

Parade Photos in Centerfold

HOUSTON VOICE

June 30, 1995
ISSUE 766

A Weekly Community News Publication

Sizzling Celebration

(HOUSTON)—An estimated 15-20,000 people, the probable peak crowd since the decade began, turned out despite sizzling temperatures and sweltering humidity to watch last Sunday's festive Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. With the Houston Gay/Lesbian Pride Week theme of "Silence to Celebration," the 100-unit parade translated an upbeat and hopeful message into an abundance of splashy, colorful floats, banners and signs. It concluded in a march to the first pride festival in years held in a central Montrose location.

Winning the Grand Marshal Trophy for best interpretation by a non-profit organization was the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard/Houston, whose float featured a larger-than-life mobile sculpture, incorporating metallic mannequins with live volunteers, telephones and wires and brightly colored geometric patterns. The "Spirit of Montrose" trophy (best interpretation by a business or other than non-profit group) went to the monthly magazine OutSmart, which plastered its entry with mock magazine covers blaring optimistic "Headlines of the future"—including the announcement of the cure for AIDS and the crowning of "the first openly lesbian Miss America." OutSmart also received the Judge's Trophy as the judging panel's selection for best overall parade entry.

The Pride Trophy, for best motorized entry other than a float, went to the Pet Patrol, while the Unity Trophy for best non-motorized entry was awarded to P-FLAG. The Texas Trophy (best professional float) went to MCCR.

Outrage '95, a fund raising organization took the Houston Trophy, which honors the best non-professional float. The group, which hosts an annual party that benefits AIDS service organizations, had entered the parade for the first time this year.

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Proud Crowd...an estimated 15,000-20,000 people braved temperatures in the high '90s to attend last weekend's Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade.

Gay community grapples with multiple loss

By STEVE CHRYSLER
For the Houston Voice

The worst damage done by the AIDS pandemic might not be to the dead and dying but to the survivors and the gay community itself, by pushing the entire group into a helpless apathy of bitterness, confusion, and depression.

Psychologist Sandra Jacoby Klein, a leader in the research of the strange and devastating effects of the AIDS pandemic on survivors since 1981, will share her most recent data on AIDS Related Multiple Loss Syndrome at a national conference for the Metropolitan Community Church's clergy and other counselors next month in Atlanta. AIDS Related Multiple Loss Syndrome defines the

condition formerly categorized with the terms "grief overload" and "bereavement burnout" which were used to describe mourners who have insufficient time to complete the normal bereavement process leading to recovery before other deaths compound the situation.

In her research, Jacoby-Klein found that never before in modern history has such a young group been forced to endure so much ongoing death and loss of their peers. An average person goes into a 3-6 month depression after the loss of someone close to them, but in the modern gay community, many experience repeated losses before coming to closure for the initial losses. This results in a constant depression, feelings of hopelessness, lack of planning for the future, and reckless living, and apathy. It is not uncommon for a gay male in Los Angeles, for example, to have

lost more than 50 friends and acquaintances over the last several years. The people with AIDS and their survivors are generally under 40. Klein reported that, "The ever present possibility of early death leads to a sense of fatalism, with a lack of enthusiasm for long term goal planning. There is simply no equivalent to this experience in the non gay-community. While a pandemic might be compared to natural disasters in which a large proportion of a particular community is wiped out, there are important differences. (Ordinarily when a) disaster occurs, broad emotional and financial support (e.g. validation) for the survivors becomes available. For the survivors of AIDS, however, discrimination and homophobia conspire to keep them socially isolated and stigmatized."

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Gay activist arrested

(HOUSTON)—Ray Hill, longtime local activist for gay rights, prison reform and first amendment issues, was arrested in an adult book store in northeast Houston last Thursday, June 22.

Hill was charged with interfering with the duties of a police officer, under a state statute very similar to a former Houston ordinance he is credited with banishing from the books. The U.S. Supreme Court overturned the local ordinance, under which a person could be arrested for speaking to or criticizing an officer in the line of duty, in a case involving Hill in 1987.

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Out of This World...What are "Angels in America" playwright Tony Kushner and Houston Rocket Clyde Drexler doing in the same picture? Story, Page 3

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Community Calendar
 by Carolyn Roberts

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

Friday, June 30

- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.
- * HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 225-9411.
- * Lesbian/Gay Voices on KPFT 90.1 FM 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * CODA meets at MCCR at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

Saturday, July 1

- * Benefit at Club 403 by Shelby St. John 10:30 p.m.
- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 520-1809.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.
- * Midnight showing of "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" at the River Oaks 3. Call 524-2175.
- * Dignity Houston meets for liturgy and social hour. Mass at 7:30 p.m. 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872.
- * NLA:H Guest Bartend at Pacific Street.
- * Texas Renegades Guest Bartend on the patio at the Brazos River Bottom.

Sunday, July 2

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 520-1809.
- * Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection worship services. 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.
- * Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.
- * Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services at 11:00 a.m. New Location 3400 Montrose Suite 600. Call 528-6756.
- * Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Special concert at 7:30 p.m. Featuring Billye Bowman. Call 880-9235.
- * Houston Mission Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.
- * Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 351-4217.
- * Dignity Houston Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. 1307 H Yale. Call 880-2872.
- * Montrose Softball League plays. Call 867-3913 for fields and locations.
- * HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.
- * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.
- * Buffet at the Brazos River Bottom at 3:00 p.m.
- * Picnic at the Ripcord. 2:00 p.m.
- * Mr. Texas Drummer Contest at Pacific Street.

Monday, July 3

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

Tuesday, July 4

- * MCCR: CODA Support group meets at 7:00 p.m., Empowerment for Living support group and pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.
- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
- * PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.
- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 1509 Fairview. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.
- * The Houston Symphony performs at Miller Theatre. 8:00 p.m. Fireworks! Free.
- * BBQ at Club 403. Shows at 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 5

- * Shiela Lennon performs at Chances. 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.
- * MCCR: BiNet Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m., Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study. Lecture Series and Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 1919 Decatur. 861-9149.
- * Houston Pride Band meet practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.
- * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.
- * Men's Network, an educational & social program for Gay and Bisexual men meet at the Montrose Counseling Center. Seminar by Mark Garner, licensed Massage Therapist. 7:00 p.m. Call 529-0037.

Thursday, July 6

- * Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 P.M. Call 629-1432.
- * Broadway Showtunes at J.R.'s. 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.
- * Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.
- * Art Classes sponsored by AFH. The Art League. 1:00 PM. Call 526-1118.
- * Front Runners meets at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.
- * Computer Nerd Session. 7:00 p.m. 529-1223.
- * En*Light*en Up meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 528-6174.
- * Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.
- * "Homophobia Within" presented by David Crank at the Kolbe House. 7:00 p.m. Also Pot Luck supper. Call 522-8182
- * Psychosocial Assessments Writing and Service Plan Development. Seminar. 9:00 a.m. Call 861-4338.

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 Send your organization's news and meeting information to the HOUSTON VOICE for our Community Calendar and Bulletin Board.
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A Conversation with Tony Kushner

by Billie Duncan - Exclusive to the Houston Voice

Tony Kushner, award-winning playwright of *Angels in America*, the two-play epic about AIDS, visited Houston recently to promote the production of *Angels at the Alley Theatre* and to sign books. Kushner is part gentle soul and part political pit bull. He is much more comfortable talking about his public opinions than discussing himself or his own life experiences.

This interview took place early on a Saturday morning, after a very busy and eventful Friday night. Besides appearing at an excellent reception at the Omni Hotel and later at the Alley, Kushner also managed to run into Houston Rocket Clyde Drexler, which proved to be a great photo op and seemed to please both Kushner and Drexler, possibly the most unlikely duo of the day.

After a few warm-up questions about his boyhood home in Lake Charles and how he went to New York to study at Columbia and stayed, the interview settled in.

So, do you consider yourself a New Yorker?

I don't know that it's necessary to define it at this point. I mean, I've lived in New York since 1974, so basically that's actually at this point a few years longer than I lived in Lake Charles.

Well, I love southern writers like, of course, Tennessee Williams, Eudora Welty, William Faulkner. There's a sort of kindness that runs through those works and a depth and a passion that seems to be in your work. It has a sort of southern kind of tone to it. Does that make any sense?

Yeah. I've always felt that—I don't know exactly what it is—I mean, I can reasonably be called a southern writer. There's something about growing up in the south that has an effect on the sound of one's writing. There's a certain lushness in southern prose, and I think that I was certainly influenced by it as a reader. I don't know if it's something you pick up just by living down there, although—relatively speaking—for an American, it's a fairly ornate and verbal and soft way of speaking. So, I think it had an impact.

What about the impact of your parents on your work?

Well, I mean, it's huge. Can you be more specific?

Well, apparently there were a lot of influences from your parents. The musical influence of your father and the theatrical influence of your mother.

Right.

But the entire atmosphere of growing up in the home that you did, what was that like?

Well, I mean, like, that's a hard question to answer, because it's sort of asking me to discuss my childhood. I mean I, I mean I think—Well, what you've already said, um (long pause) Well, I don't know, they're very good parents. My father has a great love of literature, and I think that had an impact on me. My mother was an artist, an actor and a musician. I think they were very good parents. It had a profound impact being. I think—Oh, it's a silly thing to say, but it is the impact; it's everything you are. I'm not sure how to

answer that question. I don't know why, but I can't really.

It's a tough question.

Yeah, because apart from those specific things: being Jewish in a small southern town, having basically politically progressive parents—all of that had an impact.

What were you like as a child?

(Pause)

Do you have any concept of yourself?

What you were like?

Not really.

(Laughter) I mean, did you read a lot?

Yeah.

Were you shy; were you outgoing?

Well, I read a lot; everyone in my family were readers. I don't think I was particularly outgoing. I've always been rather shy or not terribly relaxed around other people.

Here you are, not very relaxed around other people, and you go into a career that has everything to do with communicating with large groups of people. Do you have any idea what compelled you to be a playwright?

It wasn't necessarily the idea of communicating with large groups of people. I think I have always loved the theatre. There are probably psychological things behind that: my mother's performances as an actress when I was very young, and so on. I don't—I'm having trouble answering these questions for some reason. It's, it's—I love writing. I've always loved it, and it's always been what I wanted to do more than anything else. I felt if I could do it well,

it would be what I would want to do. The communication aspect of it is important, although I don't think it's necessarily central. I think there's more of an impulse to give form to a certain set of feelings and ideas. Whether or not they communicate is something you won't know until you show them to people. But, actually, performance is the hardest part of being a playwright for me. It's not terribly easy to put the work out in front of people.

I would assume it would be terrifying. It can be.

Yeah.

It gets easier when you know it's going to work. And once you accept that it's absolutely part of what you do and you can't really avoid it. But it's a very difficult part of the process.

Yeah. I've never had any of my plays produced.

Ah.

Edward Albee told me some years ago when I was interviewing him, "You should get your plays produced now, because you can't fix them after you're dead."

(Laughter) Well, that was true.

I always liked that. When did the first idea of *Angels in America* come? Do you recall when that happened and why that happened?

(Pause)

When you first thought of the idea of *Angels in America*?

(Continued on page 5)

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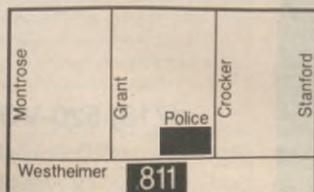


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A Farewell to Cal Moran

FROM JACKIE AGUILERA

For the Houston Voice

John Kennedy. Martin Luther King, Jr. Harvey Milk. Richard Nixon. Warren Berger. All of these men's deaths signaled an end of an era, an end of leadership. On June 22, 1995, another era came to a close when Cal Moran left this earth as the morning breathed the first light of a new day.

Cal was a champion of those who could not defend themselves, a righter of wrongs, and a caring human being. You didn't have to like him to respect him, and most assuredly he did have the respect of our community, a respect that was earned as he gave of himself to help those who couldn't.

Cal proudly served his community through his leadership in the Colt 45's and by being an active member of many PWA assistance organiza-

tions throughout the city. He was a catalyst of change and the spirit of unity. And like the Phoenix, he will rise from the ashes in everyone's memory and in the hearts of those he touched every time they speak his name.

Cal is survived by his lifetime love, Kody; the brother of his soul, Walter; the daughter of his heart, Jackie; his pearl, Jackie R.; his caregiver, Bret Landry; and numerous other friends and loved ones.

Lastly, I would personally like to thank all those who helped to make the quality of Cal's life better as he journeyed to a place where he could finally rest, and especially I thank all those at UTMB, Galveston, who patiently cared for Cal while he was ill. In addition, those wishing to donate monetary gifts may do so in memorium to either the Montrose Clinic or the Lady Victoria Lust PWA Holiday Fund.

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Houston parade, festival: hot in more ways than one

(Continued from Page 1)

Other parade award winners were: Stonewall Trophy (Most original float), St. Stephen's Episcopal AIDS Respite Care Team and Silence to Celebration Trophy (best out of town entry), Cheer Dallas.

Noteworthy for a supportive presence among the diverse parade entries were local mainstream arts and cultural organizations, including Houston Grand Opera and the Alley Theater. Conspicuously absent in this year's parade were elected officials, although one official, U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, appeared as a speaker at the post-parade Pride fest.

The Pride Fest, though not as well attended as the parade, in part because of the heat, entertained several

thousand people. Dance music divas Fem 2 Fem and Dajae interacted with an enthusiastic audience, and the free event raised \$2,400 in voluntary donations for six Houston organizations. Pride Fest proceeds will be split between the six groups: AVES, the Pride Committee of Houston, Steven's House, Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 20-something and the Lesbian health Initiative.

Winners of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week bar and business decoration contest were as follows: Big Bar Category—first place, Heaven; runner up, Brazos River Bottom.

Small Bar Category—first place, Chances, Runner Up, Gentry.

Non-bar Business—first place, Basic Brothers; runner up, Lobo.



Outrage, a newcomer to the annual parade, won the award for best non-professional float.

Kushner, continued...

Oh, God, I've told that story so many times, it's really, really hard to do it again.

Okay, then don't do it again.

Okay, I won't.

Okay, that's fine.

I mean, I was commissioned to write a play for a theatre in San Francisco, and I had written one play before that. I felt this would be a good opportunity to write about being gay, because it was for a San Francisco audience. And that's where the original impulse came from. It was a very bad time, and I always write in direct reaction to what seems to be the most pressing and difficult issue of the moment. (Trailed off.)

That's fine. That's fine. You know there's a lot of interest in angels right now. Have you noticed?

Yeah.

Do you believe that angels exist and visit us?

I have absolutely no idea. I really don't. I basically, usually, when people tell me they've seen them or talked to them or spoken to them, I assume they are speaking metaphorically or that they're sort of crazy. I've never had any direct experience with them at all. I suppose if somebody who was completely sane and not in any way given to metaphor *might* have direct experience with them, but I think in matters of religious or mystical experience it's good to be rather rigorous in terms of

your criteria for assessing what you experienced. I would need to be absolutely certain that I had had contact with something other than some kind of human phenomenon before I was willing to say it was an angel. I take it sort of seriously. I get a little irritated with the sloppiness of a lot of middle-aged people who are very quick to say they've had a direct encounter with the divine or the supernatural, because I think their criterion for assessing that is a little sloppy.

Well, I can tell you that before we got cable, I definitely saw ghosts on my TV. I don't want to keep you too long, but I wanted to ask if you had had a chance to be around Houston very much, other than coming in and being in a building?

I grew up very near here. I'd been to Houston quite a lot when I was a kid. *Oh, really?*

I've always liked the city a lot. It's always seemed to me to be a pretty extraordinary place. I don't really have an adult impression of it so much. I'm very impressed with the Alley Theatre. I'm very impressed with Greg Boyd. It seems to be a very exciting and active theatre—and certainly great.

Yeah.

It's a hard time for theatres now with the NEA imperilled and corpora-

(Continued on page 22)

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Hill expected to fight ironic charge

(Continued from Page 1)

The state legislature, however, subsequently passed a statute against "interfering with government function," which Hill says has been used as a substitute for the local ordinance. It is under this statute that Hill was reportedly charged after exchanging words with undercover officers conducting an investigation in the store. The charge, a Class B. Mis-

demeanor, carries a penalty of a maximum \$1,000 fine and/or six month jail sentence.

Hill, 54, was arrested at an adult book store in the 9900 block of the Eastex Freeway at about 3:30 p.m., according to the police report.

Sources close to Hill, who was out of the state on vacation this week and could not be reached, say he is considering filing another lawsuit, seeking to unravel the state law.

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by Forman Brown

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BETTER ANGEL



HOUSTON

VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Transgender's County Court Horror Story

FROM WENDY ALLEN

Houston, Texas

Here is a letter that is long over due. Much has been said about the inconsistencies of the court system here in Harris (Harass) County. Here is just another example.

The story revolves around Denise Copp and Wendy Allen. Both are transgendered females, i.e. transsexuals, and the story involves the inconsistency in obtaining name and gender changes, not withstanding one's personal opinion on the subject.

On Oct. 21st, Denise and I both filed for name and gender changes. Both of our petitions were filed on the same day by the same attorney. However, assignment of judges is a coin toss. My petition went to a sympathetic Democratic female judge, named Suzanne Soussan, while Denise's petition went to a Republican judge by the name of Abbott. Judge Abbott is one of the few remaining judges that requires an FBI and DPS fingerprint background check. My judge did not! This delayed the process by several months for Denise, and cost more in extra fees. By Nov. 28th, I was in and out of court in a few hours with a new name and a female gender identifier, and a heart felt good luck wish by my judge. Meanwhile, Denise is still waiting.

In March we received notice from Judge Abbott's court that he has decided that he felt uncomfortable ruling on this type of case, and voluntarily transferred it to Judge Wittig's court. The case was rescheduled for April 3rd. On that day when Denise's case was finally called, Judge Wittig declared that had he read the case beforehand, he could have saved us a trip, because under our circumstances he would not grant a name or gender change. No matter how much our attorney pleaded that Denise's hormone therapy was irreversible, Judge Wittig refused to budge. However, at the last moment, before he rapped his gavel, our attorney was able to persuade him to transfer the case to another court if she could find a judge who would hear the case.

Fortunately that morning on the way in to Judge Wittig's court, our attorney ran into a visiting judge, named Hearn. Judge Hearn agreed to hear the case during his lunch break around 1:00 p.m. that day. By 2:00 p.m., a very happy and relieved Denise Copp had her name and gender change complete, and was able that same day to go to a nearby DPS office with a certified copy of her name and gender change and have her new drivers license made. However, this day was not to end on a happy note.

When we arrived home that evening, there was an urgent message from our attorney waiting for us to call her and not to use the certified copies we had

already paid for. Apparently, a Judge West who is the administrative judge for Harass County Civil Courts had seen the petition, and decided that it contained enough information for him, so he rescinded the order. (Remember, Denise's petition was filed exactly the same day as mine, by the same attorney, containing the same type of information.) So here we go again!!!

This time our attorney was instructed that she had to provide the court with extra information on Denise's petition, and Denise had to come up with a letter from her attending physician, thus causing an additional weeks delay.

On April 10th Judge McCorkel, who never had the opportunity to meet or visit with Denise, finally, with some extra explanation and pleading by our attorney, ruled favorably on Denise's name and also gender change. Our attorney had to convince the judge that a name change without a gender marker change would result in undue stress to Denise caused by embarrassment when presenting a driver license with a male identifier marker when applying for a job or simply cashing a check.

So finally after nearly six months and five judges, and extra money and indescribable stress and frustration, Denise finally obtained that much coveted name and gender change that I had received in only five short weeks myself. However, Judge McCorkel decided that he had the power to influence another state by hand writing on her order that Denise could not petition her birth state of Louisiana for a change of her birth certificate!! Now how can he do that? How dare he to be so presumptuous? Can a Texas civil court judge order another sovereign state to do his bidding? From everything we have been able to ascertain, this is highly questionable, unethical and maybe even illegal. Yet it stands as a legal binding order here in Harass County of the great Republic of Texas. (sic)

How long will we citizens and taxpayers allow this type of justice (?) to go on? Anyone who reads this can only conclude that this is another very serious inconsistency in our court system and shows that judges have convinced themselves that they have the power of God, over those who come before them. It is a misconception on our part to believe that judges who sit on benches in Harass County are impartial and will leave their prejudice at home and rule with fairness in accordance with the laws and statutes at their disposal. I can say with no uncertainty that we no longer believe in fair and impartial treatment in our court system. Denise and I have seen first hand that these ideals do not exist, and only those with money have any chance at all in obtaining justice as we now know it from the civil courts in Harass County, and God help those who don't fit the "norm."

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

OPINION

Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Taking a Stand for Pride

Well, we did it. We threw a party and everybody came. Gay and straights partied together under a blazing sun to be part of a joyous cause. That cause was gay pride. There was no stopping the throngs of happy people celebrating together in the streets and the clubs. We can be proud that we had a class event with class people leading the way. We can be proud that we can all party together and made it work. We weren't afraid of what people would say. We did give them plenty to talk about. The sheer number of people was overwhelming. Thanks to all of you for making our parade a day of celebration and affirmation.

And all around the country, the parades were going on. I think gays are beginning to realize that they must take a stand in supporting gay rights. After all, if we don't support our rights no one else will. In gay newspapers from all around the country, the issues are the same. People are working hard to get laws passed to protect gays from discrimination in housing and jobs, continue research in AIDS cures, and making gay bashing a serious crime with strict punishment for those found guilty.

This year, the mainstream press has been very good in reporting the parades without sensationalizing them. You can feel the pride in who you are and who we are as a community. I wonder, though, how many gay men and women didn't come to the parade. How many were afraid they would be seen by someone they know? How many were afraid they would be caught on camera enjoying themselves? How many would actually be "accused" of being gay? There comes a point in each person's life when it is time to take stock of who you are. There comes a point when you must except being gay without the hangups that society has put on being

gay. There comes a time when you must tell your friends that you are gay. Chances are they already know, and they are just waiting for you to say something. The longer you deny your friends and family the truth, the harder it becomes to be honest with yourself.

I started coming out to my friends while in college. I could no longer pretend to be someone I wasn't. I wanted them to accept my being gay. I no longer wanted to have a secret that could be used against me. Looking back, I guess it was a brave thing to do. Almost everyone accepted it to some degree. The biggest relief was telling my parents. Once they accepted it, no one could hurt me.

And over the years, it has become easy to say I'm gay. It is easy to be open with others. My company and co-workers know I'm gay, and they like me. My neighbors here in straightville know I'm gay, and they like me. I even discovered that a neighbor of mine is involved in an agency working with AIDS patients. We're able to talk about issues involving gays and AIDS.

I like the fact that my being gay is accepted by most people. Even if it wasn't, I would never hide it or deny it, though I don't make it an "in your face" issue. I am who I am. I'm 41 years old, and gay and proud. I wouldn't be the person I am today without risking everything to be openly gay. What I've gained from being openly gay is respect for being honest and more love from people that I ever thought possible.

I say to each of you who is having a problem with your identity, open that closet door. Risk everything you have to come out. Gain everything by being honest with yourself and others. Don't live another day pretending to be who you aren't. Those who love you will love you more. And your pride in yourself will keep you going strong.

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In appreciation of the Thomas Street Clinic--a response

By HARRY LIVESAY, LMSW
 HIV Information Specialist, Harris County Hospital District

In response to Mr. Bar Wilson's lengthy and well-written editorial about the problems at the Thomas Street Clinic (Houston Voice, June 23, 1995), I want to express my thanks and appreciation to Mr. Wilson for his genuine concern about Thomas Street Clinic, its patients and staff members. I have worked for the Hospital District in HIV services for the past six years and I have felt some of the same frustrations reflected, with great detail, in Mr. Wilson's narrative. However, with a sense of fairness and justice, I must reply to Mr. Wilson and others who share his concerns, with information about the "other side" of these issues:

Personnel

The majority of the care givers of the Thomas Street Clinic have been providing AIDS/HIV care services since the opening of the clinic in May of 1989. These nurses, pharmacists, social workers, case managers, medical records and front desk and clerical staff continue to stay at the Thomas Street Clinic because of their personal devotion to the health care and emotional support needs of persons living with HIV disease. Many of the nursing staff members of the Thomas Street Clinic provided care and comfort for some of the first persons diagnosed with HIV disease in Harris County. While our employees certainly not saints, these dedicated people are doing an impossible job within a very non-supportive political climate that does not value AIDS care or public health care in general.

It is common for Thomas Street Clinic personnel to see between 50-60 patients daily. I personally supervise the Patient Advocates of the Clinic, and I have witnessed first hand the difficult situations they have to deal. These can range from the case of a fearful, non-English speaking and undocumented gay man who is diagnosed with AIDS and has not sought medical assistance because of his fears of being deported, to the 60-year old woman who, after years of physical abuse from an alcoholic first husband now finds upon her divorce and remarriage to a loving second husband, that both of them face this new relationship with HIV disease. Imagine these and similar scenarios being repeated over and over, every day, fifty-two weeks per year. While I do condemn rude behavior to any of our clients, I can understand why Thomas Street personnel can feel stressed-out and seem distant to their clients on some days.

To assist Thomas Street staff in seeking some release from these continual pressures, monthly in-service presentations are held which deal with topics such as diffusing hostility, improving customer service and ongoing sensitivity training to meet the needs of a growing multi-cultural and complex patient caseload. Additionally, Psychiatric staff from the Baylor College of Medicine provide an on-going support group for Thomas Street Clinic personnel.

Drug Treatment & Dispensing

Thomas Street Clinic continues to operate the largest HIV-designated pharmacy within the State of Texas, processing over 60,000 prescriptions within a 9-month period. Of the Thomas Street Clinic's annual operating budget, one-third is utilized for pharmaceutical expenditures

(i.e. prescriptions.) I wholeheartedly support Mr. Wilson's plea for medicines being made available to Thomas Street consumers. However, we must acknowledge that Thomas Street Clinic is a publicly-funded institution serving approximately half of all the persons diagnosed with AIDS in Harris County. Moreover, the Hospital District must comply with stringent guidelines of the Texas Department of Health on "which" medicines can be made available through the Texas HIV Prescription Program. Additionally, in trying to stretch its dwindling resources to serve the pharmacy needs for the greatest number of consumers, the District must also follow a "formulary" of medicines which it can obtain at the greatest cost savings. These limitations do affect the scope of medicines that we can dispense. However, the Clinic does have a Clinical Trials and Research Office through Baylor School of Medicine which attempts to provide patient participation in drug studies of promising new medications as they become available. We also try to work with the Montrose Clinic's Houston Clinical Research Network in trying to make our patients aware of expanded drug studies for which they may qualify.

One continuing, yet avoidable problem that Hospital District personnel are forced to deal with, is the apparent lack of concern for the condition of patients referred to Thomas Street by their private sector physicians and/or health care institutions. An unfortunate but repeated scenario we see, is the patient who has lost or "spent down" all private health insurance benefits and is "dumped" at Thomas Street by the private health care provider. These patients are sent to Thomas Street Clinic with no medical records, no recent lab results, no understanding about the District's eligibility and medical screening procedures and a long list of prescriptions for medicines that are not available at our pharmacy. This frustrating and in my mind, cruel situation continues every day, even after repeated communication with these same private health care providers who "do know better."

Infection Control & Confidentiality

All public and private hospitals, clinics and health care providers in the State of Texas must adhere to Texas Health Codes which are very strict in defining "who" can disclose a person's seropositive status and related health information and under "what" conditions this information can be disclosed. Moreover, when patients arrive at Thomas Street Clinic and before they are screened by nurse or doctor, care givers at Thomas Street Clinic or the patients themselves, may not know that they have an active case of TB. The Clinic does follow guidelines prescribed by the U.S. Centers For Disease Control which require special lighting and infection control measures to limit airborne contamination with TB. The staff also requires all patients entering the clinic with an evident respiratory problem (i.e. coughing or wheezing,) to cover their mouth and nose with a surgical face mask. For those who disregard the safety of others, strict public health laws in Texas can require persons with active TB to be quarantined at a state TB hospital until the threat of contagion has passed.

(Continued on following page)

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Thomas Street: factors that affect care, and what you can do to help

(Guest Commentary, continued from preceding page)

On more local level, Thomas Street Clinic personnel work with both city and state TB control workers to enroll patients with active cases of TB into O.D.T. or observed-direct-therapy programs. Even with all of these interventions, TB can still be spread from one person to another. I agree with Mr. Wilson that if a patient knowingly disregards infection control measures, he/she is acting in a "medically and morally" irresponsible manner. However, with new HIV and TB infections being diagnosed in less compliant patient populations such as active drug users, homeless persons and those living with impaired mental functioning, TB contagion will unfortunately continue to be a major problem both at the Thomas Street Clinic and throughout the nation.

Continuity Of Care

Again, I find agreement with Mr. Wilson in the belief that all patients of the Thomas Street Clinic should have the option of seeing the same physicians at each appointment. This would greatly improve continuity of care while building closer communications between patients and their health care providers. However, Thomas Street Clinic, like many other HIV health care delivery systems in the U.S., does not have a cadre of physicians and other medical personnel "beating down the door" to seek careers in this field. I remember that the Thomas Street Clinic was opened for months before we were able to find a physician to serve as the Clinic's Medical Director. Today, we are fortunate in having a team of hard working and dedicated physicians and physician assistants such as Susan Miller, Jim Garner and Penny Jaffee and Woodrow Ace. However, this is still not enough.

Another factor that adversely affects continuity of care is the inability of public health care facilities to compete with the private sector in areas such as salary and benefits for health care professionals. With the current "war" that has been declared upon public health care by certain county and local politicians and by the United States Congress, I only see this disparity becoming worse and worse. Luckily, Thomas Street Clinic is a teaching institution for both the Baylor and University of Texas Schools of Medicine. The residents of those schools who practice at Thomas Street have been trained in infectious disease and are at the Thomas Street Clinic because they choose to be there. These residents however, are

few in number when compared to those who prefer a more "prestigious" residency at an M.D. Anderson or Hermann Hospital before they begin a lucrative private practice.

Get Real? Get Active!

Again, I thank Mr. Wilson for what I believe is his deeply-felt concern about the condition of public health care for persons living with HIV in Harris County. While he and others point out the imperfections of the Thomas Street Clinic system, I must ask them "what" they are doing to improve the situation? Earlier this year, Harris County Commissioner and avowed enemy of public health care, Steve Radack, engineered a \$60 million dollar robbery of the Hospital District's operating budget. This is frightening when you consider that \$25 million represents the District's annual budget for HIV/AIDS. Where was the public outcry against Radack? Did Mr. Wilson and others, who speak so eloquently about the problems at the Thomas Street Clinic, publicly condemn this act of injustice against the public health care consumers? (Currently 1 in 7 of our fellow Harris County citizens.) Where were you when Texas legislators tried to gut AIDS/HIV funding during this last session and only grudgingly approved "level" funding for the next two years? How about now, when Jesse Helms and other evil persons are planning to attach hostile amendments to federal legislation re-authorizing funding for the Ryan White Care Act? These are ALL things that directly affect the scope of care and the very future of the Thomas Street Clinic.

I would challenge Mr. Wilson and all those who want to see an enhanced and more responsive system of HIV health care delivery at the Hospital District, to direct their words and their energies towards making this happen. Quite simply, get involved! Get active! Get political! If you want to identify the problems, be willing to bring about their solutions. If you are tired of Thomas Street Clinic not being able to meet the needs of the expanding client population it serves, then help Thomas Street Clinic in getting the tools it needs to do the job you want it to do. Take some ownership of the Harris County Hospital District. Your taxes support it and you have an investment in it. Start protecting your investment! If all of us are not willing to do this, then we have no reason to complain. If we do not do this, we may have no need to complain about the Clinic's conditions, because we may not have a Thomas Street Clinic to complain about.

Couples exchange vows at pride event

By RUSS BYNUM
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

ATLANTA, Friday, June 23 (AP)—The state won't recognize Holly Gorman and Lori Buff's marriage, but they didn't let that spoil their lakeside ceremony with about 80 other gay couples.

Friday's event was one of the first to mark the 25th anniversary of Atlanta's gay pride activities this weekend, expected to draw as many as 200,000 people from across the country. The gathering culminates Sunday with a parade and rally.

Gorman, who already has changed her name to Gorman-Buff on her driver's license and credit cards, said taking vows to commit to her partner for life is no less serious than a conventional marriage.

"It's not just people who met yesterday and decided they wanted to date for a while," said Gorman, 31, who proposed to Buff on Valentine's Day. "This is our marriage."

The couples exchanged vows and rings as about 100 well-wishers lined the lake at Piedmont Park. Gorman and Buff wore tuxedos.

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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Alley's summer season keeps Hope in spotlight

By JAVIER TAMEZ
 Houston Voice/Houston

Paul Hope was born for the spotlight. The local actor, who about a year ago made a splash in the pool of Houston celebrity-hood, exudes a sunny, warm confidence marked with a cool, affable wit that is perfectly suited to the limelight. He has a distinguished, handsome bearing and unabashedly confesses to loving the attention and recognition he has received over the past year or so.

Hope, who is one of the leads for the Alley Theatre's annual "Summer Chills," which this season features Agatha Christie's classic whodunit, "The Mousetrap" and Paul Rudnick's show business comedy, "I Hate Hamlet," was born in Dallas, but he has lived off-and-on in Houston since 1966. He attended the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, where he still occasionally serves as a substitute teacher, and he graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in drama.

Thereafter, Hope had a long, albeit low-key, career before having his own version of the overnight sensation. He had been working diligently for TUTS for 16 years (also off-and-on) when he landed the role of Sterling in "Jeffery," last year's hugely popular production at Stages. The role made him a local celebrity.

While Hope acknowledges that the role of Sterling was the best thing he could have done, the move did not come without its cost. When he was first approached for the part, Hope, though flattered that he had been sought out for the part, declined nonetheless, citing a commitment to TUTS and its production of "The Most Happy Fella." Additionally, Stages, which produced "Jeffery," was unable to offer Hope the same salary rate provided by TUTS (no small consideration in his line of work).

The production management for "Jeffery" hired another actor, but he had to quit after only two days with the cast. So the director turned to Hope again, who had the production schedules double-checked and realized that the overlapping conflict between the two productions consisted of only a single week. Equally important, Stages offered to match Hope's salary at TUTS for the one week he would miss with that production. Intrigued and excited about being so

singularly pursued for the role, Hope agreed to a reading. And he loved it—the play, the part; especially the part.

Without reservation, Hope informed the director and senior production staff at TUTS of his earnest desire to play Sterling; he asked that he be released from "Most Happy Fella" for the last week of its run. Despite never having made such a request in all his years with TUTS, the company was determined to keep him in "Fella." And the ensuing separation was not altogether amicable.

Hope, however, has no regrets. He strongly feels that TUTS' relatively recent move toward non-local talent would have meant a dearth of jobs for him.

"Had I not left, I'd be out of work like everybody else. There'd be nothing for me here. I'd either have to get out of the business or leave town. I'd be pushing perfume at Foley's."

More importantly, his acceptance of the role in "Jeffery" made him a star of the local theater scene. "I got the reviews of my life... 'Jeffery,' of all the shows I've done in Houston, has gotten me more recognition faster. I mean people coming up to me on the street and in stores."

Hope also feels that his success in "Jeffery" is what really brought him to the attention of Michael Wilson. Hope and the Summer Chills director were already familiar with one another; Wilson had tapped Hope for a role in the Alley's annual production of "A Christmas Carol" in 1993. But he and Wilson did not work together all that closely.

"In 'A Christmas Carol' Michael isn't really directly involved. It's his adaptation, but Michael would only come in at the end and make a tuck here and there, so this is the first time I'll be directed by Michael from the ground up."

Now more intimately familiar with Wilson's style, Hope has high praise for him: "Michael is an intensely collaborative director, and by that I don't mean a weak director. I've worked with weak directors and I've worked with dictatorial directors, and Michael is capable of seeking an opinion. During staging, in the process of discovery, he is not afraid to alter his vision of a character. He's not rigid."

(Continued on following page)

Council turns down gay pride bid

ALAMEDA, Calif., Wednesday, June 21 (AP)—A bid to declare June as "Gay Pride" month was turned down early today by a City Council that heard one speaker claim AIDS was a sign of God's wrath.

The vote failed for lack of a second at a packed meeting that drew 300 people, most of them backing the proclamation.

A similar proclamation was approved last year by then Mayor Bill Withrow. Members of the gay and lesbian community did not expect opposition this year but it surfaced quickly.

"Gay Pride Month, I'm dead set against," Earl Peacock told the meeting that started Tuesday night.

Peacock, a former member of the city's Finance Committee, said the "good Lord has indicated his displeasure" by allowing AIDS to exist.

Most of the speakers at the almost five-hour meeting spoke in favor of the proclamation, however.

They included Anita Rexinger-Tavernier who said rejection would send a message of intolerance.

"It's time for us to come together and not be divided by hatred and bigotry," she said.

Rising Houston actor shines in variety of roles

(Continued from preceding page)

Unfortunately for Hope, all his directors have not been so flexible or open-minded. "One season I was asked if I would mind playing more than one drag role in a single season, I said 'no,' but it backfired."

Hope had already played San Francisco personality Sister Boom-Boom when he was asked to take a relatively small part as a New York City street transvestite. That, coupled with Hope's long history of being cast in British roles, locked him into "larger-than-life, exotic, bird-of-paradise kind of roles, and I wasn't offered anything the next season. It was a kind of boomerang effect of them seeing me in high heels for six months."

A similar incident occurred when a director decided not to cast Hope as the understudy for the lead in "The Music Man" because Hope's then-recent roles had been "flouncy characters."

"I approached him, and said 'If you can't see me in a love scene with a woman, there's a problem.'"

Unfortunately the problem persisted, and in recalling it, Hope spoke confidently of his strength as a complete actor.

"There is a Paul Hope role. Sophisticated. Urbane. Cocktails and cigarettes...And granted that's what's easiest for me. But if you can't see me in anything else...I can play parts totally divorced from my personality."

And now he does. His selection as an Alley company member was a fortuitous event which has afforded him the opportunity to play a variety of roles including a romantic lead and a rough demolition expert in "Summer Chills '94." He remembered the experience fondly.



Paul Hope

"There were people who came to see all three shows, and they were getting a charge out of seeing us (five company members were in all three plays) in so many different roles in such rapid succession, and there was so much energy."

In "Summer Chills '95" Hope returns to the effete, British role that has become something of a trademark for him. He plays the ghost of John Barrymore in "I Hate Hamlet," in which he haunts a cynical soap opera star, but teaches the young star how much he still has to learn.

"Barrymore has this disdain for method acting. And that is part of the conflict with Andrew (the young actor), who uses techniques like primal screams to get into his character."

In "The Mousetrap," the longest-running show in the history of the theater, Hope plays Giles, a simpler, more blue-collar type of character.

Regardless of his role, Paul Hope simply shines on the stage. It's a shame there's only two installments to this year's "Summer Chills" because Hope is more than strong enough to handle more roles than that.

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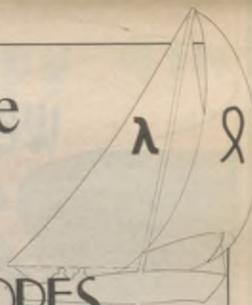
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SPORTS NOTES

T.I.T. Bowling Tournament this weekend

The Houston Bowling Leagues extend a special welcome to all our out of town guests bowling in the Texas Invitational Tournament this weekend. Bowlers are here from Hawaii, California, Louisiana, Florida, Oklahoma, Illinois, Colorado, Washington, Wisconsin, Washington D.C., and the Texas areas of Austin, San Antonio, Ft. Worth and Dallas. Bowling is at Emerald Bowl on Saturday and Sunday with the largest number of teams in the ten year history of T.I.T. After the tournament, a play day at Astroworld is planned for Monday.

The Inner Loop Sunday Evening League reports Another Ex has moved into 1st place, Sticky Wickets is second and Bayer, Babb, Benson & Sikes is third. High Scratch game of 258 was bowled by Chris Bennett and series of 653 by Ron Bayer for the men. For the women High Scratch game of 203 and series of 557 was bowled by Diann Thomason. For league info, call Tom at 522-9612.

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports Division A standings of Lube It or Lose It in first place, Four Blonde Beavers is second and Doggie

Style Too is third. Division B is headed by Striking Beauties and in second is Duck Sausage. Third place is taken by Party of Four. High Scratch game of 297 and series of 706 was bowled by Bob Davidson. For more info call Gardy at 641-5424.

The Monday Nite Women's League reports Legal Insanity is in first while Maybe, Maybe Not is second, Walking Wounded is third and Nine Is Fine is fourth. For info call Pat at 437-6218 or Marla at 862-3630.

The Wednesday Nite Mixers report first place is taken by Tongue Wrestlers, second place by Some R Some Rn't and third by Daisy Mae & The Seed. High Scratch game of 247 and series of 624 was bowled by Rodney Seiler for the men, and for the women, Terry Shannon bowled scratch of 213 and series of 582. For more info call Tom at 522-9612.

LRC Skate Night

Lambda Rollerskating Club will host its next Gay/Lesbian Skate Night on Wednesday, July 5 at Dairy Ashford Skating Rink, located at 1820 Dairy Ashford between Westheimer and Briar Forest. Skate time is from 8:00-10:00 p.m. Admission is \$5, which includes skates. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call 933-5818.

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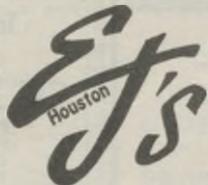
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THURS

Community Organizations Bulletin Board



Director Bob Snellgrove is all smiles in the newly renovated Bering Care Center dayroom. Several community organizations helped raise the funds for state-mandated revamping of the center (Photo by Gabriel T.)

Diana Foundation Elects Officers

The Diana Foundation recently held elections for the 1995-96 season. The new officers are Ben C. Crump, president; Earl E. Krieger, 1st vice president; Ogden Robertson, 2nd vice president; Kurth Brown, treasurer and Parker Witt, secretary; new members of the board of directors are Gary Evans, Tom Mays, Bill Poplin and Royce Wall.

"Miss Angela's Country Dinner" has been set for Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Houston Polo Club. The dinner will be catered by Goode Company Barbecue and a country western band will provide entertainment. For more information about the event, call 639-2000.

Montrose Clinic Dedicates Research to AmFAR

The Montrose Clinic was scheduled to dedicate the Houston Clinical Research Network (HCRN) suite at its 215 Westheimer building to the American Foundation for AIDS Research on Thursday, June 29 at 10:30 a.m. AmFAR co-founder Mathilde Krim, Ph.D. was scheduled to attend the official dedication and ribbon cutting.

Houston Clinical Research Network is one of only 12 national sites participating in the AmFAR network of community-based clinical trials.

AmFAR contributed \$60,000 towards the construction and furnishing of Montrose Clinic's new building, which houses HCRN. The official dedication of the research suite recognizes the contribution AmFAR has made to HCRN, according to Eileen Hegar, president of the Clinic.

AmFAR is the nation's leading non-profit organization dedicated to the support of AIDS research (both basic biomedical and clinical research), education for AIDS prevention and sound AIDS-related public policy. Since 1985, AmFAR has provided over \$65 million to more than 1300 research teams.

Montrose Counseling Center Men's Network

The Men's Network, an educational and social program for gay and bisexual men, will present licensed massage therapist Mark Gartner, speaking on "Getting Rubbed the Right Way" on Wednesday, July 5 at the Montrose Counseling Center. The discussion and demonstration of massage techniques stresses the importance of touch in a non-sexual, consensual way to improve quality of life.

On July 19, the Men's Network speaker will be Houston psychotherapist Tony Carroll on the topic "Getting to Know You." The presentation will focus on ways that men can get to know themselves better, so that they can better connect with others.

The Men's Network is free, although donations are requested. The group meets at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. For more information, call 529-0037.

Bering Care Center gets State License

The Bering Care Center completed the first phase of a massive renovation project in time to meet a deadline for achieving state licensing as an adult day care facility, representatives reported in the Bering Community Service Foundation's monthly newsletter.

"With the assistance of our contributors and community groups, the renovation was completed in record time. \$140,965 was collected for the renovation...the entire renovation was funded by individual community groups specifically to the renovation costs," reported the newsletter, "Partnerships."

Only one private foundation grant (\$2,000) was received, from the Hammon Foundation for the kitchen portion of the project. The next step, Phase Two, of the renovation includes completion of the kitchen space in the Care Center. While the project is underway, Care Center meals are temporarily being prepared in the kitchen of Bering Church.

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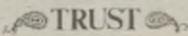
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ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Actress talks about film, family and 'girls in love'

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE
Houston Voice Editor

Houston-born actress Sabrina Artel is counting on a perky little lesbian love story to propel her mainstream career.

Artel, who plays co-parent Vicky in "The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love" (opening Friday at the Goldwyn/Landmark River Oaks 3), has cut her teeth on offbeat roles, having started her acting career in the world of avant-garde theater in Los Angeles and New York. For the past few years, she had worked with internationally acclaimed, experimental theater director Reza Abdo and his Dar a Luz theater company (Abdo died in May). More recently, she has ventured into directing with a fittingly offbeat, humorous production, "I Married a Lesbian Witch," at New York's WOW Theater.

In "Girls," Artel crosses to the screen, playing the mother figure in an extended lesbian family: Vicky and her partner, Rebecca, are raising Rebecca's spirited teenage niece, the film's protagonist, Randy Dean. (The household also includes Rebecca's ex-lover). But this film, she notes, is not as easy to peg into the "gay movie" ghetto as some previous "chick flicks."

Artel was in Houston last week visiting family of her own, including her cousin, Carolyn Burum, owner of the Montrose coffee house Toupee's. Though she grew up mostly in Los Angeles, where she moved with her mother when her parents divorced, she moved to Los Angeles with her mother. Artel remains proud of her Texas roots and ties. "I have aunts and uncles here in Houston and in South Texas," she said. Many of these family members have seen—and praised—her new movie, she added.

Made on a shoestring budget of \$65,000 (Artel says the actors donated their efforts), the new movie created a stir on the festival circuit, which it quickly outgrew. Picked up by Fine Line Features and for international distribution by Miramax, and now being marketed for the mainstream, the critically acclaimed "Two Girls" touches universally appreciated themes of first love/romance and the generation gap with just the right mix of innocence and 90's snap. Artel is hoping the attention it's getting will advance her own profile as well.

"It's a very conventional narrative and I think, really, this is a film that

has something in it for everyone," says Artel. Her character, she asserts, is part of an important dynamic that writer/director Maria Maggenti worked into her semi-autobiographical "Incredibly True Adventure." The movie, which had its first Houston screening as part of DiverseWorks' "Beyond Desire" performance series earlier this month at the Museum of Fine Arts, seems to revel in turning stereotypes inside out and in presenting role reversals in a light that is not expected, even when diversity is. Randy's functionally conservative, unspectacular lesbian parents are more than a foil, said Artel.

"Vicky and Rebecca have a very important role, as two women, a lesbian couple, who are raising a child, a teenager, together. (The movie) makes a point of showing them in a very casual way, presenting the diversity in a casual way," she said.

That's important, Artel said, because "Right now, we are entering a time when the definition of 'family' is becoming very narrow, because of the definition of the right wing. What Maria (Maggenti) has done is, she presented another kind of family, in a very real, honest way. It gives (non-gay viewers) a chance to see diversity as it is in life."

It's important to present a family that's non-traditional, according to Artel, because "In truth, there are all kinds of families in the world and all kinds of love. And first love is special, because its a time of vulnerability which quickly vanishes as we get older."

Besides its affirming representation of gay couples and families, "Two Girls in Love" shakes up various other stereotypes: Evie, Randy's love interest, is wealthy and popular, the daughter of a fussy, snobbish career woman (Randy's family is working class and rough-edged). Evie and her mother are also African American. The lesbian adults are wholly as clueless to the teens' way of thinking and the intensity of their relationship as the 'straight' mother.

"I think we notice things like that because you rarely see it in film," notes Artel, "but when you think about, that's how it is in life. I think it was conscious, I mean, we intended to turn people's perceptions upside down, but at the same time, it's very real. (Maggenti) created this collage of humor...and it's a celebration of love and humanity, and the diversity of human relationships."



Sabrina Artel

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Community Gospel Church announces Billye Bowman in concert

Quick Notes

Community Gospel Church will present Billye Bowman in concert Sunday, July 2 at 7:00 P.M. Bowman has ministered at the church on previous occasions, and has received an enthusiastic response to her unique style, according to Chris Chiles, Community Gospel pastor. "Many times, when a 'local' ministry is in town, we take it for granted. We need to stop and realize the talent God has blessed us with," Chiles commented.

Bowman has studied voice in Europe, sang at the Southern Baptist Convention and was featured at Make A Joyful Noise IV and V and as a soloist at Spectrum '95, and has travelled across the country proclaiming the good news of the gospel. Chiles said, "We are truly excited to host this extraordinary author, singer, and songwriter to our church. She is one of the best classic gospel artists around. Everyone is welcome to what will prove to be an exciting evening of singing and sharing." Community Gospel is located at 501 East 18th Street at Columbia, between Heights Blvd. and Studewood.

Presbyterians oppose Amendment 2

DENVER, Tuesday, June 20 (AP)—The Presbyterian Church has filed a friend-of-the-court brief backing opponents of Amendment 2, Colorado's anti-gay rights amendment.

The church, which has a membership of 2.7 million across the country, filed the brief Monday. The Rev. James Andrews, the stated clerk for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, said the church felt it was important to make its stance public.

"We are advising the U.S. Supreme Court on the Presbyterian Church's (stand) on the issue of sexuality, particularly about the protection of the civil and human rights of homosexuals," he said.

Amendment 2, approved by voters in 1992, prohibits governments from passing laws protecting homosexuals. The amendment has been on hold pending appeals. After being struck down by the Colorado Supreme Court, the U.S. Supreme Court earlier this year agreed to hear the case.

The brief stemmed from a request from the Denver church two years ago.

"They did not ask for us to take any position, but wanted to know what the church said about this," Andrews said.

Presbyterian philosophy holds that homosexuality is a sin, and in 1991, the General Assembly decided that gays and lesbians cannot be ordained as church officials or deacons.

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ASK THE PASTOR

Q: "What does God say about abortion?" (a continued question from last week)



Rev. Janet Parker

A: Last week I talked about the issue of control as a critical element in the battle of "Pro-Life" and "Pro-Choice" groups. God is for both sides, but has many things to say about each side. For the "Pro-Life" people, God's Word tells us that life is very precious, but the authority that we as believers have is not given to us so that we can tell each other what to do. The authority that Christ has given to us is for us to be able to bind on earth what has been bound in heaven, and to loose on earth what has been loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:19) Our battle on this earth is not against flesh and blood (people), but against the rulers and principalities and spiritual wickedness in high places. In other words, the forces of the enemy, Satan, are at work to create chaos and confusion. Satan is out to steal, kill and destroy any good witness that Christians may have for Christ. One way for this to be accomplished is for us to war against one another. If I disagree with another person, it is not appropriate for me to go and have them bound up in chains until they come to their senses. You may think that this is a radical thought, but some have considered this very thing. There is no difference between this and legislating a bill that would remove my rights to make a decision for myself. There is no difference between this and taking a gun and shooting someone because they disagree with me.

Christians are called to let their light shine so that Christ may be revealed to the world. When we get in the way, Christ is hidden to those who need to see Him. We have suddenly lost our effectiveness and power.

For the "Pro-Choice" people, I believe that God would have us look at the area of selfishness in our lives. We have become a society that is centered around conveniences for MY benefit. My time is precious, my recreational activities are important, my social life is essential, my work is my bread and butter, my eating out and shopping is what gives me pleasure, and of course, my sexual desires and relationship needs must be satisfied. If anything gets in the way of what "I" want, then it must be sacrificed.

We have become a society that worships itself and what it can do for one's own needs and desires. If we were living in the days of the Old or New Testament, the prophets would label this as a society of idolatry. If we worship anything other than the living God, we are idolaters. Things that we can worship include: 1. "Our Rights" 2. "Our Freedom" 3. "Our Time" 4. "Our Self" ... and the list goes on.

Abortion is another stumbling block to help us see what our society is dwelling on. In our selfishness we do many things to make our lives more accessible to the conveniences of life. I don't believe God is looking at the abortion issue as much as God is looking at God's people stuck in an attitude of selfishness and control. These are destructive behaviors as injurious as death. If we remain in these states our spirit will die. What is worse? Is spiritual death more destructive than a physical death? One is temporal and the other is eternal.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION,
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Proud people partied last weekend; patriotic parties being planned



At Gentry: the reception for the Parade Grand Marshals, with many members of the Court

Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Houston Voice/Houston

There IS life after pride week?

Past Events

There were a zillion proud people in Montrose this past Sunday for the parade! I loved the pink triangles up and down Westheimer! Job well done to the Pride Committee of Houston and all the sweaty participants!

NLA:H (National Leather Association: Houston) sure knows how to throw a party. "Houston's Hot VII" was held at the Venture-N last Friday! The demo's were very exciting and informing! Congrats to all!

This past Saturday at the Venture-N, Don Gill Productions and the women of FIST (Females In Search of Trouble) presented "A Hot Leather Night Show." This was a benefit for the Loving Arms Foundation on the FIST Title Holder's Travel Fund. Over \$500 was raised. The show was very titillating and entertaining. Thanks to way too many people to list!

Congrats are in order to Lauren Taylor. She is the new "Miss Houston Female Impersonator," the title won at Heaven a week ago! Wear that crown with pride!

Gentry was the place to be last Tuesday. Papa Del hosted, and the RSICSS catered a delightful party for the Houston Pride Week Grand Marshals! It was a super time, and lots of really good food and fun people.

Regina Dane has taken another title! Congrats on being the new Miss Harris County at Large!

Friday, June 30

The hot and hunky Boy Toy dancers take the stages at Gentry tonight from 6:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The Venture-N is a great place to start your weekend off! There is ample, lighted, and secured parking and a great space to party in! Stop in and see all the new, friendly faces behind the bar! They have power hours from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with \$1.50 well, beer, and wine!

Club Phuck, as only Power Tools can! Check it out on Friday Nights!

Rich's has trash disco this and every Friday night! The doors open at 9:00 p.m.

The ToyBox has "Country Cookin'" mini-buffet tonight! Dinner is around 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 1

Tonight at Pacific Street, 9:00 p.m., you can meet the contestants for Mr. Texas Drummer! Schmooze with these hot leather men and help raise money for the Q-Patrol at the Lock-Up party!



Friends of the Pet Patrol

The Super Saturday Show at E/J's tonight boasts the talents of Charlie Linez, Catia Lee Love, and Tiffany Brooks-Miss Bayou City '95. The show is hosted by the New Miss Life Today '95 (who finally got a title to something besides her Crown Victoria) Brittany Paige! Show time is 11:00 p.m.

Gentry has a new drink special!! Double well drinks in tall glasses for only \$4 until 10:00 p.m. After cooling down from the Texas heat with those Texas sized cocktails, let the hot and steamy male dancers heat you up! The steam rises starting at 10:00 p.m.

The men of the Texas Renegades will be guest bartending tonight on the patio of the Brazos River Bottom. Scoot out to the patio after 9:30 p.m. and give 'em a Howdy!

Ean's has super-sexy, female, almost-nude dancers tonight! They only admit females! It is Femme de Femme! Clip out the coupon in this issue to get in free! Ean's is located at 112 Travis.

T.T.'s Star Cabaret features the talents of Erica Lane as MC, Paivi Lee Love, Tara Dion, Tracy and Angel. The show starts 10:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 2

Who will it be? Who will be the new Mr. Texas Drummer? Go to Pacific Street tonight and find out! Leather woman and comic, Shann Carr, will MC, with a special appearance by Keith Hunt—Mr. International Drummer. The contest starts at 9:00 p.m.

"Love Muscle" nights at Heaven. Tonight's feature is porno star Ryan Idol. He will be showing his assets at 11:00 p.m., and photos and autographs will be \$5 donated to AIDS charities.

The Montrose Mining Company has terrific beer specials today and tomorrow. Domestic longnecks are only \$1 or you can pay the optional \$2 buy in and receive 25¢ refills of Miller Lite Draft. Such a bargain for those of us on a shoestring budget!

Eddie Taylor, Candidate for Mr.IGRA '96 will be hosting a fundraiser tonight at 8:00 p.m. at the Brazos River Bottom! I'd love to tell you who else will be in the show, but, Eddie is soooooo busy, he hasn't gotten those names to me yet!

J.R.'s Bar and Grill has a new drink special today. 99¢ for Vodka Juice drinks from noon until 11:00 p.m. At 11:00 p.m., Kofi makes 'em take it off for the weekly Jockey shorts contest.

in erotic leather! The less the better. Doors open at 9:00 p.m.

Honky Tonk nights are still groovin' at Gentry. They have free pool, free juke box, almost free Cuervo shots... \$2, almost free schnapps...75¢, and almost free Miller Lite longnecks...\$1. This special runs Monday and Tuesday nights!

Paivi is the hostess tonight at E/J's for the weekly male strip contest. You can see the shiny hineys at 11:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 4

"Come and Git it!" The Brazos River Bottom will be having a traditional 4th of July buffet this afternoon from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Celebrate your 4th in the country way...at the Brazos River Bottom.

"Indepen-Dance" tonight at Heaven. The doors open at 9:00 p.m. At 10:00 p.m., live, from South Beach, Tiffany Arieagus will tantalize you, Donna Day will dazzle you, and Coco will charm you!

The Ripcord is having their traditional July 4th BBQ this afternoon starting around 2:00 p.m.

J.R.'s Bar and Grill offers \$1 domestic longnecks all day and all night. Kofi takes the stage at 11:00 p.m. for the weekly strip contest. \$200 to the contest winners and at midnight, "grab for cash" in the booth loaded up with \$500.

I love Tuesdays! I love Cuervo! I love Mary's! I wish every day was Tuesday, so at Mary's I could get \$2 Cuervo every day! But, don't tell on me, Chances has \$2 Cuervo every day just for me (and you too)!

Wednesday, July 5

Tonight at the Montrose Counseling Center, licensed massage therapist Marc Gartner will speak and demonstrate on "Getting Rubbed the Right Way." This is free, but donations are requested. Call 529-0037 for more info.

The Weekly Wednesday Wienie Waivers War attacks Gentry in a wicked way. WOW! The first shots are fired at 11:00 p.m., with Catia as the referee.

Hump day and night at Mary's offers you happy hour prices all day and all night!

Thursday, July 6

Club 403 has Roxanne Lee Love on stage tonight hosting their weekly talent search. Cash prizes are given! Be there by 10:00 p.m. if you would like to be in the 10:30 p.m. show.

Over on the Santa Fe side, Marsha Carlton does Broadway show tunes starting at 6:00 p.m.

"Fiesta de Julio All Star Show" with special guest Victoria West will grace the stage at Gentry tonight. This is a benefit for A.V.E.S.. Show time is 8:00 p.m. After the show, stick around for the super-sexy Sunday Frenzy male strip contest at 10:00 p.m. It sounds like a full evening's entertainment tonight at Gentry.

There is a fun day planned today at the Lazy J. BBQ will be ready about noon, and a show starts at 3:00 p.m.

Hal and Jim cook up one heck of a spread every Sunday at the Venture-N. The menu changes every week! Grub is served at 5:00 p.m., with blue light specials until 11:00 p.m.

Temple Rises tonight at Rich's.

Monday, July 3

The weekly dart tournament at Club 403 starts at 8:00 p.m. \$4 entry fee and the bar matches the pot!

Drummer Aftershock! Tonight at Pacific Street, they are offering no cover if you are



Scott Lewis smiles with Dajae

Announcements, occasions and the usual dirt



Art helping raise money for the Loving Arms Foundation

Houston Soap, Part II

The Kolbe House's Healing service is tonight at 7:00 p.m. David Crank, O.F.M., will be leading the healing service, with prayer and anointing. Please call the Kolbe House at 522-8182 if you would like more info.

Other Important Stuff

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday... 4 days of fun, sun, wienies and buns will take over the Club Houston. This 4-day long pool party features complimentary catered BBQ and beverages! The big blow out on the 4th will have door prizes, water volleyball, party favors, and well, many other things I would like to tell you about, but I can't, because they are just too wild! Leave it to the Damion Diva and his devoted staff to throw one heck of a party!

You ought to be in pictures! Men and women, ages 18 to 50's are needed for a gay soap opera pilot tv movie. Call 445-7500 to set up your audition!

El Palacio has a coupon in this issue! Be sure to check their hours of operation! They are open Monday—Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday until midnight! If you would like to make a reservation, call 522-5041.

Gentry has introduced a whole new line-up of drink specials that now run until 10:00 p.m. every day. Check out their ad on page 5 for all the details.

Welcome David McDavid Honda as a new advertiser in the Houston Voice. If you are looking for some new transportation, call Edward Alderete at 948-1900.

Brasil has some of the tastiest coffee in town! They open at 7:00 a.m. so you can get your caffeine fix for the day. Brasil is located on the corner of Dunlavy and Westheimer.

Mark those calendars! July 28th, 8:00 p.m. Bernadette Peters and the Pops will be performing at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. Call 363-3300 for ticket info.

"Angels in America" is still at the Alley Theater. Call 228-8421 for ticket info.

Bistro 224 has a coupon in this issue. A friend and I had lunch there last week. The Gaillio Shrimp was scrumptious!



John Benevidez and Larry Arbo, two Mr. Gulf Coast Drummers



Incest is best? Jeff and Thumper at the Toy Box

The atmosphere is clean and crisp, with prompt and friendly service. Call 529-3224 for reservations and info.

On July 9th, a group is getting together to go to the BullPen Room at the Dome. Call Deba @ 861-1829 before the group meeting on July 9, 4:00 p.m. to get more info.

Will the ever so handsome man that received a refrigerator magnet with the "Red Hi-Heel" shoe on it please call the Hyde Park Gallery? You can trade in your parade give-away for the real full-size piece of art. Call Larry Crawford at 526-2744 for all the details.

"Miss Kitty Litter II" will be at E/J's on July 16th. This is a fundraiser for the Pet Patrol. If you would like more info, call Brittany Paige at 710-4343.

Also on the 16th, the annual Christmas in July fundraiser is at the Brazos River Bottom. Call the BRB to get more info.

July 9th at the 611, there will be a fundraiser for LVL PWA Holiday fund and the G/L Switchboard. Put this one in your calendar!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Ed and Jeff of E/J's are celebrating 22 years together on July 4th! I bet they still see fireworks!

Happy Birthday Uncle Bunko, Jim Lockhart! I'm glad you have a lifetime supply of Oil of Olay to keep you looking soooooo young!

Marlene, Mark, What should we call you! How about old? Happy Birthday to Marlene at Chances!

Trudi of Alternative Visions is having a birthday too!

Happy Belated Birthdays to The Good Fairy of the Venture-N fame, and to Nor-

man V. also of the Venture-N.

Rodent Droppings

The boys have found a new favorite food! Pasta, with olive oil on it! I went to give Ratrat a piece, and well, the little critter almost took my fingers off! Harvey was more enthusiastic, which is kinda scary because he is a BIG rodent! Later, we let them out to play! Pasta sure makes Harvey mean! Lucky for Ratrat, he is not big and stupid like Harvey, but quick and good with tactical play! He gets Harvey real pissed, then goes in a place where he can't fit into! Anyway, after the pasta treat, I found lots of rodent droppings! Here are just a few:

Erica Lane (Lazy J): I heard you sweat so much that your dress became white and you became purple!

Spot (611): Riding (or should I say sliding) while under the influence is a bit dangerous. But I guess you found that out after hitting 2 parked cars and then getting hit by a moving one while trying to ride your bicycle 1 block! Haven't you hit the pavement enough times by now?

Steve (Gentry): I haven't had the chance to tell you I like your new do!

George (Baby Barnaby's): All pumped up and now where to go? That was quite a stunt you pulled after falling flat on your face, removing all your clothes, and showing all of Montrose your personal parts! Keep it up!!

Gil (611): Who was that gorgeous man you were with... and does your husband know?

Miss Alabama (BRB): Why was I told that you singing "I Want a Man" sounds more like an animal caught in a trap?

Jerry (Mary's): What's this about the "Barmaster" and you pulling off his nozzle?

Sal (Hangs at the 611): Why do you keep getting Spot wet? And who sleeps in the wet Spot?

Scott Lewis (800 Pacific Street): I just can't imagine you pushing the lawn mower around your front yard! Can't you work out some kind of barter agreement with your new neighbor Pedro? I'm sure you can persuade him!

Bart (611): Green eggs and ham? Enquiring minds what to know!

Yvonne (Hangs at the 611): Sperm facials are best done in private, not at



"I'm just resting"



Look who I found hanging at the Ripcord



Steve (PS)—What a hot crotch you have

the fertility clinic!

Jerrel (Club Houston): I'm gonna start calling you "Speed Racer" since you got that new car! You have flown by me several times at well above the speed limit! But, you do look really cute in your little yellow ragtop!

Alma (hangs at the 611): What's the matter ... Alma-mater?

Philip (Gentry) What did you do while you were in Dallas to earn the new title of "Bad Boy?" I just love "bad boys!"

Bill Havard (BRB): What is this I hear about Vera going upstairs on Wednesday morning to wake you up and you were wearing those baby-doll pajamas Mike (BRB) gave you for Christmas? I wish I had been there with a camera!

LuLu (E/J's): I understand you have a secret admirer who sends you a rose every day! What does your hubby think about this?

Nancy (Bite Me) Ford: Why do I have your name and Blue underwear scribbled in my note book?

JT (PS): I heard you got a new bed! So did all of your neighbors! I think you need to invest in a gag! I'm kinda glad that you no longer live next door to me! We would have the a "who can scream the loudest" war on our hands! Who was the lucky guy?

Bob aka Buffy (Sojourns): Just a tiny triple! Talk about pushy, making your Thumper buy huge Martini glasses just for you.. then instructing him in Martini 101! I thought you were just a shy kinda of guy! NOT!!!!

Tom (Ripcord): I'm going to make you eat your camera!

Rabbitt (611): So, you have a new hole! Good luck working at the 611!

Kip (PS): Happy Vacation! I wish I could take another one! See ya in August.

Pete Martinez (Names Project): You looked too cute in that little red wagon!

Damion (Club Houston): Leave it to a size queen like you to have a Mack truck as a float in the parade! The bigger, the better!

Have a great week!

Hugs and kisses

Cuervolyn



At NLA:H Hot Night VII

Dallas choral groups combines talents for 'Family' CD

Music Review

By JOHN REED
*Houston Voice/
Houston*

Defining "family" in a musical format, the most recent recording of the famed Turtle Creek Chorale of Dallas, Texas, offers an immensely pleasant hour plus of recorded music. Joining the Women's Chorus of Dallas, and under the combined artistic direction of Dr. Timothy Seelig, the TCC offers fourteen songs to brighten your summer's listening. Similar to some of the earlier eight recordings by our friends to the north, "Family" touches on gay and lesbian themes in song.

In several ways, this reviewer has enjoyed this current offering over the earlier ones. First of all, many of the songs are familiar already to us, because of their innate musical quality, allowing one to recall the first time that you heard the song, whom you were with, where you were, and all that has gone on afterwards. The over 300 singers and instrumentalists were assembled on March 11, 1995, in the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. On my CD copy, the expected 90 db or greater amount of quieting was present, and with a wide dynamic range free of noticeable distortion. I listened to the CD on a high end home stereo system with five channel surround capability as well as an upgraded auto system. While not made for surround sound, the spatial quality of the recording was excellent and should provide a realistic source of choral music on just about any playback system. Having the treble and bass frequencies boosted by five to eight db seemed to enhance the playback realism. As might be anticipated with 300 singers, and as I have noticed with increasing frequency with the TCC recordings as the size of the choral group grows, the words at times become blurred and clarity of diction is missing on many of the songs. (The words to six of the fourteen songs are included in the liner notes).

The song "Family" appropriately begins the album. The well known song from "Dreamgirls" is offered in a friendly, upbeat mood with an excellent instrumental background that never intrudes on the voices. "Secret Love" by Paul Webster and Sammy Fain is next and features only the male voices to a sensitive piano, string and woodwind accompaniment. The mood of this song should encourage the die-hard singles in the listening audience to head out the door of their home and find that special person they have



been thinking about. "Over The Rainbow" is sung well by the Women's Chorus but suffers an overly stylized arrangement, missing the innocent simplicity of the Judy Garland rendition that will always be the benchmark version. "Somewhere" from "West Side Story" is

offered in a very personal manner that bespeaks of the uniqueness of a gay and lesbian love relationship. The "Peace Waltz" was written by Bill Mays with text by Dianne Mower and offered to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the TCC. I found the music to be pleasant but bland, non-descript, and hardly on a par with most of the other songs in the album. "When I Fall In Love" begins with a small number of male voices and benefits from the clearer diction of the small ensemble. "To Love and To Be Loved" is a short, three minute, rendition, of an old standard. I was not familiar with song number eight, "Behold the Hills of Tomorrow," by Stephen Sondheim. This song sounded to be more at home in an epic motion picture than in collection of "family" songs. The surprise of the collection was the top notch singing of "I Am Your Sister" by the Women's Chorus of Dallas. The lyrics and music are strong and carry a most appealing and practical message for women and men. This is the type of song that you touch the repeat button on the CD to hear again. "Love Don't Need a Reason" has a fine blend of chorus voices, soloists, and instrumentalists. The Women's Chorus returns alone to sing "Wind Beneath My Wings" in a light and airy style. I would recommend having a Prozac or Zoloft tablet at hand for the sensitive and so true to real life rendition of number twelve song, "If I Had Only Known." The song speaks especially close to anyone who has lost a loved one prematurely. The male soloist has a fine masculine voice. One is able to lower their emotional level with song number thirteen, "Everything Possible," which is a nondescript entry. The final selection is a modern version of the civil rights movement anthem "We Shall Overcome." This is one song that will make you want to turn the volume up, sing along, and enjoy the bass percussion on your playback system. The verse "We Shall Live in Peace" is included. The presentation has a sitting-around-the-campfire feel to it.

(The recording of "Family" may be obtained by mail for under \$20 by either telephoning toll free 1-800-746-4412, or writing Turtle Creek Chorale, P.O. Box 190806, Dallas, TX, 75219).

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by Cap Iversen

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Photo by Steven David

Interview with Tony Kushner, continued...

tions giving less than they have in the past. So, it's great to see a theatre that's really working and doing good things.

Yes. You're highly political from what I can tell from things that I've read about you. In your best of worlds, what would you cut to balance the budget, and what would you increase?

I wouldn't balance the budget.

You wouldn't balance the budget?

Balancing the budget is an idiotic idea from right-wing Republicans. Well, there's no other kind of Republican. It comes from right-wing people who are basically interested in focusing the wealth of this country in the hands of a very, very small number of people, who already have a lot of money, and destroying the lives of the rest of us. I

think that it's hoax. We're the only country in the world, at this point, that's trying to balance the budget. We have a smaller debt load than most industrial countries—I think that almost any of them. We have very, very tiny taxes compared to most industrial democracies. And, of course, as a result, things work much less well here than they do everywhere else. I mean, I've just spent four weeks in Europe where you have trains that work and clean streets and people aren't shooting each other on the streets and schools are good and people are educated and nobody's starving to death on street corners. It's a shocking contrast with America. I don't think that there's absolutely any need whatsoever to—at this particular moment—

balance the budget. I think there's a good reason not to drive the deficit into the trillions, but we all know it was the Republicans and not the Democrats who did that.

Right.

And that's done by insane levels of defense spending, which is why, while these people are talking about balancing the budget, they're also talking about funding the B-2 bomber. It just shows the level of complete incoherence and insanity of this whole thing. I mean, what's really important, what really will save this country, what will really make this country work, is adequate levels of funding for education and to help overcome the effect among communities of the poor of racism and economic injus-

tice. I'm a complete believer in the Great Society approach and in spending. I'm also a big believer in the federal government. I don't think states are usually—I mean, take a look at the Texas State Legislature. I mean, they're reactionary and small-minded and completely enthralled with big business, which is why we have a federal government. So, I don't think we should be thinking right now about cutting. I think we should raise taxes. I think we should have a progressive tax system. I think we should tax the shit out of the rich, because they've gotten away for the last 14 years, 15 years, 16 years—since Reagan—with paying nothing. I think we've lost billions of dollars for that. I

(Continued)

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by Dan Woog

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Researchers say syndrome can destroy the lives of survivors

(Continued from Page 1)

Sandra Jacoby Klein, M.A., M.F.T. has 20 years experience in grief therapy has had her research findings into AIDS-Related Multiple Loss Syndrome repeatedly published in professional journals aimed at fellow therapists. She began working with AIDS survivors in 1982 at the AIDS Project-Los Angeles. There, on June 7 this year, she was keynote speaker to The Spiritual Advisor Group Multi-Faith Conference To The Clergy Of The Greater Metropolitan Los Angeles Area to recognize and properly treat the AIDS surviving population.

Klein warns that such multiple losses often lead survivors to turn inward, with long-term and sometimes irreparable consequences including emotional numbing, depression, inability to emote, and pervasive expressions of pessimism, cynicism, fatalism and insecurity.

Dan Bjierke, MA, MFCC, has his private practice in San Diego and works 20 hours per week at CIACCIO Memorial, an HIV clinic. When asked if he agreed with Klein's findings, Bjierke replied, "I absolutely agree. Gay people in their 30's are dealing with developmental issues that previously only elders dealt with. It is a loss of their mid-life phase, where people should be thriving. Many people lost their adolescence when they were gay, and now to deal with so many people dying, its a loss of focusing on thriving. I think it could effect their life for the rest of their lives." When asked if he meant the syndrome could put a survivor into a negative rut for the rest of their lives, Bjierke continued, "Sure, in fact the rut itself can lead to risky (and fatal) sexual behavior."

Klein interpreted multiple loss in a broader sense to reflect the many other types of AIDS-related losses that interact and reinforce one another such as: loss of sense of community, loss of sexual freedom, loss of hope for the future, loss of employment stability due to the stigma attached to HIV and AIDS, loss of privacy and personal power resulting from the "outing" of sexual orientation when HIV status becomes known, and loss of persons still alive due to disease-

related personality changes. "Gay survivors face a number of unique issues related to their multiple losses throughout the AIDS pandemic," Klein continues, "The grieving process for gay survivors of individuals who have died from AIDS is quite different from the traditional model of grief and mourning, with numerous obstacles to effective resolution."

She documented that compounding the loss of friends and loved ones are the difficulties of often having to hide the importance of friendships that were often homosexual affairs, or hiding the circumstances of death from co-workers and others that ordinarily would be the source of some support during the difficult times. "Most importantly, most disasters have an ending, with clearly defined phases of recovery and rebirth. For the survivors of multiple losses due to AIDS, there has been no post-trauma," Klein explained, "Individuals who face loss after loss realistically cannot be expected to bounce back, as each grieving process is compounded by the one before it and is complicated by the anticipation of more to come. There is insufficient time between traumas to work through the complex grief process." When asked what percentage of the gay community has been touched by the syndrome, Bjierke replied, "I don't know any one who hasn't been affected by these losses."

(Editor's Note: The Positive Choices Wellness Program will present a workshop titled "Keeping it Together (In A World Falling Apart)" on Wednesday, July 19 at them Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 West Gray, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The workshop will focus on coping with stress and loss issues for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Emphasis will focus on awareness of feelings and techniques for management of grief. Positive Choices offers free seminars sponsored by various community organizations targeting people affected by HIV/AIDS. RSVP encouraged, but not required. For more information, call Bart Loeser at AIDS Foundation Houston, 623-6796 or Scott Clark at Body Positive, 524-2374).

Kushner, continued...

think we should also cut a lot of corporate welfare. If these people really believe in the free market, let them pay their own way. The Pentagon is about to pay \$31 million to the board of trustees of the Martin Marietta Corporation to cover their merger costs. That's the entire NEA budget for theatre. This stuff never gets talked about. And, certainly, destroying the lives of poor people isn't going to save anything. That will only cause violence and misery. Destroying education in this country only guarantees that we will never get out of our present difficulties. We will just become a nation of dumb, deeply stupid, incompetent people.

That sounds like a great title, "A nation of deeply stupid, incompetent

people." Thank you very much for talking with me.

Sure. Now, you took the picture of—

You and Clyde Drexler.

Yeah.

And you want a copy.

Absolutely.

(Laughter) I hope it turns out. . . I enjoyed talking with you a lot.

Thanks. You will send me a copy of the picture?

Yes, I shall.

Okay.

Do you want me to get it autographed for you by Clyde Drexler?

You don't have to do that. (Laughter) I'd just like to have a copy of it.

(Laughter) Okay. Thanks a whole lot. Okay, sure.

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'Angels' extended again; best Bette for the weekend; new TV project

Arts & Entertainment Notes

Due to continued box office demand for "Angels in America," the Alley Theatre has announced that the production will be extended from its current final performance date of Sunday, July 9 to Sunday, July 16.

The extension also includes two additional marathon performance dates, Saturday, July 15, and Sunday, July 16.

Marathons are dates in which theatre-goers may see both Part 1: "Millennium Approaches" and Part 2: "Perestroika" in one day with a dinner break in between.

Tickets range from \$18 to \$36 and may be charged to MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Discover; special discounts are available to groups of 10 or more. For more information on tickets, please call the Alley Theatre Box Office at (713) 228-8421 or 1-800-259-ALLE, or come by the Box Office at 615 Texas Avenue.

'Jezebel' July 1 & 2

New Heights Theatre and The Company We Keep will present the South-west premiere of "Me and Jezebel," a poignant comedy by Elizabeth Fuller. The play is based on a true incident of 1985 in which the legendary film actress, Bette Davis, came to dinner at the playwright's Connecticut home and stayed for thirty-two days. Originally a book, Fuller's charming two character play enjoyed a successful engagement in New York at The Actor's Playhouse.

The plot of "Me and Jezebel" might safely be summarized by asking the question: What if Margo Channing came for dinner and Baby Jane stayed for breakfast? This engaging evening of theatre reveals a side of Miss Davis' personality that was rarely seen by her viewing public.

In a unique blend of comedy and pathos, "Me and Jezebel" depicts a Bette Davis who takes charge of the household and speaks her mind on everything from child-rearing and spiri-



Deborah Hope as Elizabeth Fuller and Anne Quackenbush as Bette Davis in New Heights Theater/The Company We Keep's production of "Me & Jezebel"

tualism to Paul Newman and, of course, Joan Crawford. A more vulnerable Davis emerges as she reacts to her daughter's scathing book and reminiscences about the Hollywood she loves. The New Heights Theatre/Company We Keep production stars veteran Houston actors Anne Quackenbush as Bette Davis, and Deborah Hope as Elizabeth Fuller. Ron Jones, Artistic Director of New Heights, is directing "Me and Jezebel."

The production previews on July 2 and 3, with a gala champagne opening on July 5. Subsequent performances will be each Friday and Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. until July 29 (tickets are \$15). There are two Sunday performances on July 23 and 30 at 7:00 p.m. (tickets are \$12). To make reservations or for additional information, please phone 869-8927.

Audition Notice: Gay Soap

Men and women, ages 18 through 50's, are needed for a gay soap opera pilot project. On Saturday, July 8 and Sunday July 9 at 4:00 P.M., Three Point Productions will hold auditions for the project's first phase: a demonstration video consisting of selected scenes, to be produced in Houston in September. The soap's 2-hour TV movie pilot and projected series are also to be produced in Houston. Head shot and credits are requested. Auditions will include 2-minute prepared monologues and cold reading from the script. Auditions are by appointment only. Call 445-7500 for appointment time and location information.

Man gets life in prison for New Orleans gay-bash killing

NEW ORLEANS, Friday, June 23 (AP)—The father of a young man whose attackers mistook him for a homosexual asked a jury to spare his son's killer. But the prosecution insisted on the death penalty.

"There's been enough killing here," William Balog testified Thursday.

Balog asked jurors to send Ronald Graves, 25, to prison for the rest of his life for killing his son, Joseph Balog, who was stabbed six times in the back and once in the chest during a 1993 French Quarter street fight.

"Part of me wants him to die but most of me doesn't," William Balog said after the hearing. "I told the Graves family

at the beginning that I wasn't going to ask for the death penalty but they didn't believe me."

Assistant District Attorney Roger Jordan pressed for the death penalty.

"William Balog may not want it, but it's the State of Louisiana that's prosecuting the case. We're not prosecuting it for William Balog," Jordan said.

The state district court jury convicted Graves of first-degree murder on Wednesday. On Thursday, the panel recommended a punishment of life imprisonment with no chance for early release.

Balog, 23, was killed about 5:00 a.m.

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on Nov. 11, 1993. He and his friend Charles Burks had left their home town, Gulfport, Miss., to go drinking in the French Quarter.

Burks testified that someone shouted "We're going to get some faggots!" at him and Balog. Burks said he shouted the same thing back at the other group.

Shortly after that, Burks said, he and Balog were attacked. Both he and Balog considered "faggot" an insult, he said.

Jurors agreed Wednesday with the prosecution's assertion that Graves and John Kevin Johnson, 23, stabbed Balog.

Defense attorney Joseph Meyer Jr. argued that Johnson acted alone, and that Graves could be charged at worst with aggravated battery.

Johnson still faces trial on murder charges. A date will be set at a hearing June 30.

Both Graves and Johnson are from suburban Metairie.

Two other Metairie men who were with them, Mingo Graham, 24, and Grant Wayne Gunderson, 26, testified Tuesday as part of an agreement that let them plead guilty to lesser charges.

It was Graves' second trial. Jurors were unable to reach a unanimous verdict last January.

RECIPES BY THE KUNTRY KIDD

Hey Ya!!! I have hit on a recipe that I think ya'll will really enjoy. I fixed it last week, and we both enjoyed it a lot. There are only two things I may do different next time I prepare it, but first I'll give you the original recipe. I hope you enjoy it.

Deep Dish Salmon Pie

Creamed Salmon:

- 3 tbsp butter or margarine
- 2 small onions, chopped (3/4 c.)
- 1 medium green sweet pepper, chopped (3/4 c.)
- 5 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2-2/3 c. milk
- 1 14-3/4 ounce can salmon, drained, flaked and skin and bones removed
- 1 tbsp lemon juice

Cheese Rolls:

- 1-1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 tbsp shortening
- 1/2 c. milk or water
- 3/4 c. shredded Cheddar, Mozzarella, Swiss, American or Hot Pepper cheese
- 1/4 c. chopped pimiento (optional)

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Grease a 2-quart baking dish. Set aside.

To make the creamed salmon: In a saucepan, melt the butter or margarine. Add the onion and green sweet pepper to the saucepan, cook until the vegetables are tender. Stir in the flour and the 1/2 tsp salt. Slowly add the 2-2/3 cups milk. Cook and stir until the mixture is thickened and bubbly. Stir in the salmon and lemon juice. Pour the mixture into the prepared baking dish.

To make the cheese rolls: In a medium bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder and the 1/2 tsp salt. Using a pastry blender, cut in the shortening. Add the 1/2 cup milk or water. Stir just until the dough clings together.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead the dough gently for 10 to 12 strokes. Roll the dough out to a 12 x 8-inch rectangle. Sprinkle the cheese and pimiento (if using) over the dough. Roll up from a long side.

Cut into 8 slices. Using a rolling pin or your hand, slightly flatten the slices. Place the spirals on top of the salmon mixture.

Bake the casserole in the 425 degree oven about 25 minutes or until brown. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Tuna Fish may be substituted for the salmon.

If you use milk instead of water, the rolls will be more tender.

Instead of using just the green pepper, the dish will be prettier if you use 1/2 green pepper and 1/2 red bell pepper. Also, small green peas would be a nice addition.



GALAXY GAYZER

A HOUSTON VOICE EXCLUSIVE

HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 30 - JULY 6, 1995

HOUSTON VOICE readers born this week share with world famous Composer, Gustav Mahler born in Bohemia, the love of life as expressed through an art form. Especially in complex, detailed and elaborately crafted music.



CANCER (June 22 - July 22) Plan your weekend schedule to be able to be out and about and be seen by all the new bodies in town. Get your car washed, the kitchen sink emptied of dishes and the bathroom cleaned in case you bring someone special home. Bright and bold colors will help you to be noticed. If asked to go dance, accept the invitation.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) Watch your finances this week, avoid any big ticket line, e.g. over two hundred dollars, as there may be something better in the near future. Be careful about loaning money to friends, as this maybe the last time that you will see the money. There are a number of 'users' in the world that see you as an easy mark. Finish your overdue correspondence, friends are interested in hearing from you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Leaving problems of the past behind you, will brighten your mood for the next weeks. Learn lessons from the past, but do not re-cross the bridges. You are a good person. A bit sensitive at times to criticism especially from friends who would like to control you, and have you seek their approval, when this is not necessary.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) Keep your living arrangements neat and orderly, especially if you will be bringing a person home with you. First impressions are important. Try the recipe from the Kuntry Kidd on this page, this will be an excellent way to impress a date. Take a chance to invite someone out for a date you have been admiring. The moon is in a perfect phase for that person to say 'yes' to your invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21) Happiness is yours for the next four weeks, as the moon moves into the new quarter. Enjoy a brighter smile and more energy to accomplish projects. Leave behind you, the 'oh woe is me' syndrome, and try for a fresh start to each morning. Try a more dramatic hair style to get attention, others will react favorably to the new you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Extra effort at the Office will pay big benefits to your future salary and job security. Your supervisor is judging you to see how you are comparing with co-workers. You have the talent and the ability to out shine your competition, but is a matter of effort on your part of doing the excellent work that you are capable of.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Look through your closet and choose new combinations and styles that you have forgotten that are there. Bold and bright colors will be noticed by others in a positive manner, even at work. If you are having complexion problems, your skin will benefit from a lower stress level and clear up. This will be a good week ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) This month is one to be careful and conservative in. Do not take chances with your health or safety. Look both ways in crossing the street. And this is especially true sexually. Practicing safe sex is especially important as your tendency to compromise is running high currently. Your sense of wanting to feel sexually satisfied along with a desire to please the other person may lead to risk taking.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20) Watch your gossiping at the Office, as a person who maybe jealous of you will attempt to turn your boss against you. A low profile is the way to go for the next month. Use your extra energies to be out and about in the evening hours, seeing who is new in the social scene. For the present, think of relationships more as a lust event, rather than to fall in love with. The moon is not in position to fall in love until the fall season.

ARIES (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19) In a relationship, tell your partner how very much she/he is important to you, and how that person makes your life complete. There maybe feelings of insecurity in your partner that needs reassuring. A flower on the breakfast table or on the pillow will go a long way to please that special person. When she/he is happy, you will be extra happy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20) Welcome back from your Holiday, combining work with pleasure, Houston was not the same without you. Heard you were a hit of the areas visited. The rest of the summer looks great, filled with success and things going right in general. Use your good sense of humor to be the brightest star around. There are not many in Houston this summer who are able to match your combination of personality and winning smile.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21) Paying attention to your work continues to have dividends for you. Spend the extra hours needed to come out on top. The next four weeks will be a challenge for you, but nothing that you can not handle with your usual drive and persistence. Your flexible approach to life is a real plan. Be sure to compliment friends when they provide help to you.

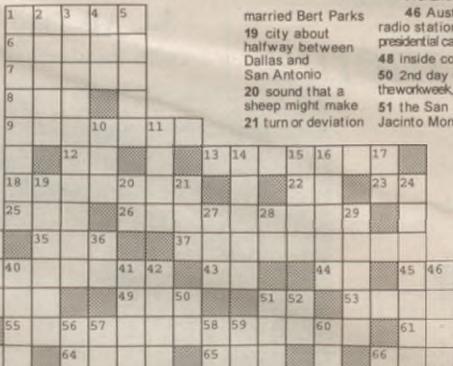
THE TEXAS PUZZLE

Includes Clues About Texas, Current Events & Standard Crossword Clues

By Henry McClurg

ACROSS

- 1 enclosed
- 6 Llano County seat
- 7 eyed
- 8 barrier to block water
- 9 most favorite
- 12 appliance company
- 13 Sam, twice served as president of the Republic of Texas



DOWN

- 19 city about halfway between Dallas and San Antonio
- 20 sound that a sheep might make
- 21 turn or deviation
- 42 country created from old French Indochina
- 46 Austin radio station with presidential call letters
- 48 inside corner
- 50 2nd day of the workweek, abbrev.
- 51 the San Jacinto Monument

- 18 having a stubble
- 22 nay
- 23 business & home data processing machine
- 25 female domestic fowl
- 28 San Antonio's Alamo dome hosts this, 2 words
- 30 grassland
- 35 Roman numeral for 1550
- 37 calendar weeks
- 38 compete
- 39 Texas state building dedicated in 1888
- 43 what Dinah Shore and David Seznick had in common
- 44 late President whose stamps are not selling well, initials
- 45 abbrev. for check
- 47 brave
- 49 stick or club
- 51 Roman numeral for 400
- 53 tune
- 54 interjection for attention
- 55 state song, 3 words

- 61 19th century English poet. Browning, initials ("Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for?")
- 62 barely acceptable by the eye
- 64 perceives
- 65 storage box
- 66 tall conical cap worn by Moslems
- 67 in chess, abbrev. for the king's rook
- 68 steamship, abbrev.
- 69 interjection used to urge silence
- 70 longest Interstate highway in Texas, 878 miles
- 72 drink
- 74 truly
- 75 Jack, Houston native, president of Motion Pictures Assoc. of America
- 77 in Greek mythology, maiden loved by Zeus
- 78 Canadian province that just hosted the G7 meeting, initials
- 79 13th letter of Greek alphabet
- 80 ocean

DOWN

- 1 uncouth
- 2 seaweed & other plants
- 3 potpourri
- 4 direction
- 5 San Angelo to Dallas, abbrev.
- 5 evade
- 10 informal name for Confederate soldier in Civil War
- 11 window frame's bottom section
- 14 qualities that affect sense of smell
- 15 water vapor crystals
- 16 first Republican U.S. senator from Texas since Reconstruction
- 17 initials of Natalie Wood had she
- 24 dried bark of Pacific tree used as laxative
- 27 modern, free in style (60's expression)
- 28 Boris Karloff & Buster Keaton had this in common
- 29 loans
- 31 abbrev. for electron volt
- 32 point
- 33 distributes
- 34 Ah yes, comedian Fields, initials ("Some things are better than sex, and some are worse, but there's nothing exactly like it.")
- 35 lieutenant, abbrev.
- 40 passenger vehicle
- 41 preoccupy
- 52 Roman numeral for 510
- 56 extra small, abbrev.
- 57 smaller than an ocean, spelled backwards
- 58 19th U.S. President Hayes, initials ("He serves his party best who serves the country best.")
- 59 7th tone of the diatonic scale
- 60 newspaper advice columnist. Landers
- 63 senior, abbrev.
- 66 4th day of the work week, abbrev.
- 69 country of 1st Europeans to see the beaches of upper Texas coast
- 71 consumes
- 73 Roman numeral for 4
- 74 you
- 76 foul up
- 81 Spanish for 'the' Solution elsewhere this issue

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Big hair meets big screen



Daisy (left) and Christy Love doing what the stars of "Wigstock: The Movie" do best—posing

Entertainment Notes

By GLEN WEBBER
Houston Voice/Houston

Get ready...it's coming...the movie that will set your hair on fire... "WIGSTOCK: The Movie."

The movie version of New York City's biggest drag party stars, among others, the fabulous Ru Paul, who's hit single "Supermodel" propelled this talented female impersonator into superstardom. Also starring in this musical tribute to drag queens everywhere is DEE-LITE, the musical group who's sixties attire and psychedelic music has made them a favorite in the underground music scene.

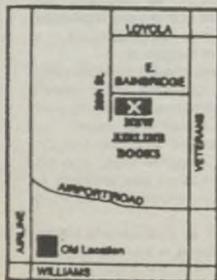
What started out as a local show for female impersonators has grown into a giant concert, with over 30 musical numbers performed on stages in various New York locations. With a mixture of professional female

impersonators and hit recording stars, this movie concert will entertain in a way no other movie has.

"WIGSTOCK: The Movie," was shown at the 1995 Berlin Film Festival, where it was proclaimed an instant cult classic. But mainstream audiences will enjoy it as well. With such stars as recording artist Crystal Waters performing, the amazing talents of professional filmmakers Dean Silvers and Marlen Hecht, and with the backing of the Samuel Goldwyn Company, this movie will impress audiences with its high production values.

And of course, the wigs. The filmmakers want you to put your hair up, then let your hair down while partying to this incredible movie. Its upbeat music, campy humor, and serious drag queens will be remembered long after the wigs have been put back in their boxes. "WIGSTOCK: The Movie..."don't miss it.

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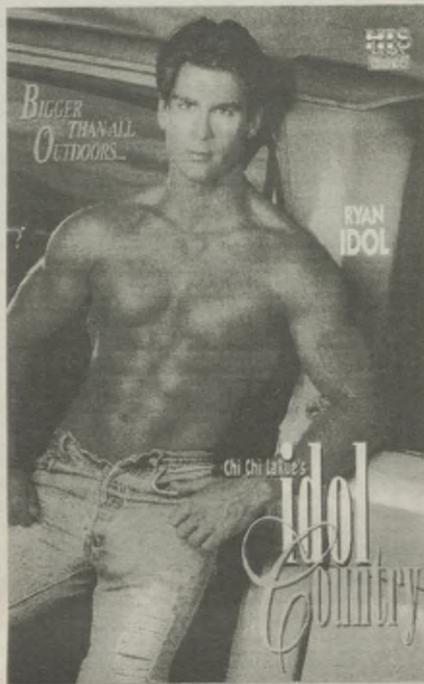
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GO FOR IT!

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

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES

I'm 43, married, 5'10, 160lbs, average looks, DDF, clean, no drugs, married-top-cut-discreet. Ad 25598

LOOKING FOR BILL:

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

SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

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

VERY WELL ENDOWED

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

SEEKING HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

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

BLACK MALE SEEKS WHITE MALE

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

LOOKING FOR LIKE/PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

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

SPECIAL SPECIFIC SERIOUS BOTTOMS

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

BROWN BOYS BEWARE!

Attractive GWM is AFTER you! Me: 5'8", 150#, professional, work out regularly -28"w, 14"a, 36"c. You: GHM with fiery Latin libido, ISO honest, educated men, weight prop/height, no drugs/addictions, to share life, leather, possibly love. Photos a plus. Let's share hot passionate Latin nights! Hoy, Chicol! Ad 25694

FIRST TIME

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

PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

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

NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

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

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

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

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

HAIRY DADDY SEEKS BOY

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

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

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

GWF COUPLE LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

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

SEEKING BOTTOM WITH ENDURANCE

Top seeks bottom for use in aerobic workout. Top is 6' tall, HWP, ak looks, not notably large but not small. Seeking someone HWP to be used, not abused. Mail response only. Ad 25706

ATTENTION -NUDIST

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

INSTRUCTIONS

TO PLACE a Houston Voice Personal Ad --

Come to our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105.

It's a good idea to write out (up to fifty words) what you want to say. The annual cost is only \$29.95 -- less than one dollar per week. (You must restate [by phone] your desire for the ad to keep running every four weeks.) At the office you will be given the functioning details. Ads can also be placed by mail, with payment enclosed, phone 713-529-8490, for details.

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

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

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

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

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

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The Dallas Morning News

"This is simply the most **VISIONARY, DARING, AND POWERFUL** new play in ages."

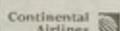
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