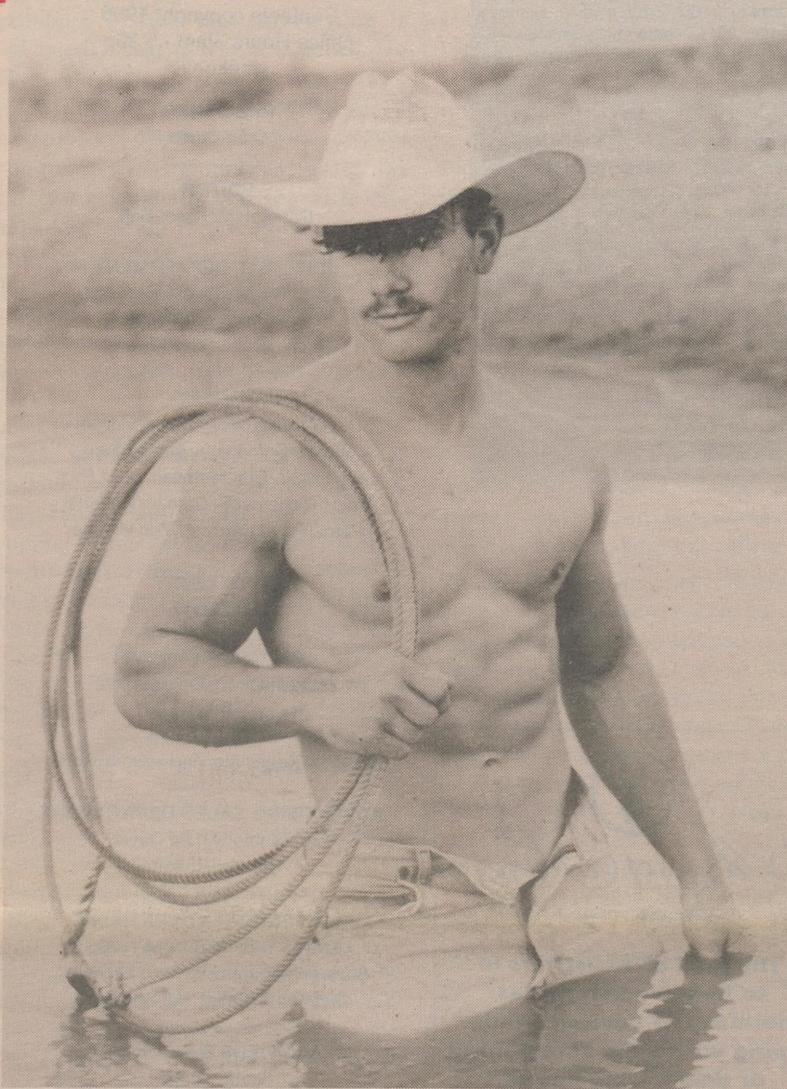


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NOVEMBER 15, 1996 • ISSUE 838



13th Annual TGRA Rodeo, Dallas - See Page 20

Bill filed to Prohibit Same-Sex Marriage in Texas

LGRL Denounces Anti-Gay Bill

November 12 -- State representative Warren Chisum filed a bill in Austin today that would prohibit the recognition of same sex marriages in the state of Texas. State law already defines marriage as a union between one man and one woman, and specifically says that marriage licenses can not be given to individuals of the same sex.

"There is only one reason that Rep. Chisum has filed this bill, and that is to create an environment of intolerance and hatred towards lesbian and gay Texans," said Diane Hardy-Garcia, Executive Director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. "This bill does nothing to improve Texas.

It does not strengthen our economy, it does not make Texas safer, it does not fight crime, it doesn't provide more jobs. All it does is villainize lesbian and gay Texans and reinforces a negative attitude towards our community. In a state where 17 gay men have lost their lives because of hate crimes, the last thing we need is more hate and intolerance."

Efforts such as this continue to make Texas unsafe for our community, and for this reason, LGRL has made ending hate crimes its top priority.

LGRL is a statewide lobbying group working to further the civil rights gay and lesbian Texans. The organization may be contacted by calling 512/474-5475.

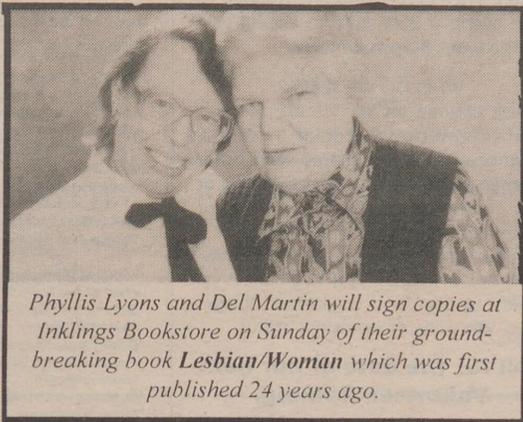


Take six Aussie blokes, put them in an industrial setting of steel, ladders and wooden platforms, add award-winning choreography, and the result is TAP DOGS, a reinvention of tap dance for the '90s. More on Tap Dogs on Page 16

Legendary Lesbian Activists to Visit Houston

By Deborah Bell

A booksigning at Inklings Bookshop this Sunday, November 17th celebrates the 20th Anniversary Edition of **Lesbian/Woman**. Authors Del Martin and Phyllis Lyons, will be in town to receive a public service award from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality.



Phyllis Lyons and Del Martin will sign copies at Inklings Bookstore on Sunday of their groundbreaking book **Lesbian/Woman** which was first published 24 years ago.

The women will have a full weekend which in addition to the booksigning will include a visit with Houston's Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF) at their Thanksgiving Potluck meeting 2-4pm on Sunday. The group meets at 1505 Nevada (Houston Mission Church Bldg.) and is open to women who qualify for membership by being at least fifty years old or older and their partners.

The trip to Inklings at 1846 Richmond will follow. The hardback version of the 1991 updated version of the book will have a special sale price of \$20 for the day. The groundbreaking book described lesbian lives and experiences in a positive way, some-

thing rare for 1972. Partners for 38 years, and co-founders of the oldest lesbian organization in America, the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), they have pioneered lesbian and women's rights work, and are still in the forefront of these movements today. DOB was founded in the 1950s in the midst of a period of conformity and repression in this country. **New Directions for Woman** said of them, "Through all the long years before the Stonewall Rebellion brought forth a new wave of young lesbian and gay activists, and in all the years since, Martin and Lyon were fighting for lesbian liberation."

Fraudulent Mailing Targets Republican Candidates

By Matthew Huston

Houston--On November 3, 1996, an unidentified group mailed post cards to Republican voters purportedly produced by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus (HGLPC). The post cards wrongly linked Republican congressional candidates Dolly Madison McKenna and Brent Perry to the HGLPC.

The HGLPC did not produce or mail the cards, which had the organization's post office box as the return address. The group did not back either McKenna or Perry in the Congressional race.

The mailing contained a list of candidates, including McKenna and Perry, reporting each had attended the HGLPC's annual awards dinner in September. None of the listed candidates in fact attended the dinner. "We are flattered that the producers of this mailing thought all those politicians were at our dinner," said HGLPC President Pat Gandy. "We would have been honored to have had them there."

Also included in the mailing were excerpts

from past HGLPC-PAC newsletters, which are copyrighted material. The excerpts encouraged voters to go to the polls and to get involved in political campaigns.

The HGLPC is investigating who actually sent the mailing, with assistance from members of the Log Cabin Republicans and other Republican activists, by tracking returned mail. The U.S. postal inspector and the state Ethics Commission are involved in the investigation as well.

"It would be great if Brent Perry agreed

(Continued on page 8)

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HOUSTON VOICE

The Voice of Houston's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community

ISSUE 838

November 15, 1996

Established 1974 as the Houston Montrose Star, reestablished 1980 as the Houston Montrose Voice, changed name to the New Voice in 1991 incorporating the New Orleans Crescent City Star, reestablished December 1, 1993 as the Houston Voice

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Contents copyright 1996

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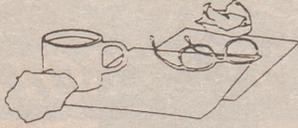
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In My Own Voice

by Deborah Bell



It's Just Me Talkin'

This column is for those of you who may not know, is editorial commentary. It provides a forum where I give my opinions on a myriad of topics. Like all opinion pieces in this paper, the views I express are strictly my own and I am not speaking for The Houston Voice, its management or other staff members (unless that information is indicated). That is why it is called "In My Own Voice." That being said, I would like to clarify something that I wrote in my column in the Nov. 1 issue. I indicated that I personally did not care for certain ads that appear in this paper, referring to the phone sex line and other sexually oriented businesses. I apparently did not make it clear that I was not including bars in that statement. I also think that these businesses have every right to advertise and that obviously readers of this paper must utilize these services or else they would not keep advertising. In fact if anyone reads that column carefully, they should realize that I actually was coming to the defense of the establishments that advertise in The Houston Voice. I emphasized that The Houston Voice is an adult publication and that it serves all segments of our community. I mentioned one of the bars in the list of groups that make up the community and mentioned the Court which holds most of its functions at bars. In a previous column I gave credit to the various establishments for their place in the community; as being places to socialize and feel safe among other gay and lesbian people, to be entertained, and for the fundraising lifeline they are to those in need. Bar ads have appeared in the Houston Voice since day one and we have even run special features on them has some of our long term advertisers. I made sure I recognized the bars in the story I wrote on Lady Victoria Lust's passing. Part of what I was trying to do in that column was to defend our advertisers, being that another paper described they only took bar ads that were "tasteful." Does that mean ours aren't? Imagine my surprise to find out that bar owners were upset with me. All I can say is "I'm sorry." Apparently I did not make myself clear. The main reason I don't frequent your establishments myself is due to my allergy to smoke. I do drink, though admittedly not much and not very often, but I'm not a teetotaler. Please take that piece in the context of its subject matter and understand I was expressing my personal thoughts on the matter.

A recent editorial in the San Diego Gay & Lesbian Times expresses my feelings about the relationship between a paper and its advertisers. It said it so well and succinctly that I asked for and was granted permission to use it as is or to paraphrase. I went with the latter. You may agree with it or not, but I feel it is very relevant. The piece appeared due to that publication's acceptance of a cigarette advertisement.

While I in no way advocate smoking, I also don't advocate censorship, or infringing on someone's right of free speech, or in restricting a free market. I am in support of a free press. Accepting advertisements is not an equivalent to endorsement. By having a tobacco product ad is not us telling you that you should smoke even though that may be the advertiser's intent. Because a dozen or so bars advertise does not mean we want everyone to be alcoholic; bath houses advertise in this paper but we are in no way telling you that you should run out right now to the nearest one; a number of phone sex ads appear—that is not us recommending you run up your phone bill calling them.

Those businesses, as advertisers, have paid for space to convey a message to you. They may tell you to smoke, have sex, buy this car, go to this concert, drink this beer, attend this fundraiser, or shop at this store. It doesn't mean that you should or that I want you to. There is no obligation on the behalf of the reader in advertising. The advertisers would like it if you read their ads and brought their products or services, but this should not affect what you do on a regular basis. In other words, if you go to bars, then by all means we encourage you to go to the ones that advertise in the Houston Voice; if you smoke and there are cigarette ads in our paper then maybe you would like to consider that brand; if you patronize bath-houses or use phone sex lines, then by all means turn to the back section of this paper. That is up to you. Presumably, the readers of this publication are adult enough to make their own decisions and all are free to do just that.

My personal thoughts aside, the advertisers are the ones that make this publication possible and I appreciate them for that reason. And just as the appearance of an ad in this paper does not mean we are advocating that business, it works the other way as well. By placing an ad in The Houston Voice does not mean that they endorse all or any of what appears in articles and columns, especially personal opinion pieces.

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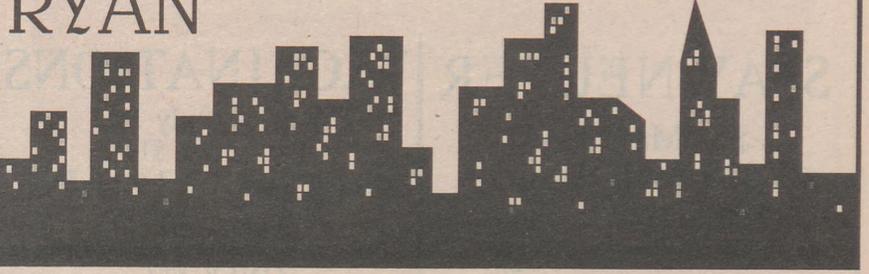
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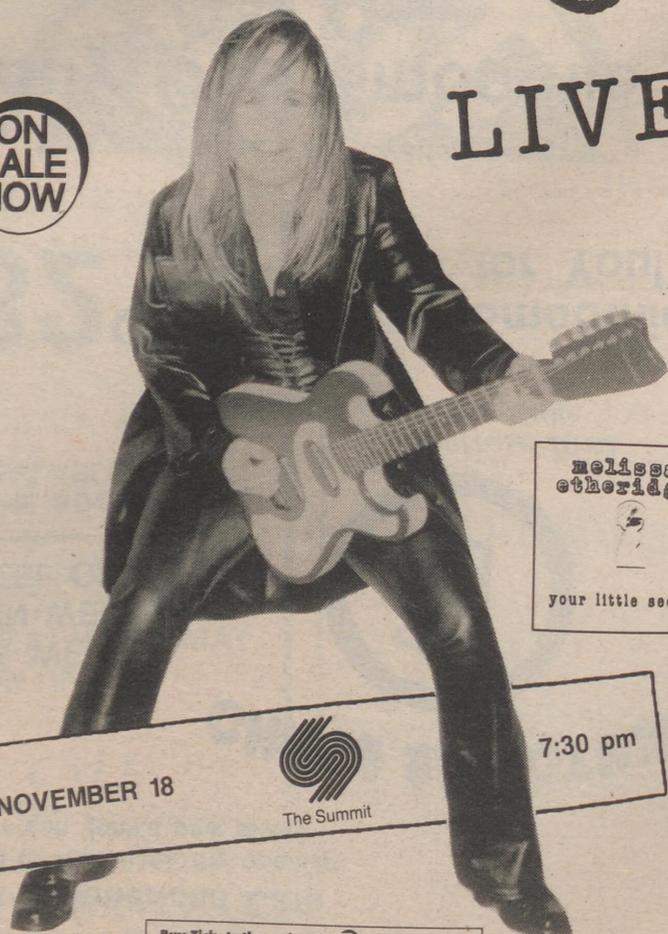
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Personal Outlook

Are You Missing a Beautiful Thing?

By KELLI J. HARDIN

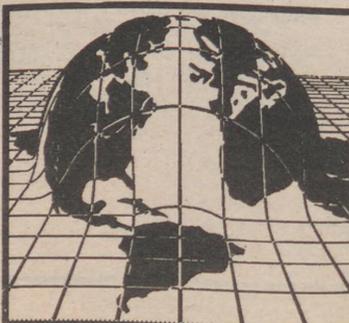
Tuesday, Oct. 2, my wife and I attended the free screening of "Beautiful Thing" at the Greenway 3. As some of you may know, this film is a wonderful story of first love. Regardless of the sexual orientation of the lead characters and regardless of your own sexual orientation, if you enjoy romantic films, don't miss "Beautiful Thing." As much as I personally recommend this movie, this article is not about the film itself, but the questions and concerns raised in my mind by the gender disparity of the audience.

Because this film is so poignant and touching, it was surprising to discover that we were part of only a handful of women among the sea of men in attendance. This left me confused about and disappointed with Houston's alternative sexual identity community (henceforth inclusively called "our community"). Perhaps I expect too much... a more open-minded and supportive attitude toward all facets of our community from within, just as we work for such acceptance and understanding from those outside our community. Are the women of our community uninterested in films about men? Do you feel unwelcome in men's lives? Do you feel you are so different in interests and experiences that you have no significant role in men's lives? Can the same be said for the men of our community? Do you feel uninterested, unwelcome and/or insignificant in women's lives? Are these things true? ... why? And how can we accept these sexist behaviors and attitudes from within, from ourselves, when our lives are a daily struggle for equal rights and acceptance from those outside our community? How can we allow ourselves to commit the same crimes of closed-minded stereotypes and prejudices by which we are victimized? How can we present a united front to the world when we don't even attempt to accept, support or understand our brothers and sisters in our own community? Are we no better than the conservatives and religious powers who rail against our lifestyles? Have we learned nothing from years of persecution?

Certainly, I advocate exclusive events and meeting spaces designated as "men only" or "women only." We need time and safety to explore our own gender agendas. But we must not limit our world or our opportunities for growth and understanding. Unaccepting heterosexuals would love to limit our world right out of existence, but the more we know of each other (and we have much to learn), the better we can unite in our work for acceptance and equal rights. By attending "Beautiful Thing," I took a risk, tried something different and stepped outside the realm of my experience. In turn, I gained a new understanding and appreciation for the love between men. We don't seem to avoid "straight" films even though they do not relate to our community, so why the female avoidance of "Beautiful Thing?" In contrast with any number of "men's" or "women's" gay film audiences, at the following week's preview of "Bound," there was a diverse representation of humanity in the audience,

despite the story which revolved around a lesbian love affair. The gender separation of our community is not limited to our film audiences, however.

Once upon a time, there was an organization powerful enough to wield influence over City Council with threats of the "gay block vote." Known simply as the Gay Political Caucus (GPC), it has now become either the HGLPC (gay & lesbian), or the HLGPC (lesbian & gay); I can never remember which order to use for the distinctions are unnecessary. Similarly, the recently organized Chamber of Commerce is "inclusively" lesbian & gay. Some members of our community must surely take offense at their chosen label being excluded from the titles of such organizations and events. And why is the "gay pride parade" now simply known as the "pride parade," a sanctioned part of "pride week"? The title for the event makes me wonder "pride for what? ... pride in what"? I suppose a title like the "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, queer, drag, leather, butch, femme, queen, fag, dyke parade" is too long to fit on a banner. Of course, our community includes people who describe themselves in these ways and many others. None of us can be pigeonholed into a single descriptor, however, for there are lifetimes of experiences which make up our individual identities. But we are all "gay," so why not unite beneath the banner of being gay? Frankly, this is how the rest of the world perceives our community, regardless of the labels we choose for ourselves. So why must we draw distinctions between ourselves when we are embattled as a collective gay community? Why do we waste time on details insignificant to our fight against discrimination? Put the petty details to rest and join together in pride as gay citizens. To me, the term gay should describe our community as a whole and our shared goals and aspirations for acceptance, understanding and equal rights. Naming ourselves gay is similar to expressing allegiance to a political party. Obviously, there are a wide range of ideas and individuals within each party, but each party is united collectively around their respective ideologies. The same should be true for our community. Let us not lose ourselves to conventional wisdom's cry for political correctness, for we are far from being either conventional or politically correct. Strive instead to accept our value and strength as a united community of individuals born to alternate sexual identities, whatever they may be. We only weaken ourselves to further persecution from the rest of the world when we delineate ourselves with descriptors. There is power in a name, one name, and our given name is gay. The pink triangle, lambda sign and rainbow flag are all symbols of our community, but as individuals we serve as the most powerful symbols of the gay community as we interact honestly and openly with others. Despite our individual differences, we share our gayness; because of our individual differences we have great power and strength when we unite as a community. We are entitled to our differences, but more importantly we are responsible for recognizing that uniting in our diversity gives our community strength and power. Don't sell a "Beautiful Thing," or any other opportunity for learning and growth, short.



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HOUSTON VOICE

Gay Today

by Glen Webber



We Will Survive

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Some of the names in this article were changed to protect the privacy of the members of the group — db.*

We had our first Survivors Club meeting two weeks ago. I asked three of my closest friends, all of whom had lovers die from AIDS, and asked them how they coped before and after their lovers' deaths. The answers I received were very personal and intimate. I could feel the pain they were re-living and as a person whose own lover died from AIDS, I could identify with their feelings. If you are not a strong person, you become strong. Your lover is depending on you for everything and you must provide it. It doesn't matter how tired you are, you must be strong. You become their lifeline to the world.

Kris, whose lover died in 1987 was the first to share his story. When Kris met him in 1983, Barry was already having AIDS related problems. They agreed on a monogamous relationship. Kris says in those days, there was not much support from the gay community. Because the lover did not have insurance, Kris had to learn to give various I.V. treatments. On Jan. 1st, Barry went into a coma and died. Barry's family, mainly his sisters, came and packed up the house and took all of the couple's possessions. They got away with doing this because the will could not be found right away. When Kris came back from the funeral which was out of town, the locks had been changed and the house was stripped.

For 18 months, Kris went into deep grieving. Because they did not have safe sex, Kris was worried that he had contracted the virus, but luckily he did not. He said when people found out his lover died from AIDS, they assumed he was also sick. Kris continues to test negative. Kris says he survived by wondering why he didn't get sick. He finally recovered enough to start dating again.

Kris said that Barry was more concerned about his personal appearance than anything else and he wanted to die a handsome man. Kris told a funny story about Barry being in the restroom at a bar. A man approached him indicating that he was interested in sex and said his lover was out of town, and he didn't have much time. Barry replied "I don't have much time either, I'm dying."

Stan and his lover were together sixteen years. He says they would still be together if the lover had not died. Conrad had a variety of health problems. When he started having night sweats, they did not equate it to AIDS. They were both in denial at the time. In 1986, Conrad was diagnosed with AIDS. Stan says he remembers that in 1982, the first play safe calendar was published. Most of those models are now deceased. We talked about how most of the obituaries we saw during that time were pictures of people we knew.

Stan says the first person they knew who died from AIDS was a neighbor in his twenties. He died in two weeks from pneumocystis. By the time Conrad got sick, the doctors knew what to look for. His first hospital stay was seven weeks. He had several severe reactions to medicine which kept him in the hospital. Stan says Conrad went from being a handsome man to being a mere shadow of his former self and had to use a cane.

One night Stan said they went to the theater. He dropped Conrad off in front of the theater to wait while Stan parked the car. Conrad fell. Two policemen in a nearby car watched but did not get out of their car to help.

Stan says something that really helped them was that they had very good support groups through their church. Conrad's family came to make their annual visit of a month. When they arrived, Stan told them Conrad was in the hospital. His mother blasted Stan for not telling her why, but Conrad wanted to tell them himself. After he got out of the hospital, Conrad had periods of good health. Over one Christmas, Conrad had to go into the hospital. His parents came to visit and extended their visit because of his bad health. Conrad had good insurance and had nurses to do the I.V. work at home, but Stan insisted he do some of the caregiving work himself.

By that March, Stan was staying in the hospital with Conrad on a regular basis. Something that was really hard was that he had to go to work each day, pretending everything was normal. The night the lover died, Stan and Conrad's parents were with him.

An attorney showed up at Stan's house one day with a will Conrad's parents had made him sign. This new will left his estate to his parents. His parents didn't want all his things, so they made Stan sign an agreement and let him keep some of the things.

Stan's deepest grieving lasted two years. Stan says he still has flashback grief—not only of his lover, but of many of his friends who have died. Stan says, "I have to renew my life each day because so many people in my life are gone. I know many people that will die sooner than they should, and it is hard sometimes to think about that, but the alternative is to be isolated and bitter."

Karl described how his lover's death affected him. He and Martin were together 4 years before Martin's death. Karl recalled that, "Every day before I left for work, I would tell him I loved him." He says he still does that each morning even though he speaks it in an empty room. Karl says he still sits on the side of the sofa where Martin usually sat. He no longer uses their bedroom. After Martin's death, he would go into the closet to smell his lover's scent on his clothes.

A good thing Karl told us about was that, "At work I was protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). My employer knew I was HIV positive. That allowed me to be openly gay at work. I'd talk about my spouse at work the way other men talked about their wives. It was great to be able to do that." Karl says his employers let him have time off to visit his lover in the hospital. Many of Karl's high level supervisors attended Martin's services. He said, "I knew they cared very much about both of us." Karl said after his lover died, he wasn't able to visit other friends who were ill.

My lover's parents were very shocked and they were in heavy denial. Things were awkward for awhile but his mother and I have become very close and she has become my confidant. Kelse had a will to protect me from any family interference. I believe his parents have become more respectful of me now because of the stable relationship we had.

All of you readers who have lovers, please tell them you love them everyday. Share your day with them. Let them know you will support them whenever possible. Those wonderful memories you both make will sustain you through the worst times.

Glen Webber is a person with AIDS living in the Montrose area of Houston where he meets with friends for support.

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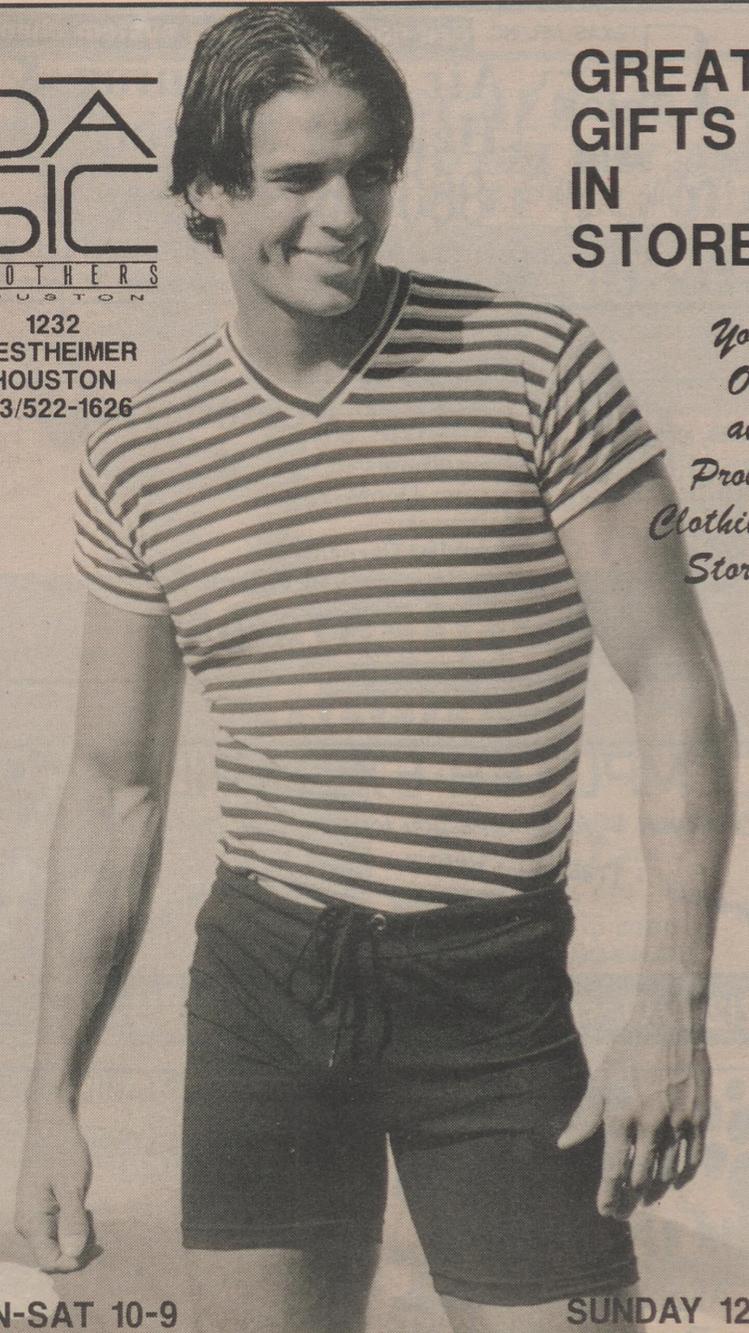
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Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



The Good Life!

"Brandy has such good parties," Jan said, nibbling the first bite of real cheese she's tasted since her heart attack one year ago. "And guacamole! I see guacamole! And chips!" She was feeling pretty confident that I would not reprimand her about the deadly cholesterol in front of all the other guests.

The gala was in celebration of Brandy's lover's birthday, and the recently completed construction on their new house, and the silver lining they have been living in since Brandy's previous dark clouds have passed. All their friends were there, and in addition to the unrationed delectables, there was good cheer and birthday singing, and one of Brandy's seldom seen, wonderfully decorated adult sons.

People who get to visit with one another infrequently were exchanging good news, catching up with old friends and making observations about our lives. There were people there whom I have always known, some I have always known of, and some I had met at the Women's Festival in the summer. There were moms with sons, brothers, lawyers, a photographer, a technical books editor and one woman with extravagantly styled hair. Everyone said they had been working too much (but mostly enjoying it) and staying busy with their lives. There was political talk, and small talk and at least one heart-to-heart. Several compliments were offered regarding the "new" VOICE, and solicitous inquiries made after its editor and her antecedent.

Jan revealed to a happy audience that she was recently able to leave the job she has hated. In my other job, as a case manager for Coram Healthcare, my bosses generously allowed me to claim her as a dependent on my health insurance, effectively granting her respite, and then a luxuriously relaxed decision about further employment, or self-employment after the holidays.

We shared that we were also celebrating our fourth anniversary, with all the expectation that our next one will be marked with our legally hyphenated last

name. We said that my brother was moving from the 'burbs to live within a mile of our house, and we are happy about that, too. The birthday girl was feted with two cakes, the hostess was pleased with her efforts and everyone admired their newly added bathroom and tropical rain forest shower curtain.

Two women guests arrived later than the rest, with an infant in arms. They were delayed, they said, by their foster baby's schedule. This tiny mite was wrapped in layers of one woman's coat, making his size appear to be much more appropriate to his age than he actually is. He is three months old, and when they got him a few weeks ago he weighed barely over seven pounds. This baby is a different one from those they had at The Women's Festival. Those are back in their original homes now, after their families dealt with the crises that prompted the children's removal.

"Don't you wish you could keep him?" I asked. They laughed. One said "I don't want to raise another one through puberty," but she admitted that there had been one that she had really fallen hard for ... and adopted. "This one (the one she let me hold) though, his momma wants him back. She misses him. She aches for him!" Still, I said, I wish I could have him. "I know where you can get one of your own, to keep," this extremely lovely woman told me, unable to see Jan's threatening gestures behind her. "At Casa de Esperanza. They have kids who need adoptive homes. Some of them are school-aged, Some are learning disabled. And they will work with you even if you're out."

Esperanza. Remember that name. School-aged (read: can walk and talk. Potty trained.) "Even if you're out." Sometimes it just doesn't get any better than this.

Jan almost choked on her high-fat party snacks after she could not disengage Jazz's eyes from the babe in arms. But, hey, she survived her first cardiac incident without her partner's assistance, didn't she? And anyway, Jazz had already told her to stick to the veggies and yogurt dip. Call Casa de Esperanza at 713-529-0639. Tell 'em Jazz sent you.

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Sudsy Success

Recipe for a successful fundraiser: Take a dozen or so men, some dirty vehicles, generous portions of soap and water, a little Armorall, and hold a car wash. Just one more thing though; the men washing wear next to nothing!!

The "Nearly Naked Car Wash II" benefiting the Lady Victoria PWA Holiday Fund was held last Saturday November 9th in the front parking area of the Ripcord,

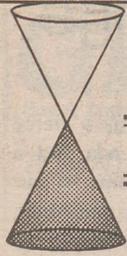


Hunky guys washing cars and helping the community

715 Fairview. The fundraising event was presented by the current reigning Daddy of Montrose, Ken Claude, who is also a candidate for Mr. Prime Choice 1997. Said Ken, "Sometimes the best results can be obtained with a tried and true idea by simply putting a new spin on it, or in this case, a little more skin on it!!"

The event netted proceeds of just over \$500 for the holiday fund. The charity organization continues on in the wake of the devastating loss of Marvin Davis, AKA Lady Victoria Lust, longtime fundraising legend in the Houston gay and lesbian community.

This was the second of three car washes to be presented by Ken. The third will benefit the Colt 45's Stone Soup.



PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

Some Things Do Change

Always an observer and occasionally a participant, I have followed the news media all my life. To the best of my recall this thirst for knowledge—from the important to the mundane—was wetted as a child as I observed my grandfather plotting the rise and fall of Nazi aggression on a world map with colored pins.

This early inquisitiveness, combined with an early awareness of my sexuality, led me to the public library where the only authorities on homosexuality were Irving Bieber and Charles W. Socarides—and believe me, they had nothing good to say about faggots.

The daily newspapers, which in those days consisted of the Kansas City Star and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, rarely even noted the existence of faggots except with the occasional reporting of roundups in a park or queer bar. Without remembering how I ever acquired the knowledge I knew the name of Kansas City's biggest gay bar long before I ever came out. I certainly recognized it when I was approached by a man who mentioned that very bar while in the service.

While still in self-denial as a student at the University of Missouri and working in the campus library I somehow became aware not only that homosexuals frequented the library's restrooms but also that campus security maintained surveillance in them.

And later, during a four-year stint on an Arkansas newspaper, when a subordinate approached me with the fact that he was homosexual, I and a reporter friend urged him to approach our "liberal" publisher for help. That help came in the form of his being fired. It was perhaps only a coincidence that the reporter-friend was hiding in the same closet as I.

But that was the '60's and the South. That was a liberal newspaper whose editorial writer won a Pulitzer for civil rights columns. It was also a newspaper which, having dropped "Black" from obituaries still noted the deaths of black people by adding "Mr." or "Mrs." to the deceased's name. Subtle, no?

The revolution which has taken place in the news media is often ignored in our community and unknown to most of those who have come out in the age of AIDS. Edward Alwood, in his "Straight News: Gays, Lesbians and News Media," provides a valuable source book of this revolution.

From an age not long ago when newspapers routinely used the word "faggot" in news reports, reports which invariably centered on negative reports, we have arrived a point in time when the ABC Television Network broadcasts an hour-long sympathetic look at same-sex marriages without the once prerequisite homophobic "expert" to provide "balance."

We have arrived at a place where the newspaper of record, the New York Times, would not print the word "gay" unless in a direct quote to a fine piece of journalism and literature as last week's New York Times Magazine cover story by Andrew Sullivan—gay, conservative, Republican, English and HIV positive. We have arrived when the son of homophobic shrink Socarides is the gay and lesbian liaison for the President of the United States—a position earned by his own openness as a gay man.

We have advanced from a time in which some of the supposed "liberals of the media," Jeff Greenfield, Nicholas von Hoffman, Harriet Van Horn and Irv Kupcinet, routinely condemned homosexuals and any coverage of faggot news. I gained new respect for Mike Wallace as Alwood chronicles that commentator's awakening to the discrimination of Gays.

The nation's newsrooms, like sports bars, were once the haven of the macho male, a living extension of Charles MacArthur's "Front Page." Women were good for the society page and carrying coffee. Gays did not exist beyond the police beat, and most certainly not in the newsroom itself. Blacks were news stories or riots or crimes and visible only in the halls of newspapers offices, sweeping or hauling.

The news media tradition of objectivity, always more a principle than a fact, would later dictate that women could not objectively report on the women's movement, Blacks were unreliable in covering the civil rights struggle and most certainly even a rumored homosexual could not be trusted to provide even the limited coverage given the emerging gay rights movement.

The straight news media's record of coverage on gay issues has really progressed through three stages: First, there was no reporting; second, the rare article—by a straight reporter—limited to the few gay spokespersons and always "balanced" by able coverage of the ever eager gay-baiters; and finally, the third and current stage in which there is a semblance of balance in reporting. This last stage has been ably advanced by the coming out of Gays and Lesbians in the media itself. This was an essential ingredient as it forced even supposed liberal newspapers to face their own hypocrisy.

The considerable revolution within the New York Times could only have come with the advent of a new generation with the controlling family. In other cases, such as the Los Angeles Times, editors were never forced to face the issue until their own gay and lesbian reporters came forward. Others, like the now defunct Houston Post, reluctantly faced this revolution only when the likes of Juan Palomo stuck to principle when providing commentary on a death from gay bashing he felt it essential to make clear his own homosexuality and his resultant understanding the plight of the deceased.

Alwood's story is our story. This is our history and our reality. "Straight News" is both resource material and the gateway (I almost said bridge) to the future. What Alwood reports are gains which cannot be reversed barring another revolution, or counter revolution.

Just as ABC's same-sex marriage show and Sullivan's article in the Times would have been unthinkable twenty years ago, or less, Alwood's book would not have been published two decades ago. Now his book from Columbia University Press is the product of "Between Men—Between Women, Lesbian and Gay Studies" edited by Lillian Faderman and Larry Gross, a Lesbian and a Gay man. We've come a long way and despite the agony of AIDS and the closet, it has been a journey worthy of those who made it possible, from the early activists who zapped the Ladies Home Journal and countless newspapers to the "in-house" Gays of today.

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Fraud Mail continued...

(Continued from page 1)

with us that gay and lesbian citizens deserve full civil equality, but so far he does not," said Gandy. "The piece clearly backfired. It may have cost Mr. Perry votes from the radical religious extremists. There are no anti-choice candidates left in the race. Voters strongly rejected those who are anti-choice and anti-gay," Gandy elaborated.

Perry finished fourth in election polling, failing to make it to the runoff. Rep. Ken Bentsen and Dolly Madison McKenna face a runoff on December 10. Both candidates are pro-choice and neither is using gay-baiting tactics in their campaigns. The HGLPC PAC has endorsed Bentsen, as he has promised to vote in favor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Gays Score Big Win in California Assembly

HRC Helps Wrest Control From Extremists

WASHINGTON—Gay men and lesbians won an important victory in California on Election Night when the state Assembly was seized from the control of far-right extremists, the Human Rights Campaign said today.

"It was vital to place the California Assembly into the hands of fair-minded legislators, and that is what we have done," said Amy Pritchard, Director of HRC's California Project for the northern half of the state. "With the help of hundreds of volunteers, we won enough races to tip the balance of power."

The result was that the Assembly went from a ratio of 41 Republicans and 39 Democrats to 42 Democrats and 38 Republicans. Of the nine state Assembly candidates whose campaigns HRC directly helped, seven won. (Gerrie Schipske, an open lesbian from Long Beach, and Lily Cervantes in Northern California were the two HRC Assembly candidates who lost.)

"We helped pull together a grass-roots infrastructure of fair-minded Californians who staffed phone banks, knocked on doors and handed out literature," said Sue Burnside, HRC Project Director for Southern California. "The outcome was striking."

Carole Migden, an openly gay assemblywoman from San Francisco, praised HRC for its efforts. "HRC's California Project played a pivotal role in reclaiming the California state Assembly from the extremist factions of the Republican Party," she said.

"By putting together the resources to help finance key races and by providing people

power in critical races, the California Project created a statewide lesbian and gay presence that will have a major impact for decades to come."

This was the first time that HRC became involved in elections at the state legislative level. "We decided that since so much anti-gay federal legislation gets its start at the state level, that we would try a little preventive medicine," said Daniel Zingale, HRC's political director. "Plus, the extremists held a very slim majority in California."

In addition to working in state Assembly races, the California Project worked for three state Senate candidates: Dede Alpert in the 39th district; Adam Schiff in the 21st; and Betty Karnette in the 27th. All three won.

HRC also sent a member of its Youth College for Campaign Training to work in the campaign against Proposition 209, the statewide anti-affirmative action measure. Proposition 209 passed.

And HRC sent a full-time senior political department staffer from its Washington headquarters to work in the U.S. House campaign of Walter Capps, who defeated freshman Rep. Andrea Seastrand, an extremist Republican.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian and gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

Go to HRC's Online Action Center for a special Campaign 96 Report and full FY95-95 Endorsement/PAC Report <http://www.hrccusa.org>.

Conviction for Schmitz in Talk Show Trial

Jury Had Been At A Standstill

By B.J. REYES

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—After six hours of deliberations, jurors in the "Jenny Jones" trial said they were divided over whether a man should be convicted of killing a gay admirer who revealed his crush on the talk show. Jurors sent a note to Judge Francis X. O'Brien Friday saying: "We are at a standstill. What do you advise?"

Jonathan Schmitz's defense lawyer called for a mistrial, but O'Brien ordered jurors to return Tuesday, after the Veteran's Day holiday, for a second day of deliberations. The prosecutor supported the move. "I don't think they're completely deadlocked at this point," prosecutor Roman Kalytiak said. "We've got to give them a little bit more time." The defense said the jurors will probably not reach a unanimous verdict. "We can try this case 10 times and you're going to end up with the same result because of the volatility of the issue," defense lawyer Fred Gibson said.

Scott Amedure, 32, was slain three days after the taping of the syndicated show in March 1995. He had detailed his sexual fantasies involving Schmitz, a heterosexual who had gone on the show to meet his

"secret admirer." He thought the admirer was a woman. The defense didn't deny that Schmitz, 26, shot Amedure, but claimed that he was already in fragile mental condition and that the humiliation pushed him over the edge. He was unable to form the intent necessary to commit murder, they said. The defense said Schmitz was ambushed and deceived by the show's producers. Schmitz is charged with first-degree murder, which carries a life sentence without parole. However, the jury may consider lesser charges down to voluntary manslaughter and misdemeanor firearms violations.

Verdict Finally Reached

On Tuesday, Nov. 13, the jury finally broke its standstill with a second-degree murder conviction for Schmitz. They focused on the evidence that Schmitz was manic depressive and concluded that he had not acted with premeditation or deliberation. At one point in their deliberations, the jury had considered by 10 to 2 to find the defendant guilty of first degree murder. A three day recess over the Veteran's Day weekend apparently gave them time to reach a different conclusion. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 4. He stands to receive from 8 years to life in prison.

NGLTF's Creating Change

Film "All God's Children" is Highlight of Conference

By Shelly Tanner

A film featuring prominent African American politicians and clergy titled "All God's Children" was the highlight of the 1996 Creating Change Conference. The film, which was produced by Dr. Dee Mosbacher and San Francisco filmmaker Sylvia Rhue is a thoughtful response to the radical religious extremist's homophobic, hate-mongering video "Gay Rights/Special Rights". This video is being shown at Black churches all over the country with the apparent underlying goal of pitting one group against another. It distorts the effects of the gay and lesbian rights movement by presenting the advancement of those rights at the expense of African American rights.

"All God's Children" examines the Black's Church's embracement of Gay men and Lesbians of African Descent. Dr. Mosbacher, a member of the Houston Mosbacher political family, has produced several films, including "Straight from the Heart" which dealt with coming out to families. "All God's Children" is being nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary and will be shown in Houston at the UJIMA Conference which will be held this weekend. A panel discussion will follow the showing of the film. The conference is being jointly sponsored by Houston's African-American Lesbian and Gay Alliance (AALGA) and the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum (NBLGLF) and is set for Nov. 15-17 at the Sheraton Astrodome Hotel at 8686 Kirby. For more information call 713/864-2242.

Recap of Creating Change

More than 2000 people attended the 9th Annual Conference sponsored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Veteran's Day Weekend in Alexandria, VA. Prominent activists and newcomers joined in discussing what it takes to build a movement encompassing all progressive groups and promoting a platform dedicated to social justice, universal health care, and the repeal of all sodomy laws.

Speakers included Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), author/activist Suzanne Pharr, and poet Cheryl Clarke, who delivered the First Annual Vito Russo Memorial Lecture on Art and Politics. Frank an outspoken and highly regarded elected official. Frank spent the last two years as the Democrats' point person in

Congressional floor debates as a fierce critic of the Republican agenda and a tireless advocate for the dreams of our movement. Witty, intelligent, and blunt, he is known for calling it as he sees it.

Fiercely feminist writer, Carmen Vazquez a self-described Butch/Puerto-Rican/Socialist, brought the audience to its feet with her impassioned speech on social, economic and racial justice. Vazquez is the Public Policy Director of the New York Lesbian and Gay Community Center. An organizer for two decades, she is co-director of "Promote the Vote", a national registration and mobilization project in the country's 65 community centers.

Exhibitors included **Digital Queers** which offered hands on computer training, The Human Right Campaign, the Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and the National Organization for Women.

The choice of workshops to attend was mind boggling and offered a smorgasbord of activities. You could take in one on "Free to Marry" or "How to be a Safer Sex Slut." Training on fund raising and Board/Leadership Development took place along with several "special institutes" were also featured. These included The People of Color Organizing Institute and "Race is The Issue" which gave white activists an opportunity to discuss and analyze racism in our movement. The "Finding Common Ground" institute was designed to build allies across issues of race, class, and gender.

Conference participants took place in a demonstration in Washington, DC on Friday, Nov. 8 against the American Psychiatric Association for its continual use of the diagnosis of "gender identity disorder" which pathologizes transsexuals and transgendered people.

The conference closed on a high note with the display of a map showing that participants had travelled to it from all 50 states and several foreign countries.

NGLTF is in the midst of change. Executive Director Melinda Paras is leaving at the end of her term to return to California. Kerry Lobel has been named as Paras' successor. Lobel is a former organizer of the Women's Project in Little Rock, AR.

Sunny San Diego will be the site of the 1997 Creating Change Conference. Mark your calendar for Veteran's Day Weekend because you will want to make sure you don't miss this fabulous opportunity to hone your skills, meet other activists, and to have a load of queer fun.

AFH Starts Child Care Program

AIDS Foundation Houston Inc. (AFH) is pleased to announce the inception of the first coordinated child care system in Harris County for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. In collaboration with Neighborhood Centers Inc., PWA Coalition, Harris County Housing and Community Development Agency and Harris County Health Department/HIV Division, AFH will be vouchering for child care while clients attend medical or psychosocial appointments. Through this initiative clients will have three child care options. While attending medical or psychosocial appointments they can place their children in independent child care centers, registered family homes or take advantage of our in-home reimbursement program. This allows a

family member or friend to care for a child in the child's home while the HIV+ parent attends an appointment. The goal of this program is to empower persons with HIV/AIDS to function as independently as possible in the community for as long as possible through awareness of and access to child day care services.

Shantay Spears, Program Manager of AIDS Foundation Houston's Women and Children's Program, stated that, "This new coordinated child care system for HIV+ individuals makes child care more accessible and efficient for families, as well as more cost effective for the City and the County." Anyone interested in accessing this service should call the AIDS Foundation Houston offices at 623-6796.

GLAAD *lines*

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

It's Not Funny, Butt-Head

The first pressing of a soundtrack for the soon-to-be-released Paramount major motion picture *Beavis and Butt-head Do America*, suffers from an ugly anti-gay twist. In the movie, the hippie high school teacher of the animated duo, best known for their antics on the MTV ratings-winner *Beavis and Butt-head*, sings "Lesbian Seagull," a quirky, romantic ballad, inspired by an actual scientific study. However, it is the arrangement sung by Engelbert Humperdinck, heard on the CD and during the closing credits of the film, that may alarm many lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people.

A surprise ending of "Lesbian Seagull," unbeknownst to its writer Tom Wilson Weinberg, was added to the song in the recording studio. At the end of this new version, one can hear (lesbian) seagulls in the air, followed by a loud shotgun blast, silence, a thud, and then laughter from *Beavis and Butt-head*. Within one day of being contacted by Weinberg, Paramount and Geffen Records, the CD's label, agreed to remove the violent sound effects from any further pressings of the CD and assured him that it would not be included in the film. Weinberg stated that "when I explained to them that gay and lesbian imagery combined with a gunshot is not okay...they heard me and responded quickly. On the other hand, they were unwilling to recall the 200,000 CD's already manufactured for stores and radio stations, nor have they issued a statement of apology."

Please let both Paramount and Geffen Records know that while their response to this problem is appreciated, there are still CD's on store shelves and at radio stations that include this violently, homophobic sound effect. Remind them that our community is subject to the largest percentage of hate-crimes in this country, and that this only adds to the perception that those crimes are socially acceptable. Contact: Sherry Lansing, Chairperson and CEO, and Abby Terkuhle, Executive Vice President, Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA, e-mail: clayton-carlisle@paramount.com; David Berman, President, Geffen Records, 9130 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, 90069, fax: 310.274.6721.

It's A Way Of Life

The November issue of *Life* magazine features a strong, affirming story entitled, "When We Talk About Gay Marriage, What Do We Really Mean?" featuring Steve Habgood and Mark Sadlek, a Dallas gay couple. As with most articles in the magazine, the story is told primarily through a series of photographs: A two-page spread of the two men relaxing in bed with their dog, Chevas; a traditional black-and-white of the two exchanging vows at their commitment ceremony; a shot of the two mowing their lawn; a full-page view of Mark shaving while his ten-year-old nephew looks on; Mark and his old fraternity brothers and all of their spouses (including Steve) at a

reunion; Steve chairing a meeting of the local American Cancer Society; and the couple attending church with Steve's sister, Karen. The images show the traditional and upstanding nature of the two men's relationship and life. Accompanying text explains how in Texas, "even their cohabitation is illegal." It also notes that, "though they would like to marry legally, says Mark, 'legislation won't give our relationship any more emotional value.'" It discusses how the families of both partners came to accept and embrace them, and how unequal governmental treatment is for gay couples than it is for straight couples. Finally, it states that the two "find it ironic that much of the opposition to civil marriage comes from churches. Says Steve, 'Christianity is about acceptance and love.' Those, they say, are their family values."

Life's more conservative readers will undoubtedly be sent negative letters about the article. Please write *Life* and let them know how important it is to provide such positive and honest portrayals of our lives together. Contact: *Life*, Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020, fax: 212.522.0379, e-mail: lifedit@life.timeinc.com

20/20 Coverage of Etheridge/Cypher

While the Nov. 1, 20/20 presented an interesting and in-depth interview with rock star Melissa Etheridge and her partner Julie Cypher about their relationship, their expected child and lesbian and gay parenting in general, they also fell into the now archaic trap of interviewing an anti-gay religious radical. Under the guise of "balanced journalism," 20/20 featured infamous homophobic radical Lou Sheldon of the hate group the Traditional Values Coalition, who spewed his hatred by condemning lesbian and gay families. Would a show about interracial parents and their children have a member of the Ku Klux Klan for "balance?" A hate group is a hate group, whether it deals with race, sexual orientation or religion, and such groups should not be dignified as a valid "opposing viewpoint" in an otherwise engaging and balanced story.

The interview with Etheridge and Cypher tells the story of how in love and devoted they are to one another, how they met and how excited they are about their child. 20/20 also provided viewers with information about how the children of lesbian and gay parents neither suffer great discrimination nor have any more issues about their own sexuality or gender roles due to having same-sex parents.

Tell 20/20 that the story and information about parenting was great. However, the piece fell flat by giving hate a soapbox from which to preach. Contact: Victor Newfeld, Executive Producer, 20/20, 147 Columbus Ave., New York, NY 10023, fax: 212.456.2969, e-mail: abc-audr@ccabc.com.

Volunteers Needed

The Houston Voice has need of a number of people to work on a voluntary basis. Positions include artists, cartoonists, reporters, reviewers, proofreaders (needed on Wednesdays), help with distribution, and various other tasks as needed. We offer a progressive "Out" environment, some job training and a great group of folks to hang out with, besides it will look good on your resume some day to have this work experience. Interested? Contact the Editor, Deborah Bell at 529-8490.

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The Enemy Within

Domestic Violence In Our Relationships

By DEBORAH BELL

A recently conducted study reports that Gay and Lesbians are more in danger from domestic violence than from gay bashing. Additionally, the abuse is seldom reported. The survey was conducted by The National Coalition of Anti-Violence programs in six major U.S. cities. According to what has been described as an unscientific tabulation, there were 1566 acts of same-sex partner violence.

The limited research indicates that 25 to 33% of same-gender relationships are affected by domestic violence. New York had the highest number acts of violence recorded at 454; San Francisco reported 347; San Diego, 330; Minneapolis at 243; followed by Chicago at 129 and Columbus, OH at 63. For four of these cities, the acts of domestic violence outnumbered the cases of reported hate crimes in those cities. Twenty-three more incidents of domestic violence were reported in San Francisco than anti-gay harassment (this includes insults to acts of violence).

The study, released Oct. 22, was conducted by community activists under the auspices of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs which is an

organization of 25 agencies and programs that track violence against and within the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community. The figures compiled represent only a small part of the problem according to the survey organizers. Jerri Lynn Fields of Horizons' Anti-Violence Project in Chicago said, "We know the actual magnitude of this problem is much greater since most domestic violence in our community, especially among bisexual and transgendered people, goes unreported." "The time has come for us to confront domestic violence as bravely as we have hate violence," said Constance Potter of the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council in Minneapolis.

Dr. Susan Turrell of the University of Houston-Clear Lake has been conducting a research survey on the subject of same-sex domestic violence. "We've received over 500 responses to our questionnaire and have gotten the information into the computer," says Dr. Turrell. "We will compile and analyze the information and provide a report in the near future, but one thing that we've already noticed is that Gays and Lesbians tend to turn to friends for help, and many cases are never reported nor do they have any social service agency involvement," she explained. The results of the study will be released in the near future.

Gay Business Owner Recognized by Women's Center

By DEBORAH BELL

The Houston Area Women's Center (HAWC) recognized a "behind the scenes" contribution by local activist John Freeman and his family. John, along with his mother and sister are the owners of Echo Communications Inc. Patti, Diane and John were mentioned in the Fall issue of *Catalyst*, the HAWC newsletter for their commitment to helping end violence against women and children. Dedicated to the idea that "when a woman needs help, someone should be there to help her," the Freemans generously donated their busi-

ness services to provide a vital link between battered women calling the HAWC hotline nights, holidays, and weekends, and the HAWC case manager and residential staff.

For the past eleven years, Echo Communications has provided a backup to the Women's center hotline free of charge. Working together, the Freemans, manager Linda Burchfield, and the individual operators at Echo have helped thousands of women and children find the assistance and safety they needed. The article expressed HAWC's appreciation for the Freeman's donation.

Alternative Therapies Study

The Bastyr University AIDS Research Center through a study funded by the National Institutes of Health Office of Alternative Medicine is recruiting volunteers to participate in the study. The goal is to gather information about alternative treatments and therapies that may slow disease progression, improve quality of life, or lead to a cure. They will not be prescribing or recommending specific treatments.

Participation is completely confi-

dential. Qualifications to participate in the study are: Be HIV Positive (at any stage); Currently using alternative medicine or treatments such as massage, homeopathy, acupuncture, nutrition therapy or a combination of alternative and conventional treatments; Able and willing to give informed consent and complete questionnaires; and be at least 18 years old.

For more information regarding this study, please call 800/475-0135.

1995 FBI Hate Crimes Stats

Sexual orientation was the third highest motivation for the act of a hate crime according to the FBI preliminary report of 1995 cases. Racial bias rated 61%, with 16% attributed to religious bias, followed by sexual orientation with 13%. The 1991 Hate Crime Statistics Act passed by Congress required that the Justice Department gather the data from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The initial collection by state and local agencies is voluntary. The figures released reflect reports of 9500 agencies

from 45 states and the District of Columbia and covering 75% of the U.S. population.

Hate crimes took the form of intimidation as the most frequently reported making up 41% of the total. Vandalism and property damage came in at 23%, simple assault accounted for 18% and aggravated assault rated 13%. Anti-black bias emerged as the most prevalent motivation for hate crimes. The statistics counted 20 murders and 12 rapes as being hate motivated incidents during the year.

Gay or Straight--Violence in Relationships

Similarities

1. All domestic violence is inappropriate.
2. Abuse can be physical, sexual, physical, psychological and/or verbal behavior designed or used to coerce, humiliate, demean or otherwise cause harm.
3. Abuse often occurs in a cyclic fashion.
4. Abuse can be lethal.
5. The purpose of domestic abuse is to maintain control and power over one's partner.
6. The abused partner feels alone, isolated, afraid and is usually convinced that the abuse was somehow her/his fault, or could have been avoided if only s/he had known the right thing to do.
7. Many abusers are, themselves, survivors of childhood abuse.
8. Most abusers seek to isolate their partners from all other support systems.
9. Many survivors of domestic abuse and their abusers feel powerless and experience low self-esteem.
10. Many survivors of domestic abuse are reluctant to seek remedies/penalties against their abusers.
11. The incident rate of domestic violence is generally the same in lesbian/gay relationships and heterosexual relationships—approximately 25-30%.

Differences

1. Gay male and lesbian survivors of domestic violence have much more difficulty finding appropriate support than heterosexual women.
2. The myth prevails that lesbian and gay domestic violence is the product of "mutual" abuse.
3. Accessing existing services to address lesbian and gay domestic violence is tantamount to "coming out" for many people and avoided for this reason.
4. Support services and friends within the lesbian and gay community often minimize lesbian and gay domestic violence because, among other things: the community does not want to draw adverse attention; members of the community often view the community as somewhat

"utopian"; lesbians often adopt the view that "all violence is caused by men"; and physical size and strength is often more equalized in same-sex partnerships, making it more difficult to believe that one partner could physically abuse the other.

5. Complaining about lesbian and gay domestic violence may be seen as enforcing the myth that lesbian and gay relationships are unstable and enforce the stereotype that same-sex relationships are "sick."
6. Lesbians and gay men not only live in a sexist culture, but also in a homophobic/heterosexist society. In addition, many lesbians and gay men experience racism as well. These layers of oppression have an adverse impact on the willingness of lesbian and gay survivors of domestic violence to and-at the violence and take action to stop it.
7. Lesbian and gay survivors of domestic violence usually have little or no contact with other lesbian or gay survivors of domestic violence because these issues have not been widely publicized or discussed in the community. Leaving an abuser under these circumstances could mean total isolation.
8. There are often wide economic and social disparities between lesbian and gay abusers and their partners. Leaving could mean social and financial crisis. It is true, however, that lesbian and gay partners may not generally be as dependent on one another for financial stability as are heterosexual partners.
9. The lesbian and gay community is small. There exists a likelihood that information about abuse allegations will be wide-spread.
10. Although there is not a causal connection between domestic violence and substance abuse, abuse of substances is often a co-factor. Some research indicates that substance abuse is three times higher in the lesbian and gay community than in the heterosexual population.
11. The batterer can use blackmail to hold the victim in the relationship. Being "outed" at work, to family and friends, or to a former spouse where custody is an issue, sometimes seems even more threatening than the abuse.

Gay Marriage Supporters Reelected

Polls Stand Against DOMA and Hold On To Their Seats

FROM NGLTF RELEASE

Washington, D.C. Nov. 6, 1996...The anti-gay, political ploy known as the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) proved a failure against those members of Congress who refused to take the bait. All 61 House members up for reelection who opposed the anti-gay marriage bill were victorious. John Kerry, the one Senator voting against DOMA and up for reelection, also held onto his seat.

DOMA, introduced in Congress in July and signed by the President under the cover of darkness in September, was characterized by gay activists, Congressional leaders, and even President Clinton, as an election year ploy by right-wing members of Congress. The President and many members of Congress who endorsed DOMA justified their support by claiming DOMA was a political arm twisting not

of their doing. Yesterday's results prove such justification unfounded.

"The victory of all congressmembers up for reelection who voted against DOMA proves that principle pays," stated Kerry Lobel, NGLTF executive director designate. "DOMA succeeded not because it actually posed a threat to the reelection of normally fair-minded congressmembers, but because they took the bait."

"We hope President Clinton and the leadership of the Congress will take this lesson to heart: Even in an election year, they can stand up for democracy and fairness. Scapegoating gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people doesn't pay," added Lobel.

Notably, even those members who knew they were going to be in tight races and still stood up against this gay baiting were not hurt politically. "These courageous and principled congressmembers proved that a vote against discrimination is not a losing vote," stated Lobel.

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*What a World,
What a World...*
by Nancy Ford (appears bi-weekly in the Houston Voice)

Giving Thanks

Hey, Happy Thanksgiving! Food! Family! Fun! Speaking of food and family, for those of you in need of some fun holiday table conversations, here's some holiday history to share while you're waiting for the tryptophan to kick in: On Dec. 11, 1620, 102 pilgrims, after a four-month journey that began in Holland, landed at Plymouth. This protracted journey led many to speculate that their route may have been charted by Southwest Airlines. The brave band encountered severe weather and a plague so severe that by the following autumn, nearly half of their party had succumbed to scurvy and pneumonia. The survivors were happy—nay, thankful, that food and religious freedom, if nothing else, were abundant. Let us party!

The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days, much like the extended birthday celebration of today's Lesbian. The work of preparing the feast—for nearly 150 diners—fell to four Pilgrim women and two teenage girls. Thirteen women had died in the previous year, and were probably thankful for that in itself. The men were delegated to the woods where they waited quietly until the late 1950's, when college football was introduced as a holiday television tradition.

Because the following year's crop was not bumper, Thanksgiving was not celebrated the next year by the settlers. More likely, those thirteen women were still too busy doing dishes from the year before.

The first national Thanksgiving Proclamation was issued 168 years later by George Washington, but was condemned two years later by Thomas Jefferson who felt that the hardships endured by a few early settlers did not warrant recognition on a national scale. Remember, Thomas Jefferson spent a lot of time rocking on his front porch, smoking hemp. It got harder to motivate Ol' Tom after the Declaration of Independence went to press. In 1863

Lincoln finally designated the last Thursday in each November as a national day of Thanksgiving, making the folks at Butterball very happy.

This year I have a great deal to be thankful for:

- * My families, both nuclear and extended, are alive and well.
- * I am thankful that at any given moment on this great planet of ours "I Love Lucy" is being broadcast.
- * I am truly thankful that many of you voted.
- * I am thankful that I am not Mike Tyson—on a number of levels.
- * I am thankful for natural wonders like a beautiful Texas full moon rising over LaGrange. I know this to be a beautiful sight, as, because of the Shannon Lucid-esque extended period of time I spend on I-10.
- * I am thankful that I don't wake up every morning and go to a job where I am a chicken sexer, but that's another topic for another column.

But back to history. My personal favorite Thanksgiving tradition, next to binging sans purging, is wishing on the turkey wishbone. Each time a sacred fowl was killed, the bird's collarbone was placed in the sun to dry. An Etruscan hoping to benefit from the dead bird's mystic powers was instructed to stroke the bone, being careful to not break it, and make a wish. Hence the name "wishbone." Stroking one's bone is still considered lucky by many civilized societies, with the possible exception of in Pee Wee Herman's old neighborhood.

Among the first Thanksgiving wishes offered by its participants probably was "I wish I had a nice Parkerhouse roll instead of this nasty ball of boiled corn fried in venison fat."

As I stroke and snap my bone this holiday, I wish for world peace, and an end to disease and hunger. Of course. But my biggest wish is for some new supreme court justices so my girlfriend can make an honest woman out of me. Like I said, thanks for voting.

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<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>Fried Catfish Beef Stew Turkey & Dressing * Gumbo</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Country Baked Ham Chicken Cacciatore * Chicken Noodle Soup</p>
<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>Turkey & Dressing Ribeye Steak * Cream of Chicken Soup</p>	

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Celebration!

By LEE DAVIS

On Sunday, Nov. 10, a Celebration of Life for Herb "Shaboom" Muenchow Jr. was held at E/J's. Host Ed Moniger laid out a fancy spread catered by C&A Restaurant on Richmond. Normally closed on Sundays, the owners of C&A were told the purpose of the buffet and without hesitation said they would be proud to open on Sunday to prepare the feast.

The evening started on the infamous patio, where Shaboom hosted The Wheel of Fortune daily at 6:30pm. Music was provided by the talents of Chris Carter, a good friend of Shaboom. Normally playing with his straight country western band, this was a new venue for Chris. He performed exceedingly well with his smooth, low bass tones.

Many toasts were lifted up to Shaboom throughout the evening. The topper of the evening was when Shaboom's mother and sister, Helen and Pam respectively, arrived. Pam donned Shaboom's church lady wig and pill box hat! Helen and Pam thanked everyone for their participation in the celebration as they worked their way through the massive crowd.

The evening continued with a show on the stage of E/J's. Hosted by Paivi Lee Love, the stage was graced by entertainers like Crystal Rae Lee Love, Roxanne Lee Love, Vanna White Lee Love, Emperor & Empress XII of RSICSS Jim Halbert & Ruby Stone, Renee Monroe, Cameron and many others. Once again, Pam Muenchow came on stage. This time there was a change in her appearance. Pam was wearing Shaboom's "Star" t-shirt and all of his favorite baseball caps at once. She again thanked the crowd for attending and agreed that the celebration, indeed, is what Shaboom wanted.

Thank you Ed and the staff of E/J's for a wonderful remembrance for Shaboom. He was indeed smiling down upon us! You will always live in our hearts and in our minds. Shaboom!



MC Paivi Lee Love

Sorry Charlie, It's Delicious

Tuna Christmas Tantalizes



Some of the Houston Voice Staff including publisher Dr. Crad Duren (second from right) visit with Joe Sears of *Tuna Christmas* backstage after the show.

It's not Starkist, but Charlie would love the goings on in Tuna, Texas at Christmas time. This holiday perennial has returned to Houston for a one week engagement that will delight fans and new audience's alike. *Tuna Christmas* has reached a plateau that is not easily replicated. Regardless of how many times you've seen it, the hilarity never subsides.

A sequel to the enormously successful *A Greater Tuna*, *Tuna Christmas* takes you into the wacky world of Tuna during the holidays. Joe Sears and Jaston Williams brilliantly portray the numerous characters in wacky Tuna and provide the play with a dimension of life in a podunk town. Sears and Williams manage to transform the townsfolk individual persona's into their repertoire. The entire production relies on their performances and they deliver.

The play takes on a new dimension in its presentation. Using minimal props, the duo relies solely on character development to entertain throughout. The premise borders on small town sentimentality and awkwardness. Thrown in are delicious tidbits of political satire aimed mainly at the right wing influences of rural America. Bertha Bumiller

is busily preparing for Christmas with her family. Trouble is, she has a hard time keeping them at home. Daughter Charlene is trying to woo Joe Bob Lipsey, her son is trying to get off of probation in order to leave Tuna, her husband is never home or always drunk. Typical small town folklore, just with humor. The town folk in Tuna are not typical, rather they are an eclectic group of people who will delight you with their minutiae. The town's core bond is radio station OKKK, which appropriately opens and closes the production.

Sears (Aunt Vera) and Williams (Arlis) are phenomenal. Their comic timing is impeccable and the entire production is riotous, poignant and entertaining. This is a yuletide treat that you and your family can enjoy. It is a comic tour de force based solely on the strengths of Sears and Williams. *Tuna Christmas* should continue to be a Holiday staple, because it lives up to its reputation. Christmas is playing at the Wortham Center's Brown Theater this week. Performances are Friday and Saturday evening at 8pm. Saturday and Sunday matinee's at 2pm and Sunday evening at 7:30pm. Tickets are available at all Ticketmaster outlets.

Gay and Lesbian Seventh-Day Adventists Hold Conference

Toronto, Canada—Seventy gay and lesbian Seventh-day Adventists and friends met for a week-long convention in Bolton, Ontario, 30 minutes Northwest of downtown Toronto. The conference, held August 11-18, was sponsored by Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, a support network for Gay men and Lesbians who are current or former members of the S.D.A. church.

In addition to the conference's spiritual programs, guest speakers provided workshops ranging from community building, designing rituals and a musical concert by Marsha Stevens, to country line dancing and quilt panel workshops. Several speakers attended from various Seventh-day Adventist colleges, universities and churches around North America, despite the church's strong anti-gay stance. Pastor Susan Mabey from Christos MCC in Toronto was also present as a speaker and to provide personal counseling.

This year's conference, held at the Cedar Grove Conference Center in Bolton, was the 17th annual meeting of Kinship. Past conferences have been held in Southern California, Oregon, Maryland, Wisconsin, upstate New York and Columbus, Ohio. Next year's convention will be held in either southern California or Vancouver.

S.D.A. Kinship's annual retreat serves as the primary social and spiritual gathering of present and former members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who are Gay or Lesbian, as well as their friends and family. S.D.A. Kinship International has an active membership and contact list of more than 1000 gay and lesbian Adventists in the United States, Canada, Australia and several European countries. S.D.A. Kinship may be reached in the U.S. by writing to P.O. Box 7320, Laguna Niguel, California. 92607, or by calling (714) 248-1299.

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Voters Oust Lawmakers Who are Pro Gay Marriage

By MEKI COX

HONOLULU (AP)—Same-sex marriage became the battleground this election for a critical group of lawmakers who became the target of voters who condemned gay unions. Seventy-two percent of the voters surveyed at polling sites around the state said they opposed legally recognizing same-sex marriages, which left lawmakers who favored gay marriage skirmishing for support this election. About 7 out of 10 of the voters who said they were moderate, under age 40, and Asian joined in the battle to oust a significant number of state legislators who held back a constitutional amendment that would have banned same-sex marriages, an exit poll found. Since voters removed a good number of those legislators from office, it means gay marriage foes may now have the chance to put the issue on the 1998 election ballot and let the public decide.

Other polls have also indicated that about 70 percent of Hawaii residents oppose same-sex marriages. This most recent survey of 858 voters as they left 20 randomly selected polling places around Hawaii was conducted by Voter

News Service, a partnership of The Associated Press and television networks. The margin of sampling error for each result was plus or minus 4 percentage points for all voters, higher for subgroups. "(Same-sex marriage) wasn't just one of the issues in my district; it was the main issue. The state lost a number of good people over that," said Democratic Rep. Lennard Pepper, of the Aiea-Salt Lake area, who lost to Republican Bob McDermott. "The whole issue was framed wrong. If it was going to be an issue, it should have been better framed as a civil rights issue," Pepper said.

One of the critical leaders to fight against banning same-sex marriage was Senate Judiciary Chairperson Rey Gaulty, of the Moanalua-Salt Lake area. He bottled up the constitutional amendment proposal in his committee, and ended up being ousted in the Primary Election. About a half-dozen other legislators followed later in the General Election. "I'm cautiously optimistic we can get the votes to pass the constitutional amendment (in the state Legislature) this next session. I'm extremely pleased. The message from the voters was sent," said Alli-

ance for Traditional Marriage Political Action Committee Chairperson Mike Gabbard.

Political action committees, such as the ATM, boosted their ammunition power against gay marriage proponents by running newspaper ads and sending out fliers to urge voters to remove senators and representatives who had in effect supported same-sex marriage. That helped pull in support from the majority of Hawaii's swing vote and even slightly more than half of the state's liberal vote. Lawmakers supporting same-sex marriage were torn down from their post by 76 percent of the moderates and 54 percent of the liberals who said they were against it, the exit poll indicated. About 62 percent of the people under the age of 40 said no to legalizing gay unions. Even the support among voters under age 25, who were expected to be more liberal, was split on the gay marriage issue. In addition, 8 of 10 Asian voters, who made up the second largest bloc of Hawaii voters, were against gay unions. Many of the incumbent lawmakers who lost to gay marriage opponents blamed their loss on challengers who ran their campaign based solely on the one issue

of same-sex. Pepper said he had hoped voters would have paid more attention to the entire quality and past performance of candidates, instead. Some of the other losing candidates targeted Tuesday for their position on same-sex marriage were other Oahu Reps. Eve Anderson, Devon Nekoba, Annelie Amaral and Jim Shon, all of whom had shown support of gay unions sometime in the past. Shon said he thinks legislators are now going to be less likely to speak out against controversial issues. "They're going to have their fingers in the wind," he said. "There is going to be a more timid environment here because of the anger that is out in the community," he said.

Two gay marriage defenders managed to survive the battle against them this election season. They were Senate President Norman Mizuguchi and Sen. Matt Matsunaga, the only senator to openly support same-sex marriages. His name was easily recognized among voters because of his father, the late U.S. Sen. Spark Matsunaga. A state judge is expected to rule in early December on whether three same-sex couples have the legal right to marry in Hawaii.

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SAT	11/16	LVL Bus Stops Here at 3:30 pm SATURDAY SHOW at 11:00pm with Roxanne
SUN	11/17	\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day All Night
MON	11/18	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11:00pm with Paivi
TUE	11/19	Amateur/Talent Night at 11:00pm with Dyan Michaels
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South of the Border Night

Thursday November 21 11:00pm

Hostess  **Jayde Mykels Susan Maser Sivi Ross Miss Zack**

ALSO Granny's Tacos!

SPORTS NOTES

Everyone Skate

The **Lambda Rollerskating Club** invites everyone to skate with them on Wednesday, Nov. 20 from 8-10pm at Starlite Skating Academy, 8075 Cook Rd. Admission is \$5 plus \$1.50 if you need skates. All levels of skaters are welcome. Door prizes and events all occur so call 787-0625 for more info.

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please call or e-mail gayskate1@aol.com, or visit their web page at <http://members.aol.com/gay-skate1/lambda.htm>.

Rainbow Fish

The **Rainbow Fishing Club** has changed the dates for the first party and fishing expedition. Its first party will be held at the 611 Hyde Park Pub on Friday, Nov. 22 from 7-9pm. Everyone is invited. On Sunday, Nov. 24, weather permitting, the club will go fishing out of Galveston on the 70-foot deluxe deep sea cruiser, Texas II. The cost for the twelve-hour trip is \$60 per person. Call John at 523-6381 for reservations.

On Sunday, Dec. 1 at 2pm, there will be a Fish Fry at the 611 Club. Everyone is welcome to come sample the catch.

Pool Sharks

The **Houston Metropolitan Billiards League, Inc.** (HMBL) announces its top three teams as of Week 4. In 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places respectively are Ripcord Maniacs, Oui Cousins and J.R.'s Cue Crew.

The top five players are John Bowen, Chuck Willman, Don Talley, Larry Lentz and Kenneth Keener. Call 299-8969 for info.

HOG Steak Night

The **Houston Outdoor Group** (HOG) invites everyone to join them for Steak Night at the BRB on Sunday, Nov. 17 at 6pm. For \$6 you get a T-bone, tater and salad bar. Then dance your newly gained calories off to the best boot-scootin' music in town. For info, call Barb at 864-0082.

Women's Flag Football

The **Houston Women's Flag Football League** (HWFFL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for women to play football. They are still looking for players, coaches, referees, cheerleaders and league/team sponsors. Play began on Oct. 5 and continues through Feb. 1st, 1997. Four games are played on Saturdays from 9am until 1pm at Wilson Elementary School, located on Fairview, between Mandell and Yupon. On Sundays at 4pm, the league shows the videotapes of the games at Ms. B's, located on Buffalo Speedway. For info call Tonya Medrano at 315-9368.

Bowling Stats

The **Montrose Monday Night Men's League** reports Division I Standings in

1st, 2nd and 3rd places are Dog Tired, We Go There and The Eclectic Twits. In Division II, Five Easy Pieces, Thirsty Wives Club and Spank My Feet occupy the top spots. High Scratch game of 264 was bowled by Rodney Seiler and series of 665 was bowled by Marty Rutherford. Marty also bowled High Handicap Series & Roy Rainwater bowled High Handicap Game. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 9pm on Monday. Call Tom at 522-9612.

The **Inner Loop Sunday Evening League** reports Please Don't Eat the Daisy in 1st, Palace Pussies in 2nd and We Go There in 3rd. High Scratch Game of 250 and Series of 712 was bowled by Bob Roberts for the men. High Handicapped Game was bowled by Rod Vamosi and series by David Furlong. For the women Linda Dees bowled High Scratch Game of 212 and Judy Hatfield series of 529. Jerry Panepinto bowled High Handicapped Game and Andrea Black series. Call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 7pm on Sunday.

The **Wednesday Night Mixers** reports Gutter Bumper in 1st with We Come When You Call and Party Line in 2nd and 3rd. For the men High Scratch game of 231 was bowled by John Marr and series of 561 by Rich Mayer. John also bowled High Handicapped game & Series. For the women, Terry Shannon bowled High Scratch Game of 198 and series of 608. Terry also bowled High Handicapped game and Series. Call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:30pm on Wednesday.

The **Monday Night Women's League** bowls at 6:15pm at AMF Southway on Mondays. TAZ Club is in 1st with Balls R Out in 2nd, Sappho Strikers in 3rd and Bitches in Beautiful Shirts in 4th. For info call Pat 437-6218.

Saturday, Nov. 16 is Candlelight No Tap Doubles at Palace Lanes at 8pm. Bring a partner or come alone and get matched. You don't have to be a League bowler to participate. Registration begins at 7pm and entry fee is \$11.

IBL Standings

The **Independent Billiard League of Houston** (IBL) reports Week 16 standings as Si Como No (Pastime), Yo Mama's (Outpost), Nellie Times 3 (Cousins), Hot Pockets (Venture-N) and Underdogs (E/J's) in the top five spots. The top five players for the week are Richard Chew (Mining Company), Billy Lea (Outpost), Carlos Romero (Pastime), Steve Kendrick (Pastime) and Joel Reyes (Outpost).

The next monthly meeting will be at 2pm on Sunday, Nov. 24 at Gentry. Voting for the location for the awards banquet will take place at the meeting. All members are invited to attend.

Downtown Biking

The **Houston Chain Gang Cycling Club** is having a Downtown Houston Bike Ride on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 10am. Meet at Heaven and join them in this 15-mile ride. For info concerning the ride or The Chain Gang, call John at 863-1860.



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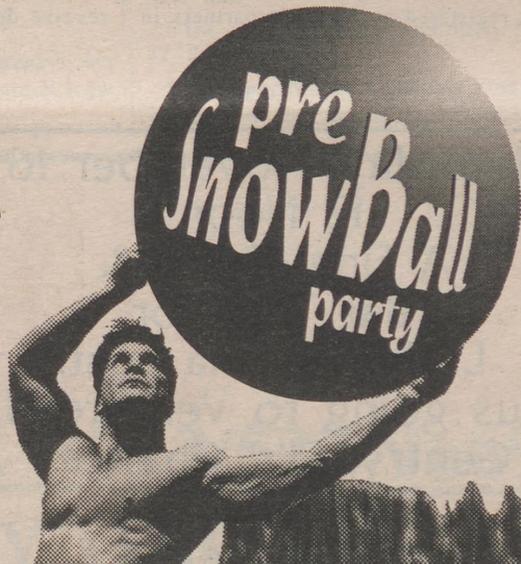
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Alley Extends Run of *Sylvia*

Due to Popular Demand

The Alley Theatre has extended the run of *Sylvia*—a comedic tall, uh "tale," by A.R. Gurney about a middle-aged man, his ambitious wife and the abandoned, yet alluring canine that turns their life upside down—to Sunday, Dec. 8. The decision to extend *Sylvia* by two weeks, including two performances on Friday, Nov. 29, was made because of the public's high interest, which resulted in a lack of available tickets.

Everett Evans of the Houston Chronicle touted "Sit. Stay. Lap up (this) canine comedy... Melissa Bowen's portrayal of *Sylvia* is as invigorating as an autumn romp in the park." The play was hailed as Gurney's "funniest play in ages" by

USA Today. *Sylvia*, which opened at the Alley's Neuhaus Arena Stage on Wednesday, Nov. 6, is a charming comedy about Greg, who finds *Sylvia*, a frisky canine, while in New York's Central Park. Despite the protests of his jealous wife, Greg finds solace and life's deepest meanings through his love for *Sylvia*. *Sylvia* is generously sponsored by Neuhaus Arena Stage Season sponsor Eagle USA, and Production Sponsors Merrill Lynch and the Humphrey's Foundation.

Tickets to *Sylvia* are on sale now at the Alley Theatre Box Office, 615 Texas Ave., or by calling, 713/228-8421 or 800/259-ALLE. Group ticket sales are available through 713/228-9341, ext. 346.

San Francisco Mayor Supports Domestic Partner Benefits

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Businesses that contract with the city must extend health insurance and other benefits to the unmarried partners of their workers under legislation signed Friday by Mayor Willie Brown. The ordinance, which takes effect within six months, is expected to affect thousands of private companies doing business with the city. More than 3500 couples, most of them gay, are registered as domestic partners in

the city, and backers of the new law said it would benefit up to 1000 of them.

"It's really just a matter of fairness," said city Supervisor Leslie Katz, who introduced the legislation months ago with fellow supervisor Tom Ammiano. Both are gay. Other benefits covered under the ordinance include bereavement and family medical leave. San Francisco city and county workers already receive domestic partner benefits.

Totally Testosterone 'Tap Dogs' Tromp into Houston

"Woof Woof"

By RICH ARENSCHIEDT

Direct from a mining town in New South Wales, Australia, these six, six-foot plus, hunky men take the Tinkerbell out of tap. Society for the Performing Arts, Houston's premier presenter of the 'neat and new' brings 'Tap Dogs' to Wortham Center Nov. 19-24.

Well boys, hang onto your seats cause these men will give you the fastest moving 90 minute ride of your life! After an instant success at their Sydney premier in 1995 and subsequent sold out houses in Scotland and England, this group has firmly established themselves as one of the hottest (literally) tickets in dance.

These guys dance on beams and travel around an immense steel and chrome movable set that resembles something out of an Arnold Schwarzenegger sci-fi spectacular. The surfaces are all wired with pressure sensitive sound boards similar to hi-tech drum kits that respond to every kick, stomp and bang. This movement is also synchronized with two live musicians who provide additional sound and rhythm (as if the stuff on stage wasn't enough). The combination of construction weight boots with metal taps, beams, boards, girders, ladders, conga drums, electric guitars and synthesizers make for a riveting, reverberating sound and motion experience.

Remember the famous film clip that shows Fred Astaire dancing on the ceiling? These boys take that episode to a new,

unforeseen extreme. Forget the top hat and tails, they're replaced by a window washers harness as one of the troupe does a terrific tap number on the ceiling.

Dien Perry, the Aussie responsible for unleashing the 'Dogs' has wanted to dance since he was four. His parents, reflecting conventional wisdom of the day sent him to a ballroom dance class. The rest as they say, is history—well almost. His theater experience is impressive. He was asked to choreograph a show for London's West End and has also done a stint in the classic tap production '42nd Street.' With all this performing 'under his belt' he teamed up with designer Neigel Triffit, a rock concert veteran, to feed, nourish and train 'Tap Dogs.' Perry is not just some young upstart to burst on the scene; he has won London's coveted Olivier Theater Award two years running. This guy has intelligence, wit and creativity. "We have tried to make it as strong and masculine as we possibly can" says Perry, "It's a head rush of sound—like trying to bring tap dancing up to the level of a rock and roll band."

With these folks up on stage hoofing and sweating there should be no shortage of energy in Wortham Center. I am reminded of the old documentary showing the drugged, bloated Elvis crooning to women who threw their hotel keys, panties and phone numbers at him. I suspect that history will repeat itself this week—guys, get your Calvin Klein's, BVD's and cell phones ready to toss up to any 'Tap Dog' who'll retrieve them.

Tickets for Tap Dogs are available through 227-ARTS.

Saturday, November 16
12 Noon

A Final Party &
Bar Tour for
Lady Victoria Lust.
Bus going to Venture-N,
Gentry, E.J's, Chances
and Mary's.

Balloon Release &
Tree Planting at
BRB & Mary's.

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but you'll be with us
ALWAYS!

Congratulations
to all TGRA
Participants &
Jamie for
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3 - 7 pm
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Come on Down & Start the Holiday
Season off right at the BRB!

Community Calendar

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

Friday, Nov. 15

- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. 782-6066.
- * HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817
- * HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- * 12-step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.
- * AIDS Mastery workshop starts. 861-6453.
- * Free Spaying and Neutering Program. 522-2337.
- * Film at the Museum of Fine Arts: Cinema of Unease at 7:30 pm. 639-7515.
- * Houston Center for Photography 15th Anniversary at Gremillion & Co. Fine Arts. 529-4755.
- * James Earl Hardy signs his book at Crossroads. 7:00 pm. 942-0147.

Saturday, Nov. 16

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. 863-1860.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 am to 3:00 am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- * Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. 780-4282.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.
- * Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 am. 583-8408.
- * Autumn's Seasons Bondage Club discussion group meets at 10:30 am. 788-5593.
- * Prime Timers play golf at 9:00 am. 867-3903.
- * Free HIV Testing and Counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's. 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.
- * Wholistic Health Expo and Psychic fair at 10:30 am. 688-7224.
- * Rainbow Fishing Club goes fishing! 523-6381.

Sunday, Nov. 17

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 863-1860.
- * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 am. 529-8571.
- * FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. 522-8021.
- * HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. 522-9612.
- * Volunteer Appreciation Day for the Names Project. 6:00 pm. RSVP 729-9662.
- * Prime Timers play pool at 2:00 pm. 867-3903.

Monday, Nov. 18

- * Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 pm. 861-6181.
- * Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 pm. 529-1223.
- * Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 pm. 539-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.
- * Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.
- * Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counsel-

- ing Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- * The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.
- * Prime Timers play games 7:30 pm. 867-3903.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 pm. 495-8009.
- * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- * Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 pm. 488-4492.
- * Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- * PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7:00 pm. 520-7870.
- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.
- * Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30 pm. 778-2677.
- * FrontRunners meet at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.
- * Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- * Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents Support Group meets at 7:00 pm. 284-4939.

Wednesday, Nov. 20

- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 pm. 537-1348.
- * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 pm. 743-7539.
- * Women's Action Coalition meets at Tooties at 7:00 pm. 867-9581.
- * Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.
- * Lambda Rollerskating Club Halloween skate at 8:00 pm. 933-5818.
- * Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250 for more info.
- * Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7:00 pm. 782-4050.
- * Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Call 520-2000.
- * AVES offers free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- * Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.

Thursday, Nov. 21

- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

- * Art Labs at The Art League at 1:00 pm. 225-9411
- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 pm. 521-7464.
- * Twentysomething meets at 7:30 pm. 315-6786.
- * KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs from 8:00 pm. to 10:00 pm. 866-6505.
- * Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. 622-7250.
- * Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 pm. 528-3704.
- * HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 pm. 529-0037.
- * Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 pm. 942-0923.
- * HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 pm. 796-2272.
- * Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 pm. 782-4050
- * Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 pm. 738-RACE.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston meets at 7:00 pm. 521-SING.
- * Free HIV Testing and Counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Rich's. 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.
- * The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.
- * The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.



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SATURDAY

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Sunday	• 11:00am	PRAISE & WORSHIP
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Tuesday	• 7:00pm	HIV Affected Group
	7:00pm	HIV Infected Group
Thursday	• 7:30pm	MIDWEEK SERVICE

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on Thompson at Lillian)

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(713) 880-9235*

Church Calendar of Events

Friday-11/15

* "Your Sacred Self" study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. At Kingdom Community Church 862-7533

* Catholic Mass at 10:00 am. Kolbe Project 522-8182

Saturday-11/16

* Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.

Sunday-11/17

* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 am Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 am at Maranatha Fellowship 528-6756

* MCCR worship services 9:00 am & 11:00 am 861-9149

* Worship Service 11:00 am at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269

* First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200

* Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872

* Community Gospel worship service at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm. SERVICE IN NEW LOCATION, 4305 LILLIAN 880-9235

* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School at 10:00 am 862-7533 "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 am

* Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830

* Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 am Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017

Monday-11/18

* Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182

* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149

Tuesday-11/19

* MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm. Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm, The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149

* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.

* HIV Affected group meets at 7:00 pm. Judy or Pam at 880-9235; HIV Infected group meets at 7:00 pm. Catherine or Robert at 880-9235. At Community Gospel.

* Maranatha Fellowship MCC has home groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756.

Wednesday 11/20

* MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149

* Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm. Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 861-9149

* "A Course in Miracles"—Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm 862-7533.

Thursday-10/21

* Bible Study 7:00 pm At Faith And Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Community Gospel midweek service 7:30 pm 880-9325 *If you want an event listed in this section, please call 529-8490.*

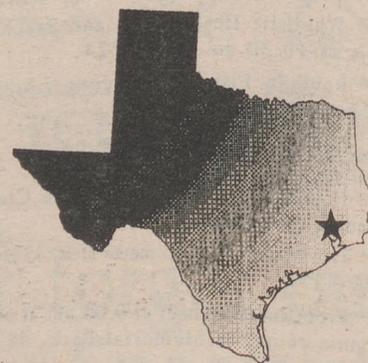
TO REMEMBER

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED OF AIDS, AND OFFER HOPE FOR THOSE INFECTED WITH HIV, THE ANNUAL CITY-WIDE INTERFAITH SERVICE OF HOPE AND REMEMBRANCE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 AT 7PM. THE SERVICE IS A KICK-OFF TO AIDS AWARENESS WEEKEND. IT WILL BE AT BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, 13033 LANDMARK IN SOUTHWEST HOUSTON. THE RENOWNED BRENTWOOD CHOIR WILL SING, AND WE WILL HAVE THE ANNUAL LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED. IT WILL BE A LOVELY SERVICE, WITH A NICE RECEPTION FOLLOWING. RABBI JUDITH ABRAMS WILL DELIVER THE MESSAGE. ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. IT IS SPONSORED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR INTERFAITH RESEARCH AND MINISTRY (FIRM).

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Community Rocks!!

By LEE DAVIS

On Saturday, Nov. 9, Community Gospel presented "Come...Look What The Lord Has Done" Gospel Concert. A packed house anxiously awaited this revival of song as Pastor Chris Chiles welcomed everyone. Chris is more talented than one might think. He not only delivers compelling sermons but is quite the organist!



Community Gospel Concert

The evening began with the Community Gospel Worship Team singing "Look What The Lord Has Done" as Pastor Chiles introduced all of the other entertainers. You could tell the atmosphere was charged as members & guests of the church began to clap, play their tambourines and dance in the aisles.

The second entertainer was suffering from a sore throat and could barely speak. Teresa Washburn apologized for her condition. Once she started singing, you couldn't tell there was anything wrong with her. Sung acapella as she forgot to bring her background tapes with her, Teresa truly motivated the audience with her melodious tones!

The third entertainer, Holly Terrell, had one of the most boisterous voices I have ever heard. Holly sang several crowd favorites, including Amazing Grace. Two members of the church also presented songs of praise. Chuck Pierce, one of the most involved members you would ever want to meet, and Curtis Fuller, a new but already very active member.

The crowd could not sit still anymore—it was time for the featured entertainment of the night, The Light Company. Based in Ontario, California, these four talented musicians were incredible. Their trip to Houston was not a first, but it was the first time that they landed in Houston and their equipment did not!! When their gear did arrive, they discovered their CD machine was broken. Not to be dismayed, someone ran to a nearby store and purchased another player.

Ronnie Spann, the lead vocalist and keyboard player, had one of those voices that carried without a microphone. His mother flew in from Nashville to attend the concert. Ronnie sang a song written by his mother about her mother. Joining Ronnie was Tenor, Joe Wilson, an ordained minister. Joe really could qualify as an alto as he reached notes not normally attributed to male voices. Singing Baritone was Doug Clanton. Doug had one of those rich, lilting voices that would not allow you to stay in your seat! Lastly, on drums was Grant Whitman. Ronnie called Grant to the microphone for a song that featured a low, low base voice. Grant filled the bill!! That man reached notes on the lower end of the musical scale that amazed all in the audience. The Light Company plans on returning to Houston in 1997 when Community Gospel plans an official Church Dedication Ceremony, currently scheduled for March 5-9. I, for one, will return to hear The Light Company whenever they are in town. The church has copies of The Light Company's latest CDs available, including their latest rendition of Christmas Carols. They would make excellent gifts for those who do not want to wait until the last minute!

As Pastor Chiles said in the program, "I believe we have some of the finest talent in the country here this evening. Enjoy the singing, be inspired by the music, and enter into the worship." Trust me—I didn't see anyone disappointed by the concert!

The Senate may vote
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The Right may try to
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But do not let them make you
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MCCR presents...

Sexuality and the Scriptures

a workshop presented by Rev. Ralph Lasher on Saturday, November 16, 1996 in the MCCR Fellowship Hall from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Please call 861-9149 to make a reservation.



Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection
1919 Deatur Houston, TX 77007 ☎ 861-9149

Red Ribbon Toy Drive

By KEN KELLY

The AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH), Texas Children's Hospital and The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center team up to make the holiday season brighter for children (up to age 15) infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. From Nov. 11, 1996 to Dec. 13, 1996, Houstonians are being asked to share the holiday spirit and bring new, unwrapped toys to the AFH offices at 3202 Wesleyan Annex. There will be another drop off location at DiverseWorks (1117 E. Freeway) during the performances of "The Yellow Boat," a play performed by Express Theatre on Dec. 4th through Dec. 15th. The goal of the Red Ribbon Toy Drive is to provide toys to over 400 HIV infected and affected children and give them the chance to enjoy the season to its fullest.

Toys will be distributed the week of Dec. 13th to the parents of children referred to The Red Ribbon Toy Drive. Most of the families live on fixed incomes and are unable to provide toys for their children during the holiday season. Sharron Haymore, MSW, ACSW, Director of Social Services, University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center, stated that "for some of our children, this will be their last Christmas. Because of your generosity you have helped to make this Christmas special." Theresa Aldape, LMSW, Senior Social Worker at Texas Children's Hospital explained that "your contribution will ease the stress for families during this holiday season. All donations will be greatly appreciated."



A Call for Leadership with HIV and American Youth

Federal Coordinated Response To AIDS Remains Priority

By FRED MILLER

AIDS Action, the administrator of the Pedro Zamora Memorial Fund, today remembers the life, accomplishments, and untimely death of peer leader and AIDS advocate Pedro Zamora. Zamora, who would be twenty-four this year, was a vibrant, young person of color who lived out a portion of his life with HIV disease on MTV's "The Real World." A vocal AIDS advocate until his death two years ago today, Zamora encouraged young people to actively involve themselves in the fight against AIDS.

In his brief lifetime, Zamora advanced the awareness of adolescent HIV issues farther than anyone or any organization. Yet, the battle has not been won when one quarter of all new HIV infections in the United States occur in young people between the ages of 13 and 20. Zamora's insistence that federal AIDS prevention and care programs consider the needs of America's youth remains an unfulfilled priority as another generation falls prey to this epidemic. Open and honest communication on HIV and AIDS for

young people remains the most effective deterrent to the spread of HIV and AIDS.

A recent poll published by the Washington Post reflects the urgency Zamora sought to convey through his work as an AIDS advocate: the worry of 61 percent of Americans that "AIDS will become more widespread" tied at No. 2 with the worry that "crime will increase," and ranked only one point below concerns about our education system. Given America's fears, the continued failure on the part of the federal government to articulate a coordinated response to an epidemic that has claimed more than 320,000 lives is a moral outrage.

To help perpetuate the vision and leadership of Zamora, AIDS Action has established the Pedro Zamora Public Policy Fellowship which provides an opportunity for young adults ages 18 to 28 to learn about and participate in the development of federal HIV/AIDS policy.

Founded in 1984, AIDS Action Council is dedicated to defeating the AIDS epidemic and improving the quality of life for HIV-infected Americans. AIDS Action Council represents all people with HIV and AIDS and over 1400 community-based AIDS organizations that serve them. Fred Miller is the Interim Executive Director.

Music-For-All Workshop

Creativity and Self-Expression Through Music

HOUSTON, TEXAS (Oct. 30, 1996)—In a relaxed atmosphere, musician Jim Scott will lead participants of the Music-For-All workshop in finding their own "song and dance" and in defining their expressive powers. "Each of us has a song and dance that is ours," Scott says. "Our unique song and dance, as with all art, reveals us. It is a note of harmony that we put out to the world, so there's really no way we could not be creative."

The workshop, which focuses on improvisation, creativity and harmony, is set for 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., Nov. 24, 1996, at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin in downtown Houston. The workshop is open to anyone regardless of experience, and participants are invited to bring their own musical instruments. Cost is \$15 per person or \$20 per family/couple, and child care is available upon request.

Known to many as the voice of the cele-

brated Paul Winter Consort piece "Common Ground," Scott has gone on to record eight albums of powerful songs, jazz/world instrumentals and choral compositions, including his latest release, Earth Sky Love and Dreams. He orchestrates his poignant messages with such subtle and beautiful guitar work that Pete Seeger was moved to call him "some kind of magician." Coming from a varied background of jazz and classical music, Scott considers himself a folk artist in the sense that folk music represents people with a positive and helpful spirit.

The First Unitarian Universalist Church encourages both the search for religious beliefs and the pursuit of individual truths. First Church has been the foremost representative of liberal religion in the Houston area for more than 95 years. Its members have long provided community leadership in service and in the struggle for social justice.

For further information, contact Carol Burrus, First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin Street, Houston, Texas 77004, 713/526-5200.

Texas Gay Rodeo

13th Annual Held In Dallas

From The Associated Press

DALLAS (AP)—This rodeo has conventional events like bull-riding, calf-roping, and barrel-racing. But the program also offers campy events like goat-dressing, in which teams race to put underpants on a goat, and "drag" racing, involving a steer, a man, a woman, and a man or woman dressed in drag. Welcome to the Texas Gay Rodeo, held in Dallas this past weekend. Members of the Dallas chapter of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association, the sponsoring organization, said the group allows gay professional rodeo riders to let down their guard and relax. "We can do it within our own group of people, without a lot of the same old gripes and complaints that we still get from the straight community," said Kevin Davis, the group's secretary, who trains horses and riders for a living. "It's a fun time," he added. "Anyone who's gay, who is rodeoing on the mainstream rodeo—the straight rodeo—is probably as far in the closet as you can possibly get."

The Texas group is part of the International Gay Rodeo Association, which has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. Some clues their rodeo isn't typical are the rainbow flag—a symbol of gay unity—and the life-sized cardboard cutout of Dale Evans. In the "drag racing" event, the man and woman help the person in drag get on the steer and then race to the finish line.

A gay rodeo shows a growing acceptance of homosexuals, said David Weber, Director of the Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University. "I do think it's a wonderful sign of inclusivity and tolerance in a state that's not known for its inclusivity and tolerance," he said. "This is the first I've heard

of... (the gay rodeo)," said John Painter, Director of Public Relations for the better-known, well-established Mesquite Rodeo in a neighboring suburb. "I say, 'Good for them.'"

About 160 contestants and 3,000 spectators are expected to attend this weekend, said Rodeo Co-Director Charley Lanier. Max Schrank is a professional horse trainer who will compete in the rodeo. He said he spent three years in the professional rodeo circuit. He went to his first gay rodeo two years ago in Atlanta. "It was great—it was competitive," he said.

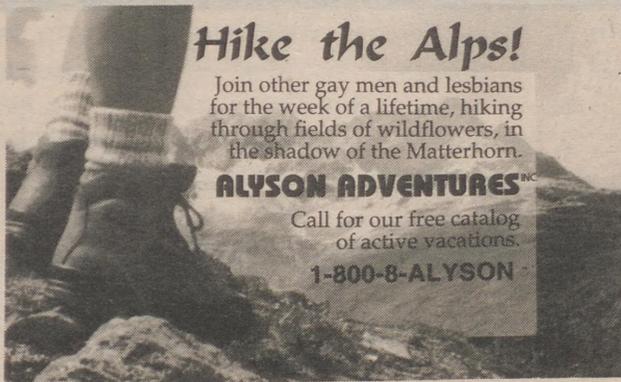
Rodeo Highlights

The weekend was kicked off by a Royalty Contest on Thursday with contestants competing for the titles of Mr., and Miss TGRA. The winners representing the state of Texas at future events around the nation. Jamie Roberts, from the Houston chapter, won Miss TGRA and Terry Covington from Fort Worth, Mr. TGRA. Friday saw a Kick-Off Dance, held in the Grand Ballroom of the Host Hotel, with the opening act of Texas Steam. The headline performance was given by Eddie Raven.

Kick-Off day was Saturday. Keith Reiser also from the Houston chapter, was voted by the members as Grand Marshal. In all, just over 1500 people attended the Rodeo, with 100 contestants.

Last year alone, \$1.4 million was raised by TGRA Candidates. This year they have raised \$60,000 so far, and the Houston chapter \$40,000. All of these monies plus the Rodeo funds are given to AIDS programs. These people obviously have organization down to a T, and their efforts are obviously not recognized enough.

Don't forget to put Nov. 6 through 9, 1997 in your calendar of must-do events, as next year's event will be held in Houston. Let's show them what support from Houstonians is all about.



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Genetic Factor May Determine HIV Resistance

REPORT FROM THE PEDIATRIC AIDS FOUNDATION

A study to be published in the medical journal *AIDS Research and Human Retrovirus* examines the factors which determine a child's tolerance to HIV infection, and offers new insight into containing and managing the AIDS virus.

The study focuses on children identified as "non-progressors," defined as individuals who become infected with HIV but in whom the virus does not progress to secondary infection. Three key factors believed to play a role in creating pediatric HIV non-progression were identified as part of an international workshop of long-term survivor children hosted by the Pediatric AIDS Foundation in April. The workshop was the first to simultaneously analyze the multiple factors which allow HIV-infected children to survive beyond eight years of age.

International and U.S. experts gathered to

analyze research results and determine if long-term survival was related to differences in the virus, differences in the immune system, or genetic factors in the infected individuals.

The analysis revealed that HIV-infected children who lived longer had better immune systems and smaller amounts of virus in their blood. In addition, some virus found in long-term surviving children differed from virus found in children in whom the disease progressed rapidly.

Most compelling was the genetic association identified in some long-term surviving children, suggesting that a still-unknown hereditary factor may control disease progression in some children infected with HIV at birth.

The Pediatric AIDS Foundation is the only national foundation which identifies, funds and conducts basic pediatric AIDS research. For more information, contact Communications Manager Victoria Thomas 310/395-9051.

Rainbow Reader

Midnight Cowboy Rides Again

By JONE DEVLIN

Joe Buck is young, good looking and ambitious. So he buys a new suit of clothes and heads to New York where he plans to make a fortune as a male prostitute specializing in pleasing older (wealthy) women. And why not? After all, it's 1965, the middle of the "almost anything goes" era in history, and as Joe Buck leaves Houston in his fancy new cowboy suit, he is firmly convinced that Manhattan is just a hotbed of lonely rich women waiting for his special charms.

The book is *Midnight Cowboy* by James Leo Herlihy. The main character is Joe Buck, tall, blonde, good-looking and heading to New York full of self confidence and the feeling that he will be a millionaire within the week. Of course it isn't long before he learns the hard way that good looks and talent do not a necessarily a successful gigolo make.

In his first encounter he ends up picking up a woman that gets her feelings hurt and cries when he asks her to pay for his services (after he's dispensed them of course). Scared and confused, he says that he was just kidding, and even loans the woman \$20 for cab fare so she can go meet her rich boyfriend (who cares for her the way Joe was expecting her to care for him). Next, in a local bar drowning his sorrows, he meets up with a seedy, crippled man named Rico "Ratso" Rizzo, who promises to hook him up with a kingpin who specializes in placing studs. Joe falls for it hook, line and sinker, in spite of the warning of the other bar patrons that Rizzo is not to be trusted. Naturally Ratso's big talk is all a ruse and Joe ends up (minus most of his money) in the hotel room of a crazy street preacher who lectures him on loneliness while Rizzo makes his getaway.

Before long the proud Joe Buck has everything but his radio and the clothes on his back held hostage by a hotel manager who is tired of waiting for payment of his bill, and is reduced to cheap encounters with other men in all night X-rated movie theaters. Eventually he catches up with Ratso but by then he is too lonely and desperate to hold a grudge about his money, so he does the next best thing and hooks up with him. Together they spend the majority of their time working on all sorts of crazy schemes in the hope that they'll hit on the big one, the one that makes them enough money to put them on top, to make them respected, and most especially give them the opportunity to retire to Miami and live like kings (a long standing dream of Ratso's). But it seems fate has other plans for the pair, leading them down one blind alley and then another, as winter sets in. Time marches on and they get more and more desperate, and in the case of Ratso, physically ill. Then one night, while wandering the streets, Joe meets up with an unusual brother and sister couple named Hansel and Gretel, who introduce him to Dexedrine, mod theme parties and a woman who is actually willing to pay for his services. At first, due to fatigue, stress, and a proliferation of alcohol and drugs, Joe is unable to perform, but eventually he manages. The woman is so impressed with his technique she makes an appointment for a return visit and even offers to give his name to some friends of hers.

Meanwhile, Ratso is becoming so ill that Joe decides he can't wait for the woman and her friends to come through and hooks up with a strange old man who is in New York ostensibly as a tourist. Actually he has come there to spend time with a nice young man, something it's possible to do in the small town he's from, and Joe Buck just happens to fit the bill.

Joe's original intent is to have an encounter with the man and then rob him, but things, as they have all his life, go horribly wrong. What happens next is something that changes Joe forever and forces him to realize that for some people, pain and loneliness is their ultimate destiny no matter how hard they fight against it.

Though somewhat dated Herlihy paints a vivid picture of sixties Manhattan in both the upper and lower classes. And even though both Joe Buck and Ratso Rizzo are two thoroughly unlikeable people you will find yourself so caught up in their lives that you will end up rooting for them time and time again.

Jone Devlin is an avid reader, community activist, and co-host on KPFT's "Lesbian and Gay Voices," Thursdays 8pm to 10pm (90.1fm).

Wonder Bread and Ecstasy: The Life And Death Of Joey Stefano

By DAVID RICHARDSON

Many Americans have a fascination of sorts with the world of pornography, or the "adult film industry" as it is now known. In a new book by Charles Isherwood, the reader is taken into the world of Joey Stefano, a gay film star with over 35 films to his credit. Born as Nicholas Anthony Iacona on New Year's Day, 1968, he went from a middle class home in the midwest on a sky rocketing bid for fame which ended in his tragic death by overdose at a young age.

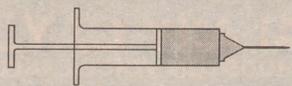
The book contains many stories involving drug abuse, sex parties, and dangerous situations with many of the biggest names in the industry mentioned. Examples of these include Chi-Chi Larue, Jeff Stryker, Sharon Kane, Gino Colbert, Tony Davis and many others. Far from glamorizing the industry, this book acts more as a cautionary tale where a life lived too long in the fast lane can lead to tragedy. This was the case involving Mr. Stefano. He had the looks to conceivably go into mainstream modeling or movies but instead chose a life of sex and drugs.

The best thing about this book is that it never comes across as preachy or self-righteous, instead just telling one man's story in a matter of fact fashion. This allows the reader to make their own judgments and decisions but considering the sadness of a life being snuffed out in its prime. I think most people's conclusions will be given whether you are for or against pornography. I think this book might have a message for you. Were Joey Stefano to have read this book about someone else, his life might have ended the way it did.

Wonder Bread and Ecstasy: The Life and Death of Joey Stefano by Charles Isherwood is published by Alyson Publications and is currently available at local bookstores.

David Richardson is a contributing writer for *The Houston Voice*.

Health Notes



Beware of Tattoos

Tattoos of dragons, broken hearts & mermaids have long been associated with sailors, outlaws and rock 'n roll musicians, but now these emblems of rebellion have gone mainstream. Call it a sign of the time, but a lot of people—from adolescent "grunge rockers" to women who work on Wall Street—are staking their claim to individuality with a tattoo, nose ring or other form of extravagant physical ornamentation. What they may not know is that procedures used to create these popular fashion statements may be putting them at risk for certain types of viral hepatitis.

Because tattooing uses needles that pierce the skin to create a design with ink, it constitutes an invasive procedure, one that is capable of introducing viruses or bacteria into the bloodstream. If needles or tools are contaminated with blood from a previous customer, it is possible to contract viral diseases such as Hepatitis B and C.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, some 1.2 million Americans are infected with the Hepatitis B virus and 3.5 million with the Hepatitis C virus. Both these forms of hepatitis can cause chronic liver disease and increase the risk for cirrhosis (scarring of the liver), liver cancer, liver failure and death.

Wellness Line

In a recent survey by the New England Journal of Medicine, more than one-third of Americans seek treatment for their ailments through non-traditional health practitioners such as acupuncturists, chiropractors, massage therapists, aromatherapy and others.

Along these alternative lines, a wildly innovative telephone 800-program, called "The Wellness Line" is available in all 50 states. Targeted for those consumers who are interested in learning how to "care for their own health and thereby avoid diseases, the Wellness Line saves dollars that would otherwise go to an insurance company or an HMO.

A recent government survey found that 36% of all doctors visits were unnecessary. That same survey found that 53% of all surgeries performed were unnecessary.

The Wellness Line provides for its members the privacy to discuss their health problems with a doctor who can suggest natural remedies and natural, self-help procedures. For info call 408/648-3803.

Prostate Cancer

The Baylor College of Medicine says that prostate surgery can lead to a high prostate-cancer survival rate. "Men with early-stage prostate cancer who have their prostates surgically removed have a high 10-year survival rate," said Dr. Peter Scardino, Chairperson of the Urology Dept.

For men with prostate cancer that was early in its development and that had not spread beyond the prostate, 94% were still cancer-free 10 years after surgery. For those whose cancer was more advanced, post-surgical cancer-free rates ranged from 77 to 80%.

Prostate cancer is the leading cause of cancer among men older than 50 and second only to lung cancer as a cause of cancer deaths. It is particularly prevalent among black men.

These study results were recently reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

CMV Retinitis

A new implant has given doctors an additional weapon to help slow the effects of the blinding eye infection cytomegalovirus retinitis. The implant, which contains a drug called ganciclovir, has been approved for treatment of CMV retinitis by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

While ganciclovir has been used to treat the eye infection in the past, it has traditionally been taken intravenously. "The implant gives us another option for treating this devastating infection, which causes blindness in 95% of the cases" said Dr. Roberto Diaz-Rohena, an ophthalmolo-

gist at Baylor College of Medicine. The implant also reduces the number of problems associated with intravenously administered ganciclovir.

The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) announced that its confidential, toll-free information hotline on HIV-related cytomegalovirus infection is being extended. In its first six months of operation, the "National CMV Prevention Hotline" received more than 1000 calls from AIDS health care providers and people living with HIV-infection seeking information about CMV, the leading cause of blindness among people living with AIDS and a prevalent, life-threatening opportunistic infection in the late stages of AIDS. The 24-hour hotline can be reached by calling 800/838-9990.

The hotline, which provides information in English and Spanish, is staffed from 9am to 9pm EST, Monday to Friday. At other times, callers can leave a message with their name, address and telephone number, and they will be contacted by hotline staff. A pre-recorded message about CMV prevention and treatment is available 24 hours a day.

Psoriasis Sufferers

Winter poses a triple threat for psoriasis sufferers: increased dry skin, elevated stress due to holidays and decreased sunlight. "Any of these things can aggravate psoriasis and, in combination, can cause a severe flare-up," said Dr. John Wold, a dermatologist at Baylor College of Medicine.

The hereditary disease has no cure and is characterized by red, scaly, flaky patches often found on the elbows, knees and scalp. Wolf recommends psoriasis sufferers adopt a winter regimen that includes as much sunlight as possible, moisturizers & creams to combat dryness and stress control.

Sports Medicine

Sore muscles may benefit from sports creams, but not for the reasons you might think. "The heat generated during the process of applying it probably helps more than the cream itself," said Dr. Lon Castle, a clinical instructor at Baylor College of Medicine. Castle said that the mind's ability to hasten the healing process may contribute to the feeling of relief. If you truly believe the cream works, you may derive some benefits.

Contrary to popular opinion, however, the creams do not penetrate into the muscle. The compounds in these creams, such as menthol for example, provide a tingling sensation in the uppermost layer of the skin which may produce some sense of relief. The best advice is to apply ice immediately after an injury to reduce swelling. Castle adds that heat can be useful at times such as early in the morning, when soreness and stiffness can make it hard to get moving.

Car Battery Dangers

Prevent Blindness Texas warns that not knowing what's under the hood can be dangerous to eyes. Many car owners don't know what their car batteries look like, much less know how to jump-start one safely if it fails. That's why thousands of Americans lose their sight or suffer serious eye injuries each year.

All vehicle batteries contain sulfuric acid and produce hydrogen and oxygen gases. Improper procedures in jump-starting a disabled car may turn the battery into a bomb. If the gases come into contact with a spark, flame or lighted cigarette, the battery can explode, sending battery fragments and acid flying. When it comes to vehicles, Prevent Blindness Texas advises all motorists to be smart. Through the winter months, Prevent Blindness Texas is offering a FREE Auto Safety Test and battery sticker. The test helps determine a person's knowledge for proper jump-starting procedures. The FREE Auto Safety test and battery sticker can be obtained by calling Prevent Blindness Texas at 526-2559.

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Call for Caregiver Award Nominees

"You've Touched My World Of AIDS" 1996 Award

Houston, Nov. 6—TENET Health System and Park Plaza Hospital announced today the opening of nominations to receive the "You've Touched My World of AIDS" 1996 Award to be presented on Sunday, Dec. 1, in recognition of World AIDS Day.

The "You've Touched My World of AIDS," 1996 Award will be presented to a greater Houston area caregiver in recognition of outstanding acts of humanitarianism and positive affect/influence in touching the life of an HIV/AIDS diagnosed individual. "We are excited and pleased to be able to recognize Houston caregivers in this way," said Judith G. Novak, CEO of Park Plaza Hospital. "World AIDS Days was created by the media to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS. What a wonderful opportunity to recognize caregivers who daily touch the world of AIDS in the most meaningful way."

All nominees will receive a 1996 "You've Touched My World of AIDS" caregiver's certificate of appreciation and be recognized at the appre-

ciation/award presentation ceremonies scheduled to be held on World AIDS Day.

Anyone wishing to nominate a HIV/AIDS caregiver may do so by simply sending a 1 to 5 page letter of nomination providing: (1) name of the individual and contact information, along with (2) a summary sharing (a) the caregiver's acts of dedication, devotion, behavior and care, (b) what that meant to you, and (c) why it is important that this person's acts be shared or passed on to others.

Letters of nomination can be mailed to Park Plaza Hospital, 1200 Binz, Suite 260, Houston, TX 77004. Letters should be post marked no later than Monday, Nov. 18th, and include the name, address, and contact telephone number for both the nominee and nominator.

The award and recognition certificates will be presented at a World AIDS Day "HIV/AIDS Caregiver's Appreciation Presentation" on Sunday, Dec. 1 from 4pm to 6pm in the TenetLINK Education Center on the campus of Park Plaza Hospital. For more information call 713/285-1290.

Community Organizations Bulletin Board

Odds & Ends Sale

The Montrose Counseling Center is having an Odds & Ends Yard Sale on Saturday, Nov. 16 at 227 W. 24th Street (between Yale & Rutland) from 8am to Noon. Proceeds will be used to provide Holiday Food Baskets for MCC clients in need.

Those interested in sponsoring a gift basket can do so by making a check payable to MCC-Holiday Gift Baskets. Gift baskets are \$15 each. For info call 529-0037.

Quilt Success

The NAMES Project, Washington, DC Display Central Region invites you to celebrate the success of the Quilt's display at their Volunteer Appreciation Party on Sunday, Nov. 17. Awards and entertainment, hors d'oeuvres & special drink prices await you at Sausalito Seafood & Pasta Restaurant from 6-9pm. Dress is casual, so come on out and congratulate all of the area volunteers on a job very well done!

Founders Dinner

On Friday, Nov. 22 at the Briar Club on Timmons, the 1996 Milam House Founders' Dinner will take place with cocktails at 6pm and dinner at 7:30pm. Special guest Dan Meador will host this pre-holiday event. Interesting speakers and a silent auction will provide great entertainment for all. Tickets are \$35 in advance or at the door. Reservations are required. Call 649-6035 to place a reservation, or to request additional information.

Renaissance Bus Trip

On Sunday, Nov. 17, Rob's 6th Annual Renaissance Festival Bus Trip will depart from E/J's, 2517 Ralph St. (near Dunlavy & Westheimer) at 10:30am. The \$25 ticket includes round trip bus transportation and admission to the festival. Call Rob at 713-432-0414 for

reservations and more info.

Wllm. Shakespeare

The New Heights Theatre located at 339 W. 19th St. announces the premier of "The Compleat Works of Wllm. Shakespeare" (abridged) on Nov. 20 running through Jan. 19, 1997.

Three male actors parody most of the characters in all of Shakespeare's plays. Relying partly on audience participation, this performance is entertainment for the entire family. Call 869-8927 for info.

Organ Concert

The American Guild of Organists Artist Series presents David Craighhead in concert Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7:30pm at First Presbyterian Church. Recognized as one of America's great organ artists, Mr. Craighhead is internationally known as a teacher, and was Chairperson of the organ department at the prestigious Eastman School of Music from 1955 until 1992.

Admission for the concert is \$15 at the door. For advance tickets contact John Gearhart at 622-3600.

Post Election Forum

On Sunday, Nov. 17 from 9:30am until Noon, the Jewish Community Center will host a political symposium. Israeli and American Jewish analysts will offer their perspective on the impact the newly elected Administration and the U.S. Congress will have on the Jewish community.

The symposium will feature a panel discussion focusing on international and domestic issues. Middle East related and domestic issues including church-state concerns, terrorism and immigration will be discussed. Tickets are \$4 for JCC members and \$6 for non-members. For info, call 729-3200.



GALAXY GAYZER
A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE



HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 15 - 21, 1996



If This Week Is Your Birthday: Your closest relationships are stable for now, but your inner voice may be prompting you to take time alone for self-renewal. Professional advancement is at hand, so keep yourself on the straight and narrow. Your creative urges may turn into profit.

ARIES (March 21-April 20) Your mood might be cranky, resulting from tensions either at home or at work. Speak softly and avoid any disagreements with others. You are in a practical frame of mind and sharp in matters of

money. It's a happy time for romance and love.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) Spend extra time with family - fun and adventure will be highlighted. It may be the perfect opportunity for a heart-to-heart talk with your children. Roadblocks are likely in realizing a financial goal, you're closer than you think. Your passion deepens.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) You and your mate get along throughout the entire week. All those chores that really need to get done will be accomplished like clockwork. Your career is highlighted, so don't be surprised if you receive a raise or promotion. Keep your patience around children.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Start the week in a practical frame of mind. Take time alone and treat yourself to something that will make you feel extra special. Some co-workers are be critical and sarcastic, but otherwise work runs smoothly. Your career is about to take a big step forward. Managers are impressed with your effort.

LEO (July 24- August 23) Listen to a friend's advice on money matters - an objective point of view is what you need. Your sweetheart may be feeling neglected, and accuse you of unrealistic expectations - so make the time for romance and more intimacy. It's time for a few practical steps to improve your image. se yourself in creative pursuits. Keep an open mind and you may be pleasantly surprised at the results. Both business and household projects enjoy favorable influences; and you may get a bonus for recently positive efforts.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) The more you depend on your reserves, the stronger you are. You inspire family members likewise. There are some self doubts lingering which only you can work through. Self-improvement efforts will succeed. Remember - if you can't say any thing nice, don't say anything at all.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) Spend time with close friends and you'll find that your friendships and loves are very fulfilling. There is someone trying to undermine your position with flattery and bribery. Keep your cool. There will be great news about money, and possibly a new, lucrative job offer.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) It will be an effortless and pleasurable week for you. Keep in mind you do have the power to make all sorts of changes for the better. Everyone seems overly emotional as of late, so be on guard for lies and accusations. Harmony will be restored at home by week's end.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) Wherever you are, you will be surrounded by friendship and luck. Unexpected money is coming your way. Both family and work responsibilities are heavy, take one situation at a time. Be aware that guidance comes through your dreams. Positive vibes continue at home.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) You need to travel in order to check out an opportunity to increase your income. Don't neglect a mate who's starving for attention. Both your professional image and reputation is boosted to new levels. Your charm and magnetism take you through any sticky situations right now.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) It's a week of heavy mental stimulation and challenges. Both innovative and unconventional approaches work. Your assertiveness takes you far at work and your family's happy and enjoys being together. Plan your entertainment and include others from the sideline.

The Great American Puzzle

TEXAS EDITION

By Henry McClurg
ACROSS

- 1 San Antonio's NBA team
- 4 interjection for hesitation
- 5 official Texas stone
- 7 MUTT in a mirror
- 8 TOO in a mirror
- 9 American-born English critic & author Eliot, initials ("The Civil War is not ended: I question whether any serious civil war ever does end.")
- 12 Texas admission to the Union, 2 words
- 19 ruminant mammal related to sheep
- 20 central part of a church

- 21 abbr. for electron volt
- 23 5th & 1st vowels of the alphabet
- 24 malign
- 26 cavity in a bone
- 28 Ft. Worth-based Texas-wide bakery, 2 words
- 34 Texas mounted police force
- 36 Pacific island group
- 37 dry measure of about 35 liters, abbr.
- 38 brutish
- 41 an affirmative vote, one spelling version
- 43 'game' that made \$2.5 billion in its first 3 years, 2 words
- 46 slight furrow in parallel with others
- 48 German-born American theoretical

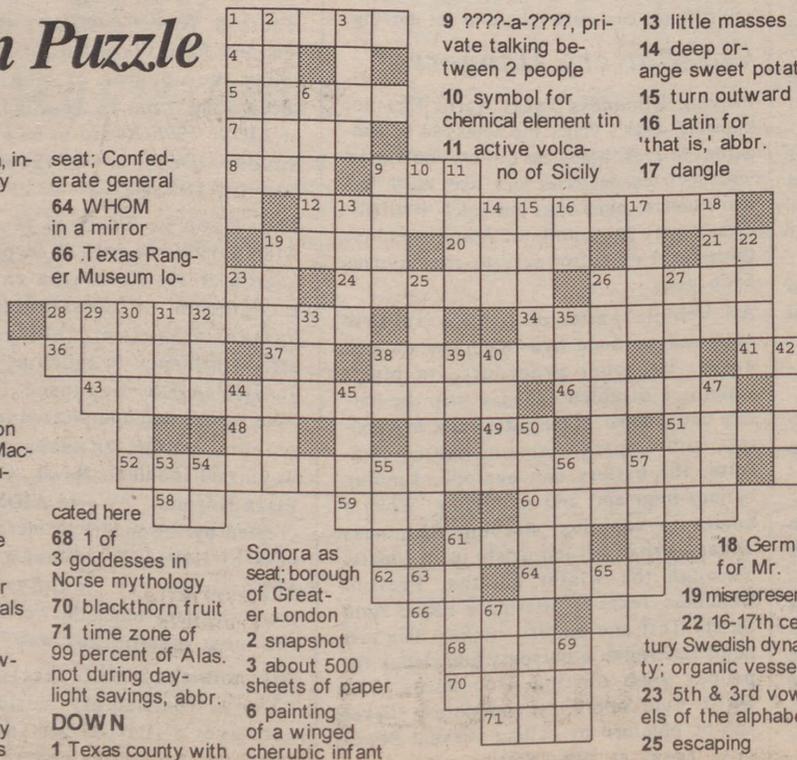
- physicist Einstein, initials ("An empty stomach is not a good political advisor.")
- 49 state that is 'Land of Enchantment,' abbr.
- 51 American cartoonist; Italian river
- 52 1983 movie filmed in Houston starring Shirley MacLaine, Jack Nicholson, 3 words
- 58 7th tone of diatonic scale
- 59 1-time New York City mayor La Guardia, initials
- 60 tiny
- 61 actress Crawford, born 1906 in San Antonio
- 62 Texas county with Giddings as

- seat; Confederate general
- 64 WHOM in a mirror
- 66 Texas Ranger Museum located here
- 68 1 of 3 goddesses in Norse mythology
- 70 blackthorn fruit
- 71 time zone of 99 percent of Alas. not during daylight savings, abbr.

- 9 ????-a-????, private talking between 2 people
- 10 symbol for chemical element tin
- 11 active volcano of Sicily
- 13 little masses
- 14 deep orange sweet potato
- 15 turn outward
- 16 Latin for 'that is,' abbr.
- 17 dangle
- 18 German for Mr.
- 19 misrepresents
- 22 16-17th century Swedish dynasty; organic vessels
- 23 5th & 3rd vowels of the alphabet
- 25 escaping
- Sonora as seat; borough of Greater London
- 2 snapshot
- 3 about 500 sheets of paper
- 6 painting of a winged cherubic infant

- 26 at any time whatever
- 27 forces that captured Santa Anna April 22, 1836
- 28 Magnolia State, abbr.
- 29 destructive rodent
- 30 smelled
- 31 rectangular container usually having a lid or cover
- 32 American Automobile Association
- 33 couple
- 35 bunch of people named Al
- 38 abbr. for baronet, a British title ranking just below a baron
- 39 Land of Opportunity state, abbr.
- 40 Scottish for since
- 42 sounds like 'why not'
- 44 Casablanca piano player
- 45 a dandy (British)
- 47 pretentiously artistic
- 50 Mexican city

- across-from Brownsville
- 53 time zone of Jacksonville, Fla., abbr.
- 54 Ocean State, abbr.
- 55 12th month of Hebrew calendar
- 56 'Biggest Little City in the World'
- 57 enough (archaic)
- 61 pants made of twilled cotton
- 63 20th century American jurist Warren, chief justice of U.S. Supreme Court, initials ("It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive.")
- 65 comedian "Take my wife ... please" Youngman, initials
- 67 Pepsi, Coke or RC
- 69 thing in the middle of tennis court Solution elsewhere this issue c.1996 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE TX205



GLAAD

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

lines

Lesbian Latifah Butches Out

Set It Off, director F. Gary Gray's latest effort, portrays life in the projects of South Central Los Angeles, and stars rapper/actor Queen Latifah as Cleo, a tough lesbian who leads her friends into the business of robbing banks. Within the first five minutes of the film, Cleo and girlfriend Ursula (Samantha MacLachlan), a silent ultra-femme, kiss passionately in the parking lot of their project. Cleo is butch, hard, tequila-swilling and gun-toting. While she's the leader of the group, she's also the most violent and messed-up of all the women, and serves as the film's great antihero. The edgy film movie takes an unflinching look at the multi-layered issues of race, class, gender and sexual orientation. In doing so, Gray and Latifah have made the representation of Cleo a complicated one. While her swagger and anger are justified by the conditions in which she finds herself, the character is also something of a stereotypical butch without many dimensions beyond anger, hot-headedness and unbounded sexual energy. It's problematic that the gender roles of the couple seem to be aping the stereotypical male view of lesbian couples as one being "the man" and the other "the woman." It is almost as if the "macho" Cleo has something to say by virtue of her "male-like" persona, but Ursula, as a femme sex object, is literally rendered silent.

Inform F. Gary Gray and New Line Cinema that while presenting a tough African-American butch lesbian is valuable and commendable, and utilizing an African-American lesbian couple in *Set It Off* is groundbreaking, the representations are over-simplified. The characters deserved more complexity than was granted them. Contact: Robert Shaye, Chairperson-CEO, New Line Cinema, 116 N. Robertson Blvd. 200, Los Angeles CA, 90048, fax: 310.854.1824, e-mail: webmaster@newline.com, feedback form on WWW: <http://www.newline.com/feedback.html>.

Doonesbury Lovers Talk It Out On The Air

After a week of on-air debate between Mark, a liberal talk show host and his conservative guest, Chase, Doonesbury artist Garry Trudeau surprised readers on Nov. 4 by having the two characters come out as a couple while on the air. The entire week has been devoted to a dialogue between interested listeners and the left-right couple. When in the Nov. 6 strip one caller asks Mark, "Isn't a right-wing apologist kind of a weird match for you?" Mark replies, "I resent that question. Political beliefs don't always reveal the person behind them. Besides, Chase has a first-rate mind. I like having my cherished assumptions tested by a formidable intellect." Chase interjects, "Tell him about my spinach casserole," and Mark adds, "Also, I'm finally eating right."

Please let Garry Trudeau know that his continued inclusion of and discussion about gay men is clever, meaningful and appreciated. Also, encourage him to continue to expand his progressive message by introducing lesbian, bisexual and transgender characters. Contact: Garry Trudeau, Doonesbury, 459 Columbus Ave. #113, New

York, NY 10024.

Exit Polls Show Strong Numbers Of Out Voters

While the results of Election Day themselves were arguably a mixed bag for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender voters, one interesting note is that, according to the Voter News Service exit poll, 4 percent of the voting public identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual. As one activist noted, "Keep in mind that this is the number of people comfortable with their sexuality to express their real preference to a total stranger. When one considers all the closeted people in the community, 10 percent (of the general population as gay, lesbian or bisexual) looks better and better. And 1 percent looks like a joke."

Whatever the case, please let the Voter News Service know that it is especially noteworthy and valuable that they are considering "bisexual" in their surveys along with "gay" and "lesbian." In doing so, they recognize the validity, and political visibility, of an identity too often dismissed as transitory if it is mentioned at all. Contact: Voter News Service, c/o National Assignment Desk, ABC News, 47 W. 66th St., New York, NY 10023, e-mail at ABC: abcaudr@ccabc.com.

The Philly Inquirer Explores Gay Cyberspace

The Oct. 31 edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer featured an article about the particular ways in which our community has benefited from the Internet explosion of the last few years. The story examines how coming out online can be a safe and nurturing part of the coming out process, as well as the vast resources available for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people on the Net and the Web, who often lack a sense of community. "One of the big things about homosexuality is that it's such a taboo that having even unbiased information causes a big brouhaha," says Ron Buckmire, founder of Queer Resources Directory. "The minute you mention homosexuality, the Right says you're 'promoting' it. And so it's important to have a place to go. And being able to access information anonymously is something the Internet is designed to do." Additionally, the article examines the ways that the community's presence online has expanded recently and how cyberspace has become an important tool for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organizations.

Commend the Philadelphia Inquirer for contributing to the interesting and vital dialogue about our community and its presence in cyberspace. Contact: James Naughton, Executive Editor, Philadelphia Inquirer, PO Box 8263, Philadelphia, PA, 19101, fax: 215.854.4794, e-mail: inqsmash@delphi.com.

The GLAADAlert is the weekly activation tool of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's Toll-Free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334) Visit GLAAD's Web Site at <http://www.glaad.org>

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Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.

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Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, hardwood floors, hardly any plastic.

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Fight Hate Crimes

- ▶ Move confidently. Keep your head up, look around, be alert!
- ▶ Confront verbal harassment if you think it would deter attack. Attackers often test potential victims.
- ▶ Trust your instincts. Only you know whether or when to fight back.
- ▶ If you are attacked, respond quickly (in the first 30 seconds): Yell, blow a whistle, fight - kick knees, gouge eyes, stomp on feet, knee groin - RUN!
- ▶ Call the police as soon as possible.
- ▶ If you hear a call for help or witness violence, yell out at the attacker, call police - gather other people and rush to the scene - not to intervene, but to scare off the attacker(s).

Consider becoming part of the Q-PATROL - Call 528-SAFE (7233)

Ending Job Discrimination against Gays and Lesbians

Winning Issue In 96 Elections

FROM HRC RELEASE

WASHINGTON—Ending job discrimination against Gay men and Lesbians emerged as a winning issue in the elections, the Human Rights Campaign asserted today. No candidate who voiced support for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act—from President Clinton to those running for the Senate and House—lost as a result of his or her position on that bill.

"Support for basic job fairness for Gays and Lesbians has become a mainstream issue," said Elizabeth Birch, HRC's Executive Director. "This was proven by the fact that several Republican candidates decided late in their campaigns to publicly support ENDA, which would end job discrimination based on sexual orientation—most notably Rudy Boschwitz, who lost to Minnesota Democratic Senator Paul Wellstone, and Gordon Smith, who ran for the Senate from Oregon."

ENDA's chances of passage remain solid in the 105th Congress. There was no initial net change in the number of ENDA supporters in either the House or Senate, according to an HRC analysis. The fact that Americans voted for the "moderate middle" for Congress also helps

ENDA's prospects because the bill is now clearly understood as moderate, Birch noted.

Eighty-four percent of the candidates endorsed by HRC won their elections, compared to 67 percent in 1992.

The politics of scapegoating gay people failed. Candidates who were criticized for their votes against the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act won—such as Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Mich. In fact, no incumbent who voted against the Defense of Marriage Act lost.

In addition, exit polls showed that gay and lesbian voters constituted 5 percent of the total turnout, a substantial increase from the roughly 3 percent reported in 1994. Of that 5 percent, 67 percent voted for Clinton, 18 percent chose Bob Dole and 10 percent voted for Ross Perot.

"Gay men and Lesbians are emerging as an important segment of the electorate as more and more gay people are willing to be open and honest about who they are," Birch said.

The Human Rights Campaign, working with Gays and Lesbians in North Carolina, laid the groundwork for future efforts in that state. Although rabidly anti-gay Sen. Jesse Helms won, an infrastructure has been built that will help gay and lesbian North Carolinians fight for fairness in the next Senate and House elections.

PAF Co-Founder to Serve on NIH Advisory Council

The Pediatric AIDS Foundation announced on Oct. 28 that its Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer Susan DeLaurentis has been invited to serve on the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council (OARAC), National Institutes of Health, for a two-year term. The invitation came directly from Donna E. Shalala, the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

OARAC provides advice to the Director of the Office of AIDS Research (OAR) on the planning, coordination and evaluation of research and other activities in respect to acquired immune deficiency syndrome conducted or supported by agencies

of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

"I am extremely honored to have an opportunity such as this, which not only allows me to represent the pediatric AIDS community on the Council, but ensures that pediatric AIDS research is kept in the forefront of the national AIDS agenda," said Ms. DeLaurentis.

"In addition, my appointment to the Council reinforces our Foundation's leadership role in identifying, funding and conducting critical pediatric AIDS research leading to the prevention and treatment of HIV infection in infants and children."

Welcome to New Advertisers!

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

The Houston Voice welcomes Elegant Events by Estevan & Chill's Smoothies as new advertisers, and welcomes back former advertisers: Heights Tanning Center and the family of video and magazine stores of World News.

Elegant Events by Estevan is not your ordinary catering company! They offer on lend a bartender, waiter, busboy, and maids handle event planning, floral arrangements, party trays, liquor shopping services, beverage glass rental, christmas decorations, and much much more. Estevan can do it all. Check out their ad on page 25.

Chill's Smoothies, located at 3939 Montrose, (in the same shopping center as Lobo Book Shop and Fantastic Sams) has a wonderful selection of tasty treats. Taste good and are good for you, too! I have had the Raspberry Surprise and the Hawaiian Delight! Both

are delicious! Be sure to clip the coupon on page 3 for a buy-one-get-one free! Heights Tanning Center wants you to look your best in these chilly months. Their state of the art tanning center is offering 3 months of unlimited tanning for a mere \$59. Heights Tanning Center is located at 928 A N. Durham. In order to get this special price, clip the ad on page 13.

The family of video and magazine stores for World News are all over town. Stop in Studz at 1201 Richmond and the other stores located at 4121 North Freeway, 8228 Gulf Freeway, 9006 Eastex Freeway, 12310 Hempstead, World News at 5887 Westheimer and Lone Star News at 6877 S. Gessner. These stores offer over 300 out of town newspapers, magazines, novelties, tons and tons of videos, private screening rooms, racing forms, tip sheets, paperbacks, foreign publications, and more. Check out their ad on page 10.

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Ratrat turns 3 years old!



Elves invaded Rascals!

By CUERVOLYN

Important Stuff

I have the official schedule for the LVL bus tour and tree planting! This Saturday, Nov. 16 the tour starts at Noon to 1:15pm @ the BRB: 1:30 to 2:15 @ the Venture-N: 2:30 pm to 3:15 @ Gentry: 3:30 to 4:15 @ E/J's: 4:30 to 5:00 pm @ Chances: 5:00 to 5:45 pm @ Mary's. If you can't joint us on the bus, please join the tour along the route. Marvin wants us all to be there!

There's mucho stuff to do this Saturday, but please fit a little time in your busy Saturday night schedule and head to Pacific Street! Party on the Patio with members of the Houston Council of Clubs (HCC). They will be guest bartending, raising money for the 1997 Let Us Entertain You (LUEY) weekend! See you there, 'cuz FIST (Females in Search of Trouble) will be there, too!

Carmen Del Rio will be at the Brazos River Bottom on Saturday night! Carmen is a pro! She has headlined all around the world, and



We Love Lucy!

loves to play the BRB when she is in town! Don't miss this one!

Congrats to Jamie Roberts, the new Miss TGRA (Texas Gay Rodeo Association)!

The BriarPatch has got something special going on every day during happy hour! Stop in and find out what happens every time you buy an adult refreshing beverage! It could put dollars in your pocket! The BriarPatch has offered Houstonians live music every night of the week for over 25 years! Wayne has brought in some new talent! Charlie T. has 'em going. Laurie Gage plays Elton John better than Elton, and Beverly Sisco is hot! You can't go wrong at the BriarPatch. Why sing with a machine when the BriarPatch has it live!

Way to go! Kudos! Miss A and her band of marauders had a fundraiser at the Lazy J this past weekend raising over \$1200 for the Loving Arms Foundation!

More kudos to Don Gill! Military haircuts at the Ripcord raised \$277 headed for the Milam House!

The Nearly Naked Car Wash held at the Ripcord was a splashing success! Ken (Daddy of Montrose) Claude wants to send a "big ol'



Real estate tycoon Bob Ryan and 2 of Houston's finest



I'm ready!

Texas sized" thank-you hug to all the hunky car wash volunteers and the dirty car and truck owners!

Anita Mann, candidate for Empress XIII raised \$500 at the show at Gentry this past Sunday! This money is ear marked for Soiree Aubergine!

Have you been to Rich's to see their crazy "Klub Kamp" show on Sunday nights? This comedy revue stars Simply Devine and Lana Blake! Be sure to check out the really cheap drink prices! Check out the ad on page 15 for the other party they are having on Friday.

Phew! I can finally talk about this! Some secrets are hard to keep! Marlene, owner of Chances, will be opening up a new club in the near future! The "New Barn" will be right behind Chances and Charlie's Restaurant in what is now being called "Triangle Country!" The New Barn will be a C&W motif! The building (old Bacchus) is in the process of tons of improvements! This is going to be a great place!

Have you heard about Saint Arnold Beer? Two guys, right here in Houston brew this tasty nectar of the gods! They carry it at J.R.'s and every Thursday it is only \$2.25!

Basic Brothers has great gifts in store! They are gearing up for the holidays! Last time I was in the store, they had some very festive vests great for those holiday parties!

The PWA Holiday Fund folks will be guest bartending on the patio of the BRB Saturday night and on Sunday 2:00 pm @ Mary's, naturally Ken Claude and Don Gill will be guest bartending for the PWA Holiday Charities. Head out to the patio and try some of Don's world-famous Taco Soup, too!

There is a fundraiser at PastTime this Sunday for Stone Soup. All the performers will be campy, funny, and not professional performers! Stop in after 4:00 pm with your Stone Soup donation and have a good time at PastTime!

Milestones

A happy belated birthday to Tim Robinson of San Antonio and Cameron of Houston!

A happy birthday to Tiffany of FIST and RSICSS, Sam F. of the Houston Area Bears, Jennifer Ellsworth, Tim (Sears), the Houston Voices' own John aka Felicia Flintstone, Buzz Davis, Alicia Grant, and my own little Ratrat! Little Ratrat is 3 fuzzy years old! My baby is in middle age!

A happy anniversary to Clay Harper and Peter!

Rodent Droppings

Do you remember what I have told you about the several times I thought Harvey was dead! He wasn't! Andrew (Thumper) at Vetmart gave me a new ferret magazine! They had an article about "Dead Sleeping Syndrome!" Yes, even ferrets have their own syndromes! The article advised me that many ferrets appear to be dead, even after handling and shaking! Many ferret owners have been on their way to the vet when their fuzzy creature opened its eyes! It is nice to know that I am not the only ferret owner that has experienced

this frightening thing!

Thanks for all the phone calls telling me about Monday's Chronicle. I know all three women. They all belong to the same group I do, the Houston Ferret Owners Association!

You all know about my disclaimer! Lies, gossip, and trash appear in this section! If you find this kind of journalistic garbage offensive, please feel free to turn to the real news part of the Houston Voice! And trust me, what appears in Rodent Droppings is in NO way to be taken seriously, it is for fun!

Where, oh where are you tonight? Why did you leave me hear all alone? Rodent Rooter where are you?

Clint (BriarPatch): What is this I hear about you having a fancy new "pad" to show off your topless physique? You must be playing topless on Mondays again!

Miss A (BRB): Instead of having to soak your feet for two days, why don't you buy bigger heels?

Walt (Outpost): You are not related to turtles, move it gurhl!

John Evans (BRB's new owner): And I quote: "Bill Havard got a cashier's check: I got Rol-aids!"

Charlie (BriarPatch): I hear you have been happy lately! The LA connection perhaps?

John S. (hangs at the Outpost): Why did Mama Jo pour a drink down your pants? And why did you not remember it?

Lady B: And I quote: "The only thing fur on my body is a jacket!"

Jim Roberts, John F., Mark & Bill: When did you all hit the sale rack at the same time?

Rick (Dick-Les hangs at the Outpost): And I quote: "My breasts are perky, yours fall to the side!"

Steve (Chances): What will you do for \$10? And have you kissed any telephone poles lately?

Drew (BRB): A mind is a terrible thing to waste!

Baby (Miss West Fest): It is hard to picture you slopping pigs and operating a back hoe!

Ronnie (Chances): Pick up any pussy lately?

Agnes, Gladys, and Gertrude: Do you like your new Obsession powder?

Animal (BRB): Yes, you are just a big HO!

Tommy (Chances): Did you really pick a fight with a Houston Area

Bear? You are brave! Those guys are big! (and also lovable!)

Vera (BRB): Don't worry honey, we don't hate you because you are beautiful, we hate you because we can!

Max (Charlie's): You were seen coming out of Diner's News with nothing in your hands! What were you doing there? Returning a movie or what?

Eddie (Chances): Just because you think I don't know you personally doesn't mean you are safe from my poison keyboard! Be afraid, be very afraid!

Nick (hangs at the BRB): We know about you losing your virginity, but losing your engine the same way? Loose screws?

Wesley (Rascals): I hear you are the best bar bitch, I mean bar back in town!

Tommy Sue (BRB): Ripcord, Saturday night, New Camaro, Paper tags, Sunday night, Do I have a new brother-in-law or sister? Keep on tricking, girl!



Cherry and Thumper never looked lovelier!



Tiffany gets clawed by me!

Jan (hangs at the BRB): I hear you have a new roommate, but where do you park "her?"

Jeanette Vaughn (RSICSS): What were you doing in the men's room of Mary's?

Kenny (Rascals): What is the big deal about being 26? Is that a length or your age in dog years?

Woody (Gentry): I hear you have a little "Wienie," dog that is!

JD (RSICSS): I have a message to you from Tommy (Chances): "I'm sorry!"

Thumper (Texas Cow Ghurlz): Thank you so much for the latest ferret magazine!

Dirk (Pacific Street): I loved your outfit for Saturday night! Did you shop at Neiman's?

Lulu (E/J's): Did you really have a barstool tied to your hiking boots last week?

Bill (hangs at Rascals): Too many potato peelings? What does this mean?

Chuck (Rascals): Since when is there too much salt in a mouthful?

Greg (PastTime): Don't you mean a pen and paper, not a pen and pencil?



Renee looks great!

Eddie (Pacific Street): Just why do they call you Bam-Bam?

Henry (Montrose Inn): I hear they found parts of Jimmy Hoffa's remains in your car at the Nearly Naked Car Wash!

Lazer Wizard (Pacific Street): Two weeks in a row having your photo in this column! You must have an "in" with Cuervolyn!

Ken Burd (www.USAGayNet.com): Wasn't really your first time to go into Club Houston? Watch it! Hanging around with me can take you into some very unusual places!

Scott Lewis (Heaven): It has been how many hours since you sucked on what?

George (J.R.'s): How come I can check your price list faster than you can?

Jeff (BRB): I WANT MY BRA BACK!

Tim (Sears): Fallen down any gang planks lately?

Steven David: Drive any boats lately?

Damon (hangs anywhere there is a barstool): Why are you afraid of your Mommy?

Have a great week!

Cuervolyn



Dueling Chers at E/J's

Where To Go and What It Will Cost!

Friday, Nov. 15

* \$1 well and \$1.75 Miller. Doors open at 9:00 pm at Heaven.

* Drink specials until 9:00 pm; Buffet at 5:00 pm at Brazos River Bottom.

* Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.

* Shower dancers at Midtowne Spa.

* Steve plays for Happy Hour: Wayne Gray tickles the rest of the night! Blackjack tables open at 9:30 pm at the BriarPatch!

* Chastity Bono hangs out at Rascals tonight! Free hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; \$1 Schnapps.

* Bad Boys dance at 6:00 pm: \$2 Kamikazes at Gentry.

* Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo! "A Turkey of a Show" by Anita Mann, candidate for Empress XIII at 9:00 pm at Chances.

* \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10:00 pm; male dancers 8:00 pm to 2:30 am; After hours until 4:00 am at the Montrose Mining Company.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli; hard body male dancers at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* Boyz night out at Club Incognito.

* \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm. The Lancers Motorcycle Club guest bartends starting at 9:00 pm.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II.

* Happy Hours 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Male Strip Contest at 11:00 pm at E/J's.

* Friday Foreplay at Pacific Street. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 schnapps; Doors open at 7:00 pm. No cover until 9:00 pm.

* Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9:00 pm at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; After Hours until 4:00 am at the Ripcord.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* 8-ball tournament at the Lazy J.

* Fizz Fridays! Pre-Snowball Party! 18+ welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Rich's.

Saturday, Nov. 16

* Leather and Flesh night at Pacific Street: Houston Council of Clubs guest bartends on the patio. Doors open at 9:00 pm.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Lady Victoria Lust's Memorial Bar Bus Tour starts at noon; Drink specials until 9:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Drag show at Cousin's at 11:00 pm.

* \$1 well 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm; \$1.50 domestic longnecks 10:30 pm to 11:00 pm; \$1.25 schnapps; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Heaven.

* Wayne Gray tickles the ivories tonight at the BriarPatch.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3.50 Absolutly anything at Gentry.

* Drag show at the Lazy J at 10:30 p.m.

* 800 Pacific block party: \$1 well and \$1.75 domestic longnecks! 9:00 to 9:30 pm at Santa Fe Bar and Patio, 9:30 to 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10:00 to 10:30 pm at J.R.'s Bar and Grill, and 11:00 pm to 11:30 pm at Heaven.

* Lady Victoria Lust's Thank-you Celebration Buffet at 6:30 pm and show at 9:00 pm; \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks at Mary's from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. After Hours until 4:00 am.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks and premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* After hours at the Ripcord until 4:00 am.

* \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9:00 pm to 2:30 am; happy hour until 10:00 pm; After hours until 4:00 am at the Montrose Mining Company.

* Four Seasons "Military Ball" 7:30 pm to 11:00 pm. Benefits the Milam House. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

* Ladies' Night at Club Incognito.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II.

* Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* Wayne Gray and others play live at the BriarPatch!

* No cover 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm; \$1 well drinks 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm; DJ JD Arnold; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Rich's.

* \$1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm at E/J's.

Sunday, Nov. 17

* Cookout and Houston Area Bears guest bartend at 5:00 pm; Grin n' Bear It contest at 8:00 pm; \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11:00 pm. \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6:00 pm; Male Swim wear strip contest at 11:00 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Open pool tables" Jennifer Ellsworth, candidate for Empress XIII's "Bursting with Pride" show at 8:00 pm; at the BriarPatch.

* Super Sunday Show at Club Incognito. 11:00 pm.

* Drink specials until 5:00 pm; Miss Camp America Video Party at 3:00 pm; Steak night from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm; The one and only Carmen Del Rio performs at 7:30 pm at Brazos River Bottom.

* Don Gill and Ken Claude guest bartend at the patio; 50¢ draft beer; \$1.75 Well drinks and longnecks from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mary's.

* AVES Thanksgiving Dinners 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Pool tournament, Bad Boys dance at 5:00 pm; Star Studded Show at 9:00 pm; Male Strip at 11:00 pm; \$2 Kool-Aids at Gentry.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II.

* Happy Hour Noon to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Male Overload at Pacific Street. Doors open at 7:00 pm; No shirt, no cover! \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps.

* Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from noon to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* \$2 Mimosas and \$1.75 well drinks; Tea Dance; Best Basket and Buns Contest 10:00 pm at Rascals.

* 18 and up welcome: \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call, Klub Kamp with Simply Divine and Lana Blake at 10:30 pm; Doors open at 8:00 pm at Rich's.

* Brunch at noon at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* \$1.50 well and domestic beer all day/all night at the Ripcord.

Monday, Nov. 18

* Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Male Strip contest at E/J's. 11:00 pm.

* Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; Martinis and Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11:00 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* Escape at Pacific Street! \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25

schnapps; No cover until 11:00 pm.

* Half price lockers from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

* \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3.50 Crown Royal at Gentry.

* Wheel of Fortune and Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Clint plays topless; Open pool tables at the BriarPatch.

* Monday night football on the big screen; free pizza; Miller Lite products for \$1.50; Cuervo shots \$2. Rascal's.

* \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; \$1 longnecks at 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Mary's.

* \$1.75 well and domestic beer at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Half-Price night at Midtowne Spa.

* Open pool tables at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza at the Ripcord.

* \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30 pm; male dancers 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

* Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm; Female Dancers at Berry Hill II. 10:30 pm.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$2 well, wine, domestic longnecks and frozen Margaritas; Jockey short contest at 11:00 pm; Grab for Cash at midnight at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Executive Night at Pacific Street. No cover with your personal business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9:00 pm.

* Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* Bad Boys dance at Gentry at 9:00 pm; \$2 Windex shots at Gentry.

* Happy Hour all day and all night at Rascal's.

* \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; \$2 Cuervo at Mary's.

* Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Amateur talent contest at 11:00 pm at E/J's.

* \$1 well 7:00 am to 11:00 pm; \$1 domestic longnecks at the Brazos River Bottom.

* \$1.75 longnecks, \$2.50 well, \$3 any drink in-the-house; male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.

* \$1.75 well drinks and \$1.50 domestic longnecks at Rascals.

* Half price lockers, rooms and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

* Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Ripcord.

* Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Marci holds court at the keyboard at the BriarPatch.

Wednesday, Nov. 20

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

* Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Saloon singer Beverly Sisco tickles the ivories at the BriarPatch.

* Bad Boys dance at 7:00 pm; Male Strip Contest with Dyan Michaels at 11:00 pm; \$1.25 Schnapps at Gentry.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea; Joe Boxer dance contest at 11:00 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.

* \$1.50 domestic longnecks; Lil' Rascals strip contest at 10:00 pm; Free happy hour buffet at Rascals.

* Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances. Shiela Lennon's Karaoke at 9:00 pm.

* \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Prime Meet at Pacific Street. No cover with a "Be My Guest" pass. Doors open at 9:00 pm.

* \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; Drink specials all day and all night at Mary's.

* Drink specials until 9:00 pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Half-Price night and shower dancers at Midtowne Spa.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm at Berry Hill II. Free Pool Tables.

* Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.40 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Mug club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Burger night at E/J's.

* \$2 well and domestic beer all day/all night at the Ripcord.

* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks at XTC.

* \$1 well, \$1.75 Budweiser and 75¢ Miller on tap; Doors open at 9:00 pm at Heaven.

Thursday, Nov. 21

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00pm to 8:00 pm.

* Burger Night at the 611 Hyde Park Pub.

* Happy Hour until 10:00 pm; Male Dancers at Berry Hill II at 10:30 pm.

* Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Mug club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Tacos on the patio; South of the Border night at E/J's at 11:00 pm.

* Sexx Thursdays at Pacific Street. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No cover with current gym card.

* Half-price lockers, rooms, and video rooms from noon to midnight at Club Houston.

* Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3 Skyy vodka at Gentry.

* Retro Rewind; \$1.50 vodka drinks at Rascal's.

* \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; 75¢ Schnapps at Mary's.

* \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, and wine; Male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company.

* \$1.75 well, beer, and wine at the Venture-N from noon until 9:00 pm.

* Drink specials until 11:00 pm; Burgers on the patio from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; dance lessons at 9:00 pm at the Brazos River Bottom.

* Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; Classic Rock night at the Ripcord.

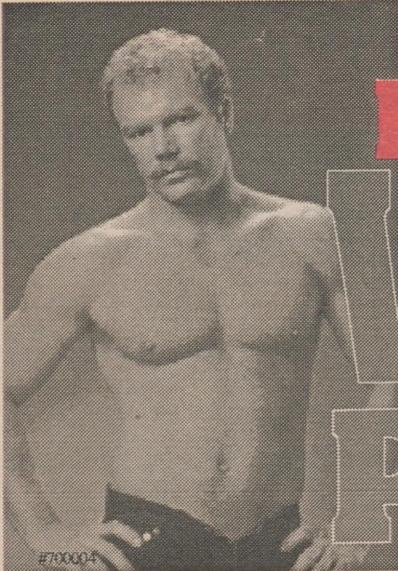
* Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Outpost.

* Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold and Micro brewed beer; Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9:00 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar.

* Nancy Ford at Ms. B's at 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm, open mike and karaoke 10:30 pm to 1:00 am.

* Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo at Chances.

* Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Wayne Gray, Laurie Gage and new to the BriarPatch Edith Head perform live at the BriarPatch.



HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women SEEKING Women

SF College student, mature. Looking for a professional, mature woman who knows what she wants & is not afraid to go after it. Call Ext. 5262

SWF 33, 5'3", 135 lbs. Looking for a single White female, soft butch or fem to hang out with or date. I like to dance, theaters & going to antique stores. Call Ext. 5169

SWF 30, 5'3", blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a female, 28-40, who is a soft butch. Wanting to date or hang-out. Like going to movies, boating, fishing, etc. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & a non-smoker. Call Ext. 5215

SWF 43, non-smoker. Enjoy cooking, the mall & parks. Looking for love. Should be interesting & White or biracial. Call Ext. 5208

SWF My hobbies are playing pool, shooting darts, dancing & clubbing. Looking for a female in the age group of 25-40. I'm 190 lbs., 5'11" & a security guard. Call Ext. 5173

SF If you like to be wined & dined, I'm the one. I'm cute, with a wonderful personality. Check me out. Desiring a sincere, honest & intelligent female. Call Ext. 5161

SF 37, butch. I have a soft, romantic streak on the inside. I'm honest, intelligent, sincere & passionate about life. Looking for a butch top who is honest, upfront & trustworthy for fun & friendship. Maybe we can get together. Call Ext. 5251

DF Bisexual. I need a woman. When I was married, I had a great relationship with my husband & our girlfriend. She got into drugs, so I had to let her go. I need a woman & I know how to treat one. Blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'4", 130 lbs., large breasts. I'm so sensual. I'm a stand-up comic & a poet. I want to get to know you. Call Ext. 5245

SWF Late 40's, 160 lbs., 5'8", green eyes, gray & brown hair. Seeking a relationship with a single gay female who is height/weight proportionate. Race is not important for companionship, friendship & possible romance. I'd like to meet a non-smoker. I'm considered soft butch. I'd like to meet a very feminine female. Call Ext. 5162

SWF 35. In search of a single White female, 30-45, for companionship & possibly more. Call Ext. 5248

SWF 45, 160 lbs., 5'5", professional. Seeking companionship & friendship, possibly more. I'd like to meet a non-smoker. Seeking a Hispanic or White female. I enjoy the beach, going out, traveling & dancing. I'm a non-drinker. Call Ext. 5256

SWF Late 40's. Looking for a White female to help me come out. I like fishing, hunting, dancing & boating. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5237

SBF 45, 6'. Looking for companionship & romance. I like sex. I'd like to meet some interesting people. I like music & I live on the west side of town. Looking for a woman, no butch. Call Ext. 5194

SBF I'm a 21-year-old, horny, Black female. If you want to know more, call & leave me a message. Call Ext. 5164

SWF 5'7", 130 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, 20. Looking for a beautiful, feminine woman who is preferably the same as me. Wanting to share life, should like going to the beach, the movies & anywhere our hearts desire. I'm very attractive, so you must be also. No jokes or running around. Call Ext. 5207

SF Looking for a feminine Black female to have a relationship with. I would like for her to be gay, height/weight proportionate & in her mid-40's. I'm available for a long-term relationship & friendship. Please call. Call Ext. 5197

SF 44, 5'11", 120 lbs. I love animals, gardening, reading & trying new things. I'd like to meet some women, 30-45, in the Houston area, for friendship, hanging out & a possible long-term relationship. No smokers, drugs or heavy drinkers. Call Ext. 5138

Men SEEKING Men

SM 46, 6', bi curious. I have one or two experiences that were not satisfactory. I would like to meet someone to help me investigate it more. Contact me. Call Ext. 5266

SBM 33, 6', slender, smooth, HIV+, very healthy & active. I love music, sports, dining in, dining out & cuddling. I'm very flexible & willing to try other things. Looking for Black males for friendship & a possible relationship. I'm honest, sincere & trustworthy. Must like to have fun. Call Ext. 5265

SWM 36, HIV+, 6'2", 160 lbs. Looking for love in all the wrong places. I'm fun-loving, humorous & open-minded. I'm a light drinker & smoker. I'm somewhat Bohemian with an appreciation for the finer things in life. I enjoy quiet evenings at home with an occasional night out on the town. Call Ext. 5264

SWM Handsome, 37, 5'8", 172 lbs. I work out frequently & I'm muscular. I'd like to meet a guy in his late 30's to mid-40's who is good-looking. Must like to have a lot of fun. He should enjoy being a real top guy. If you want to play with my nice, smooth muscular body, give me a call. Call Ext. 5201

SWM Attractive, 38, HIV+, long brown hair, brown eyes, mustache & beard. I'm straight-acting & appearing. I like to enjoy life, concerts, movies, traveling & good friends. I'm retired, healthy & financially secure. Looking for that special friend who is also straight-acting & appearing, with similar interests. Looking for someone who wants to get out & enjoy life. Call Ext. 5178

SWM 37, dark olive complexion, very muscular, husky, 168 lbs. Looking for a guy who is larger than myself, very masculine & enjoys being a top. I would like to talk to you in person, if this fits your description. Call Ext. 5201

SWM 40, 5'11", 230 lbs., football player build, professional, HIV+, excellent health. Looking for someone 30-50, for friendship & a possible relationship. Enjoy traveling, the theater, cooking & quiet evenings at home. Prefer a non-smoker, non-drug user who can enjoy life to the fullest. Call Ext. 5223

SWM 31, muscular, tan, smooth, 156 lbs. Like to meet a man who is stockier than I am. Not looking for a chubby guy. Would like to meet a top. If I sound attractive, leave a message. Call Ext. 5175

SM I'm a cross-dressing transvestite. Looking for other transvestites who enjoy conversations, getting together, being sisters & having girl talk. I enjoy dressing up, going out, having drinks & pajama parties. Looking for a sister or close friend. Call Ext. 5203

SWM I'm a very young 43-year-old, sailing skipper looking for a sailing captain. I'm a 6', 220 lb. teddy bear. I'm considered stocky, beefy & a linebacker build. I have red, strawberry-blonde hair, hazel-green eyes, a mustache & a hairy chest. Looking for guys with similar qualities, or those who are attracted to my qualities. Also looking for a gay sailing club & interested in forming one if one is not out there. Call Ext. 5212

SBM In search of other masculine Black males who are 19-45. Seeking someone who is well-endowed & masculine. Call Ext. 5154

SWM I'm a certified sailing skipper. I lost my captain to the North Carolina waters. Looking for a captain with a crew. I'm also interested in forming a gay sailing club. Call Ext. 5149

SHM 5'8", 175 lbs. I have dimples & a pretty smile. Looking for someone who has a good personality. Looks are not important. Call Ext. 5141

SWM Brown hair, very blue eyes, 5'9", 180 lbs., very muscular, 34. Looking for a very sensual, feminine TV or TS. Let's have a really good time & see where it goes. Call Ext. 5232

SWM 27, 6'3", 195 lbs., in very good shape. Looking for a gay White man who is 27 or older, tall & masculine, to have fun with. Call Ext. 5231

SBM 22, 5'11", 143 lbs. In search of a single White male, 18-30, who is pretty masculine, handsome & not into games. Call Ext. 5229

SM 35, 5'10", 175 lbs., blue-gray eyes, dark brown hair, goatee. Considered very attractive & well-endowed, with an athletic build. Gentleman, I'm only looking for this & the description must be precise. You're handsome, under 35, muscular, with a small waist & 10" or more. Call Ext. 5172

SM Looking for someone for drinks & walks on the beach. Someone who is single, Black & manly to hang out & have a good time with. Call Ext. 5171

SWM 5'7", 195 lbs., 45, furry, Italian, brown hair, attractive, easygoing, romantic. Enjoy the quiet life, movies, dining, entertaining & being a homebody. Looking for someone to develop a special friendship & long-term relationship with. If you're my ideal guy you'll be 35-40, able to support yourself & enjoy being a bottom. Blonde hair & blue eyes are a huge plus! Give me a call. Call Ext. 5170

SWM Gay, 41, 5'5", green eyes, reddish-blonde hair. Enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, rock 'n roll music & playing board games on occasion. Looking for a White or Hispanic male to spend some time with. Call Ext. 5220

SWM 31, 5'5", 145 lbs. I'm very boyish-looking. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male, 21-32, who likes sports, rock music, cars, traveling & casinos. Call Ext. 5252

SWM 5'7", brown hair, brown eyes, 43. I like music, arts, opera, the theater, museums & quiet dinners at home. I also enjoy kissing, cuddling & touching. I'm open to new & varied interests. I'm a laid-back, sensitive & down-to-earth person. I'd like to meet Hispanic, White or Asian males who are between 25-50. Call Ext. 5240

SWM Late 30's, cute. Looking to meet an athletic Black guy who knows what he wants. Call me for more information. Call Ext. 5145

SWM Attractive, 5'11", 180 lbs. Would like to meet a female impersonator. Call Ext. 5261

SM Looking to meet some interesting & uninhibited guys to get together & have some versatile fun with. I like to give, as well as receive. Although, giving is my greatest joy in life. I consider it my duty in life to give pleasure to men. Call Ext. 5259

SM I'm a sexy bottom boy looking for a daddy. If you are interested, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5156

SBM Well-hung. Looking for someone to have a good time with. Call Ext. 5216

SM Top man who is demanding, sane & safe. Looking for specially skilled bottom boys who like to serve & take what's coming to them. Should be 26-40. No training is necessary. I will take care of that myself. Call me quickly. Call Ext. 5257

SHM 32, thin. Seeking a gay White or Hispanic male who is 32 or older. Seeking a lifemate. Serious replies only. No games. I don't drink or smoke. I need sincerity & stability. Call Ext. 5160

SBM 27. Seeking other males who want to have fun. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5159

SBM 27. Seeking other Black males. I'd like to meet a top. I enjoy swimming, bowling, reading & having fun. I'd prefer to meet someone 20-30. Call Ext. 5158

SWM I'm a chubby nudist in search of other chubby nudists. I'm 38, 5'7" & 228 lbs., with strawberry-blonde hair & blue eyes. Race is not important. Call Ext. 5157

SWM 5'8", brown hair, smooth muscular body, olive-complexed. I'd like to meet a top who has body & facial hair. Must like to have a lot of fun. Call Ext. 5190

SM 37, 5'8", 165 lbs., attractive, brown hair, dark-completed. I'd like to meet a guy my age or older who is in good shape & attractive. Should prefer to be a top. Seeking a fairly active guy. If you have a good sense of humor & you like to have fun, give me a call. Call Ext. 5123

SM 46, 6', 280 lbs., graying hair. Seeking a gay White, Asian or Hispanic male, 25-50, who is drug & disease-free. He should be slim-to-medium-built, with fuzzy legs. I enjoy friends, music & honesty. I'm compassionate & affectionate. Call Ext. 5192

SM Asian. In search of a Married White cop who needs to relieve the stress of work & family life. If you want some mid-day encounters, give me a call. Call Ext. 5189

SWM 60, 5'8", 290 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes. I'm a bottom. Looking for guys in their 20's or 40's. Race is not important. Honesty & sincerity are prime factors. Let's share respect, love & an active physical relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, dancing, traveling, the beach, dining in, dining out & the company of an affectionate friend. Call Ext. 5187

SM 6'1", 200 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, Cuban/French. Interested in guys who are versatile & 20-30. Race is not important. Looking for someone to really have a good time with. Sex would be great! Let's get good & nasty. Call Ext. 5177

SWM I'm 5'9", 130 lbs. & masculine. Looking for a Black brother who is the same. Someone who is 18-28, self-assured, masculine & not into games. Call Ext. 5094

SWM Attractive, early 40's, 5'10", 175 lbs. Seeks femme-looking cross dresser or transsexual, 21-45, for dating, fun or a possible long-term relationship. Please respond. Call Ext. 5258

SHM Attractive, outgoing, 34. Searching for a special friend. Someone who is willing to understand my living with HIV for 10 years. Call Ext. 5255

SWM 20, bi, brown hair, hazel eyes. I enjoy camping, fishing & more. Looking for someone who has a sense of humor who likes to party. If you think you are the one, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5236

SM Leave me a message & I will call you as soon as I can. Call Ext. 5233

SWM 38, 190 lbs., 6', HIV+, healthy, active. I enjoy the arts & having laid-back fun. I'm retired & enjoying life. Looking for friendship & possibly more. Call Ext. 5253

SWM 44, 5'9", 165 lbs. I'm a bottom, with brown hair & brown eyes. I'm clean-shaven, with short hair. I'm straight-acting & discreet. I enjoy giving blow jobs & receiving anal action. Looking for a White male who is a top man. Someone who is taller than me. Must be muscular, with above-average endowment. Smokers & light drinkers are okay. Call Ext. 5244

SBM Handsome, 26, new to Texas. I hear things grow big in Texas. I'm very straight-acting & looking. In search of a 20-30-year-old who is straight-acting & appearing. Race is unimportant. Must be in shape. Call Ext. 5242

SWM 29, 6', 160 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth chest, tan body. I'm a construction worker from Louisiana. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male to show me around, in more ways than one. Friends first, possibly more. No games. No chubbies or above. If you are 21-35, a brunette & 5'4" or taller, call me. I will bring you there. Call Ext. 5238

I'm a married man, 40's, 5'9", 165 lbs., clean, discreet & HIV-. Looking for sexual buddies who are the same & want to go out & have fun. Call Ext. 5228

White male, 38, blondehair, blue eyes, athletic. I'm wealthy, married & bored. You must be young, hot & a little wild. I'm a healthy, imaginative top. Call Ext. 5227

SM 5'11", 190 lbs., goatee, blue eyes, salt 'n pepper hair, hairy body. Like to have fun with friends. Interested in Hispanics. Leave a message. Call Ext. 5219

SHM 5'7", 170 lbs. Looking for Black males, between 23-35, who want to have fun. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5218

SWM 50, 6', 190 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm HIV+ & a top daddy only. I prefer a single White male who is over 40 & less than 5'10". Must be a non-smoker. No drugs or femmes. Seeking someone who enjoys quiet life, movies, theaters & sci-fi. Call Ext. 5200

Gay male, 23, 6'1", 172 lbs., dark hair, dark eyes, well-toned, smooth. Looking for bodybuilders to have good times with. I'll call you back. Call Ext. 5195

SWM 34, 6'1", 275 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. I own my own business. I enjoy movies, dining in, dining out & intimacy. I have a lot of love to give. Looking for someone to love & get to know. Possible long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5186

SWM 41, 6', 190 lbs. Looking for a top daddy who is 40-50, to take care of. Also looking for a top cowboy to ride me all night & then hold me. Must be open-minded, with above-average equipment. Willing to wear collar for the right daddy. Call Ext. 5163

SWM 5'11", 155 lbs., blonde hair, bluish-green eyes. Looking for Hispanic males 18-35. I enjoy going to the beach, the gym & hanging out with friends. Call Ext. 5155

SHM 34, attractive, bottom. Looking for masculine guys for friendship, romance or simple encounters. I like guys who are taller than 5'7". Race is not important. Positive attitude is a plus. I'm discreet & friendly. Please be over the age of 25 & confident of your own needs. Call Ext. 5143

SWM 39, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 170 lbs., hairy chest. I'm romantic, loyal, sincere & gentle, yet strong. I'm outgoing, with a quiet side. I love music, art & life in general. I'm HIV- & seeking a younger gay male who is Asian, Hispanic or White. Looking for fun & a relationship. Call Ext. 5137

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

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Oak Forest. Beautiful, all brick, hardwood floors, storm windows, new a/c, large covered porch, large 3/1/1, large shady trees, fenced yard, tile kitchen and bath, peaceful quiet neighborhood, will sell fast. Gay-friendly neighborhood. \$74,500.00. 956-0091.

HELP WANTED

Bartenders, waitstaff needed for evening events. Call Estevan at 802-0439 and leave a message.

Christmas help needed for Montrose area Floral Company. Immediate opening. Ask for Shirley. 524-2715.

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

If you have never worked in a bar and can learn to do everything from mop floors to sling a singapore sling, **CHANCES** might take a chance on you. Drop off an application with a photo to Chances, 1100 Westheimer. No phone calls please.

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

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

Seeking energetic, honest, dependable, and hard working individuals who want the opportunity to grow with a service oriented company. Positions available include floor/desk staff and male dancers. Apply in person only. No phone calls. **MIDTOWNE SPA, 3100 Fannin.**

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Guidelines for Articles/Press Releases

- Your submissions are preferred to be in by Monday noon. Tuesday noon is actual deadline. If the information regards an upcoming event it is wise to have it in at least 3 weeks ahead of time. The same amount of lead time is requested if you would like the event covered (or reviewed) by The Houston Voice staff. If it is a post-event story it should be submitted by the following Tuesday.
- Submit your work on a IBM formatted disk saved to text. Supply a paper copy typed double-spaced. A clean, clear, black ink on white paper copy can also be submitted rather than a disk as it can be scanned.
- Suggest a headline and a byline (who to credit the story to)
- Length should be not more than about 500 to 750 words for an article. Press releases that are basically an announcement are best as one or two pages at most -- these are more likely to be used not just at The Houston Voice, but for any publication.
- Provide a picture or pictures when applicable.
- Make sure to include in your story the Who, What, Where, Why and When. Have a gimmick. The regularly scheduled monthly meeting is not news - but a special speaker, achievement by the group, an anniversary, elections of officers, or controversy can make it a news story. Regular meeting information can be sent for inclusion in the Community Calendar and/or the bulletin board.
- Be especially careful to spell names correctly because those are hard to verify.
- Include several quotes, from the head of the organization or the planned speaker.
- Include a name and phone contact number in the story where applicable. If a different contact person and number is given on the release please make it clear if that info is to be printed or not. The contact person should be able to answer questions, confirm information, and provide additional details.
- Provide press passes or comp tickets to the event.
- If you want materials returned to you (photos, disks, etc.) you must make arrangements by either arranging for pickup or providing us with postage paid envelope. It is a good idea to clearly mark the items that you want returned.

Horny?



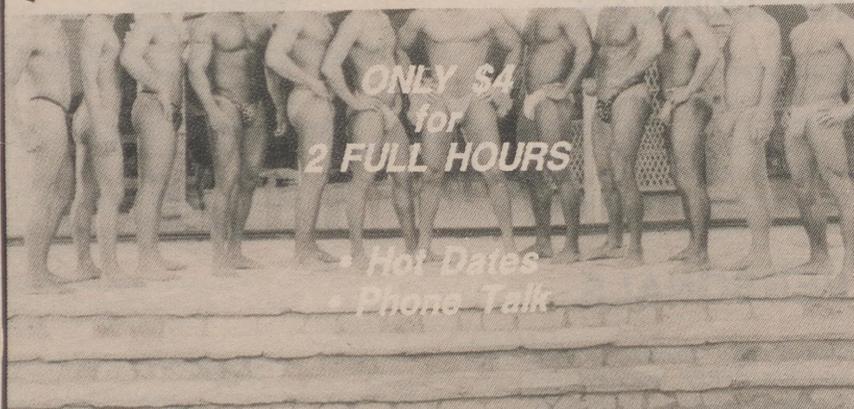
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HPD Vice Section Award \$400,000

Awarded from Federal Obscenity Forfeiture

From Dept. of Justice Release

A first of its kind case involving the forfeiture of assets related to illegal sale and distribution of adult obscene material has netted the Houston Police Dept. vice section \$400,000. The announcement by Gaynelle Griffin Jones, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas and Terry Lord, Acting Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice was made on Nov. 12. The presentation of the funds to the Vice Section is for their efforts and assistance in a joint federal-local investigation centered on the sale and distribution of adult obscene material in Houston. An additional \$100,000 was turned over to the federal government's Asset Forfeiture Fund. Soon to be judge, Police Chief Sam Nuchia worked on this case as an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

This presentation related to the conviction of Mary Jane Jenkins, also known as Linda Ivey, 63, of Atlanta, GA, Evan Peter Pigman, 39, also of Atlanta, David Carl Stubbs, 61 of Memphis, TN, and Rickie Ranney, 43 of Rochester, NY in June of 1995 for interstate transportation of obscene material.

Jenkins' Texas corporation, SAXET Inc., which formerly operated 17 adult bookstores in Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama pleaded guilty to interstate transportation of obscene material. Pursuant to the plea agreement, Jenkins and SAXET Inc. agreed to forfeit \$500,000 to the government and to close all their adult related businesses in the State of Texas. The judicially forfeited funds represent proceeds earned by Jenkins through the sale of obscene material in her Texas stores.

Jenkins and Pigman formerly operated their 17 stores from Phoenix and Associates Management Ltd., PAM, a Nevada corporation originally based in Houston. Jenkins moved her corporate headquarters from Houston to St. Louis in June 1987, following a suspicious fire at her Houston residence that resulted in the death of her live-in maid. PAM used the United Parcel Service (UPS) to ship obscene magazines and video tapes from Los Angeles, CA to her stores for retail sales; and to ship adult

video cassettes from Cleveland, OH for weekly installation in the "peep show" arcade booths operated inside her stores.

David Stubbs and Rick Ranney are employed by two Cleveland based servicing companies, Diversified Industries and White Fabricating Co. The companies mass produced the video arcade booths and video tapes installed in the video arcades in adult bookstores around the country. Stubbs and Ranney were responsible for maintenance and operation of the video peep show booths by collecting the weekly coin receipts, changing out the videos, and splitting the receipts between Jenkins and their Cleveland boss, Reuben Sturman, 72.

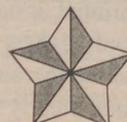
Sturman, the most powerful figure in the multi-million dollar international porn industry from the mid 1960's to the late 1980's, is currently serving over thirty years imprisonment for a 1992 federal racketeering conviction in Las Vegas and 1989 tax conviction in Cleveland.

Four executives from Sturman's former Cleveland companies are awaiting trial in Memphis, TN for federal racketeering and interstate transportation of obscene material charges.

Jenkins' former attorneys, Robert Eugene Smith, 64, of Palm Springs, CA and Charles William Boyle, 43 of Atlanta, are currently serving prison terms for their convictions of obstructing justice following a two week jury trial in Nov. 1995. Smith and Boyle were convicted of conspiring to obstruct justice and to defraud the United States for the purpose of concealing the identity of Jenkins as the true owner of the stores. The five year investigation was handled by the Houston regional office of the FBI assisted by the Vice Division of the Houston Police Department and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Division.

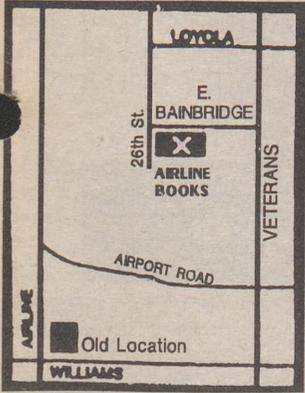
These cases were prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southern District of Texas in cooperation with Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Morgan, U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Oklahoma, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin Byrnes, District of Columbia, and trial attorneys G. Malpas and Daniel Stark, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department's Criminal Division.

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Great American Smokeout

FROM AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

You've seen them huddling and shivering in the cold, a mass of smoke rising from the groups, like steam from a subway grate. Or perhaps you're even one of them, living by the clock for break time and a few puffs in the "designated smoking area"—usually the not-always-great outdoors.

Ever since information about the dangers of second-hand smoke began swirling several years ago, many organizations have banned smoking outright, and it's highly unlikely that work-place restrictions will relax anytime soon, if at all. Nowadays, trying to sneak in a cigarette simply adds to the stress that nicotine and tar allegedly relieve.

With smoking becoming increasingly unacceptable, many smokers are motivated to quit simply because they're tired of being work-place outcasts, says Darlene Witcher, PhD, who, as a psychologist at The Methodist Hospital's Institute for Preventive Medicine in Houston, sees more and more such people in her smoking cessation courses.

"Many actually try to hide their habit from co-workers," Witcher adds. "They may not use the smoking area but go somewhere else—like to their cars or behind trees—so that no one will discover their 'secret.'"

Some smokers also feel hostility at not being "allowed" to smoke at work, which Witcher counteracts by telling them the impact smoking can have on their professional lives.

"There is strong evidence that smoking dramatically affects productivity—not only because smokers take frequent breaks, but primarily because they get sicker more often than non-smokers. That translates into lost work time," she says. "I've had many people in my classes whose year-old sinus and upper respiratory infections have been 'cured' once they've stopped smoking."

That should come as no surprise; smokers and non-smokers alike have known for years how harmful smoking can be. Many, though, are just realizing how addictive it is.

Witcher acknowledges that quitting is indeed difficult, but not impossible. There's more to it than just resolving not to smoke and praying for willpower; real

behavior modification is necessary, and it can start at the office.

She offers the following tips to combat those workday nicotine cravings:

* Limit your access. Don't have cigarettes on you, in your car or any place you can get to them. Many hopeful quitters still carry them as security blankets, which can lead to backsliding. Witcher recommends trashing your matches and lighters, too.

* If you've taken "cigarette breaks" in the past, take a different kind of break now. Witcher suggests a short walk outdoors, a few minutes of pleasure reading or a light snack or drink. However you decide to spend your breaks, don't eliminate them completely; doing so can cause or exacerbate stress.

* Do deep breathing exercises. "One reason people relax when they smoke is that they inhale more deeply than normal, which is calming," Witcher says. Sit in a comfortable position at your desk or



elsewhere and slowly inhale and exhale for at least one minute.

* Practice total body and muscle relaxation. Witcher teaches this in her courses, and books on the subject are available at most bookstores. The idea, she says, is to recreate smoking's relaxing effect without cigarettes.

* Don't go it alone. A co-worker in the same boat can make a great "break buddy." "Psychological support," Witcher says, "is invaluable."

Smokers who want support in quitting can join the Methodist Hospital and The American Cancer Society for a "Smokeout Blowout"—in celebration of the Great American Smokeout's 20th anniversary on Nov. 21, from 11:30am until 1pm, in the Dunn Lobby of the Methodist Hospital, 6565 Fannin. Ex-smokers will be honored and material will be available for those wishing to quit on Smokeout day. For more information call 713/266-2877 or 713/793-1517.

Victory Fund Candidates Triumph

A Record Breaking 27 Wins!

From Victory Fund Release

Washington, DC—Nov. 7—Twenty-two of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund's 32 openly gay candidates have won their races this election day. This demonstrates a 71% success rate. Among winners, candidate Ed Flanagan has made history as the first openly gay person elected to statewide office. Consistent with their tradition of fairness and tolerance, the people of Vermont elected Ed by a 10-point margin.

Victory Fund Deputy Director Kathleen DeBold stated, "Every Gay man and Lesbian should feel tremendous pride in what Ed Flanagan has accomplished. Thanks to this courageous man, our community has finally broken through the lavender ceiling which kept qualified openly gay and lesbian candidates from winning statewide offices." Flanagan was elected State Auditor in Vermont.

Further success for the Victory Fund includes twenty-three gay and lesbian officials serving in 15 state legislatures. Openly gay representatives won seats in Nevada, Connecticut, Montana, Rhode Island, Washington, Illinois, and Maine.

Every openly gay/lesbian incumbents on the ballot won reelection, including Glen Maxey in Texas. By winning the U.S. Representative seat in the District of Columbia, Sabrina Sojourner has become the only openly lesbian, African-American in elective office.

Although this unprecedented number of victories is evidence of the growing clout of the our community in the electoral arena, DeBold notes that electing openly gay and lesbian candidates means much more than just flexing our political muscle. "We don't live in a democracy, we live in a representative democracy. It matters tremendously who those representatives are, especially to the rights and equality gay and lesbian citizens everywhere. In addition, putting exemplary gay people in the public spotlight is one of the most effective ways of destroying the harmful stereotypes that keep us from achieving true equality."

The Victory Fund generated more than \$400,000 for candidates in this election cycle. Since the Victory Fund was founded in May of 1991, our members have contributed almost \$1.4 million to qualified openly gay candidates nationwide.

ALERT: Cabinet Appointments

With the elections over, several members of President Clinton's cabinet have announced their resignation, including Secretary of Defense William Perry. It is rumored that Senator Sam Nunn, architect of the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy, is a leading contender to replace Perry. SLDN hopes that the President will select a Secretary of Defense who is committed to ending the witch hunts and imprisonment of suspected gay troops, as promised under current regulations.

The following individuals may have more information on the President's appointments.

Richard Socarides, Deputy Assistant to the President; voice (202) 456-6247; fax (202)456-5558; mail The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20500.

Paul Yandura, Democratic National Committee; voice (202) 530-2123; fax (202) 863-8081; mail 430 South Capitol St., SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Mail to the President can be sent to president@whitehouse.gov.

Distributed by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force on behalf of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. Please respond to them directly at: SLDN1@aol.com

The Contest

The answers to our contest to win Melissa Etheridge tickets are:

1. Melissa and Julie have been together 8 years.
2. They are in favor of same-sex marriage.
3. They plan to name their baby Austin (boy or girl)
- 4 They insist the actor Brad Pitt is not the father.
5. Melissa is to portray Rock 'n' Roll

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The winners of a pair of tickets each are:

- Linda Reichert
- Stacy Seaver
- Richard Silva
- Ivett Garza
- Rachel Olsen

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