

Check out our four-page pullout guide to the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, which opens May 26. Inside is an interview with 'Beefcake' director Thom Fitzgerald and a complete schedule of the 14-day event. **Page 15**



An unassuming pink brick building in the heart of Montrose has become the oldest gay bar in Houston and the second oldest in Texas. Learn more about Mary's as it prepares for its 30th anniversary. **Page 5**



With steely blue eyes, a head full of pre-Raphaelite curls and a lean animal grace, Travis Ammons resembles a dangerous medieval icon in the black comedy 'Fat Men in Skirts' at Ashland St. Theatre Co., a play which takes the human condition and whacks the stuffing out of it. **Page 19**



Be honest about the choice of color palette for your wardrobe, as well as the color of the environment in which you live. You will feel much more 'at home' if you reflect the color of your true personality. See 'On the Fringe,' a new feature of the *Houston Voice*. **Page 25**

TV station green lights 'Dr. Laura'

KPRC Channel 2's manager told a group of Houston gay rights activists that he'll monitor—but not pull the plug—on the radio host's controversial new TV program

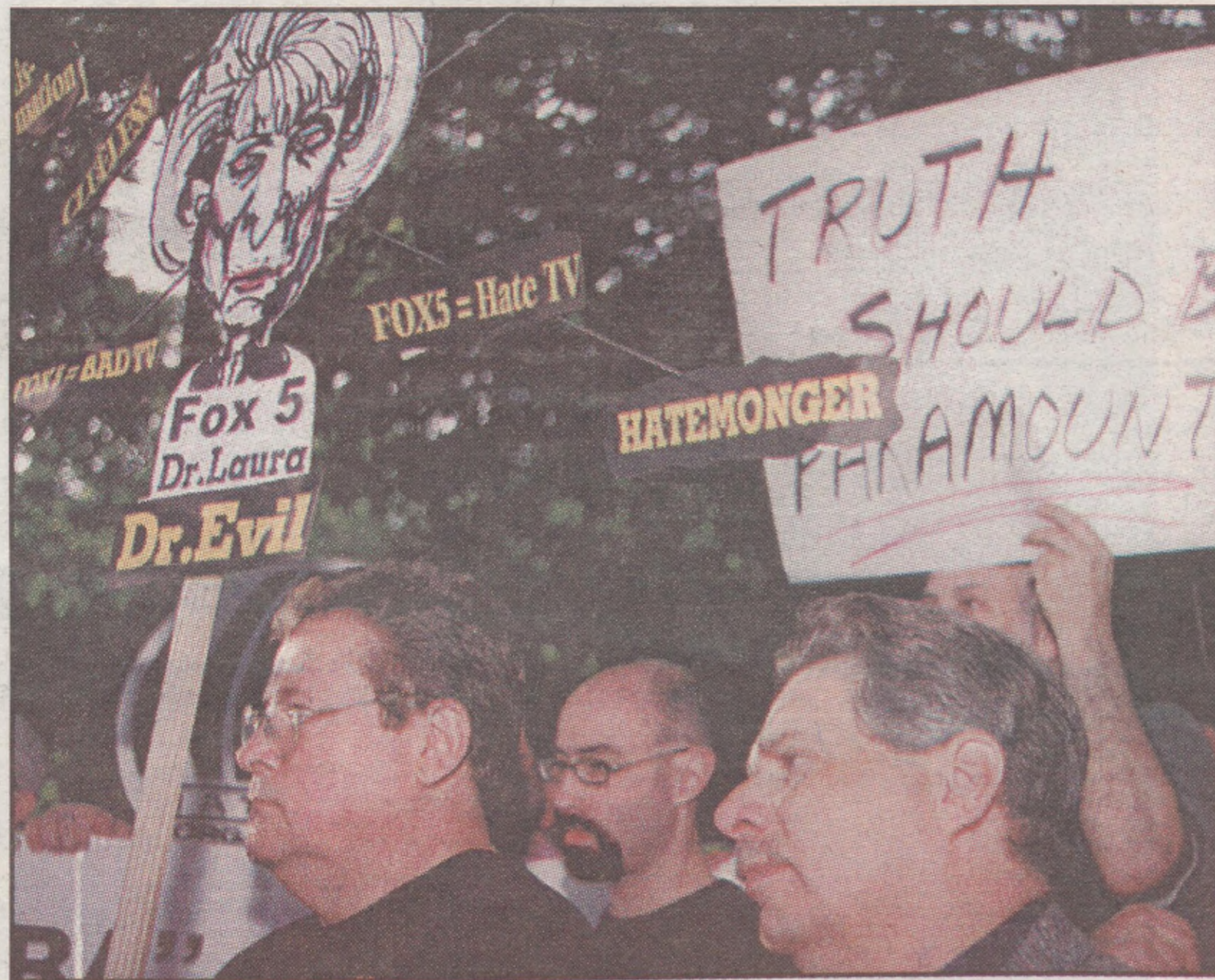
by WENDY K. MOHON

KPRC Channel 2 won't stop Dr. Laura, but the television station's management says it will monitor the upcoming show for negative comments about gay men and lesbians.

Steve Wasserman, KPRC general manager, told a group of Houston activists during a private meeting May 8 that he won't pull the plug on controversial talk show host Dr. Laura Schlessinger's program set to air this fall, but will personally review the show for inappropriate content.

"We are very aware of the concerns of the gay and lesbian community and we've been assured by Paramount it (the show) will not be a bully pulpit for her point of view," Wasserman said this week.

> Continued on Page 8



Gay men and lesbians have protested 'Dr. Laura's' new television show, including a May 9 event in Atlanta at WAGA-TV Fox-5. Some gay activists in Houston met with management at KPRC Channel 2 in an effort to cancel the show, but the station said they will take a wait-and-see approach.

Newly out mom takes NGLTF helm

Can someone out for less than a year lead one of the nation's oldest gay groups?

by LAURA BROWN

A lesbian mom who has been out less than a year will start June 1 as the new executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, the 27-year-old group focused on state and local organizing.

But Elizabeth Toledo, 38, stresses that while she may be new to lesbian issues personally, "I'm not new to organizing on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered political issues."

Toledo comes to NGLTF from the National Organization for Women, where she has served as a vice president since 1997.

Lesbian rights is among NOW's five main platform issues, and during her tenure as vice president, Toledo said she oversaw planning for last year's Lesbian Rights Summit, an event that drew a who's who of activists from across the country.

Lesbian issues were also prominent when she served as president of San Francisco NOW from 1991-1993 and president of California NOW from 1993-1997, Toledo said.


"When you look at the skill set of someone who needs to come together and build on the grassroots movement, I have excellent credentials," she said. "I got one of the best educations growing up at NOW on how to respect and understand community building."

Toledo will replace veteran activist Kerry Lobel, who stepped down as NGLTF executive director in April after three years. Toledo was chosen for the job after a search process that NGLTF leaders said began with a list of more than 80 names of potential candidates, and eventually ended with unanimous approval from the group's staff and board of directors.

> Continued on Page 12



Elizabeth Toledo, the newly out and newly appointed executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, and her children recently posed for a Human Rights Campaign catalogue, a group often pitted against NGLTF. Toledo has pledged to work with HRC.



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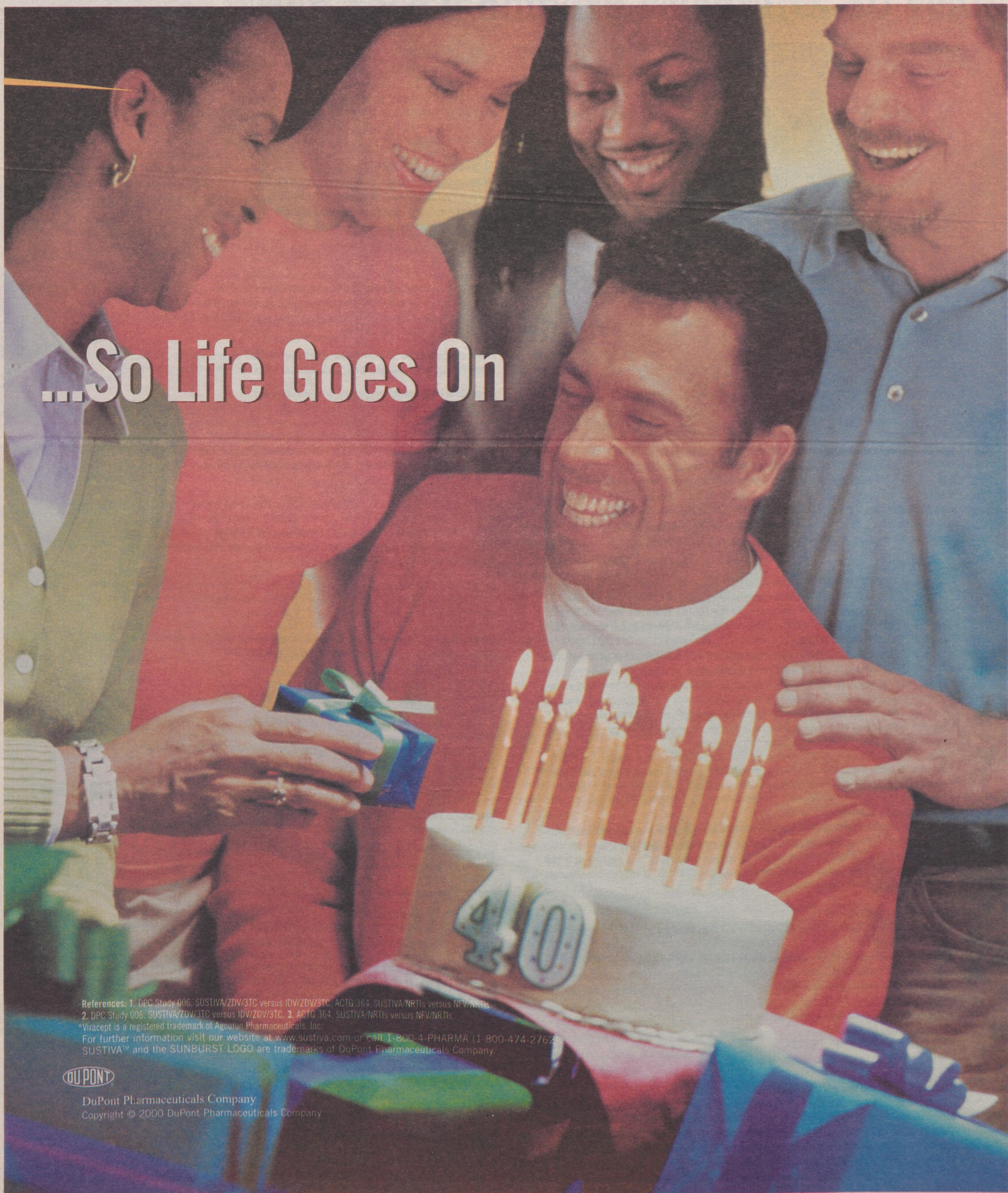
SUSTIVA is generally well tolerated, with fewer gastrointestinal (GI) side effects, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, than Viracept®.³ Diabetes, kidney stones, and life-threatening liver problems are rare.

SAFETY INFORMATION

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in cynomolgus monkeys given SUSTIVA. See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.



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References: 1. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC, ACTG 364, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus NFV/NRTIs.
2. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA/ZDV/3TC versus IDV/ZDV/3TC. 3. ACTG 364, SUSTIVA/NRTIs versus NFV/NRTIs.
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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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Montrose landmark celebrates 30 years

by KAY DAYUS

Deep in the heart of the Montrose, an unassuming pink brick bar has been serving its varied and diverse clientele since 1970, making it the oldest gay bar in Houston and the second oldest in Texas.

Mary's, on the corner of Westheimer and Waugh, is preparing its 30th anniversary celebration for Memorial Day Weekend.

Except for some expansion, not too much has changed since Joe Anthony bought Tommy's bar in 1970, renamed it Mary's, brought in go-go boys and turned it into a gay bar. He probably had no idea that what he had started would still be going strong 30 years down the road.

It was about two years later, when Joe (Fanny) Farmer purchased the bar, that the rich and colorful history of Mary's truly started.

And Farmer never left. When he died in 1991, it was his wish that his ashes be placed in the memorial garden behind the bar. In fact, the garden holds the ashes and other memories of many of Mary's patrons. A tree is planted at the bar when a valued customer dies.

The garden is tranquil, full of greenery and seemingly far removed from the dark, smoky, noisy bar next door. And Mary's is noisy. The jukebox plays a never-ending medley of tunes.

Stories of Farmer still abound. Stories of his love for his 1959 pink Cadillac, motorcycles and especially his faithful German Shepherd, Sam. It seems that Sam went everywhere with Fanny, riding in front of him on the motorcycle.

"They went on many long trips together on that motorcycle," says Cliff Owen, part owner of the bar with Gaye Yancy.

But many of Mary's earliest customers were victims of the AIDS epidemic.

"When the AIDS epidemic started, we lost a lot of people. It was devastating when it first started, but it's slowed down in the past couple of years," Owens says.

John Paul Jones has been sitting in his little corner of Mary's bar for nearly 29 years.

"Mary's tried to be a leather bar in the beginning, but it kinda came out different. Instead of S&M as it's usually known, it stood for sequins and mascara here," Jones says with a chuckle. "We had butch guys who were just a bit on the nelly side."

Mary's opens at 7 a.m. and Jones is there soon after that every day.

"I have coffee and water first and read my paper. I bring books and when I get bored listening to someone, I pull out a book and start reading," he says.

Jones stays at Mary's until 7:30 p.m. He sits, he reads, he chats and he constantly sips on his ever-present orange drink.

The day starts early at Mary's and Jones is not alone at 7 a.m. He says the dice crowd plays on one corner of the bar and the Hawthorne group (they live on Hawthorne Street), assemble in another corner.

"It's like assigned seating and no one



Mary's, the oldest gay bar in Houston, fetes its rich 30-year history during a Memorial Day Weekend anniversary celebration.

takes someone else's place," says Jones.

As Jones talks out on the patio of Mary's, Mr. Balls the cat comes strolling through to eye the clientele. He stops and scratches his neck around which is a silver-studded leather collar. Mr. Balls apparently fell out of a tall tree in the garden years ago and became "Mary's cat."

"Hell, that cat owns this bar. He even has his own bar stool. When I die, I want to come back as a bar cat," Jones says.

But Jones has no plans to leave Mary's anytime soon: "It's my home. My mother's even been here."

Many of Mary's customers keep coming back. Wendy Nelson is one of them. She comes strolling through the patio, drink in one hand, cigarette in the other. Nelson makes it known she's straight and says a lot of other straights join her at the bar.

"I started coming to Mary's 15 years ago, when I worked the graveyard shift at AMOCO in Texas City," she says.

Nelson's retired now, but she still comes. "It's absolutely my favorite bar. You can be anything you are here. You have the freedom to express yourself," she says.

The history of Mary's has grown into folklore, regular patrons say. The bar started out as a motorcycle bar.

"Customers would drive up and park their bikes out front," Owen says. A motorcycle hangs over the pool table as it has for many years. A customer bought it years ago for the bar.

Underwear used to hang from the rafters, too, Yancy says, who began her association with the bar some 14 years ago as a bartender.

"Fanny hated underwear and if he suspected a customer of wearing it, he gave them the choice of taking it off or having it cut off," Yancy says. "Most liked to have it cut off."

The underwear was then hung on the rafters.

"At one time, the rafters were covered with underwear. We could get away with that back then," she adds. But all that ended when the health department ordered the underwear removed.

Another enduring feature of Mary's is the painted front window. Shows, contests, events and community messages are depicted there in lively, graffiti-like style.

To see how little things have changed at Mary's, one has only to look at their ad placed in the May 1990 issue of the *Montrose Voice*, a predecessor to *Houston Voice*. The ad announced the celebration of Mary's 20th anniversary. Drink prices were \$1.75 for well and \$1.50 for domestic beers.

Some 10 years later, beer prices are still the same and well drinks have dropped to \$1.50.

"It's not as decadent as it used to be," Yancy says.

So what keeps Mary's going?

"It's the people," say Owen and Yancy.

"There's truly a mixture. You can see white shirts and ties, leather, anything. It's what keeps it interesting," Owen says.

It keeps going because it's an institution, says one customer.

And Jack Leonard, a five-year veteran of the bar, said when he first moved to Houston, he asked which bar he should go to.

"I was told, 'go to Mary's. People are honest.' And they were right, he says. "They are real people. They don't pretend."

And Owen and Yancy say Mary's will be around for its 40th anniversary in 2010.

"People come from all over the country and the world to see if their photograph is there or the photo of a friend," Yancy says. "Besides, we've just signed a new 10-year lease. So, we'll just keep on doing what we've been doing."

Mary's anniversary celebration spans Memorial Day Weekend.

21

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WELCOMES URVASHI VAID • SATURDAY, MAY 20

COMMUNITY CENTER 'WELCOME TO HOUSTON' RECEPTION

What: Community reception honoring Urvashi Vaid - Director of The Policy Institute of the NGLTF, one of the nation's premier think tanks.

Urvashi will be signing copies of her book "Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian America"

Who: Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, in conjunction with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.

When: Saturday, May 20, 2000; 2 - 4pm

Info: Call 713-524-3818

HOUSTON COCKTAIL RECEPTION FOR NGLTF'S URVASHI VAID

What: Cocktail Reception Fundraiser honoring Urvashi Vaid - Director of The Policy Institute of the NGLTF, one of the nation's premier think tanks.

Urvashi will be signing copies of her book "Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian America"

Who: Honorary Chair: Council Member Annise D. Parker, and The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.

When: Saturday, May 20, 2000; 5 - 7pm

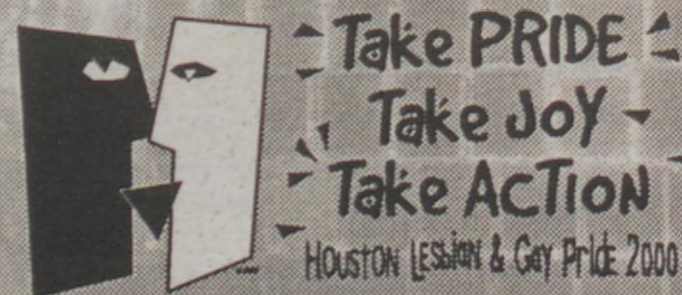
Info: Tickets \$50; Call 713-861-8238

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Alabama gay man ordered to repay U.S. Naval Academy education

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—A Navy official has ordered a high-ranking midshipman and former class president, who resigned from the U.S. Naval Academy amid accusations that he is gay, to repay the government for his education. The ruling came despite findings by a Navy review panel that he was treated unfairly. The academy began investigating Tommie Lee Watkins Jr. in 1997. The aspiring Navy pilot said he was pressured to resign and, fearing he wouldn't receive a fair trial, he did. Carolyn H. Becraft, assistant secretary of the Navy for manpower, ordered Watkins in March to repay the government nearly \$67,000. But a report issued in November by the Navy's highest personnel review panel said making Watkins reimburse the government violates a 1994 Pentagon policy. Becraft contended that Watkins voluntarily left the academy, and the Pentagon policy does not apply. Watkins, now 25, plans to appeal the order to federal court. "I assert it is because I am an African-American homosexual," said Watkins, of Alabama, who was president of the Class of 1998 and would have served as battalion commander in his senior year.

Mississippi may face court challenge over gay adoption ban

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Mississippi may be taken to court this summer over the legislature's decision to ban gay couples from adopting children. Gov. Ronnie Musgrove signed the prohibition into law May 3. David Ingebretsen, the head of Mississippi's ACLU, said there may be coordination between attorneys here and in Florida, where a similar ban is being challenged in court. He said any lawsuit would likely come after the state's prohibition takes effect on July 1. "I'm not surprised the Legislature would do something like this," Ingebretsen said. "Definitely politics played a part in this." Under the law, chancery judges must not allow same-sex couples to adopt children. The law does not stop single gay men or lesbians from adopting, though they may be a legislative target next year.

Drag pageants headed for court battle over 'Miss Gay USA' title

HOUSTON (AP)—A fight has developed over the use of the title "Miss Gay USofA," with a civil case set for court this week to settle the matter. Jerry M. Bird, a Texas man, filed the lawsuit against Francisco Alvarez, a female impersonator from Los Angeles who goes by the name Kitty Divino. Both men produce pageants featuring female impersonators. Bird claimed in the lawsuit that he has produced his show since 1986 and has used the name "Miss Gay USA" in promoting and advertising. Bird said he reached an agreement in 1995 with Sony Corp. to change the name to "Miss Gay USofA" to settle a dispute "concerning the mark Miss Gay USA which Sony Inc. believed infringed its service mark Miss USA, which was associated with beauty pageants for women," the lawsuit stated. Bird is advertising a Miss Gay USofA pageant to be held in Dallas on May 21-26. Alvarez is advertising a similar contest to be held in Little Rock, Ark., on June 2 and June 4. Alvarez, reached in Los Angeles, said, "I can't believe he brought such a frivolous charge. We're aware of entertainment laws. We have a registered federal trademark for Miss Gay USA."

N.C. court upholds Chapel Hill, Carrboro's domestic partner laws

CHAPEL HILL—The towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro won a vote of confidence May 8 in Orange County Superior Court for ordinances that grant the domestic partners of town employees health-insurance benefits, the *Raleigh News & Observer* reported May 9. Judge Orlando Hudson rejected arguments by attorney Nate Pendley that Chapel Hill and Carrboro had overstepped their municipal authority five years ago when they adopted the DP rules. After a 2-1/2 hour hearing and with no explanation, Hudson allowed a motion for summary judgment upholding the ordinances. "That means we win," said Michael Brough, Carrboro's town attorney. The DP challenge was filed in June 1999 by Jack Godley, a Carrboro resident, and 11 other plaintiffs from Carrboro and Chapel Hill. The challenge was funded by a grants from conservative groups in Arizona and North Carolina. This is the first ruling in a North Carolina court on the issue of local governments extending benefits to the unmarried domestic partners, gay or straight, of town employees. The challengers have 30 days to appeal. "Clearly, the judge wants someone further up the line to decide the issue," Pendley said.



Michael Nelson, the openly gay mayor of Carrboro, N.C., spearheaded DP benefits for town employees, upheld in court on May 8.

Lynchburg, Va. city council rejects pro-gay nondiscrimination law

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP)—The City Council of Lynchburg, Va., home of Rev. Jerry Falwell's ministry, rejected a proposal to make sexual orientation a protected category in the city's nondiscrimination policies. The council on May 9 voted 4-2 against amending the city's equal opportunity employment policy to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring city employees and awarding contracts.

—From staff and wire reports

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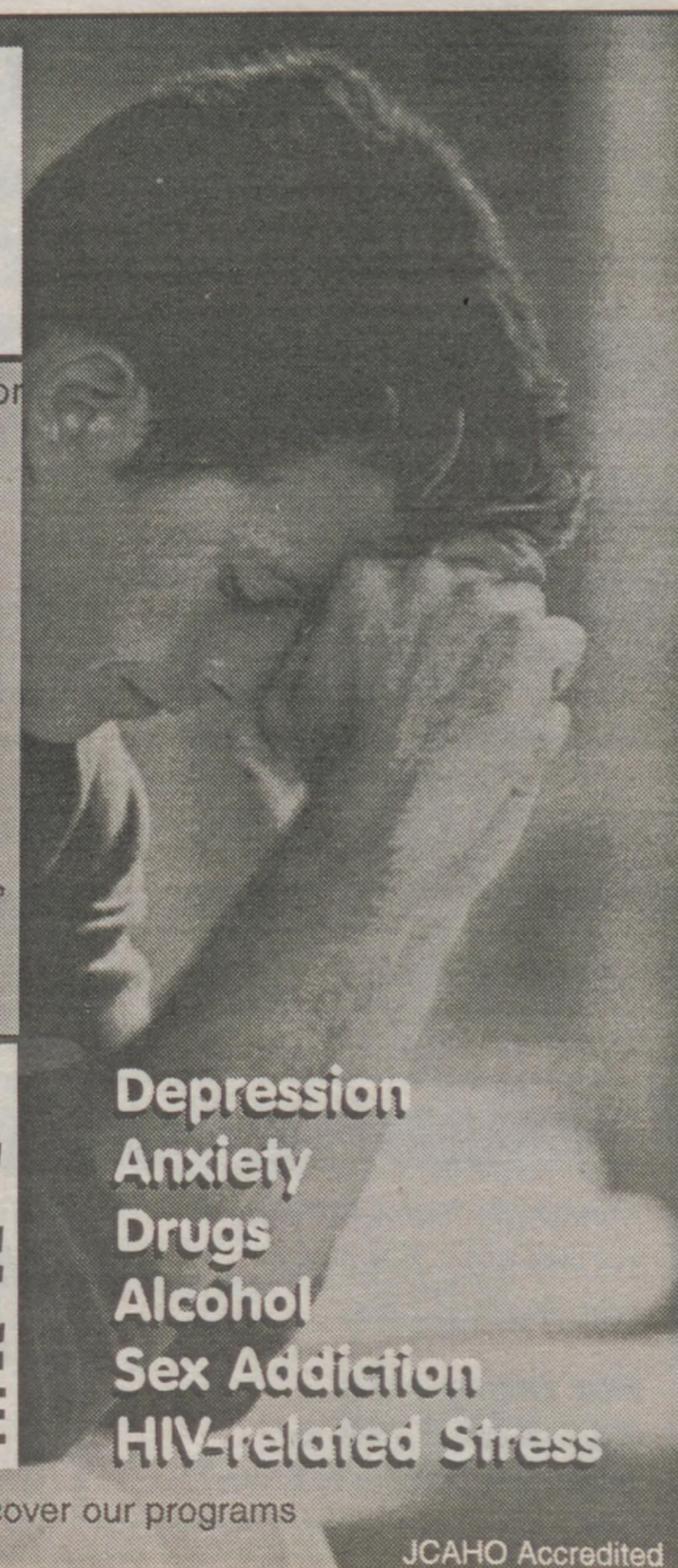
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'Friendly meeting' stalls TV protest plans

➤ Continued from Page 1

The meeting came just days before some companies—including Procter & Gamble Co., United Airlines, Xerox Corp. and the online branch of toy retail chain Toys "R" Us Inc.—announced that they are pulling back on advertising support of the television or 'Dr. Laura's' daily radio talk show.

Schlessinger—whose doctorate is in physiology, not psychology—has termed homosexuality "deviant" and a "biological error."

Attending the Houston meeting were Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) board members Jim Null, Sue Null and Pat Rickey; Don Sinclair, PFLAG past president; and Dan DiDonato of the Equality Rally Team, a fledgling gay rights group that organized earlier this year to protest Exxon Mobil's decision to end domestic partner benefits for employees.

Wasserman told the group KPRC has purchased a two-year commitment to the Paramount-produced show and the station isn't willing to lose the investment by canceling the show before it airs. Wasserman refused to divulge the cost of the syndication contract.

"He explained that he had bought a two-year package from Paramount and did not intend to pull it until he saw how it went," Rickey said. "We were disappointed that we didn't get it canceled, but we understood."

Members of the gay communities in cities across the country—including Atlanta, Dallas, San Francisco and St. Louis—have recently picketed in front of television stations planning to air the show, protesting

Schlessinger's anti-gay remarks.

When asked how station management might respond should a protest be organized in Houston, Wasserman wouldn't say. But some gay rights activists who met with Wasserman said they aren't planning a protest.

"I'm not going to speculate on something that hasn't happened," he said.

The web-site StopDrLaura.com also has been launched with the aim at squelching the show. Co-founding StopDrLaura.com is William Waybourn, a partner in Window Media, the publishing company that owns this newspaper.

Wasserman noted that the station has received a number of calls and letters since it announced plans to air the show and said he responds to all inquiries about the program.

DiDonato said he is encouraging members of the gay and lesbian community to write KPRC and express concerns over the program, but to do so "in a friendly manner because Steve Wasserman has indicated he is a friend to the gay and lesbian community."

Rickey agreed, complimenting Wasserman for personally meeting with the group.

"We were pleased he took us right in on time and gave us nearly an hour," said Rickey. "We were very pleased he didn't appear combative."

Both Rickey and DiDonato said they came away from the meeting feeling there was no need to organize a protest.

"I have been wanting to protest for a long time, but after the meeting with Steve, I'd like to hold off on a protest," DiDonato said. "If we

kind of remain friends with our local station, I think that will be to our advantage."

"It was kind of our style as parents to approach it this way and ask for a private audience, Rickey said. "We chose not to do our thing in the form of a protest."

Rickey said he believed the meeting helped "raise Wasserman's awareness level."

"We explained to him the suicide statistics and that we are concerned about how her (Schlessinger's) comments will affect youths," Rickey said. "To hear that kind of stuff from Dr. Laura could be devastating to them."

DiDonato said he hopes the show will fizzle before its planned Sept. 11 debut due to a lack of advertising sponsors.

Companies drop 'Dr. Laura'

Earlier this week, Procter & Gamble announced they were pulling planned advertising from the show, citing public protests over Schlessinger's negative remarks "on a number of topics."

On Wednesday, United Airlines has dropped ads for Schlessinger's program from its in-flight magazine, Hemispheres, also citing concerns over the controversy surrounding the show, according to Reuters.

Two other major companies—Xerox Corp. and the online branch of toy retail chain Toys "R" Us Inc.—confirmed Wednesday that they recently ceased advertising on Schlessinger's radio show when those ad buys expired and had no plans to renew them. But both companies declined to say whether Schlessinger's commentary was a factor in their decisions.



Gay rights activist Dan DiDonato, an organizer of the Equality Rally Team, has backed away from protesting KPRC Channel 2's decision to air 'Dr. Laura's' television show after a 'friendly' meeting with station management.

Paramount said it believes the program will still be able to find the necessary sponsorship to air this fall.

KPRC Channel 2

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Vermont plaintiffs ready to dismiss same-sex marriage lawsuit



The three couples who brought the landmark challenge to Vermont marriage laws, say they're dismissing their case, even though they're disappointed a new 'civil union' law fell short of full marriage rights.

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—Three same-sex couples who successfully sued for the right to marry will ask that their case be dismissed by the Vermont Supreme Court. The case, Baker vs. State, remains under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, which kept it alive while giving the Vermont Legislature time to deal with the issue. That bill signed into law by Vermont Gov. Howard Dean in April falls short of outright marriage, which is what the three couples sought when they first sued in 1997, and they could continue pursuing the case,

asking the Supreme Court to grant them marriage licenses. But they decided that they'll ask to withdraw the lawsuit when the civil unions law goes into effect on July 1. "We're all kind of committed to the notion of trying to deal with healing," said Beth Robinson, one of the lawyers who argued the case. The leaders of the Freedom to Marry Task Force have concurred, despite continued disappointment that the law does not take the final step to marriage. "There are a lot of factors in the decision where to go with the lawsuit," Robinson said. "We do feel it falls short of full equality, it does fall short of the Baker decision."

Conn. Human Rights Commission rules against Boy Scout gay ban

HARTFORD—In a unanimous decision, the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities ruled that Boy Scouts of America cannot be a part of the State Employee Campaign for charitable giving because its anti-gay policy violates state law. The State Employee Campaign, which is responsible for charitable withholding from state employees' paychecks, had requested a clarification as to the Boy Scouts' status. "This is an important decision that sends a strong message to the Boy Scouts of America that as long as they retain their anti-gay policy, they will be excluded from having access to any state facilities, including directed donations from state employees," remarked Jennifer Levi, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. GLAD represented the civil rights agencies that testified against the Boy Scouts at the hearing. The commission declined to rule on whether the Boy Scouts' policy places them in violation of state law. A legal challenge under New Jersey law against the Boy Scout ban is currently before the U.S. Supreme Court, with a decision expected before July.

Employee claims discrimination under Boulder's trans rights law

BOULDER, Colo.—Boulder's new transgender ordinance could face its first test, as a bagel shop employee alleges he was discriminated against for wearing a pink skirt to work, the *Boulder Daily Camera* reported May 11. "This type of behavior isn't right, and I want people to know about it," said City Street Bagels' employee Benjamin Moore, a pre-operative transsexual. Boulder's ordinance, the only such law in Colorado, bars bias in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of gender variance, which it defines as "a persistent sense that one's gender identity is incongruent with one's biological sense." Susan Gross, owner of City Street Bagels, confirmed she has been contacted by city officials but declined to discuss her employee's allegations. Moore alleges that when he wore his pink skirt to work, he was told "to take it off because the owner didn't want me wearing it." Moore, who has worked at the bagel shop for three months, said he never hid his transgendered status from Gross. "When I got my job at City Street Bagels, I told my employer on the first day that I was a pre-op transsexual," Moore said. "I didn't think it would be an issue because [Gross] knew I was transitioning," he said.

'Soap on a rope' seen as gay slur to Nebraska high school officials

OMAHA—High school officials in Nebraska have altered the cover photo of their school's yearbook to keep it from offending gays, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported May 13. The picture depicts two Millard North High School students wearing soap on a rope around their necks. The photos were taken at a football game last fall where the players were taunting the opposition as being gay by wearing soap on a rope. When they saw the picture, school administrators used black permanent marker at the bottom of the photo on yearbook covers to blot out the soap, said Amy Friedman, a school district spokeswoman. "The photo was, in essence, cropped," she said. Friedman said a number of teachers and students brought their concerns about the photo to Principal Linda Wyatt. "Yearbook photos should not be a put-down of any group of people," Friedman said. "Most adults will not understand why this would be controversial, but students know what it symbolizes."

—From staff and wire reports



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EDITORIAL

Time for mainline Protestants to speak out

All eyes were on Cleveland last week, where the United Methodist General Conference was rocked by dramatic protests over the denomination's treatment of its gay parishioners.

Two bishops were among those arrested, as Rev. Mel White and his gay-straight Soulforce alliance vividly demonstrated the power of non-violent protest against intolerance and mistreatment.

The schism within the United Methodist church over homosexuality is not unlike that facing all the world's major mainline Protestant faiths, and the Catholic Church as well.

On the one side are the progressive congregations, arguing for an inclusive church that celebrates the lives and relationships of its lesbian and gay congregants and ministers, as it does for its heterosexuals.

These progressives, which include more straight supporters than gays, read Biblical injunctions against homosexual acts in context, arguing that the prohibitions have been misinterpreted and are as much a cultural product of their times as passages about women, blacks and slavery that we find offensive today.

On the other side are the social conservatives, including fundamentalists and evangelicals within these mainline faiths, who read their Bibles literally, at least when it comes to homosexuality.

Over time, dialogue between these groups will undoubtedly lead to some converts in either direction, though the passage of time almost always favors the progressives in any social battle.

The real struggle for the soul of Methodism, however, lies in the mushy middle. In a denomination this large, as with the Episcopalians and the Presbyterians, there are far more silent moderates than vocal combatants.

Most of these moderates, whether church officials, pastors or lay leaders, are not particularly engaged or invested in the theological debate about whether homosexuality is compatible or not with Christian teaching.

These moderates do not read their Bibles literally, but they generally avoid divisive social issues because the risk of choosing sides seems too high, especially when the

issue at hand lacks a personal connection.

To be sure, most moderate Methodists attend church with gay parishioners and many are even aware of who's who and generally accept their relationships under an unspoken code of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

In some cases, especially in large urban areas, these moderate Methodist congregations enjoy and appreciate significant contributions, of money and time, from gay parishioners and staffers.

We sing in their choirs, we play their organs, we populate their pews and we regularly fill their offering plates. But all too often, we do so quietly, hiding our lives or tacitly accepting our place as the parishioners who dare not speak our names.

It is these moderate Methodists, ministers and lay leaders, who must be called upon to step forward, speak out and treat their lesbian and gay followers with equal respect and dignity.

In the commencement address earlier this week at Emory University, a moderate Methodist-affiliated school with its share of struggle over homosexuality, former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell articulated the challenge in its broadest formulation:

"Never forget that in the presence of evil, silence makes you an accomplice," he said.

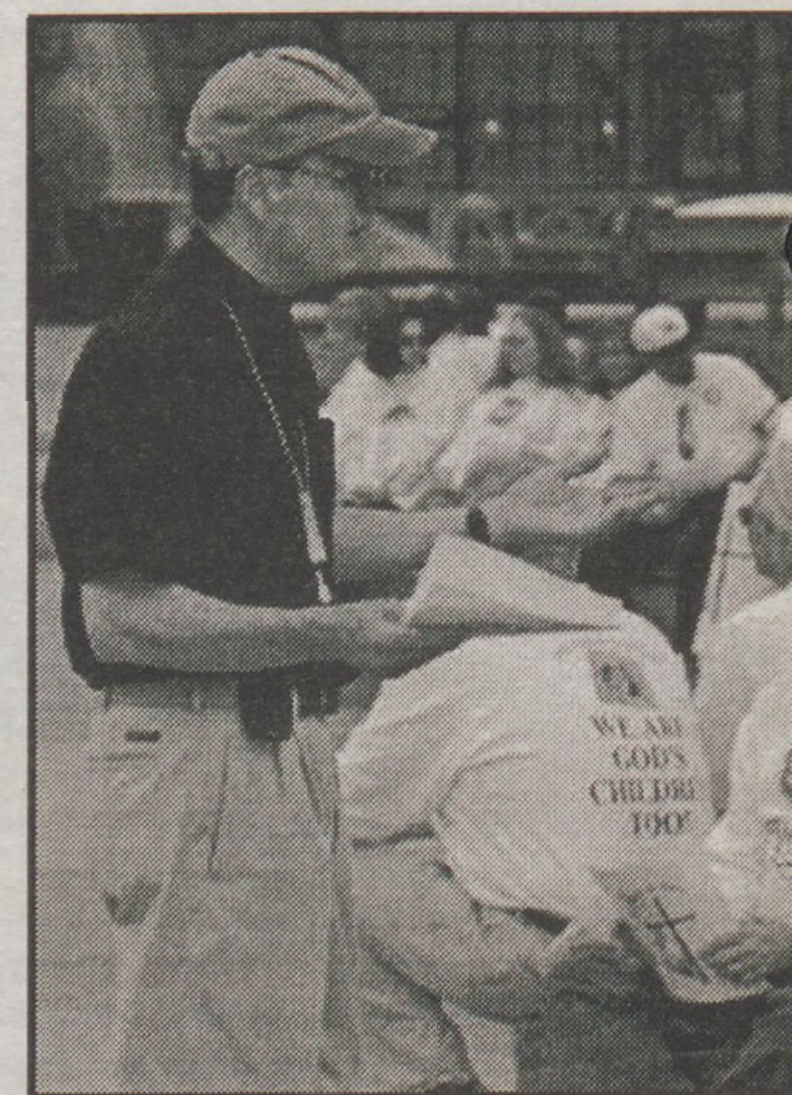
For these moderate Methodists to feel any pressure to cope with these issues, it will take more gay and gay-friendly church members following the brave example set by White and his Soulforce contingent.

The movement for broader acceptance of gays is littered with stories of fair-minded moderates who took up our cause when approached personally by us or one of our supporters.

It is especially incumbent on gay parishioners, then, to speak up for themselves and against "the evil" within their own churches, and to ask for support from others within our congregations.

The evil in the heart of the United Methodist Church, like that plaguing other mainline Protestant denominations, is second-class treatment of people based upon nothing more than their God-given sexual orientation.

Rather than celebrate our attempts at long-term, stable relationships, the



Change will come to the Methodist church, and other faiths, when more of us follow the brave example of Rev. Mel White and his gay-straight Soulforce alliance.

Methodists have refused us any recognition. At the same time, the moderates have held the church back from arguing that we can be "converted" into heterosexuality.

Like the U.S. Catholic bishops, then, these moderate Protestants face a conundrum: If they will not allow us to live our lives as we see fit, then it is incumbent on them to state plainly the rules for us to live by.

Will it be celibacy, which the Catholics have not successfully demanded of priests and nuns and which Protestants reject even for their clergy?

What then? Their silence only reveals their own discomfort with church teaching that is as impractical as it is unfair.

There is one final lesson in the battle waged by the Methodists last week, and it should be heeded by those politicians who would translate Christian morality into governmental edict.

In a vote on whether to approve same-sex union ceremonies, almost one-third of those making up the governing body of the United Methodist Church cast their ballots in favor of gay weddings.

The Methodist vote—coming just weeks after Reform Judaism voted to allow rabbis to perform gay weddings—shows yet again there is no longer a clear consensus on gay marriage, even within the "traditional faiths" so celebrated by conservative politicians.

As time passes and these votes become closer, and in some cases are won by pro-gay majorities, those claiming a religious mandate for official discrimination against gays will lose even that prop, however inappropriate it may be in a secular government in the first place.

When that day comes, those opposing gay civil rights will be left to argue their own narrow religious views, and their only allies will be those who hate us for all-too-irreligious reasons.

With your help, Mel White and the rest of us will be around for that happy day.



WHO TOOK THE GREEN?!



VIEWPOINT

A lot of TLC to go around

by MARIA E. MINICUCCI

The weekend of May 19-21 should be clearly marked in lesbians' date books throughout Houston. What is the occasion? It is the annual Texas Lesbian Conference (TLC).

Alas. This has not received the magnitude of publicity as the Millennium March on Washington, but this lesbian is here to say that the event represents importance and relevance to lesbian lives.

Urvashi Vaid, the keynote speaker for TLC today shares my exuberant sentiments about the conference. When she was asked how she felt about coming to Houston for the conference, she immediately leapt into an animated monologue about this being one of the last remaining "lesbian-focused" events of its kind in the country.

Is this fact important?

Of course, GLBT includes lesbian existence. And many organizations, publications and groups have raised their consciousness to denote lesbian and gay as separate and distinct groups. Gay rights groups maintain a platform which is in the best interest of all concerned. So, in this new age of "queer enlightenment," why continue with a "lesbian conference?" At the risk of regurgitating rhetoric or spewing clichés, we need our space.

Call it a conference, a forum, a workshop, a seminar or a festival—the reference is merely a reflection of lesbian women's need to surround ourselves, indulge ourselves and immerse our-



A few hundred lesbians from across the region are expected in Houston this weekend to see notable speakers like Urvashi Vaid and Marga Gomez during the Texas Lesbian Conference.

selves in and among each other.

Sure, the public rationale for attending is to "network" or to expand our emotional and intellectual growth or even to discover exotic new vacation spots or vegetarian recipes. Privately, those of us who have sought out lesbian events, know that the real goodies to be found are simply "the lesbians."

There is something like magic that happens when lesbians get together. The activity which initially brought us there is secondary to the feasting of our senses: seeing, hearing, smelling and for the bolder among us, touching and tasting the wonders of women. My own voyeuristic tendencies are well sated at these events.

Over the years, I developed a private ritual of stepping back from the crowd, gazing intently and deliberately taking in the magnificence of women loving women regardless of the "dance or dis-

agreement" they may be engaged in. I have often said that I go through "lesbian withdrawal" if I stay away too long.

My commentary is by no means intended to trivialize the purpose of the Texas Lesbian Conference or any other such event. On the contrary, the issues affecting lesbian lives are quite serious and mandate more, not fewer, opportunities to acknowledge and deal with them.

As women, lesbians continue to grapple with violence, poverty, parenting, oppressive sanctions, internal and external misogyny and the relentless struggle of powerlessness and power. The Texas Lesbian Conference remains a testimony to lesbians' unshakable desire for change, for fun and for each other.

Maria E. Minicucci, a psychologist, is president of the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

The Texas Lesbian Conference

May 20

9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. sessions: Healthcare and healing, overcoming the power struggle; what lesbians do, flirting 101

10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. sessions: lesbian mother's panel; how to get a lesbian novel published; lesbians and universities, the erotic self, selling your home

12:30 p.m.: Cartoonist Alison Bechdel

2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. sessions: power and pride of home ownership; holistic therapy and massage, "risk-smisk," a workshop on issues for older lesbians

8 p.m.: Comedian Marga Gomez and dance

May 21

9 to 10:30 a.m. sessions: lesbians raising children; 50 ways to have a lover, the good old days, women and taxes

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Ntosake Shange

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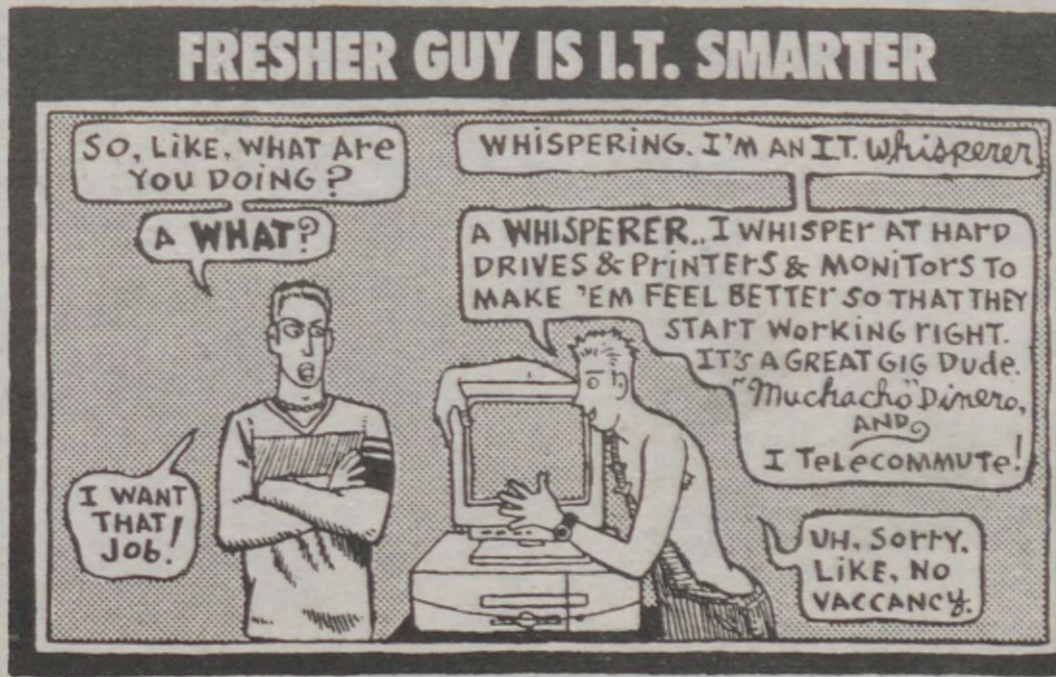
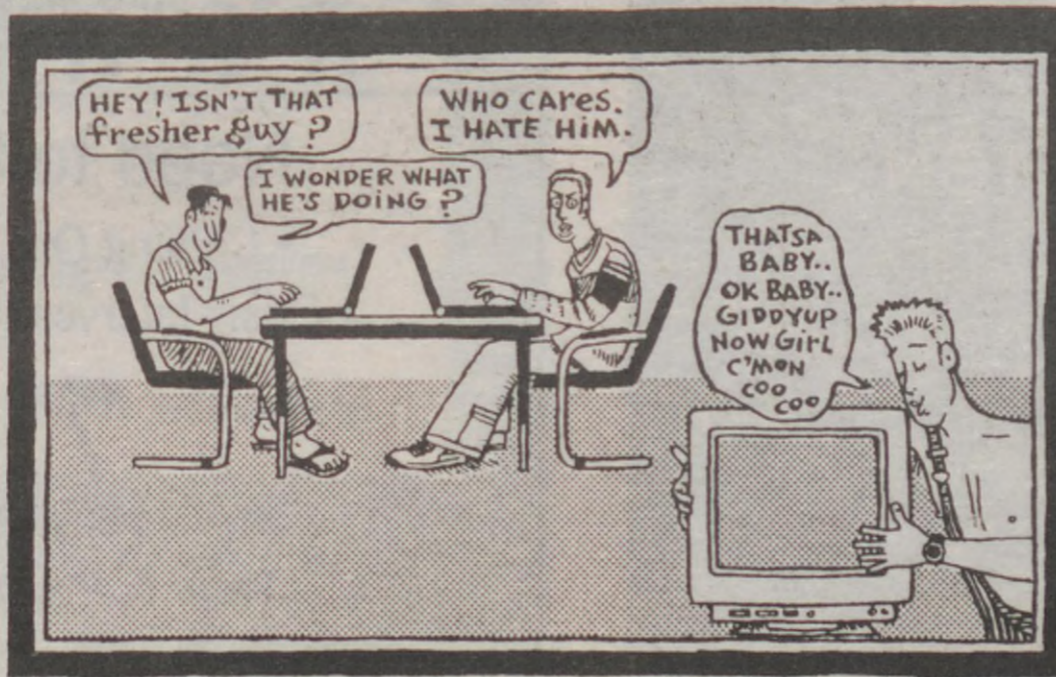
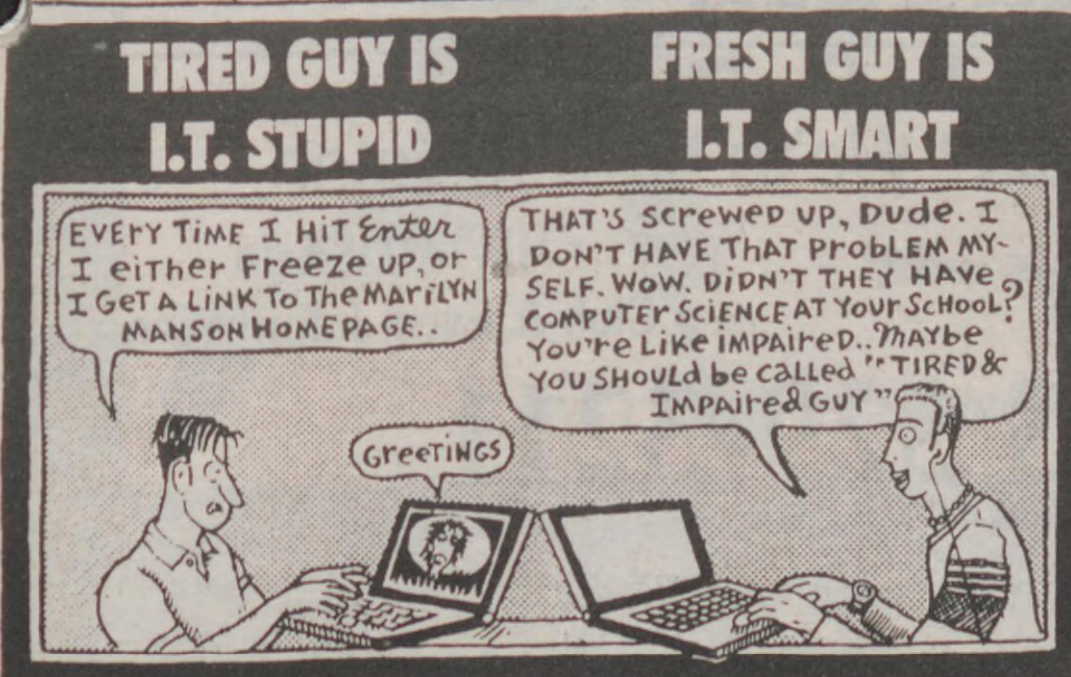
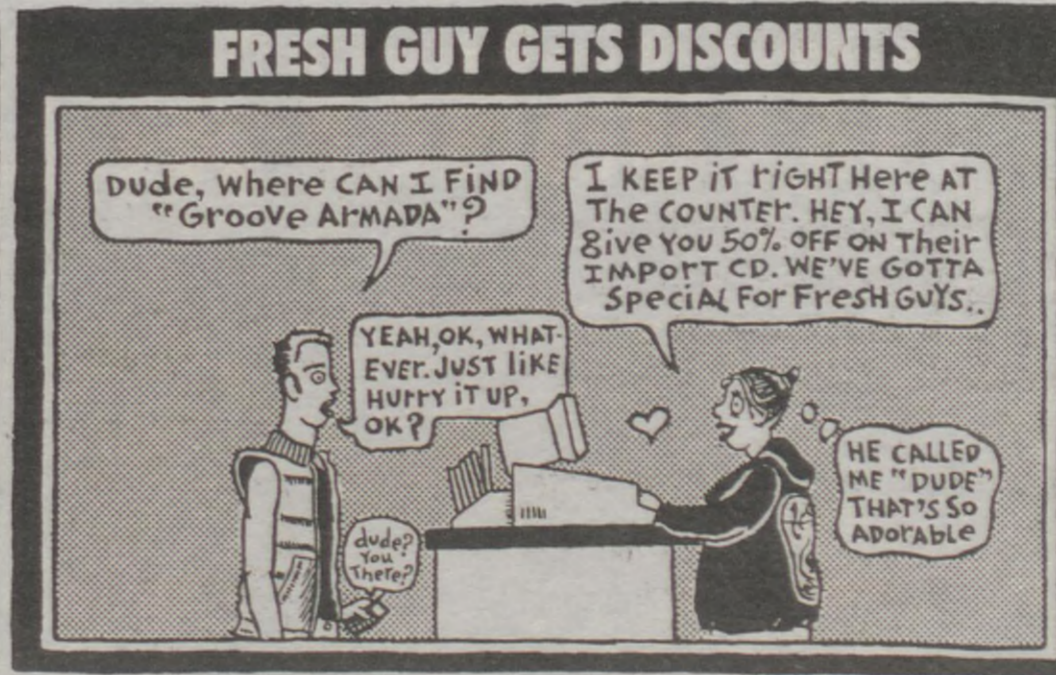
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INFO

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green...

...by Eric Omer



A movement of lesbian moms

by LAURA BROWN

Elizabeth Toledo, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's new executive director, isn't the first lesbian mother to head a major, national gay rights organization.

Both Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, and Joan Garry, executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, also have children.

Together, these national leaders illustrate the three most common ways lesbians become moms: Toledo had her two children through a heterosexual relationship before coming out, Garry's partner conceived their three through artificial insemination, and Birch and her partner adopted infant twins.

All three women said their children both inspire and motivate their activism.

"As a parent, the whole notion of leaving something behind becomes extremely compelling," said Garry. Activism "became, for me, my way to do something to ensure the world ultimately treats my kids well."

Garry's partner of 19 years, Eileen Opatut, conceived their three children—Sarah, now 10, and twins Ben and Kit, now 5—through artificial insemination. In 1993, Garry legally adopted the children, in the first case of second parent adoption (where the biological parent's ties also remain intact) approved in New Jersey.

"At the time, we didn't see it as a big political statement: It was just a personal, family decision to make sure I had a legal connection to my kids," Garry said. "But it did very much give me the bug to do more and get more involved."

In 1997, Garry left Showtime to become GLAAD's executive director.

Birch to leave HRC?

Unlike Garry, who became head of a gay rights organization after becoming a mother, Birch was already HRC's executive director when she and partner Hilary Rosen adopted Anna and Jacob, twins born prematurely, in January 1999.

Both Birch and Rosen are now the children's legal parents, though Birch declines to discuss the details of the adoption.

She also won't allow the children, now 17 months old and healthy, to be photographed in the press.

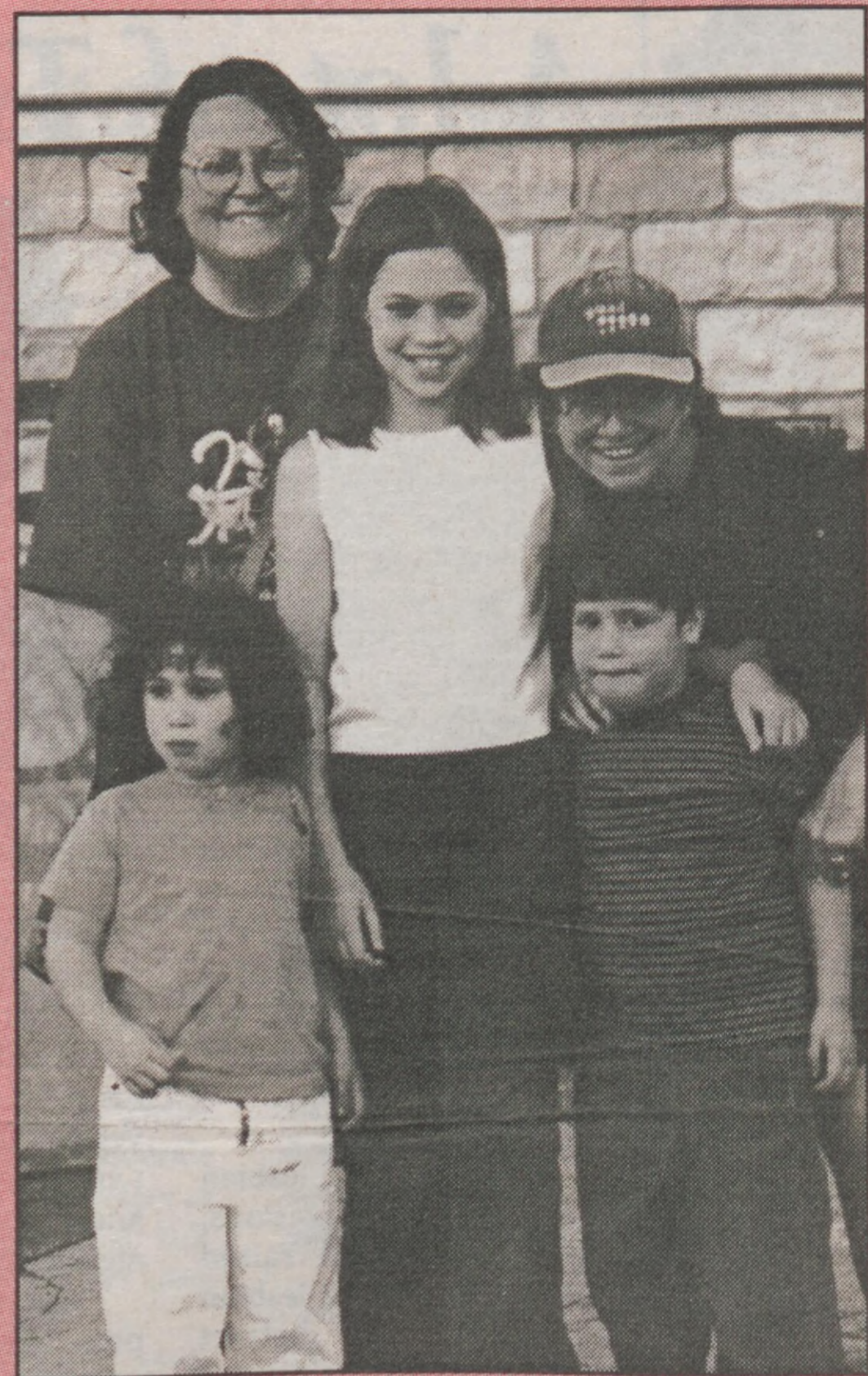
"We sometimes tend to focus on strife within our community, and it is easy to forget that gay people who head organizations are still targeted from the extreme right, and sometimes that can be dangerous," Birch said. She said the children will be allowed to decide when they are older how visible they want to be.

The family has already been the target of verbal assault: When the adoptions became public last year, conservative groups attacked the adoption, and "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger devoted an episode of her radio show to condemning the family.

Like many working mothers, Birch said she longs for more hours to spend with her children—she cut back her schedule after the adoptions, but found herself working longer hours again as the Millennium March, and HRC's Equality Rocks concert, approached.

Now, Birch admits she is considering leaving her post at HRC, although she is committed to staying through the November elections.

"The truth is that I want to do what is best for HRC in terms of the future, and I think what we have all agreed upon is fully evaluating, after the elections, what my future will be," she said.



GLAAD Executive Director Joan Garry (far right), with partner Eileen Opatut, older daughter Sarah, and twins Kit and Ben.

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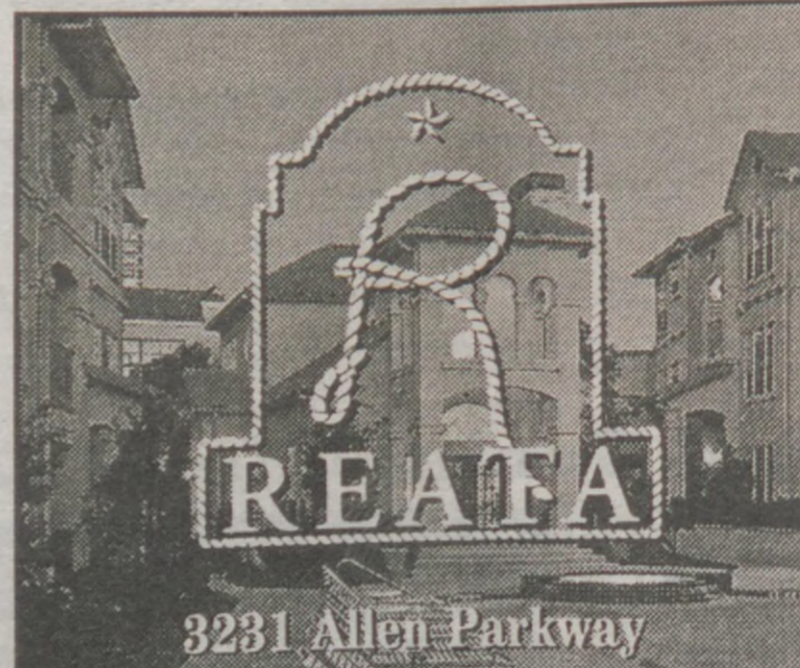


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Newly-out mom takes helm of national gay rights group

> Continued from Page 1

Jerry Clark, co-chair of the Task Force board, said Toledo's grassroots experience with NOW and her ability to speak articulately and extemporaneously, "on issues that face our community" were key points in her favor.

"The fact that she is a lesbian mother of two, and also Latina, were also considered, although not decisive," Clark said. "Given that emphasis is so extensive now on family issues in our community, we felt that she would be a great person at this particular time in the movement to take on the job."

"It was a hard choice, only because we had a lot of good candidates to choose from," said Lynn Cothren, a NGLTF board member who served on the search committee with Clark.

"I think [Toledo] is just wonderful—she brings such a freshness... and she is very compassionate and caring about the issues."

Coming out at NOW

Born in California, Toledo was raised in Tucson, Ariz., but returned to California for college, stayed, and became a leader in state and local NOW chapters.

Married in 1992, she moved to Washington, D.C., in 1997 after being elected vice president of the organization.

At NOW, Toledo met Cindy Jordan, the group's field organizer for lesbian rights. Last year, Toledo and her husband divorced, and Jordan left NOW for a position with the Human Rights Campaign.

Toledo and Jordan now live together in Montgomery County, Md., where they are raising Toledo's two children: Mia, 4, and Tomas, 3.

"Not a day goes by that I don't worry about what kind of homophobia they will face because of my sexual orientation," Toledo said. "But I believe any challenges will pale in comparison to the harm it would do if they saw their mother growing up in a lie, hiding who I am and unwilling to challenge the world."

Toledo declined to offer much information about her marriage, saying she wants her children to have a good relationship with their father, and not read about their parents' problems in the press.

"I will say that we had a very nontraditional marriage, and for the bulk of the marriage we didn't even live in the same city," she said.

As for her sexual orientation, "there are people who say they have known from a young age, and I wouldn't put myself in that category, but I do think I could have come to this reality earlier," Toledo said.

While right-wing groups could latch onto her story as proof that feminist activism causes women to become lesbians, Toledo dismisses the idea.

"Anybody who thinks you can recruit someone into their sexuality has really missed any type of understanding about it," she said.

Facing the critics

Despite praise from the NGLTF board, Toledo's selection as the group's new executive director has its share of critics among both gays and feminists.

Some have wondered whether someone out for such a short time is prepared to head one of the nation's oldest gay groups.

"Anyone who's been out less than a year is in gay diapers, is wearing gay training wheels," wrote columnist Rex Wockner. "Heading up NGLTF when you came out less than a year ago is like getting appointed to the Supreme Court while you're still in law school."

But both Toledo and NGLTF board members insisted she is prepared for the task.

The "compassion and energy" of someone who has just come out can be "tapped and utilized," Cothren said, while Toledo said she hopes to be an inspiration to others living in the closet.

"I don't spend a lot of time on regret, but if I did, one thing I would focus on is that I didn't have the vision or courage or strength [to come out sooner]," she said.

"One of the challenges of our movement is to create an environment where more people can come out earlier, and that's one thing I hope to have a great impact on."

Wockner also questioned NGLTF's decision to appoint its sixth consecutive lesbian feminist executive director.

"What are the odds that six times in a row the best applicant was a female?" he asked.

Clark said one man was among the final three candidates brought in to interview with the entire board and staff, but Toledo proved the best choice, regardless of gender.

Meanwhile, as Toledo prepares to leave NOW, leaders offered nothing but praise.

But one longtime NOW activist, who spoke

to the *Houston Voice* on the condition that her name not be used, said she and other members were upset that Toledo was leaving before the end of her elected term as vice president, and when she was already working to become president.

"This a crucial time for feminists," the activist said, citing the upcoming presidential election. "I'd rather NOW's leadership focus on who will appoint Supreme Court justices, not who will replace Elizabeth."

The future of NGLTF

Under Kerry Lobel's leadership, NGLTF declined to endorse last month's Millennium March on Washington, which had been dogged by criticism that too few grassroots activists and people of color were involved in planning—criticism Lobel cited when she publicly withdrew from the MMOW board last year.

But Toledo served on the MMOW board representing NOW, and less than two weeks after the announcement that she would take the helm at NGLTF, she addressed the crowd from the march stage.

"I think the right position to take on the march is to celebrate the great action that happened, and learn from some of the missteps," Toledo said.

Her goal at NGLTF will not be drastic change, Toledo said, but to "build on the momentum Kerry Lobel has been creating."

"I also think I have the unique opportunity to move the movement to be more diverse," she added. "As a Chicana, I don't see a lot of other faces that look like mine being very active in the movement."

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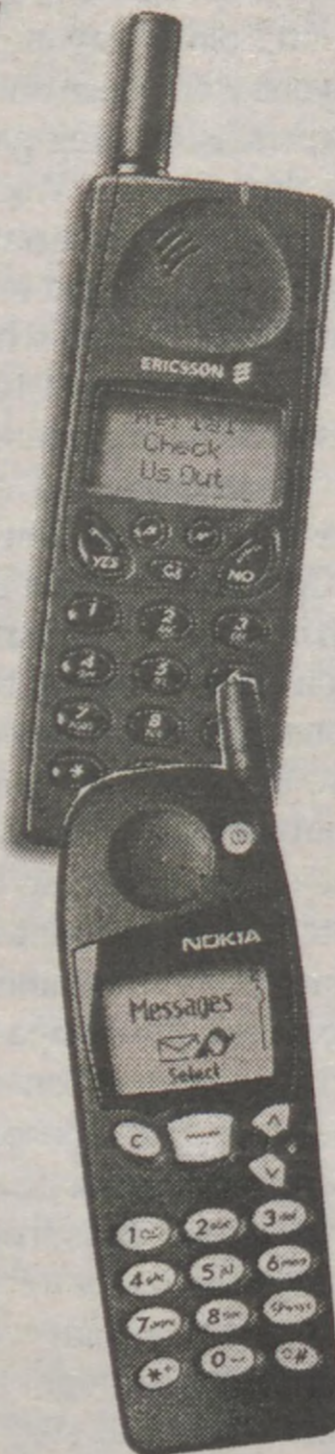
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HOUSTON VOICE • MAY 19, 2000

A GUIDE TO THE HOUSTON GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

DISROBING GAY

"Beefcake?"

A part-documentary, part-fictional look at the creator of men's physique magazines opens the Bayou City's annual gay and lesbian film festival

by EARL DITTMAN

Even before he had completed work on what would become his award-winning and critically-acclaimed debut film feature, "The Hanging Garden," director Thom Fitzgerald was already well into pre-production on a controversial big screen follow-up.

A self-professed workaholic, the gay filmmaker was nearly finished with a script and was anxious to get back behind the camera. But when plans fell through on a proposed documentary about a former Mr. Olympia who comes out of the closet, Fitzgerald found himself at square one.

"For a while, I didn't know what I was going to do, although I really wanted it to be something with a lot of naked men in it," Fitzgerald said a laugh.

"Luckily, though, while I was doing research for the Mr. Olympia project, I had come across a ton of material about men's 'physique' magazines from the 1950s. Even though they

looked completely innocent on the surface, they were incredibly homoerotic. So I began to think there might be some kind of interesting, juicy story behind them."

Fitzgerald would stumble upon such a tale when he read author Valentine Hooven's book "Beefcake," which documented the scandalous, non-fiction life of Bob Mizer—gay physique photographer, magazine publisher and "model agency" owner.

"I immediately fell in love with the book, not just because it had all of these great pictures of these half-naked men, but because it exposed me to a part of gay history I knew absolutely nothing about," the 31-year-old said. "Mizer created Physique Pictorial, a magazine that was supposed to be for bodybuilders and women in the '50s who wanted

to sneak a peek at guy's bodies. But if you read between the lines of the magazine, it was filled with codes and secrets that only gay men would pick up on. To me, 'Beefcake' was a story about how almost nothing is really what it appears to be. And it made me understand that what Bob Mizer did, in his own little way, was start the gay sexual revolution."

Realizing he had the basis for his next film, Fitzgerald immersed himself in as much information about Bob Mizer (who died in 1991) as he could get his hands on.

Fitzgerald's movie opens the two-week Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival with a showing May 26 at Landmark's Greenway Theatre. Before the screening, the festival's kick-off "Technicolor 2000" will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Alley Theatre.

In researching his project, Fitzgerald discovered a dilapidated, dusty, old garage in Los Angeles provided Fitzgerald with all the data he would ever

> Continued on Page 18



An image from Bob Mizer's collection of the Athletic Model Guild, which is chronicled in Thom Fitzgerald's 'Beefcake.'

An interview with lesbian film director Cheryl Dunye. Coming May 26 in the Houston Voice.

HOUSTON VOICE GUIDE TO THE GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL 2000

FRIDAY, MAY 26

TECHNICOLOR 2000

The opening party of the film festival, with special guests Lauren Anderson and Dominic Walsh from Houston Ballet, Roseann Rogers of Channel 2 and lesbian filmmaker Cheryl Dunye. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue. Tickets are \$15. For details, call 713-528-4280.

BEEFCAKE

A hit on the independent festival circuit, "Beefcake" is a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at the origin of the phenomenon known as men's muscle magazine's. Written, produced and directed by Thom Fitzgerald, this part-documentary, part-fictional film traces the rise and fall of photographer and publisher Bob Mizer, the undisputed creator of the infamous "physique mags" of the 1950s. Playing daily through Friday, June 2 at Landmark Greenway Theatre.



SATURDAY, MAY 27

WOMEN OF VISION

Directed by Alexandra Juhasz, this documentary takes viewers on a journey through the lives of three generations of women who are actively involved in different aspects of alternative visual culture. A compelling gaze at art and politics from a female perspective. (Alexandra Juhasz will answer questions following the screening.) 3 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

THOSE WHO LOVE ME CAN TAKE THE TRAIN

The winner of three Cesar awards (France's version of the Oscars), "Those Who Love Me" tells the story of a group of men and women who try to come to terms with the trials and tribulations of falling in and out of love, on their way to attending the funeral of a recently-deceased friend. Written and directed by Patrice Chereau and starring Pascal Gregory, Vincent Perez, Jean-Louis Trintignant and Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi, "Those Who Love Me" will be screened in French, with English subtitles. 5 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.



CHERYL DUNYE SHORT FILMS

Acclaimed African-American, lesbian filmmaker Cheryl Dunye presents a selection of her short films. "Jamie" is the true story about her relationship with a white, upper-middle class high school girl. "She Don't Fade": The search for the "perfect woman" told through the eyes of a black lesbian. Dunye details her relationship with her brother via home movies and found footage in "An Untitled Project." "Greetings From Africa" is about the travails of lesbian dating in the '90s. (Dunye will answer questions after the screening.) 7:30 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

THE WATERMELON WOMAN

Cheryl Dunye's first full-length feature is a touching and hilarious fictional account of a black filmmaker (Dunye) and her video store clerk lesbian lover who become captivated by the performance of an actress playing a "mammy" role in an old 1930s "plantation talkie" directed by another black woman. Upon discovering the director and actress were possible lovers, the filmmaker becomes obsessed with discovering the truth behind their relationship. "The Watermelon Woman" is a wonderful and entertaining commentary on the depiction of black women in motion pictures. (Dunye will answer questions after the screening.) 9:30 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

BEEFCAKE

Landmark Greenway Theatre.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

CHOCOLATE BABIES

An HIV-positive group of gay, black activists suspect New York City politicians are keeping a secret "blacklist" of members of the city's HIV-infected population. Outraged, they take on NYC's leaders by staging a series of protests that produce surprising results. Preceding "Chocolate Babies" are two short films: "A Kiss In The Snow" and "Your Kiss." 7:30 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

BEEFCAKE

Landmark Greenway Theatre.

THOSE WHO LOVE ME CAN TAKE THE TRAIN

5 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

MONDAY, MAY 29

WOMEN OF VISION

3 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

CHOCOLATE BABIES, A KISS IN THE SNOW, and YOUR KISS

7:30 p.m., Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

BEEFCAKE

Landmark Greenway Theatre.

TUESDAY, MAY 30

SCHOOL'S OUT: GAY & LESBIAN TEEN PORTRAITS

A series of short films concerning teens coming to terms with being gay and lesbian: When a hunky new neighbor moves in next door, a teenaged brother and sister battle over his affections in "Boy Next Door." "Family" is a poignant documentary featuring an 18-year-old coming out to his father on a video tape. "I Know Who I Am...Do You?" is a teen-produced documentary by inner city youth who combat

homophobia with pride. During a slumber party, a young girl must come to terms with her love for Joan Jett in "Shari Shapiro's Slumber Party." 8 p.m., Aurora Picture Show.

BEEFCAKE

Landmark Greenway Theatre.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

THE WRONG BODY

This deeply moving film is an account of a young person's fight to live life as a man trapped in a woman's body. "The Wrong Body" also examines the transitions of four other female-to-male transsexuals. (A discussion will take place after the screening, led by Lynne Huffer, a Rice University gender studies professor.) 7 p.m., DiverseWorks.

BEEFCAKE

Landmark Greenway Theatre.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

LIVING WITH PRIDE: RUTH ELLIS @ 100

The winner of Audience Awards for Best Documentary at both the Los Angeles and San Francisco gay and lesbian film festivals, this inspiring film showcases the life of Ruth Ellis, the oldest known "out" lesbian. 6 p.m., Rice Media Center.

OUTTAKES

A surprising sweet and charming romantic comedy about a lesbian director who finds herself falling for her "straight" assistant director. 7:30 p.m., Rice Media Center.

THE HUNGER

This modern-day vampire cult classic created an uproar when it was released in the '80s for its incredibly sensuous and graphic sex scene between its two female leads, French screen goddess Catherine Deneuve and American superstar Susan Sarandon. While it may now look tame by today's big screen standards, there's no denying the scene's erotic power and might. And fans of rocker David Bowie will delight in his wonderfully campy performance as an aging bloodsucker who has the hots for any warm body that happens to cross his path. 9:30 p.m., Rice Media Center.

BEEFCAKE

Landmark Greenway Theatre.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

QUEER AS FOLK and QUEER AS FOLK 2

Daring, provocative, moving, sexy and witty, this highly-rated British mini-series is everything a gay person could hope for. Set in the industrial city of Manchester, "Queer As Folk" follows the lives Stuart, Vince and Nathan, three gay Brits who inevitably look for love in all the wrong places. Featuring a superb cast that includes Aidan Gillen, Craig Kelly and Charlie Hunnam, "Queer As Folk" isn't shy in exposing the underbelly of club life: There's drugs, booze, nudity and a whole lot of shagging going on. Brilliant is the only way to describe this revolutionary television series. Playing daily through June 8. 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., Angelika Film Center.

RICE & POTATOES

East meets West in this sexy documentary about Asian men and the Caucasians that desire them. 6 p.m., Rice Media Center.



BEDROOMS AND HALLWAYS

Starring "Trainspotting's" Kevin McKidd and Hugo Weaving from "Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert," "Bedrooms and Hallways" is a laugh-filled British comedy celebrating the vices and virtues of dating members of the same sex. A box office smash with English movie-goers, this delightful comedy is sure to win over American audiences, too. 7:30 p.m., Rice Media Center.

FORBIDDEN LOVE IN THE TWILIGHT WORLD OF THE THIRD SEX

A video program that examines the faces of discrimination that are rampant within the mainstream and gay communities: "Shame No More" is a clever "public service announcement" warning a "normal" public of the impending spread of heterosexuality. "Which Is Scary" is a frank documentary on homophobia. "Fruit Machine" exposes the Canadian governments tests for homosexuality. "A Love Story" is the true story of a lesbian love affair during World War II. 8 p.m., DiverseWorks.

GENDERNAUTS

Subtitled "A Journey Through Shifting Identities," director Monika Treut's frank documentary takes her to San Francisco, the proclaimed Mecca of gender fluidity, to explore the city's transgendered community. With an unapologetic approach, Treut introduces viewers to a landscape where hormone, estrogen and testosterone treatments reign supreme. Shocking, funny, educational, repulsive and heartwarming all at the same time, "Gendernauts" is a must see. 9:30 p.m., Rice Media Center.

EATING IN BED IS GOOD

Video shorts that focus on lesbian and women's issues: "B.D. Women" is a celebration of black lesbians. "Lisa Lisa" asks the question, "How many dykes do you know named Lisa?" "bed" is a raw, edgy look a female desire. The touching tale of the enormity of young love is in "Below the Belt." "Sex Fish" is dubbed as a "furious montage of oral sex, public restroom cruising ... and tropical fish." "Women In Black" is a comedy about two lesbian couples that resent male attention. 10 p.m., DiverseWorks.

BEEFCAKE

Landmark Greenway Theatre.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

GAY YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

Underwritten by PFLAG, this screening of the documentary "Surviving Friendly Fire" is an account of the controversial play "Friendly Fire" in which 10 homeless teens performed each other's life stories. Admission is free. 3:30 p.m., Rice Media Center.

THE MAN WHO DROVE WITH MANDELA

While many of us are familiar with the main players that were instrumental in dismantling South Africa's apartheid government, little is known about Cecil Williams. A gay, British-born, theatre director, Williams played an important role in the anti-apartheid movement, and "The Man Who Drove" is a compelling account of his heroic efforts. 5:30 p.m., Rice Media Center.

LOLA AND BILLY THE KID

Controversial and thought-provoking, this German film ignited a firestorm of protests upon its initial release in its native land. Focusing on incendiary topics such as immigration and homosexuality, "Lola and Billy The Kid" is the story of three Turkish immigrant brothers who must come to terms with an increasingly hostile society and their relationship between each other. Presented in German and Turkish, with English subtitles. 7:30 p.m., Rice Media Center.



SITCOM

A French family slowly begins to unravel when confronted with one brother's discovery that he's gay, a suicide attempt and the father's growing affection for the household maid. While the film may sound grim, director Francois Ozon's "Sitcom" (which stars Antoine Fischer, Stephane Rideau and Lucia Sanchez) is actually a thoroughly enjoyable comedy of errors. "Sitcom" will be screened in French, with English subtitles. 9:30 p.m., Rice Media Center.

MYRA BRECKINRIDGE

Camp at its finest. Based on drama queen Gore Vidal's splendidly trashy novel of the same name, this welcomed celluloid blast from the past sports a cast to die for: Raquel Welch, Mae West, Tom Selleck, Farrah Fawcett, John Huston, Rex Reed and a massive strap-on dildo. At times it's hard to make sense out of this psychedelic burn-out of a movie, but that's part of its charm. Even if you've seen it on video a hundred times, nothing can compare to seeing a 70-year-old Mae West, in all her aging glory on a big screen. 11:30 p.m., Rice Media Center.

QUEER AS FOLK and QUEER AS FOLK 2

12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m., Angelika Film Center.



SUNDAY, JUNE 4

SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

This diverse program includes "The Trey Billings Show," a late-nite cable show out of control; "Battle for the Tiara," a drag contest with some surprising contestants; and "A Thousand Miles" by director Sharon Ferranti and her story about a woman who must return home to confront her demons. Also, "The Olive Tree" is one man's fight to deal with the death of a lover. "The First Day of the Beginning of the End of the World" is the day after the nuclear accident at Chernobyl when a woman discovers she is really attracted to women. From groundbreaking filmmaker Jenni Stark. (Directors Sharon Ferranti and Jenni Stark with attend this special screening.) 5 p.m., Rice Media Center.

THE NIGHT LARRY KRAMER KISSED ME

Performer David Drake's hugely popular one-man, Off-Broadway play about coming out and becoming an activist in the age of AIDS. Adapted for the screen by director Tim Kirkman. 7 p.m., Rice Media Center.

BEDROOMS AND HALLWAYS

9 p.m., Rice Media Center.

QUEER AS FOLK and QUEER AS FOLK 2

12:30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Angelika Film Center.

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QUEER AS FOLK and QUEER AS FOLK 2

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DISROBING *Beefcake!*

> Continued from page 15

need know about the infamous entrepreneur.

"Luckily, Bob left an incredible trail of information about himself and everything he did, which made my job a lot easier," Fitzgerald said. "He kept a diary and all of his correspondence. And unlike most photographers of his day, he kept incredibly detailed records of his models. There were literally tens of thousands of young men who appeared in his magazines and movies, and all the information about them still exists. I mean, there were one million negatives in that garage. There was everything from hundreds of thousands of nude black and whites to tons of bikini shots. I don't think I've seen so many pictures of naked men in my life."

With all the material he had discovered, Fitzgerald was ready to begin work on a documentary which would focus on the professional life of Mizer and the industry he had given birth to. But just days before he actually began production on "Beefcake," a final search through Mizer's archives would unearth documents that would completely change the course and shape of the film.

"I was doing a last go-round when I came across a stack of court transcripts detailing charges brought against Bob Mizer by the Los Angeles Police Department," Fitzgerald recalled. "Once I began to read them, I was flabbergasted, because up until then I thought I knew who the real Bob Mizer was.

"Apparently, he was arrested because he was living a secretive, second life as the proprietor of a hustling ring using his models. His modeling agency, the Athletic Model Guild, was a front. The guy was a pimp. So I had to completely rethink the movie and the way I was writing it. A film

that I thought was going to be about innocent sexuality was turning into a movie about secrets, crimes and the wages of intolerance."

Fitzgerald knew that any film about Mizer would be incomplete without including this newly-found information. But since no visual documents concerning the court case or the goings-on at the Athletic Model Guild existed, Fitzgerald made the decision to interweave actual documentary footage and interviews with re-enactments and a fictional story.

The life of Bob Mizer would now be told through the eyes of a character named Neil O'Hara, a naive, starstruck young man who comes to Hollywood of the 1950s with dreams of becoming a superstar. But instead of becoming a mainstream leading man, O'Hara ends up a pawn in Mizer's game of sex, drugs and prostitution.

"I wanted to create a story about how it must have felt to be one of these young guys who become a part of Mizer's world," Fitzgerald said. "They have all these big dreams of becoming big Hollywood icons, but they become gay boy-toys and hustlers instead."

Although Josh Peace had only appeared in a handful of major motion pictures ("The Big Hit" and "54"), Fitzgerald became convinced the young Canadian would be perfect for the role of the make-believe Neil after meeting with the actor.

"I wanted somebody who would make jaws drop when people saw him, and Josh certainly fits that bill," Fitzgerald said. "But more importantly, there's a real innocence and shyness about Josh that makes him so believable as a small town boy who gets caught-up in Mizer's sordid world. He so natural and so talented. He



TOM HARING

Director Thom Fitzgerald and Josh Peace from 'Beefcake'

really made the movie come alive."

After filming the fictional portions of "Beefcake" in Nova Scotia (New York-born Fitzgerald's adopted home), the director traveled to California to begin the task of interviewing real-life friends and associates of Mizer for the documentary part of the movie. Fitzgerald admits he was surprised to find that so many of his "ex-models" were willing to speak so frankly about their relationship with their former "boss."

"I think they just wanted to get a lot of stuff off their chest," he said. "A lot of them felt the need to confess, and I think it was therapeutic for them.

"But some of the stories they told me just blew away any preconceptions of what I thought life for gay men was like in the '50s and '60s. It was a lot more wild than I ever imagined."

While Fitzgerald has mixed emotions concerning Mizer's exploitation of men, he confesses he still harbors immense admiration for the man.

"Although it's hard to condone a lot of his actions, Mizer did a lot for gay rights," he said. "In an era where people had to pretend to be something they weren't in order to survive, he was an incredibly bold individual."

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On Stage

Psychos and aliens offer variety

by D.L. GROOVER

Never underestimate the breadth and diversity of Houston's small theater companies. Here are two startlingly different productions that should satisfy your craving for live performance.

From Houston's newest drama factory, the Ashland St. Theatre Co., comes Nicky Silver's **FAT MEN IN SKIRTS**, a blacker than black comedy where you're likely to gag on your laughter, as if gargling with blood.

Strikingly written in sulfuric acid, lovingly produced and flawlessly acted, "Fat Men" documents the chilling fall of Bishop Hogan, plane crash survivor and ultimate psycho, whose insatiable taste for human sushi matches his unholy desire for his mother. There is no redeeming social value in this satiric amoral tale, whose progenitors are Jonathan Swift, John Webster and John Waters.

"Fat Men in Skirts" takes the human condition and whacks the stuffing out of it, veering wildly between biting satire and horrid melodrama. There's cannibalism, incest, patricide, matricide and mistress-icide in Silver's ghoulish story, overlaid with wicked humor.

Travis Ammons, Ashland St.'s artistic director, inhabits the mad Bishop Hogan like a second skin. Introduced as a shuffling, stuttering 11-year-old, browbeaten by his obsessive mother, he grows to manhood in a chilling transformation scene.

With steely blue eyes, a head full of pre-Raphaelite curls and a lean animal grace, he resembles a dangerous medieval icon. The years of watching monkeys make vicious love take their toll, as do memories of a distant father and preoccupied mother. Lo and behold, a psychopath is born. Hannibal Lector meets Norman Bates.

Ammons pulls out all the stops and sinks his teeth into this most-troubled young man. Like the play itself, in an eye blink he switches from broad comedy to deepest drama. It's frightening, icy and makes us cringe in our seats.

Like a poisoned drink, this sit-com from Hell is laced with enough tasty laughs to make it potable. Shannon Eagle in the dual roles of porn star Pam and delusional schizophrenic Popo Martin is a delight, whether preening in fishnet stockings or bouncing on her hospital bed with her yarn-encrusted pigtails jumping with her.

This is basically a one-note play, since it depicts rather than analyzes the fall of man, but the depiction is riveting none the less.

Theater LaB Houston's **ZOMBIES FROM THE BEYOND** will make fans of "Mystery Science Fiction Theater" laugh out loud. If you think Ed Wood was a cinema artist, then this cheesy musical send-up won't mean anything, but you'll laugh nonetheless.

Silly and inane, this parody—part homage and part vaudeville—is wonderfully goofy. With tongue firmly planted in cheek, this seven character song and dance extrav-



JIM CALDWELL

Travis Ammons explores shoes and psychosis with Therese Kotara in Ashland St. Theatre's production of 'Fat Men in Skirts.'

aganza spoofs that fabulous era in Hollywood when the emergence of the Cold War with its atomic threats spawned an entire series of science fiction movies.

In these movies there was an inviolable set of characters: head scientist, his daughter, maverick reporter or lawman, and a too-rational younger scientist.

Wishing to communicate with alien intelligence, the father gets too close to the danger and is incinerated; the daughter, brighter than all the guys around her, falls for the dangerous sexy rebel; and the younger scientist watches with impotence as the young lovers stand amid the smoldering ruins of the great city after the evil alien force is vanquished.

All this and more is here in James Valcq's loving satire. The wonderful surprise is the addition of a musical score which is a more clever parody of times past than the wacky let's-make-fun-of-these-flicks tone. The death ray of the evil Zombina, the alien aviatrix, earth's pneumatic nemesis, is her voice. Like a demented Norma, her stratospheric coloratura drives men mad.

The septet of talented performers handles their stock characters with infectious high jinks, over-the-top zaniness, and nimble high-kicking supplied in spades by director and choreographer Jim Phillips.

This is the type of show that can't be played straight, not when the young lovers whistle their love song, and the illustrious skyline of downtown Milwaukee is knocked senseless by the malevolent Zombina. Earthlings, beware.

INFO

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In Memory of Richard Wiederholt

I met Richard five years ago, when we opened Riva's on Missouri Street. We became good friends in the short time we knew each other. He was one of the most honest, giving and caring individuals. I want everyone to know and remember him for who he was. His involvement and support of Body Positive Wellness Center is an inspiration to us all. Let's carry out his wishes to support any organization that fights AIDS. May his memory forever be in our hearts. My deepest condolences to his long time partner, Ian Leffler; daughter, Karie Kelly; son-in-law, Tom Kelly; grandson, Shawn; also to his brother and five sisters.

Michael Sibouyeh

Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Crostini: Potential unrealized

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Just when the nights are balmy and warm enough for a late night outdoor meal, the mosquitoes descend in droves, transforming even the most romantic restaurant patio into a scratching and slapping war zone. Such was the case the other night at Crostini, a warm and stylish Italian bistro on South Shepard.

Although our server wasn't terribly efficient when it came to delivering drinks or furnishing us with silverware, we appreciated his friendliness and professionalism. I missed the spacious, Mediterranean feel of the patio with terra-cotta tiles and wall decorations, but the inside Crostini is just as atmospheric and subdued. The ruby red interior radiates urban chic, without the slightest bit of pretentiousness, and the small dining area makes the scene more intimate.

Fortunately, our server finally arrived with our long-awaited bread, because the smell of the garlic infused olive oil made me want to reach for a fork and begin anyway. Mounds of crushed garlic, paprika, rosemary and other seasonings sit in a pool of jewel-colored oil. The smallest drop on the piping fresh bread was heavenly.

We started with basics, like the Crostini di Roma (\$4.95) toasted Italian bread with goat cheese, tomatoes, onions, cucumber and black olives topped with melted mozzarella. What I anticipated as a simple and fresh appetizer was in reality lumpy and greasy with unevenly chopped ingredients. With a gratuitous amount of onions and mushy, colorless tomatoes, these four slabs of bread reminded me of something clumsily

thrown together at home as a snack.

The Lumanche with Grilled Polenta (\$8.95) proved a bit more promising with tender escargot sautéed with peppers, artichoke hearts and tomatoes in a mint white wine sauce. The sauce seems more vinegary than minty, but nonetheless it makes the snails glisten with just the right amount of tang.

As for the polenta, I have to admit, I'm not a fan in the first place. But those who are should be pleased with how the grilling sears the corn, creating a smoky, if terribly doughy flavor.

The Mista Salad (\$3.95) offers a basic dinner salad with a respectable vinaigrette, but I absolutely loved my Papaya Salad (\$3.95). Shredded green papaya are generously strewn over a bed of greens and olives, and topped with feta cheese and a fabulous spicy lime vinaigrette. The effect is simultaneously tart and tropical, and the mingling of textures and tastes washes down beautifully with a glass of Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio (\$6.50).

But after trying our initial bites, we wished he would have waited even longer. The Rigatoni Special (\$18.95) promised chunks of lobster and shrimp in a pesto marinara sauce. The two lobster pieces I did manage to find were thin and chewy, and the shrimp hard and tough. The sauce featured more oregano than basil and had none of a decent pesto's garlic zing.

My friend was even more disappointed in her Fettuccine Salmone (\$11.95). Thick ribbons of noodles clung together in a vodka cream sauce that congealed the shrimp and artichoke hearts together onto one side of the plate. The smoked salmon's flavor was indistinguishable from that of the bland and floury sauce.

The evening took a turn with dessert when we received our Chocolate Godiva Bag (\$6.50). A dark chocolate bag, a little larger than a playing card, is filled with velvety white chocolate mousse, rum cake and fresh, piquant raspberries. While our entrees hid beneath our chairs in take away containers that would never be opened, we fought over every last berry and cake crumb.

As we waited for our check and lamented a rather disappointing meal, we admired the cozy, yet stylish decor. From wavy black lights hanging from the bar, to an elaborate and funky metal candleholder by the server station, the details pointed to lots of potential.

The menu also has hints of potential, like the Crostini Jalepeno (\$10.95) with fettuccine, grilled chicken and cilantro; the Pecan Crusted Pesce del Giorno (usually a snapper or mahi-mahi) (\$16.95); and Vitello Cece (\$16.95), veal stuffed with ricotta, pinenuts, spinach and shrimp.

But if their quality doesn't carry over into taste, Crostini is potential unrealized.

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Service: ☹☹☹

Value: ☹☹☹

Scene: ☹☹☹☹☹

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Study of children without penises finds nature determines gender

BALTIMORE (AP)—A study of male children who were born without penises and raised as girls found that most of them considered themselves boys when they got older. The results call into question the practice of surgically "reassigning" the sex of such infants, researchers at the Johns Hopkins Hospital said May 12. Researchers tracked the development of 27 children who had been born without a penis but were otherwise male, with normal testicles, male genes and hormones. Twenty-five of the children were sex-reassigned—doctors castrated them at birth and their parents raised them as girls. But over the years, all of the children, now ages 5 to 16, exhibited the rough-and-tumble play of boys. Fourteen declared themselves to be boys, in one case as early as age 5, said child psychologist Dr. William G. Reiner. "These studies indicate that with time and age, children may well know what their gender is, regardless of any and all information and child-rearing to the contrary," he said. "They seem to be quite capable of telling us who they are." The two children who were not reassigned and were raised as boys fit in well with their normal male peers and were better adjusted psychologically than the reassigned children, Reiner said.

Unsafe sex doubles among Australian gay men in three years

SYDNEY—Almost one-third of gay men in Sydney were having unprotected sex last year, double the proportion who reported unsafe sex practices four years ago, the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported May 15. Professor Susan Kippax, director of the National Center in HIV Social Research at the University of New South Wales, told an international AIDS conference that data collected since 1996 showed a "steady increase" in unprotected sex among gay men. Six-month surveys of about 1,500 gay men showed the proportion of men practicing unprotected sex doubled from 15 percent in February 1996 to 30 percent in August last year. She said 70 percent of respondents used condoms every time they had sex. "Unprotected sex does not necessarily mean unsafe sex," Professor Kippax said. "But unprotected sex among such a high-risk group needs to be monitored carefully."



Routine tests recommended to identify drug resistant HIV strains

CHICAGO (AP)—Tests that help identify drug-resistant strains of the AIDS virus should be routinely used in most infected patients to help doctors customize treatment, Reuters news service reported May 10. Initial treatment for HIV fails in about half of all AIDS patients because of the virus's rapid mutation rate. In an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, a panel of the International AIDS Society-USA said doctors should consider routine testing for virtually all HIV-infected patients except those whose infection is already being successfully treated. Two types of tests help determine resistance: Genotype tests identify genetic mutations known to be resistant. And phenotype tests determine whether a drug will kill a patient's virus strain. Both tests are costly, running between \$400 to \$1,000 each.

Penn. bill would protect privacy of genetic testing records

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Representatives of research groups and lawyers told the Pennsylvania legislature that it should provide special privacy protection for genetic information revealed by medical testing on patients. A bill to provide safeguards—such as whether a person is more likely to develop a certain form of cancer, or high blood pressure—received the support of groups involved in research and treatment of breast cancer, Tay-Sachs disease and multiple sclerosis. But an insurance industry lobbyist said because insurers need to measure risks to set rates, they should be allowed to use genetic information as long as they respected the sensitivity of the information. The state's Senate Judiciary Committee was considering a bill sponsored by Republican Sen. Jane M. Earll that would require a patient's consent for genetic testing to be conducted, guarantee that the patient has access to the information and require written consent before the information can be disclosed to someone else. "Information obtained from a genetic test has the potential to cause too much harm... to be available on the basis of the economics of the marketplace," said Richard C. Turkington, a law professor who testified.

—From staff and wire reports



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BOOK NEWS

A novel of love, ambition and nuclear waste

by ALISTAIR McCARTNEY

In a popular culture that prioritizes art forms that tell it straight and bring in the bucks, poetry has gotten a bad rap.

Within the confines of a mainstream gay and lesbian culture suspicious of any cultural product that doesn't come wrapped in lycra or with compliments from Madonna, poetry has fared poorly.

It too often conjures up images of fussy academic men in tweed suits, and dry society women in turbans, deeply repressed and overly fixated on Grecian urns, writing obscure texts while coughing from all the dust.

But if Michael Lassell and Elena Georgiou, New York City poets and co-editors of the just-published St. Martin's Press anthology have their way, this image of poetry will be changed once and for all.

The anthology, called "The World In Us: Lesbian and Gay Poetry of the Next Wave," although its focus is American poets, is an updated version of the seminal 1988 anthology "Gay and Lesbian Poetry In Our Time."

This vital new book successfully wrenches gay and lesbian poetry out of

INFO

'The World In Us: Lesbian and Gay Poetry Of The Next Wave (An Anthology)'

Edited by Michael Lassell and Elena Georgiou

St. Martin's Press

ISBN 0-312-20943-6

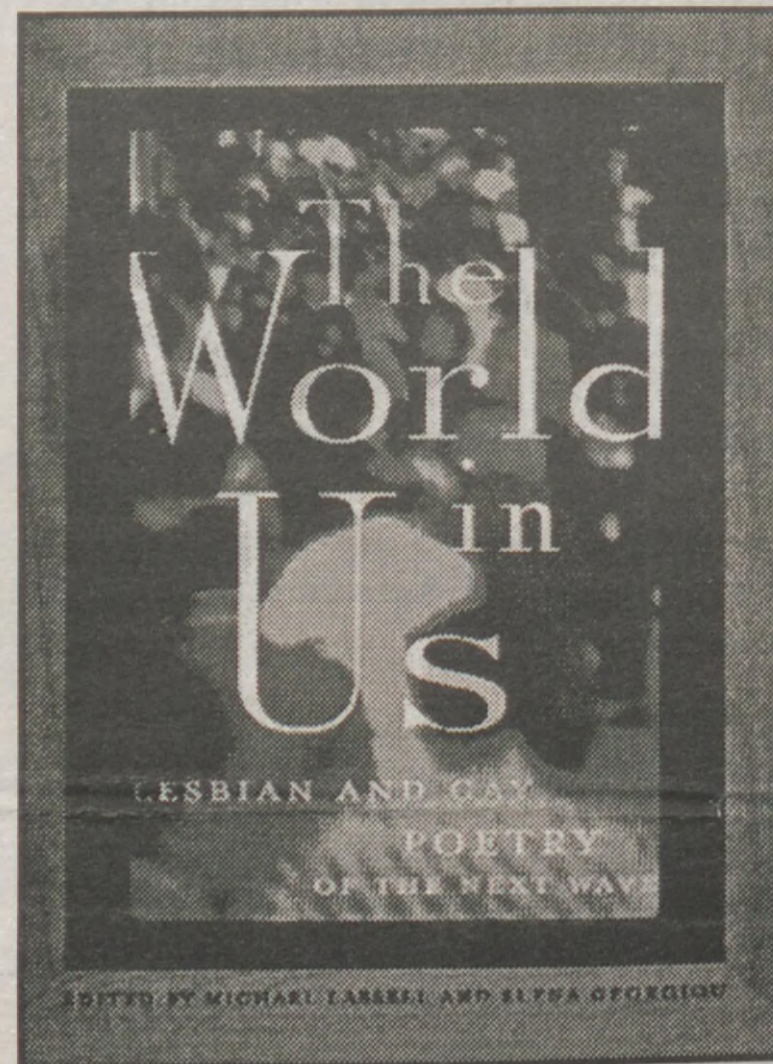
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the precious past and into the precarious present. No Wordsworthian emotions are recollected in tranquility here; the book buzzes with an of-the-moment urgency.

As Michael and Elena boldly state in their introduction, "It is difficult to remember a more receptive moment for poetry. The art not long ago deemed both irrelevant and unsaleable has been taken down from its Dead Poets Society pedestal and is being reinvented as a viable force that speaks to a new generation."

These two envision the current crop of gay poetry as an artform "no longer entangled in a cobwebby sense of history or duty" but as one pulsing at the heart of daily life, concerned more "about rock musicians and movies stars than about Greek mythology."

Thumbing through the book, it was astonishing to see just how many aspects of queer daily life poetry manages to



cover. The poets dive into the grit of subjects and places where other forms (bland queer cinema, for instance) fear to tread.

Move to New York.
Lose Your Virginity.
Become a star.
Send money to your mother.

Call pills "dolls."
Fire the talented newcomer.
Have a nervous breakdown.
Suffer from an incurable degenerative disease.

—From David Trinidad's "Things To Do In Valley Of The Dolls"

Even more astonishing was what a sexy read the book is. From the erotics of elbows to the maze-like pleasures of cunninglingus, "The World In Us" throws open the complex world of queer desire. Perhaps jaded by the over-saturation of gay men's erotic representations, I found the women's work was the hottest:

When it comes to articulating the joys and terrors of lesbian and gay desire, nothing does it better than poetry, bearing as it does the same root as desire—the body—revealing the fragile connection between our bodies and our words and our worlds.

The book is testament to the fact that poetry offers an aesthetic permissiveness that historically has attracted and continues to attract gays in droves. Far from being dry and academic, the poetry on offer in "The World In Us" makes most contemporary gay prose look positively sedate by comparison.

The breadth of voice and style apparent in "The World In Us" suggest that queer poetry presently being written in the U.S. offers a refreshing space of radical eclecticism in the face of gay and lesbian uniformity.

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Past Out

GAY AND
LESBIAN HISTORY

by DAVID BIANCO

Vidal statistics

by DAVID BIANCO

Who is Gore Vidal?

Born into a wealthy family in 1925 and raised near Washington, D.C., Eugene Luther Gore Vidal has politics in his blood. Vidal's maternal grandfather was Thomas P. Gore, a powerful U.S. senator from Oklahoma. Al Gore is a distant cousin. John F. Kennedy was his stepbrother-in-law. Vidal once told Time magazine that, in fact, "The only thing I've ever really wanted in my life was to be President."

But it's as a novelist and critic that Vidal actually made his mark. After attending exclusive prep schools, Vidal enlisted in the army in 1943. "My war was not much," he admitted in his memoir, "Palimpsest." He never saw battle and, out of boredom, began writing his first novel. Based on firsthand experience aboard an army freighter during a storm in the Bering Sea, "Williwaw" (1946) was published along with a host of other postwar war novels and received high marks from critics.

Eschewing a college degree, Vidal moved to New York City and embarked on a literary career. His second novel disappointed him, however, even though it received good reviews, and he decided to take a bigger risk with his next one. "I wanted to try something no American had done before," he said.

Although "The City and the Pillar" (1948) is now considered a classic of gay literature, it made reviewers' tongues wag because of its frank discussion of an affair between two young men and its daring suggestion that homosexual relationships were natural.

Vidal dedicated the novel to "J.T." and loosely based one of the characters on his first male lover, Jimmie Trimble, a friend from prep school who was killed during active service in 1944. Despite the controversial subject matter, the novel rushed onto bestseller lists.

Some prominent critics refused to review Vidal's next five novels, possibly out of homophobia. The lack of national attention marginalized his writing. "I was so dead-broke," Vidal told playwright Larry Kramer in 1992, "I went into television, movies, theater, politics." He even churned out three mystery novels under the pseudonym Edgar Box.

In 1954, Vidal decided to put fiction writing aside until he could make enough money to write whatever he pleased. He began living in Hollywood with his companion, Howard Austen, whom he'd met at the Everard Baths in Manhattan in 1950. For the next 10 years, Vidal earned a sizable income writing and collaborating on a string of successful teleplays and screenplays, including the script for his good friend Tennessee Williams's play, "Suddenly, Last Summer," and for "Ben-Hur."

During the early 1960s, Vidal also dabbled in the family business—politics. In 1960, he ran an unsuccessful campaign in New York state for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. During the Kennedy admin-



GAY & LESBIAN BIOGRAPHY

Recognized as a distinguished social and literary critic, Gore Vidal achieved his greatest success as a novelist with 'Myra Breckenridge,' his 1968 experimental satire about a transsexual.

istration, he served on the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

Ultimately, Vidal returned to fiction writing. "Julian" (1964), based on the life of the fourth-century Roman emperor, established his distinctive literary style of intercutting humorous asides, gossip and trivia into painstakingly researched historical novels. He went on to write a cycle of American history novels—beginning with "Washington, D.C." (1967) and ending with "Hollywood" (1990)—in which he explored the seamy side of U.S. politics and gave fictional form to such famous historical figures as Aaron Burr, Ulysses S. Grant and Abraham Lincoln.

But his greatest achievement as a novelist may have been his most controversial book. Vidal's experimental satire, "Myra Breckenridge" (1968), was the first American novel about a transsexual. The protagonist, Myron, is a gay man who has sex-reassignment surgery and is reborn as Myra.

Two years later, the novel became a movie starring Rex Reed and Raquel Welch as Myron-Myra, with a script co-written by Vidal. Back then, the movie was a resounding flop that critics panned as "repugnant," "atrocious," and "as funny as a child molester"; today it's a camp classic.

Beginning in the 1960s, Vidal also distinguished himself as a literary and social critic. Lauded as "America's finest essayist," Vidal has penned scores of droll, often biting commentaries on American culture and politics over the last three decades. "The chief play in a Vidal essay," noted one critic, "is to point out that the emperor has no clothes and then go a step further and remove the poor man's skin."

Vidal has lived with Howard Austen for 50 years, and although he has had numerous homosexual liaisons (with, among others, Jack Kerouac and dancer Harold Lang), he refuses to pigeonhole himself as "gay." Vidal asserts: "There is no such thing as a homosexual person. There are only homosexual acts."

David Bianco is the author of "Modern Jewish History for Everyone." He can be reached at DaveBianco@aol.com.



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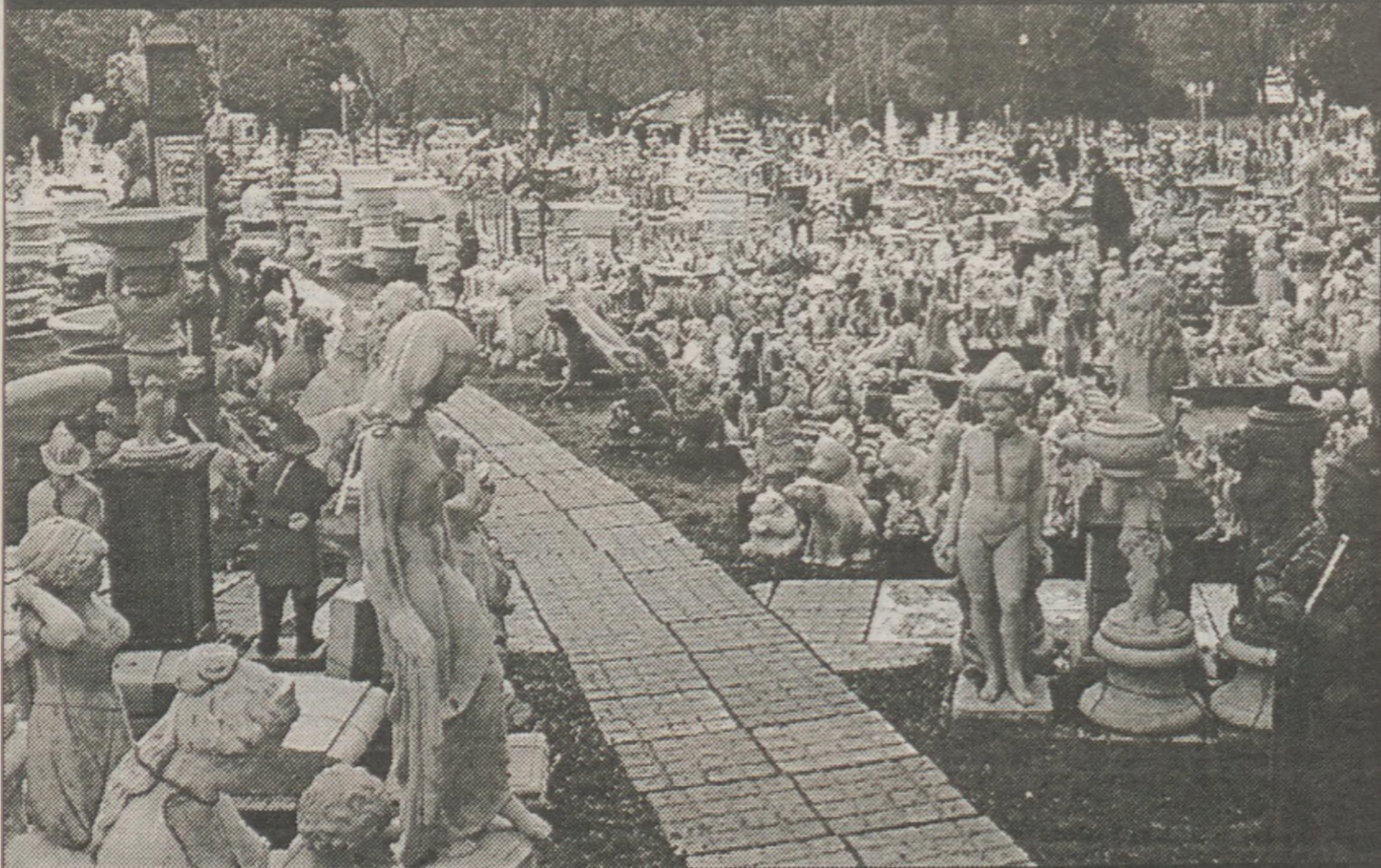
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On The Fringe

by STEPHEN CALVERT

Color me fashionable

Everyone has a favorite color. But have you ever thought about what meaning that color might have as a reflection of personality?

In "Steel Magnolias," Julia Roberts proclaimed that pink—blush and bashful, to be specific—was her signature color. Perhaps it was because of the perception that little girls are soft and pink and delicate.

Or maybe it was because her character was not quite courageous enough to be scarlet, so she blended lusty red and pure white to create an image of sensuous pink.

I have a theory that everyone has a genetic color, characteristic of that person's own true personality. At the same time, many of us deny our real selves and adopt a persona that better suits the image we wish to portray.

For example, I know a lot of men who dress in leather, chains and assorted paraphernalia, but underneath that disguise, are very passive in nature.

So just be honest about the choice of color palette for your wardrobe, as well as the color of the environment in which you live. You will feel much more "at home" if your walls and furnishings reflect the color of your true personality.

Toward that understanding, I offer the following primer in color.

The color spectrum contains endless shades or hues of the six primary colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple.

If you arrange these six in a wheel, you may also notice that each is directly opposite another. Using this "color wheel" chart, you can not only see variations of your best color (neighboring hues of that color), but also achieve an exciting look by mixing the opposite color for contrast.

Each primary color produces an emotional response. **RED**, for example, is a robust and dominant color. It suggests strength, vibrancy, excitement and lust. A person whose favorite color is red might be an aggressive individualist with a spirit of adventure. Leos are red personalities.

ORANGE is an earth color, that of transition. Characteristic of autumn, orange is also believed to be an indication of warmth, comfort and peace.

The various shades of orange are more often used than the primary color. Peach, melon, salmon, and coral are favorite colors of those who seek the truth, ponder religious and political beliefs and have a love of nature. Libras are orange personalities.

YELLOW is a favorite color of optimists. You just can't be sad while tanning on a sun lit beach or with sunflowers in hand. This may be why yellow is often given to expecting mothers when the sex of the child is unknown. The happy occasion demands the color yellow. Sagittarians are yellow personalities.

GREEN is the color of Mother Nature. It symbolizes birth, growth and prosperity. Green



Rooms decorated in red suggest strength, vibrancy, excitement and lust, and they go best with an aggressive, individualist Leo with a spirit of adventure.

reminds us of the comforting smells of the outdoors. Fresh cut grass, the smell of a flower garden, your favorite vegetable or green salad.

Nurturing individuals will often tend toward this color of self-renewal. Aquarians are as green as the sea.

BLUE ought never be used to describe loneliness or depression. It is, instead, an uplifting color that generates from a marvelous view of the sky or the beauty of a Robin's egg. Blue is ubiquitous in our environment. Even most computer screens are blue because of its ease on the eye.

Blue personalities are usually calm, serene and a little complacent. Those Aries types are blue personalities.

PURPLE personalities are authoritarian and passionate. No shame in being rich and powerful. Purple individuals exhibit the dual personalities of Gemini.

If you didn't see your astrologic signs, you may fit nicely between the six primary colors. For example, my birth sign is Cancer, and I am certainly a purple personality with more red and blue.

If none of these colors fit your personality, you may very well be a lighter or darker shade of one. Also remember that my supposition is based on a belief that these color personalities are inborn or at least natural to our true selves.

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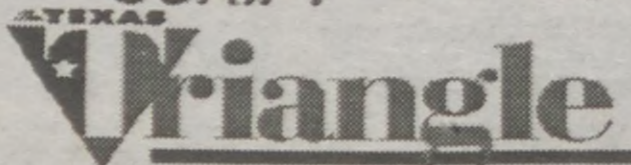
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community calendar

saturday, may 20

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. 713-863-1860.
Houston Wrestling Club. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. 713-526-7070.
Houston Faerie Circle. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Urvashi Vaid reception co-sponsored by the HGLCC & National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. 2 p.m. Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-956-1866.
Mr., Miss and Ms. Gay Pride Contest. Benefits Pride Committee of Houston. 8:30 p.m. Chances Bar. 1100 Westheimer. 713-463-6705.

sunday, may 21

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 9:00 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 Baptist Church. 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. 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 11

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.
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
FrontRunners. 9 a.m. 713-522-8021.
PFLAG-Woodlands monthly meeting. 2 p.m. 1370 N. Millbend Dr. 713-867-9020

monday, may 22

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Bering Support Network. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
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.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017X208.
gayDAR. Wellness community. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017 X211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. Black Lesbian & Gay Coalition weekly meeting. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
"The Times of Harvey Milk." Panel Discussion. HGLCC & Outsmart. 5101 Montrose. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818

tuesday, may 23

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. 7 p.m. 281-495-8009.
PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

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Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. Lesbian Coming Out Group meets 7 p.m. Lesbians Island Young Women's Group meets 7 p.m. HGLCC Board meeting. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.

wednesday, may 24

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. 713-830-3000.
Houston Crossdressing Anonymous. 7 p.m. 239 Westheimer.
BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting. 713-467-4380
Women's Network. 7 p.m. 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.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 713-524-0218.
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. Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Center for AIDS. Women's Mixer. 6 p.m. 713-527-8210.
Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Venture-N and EJ's. 713-830-3000.

thursday, may 25

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 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. 713-526-1017X211.
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.
FrontRunners. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer 713-526-1118.
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.
Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston (GLOBAL) meets at 4 p.m. 713-743-7539.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
International Association of Gay & Lesbian Country and Western Dance Club's 7th Annual Convention. Runs through May 29. www.rainbowranglers.org or 281-660-9182.

friday, may 26

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 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. 9:00 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. Movie night. "Ghandi." 7 p.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. Men's Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Healing Eucharist. Christ Church Cathedral. 7 p.m. 1117 Texas. 713-222-2593.

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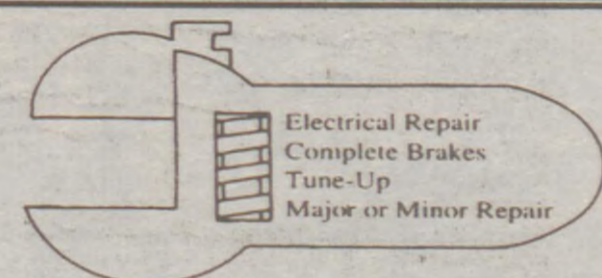
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The Ashland Street Theatre is please to show the works of Cindy Duke, a local artist in the community. Call 713.426.3019 for theatre show times.

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2/2/2 condo in Montrose Hyde Park. • \$71,900 call Suzanne Anderson (agent) 713.529.8484 or Mary Walbert (agent) 713.526.5244.

Stunning Home in Cypresswood Glen. • Only 2 years old, over 3800 square feet featuring formal, large family room plus game room, marble entry, gourmet kitchen with granite counters, all stainless steel appliances, master bath has black granite and solid brass fixtures, finished 3 car garage. • Large corner lot offered at \$329,900 • Call Bernie Johnson, Keller Williams Realty, 281.364.4862.

Just Listed! • Timber Ridge 4/2/2, all brick, great condition, excellent starter home or investment property. • \$72,500 • Call Bernie Johnson, Keller Williams Realty, 281.364.4862.

Land for Sale

8+ acres located 35 miles east of Austin with improvements. • Magnificent view, year round creek with access to 4 - 5 acre lake. • \$6,500 per acre, 512.273.2310.

Roommates

Roommate to share 3 bedroom home in Southwest/Fondren/5 area with GWM • \$375 month (all utilities included except telephone), 713.773.9029.

GWM seeks same to share Montrose home. • Washer/Dryer, ceiling fan, cable, unfurnished room • Must be stable, non-smoker & no heavy drinkers. • \$300 (all bills paid) • Call Jim (after 6pm), 713.528.5331.

SGWM, non-smoker/drug user seeks roommate to share 2/1, pool, security. • \$375 month plus 1/2 utilities. • Richmond Square Apartments • Call 713.520.7662.

Travel/Resorts

www.lovetinn.com

WAIKIKI

Luxury ocean view • 18th floor • One bedroom condo in Waikiki • All amenities, fully furnished, including linens and remodeled kitchen. • Lovely terrace looks out to Diamond Head. • Secure building, non-smoking • \$99/night (double), 10 day minimum, security deposit plus cleaning fee • For more information email: glarp@earthlink.net or call 310.473.1871 (Los Angeles).

Volunteer Information

GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD

Volunteer classes now forming. Reserve your space on line or call 713.529.9615 or www.gay-switchboardhouston.org.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

to give four (4) hours per month for in-home care visits to people living with HIV/AIDS • For more information on Bering's Sentry Program call Craig Overstreet at 713.523.7110 EXT 119.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center

is seeking volunteers to staff the facility in more extended hours. If organizations and individuals are interested, please contact Eva Luchak at 713.524.3818 to discuss how you can help.

RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL

is looking for volunteers to serve on the council. The primary responsibility of the council is to determine what services are most needed. Last year's Council received over \$17 million from the federal government for use in the greater Houston area. Your participation DOES make a difference. Contact Tori Williams at 713.572.3724 or email www.rwpc.org.

Call Marshall Rainwater for Rates & Info.
713-529-8490

Occasions

Birthdays

Reed, manager at JR's, toasts in his birthday on May 20.

Ken McNames celebrates his birthday on May 20.

Tall and handsome Thomas Nitschke of the Kolbe Project blows out his birthday candles on May 23.

John Dye (Bubbles) is having a good clean fun of a birthday on May 24.

Will Rainbo d Klown send himself a singing birthday telegram on May 25?

Terry Murphy is looking for his hole in one on his birthday on May 25.

Houston Voice staffer Marshall Rainwater celebrates his birthday on May 25.

The Houston Voice welcomes your special occasions. Send e-mail to croberts@houstonvoice.com. Fax: 713-529-9531. Mail: Occasions, Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006. Please include a telephone number so occasions can be verified and considered for publication.



Here's 'Paola,' a 10-week-old female tabby, on the verge of a nap in the Houston Humane Society's front window. To adopt, contact the Houston Humane Society at 713-434-5555 or pr@houstonhumane.org

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'99 JEEP WRANGLER SPORT	WHEELS, LOWEST PRICE, STK # 9609	\$17988
'97 DODGE RAM CLUB CAB	SLT, 8-CYL, 28K MILES, STK # 9537	\$15988
'98 FORD RANGER SUPER CAB	XLT, 6-CYL, AUTOMATIC, STK # 5244	\$11988
'98 MAZDA MIATA CONV.	A/C, 5-SPEED, 59K MILES, STK # 5318	\$10988
'99 HYUNDAI ACCENT	A/C, 5-SPEED, GAS SAVER, STK # 5319	\$6988
'95 CADILLAC SEVILLE	66K MILES, LEATHER, SPECIAL PRICE, STK # 6997	\$16988
'99 CHRYSLER SEBRING JX	CONVERTIBLE, 6-CYL, POWER SEAT, STK # 9630	\$15988

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Send résumé (no phone calls, please) to:

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500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200
Houston, TX 77006
Fax: 713-529-9531
e-mail: editor@houstonvoice.com

My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



May 19 - 25

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

After paying your dues all winter and part of spring, finally an unexpected treat comes your way. Accept it graciously! This a great time for you to put some of your most assessable user-friendly concepts into words. A Taurus has a lot to give you, but there may be a price tag attached

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Venus is sliding through the most social house in your chart this week, so I hope you are out there flirting. You are so close to making some serious money. The catch? You may have to do more self-promoting than you're used to. That's okay—a Leo can teach you all about the ways of spin.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Stop acting so low-key. It's fine if your ego gets a little out of control this week. You have never been more popular, in demand, and eerily in sync with the masses. You're in the driver's seat when it comes to your life, especially in love. So butch it up and do something to show a Pisces who's boss.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Follow your hunches and you could happen upon a breakthrough idea that changes your wacky relationships for the better. This is a great time of year for you to hone your psychic skills and develop your mystical gifts. Rituals are lucky for you (non-Satanic, of course!), and so are Scorpios.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

Life is strangely normal during this wacky week. Take this solid period in your life and turn it into magic. The usual routine could bore you to tears. Seek out people who stimulate your mind and challenging situations. A Capricorn expects more from you, so don't just rest on your laurels.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

It's been a long, strange trip, but at last you are ready to announce to the world just what you've been working on for the last several years. Take your work and your talents seriously. Now is the time to take a stand and allow yourself to be the boss. An Aquarius provides you with psychic and sexual release.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

You can have a lot of fun this week if you put your obsessions aside. For such a laid-back individual, you've been acting like quite the control queen (king? whatever!). It's time for you to escape out of town for a private little adventure, perhaps to enjoy a shallow little lust-fest with a Gemini.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Stay calm, cool and collected this week, even if an obnoxious type pushes all your buttons. Your co-ruler Mars is pushing you to make a commitment to the one you love. Be honest about what turns the two of you on, sexually and spiritually. If your partner's a Cancer, the answers should be especially fascinating.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

There's no good reason why you should not be in the most exciting and emotionally fulfilling relationship of your life right now. Put it all on the line—no more half-assed statements and mildly grand gestures. Do whatever you have to do to convince that Virgo you mean business.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Do something to improve your physical well-being and you will feel a renewed sense of lust for life. Don't avoid your work. Be a slave to your craft, and you will receive the rewards you crave. An Aquarius holds the bar high—rise to the occasion.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

This is the week to be creative and put the logical side of your nature in a box. Don't worry, you can let it out soon enough. Hang with people who are real this week, because you can't afford to be influenced by folks who are even more confused than you are. Stick close to a Sag!

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

You can get whatever you want on the home front if you show just the tiniest bit of patience. I'm just trying to encourage you to put some closure on a family issue that's been hanging over you for years. Another Pisces will celebrate with you after you've faced a fear.

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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Friday, May 19 Morning Prayer 10am	Monday, May 29 Memorial Day Office Closed
Monday, May 22 Eucharist 7:30pm	Thursday, June 1 Potluck 7pm
Friday, May 26 Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm	Friday, June 2 Morning Prayer 10am
"The Jewel of the Nile"	

scene and heard

nitelife pics

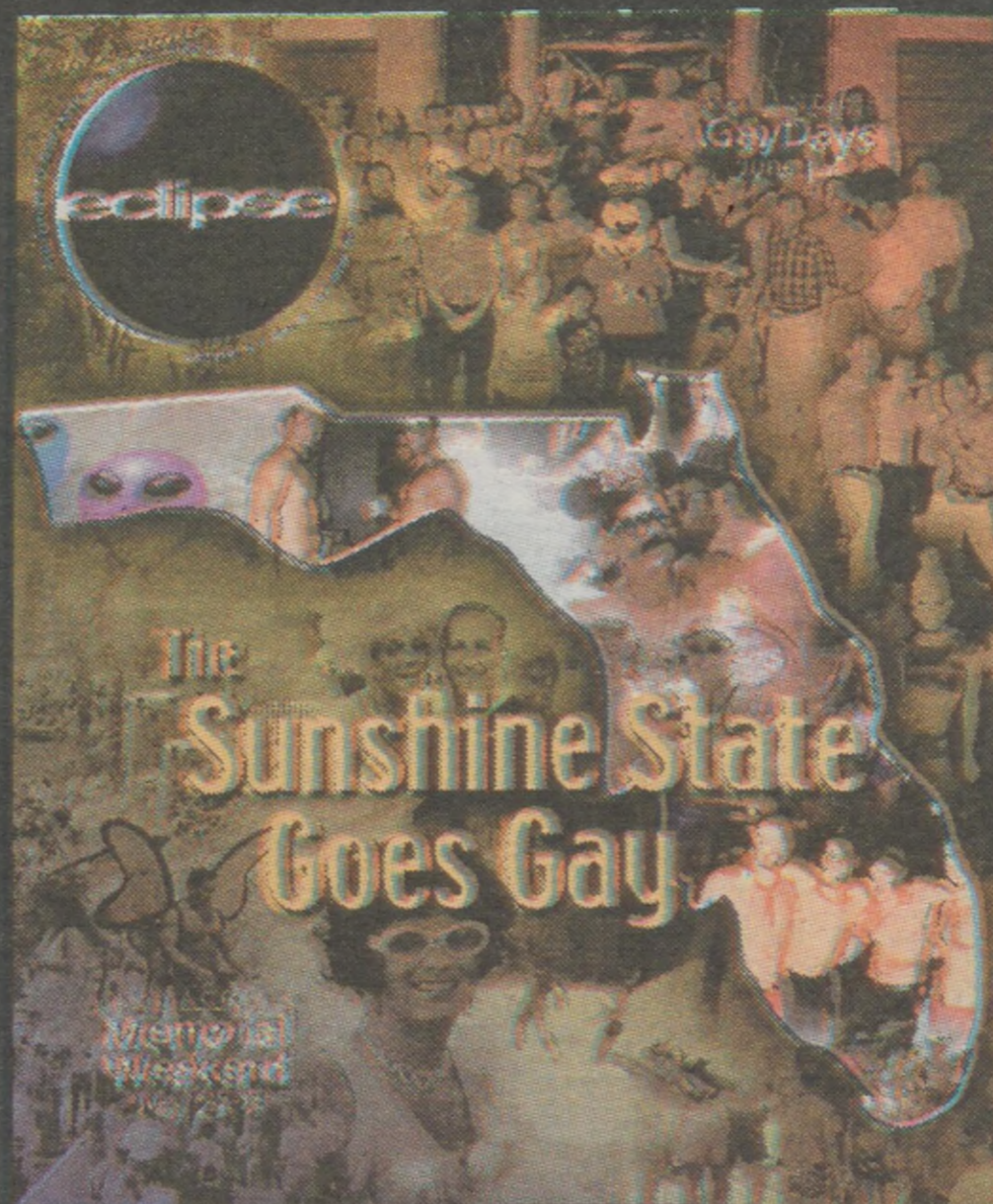
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