

HOUSTON

# VOICE

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A Weekly Community News Publication

## 'Spectrum '95' celebrates community clout, creativity

### Organizer's Vision: LeTs Bi Gay

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE  
Houston Voice Editor

(HOUSTON)—Just over one year ago, one man decided to adopt an on-again, off-again project as his own personal vision for the Houston gay and lesbian community. Since then, Alan Bourgeois has worked doggedly and determinedly to whip up support and buck community skepticism, laying everything else he once valued on the line to make that vision a reality.

Today, the signs appear promising that Spectrum '95—perhaps the most ambitious specifically gay project ever mounted in Houston—will succeed. The multi-layered event, which started with plans for a second Town Meeting modeled after the historic strategy-building session held in 1978, has grown to include a business exposition, art show, all-star concert and various seminars on topics of community interest. Scheduled for Sunday, June 18, Spectrum will kick off Houston's Gay/Lesbian Pride Week '95 celebration with the kind of "big bang" festivities usually reserved for the climax.

As of last week, nationally known performers including lesbian comic Lynn Lavner along with Romanovsky and Phillips, Pussy Tourette, Sons & Lovers and DV8 were booked for the Concert of the Stars, the scheduled evening closer for Spectrum. The Business Expo had sold 95 booths, according to Bourgeois; mainstream national businesses including First Interstate Bank and American Airlines are represented in the roster, along with "Big Name" gay businesses such as Strubco Inc. and national magazines The Advocate, 10 Percent, Men's Health and Network.

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## HAND IN HAND

Cover design for Spectrum '95's promotional CD

## On the trail of hate in Texas: Dianne Hardy-Garcia

### Feature Interview

By ANDREW EDMONSON  
Houston Voice/Houston

(HOUSTON)—Dianne Hardy-Garcia, the executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL), is in a race against time. This past week, she put in a full day at her office in Austin, jumped

on a plane to Houston at 5:00 p.m. delivered a speech to University of Houston's gay and lesbian student group at 7:30, rushed back to the airport, and landed in Austin around 11:00 p.m.

The next morning, she was in her office at 7:45 a.m. She continued working non-stop until she left the legislature at 7:00 that evening.

This grueling routine is not new for Hardy-Garcia.

She has spent the last year and a half tirelessly crisscrossing the state, documenting and publicizing the epidemic of anti-gay violence in Texas (eight murders in 1994 alone), racing against time to prevent another murder.

Under her leadership, the LGRL organized a march that brought 5000 Texans to the streets of Austin and 120 citizens to the capitol to lobby their legislators, all pushing for a hate crimes bill to protect gays and lesbians.

In March, she arranged for family members of gay Texans who had been murdered to speak before the Texas Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Their testimony was so riveting that the legislators voted unanimously to send hate crimes legislation on to the full Senate for consideration.

She has faxed out press releases, pitched

stories to reporters, given speeches, nurtured incipient activists, and held the hands of parents who have lost their gay and lesbian children in brutal murders. She has pushed the issue of anti-gay violence to the center of public debate.

"I've got to believe that eventually these legislators will understand, and they will change their minds. Sometimes I get impatient with the process. I just want it to be over."

The high powered activism that Hardy-Garcia has displayed over the past year and a half is hardly what one would expect of a well-mannered San Antonio girl who spent sixteen years in Catholic schools. But the diminutive Hardy-Garcia, 30 years old and a dynamo of energy in her conservative black business suit, is full of surprises.

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## SUMMER'S FIRST SPLASH



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## Senate passes hate crime bill

AUSTIN-The Texas Senate on Tuesday tentatively approved a bill, SB 141, that enhances criminal penalties for crimes motivated by race, ethnicity, disability, religion, national origin or ancestry, or sexual orientation.

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## LOCAL/STATE

## Woman in the news: LGRL's Dianne Hardy Garcia



Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and self-described "direct action baby"

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A native of San Antonio, she attended Incarnate Word, a Catholic college in her home town, where she majored in English and psychology. Although she had many gay friends, she didn't realize she was a lesbian until her senior year when she became involved with her current partner, Mary Anne Messina.

During the early 1980s, San Antonio was an extremely conservative place, certainly not a conducive environment for someone who was testing the waters of homosexuality. "It was very foreign to me to have to hide everything," Hardy-Garcia remembers. "It was very hard."

"The only gay people I knew were closeted, a lot of people who were in the military and stationed in San Antonio. The only time that they came out was at a bar. I

didn't see the gay organizations, and I knew I had to be in a place where I could learn about homosexuality, learn about my options."

After graduation, she spent a year in Nashville with the Jesuit Volunteer corps, working to help offenders find housing and jobs. In 1988, she left Nashville and set out for New York City, where she re-joined her partner Messina.

Like many gays, in New York Hardy-Garcia found an exhilarating sense of freedom and openness, a safe place to explore her identity as a lesbian.

"At that time, I started to do all the coming out things: going to the lesbian and gay community center, going to the different meetings. A guy I had met took me under his wing, and began to show me around the different parts of gay life in New York City in a really tremendous way..."

"He took me to my first ACT UP meeting, and I was in complete and utter amazement at these people standing up there and speaking their minds. As a true Southerner, I didn't know how to have confrontations, how to fight back."

"Confrontation in the South is not a positive thing. New York taught me to debate. I learned the art of being able to articulate what I believed in and defend it. I learned from some of the toughest activists."

Hardy-Garcia also took part in public actions and demonstrations with

ACT-UP and its splinter groups, Queer Nation and The Lesbian Avengers. "I'm a direct action baby. My roots are in Queer Nation and ACT UP."

"But you have to do direct action in a true civil rights fashion. You do an action, and you take the responsibility. You pay the consequences. Direct action is wonderful when it's done for a purpose, not just to get attention or because you want to get on TV."

During her time in New York, Hardy-Garcia worked as a housing specialist, then as a case manager for a shelter helping to provide accommodation for homeless families. During a nine month stint at the AIDS service organization Gay Men's Health Crisis, she realized that she needed further education.

With great reluctance, she made the decision to leave New York for Austin. She enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Texas, eventually receiving a master's degree in social work, with an emphasis in public policy.

### Slapped In The Face With Reality

After returning to Austin, she began to "develop a passion for the people I saw in Texas who deserved top caliber activists."

After graduation, she spent six months working on the staff of State Representative Eliot Naishtat, focusing on health and human service issues. The experience opened her eyes to the power of legislation to create sweeping, systemic change.

"I realized the power of legislation at that point. I also realized how difficult it was to pass bills," she said. "People hire lobbying firms that they pay millions of dollars. Sometimes people just don't realize how

difficult it is for us as gays and lesbians to pass a bill. It's much easier to kill a bill."

In Nov. 1993, Hardy-Garcia assumed leadership of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, succeeding Laurie Eiserloh as the organization's fourth executive director since its inception in 1989. There were many surprises in store for her in her new post.

"I'm one of those boring people with no hobbies. I just love writing legislation," she deadpans. "It's a very elaborate game to me. As executive director of the LGRL, I thought that I'd be figuring out the game, the strategy of passing legislation."

"Suddenly I was slapped in the face with reality."

Reality came in the form of a phone call from Wesley Beard in Tyler, Texas, who reported the murder of a friend, Nicholas Ray West. A few weeks later, another phone call came. Michael Benishek, a gay man in San Antonio, had been also murdered.

The phone calls kept coming. Gay men all over Texas were being murdered, in the majority of cases by young teenage males who viewed "fag bashing" as a sporting pastime. Hardy-Garcia travelled to the nether reaches of Texas, documenting these crimes.

After the first two murders, she called each of the East Texas representatives in the capitol, asking them to denounce the violence against lesbians and gays. She reasoned that although the legislators may have been opposed to homosexuality, they had to agree that violence and murder were wrong.

None of the representatives would speak out against the violence.

(Continued on following page)

## Community Calendar by Carolyn Larson

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

04/21 \* "Come Blow Your Horn"—Houston Premier performance of the Houston Pride Band. A benefit for Annise Parker Campaign fund. Texas Commerce Auditorium, 601 Travis, 7:00 p.m. \$15-singles, \$25-couples. Event co-sponsored by Pride @ Rice University. For more info, call Russell @ 524-0218 or E-mail HousTx-Band@aol.com.

04/21 \* The Lost Cowboy Band performs at the Brazos River Bottom.

04/22 \* "Double Nickel IV" at Cousins. 7:30 p.m. An All Girl Review and raffle. Hosted by Dot Thompson and Jeanette Vaughn.

04/22 \* Gay Bowlers Car Wash at Gentry. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

04/22 \* The Rainbow Ranglers guest bartend at the Brazos River Bottom.

04/23 \* "Minister Mike" shows at the Ripcord.

04/23 \* Sam Abudal of Forum Studios presents "Fantasies" and a talent search for adult videos. At Heaven.

04/23 \* Benefit Show at the Brazos River Bottom—for the Bering Care Center. 7:30 p.m.

04/23 \* Miss Montrose Contest at Mary's.

04/23 \* "Down the Tubes," a night of Burlesque and bad taste at Gentry. 10:00 p.m.

04/23 \* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 522-4481.

04/23 \* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church meets at 3131 W. Loop South, Afton Oaks Room. Call 528-6756.

04/23 \* Community Gospel Church Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. 501 E. Columbia Call 880-9235.

04/23 \* Houston Mission Church Worship Service at 11:00 p.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.

04/23 \* Montrose Softball League plays. Call 867-3913 for locations.

04/23 \* HATCH Meets. Call 942-7002.

04/24 \* Agora workshop—to assist gay and lesbian organizations in educating and public relations. Call 623-6796.

04/24 \* Free 8-week photography class for PWA's by Richard Hensen. Bring your own 35 mm single lens reflex camera. The film, darkroom, and other supplies to be provided by the Dizinger Foundation. Call to register. Clifton 527-8490 or 522-8600.

04/24 \* AFH sponsored a creative writing class. Taught by Greg Rodriguez. Call 623-6796.

04/24 \* Gay Fathers/Fathers First—A support group for fathers and their partners. At Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Drive. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6161.

04/25 \* Empowerment for Living at MCCR. Call 861-9149.

04/25 \* PROTECT—A support group

for HIV negative people. At Bering Church 7:00 p.m. Call 520-7870.

04/25 \* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous—A support group meets at 8:00 p.m. at 1509 Fairview. Call 495-8009.

04/26 \* Zen and the Kharmic Contentment: Fulfilling Your Spiritual Quest. A workshop at 1475 W. Gray. Sponsored by AFH. Call 623-6796.

04/26 \* GLOBAL Meets at the U of H 4:00 p.m. University Center. Call 743-7539.

04/26 \* Bi-Net of Houston meets at MCCR at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

04/26 \* Houston Pride Band practices. 7:00 p.m. 1307 Yale. Call 524-0128.

04/27 \* En\*Light\*En\*Up—A Gay men's spiritual group meets at 7:30 p.m. Call Howard at 528-6174 for more info.

04/27 \* Art Classes sponsored by AFH. 1:00 p.m. at the Art League. Call 526-1118.

04/27 \* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston practices. Open rehearsals. 7:00 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Call 521-7464.

04/27 \* Computer Nerd Sessions for the Gay Pride Week Committee. Call 529-123.

04/27 \* Twenty Something meets. Call 531-9396.

04/27 \* Community Gospel Church Worship Service, 7:30 p.m. 501 East Columbia. Call 880-9235.

04/27 \* Houston Thursday Nite Mixer meets at Palace Lanes on Bellaire Blvd. Call 522-9612.

04/28 \* Miss Tejano USA Pageant at the MailBox Bar. Call 779-5611.

04/28 \* Borders Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar. 9633 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.

04/28 \* HATCH (Houston Area Teenagers Coalition of Homosexuals) Meets at 7:15 p.m. Call 942-7002.

04/29 \* The Court guest bartends at the Brazos River Bottom.

04/29 \* Erica's Showcase at the Lazy J.

04/30 \* Fourth Annual Benefit Concert in the Villa de Matel Chapel. Benefit for Diocesan Aids Ministry. \$200. 6:00 p.m. Call 524-0182.

04/30 \* Dog Dip by the Pet Patrol at the parking lot at Basic Brothers. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

04/30 \* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 522-4481.

04/30 \* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church meets at 3131 W. Loop South, Afton Oaks Room. Call 528-6756.

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## Lobbyist committed to hate crimes issue

(Continued from preceding page)

Even gays and lesbians didn't want to hear the message that Hardy-Garcia was delivering. It wasn't positive, upbeat. People were used to it. "Violence is a part of being lesbian and gay," Hardy-Garcia observed. "We've come to accept the fear."

What was it like psychologically for Hardy-Garcia to face the reality of murder on a daily basis, to be immersed in such extreme violence and hatred?

"I think for a while I was very detached from it. I was trying to think of the violence in a very logical way. We react like this to protect ourselves.

"The hardest thing to do is dealing with the families of people who have been murdered. You can't be logical, you can't separate yourself from it. You have to deal with the raw emotion. Working with the families, I started to feel the tragedy of it, the real emotion.

"Some of the families were very angry with their kids because they were gay. Some of the families weren't in touch with their gay children. The guilt these parents have to deal with is incredible. They feel because they hadn't been in touch with their kid that maybe they were responsible for the murders in some way. It was pretty horrible.

After eight months of knocking on doors, some people began to take notice. Hardy-Garcia had been flacking the story intensely to several reporters. Journalists did stories on individual murders. But they were reluctant to write more comprehensive pieces about the overarching pattern of anti-gay violence in Texas that Hardy-Garcia was pushing for.

After a press conference in Dallas, an

Associated Press reporter did a longer story on the epidemic of hate crimes in Texas. Articles in The New York Times, The Dallas Morning News and Vanity Fair soon followed, and momentum began to build.

The crowning moment came when the ABC news magazine "Prime Time Live" did an in-depth report on hate crimes in Texas, interviewing Hardy Garcia extensively. "Their piece was very disturbing, but very effective," she recalls. "It was absolutely accurate, true, and gutsy."

As a result of the national broadcast of the report, "mainstream America" was forced to confront the harsh reality of life for gays and lesbians in Texas. Gays and lesbians in the Lone Star state began to get behind the idea of passing hate crime enhancement laws. The state legislature is currently considering legislation that would include "sexual orientation" as a protected status in bills

enhancing punishments for hate crimes.

Dianne Hardy Garcia is still working 12-hour days. And she will be for a while until the legislature goes into recess. She remains passionately committed to passing the legislation. "If the hate crimes bill fails, I will do some form of disobedience," she promises. "I will go to jail.

"My girlfriend is very patient and tremendously supportive. We have very little time off. I hope that we have some time off at the end of the session to take a vacation."

(Editor's Note: In next week's issue, Dianne Hardy Garcia will discuss the state of the gay and lesbian movement here in Texas and the progress of LGRL's legislative initiatives in Austin).

*"We've come to accept the fear"*

# Out Vote

### New Group Aims To Boost Gay Vote

A new Houston organization plans to dramatically increase our community's voting power by using tactics perfected by the Radical Right.

OutVote is designed to raise the kind of money for massive voter registration and sophisticated get-out-the-vote efforts that can only be raised through tax-deductible donations. If that approach sounds familiar, it's because it has worked so well for the Radical Right. On a friendlier note, it has also been used by the Southwest Voter Project to increase the Hispanic vote.

After the special City Council election in January, political activists' fears were confirmed when they learned about 40% of the Montrose

portion of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus list is NOT registered to vote. That prompted the caucus to launch a separate voter project to maximize our potential 10 percent vote.

Political activists had already identified about 27,000 likely new community voters on the Harris County voter registration list by doing a special database sort for same sex households. If granted tax-exempt status, OutVote will be able to reach those 27,000 potential voters, and the 10,000-plus on community lists, in an unprecedented way: Voter registration and educational voting information, such as a voter's guide, can be mailed at the lower tax-exempt postal rate, with much of the mailing paid for through tax-deductible donations and grants.

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## Openly gay president elected at S.A.'s Trinity U.

### Opponent's Gay Baiting Backfired

By GLENN STEHLE

For the Houston Voice

(SAN ANTONIO)—When Jason Powell played his anti-gay card in a heated battle for student body president, he undoubtedly felt he was dealing in trumps. After all, this was Trinity University—the epitome of white, affluent, conservative America.

And Powell only needed a slight boost to put him over the top—he had trailed his opponent by a mere four percentage points during the previous round of balloting.

But the appeal to anti-gay prejudice backfired, and it backfired in a big way.

The student body at Trinity University overwhelmingly rejected Powell's attempt to politicize his opponent's sexual orientation, and elected Matt Young, a 20 year-old openly gay sophomore, as president of the Association of Student Representatives. Young won by an

almost two to one margin, garnering 63% of the vote.

"People were offended," said Young. "Powell's strategy just didn't work. Students were more concerned with commitment and qualifications."

Young conducted his campaign based on three issues: social lounges equipped with cable television, a convenience store located on campus and enhanced computer accessibility for students.

His opponent countered that, since Young was an officer of the gay and lesbian interest group, he could not fairly represent all students. These comments provoked a storm of student criticism, which sounded the death knell for Powell's floundering campaign.

Powell later rescinded his remarks and issued both a private and public apology to Young, which Young gladly accepted. Young says there are no hard feelings between the two.

Young, a Florida-born economics and urban studies major, will take office during the 95-96 academic

year. After graduation, he has aspirations of making a career in GLBT equal rights politics, and is certainly off to a good start.

Young currently serves on the board of directors of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, the HRCF Black Tie Dinner Committee, and is co-president of the Gay/Lesbian Interest Group at Trinity (GLIG). As co-president of GLIG, Young was involved in last year's effort to add "sexual orientation" to Trinity's non-discrimination policy. The initiative received support from 100% of the student senate and 85% of the faculty, but was rejected by Trinity administration on the grounds that it would incur additional legal liabilities for the university.

"I haven't given up on this issue, however," says Young, vowing to renew efforts in the coming year to get the policy changed.

Turning his attention to more global issues, Young opines, "As far as its treatment of gays and lesbians, I definitely feel the Republican-led Congress does not reflect the sentiments of most Americans."

## Splash Day '95

Summer may not officially begin until June, but the first splash of summer fun is closer at hand. The opening of the beach-going season is celebrated in May in Austin and Galveston.

Splash Day '95 in Austin is actually a full weekend of events and partying, scheduled Friday through Sunday, May 5-7.

In Galveston, the celebration billed as 'The Alternative Afternoon' takes place on May 27.

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## Local service provider cited in testimony before House subcommittee in support of Ryan White CARE Act

On April 5, AIDS Action Council delivered a testimony on the importance of the Ryan White CARE Act before the United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Health and Environment of the Committee on Commerce. In their testimony, a local AIDS service provider, the Bering Dental Clinic, was presented as an example of the dramatic and positive local effects of the Ryan White CARE Act. Other examples presented were Project Open Hand in Atlanta and AIDS Services of Dallas.

AIDS Action Council, representing over 1000 community AIDS organizations throughout the nation, appeared before the Subcommittee in strong support of the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. Originally passed in 1990 as the federal government's first comprehensive response to the care and treatment of persons living with HIV, the Ryan White CARE Act has saved lives, preserved health, and cut costs of care over the past five years. In their testimony, AIDS Action, who was instrumental in 1990 in pressing for the Act's passage, urged the Subcommittee to move forward rapidly with the Act's reauthorization, in order to continue without interruption the federal government's part of the national private and public effort to assist the many families, communities, adults, and children who have suffered in the AIDS epidemic.

According to AIDS Action Council, the Ryan White program has been extraordinarily effective. It has engaged local and state communities in planning for their own AIDS health care and social service delivery. It has led to the development of a range of medical and support services that have improved the quality of life and lessened the need for expensive hos-

pital or nursing, home care for people with AIDS. And by acting as "seed money" for the development of new, private not-for-profit community organizations, it has called forth additional involvement by private groups and private individuals.

In giving three examples of the dramatic and positive local effects of the Ryan White CARE Act, AIDS Action Council began with Bering Dental Clinic: "Bering United Methodist Church created as a church ministry in 1987 a program to provide free dental services to indigent people living with AIDS in their community. The Church created this program early in the epidemic, using private contributions and space donated by the Church itself, next to its own sanctuary. The dental services program was necessary at that time particularly because many private dentists, for fear of HIV, were refusing to treat AIDS patients in their practices. At the same time, dental infections in persons with compromised immune systems can be extremely painful and potentially life threatening, making rapid dental diagnosis and treatment extremely important. For poor people living with AIDS in Houston, this program was, literally, a godsend. They could be treated swiftly in a private and confidential manner, by dental professionals who had significant expertise in the oral manifestations of HIV. Today, the Bering Dental Clinic of the Bering Community Service Foundation has three full-time dentists, and treated last year almost 1,600 patients, all for free. The Foundation also has developed a day program for persons with AIDS." At the conclusion of their testimony, the council called upon the House of Representatives to move forward rapidly with the reauthorization process. In this way,

they said, persons with AIDS around the country could see once again that Congress continues to care deeply about the suffering of people, families and communities in this natural disaster that has unfolded over the past 15 years. Several appropriate steps for the reauthorizing legislation were also presented.

A corresponding bill has already been approved by a Senate committee. On Wednesday, March 29, 1995, the Senate Labor & Human Resources Committee voted unanimously to approve S.641, the Ryan White CARE Reauthorization Act of 1995, and to refer it to the Senate floor for a vote. This bill is the product of negotiations between committee chair Senator Nancy Kassebaum (R-KS) and Ranking Member Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA). Virtually all national AIDS organizations endorsed the bill prior to the Senate mark-up. As of April 12, S.641 has 48 cosponsors. The Senate reconvenes on April 24.

The Bering Dental Clinic is a program of the Bering Community Service Foundation, a non-profit agency dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with critical needs by providing physical, emotional, and spiritual assistance. The programs of the Foundation are designed to help people with HIV/AIDS manage their infection. The services offered at the Bering Dental Clinic include emergency, restorative, and preventative care, Chemo and surgical therapy of oral Kaposi's sarcoma lesions, dentures, diagnosis and treatment of oral pathology, and treatment of gum disease. The Clinic also provides continuing education for health care professionals and students.

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"PROUDLY TELL 'EM YOU SAW IT IN THE HOUSTON VOICE!"

**LOCAL/STATE**

# Pride Week names '95 Grand Marshals

(HOUSTON)—The Pride Committee of Houston held its election for Grand Marshals of the 1995 Gay/Lesbian Pride Week parade and celebration at its monthly meeting Tuesday, April 18.

The two community grand marshals are both Montrose area business owners. Selected as Male Grand Marshal was well-known community fundraiser and event organizer Don Gill. This year's Female Grand Marshal is local realtor Suzanne Anderson, a lesbian/gay activist



Don Gill

and past president/co-founder of the organization Lesbians in Business.

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH) was named as the Organizational Grand Marshal, and Annella Harrison, a co-founder of the Houston chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) was selected as Honorary Grand Marshal.

This year's Gay/Lesbian Pride Week celebration takes place June 16-25. For more information, call the Pride Line, 529-6979.



Suzanne Anderson

## 'OutVote' project hopes to maximize gay voting power

(Continued from Page 3)

OutVote is already on the fast track to filing an application for tax-exempt 501c(3) status by July in hopes of winning IRS approval by September. At the first meeting, April 12, members approved a name and logo, discussed projects, collected dues, and set dates for electing a nine-member board and approving bylaws.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. Wednesday (April 26) at the GLPC office, 2700 Albany, #304 (projects and bylaw's adoption). Board members will be elected at the third meeting, 7:00 p.m. May 17 at the GLPC office, one block north of Tuam.

Dues were set at only \$5 to encourage broad-based support. According to the proposed bylaws, OutVote's purpose is "register gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and the transgendered community, educate them about the importance of voting, and motivate them to vote in every election."—such as the November City Council elections. If approved as a

tax-exempt educational organization, OutVote will not be allowed to endorse candidates or be affiliated with any candidate or political party. It will, however, be allowed to educate voters about how candidates stand on issues relevant to our community as well as about early voting, polling places, and so forth.

Possible projects include a voter's guide mailed before early voting begins; a fall ad campaign designed to make voting an "in" thing to do; a phone survey to determine why so many people are not registered, and mailing or block walking voter registration cards to unregistered people.

A poster contest is already underway. Deadline is May 15. The winning poster (\$300) will be unveiled June 14 (Flag Day). Artwork should be submitted according to the same rules as the Lesbian & Gay Pride Week annual theme contest. For more information about the poster contest or OutVote, call 522-9837.

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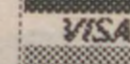
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## Texas Hate Crime Bill passes in Senate

(Continued from page 1)

The bill, SB 141, sponsored by State Sen. Rodney Ellis of Houston, strengthens existing protections against bias-motivated crime and violence by enhancing criminal penalties for such crimes and, by specifically mentioning protected groups of people. The ambiguous wording of the existing law, passed two years ago in a compromise with conservatives who objected to the mention of sexual orientation, reportedly made prosecuting hate crimes nearly impossible.

Opponents of the current bill also include conservatives who object primarily to protections on the basis of sexual orientation.

The new bill increases penalties for assaults and malicious vandalism to the next highest category of offense if it is proved that the crime was motivated by prejudice based on race, color, religion, disability, national origin or sexual orientation of the victim. An amendment by

Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown (R-Lake Jackson), which was accepted by Ellis to pass the bill, requires that the proof of such motivation must be established "beyond a reasonable doubt."

The measure passed in a 22-9 vote. Another vote, which the bill was expected to pass easily, was to be taken before the bill moves on the Texas House of Representatives.

The House is expected to address the hate crime bill within the next two weeks, according to the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. "We are hopeful that members of the House will pass the Texas Hate Crimes Bill with the same commitment to justice that we saw today with members of the Senate," commented Dianne Hardy-Garcia, LGRL executive-director.

Last year, eight Texans were murdered because they were gay, Hardy-Garcia said. "Passage of the Hate Crimes Bill begins the process of sending the message to Texas that Texans will no longer tolerate violent crimes based on hate."

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## Book-Signing Events!

Learn about gay and lesbian history with **Neil Miller**, author of *Out in the World* and his latest, *Out of the Past*, when he presents *The Invention of Homosexuality: How Persecution, Opposition and War Shaped Modern Gay and Lesbian Identity*.

**Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 P.M.**  
**Metropolitan Community Church**  
 1909 Decatur Street, Houston  
 Call Crossroads Market for info at 942-0147.

**Raymond Murray will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about gay and lesbian cinema** when he discusses his new book, *Images in the Dark: An Encyclopedia of Gay and Lesbian Film and Video*. His talk will include gay and lesbian films, the people involved, and film clips!

**Monday, April 24 at 7:30 P.M.**  
**Crossroads Market & Bookstore**  
 Call 942-0147 for more information.

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## OPINION

# Gay Today

by Glen Webber



## Growing Up Gay

The father-son relationship is a difficult relationship to explain. The father wants the son to follow in his footsteps and achieve or better his success. The son wants to be just like Dad and make Dad proud, but on his own terms...not Dad's. The point of independence for the son can either make the relationship strong or leave both wondering what went wrong.

I bring up this subject because of Col. Fred Peck, the officer who spoke before a Senate Armed Forces Committee and said that homosexuals should not be allowed to serve in the military. As fate would have it, Col. Peck's son, Scott Peck, came out of the closet to disagree with his father. This handsome, articulate young man has written a book called "All American Boy" which tells his story, and the story of his relationship with his father. Scott's coming out has put an additional strain on a father-son relationship that was already strained.

My story isn't about the Pecks, however. This is the story of my father and myself, and how my being gay affected our relationship. A little background about my dad is in order. He grew up in a large family during the Depression. World War II interrupted a promising college career for my dad, who had earned a football scholarship to the University. After the war, he met and married my mom, a beautiful big city girl.

They settled in San Antonio and late in life started a family. My dad's business success came from the work ethic he learned growing up on a farm. He gave my mom and us kids a beautiful home and a wonderful life.

His dream for us kids was the same dream he had accomplished for himself. But as much as I wanted it, I knew my life would be different/As early as five years old, I was attracted to boys. I couldn't explain it or define it at that age, but that was my natural instinct. I don't know at what age or point the attraction went from that instinctive urge to actually wanting to be sexually active...but that need grew

stronger as I grew older.

My earliest recollection of a sexual encounter was an abusive situation with an older neighbor boy. I was about five and he was a teenager. I do remember we had to keep it a secret, and I do remember being afraid of him. But it was child abuse, and the negative effects of it stayed with me for years. At age 16, I had my first adult experience, with an Army man. It was a positive experience, although I was still dealing with the earlier abuse. I dealt with it until my late 20's, when I finally got help to come to terms with it.

I remember one thing that happened when I was a young man. I bought a cheap, imitation ring with silver glitter on it. One night, my dad saw it on my finger and loudly said, "Son, take off that ring. Do you want people to think you are a homosexual?" Of course I did. Anything I could do, that wasn't too obvious, to attract other men is what I wanted to do.

When I was 24, my mother asked me if I was gay. I had left enough clues for them to figure it out. Leaving clues was the only way I could tell them. That was the defining moment of my life. No more hiding who I was. And my parents' reactions were to set the course for my acceptance of myself.

My mother and father had already discussed it, and were prepared to accept it unconditionally. But it was my dad's reaction that I'm grateful for. Here is a man that always told me that he loved me. Every day, he gave me a hug and told me how proud he was of me. And in our first conversation after my mother and I talked about my being gay, my dad told me that he loved me and gave me a big hug. He knew I would live an uncertain life in a hostile society with no protection from the hatemongers. He never said I wouldn't be happy, or that I was crazy. He never said 'leave and don't come back.' All he said was that he loved me and would support me for whoever I was, whatever I did.

At our family reunion this weekend in Arkansas. I will once again tell him how much I love him, and get another hug from this unselfish, loving man. Col. Peck...take note.

## SUNDAYS

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## SPORTS NOTES

### Summer Bowling Leagues

Beat the heat! Join the Houston gay bowlers for a fun summer of bowling. Individual and team registrations are being accepted by the following leagues. Summer leagues start this week!

Registration for the Inner Loop Sunday Evening League is at Palace Lanes this Sunday at 6:00 p.m. with bowling at 7:00 p.m. for the 16 week season. The Inner Loopers is a mixed league. Join us for a fun summer. Call Tom at 522-9612 for info.

Registration for the Montrose Monday Nite Men's League begins at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24 with bowling at 9:00 p.m. at Palace Lanes

for the 16 week season. Call Gardy at 641-5424 for more info.

Registration for the new Wednesday Nite Mixers will be on Wednesday, May 17 at 6:00 p.m. with bowling at 6:30 p.m. at Palace Lanes for the season. Call Tom at 522-9612 for more info.

The Monday Nite Women's League is still accepting individuals and teams for the summer league. Bowling is at 6:15 p.m. at Fairlanes Southway. Call Pat at 437-6218 or Marla at 862-3630.

The Texas Invitational Tournament is holding a car wash at Gentry's on Richmond Avenue this Saturday, April 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring your auto or truck and help raise funds for the 10th Annual Tournament.

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HOUSTON  
**VOICE MAIL**  
Letters to the Editor

*Don't Tell Them How They  
Feel*

From TONY FERNANDEZ  
Houston, Texas

Growing up as a gay adolescent was not only an emotional struggle but it became a barrier to every successful endeavor I approached. The struggle with my identity affected my self-esteem and in turn affected me academically. It was common for me to have feelings of worthlessness to the point that I saw no way out but dropping out of school or suicide, but fortunately I was blessed with supportive parents. I ask anyone who supports the notion that homosexuality is a choice, "Why would any teenager choose to inflict that degree of pain on themselves considering the dozen of other issues that confront adolescents in this day and age?" In addition, "Who gave anyone the right to tell these kids (gay, lesbian, and bisexual adolescents) how to feel or why?"

When people doubt or question the impact that growing up gay has on an adolescent, it is easier to let the numbers speak for themselves. Statistics drawn from the Houston Institute for the Protection of Youth (HIPY), an organization that serves this population, reports that 46% of the over 500 homeless youth on the streets of Houston every night are gay, lesbian, or bisexual and the Department of Health and Human Services reports that gay youth attempt suicide at three to six times the rate of their non-gay counterparts. Considering these statistics, when does the public stop debating the issue and develop services for these adolescents. Gay youth often reach out to drugs, suicide, and the streets not because they cannot accept themselves but because the adults that they admire, respect and love and not accept them. During this important milestone in their psychological development, when they need decent role models and acceptance of their own identity in order to grow into mature and well adjusted adults, it is their parents, their teachers, and their community leaders who figuratively place the needle in their arm or the razor at their wrist. To prevent these tragedies the community must first consider these adolescents for who they are, helpless adolescents in search of adult guidance to deal with their identity crisis and not monsters that need to be destroyed or even caged until they change their ways by reciting certain scriptures.

Now, with all this in mind, "What can be done to help these adolescents," and "Whose responsible?" Should services be offered in the schools, by parents, or in the community? Unlike other oppressed minority populations that prepare their adolescents for society through role modeling, most gay adolescents do not have this luxury. Contrary to popular belief, very few gay and lesbian adolescents are born to homosexual or even understanding liberal parents. The result of this lack of support is often self-hatred and/or internalized homophobia that when inflicted on the larger society manifests itself through hate crimes or teenage suicide. When these youth reach beyond their parents and out to their schools and communities, which often resist discussing issues such as birth control or safe sex, the subject of homosexuality is an issue that is not addressed and even suppressed. Often, school personnel

believe the issue will disappear, not taking into account that gay, lesbian, and bisexual orientations have historically been around since the beginning of time. The reality of these adolescents going away is non-existent.

To help gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth, the school districts must be willing to provide services that assist them in working through their identity issues and assist the parents with their own adjustment issues. Mandatory open dialogue must be conducted to foster communication between these adolescents and their parents along with strict penalties for parents who throw their sons and daughters out on to the streets due to a gay or bisexual orientation. Not only is it important to have open communication between family members but it is vital to have open dialogue on the subject of homosexuality and bisexuality in the school within the general population. Discussing alternative lifestyles will allow the subject to come "Out of the Closet" and away from being considered a dirty word. Many studies conducted over the years in the area of racial inequality have shown that silence equals ignorance and ignorance equals oppression. It is now time for school districts to allow these youth the opportunity to grow into successful adults. Many of these gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth are the future scientists, teachers, senators, and even presidents of this bisexual youth are the future scientists, teachers, senators, and even presidents of this country and if it was not for others' values and judgments many of these adolescents would succeed to their full potential. For those individuals that figure a lack of services will cause these adolescents to become extinct, it's not going to happen. Despite the increasing numbers of gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth that never reach their full potential or eventually die, a large majority will learn to hide their sexual identity, will succeed, and eventually become the leaders of this nation. So like it or not: They're here, they're queer, and they're not going to go away!

*Keeping The Queen On  
The Screen*

From JONE DEVLIN

*Vice President, The Movie Club, Houston*  
On the lighter side...I just wanted to thank River Oaks 3 for adding "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" to their midnight movie roster. "Priscilla" is my all time favorite non Joan Crawford movie (O.K. I admit it, I have a thing for Bernadette) and when it left the Houston area in December I was devastated thinking it was gone forever (or at least until its video debut)! Then along comes this wonderful theater, not only re-releasing it, but adding a costume contest besides!

Needless to say the movie was as dazzling as the first seven times I'd seen it, the costumes (both on and off the screen) were magnificent (Miss Cilla I still want that purse!) and there was even some of that lovely audience participation (in this case involving ping pong balls) that is unique to midnight movies.

So thanks again River Oaks 3, you made this a wonderful weekend for me and I look forward to many more!

P.S. Next week make sure the film doesn't break!

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HOUSTON

# VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

## How Not To Get Laid On The First Date

From **BART LOESER**

Education Coordinator, AIDS Foundation Houston

Recent studies show that unsafe sex is on the rise in many segments of the gay and lesbian community. People who have committed to safe sex and/or have lost many friends to AIDS often have difficulty understanding why this would be so. Like sex itself, it is a complicated issue: complicated by low self-esteem, denial, substance abuse, ignorance, and many other factors. These issues play an integral part in whether someone would use the knowledge they might have about safer sex.

I hear from many men that their solution to the risks of HIV infection is that they "would never have sex with someone with HIV..." which generally means they don't act "as if every partner was infected." They would consider unprotected sex if their prospective partner was very young, looked healthy, or said "I'm negative." This is why many gay men don't have all the facts and are still getting infected—15 years into this epidemic.

It is a sad fact that we are going to lose another generation of gay men because they don't see AIDS in the same way—REAL—as their older brothers (over 30). And the real tragedy is that it doesn't have to be this way. Getting the facts and discussing the issues can hit this message home. The safer sex workshops address the many issues why we still put ourselves at risk. It goes far beyond basic condom use and can save the lives of many who attend.

Since this message has not reached many men in Houston, I encourage everybody to consider attending these workshops if they have not. The next workshop at AFH is offered next Tuesday, April 25, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. You will definitely learn a lot and will enjoy the presentation at the same time.

These are even offered in a "home format" if you would like to host a group of friends for the "Safe Sex House Party." It's a great way to reach people with this message who might otherwise never get it. The house parties can be scheduled any time, any where. Please call me if you want more information on these free programs at AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH), (713) 623-6796.

## Rush And Hut Update

From **DEAN WALRADT**

Secretary, National Leather Association Houston

Thank you for publishing the Pizza Hut complaint line number last week in your Media Watch column. I would encourage readers to continue to call and voice their complaint at having Rush Limbaugh blow his mouth for Pizza Hut. I'd also encourage your

readers to stay away from Pizza Hut until the commercials are pulled and to encourage their friends to not spend money there. Domino's delivers as well as has pick up, and now Little Caesar is starting delivery along with their pick up. We have other options with quality products to spend our gay bucks on. I also went one step further and found the number for Pepsico which is the parent company of Pizza Hut, Taco Bell & KFC along with Pepsi Cola. A flood of calls to the parent company may make a strong impression and speed the removal of the ads. That number is 914-253-2000. Pizza Hut's Consumer Complaints address is 2100 Powers Ferry Rd., #200, Atlanta, GA 30339. Send 20 cent post cards voicing your disgust with Limbaugh and the ads.

## I Can Relate

From **"DAKOTA"**

Houston, Texas

(Editor's note: the following letter was addressed to Houston Voice staff writer/columnist Glen Webber. The letter writer describes himself as "a PWA and Volunteer to help others in the Dark Days Upon Us").

I read your column, "Gay Today," dated 4-14-95. Not only was I fascinated by it, but I too, was able to relate to it. I used to live in "The City by the Bay," and their "Flower Power" era of the 60's. I remember the "Age of Sexual Freedom" of the 70's. I remember going to Trocadero Transfer on Saturday night, and winding up for "church" at the End-Up. I remember how so many men did drugs, and had sex after hours in "Rhingold Alley" (on the Folsom side of town). I remember the bath houses before Diane Feinstein closed them (when she was Mayor of San Francisco). I remember how I didn't listen to my elders, and now have been living with AIDS all this time.

I wholeheartedly agree that we, as the elder generation, must remind those who are in their teens and twenties that AIDS can be transmitted to a person, even before birth, and that it is not just the disease of those who lived two or three decades ago, but, I ask you, "How do we get the message across, if the younger generation casts a "blind eye," and a "deaf ear" to those of us who lived in a Pre-AIDS Age, when we, also did the same things to our elders when we were their age?

We may get the message across to a handful of younger people, but what of the rest who still resist the idea that "they" will never get it, because they are not within the boundaries that we, as eager youths, put ourselves in?

We have more than we can handle, but at least there are some of us still willing to do the task of educating those who are of a higher risk than we were over 25 years ago.

beset and bedevil this country. Bonnie Erbe, PBS host of "To the Contrary," said of Malveaux, a regular panelist on that show: "Bubbling over with provocative opinions, Malveaux never bites her tongue or tames her pen. And she rarely leaves us unmoved."

The daily talk show will feature a lively mix of national and international news stories, art and cultural pieces, economic issues and interviews with authors and other special guests. It will air 4:00-5:00 p.m. weekdays on KPFT-FM 90.1, Houston.

## Talk radio, KPFT style

### Quick Notes

KPFT is launching a new talk show to counter the "Rush" of the radical right currently clogging up the airwaves. The show features Julianne Malveaux, nationally known economist, writer and syndicated columnist.

Marica Ann Gillespie, editor of MS magazine, describes Malveaux as having a "rapier wit, lucid common sense and a formidable intellect...she tackles the issues and problems that



# MARYS



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## Hawaii mormons appeal right to intervene in same-sex marriage lawsuit

By ANGELA S. MILLER  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

HONOLULU, Friday, April 14 (AP)—The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has appealed a state court ruling that denied it the right to intervene in a same-sex marriage case.

Church leaders in Hawaii are seeking to intervene in the case in which three homosexual couples have sued the state for denying them marriage licenses.

"We are urging the court to support Hawaii's families and not undermine them by radically redefining the institution of marriage," said Don Hallstrom, the church's legal representative for Hawaii.

The Hawaii church has the full support

of Mormon leaders in Salt Lake City, he said Thursday. A church news release in Salt Lake City said so, too.

In its original petition filed in February, the church said it could offer Attorney General Margery Bronster extra legal manpower, expert witness and research results as she prepares for the case, which goes to trial Sept. 25.

State Judge Herbert Shimabukuro denied that petition March 30.

The case against the state was filed in 1991 and appealed to the state Supreme Court in 1993.

The justices sent the case back to state court, saying the state must show a compelling interest why same-sex marriages should not be legal in Hawaii.

## Yours Truly In A Swamp

by Leonard Earl Johnson

### Easter On Bourbon Street

Past Paducah, Kentucky flows the Mississippi River's major tributary, the beautiful blue Ohio. The blue Ohio joins the murky Mississippi's journey to New Orleans a few miles downstream from Paducah, at Cairo, Illinois. The Mississippi is the gatherer of waters. In New Orleans, we drink from it daily.

One Easter, when I was a boy, I attended an amazing service on the Paducah banks of the Ohio River. We drove from Cairo to stand in the Spring sun and watch whining powerboats pulling water skiers faster, and faster, until the skiers flew into the air on the wings of huge yellow and white kites.

Easter, many years later, I soared, lifted by the wings of whiskey, to second story Bourbon Street balconies. There, I saw Jesus. Jesus was walking down Bourbon Street. He wore a crown of thorns over long, black hair. He was naked, save for a loin cloth cut like the one in the paintings. He looked like he might have been Filipino, but mostly he looked like Jesus.

He was seen by everyone on the balcony at the Bourbon Pub/Parade. Below, tourists along the famous slough rue were mixing with the local rabble, and reveling in the clear-aired wonder of it all. A tourist family stood against the downstream wall of Pete Fountain's one-time club, now a late night dance hall named Oz. From the sidewalk outside Oz, a girl of about seventeen waved up to us. A pubescent son giggled and hugged his Mother. Then, along came Jesus.

Jesus looked so much like Jesus—so much like He is chronicled in the Bible stories—but, nonetheless, so much different from what had been preached earlier in the day from Easter Sunday altars that I laughed. There He was walking amongst the sinners, along one of sin's busier thoroughfares.

The tourist mother was offended. She gathered her crew and flowed on down river Bourbon. Toward what? A friend's house, a bed and breakfast, another tourist murder? Jesus did not seem offended by their departure (He wrote the book on forgiveness), and the sinners, noting nothing, went on about their sinning.

Later, the Pope appeared. He stood on the Oz balcony dressed head to toe in yellow and white satin. He blessed all who passed, and looked across river Bourbon and blessed us too.

We moved to the Pope's balcony, the Oz balcony, and looked back at the Bourbon Pub/Parade balcony. The Pope, ever wise, said, "you can not see yourself on the balcony you just left." We had all had a lot to drink.

The Pope handed me a large Bourbon and water. "Holy water, from the holy river," he said.

Three real nuns, dressed in old fashioned black and white habits, trotted past the corner, along the far side of rue Saint Ann. They were headed toward Saint Louis Cathedral School. The sea of sinners parted for them.

"What would they think of seeing Jesus," asked a young man, of no one in particular. He leaned ominously over the balcony rail, and yelled to the crowd below for Carnival beads.

A photographer took our picture. I asked if he had seen Jesus. "No." Would he like to? "Yes!"

The Pope said for us to watch the young man leaning on the balcony rail, "Do not let him fall over the communion rail." Green Carnival beads landed on The Pope's pointy hat. They looked interesting but he took them off, and tossed them to two college boys on the street below. I think the two boys might open their pants, but they do not. "This is not Carnival," said the Pope.

I said, "It is not Paducah either," but The Pope did not hear, he was gone to find Jesus. The communion rail-leaner looked past my forehead and talked of far ranging things.

The Pope returned without Jesus and distributed fresh drinks. "He can not be found in this wicked din."

We looked across the street and saw Jesus waving from the other balcony. We waved back. His naked arms were lifted heavenward, his loin cloth flapped in the whiskey flavored air. The man with the camera jumped and shouted, "Your cross! Show your cross! Show your cross!" Jesus looked down with great disdain and bel-lowed, "Don't you know what holiday this is?"

The Pope, communion rail-leaner, and other assorted followers yelled, "It isn't Carnival." It wasn't, it was Easter on the river of Bourbon Street.

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## COMMUNITY

### Bering Spring Festival '95 Pancake Breakfast this Saturday

#### Quick Notes

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold at Mulberry, will hold its 45th Spring Festival this Saturday, April 22 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The festive event features an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast (including eggs, bacon and sausage, hashbrown potatoes, fruit, coffee, juice and more as well as pancakes) a raffle and silent auction, garage and estate sale and is an annual tradition at

the church.

Raffle prizes include three travel packages, with a first prize of a one-week vacation for two in Amsterdam; drawings will be held throughout the day for restaurant gift certificates. This year's festival also includes organ recitals every hour from 8:00 a.m. 'till noon, and a continuous slide show about Bering's history, heritage and ministries. Church and Bering Community Service Foundation facilities will be open for tours.

## Community Organizations Bulletin Board

### Investments in DIFFA

Houston's Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS (DIFFA) will host a Spring fashion extravaganza call InVESTments on Saturday, May 20 at the Texas Medical Center Conference Center, 2151 West Holcombe, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Over 100 vests, created by local and national artists, designers and celebrities including Mariquita Masterson, Kitty Carruthers, Kermit Eisenhut, The Names Project, and Vann Ramsey (costume designer for "Lonesome Dove"), will be auctioned off by Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale. Event sponsors include Southwestern Bell Telephone, Cooper Industries and The Decorative Center of Houston.

General admission tickets are \$40 per person. For additional information on InVESTments, contact DIFFA/Houston at 552-9445.

### Switchboard Training

In early May the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston will hold a weekend training session for everyone interested in volunteering for the Switchboard.

GLSH volunteers provide a valuable service by using the Switchboard's extensive resource guides to connect callers to community organizations, businesses and professionals and inform callers about upcoming community events.

Volunteers are also trained in providing vital safer sex information and lending an understanding year when callers are coming out of the closet. Training gives Switchboard volunteers the tools to assist the gay and lesbian community, but it also teaches participants important communication skills they can use everyday.

Training will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 5. The Friday session will end at 10:00 p.m. Training on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7 will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. each day. Call (713) 529-3211 to sign up for training or to get more information.

### The ROSE honors Lovett Inn

The ROSE, a non-profit organization located in Houston, is proud to announce that The Lovett Inn is the newest "Pink Ribbon Inn." Joining a growing number of bed & breakfast inns across Texas in the fight against breast cancer, The Lovett Inn has agreed to donate a portion of its lodging revenue to The ROSE's Sponsorship Program. For every \$65.00 donated, a needy woman will receive a mammogram without charge and lives will be saved through the early detection mammography provides.

The ROSE provides breast cancer screening and diagnosis. Its mission is to lower the cost of breast cancer in terms of lives lost and the cost of medical services. The American Cancer Society estimates that this year there will be 183,400 new diagnoses of breast cancer and 46,000 deaths. This disease is a plaque on the lives of women with hardly a family remaining unscathed. Because there is no known way of preventing breast cancer, the best chance for survival rests in early detection and treatment. When detected early and treated, 97% of breast cancer can be cured.

For more information, call 522-5224.

### Advocacy Reception

As a result of its first six months of activities, the Houston EMA/HSDA Comprehensive Planning Committee is pleased to announce the accomplishment of one of its goals which is to strengthen HIV/AIDS advocacy, training, and community awareness. On Thursday, April 27, the Comprehensive Planning Committee will host a reception to acknowledge the work of our community and to recognize specific persons who have played an active role in encouraging HIV/AIDS advocacy, training, and community awareness initiatives. The reception will take place from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. at the Parish Hall of St. Stephen's Church, 1805 W. Alabama, Houston, Texas. The reception is open to everyone with an interest in the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

The reception is the first formal step by the Committee to fulfill its responsibility for the development and implementation of the Houston EMA/HSDA Comprehensive Plan. This plan shall be written as a framework for planning and organizing HIV/AIDS services within the community to better serve clients while maximizing available resources.

For further information contact either Sue Cooper at 439-6090, or Michael Springer at 526-1016.

### Agora Meeting

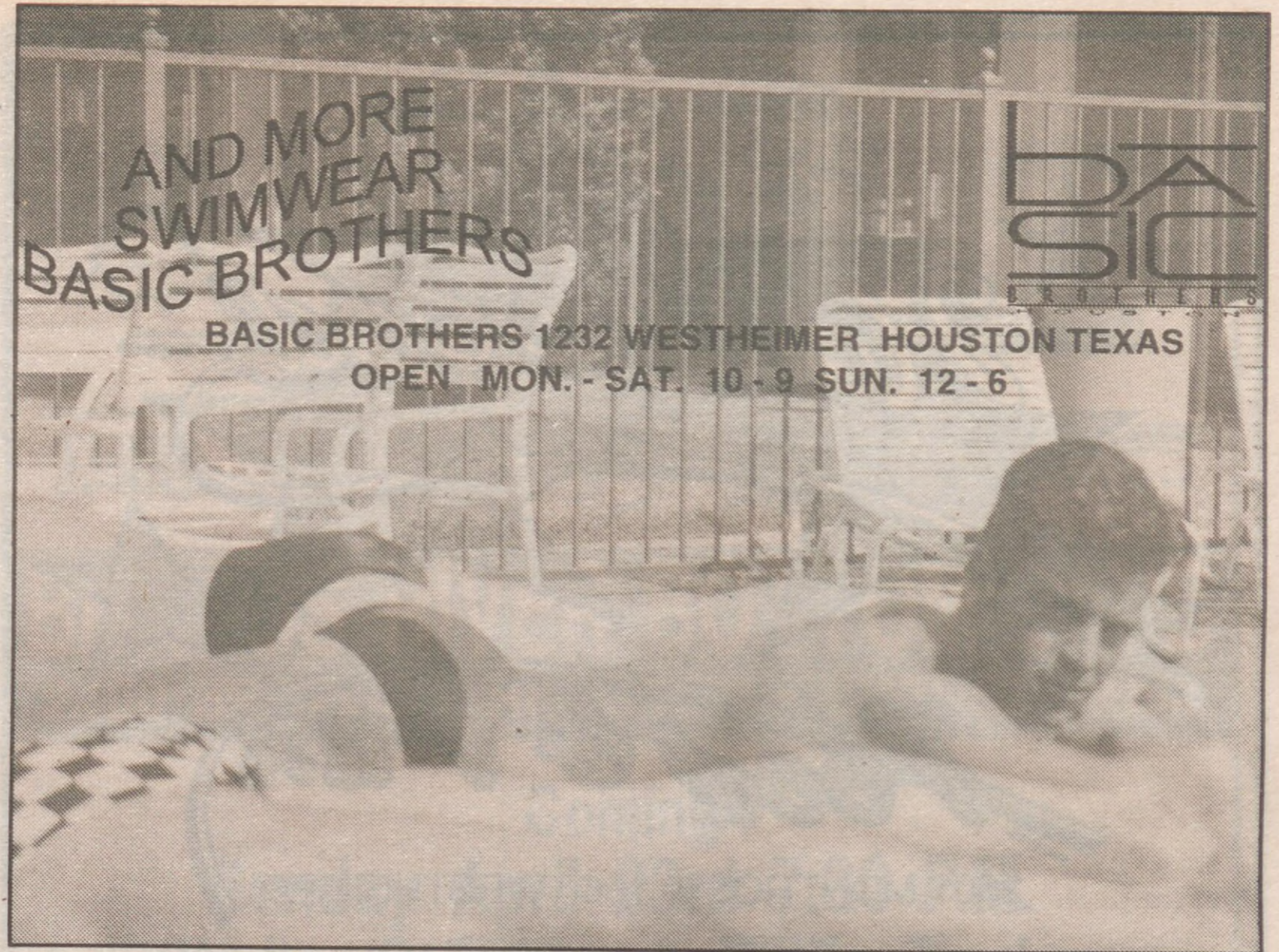
The Agora will present a free showing of the Academy award-nominated video, "Straight From The Heart" at their next general membership meeting, Monday, April 24, 1995 at the AFH office, 3202 Wesleyan. The video, featuring lesbian activist, Dee Mosbacher, is made possible through P-FLAG's library and will be shown at 7:30 p.m., followed by a discussion of activism and the media in Houston.

The Agora is a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to presenting accurate information about gays, lesbians, and their families to the media. Various committees write editorials, articles and coordinate events targeting this goal. Anyone with experience or interest in public relations and the media regarding these issues is encouraged to attend the meeting and get involved. For more information, contact Bart Loeser at (713) 868-9206.

### F.L.A.S. Anniversary Party

This Sunday, April 23, Fundacion Latino Americana contra el SIDA (F.L.A.S.) will celebrate its first anniversary with a Spring celebration at Inergy, featuring a special show, costume contest and door prizes. Performers scheduled for the show include Nancy Taylor, Lori Love, Monique Jonson, Tania, Angeles, Bianca, Paloma and dancers Susanna Ruiz and Leonardo Ruiz, and many more. There will also be a wheel available for those attending to sign in memory of the popular Tejano musician and recent murder victim, Selena. A prize will be awarded for the best spring-themed costume, members of the group said. A donation of \$5 is requested.

The event is a fundraiser for the organization, whose name translates in English to "Latin American Foundation against AIDS." For more information, call (713) 995-6862.



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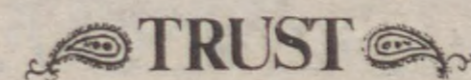
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**PERFORMING ARTS NOTES**  
By John Reed

*Extra Performance Of Symphony*

Popular demand for tickets to the Houston Symphony's Classical Season finale, which includes Beethoven's immortal Ninth Symphony, is such that an extra performance has been scheduled for Friday, May 19. The weekend's subscription performances will be Saturday, May 20 through Monday, May 22, as originally scheduled. In these four concerts Christoph Eschenbach will lead the Houston Symphony and Chorus in a double-bill of choral masterpieces: Poulenc's "Gloria" and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. "Choral." Appearing as soloists will be soprano Rochelle Ellis, who will sing in both works; mezzo-soprano Bonita Hyman; tenor John Keyes; and baritone Richard Paul Fink. Both Miss Ellis and Miss Hyman are making debut appearances with the Houston Symphony.

Tickets to the performances are \$10-\$50, and can be purchased at the Houston Ticket Center, at Ticketmaster, and by calling 227-ARTS or 800-828-ARTS. Groups of ten or more can purchase tickets at a 10, 20 or 30 percent discount, depending upon the size of the group. For group sale information, call 713-224-7575. All three thousand seats in Jones Hall will be on sale for these performances.

*Goat Song Announces Auditions*

Attention Thespians! Goat Song, A Theatre Group, will be casting this month for a very special benefit performance scheduled for June 19-23. Goat Song will present the world premiere of K. David Cochran's, "They Called Him Michael," at Stages. All proceeds from this event will go to the People With AIDS Coalition of Houston. Auditions will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays throughout

April at the Kuumba House, 3414 LaBranch at Holman (across from Theatre One at H.C.C.); 18-24 year old males are needed to fill out this large ensemble cast. For more information contact K. David Cochran at 466-6021.

*Hair-Raising Concert*

Openly lesbian singer-songwriter-comic Jamie Anderson has escaped from the confines of her hairdresser's salon



*The late Michael Morrow, creator of the Minister Mike Show*

and she's headed to Houston! She's touring to celebrate the release of her newest recording "Bad Hair Day," and she'll be in concert at McGonigel's Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk, on Wednesday, May 24 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door. For more information, call 528-5999.

Jamie looks at subjects usually untouched by mainstream songwriters. Her songs include the poignant ballad "One Out of Three," (about breast cancer), and the hilarious "Wedding Song" (Sure I'll come to your wedding/ But I'll dance with the bride). She has four recordings on the Tsunami label. Plans include an exciting new CD to be released in November.

*Minister Mike Remembered*

This Sunday, April 23, the Ripcord will host a special screening of the late Michael Morrow's video work. Morrow, who created the caustic parody of religious right tele-propaganda called The Minister Mike Show, died of AIDS a year ago, but his videos and legacy

as a playwright and producer live on to carry his message.

This weekend's screening includes two of Morrow's "Minister Mike" series videos, "Undercover Christian" and "Bar Scene," as well as "Remembering Michael," a tribute to Morrow by his friend and "Minister Mike" co-conspirator and director, David Mumford. All three videos are produced by Los Bears Productions.



*Jamie Anderson performs at the Mucky Duck in May*



*The Houston Symphony has scheduled an extra performance of its classical season finale*

# GLAAD MEDIA WATCH

by Al Kielwasser

## Seeing Red In 'Redbook'

Singer Whitney Houston appears on the cover of the May '95 issue of "Redbook" magazine. Beneath her photo, the headline reads: "A miscarriage, a stalker, ugly rumors...What a rotten year taught her about love." Can you guess what those "ugly rumors" are?

Inside the magazine, Ann Elliot's feature article provides a few clues. About Houston, Elliot writes: "There are still the annoying questions about her sexuality. Even though married to (Bobby) Brown—and despite her frequent flat-out denials—celebrity magazines and TV tabloid shows keep rehashing rumors that Houston's true love is really her assistant, Robyn Crawford, a girlhood pal..." Elliot goes on to compare these "baseless rumors" to rumors about Houston's parenting. Seemingly, Elliot sees little differences between the suggestion that someone is a "lesbian" or the suggestion that they are a "bad mother." The author treats both suggestions as accusation of evil—as "bad news" and "press harassment," to use Elliot's words.

The bias exhibited here is a classic one in magazine journalism. From the homophobe's perspective, questioning someone's heterosexuality is the same as questioning their morality. Homosexuality—but NEVER homophobia—is treated as something "bad," "rotten," or "ugly."

Elliot also writes: "When the gay rumors kicked in, she (Houston) seemed to take her cousin Dionne Warwick's advice: 'Ignore it; do not dignify it.' As she herself says: 'Will it make anyone's life better knowing what is or isn't true about someone that they don't even know?'"

As a woman who now earns her salary by hosting cheesy "infomercials," selling fraudulent "psychic" services to the public, Dionne Warwick is in no position to give advice on the subject of "dignity." But, more troubling still is Houston's contention that knowing the truth about someone's sexual identity would not "make anyone's life better." Nothing could be further from the truth!

Send feedback to Kate White, Editor-in-Chief, "Redbook," 224 West 57th St., New York, NY 10019.

## '60 Minutes' On Safer Sex

On April 19th, "60 Minutes," one of the most-watched news programs on television, aired "The Second Wave," a segment examining rising HIV rates in the gay community. Hosted by Ed Bradley and produced by John Hamlin, the segment exhibited a number of flaws, but also managed to convey several good points as well.

On the positive side, this news segment did not rely on any misinformed homophobes to provide "balance" in reporting on gay sexuality. Instead, the segment included a range of viewpoints, drawn from an AIDS reporter, a psychologist, an AIDS physician, a gay activist, and an AIDS educator. Collectively, this group provided Ed Bradley with a number of important perspectives in regard to HIV and sexuality.

On the negative side, the segment served as a forum for an AIDS reporter for "The Village Voice," who made this emphatic claim: "The number one reason that gay men are having unsafe sex is because they're not in love, and they want to have that kind of physical intimacy that people who are in love have." Actually, the variables that encourage unsafe sex are much more complex than that, and are not rooted in the individual gay man. Certainly, for example, this country's continued unwillingness to provide comprehensive and (non-homophobic) sex education in our public schools is a significant factor in the promotion of HIV infection.

It was not his guests, however, but "60 Minutes" host Ed Bradley who made the most offensive statements. He opened the segment by warning viewers: "The story you are about to see contains some explicit language in talking about gay sexuality. We thought it only fair to caution you before we begin." Yet, the segment never included anything more "explicit" than the phrase "anal sex." Such warning statements are utterly homophobic, and are seldom (if ever) applied to similar reports on HETEROsexuality.

Bradley also stated that "unsafe sex is a subject few gay men have been willing to talk about." In fact, it's a subject that few television networks, elected politicians, or high school textbooks have been willing to talk about. Bradley's blame for silence is sorely misplaced.

Send comments to Ed Bradley and John Hamlin, "60 Minutes," 555 West 57th St., 9th Fl., New York, NY 10019.

## More Hate Radio

KSFO, San Francisco's new "all-conservative" talk radio station, has begun yet another homophobic harassment campaign. KSFO's Tom Kahm has devoted several hours of his morning show to bashing the Lesbian Avengers. "I'm gonna put you off the map," Kahm shouted, "that's what I'm gonna do. And so are the fellow posse members of this program." Kahm also gave out the phone number for the Lesbian Avenger's hotline and encouraged his listeners to flood the service with calls. The Lesbian Avengers have since received numerous hate calls, including several death threats.

Kahm's on-air "posse" is made up of listeners whom he encourages to carry guns. Members "sign up" with Kahm, and receive a serial number and a "Citizen's Handbook."

In just the few months since the station inaugurated its Right Wing format, KSFO talk-show hosts have waged similar harassment campaigns against several lesbian and gay activists and community groups, including ACT UP/Golden Gate and GLAAD/San Francisco. KSFO is owned and operated by media giant ABC/Capital Cities, Inc.

Write or call Mickey Luckoff, General Manager, and Jim Topping, Station Manager, KSFO, 900 Front Street, San Francisco, CA 94111, tel. 415-398-5600 or 415-954-8100, fax 4415-391-2795; Bob Iger, President, ABC/Capital Cities, 77 West 66th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10023, tel. 212-456-7777, fax 212-456-1419, e-mail abc-audr@ccabc.com.



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## Spectrum project brings together over 20 diverse community groups

(Continued from Page 1)

The Speakers Bureau has lined up six lectures to take place during the day, according to Bourgeois. Representatives of the Lesbian Health Initiative will give a presentation on the recently completed lesbian and bisexual women's health survey (results of which were scheduled to be released to the media this Monday). Other presentations scheduled will cover topics of community interest including finance (accountant Julie LaRue); discrimination in the workplace (attorney Mitchell Katine); adoption (attorneys Connie Moore and Debra Hunt), breast cancer (Dr. Aileen King) and Viatical settlements (Don DeYoung).

Like the original, Town Meeting II has become the centerpiece of planning for constituency caucuses within the broader community; groups are preparing resolutions to be presented at the meeting. The format of the Town Meeting will include an open forum for as well as discussion of the resolutions that are presented, noted Bourgeois, who says that he deliberately and vigorously sought participation from diverse segments of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered popula-

tions of Houston. Spectrum adopted a community identifying trademark—LeT-sBi Gay—that cleverly combines the project's dedication to supporting all facets of the community with its emphasis, through the Business Expo particularly, on celebrating the economic and cultural clout of these communities, and their combined potential.

"We have over twenty different community organizations working together on this," boasted Bourgeois. "I think that's more than we've ever had working together on a single event in Houston."

However, if the Houston gay and lesbian community itself delivered the form and function of the planned event, it also provided Spectrum's most formidable roadblock. Community skepticism, and the prediction that "It's just not going to happen," have haunted Spectrum's organizers from the hatching of the plans and persist to this day, said Bourgeois.

The plans got off to a less than colorful start, rising from the trails of three previous attempts—all unsuccessful—to resurrect the momentum of the 1978 Town Meeting for a sequel. The most recent discussions had brought the possibility business expo

or gay economic strategy session being held in conjunction with the meeting, but none had envisioned an event on the scope of the Spectrum plans.

Bourgeois, at the time, was in the infancy of his involvement in the Houston gay and lesbian community, although he had some recognition through his earlier work with the Agora, a local media group, and his short-lived Access Cable television show, Gay 90's.

When he heard the story of the first Town Meeting, and how the various committees formed to discuss plans for a Town Meeting II wound up giving up the effort, Bourgeois decided someone had to see the project through to the end. Born in Texas but raised in Los Angeles, Bourgeois said he had studied New Age techniques of self-determination and was a firm believer in thinking positive. Still, he wasn't prepared for the overwhelming effort the task of convincing the community an event like Spectrum could happen in a city like Houston would entail.

"The skepticism has been the most damaging, and the most disappointing thing in the entire (planning) process," he said.

"I have everything I own tied up in this. I've given up my

car, hocked everything I own, because I believe it's going to work. But people are still skeptical, negative. That's what wears me down, more than anything."

Bourgeois says he's encouraged by the support Spectrum has gotten in the last few months—though he hasn't stopped worrying. "Knowing that it's not just me doing it now...that's what keeps me going," he said.

In addition to the various parts of the event itself, Spectrum has spawned a promotional CD that brings together national and local gay and lesbian entertainers and a planning committee that has itself become a fundraising and community support organization.

### Hand In Hand

The CD, "Hand in Hand" is scheduled for release May 1 and features many of the stars scheduled to appear in the "Concert of the Stars" for Spectrum. National dance music recording star Pussy Tourett heads the collection with her song "Bracelets;" she is joined by other national stars like Romanovsky and Phillips, singing their song "Brave Boys." Original music on the album includes songs by David Pace ("You Never Knew My Heart") and Edna Garcia ("Enchanted

Heart"). Local Houston entertainers featured in the collection include Juliana Wathen, singing an original song by Clay Howell, "Over Me Getting Over You," and Keith Caldwell singing "My Foolish Heart" and Ryan Bonn singing "Street Trash." Comedian Nancy Ford also offers an original song, "I Need A Woman." The MCCR chorus sings their first recorded song, Ode to Joy."

The title song "Hand in Hand," was written especially for Spectrum '95 and features 30 different artists.

Proceeds from sales of the CD will go to Spectrum 95's seven beneficiary charities—The Assistance Fund, Bering Community Service Foundation, Houston Challenge Foundation, Lesbian Health Initiative, Loving Arms, Montrose Clinic and Montrose Counseling Center. CD's are currently available for \$10.95 each (plus shipping and handling); to order, call Spectrum '95 at (713) 526-2853.

A second CD project is also in the works, featuring many of the same artists, according to Bourgeois. Titled "Spectrum '95: A Consortium of Music," the follow up collection will only be available at Spectrum '95.

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# HIV positive pilots sue United Airlines over dismissal

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Tuesday, April 11 (AP)—Two pilots announced Tuesday that they have sued United Airlines, alleging the airline fired them in violation of federal law after it learned they were HIV carriers.

R. Christopher Prilliman, 38, and Paul Rafalowski, 33, were fired last year after nine-year careers with United. Prilliman was fired in October and Rafalowski in June.

"United forced two airline pilots into medical retirement based on unfounded fears and stereotypes," attorney Peter F. Laura, who represents Prilliman in the case, said during a news conference.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court here on Friday, seeks unspecified monetary damages under the Americans with Disabilities Act. It named United and a Federal Aviation Administration physician identified as Daner Reider as defendants.

Laura said the lawsuit was aimed at forcing reforms of United and FAA policies.

"They're behind the times," Prilliman said. "They're not up-to-date with this disease."

Dr. Gary Kohn, medical director at United's Chicago headquarters, said the FAA informed the airline that the pilots had several health conditions that mandated their dismissal under

agency regulations.

The company began measures to obtain disability benefits for the pilots because they had used up most of their sick leave, Kohn said. He referred questions about the specific conditions to the FAA regional offices in Illinois. A call seeking comment from the FAA was not immediately returned.

HIV is among the diseases covered by federal guidelines that govern the enforcement of the act, said Laura. The pilots still must prove that they were capable of performing their work when they were let go, he said.

Prilliman remains able to fly, but Rafalowski's condition has deteriorated too much, the lawyer said. He appeared at the news

conference in a wheelchair.

Rafalowski said he knows of dozens of other pilots who have AIDS and continue to fly because the airline doesn't know of their condition.

The plaintiffs said their conditions were made known to United after Reider asked questions about their blood tests after a physical. The pilots said they had signed releases allowing their personal physician to disclose that they have AIDS if asked.

Laura said Prilliman and Rafalowski were not domestic partners. Prilliman lives in Laguna Beach and Rafalowski divides his time between the beach city and Dallas, he said.

# Gay son of marine colonel writes autobiography

WHITE MARSH, Md., Wednesday, April 12 (AP)—The homosexual son of a Marine colonel, who gained instant celebrity when his father testified before Congress in support to the military ban on gays, tells his side of the story in a book that goes on sale this week.

"I didn't want to hand my father 270 pages of guilt. I

wasn't looking for an apology. I just wanted an acknowledgment, "Here's everything you never asked me about. Here's who I am," Scott Peck said.

Peck is planning an 11-city tour to promote the book, which he wrote over the past year at his home in White Marsh. In his memoir, "All-American Boy," Peck talks about his sometimes-strained rela-

tionship with his father, the violence of his alcoholic stepfather and his own shame-filled desire for other men.

Peck said one of his greatest fears was that his intimate family account would hurt his relationship with his father, who often comes across as a bravao-filled Marine not often there for his son.

But the two have grown closer

since the elder Peck's testimony two years ago before a U.S. Senate committee.

A week after receiving the book, his father telephoned him.

"I could tell he was nervous. When he's nervous, he talks about nothing. So we did that for about half an hour," the younger Peck said. "And then he said, 'I read the

book...Guilty as charged."

Scott Peck said the two then had the most honest conversation of their lives.

"In a perfect world, I wish Scott had written the book, gotten a tremendous amount of money, and only printed one copy and gave it to me," said Fred Peck, 46, deputy director of public affairs for the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington.

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## The Return of Steak

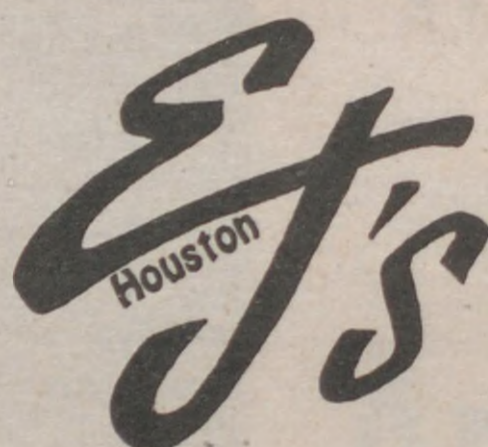
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# The Voice Reader

## Kansas Ain't So Normal Either, Toto

By CHRIS LAMBERT

("Mysterious Skin" by Scott Heim, \$20 hardcover, HarperCollins, 1995, 292 pgs)

It was Saturday morning, and I had to go to the office to finish some stuff, but in my best delay tactic tradition, I picked up Mr. Heim's new novel and thought, "Well, I'll just start into it a bit before I go." Six hours and several tuna sandwiches later, I finished the book. There was a small lapse of time before the "real" world became real again. All the signs said I was coming down off a "good book high."

"Mysterious Skin" is a VERY good book. It is NOT a nice book. The theme is distinctly unpleasant. Mr. Heim has written a deceptively simple story of two boys growing up in small town Middle America—Kansas. Starting at age eight, we follow the development of Brian and Neil. The boys are completely different and don't know each other. Both families are dysfunctional, though in different ways. Their lives are different.

Brian has some weird things happen to him. He sees a spaceship. He has a memory blackout of an afternoon/evening. He starts to have nosebleeds, bedwettings, and fainting spells. He hates his dad.

Neil's mom is a slut. He's gay. Neil is molested by his Little League coach. He seems to handle it, even enjoy it. He needs a father figure or something. Coach moves away.

And so life goes on. Welcome to America, where only abnormality is normal. Brian becomes an asexual dweeb whose whole world revolves around UFO's. Neil becomes a petty thief and hustler. Both boys, in different ways, are strange. Oh, Not in a "we need to get a social worker on this kid now!" way, but something is softly, naggingly, insidiously wrong. As they grow they diverge even further, and it is only Brian's determination to recover that missing evening in his childhood that finally, through many turns, brings them together and provides the climax and ending to the story.

The above synopsis makes the book sound boring. It is not. Mr. Heim has the marvelous gift of simple storytelling. His characters, situations, dialogue, structure and plot twists, all ring true. The symbolism is unobtrusive. The writing style is as smooth and bland as vanilla pudding. It is only later that you realize there are fishbones in what you just slurped down, and you're going to choke. I did.

This book is quiet, and the dawning realization the reader has of the viciousness and evil that lurks under the skin of everyday life is intensified by the absolute lack of stridency or advocacy in the book. Mr. Heim's narrative convinces where preaching would fail. He is an artist, and the book (one more time) is very, very good.

There are a few cavils. I've never been there, but are all teens in Kansas really that bored and alienated? And, one dialogue quibble: Somebody says "I fear the transmission on the old Impala is slipping." Fear? Shakespeare, meet Bubba.

That's it. The rest of the book is great.

The info that accompanied this book indicates Mr. Heim is a short story writer and a poet of significant reputation. "Mysterious Skin" is his first novel.

Finally, Mr. Heim's theme of sexual child abuse is one which haunts. In our multicultural, infinite-shadings-of-lifestyle community there is a necessary emphasis on acceptance and toleration. Years ago I was the friend of at least one molester. A friend just last month asked me what he should do because he's found out that one of HIS friends...All that was before reading this book. I always had deprecated the "recovered memory" concept as extremely dangerous and open to abuse. How can one be sure? Revenge and hatred are terrible things. Lives can be ruined. "Mysterious Skin" does not convert me into a witch hunter delving the psyche of every vaguely unhappy human being, but it forces me off my safe skepticism. I don't know any more, I just don't know. Mr. Heim has made my life more uncomfortable, my attitudes less certain. Curse him, bless him.

## RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY

## Gay historian to speak at MCCR

### Quick Notes

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, along with Oaklawn Marketing, Inc. (Houston) and Vintage Books (New York) have announced that gay historian and author Neil Miller will appear at a speaking event in Houston on Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. at MCCR. This tour is timed to coincide with the release of Mr. Miller's new book, *Out of the Past—Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present* (Vintage Books, \$16.00), a chronicle of the forging of homosexual identity.

At his talks, Miller shows how historical attempts to stamp out homosexuality actually helped create today's gay and lesbian communities. Touching on subjects ranging from cowboys of the Old West to women who passed as men, Miller will examine how same-sex love was viewed in the 19th Century when there was little sense of gay identity. He'll describe the trials of Oscar Wilde and show how World War II helped many homosexu-

als recognize themselves as a distinct group. Miller will look at how the McCarthy period created the conditions for the pre-Stonewall gay rights movement and will discuss the battle over gays in the military and how it contributed to greater visibility for homosexuals in American politics and culture.

Miller is the author of "In Search of Gay America" (1989, Harper Collins) for which he received the 1990 American Library Association Prize for Lesbian and Gay Non-Fiction, and "Out in the World" (1992, Random House). He has been an editor of Boston's Gay Community News, a staff writer at the Boston Phoenix, and as a free-lance writer has been published in the Boston Sunday Globe, The Advocate, the Los Angeles Times, Travel and Leisure, the Cleveland Plain Dealer and Out Magazine.

MCCR is located at 1919 Decatur Street, off Washington Ave. (between Studemont and Houston Ave.) For more information or directions call the Church at 861-9149.

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## ASK THE PASTOR



Rev. Janet Parker

**Q: "What does the Bible give to Christians in regard to guidelines for dating? Are the guidelines the same for gay people as they are for straight people?"**

**A:** The Bible is a very practical book for everyday living. For people who are Christians (and even for non-Christians), God's Word gives us direction even in the area of dating. Dating for the most part may be defined as that process which one follows in order to find a permanent lifemate or spouse, or partner (whatever your term might be). There are probably those individuals who never intend to settle down with any one person, but this question will be answered under the assumption that dating is for the purpose of finding God's ideal mate for you.

Most people like guidelines or boundaries by which to live. A certain amount of structure is helpful. We learn when to say "no" to a situation and "yes" to another. God's Word is like that to us. A very simplistic approach to dating would be found in I Corinthians 13. This is called the "Love" chapter in the Bible. Here we find that love is a gift from God, given to each one of us. Once we learn how to receive God's love, we can then learn how to love ourselves, and then love others. The love that God gives to us is described so beautifully in this chapter.

For instance, love is described as being patient and kind, not envious, not boastful, not proud. Love is not rude, it is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, and keeps no records of wrongs. Love is not happy with evil but is happy with the truth. Love patiently accepts all things. Love always trusts, always hopes, and always remains strong. Love never ends.

If we take this attitude of love with us as we date other people, we will choose to be patient in our search. We will think of the other person and not use them for our own purposes. And even if we mutually decide to "have sex" as in a one-night stand, we will come to see that even this is selfish. We are only meeting each other's needs temporarily because of our impatience in finding the right person for our mate.

We tend to forget that God is the author of passion and romance. God loves us with an everlasting love. God wants us above all things to be happy, content and fulfilled in every way—spiritually, physically and emotionally. When we short-circuit God's plan, we find ourselves cheated, abandoned, abused, wounded and left alone. The cycle repeats itself until we come back to the One who loved us first—God. Once we tap in to learn about God's love, we can then begin to really love others because we finally have learned to love ourselves.

Much abuse abounds in our world. A lot of this abuse comes upon us by our own actions. We are living in a world that offers a lot to help us through our dysfunctions to a place of wholeness. It may be through therapy, a church, a support group or friends who care.

God's Word does not discriminate between sexual orientation in regard to sexual ethics. I believe that God's Word is for all people of every sexual orientation. God's law of love is universal. Stay tuned next week for specifics regarding how to apply this law of love to your dating life!

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION,  
WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP  
MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932.**

# Bar Singin' Buddies brought down the house, Bayou Bunnies brought in the bucks



The Bar Singin' Buddies Anonymous, Roy and Chris at the 611 singing the "Past Time Blues"

## Houston Soap, Part 1

By CAROLYN LARSON

### Last Week

The Bar Singin' Buddies Anonymous brought the house down at the 611 this past Saturday for their monthly AIDS benefit. This month's charity was the Colt 45's. There were special appearances by Donny Eastep, Oscar Lee, and Danny Dyer. Congrats to all involved!

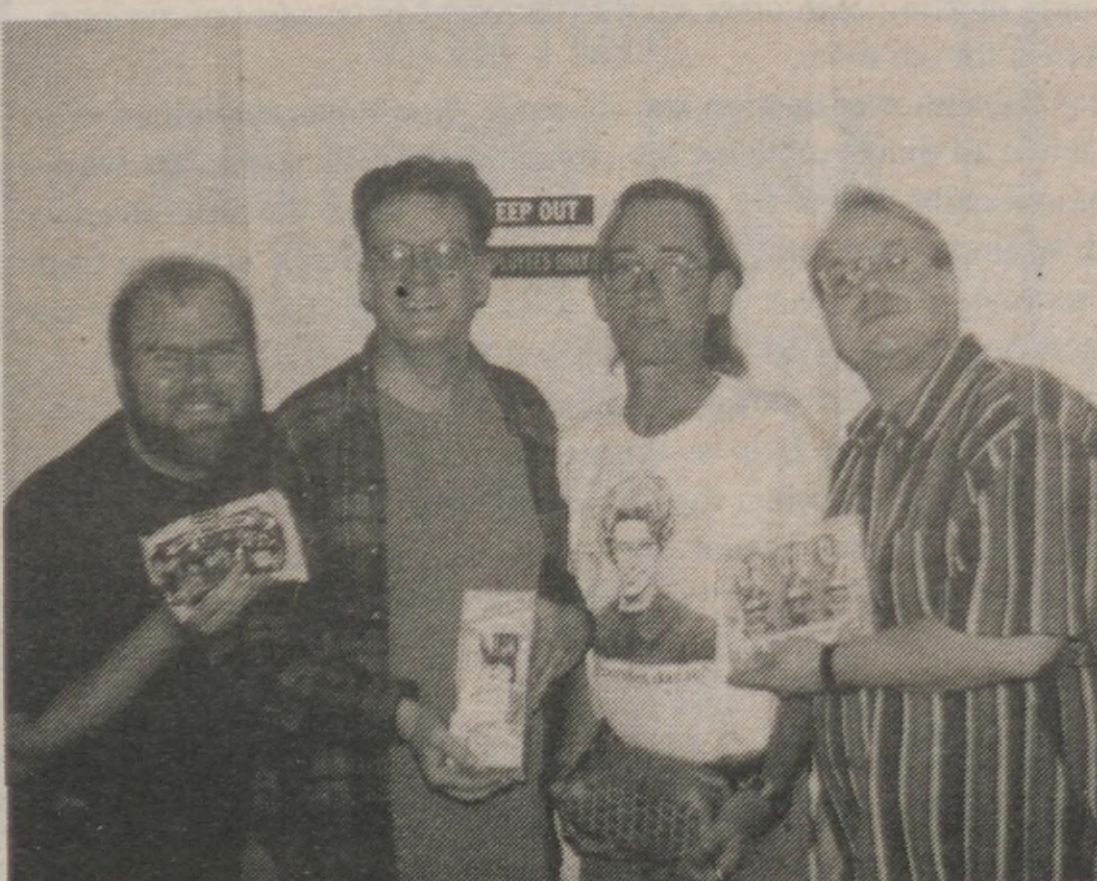
This past Sunday, Virgil Burke, candidate for Mr. IGRA raised over \$800 for the Colt 45's Stone Soup. Shelby St. John raised \$601 during the sale of Easter eggs! Keep up the good work! We need more enthusiastic men and women like these two in our community!

Bunnies on the Bayou... what a party! It was fantastic! At press time, we did not have all the figures in, but I know that they exceeded \$20,000!! Congrats and thanks to the hosts and party people! The trip in the Rich's bus was quite an experience!

The Fashion Show by Basic Brothers at J.R.'s this past Sunday was delightful!

### Friday, 4/21

J.R.'s Bar and Grill is a great place to wrap up your week! This and every Friday, they offer \$3.75 Skyy and Stolie drinks all night long! Also, every hour on the hour there is a drawing for freebies! J.R.'s gives away things like movie passes, comedy club passes,



John, Jim, Steve and Richard give hams away at Stone Soup

promo items, and much more. There are also free hors d'oeuvres!

The weekly strip contest with Paivi at E/J's starts at 11:00 p.m. If you got it and want to show it, go to E/J's and do it!

Hot, steamy, and sexy Boy Toy dancers take to the boxes at Gentry, starting at 6:00 p.m.

The Lost Cowboy Band will be performing at the Brazos River Bottom tonight starting at 10:00 p.m. and they will play until 2:00 a.m. There will be a \$2 admission! Scoot down to the River Bottom and help those little lost cowboys find a way home!

Who's Driving takes the stage of the Toy Box tonight at 9:00 p.m. Bring your dancing shoes, 'cuz between their hot country licks and cool classic rock, you'll be on your feet! There is a \$3 cover. There is also a free country cookin' mini-buffet every Friday evening!

### Saturday, 4/22

Stop in at Gentry this afternoon and meet the new weekend bartender Jimmy Pierce and enjoy \$1.50 well drinks and domestic longnecks from noon until 5:00 p.m. Drive your dirty car or truck and the Gay Bowlers will wash it for you. Of course, it is \$5 for the exterior and \$2 for the interior! They will be sudzing it up from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The 800 Pacific Street block party is tonight! Start off at

Santa Fe from 9:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., The Mine from 9:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., J.R.'s Bar and Grill from 10:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., then stumble to Heaven for no cover from 10:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. At each stop, the well drinks are only 75¢. What a fun and exercising way to spend your Saturday night!!

Red...Hot! Blue...Light! Black...Out! Party at the Venture-N starting at 10:00 p.m.!

The Super Saturday show at E/J's this week features the talents of Tracey, Lori Love-Miss Gay Houston '93, Vanessa Raye—Miss Gay Houston '95, and is hosted by the lovely Brittany Paige! The show starts promptly at 11:00 p.m.!

Tonight at the Lazy J, Erica's Showcase features the talents of Renee Thomas, Jessica Blaire, Devone Devasquez, and one super special guest! Be there before 11:00 p.m. if you want to get a good seat for this show! Erica always packs them in!

Mary's has steaks, potatoes, and salad, oh my! Every Saturday, bring \$5.50 and



On the bus to Bunnies on the Bayou

\$1 beer money to the back patio of Mary's and enjoy dinner! They also show a movie or two! You can also get your car or truck washed by the U of H Gay/Lesbian student group. They will be on the parking lot from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The guys of the National Leather Association: Houston will be guest bartending at Pacific Street tonight on the back patio. Wear your darriest leather and/or flesh and get in free! Pacific Street, where real men still dance!

The Saturday Super Show at Club 403 features the talents of Black Velvet, Naomi Warwick and Debbie Delicious. The show starts at 10:30 p.m. and is hosted by Roxanne Lee Love!

Tonight at the Toy Box, Michael Smother takes the stage at 10:00 p.m. and a second show at midnight. There is a \$3 cover.

### Sunday, 4/23

Chef Paul teases your taste buds every Sunday at Club 403. He fixes a buffet starting around 3:30 p.m.

Do you remember the "Minister Mike" series? Well, the Ripcord has acquired 3 of the 4 shows and will be airing them tonight starting at 7:00 p.m. They will be showing "Undercover Christian," "Bar Scene," and "Remembering Mike." All of these shows were produced here in Montrose and feature many familiar faces... and other body parts! These are a "must see!!"

Sunday nights at the BriarPatch offer a new eye pleaser! You have heard of the Chipendale dancers... well the BriarPatch has the "Daddy-Dales" and their "Chicken-Strips!" They will be strutting their stuff for the BriarPatch softball team.. and you too! Bring your eye filters, as you won't see a show like this anywhere else in Houston! 8:00 p.m. ... be there!

The return of the Sunday beer bust at the Montrose Mining Company! For an optional \$2 buy-in, you can get 25¢ refills of ice cold Miller Lite Draft! The other option is the \$1 domestic longnecks all day and all night! Leave it to the Montrose Mining Company to give you a great place to party for cheap!!

Hal and Jim are doing the dawg and burgers thing today at the Venture-N. Donate to the Colt 45's box or the Pet Patrol box and enjoy the yummys starting at 3:00 p.m.

The Montrose Softball League Party, sponsored by the Montrose Counseling Center is tonight, at 6:00 p.m. at Gentry. There will be a "surprise" 30 minute show at 7:30 p.m. Then... at 10:00 p.m. sharp, the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star presents: "Down the Tubes," a night of burlesque and bad taste. This is a benefit for the Colt 45's Stone Soup!

The annual Miss Montrose contest is this afternoon at Mary's...naturally! I understand that by press time, there were already 9 contestants signed up! In case the unpredictable weather doesn't cooperate, the contest will be held next door at Chances. Mary's, naturally is starting a \$1 can beer special every Sunday!

The Sunday Overload parties at Pacific Street keep getting bigger and better. There is no cover for shirtless men.. all night long!

Tonight at the Brazos River Bottom, Shelby St. John and Eddie Taylor, candidates for Ms. and Mr. IGRA pres-



Virgil Burke at the Neon Cactus Show last Sunday at the BRB

ent: "Priscilla, Queen of the What?" This is a benefit show for the Bering Care Center! The show starts promptly at 7:30 p.m., but get there early and enjoy steak night! For only \$6, you get a 14 oz. T-bone, baker, and salad... with all the trimmings! The Brazos River Bottom, your Montrose Country Home! The Rainbow Ranglers will be guest bartending on the Patio!

Temple Rises on Sunday!

### Monday, 4/24

Club 403 has a dart tournament tonight starting at 8:00 p.m. It is only a \$4 entry fee and the bar matches the pot! Come on... give it a shot!

It is half-price locker night at the Club Houston! A locker is usually \$11., but it is only \$5.50 tonight! What a great place to play, I mean work out and enjoy the great facilities the Club Houston has to offer!

If you want your favorite "piece" played, bring it to Clint on Monday nights at the BriarPatch. He plays 'em all...topless... bottomless.. any way you want it played!

Free Pool at the Venture-N. Blue light specials 'till 11:00 p.m.

Paivi hosts the male strip contest at E/J's tonight at 11:00 p.m.

Mary's has domestic longnecks on sale for only a buck tonight from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. The sounds of Chris Bateman (3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and Lee Denning (8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.) fill the air!!



Vanna...you should stick to drag!

## Weeknight specials, occasions, gossip and other important stuff



Partying at E/J's

### Houston Soap, Part 2

Free Pool at the Venture-N. Blue light specials 'till 11:00 p.m.

Paivi hosts the male strip contest at E/J's tonight at 11:00 p.m.

Mary's has domestic longnecks on sale for only a buck tonight from 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. The sounds of Chris Bateman (3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) and Lee Denning (8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.) fill the air!!

### Tuesday, 4/25

It is half-price locker and room night at the Club Houston. A room is slashed to \$8 and a locker is only \$5.50! This special is good until midnight!

Marci always has her crowd locked in on Tuesday night as this big mama knows how to treat her regulars. She's fun, she's sassy, and she's a hoot! So, head down to the Briar-Patch and hear her sassy sound!

Super Tuesdays at J.R.'s Bar and Grill are booming! They offer \$1 domestic longnecks and \$4 Texas sized doubles all night long!

Free Pool at the Venture-N. Blue light specials 'till 11:00 p.m.

It is week #7 in the 8-week long search for talent at E/J's.

### Wednesday, 4/26

It is the last Wednesday of the month! What happens? The bears crawl out of their den and head to the Montrose Mining Company for the "Bear of the Month" club! Bear-ones Brian Keever takes the stage to search for the warm and fuzzies! This month's judges are: John Benevidious—Mr. Texas Drummer, Dean Walradt-NLA:H, Randy-Mgr of J.R.'s Bar and Grill, and one still to be announced. Don't miss this fun and furry night at the Montrose Mining Company! The fur flies at 10:30 p.m. Be sure to stick around after the contest and enjoy free pizza on the patio at midnight. You can wash it all down with \$1 domestic longnecks all night long!

Free Pool at the Venture-N. Blue light specials 'till 11:00 p.m.

The return of steak night at E/J's is tonight! For only \$5, you get a hunk-o-beef, baker all-the-way, and a salad.



What a pair?



Steve Westerfield (PS) with a hunky customer

And the steak is cooked just the way you like it!

Dyan Michaels' FINAL night hosting the Gentry strip contest is tonight! Dyan takes the stage at 10:30 p.m. for 30 minutes of Reba, then the hunky guys will take it off ONE MORE TIME for the departing Dyan. This will be a show/contest to be remembered! Don't miss this one!

### Thursday, 4/27

The finals of the weekly talent search at Club 403 is tonight at 10:30 p.m. MC Roxanne Lee Love and a panel of celebrity judges will be name the best of the best!

Blue light specials at the Venture-N 'till 11:00 p.m.

"Men with Muscles" night at



Vera, I got this photo from the HPD mug books

Pacific Street. Show your valid gym card and get in free all night long! Be sure to see which shameless muscle men are in the cages of deca-dance!

The grill at the 611 Hyde Park Pub is lit from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. for their tasty hot beef, I mean steak night!

This and every Thursday, the Toy Box has open mike night. If you have any kind of an "act," stop in and try out your material. I have been going to this lastly, and find the variety of entertainment most enjoyable.

The Brazos River Bottom offers cheap burgers and hot chili tonight on the patio!

### Other Important Stuff

STAR 104.9 FM, Galveston's Adult contemporary radio station is hosting Splash Day 1995. Head down to the island on May 27 and have fun in the sun! If you would like more info, call 409/762-2100.

Coming in May, the Ripcord will be doing a Monday night Pool tournament! Chalk up your cue and get ready!

Brasil Cafe is located at 2604 Dunlavy @ Westheimer. This is a great place to sit back, relax, and enjoy a zillion different types of coffees or juices. There are so many little nooks and crannies to hid in!

The remodeling of the Lazy J is almost completed. My sources tell

me to look for a "coming out" party in the next few weeks!

Starting Sunday, 4/30, Gentry is be having a second weekly male strip contest starting at 10:00 p.m. Remember, all you wannabe wienie waivers, that Gentry pays \$75 for first, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third place prizes for each contest. Come on, wave it, shake it, just make it! The winners of Gentry's Sunday and Wednesday contests will advance to a six week "finals" contest!

Don't forget that Pacific Street has an indoor pulse machine!

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Barracks Glory Hole" and "Hung Improvements." Talk about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell!"

### Birthdays And Anniversaries

Happy Birthdays to: Dog Lips of the Wolf Pack, Scotty of Mary's, The Houston Voice's only Tad Nelson, Lorena the Bug Lady, Phil Dryer, and a belated to Shirley of Leather by Boots!

A happy anniversary to two dear friends, Pec and Greg!!

### Rodent Droppings

Well, the boys are still at it! This sibling rivalry has really gotten out of



NLA:H finally displays their new trophy case

you need him?

Don Shaw (Mary's): I heard you found love on a two way street! Also, you'd better send Jamie at the Phoenix in New Orleans a big thank you hug for bailing you out of jail! See, working at Mary's does give you some perks!

Jim W. (Texas Renegades): I heard you won the slut member of the year for the Renegades! I guess your political office hasn't slowed you down!

Marlene (Chances): What is this about you going down on Devin! Muff diving on a sister!

Eric Bush (NLA:H): Lose something in the street? Somebody in the Wolf Pack found it after it was discarded.

Pickles (the Club): So this time you fell asleep on the can again... but at Miss Kroger's! Honey, try sleeping at home or at work, but not at the grocery store!

Bob (MCCR): Either we are going to have to put you on our payroll, or Miss Havard is going too! Thanks for all your help!

John B. (Mr. Texas Drummer): I hear you couldn't remember your lines and had to lip sync them!! Also, I have some words of advice from Dean: "A microphone is like a cock, hold it close, stroke it, work your lips on it and it will serve you well!" Trust me, Dean should know!!

David B. (NLA:H): #1 is your newest title, but how (who) did you get (to get) those magic marker marks off your butt after the "best buns of the Run" contest at the Bunny Run II? Is there a sash with that?

Marvin (LVL): So many clubs, so little time! How will you ever decide which set of colors to wear now?

Dana (Texas Riders): This is how you make boiled eggs! Bring water to a boil, add eggs!

Don Gill: Congrats on your latest "title!"

Well, kids, my count down has started! The big day is May 13th, 10:00 p.m.!!

Huggs,  
Cuervolyn



At the Bunny Run...egg eating contest

hand! Ratrat and Harvey are learning to share their toys!

The usual disclaimer is in force!

Crystal (The Court): I heard you were back at the Club Houston eating Chicken... BBQ I think! Also, how did Rico taste?

Dennis (BRB): Fuzzy Head to match your fuzzy navel!

Mike G. (NLA:H): What (or was that who) did you run into in the maze at the Club Houston that stunted your growth?

Devin (Mary's): You should ride the bike, not let the bike ride you!

Texas Renegades (The entire Club): The new Mr. Texas Renegade is a woman... no? Where is Baber when



Wayne Gray at the keyboard every Friday and Saturday night at the Briar Patch



Perry and Jeff partying P.S

## Xerox employees to receive money toward insurance for partners

STAMFORD, Conn., Saturday, April 15 (AP)—Xerox Corp. will offer employees up to \$1,000 a year toward health-care insurance for domestic partners, becoming one of the largest companies to extend benefits for unmarried or same-sex couples.

The benefits, announced on Friday, are available May 1 through the LifeCycle Assistance Program, introduced in 1993 as a way to defray expenses not covered by the company's traditional benefit plans. The program first provided financial assistance for child care.

"We recognize that families have changed, and our benefits are becoming more flexible as we move toward more choice for

all Xerox people, whatever their family circumstances," said Brent Laymon, a Xerox spokesperson.

Xerox workers also will be able to receive subsidies for first-time home buying and for health insurance for dependent relatives, such as a parent, grandparent or sibling, who lives with them.

There are only about 100 private employers in the United States that offer some form of benefits to same-sex couples or unmarried heterosexual partners, according to a 1994 study by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans.

Others include Apple Computer Inc., Ben & Jerry's, Levi

Strauss & Co. and Lotus Development Corp.

Under the new benefit, Xerox employees can receive up to \$1,000 a year toward the purchase of insurance outside the company's health plans for dependent household members.

"We think it's a major step in the journey to eventual total inclusion in equality," said David Frishkorn, a spokesperson for Gay And Lesbian Employees at Xerox.

"Xerox is specifically including same-sex domestic partners in this and they're saying that they want to help us satisfy the need for medical coverage. ... This is a recognition of our families and our needs,"

he said.

Laymon said the company opted to offer financial assistance toward health insurance rather than covering domestic partners under the company's health insurance plans because of a continuing effort to control the company's health care costs.

Xerox expects to spend about \$300 million on health care benefits in 1995. Last year, the company spent approximately \$4,060 per employee in its HMOs and about \$5,600 per employee in traditional medical plans.

"We recognize that families have changed, but at a time of trying to contain the rise in health care costs, we can't add whole new groups of people to our

plans," Laymon said.

The company said it expects roughly 1600 employees to sign up for the extended assistance for health insurance and an additional 800 for the mortgage assistance program.

The mortgage assistance benefit provides \$2,000 or 2 percent of the home purchase price, whichever is less, Xerox said. First-time home buyers with at least five years service are eligible.

LifeCycle Assistance is counted as taxable income, and the lifetime maximum benefit is \$10,000. An employee can allocate up to \$2,000 a year on some combination of child care, mortgage assistance and health insurance.

## Maine gay rights supporters raise big bucks to fight referendum

AUGUSTA, Maine, Tuesday, April 11 (AP)—Gay rights supporters have raised five times more money than an opposition group that organized a referendum to exclude homosexuals from the Maine Human Rights Act.

Maine Won't Discriminate raised \$141,459 since April of last

year, compared to \$28,396 for Concerned Maine Families, according to campaign financial disclosure reports.

The referendum organized by Concerned Maine Families essentially asks voters whether gays and lesbians should be protected against discrimination

provided by the Human Rights Act.

Amy Pritchard, campaign manager for the gay rights group, credited Maine Won't Discriminate's funding success to an emphasis on fund raising and grassroots organizing.

Pritchard said 973 of the 979 contributions received by MWD in

the most recent three-month period were from Maine residents.

Carolyn H. T. Cosby, chairperson of Concerned Maine Families, questioned the validity of the figures.

"If those are Maine addresses and legitimate addresses, what you have to say is, the homosexual

community in this state is extremely wealthy and ought not to ask burdened taxpayers to give them special advantages," Cosby said.

Gov. Angus King and his wife, Mary J. Herman, have contributed \$1,000 to Maine Won't Discriminate.

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Please report errors and corrections to the HOUSTON VOICE - (713) 529-8490 (Issue 756)

## More than half of 104th congress bars discrimination against gays

By KIM I. MILLS  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Thursday, April 13 (AP)—More than half the members of the GOP-controlled 104th Congress have established office anti-discrimination policies covering homosexuals, according to a poll released by a gay rights lobby Thursday.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund surveyed all 535 members of the House and Senate and found 287 would confirm in writing that sexual orientation is not considered in the hiring, promoting or firing of employees in their congressional offices.

Slightly more members, 296, had such policies in the Democratic-led 103rd Congress, the organization found. But campaign fund officials said they were happily surprised to find as much support as they did, given the election of numerous conservative Republicans last November.

"It is encouraging that the critical bloc of moderate swing votes in this Congress supports the concept of equal treatment for gay Americans," said Elizabeth Birch, the group's executive director. "We often hear from a virulent minority of anti-gay extremists, but the majority of this Congress has taken a personal stand against discrimination."

When Congress tackles contentious gay political issues, she told a news conference, "We hope that the fair-minded majority will vote with their consciences when they come under pressure from extremists."

Federal civil rights laws do not forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation, although legislation has been introduced repeatedly in Congress to add that category.

Most of the 223 House members and 64 senators with office policies banning discrimination against homosexuals were Democrats, the survey found. Only 62 of the representatives and 24 of the senators were Republicans.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, do not include sexual orientation under their non-discrimination policies, but Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., does, the campaign fund said.

Last year, the group found 225 members House members and 71 senators who had such anti-discrimination policies. Of those, 58 were House Republicans and 24 were Senate Republicans.

The campaign fund began seeking anti-discrimination pledges from House members after a 1993 furor in which three Oklahoma congressmen—Republicans Ernest Istook and Jim Inhofe and Democrat Bill Brewster—told the Tulsa World newspaper that they would not hire gay people for their congressional staffs.

Then, Gingrich—whose half-sister, Candace, is openly homosexual—told The Washington Times that requiring a lawmaker to hire homosexuals, or at least barring a member from discriminating based on sexual orientation, could be "against his religion."

## Discharge set next week for lesbian army major

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Tuesday, April 11 (AP)—After more than two years of fighting her Army discharge because of a lesbian relationship, Maj. Joyce Walmer will leave military service next week, a post spokesperson said Tuesday.

Walmer's honorable discharge has been set for April 19, after she completes work that day, spokesperson Janet Wray said. She will remain on active duty with Headquarters Company, Combined Arms Center until then, Wray said.

"Between now and then, there is paperwork she has to accomplish," Wray said. Walmer has been taking care of "things that all military people have to do, administratively, when they're getting out of the Army."

Walmer has declined media inter-

views. She also has asked the post not to release details about her job to the media nor to disclose whether she lives on the post, Wray said.

The discharge will follow more than two years of legal wrangling over the Jan. 1993 order.

Walmer, 37, joined the Army in 1979. She was accused by a civilian woman of having a homosexual relationship in Jan. 1992 while serving at Fort Leavenworth, and discharge proceedings were initiated against her.

Walmer acknowledged to a board of inquiry that she had engaged in a homosexual relationship and said she was aware Army policy would require the board to recommend her discharge.

It did so in Dec. 1992, and the Army recommended her discharge the next month.

"A very great part of the mischief that vexes the world arises from words."

- Edmund Burke

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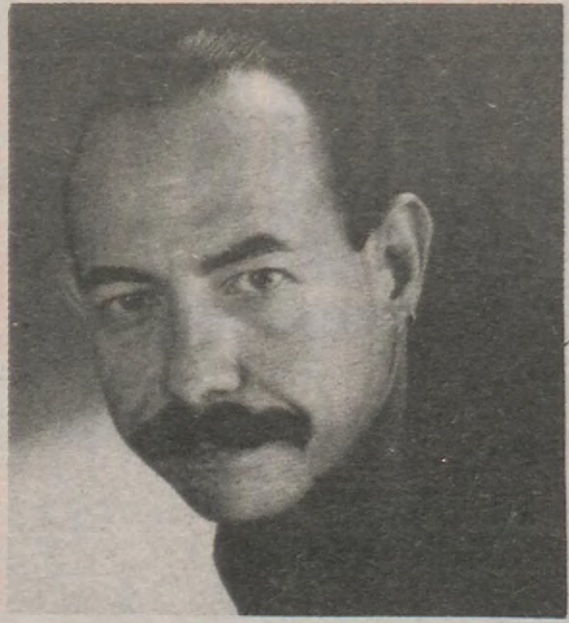


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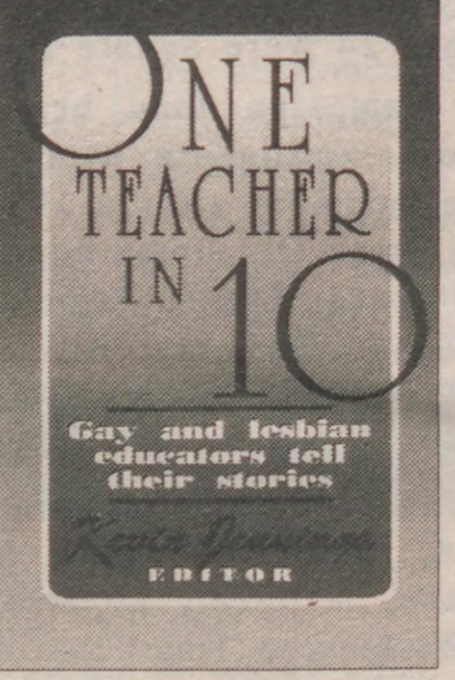
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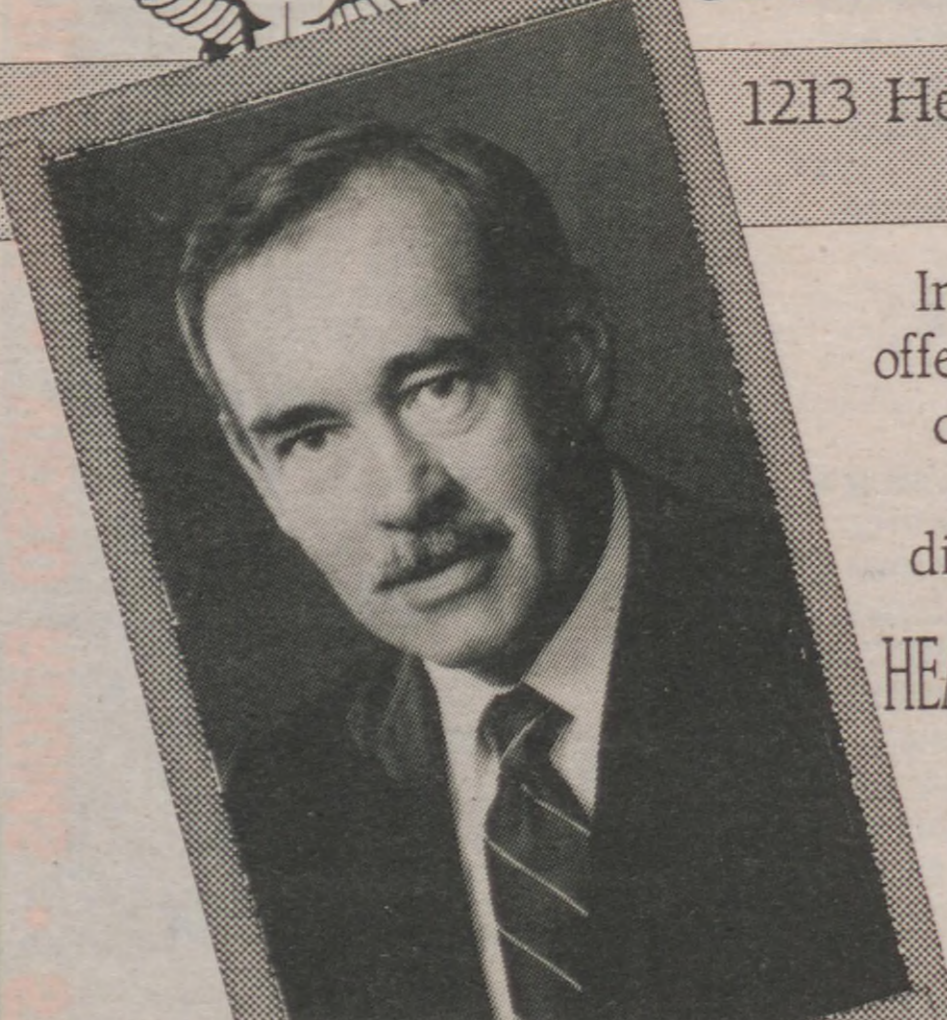
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# Puerto Rico students protest gay literature course

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Tuesday, April 11 (AP)—Religious student groups are protesting a new gay literature course at the state university, arguing that it violates their traditional values and promotes homosexuality.

Eliezer Sepulveda, the spokesperson for student protesters at the Cayey Campus of the University of Puerto Rico, said this week that they worried the course "shows only a pro-gay point of view" and eventually could become required for obtaining a degree.

"Gay and Lesbian Narratives" is being offered next semester in the English Department.

The Puerto Rican Association of University Professors on Tuesday approved a resolution defending the course, arguing it will help expand students' cultural horizons.

Spokesperson Professor Rafael Bernabe said gay literature classes, like courses in black and feminist literature, strive to bring to light the work of groups previously condemned to obscurity.

Opposition to the course "constitutes a threat to the civil rights of homosexuals," he said.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Luis Aponte Martinez, the U.S. commonwealth's top Catholic leader, did not object to the course but urged the university to create a religious literature course as well.

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Gentry in interviewing for bartenders and barbacks. Please apply in person from 2pm to 6pm at 2303 Richmond Ave. A recent photo is requested. No telephone calls please.

The Club Houston now hiring for all positions. Applications being accepted Thurs. - Tues., 10am - noon. 2205 Fannin. 659-4998

### WORK WANTED

**I'm Available:**  
Anything's easier with help. Call me and make your chores easier -- two hours to full time - it's your life make it easier. Reasonable and References, too. Ray - VoiceMail, 603-7586

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Mowing, cleaning flower beds, raking leaves, painting and a little carpentry. Charles (713) 528 - 1752

### ROOMMATES

SGWM wants to share 2/1 Richmond Square Apt. Pool and cable. Non-smoker, non-drug user. \$315 a month + 1/2 utilities (713) 520 - 7662.



### SERVICES

**PENIS-NIPPLE ENLARGEMENT - GAIN 1" - 3"** Professional vacuum pumps, instruction, permanent, safe. Enhance erection, ejaculation. Free brochures call:  
Dr. Joel Kaplan (312) 274-2191. Latest enlargement information 1-900-976-PUMP (\$2.95/min)

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Masters, slaves, bondage, w/s, Kinky Connections has the man you're looking for! Infoline (713) 802-9371 code 100#.

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Residential and small office cleaning: one time, weekly, biweekly or monthly. Dependable and affordable. References on request. Call Poncho at 862-2468 for a free estimate.

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Professional Personal Training - Christopher Graham, CPFT. Certified by the Baylor College of Medicine (713) 523-2489

#### COME HOME TO YOUR EROTIC BODY

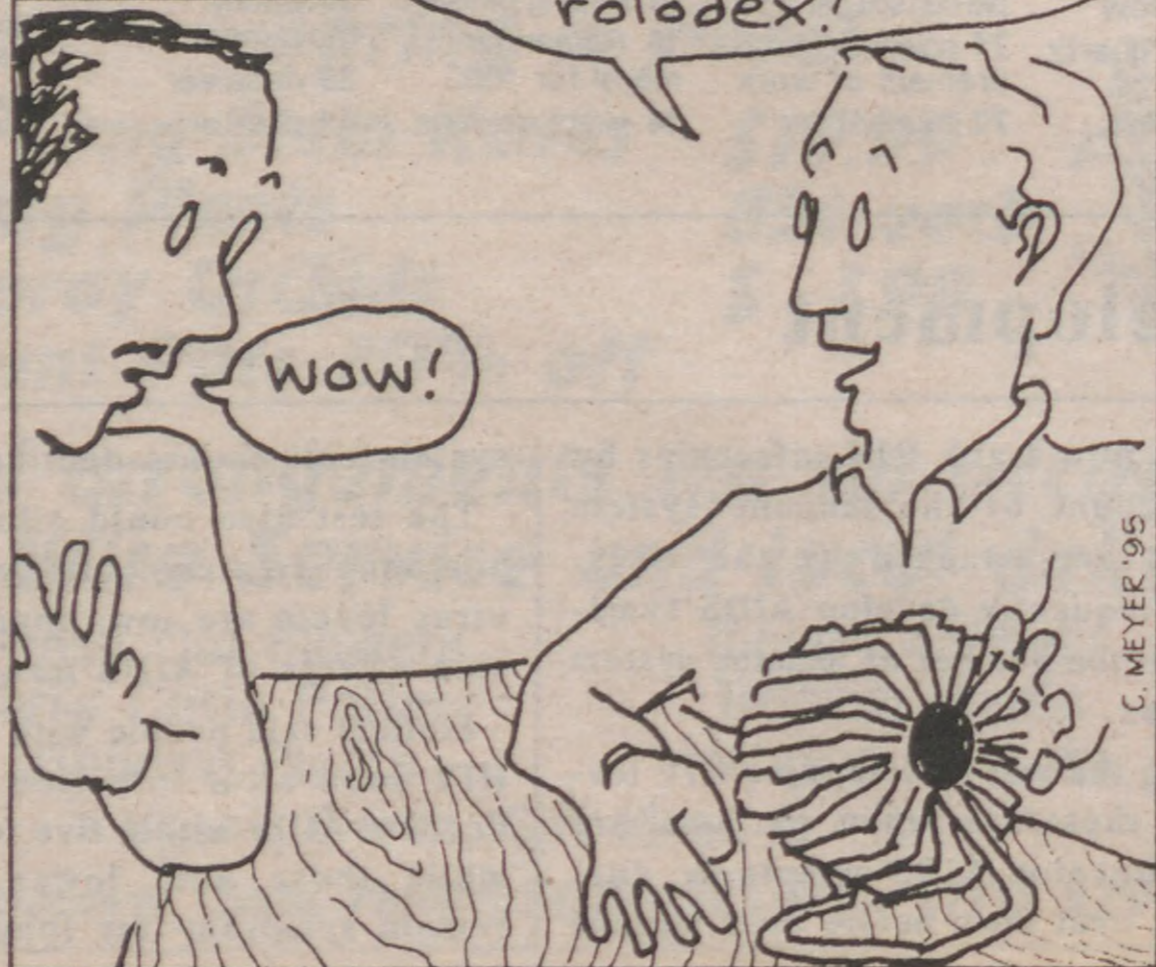
The Body Electric School of Oakland, CA presents a 2-day workshop to teach the healing power of erotic energy. This weekend experience celebrates erotic energies a primary life force. This process allows GAY/BI men to feel at home in their bodies, to connect with ALL of who they are, to let go of fear, shame and guilt and experience erotic energy as playful, sacred, energizing and transformative. CELEBRATING THE BODY EROTIC is taught in 5 countries and comes to Houston April 29-30, 1995. Tuition: \$275-- partial scholarships available for men in recovery and HIV. Information/Registration: Tom Crow (713) 528 - 6588.

"The ideal companion is one to whom you can reveal yourself totally and yet be loved for what you are, not what you pretend to be."

- Christopher Isherwood

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CHICKENS

Sure, I've got Peter's number - it's right here on my exhusband rolodex!



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ET JI JKPG GLEE  
EA ISSUER  
SPINE RR  
ERG PU  
IKO  
SKIS  
APT

# HOUSTON PERSONALS

BY MANFINDER

Houston **ADAM** GWM 21, 5'8, 145, brn/blugrn, iso another GWM 21-27 int in movies museums performing arts and having a good time- ☎37675

Houston **READY TO SETTLE DOWN:** looking for that good man, GBM iso someone ready to settle down, race not imp't, looking for a settled person- ☎38829

Houston **GWM 22**, new to area, 5'11, 153, iso a masc BM, or masc HM, ages 18-27, like dancing, movies, like being at home give me a call- ☎38831

Houston **LONG BLONDE HAIR:** David, like to meet younger guys 18-28 lean or musc and well end'd if ur white or latino I'M 37 long blond hair grn, if u like heavy metal and rock and roll, looking for a little brother type- ☎38876

NASA area **AUBURN BEARD:** Cuddly small bear, 38, 5'6, 140, must hairy chest very romantic, smoker occ drinker iso other masc men from all walks of life, WM slim to stocky build, friendship rel, or hot fun, like dinner movies, & sports events- ☎39175

Houston **HUNTIN' AND FISHER:** Anthony 26 WM 5'10, 175 brn/blu, cln cut, very mac, like outdoors, hunting and fishing, lkg for a WM 22-28, who is also masc cln cut mainstream who likes outdoors, works out, ☎39238

Houston **JOHN 20**, blond/blu, 140, lkg for someone attr and young under 27, very nice body, like to meet you, if ur interested lv a message and I'll get back to you- ☎39240

N. Houston **SEXY SENIORS:** 60 WM iso older virile guys who have daytime free time and a pad to blast off- ☎39287

Houston **QUALITY TIME:** older seeks younger men for qual time 49 tall hairy ht wt prop iso thin gdlkg guys 25-40 non smokers preferred- ☎39457

Houston **MUSCULAR AND HAIRY:** 29 5'11 160, musc tight body hairy beard must BM, well end'd iso WM 30-40 with a case of jungle fever- ☎39582

Houston **BI CD'S:** James, 26, 6'2, 195, brn long hair attr, lkg for someone under 30 bi cd or he/.she call anytime- ☎39622

Houston **HISPANIC OR PUERTO RICAN:** Jack, gdlkg GWM 35 6'2 220, iso HM or PR tps to have fun muscles facial hair end'd a plus thanks bye- ☎39710

Houston **FUN TIMES:** Kevin, 30 Asian Male, 5'11 195, very funny, like hisp or Asian guy for fun times give me a call- ☎39726

Houston **HISPANIC MALE:** Pedro, 23 Hisp male, 5'7 160, very attr like to work out movies, dinners club scene, lkg for WM or HM ages 25-35 if ur interested, call me- ☎39573

Houston **STORM NE** area iso WGM or GHM for poss friendship or more must be adventurous w/ sense of humor, open mind, interesting person ready to share my life with- ☎39743

Houston **ANTHONY, GWM 32**, gdlkg, 5'8, 155, semi musc, brn/grn, like to go out to bars now and then, iso fit gdlkg musc GWM give me a call- ☎39789 Houston **MARRIED** WM 42 5'9 170 brn/blu iso discreet GWM with masc athl build, 25-45 like to have some hot visits- ☎37216

Houston **LOOKING FOR A COWBOY:** Patrick, 5'7, 115, looking for a cowboy who likes to have fun, and listens to CW music, if ur interested- ☎37394

Houston **ANYTHING!!** Michael, int are anyone and anything, anthing goes- call me! ☎37401

Houston **SHORT AND SLIM:** middle aged top guy looking for a young short, slim btm, like to have fun go out, like energetic older fella, give me a call- ☎2922

Houston **PEN PALS:** Mark, 5'11 65, blond blu, cln shaven, 26, want to corr with other guys, meet new friends and go from there, lv a message and we'll go from there- ☎22559

Houston **NEW IN TOWN:** Ray, just recently moved here iso other guys, lv a message and I'll get back to you- ☎37478

Houston **SPICY THIRD:** Steven, and Frank 30 BM hes 24 HM looking for a little "sauce" to our relationship, if ur an attr man, and ur interested, masculine, hairy a plus give us a call- ☎37482

Houston **SWIMMERS BODY:** Mike, very youthful 37 yr old rebel, with dk exotic gd looks, swimmers body, smth 6'2 165, handsome, well educ succ professional, varied int, dancing sports iso WM 18-30 wants phys intimacy gdlkg blond/blu a plus- ☎37566

Houston **LATINO DUDES:** David, looking for latino dudes, te gusta chapar, tenga grande, if ud like to have some fun with me lkg for the ONE! hope to hear from you soon- ☎37596

Houston **PETER 25, 5'9, 140**, brn/brn, iso guys 22-32 who want to have a good time, bottom looking for a well endowed top for a good time-interested give me a call- ☎37611

Houston **CULTURALLY EDUCATED**, 21, GWM 5'9, 145, brn/blu grn, iso GWM, 21-27, must be cult educ, friends first maybe more- ☎37675

Houston **ALTERNATIVE SIDE:** Edward 6'2 165, 30, attr masc long haired GWM who likes alternative side of the city like biking and outdoors, like slim guys 18-25 new to scene is cool, like to get together and explore life, give me a call- ☎37679

Houston **PLAYS WITH TOYS:** John, young 35, like to party and play with toys, give me a call Montrose area- ☎37734

Houston **HISPANIC MALE:** Abel 5'4 115 31 hisp male bottom iso WM, who likes to be catered to give me a call- ☎37754

Houston **SMOOTH BLONDE:** David, 5'9, 140 smooth body blond/blu iso men who want to have a good time get to know each other and see what happens- ☎37818

Galveston **BLONDE BTM:** WM, 31, 5'10, 150, blond/blu iso a hot top, age 20-35, give me a call- ☎37826

Houston **STRONG BONDING:** Ray, 41, BM, iso strong bonding with men of color, with a good tan, 18-30 lift wts, weigh 200-300 lbs give me a call- ☎37917

Houston **TEXAS A & M:** John, looking for a GAM 23-33, in the Houston/Austin area, I'm a grad student at Texas A & M 30, 5'11 brn curly hair/blu 225, give me a call- ☎37968

Houston **FRIEND AND TEACHER:** Jason, BM, 5'9, 160, mid 30s, iso friend and teacher with no strings, pref masc macho, like reading cooking movies and fun, lets bond- pls call masc only- ☎37992

Houston **PROFESSIONAL ATTORNEY:** Steven, GWM prof'l attorney, looking for a good top man, non smoking yuppie, who likes the physical - give me a call- ☎38474

friendships with men of color if you are built like a football player 18-35, give me a call-like to get together, short hair shaved heads a plus- super muscular build! ☎36594

Houston **LEATHER AND LACE:** Danielle, like all kinds of good things, 38, gdlkg well built masc men like leather and lace, like to have a good time and do twisted things if ur interested - Galleria area- ☎36501

Houston **BEDTIME STORIES:** Dave, 29, gdlkg brn/green 5'7 135 built, come over and tuck me in for the night- ☎35602

Houston **SLIM BUILD:** David, Asian 24, 5'9 140, go to movies, dining out iso someone under 35 slim to med build, give me a call if ur interested- ☎35619

Houston **FOURTH FOR BRIDGE:** Thomas, WM looking to get with someone who wants to have fun, like playing cards, monopoly, or watching tv, smoker, drink occasionally, interested- ☎35640

Houston **BIG BLACK MEN:** Glenn, SW area iso a few good big black men 200+ linebacker build to start a club called black bears, big men who like to socialize, watch games on tv big men admirers ☎35703

Houston **POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP:** 52 yr old tp guy iso btm might be int in a relationship, like arts, dancing theatre, if ur looking for a rel, give me a call- ☎2922

Houston **ATHLETIC PROFESSIONAL:** James, iso someone professional, athletic, WM, between 30-45, BM 28 5'6, 115, very smooth if ur interested in quiet times together- ☎31009

Houston **ALL AMERICAN BOY:** Seth, hands attr 5'11, 20 all amer boy iso others 20-29 masc appearance, discreet attr professional give me a call- ☎35808

College Station **GM 23** looking for someone int in camping outdoors haveing a good time poss rel- ☎35811

Houston **GBM, 20**, like to hook up with other BM around the same age give me a call- ☎35820

Houston **TJ 29 5'7** 150 short blond, athl masc toned, end'd, iso guys 20 - 30 want to get together and have a good time liek to have fun safely, thanks bye- ☎35847

Houston **BLONDE BTM:** Victor 31 WM 5'10 155 blond/blu, lkg for a gdlkg WM or HM between 18-32, btm iso tp- ☎35992

Houston **GREENWAY PLAZA AREA:** Dave, 29 WM, 5'7, 135, brn/grn, well end'd vers, if ur int in getting together give me a call- ☎36033

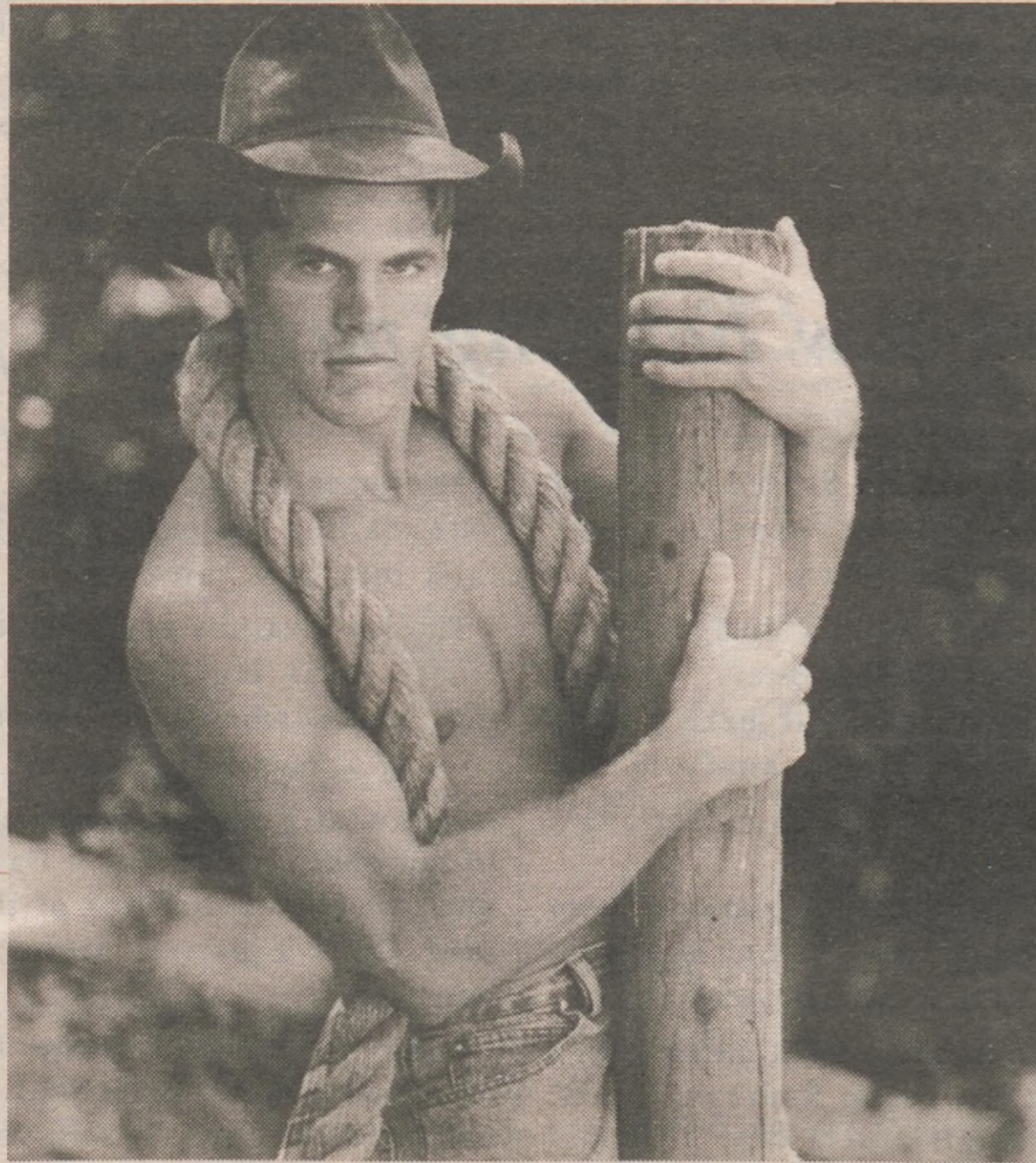
Houston **COZY NITES:** Raney 20 5'11 128, blond/grn, iso GWM or GHM 20-39, like dining out cozy nites, not really into bars, - smoker, give me a call if interested ☎35988

Houston **ASIAN MAN:** David, asian 26 5'9 148, looking for someone under 35 medium build, but not overweight- ☎35619

Houston **TWISTED FUN:** Mike, lkg for some twisted fun, lets see what happens- ☎29235

Gittings **HELP ME OUT OF THE CLOSET:** Married WM never been with a man, like to try 34, stocky, give me a try- ☎24592

Houston **CAMPING AND FISHING:** Alan, 28 5'4 blond blu, int in camping, fishing, movies, malls, like to meet 29-32; 5'9-6'3 well built masc- ☎1514



TO RESPOND TO THESE ADS AND 1,000'S MORE CALL:  
**1-900-407-GUYS**

Must Be 18+ AV. SF, CA \$1.99/Min. 415-281-3183

Houston **BLONDE ROCKER:** David, WM 5'11 blond/blu, iso some Hisp or WM for fun, early to late 20s, like to get to know me better, rock and roll and have a good time on spring break give me a call- ☎37109

Houston **SOUL AND SALSA** Steven and Frank, hisp btm Steven BM, sexy top, lkg for someone int in having a little fun, adding a little spice to our rel, if ur interested, give us a call- ☎37482

Houston **RAY 41**, Afr Amer, like to have sincere bonding and friendship with men of color 18-30, iso men into wifiting and powerlifting, into 200-300 lbs of u\muscles 5'5 + rock hard body, like to hear from blue collar guys 18-30- ☎38056

Galveston **GWM 31** 5'10, 150, blond/blu, looking for hot tops, 25-35 for a good time give me a call- ☎38330

Houston **YOU NAME IT:** David GBM iso prof'l GBM or GHM int in a long term rel, like reading, eating out, music, sports you name it, lv a number- ☎38443

Houston **TWO BUDDIES:** David and Tony two buddies looking for singles and couples, to est some qual friendship with, 2 gdlkg guys in their 20s and 30s, into good times, beach zoo and quiet evenings at home, iso 18-30 give us a call ☎38451

Galveston **RICKY** hot btm iso dom tp if ur interested give me a call- ☎38469 Houston **WANT A CUDDLER:** Archie, cute 41, 5'8 145, brn/blu, honest sincere caring, smoker, iso a cute guy 33-43 honest like outdoors, likes to watch movies and cuddler- interested give me a call- ☎36538

Houston **SUPER MUSCLES:** Ray, 41, BM, native to Houston, seeking strong

gay or bi men out there, write me! ☎37120

Houston **MUSCULAR DADDY:** Mike, 42, fit musc work out reg, iso another guy fit good body musc, who is int in daddy/boy scenes, nothing real heavy, but interesting, lv a message - ☎37139

Houston **TIGHT BODIES:** 30 GWM 5'7 165, tight body iso hlthy body builders for weekend travel, or just hanging out by poolside, racially open, pls call- ☎37280

Houston **NEW TO HOUSTON:** iso cute serious man, 30-43 homebody, 41, 5'18 145, brn/blu honest sincere and caring, smoke drink occasionally, like to kiss and cuddle- ☎35306

Houston **FUN AND MORE:** Masc GWC seeks sim or singles for fun or more! - ☎35368

Houston **YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT!** Dave, 29 gdlkg WM Greenway Plaza area, give me a call if u want what I want 5'7 brn/grn- ☎35388

**LEATHER LINE**

**DOMINATES/SUBMISSIVES**

**1-900-740-GUYS**

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- To record your personal ad CALL: 1-800-546-MENN(6366).
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- Write down your new voice mailbox number.
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## HOW TO MEET THEM

- To respond to ads CALL: 1-900-407-GUYS and at the main menu: Press 3 to respond to ads you like. Press 2 to browse the latest ads sorted by area code. Press \* to pick-up new messages left in your mailbox. A busy signal = Men on the line. Call again later.
- Comments or Questions call 1-415-281-3183 24hrs.

## College Republicans protest Mel White's speech at University of Wisconsin

By A. MAN WHO WROTE SPEECHES FOR TELEVISION EVANGELISTS BEFORE DISCLOSING HE WAS GAY

FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

GREEN BAY, Wis., Thursday, April 13 (AP)—Students at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay object to their fees paying for an appearance disclosing he was gay.

Paying \$4,000 for Mel White's May 4 speech is too much when budget problems are forcing Green Bay to close its children center, said Nyle Neta, treasurer of a campus College Republicans group.

"It's fiscally inappropriate," Neta argued, saying the protest "is not an anti-homosexual cause."

Senior Kurt Anderson, a spokesperson for a homosexual organization that helped arrange the speech, objects to the objection.

"What they're really saying is they're against gay and lesbian students," Anderson, co-chairperson of the 10 Percent Society, said. "They don't want the lifestyle discussed."

"The campus, overall, is very ignorant of gay and lesbian issues," he said. "A lot of education needs to take place."

White has criticized the religious right for intolerance toward homosexuals. He published his autobiography, "Stranger at the Gate: To be Gay and Christian in America," last year.

White wrote speeches for Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Billy Graham and Oliver North before publicly acknowledging he was gay in 1991.

Mark Gorney, program coordinator for the Office of Student Life, another sponsor of the speech, said there are no plans to cancel it.

Student fees and revenues—not tax dollars—will pay for White's appear-

ance, Gorney said.

The College Republicans, with about 65 members, has opposed the speech by handing out leaflets and setting up campus information booths, said senior Kenny Patenaude, editor of the group's newspaper, The Shark.

In February, White began a hunger strike after being arrested and jailed in Virginia Beach, Va., for trespassing at Christian Broadcasting Network headquarters.

He wanted CBN head Robertson to speak out against violence against gays.

## Oregon court upholding law banning passage of anti-gay ordinances

By CHARLES E. BEGGS

FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

SALEM, Ore., Wednesday, April 12 (AP)—A state law forbidding cities and counties from passing anti-gay-rights ordinances was upheld today by the Oregon Court of Appeals.

A three-judge panel unanimously agreed with Marion County Circuit Judge Al Norblad that the state Legislature had authority to pre-empt local governments on the subject of sexual orientation.

Voters in 27 cities and counties have endorsed anti-gay-rights ordinances backed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance.

OCA spokesperson Scott Lively said the decision will be appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court.

"We are in profound disagreement with the Court of Appeals," Lively said. "We think this will make a large number of people very angry in this state, to have their votes discounted."

The OCA argued that the state law is not valid because it runs afoul of local governments' home rule powers.

But the Court of Appeals, citing a 1978 ruling of the Oregon Supreme Court, said the Legislature can pre-empt local authority in areas of "substantive policy."

The appeals court said there is no dispute that the law passed two years ago falls into that category.

The law "validly and effectively pre-empts local legislation of the kind that it describes," the court said.

"The opinion says the Legislature meant what it said and had the authority to say what it meant," said David Fidanque, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon.

"The proposals by the OCA are unconstitutional and could never be enforced anyway," said Fidanque. The ACLU has fought many of the OCA measures.

The appeals court said a law does not have to regulate something in a particular way to express substantive policy.

The court also rejected an argument that the law improperly precludes local voters from using initiative powers to pass city and county laws.

The court said while it might agree that the Legislature cannot prevent voters from initiating state laws, the ban would not apply to the law in question because it applies only to local legislation.

Two statewide measures sponsored by the OCA to ban specific civil rights protections for homosexuals have been rejected by Oregon voters.

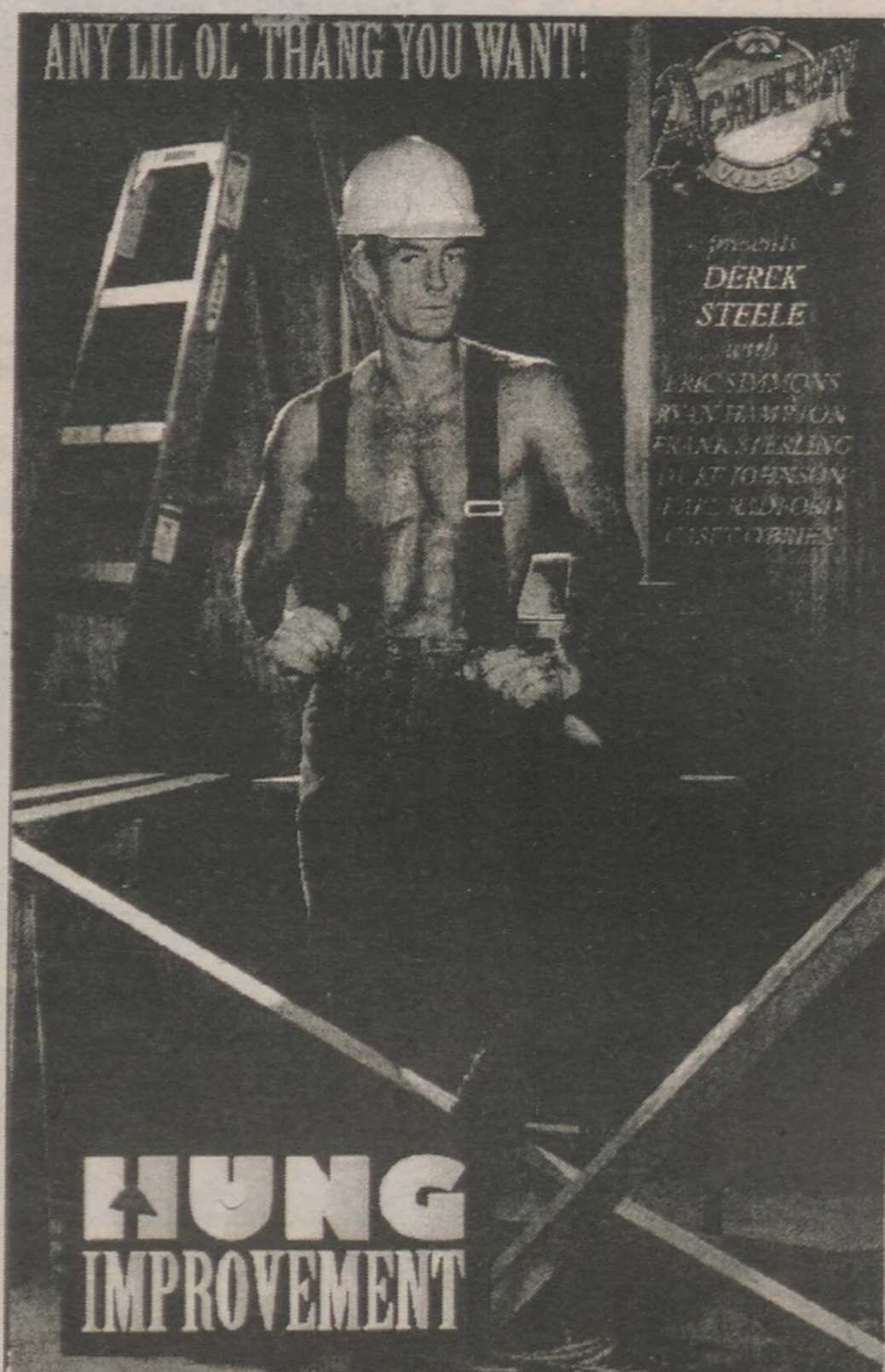
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1pm - 1 am



# Houston VOICE Personals

## GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUDDIES

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

## SERIOUS DISCIPLINARIAN NEEDED

Out of control mid 30's, white male seeks serious minded older male to administer must needed discipline. Ad 25793

## LOOKING FOR LIKE/PROF. FOR LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

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

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

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

### TO PLACE a Houston Voice Personal Ad --

Come to our offices at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105.

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

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

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

**TO ANSWER AN AD BY MAIL:** Each ad has a five digit code. Write your response and seal it in a stamped envelope with the five digit code in the address place.

## GWM SEEKS HOT GAY FUN-NO STRINGS!

Cuddly bear, 46, HWP, DDF, LDNS looking for hot safe fun times...No strings attached. Ad 25682

## FREE TO LOVE

GWM, handsome, sexy, charming, br/bl, 5'10", 175#, 40, athletic, mature, real, in touch with life and down to earth, and interested in passionate true love with another masculine handsome man who is also in touch with his feelings, knows what he wants and how to get it. Ad 25690

## HAIRY DADDY SEEKS BOY

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

## LOOKING FOR VARIOUS SERIOUS BOTTOMS

Like to submit, be passive? Like to service? Like following instructions? Like B & D? Naughty boy lately? Do you know your place with an aggressive hot top? Your choice. If GM, 25-40, fit, clean, healthy, easy going, bright, nice guy, then I am expecting your call. Ad 25653

## FLIGHT ATTENDANTS???

Fly to Atlanta and enjoy some safe, hot fun with a romantic, charming, handsome 39-year old endowed top with a mustache and baby blue eyes. Ad 25676

## PLAYS WITH TOYS

Slim trim toy expert seeks experienced partners. Respond by letter only. Ad 25689

## NEED DADDY YOU NEVER REALLY HAD?

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

## HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

Mid 30's, professional, healthy, sincere, good sense of humor. Seeking other HIV+ men for friendship but I'm primarily interested in entering a serious relationship with an honest, caring and loving man. Ad 25632

## FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

Affectionate older GWM seeks a young man for discreet and safe fun. I like to please young men, especially if they are slender, boyish and smooth. DDF please. Ad 25693

## WANTED:

part-time houseboy/servant who knows how to be of service. Master is 44, 5'9", 180lbs, demanding, lives in Montrose. Ad 25134

## BROWN BOYS BEWARE!

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

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

## REWARD IF FOUND

GW or HM, masculine, HWP, goodlooking, spontaneous, fun-loving, adventurous, wild at heart not actions. If found call this GWM, 31, HIV+ 8 yrs asymptomatic, above average looks, HWP, likes nature, movies, exercise, animals, fun excursions. Ad 25640.

## GO FOR IT!

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

## SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

New to the gay scene. Recently divorced. Looking to make new friends/acquaintances. I am a WM early 50's but people say I look 40, DDF, non-smoker, permanently employed. I am average looking, tall and slim, hazel eyes, blond hair. I like quiet evenings, enjoy cooking, gardening, country and western music, the beach, and the outdoors. If interested, respond to Ad 25674.

## GWF COUPLE LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

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

## QUEER WHITE BOY

GWM, 39, 5'11", 160lbs., wants to meet straight acting GW/HM liberal Democrat for companionship and maybe more. I'm blue collar, very straight acting, laid back, lean, muscular, fearless. I enjoy the outdoors, animals, drinking beer, rock and roll, quality smokes, partying with friends, occasional bar hopping and quiet evenings at home. Ad 25651

Place your sealed response and \$2.00 in an envelope and mail it to us, we will affix a mailing label and the intended person will receive your response. This service costs \$2.00 plus postage per numbered envelope, and is available only with the Houston Voice Personals.

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

G - Gay

M - male; F - female;

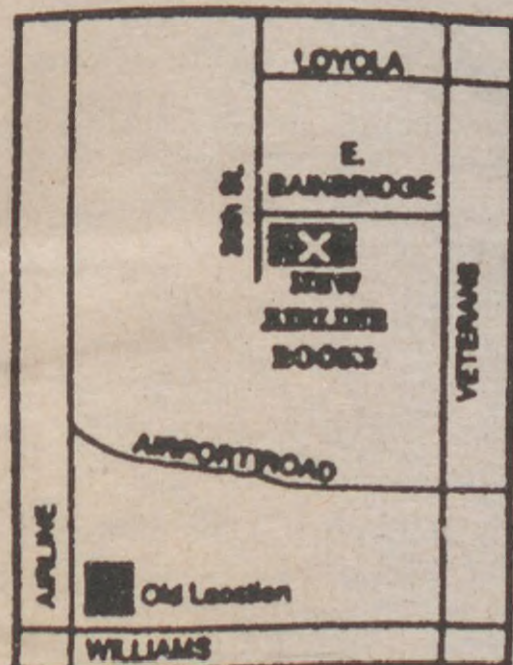
W - white; B - black; H - hispanic

HWP - height, weight, proportionate

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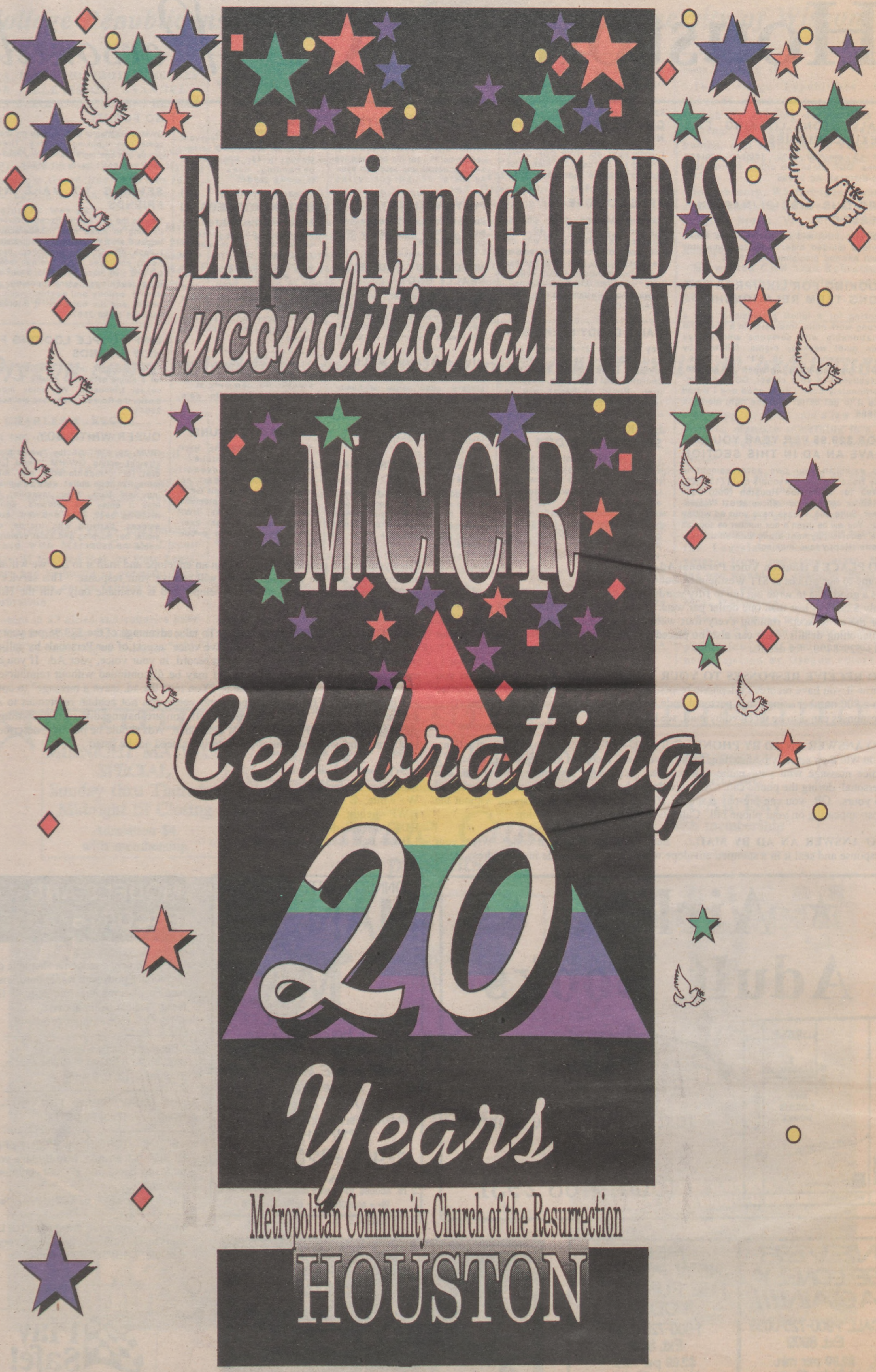
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