on marketing anti-HIV drugs as they do

on developing them (but we won't know about that little complication of how thousands of dollars of AIDS drug advertising have helped sustain and grow gay newspapers for years).

I don't have a niche. I'm just getting started—with this essay. And, frankly, there's a chance I won't ever develop a niche that can sustain a moniker. After all, I'm the person who initiated the

Washington Blade's decidedly maverick policy of not publishing editorials or endorsing candidates.

I genuinely believed that the leadership of a newspaper whose purpose it was to serve all readers could best contribute to that purpose by maintaining neutrality. The newspaper, I thought, should be a neutral forum where facts are presented and a broad range of views can be heard.

I still believe that policy is a good one but, to my knowledge, no other newspaper editor has ever agreed.

Now that I am no longer the editor, I feel free to express my opinions about things and, after 20 years with my eyes fixed upon the world but my personal opinions held deliberately in check, I've got some thoughts to share.

I'm not going to start drawing lines in the political sand and urge you to come over to my side. The world and its people do not neatly fall into masculine or feminine, dark or light. Gay people understand this concept better than most.

Our beliefs, as an Indian philosopher once wrote, are "purely an individual matter." The goal should not be to have one view "win" over another; clinging too fiercely to one view, he said, turns an opinion into "a creed, a sect, a religion, to be imposed on others."

The goal is to have every view enlighten every other, to share what we see and to see what others share so that we are all better able to understand this constantly evolving world from whatever seat we've taken.

Lisa Keen, the former executive editor of the Washington Blade, is senior political correspondent for Houston Voice and can be reached at lkeen@washblade.com.



VIEWPOINT

Personal ads and the Internet: Highway to celibacy

by RICH ARENSCHIELDT

The headline is simple and gay-forward: "Intelligent, Aging Preppy Seeks Same."

Though others may have a much different description of me, on the Net this phrase sums me up. The attached pic is the same one you see here. It's the only one I ever use. I'm very careful about photos and me.

Upon consultation with my therapist (who incidentally shares a physic hotline with the ever-wrinkling Dionne Warwick), we decided this the was the result of me growing up with a metabolism so high that I used to burn today's calories a week ago (a problem I no longer possess). Family pics from the first half of my life depict me as a razor-thin dork with hounddog protruding ribs.

I never thought that placing a bio on the w-w-worldwide Web would be so arduous. I decide to be totally honest about myself. (Dionne and I racked up quite a phone bill with the subsequent discussion of my unexamined life). Since age was the most glaring label I faced, I approach it in a very Samantha (from "Sex in the City") way, being proud of 40.

Then reality stepped on me. I thought, "When I search the Net for a husband what do I look for?" The answer was swift and sudden, "Men who are 40? I don't look at 40s. I look for 18 to 35s." The decision was made—instantly I became 35.

That hurdle conquered, I decided to tackle "physical description." In my case

this is tough. It's complicated by the fact that, at various times in my life, three complete strangers have tried to stuff a wallet in my mouth to prevent me from swallowing my tongue during a seizure—while I was walking down the street minding my own business. Undaunted, I decide to accentuate the positive fact that I get great parking spaces during holiday shopping periods.

The questionnaire gets worse and inquiries can now be divided into four basic categories: How out of shape are you? How unattractive are you? How nellie are you? And (the best one) How small is your penis? Apparently, these must be the things that all gay men want to know about each other. Wondering who designed this self-defecating online curriculum vitae, I continue.

The problem is that there just aren't enough choices. The selections are styled in such a way that there are no descriptives between "steroid stuffed stud" and "doubles as sectional sofa on the weekends."

I guess I'm in average physical condition. Here's proof: yesterday I dropped some change while visiting the "Dairy Queen" drive thru. I reached out of the car and retrieved it, never dislodging the cherry from atop my hot fudge sundae. I was impressed by my physical prowess, even though slightly winded as the result of the exertion.

I have a swimmers build but never wear a black and white bathing suit in San Antonio for fear of being mistaken for the world's largest mammal. The "body type" category stirs much debate.

I think, "Well, my ear wax is terrible, but people like my teeth." I double click the "average" box.

Trying to get clues about self-description I peruse ads placed by others. I begin to wonder how these guys see themselves, or rather, the assumption they make, that we can't see them. There are pictures of "30-year-olds" who look ancient enough to be part of a prehistoric diorama at the Museum of Natural Science.

Confident men who describe themselves as "VGL" (very good looking) are in need of some serious resurfacing. As gay men, we all know where we fit in the "attractiveness pecking order." No, Ryan Idol hasn't called me yet. I'm sure he and Jeff Stryker tried to ring me at the exact same moment, both got a busy signal and hung up. I decide to let my pic do the talking in this area. If a lopsided grin gets you hot, I'm your man!

The next section is labeled "Demeanor." After I look it up in the dictionary I try to determine where I fall on the GLBT etcetera scale. A quick peek in my closet provides no help. On one side I have a "Hooters" sweatshirt my friend Carlos bought me, and on the other hangs my Archbishop of Canterbury regalia. I bought it because I figured if I couldn't marry Princess Di, at least I could perform the ceremony.

I contemplate labeling myself as someone "in the middle." Suddenly, I have mental flash of me with two panting, toothless, tattooed, closet cases from Tomball. Sensing that this would send

the wrong subliminal message to suitors, I change my choice to "masculine." This presents a challenge. Note to self: do not to use the phrase "Sister Mary girlfriend" within the first three minutes of meeting any potential insignificant other.

Almost exhausted, I approach the last and most humiliatingly intimate question. Wait a minute! Do women have to answer this? Obviously not, what would they measure?

My lesbian friends refer to male private parts as "that piece of gristle" and at this moment, I share their contempt. I am NOT describing my penis on the Net.

What if my grandmother gets a wild hair, buys a computer and sees my ad? Thanksgiving dinner would never be the same. When I was younger, I used to speed past adult bookstores, honk the horn and wave at exiting patrons. I'm sure they spent the rest of the day at the office wondering, "Who saw me?" I'd rather not contemplate who sees my nasty bits on the Web.

After all of this internal strife, my personal ad is placed and still stands. It's a testament to the dating tenacity of gay men everywhere.

However, I do wish that all those guys who are currently IN relationships would delete THEIR ads. Y'all need to go fertilize each other in another stream. That would give the rest of us salmon trying to spawn a fighting chance.

Rich Arenschioldt is a freelance writer. To reserve a space on his cyber dance card, write to ArchbishopofMontrose@hotmail.com.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner

Airplane Story part 1

Pete and LC golfing: Virginia Highland Atlanta

It was a nighttime flight. connection in Charlotte, then on to New Orleans, I'm already in my seat. couple a' standbys rush on last minute. Harried.

One of them is pretty cute. A klutz, but cute. And I'm thinkin' how come I never get seafed next to cute guys on a plane? but here he is squeezin' in next to me...

And the plane taxis, and I shut my eyes during takeoff and am out cold, & then, maybe half an hour later, I'm feelin' the heat from his leg, right next to mine.

And I figure, he's just asleep, y'know? But I kind'a gently press against his leg, y'know?

So I'm pressin' against his leg, & he's definitely pressin' against mine. We got our eyes closed like we're sleepin' but I peek. Parts of him definitely ain't sleepin'.

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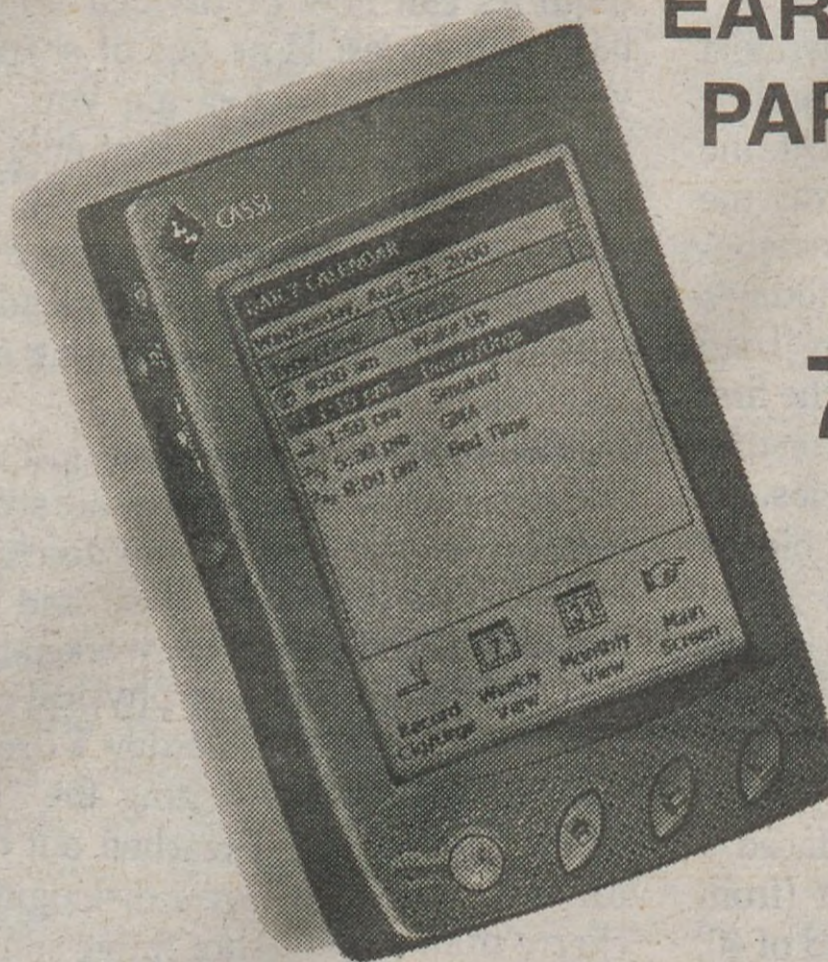
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health news

Philip Morris objects to condom ads targeting gays in Toronto

TORONTO—U.S. cigarette manufacturer Philip Morris wants a Toronto ad campaign promoting condom use to be pulled because of its similarity to a Marlboro ad, Reuters reported. The billboards feature two cowboys sitting suggestively on a horse with the slogan: "Welcome to Condom Country," and recommending that sexually active people "ride safely." Philip Morris says the ad echoes Marlboro's long-running ads featuring a rugged cowboy and the invitation, "Come to Marlboro Country." "In principle, we object to the use," said company spokesperson Robert Kaplan. The ads were unveiled during Toronto's Pride celebration last month. "Our ad tried to be a parody on any number of ads that have been running over the past 30 years that target a macho male image," said Charles Roy, executive director of the committee. "People were coming to our booths from around the world, wanting to take our posters back to their city because they thought the campaign was outstanding," Roy said.

Posters for gay health consortium pulled from NY bus shelters

NEW YORK—The founder of a local gay health consortium is considering legal action after one of its posters was pulled from city bus shelters. The poster was one of three created by the Bronx Lesbian & Gay Health Resource Consortium, which contracted with Infinity Outdoor to put them up. The poster reads, "I'm not gay but I sometimes have sex with other guys. People don't understand. If you're a guy who has sex with guys, sometimes or every time, you have special healthcare needs. Let us help you find a supportive Bronx doctor that understands." The ads cost the consortium \$19,000 to place. An Infinity spokesperson cited community complaints as the reason for pulling the poster from 12 shelters. Consortium spokesperson Lisa Winters said legal action is possible. "We're still hoping we can convince the company to put them back up," Winters said.

Two senators call for probe into alleged misuses of federal AIDS funds

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal dollars meant for treating AIDS patients are being wasted and misspent, according to two senators who have called for an investigation. Sens. Max



U.S. Senators Max Baucus (D-Mont., right) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) have called for an investigation into alleged misuse of federal AIDS funds.

Baucus (D-Mont.) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) want federal officials to examine the \$1.8 billion spent annually in programs funded by the Ryan White Act. In a letter to the Health & Human Services Department's inspector general, the lawmakers cited recent articles that alleged a Dallas clinic had spent \$60,000 in federal AIDS funds on psychic hot line calls and shopping trips. The lawmakers said they are not only concerned that tax dollars are being wasted "but also thousands of individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS are being denied the care and assistance that they need—and that Congress intended to provide them." Some abuses are already being investigated by HHS, the FBI and some state agencies, the senators said. "Shopping trips and Caribbean conferences don't help AIDS patients," Grassley said.

Money biggest challenge in fighting AIDS globally, U.N. chief says

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The biggest challenge to implementing the plan crafted at the recent U.N. conference on AIDS in developing countries is fully funding it, says U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Annan estimated the program will cost \$7 billion to \$10 billion a year, which is five times what those countries currently spend. So far, only \$300 million has been pledged—\$200 million by President George W. Bush and \$100 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Coca-Cola has also offered its distribution network for the delivery of supplies. In addition to money, countries must find the will to battle the disease in a myriad of ways, such as training women on how to protect themselves and socially empowering them to do so. One crucial decision will be whether to focus primarily on providing drugs for those already infected or on preventing new infections. "The fight is not going to be won in a day. We are dealing with human tragedy of unimaginable proportions," Annan said.

Lesbians, bi women at greater risk for chronic diseases, new study says

LOS ANGELES—Health patterns among lesbians and bisexual women leave them at greater risk of cancer and other chronic diseases linked to smoking and obesity than heterosexual women, according to a University of California, Los Angeles School of Public Health study published in the *American Journal of Public Health*. The study showed that lesbian and bisexual women have higher rates of obesity, alcohol and tobacco use, as well as lower rates of childbearing and oral contraceptive use than other women. The study also found that these women also are less likely to have health insurance coverage or to have had a recent pelvic examination or mammogram. The study did not find a higher rate of breast cancer among the women than among the general U.S. population. The study was compiled from seven independent studies conducted across the country between 1987 and 1996.



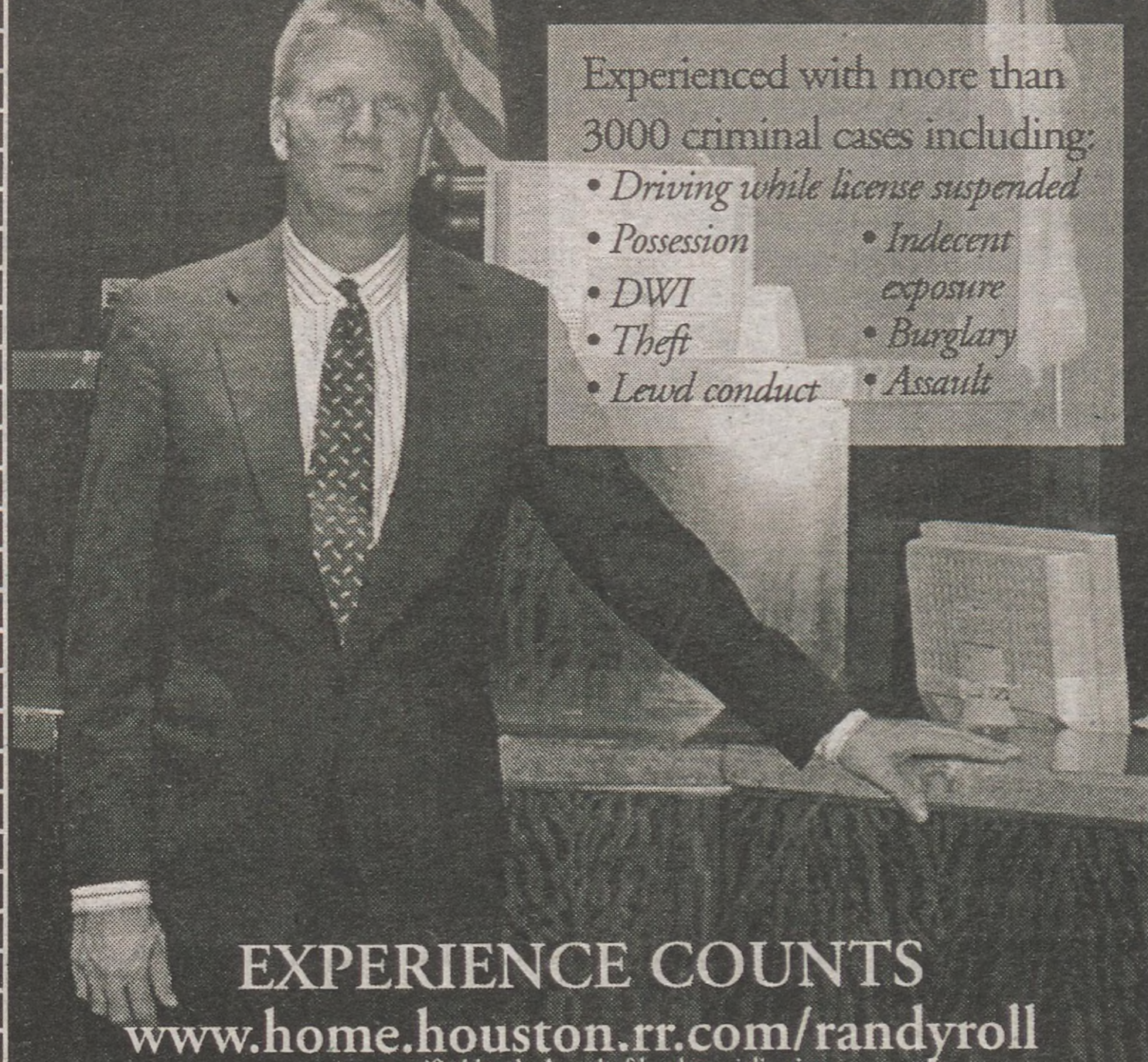
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for the James Byrd Hate Crime Bill

at

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Carter and Coley's Restaurant
375 West 19th Street
Houston, Texas
Sunday, July 15th
4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Hosts

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Janie Reyes*Pat Day*Marty Levy
Gene Harrington*Clair Koepsel
Lou Vaneck*Jack Valinski
Bill Agosto*Gertrude Banstone
Dean John Brittain*Mitchell
Katine*James Douglas
Janine Brunjes*David Kahne
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Gays in rural areas account for largest gains

>Continued from Page 1

August, an official with the Census Bureau said. Reports for Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina, Utah and Washington state are scheduled to be released next week.

Gay rights advocates who conducted an unprecedented public education campaign to let gay couples know about the "unmarried partner" option on 2000 Census forms have heralded the dramatic increases as proof of the success of their efforts.

"There was no awareness in our community that we were going to be counted in 1990 [the first year the 'unmarried partner' option appeared on the Census]," said David Elliot, spokesperson for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, which joined with the Institute for Gay & Lesbian Strategic Studies in a massive "Make Your Family Count" campaign last year.

The national campaign included public service announcements in 24 regional gay newspapers, five national gay magazines and an Associated Press story that ran in newspapers reaching 16 million readers, Elliot said.

Still, the rise in gay couples reported in the 2000 Census reflects much more than public education efforts specifically geared

to the Census itself.

From high-profile court cases seeking marriage rights in Hawaii and Vermont to openly gay celebrities willing to be public about their partners, America has talked more about gay relationships in the last 10 years than ever before.

Those public discussions have, in turn, helped enable gay couples around the country—from big cities to small rural counties—to demand recognition from their government, activists said.

"The Census reflects the changing face of our society," Elliot said. "During the 1990s, our movement clearly began to focus on securing our family relationships, through domestic partnership, adoption rights, civil unions and even fighting for same-sex marriage."

The battle for family rights

Still, despite a decade of activism, in many important ways, gay couples who identified themselves on the Census in 2000 are no better off than those that did so in 1990: The federal government and all 50 states still forbid gays to marry and most states still allow anti-gay job discrimination.

But while gay marriage remains illegal, recognition for gay couples has increased

dramatically over the last 10 years, in both the public and private sector.

In 1990, only 17 companies were known to offer domestic partner benefits, according to the Human Rights Campaign. By the end of 1999, that number had increased to at least 3,000, including 80 Fortune 500 companies.

Also by 1999, 40 municipalities around the country had enacted domestic partner registries, and the Vermont Legislature had passed a bill creating "civil unions," a separate legal status for gay couples conferring all of the rights of marriage under state law, though allowing no federal benefits.

The decade between the current and last Census also saw high-profile losses for gay couples' rights: Supreme courts in Hawaii and Vermont refused to grant full marriage rights to gays, and the federal government and 29 states passed "Defense of Marriage" Acts banning recognition of same-sex marriages.

Yet even when the end result was a loss, the public conversations about these issues both in the media and around office water coolers helped give gays the courage to come out about their relationships, activists said.

"One thing the marriage litigation does is allow people to wake up and realize that they were not born with some defect that makes

them unmarriageable," said Steve Scarborough, staff attorney for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, which helped litigate the Hawaii and Vermont cases.

As people start to ask "Why shouldn't I be able to get married?", they also begin to seek other ways of publicly acknowledging their relationships, such as the Census, Scarborough said.

To be sure, gay couples existed throughout the country long before the Census, or the mainstream media, began to take note: "It's not like we were invented in the last decade because of Ellen DeGeneres," Elliot has said.

But "Ellen," and countless other high profile gay entertainment and news stories, have made an impact on the awareness of gay relationships, said Cathy Renna, news media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Renna said she located only about 30 news articles dealing with gays and the Census in 1990, compared to more than 500 in just the last six months.

Even defeats, like unsuccessful attempts to win gay marriage rights, helped gay people come out, Renna said.

"You lose the battle, but you win the war," she said.

Bush avoids comment on Surgeon General's sexual health report

>Continued from Page 1

landmark document," Ross told the Houston Voice in an exclusive interview. "It required a significant amount of bravery on the part of the Surgeon General."

Satcher, a Clinton appointee, has released information that illuminates the most profound problems associated with the current state of the sexual health of the nation.

This "Call to Action" addresses such politically disagreeable topics as the fact that annually, there are 12 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases; that there are an estimated 800,000-900,000 individuals currently living with HIV; that 50 percent of all pregnancies are unintended; and that 22 percent of women and an estimated 104,000 children are victims of sexual violence.

In spite of the bleak statistics, many aspects of the report are favorable to gays and lesbians. The tone of the document is overwhelmingly inclusive. Gays, lesbians, transsexuals and "alternative family structures" are mentioned.

"Even before we began to work on the report, the surgeon general stated that he wanted to include information about gays and lesbians and the discrimination they face," Ross said. "This was something that was included in every draft we submitted. There was a clear mandate from him on this issue, something that has since caused controversy, especially from conservatives."

The report includes other important statements, urging the "recognition and tolerance of the diversity of sexual values within any community." The definition of

It is our intention that the responsibility falls on individual communities as to how recommendations and solutions will be implemented.

—Michael Ross, University of Texas professor of public health

"community" is broad: "A community can be defined in several ways, [such as] through the shared values and practices of its members." This is a clear reference to specific gay concerns. It also confirms "sexual orientation is usually determined by adolescence" and that "there is no evidence that sexual orientation can change."

Though some may view it as a political hot potato, "This report was to be based on the best sexual science available, regardless of politics," Ross said. "We were instructed to find areas upon which all parties could agree, regardless of their political viewpoints on various subjects."

The report utilized findings from experts in each area, and was not concerned with the political fallout that it might provoke.

"Among the contributors, we were very conscious of sensitivities at both ends of the political spectrum," Ross said. "We phrased things in such a way that could make the report acceptable... there many areas in which there was broad agreement. Everyone reached a consensus on abortion, in that rates should be lowered.

"We steered clear of the legal issues and focused on the problem at hand. This report was a call for dialogue, not a

set of final of instructions."

The report identifies many of the problems associated with sexual health and tries to include all parties who may have a role creating solutions. Options for public health entities are discussed. Specifics related to increased availability of screening for STDs and infection rates among varying ages and ethnicities are cited.

Parents, schools, churches, the media and health service providers and their respective roles as educators are mentioned. Suggestions for educational formats vary, with "comprehensive" sexual education suggested as an alternative to "abstinence only" based curriculums.

Regarding HIV/AIDS, in his introductory letter accompanying the report, Satcher is poignant and direct.

"For the many persons living with HIV/AIDS in the country... We realize that you are not the enemy; that the enemy in this epidemic is the virus, not those who are infected with it."

Readers expecting a data-filled government tome will be surprised. This report is concise, easily understood and approachable in format and content. The issues and discussion points are clearly stated.

"This document underwent 16 drafts, the 15th of which was submitted the week before President Bush's inauguration. We wanted something that was readable by someone with a high school education," Ross said.

"We aimed this report not at the extreme left or right, but rather at the parents of middle America. These are people who realize that there is a problem and want more information to do something about it."

The Office of the Surgeon General will disseminate the report. By all accounts, the Bush administration is trying to distance itself from the report. The administration has been conspicuous by their absence of commentary. President Bush's secretary of health and human services, Tommy Thompson, has reviewed the document and according to Ross, "Didn't add or delete anything from it."

"An important distinction is that this is a 'Call to Action,' not a huge scientific report," Ross said. "There are two key points, this is a call to dialogue, and secondly, the report says that the dialogue has to happen within specific communities. Those critical of this report have ignored this important component.

"It is our intention that the responsibility falls on individual communities as to how recommendations and solutions will be implemented. We know that education on sexuality is taking place—in the schoolyard and the street. We need to go to all health providers with all the available science on the issue and involve them in the sexual health discussion."

Lesbian officer encountered harassment at Montrose station

> Continued from Page 2

She approached several gay men and lesbians with HPD, but was mostly turned down. "They said they wouldn't do it for free, but I think they were afraid." She understood their stance especially the gay male officers. "A lot of officers seem to be okay with gay females, but with gay males it's different. They get a harder time."

Waltman managed to persuade Officer Joy Smith, and eight-year veteran, who is gay, and Officer Kent Gilbert, who is not gay, to take the historic appearance in the parade with her.

She doesn't feel brave for being in the parade and yet many thought it was a very brave thing to do considering the usual atmosphere toward gays in military or quasi-military organizations like HPD. She could be risking her nearly 12 years on the force.

No, Waltman didn't feel brave and didn't feel like she was a trailblazer at the time. Rather, she thought Gilbert was the brave one because he isn't gay and still went in the parade.

"It takes someone very sure of themselves to do that," said Waltman.

Waltman said she has felt no repercussions from the event and in fact feels like some at HPD admire her to some extent. She said that of the officers lining the parade route, "Some were doing thumbs up and some were glaring."

But Waltman is no stranger to discrimination regarding her sexuality within HPD



Officer Ann Waltman marched in the Houston Police Department's first official entry in the Houston's Gay Pride Parade last month. While walking the parade route, the 11-year HPD veteran encountered fellow officers patrolling the sidelines and noticed 'some were doing thumbs up and some were glaring.'

during her time with the organization. As a rookie in 1991, she was assigned to the Montrose storefront on Westheimer, but she stayed only six months because of harassment relating to her sexuality.

Her sergeant was the problem. He asked her if she was gay "like that Cindy girl," another officer at the storefront, said Waltman. "He gave the other female officer and me a hard time. I seemed to be a direct target."

Waltman tells of a car accident she had on Fairview that was not her fault but which she seemed to be blamed. "I'd never had a problem before but I was told I would be put with a male officer for more training."

But when she went to an assistant chief to check out the validity of the order, Waltman found no paperwork existed for her retraining. "They were just messing with me."

This was at this same time she was awarded the Chief's citation for her work in catching gay attorney Paul Broussard's brutal killers. Broussard was beaten to death after he came out of a gay bar in the Montrose, a victim of youths from the Woodlands area.

"It was kind of ironic. I was being harassed for being gay and I had just received a citation for helping catch Broussard's gay bashers," said Waltman.

By then, she was afraid that the sergeant would try to get her fired so she asked for a transfer to the northeast station where she remained for the next nine years.

She said she was sometimes kidded about her sexuality at the northeast station, but most officers realized that she was a good officer and was their back up in tough situations. "I had to prove myself but then most rookies do if they're female and gay."

Waltman returned to the Montrose storefront two years ago and found it to be a different and more tolerant place to work.

"The times are changing and the station is more gay friendly. Officers have diversity

training at the police academy, which helps, but some people will never change," Waltman said.

She loves her work on the streets even though daily she has to deal with runaways, prostitutes, drunks and the like. She said all of life can be seen in the couple of blocks near Westheimer and Montrose.

But she's not ready to give it up any time soon. She's known since she was 17 that she wanted to be a police officer. She has a degree in criminal justice and even has a girlfriend who is a police officer with Dallas PD.

She likes working vice and narcotics and said she may try for a job in one of those units, but only if she can still be out on the streets. "I would hate a desk job," she said with utter conviction. "I've got too much energy," plus she enjoys the danger and excitement of the streets.

What does she see in the future for HPD and its treatment of gays? One day she hopes to see some sort of gay officers' association so they can be more out of the closet. She also thinks when Mayor Lee P. Brown's anti-discrimination initiative is passed; officers will feel safer being open about their sexuality.

Waltman thinks that HPD's entry in the parade was not only a big step toward helping gays at HPD but was also good for relations between gays in general and the police department.

"Maybe us being in the parade opened up something."

She hopes so.

Several host sites available for gay e-groups, chats and polls

> Continued from Page 2

The Women's Group.

"I am also on four various SCA related lists: For news and events with the Society for Creative Anachronism (www.sca.org)," she said. Black is president of the Texas Association for Transsexual Support and belongs to five lists dealing with transgender issues, including the Transunity list that she and Cristan Williams moderate.

"This list is for the TG Unity committee and the six local groups for planning and discussion of events and news affecting the local TG community," Black said. As moderators, she and Williams decide who can join the list. She says the process is not formal.

"If we know them, we'll admit them quickly, but if not, we check them out. There are some people who are not looking for what this site offers, and we get some pretty disgusting male porn spam. It's easier to deny someone membership than ban them later."

Many organizations have both Web sites and e-groups. Steve Lambert is the "Webmaster" for PFLAG Houston and manages the PFLAG-Houston group on Yahoo Groups.

"We use it largely for PFLAG announcements, PFLAG news, and other news of interest to the PFLAG audience," Lambert says.

"I wish the Han-net and PFLAG-Houston groups were more popular. For example, every GLBT organization in the



The Houston Activist's Network, better known as Han-net, is one of the more popular listservs devoted to the local gay and lesbian community. Started three years ago, the group offers e-mail and Web site accessible unmoderated message postings to its 300 members.

area should have a person who posts messages to let everyone in the area know what their organization is doing.

"Online discussion groups were a big thing that helped my own coming out in the mid-to-late '80s. I lived in a small town in Ohio and didn't really know anyone gay or have easy access to resources. But there was CompuServe, and it was the king of online discussion forums.

"They had a well-managed group with supportive moderators and participants

from across the U.S. and Canada. It was a great online support group with people sharing the details of their normal, gay lives. It helped a lot."

"We had a chat option for a while, but it put back the 'needing to be in one place at one time ingredient,' so no one used it."

Black likes the AOL instant messenger feature better than chat lines. "If someone's on AOL, you can pick who you want to talk to and talk whenever they're online."

The other factor that makes a group popular, Wolf thinks, is compatible members. "Han-net is a neat on-line salon, where the best and brightest in our community can come together and synergize. The truest reason for Han-net's popularity is the members themselves—it's a really neat group of interesting and talented people. How could it NOT be popular?"

There are e-groups, some with a surprisingly large membership, for almost any conceivable interest. There are at least five services that provide "homes" for e-groups, plus Talk City, which hosts chats.

Yahoo, home for Han-net, HoP-ON, and the P-FLAG list, among others, might be the host to the largest number of groups. Locating a group can be reasonably straightforward. Then again, it might not be. Typing in "gay" and "Houston" yielded 40 matches, including gay and lesbian skydivers.

MSN Communities has a big variety of Web communities, and an easy to use index. Keying in "lesbian" and "Texas" retrieved eight sites. These groups do not send e-mails to members; messages are retrieved from the Web site at <http://communities.msn.com>.

Last, but not least, there is Queer Net. It hosts nearly 1,000 groups, all of which are for some or all kinds of, well, "queers." This is not a commercial service, so it doesn't look commercial, but it is easy to find a group for whatever niche community you are looking for.

INFO

Carson's groups:

www.smartgroups.com/groups/glbts/cifi

www.smartgroups.com/groups/memorylane.

To chat online with Janine Brunjes the second Wednesday of each month from 9:30-10:30p.m., go to: www.talkcity.com.

Sign in and go to the: AHoustonglbtforum@room

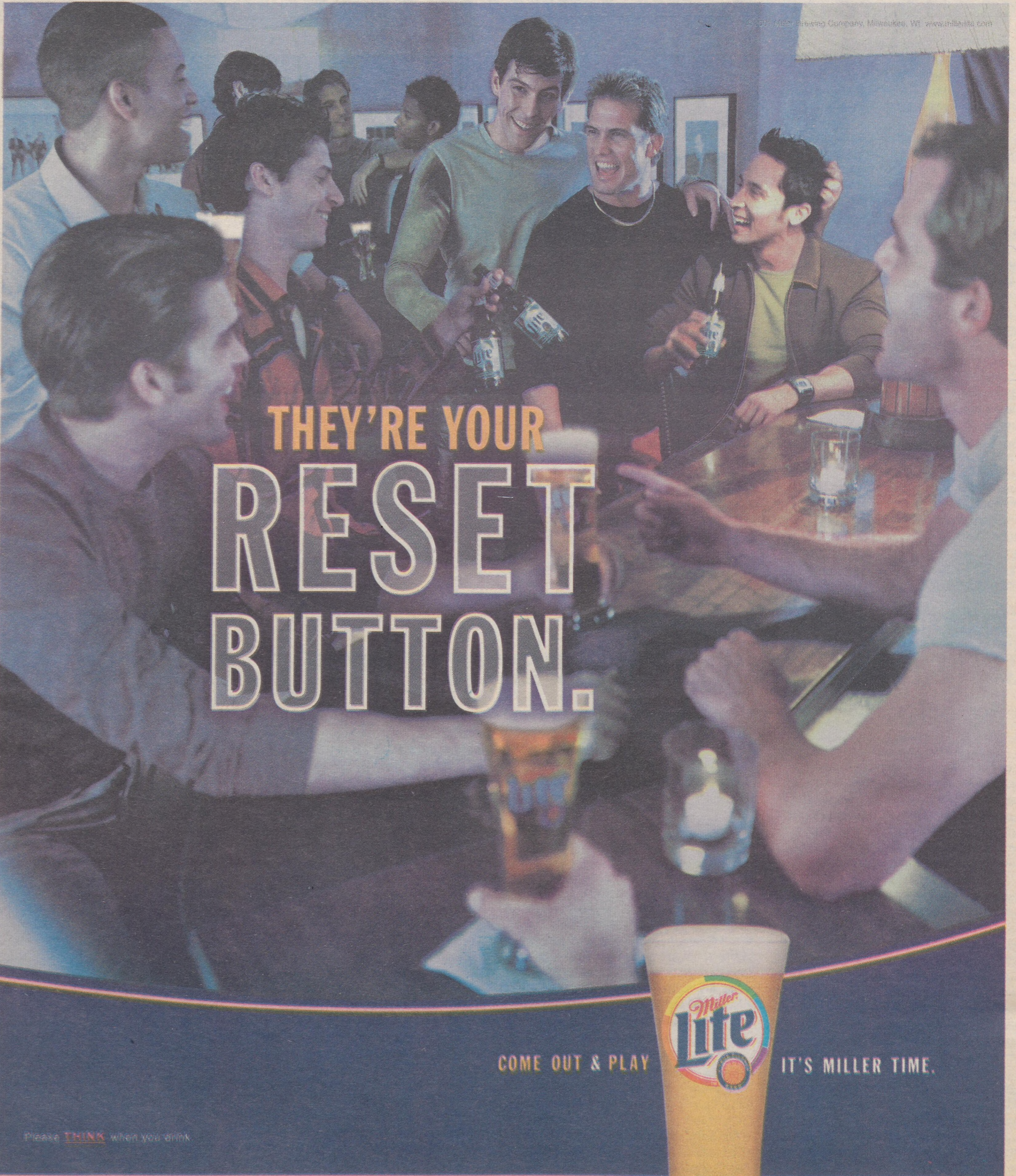
For more information contact: Carson at: kcctx5@gay.com

www.pflaghouston.org

www.smartgroups.com.

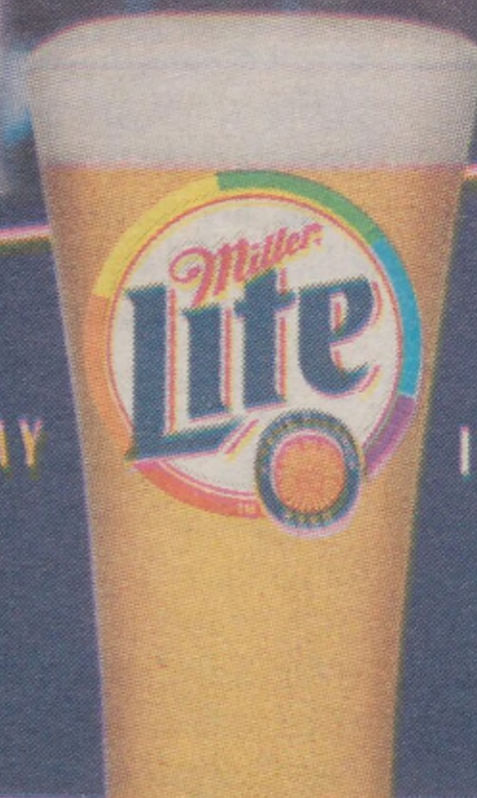
www.yahoo.com.

www.queernet.org



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Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • JULY 6, 2001

SITES FOR SORE EYES

BY D.L. GROOVER



site 1



site 2



site 3



site 4

HOUSTON'S CULTURAL ARTS GROUPS OFFER INFO AND INTERACTION ON THE WEB

Physically, the city of Houston is fairly low on the beauty-of-place scale of American metropolises, but our paved-over thoroughfares and strip mall apartment complexes hide an amazingly rich and varied cultural life that rivals any other town you can think of.

We're not the prettiest face on the block, however we're likely to be the life of the party when we dazzle with world-class ballet, opera, theater, symphony, fine arts and unwashed cutting-edge downtown performance art.

Houston's surfeit of cultural riches is amply represented on the Web. To demonstrate the Net's power and importance, Web sites for Houston arts organizations have mushroomed, and even the smallest, least financially viable of troupes has a site, if only an outdated calendar and paragraph description of its mission statement.

All sorts of goodies are to be found online. Tickets, at least for the major institutions' shows, may be purchased with a few clicks of the mouse; programming details, such as rarefied notes from the MFAH's "Soviet Cinema of the 1960s," can be perused at leisure; and photographs of individual artists and artworks like Bernardo Bellotto's 1745 "View of the Grand Canal" from the MFAH can be downloaded, printed, and hung on your own collector's wall.

Sometimes, the listed links lead you far afield and are more interesting than the main site. More times

than not, especially for the smaller venues, the site hasn't been updated in months. But there's something for everyone—just like the arts. So surf and ye shall find.

Houstontheaterdistrict.org is a good overall place to start since it represents the downtown big boys in the theater world. Here is the city's introduction to Houston's world-class performance organizations, and the site itself is a classy, glossy affair where the

prospective tourist/conventioneer is given a personal tour. The ballet, opera, symphony, and theater get to shine in spotlights all their own.

Everything's covered: parking, hotels, performance schedules, in a user-friendly elegant design. There's even a special pop-up flood alert schedule that makes going to the theater a breeze after the whirlwind of Tropical Storm Allison.

Although each of the major arts groups have their own sites, they are given equal treatment here under the District's umbrella. Here are the performing arts' crown jewels:

The Alley Theatre: www.alleytheatre.com, Da Camera of Houston: www.dacamera.com, Houston Ballet:

www.houstonballet.org, Houston Broadway Series: www.broadway-series.com, Houston Grand Opera: www.houstongrandopera.org, Houston Symphony: www.houston-symphony.org, Society for the Performing Arts: www.spa-houston.org, Theatre Under the Stars: www.TUTS.com.



Describing each of their distinctive sites would take individual articles, but they all run the gamut from slick to slicker commemorative brochure-type sites that ease the theater-goer and stagedoor Johnny through history, archives, and press releases, as they tout their current productions.

If you want a somewhat up-to-date list of what's playing in Houston, go to theatremania.com/Houston/shows.cfm. Some of the links work, some take forever to download over a pokey dial-up connection, some haven't been removed since the last solar eclipse. You're on your own here.

The smaller companies, maybe with nothing to lose, have more home-made sites, but Unhinged Productions, www.u-p.org, whose last outing, "Unmerciful Good Fortune," was top draw drama, has the most ecumenical links: from competitors Alley and Stages to the Houston Gay Web, Queer Art Collective, and gay playwright Nicky

Silvers' home page.

Houston's smaller venues with Internet sites include: Actors Theatre of Houston: actorstheatre.hypermart.net, Ashland Street Theatre: ashlandstreet.org, Encore: members.aol.com/encoretheatre/encoretheatre.html, Infernal Bridegroom: www.infernalbridegroom.org, Little Room Downstairs: www.littleroom-downstairs.cc, Main Street Theater: mainstreettheater.com, Masquerade: www.masqueradetheatre.com/index.cfm?act, Stages: www.stagestheatre.com/home.html, Theater LaB: www.theaterlabhouston.com.

The fine arts are given a run for their money here along the banks of the bayou, and the museums and galleries are impressively augmented by their pictorial Web sites.

The grand dame is, of course, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and its site, <http://mfah.org>, is elegance itself. Sumptuous, yet simple like a single stand of pearls, the interactive site invites browsing, much like their brick and mortar location.



Film schedules, art reference library, details about the Glassell School, and a virtual stroll through the Isamu Noguchi sculpture garden are a few highlights of Houston's palace of fine arts.

At the other end of the arts scale is the new age/grunge/high tech/whatever art & performance space of

> Continued on Page 17



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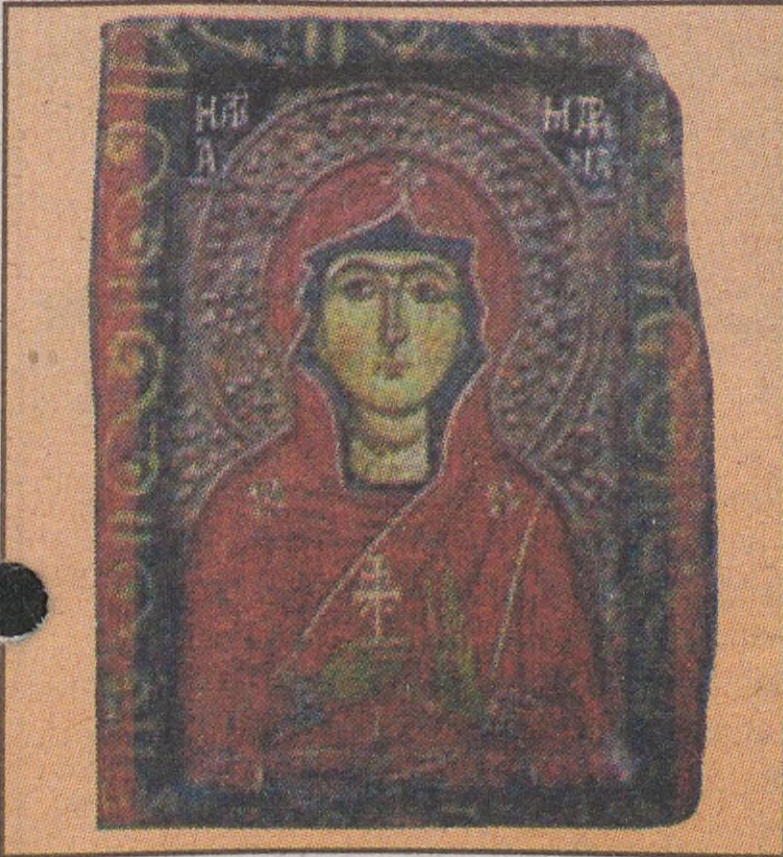
Special Benefit Performance Thursday, July 26th at 8:00 p.m.

From the ballet to the art car museum, Houston's arts are found on Web

> Continued from Page 15

DiverseWorks. Their site, <http://diverseworks.org/home.html>, is high-tech design, too, with pulldown menus, lots of white space, and a funky tangerine background. Cool, and hot, too.

Gonzo grunge is the order of the day at DiverseWorks' neighbor, the Commerce Street Art Warehouse, located in that no man's land northwest of Enron Field. "Blade Runner" territory.



mfah.org

Their blue Swiss cheese first page (or are those bullet holes through blue sheet metal?) loaded super fast, so fast that the subsequent pages self-destructed before I got halfway through them. However, I did

discover that this is probably the only public art Web site where you can actually apply for a grant for gallery rental.

The latest trends in art, not necessarily the prettiest, are on view on Commerce Street. Check them out on-line at <http://csaw.cjb.net/>, if your computer's strong enough.



artcarmuseum.com

If MFAH is the museum in opera gloves, and both DiverseWorks and CSAW wear tongue studs, then the subdued sophistication of the Menil Collection on Sul Ross is akin to a veiled lady gliding in a gondola around the Grand Canal.

Perhaps the handsomest Houston arts Web site, <http://www.menil.org/home.html> bathes you with classic soothing tones of gray and burgundy. Although they don't yet have a virtual tour of the Rothko Chapel, their interactive map of the complex is pretty cool and guides you lightly through the



houstontheatredistrict.com

extensive holdings: which include neon master Dan Flavin's permanent installation housed in Richmond Hall, the Cy Twombly gallery, the Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum, and the main Menil Collection.

Speaking of high art, how about the blinding sheen of paste wax as the rising moon glints off the Chrysler-like spires of the "Garage Mahal" at 140 Heights Boulevard? I'm referring to the Art Car Museum, dedicated to contemporary art and artists who are "rarely, if ever, acknowledged by other cultural institutions."

Eat my dust, MFAH. Their shiny grease pan Web site, <http://www.artcarmuseum.com>, is an automat smorgasbord of contempo hipness with space lovingly devoted to their current exhibition, "The Boom," a revolving display of art cars, and equal space given to thought-provoking essays and poetry, such as Tex Kerschen's "The Politics of Space" and Tony Diaz' "Aztec Love God."

If the fumes are getting to you, how about a cold one? Although Houston's own kitsch palace, the Beer Can House, doesn't have its own site, John Milko visch's testament to having too much time after retirement can be visited online through www.roadsideamerica.com/attract/TXHOUBeer.html.



diverseworks.org

And the Bayou city's monument to folk art, the Orange Show, can be seen at www.insync.net/~orange/home.html. Check out their Eyeopener Tours, leaving for "4 hours or 4 days" the second Sunday of every other month to weird and unusual places right here in Houston.

You're kidding, right? There's weird stuff here in Houston? Hey, make that tour every month!

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Bayou Calendar

Mike Malloy Exhibition

Local photographer Mike Malloy gets his first solo outing. You may have seen his evocative landscapes and studies from Texas Highways magazine, but here's your chance to see them as they were meant to be seen: lovingly printed full-frame and set upon the walls. Abstracts, landscapes and architectural details are Malloy's passion, and his evident love of the art shines through his work.

Opening reception Friday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
July 6 through Sept. 30
St. Martin Episcopal Church, Activity Center, 717 Sage
713-621-8625

'N SNYC

So who's Justin Timberlake dating anyway? Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears or Michael Jackson? Do you think the "Are You Ready For What's Next" concert of these way-past pubescent boyz 2 men will tell us? Do you think you'll be able to get within a 5-mile radius of these little hotties without showing a training bra? Do you care?

July 6, 7:30 p.m.
Reliant Astrodome, 8400 Kirby
713-629-3700

Janeth Arcain

One of the 'blazin' Comets' superstars, Brazilian Arcain, our team's fabulous guard, hooks up with Uncommon Legacy Foundation for a fund-raiser at Bocado's. Rated so far for the season, #1 in steals, #3 in points per game and #4 in minutes per game, our #9 is a winner in any stats. When you meet her for an autograph, \$20 gets you to her signing table, ask about Michelle or Arnold. I promise she won't dribble your head down Alabama.

July 8, after the Comets game
Bocados, 1312 W. Alabama
713-524-3591

Funny Girl

Theatre Under the Stars brings the touring production of Jule Styne, Bob Merrill and Isobel Lennart's 1964 surprisingly Tony-less winner to the Wortham. It's supposed to be about the Ziegfeld superstar Fanny Brice, but it's really about La Streisand, since she left such an indelible impression

on Broadway and Hollywood. Darcie Roberts and Michael Piontek assay Fanny and her bad-boy husband Nick Arnstein. Who's the greatest star?

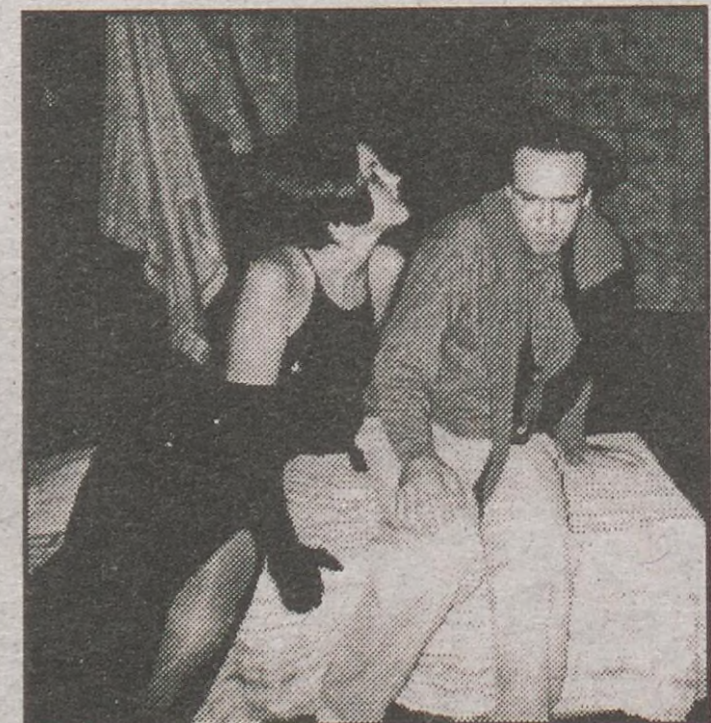
July 10-22
Wortham Theater Center, 500 Texas
1-800-678-5440

Last chance to see:

The Carterbagger's Children

Horton Foote's world premiere isn't exactly earth shaking or very good drama, but it's as soft as a cotton day dress and not a bad visit when you're being entertained by Jean Stapleton, Roberta Maxwell and Hallie Foote. Somebody just needs to spike the lemonade. The Alley production has moved to Stages because of Allison damage.

Through July 8
Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway (Waugh @ D'Amico)
713-527-0123



Kiss of the Spider Woman

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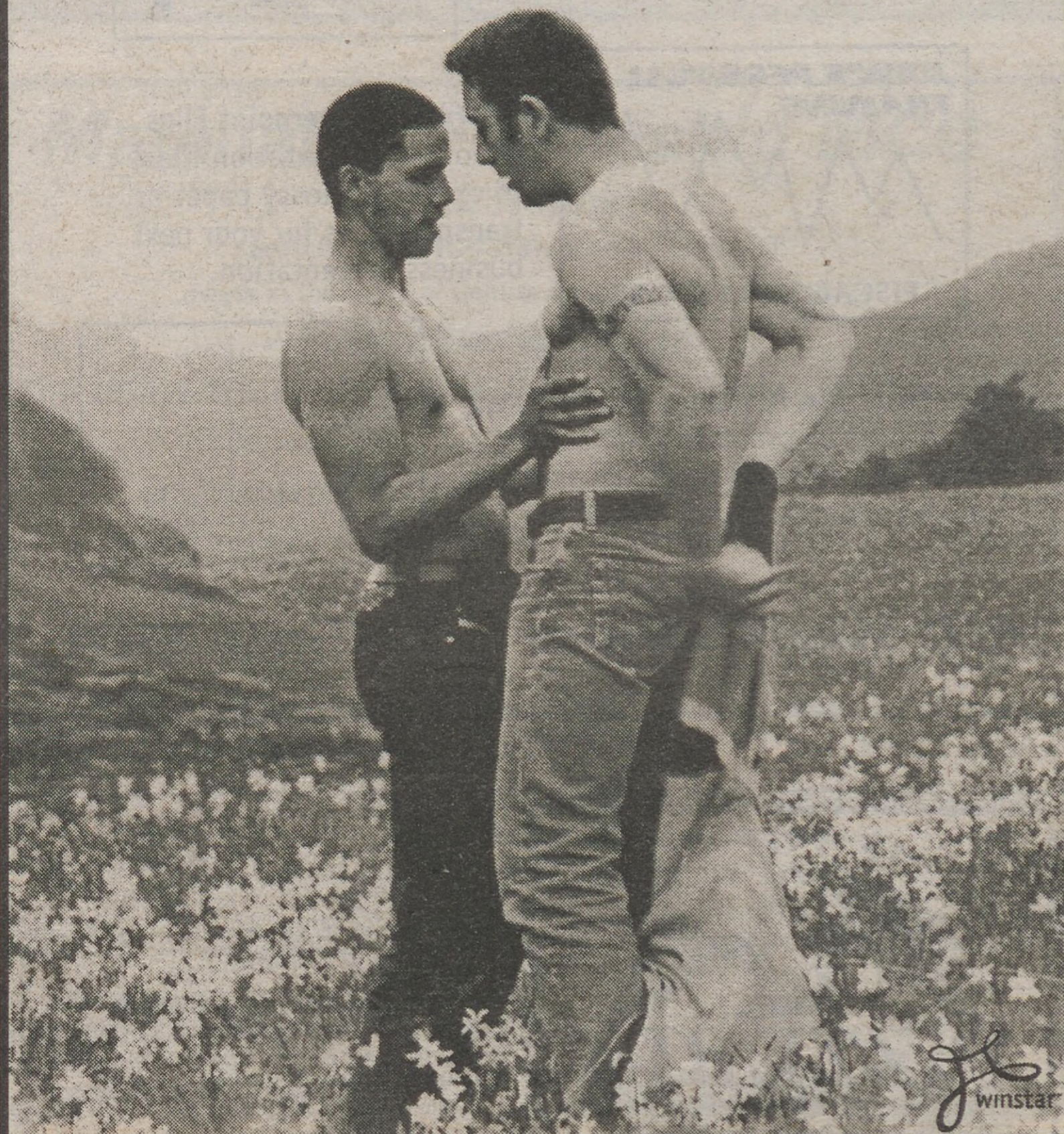
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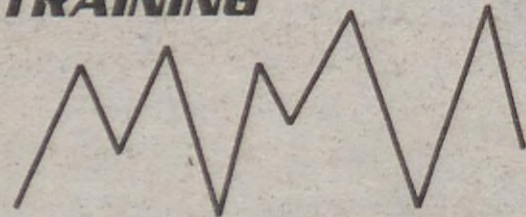
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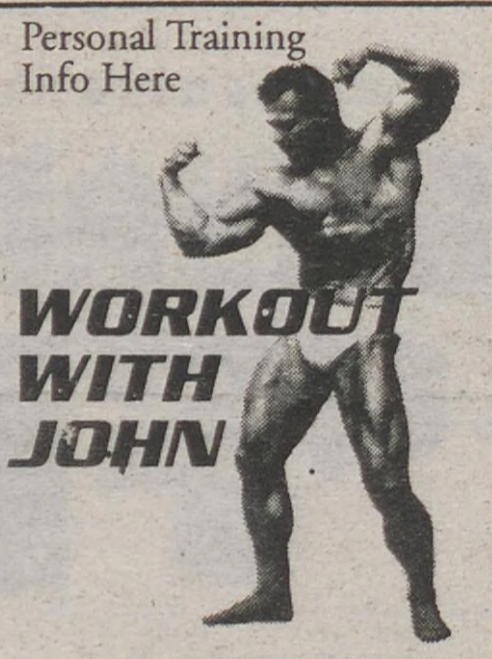
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Eating Out

Thinking outside loop

Fratelli's offer authentic, simple, fresh tastes

by TRAYCE DISKIN

With the opening of FRATELLI'S in Northwest Houston, Oak Forest neighbors have one more reason to avoid trekking inside the loop just to experience an authentic, non-chain meal.

The first reason, of course, is Rafael Galindo's superb Red Onion, whose Montrose location commands an equally loyal following as the one on 290. Although Fratelli's may not wow and seduce with the same bold strokes as its Honduran neighbor, it holds its own when it comes to serving simple, and often delicious, authentic cuisine.

The Fungi Ripeni (\$6.95), or stuffed mushrooms appetizers make a great start. These succulent, smoky mushrooms are packed with a well-blended mixture of spinach and parmesan. At first we were disappointed about the absent crabmeat mentioned on the menu description, but after a few bites, the striking seasoning of the cheese and flavorful spinach made us forget about the missing element.

The Calimari Fritti (\$6.95) is lightly breaded and served with a rich marinara that's just the right consistency. The Ravioli San Domenico (\$6.95) could easily serve as a meal, with its generous portions of ravioli stuffed with spinach, ricotta and egg yolk. Topped with butter and sage sauce, the flavors mingle and fulfill.

Fratelli's offers an array of salads, in addition to Minestrone and a Soup of the Day (\$2.95). Try the Insalata dei Cesari (\$6.75), a simple mixture of lettuce, garlic, olive oil and anchovies in a mild vinaigrette. The Pomodori alla Caprese (\$6.95) features excessively ripe tomatoes, pillowy, fresh mozzarella and a cool marinade of balsamic vinegar, lemon and olive oil.

From the appetizers, Fratelli's methodology was delightfully clear—carefully choose simple, but fresh ingredients, and create reliable, beautifully cooked meals. My Tonno alla Siciliana (\$16.95) was a case in point. The rare "sashimi grade" grilled tuna steak sat in a lemony pool of white wine, herbs, and red onion, sun-dried tomato, and capers sauté. Moist and cooked through at the edges, the tuna's center was gorgeously pink and mild. None of the ingredients served to overpower or mar the tuna's exquisite taste.

The Dentice Nuovo Mondo (\$15.95) uses similar ingredients to concoct a piquant white wine sauce, with a trace of olives. The snapper filet itself was a bit dry, and would have been easily remedied with a little basting. For veal aficionados, try the Vitello Marsala (\$12.95), with mushroom and marsala wine, or the Saltimbocca alla Romana (\$13.95) with Prosciutto and sage

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Food:

Service:

Value:

Scene:

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in the very same marsala sauce. The Vitello alla Parmigiana (\$12.95) is fine if you don't mind the heaviness of fried meat and cheese, but I recommend going with one of the other dishes.

It's easy to overlook that quintessential staple of Italian cuisine, pasta, when the chicken, veal, and seafood dishes dutifully satiate. However, Fratelli's pasta tends to be simply, and perfectly prepared as well. The Penne Teresa, with sausage, tomato, garlic, and chile pepper lends an added kick, and the Capellini all Checca (\$7.95), or Angel Hair Pasta, features an equal distribution of sauce, vegetables and seasonings, and pasta.

Ravioli, Tagliatelle, and baked Cannolloni are all good choices, but you're looking for something a little more unique, try the Linguini ai Pesto e Pollo. The walnut pesto is decadently rich and creamy, and the grilled chicken soaks up each fleck of basil and garlic.

Although the pizzas we tried were a little too overloaded with cheese for most of our tastes, the crust is crisp and delicious, and the toppings, which range from artichokes, to Prosciutto, to olives, spinach, mushrooms, and more, are fresh and plentiful.

Tiramisu (\$4.95), Spumoni (\$4.50), and Cheese Cake (\$4.25) are all likable. The Cannoli (\$4.50) uses a berry-flavored filling that's less sugary, and a little more bland than your typical Italian cannoli. Better to end with a cup of fresh roasted coffee or cappuccino.

While the food is the stuff of romance, the decor sparks little at all. Rather like a clean, but clinical waiting room, the interior lacks the simple sophistication of the menu items. The live music featured on weekends may play a role in jazzing up the ambiance a notch, but why not a try few intimate decorative touches to go with the food?

If the atmosphere doesn't combat the generic strip mall dowdiness, then the impeccable service and cuisine certainly do. For Oak Foresters, and Inner Loopers alike, two out of three makes Fratelli's worth the trip.

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July 15th "Who Is My Neighbor?" Rev. Janet Parker

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saturday, july 7

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama.
713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • H.A.T.C.H. video workshop. 10 am to 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Outdoor Group. Breakfast at Katz. 832-251-6063.
Gulf Coast Transgender Community. Social. 713-780-4282.

sunday, july 8

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

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Bisexuality. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center • H.A.T.C.H. video workshop. 10 am to 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

monday, july 9

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVE5. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.
gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • H.A.T.C.H. video workshop. 10 am to 6 p.m., 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, july 10

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

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

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

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

wednesday, july 11

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

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

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

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

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

Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.

Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing and counseling 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio. 6:30 p.m. • H.A.T.C.H. video workshop. 10 am to 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne • 713-524-3818.

Houston Area Bears. Dine out and Meeting. 6:30 p.m. 713-867-9123

Classic Chassis Car Club. Monthly meeting. 7 p.m. 713-797-8615.

thursday, july 12

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San

Felipe. 713-521-7464.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • H.A.T.C.H. video workshop. 10 am to 6 p.m., 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Center for AIDS • Men's Mixer . 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.

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

L & G Immigration Rights Task Force. 8 p.m. 713-426-3128.

friday, july 13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • H.A.T.C.H. video workshop. 10 am to 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

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Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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COMMUNITY RESALE CLOSING

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

GAY ROLLER RIDE

Gay & Lesbian Roller Coaster Ride Club • www.angelfire.com/tx2/GayRollerRide.

MONTROSE SOCCER CLUB

NEW • Needs players and coach • Local and out-of-town tournaments • montroseSG@soccer.com • 832-489-9004.

COMPUTER PRO VOLUNTEER

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Parties meetings ceremonies fundraising Montrose location big laser/fog dance floor mahogany bar walk-in cooler gamer. Free parking security A DJ included. Rental proceeds donated to local AIDS charity. Your non-profit can raise big \$\$\$ playing Texas legal Bingo • 713-521-1613.

Youth Empowering Advocates

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

CLUB HOUSTON

Accepting applications for certified personal trainers. Apply in person @ 2205 Fannin or www.the-clubs.com.

FREE EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

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TO PLACE AN AD:

IN PERSON: Bring completed order form with payment to Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5:30 pm) 500 Lovett, suite 200. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX., 77006. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 713-529-8490. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 713-529-9531. **BY E-MAIL:** croberts@houstonvoice.com
AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE*: Call for guidelines
 ___ HIV Services & Education
 ___ Volunteers
 ___ Non-Profit Organizations
 *First 20 words

INDIVIDUAL RATE \$10:
 ___ Announcements
 ___ Auditions
 ___ Employment-Seeking
 ___ Pets-Free or Lost & Found
 ___ Roommates
 ___ Personal Websites

BUSINESS RATE \$18:
 ___ Auto Repair
 ___ Business Opportunities
 ___ Entertainment
 ___ Help Wanted
 ___ Help Wanted-Seeking
 ___ Home Improvement
 ___ Items For Sale
 ___ Licensed Massage
 ___ Moving Services
 ___ Professional Services
 ___ Real Estate For Rent
 ___ Real Estate For Sale

Call 713-529-8490 for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

CATEGORY: _____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

Giant or Bold Headline - Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

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Up to 20 words: \$10.00

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Total: \$ _____

BUSINESS RATE ADS

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Additional words _____ x 75¢ per word (per week): _____

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my AMEX MC VISA

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____

Signature _____

Occasions

Birthdays

Gary S. was definitely a handful on his July 6 birthday.

Houston Voice's own Rich Arenschioldt scribes a chapter in his birthday book on July 7.

Asians and Friends Houston members Chris K., and Ernie E. toast in another birthday on July 9.

Animal lover Richard has a happy birthday on July 8.

Barbara Seville lights a birthday candle on July 12.



Anniversaries

"To my soulmate for life Samuel Thomas Jr., on the day of July 7, 1997 you changed my life forever. I love you so much. We have been together for four years now. Happy anniversary. I love you." Wayland Bryant-Thomas.



Community members and volunteers for Q-Patrol held a candlelight vigil July 4 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Paul Broussard's death. Broussard was killed in 1991 by a group of Woodlands-area youths. The gay-bashing murder was the impetus that started Q-Patrol, a watchdog group that patrols the Montrose to deter late-night hate crimes.

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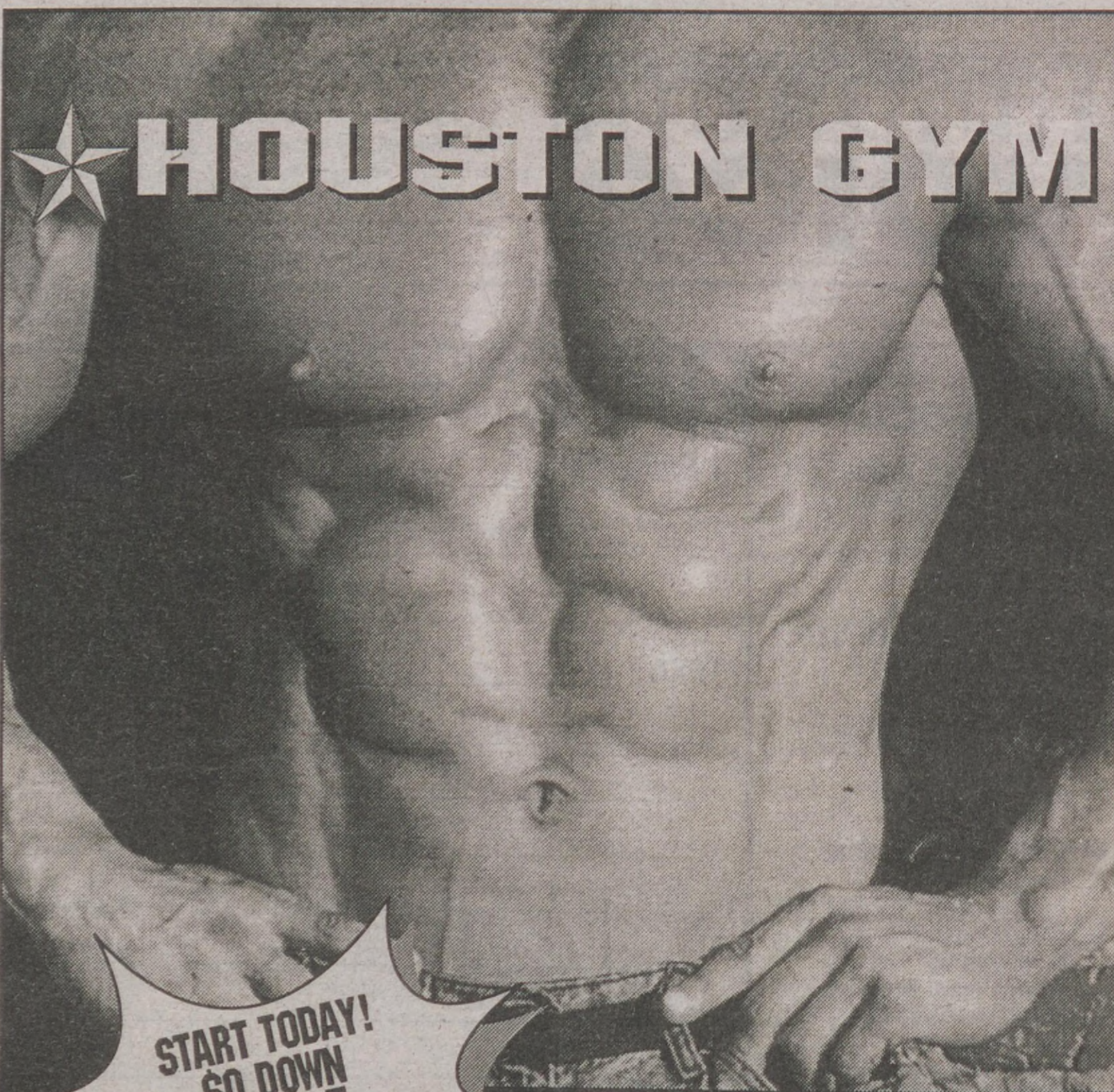
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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

July 6 - 12

ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

You are too smart to allow your finances to trip you up during this heady July cycle. You survived two recent eclipses; now you can move up the next rung of the life ladder. Write about your past experiences rather than attempting to relive them. A hyper-articulate Gemini will show you how.

TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

The moon in your sign makes a square to Neptune in mid-July and could trigger some deep sorrow that leads to a deeply cleansing emotional experience. You can teach a lover how to behave by setting an example through your own pure actions. A Sag is wowed by your aura of integrity.

GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

Several planets in the money sector of your chart make mid-July a boom or bust cycle for you, honey. Err on the side of long-term gain rather than immediate gratification. You can transform your image of yourself as a lover—and change the way others see you, too. A Cancer is behind you every step of the way.

CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

Jupiter moves into your sign and aligns with Mercury on July 12, signaling a new era of luck and brainpower in your life, Cancer. Start thinking about maximizing your potential. An Aries can open a door for you, but you've still got to step through it, babe!

LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

A little competition is healthy for you during this cycle. You can stand up to those who try to push you down. You really are the object of someone else's obsessive fantasies—it's not your own ego. Enjoy the attention, but try to "keep it real" (no, I mean really) with a Pisces.

VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

Write down a clear, concise vision of how you want your career to play out over the next year, Virgo. The alignment between lucky Jupiter and Mercury on July 12 could set just the stage. You may want to redecorate your bedroom if bad "feng shui" is holding back your sex drive. A Scorpio finds you deliriously compelling in any setting.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

Thank the people who have helped your career. You're going to need them as you bite and scratch your way up even higher. Venus close to Saturn in your adventurous ninth house means that you could actually learn something useful while doing something sinful. Follow an Aquarius' lead when it comes to romance.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

A spiritual journey and a literal journey to another land could go hand-in-hand in mid-July. You are entering a much freer period in your life, darling. Doors are opening for you, and a Virgo may want to lay out the red carpet for you, too (and maybe lay you on it).

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

Think about who you would like to collaborate with in business and in life. You can't necessarily trust where your libido is leading you. It's a transition period, babe. Go for a ride with a Libra, but don't forget to get off at your stop.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

The two recent eclipses have opened you up, and there's just no closing your heart or your legs now. This is a great time for you to show the world your more passionate side. Even if you're a dyed-in-the-wool WASP, it's time for you to start acting Italian, dammit! A Taurus wants to ride in your gondola.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

Your kinky side sells. Something about your particular brand of fetish-with-brains is making you a hot commodity. A neurotic friend could push you to follow stupid impulses instead of listening to your most uncommon sense. Spend time with an Aries who isn't out to drain you dry.

PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Your hotheaded nature when it come to love could get you in trouble if you don't count to 10 before making a scene. Mars and Pluto could bring you career success in an unexpected way, but with it may come the jealousy of your peers. Take it with a grain of salt. You are on your way up. A Capricorn wants you while you're still down and dirty.

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

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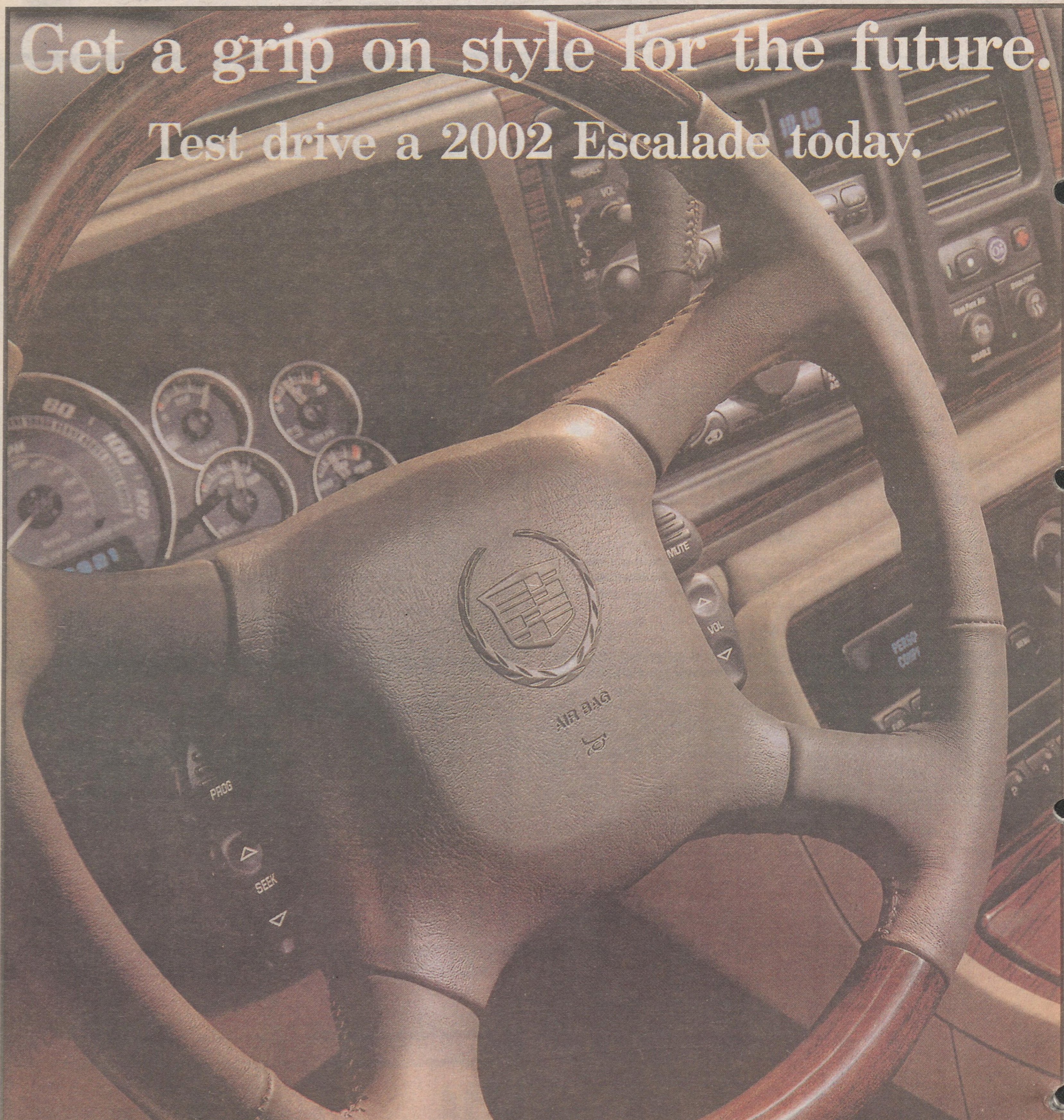
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