



### INSIDE



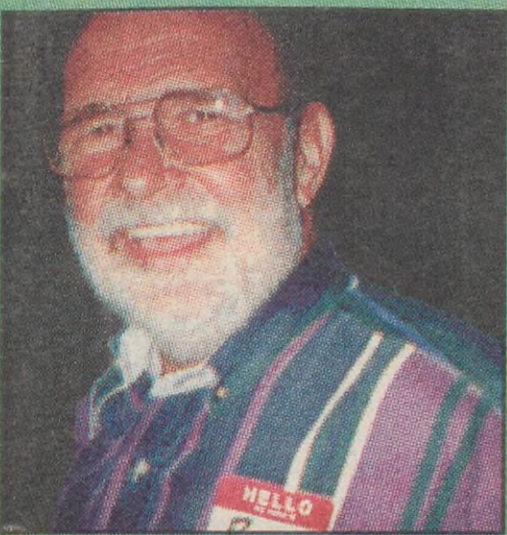
**Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown appoints Janine Brunjes as liaison to gay community**

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**Valentine's Day marks the beginning of National Condom Week. Local AIDS/HIV agencies say they celebrate safer sex year round.**

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**Ray Hill (above), Mitchell Katine, Ralph Lasher and Dalia Stokes are among those nominated for Pride Grand Marshal. In-person voting will be held next weekend and mail-in ballots are due Feb. 15.**

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## Committee passes hate crimes act

Texas Senate's Criminal Justice committee approves bill introduced by Ellis, Thompson; passage by House committee next step

by GIP PLASTER

By a vote of 5-1 with one member present but not voting, the Texas Senate's Criminal Justice committee late Wednesday approved a comprehensive hate crimes bill that includes increased penalties for those who commit crimes motivated by hatred toward gays and lesbians.

But gay and lesbian issues actually took the stage twice in Austin this week. In Tuesday, a press conference was held announcing the filing of a bill that would prohibit discrimination in Texas schools.

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AP PHOTO/DEBORAH CANNON

**Rep. Senfronia Thompson, right, announces the reintroduction of the Hate Crimes Bill for the 77th Texas Legislative Session Jan. 10. The legislation passed its first hurdle by being approved by the Texas Senate's Criminal Justice committee late Wednesday. At left is Rep. Domingo Garcia, D-Dallas and at center is Rep. Dora Olivo, D-Rosenberg.**

## Justice who ruled in sodomy case retires

Judge who originally ruled to overturn homosexual conduct law says controversy over the case didn't impact his decision not to fulfill his elected term

by GIP PLASTER

It has been five months since the 14th Court of Appeals agreed to a hearing by all nine justices on the Houston case that effectively overturned the state's homosexual conduct statute, often called the sodomy law.

Now, one of two judges who said in that court's original ruling that the statute,

which applies to anal and oral sex between gays, violates the Equal Rights Amendment to the Texas Constitution because it applies only to gays, is retiring two years before the end of his elected term.

14th Court Chief Justice Paul C. Murphy said in published reports that the homosexual conduct case had nothing to do with his decision to retire after 20 years on the bench, despite the fact that Murphy and Judge John Anderson were attacked in the Republican Party of Texas platform for their decisions in the sodomy case.



Paul C. Murphy

But Mitchell

Katine, the lawyer for the two men whose case started the legal effort to overturn the statute, said he just wants a ruling from the court so the case can move on to its next appeal.

"We would really like the opinion," he said. "Whichever side loses, the next step is the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. This is an important step in the process, but it's really just an interim step in getting on to the next court."

Katine said the news of the justice's retirement is the first development in the case since he received a letter Sept. 13 stating that the case would be reheard en banc—that is, by all nine justices.

Harris County assistant district attorney Bill Denmore, the prosecutor in the case, asked in June that all nine justices of the 14th Court reconsider the decision of the original three-judge panel. The court

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Houston/Denver/Los Angeles/Philadelphia

# ALTERNATIVES

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## Issue 1059

# houston voice

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## Council taking sides on DP proposal

### Health contract including domestic partner benefits likely on Feb. 14 agenda

by WENDY K. MOHON

While citizens are already speaking in public sessions before City Council to show both support and opposition to a proposal to add domestic partner benefits to a health contract for city employees, the plan will likely not be on Council's agenda until Feb. 14.

Council's agenda for next week's meeting was not available at presstime. By law, public meeting agendas are not required to be posted until 72 hours prior to a scheduled meeting.

Though all members of Houston City Council were sent an e-mail survey by the Houston Voice to gauge how each might vote on the proposal, only Councilmembers Annise Parker, Carroll Robinson, Bruce Tatro and Gabriel Vasquez responded.



Gabriel Vasquez

Councilmember Bruce Tatro said he plans to vote against a policy providing benefits to domestic partners.

"My position is the city should not

adopt a policy for providing health benefits coverage, which equates same-sex to marriage," Tatro said. "Austin's City Council passed a similar measure back in 1993 ... and a petition drive by citizens to put the matter before the voters was successful in 1993. Austin voters then overwhelmingly overturned the domestic partner policy initiated by the city.

"At best, the issue should be decided by the voters, not the administration and City Council," Tatro said. "This would help to avoid what I know will be a very contentious public referendum here in Houston if this is passed by the mayor and City Council."

Councilmember Carroll Robinson wants the wording of a health contract to read: "Any city employee or retiree may add to their insurance coverage any single adult not legally married to anyone else, who is not related to the employee or retiree by blood and who is not the employee's or retiree's child."

Gabriel Vasquez said he plans to vote in favor of a DP plan for city workers.

"I support the domestic partners benefits proposal. As a candidate for City Council, I stated that I would support the proposal if it came to Council and I am keeping my commitment," Vasquez said.



Bruce Tatro

Openly gay Councilmember Annise Parker has been a vocal proponent of gay rights during both her terms on Council and is championing the cause of adding DP benefits for city employees.

"More than 3,650 American companies, cities and educational institutions now offer DP benefits," Parker said. "It is only fair to offer city employees equal pay and equal benefits for the same work."

She said feedback to her office has been mixed and she's worried that even if the plan passes a Council vote, those opposing the plan may petition for a referendum to allow voters to decide whether the city should accept the contract.

"I am extremely concerned about the possibility of a referendum and am doing everything I can to prevent it and prepare for that threat. This community and this city cannot afford another divisive referendum."

One of those opposing the DP benefits plan is Heights-area businessman and Heights Chamber of Commerce board member, Norman E. Adams, who has been circulating a flyer to rally opposition to the DP plan.

The flyer reads: "If you want the city of Houston to become the center for employment for homosexuals, sit and do nothing, and it will happen. If, on the other hand, you agree with me that a marriage can only happen between a man and a woman and that this kind of leadership by City Hall sets a poor

> Continued on Page 12

## Mayor names new liaison to gay community

### Activist Janine Brunjes replaces Matthew Eastus who relocated to California

by MARIA MINICUCCI



Janine Brunjes, national co-chair of An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, former Black Tie Dinner, Inc. board member and chair of the Hollyfield Foundation, and Human Rights Campaign board member, was recently appointed by Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown to act as his liaison to the gay community.

As of Jan. 30, Janine Brunjes became Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown's new liaison to the gay and lesbian community. She replaces Matthew P. Eastus who recently relocated to Los Angeles, Calif. for a job with a law firm there.

"I am taken aback by the magnitude of recognition I am receiving recently. I have always just followed by passions and worked as hard as I could for what I believed in, not for the rewards," Brunjes said.

Just prior to accepting the mayor's offer, Brunjes was nominated as this year's female grand marshal for the annual Pride parade.

Brunjes is the national co-chair of An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, an organization which emphasizes the health and well being of the lesbian community. She has served on the board of the Black Tie Dinner, Inc., served as chair of the Hollyfield Foundation, and has served on the Board of Governors for the Human Rights Campaign.

Houston City Councilwoman Annise Parker was among those supporting Brunjes's appointment to the mayor's office.

"Janine is a classic steel magnolia: polished and professional on the outside; steel resolve on the inside."

State Rep. Debra Danburg expressed similar sentiments.

"I was pleased to recommend Janine for this position. She is among the most active and outstanding members in our community. Her commitment to volunteering her time and skills for the betterment of Houston is unsurpassed."

What exactly does the gay and lesbian liaison to the mayor's office do and how is Brunjes going to do it?

"First of all, I intend to expand the scope of responsibilities of this position," Brunjes said. "Up until now, the job consisted primarily of gathering research, both broad-based and local, pertaining to the needs and issues of the gay and lesbian community and making sure that the mayor's office became aware of the research results."

Brunjes agrees that was a necessary first step. She plans to ensure much more activity between the community and the mayor's office.

"One of my first priorities is to infiltrate the mind set of the city to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered issues. Gay and lesbian is far too limiting and leaves too many people out."

Secondly, Brunjes plans also to make herself visible and available to the numerous and diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual and


> Continued on Page 12

2001

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## around the nation

## NBA star utters gay slur at heckler, returns to flap over view on gays

NEW YORK (AP)—Philadelphia 76ers guard Allen Iverson was fined \$5,000 by the NBA last Friday for shouting a derogatory remark about gays toward taunting fans. During a Jan. 28 nationally televised game against the Indiana Pacers, Iverson was heard calling one fan a "faggot," using profanity and was seen wagging his tongue at another heckler. Iverson expressed regret about using the word, saying he meant no offense to gays, but added that he felt his abrasiveness toward the heckler was "appropriate," considering what was said to him. Iverson said he was called a "monkey" and racial epithets. "They called me jailbird; ... waving their middle finger at me. Everything. Screaming behind the bench the whole time, and nothing was done about it. They weren't even thrown out," Iverson said. NBA commissioner David Stern in October criticized Iverson for lyrics on the player's rap album that were deemed offensive. Iverson agreed to eliminate the lyrics, which included violent references and derogatory terms about gays, women and blacks.

## Former Atlanta mayor loses bid for DNC chair to top fund-raiser

WASHINGTON—Former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson withdrew his bid to become the chairman of the Democratic National Committee after negotiations that went on into the early morning hours of Feb. 4, according to the *New York Times*. "I'm more interested in fighting Republicans than having us fight each other," he said. The DNC then elected prolific fundraiser Terry McAuliffe as its new chairman Saturday, and he vowed to take on President Bush as fiercely as Republicans went after the man McAuliffe calls his best friend, Bill Clinton. Jackson had a mixed record on gay issues while Atlanta mayor, but expressed support for a range of gay civil rights measures—including allowing gays to serve openly in the military and legalizing marriage for gay couples—in an interview last month after announcing his candidacy for DNC chair. Jackson will be the party's national development chair, and will focus on building state and local party organizations.



Democratic fundraiser Terry McAuliffe struck a last-minute deal early Saturday with former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson to secure his bid as party chair.

## Gays report mostly favorable treatment in court, according to CA study

SAN FRANCISCO—Most gay men and lesbians who go to court believe that they are treated just as fairly as heterosexuals, but a significant number say they've heard a lawyer or court employee make an offensive or derogatory remark, according to a study released Feb. 1 and reported by *San Francisco Chronicle*. The survey, conducted by a committee of the state Judicial Council, is the most comprehensive study ever done on the treatment of gays in the court system. It involved 1,225 gays who had contact with the court system since 1990 either as jurors, witnesses, parties or lawyers. The study also questioned 1,525 court employees about their observations. The survey found that 89 percent of gays felt they were fairly treated, but in situations where sexual orientation became an issue, 56 percent said they heard a negative comment based on sexual orientation.

## Senate confirms controversial Ashcroft to head Justice Department

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite concerns from gay groups, black leaders and Democratic Senators, the Senate voted 58-42 on Feb. 1 to confirm conservative John Ashcroft as U.S. attorney general, giving President George W. Bush a victory in his first battle with Democrats in Congress. Many Democrats had said Ashcroft was too conservative and questioned his ability to be impartial in enforcing civil rights laws. Eight Democrats joined all 50 Republicans in the Senate in voting for Ashcroft, including John Breaux of Louisiana and Zell Miller of Georgia. The number of votes against the nomination, all from Democrats, represented the biggest rebuke of a one-time Senate colleague since 1989 when former Texas Sen. John Tower was rejected for defense secretary.

## Some signatures in FL gay rights repeal effort appear to be forgeries

MIAMI—Hundreds of petition signatures collected by conservative Christians in the efforts to repeal Miami-Dade County's gay-rights law appear to be forgeries or duplicates, nationally known handwriting expert Linda Hart said Jan. 29, according to *Miami Herald*. Of 1,200 signatures examined, about 480 "show blatant evidence of fraud," she said of the signatures examined at the request of SAVE Dade, the group battling opponents of the ordinance. The organization red-flagged a total of 2,500 signatures, which Hart will continue to examine. Reacting to SAVE Dade's findings, The Miami-Dade state attorney's office and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement said last week that they have launched a probe into whether criminal wrongdoing was involved in the gathering of 50,912 petition signatures by Take Back Miami-Dade, made up of 250 church and civic groups. The group needs 34,991 signatures—four percent of the county's registered voters—to force a referendum on the human rights ordinance.



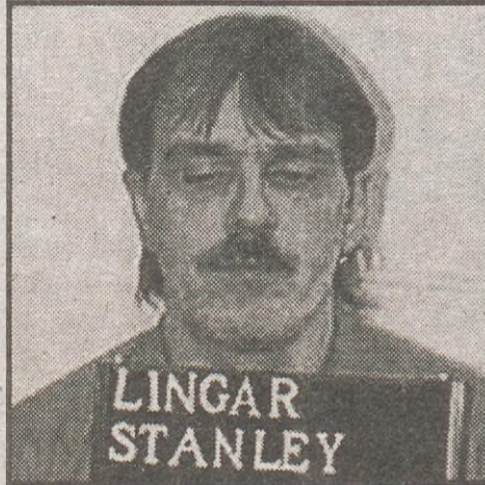
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—From staff and wire reports

# police beat

## Gay killer set for execution pleads for clemency from MO governor

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—A gay man set to be executed Wednesday for the murder of a teen-age boy in 1985 argued last week that prosecutors inflamed a rural jury by revealing his relationship with a male co-defendant, according to *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Lawyers for Stanley Lingar, 37, made that a key argument in their appeal for clemency to Gov. Bob Holden to reduce his sentence to life in prison. Lingar is the first man in Missouri whose execution has come up since Holden took office. Lingar is scheduled to die by lethal injection for the January 1985 slaying of Thomas S. Allen, 16, whose car had run out of gas on the way home from a date. Lingar and his partner David L. Smith gave Allen a ride and then ordered him to disrobe and masturbate. After Allen refused, they killed him and dumped his body in the Eleven Point River. Smith pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and testified against Lingar during a 1986 trial. During the penalty phase of the trial, Smith also testified that he and Lingar were partners. "The reason the prosecution raised that was to offend the sensibilities of a rural jury," said Kent Gipson, a lawyer in Kansas City who is handling Lingar's appeals. "It was a blatant appeal to homophobia. How is it relevant to this case that you're gay?"



Attorneys for gay death row inmate Stanley Lingar pleaded with Missouri Gov. Bob Holden for clemency just days before his scheduled execution.

## Police unclear if slaying at D.C. campus related to gay killing last year

WASHINGTON—A 19-year-old freshman at Gallaudet University was found dead early on Feb. 3 inside the same dormitory where a gay student was killed just four months ago, the *Washington Post* reported. Police identified the student as Benjamin Varner of San Antonio and said he died of multiple stab wounds. Varner's body was discovered at 4:15 a.m. in a room on the fourth floor of Cogswell Hall, three floors above where gay freshman Eric F. Plunkett, 19, was found beaten to death last September. Five days after Plunkett's death, police arrested and then released another student, 18-year-old freshman Thomas W. Minch, after it was decided that authorities did not have enough evidence to hold him. Police are uncertain if the two cases are connected.

## Gay activist in Brazil alleges Amnesty official behind bomb threats

SAO PAULO, Brazil—A Brazilian gay activist who was one of the targets of a 1999 letter bomb campaign quoted police on Jan. 31 as saying they suspected an official of the local branch of Amnesty International was behind the campaign. Roberto de Jesus, chair of Brazil's Gay Pride Parade Association, told Reuters that police investigating the case had identified the possible culprit as a man who had been working for Amnesty as a coordinator in Sao Paulo. De Jesus quoted police as saying that in addition to the letter bomb sent to him, the man had also apparently mailed letter bombs labeled with swastikas to an Amnesty branch in Sao Paulo and his own home in 1999. A string of hate mail sent to Amnesty workers and activists since 1999 threatened gays, blacks and Jews. No one was injured in the letter bomb campaign, but Amnesty closed its Sao Paulo office last year because of threats to staff.

## Suit over hormone treatment for PA trans inmate proceeds, judge says

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A transsexual inmate's civil rights lawsuit against the state over female hormone therapy will go to trial, a federal judge ruled. Jessica Elaine Wolfe, formerly James Elliot Wolfe, was taking female hormones to prepare for sex-change surgery when she was arrested on charges of having sexual contact with an 8-year-old girl. Prison officials later stopped the hormone treatment, something Wolfe said in a 1997 lawsuit constitutes "cruel and unusual punishment." The state had been seeking to have the lawsuit thrown out, but U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody said Jan. 29 that a jury should decide whether state prison officials committed medical malpractice and were "deliberately indifferent" to Wolfe's medical needs. A Pittsburgh native, Wolfe, 37, pleaded guilty to rape, a plea she said was made under duress. She is serving a five to 15-year sentence in a state prison.

## Former Zimbabwe president freed after sentence on gay sex charges

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Former Zimbabwe President Canaan Banana, jailed for a year on gay sex charges, was freed four months early after receiving time off for good behavior, prison authorities said. Banana, 64, a Methodist minister and professor of theology, was released Jan. 29 from a prison hospital outside Harare where he was being treated for high blood pressure. He served as ceremonial president after independence in 1980 until 1987, when the post was abolished and then-Prime Minister Robert Mugabe became executive president. Banana was convicted on 11 counts of sodomy and abusing his power by raping, assaulting and carrying out "unnatural acts" with men, most of whom were on his presidential staff. Banana has said the changes were politically motivated and the work of Mugabe, who is ardently anti-gay.

—From staff and wire reports



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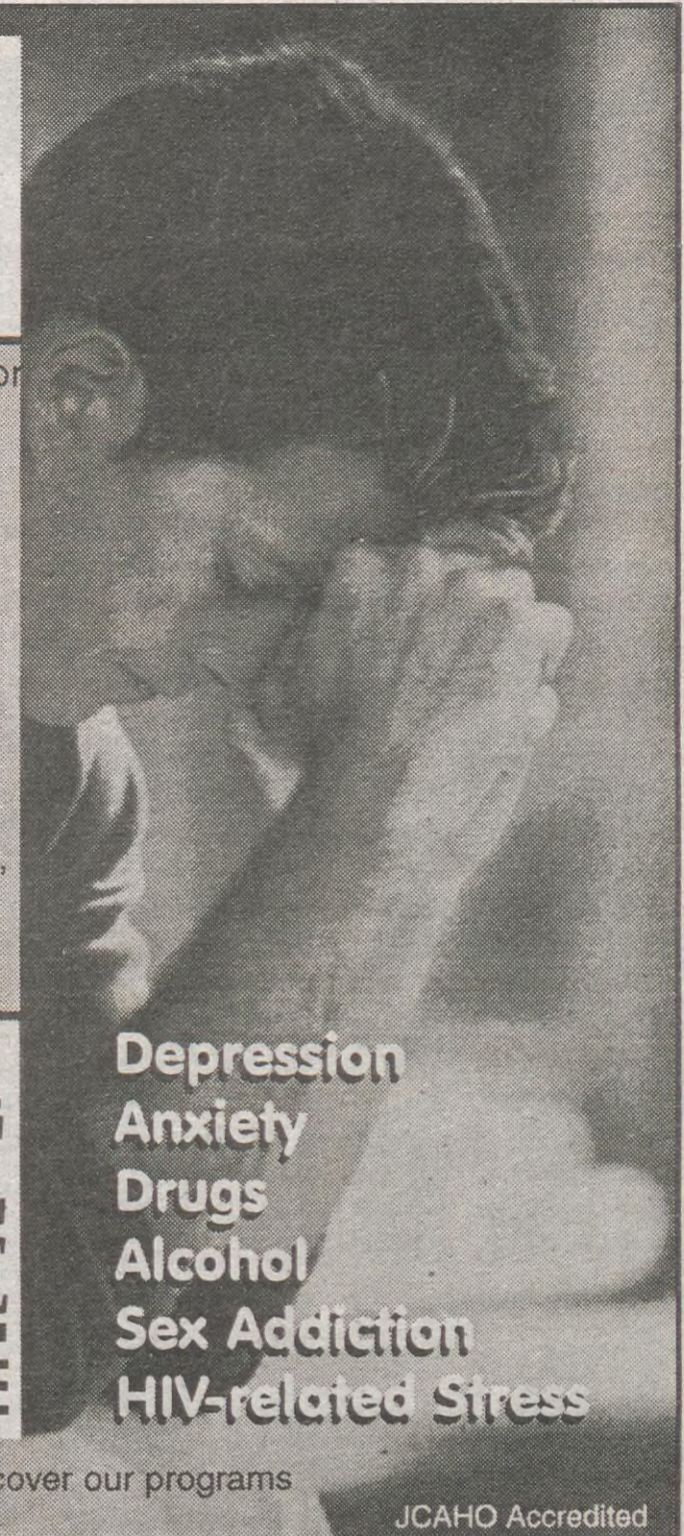
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# School anti-discrimination bill filed

> Continued from Page 1

## Taking a stand against hate

The hate crimes bill, introduced in the Senate by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, and in the House by Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, died last year in the same committee following pressure from then-presidential candidate George W. Bush.

With no presidential election focusing the nation's attention on the legislature, some watchers predict the bill could become law this session.



Rep. Debra Danburg

State Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, said in an interview with the *Houston Voice* that she thinks the bill has a good chance of passage through both chambers.

"The Senate has passed it several times. The House passed it last time," she said. "The only reason it didn't pass the Senate last time was the presidential campaign."

She added: "It's not a done deal, but I think it has a very good chance."

The bill, named for dragging victim James Byrd, Jr., has the support of Byrd's family.

"I stand before you to say hate crime is real, and it will continue to be on the rise in

this country unless we do something about it," Byrd's sister Louvon Harris said in the hearing, according to the *Dallas Morning News*.

Consideration of the bill by the full Senate may be more than a month away.

## Stopping discrimination in schools

The Non-Discrimination in Education Bill, HB 1296, would protect students from discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Rep. Harryette Ehrhardt, D-Dallas, a former Dallas teacher and school board member, emphasized the need for a safe environment in schools during an Austin press conference Tuesday announcing the bill.

"We all talk about how important education is—in fact, it is a top priority for the Texas Legislature—and yet we don't even have the most basic protections for our students," Ehrhardt said. "A safe school environment for all children is imperative for our students and our future. We need to set a tone in Texas that no type of discrimination will be tolerated in this state."

No state law currently protects students from discrimination in Texas schools.

"Studies show that students who experience discrimination



Rodney Ellis

or harassment in school are more likely to miss school or drop out than those that do not experience discrimination," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

"Twenty to 25 percent of students are victimized because of race or ethnicity each year, and nearly 30 percent of gay youth drop out of school because of discomfort in the school setting."

Julian Padilla, now a high school freshman, described at the press conference the fear he lived in at school after coming out.

"Most seventh-graders worry about what clothes they wear, but instead I was worried for my safety, for my life," he said.

Ehrhardt said in an interview with the *Houston Voice* that she is uncertain how well the bill, which has been introduced twice before, will do this session.

"When I'm feeling like the world's right and the sun is shining, I'm feeling very good about it," she said. "But then when I remember how it was last time I think: These same people are still here."

"The important thing is for all the people of Texas to realize that their letters are important, their phone calls are important. They do make a difference."

A similar bill aimed at protecting employees at schools will be introduced later in the session, Ehrhardt said.

## Other issues to watch

Gay and lesbian activists at the capitol are also watching several other bills.

State Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, has filed a bill that would prohibit the recognition of same-sex marriages.

House Bill 496 would invalidate "mar-

riage or civil union between persons of the same sex." Current law already prohibits recognition of same-sex unions.

A similar bill filed last year by Chisum died in committee, but this year's bill differs because it would also ban the recognition of the civil unions between gays and lesbians. The bill has been referred to the State Affairs committee.

Hardy-Garcia called the bill "unnecessary, redundant and divisive."

Two positive bills are also pending, however.

Danburg has again proposed a bill aimed at repealing the state's homosexual conduct law which bans oral and anal sex between gay men. An appeals court has already ruled that the law violates the Texas Constitution because it discriminates

based on sex, but that decision is being appealed.

The bill also awaits a hearing in the State Affairs committee.

State Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin, also once again introduced a bill aimed at banning workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation.

That bill has been referred to the Criminal Jurisprudence committee.



Harryette Ehrhardt

# White House reverses course on AIDS office

## HRC says policy change 'raises concerns'

by SONYA ROSS

WASHINGTON (AP)—A chagrined White House reversed itself this week and said President George W. Bush will retain the AIDS policy office established by former President Bill Clinton. But a Clinton-era office on race relations will instead become a working group on "uniting America."

"We're concerned about AIDS inside our White House, make no mistake about it," Bush said Wednesday. "And, ours is an administration that will fight for fair and just laws in the country."

Advocacy groups, grateful at first that the offices were retained, expressed concern later upon learning their duties were shifting to different White House offices.

"This whole exercise seemed very clum-

sy and definitely raises concerns," said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign.

The head of the Congressional Black Caucus, Democratic Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, said the closure of the race relations office was one of several "contradicting actions" in the context of Bush's overtures toward minorities.

"You have President Bush touting to be a unifier yet he seems, repeatedly, to exhibit the opposite," Johnson said. "President Bush will find it difficult to realize his goal to bring America together."

Confusion reigned for a few hours after Bush's chief of staff, Andrew Card, told USA Today in an interview that both offices would be closed.

Card was not aware that domestic policy chief Margaret LaMontagne already had contacted the Department of Health and Human Services about the AIDS office, said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. He

said Card admitted his error in a staff meeting.

Fleischer said the AIDS policy office would remain open with a task force, two HHS employees and a member of the White House's Domestic Policy Council devoted to the issue.

The One America office will become a "working group on uniting America," Fleischer said. Its mission: developing policies following up on the observations Bush made in his inaugural address "about people who don't see that we have justice for all."

That group will operate through the White House's Domestic Policy Council and its office of public liaison.

Advocates for AIDS and civil rights said there is a critical need for the offices.

"With the AIDS epidemic raging, especially in communities of color, this is not the time to even consider downsizing either of these offices," said Patricia Bass, head of the

CAEAR Coalition, a nonprofit advocacy group for AIDS patients who rely on federal funds for health services.

Bush aides, speaking Wednesday on condition of anonymity, said eliminating the AIDS and race offices was considered, but the discussions never got too far—in part because aides recognized the potential for political backlash.

The Democratic National Committee seized on the confusion.

"Race relations and AIDS are two of the biggest challenges facing our nation and the world. Now is the time for strong leadership, and not mixed signals, from the White House," DNC chairman Terry McAuliffe said.

Clinton created the Office of National AIDS Policy in 1994. The Office on the President's Initiative for One America was created in February 1999 as a means of continuing the national dialogue on race that Clinton launched in 1997.

# Full 14th Court of Appeals yet to issue new ruling in sodomy case

> Continued from Page 1

agreed and asked for additional briefs from both sides but said it would not hear oral arguments.

Murphy will remain on the court at least until March 1. After that, he is likely to be return to finish cases he started and to serve



Tyron Garner

as a substitute judge.

An official of the court said Murphy is not available for media interviews.

He told the *Houston Chronicle* last week that he expects to recast his original vote when the sodomy ruling is issued.

"I was pleased with his original decision and I'm pleased that he will vote again the same way he voted before," Katine said.

But the court has not indicated when the vote will come.

"We are simply waiting," Katine said. "I've gone to court and have been told that the ruling is not released and there is nothing more they can tell me."

The 64-year-old judge said he is retiring because the increasing volume of appealed cases is reducing "the quality time for researching and writing opinions" and that state salaries are too low to keep experienced staff attorneys, according to the *Houston Chronicle*.

Kathy Walt, a spokeswoman for Gov. Perry, told the *Houston Voice* there is no indication about who will replace Murphy or when the decision will be made.

In addition to the language that was added to the Texas Republican Party platform condemning the two justices votes, the party encouraged members to oppose the re-election of the two and issued a "public rebuke" of the men.

Harris County Republican Party Chairman Gary Polland, who was responsi-

ble for an unsuccessful effort to get the GOP chairmen of 14 counties served by the 14th Court to publicly call on Anderson to change his ruling or resign, said he thought Murphy's decision in the sodomy case was an attempt to make law rather than interpret it.

Polland said in that past that attempts to characterize the letter campaign as improper are "absurd" because they are based on a draft of a letter that was leaked to the media a week after the decision was made not to send it.

"I think Murphy's position on the sodomy law is legislating from the bench," he said.

Polland stopped short of offering any other criticism of the Republican judge.

"I thought he's had a distinguished judicial career," Polland said.

The controversial sodomy case began after sheriff's deputies, responding to a false third-party report of an armed intruder in September 1998, entered John Lawrence's Houston apartment and found Lawrence and Tyron Garner having sex. Police arrested both men and held them in jail for over 24 hours before releasing them on \$200 bond each.

At the time, many people thought Texas' homosexual conduct law was no longer being enforced.


Murphy was one of the first two Republican judges in a century elected to

the appellate court system in 1980. He became chief justice of the court in 1995 after being elevated by then-Gov. George W. Bush.

The annual salary for a chief justice is \$112,500, according to the *Houston Chronicle*, and justices can earn their maximum retirement pension after 20 years of service.



John Lawrence

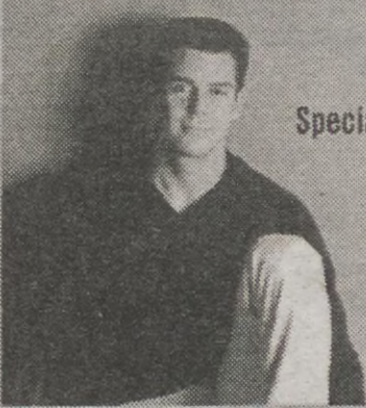


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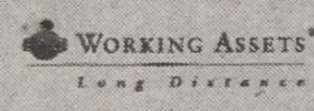

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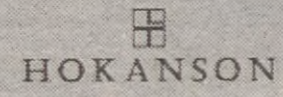
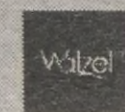
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Letters should be fewer than 400 words. We reserve the right to edit for content and length. We will withhold names upon request, but you must include your name and phone number for verification. Please send mail to Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd.,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



## VIEWPOINT

# Celebrate 'queer love' all month long

by MARIA MINICUCCI

For centuries, Feb. 14 has been set aside to celebrate matters of the heart. On this day,

Valentine's Day, romance takes precedence over routine.

Flowers, candy, candlelight and gazing longingly at your beloved are the order of the day. And, the order of this day, just as most holidays fell solely into heterosexual hands. When, how and what makes a holiday comes in the form of heterosexual images, perspectives, proclivities and preferences.

Man, woman and child sitting around the fire, the dinner table, carving pumpkins, trimming trees, creating family memories and recycling traditions for the traditional family. The adult version of Valentine's Day inundates us with images of the "perfect" romance—between a man and a woman.

As this Valentine's Day approaches, I find myself wondering, "If the order of Valentine's Day were in queer hands, how would we celebrate queer love?" I invite you to share my fantasy of the "Rainbow Family" way of celebrating love and romance.

The first order of business would be a name change. I daresay that we would not leap to celebrate a holiday named after a religious icon.

Along with a name change, I strongly sus-

pect that just one day out of the year would definitely not be a sufficient amount of time to revel in the ways and wonders of loving. After all, admit it or not, queer love is far more pleasure focused than the more serious straight stuff.

So, what was once Valentine's Day might from this point in time on, become, "Matters of the Heart, Buttocks, Bosom, Crotch and Mouth Month," at the very least. And, we take these matters seriously enough to actually warrant an official day off rather than trying to cram the business of pleasure and passion into a regular work day.

Speaking of business, buying and sending just flowers, cards, candy and tacky boxer shorts would never satisfy our desires. Nope. We would make sure our entire month was scheduled with parties, programs, events and even workshops to address the across the board appetites of our queer communities.

For example, lesbians would throw an "All of My Ex's Party." Gay men would never be caught with their pants down, wearing cotton boxer shorts covered in hearts and cartoon characters. Instead, they would be found in finer department stores indulging themselves, their partners and potential partners with sleek, silk, soft-to-the-skin underthings.

Transgendered persons would receive gender-preferred gifts and gift certificates from their lovers and loved ones. For example, a day at the spa for your M-F lover or

loved one, an autographed copy of "Men are From Mars," for the F-M partner.

"Be all that you can be" cakes and cards, perhaps even banners would be made with your favorite bisexual in mind.

An array of workshops would be offered, organized and facilitated by the politically correct among us. Of course, the workshops would reflect our diversity.

There would be a range of topics such as bottoms up, u-hauls anonymous, is celibacy a pity party in disguise?, real men are monogamous, looks really do count, lesbians are innately allergic to dating and more.

Finally, every "Rainbow Holiday" must have awards. For this particular month-long tribute to loving, lusty, longing our way, the highest honors may very well be, "The Most Flaming Queen," and "The Butchest Dyke."

These awards would be given to persons who have dared to defy the ridiculously repressive roles put upon us and who have survived the ridicule put upon them.

So, if y'all out there would like to turn some of my fantasy into reality, there is still plenty of time to plan a few parties, organize a few workshops or begin today to unabashedly indulge your own appetite for queer love.

*Maria E. Minicucci is a freelance writer, psychologist, and board member of the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.*



## VIEWPOINT

# Dear Valentine: I loved you, now die

by BARBARA RAAB

Last Valentine's Day, I received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from a woman who, unbeknownst to me, was about to dump me.

What was this woman really thinking as she told the delivery person on the other end of the phone the message to go on the card?

"Um, have the card say, 'You have no idea what's about to hit you'... Um, no, wait a minute. You better make it 'I love you' instead."

Less than a week later, the flowers were still alive but the relationship was dead.

This year, Valentine's Day will be a non-event for me. I have neither admirers (that I know of) nor objects of my special affections. Objects of my lust, yes, but I don't send flowers to girls I want to sleep with. I send them furtive glances. And there's no 800-number for those yet.

While the rest of the world knocks itself out to celebrate love on Feb. 14, I'd like to take this opportunity to propose a new national holiday, a whole new reason to send a Hallmark card to that special someone. I want a holiday that wallows in the misery of breakups. Love affairs gone bad. The messier, the better.

Let's call it I Loved You, Now Die Day.

Here are some clever gift-giving ideas for

making I Loved You, Now Die Day super special:

- Send your ex a big jar of little pastel colored candy hearts with catchy phrases: "Don't Be Mine," "Don't Miss U," "No."

- Pick up a special Whitman's Breakup Sampler, with a little something for everyone: the I-am-in-love-with-somebody-else patty, the it's-not-you-it's-me-i'm-just-not-ready nut cluster, and bitter chocolate covered cherries-on-the-rebound.

- Send the object of your former affections a cute little stuffed bear wearing a tag that says, "You Were Never Very Good In Bed Anyway."

- Send perfumed cards that say things like, "I used to dream you'd come back to me. I still have those dreams. Only now, I call them nightmares."

- Take advantage of special phone company promotions that let you call your ex as many times as you want and hang up.

- Create a breakup picture frame: buy an ordinary frame and shatter the glass.

- Spend the entire day watching re-runs of "Ellen" and movies starring Anne Heche. Take a break and listen to some Melissa Etheridge albums.

- Ask your hometown newspaper to replace its Sunday wedding announcements with breakup bulletins: "Jane Q. Public, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public, was

unceremoniously dumped yesterday by Jane Doe, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Doe of Birmingham, Ala., at the couple's home in Decatur. Nobody officiated, although many neighbors said they could not help but eavesdrop on the yelling and screaming. Ms. Public is keeping her name and all the nice pots and pans."

And lest you think my fantasy of a national holiday in splitsville is destined to remain just that—a fantasy—I can tell you that at least one entrepreneur sees dollar signs in the breakup business.

While surfing the web recently, I came across a site selling greeting cards to send to friends going through breakups. Most of the choices are warm and fuzzy, like this one:

"If it's a time for crying/I'll weep with you/If it's a time for singing/I'll harmonize/If it's a time for moving on/Let me pack your bags/Your marriage is ending/Our friendship endures."

Blech.

But here's my favorite:

Split Splat Splunk We're all in a funk. But the air will clear for you my dear now that you're rid of the punk.

Now that's what I call a Valentine!

*Barbara Raab is a writer and television producer in New York City and can be reached through this newspaper.*



VIEWPOINT

# In God we trust our most marginalized?

by MUBARAK DAHIR

Imagine that a gay teenager in crisis calls a local suicide hotline.

As you can imagine, the troubled teen hasn't researched the hotline and the organization behind it. More likely, the crisis center is the biggest, best known in the area.

Now imagine the agency operating this particular hotline grew to its current, substantial size as a social service organization funded largely by government grants.

Imagine if that crisis intervention organization is an arm of a church.

And imagine that this church—like the vast majority of churches in America today—preaches that homosexuality is a sin.

You can only imagine what the counselors of that crisis intervention hotline are going to tell that poor troubled gay kid.

Thanks to President George W. Bush's executive order setting up a White House office aimed at cutting through government restrictions against religious groups receiving government money for social services, you no longer have to use your imagination to envision the above scenario. President Bush has all but codified it.

President Bush's new directive granting "faith-based" organizations the right to compete for government grants—with no concrete safeguards against invoking religion while delivering such services—should scare the hell out of every gay and lesbian American, even the already God-fearing ones. He is pushing open the door to religious discrimination as a weapon against gays seeking social services.

Some of the problems that bring gay Americans to such an agency can be matters of life and death, like gay or questioning kids calling suicide hotlines. Indeed, studies have shown that gay youth are up to five times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers.

How is a religious-based crisis organization likely to go about "helping" such a gay young person? Probably by pointing him toward God and showing him the sin of his homosexuality.

Suppose the most affordable childcare a lesbian couple can find is a nursery run by a religious organization. Of course, it's the most affordable childcare because it is subsidized by government grants. Do you think such an institution is going to read "Heather has Two Mommies" to the little tot?

Highly unlikely. Indeed, while some churches and synagogues and other places of worship have made great strides toward more enlightened teachings on gay people, the ugly truth is that as a general rule, religion is still mostly used to attack and hurt gay people, not to help or heal them.

In the vast majority of cases, it's impossible to separate the services from the religious principles upon which they are based. A church-run alcohol recovery program that believes kicking an addiction is based at least in part on giving your soul over to Jesus cannot be expected to temper its religious overtones just because it is now receiving government funding.

Indeed, I don't believe Mr. Bush intends that it should. He's repeated the refrain that faith-based service organizations should be allowed to run their programs "in a manner that does not cause them to sacrifice their mission."

Then there are the other ways a federally funded religious group can discriminate against gays—through workplace discrimination. In the state of Kentucky, the largest provider of social services to children is an organization called the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Last year, the KBHC received \$13 million of its \$19 million annual budget from public funds. But in 1998, the organization fired counselor Alicia Pedreira solely because "her admitted homosexual lifestyle is contrary to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children core values."

Even most states that protect against anti-gay employment discrimination carve exceptions for faith-based groups, which can now fund their biased opera-

tions with our taxpayer dollars.

I suspect, however, that with heightened national sensitivity to the issue—and with civil rights activists watching like hawks—most religious organizations vying for money under Mr. Bush's new rules will be a bit more careful than the Kentucky Baptist Homes. Few will be reckless enough to impose an outright hallelujah test on how to help their clients.

Even worse, gays could be forced to acquiesce to the religious notions of their caregivers simply to get the help they will be so urgently seeking.

Mubarak Dahir is a syndicated columnist based in Astoria, NY, and can be reached at MubarakDah@aol.com.



## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel





## City of Houston Community Enhancement Meetings



Each year, the City updates its long-range plans for installing new sewer-lines, streets, police and fire stations, libraries and other projects in the community. Please help identify projects and City service needs in your area for the City's next Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the five year schedule for constructing and financing projects.

Council members are holding a series of meetings on the annual operating budget and the (CIP). Come learn about City programs and funding, and tell us *your* ideas for improving *your* community.

### District A - Bruce Tatro

February 1, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Scarborough High School - Auditorium  
4141 Costa Rica

### District B - Carol Galloway

February 13, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Francis Scott Key Middle School  
4000 Kelley

### District C - Mark Goldberg

February 20, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Houston Community College -  
West Loop Center  
5601 West Loop South

### District D - Jew Don Boney, Jr.

March 5, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Museum of Fine Arts - Auditorium  
1001 Bissonnet

### District E - Rob Todd

February 5, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Dobie High School - Cafeteria  
11111 Beamer Rd.  
February 26, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Creekwood Middle School -  
Amphitheater  
3603 W. Lake Houston Pkwy.

### District F - Mark Ellis

February 12, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Elsik High School - Little Theatre  
12601 High Star

### District G - Bert Keller

February 8, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Frostwood Elementary School - Cafetorium  
12214 Memorial Drive

### District H - Gabriel Vasquez

February 15, 7 - 9 p.m.  
Clemente Martinez Elementary School  
901 Hays Street

### District I - John Castillo

February 19, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.  
Magnolia Multi-Service Center  
7037 Capitol

Comment forms will be available at all meetings, the Mayor's Citizens Assistance Office, Council offices and the Planning & Development Department. To request a form by mail, call 713-837-7862.

Bilingual, Sign language, and/or captioning services are available on request. Please call 713-837-7831, one week before the meeting you plan to attend.

(TTY 713-837-7702)



# around the world

## Gay socialist may break new ground with win in Paris mayor's race

PARIS—The new mayor of Paris could be a gay socialist, according to *Guardian*. Bertrand Delanoë would be the first socialist to hold the post in 130 years and would become the first openly gay man to occupy a high-profile political position in France. He is upfront about his sexual orientation since coming out on a live television show two years ago. But Delanoë won't make an issue of it, arguing that he is not a "gay politician," but a politician who happens to be gay. The left-winger has a good chance of being elected, according to opinion polls, because of corruption in the current administration. The right's campaign has also been hampered by the deep and bitter division in its ranks involving outgoing Mayor Jean Tiberi, who is running as an independent after taking the fall for financial scandals.



Gay Socialist Bertrand Delanoë is likely to become the next mayor of Paris in March elections, making him the first openly gay man elected to a high profile office in the country.

## Cayman Islands churches protest scrapping of anti-gay laws by U.K.

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP)—Religious leaders in the Cayman Islands have started a petition drive protesting a British order that decriminalized homosexuality in its five Caribbean territories. Last month, Britain scrapped laws making homosexuality a crime in the Cayman Islands and four other territories after local legislatures refused to do so. The move angered church leaders who say that homosexuality is immoral and goes against the cultural grain of the deeply religious and socially conservative islands. "I don't know any partnership that could survive on the basis of this kind of one-sided relationship," said the Rev. Al Ebanks, chairman of the Cayman Ministers Association. He said the petition would be turned over to the Cayman Islands legislature and its British governor. The order to decriminalize gay sex also applies to Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

## Complaint triggers ban of Eminem songs, clothing on U.K. campus

LONDON—Students at Britain's Sheffield University have banned American rapper Eminem's songs and T-shirts, calling him anti-gay. Students who show up in Eminem clothing at the school's disco will be turned away, the radio station will not play his music and the student newspaper is banned from printing reviews of his CDs or concerts, the *Daily Telegraph* reported, according to Reuters. "There was clear evidence of a flagrant breach of our policy towards gays. We are trying to reduce homophobia," said Neil Foster of the student union board. The ban was triggered by a female student's complaint about the rapper's lyrics, which include derogatory lyrics about gays. But not everyone agreed the ban was the right move. "We argued till we were blue in the face that we're all over 18 and unlikely to have our opinions about homosexuality influenced by the lyrics of a singer, but it didn't do any good," said Dan Morfitt, head of music at the university radio station.

## Drag queen to challenge Queensland premier in Australian race

BRISBANE—Queensland Premier Peter Beattie may have a rival for the title this election, with a drag queen announcing she will challenge the premier for his Brisbane seat, according to the *Australian*. Late night television host and minor celebrity Tamara Tonite will run as an Independent against Beattie, promising voluntary euthanasia, transgender rights and the right of lesbians and single women to use fertility clinics. "Every person on this earth deserves to be treated no better, and certainly no less than any other person, for any reason at any time," Tonite said in announcing the campaign on her Web site. Tonite, who hosts a risqué, self-titled variety program, has recently been embroiled in a battle for control of her television station with its Christian management. Beattie, whose seat is considered safe, wished Tonite well. "Brisbane Central always has a large number of nominations. It reflects the diverse nature of the electorate," Beattie said.

## Powell urges Congress to do more in fighting AIDS as 'security threat'

WASHINGTON—U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Sunday he views AIDS as a national security problem, adding that "we all need to do more" to fight the disease that is killing millions of people in Africa, according to Reuters. The Clinton administration first termed the spread of AIDS a threat to national security last April, a position some Republicans questioned at the time. Asked about that, Powell said he agrees with his predecessors. "AIDS is a national security problem. It is an economic problem. It is a devastating problem especially in Africa, in sub-Saharan African," Powell said on ABC's "This Week." The Clinton administration had said it feared the epidemic could undermine economies, threaten military establishments and governments and cause other regional problems, particularly in Africa. Powell said Congress had been "generous" in funding programs to fight the disease but that more effort is needed. "I will do everything I can to continue getting that support from Congress to fight this, this pandemic," he said.

—From staff and wire reports

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# local news

## Arrest made in death of Houston female impersonator

Victim's car found in Georgia, suspect arrested in Florida

by LAURA BROWN

The man accused in the death of Drin Shane Honeycutt, also known as popular female impersonator Brandi Houston, was arrested this week in Florida.

Richard Masterson faces murder charges in Houston, said Sgt. R. G. Parish of the Houston Police Department homicide division. Parish declined to say where in Florida Masterson was picked up.

"We want a chance to question him before anyone is calling down there asking questions," Parish said.

Police currently have "no evidence" the killing was a hate crime, Parish said.

Honeycutt, 35, was found dead in the bedroom of his apartment at 1218 Jackson on Jan. 27. There were "no visible wounds to his body," according to initial police reports.

Police now believe the cause of death was "external neck compression," a form of strangulation, Parish said.

Honeycutt's car, a 1997 red Ford Escort, was missing when police were called to the scene, and robbery is being explored as a possible motive, Parish said.

Honeycutt was last seen leaving a nightclub located near Richmond Avenue on Jan. 25, according to police reports.

Acquaintances told police Honeycutt had performed at the nightclub Chances, then visited Decades and Cousins, leaving the bar at about 2 a.m. Masterson reportedly attended the show, then went with Honeycutt to the other clubs and back to his apartment, police said.

"That's what we were told, but we haven't been able to verify it yet," Parish said. Honeycutt's acquaintances don't know if he and Masterson met for the first time that evening, or if they had been friends in the past, he said.

Friends discovered Honeycutt's body in his apartment two days later, police reports said. Police have not been able to determine if any items in addition to the car were missing from the home. There did not appear to be signs of a struggle in the apartment, Parish said.

Houston police reported Honeycutt's stolen car to the National Crime Information Center, which links law enforcement agencies around the country. The stolen car was found Feb. 1 by police in Emerson, Ga., near Atlanta, being driven by one of Masterson's relatives.

Houston police do not know if the driver knew the car was stolen, and the relative is not currently facing any charges related to Honeycutt's death, Parish said.

Masterson was arrested in Florida this

week after his information was also posted on the NCIC network. He is from Texas and was apparently living on the street in Houston at the time of the crime, Parish said.

He is described as a white male in his late 20s or early 30s, about 6 feet 1 inch tall, weighing 170 to 180 pounds, clean shaven and with short, dark hair.

Anyone who may have seen Honeycutt and Masterson together should call the HPD homicide division, Parish said.

Everyone is devastated. Brandi was a big, big part of our community.

—Don Gill, PWA Holiday Charities board chair

Friends of Honeycutt described him as a popular entertainer and dedicated volunteer in the Houston area, and expressed relief that an arrest had been made.

"Everyone is devastated. Brandi was a big, big part of our community," said Don Gill, board chair for PWA Holiday Charities, which had recently named Honeycutt the group's "volunteer of the year" for 2000.

Honeycutt had volunteered for two years with the group, putting together gift packages that were delivered on holidays to people with AIDS at local hospitals and hospices, Gill said.

PWA Holiday Charities voted this week to officially name its annual honor the "Brandi Houston Volunteer of the Year Award," Gill said.

"There were a couple of times that Brandi was knocking on death's door, and as soon as he was able to get back on his feet, he put on a dress to raise money for other people that he didn't even know," Gill said.

Frank Riojas, also known as performer Rita Charles, knew Honeycutt for 10 years and performed with him.

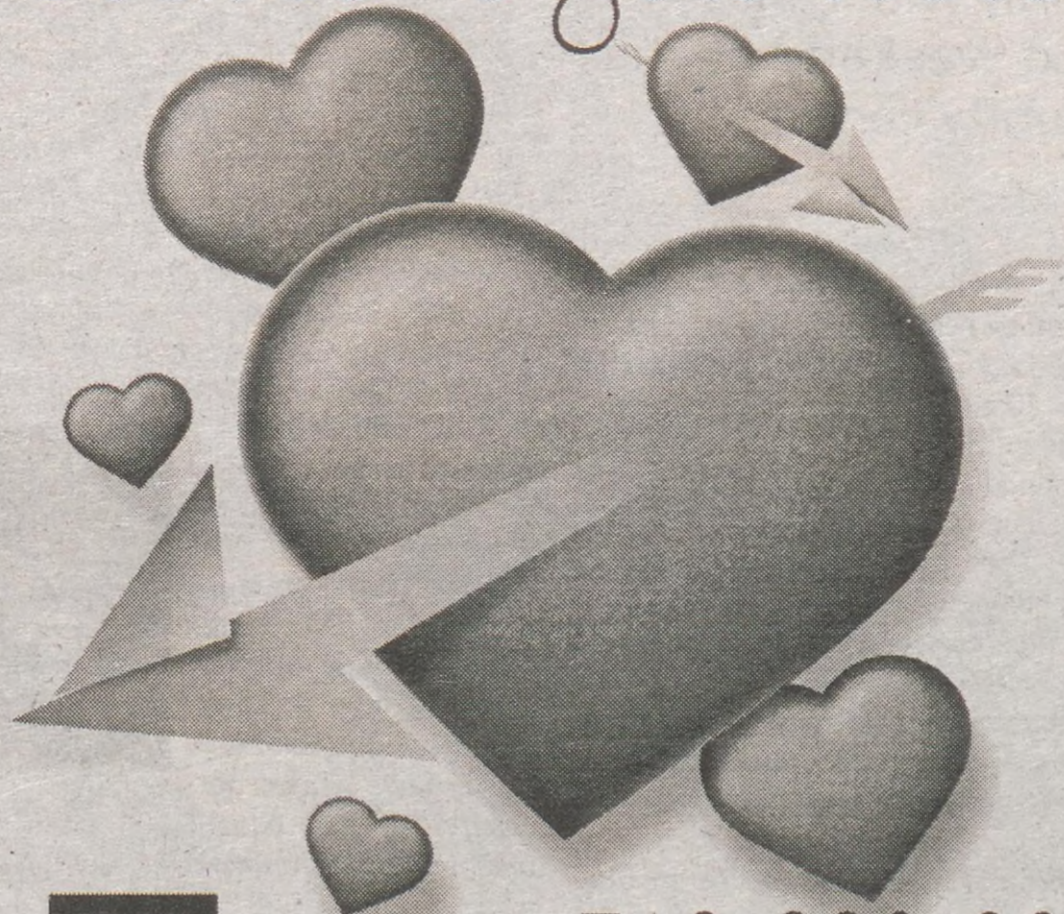
"He was a really good friend and a nice guy," Riojas said.

Honeycutt performed with the Royal Sovereign & Imperial Court of the Single Star and had held several female impersonation titles, including Miss Brazos River Bottom and Miss Briarpatch, Riojas said.

Friends in Houston are planning a memorial service for Honeycutt, but details remained pending at press time.

**INFO**  
If you have information in the death of Brandi Houston / Shane Honeycutt:  
Houston Police Homicide Division  
713-308-3600

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# Deadline approaching for Pride Marshal voting

In-person voting slated for next weekend at community center

by ELLA TYLER

In-person voting for Houston's 2001 Pride Marshals will be held Feb. 17, at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mail-in ballots are available in the Inside Pride newsletter or may be obtained at the Web site, [www.pride-houston.org](http://www.pride-houston.org), and must be received by Feb. 15.

Voting is open to any resident of Harris, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery or Waller county. Photo I.D.s must be shown to vote.

The nominees for Male Grand Marshall are Kevin Davidson, Ray Hill, Mitchell Katine, Ralph Lasher and Rusty Mueller (a.k.a. Crystal Rae Lee Love).

Janine Brunjes and Dalia Stokes are the nominees for Female Grand Marshal. Blake and Gordon Weisser, as a couple, are the sole nominee for Honorary Grand Marshal. The nominees for Honorary Grand Marshal—Organization are Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston, Greater Houston Area American



Janine Brunjes

Red Cross HIV/AIDS Education & Services and PFLAG Houston.

Kevin Davidson is a founder and current president of Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals and helped found with the P-FLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Scholarship Foundation. He remains active with the group, serving as its secretary/treasurer. He is administrator for the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and is a member of Executive and Professional Association of Houston.

Ray Hill, in the words of his nominating statement, "has been committed to the Houston GLBT community since 1958; has refused to sell out to assimilationists seeking to redefine the community; and works to ensure fair and equal treatment for everyone, especially the least of the least of us."



Ray Hill

Mitchell Katine, in cooperation with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, represented the two men who challenged the Texas statute prohibiting homosexual conduct. He is nationally known expert on HIV legal issues, speaking free of charge to a variety of groups, and has taught and "HIV and the Law," at South Texas College of Law.

Rev. Ralph Lasher is a staff member at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church. He teaches classes and writes about

on scripture and sexuality. He is a former executive director of the Kolbe Project and is a co-founder of Crossroads, a support group for GLBT ministers. While serving as executive director of Montrose Clinic, Lasher oversaw its income grow from \$300,000 annually to more than \$1.5 million.

Rusty Mueller, a.k.a. Crystal Rae Lee Love, is treasurer of Colt 45's and a past chairman of its AIDS Trouble Fund. He has received the B.J. Sumners Memorial Entertainer of the Year Award and has raised thousands of dollars for Houston's gay community and HIV services, including Stone Soup Fund, PWA Holiday Charities, Bering-Omega Community Services Center, Montrose Clinic's Women's Program, Steven's House and Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

Janine Brunjes is a founder of the Houston chapter of the Uncommon Legacy Foundation, and co-chair of the national group's board of directors. The Texas Human Rights Foundation honored Brunjes for her activism in 1998. She was a co-founder of the Houston Black Tie Dinner and is president of the Hollyfield Foundation.

Dalia Stokes is a founder of River Oaks Democratic Women, a group that supports advancing equality for all, especially

GLBT people. She was the co-chair of the Human Rights Campaign's Houston Gala for 2000 and is repeating in that role for the 2001 Gala. She is a lawyer with the firm of Bayless & Stokes; specializing in probate law.

Blake and Gordon Weisser are each active members of P-FLAG at the local, state and national level. They also work with H.A.T.C.H. and have witnessed for gay rights at the Episcopal National Convention. They have taken Soulforce training Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston, which recently became a part of Montrose Counseling Center, now offering a 24-hour hotline that provides information, support, crisis intervention and referral services for Houston's GLBT population.

Greater Houston Area American Red Cross HIV/AIDS Education & Services has been active in Houston's HIV/AIDS arena since 1986. It is the largest provider of HIV education to be recognized by Centers for Disease Control.

P-FLAG Houston has the mission of "support, advocacy and education for the GLBT community, family and friends." It holds monthly educational meetings, two monthly small-group sharing sessions, a telephone Help Line, and lending library. It has an active speakers bureau and hosts biannual Healing the Hurt Conferences.

INFO

[www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org)

## Brunjes pushing for support of DP benefits

> Continued from Page 3

transgendered organizations. For Brunjes, this is a necessary step.

"I want to be as informed as possible about the issues facing our community in order to properly and thoroughly represent them to the mayor's office."

Brown is also anticipating the contributions Brunjes will make to the overall harmony and effectiveness of the fourth largest city in the country.

"I look forward to working with (Janine) on a variety of important issues that concern the gay and lesbian community and all Houstonians," Brown said.

The most immediate of these issues is the domestic partner benefit debate currently running through Houston.

Brunjes laughs as she points out, "facing this particular issue is exactly like baptism by fire!" In a more serious tone, Brunjes notes the importance of this issue at this particular time in the history of Houston's gay community.

"We need every voice, every dollar, everybody supporting such a basic human right as having a life partner be able to receive health coverage.

"This is not a gay issue, this is a human issue and it just makes sense that employees who feel respected and cared about will, in the long run, be more effective and more productive."

Brunjes has also looked ahead and iden-

tified other issues she will be addressing with the mayor's office and her community.

"I hope to bring in a national perspective as well as a local one. I firmly believe in ENDA and promoting the Human Rights Campaign agenda, mainly the end of any and all discrimination."

One of my first priorities is to infiltrate the mind set of the city to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered issues. Gay and lesbian is far too limiting and leaves too many people out. Janine Brunjes, Mayor Brown's new gay and lesbian liaison

Above all else, Brunjes is determined to get results.

"I am anticipating that as long as I am in this position, my work will be meaningful and focused on policy changes, securing domestic partner benefits, and raising money for referendums which will enhance the quality of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives."

## Insurance plan likely on Feb. 14 Council agenda

> Continued from Page 3

example for our children, then take time and contact the mayor and as many members of City Council as you possibly can."

Though Adams failed to return phone calls to the *Houston Voice* for his comments, the Heights Chamber of Commerce was quick to distance itself from Adams' political viewpoint.

"We do not take a political stand. We cannot take sanctions on political issues," Deborah S. Milton, Heights Chamber of Commerce executive director, said, pointing out that Adams is "one of 26 directors."

"That's his opinion and he's entitled to send out anything he wants to send out," Milton said. "I do not wish to offend Mr. Adams, but he does not speak for our board or our chamber."

Milton noted that Adams is a "very active board member," but is not an officer, nor a current chairperson for any chamber committee.

Another figure in the opposition to the plan is Harris County GOP Chairman, Gary Pollard.

Pollard said he would not support domestic partner benefits for several reasons.

"There are some major concerns about

domestic partner benefits. There's the statement it makes about marriage. But on the other hand, if gays can't get married then they're left out," he said.



Annise Parker

this decision by council vote? Let's let the voters decide," he said.

He added that the ordinance would be unfair if it did not also provide for the unmarried partners of heterosexuals. But even if straights were included in the ordinance, he still would not support it.

"Then I think we're attacking the institution of marriage."

The next open session of City Council is Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 1:30 p.m., at 901 Bagby. Citizens may sign up to speak before Council during the Tuesday session for up to three minutes. Council will then reconvene at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 14, to consider agenda items.

# local news

## Condom week starts Feb. 14

Local agencies promote safe sex year round

by KAY Y. DAYUS

Valentine's Day marks the beginning of National Condom Week and what better time to be reminded about the importance of using condoms. But it seems that for some of Houston's HIV/AIDS agencies every week of the year is designed to promote the use of condoms to prevent HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

Alice Sarmiento, director of development and marketing with the PWA Coalition, said that although PWA is not planning anything special for NCW, they do promote condom use throughout the year.

"Every day is condom day and every week is condom week at PWA," said Sarmiento. "We pass condoms and lubes out to clients all the time and encourage them to use them."

Sarmiento encourages people, "to come by and pick them up. We have a good stock." She says that condoms and lubes are available at PWA's Montrose office, Thomas Street Clinic and in PWA's satellite office in the Fifth Ward.

She says that the Fifth Ward, an older African-American neighborhood, is their "biggest condom-taking area and it's great because the kids are getting them."

The Montrose Counseling Center is not doing anything special to promote NCW says Barbara Irving of the education department.

Todd Foster, Development Director of the Montrose Clinic says they will be distributing special Valentine's safer sex packages with information and condoms.

"They will be available at all our outreach sites for HIV testing and education. We are also doing outreach in the schools and the bars," says Foster.

The Montrose Clinic will talk to the parents in schools to show how to best explain the dangers of unprotected sex to children, he said.

AIDS Foundation Houston's Amy Leonard says the organization is not doing anything special for NCW, other than their usual outreach through Project Caesar, the gay men's health initiative.

Leonard says they do outreach efforts in gay bars and with substance abusers.

"And lately, we've been hitting the raves," says Leonard. Outreach includes materials and safer sex packages, she says.

Planned Parenthood of Houston is planning to talk up the use of condoms and safe sex during NCW, says community coordinator, Larissa Lindsay.

"We are doing condom baskets and giving them away at some of the radio stations and we'll have staff at the stations during the week," says Lindsay.

She says they are also placing advertisements in campus newspapers encouraging students "to make responsible choices in their love life."

"We will be encouraging people to use condoms and how to have equal, safe relationships. And to have sexual intercourse protected, physically and emotionally," says Lindsay.

She added that their vice president, Meryl Cohen, will be the guest speaker at a Houston Press romance/singles event next week. The topic? Ask the Sexpert.

They will also have a workshop on Feb. 19 about sex and intimacy to help people with relationships.

INFO

### Planned Parenthood

713.522.6363

### AFH

713.623.6796

### The Montrose Clinic

713.830.3000

### Montrose Counseling Center

713.529.0037

### PWA Coalition

713.522.5524



Valentine's Day kicks off National Condom Week, but local HIV/AIDS agencies say they promote the use of condoms throughout the year.

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# Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • FEBRUARY 9, 2001

## ALL THE BAYOU'S A STAGE



Jaston William and Joe Sears return to Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House with 'Red, White and Tuna,' April 10-15.

### Houston theater has promising offerings for spring

by D.L. GROOVER

During the last few months, Houston's theatrical community has brought us scintillating visits from: psychotic Annie Wilkes, a trio of distaff Antons desperate to make it in show business, wayward Katya Kabanova, the deranged lounge act of Kiki and Herb, a strung-out Snake in the Vein, a corps of balletic Bruisers, a dysfunctional family who spends Christmas on Mars and six rip-snorting equines. The next few months prove to be just as ripe.

#### Alley Theatre

**SYNERGY**, Feb. 2 to March 4

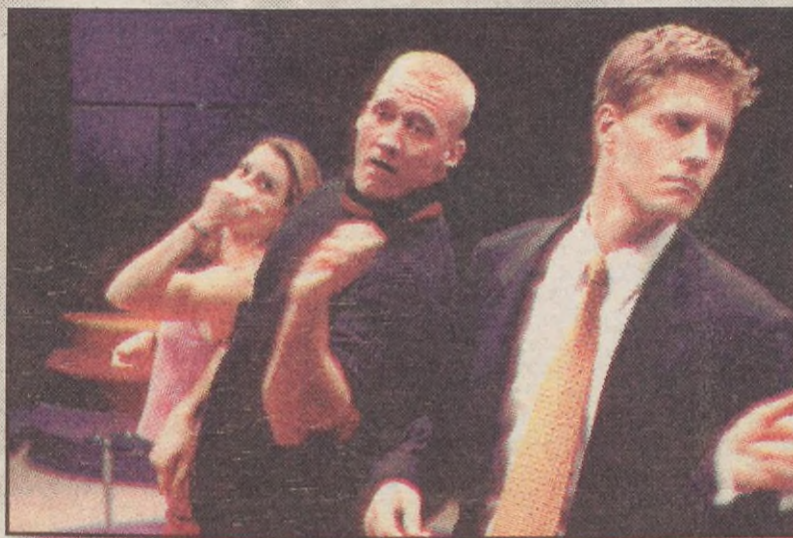
In Keith Reddin's world premiere comedy, it's Faust meets Buffy the vampire slayer. To save her own soul, feisty Deb bargains with her devil/dentist to supply him with others more worthy. What better place to start procuring than the company who's stolen our souls for decades, the Disney conglomerate? Should be devilish fun.

**A FLEA IN HER EAR**, Feb. 23 to March 24

Georges Feydeau's classic farce from 1907 defines the term. "I put into my pill a gram of imbrogliò, a gram of licentiousness, a gram of observation," the master farceur once said. He makes this one go down easy. A jealous wife, mistaken identities, a fake love letter gone astray, a cross-dressing butler, a bordello, a lisping cousin, split-second timing, slamming bedroom doors and enough zanies for a Marx Brothers retrospective. With the precision of a Swiss watch, Feydeau's forceful skewering of fin de siècle manners and pretensions is ravishingly funny and dead accurate. Perhaps the gayest Frenchman in the true sense of the word, he died insane from syphilis.

**DINER WITH FRIENDS**, April 6 to May 5

With his play about modern marriage and friendship, enlightened with many fine riffs on food, Donald Margulies won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for drama. Gabe and Karen, two married baby boomers, much to their chagrin must re-examine their life together when their best friends separate. The realities of life, the simple things, are dissected with comic, yet distressing, proportions. Life's not a cabaret, but a soufflé: enjoy every mouthful, before it deflates.



The Alley Theatre stages the world premiere of Keith Reddin's comedy, 'Synergy,' through March 4, starring Jenny Maguire, Callum Keith-King and Eric Sheffer Stevens.

#### Ashland St. Theatre Co.

The ever-adventurous Ashland St. continues its intriguing program choices for the spring. As always, look for sex, gay and/or straight, some love and much over-the-top grotesquerie in their cutting-edge works

> Continued on Page 16

## Out on the Web

InsightOutBooks.com offers discount  
gay books, 'chats' with author

by ELLA TYLER

InsightOutBooks.com, a new online book club for the gay reader, is a delightful addition to the book marketplace.

Although the club, which launched last June, has only 300 books in its catalogue, the selections are well chosen and offered at attractive discounts, a rarity for gay and lesbian books.

And, even if you have no room for any more books, the site is much more than a list of the books offered, and these other features make it well worth a visit.

"What we are doing is creating a unique, compelling refashioning of the book club experience," said David Rosen, one of the site's co-editors. "We are mixing our book presentations with community features and original content."

The site includes profiles of authors with interviews; a column called Publishing Gaydar, about the state of gay books in the publishing industry, and profiles of smaller publishers that publish books for the gay community.

These are monthly features with new articles being added each month. The 18 authors who have been profiled to date include Christopher Rice, Jewelle Gomez, Armistead Maupin and James Saslow.

Several non-gay authors who have written about gay or lesbian characters, Julia Alvarez and Roy Richard Grinker, for example, are also profiled.

The site also features "chats" with authors of newly published books. In non-book news, the site includes a time line of gay history that begins even before the Greeks and has a separate time line of transgender history, a community outreach section that profiles queer organizations such as GLAAD, and a national calendar of events.

"We now have more than 10,000 members," Rosen said. "We are adding about 15 new titles per month to the list. About a dozen of these are new titles and the rest are classics that we are bringing back into print with as Triangle Classics editions."

"The Triangle Classics has 35 titles in the series," Rosen added. "What we are doing now, is trying to flesh out our categories. We have a broad range of categories from literary and popular fiction to classics to spirituality to erotica."

The site lists 31 categories, some with only a few titles. Rosen explained that in genre fiction, it is dif-

> Continued on Page 17

# Bernadette Peters coming to isle in April

➤ Continued from Page 15

that make you laugh while they prick you to death.

**THE TALES OF THE LOST FORMICANS**, Through Feb. 17

Constance Congdon's bracing satire on our daily life, as seen through the eyes of aliens sent here to study us, runs one more week. After viewing this funny/sad dissection, you'll know why we are the most alien life form in the universe.

**THE STANDING WAVE**, March 2 to 31

Kahan Jances' comedy is a bed-hopping round-robin of a sex tale, wherein Sasha, a gay guy who's had a loving partner for years, meets two women and falls in love with them, too. As it is a world premiere from an unknown playwright, you now know as much about it as anyone. If you need convincing to go see it, "Wave" contains "brief nudity and adult situations." More than enough reason for some of you to attend.

Starting in March, Ashland St. begins a series called "Midnight at Boylesque," drag comedies with such titles as "Steel Dragnolias" and "Extremities." Hey, it's midnight, what do you expect?

**RAISED IN CAPTIVITY**, April 20 to May 19

Nicky Silver's paint-peeling comedy/dramas have a liberating effect upon audiences: everybody's life looks absolutely fabulous compared to those bleeding, self-lacerating sad sacks on stage. Silver's 1995 "Captivity" is no exception, filled with incendiary language and situations to scald the brain. Incest, senseless violence, dysfunction, all set to paroxysms of radiant language so heart-wrenchingly beautiful and poetic that you want to weep at these flailing characters who only seek a little love to keep them whole. But first, of course, you've got to laugh out loud at their pratfalls over life. Profoundly sad, profoundly funny.

## Diverseworks

For its late winter/early spring season, Houston's cutting-edge performance space rates four-stars. Something for everybody in these new-wave programs. Put on your water wings.

**STATE OF HEADS**, March 23, 24

White light, a man in a white suit, two women in white dresses. They itch and scratch to the itchy music of James Lo, and then doff their outer garments and shake their fists. Good luck making sense of this, but maybe that's how it should be. This is modern dance with a vengeance, or the Donna Uchizono Company with composer James Lo.

**EVAN PARKER AND SUSIE IBARRA**, April 10

British saxophonist Parker and jazz drummer Ibarra collaborate for their first-time duo. Improvisation on a very high musical level, indeed.

**THE MAUIST**, April 19 to May 5

In this commissioned work for the wondrously imaginative Bobbindoctrin Puppet Theatre, we are on a Pacific island

where its habitants, the god Maui, an active volcano, and a handful of Protestants collide and erupt in terribly funny and adult ways. Western civilization gets a drubbing from the natives; we get an eye-opening evening in the theater.

## Galveston Grand Opera House

**TEDDY TONIGHT!**, March 3, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

We're usually wary of any show with an exclamation point in its title, but Laurence Luckinbill's one-man play about Teddy Roosevelt will hardly "speak softly," but should answer all questions about that "big stick!"

**BERNADETTE PETERS IN CONCERT**, April 7, 9 p.m. April 8, 2 p.m.

Broadway's reigning diva ("Sunday in the Park With George," "Into the Woods," "Annie Get Your Gun") comes to town equipped with her own klieg light and enough sultry sizzle to send Bayou temperatures soaring. Singing and dancing to beat the band, Ms. Peters is a ravishing glamour gal with more talent than a Zeigfeld show. Two days only is not enough.

**RED, WHITE & TUNA**, April 10 to 15

Joe Sears and Jaston Williams bring the "second smallest town in Texas" to riotous life during Tuna High's class reunion. All our favorite citizens, played in glorious 3D by this dynamic duo, arrive with comedic baggage and burst from the proscenium with fireworks. This hilarious, loving send-up of Americana is theater at its best. July 4th will never be the same.

## Houston Ballet

**FIVE POEMS**, Feb. 22 to March 4

Having to put up with her husband's numerous indiscretions over the course of their marriage, Minna Planer Wagner wasn't unduly worried when Richard went on another bender, this time with an industrialist's wife, lovely Mathilda Wesendonck in 1852. Frau Wagner reasoned it would burn itself out within time. What she didn't reckon with was the incomparable masterpiece that Frau Wesendonck inspired: "Tristan and Isolde" and, to a lesser extent, the "Wesendonck Lieder." These sex-infused works have remained in the world's consciousness long after poor Minna's been forgotten.

Artistic director of Houston Ballet, Ben Stevenson, too, has been inspired by these achingly radiant love songs with words by Mrs. Wesendonck. He created "Five Poems" for the Houston Ballet Academy recital last year; subsequently, he has remounted it for the professionals. Come and see the love child of Wagner/Wesendonck translated into dance. Sets and costumes have been designed by TV's own Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman, Jane Seymore.

**THE FIREBIRD**, Feb. 22 to March 4

One of genuinely great ballets from last century, Fokine's "The Firebird," gets a facelift from one of contemporary ballet's great choreographers, James Kudelka,

artistic director of the National Ballet of Canada. A sumptuous production designed by Santo Loquasto, filled with magic and enriched by that rapturous Stravinsky score from 1910, the mysterious Firebird swoops into the heart, looking younger than ever.

**COPPELIA**, March 8 to 18

Inventor Dr. Coppélius has created a mechanical doll so lifelike that when the intrepid village maid Swanilda takes its place he thinks she's alive. Filled with gentle comedy, inventive characters, lively dancing, and Leo Delibes' simple, beautiful score, this family ballet is a classic of the repertoire. Dawn Scannell, a living doll herself, takes the title role for the opening. Wind up this entertaining ballet, and watch it spin.

**CLEOPATRA**, April 3 to 7

If you happen to be in London post Ides of March, support Houston Ballet on tour as they dazzle the English with last season's sumptuous hit.

In Ben Stevenson's DeMille-like spectacle, sexy Lauren Anderson erases memories of Claudette and Liz, while Dominic Walsh makes an impassioned Antony. To the exotic strains of Rimsky-Korsakov, Cleo arrives by rug, barge, and palanquin to seduce Julius and Marc, while the Roman senators leap out of their togas in gymnastic frenzy. Nicholas Leschke, as buffed evil counselor Pothinus, and Mauricio Canete, as man-child Ptolemy, add a sly homoerotic subtext to this tale of ancient empires. All hail, Cleopatra! Jolly good show, what?

## Houston Grand Opera

**THE CORONATION OF POPPEA**, March 2 to 15

With Claudio Monteverdi's "L'Incoronazione di Poppea" from 1642, we are at the dawn of opera history. Five years previous to this work's premiere, the first public opera house opened, the San Cassiano in Venice. With the admittance of the upper middle class to musical theater, everything changed, and Monteverdi, opera's first great composer, was this new art's revolutionary leader. Fortunately, he never discarded the church for whom he wrote his fabulous sacred madrigals, but applied himself to another theatrical venue, the stage, making it his temple. Melodically inventive, adventuresome in harmony, and pairing music to word with a psychological rightness, Monteverdi could be said to have invented opera as we know it.

His last opera, "The Coronation of Poppea," is his Baroque masterpiece. Although Busenello's story is shaky history at best, the characters behave like real people, while their emotions color the expressive, haunting music. The perfect combo these old Italians created wouldn't be heard again for a generation. Look for, and listen to, the male sopranos Michael Maniaci as Nerone and Gerald Issacs as the old nurse Armalta, as they revive the tradition of the castrato. (That doesn't really need explanation, does it?)

**DON CARLO**, April 20 to May 5

If there's anyone more worthy to succeed Monteverdi, it should be Giuseppe Verdi, whose list of renown operas reads like a who's who. He, too, was a musical revolutionary, and his dramas tie personal stories with larger tales of the state. Verdi's liberal social views overlay his operas like a mighty river, and his political "Don Carlo" from 1867 is his epic, awash with ringing cries for freedom from oppression. It is also filled with French grand opera spectacle since it was commissioned by the Paris Opera, still grieving a deceased Meyerbeer and still smarting from Wagner's 1861 revision of "Tannhauser."

Verdi's opera is grand, indeed, but it is equally majestic and regal in conception. The unrequited love between Don Carlo and Elizabeth de Valois is plaintively matched with the brotherly love between Don Carlo and Rodrigo, the erotic tension between Carlo and Countess Eboli (one of the superb mezzo roles in all opera), and the paternal love between Carlo and his father Philip, now husband to Elizabeth. All this personal sturm und drang is dramatically interwoven between the hypocritical and horrific Inquisition as it works its evil, and the forces of the Netherlands as they demand independence.

**FLORENCIA EN EL AMAZONAS**, April 28 to May 13

Based upon Gabriel Garcia Marquez's writings and lots of South American literary "magic realism," Daniel Catan's 1996 HGO world premiere returns home for a second hearing. We remember it fondly: a mixture of Puccini with a dash of Werner Hertzog's "Fitzcarraldo," a gigantic revolving steamship of a set by Robert Israel, and a beguiling story somewhat careened by all the supernatural transformations going on around the characters instead of inside them. The list of good contemporary operas is extremely short. There's always room for one more. Maybe this one will make it.

INFO	Alley Theatre, 615 Texas, 713-228-8421.
	Ashland St. Theatre Co., 2610 Ashland Street, 713-426-3019
	Galveston Grand Opera House, 2020 Postoffice Street, 409-765-1894
	Houston Ballet, Wortham Theater Center, 713-227-ARTS
	Houston Grand Opera, Wortham Theater Center 501 Texas, 713-227-ARTS
	Masquerade Theatre 1537 N. Shepherd 713-861-7045
	Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway; Waugh @ D'Amico, 713-527-8243
Theatre New West, 1415 California, 713-394-0464	

# Bayou Calendar

## All Clytemnestra on the Western Front

Michelle Spencer's one-woman show condenses Homer's "Iliad" into a startling modern miracle play, filled with feminist humor and just a little anger. Playing all your favorite characters from Helen to Agamemnon, this artist/choreographer interacts with them by multimedia. Cool and hot. Feb. 9, 10; 8 p.m.

DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway; N. Main @ Naylor  
713-335-3445

## Eyes For Consuela

A Houston premiere of Sam Shepherd's hyper-mystical 1998 off-Broadway drama, based on Octavio Paz' short tale, "Blue Bouquet." Disheveled, befuddled Henry, having abandoned his wife, wakes up in a remote Mexican jungle. Accosted by a machete-wielding bandit who wants Henry's eyes for a bouquet to appease his own wife, the ghostly Consuela, the two desperate men discuss and discuss, the role that sacrifice plays in love. It's all very meaningful, if it means anything.

Through Feb. 24

Actors Theatre of Houston, 2506 South Blvd.  
713-529-6606

## Aeros

Now here's something you won't see everyday: the Romanian gymnastics team performing to the modern choreography of David Parsons, Daniel Ezralow, Moses Pendleton and the creators of "Stomp." Visually arresting, these young, buff male and female bodies fly, twirl, leap, defy gravity and in one amazing segment, simply walk on their hands under blacklight in eye-bending, hypnotic patterns. With music by Two Tall Guys Music Lab, this evening is human fireworks. Just the flair and tongue-in-cheek attitude the Olympic Games need.

Feb. 9 & 10, 8 p.m., Feb. 11, 2 p.m.  
Cullen Theater Wortham Center, 501 Texas  
713-227-4772

## Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo

If you can manage the immense hassle of the free Metro buses to the Astrodome—sorry, we mean the "Reliant" Astrodome—three famed C/W artists perform during the opening of the daddy of all rodeos. Clay Walker shakes his butt Tuesday, Feb. 13; Alan Jackson shakes his thinning blond locks Wednesday, Feb. 14; and Hank Williams Jr. just shakes Thursday, Feb. 15.

All shows at 7 p.m.  
Reliant Astrodome, 2000 South Loop West  
713-463-9600

## Online book club has titles on spirituality, erotic, self-help

> Continued from Page 15

difficult to find titles that work with book club economics.

"A lot of science fiction and mystery is available only in mass market paperbacks, but we don't make any money discounting a \$5.95 book. One way we are thinking about working on this is by putting out double editions," he said.

Books are not sent unless ordered. Exploration of the Web site does not require membership. Rosen thinks this site will encourage readers to buy more books from all sources.

"One of the things that we have learned through surveys of book club members is that they are highly interested and are true readers. They find out about books and buy books

## insightoutbooks.com

The book listings include concise and compelling reviews of the books, designed to encourage purchase. Some books also have reader reviews.

One of the nice features of the site is a section of excerpts from \ feature of the site is the "First Chapters" page, which allows readers to preview certain titles before they buy.

Editorial content is quickly and clearly linked to books that are part of the clubs inventory, but books that are not part of the clubs inventory are mentioned as well.

Everything on the site is not a promotion for its books. The author interviews are well done and are just the right length to be read on the computer. Membership in the club is easy, requiring an initial purchase of three books at \$1 each and then the purchase of three books at club prices during the next two years.

through every channel possible—the club, stores, on line," he said.

InsightOutBooks is a subsidiary of Quality Paperback Book Club, which is itself a division of Bookspan, a joint venture between Doubleday Direct and Book of the Month Club.

The situation has advantages. Rosen said that some books are of interest to other book clubs in the group as well.

"There are more than 30 GLBT employees working in our offices, and we get input from all of them. Our staff recommendations section is a popular section of the site, and it gives all the employees the chance to advocate for a book they like."

Rosen and his co-editor Retha Powers were editors at Quality Paperback Book Club before being recruited to head this new venture.

## Maranatha Fellowship MCC

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6:30pm Sunday Evenings

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(Based on Max Lucado's book "He Chose the Nails")

February 11	"I Loved You Enough To To Become One Of You"	Rev. Janet Parker
February 14	HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY	
February 18	"What Language Does God Speak?"	Rev. Janet Parker
February 25	"God Gives You A Choice"	Rev. Janet Parker

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# health news

## 'Hit early, hit hard' treatment for HIV changed in new fed guidelines

CHICAGO—Altering a long-held policy, federal health officials are now issuing non-binding guidelines recommending that AIDS treatments be delayed as long as possible for people without symptoms of the disease because of increased concerns over toxic effects of the therapies, according to *New York Times*. The new guidelines represent a major philosophical shift in treating HIV. Instead of the "hit early, hit hard" approach in effect since 1996, the new approach calls for waiting until the immune system shows serious signs of weakening or until HIV levels in the blood far exceed those for which treatment is recommended. Meanwhile, government officials are talking of a cure while researchers meeting this week in Chicago are more concerned with stopping the spread of the disease and getting needed drugs to Africa. U.S. Health Secretary Tommy Thompson spoke during a speech last week of curing AIDS and pledged to fight for funding so the National Institutes of Health can work toward this goal. But the world's top experts on AIDS, meeting in Chicago this week at the 8th Annual Retrovirus Conference, are talking about what they can do about the virus, like developing more new drugs to treat the patients who can afford them or whose government can afford them, according to Reuters.

**U.S. Health Secretary Tommy Thompson wants to increase federal funding to find an AIDS cure, though top experts said they are more concerned with stopping the spread of the disease.**



## Feds release guidelines to treat drug, alcohol abuse among gays

WASHINGTON—The federal government issued guidelines Jan. 15 aimed at helping health care providers deal with the widespread abuse of drugs and alcohol in the gay and lesbian community, according to the *Chicago Free Press*. "A Provider's Introduction to Substance Abuse Treatment for GLBT Individuals" will be mailed to more than 20,000 health-care facilities nationwide. The 189-page publication is being lauded by gay treatment facilities, including the high-profile Whitman Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C., which called the guidelines an "extraordinary first step in recognizing unique approaches" required to meet the health-care needs of gays.

## Early changes in cells may pinpoint signs of breast cancer, scientists say

LONDON—The key to detecting, treating and saving women from dying of breast cancer may lie in early changes in cells that line the inner surfaces of organs, according to CNN. More than 90 percent of all cancers begin in these epithelial cells. The disease develops when the cells undergo genetic changes, divide uncontrollably and spread to surrounding tissue. Until now, scientists have believed that a regulatory system in the body—called senescence—was a barrier to cell growth. But researchers at the University of California, San Francisco have discovered that epithelial cells in the breast can bypass senescence, which could be one of the earliest signs of cancer. The ramifications of the research are big because once the cells bypass the barrier they keep proliferating, undergo chromosomal changes and become very unstable, which is what causes the mutations that fuel cancer. The scientists, whose research is published in the science journal *Nature*, were trying to find out why most cancers begin in epithelial cells when they made their discovery.

## New HIV drugs stop virus outside cells, halting infection, studies show

WASHINGTON—A new class of AIDS drugs aimed at helping patients who become resistant to or intolerant of standard treatments appears to be working well, according to the results of six small studies reported in the *Wall Street Journal*. While standard treatments inhibit the HIV virus from replicating once it has infected a cell, the new drugs, dubbed T-20 and T-1249, bind the virus outside the cell and stop it from entering the cell and infecting it. "The trends are all in the right direction," said Dani Bolegnesi, chief executive of Trimeris, Inc., which, along with Hoffman La-Roche, is developing the drugs. As many as 300,000 people could be resistant to the standard drug cocktail by 2002, according to Bolegnesi.

## Binge drinking causes HIV virus to grow resistant to meds, study says

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Binge drinking reduces the ability of patients with HIV to stay on their medication, a new study suggests. Dr. Robert L. Cook, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, said his findings emphasize the importance of screening for alcohol problems among those who are HIV-infected. Cook's team looked specifically at excessive drinking in relation to missed, late or early doses of medicine, any of which could be dangerous. If an HIV-positive person fails to stay properly medicated, the virus grows. In the presence of drugs or alcohol, the virus mutates and becomes resistant to medication. The study, which appears this month in *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, looked at 212 HIV-positive people who consumed alcohol excessively, considered to be women who consumed five drinks and men who had six drinks in one sitting at least once a month, or women who had more than 12 and men more than 16 drinks in on week.

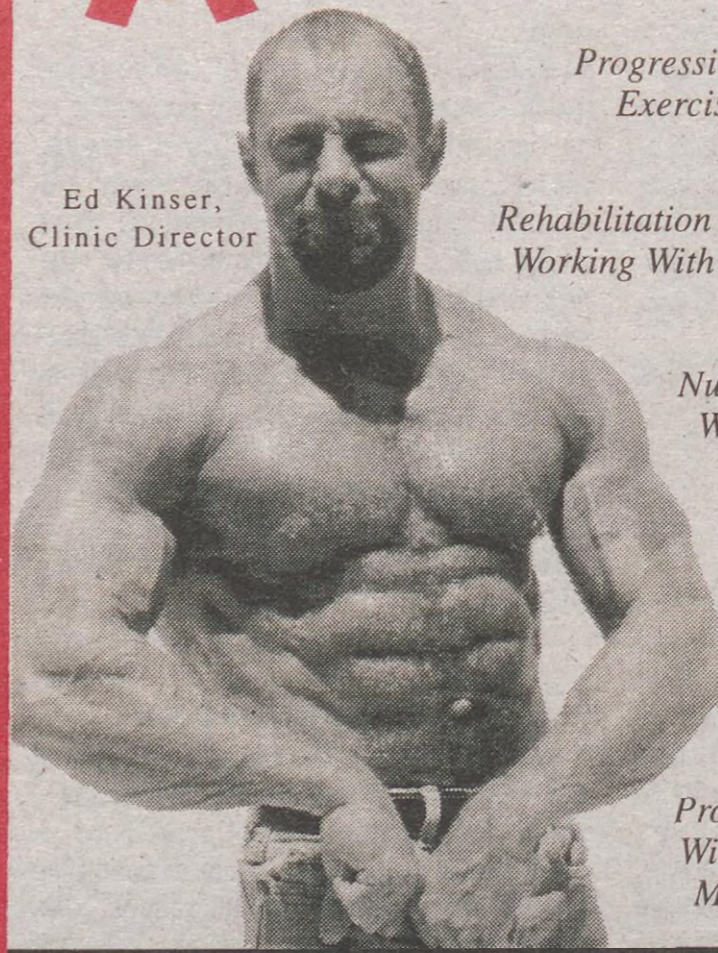
For more news, visit  
[www.houstonvoice.com](http://www.houstonvoice.com)

—From staff and wire reports



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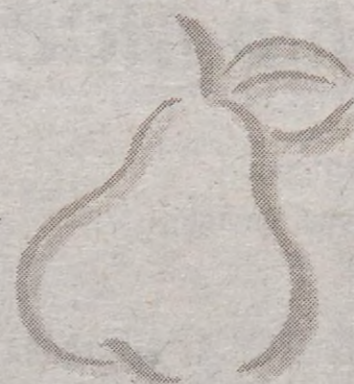
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# out in music

by MARGARET COBLE

## Doria+Michelle = folk fun

Atlantans Doria Roberts and Michelle Malone cook up some Southern brew

Though the winter months are usually the slowest time for new releases in the music industry, this year seems to be an exception. New albums by folk-rockers Doria Roberts and Michelle Malone, as well as punk rockers The Gossip, are sure to get your blood pumping on those cold, blustery days.

Philadelphia-bred, Atlanta-based singer songwriter DORIA ROBERTS' latest CD RADIO DORIA (Hurricane Doria Records) is a solid follow-up to 1999's critically lauded "Restoration." The 14 tracks of this 50-minute disc are filled with Roberts' often outspoken political views and compelling storytelling skills, accompanied by her own aggressive acoustic guitar work and a tight but subtle backing band comprised of bass guitar, drums, and violin.

The disc opens with the lyrically combative "Iguana," an Ani DiFranco-like, in-your-face diatribe that challenges the listeners to open their minds as well as their ears, setting the tone for the rest of the album. Other highlights include "Death of A Day," a powerful commentary on women's rights, which tells the story of an abused woman via a rhythmic swirl of acoustic guitar, percussion, and soaring violin lines.

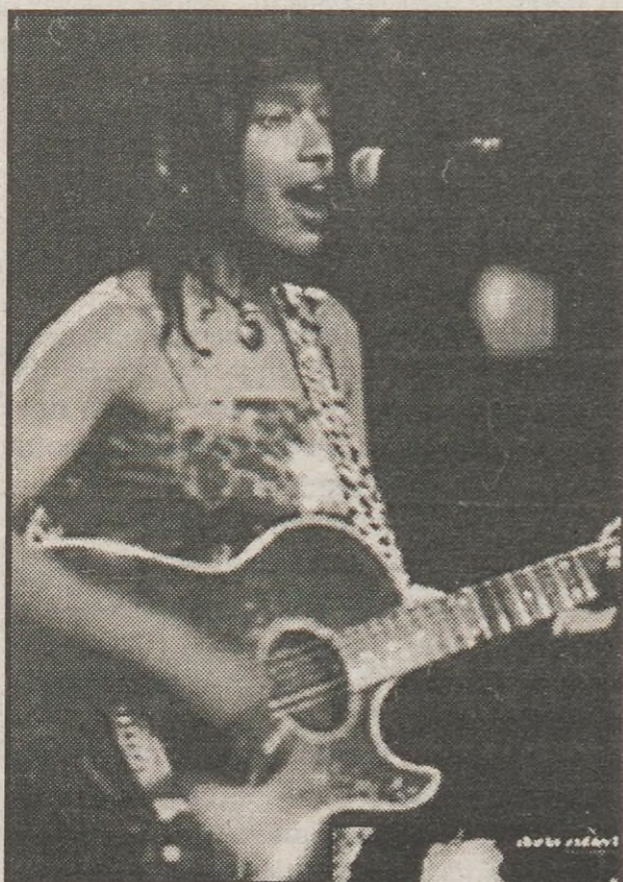
The rest of the album continues to tackle complicated issues of the day like homelessness, poverty, homophobia, and racism, all with Roberts' fiercely independent, feminist perspective and her rugged acoustic roots-rock sound.

Don't miss the hidden bonus track at the end of the disc that offers closure to this emotionally provocative album.

While waiting for Atlanta folk-rocker MICHELLE MALONE's forthcoming album of new studio material, due out later this spring, fans will want to pick up the openly lesbian singer-songwriter's most recent live recording, STRANGE BIRD VOLUME 3: THE AUTHORIZED BOOTLEG, released on her own SBS Records imprint.

Culled from over a year's worth of live performances, "Strange Bird Vol. 3" offers many choice cuts from Malone's discography as well as fan favorites not previously available. From the Southern blues-rock of "Grace" and the honky-tonk country feel of "On My Way" to the harmonica and twangy guitar filled "Hollow Day," this 60-minute disc is classic Malone, and is a treat from beginning to end.

Diehards will appreciate the inclusion of her oft-praised cover of the Rolling Stones' "Wild Horses," as well as popular



Doria Roberts' latest recording, 'Radio Doria,' showcases her political views and her storytelling skills.



audience requests "Butter Biscuit," "Tanya Tucker," and the melancholy holiday tune "Feels Like Christmas." Especially entertaining is a brief two-minute Q&A session, which offers rare insight into the enigmatic artist as she interacts with fans in an intimate setting.

The GOSSIP are the latest DIY punk rock phenomenon to emerge out of the prolific Pacific Northwest music scene. It's true—their brief but oh-so-good, 14-track, 24-minute debut CD THAT'S NOT WHAT I HEARD (Kill Rock Stars) has been pricking up ears of critics and consumers alike.

Originally from Searcy, Ark., the trio moved to Olympia, Wash. about two years ago, started a band, and quickly impressed punk sheros Sleater-Kinney, who slotted them as their opening act last spring on a nationwide tour.

With the combination of Beth Ditto's gospel-soul vocals, guitarist Nathan Howdeshell's pop-perfect riffs, and drummer Kathy Mendoza's swinging backbeat, the Gossip have quickly achieved media-darling status, and are definitely a band to keep an eye on.

INFO

**Doria Roberts**  
www.doriaroberts.com

**Michelle Malone**  
www.michellemalone.com

**The Gossip**  
www.killrockstars.com

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*Following the Subtle Current Upstream* – Alonzo King  
*Revelations* – Alvin Ailey  
**Sat. Feb. 17, 8pm, Jones Hall**  
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*Pas de Duke* – Alvin Ailey  
*Episodes* – Ulysses Dove  
*Revelations* – Alvin Ailey

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## Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

### Nice Spice

Vegetarian version of Thai standby offers ample variety

by KATHREEN LEE

The newest addition to the Rice Village Thai Spice is its vegetarian branch, a small mobile restaurant parked within the tree-lined corridor between Richmond and Norfolk near the Shepherd Plaza.

The simple white washed exterior, its customary black and white checkered tile floor, and its sheer lack of any interior decorations other than several scattered photographs of their entrée options lend an unassuming and a somewhat austere atmosphere to the restaurant. Although THAI SPICE VEGETARIAN promotes itself as the "fresh and trendy spice," I am fairly sure that their bare décor was not an artsy attempt at minimalism.

Despite its modest atmosphere, Thai Spice Vegetarian goes all out in its attempt to simulate familiar meat dishes using a variety of garnishes and soy product alternatives.

For instance, in the Grilled Vegetarian Fish (\$9) entrée, eggplant masquerades as fish. Flaked, matted, and layered into fish-like meat, the eggplant peels off as though you were eating a real filet of fish. Tough and greasy burnt eggplant skin impersonates its authentic slimy counterpart, and bits of wooden sticks hidden in the eggplant mimic the bothersome bones often hazardous to fish eaters.

The Princess' Favorite (\$7.50) is one of their more popular dishes with hardened and texturized tofu imitating chicken, which is mixed in with an assortment of sautéed vegetables and cashew nuts.

However, despite the uncanny physical resemblance to fish, the eggplant still tasted like eggplant. It seemed that more emphasis was placed on recreating the texture of fish without also recreating its taste. Instead of garnishing the fish with a Thai fish sauce, a sickly sweet chutney or relish of honey, onion, and red peppers topped the grilled eggplant, making it taste almost candied.

While the special effects effort of the odd mixture of eggplant shavings, sweet chutney, burnt skin, and twigs were appreciated, the less than fishy taste prompted one dinner companion to wonder, "why is all this in my food?"

The Princess' Favorite (\$7.50) is one of their more popular dishes with hardened

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FOOD FILE

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and texturized tofu imitating chicken, which is mixed in with an assortment of sautéed vegetables and cashew nuts. Once again, Thai Spice Vegetarian was able to pull off the physical and textural replications, but was not quite able to meet any resemblance in taste.

However, the rich and flavorful soy-based sauce complemented the crunchy texture of the fresh vegetables, cashew nuts, and meaty consistency of the imitation chicken.

Not all entrée options were meat simulations, and some of their offerings were explicitly vegetarian, such as the Pad Thai (\$7) and the Yellow Curry (\$7.50). The mixture of imitation egg batter, ground peanuts, tofu, and bean sprouts in the Pad Thai provided a standard dish no more inspiring or substandard than what one would normally expect. However, those vegans or even the lactovegetarians out there can dine on the Pad Thai and rest assured that the egg batter is poultry free.

The Yellow Curry is one of my personal favorite dishes. Diced tofu, potatoes, onions, carrots and broccoli swim in a faintly greasy and slightly spicy yellow curry sauce. It's best enjoyed by pouring it over a bed of white rice, and the vaguely sweet flavor of the curry is perfectly matched by the steady and mild rice.

Each dish was served on pink plastic tableware, which made me feel like I was eating in Barbie's playhouse. Thai Spice Vegetarian's resolute attempts to replicate the visual and textural qualities of certain meat dishes reminded me of the fake play food that children often endeavor to create out of Play-Doh.

While Thai Spice Vegetarian offers a fairly customary fare of Thai cuisine, vegans may appreciate their extra effort to authentically reproduce each meat dish without overly compromising its unique taste and flavor.

# "quote/unquote"

compiled from STAFF REPORTS

"From time to time, kids in the band do stupid things. Yes, they do play F, A, G, and we stop them when they do it."

—Tony Fox, band associate for the University of Southern California, explaining how the school's band sometimes taunts rival UCLA, in the *Los Angeles Times*



"That was the first question at all the [press] junkets in America: 'So is he gay?' And meanwhile we have our instructions [from the studio]: 'Well, I think that's up to you, the audience, to decide.' These guys play chess with each other and ask to get in the tub, you know? Sure, we do it all the time! 'I saw Chris the other day; no, we're just hanging out. We had lunch and then we got a room and took a bath. No, no, man, he's cool, he's cool. He's a married man.' [Laughter]"

—Matt Damon (left), on his title role in 'The Talented Mr. Ripley,' to *Talk* magazine, January edition

"Singing 'The Cup of Life' at George Bush's inauguration is like playing the fiddle while Rome burns. This is a very partisan act. This is a president who would have people in his cabinet who would obstruct the exercise of civil rights, human rights, consumer rights, the right to choose. ... This is a betrayal of everything that a Puerto Rican should stand for."

—Robi Draco Roman, the Grammy-nominated songwriter who penned "Livin' La Vida Loca," reacting to news that Ricky Martin had performed at George W. Bush's inaugural, in *Fab!*, Feb. 2

"Diversity has its uses and one of them is to remind the president that not everyone has a ranch in Texas and summers in Maine. It would, in fact, be good for Bush and his administration if he had an avowed homosexual in his Cabinet, someone to ask John Ashcroft from time to time, 'What in the world are you talking about?'"

—*Washington Post* syndicated-columnist Richard Cohen, in a January submission

"This will not be a league for panty-waists and sissies."

—Vince McMahon (right), founder of the World Wrestling Federation, sometimes criticized for its homophobic storylines, on his new, no-holds-barred professional football league, the XFL



"My God! No! Freddie liked chubby men, but although we were great friends, he never propositioned me. We were probably too stoned at the time to do it. I've never slept with another musician or anybody famous."

—Sir Elton John, when asked in a feature called "Cash For Quotes" in a British tabloid whether he ever had sex with Queen lead singer Freddie Mercury, reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*, Jan. 25



"Don't bend down, Elton's around!"

—A popular chant at soccer games involving the professional team owned by Sir Elton John, reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*, Jan. 25

"I found that very amusing and quite inventive, I have to say. I remember the [team's] vice chairman's wife sitting next to my mother asking what [the opposing team's fans] were singing. My mother was like, 'Ooh nothing.'"

—Elton John (left), reacting to the soccer fan taunt, reported in the *Bay Area Reporter*, Jan. 25

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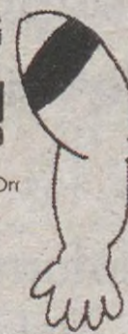
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# community

## saturday, february 10

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.  
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-5AFE.  
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.  
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.  
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.  
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.  
Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.  
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.  
CPR Classes. Noon. 713-607-7700.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.  
Asians & Friends. Bar Nite. 8 p.m. Guava Lamp. 713-626-6300.  
Kolbe Project. Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
Houston Outdoor Group. Breakfast at Le Peep. 882-251-6063.

## sunday, february 11

Common Group (formerly New Hope Christian Center) Worship Service. 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.  
Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.  
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.  
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.  
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.  
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.  
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.  
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.  
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.  
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.  
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.  
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930  
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.  
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Lone Star Volleyball Association. Spring Season. 4 p.m. NAG-VAPREZ@aol.com.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## monday, february 12

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

## tuesday, february 13

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

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# calendar

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
 CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 for AIDS. Monthly Mixer. 7 p.m. 713-527-8219.  
 Houston. Monthly meeting. 713-867-9020.

## wednesday, february 14

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.  
 STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E.J's. 713-830-3000.  
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380  
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.  
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.  
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.  
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.  
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.  
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.  
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.  
 Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.  
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.  
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • Valentine's Movie "Pillow Talk." 7 p.m. 713-524-3818.  
 Houston Area Bears. Dine-Out & Meeting. 6:30 p.m. 713-867-9123.

## thursday, february 15

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.

Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.  
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.  
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.  
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.  
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.  
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.  
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-524-9530.  
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.  
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.  
 HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Passion, Poetry, Politics. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Bi-Net Houston. Mixed Gender social. 713-467-4380.  
 Gulf Coast Archives Museum. Monthly meeting. 713-227-5973.  
 EC Houston. Pro-Gay. Pro-Christian. Bible Study. 800-310-6718.

## friday, february 16

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.  
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.  
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.  
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.  
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.  
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.  
 Mishpachat Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.  
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Women's Game Night. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
 Joy-Full Holistic Remedies. Book signing. for author Georgia Holbrook. 7:30 p.m. 713-529-2345.  
 Houston Outdoor Group. Brazos Bend Campout. 713-426-4869.

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

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Friday • Feb 16  
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Monday • Feb 19  
 Eucharist 7:30pm

Tuesday • Feb 20  
 Women's Group 7pm  
 "Dealing With Loss"

Friday • Feb 9  
 Morning Prayer 10am  
 Movie Night 7pm  
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# Classifieds

## Announcements

Bill O'Rourke (AKA Daddy Blade) has moved, but his phone number remains the same: 713.864.2233 • Now near St. Thomas Clinic

Youth Empowerment Advocates of Houston, an outreach center for homeless youth, is seeking the following donations: clothing, hygiene supplies, towels, books, videos and backpacks • Call Brian Jones 713.523.9324 • Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club now forming • Walk Memorial Park 8:00 AM every Saturday morning • 3 Mile Track • Then head to breakfast at Java Java Cafe at 911 11th Street • Call Jimmy at 713.864.7299 or email: keysweb6@aol.com • The Spay & Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) will provide FREE spaying, neutering, rabies vaccination and Houston city license for animals belonging to qualifying low income dog & cat guardians • Call 713.522.2337 for qualifications, locations or more information.

## QUIT SMOKING!

Volunteers needed for research study using hand-held computer at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Free nicotine patches! Call 713-792-2265

## BAY AREA GAYS

Is a new social group in the greater Clear Lake area for "young-ish" gay men (ages 20-40) • Call 281.488.0537

## PARTY RENTAL HALL

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## Auditions

### ASHLAND ST. THEATRE CO.

**HOLDING AUCTIONS**  
Ashland St. Theatre Co. will be holding auditions for Nicky Silver's RAISED IN CAPTIVITY on Sunday, February 11, from 2pm to 4pm • Director M. Adam Traylor and producer Travis Ammons are seeking men and women of all ages • Actors will be compensated • Call 713.426.3019 for info • The theatre is located at 2610 Ashland in the Heights

## Employment

### GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF HOUSTON SEEKING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston is now accepting applications for the salaried part-time position of Artistic Director.

To request an application packet, please visit [www.gmch.org/adsearch](http://www.gmch.org/adsearch) Or call 713-927-3129

### 800 PACIFIC

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### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

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Nightingale ADC offers free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals • Including job preparedness training, resume development, job search assistance • For more informations call 713.981.1543

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## HOUSEKEEPER

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# Occasions

## Birthdays

Victor Juarez is looking for his "birthday card in the mail" on Feb. 13.

CCCC members Keith E. (2/13) and Jim P. (2/16) shine the birthday bumper this week.

eclipse columnist Mark Goebel scribes his birthday on Feb. 12.

Darling Diva of Decades Darlene delightfully downs delicious drinks on her Feb. 13 birthday.

Miss Scott Lewis is celebrating his 21st birthday again on Feb. 14.

Sweetheart of EJ's LuLu has a birthday heart on Feb. 14.

Real estate guru Mark Eary closes a birthday on Feb. 15.

## Anniversaries

Don W. and John B. toast in another year together on Feb. 12.

LuLu and Tamin have a sweetheart of an anniversary on Feb. 14.

Carolyn (Cuervolyn) Roberts celebrates her eighth year at the *Houston Voice* on Feb. 15.



DALTON DEHART



Openly gay and HIV-positive professional skater Rudy Galindo performs at the Champions On Ice show at Compaq Center Feb. 3.

Our pet of the week is Bob, and he is available for adoption at the Houston Humane Society. To adopt, email pr@houstonhumane.org or call 713.434.5555.

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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



February 9 - 15

## ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Mars moves into your travel sector in mid-February, and you may have the urge to play pirate and go out in search of some swashbuckling adventures. A friend you've had a not-so-secret crush on may disappoint you once again.

## TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 20)

The scales of economic justice could finally swing in your favor. What you've been working toward may come together, but with the Sun and Uranus teaming up, you've got to put a lot of psychic energy into getting what you want. What's your secret dream? Invest in it. A Libra could be your dream lover.

## GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 21)

The Sun and Uranus are making a sweet trine to your Sun and pushing you to push the envelope in your career. Think internationally. Your idealism is back in full force and it's nice to see it, sweetie. A Cancer may try to bait you back into cynicism. Don't go.

## CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)

It's okay to be a little sneaky while the Sun, Mercury, Uranus, and Neptune are all transiting your secretive eighth house. This cycle is all about patience, especially if you are hoping to collaborate with someone whom you idolize—in business or in pleasure. A Capricorn makes an ideal co-conspirator.

## LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22)

Your instincts are right about your love life, sweetie, so listen to them. This Valentine's Day is all about you. You giving to others, that is. Check your ego at the door. A slow, goal-oriented pace will serve you well now. The same holds true if you are chasing another Leo.

## VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22)

Stay in the background and do your work like a good little Virgo. This is your time to be humble and industrious. You may have to make an important decision involving your body. Get your mind out of the gutter, please (except where an Aquarius is concerned). Pay attention to how your work life affects your physical well-being.

## LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22)

There's no reason to throw in the towel when you are so close to getting what you want, sweetie. While the Sun is transiting the most creative sector of your chart, you are apt to get pregnant with a brilliant, artistic idea.

## SCORPIO (OCT. 23 - NOV. 21)

You think you are just biding your time, waiting for your love interest to come around, but I think you're just playing your old games. Why not be a little more straightforward? A Taurus has a weird love/hate competitive vibe with you. It's the "Do I want to screw you or screw you over?" routine. See if you can make the right call.

## SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21)

Better to meditate on what you want in your career, rather than act rashly and go after something you don't really want. You are not as mysterious as you think where the same sex is concerned. Try being yourself—lack of subtlety and all. That's what an Aries totally digs about you.

## CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19)

Ritual is the key to success in your love life during this cycle. You may have to decide between the one you love and the one who is just teasing you this Valentine's Day. A Sag offers you the real thing, but make sure you dedicate lots of time and energy to pleasing him or her.

## AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18)

Money can come your way if you put yourself in more of a leadership role. You've let other people hijack your career. It's time to listen to your heart and stop trying to make your love life fit some theoretical model. You and a Scorpio can have the Valentine's Day make-out session of your life.

## PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20)

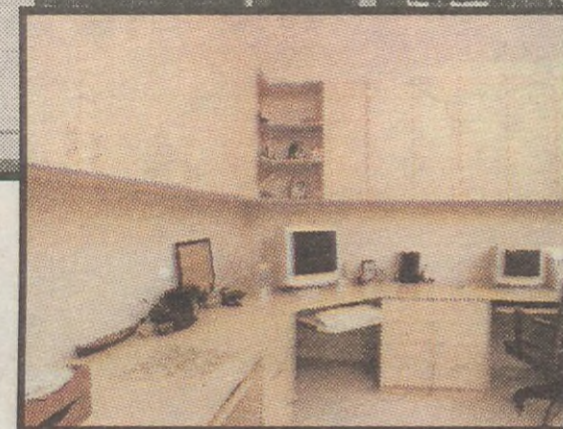
Your psychic sensibilities have never been stronger, sweetie, so please let them have their say. Things are not what they seem where your career is concerned. Get ready to be on top, but not for another few weeks. In the meantime, enjoy letting a Cupid-type Capricorn top you out.

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

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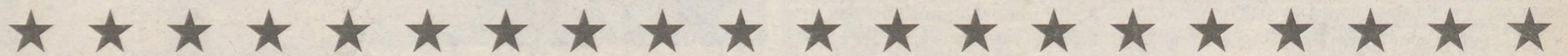
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| '99 Toyota Corolla • stk #2879PA | \$13,988 | '00 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab • stk #8566P     | \$22,988 |
| '97 Cadillac Catera • stk #8491P | \$17,988 | '98 Mitsubishi Montero Sport LS • stk #2674A | \$16,988 |
| '98 Cadillac Catera • stk #8611P | \$20,988 | '00 Cadillac Escalade • stk #2206A           | \$36,988 |



**DOMESTIC**



- |                                    |          |  |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|--|----------|
| '99 Buick Park Avenue • stk #8248P | \$22,988 | '96 Olds 98 Regency Elite • stk #2767A | \$13,988 |
| '98 Chevrolet Malibu • stk #8377P  | \$13,988 | '94 Olds 98 Regency • stk #8519P       | \$9,988  |
| '99 Ford Taurus SE • stk #8427P    | \$12,988 | '98 Olds Intrigue • stk #8369P         | \$14,988 |

★★★ **CONVERTIBLE**



**LIMO**



- |                                      |          |                                    |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|----------|
| '94 Chevrolet Corvette • stk #8517PA | \$19,988 | '91 Cadillac Brougham • stk #8399P | \$16,988 |
| '98 Chevrolet Corvette • stk #8563P  | \$39,988 |                                    |          |
| '00 Chrysler Sebring • stk #8565P    | \$19,988 |                                    |          |



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