



INSIDE



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez, Jr., left, has sent a letter of apology to Texas Secretary of State Henry Cuellar, right, after private investigators hired by Sanchez's lawyer told Cuellar's friends and family he is gay.

Page 2



Bunnies on the Bayou helped gay Houstonians celebrate Easter weekend. Check out our photos and see if you recognize any of your furry-eared friends.

Page 26



Gay-friendly churches in the Montrose area are planning a variety of events in the coming weeks, including an Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service on April 24 at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, above.

Page 12

Committee approves sodomy repeal bill



Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, left, with Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives Pete Laney, right, talk during the committee assignments Jan. 17 in Austin. The bill Danburg authored to repeal the state's sodomy law passed a committee vote 7-2 Wednesday and now awaits a vote by the full House.

Danburg's legislation to strike down homosexual conduct law now faces full House vote

by WENDY K. MOHON and GIP PLASTER

Legislation to repeal Section 21.06 of the state's Penal Code, also known as the sodomy law, was approved by a Texas House Committee Wednesday in a 7-2 vote. The next step is a vote on the floor of the full House of Representatives.

Sponsored by State Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, House Bill 687 is aimed at striking down the homosexual conduct law which prohibits sodomy between same-sex couples. Texas decriminalized sodomy, defined by the law as anal or oral sex, for heterosexuals in 1973.

The 7-2 vote crossed party lines with five Democrats and two Republicans favoring the bill. Reps. John Shields, R-San Antonio, and Robert Talton, R-Pasadena, cast the only dissenting votes. Following the committee approval, Danburg told the Associated Press she was proud of her fellow legislators for not making the vote a partisan issue.

> Continued on Page 6

Who has the president's ear?

Bush appoints anti-gay ambassador after news of a second openly gay advisor angers conservatives

by PENNY WEAVER

WASHINGTON—Days after President Bush announced the appointment of an openly gay man as AIDS czar, the Pentagon has acknowledged that a second gay Republican, an avid opponent of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," is screening job applicants for Bush's defense secretary.

But the pro-gay news that has some prominent conservatives fuming was followed by word that three anti-gay conservatives had received prominent government appointments.

A former senator who led the fight against gays in the military was nominated to be U.S. ambassador to Germany, and two anti-gay ministers were named to an advisory panel on the president's faith-based funding initiative.

Stephen Herbits is the second gay man to face the spotlight in the Bush administration in less than a week. He is working on a contract basis as a "special assistant" to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, not as an

> Continued on Page 7



On the one hand, prominent Bush administration posts have gone to (left, clockwise from bottom) two openly gay men, Pentagon aide Stephen Herbits and AIDS Czar Scott Evertz, and gay-friendly Massachusetts Gov. Paul Cellucci. But on the other hand, high-profile roles have also gone to anti-gay conservatives (right, clockwise from bottom) Rev. Lou Sheldon, former Indiana Senator Dan Coats and former Green Bay Packer Reggie White.

INSIDE

NEWS

National News	4
Police news	5
Health news	11
Church events	12
Quote/unquote	19

VOICES & ECHOES

Crain: We deserve blame for Jesse	8
Varnell: We don't deserve blame for Jesse	9
Minicucci: High cost of collusion	10
Murphy: Are you a slut?	10
Ron Williams cartoon	8
'Dykes to Watch Out For'	9

OUT ON THE BAYOU

Artistic drive—Art Cars on parade	15
WorldFest is next weekend	15
Bayou Calendar	17
'B,B&B' is delightful, musical romp	18
Eating Out at Coffee Caravan	20
Home Front: Prep before you paint	21
Community Calendar	22-23
Bunnies on the Bayou photos	26
Occasions	26
My Stars!	27

CLASSIFIEDS 24-25

Issue 1069

**houston
voice**

All material in Houston Voice is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced without the written consent of Houston Voice. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, writers and cartoonists published herein is neither inferred or implied. The appearance of names or pictorial representation does not necessarily indicate the sexual orientation of that person or persons.

Houston Voice accepts unsolicited editorial material but cannot take responsibility for its return. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit any submission. All rights revert to authors upon publication. Guidelines for freelance contributors are available upon request.

Houston Voice
500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200
Houston, TX 77006
713-529-8490

Candidate apologizes for accusations of homosexuality

Gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez, Jr. apologizes to Texas Secretary of State Henry Cuellar over investigators saying Cuellar is gay

by GIP PLASTER

Wealthy oilman and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez, Jr. has sent a letter of apology to Texas Secretary of State Henry Cuellar after private investigators hired by Sanchez's lawyer, who was investigating the origin of a reportedly threatening letter, told Cuellar's friends and family he is gay.

Sanchez stopped short, however, of apologizing to Cuellar for alleging that he wrote the threatening letter to the gubernatorial hopeful.

That letter has not been released to the press and its existence cannot be confirmed.

Cuellar responded that Sanchez needs to also apologize to Cuellar's family and publicly admit that he does suspect Cuellar of writing the letter.

Meanwhile, the incident has left at least one gay and lesbian activist wondering why the allegation that Cuellar is gay was so inflammatory.



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez, Jr., left, has sent a letter of apology to Texas Secretary of State Henry Cuellar, right, after private investigators hired by Sanchez's lawyer told Cuellar's friends and family he is gay.

Character assassination?

An April 14 Associated Press report of the incident includes a quote from Gov. Rick Perry's spokeswoman, Kathy Walt, who calls the incident "character assassination."

"The governor has said that he believes that whoever was the genesis of the whisper campaign—the character assassination of Secretary of State Henry Cuellar—ought to step forward and publicly apologize to the secretary and his family," Walt said, according to the Associated Press.

Walt, however, denied that she used that term. "That's not the term I used," Walt told the Houston Voice Wednesday. "I think these comments are best left to Secretary Cuellar. There were a whole lot of other allegations, and you're zeroing in on just one of the comments."

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas said that if Walt called the accusation that Cuellar is gay character assassination, her comment was "unfortunate."

"It's certainly sad to see that term used in the way Ms. Walt is reported to have used it," she said. "We still live in a society where even a suspicion that you're gay is seen as somehow harmful to people's reputations. It shouldn't be any big deal who you are."

Hardy-Garcia said she does not know if Cuellar, who is married and has children, is gay.

"We have a policy of not talking about people's sexual orientations unless they want us to. We know nothing about Henry Cuellar's sexual orientation. If he's gay, I hope he'll come out someday. If he's not, it shouldn't be any big deal that someone said he is."

Sexual orientation is less important than job performance, she said.

"What difference would it make either way? And you know, I've actually heard

> Continued on Page 13

Hate groups on the rise across South, report says

Southern states lead country in amount of racist, anti-gay groups

by ERIN O'BRIANT

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Hate groups that target gays and members of racial, religious and ethnic minorities are on the rise in the U.S., and Southern states lead the nation for those groups, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center's Spring 2001 *Intelligence Report*.

The organization, which gathers data and pursues litigation against a variety of hate groups, including the Ku Klux Klan,

neo-Nazis, and members of the racist Christian Identity movement, reported a 10 percent increase in the number of hate groups over last year.

Alabama and Florida harbor the most hate groups in the country, with 39 each, while Georgia comes in fourth with 30, according to the SPLC report. Texas ranks third in the nation for hate groups.

Anti-gay sentiment is part of "almost all" hate groups' ideology, said Joe Roy, director of SPLC's Intelligence Project, which monitors the groups.

"If it's not on their Web site or in their writings, if you ask the questions you'll almost always get some kind of anti-gay reply," he said.

Roy pointed to Rev. Fred Phelps' Westboro Baptist Church in Kansas as the most actively anti-gay group in the country.

Jay Kaiman, southeast director of the Anti-Defamation League, which also tracks hate groups, agreed that anti-gay rhetoric is prevalent.

"Most of the rhetoric that we see is anti-Semitic, anti-gay and lesbian, anti-government, and obviously anti-minority," he said.

Kaiman said some of the groups espouse sexist rhetoric as well, but that the issue is complicated by the rise of female members in hate groups.

Roy and Kaiman both said Christian hate



Joe Roy, director of the SPLC's Intelligence Project, said most of the hate groups the organization tracks believe homosexuality is 'punishable by death.'

groups use the Bible to justify anti-gay rhetoric.

"Most of them see [being gay] as punishable by death," said Roy.

But Christian-based groups haven't cornered the market on hate.

The *Intelligence Report* noted that racist neo-pagan religions such as Odinism con-

> Continued on Page 13

INFO

Southern Poverty Law Center

400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-264-0286
www.splcenter.org

Anti-Defamation League

3490 Piedmont Rd NE,
Suite 610
Atlanta, GA 30305-4809
404-262-3470
www.adl.org



THE FUSION OF DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY.

Don Massey Cadillac



2001 CATERA

\$ **389** /mo+tt&l*

OR

\$ **25,690** **

*2001 Catera, \$32,940 MSRP, \$999dn plus tt+l, 8.75%apr, 35 payments of \$389, 1 final payment of \$16,470 or pay \$250 disposal fee, w.a.c.
**\$32,940 MSRP-\$5000 dealer cash, \$2250 dmc discount, tt&l extra

Come see the new exciting
2002 ESCALADE IN STOCK
 Ready for delivery!



THE FUSION OF DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY.

Don Massey Cadillac
 2520 Main, Houston • 713-874-0900
Your caring, servicing, selling master dealer

SALES HOURS:
 7:30am-6:00pm Monday-Friday
 9:00am-6:00pm Saturday

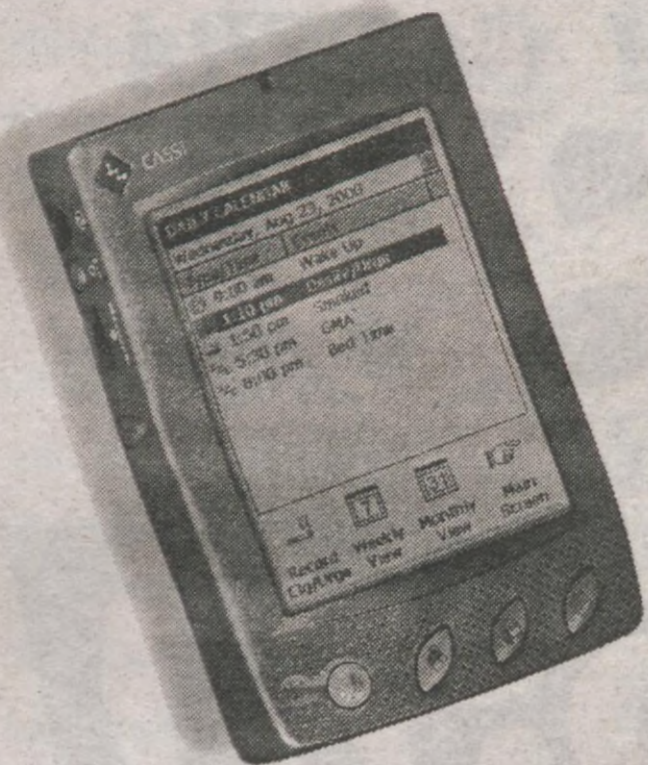
SERVICE HOURS:
 7:30am-6:00pm Monday-Friday

(photos for illustration purposes only)

Do You Want to Quit Smoking? Project CASSI

Smoking Cessation Research Study
Use a hand-held computer and
nicotine patch to quit smoking

Call today 713-792-2265



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON
CANCER CENTER
Making Cancer History™

Same Sex Couples and their entire household

Now qualifying for great health benefits for
ONE LOW MONTHLY FEE!

Save up to **80%** on:

• Dental • Prescription • Vision • Chiropractic care

⊙ Pre-existing conditions okay ⊙

⊙ No waiting ⊙

www.HPhorizons.com • 281.610.4417 • career opportunities available

Ray Regina Jeffrey Gladys Rob

For Auto, Home & Health

Your
Community
Insurance
Agency!

ROB SCHMERLER & STAFF

713.661.7700

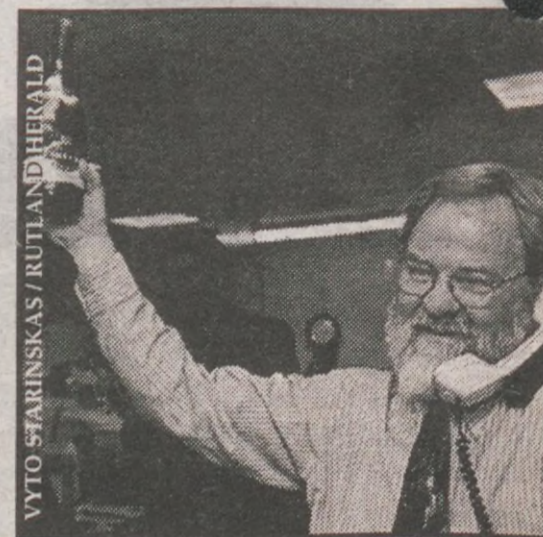
Business Insurance • Workers Compensation
Group Health • Life Insurance & much more

www.SchmerlerAgency.com 6575 W. Loop South, Ste. 185 Bellaire, TX 77401

around the nation

VT paper receives Pulitzer for editorials in support of civil unions

RUTLAND, Vt. (AP)—Rutland Herald editorial writer David Moats was awarded a Pulitzer Prize on Monday, recognized with journalism's highest honor for the editorials he wrote in support of civil unions for same-sex couples. The Herald, a family-owned newspaper in Vermont's second largest city with a circulation of 22,000, was a consistent supporter of gay marriage, which metamorphosed into the legal parallel of civil unions in the Legislature. "I'm flying high," Moats said after the announcement as champagne was uncorked and passed around the newsroom. Moats and the newspaper backed the law despite months of debate and opposition that seemed to capture the entire state's attention like no other in generations. Although the newspaper endorsed broad rights for gay couples, it also recognized what it described as the political realities that Vermont might not be ready for including same-sex couples into the state's marriage statutes. Rutland, although generally considered a Democratic city, is a socially conservative community and demonstrated that through fairly widespread opposition to civil unions. Three of four state representatives from the city who voted in favor of civil unions were defeated in their bids for re-election last fall.



David Moats, editorial writer for the Rutland Herald, received journalism's highest honor this week for editorials he penned in support of Vermont's civil unions law.

Cross-dressing candidate drops out of race to unseat gay AZ mayor

TEMPE, Ariz.—Opponents of openly gay Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano have succeeded in collecting enough signatures to order a recall election, but the one candidate thought likely to run against Giuliano has withdrawn after he said he was a cross-dresser, the Phoenix New Times reported. Rich Bank, 55, who had twice run unsuccessfully for city council, ended his campaign two days after the newspaper inquired about a presentation on cross-dressing he made several years ago to an Arizona State University psychology class. Bank said he told the class about cross dressing, but added that he exaggerated his own personal experience with it. Bank said he had already been considering pulling out of the race because of a lack of public interest and difficulty in raising contributions. A.J. LaFaro, chair of Citizens to Recall Neil Giuliano, said that his group is not recruiting candidates for the election, and the group has not endorsed a candidate.

Mother of lesbian mauling victim in CA files wrongful death lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO—The mother of a lesbian lacrosse coach who was killed by her neighbors' dogs has filed a wrongful death suit against the dog owners and the owners of the building, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. "[Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel] never expressed any remorse or any sorrow to the family, loved ones or friends in any shape or form. I couldn't think how two human beings can be so loathsome," Ed Pamela Whipple-Kelly, the victim's mother, said. The suit, which seeks unspecified damages, charged that the dogs' caretakers and the building owners both had a duty to protect tenants from hazards. Sharon Smith, the partner of Diane Whipple, has also filed a wrongful death suit, though its status under California law is uncertain. Knoller, who was walking the dogs when they escaped and killed Whipple, was expected to be released on \$2 million bond.

CA task force recommends schools adopt gay-friendly textbooks

SACRAMENTO (AP)—California schools should have textbooks covering sexual orientation issues including homosexuality to increase the sensitivity of students to gay classmates, a state task force recommended last week. The panel released a report suggesting ways schools can address a California law aimed at preventing discrimination against students who are gay or thought to be gay, which took effect in January 2000. "This is not about sex. This is about preventing young people from being victims," state school Superintendent Delaine Eastin told the San Francisco Chronicle. Among other recommendations, the panel suggested that schools find "culturally sensitive" books that talk about sexual orientation and mention "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender historical figures, events, concepts and issues."

IN teacher who slurred gay student with candy heart won't return

CROWN POINT, Ind. (AP)—A history teacher accused of giving a student a candy Valentine's Day heart with a gay slur written on it will not return to the classroom prior to his planned retirement, school officials said. Donald E. Miller, a teacher for 34 years, was accused in a lawsuit of scratching a Valentine message off of a candy heart, writing "fag" on it and giving it to a male eighth-grade student in front of other students. Superintendent H. Steve Sprunger said last week that Miller, who has been on administrative leave with pay since the boy's parents filed suit in mid-March, has ended his teaching duties and will not return to Taft Middle School. Sprunger said Miller, his union representative and the school administration agreed last week that the teacher would retire rather than face possible firing.

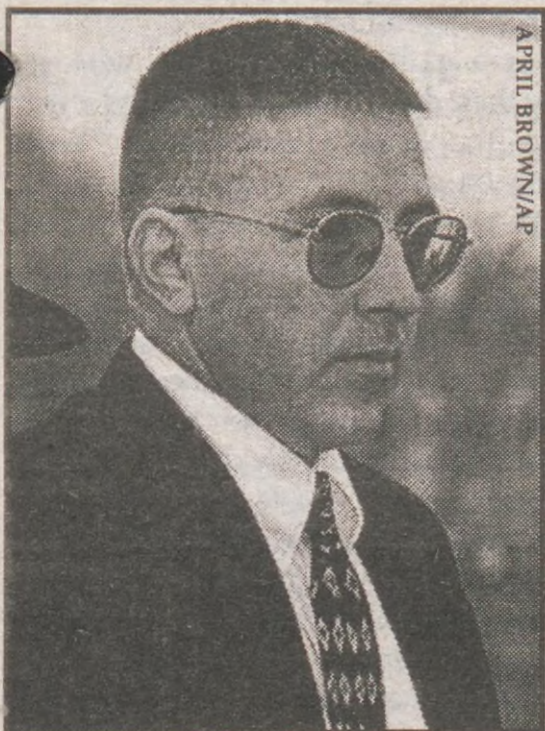
—From staff and wire reports



For more news, visit
www.houstonvoice.com

police beat

Man enters guilty plea in boy's rape, death in exchange for life



APRIL BROWN/AP

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP)—A man charged with masterminding the fatal rape of a 13-year-old boy pleaded guilty Wednesday in a deal with prosecutors that spares his life. Davis Don Carpenter, 39, was charged in the Sept. 26, 1999, rape and death of Jesse Dirkhising. Prosecutors said Carpenter diagrammed an attack carried out by Carpenter's lover, Joshua Brown. The state sought execution for both men, but Brown was sentenced to life in prison without parole last month after being found guilty of first-degree murder and rape. Carpenter's deal, approved Wednesday by Circuit Judge David Clinger, gave him the same life penalty on the murder count and another life sentence on the rape count. Brown, 23, told police that he bound Jesse with duct tape and raped him with a variety of objects, including food, but never intended for the seventh-grader to die. Medical examiners said Jesse died of positional asphyxia—being unable to breathe because of the way he was bound on Brown's bed. Also cited was an overdose of an anti-depressant: Jesse was too drugged to move to a position where he could catch his breath.

A judge approved a guilty plea by Davis Don Carpenter on Wednesday sparing him a death sentence in the rape and murder of a 13-year-old boy.

WI man claims self defense in killing of 'fag' in his apartment

WATERLOO, Wisc.—A 21-year-old man was killed in the apartment of a man he was having sex with in what gay activists are calling a hate crime, the *Capital Times* reported. Keith Ward bled to death March 31 on the floor of Darrin Grosskopf's apartment, police said. Ward died from a single stab wound from a hunting knife that hit his heart and liver, and was naked except for a pair of socks, police said. Grosskopf, who has been charged with first-degree murder and is being held on \$500,000 bail, claimed the killing was in self-defense, his attorney said. A criminal complaint filed against Grosskopf states he told an acquaintance, "If I knew he was a fag I wouldn't have let him in my house and drink." Grosskopf, 32, and Ward were seen drinking earlier in the evening. Grosskopf later claimed Ward sexually assaulted him, a friend said.

Court commutes sentences for Egyptian men who solicited sex on Web

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—An appeals court commuted prison sentences for two Egyptian men found guilty of advertising themselves on the Internet as sex partners for interested males, court officials said. Sami Gamal, a 27-year-old engineer, had his three-year sentence reduced to three months, while accountant Gameel Gebreel, 32, will pay a fine of about \$26 instead of serving a 15-month jail term. The two were arrested in February and were later found guilty by a lower court of committing an indecent act. The court said at the time that advertising for gay sex was "unprecedented" in Egypt. Gamal received a more harsh sentence because it was his Web site that posted sexually explicit photographs of himself and Gebreel, urging interested men to have paid or unpaid sex with them, according to the court.

Judge sentences Miami man to 18 years for killing romantic interest

MIAMI (AP)—A judge has sentenced a man to 18 years in prison for fatally shooting his boyfriend who embarrassed him by showing up at his high school with gifts. Kervaris Pollock was convicted of killing Larry Sheppard, 24, in February 1998, while Pollock was a 17-year-old high school student. He told investigators that he was in a romantic relationship with Sheppard, and didn't like that his friends had become suspicious of the relationship. Sheppard's body was found in a condominium parking lot in North Miami Beach hours after Pollock was caught driving the victim's car. Circuit Judge Roberto Pineiro's sentence was one year short of the maximum he could impose. Pineiro said Pollock had lied on the stand when he said he had no prior record, and felt little remorse.

Married Scottish man convicted of killing man after tryst in alley

GLASGOW, Scotland—A man has been convicted of manslaughter, but not murder, for killing a man he had sex with because he feared he would tell his pregnant wife about the tryst, the *Daily Record & Sunday Mail* reported. Patrick O'Hagan, 34, was found guilty of using a lump of concrete to kill gay bartender Scott Newman, 34, after having sex with him in an alley. O'Hagan, 34, claimed that Newman, who was severely deaf, had threatened to expose what went on between them. O'Hagan said it was his first gay encounter and he was "curious" to see what it was like. Judge Findlay Baker told O'Hagan he could expect a "substantial" jail sentence, and then turned to Newman's family to say they had his deepest sympathy for the loss of his life.

—From staff and wire reports



For more news, visit
www.houstonvoice.com

PHILADELPHIA ▼ DENVER
HOUSTON ▼ LOS ANGELES

ALTERNATIVES

DEPRESSION, ANXIETY,
ALCOHOL, DRUGS

NOW, THERE'S
LIGHT AT THE
END OF THE
TUNNEL!

ALTERNATIVES is the nation's only GAY OWNED AND OPERATED alcohol, drug and mental health program whose leadership has provided over 25 years of pride and service to the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgender Community.

ALTERNATIVES specializes in treating HIV/AIDS-related grief and loss. Our HIV specialists are available to address all medical concerns. Medicare & most insurance accepted. JCAHO Accredited

ALTERNATIVES Tips on Choosing Gay Treatment

Ask:

▼ Are you in a safe & secure Gay Owned and Operated facility?

▼ Will you be treated in a Dedicated Gay Unit?

▼ Will you be cared for by experienced Gay Professionals and Gay Support Staff?

▼ Is your Treatment Center dedicated to the Gay Community and supportive of our causes?

Beware of:

● Treatment centers and programs that exploit the gay community.

Call Today:

1-800-DIAL-GAY

(1-800-342-5429)

www.alternativesinc.com

Do gays have surprise ally in Bush?

➤ Continued from Page 1

appointee of the Bush administration.

But conservatives are angered that Herbits—who has vocally opposed the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays—will screen applicants for top jobs at the Pentagon.

"It appears [the Bush administration is] trying to become the bisexual administration. They are trying to have it both ways," Robert H. Knight, director of the Culture & Family Institute, an affiliate of Concerned Women for America, told the *Washington Times*.

"An administration that has pledged to uphold the moral order has no business... advancing the homosexual agenda through appointments. People are policy," Knight said.

Herbits told the *Voice* he was declining interview requests during his tenure with the Pentagon. But he is on record as an ardent opponent of DADT. Evertz did not respond to requests for an interview, and the White House communications office declined to make him available.

"No single issue more poignantly snaps our armed forces into the 21st century than the question of whether homosexuals should be permitted to serve openly in their ranks," Herbits wrote in a 1993 review in the *New York Times* of gay journalist Randy Shilts' scathing book on the policy, "Conduct Unbecoming."

"Our military cannot afford to stray long from the society it defends; the pressures for it to catch up are mounting within and without," Herbits concluded then, noting with approval Shilts' "overwhelming conclusion" that "barriers to open gay and lesbian service in the military will come down."

News about Herbits' role at the Pentagon follows President Bush's April 9 appointment of gay Republican Scott Evertz to head the administration's AIDS policy office.

With that choice, Bush made history, becoming the first GOP president to name an openly gay person to an executive branch position, according to the Human Rights Campaign, a national gay rights organization.

But the appointment made conservatives unhappy. Many were quick to criticize the Evertz appointment, only to again voice a feeling of betrayal when Herbits' new role made news late last week.

Retired Army Col. Robert Maginnis, vice president for national security and foreign policy for the Family Research Council, told the *Washington Post* that news about Herbits and Evertz amounted to "at least a one-two punch against the conservative community" from the Bush White House.

Evertz, 38, is president of Wisconsin's chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans. He also has been a fund-raiser for the Wisconsin Right to Life anti-abortion group, a role that has raised hackles with the National Center for Lesbian Rights and some pro-choice groups.

Herbits, 59, who like Evertz is a gay Republican, is a former executive vice pres-

ident with Seagram's, the distillery and beverage company.

His new role at the Pentagon is not the first time he has screened Defense Department hirings. He worked with Rumsfeld under President Gerald Ford and also recruited civilians for Vice President Dick Cheney, when he was defense secretary in the administration of senior George Bush.

Herbits has also worked as a senior counselor at Window Communications, a gay-oriented public relations firm that closed its Washington D.C. offices last year. Window Communications was founded by William Waybourn, president of Window Media LLC, the publishing company that owns *Houston Voice* and several other gay publications.

Herbits was also a founding member of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and has been active in raising funds for a number of gay and lesbian community groups.

A third selection by the Bush administration has also raised conservative hackles on gay issues. Republican Paul Cellucci, who has been generally pro-gay during his tenure as governor of Massachusetts, was tapped as U.S. ambassador to Canada.

Arch conservative Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, opposed Cellucci's appointment to the post but did not try to block it.

Conservative groups lobbied against Cellucci, calling his support of gay rights "anti-family." He was nonetheless approved for the post by the full Senate on April 5.

Anti-gay conservatives take trio of White House posts

The high-profile involvement of gay Republicans Evertz and Herbits, and gay-friendly Cellucci, have given gay rights advocates cause for hope, but this week also brought the selection of three staunch, anti-gay conservatives for prominent government posts.

Bush picked Dan Coats, the former senator from Indiana who led the floor battle against openly gay soldiers serving in the military, as ambassador to Germany.

Coats had been passed over by Bush three months ago for the defense secretary slot. Coats, an Army veteran who practices law in Washington, reportedly told Bush in an interview for the Pentagon post that the Defense Department should scale back accommodations made to women and gays, the Associated Press reported. That stance took him out of the running for defense secretary, according to some observers.

But Bush trumpeted his appointment of Coats to the high profile ambassadorship.

"His defense and national security experience will be an asset in maintaining our strong ties with Germany," the president said.

Gay rights activists also have balked at the appointment of two conservatives, both with a long anti-gay history, to an advisory

committee for the upcoming House-Senate Republican Faith-Based Leadership Summit.

Rep. J.C. Watts Jr. (R-Okla.), chair of the House Republican Conference, selected Rev. Louis Sheldon, chair of the Traditional Values Coalition, and Reggie White, a former professional football player, to sit on the advisory panel.



Conservative Rev. Lou Sheldon, known for his anti-gay rhetoric, has been chosen to serve on an advisory committee for the upcoming House Republican Faith-Based Leadership Summit.

The committee includes nearly 30 religious leaders invited to play a critical role in helping Congress "find bold new ways for government and the faith community to work together to address America's problems," according to Watts.

The appointments prompted the two openly gay House members, Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) and Barney Frank (D-Mass.), to protest the appointment of individuals they considered "homophobic."

"While we agree that we should all be seriously considering how best to work with faith leaders in combating social ills, we disagree with your decision to include in your summit advisory committee people who consider each of us to be an example of those ills," Baldwin and Frank wrote in a letter to Watts.

"The gay bashing rhetoric of Lou Sheldon and Reggie White is directly counter to the sentiments that President Bush has voiced on this set of issues," they argued.

But Christine Iverson, spokesperson for Watts, said anti-gay comments by Sheldon and White have nothing to do with their

role in advising the president on his faith-based funding initiative.

"It is a gathering of people who are putting their differences aside to find a way to help [the] poor," Iverson said. "We're focusing on solutions, not on differences. We're pleased that these people have been able to look beyond their differences to work together to help the poor."

Iverson said the anti-gay views of Sheldon and White are not relevant to the faith-based leadership summit, but, in their letter to Watts, Baldwin and Frank strongly disagreed.

"The inclusion of people who have been so fierce in their attacks on others because of their sexual orientation will add to the divisiveness that now surrounds the issue of faith-based initiatives," the representatives wrote.

James Guth, a political science professor at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., noted that one of the many issues the summit will address is whether religious organizations opposed to homosexuality will be forced to hire gays as a condition of receiving federal funds.

"That's going to be part of the mix," said Guth, who studies religion in American politics. "It will be one of the things that will certainly be discussed."

Is Bush courting gays?

Conservatives may be in an uproar over the unprecedented role for gays in the Bush administration, but gay activists may not necessarily have a surprise ally in the Republican president.

Guth, the Furman political scientist, said Bush appears to be striking a balance between the two ends of the political spectrum. Guth pointed out that although Everts is gay, he also has been an abortion rights opponent, something that concerns some gay activists.

"Right from the very beginning, Bush has emphasized what he calls choices made based on qualifications," Guth said. "He's toeing a very fine line."

President George W. Bush

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500
call: 202-456-1414
fax: 202-456-2461
president@whitehouse.gov
www.whitehouse.gov

Office of National AIDS Policy

736 Jackson Pl.
Washington, DC 20503
call: 202-456-2437
fax: 202-456-2438
www.whitehouse.gov/onap/

Traditional Values Coalition

Rev. Lou Sheldon, chair
139 C. St., S.E.
Washington, DC 20003
call: 202-547-8570
www.traditionalvalues.org

ACTION! info

Education non-discrimination bill passes committee, DOMA stalls

➤ Continued from Page 1

"We are so pleased to have bipartisan support on this issue," Danburg said. "The sodomy law is an invasion of citizens' privacy, it is violation of equal protection because it only applies to one group of citizens, and it is only used to justify anti-gay discrimination. I commend my colleagues for taking the first step in ridding our state of such an embarrassing law."

Houston attorney Mitchell Katine, who is representing John Geddes Lawrence and Tyron Garner who were arrested three years ago and charged with engaging in homosexual conduct, testified at the bill's hearing Tuesday.

"I told them that people really do get arrested because of this law, as my clients did," Katine said. "I told them that this is an embarrassment to the state."

Twelve states have sodomy laws that apply to both same- and opposite-sex couples. Only two other states, Oklahoma and Kansas, still criminalize sodomy between same-sex couples. Arkansas struck down its homosexual conduct law on March 23.

"There are 25 states, plus Washington, D.C., whose legislatures have repealed

their sodomy laws from 1962 to 1998," Katine told the committee. "Texas doesn't want to be the only one out there doing this and there's only three states left. Let's not be the last one."

Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas Executive Director Dianne Hardy-Garcia said she's pleased with the progress of the legislation.

"Legal challenges to the anti-gay sodomy law are unfortunately costing Texas hundreds of thousands of dollars, but we have no choice but to continue to fight against this law because it is consistently used to perpetuate discrimination against gay Texans," Hardy-Garcia said.

Hate crimes bill stalls

At press times, efforts to get a hate crimes bill that would include enhanced penalties for crimes committed because of bias, including bias based sexual orientation, were stalled in both the House and the Senate.

Bills in both chambers passed out of committee weeks ago and were scheduled for votes by the full membership of each house on Wednesday. Those votes were postponed, however, after Senate sponsor Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, accused Gov.

Rick Perry of pressuring Republicans into pulling their support of the vote.

Ellis said he had enough support to bring the bill to a vote Wednesday before Perry started calling lawmakers to stall it. Perry denied that he took action against the bill and said that he wanted the bill delayed to ensure a fair debate after learning that two Republican senators who oppose the bill were absent.

Perry said Wednesday that he would look at the bill if it gets to his desk but he would not say whether he will sign. The bill could still become law if the governor does not sign it, or he could veto it.

Despite the delays and accusations, however, the bill appeared likely to reach the floor in at least one chamber, the House, late Thursday.

The James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, named for the black man dragged to death behind a pickup in 1998, strengthens penalties for crimes motivated by bias. The sexual orientation part of the bill has been a sticking point and is the reason then-Gov. George Bush worked to kill the bill two years ago, according to legislative watcher.

"I'm convinced if members are left to their consciences on this bill, it will pass," Ellis told the Associated Press.

Education non-discrimination bill passes committee

A bill that would prohibit discrimination against students in Texas schools passed out of the House Public Education Committee late Tuesday night. The bill now awaits a vote by the full House.

House Bill 1296, authored by State Rep. Harryette Erhardt, D-Dallas, was approved 6-0 by the committee with three other members not expected to vote in favor of the bill leaving before the 11 p.m. vote was taken.

"We are very happy about it," Erhardt told the Houston Voice from the floor of the House Wednesday morning. "It was a wonderful night and the students who came to testify were euphoric. There were probably about 15 people in my office after the passage."

The bill, if it is eventually passed by both Houses of the Legislature and signed into law, would add the following text to the state's education code: "A public educational institution or employee of a public educational institution may not discriminate against a student enrolled in the institution on account of the ethnicity, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or national origin of the student or the student's parent."

The bill has been introduced twice before but died in committee.

Testimony began after 10 p.m. Tuesday. Six people, representing African-American, Jewish and gay and lesbian students and parents spoke, Erhardt said.

"There were only six who testified but



Harryette Erhardt

there were over three times that number who signed up," she said.

A similar bill protecting teachers from discrimination is still pending in the committee.

Hardy-Garcia said the student bill's passage from the committee

was one of many reasons she is celebrating this week.

"We're thrilled, and I can't thank Rep. Erhardt enough," Hardy-Garcia said Wednesday morning. "It's a critical bill for gay youth in Texas. Right now there are no bills that protect gay youth."

Watchers are uncertain whether that bill will make it to a vote by the full House.

"I feel much better about it now that I did," said Erhardt. "It's got a chance."

Hardy-Garcia was less optimistic about passage, but said getting it to a debate on the House floor would be a major step.

"I am terminally conservative in my estimates of stuff," she said. "I would say we have a chance to take this to the floor of the House. And win or lose, having the opportunity for the whole House to debate this is a great opportunity."

In other legislative news, the Senate's anti-gay marriage, Senate Bill 488—nicknamed the Texas Defense of Marriage Act by conservatives—stalled again in its committee.

"I'm pleased about stalling DOMA, because the weeks are ticking," Hardy-Garcia said.

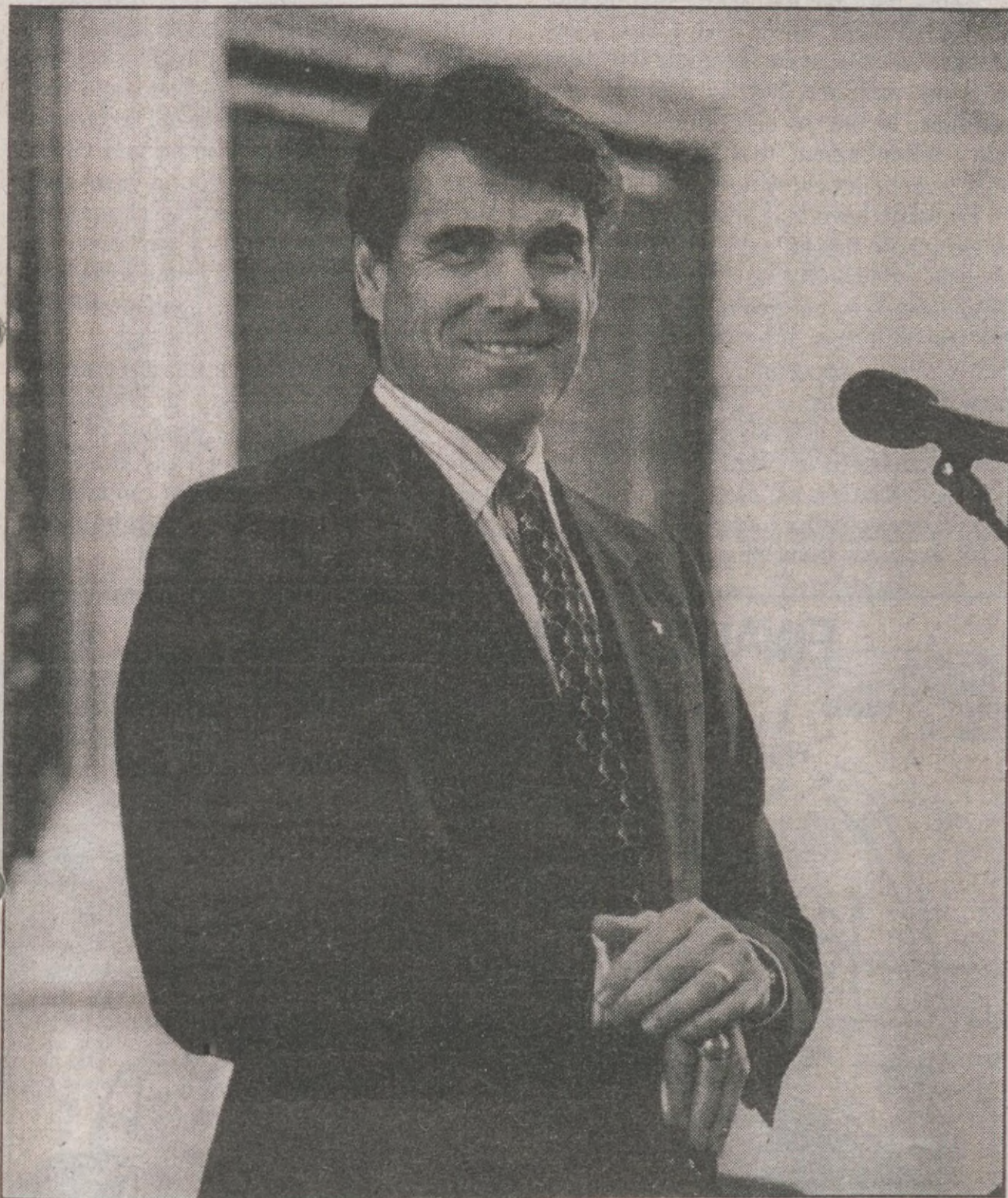
The bill, introduced by Republican Senator Chris Harris, says the state "may not give effect" to any "public act, record, or judicial proceeding that recognizes or validates a marriage or civil union between persons of the same sex" or any "public act, record, or judicial proceeding that recognizes or validates a marriage or civil union between persons of the same sex."

Hardy-Garcia has repeatedly slammed the bill as malicious because gay unions and marriages are not currently allowed in Texas.

Attempts by State Rep. Glen Maxey, D-Austin, to get an employment nondiscrimination act on the state's books are not seeing much progress so far in the legislative session, and time is running out. The bill is stalled in the State Affairs committee.

Maxey staffer Robin Chandler said she is not sure the bill will see progress this session.

"I can't tell you whether it will ever get out," Chandler said. "My sense is that it may get heard, but it may not get out of committee."



Hate crimes bill Senate sponsor Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, accused Gov. Rick Perry, above, of pressuring Republicans into pulling their support of the vote.

houston voice

STAFF

Editor

Wendy K. Mohon
editor@houstonvoice.com

Production

Senior Graphic Designer-Natasha Marquez
Graphic Designer-Deborah Duplant

Contributors

Rich Arenschioldt, Kay Y. Dayus,
Trayce Diskin, Earl Dittman, D.L. Groover,
Robert B. Henderson, Kathreen Lee,
Maria E. Minicucci, D.L. Murphy,
Gip Plaster, Ella Tyler

Photographers

Dalton DeHart, Kimberly Thompson

Advertising Sales

Tom Robbins
Wanda Faulkner

Administration & Sales Support

Carolyn A. Roberts

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
212-242-6863

A WindowMedia Publication

Publisher- Window Media LLC

President- William Waybourn

Editorial Director- Chris Crain

Financial Director- Kelly Smink

Sales Director- Peter Jackson

Art Director- Rob Boeger

Marketing Director- Eric May

**National
Gay
Newspaper
Guild**
MEMBER

H CHARTER MEMBER
GREATER HOUSTON
GAY & LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Established 1974 as the *Montrose Star*.

500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 529-8490

Fax: (713) 529-9531

Contents copyright 2000

Office hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays

To submit a letter

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

EDITORIAL

Silence = complicity in Jesse's death

by CHRIS CRAIN

We ought to be ashamed of the way the gay community has responded to the death of Jesse Dirkhising.

At the age of 13, Jesse was befriended by an adult gay couple in Rogers, Ark., who convinced him to engage in kinky sex play.

On the night of Sept. 26, 1999, Joshua McCabe, then 21, acted out a detailed bondage scene designed by boyfriend Davis Carpenter, 37, feeding the teen tranquilizers, strapping him facedown on the bed, stuffing dirty underwear in his mouth and taping it over with duct tape, and repeatedly sodomizing him.

When McCabe stopped to eat a sandwich, he noticed that Jesse had stopped breathing and called for an ambulance. The youth died that night of asphyxiation.

Conservatives jumped on the case as proof that the mainstream media and the gay press are less willing to report stories when gays are perpetrators than when we are victims.

The underlying aim of these activists was undoubtedly to publicize the case as an example of how they say gay men are predatory toward the nation's youth, and how deviant gay sex—meaning all gay sex, in their eyes—can kill.

Backed into a corner, most of the people we count on to speak responsibly on behalf of gay America let their knee-jerk defensiveness overwhelm any compassion over the awful death of this gay teen.

Responsibility for the death of Jesse Dirkhising no doubt lies primarily with the two men who drugged, raped and tortured him. But there are important lessons for us to be taken from this tragedy.

First and foremost, our leaders should reaffirm that gay adults bear an awesome responsibility to respect the confusion and innocence that comes with youth. Teens the age of Jesse Dirkhising cannot meaningfully consent to sex play of any sort, much less the extreme S&M scene that led to his death.

Gay newspaper columnist Paul Varnell, who argues in these pages this week that straight society is more to blame for Jesse's death, made a public case in May 1999 that "child sexual abuse," a term he always bracketed in quotation marks, was in fact not harmful to many teenage males, some of whom found it enjoyable and adventuresome.

Varnell by no means bears personal responsibility for Jesse's death four months later, but he does owe it to his readers to reexamine his thesis about whether we can all "breathe easier, glad that something we thought was harmful turned out not to be so harmful after all."

Second, the leaders of the S&M and leather communities should loudly repeat that responsible gays should steer well clear of the line between the fantasy of non-consensual sex and taking physical advantage over another. The violent end that Jesse met may be unusual, but that makes it all the more important to condemn any scene involving physically dangerous settings and drugs that inhibit good judgment.

It will not be immediately apparent to mainstream Americans, and many gays, that fantasizing about raping and torturing another human bears no connection with acting out that fantasy.

This newspaper reported last year that even the larger gay adult studios are producing videos that depict gang rape. The victim, almost always younger and soft-featured, usually winds up enjoying and consenting to the attack—an especially dangerous message to send. These videos and magazines like them almost never feature the "safe words" that are the keystone to consensual sadomasochistic sex.

admit their deviance comes with a body count.

But we betray our own kind if we allow that fear to silence us. And we make ourselves hypocrites when we then turn to straight America and ask it to accept its complicity in violence against us.

Just this week, Judy Shepard told a college audience in Hollins, Va., that she does not blame the two men who robbed and beat her son Matthew and left him to die on a Wyoming fencepost.

"I blame society for giving them permission to kill Matt," she said instead. "They never thought they would be in any kind of trouble for killing another fag."

We owe it to Jesse to speak out about adult-teen sex, irresponsible S&M sex play and sexual objectification.

The burden is rightly on those who would advocate and celebrate such fantasies to make the case that they are not contributing to a culture of violence and abuse that is more likely to victimize its participants.

Third, those with a pulpit to talk about gay male culture ought to explore publicly the dangers that can come from treating each other as sex objects, not human beings.

Joshua McCabe told police that he didn't even know Jesse's last name, even though he had spent considerable time with the youth and had sex with him several times before the night of the rape. He told a fellow inmate that his only use for Jesse was for sex every now and then.

Feminists have long made a connection between how straight men objectify women sexually and how that can lead to disrespect, dehumanization, mistreatment and worse. The powerful story of Jesse Dirkhising presents a unique opportunity to see how the same dynamic plays out among gay men.

To many, even acknowledging cultural factors like adult-teen sex, S&M sex play and sexual objectification is too dangerous to countenance. They worry that conservatives will enjoy a P.R. bonanza, trumpeting how even gays

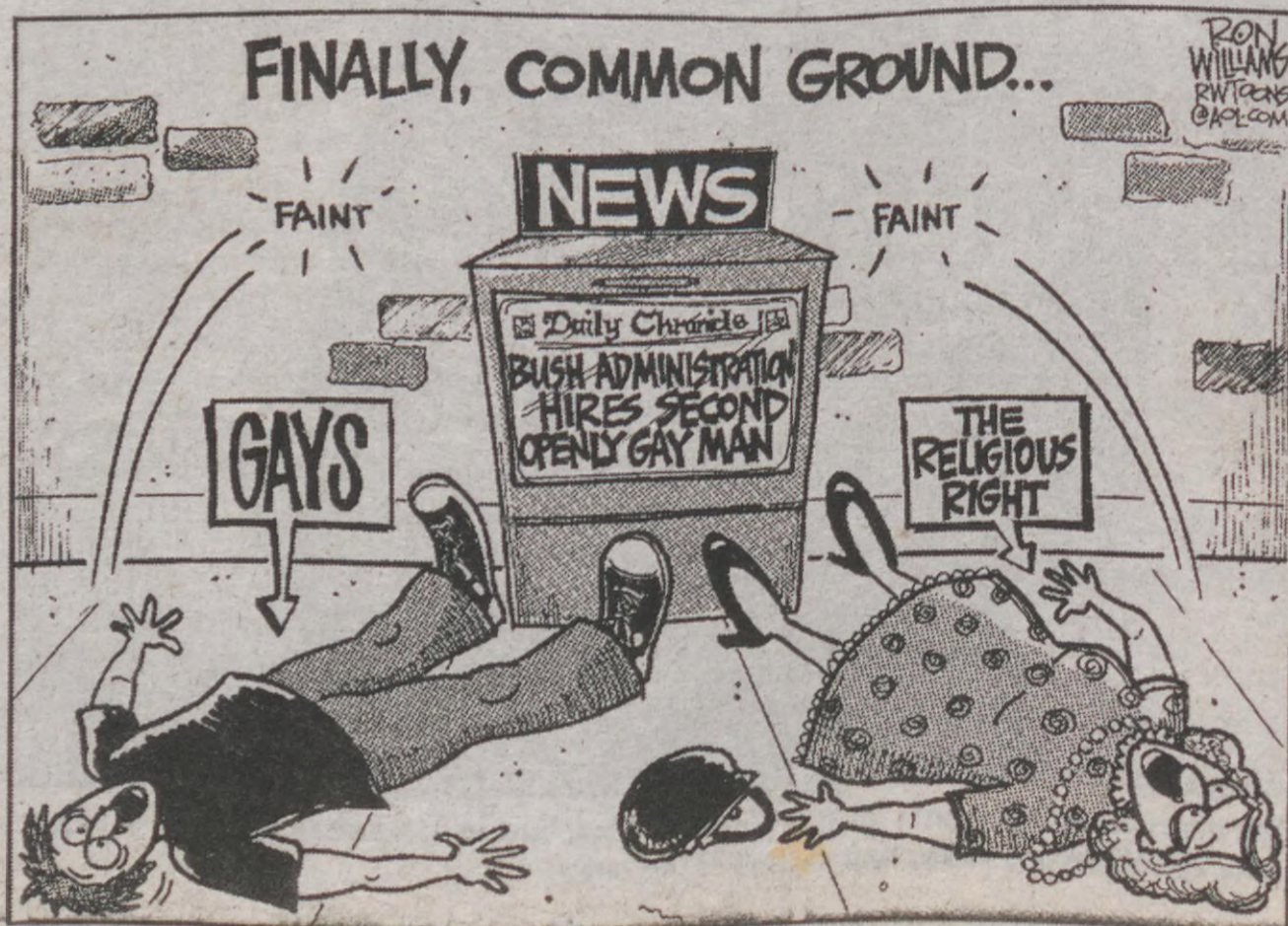
As long as words associated with gays are perceived as insults, she argued, society will implicitly condone anti-gay violence.

Those are powerful words, and they're hard for most heterosexuals to hear because they don't personally harbor violent feelings towards us and certainly don't feel responsible for the horrific behavior of Matthew's killers.

If we want them to take seriously Judy Shepard's call to change how mainstream society views us, then we should happily and eagerly take up the cause of rooting out anything in our own backyard that could have contributed to the death of Jesse Dirkhising.

Of course there are important differences in how the two young men died. Matthew's brutal treatment was largely the result of hate for him as a gay man. The subsequent calls for bias crime legislation introduced a public policy element that justified the massive media coverage.

Jesse's brutal treatment was not the result of hatred toward a group of people, but more accurately was the product of gross disregard for the worth of a gay kid. That's not something that legislation can address, but it sure is an issue that ought to be of central importance to our community.





VIEWPOINT

We share no blame for death of 13-year-old Jesse

by PAUL VARNELL

Two gay men have been charged with causing the September 1999 death of a 13-year-old youth named Jesse Dirkhising, in Bentonville, Ark., in what police say was an abusive bondage scene.

There is no evidence that the two men intended to kill the youth: They called an ambulance when they found he had stopped breathing.

But their heedlessness, their own use of drugs and their indifference to Dirkhising's safety and well-being suggest a degree of culpability for which "involuntary manslaughter" scarcely seems adequate.

Reflecting on Dirkhising's death, *Southern Voice* Editor Chris Crain recently wondered editorially if conservatives might be right when they say that "the sex-drenched gay culture and the valueless homosexual lifestyle" are bound to victimize young people.

He writes that although most such young people do not wind up dead, they may become "sexually confused, robbed of their innocence, and torn from the values their parents worked hard to instill."

And he concluded, "If the gruesome killing of a gay youth won't at least make us look harder at where our culture might bear some responsibility, what will?"

These are strong, obviously heartfelt words, not lightly written, and they deserve serious consideration.

But I think Crain in large measure not only misplaces blame but fails to give our community credit for the kinds of moral guidelines it provides.

To the extent that there might be a value deficit among gays—especially among young gays, people just coming out, and people living in isolation—it is not necessarily the fault of the gay community.

Mainstream culture promotes a sexual

If gay people are value-deficient, then it's the fault of a homophobic culture that encourages our heedless, irresponsible behavior.

morality that focuses on sexual relationships between men and women. Specifically, it focuses on regulating penis-vagina sex to preserve virginity or prevent pregnancy virtually to the exclusion of any other considerations.

But this single-minded focus provides no guidance to people involved in same-sex relationships, for whom penis-vagina sex and pregnancy are not issues. It can even give the impression that there are no "moral" guidelines for same-sex relationships.

By condemning gay sex, mainstream culture implies that there cannot be any sexual morality to guide gays in their activities. All homosexual activity is immoral and that is all there is to say.

That rejection may lead some gays to think that if they flout the condemnation of homosexuality, they become "immoralists" who have cast off morality in general and have no obligation to pay attention to moral concerns of any sort.

And it may suggest that since their sexual partners are also behaving immorally, the partners' well-being need not be an important concern for them. Since the partners are immoral people, they probably deserve anything that happens to them.

This is wildly false, but it is understandable how some people, particularly in religiously conservative regions, might think so.

But contrary to what Crain suggests, it is surely not true that the gay community lacks guidelines for sexual activity. In fact, it is probably only by being part of an ongoing gay community that anyone can learn about and internalize regulative principles for gay sexual interaction.

The sexual morality we have is not act-specific but offers guidelines on how to con-

duct ourselves, how we should treat other people and conditions under which we should engage in sexual activities.

Most of us realize in the first place that this requires a degree of self-reliance, personal responsibility and continuous alertness. People should not put themselves in situations they cannot get out of. People should not drink or drug themselves into a state where they cannot make rational assessments. Prudence is a cardinal virtue.

Second, it involves a clear sense that force or coercion are wrong and that vulnerable people—too young, too drunk, too drugged, too naïve—should not be taken advantage of.

Third, perhaps the most highly developed explicit guidelines—sexual ethics if you like—have been evolved by the leather and S&M community. Explicit guidelines are particularly important there because in the intensity of some S&M activities, people can be hurt if someone is careless or something goes wrong.

The three preconditions for S&M activity, repeated almost as a mantra, are "safe, sane, and consensual."

A great deal of wisdom resides in those three words. Both parties have to agree voluntarily and unreservedly. They have to be clear-headed, alert and attentive to the other's responses. And there must be no lingering physical or emotional damage.

That may not be all there is to sexual morality, but it is an excellent start for everyone.

Paul Varnell is a Chicago-based freelance writer and can be reached at pvarnell@aol.com.



"I need another three dozen like this..."

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel





VIEWPOINT

Selling out our sexual selves: the high cost of collusion

by MARIA MINICUCCI

In the theater of national politics, the queer agenda certainly has been taking center stage more and more frequently. We have taken up an "in your face" approach to conveying our intolerance to any act of discrimination or hate hurled in our direction.

Mainstream America can open a newspaper, magazine, or turn on the TV and have our demands for equal rights delivered right into their own homes. Not only is it imperative that the message is being delivered, it is equally important to note that the messenger(s) has acquired a voice and a presence in mainstream America that was, in the not-too-distant past, nonexistent.

We have, without a doubt, gained hard-won ground. For all intents and purposes, progress has been made. At the risk of being perceived as a shit-bird (as my dear partner warns me about), I am asking you to ponder the adage, "be careful what you ask for, you may end up getting it!"

As I review the past 30 years of queer politics, I see that what we have been and continue to ask for is ending the hate in our culture for same-sex sex, same-sex love, same-sex relationships. The ways and means that we have devised to accomplish this goal have been varied and numerous.

I would go so far as to say that, in our

fierce desire to defeat the hate, we may have, at one point and then another, and another, sold our "sexual selves" to the devil. Yep, in 2001, the current queer political strategy appears to be one of mainstreaming our images in order to deliver the message, "See, you can stop hating us, we are just like you!"

Heek! Stop a moment and let's think about this. Are we sure we want to be just like them? Compulsory heterosexuality may still reign as the norm, but let us take a second, third and fourth glance at the reality of that "norm."

A worthy first glance began about 30 years ago. Much of queer activism took the form of being out in public and speaking out about every nook and cranny of queer sex and sexuality. Gay publications more often than not reported the most recent and ever-changing sexual practices for the "real queer."

Conversations, whether they took place in bathhouses, over the din of disco, or between the sheets, usually drifted to the "sex question." Lesbians and gay men took up debating, questioning, opposing or promoting anonymous sex, non-monogamy, sado-masochism, man-boy love, sex toys, boy toys, one true love, a string of true loves one or more at a time.

Some of us took up many or all of these sexual practices; more of us developed our own theories and positions on loving, lust and f——. Which side of the "sexual fence" you were on was not nearly as important as

clearing out our backyards from the mandates and mores of compulsory heterosexuality and determine and define the ones relevant to our needs and desires.

We were not blind to the pitfalls and shortcomings of the heterosexual model of sex and relationships. Drag queens, butch lesbians and fairies, without apology and perhaps even unwittingly took their place in the world and put forth images that challenged the construction of masculinity and femininity. Declaring oneself as butch/femme, or the emergence of the androgynous dyke or the whole who's top, who's bottom tore a few holes in carefully appropriated gender roles.

Exploring and experimenting with non-monogamy, multiple relationships, anonymous sex, even celibacy as viable options in a personal realm also served to undermine the "ownership" aspect of mainstream relationships. As we were forging queer identities that fit, we were also unraveling the many myths of sex and relationships rooted in the norm; the very myths that erode relationships, and perpetuate hateful attitudes and behaviors.

The debates and declarations among lesbians and gays were a necessary first step in challenging and questioning these models on the road to developing more relevant, more respectful, more rewarding, just more personal, social and sexual relationships.

Unlike the out and out public displays and discussions about our sexual practices

and mores, it has, over a 30-year period, become "hush, hush."

When I decided to write about this, I also decided to ask as many people as possible "What do you think our current sexual practices and mores are?" "What choices are you making about sex, about what kind of relationships you want?"

Over and over, I got shrugged shoulders or, "we're doing what we always have been doing." Herein lies the problem. "What we always have been doing," I suspect, looks more like the norm; like the very ways we know don't work and definitely don't work against the machinations of hate.

The advent of AIDS caused a very necessary shift in our focus and priorities. I also believe that among the tragedies that AIDS inflicted in our lives was a powerful bolt of shame, guilt, fear and self-inflicted contempt that eventually led to silencing ourselves and each other about our private selves.

Ironically, the "silence = death" message of preservation that emerged from our experiences with AIDS also applies to this split we have made between the sexual and the political. Silence about our sexual selves has backfired by giving credence to our shame and accepting the "straight status quo."

Our issues are alive and well and in the center of mainstream media. Our sexual selves, however, remain in the shadows. Remaining silent, remaining in the shadows, will be the death of us.



VIEWPOINT

Are you a slut? Quiz yourself to find out

by D.L. MURPHY

All that talk about monogamy and sexual selves in the column

above really makes a person think—about sex. But what does sex on the brain say about a person? What does sex on other body parts say about a person? You may find yourself asking: Am I a slut? Take our quick and easy quiz to find out.

1. How many times has your New Year's resolution been to get laid sometimes during the next year?

- a. more than once
- b. once
- c. never
- d. my resolution is to spend just enough nights at home so that I always have clean clothes

2. How many phone numbers did you come home with after your last trip to the bar?

- a. none, I am too shy to talk to anyone
- b. none, I was hanging out with friends
- c. none, I was shooting pool
- d. none, I came with that hot number I brought home

3. How many dates do you think you should go on before seducing someone?

- a. enough so that you get to know her/his mother first
- b. six, you need to know who he/she is first
- c. one, you need to make sure she/he isn't psychotic first
- d. Date? My place or yours?

4. Your favorite color is:

- a. blue
- b. yellow
- c. red
- d. nude

5. The grocery store is:

- a. a place where you buy food
- b. a place where you cruise potential dates
- c. a place to cash a check before your date
- d. a sex toy emporium

6. Hot and wet = :

- a. soup
- b. a shower
- c. a good work out
- d. a happy memory

7. If your friends were to hang a sign over your bed, it would read:

- a. Lake Placid
- b. Sharp Curves Ahead
- c. Slippery When Wet
- d. No Parking

8. Your favorite outfit for going out includes:

- a. jeans
- b. a nice blazer
- c. leather
- d. lube

9. Your pet is:

- a. a dog
- b. a cat
- c. fish
- d. what's your name?

10. A beautiful individual is sitting next to you. You:

- a. are too shy to speak
- b. put your foot in your mouth
- c. ask for a phone number and are refused
- d. discuss where to have breakfast

11. Your idea of a good date is:

- a. hanging out with your nieces and nephews
- b. a long walk on the beach
- c. sweaty, inspired dancing at Bocado's or J.R.'s
- d. sweaty, inspired horizontal dancing at the house

12. Coffee date conversation should include:

- a. a full account of your psychiatric history
- b. a discussion of your stock portfolio

- c. light-hearted general conversation
- d. a discussion of what you consider safe and sane

13. Your advice to people just coming out is:

- a. join a group and get to know someone there
- b. go to the bar and get to know someone there
- c. read and write personal ads
- d. go to a play party

Scoring:

- Score 0 for each "a"
- Score 1 for each "b"
- Score 2 for each "c"
- Score 3 for each "d"

So are you a slut? Add up your score.

0-7: See a therapist. Ask him/her what sex is.

8-15: You need to improve your social skills. You get laid because of someone else's sheer desperation.

16-23: At least you've been trying.

24-39: You are a true slut. Give me a call.

Quiz results of more than 24 points should be forwarded to D.L. Murphy at possum_products@cs.com.

health news

San Fran officials push for compromise in possible ban on HIV drug ads

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—With an April 12 hearing concluded, city officials said they hoped the forum will prompt pharmaceutical companies to redo their ads for AIDS drugs, which have been criticized as too glamorous and contributing to new HIV infections. "I don't want to have any bans on advertising, but I do want dialogue. I'm not going to drop the ball," said Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. Opponents of the ads for anti-retroviral drugs have said their portrayal of young, buff men climbing mountains, sailing and engaging in other outdoor activities are misleading and irresponsible. AIDS researcher Dr. Tom Coates told the city's Housing, Transportation & Land Use Committee that he would like to see half of the ad space devoted to prevention messages, warnings about side effects and information about the importance of talking to physicians about which drugs, if any, are right for each patient. No representatives from the drug companies were present. The city undertook a similar fight in 1997 when it joined a suit against R.J. Reynolds tobacco company.



Tom Ammiano, the openly gay president of San Francisco's board of supervisors, said he's not going to stop his push to change what he calls glamorous ads for HIV drugs.

Study on women and smoking lacks information about lesbians

WASHINGTON—A representative of a lesbian cancer agency objected to a newly released Surgeon General's report on women and smoking that didn't provide information about lesbians. "I am thrilled that this document focuses on women and smoking. However, I am sad and frustrated that... there is no mention of lesbians and women who partner with women," Cheryl Fields, health education director of the Mary-Helen Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, said during a public briefing on the report last month. Fields pointed out to the report's senior editor, Virginia Emster, that data indicates that lesbians smoke more than heterosexual women, and may be two to three times as likely to develop certain types of cancer. "My appeal to you is that as you begin to develop educational campaigns, and begin advocacy work, that you include this population," Fields said.

Homeless people with AIDS get overnight stays in posh NYC hotels

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City health officials routinely spend as much as \$329 a night to house homeless people with AIDS in upscale Manhattan hotels. Over the past month the city reserved rooms for emergency housing at Sofitel at least four times, said hotel spokesperson Leslie Cohen. "It was just a surprise that the city would be paying tax dollars to put up homeless people in a four-star hotel," Cohen told the *New York Post*. The city's Human Resources Administration says its hands are tied due to a 1999 court order that requires the city to provide shelter for homeless people with AIDS on the day they apply for help. The HRA says it usually uses single-room occupancy hotels, but due to "limited availability," it has been forced to resort to higher-market hotels. The costs of the hotel rooms underscore "the unworkability of the court order," said HRA spokesperson Debra Sproles. Every night, the city places some 200 homeless HIV/AIDS patients in emergency housing.

Syphilis rates on rise among gay men in New York in early 2001

NEW YORK CITY—For the first three months of 2001, New York health officials logged more than twice as many cases of infectious syphilis as they did during the same period last year, the *Washington Blade* reported. Infections went from "slightly under 20 cases" to "more than 50 cases" from Jan. 1 to March 31, according to city's health department. Infectious syphilis cases in New York City have declined from an estimated 5,000 cases in 1988 to 117 last year. Of those 117 cases, 91 were male, 59 were among men of color, and 74 percent of men interviewed by health department workers had had sex with other men. "This may reflect an erosion of safer-sex practices, which could lead to a rise in the number of syphilis and HIV infections in New York City," said Neal Cohen, the city's health commissioner.

Protein keeps HIV-infected cells from immune system, research shows

LONDON—Scientists have identified a protein that permits HIV to evade the immune system, Reuters reported. The protein, called Nef, protects HIV-infected cells, while destroying other healthy immune system cells. The research, which appears in the journal *Nature*, uncovered evidence that Nef binds to and inhibits a protein called ASK1, which is a key to the destruction of the healthy cells. "This reveals a real, unfortunate elegance to HIV in terms of its ability to kill off cells that are trying to control the virus, and at the same time to defeat that same cell-death machinery in the host cell. It is a remarkably efficient and cunning strategy," said Warner Greene, an official with the Gladstone Institute of Virology & Immunology. The finding suggested that a new drug treatment could be developed that prevents the Nef-ASK1 binding process.

—From staff and wire reports

For more news, visit www.houstonvoice.com

ONLY \$29*

PER MONTH-NO CONTRACT

FITNESS EXCHANGE

4040 MILAM 77006

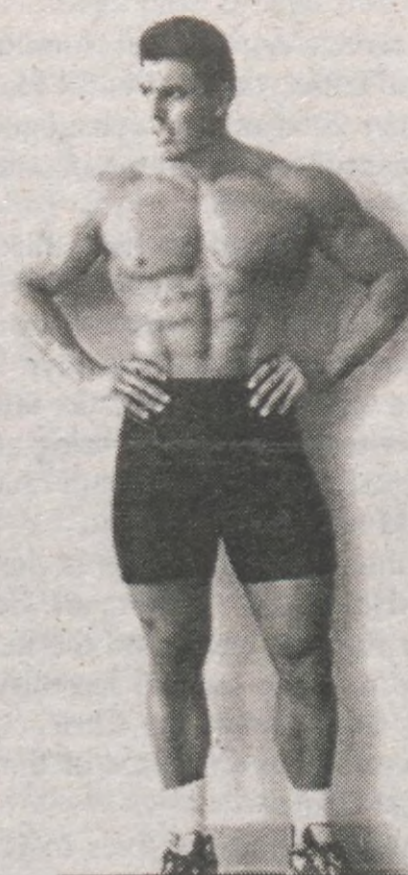
- AWESOME NEW EQUIPMENT
- IMMACULATELY CLEAN
- IMPECCABLE SERVICE
- 3500 AFFILIATE CLUBS!

CALL NOW 713-524-9932

Mon-Fri 5am-10pm

Sat-Sun 8am-8pm

*For basic morning membership, after one time activation fee.



MEMBER ANTHONY RAMOS, BODYBUILDING CHAMPION



Is this...

the shape you're in?
Is it the shape you want?

MUSCLE MECHANICSSM
PERSONAL TRAINING STUDIO
713.523.5330
BY APPOINTMENT. CALL NOW.
617 Richmond Avenue in Montrose

houston voice

DELIVERS

direct to your door

6 months: \$45⁵⁰
1 year: \$91

For just the price of postage!



To subscribe, call 713.529.8490 or fax 713.529.9531



RMCC honoring Holocaust victims

Local Holocaust survivor to speak

by ELLA TYLER

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church will host the Anti-Defamation League's 15th annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service on April 24 from 7 to 8 p.m.

The service remembers 11 million victims of all faiths who died in the Holocaust. More than 20 churches, synagogues, religious institutions and organizations are sponsoring the event.

"We are honored to host this service remembering all who suffered the atrocities of the Holocaust, who were primarily Jews and homosexuals," Carolyn Mobley, associate pastor of R.M.C.C. said. "We hope this service will also bring attention to the injustices and hatred still rampant in the world today."

The theme of the service is the church and the Holocaust. Speakers are Holocaust survivor Ruth Steinfeld and the Rev. Betty Gamble, associate general secretary of the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns of the United Methodist Church.

Steinfeld, who now lives in Houston, will talk about being hidden by a Catholic family in France after she, her parents and sister, were deported from Germany to a concentration camp in



Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 West 11 at West T.C. Jester, will host the Anti-Defamation League's 15th annual Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service on April 24.

France. She was seven.

Rev. Gamble will talk about a resolution adopted by her denomination which acknowledges shame for its failures to challenge the policies of governments that were responsible for the Holocaust. The resolution also calls for the church to try to correct teachings that have led to persecution of the Jews and to support observances of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The service will include a candle-lighting ceremony, interfaith readings and music, including performances by the R.M.C.C. and the Bering Memorial Methodist Church choirs.

Mobley said R.M.C.C. volunteered to host the remembrance.

"We have participated in this service for at least 10 years, but as many as 500 people attend this service and we did not have room for that large a crowd until we moved to the new facility. We were delighted that no one had already offered to host this year's service."

There will be a reception at 6:30 p.m. Students who attend will get a copy of "Jacob's Rescue," the story of Polish Catholics and the three Jewish brothers they rescued. Teachers will get a copy of the ADL's material about teaching

about the Holocaust.

The service is underwritten by a grant from the Naomi and Martin Warren Foundation. In addition to the Anti-Defamation League and Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, sponsors include the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, Holocaust Museum Houston, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, South Main Baptist Church, Texas Annual Conference United Methodist Center, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church and Windsor Village United Methodist Church. Bethany Christian Church, B'nai B'rith District 7, Brentwood Baptist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hadassah, Hillel, Houston Council of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Women International, National Council of Jewish Women, Presbytery of the New Covenant, Second Generation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Women's American ORT are also sponsors of the event.

INFO

Interfaith Holocaust Remembrance Service

Tuesday, April 24, 7 to 8 p.m., reception is at 6:30 p.m.

R.M.C.C., 2025 West 11 at West T.C. Jester

713-861-9149.

Gay-friendly churches plan spring events

Bering, Maranatha to hold fund-raising festivals next weekend

by ROBERT HENDERSON

Two churches in the Montrose area, who have been supportive of the gay and lesbian community, are having fund-raising events the weekend beginning Friday, April 27. The Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Community Church will have their Fiesta Ball Extravaganza 2001 on Friday evening, April 27. Bering United Methodist Church will have its Spring Festival on Saturday, April 28.

The Fiesta Ball Extravaganza 2001 will be from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at the Kim Son Ballroom, 1503 St. Emmanuel, according to chairperson, Sandra L. Serra. It is the first time of what they intend will become an annual event. The purpose is to raise money so the ministries of Maranatha Fellowship may be continued, a fundraiser for the Church.

The evening will begin with the silent auction from 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. The silent auction items will include an Oriental rug, a variety of antiques, service packages as well as dinner and lodging packages. The Pride Band will provide entertainment during the silent auction period.

The dinner, catered by Don Carlos Restaurant, will be served at 8:15 p.m. followed by an evening of dancing. The DJ, Andra Haviland, will provide music for

dinner and dancing. A cash bar will be available. The attire for the evening is "dressy casual."

The cost of attending Extravaganza is \$30 per person in advance and at the door. Tickets are available from table captains or at the Maranatha Fellowship office, 117 Tuam. For more information call 713-528-6756.

"We were trying to find some way of raising funds, because we were struggling and because we also wanted to continue ministries just outside of our community in global missions and things like that. It just wasn't happening with what the congregation could support," Serra said.

"It started out as an idea for a raffle and a New Year's Eve dance. It started progressing from there. We got more and more ideas. We started asking people to donate and they were more than willing to. I am in awe of all the people who were willing to donate their services."

She said the net proceeds would be for the ministries of the church. With the funds raised there will be the opportunity to attend several of the MCC conferences such as the general conference of MCC in Toronto, Canada. They want to be able to fund whatever is presented for an outreach such as global missions.

Maranatha Fellowship participates in a month-long program during Houston Pride. They will be presenting a series of classes on the theme of "Homosexuality and the Bible," which is open to the community.

"This is not only a community fund-raiser, even though a majority of our support



Bering United Methodist Church, above, will have its annual Spring Festival April 18.

comes from the community because we are a community church. It's open to everyone—we have not specified any group who shouldn't buy tickets. It is open to everyone, both gay and straight," Serra said.

The next day, the 2001 Bering Spring Festival will be on the parking lot of the church at 1440 Harold St., according to the co-chair, Debra Andersen. The 48th annual event will be from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event started as just a pancake breakfast but has grown over the years to include a very large rummage sale. Andersen said the rummage sale was added about 20 years ago.

This year the rummage sale will be in a 60-foot-by-60-foot tent to keep the merchandise and the customers dry in the event of inclement weather. She said they had a good selection of clothing for both men and women as well as furniture and appliances, both large and small.

Another feature of the festival is a silent auction featuring a 1966 Ford Thunderbird.

The silent auction will also have a man's mink coat as well as a variety of restaurant packages.

State Rep. Debra Danberg, D-Houston, has donated a flag, which has flown over the Capitol in Austin.

The cost of attending the festival is limited to the items purchased and a \$5 charge for the complete breakfast for all you can eat. Children 12 years old and under eat free.

There will be a health fair open to the public including the Bloodmobile, the Montrose Clinic and other health agencies. Free inoculations will be available. The Houston Police Department will be present. In addition tours of the church will be given. There will also be children's rides and live entertainment.

"The money raised goes back into the Bering general operating fund. From that we do an awful lot of ministries," Andersen said.

Spielberg quits Scouts over anti-gay policy

Some United Ways limit Scout funding; Film on pro-gay Scouts comes to ATL

LOS ANGELES—Director Steven Spielberg announced Monday that he is leaving his post on the advisory board of the Boy Scouts of America because the youth group excludes gay members and leaders.

"The last few years in scouting have deeply saddened me to see the Boy Scouts of America actively and publicly participating in discrimination. It's a real shame," Spielberg said.

Meanwhile, a leading philanthropy journal reported that 50 out of the 400 largest United Way organizations in the U.S. have taken steps to limit funds or pass more stringent anti-discrimination policies in reaction to the Boy Scouts' policy excluding gays from the organization.

And a Sundance award-winning documentary about the group Scouting for All,

which was founded by a then-12-year-old Boy Scout in an effort to change the organization's exclusionary policy, will be screened at Emory University in Atlanta next month.

Spielberg, an Oscar-winning producer and director who gained the Scout's highest honor of Eagle Scout, has been a member of the group's advisory board for about 10 years, said his publicist Marvin Levy.

The director, who has made past financial contributions to the Scouts, said that he will continue to encourage the group to "end this intolerance and discrimination once and for all.

"Once scouting fully opens its doors to all who desire the same experience that so fully enriched me as a young person, I will be happy to reconsider a role on the advisory board," Spielberg said.

Although he was on the advisory board, Spielberg did not currently have an active, direct role with the Scouts, Levy said. Spielberg, who earned a Scout badge for photography as a youth, previously convinced the organization to adopt a badge for cinematography, Levy said.

The U.S. Supreme Court last summer ruled that the Boy Scouts' national policy banning gay members and leaders is constitutional. The high court cited the right to freedom of association granted to private groups.

Since then, Spielberg is not the first to pull support from the Boy Scouts over its anti-gay policy. According to the *Chronicle* of



Film legend Steven Spielberg resigned from the advisory board of the Boy Scouts of America, saying that the group is 'publicly participating in discrimination.'

Philanthropy, United Way organizations across the country are divided over the question of financial support for the Boy Scouts.

The *Chronicle* stated that the Boy Scouts receive 35 percent of its private donations through United Way groups. A survey of 400 of the nation's largest United Way offices indicated that 50 of them had taken steps in

reaction to the Boy Scouts anti-gay policy.

Some 25 United Ways have deleted the Boy Scouts from their list of member agencies, while others have limited their Scout donations, according to the *Chronicle*.

A few United Ways have passed new or strengthened existing anti-bias policies to include sexual orientation, but those groups reported they do not plan to make charities' support of the policies a condition for receiving donations, according to the *Chronicle*.

Other supporters of the Boy Scouts have launched their own campaign against the group's anti-gay policy. Scouting for All is a Petaluma, Calif.-based group founded by 15-year-old former Scout Steven Cozza, his father Scott Cozza, and 71-year-old Dave Rice, all of whom are straight.

A film documenting their civil rights crusade, "Scout's Honor," will be screened at Emory in May. The Sundance award-winning documentary by Tom Shepard centers around the stories of Rice and Steven Cozza, then 12, who are determined to change the Scouts' policy.

The film includes the stories of gay Scouts and Scout masters who have been expelled from the Boy Scouts over their sexual orientation.

The film is one of the first to show gay and straight people working together for gay civil rights.

—From staff and wire reports

INFO

'Scout's Honor'

May 11, 7:30 p.m.
Emory University, Atlanta
White Hall, Room 208
<http://www.acluga.org/scoutshonor/>

LGR: 'What difference would it make if Cuellar is gay?'

> Continued from Page 2

some representatives say that," Hardy-Garcia said. "What really matters is how he does his job. We have so much better stuff to talk about than people's personal lives."

How it started

Sanchez reportedly got a threatening letter in December from someone who did not want him in the governor's race. Cuellar and other sources have said that two private investigators employed by Sanchez's lawyer Tony Canales spread allegations that Cuellar wrote the letter.

The investigators are also reported to have told people the Secretary is gay and asked if they had information on him participating in group sex.

Sanchez is a Laredo businessman and Cuellar is a former state representative from the city. Both men are Democrats, although Republican Gov. Rick Perry appointed Cuellar to his Secretary of State post.

In a letter dated April 12 that Cuellar said he received on Monday, Sanchez apologized for involvement of sexual orienta-

tion in the incident.

"I have concluded that if investigators hired by my attorney did, indeed, pursue the line of questioning reported in the media, it was inappropriate. I take full responsibility, and I offer my apologies," the letter from Sanchez said.

Sanchez also said he was not involved in making the incident public.

Cuellar, in a response dated April 16 and on his official state stationery, accepted the apology and asked that Sanchez also apologize to Cuellar's family, including his wife, children and mother.

Cuellar invited Sanchez to telephone or visit him and calls on Sanchez to "acknowledge that I did not write the alleged 'anonymous, threatening' letter that I have not seen."

Perry spokeswoman Walt said the governor supports the release of the threatening letter, if it exists.

In a possibly related incident, University of Texas football star Marty Akins told the Houston Chronicle that he received a call from an anonymous man March 21. The man threatened Akin's life if he did not stop his run for governor.

Report: Hate groups spreading

> Continued from Page 2

continue to make inroads among young white supremacists. Odinism is a racist version of an ancient Nordic religion called Asatru.

Neo-pagan groups tend to consider homosexuality a genetic defect or "threat to a pure Aryan society," Roy said.

The *Intelligence Report* indicated that hate group activism has heated up in the South thanks to neo-Confederate groups recently defeated in their attempts to keep Confederate battle symbols flying in Georgia, South Carolina and Mississippi.

Although the South has long been considered a haven for hate groups, Roy said geography is less important now than it was before the advent of the Internet.

"With technology we're a much smaller nation, a much smaller planet," Roy said. "These guys are talking to people in Berlin, in England, and it doesn't matter where they are anymore."

"Since the Civil War historically when the economy is doing well, as it

has been for the last few years, these groups fall off," he continued. "However, because of technology that hasn't been the case since about 1997 or '98. That's because they've expanded their recruitment base from a handful to tens of thousands of people who run across their message [online]."

And the Internet is undoubtedly an important recruitment tool, Kaiman said.

"The groups are reaching out and using very sophisticated technology, especially on the Internet, to recruit members," he said.

Kaiman noted that many groups focus specifically on recruiting high school students.

"They have barbecues and they get together and they party—it's a fraternity and a sorority," he said. "In a lot of my discussions with former [hate group members] it often strikes me that, while they have a lot of crazy ideas, a lot of what draws them to these groups is a sense of belonging. It seems like society should find a better way to reach out to these people before they fall into these groups."

**"Most deli owners go home at 8 p.m.
Mere mortals!"**



KATZ'S NEVER KLOSES



MARC KATZ FOUNDER

616 WESTHEIMER (2 BLOCKS EAST OF MONTROSE)

713.521.3838

Limited
Seating.
Register
Soon!

Tony Carroll,
LMSW-ACP
Psychotherapist
Counseling
Consultation
713-527-0000
1006 Missouri St.
Houston, TX 77006

Imagine

WORKSHOPS
Now Available!

love



**A Workshop for
Single Gay Men**
\$120 per person

In this workshop learn about:

- ◆ Being attracted to more appropriate partners
- ◆ Eliminating incompatible people faster
- ◆ Identifying and overcoming what has kept you single
- ◆ Using the natural progression of relationships to predict the outcome
- ◆ Exploring new places and ways for meeting people
- ◆ Getting over going after the difficult ones
- ◆ Improving your dating skills
- ◆ Finding and maintaining lasting, loving, relationships

April 7/8 or Sept. 8/9



**A Workshop for
Gay Couples**
\$155 per couple

Understanding and Improving
Love Relationships

Most couples leave this workshop with:

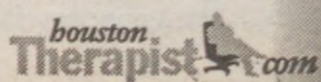
- ◆ Better communication skills
- ◆ Reduced frustration and blame
- ◆ Specific plans for increasing happiness
- ◆ Greater compassion for themselves and their partners
- ◆ Increased certainty about their relationship
- ◆ Tools for shaping a happier future
- ◆ Improved ways for working through the hot spots

April 28/29 or Sept. 22/23

TONY CARROLL, LMSW-ACP
Counseling, Psychotherapy, Workshops for Individuals and Couples

For more information or a free brochure, call or visit our web site:

713-527-0000
www.HoustonTherapist.com



BE A NAME, NOT A NUMBER!

At Capital Bank, we know our customers by name, not a number. We don't even have an 800 number. And when you call, you'll get a person, not a menu.

If you want a small bank atmosphere with big bank capabilities, visit us on Shepherd at Alabama. We take banking personally.



YOUR FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY BANK

Member
FDIC

3007 S. Shepherd
@ W. Alabama
713/529-0001



Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • APRIL 20, 2001

artistic drive

Annual Art Car weekend will feature car commemorating gay heroes

by D.L. MURPHY

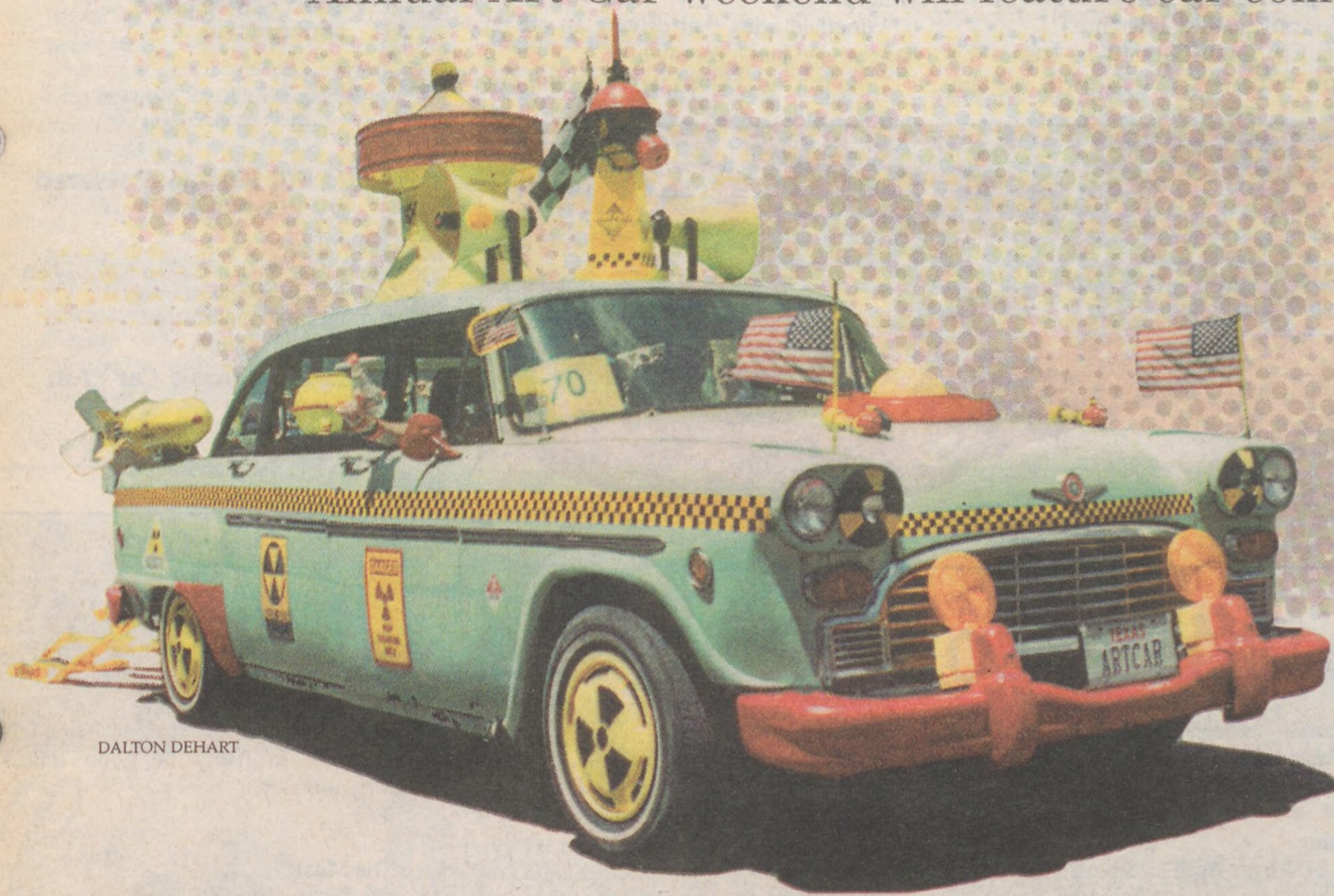
This year's festival season rolls in, as always, with the Pennzoil Art Car Weekend. Produced by The Orange Show Foundation, the 14th annual Art Car Weekend, "2001: A Space Auto-See," is three days of unique and entertaining events, offering something for anyone interested in a party.

The Art Car Ball, a celebration of the "drive" to create, takes place April 26 at the Astrodome. This is a significant change in location. The revitalization of downtown made it difficult to rent the usual parking garage. This new location offers, for the first time, space for all of the cars to roll into the party location. More than 6,000 guests and 250 cars are expected to attend this unusual display of costumes, cars and clowns.

This year's party offers entertainment by Carolyn Wonderland, Marcia Ball and the Royal Crown Revue. Also new at this year's party is the food, you can have a Dome Dog!

What we used to know as the Main Street Drag is now the Enron Mind's Eye Motorcade. On April 27 groups of art cars visit schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities and neighborhoods to make sure that those who can't attend the parade have the opportunity to see the cars. This is the best chance for everyone to

> Continued on Page 16



DALTON DEHART

WorldFest recognizes, appreciates gay support

Film event features five gay-themed movies

by STEVE WARREN

Coming just a few weeks before the Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, the 34th annual WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival whets your appetite with a few queer offerings amid a diverse group of films that don't ordinarily show at the multiplex.

Your annual presence doesn't go unnoticed.

"We get tremendous and welcome support from the Houston gay and lesbian community," festival founder and chairman J. Hunter Todd told Houston Voice, "not only of films of particular importance to them but all the films in the festival. Of course if a film has any (queer) overtones at all they flock to it."

Before reviewing more of the films you'll flocking to I should mention the festival's seminars, primarily of interest to people in the industry and priced accordingly (\$50 each or all six for \$295). To be presented April 26-28, they are: "Writing Screenplays," "Agents & Managers—An Overview of the Hollywood System," "The Art of Cinematography," "Casting for Feature Films," "Distributing the Indie Film" and "Producing and Directing the Independent Feature Film—Intelligence from the Front Lines."

If your interest extends beyond what's on the screen to how it gets there, here's a semester's worth of film school in three days.

Last week we reviewed three films of queer interest show-

> Continued on Page 16



In 'Face the Music,' one of the films at this year's WorldFest, rock band leader Dan fakes his death and then cross-dresses as 'Danielle.'

Art Car events start on Thursday at the Dome



> Continued from Page 15

see the cars at no charge.

April 28 brings us the Art Car Parade. The parade begins at 11:30 from Allen Parkway and Taft and continues through the Houston International Festival. The only rule is that the entry has to roll on wheels. Past entries have included skaters, bicycles, musicians on flat beds, low-riders, pigs on wheels, performance artists, everyday art cars and the always favorite "assembled" art cars.

Always under-appreciated, the everyday art cars offer a new perspective on the American fascination with the automobile. These cars must have the structural integrity to be driven at normal speeds, must be able to be kept clean, shouldn't fade in the sun, and must have drivers able to put up with questions ranging from "how could you ruin a perfectly good paint job?" to "how long did that take?" to "why did your husband let you do that?"

One of the four-wheeled art cars is one planned by Rick Hurt, better known in Houston's gay community as Rainbow de Klown. This three-dimensional art car is

designed to remember those who have made a difference in the gay community.

A rainbow striped van will have objects glued onto it to commemorating well-known gays and lesbians. For example, Olympic rings will be glued to the van to commemorate Greg Louganis and other gay Olympians of the past and present. Each object will have the name and noted accomplishments of the person associated with it.

"I'm doing this to promoted education around the nondiscrimination ordinance and domestic partner benefits. I want to educate people about those who have made a difference in our history," said Hurt. "I'm doing this project because I want people to know this (the nondiscrimination ordinance) is not a social experiment because we have already made a difference."

Rita Charles, the artist who creates the window displays at Mary's bar is creating



the "America the Beautiful" background scenery for the vehicle.

Susan Wingfield is a local artist and HISD art teacher who has created, driven and helped students create several art cars over the years. These entries have ranged from recreating her favorite bar on a flat bed trailer to a 1979 Duster painted with what has been described as a cross between Dr. Seuss and The Far Side (favorite visual pun—a crying crab "Crab Bawls").

Wingfield said creating art cars has a positive impact on her students' lives.

"It lets the kids feel good about themselves. It's something they can do to get positive attention and to be included in the art community as peers rather than observers," Wingfield said.

Wingfield adds that driving an art car has changed her everyday life.

"You can't go to job interviews and pre-

tend to be a conservative person."

For those who want a warm up to the Art Car Weekend, Houston's chapter of the Classic Chassis Car Club will have a showing of members' cars on Sunday, April 22. The cars range from '50s vintage Chevy's to '70s vintage muscle cars. Also, anyone owning a classic car is invited to bring it by so that others can admire it.

Art Car Ball

April 26, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Astrodome

Cost: \$40 in advance at Half Price Books, \$50 at the door

Enron Mind's Eye Motorcade

April 27

Starts at Children's Museum of Houston at 9:30 a.m. Cost:

Art Car Parade: Powered by Pennzoil

April 28

Starts at Taft and Allen Parkway on its way to the Houston International Festival

Classic Chassis Car Club Showing

April 22, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The 611, Pacific@Stamford

INFO

WorldFest coming to H-town April 26-28

> Continued from Page 15

ing early in the festival: "Touch of Evil" (** 1/2 out of 4), "Looking through Lillian" (* 1/2) and "Meet the Mosaics" (** 1/2).

Here's the word on the rest:

Friends And Family

April 23, 9 p.m.; April 24, 5 p.m.

The best of Worldfest's gay-themed films is like, one Sunday night you sit down to watch "The Sopranos" and "Queer as Folk" and some digital glitch has scrambled the shows together.

Stephen (Greg Lauren) and Danny (Christopher Gartin) are bodyguards to Mafia don Victor Patrizzi (Tony Lo Bianco). Everyone knows they're a couple and nobody has a problem with it.

That includes Stephen's parents, to whom he's in the closet about the work he does. When they pay a surprise visit to celebrate Dad's birthday and Mom suggests he throw a big party, the stage is set for farce.

Joseph Triebwasser works a few serious points into his script with mixed results, but they pass quickly. On the negative side things never get any more romantic between Stephen and Danny than a little hand-holding and "We are gonna grow old together." It's funny to see where some filmmakers will draw the line.

But there's a lot that's funny about "Friends

and Family," enough to make "Sopranos" fans appreciate tenors for an hour and a half.

Morning

April 24, 7 p.m.; April 25, 5 p.m.

A Southern boy, corrupted by New York City, returns to his roots and his senses in "Morning," which shows that even in the Bible Belt people realize there are worse things than being gay.

Trick (Kieran Mulroney) lives with his girlfriend Lily (Annabeth Gish). A visit from his boyhood pal Jonny (J.R. Richards) ends abruptly when Jonny leaves for North Carolina in Trick's car. Before you can say "Road trip!" Trick, Lily and King (Steven Schub), a deli worker who acts like a queen (but isn't), head south.

There they receive the surprising news that Jonny was gay and is dead. Jonny's grandfather (Pat Hingle) and mother (Tess Harper) opt for a quiet cremation but his widow, Emmanuel (Darren Burrows) insists on giving his partner a proper sendoff.

Like Trick, "Morning" lacks a sense of humor. Its message that we have to choose between success and simplicity in life is oversimplified. Still, the acting is good and writer-director Ami Canaan Mann, daughter of director Michael Mann, deserves to make another film.

**

Mr. Rice's Secret

April 25, 5 p.m.

In his long career David Bowie has helped destigmatize cross-dressing, bisexuality, interracial marriage and even wealth. In "Mr. Rice's Secret" he tackles the biggest bugaboo of all, the thing all of us face and few look forward to: Death.



learn it's the quality, not quantity of your life that counts. Once Owen learns Mr. Rice's secret, what he does with it should come as no surprise, although the scene where he does it will still move you unless you have a heart of stone.

"Mr. Rice's Secret" combines "Stand by Me" (Switzer even resembles River Phoenix in that film) with a disease-of-the-week movie and a touch of magic. It's less ambitious but much easier to take than "Pay It

Forward," but you can't expect a picture this well-meaning to really be good unless Spielberg directs it.

** 1/2

Face The Music

April 26, 7 p.m.; April 27, 3 p.m.

"Rock and roll fantasy camp" gets a new meaning in this too-obvious "Tootsie" spinoff set in the world of pop music. Under Jeff Howard's direction the cast rarely inhabit their parts, just read the lines of a sweetly silly script.

Singer-songwriter Dan Stone (Tyler Christopher), about to turn 30, is going nowhere with his band Fuzzbucket. They're dumped by their label just as Dan catches his girlfriend in bed with another man.

Dan's roommate and bandmate Steve (Patrick Y. Malone, a young Damon Wayans type) suggests faking Dan's death to get publicity. A few weeks later Dan has cabin fever from hiding out. When Claire (Elena Lyons), a magazine writer, calls he puts on his ex's things to give an interview as Dan's "cousin Danielle."

Posing as a woman doesn't teach Dan as much as Dustin Hoffman and others who have primed the pumps before him because he seems to know it all already. "Face the Music" requires too much suspension of disbelief for the minimal rewards it offers, but it's not painful to watch.

**

Bayou Calendar

Putting It Together

If you're a Stephen Sondheim junkie, this 1992 revue will keep you on a buzz for weeks. Thirty-five songs by Broadway's reigning wizard (from "Sunday in the Park With George," "Follies," "Dick Tracy," "Into the Woods," "Merrily We Roll Along," "Sweeney Todd," "Company," et al.) have been shoe-horned (by Sondheim himself with Julia McKenzie) into a bookless book whereby five literate, sophisticated people at a Manhattan dinner party rehash their lives and illusions. Sounds pretty much like a Sondheim show. The musical has had enough cachet to attract Carol Burnett, Julie Andrews, George Hearn, Christopher Durang, Bronson Pinchot and Diana Rigg to appear in various productions since its opening. Whatever its merits as a cohesive show, you can't beat the uniquely chic music and lyrics.

Through May 5
Masquerade Theatre, 1537 N. Shepherd Dr.
713-861-7045

Barbecuing Hamlet

The Bard goes c/w in Pat Cook's frankly hilarious farce. The Peaceful Glen Memorial Players hire Margo Daley to direct "Hamlet" in their renovated funeral home. But Shakespeare comes with caveats: it

has to be a melodrama so the yahoos know when to boo and throw popcorn; the play can't be too loud or the lady who lives above the stage gets cranky, but loud enough to drown out the sound of the audience sucking their fingers from the pre-curtain barbecue; the sponsor must have product placement; and castle Elsinor has to be set west of the Pecos. Life upon the wicked community stage gets just what it deserves.

Through May 12
Theatre Suburbia, 1410 W. 43rd St.
713-682-3525

Raised in Captivity



Nicky Silver's paint-peeling comedy/dramas have a liberating effect upon audiences: everybody's life looks

Anthony Marble, standing, and Byron Norton are featured in 'Raised in Captivity,' by Nicky Silver.

absolutely fabulous compared to these bleeding, self-lacerating sad sacks on stage. Silver's 1995 "Captivity" is no exception, filled with incendiary language and situations to scald the brain. Incest, senseless violence, dysfunction, all set to paroxysms of radiant language so heart-wrenchingly beautiful and poetic that you want to weep at these flailing characters who only seek a little love to keep them whole. But first, of course, you've got to laugh out loud at their pratfalls over life. Profoundly sad, profoundly funny.
April 20 through May 19
Ashland St. Theatre Co., 2610 Ashland St.
713-426-3019

Don Carlo

Truly revolutionary, Giuseppe Verdi's dramas tie personal stories with larger tales of the state. Verdi's liberal social views overlay his operas like a mighty river, and his political "Don Carlo" from 1867 is his epic, awash with ringing cries for freedom from oppression. It is also filled with French grand opera spectacle since it was commissioned by the Paris Opera, still grieving a deceased Meyerbeer and still smarting from Wagner's 1861 revision of "Tannhauser." Verdi's opera

is grand, indeed, but it is equally majestic and regal in conception with unrequited love, brotherly love, mismatched love, and sadistic love swirling through the very sublime music. Grand opera at its greatest.

April 20 through May 5
Houston Grand Opera Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas
713-227-ARTS

Beowulf

The first great epic verse in English (well, Anglo-Saxon English and that, as we know, is something completely different). Written in the 8th century, this mingling of pagan and Christian relates in 43 cantos the heroic tale of Beowulf of the Geats (somewhere near Sweden) as he does good deeds in a world of evil, personified by the three great monsters he must fight during his life. This wondrous work, like Homer's, was written to be performed, and 30 volunteers will do so in this marathon reading of Nobel Prize-winner Seamus Heaney's highly praised translation. An experience not to be missed. Love live Grendell! And his mom.

April 23, 6 p.m.
Brazos Bookstore, 2421 Bissonnet

Join us for fabulous drink specials 8-10 nightly
\$2 Longnecks • \$2 Well • \$1 Glow Shots



Home of the sexy Glow Girls!
This IS the Party Place!!!

Come check
out our
NEW

Sexy Orgasm
Body Shots
every Wednesday!!!

Re-Inventing the Gay Club Scene
Never A Cover!!! • 21 & Up • 1417-B Westheimer • 713.522.5166

RESURRECTION
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

You're invited to our
28th Anniversary Celebration!
Saturday, April 28 • 1pm

- Sno Cones, Cake Walk, Dunking Booth • Games for kids and adults
- Special Guest "ROSIE" in performance
- Catered BBQ meal • 5:30-6:30pm

DISCO NIGHT @ Resurrection!


- 6:45-10pm • With 70s Disco Music • Guest DJ Andra Haviland
- Best Disco Costume Contest w/prizes!
- \$5 dance, \$1 festival (BBQ not included)
- Advance Tickets: Adults \$15, Children \$5
- (Includes meal, entry to dance, contest, Rosie skit and selected games)

2025 W. 11th St. @ T.C.Jester
713-861-9149 ♦ www.resurrectionmcc.org

THEATRE NEW WEST
Presents
BED, BOYS & BEYOND
A Musical Revue about being Gay...Today!
APRIL 6—MAY 26
Friday & Saturday only
Music by Alfredo Alvarez
Book & Lyrics by Jeff Dobbins
Directed by Joe Watts
Music Direction by Michael Harren
Starring:
Jeff Dawson, Basil Anderson,
David Barron, Ronnie Boyd, & Laurence Edwards

Curtains: 8:00 P.M.
Tickets \$20.00
Reservations:
713-394-0464
"a melding of Jaques
Brel and Broadway.
witty, serious, and at times
sweet.
a fun show... an
entertaining evening."
-Texas Triangle

1415 California St.
Houston, Texas 77006
(Located on the ground floor of the
Sonoma Restaurant Bldg.)



THE LOVETT INN

Distinctive Lodging and Catering Accommodations

Call us for your next out-of-town guest!



Historic Accommodations • Corporate Meeting Rooms
Banquet Facilities • Jacuzzi Suites • Pool/Hot Tub
Near Downtown, Museums and Medical Center

We do catered events for up to 200 people!

501 Lovett Blvd. Houston, TX 77006
(713) 522-5224 • (800) 779-5224
Fax (713) 528-6708 • lovetinn.com
YOU'LL LOVE IT!

On Stage

THEATER REVIEW

Glorifying the American boy

TNW's 'Bed, Boys & Beyond' Houstonizes
New York gay revue

by D.L. GROOVER

In 1999, composer Alfredo Alvarez, lyricist Jeff Dobbins, and members of an assembled cast in a "Chorus Line"-like workshop, cobbled together a gay musical revue called "All Male Lives of Y2Gay." The musical, using songs and monologues, turned a witty, loving, and jaundiced eye at the lives and times of Chelsea gay boys, the '90s incarnation of the new affluent gay man who had migrated somewhat north from the ghettos of the Village.

"Y2Gay" premiered at the 3rd annual New York International Fringe Festival, a cutting-edge theatrical smorgasbord with various venues around NYC's East Village, somewhat like a traveling DiverseWorks. The work was a pleasant hit with festival-goers; subsequently, the producers retooled the show, dropping four characters, changed its title to **BED, BOYS & BEYOND**, and found an off-Broadway theater next door to the site of the famous Stonewall Bar for a successful four-month run starting March 2000.

It's most appropriate that Theatre New West should get the first performances outside NYC, knowing its former lithe productions of "Fairy Tales" and "Showtunes." In its Houston reincarnation, "Bed, Boys & Beyond" has dropped all Chelsea references, and has added the number, "Here in Montrose," to bring it relevance to our Bayou community.

As it now stands, "B,B & B" is a lovely tribute to contemporary gay trials, tribulations and mostly joys, played by five avatars who could be a cross section of the current gay lifestyle: Basil Anderson, a confused naïf searching for Mr. Right; David Barron, leatherman or nelly belle; Ronnie Boyd, blond and androgynous—14 going on 40; Jeff Dawson, soigneur and wonderfully jaded; and Laurence Edwards, bitch goddess.

But the moment, dramatically delivered by a youthful looking Boyd, flies by in three sentences and nothing more is made of it, not even a song, for which this is such a natural cue that we feel cheated.

Fortunately, the monologues are swiftly forgotten when the guys sing and are put

through their expert paces by the sleek, imaginative direction of Joe Watts. Their diverse voices—Anderson's ethereal tenor, Barron's rich baritone, Boyd's deep quiver, Dawson's raspy twang, Edwards' tight vibrato—blend like the best gay men's chorus around.

The melodies of Alfredo Alvarez are workmanlike, perhaps a little too Sondheim-esque to allow us to hum them easily when we leave the theater, but they serve the lyrics of Jeff Dobbins to perfection. And the words are great; wickedly clever in intent, they often make us laugh out loud, even while they're internally rhyming with a vengeance.

David Barron has the most fun, since he has the most memorable characters to play. First, he's Horace, our very fey flight attendant for our journey on TWGay, Gate 69. "Call me Hor," he announces with blatant come-on and fly me demeanor, as he sizes up the audience as if we might become his very own flotation device.

Later, looking devilish in tight black T-shirt and Mephistophelean goatee, he says with blasé indifference that meeting men is not a problem, while he launches into the hilarious "Troll Magnet," wherein every butt-ugly psychotic makes a beeline for the big guy.

Revue had been part of American theater even before Ziegfeld gave them the gloss of class and sophistication in the '20s. The form never died out, as it was resurrected inside that one-eyed monster of mass entertainment, television, in every variety show you can think of. "Saturday Night Live" is but the current version, like it or not.

The best of the theatrical revues were plotless but with a unifying theme, one composer for overall cohesion, and sketch comedy sequences for topical relevance.

Except for some minor patches, "Bed, Boys & Beyond" meets and exceeds all requirements for this uniquely American entertainment. Since this revue glorifies the American male, being gay-infused only adds to its luster and sexiness.

INFO

'Bed, Boys & Beyond'

Through May 26

Theatre New West, 1415 California
713-394-0464



"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER



"He said he would like to [come out] one day. And he said if he did come out and it didn't work out, he would like to leave Hollywood and move up the coast and build a house on the beach."

—Marc Christian, Rock Hudson's (left) lover, to CNN, March 29

"All the other countries have marriages specially made for gay people. What we have in the Netherlands is civil marriage open to everyone. That's the big difference. That is the news."

—Henk Krol, father of the Dutch gay marriage movement, as the Netherlands became the first country to let gays marry under the same laws as heterosexual couples, April 1

"The most important thing is that we love each other like everyone loves each other and gets married. There's no difference. The whole world has to learn that love is between people and not only between a man and a woman."

—Groom Peter Wittebrood-Lemke as the Netherlands became the first nation to let gays marry under the same laws as straight people, April 1

"The government considers that the right to marry is a constitutional right and that access to marriage is the only real guarantee that homosexual and heterosexual couples will be treated the same way."

—Belgian Health Minister Magda Alvoet announcing April 2 that Belgium plans to be the second country to let gays marry under the regular marriage laws and that legislation will be introduced in late April

"I can tell you he's not gay. I never believed it—so it wasn't something that crossed my mind when I met him. How I'd love to be able to go out and sing from the rooftops: 'It is not true!' I want to prove it to people, but it's impossible to do that."

—Sophie Rhys-Jones (right), wife of Britain's Prince Edward, to the *News of the World*, April 1



"I love it when [the Human Rights Campaign] calls me up. 'Hi, Ann. Do you know that gays and lesbians can be fired in 36 states for no reason? Will you please give us \$100 so we can spend another legislative session fighting for a watered-down non-discrimination bill that will get killed in the House? Oh, and we also need money to expand our fund-raising activities and start our new capital campaign for the headquarters we'll be building on the Rhode Island Avenue lot we just bought. Did I mention we're fighting for hate-crime legislation, along with all the other gay-rights issues that draw approval ratings of 75 percent or higher in national polls? I hope we can count on you!'"

—Syndicated *San Francisco Bay Times* newswriter Ann Rostow, in an April 4 filing

"Though [the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation] now seems to be taking much of the credit for bringing down [Dr. Laura] Schlessinger's TV show, dominating most of the articles about the show's end, the majority of thanks and congratulations needs to go to the activists in StopDrLaura.com who weren't paid for their efforts, and who showed us all just how powerful we could be."

—Gay.com columnist Michelangelo Signorile, April 4



"Unfortunately, [my TV show] never even had a chance for the audience to decide... because the advertisers were intimidated and threatened by GLAAD and their constituency. ... So, they couldn't get advertisers because they were scared and upset. And so, the stations put me on at two in the morning."

—Dr. Laura Schlessinger (left) on CNN's "Larry King Live," April 2

KIRIUM
Chronograph
By TAG Heuer

I.W.Marks
3841 Bellaire Blvd. 713-668-5000
Open Mon.-Sat. 10-6, Thurs. 10-9

You're invited to:
MARANATHA MCC'S FIESTA BALL EXTRAVAGANZA 2001

When: April 27 at 7:30pm
Where: Kim Son Grand Ballroom, 1503 St. Emanuel

Let's come together as a community and have the time of your life!
Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction and Raffle

Attire: Dressy Casual
Cost: \$30.00 per person, contact the church office for details on purchasing tickets at 713.528.6756

Proceeds benefit the ministry of Maranatha Fellowship MCC!
Catering provided by Don Carlos • Music provided by Andra Haviland • Cash bar

Maranatha Fellowship MCC
1311 Holman (across from HCC-Downtown Campus)
meets in the home of Central Congregational Church
6:30pm Sunday Evenings

April 22nd "Beyond the Shadows of Doubt and Fear" Rev. Lace


Please Join Us For Evening Services And Experience
The Love That Maranatha Fellowship MCC Has To Offer!

Church Service begins at 6:30pm and nursery is available for small children. Mid-week "Home Group" services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

For more info...
713-528-6756 or email
maranatha@ev1.net

Our Church Can Become Your Home! Give Us A Try! We Would Love To Have You Visit Anytime!

Maranatha Fellowship
Metropolitan Community Church
"A liberating church serving a liberating God."



NOW AT OUR NEW LOCATION!

Experience the
Art of Dining

**FOX
DINER**

"If my husband would ever meet a woman on the street who looked like the women in his paintings, he would fall over in a dead faint"
—Mrs. Pablo Picasso

Comfort Food is what this Vixen's Fixin'

Hours

Monday-Thursday	11am-10pm
Friday	11am-11pm
Saturday	11am-9pm
Sunday Brunch Buffet	11am-3pm

**2815 S. SHEPHERD AT KIPLING
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019-2613
713.523.5FOX**

Proudly serving all hungry Houstonians!

Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Cozy caffeine

Coffee Caravan offers another friendly neighborhood hangout in the Heights

by TRAYCE DISKIN

If there's one type of dining establishment that fits perfectly snug inside the still-neighborhoody Heights, it's the community coffee house. Heights antiques, Mexican pottery and elusive, magical folk art tchotkes may certainly clutter our living room shelves, but nothing gives a neighborhood its caffeinated soul like a sunlit room filled with local, acoustic music and steaming Cafe au Lait.

Housed in a icing-pink bungalow on lower Studewood, COFFEE CARAVAN keeps it simple with affordable coffees, teas and juices, and light, cafe fare. But it's the roomy, cheerful atmosphere that makes one want to blow off weekend errands and spend the afternoon lounging and sipping away.

Colorful mosaic tile tables rest on muted magenta wood floors in the two front rooms, but our favorite is the screened in patio, complete with straw mat floors and funky brass candleholders and sculptures. Unlike the sprawling warehouse feel of Kaldi, another essential Heights coffee spot, Coffee Caravan allows for a more intimate, peaceful alternative.

Its four separate rooms (five if you include the inviting, single table on the front porch), make it the perfect place for perusing another chapter or scribbling infinite journal pages or even, as the case may be, figuring a 1040A, as we saw one flustered citizen doing last weekend.

Although the Caravan's stocked with every flavoring syrup necessary for turning your coffee into a gourmet beverage, the menu particularly recommends the Almond Joy (\$2.95), a concoction of latte with traces of almond, coconut, and chocolate.

The Chai Tea Latte (\$2.75) was a tad watered down for my taste, but delightfully frothy on top. The self-serve, bottomless cup coffees are robust and always piping hot.

And yes, there's the food menu, which certainly isn't the main draw, but offers some rather tasty cafe staples. When you plan on weekend brunch, erase visions of fluffy omelets, or even a fried egg or two. The Belgian Waffle (\$3.50) is about as involved as the kitchen gets, but the fresh, cubed fruit that surrounds it is delicious.

The Bagel and Smoked Salmon (\$6.75) has the right idea with the red onions, capers, and fruit, but the lox itself is obviously store bought, and a little packaged-weathered.

Each day there are three kinds of Quiche

Coffee Caravan


903 Studewood
713.861.2024


Food: 


Service: 


Value: 


Scene: 

 Opt for bread, water at home

 OK, if you really must

 Fine for most

 Worth the drive, so live a little

 As good as it gets

(\$5.25), which are your best bet if you're looking for a light, but solid meal. The veggie, for instance, features hearty, chopped spinach laced with carrots and the perfect amount of cheese. The crust is flaky and softly baked.

The absolutely huge Chicken Croissant Sandwich (\$5.99) also makes a winning choice, with its peppered meat and wholesome, airy bread. The Tuna Sandwich (\$5.99) and Chicken Salad Sandwich (\$5.99) don't use much innovation, but are well-done standbys that serve the function of feeding hungry coffee drinkers.

With the addition of a few more food items, the menu would be far more impressive, although for the moment, food doesn't seem to be the priority of the kitchen, either.


On one occasion, when I was hoping for a comfy bowl of soup to go with the tasty Dakota bread, a server told me they were all out of soup, although it was only 11:30 a.m.

Another afternoon, they couldn't furnish us with some ketchup for a sandwich. But these small absences are easily remedied with a little more time and attention.

For instance, the menu itself, which blandly lists items and hours in two over-used fonts, could be jazzed up a bit to give the whole concept a little more kick. I'm not suggesting they get gimmicky on us, but I've no doubt that those who thought out the decor could add a little flair in the menu presentation and the items themselves.

But come Saturday nights, when local singer-songwriters fill the rooms with their original lyrics and mellifluous notes, or when guests kick back and simply indulge in a peaceful, caffeine-induced break, the above complaints seem slightly nitpicky.

The truth is, Coffee Caravan will undoubtedly improve over time. For now, visit it to experience what a coffee house does best—bring calm, community and cafe back to the neighborhood.



Bocados

P R E S E N T S

THE AQUARIUM ROOM

SATURDAY NIGHT DANCING

every **SATURDAY NIGHT**
from **10PM UNTIL 2AM**
always **NO COVER**
must **DRESS TO IMPRESS**
call **713 523 5230**
come **1312 W. ALABAMA**
music **DJ TERRY FLORES**

Mix & Mingle



Why Fertilize Your Trees?

Our lawns are a foreign environment for landscape plantings. Without the constantly replenished, rich layer of humus from the forest floors, they are left to compete with our lawn for the scarce nutrients available.

Bartlett has formulated its own fertilizer for trees and shrubs, BOOST®. Injected directly into the root zone, provides both immediate and long-lasting nutrients, improves plant vigor and resistance to insects and disease while fostering growth. Don't trust your tree care to anyone but an expert.

Mention this ad to receive 10% off any treatment

**BARTLETT
TREE EXPERTS**
Caring for America's
Trees Since 1907

713.862.4777
www.bartlett.com

Guided by The Tree Research Laboratories and
Experimental Grounds, Charlotte, NC

Homefront

Fresh finish

Preparation is key to success in repainting the home

by ELLA TYLER

Surface preparation and color selection, including patch testing, are the keys to an attractive, lasting paint job. People often skip these steps to save time and money but it is a false economy. Poor preparation means the job must be redone sooner.

Choosing the colors to paint your house can be really stressful. These steps should help.

First, check with your homeowners association to see if paint colors require approval. Why spend the time to choosing an impermissible color?

Color principles you learned in art or design courses apply to painting your house, too. Remember—light colors look closer and bigger. Dark colors, in small doses, recede and look smaller. Warm colors, like red and yellow catch your eye, but they also look “warm.” Colors with blue undertones are cool colors.

Drive around and observe the truth of these maxims. While you’re driving (carefully please), be critical of other people’s paint jobs. You can learn a lot from their mistakes. For example, when you see hot pink crape myrtles and an apricot colored house, the scene looks unplanned. Notice that very light colors, especially with a glossy finish, reflect their surroundings.

Now that you have some ideas, go to the paint store. Get chips for only the colors that you are immediately attracted to. You won’t like the others any better later and they’ll confuse the issue.

Look at the chips in the sun and in the shade. Hold them up to any brick or stone accents. Stick the chip where you can see it when you enter the house. After a day or two, do you still like it?

If you do, go back to the paint store and a small amount of that color. Paint generous swatches on your house. Do several areas of the house, so you know how the paint looks in different lights.

If you don’t like the color, go back to the paint store. Get another sample and try it out.

It may take several tries, but a few days of a patchwork-looking house and a half a dozen cans of unused paint are a small price to pay relative to a house painted a color you hate every time you look at it.

Don’t forget to sample your main color and your trim colors together. Now that you have your colors, buy all of the paint you need at one time. This really is the only way to insure that every container is exactly the same color. Regardless of what the label says, exterior paint on a wooden surface requires two coats.

How much paint do you need? The average gallon of paint covers 400 square feet. If you don’t know how to compute

this, take the surface measurements of the surface to be painted to the paint store and let them help you calculate how many gallons will be needed.

Do you want latex or oil based paint? Latex is easier to work with and easier to clean up after. Oil has some advantages if you know how to work it. The average homeowner should stick with latex paint.

Now prepare the surface. Power washing the exterior will remove accumulated grime and mildew and loose paint. Beware—power washing windows and trim may cause spectacular breakage.

Next, scrape off the remaining loose paint. Do it by hand with a wire brush. Using the attachment on your power drill can damage the wood, causing “cupping.”

Now, inspect the area to be painted. Do all those repairs you have been putting off. Replace any caulking that is broken, loose or brittle. Use the right caulk and be sure to follow the directions on the tube. Caulk is pushed, not pulled.

Seal rusted nail heads with any of the commercial products available for this use. Do not seal nail heads that are not rusted, as many sealers will cause corrosion if used on clean metal. Again, follow the directions on the label.

For a perfect finish, countersink the nail, fill the hole with wood putty, and sand the putty when it is completely dry.

Applying TSP (trisodium phosphate) or another mildew inhibitor is a project best left to pros. Unless perfectly applied, it provides a growth medium for mildew, eventually causing the paint to peel away from the surface in big sheets.

Before you begin painting, protect plants with a drop cloth first.

Apply the first coat with a brush. This insures that the paint penetrates the surface and seals the wood. The second coat can be applied with a roller or sprayer. This coat builds paint thickness and provides a smooth, even surface.

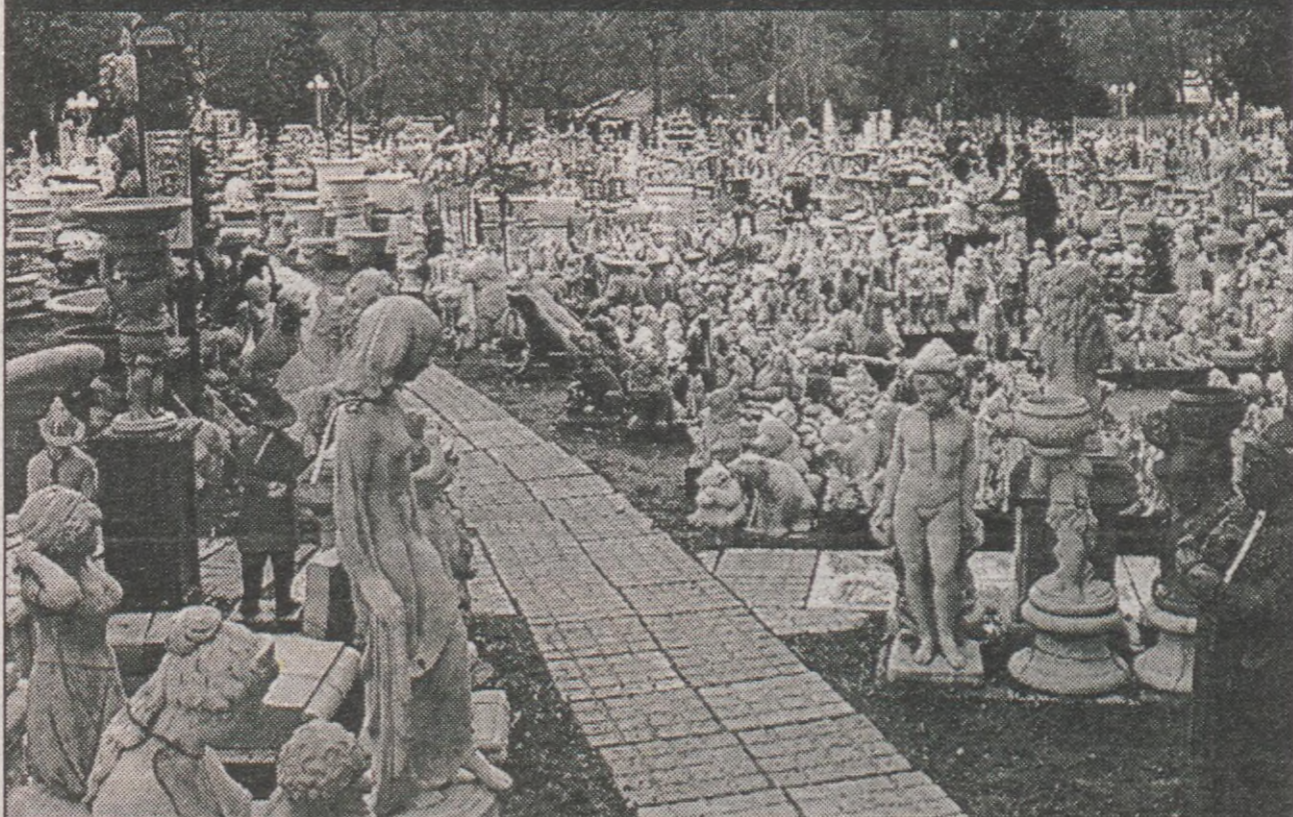
When you’re finished, clean your tools (including your ladder) and store them properly for use next time. Here on the Gulf Coast next time is not that far away.

Now, have a party!



Once you’ve made a selection from the myriad of paint color choices at the home improvement store, look at the chips in the sun and in the shade. You can ask the paint store for a small amount of that color and paint generous swatches on your house to see how the paint looks in different lights.

A Great Drive for the Weekend To An Unsurpassed Selection



OVER TWO ACRES OF ORNAMENTAL & ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE HOME & GARDEN DECOR

We also feature dramatic residential & commercial fountains and accessories.

Frazier’s

Business Highway 290 East in Hempstead
Open every day but Wednesdays from 9 to 6
409-826-6760



A BETTER PRODUCT, A BETTER PRICE



IF YOUR CLOSET HAD LOOKED THIS GOOD, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE COME OUT!



For a free design consultation, call
(713) 688-8808
Visit our showroom
3556 W. TC Jester • Houston



closet • home office • garage • pantry

Professional Services

Mail Boxes Etc.
Rice Village

U.S. Postal Service Retailer

Crating
On-Site Packing
Freight Shipping
FedEx • U.P.S. • DHL
Pick Up Service
International & Domestic Shipping

2476 Bolsover • Houston, TX 77005
(713)529-4132

Division of Brooks Ballard Industries, Inc.

FASTCASH

We buy anything of value!
Antiques, Estates, Furniture, Collectibles,
Jewelry, Automobiles, and Glassware.

BUY • SELL • CONSIGN
Highest Prices Paid for anything of value!!
713-994-5986 pgr.
281-391-7515

stansellshomes.com
Search the entire Houston MLS from one location!

STAN FORD
713-443-3333

Each office is independently owned and operated.

COLDWELL BANKER
SWILLEY-HUDSON

LAWRENCE CONSTRUCTION

Carpentry • Repairs
• Remodeling •

936.563.5180 / 281.948.4189
Lawrence Gilstrap
Serving Houston's Gay Community for 15 years

• AUTO • HOME • LIFE •
LOW COST AUTOS
LOW COST RENTERS
MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS
TONY MAY
INSURANCE AGENCY
NATIONWIDE INSURANCE
713-807-8264

houston voice

RON'S AMERICAN LIMOUSINES
BUSINESS • PLEASURE • ALL OCCASIONS

Houston's First Gay-Owned and Operated Limo Company

24-HOUR SERVICE
6, 8 & 10 Passenger Elegant Stretch Limousines • (713) 686-3337
20% off When You Mention This Ad!

DISCOVER VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS

Call 713-529-8490
for Directory Ad Sales

community

saturday, april 21

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Pride Committee of Houston workshop • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday april 22

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion: Bisexuality. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Pot Luck dinner. 6 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Spring Car Show • Classic Chassis Car Club • 611 Hyde Park • Noon. 713-797-8615.

monday, april 23

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

tuesday, april 24

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

ALOVE ODYSSEY

Doll!
You don't have to search the universe to find a date!

TRY IT FOR FREE!

URANUS OR BUST!

Edwina Features include:

- Multiple Matching Profiles
- Multiple Photos
- Private Photos
- More Matching Control
- Improved Mail Features

"This lady is a true matchmaker!"
- Southern Voice

"America's favorite dating dowager"
- Next, NYC

"Look out Cupid, Edwina's in charge now!"
- CyberSocket

Edwina 2001

www.edwina.com

The Funnest Lesbian and Gay Online Dating Service in the Galaxy!

Edwina and Edwina character are trademarks of Me.com, Inc.

calendar

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

Wednesday, April 25

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E.J's. 713-830-3000.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 692-2703.
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • 713-524-3818. Center for AIDS • Women's Mixer • 7 p.m. 713-527-8210.

Thursday, April 26

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal, 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.

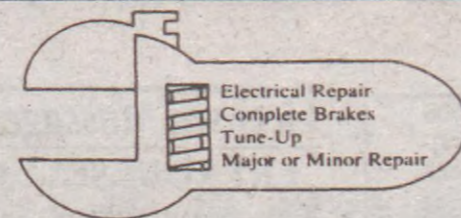
Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-524-9530.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition 6:30 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Family to Family Adoption Seminar • 6:30 p.m. 713-249-5941.
 Bi-Net Houston • Mixed Gender Social • 713-467-4380.

Friday, April 27

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. 713-861-1800.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Film Night hosted by Lesbians over Age 50 (LOAF) 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Movie Night • Kolbe Project • 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.
 Fiesta Ball Extravaganza 2001 • Maranatha Fellowship MCC • 713-528-6756

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

Automotive Services



**American & Foreign
TAFT STREET
AUTO**

Auto Repair & Service

713-526-3723
1411 Taft Houston, TX. 77019

THE TIRE PLACE
Inc.

- Alignment
- Brakes



1307 Fairview
(3 blocks west of Montrose)
713-529-1414

Call 713-529-8490 for Directory Ad Sales

Body, Mind and Spirit

**if your hair
isn't BECOMING to you,
you should BE COMING to me.**

**DON GILL
STUDIO 911**
713-521-0911
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

CHIROPRACTOR

Dr. Richard W. Fletcher

- Neck/Back Pain
- Auto/Work Injury
- Medicare/Medicaid

1245 Yale • 713-862-3897
In The "Heights" at 13th & Yale
(Yale is 1 Block West of and parallel to HEIGHTS BLVD.)

Penis-Enlargement.net

FDA Approved vacuum pumps/surgical. Gain 1-3". Permanent & safe. Enhance erection. FREE Brochures! Latest enlargement info: (312)409-9995 or 900-976-PUMP (\$2.95/min.)

• Lounge Wear • Thongs •

**New DVDs
Buy 1 get 1 free!**

**Adult Videos
2 for \$19.90**

**One Hour XXX
Photo Lab**

ΣΠΩΣ 1207 713.944.6010

1207 Spencer Hwy @ Allen Genoa
15 minutes south of downtown
Take I-45 South, exit
College/Airport, go east 3 miles

• Club Wear • Swim Wear •

**houston
voice**

Home Sweet Home



**50% OFF
First Cleaning**
-New Customers Only-



RESIDENTIAL HOUSECLEANING SERVICE

**New to Houston
Gay Owned & Operated**

- Weekly & BiWeekly
- Bonded & Insured
- Same Housekeeper

713.522.1900

www.pridecleaning.com
see url for on-line quote

In Business Since 1989

Perfection Plus Domestic Services

Specialists in Detail Cleaning

**FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED
BONDED FOR YOUR PROTECTION
MOVE-INS/MOVE-OUTS • SPECIAL PROJECTS
WEEKLY - BIMONTHLY
IN BUSINESS SINCE 1989**

**\$10⁰⁰ OFF
First Cleaning**
We Supply All Cleaning
Products & Equipment

FREE ESTIMATES By Phone
(713) 895-2766



Detail Cleaning Service

- Residential
- Commercial
- Make Ready
- Since 1994
- Insured
- References

832.251.0723 • Cell 713.851.3425



Make Ready •
Residential & Commercial •

Continually the Best

713.861.6181

Call 713-529-8490 for Directory Ad Sales

BLESSED SACRAMENT

LIBERAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

✽ An Affirming Catholic Community ✽

Holy Eucharist each Sunday at 12:30 PM

4606 Mangum (Between W. 43rd & Pinemont)
281-398-9646 • www.blessed-sacrament.net

Call 713-529-8490 for Directory Ad Sales

Classifieds

Announcements

RUMMAGE SALE

STAGE DOOR DIVAS
Benefiting AFH & Colt 45's
Stone Soup programs. Saturday,
April 28 • 8 a.m. to Noon. Briar
Patch parking lot • 2294 W.
Holcombe.

TGRA

Texas Gay Rodeo Associations
meeting and BBQ May 6 2 p.m.
New members welcome • Call
Michael 713.523.7663.

Employment

CARTER & COOLEY

Gay owned and operated Deli in
the Heights looking for reliable
counter person • Call Doug @
713-864-3354 for appointment.

MILAM HOUSE

Housing assistance needed for
transitional living program •
Knowledge in the areas of
HIV/AIDS, substance abuse
(recovery) preferred • Fax
resume to 713.522.2674.

ROMAN HAIR SALON

Independent cosmetology
Barber stylist to lease space •
Montrose area • Frank
713.522.8576 • Very reasonable.

BERING MEMORIAL UMC

Church-based AIDS Spiritual
Support Network serving a
diverse community including
GLBT and minorities seeks
Program Director. Qualifications:
Creative, dynamic professional
with experience in community
outreach, GROUP and individual
counseling program development
and management • LPC or MSW-
ACP preferred. Interested individ-
uals should forward resume and
qualifications to: Bering
Memorial UMC, c/o COSM,
1440 Harold, Houston, Texas
77006. • No phone calls please.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

High Linen Rental company
seeks Operations Manager with
demonstrated track record,
attention to detail, sewing and
Spanish knowledge a plus. Fax
resume to 713.522.4876.

CLUB NSOMNIA

Now hiring part time floor help
• Please cal 713.521.1613

Houston's newest nightclub
South Beach is accepting
applications for all positions.

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday
April 26, 27, 28
Noon 'til 8pm at JR's Bar & Grill
808 Pacific Avenue

South Beach, on the cutting edge of
technology, is Houston's newest night-
club sensation. Incredible financial
opportunities will be available. We are
looking for honest, self motivated and
customer service oriented individuals
who want to become part of our win-
ning team. We offer group health insur-
ance as part of our benefits package.

Your family of clubs at 800 Pacific:



**MONTROSE
MINING COMPANY**

PACIFIC STREET

Now accepting applications for
all positions • Apply in person at
710 Pacific • Monday-Friday,
11am-3pm • Recent photo
required • No phone calls please

EJ's

Now accepting applications for
Bartenders, Barbacks, Clean-Up
and Door Security •
Applications accepted Monday
through Friday, 2:00-4:00 pm
only • Recent photo helpful •
Absolutely no phone calls,
please • Apply in person at 2517
Ralph

MIDTOWN SPA HOUSTON

Apply in person • Start at \$6.50
per hour

Nightingale ADC offers free
employment assistance to HIV+
individuals • Including job pre-
paredness training, resume
development, job search assis-
tance • For more informations
call 713.981.1543

The Club Houston is now
accepting applicatins for
Certified Personal Trainers •
Apply in person at 2205 Fannin
or at www.the-clubs.com

FULL TIME RECEPTIONIST

Candidate must be well-organi-
zed, detail oriented, computer lit-
erate, have a courteous phone
demeanor and be able to work in
a fast-paced service company •
Knowledge of QuickBooks and
MSWord is essential • Smoke free
environment • Please fax resume
to 713.524.2643 • Monday
through Friday, 8am to 5pm

Licensed Massage

LET YOURSELF GO

Relax to an hour of Swedish
massage • RMT #013700 •
Dewayne • 713.521.0654.

MANSSAGE

Do your self a favor • Effective,
therapeutic, relaxing or deep tis-
sue • Don't settle for the less! •
What are you waiting for? RMT
4397. Tom 713.520.6018.

PATRICK!

Swedish massage by Patrick •
Relaxation, Myotherapy, Deep
Tissue • (MT#024589) •
713.807.7109 • 1-1/2 hours \$50

MASSAGE THERAPY

Therapeutic & Deep Tissue by
JASON • (RMT#18436) •
713.863.8888 • PAGER
713.908.8020

MASSAGE THERAPY

AT IT'S FINEST!
Swedish • Deep Tissue • Sports
• Reflexology • Don't settle for
less • In/Out, Hotels, 7 Days •
Nationally certified • Jeff
(RMT#016074 • 713.825.4062

JOB STRESS?

Tough workouts? • Call now to
make your appointment for a
relaxing, therapeutic Swedish
massage • Bodybuilder &
Licensed Massage Therapist •
Randal #005930 • 713.529.3348

FOR ACTIVE MEN

Your time for personal atten-
tion! • Full Body Swedish
Massage • Jose #17316 •
713.397.8286

Moving Services

www.ahoustonmover.com

Chuck French

TXDOT#534438B

713.861.1212 • 281.536.8530

Products & Services

Houston Auto Spa

Complete auto detail at your
home or at our shop • Friendly,
professional and dependable
service by appointment • Call
today 713.922.1999

LIFE INSURANCE

Life/Burial Insurance. • Ages 0
to 85 • Guaranteed issue • No
health questions • Any health
accepted • 281-351-8648 •
Leave message • Calls promptly
returned.

• We Let the Big Dog Out!! •

• Custom leather by appointment •
• 713.880.2628 •

• www.bigdogleather.com •

NO HEALTH INSURANCE?

Save Up To 50% On
Prescription Drugs • Save Up To
80% On Dental • www.hp.hori-
zons.com • 281.610.4417.

Rent to Own 50" Big Screen
TVs • Starting at \$29.99 a week •
1.800.774.4553.

EROTIC WEAR!

Huge variety of men's sexy
wear at Basic Brothers • 1232
Westheimer • 713.522.1626 •
www.erotictire.com

Professional Services

TOP CHOICE

Town Car service • Airport
transfers from \$52. Hourly rates
available • Call Frank •
713.494.4023.

RAINBOW COMPUTER SERVICE

Computer Not Performing?
Need A Little Help with Set Up?
Call Jim • 713.880.0072.

PRESSURE WASHING

Driveways • Walkways • Patios •
Brick & More! • Call Jason •
713.863.8888 • Pager 713.908.8020

LANDSCAPING

Spring Beds • Shrubs • Color •
Reasonable • 713.861.9949

Intuitive Counseling! • Reiki
Master Teacher Bill O'Rourke
uses Reiki, Tarot, Role Playing
and Guided Meditation (and
teaching same) to help you! •
713.864.2233

Residential Cleaning • House
Sitting • Pet Sitting - "Pets love
their own home, even when you
can't be there." • Established
1995 • Call Loyal 713.942.8816

BODY WAXING FOR MEN

Personal grooming by Dale •
Waxing specialist & licensed
Cosmetologist • Private
Location in Montrose • Call for
appointment 713.529.5952.

Real Estate for Rent/Sale

MONTROSE

1/1 apartment in quiet complex •
\$450/mo • \$250 deposit • 713-
805-1266 • 713-528-1165.

2/1 apartment • 7205 Satsuma •
\$500/mo • 713-837-9009 • 713-
924-3959.

ALL NEW!

• Near Intercontinental Airport
• Value packed apartment homes for
the luxury shopper

• Please call us today for information
on our outstanding specials

281-820-9342

www.cityview-apts.com



RIVER OAKS

Dramatic 1/1 • San Felipe &
Kirby • Floor to ceiling win-
dows • Small Complex •
\$750/mo • 2415 Mimosa • 281-
580-2762.

2 CONDOS

1/1 • Pool area • W. Belfort &
Chimney Rock • Covered park-
ing • Access gates • Central
AC/Heat • Available 5/1 • 713-
721-2011.

MONTROSE

CHERRYHURST

Spacious updated • 2/1 Garage
apartment • Hardwood • Crown
molding • Refrigerator • W/D •
Off street parking • \$700 +
Equal deposit • Water included •
No pets • 281-493-1455

Office for rent

Second-floor office available im-
mediately at Houston Lesbian & Gay
Community Center, 803 Hawthorne
at Stanford. Dimensions are 14' x
12'6". Nonprofit gbt organization
preferred as tenant partners but all
inquiries are welcomed. Contact
Tim Brookover for rate and details.
713.524.3818, brookover@evl.net
For Lease • 1700 sq.ft. • Great
Heights location • Call
713.443.9494

Heights Duplex

One bedroom • one bath • hard-
wood floors • carport • central
ac/heat • water paid • \$650/mo
plus deposit • 713.864.0039

FOR RENT

1/1 in European setting with
washer/dryer, covered parking,
large pool • \$525/mo + deposit
& electricity • Call
713.721.0763

MARVELOUS MONTROSE FABULOUS FIFTIES

One or two bedroom apartment
in quiet little complex with large
closets, on-site laundry, security
gate, excellent location • Nice
updated interiors • \$525-\$675 +
bills, lease & deposit • No dogs
• 509 West Main • Call to see
713.919.0462

Roommates

PORTER

NORTH HOUSTON

Room for rent • \$395/mo • Nice
place with kitchen and laundry
shared • on 3 acres • No pets
preferred • Call Andrea • 281-
354-0966.

Housemate wanted • \$500/mo,
all bills paid • No lease • Nice
home near Med Center & uni-
versities • References required •
713.303.4238

SPRING

Need roommate to share large
bedroom house with many
amenities, private backyard, off
street parking • \$425/mo +
shared utilities • Avail. 4/1/01 •
I'm temporarily in Connecticut,
please call 860.229.1508,
860.402.8889

HOUSEMATE

\$395/mo w/free utilities, laundry
& parking • Montrose/Heights •
Private entrance • Furnished bed-
room/bathroom • Deck & jacuzzi
• (Part time job available) •
713.861.2308

WILLOWBROOK AREA

Share 3/2 home with kitchen
and laundry priviledges •
\$400/mo + utilities • Call
281.897.9840

Easygoing, responsible, profes-
sional male wants same to sh
2/2 apartment in Inner Loop •
713.986.8316 leave msg

Travel

Hollywood @ Galveston

The Island's 1st Gay Resort
Clothing Optional •
Complimentary Breakfast/Happy
Hour • Seawall at 31st •
409.750.8900 • 1.888.899.0899 •
www.galveston.com/hollywood

How long has it been

since you've been to

Paradise Guest House?

Accepting Reservations

409-762-6677

TOLL FREE 1-877-919-6677

2317 Ave. P • Galveston

www.galveston.com/paradise

email: paradise@galveston.com

www.lovetinn.com.

Occasions

Birthdays

Belated birthday wishes to Ted M. (Asians & Friends) on April 17.

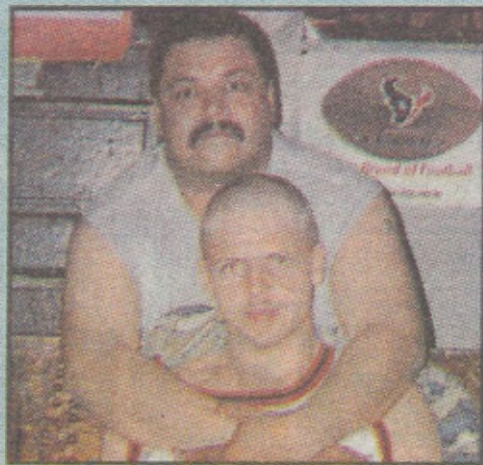
Former *Houston Voice* general manager and current *Southern Voice* New Orleans edition editor Mike Fleming celebrates his birthday on April 21 with his new puppy, Andy.

A big happy B-Day to Alejandron S. of Asians & Friends.

Is Joe Hlavac's of CCCC car older than him? Find out when Joe and Dennis S. watch their birthday odometers roll over on April 22.

Look out! Lock up your children. Hide the bad wigs. Doug (Dog Lips) Scott invites all his friends to join him for his 50th (yes, FIFTY) birthday on April 22, 4 to 7 p.m. at Estancia Grill, 414 W. Gray.

Houston Area Bears members Jerry E. (4/24), Edward H. (4/24) and Dutch F. (4/26) are looking for the birthday pots of honey this week.



A belated birthday hug to John Esqueda from his lover Ovin Frazier Phalen on April 19.

Phil D. sneaks in a birthday on April 25.

Artist and all-around great guy Scottie paints the town red for his April 27 birthday.

Lorena is looking for bugs... NOT this year on her April 27 birthday.

The *Houston Voice's* own sales super woman Wanda Faulkner will be enjoying a Chocolate Raspberry cake from the Acadian Bakers on April 27.

I am Sammy & I am lost



My humans Chuck and Tim really want me back, and they are offering a \$2500 reward for my safe return. Call 713-621-0882. I wandered off while we were running in Memorial Park a couple weeks ago. I am 7-years-old and I miss my humans. Please help me get home.



Jerry Atwood, president of the AIDS Christmas Song Fest, presents a check for \$22,000—proceeds from last year—to Pete Sharpe, Montrose Clinic chairman. The funds will be applied to Body Positive Wellness Center, a division of the clinic.

Bunnies on the Bayou



It's Where You Find Your Look

3966 Westheimer Highland Village
713-622-4411

Eye Elegance
FINE EYEWEAR

My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

April 20 - 26

ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

Picking a fight with someone beneath you isn't worth the expenditure of energy. This could be a great time for you to meet and greet new people in your life, particularly those who can help your career. And you can help a Capricorn loosen up in bed.

TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

The Sun's square to Neptune on April 28 could make you feel creative but confused, romantic but scared. Don't worry, pookie. It'll all turn out fine. Be careful not to get too distracted by the pettiness of your enemies and competitors—and they are out there. Focus your attention on a Cancer who really knows how to nurture you.

GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

This is a great time for you to put your long-term career plans in writing, but you may not be able to accomplish it as easily as you think. Visualize it and commit to it in order to make it come true—whatever "it" is for you. Ask yourself why you're in the situation you're in. An Aquarius is your knight in shining armor.

CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

This is the right time for you to tell the world, "I'm here! I'm fabulous!" A little good-natured self-promotion works in your favor. It's time to get back in the swing and stop isolating yourself on the couch, dear Cancer. The Sun's in your house of pals, so go out more. A Pisces longs for you.

LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

Take some space to do the things that bring you joy and pleasure. You deserve only the best, baby. Give it to yourself! Take this opportunity to have some real old-fashioned romance—Leo style. An Aries makes the perfect partner for you, doll. But who will take the lead?

VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

You can cry "Victory!" in late April as the Sun and Mercury bring you the kind of sweet, cozy, and safe earth-sign energy that you need. You've got some luck coming your way—don't blow it by second-guessing yourself. Whatever you want, you can pull it off. A Scorpio would like to pull your clothes off.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

If you are feeling anxious, the answer is more simple than you realize. You need to talk, talk, talk to dissipate the tension. Bug your pals and talk on the phone for hours if you must. What you do in your career at this moment will have a strong effect on 2002 and the years after that. Move slowly and surely. A Leo's not in a rush—why should you be?

SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

Things are not what they seem between you and a mysterious/annoying/loving/no-boundaries-type friend. The slower you approach such complex matters as your love life, the better. And don't be afraid to ask for help, you ol' tiger. Retract your claws and let a Libra rescue you for a change.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

You do your best work in late April by being a hero for someone you love. I know you prefer to be wild and bombastic, but this is your humble time of year. So play it low-key, especially where a Taurus is concerned.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

You have every reason to be smug about your talents. Brag if you wanna brag. Other people are finally recognizing that humble, hard-working old you can be a diva, too! There's a long road ahead, but you are farther along than you think. Stay on course. A Pisces is your secret weapon.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

There's no need to adjust your outrageous and beautiful nature to make it fit into a screwed-up social scene. Surround yourself with love and allies. Don't give in to the temptation to prove to a crazy, mean person that you are a sane, good person. Your friends already know, and so does a sexy, supportive Virgo.

PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

If you have to jump through the skylight as opposed to walking in the front door to make a point, so be it. It's time to make a dramatic gesture. It's also time to get rough in your sex life once more. You've been trying to be so vanilla, but it's time to make yourself into a Libra's toy.

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

Avondale's

hair salon

2702 Crocker • Houston, TX 77006
713-521-2444 • Shawn Penn
Appointments are appreciated

Tuesday - Friday
10am - 7pm

Saturday
9am - 6pm

Closed Sunday & Monday

MOJAVE

EXPERIENCE THE FANTASY

We're having a heatwave.

10% Productions is the source for tastefully erotic DVDs and videos - at unbeatable prices.

At Crossroads Market you'll find a wide array of 10% videos as well as greeting cards and photo-magnets for special occasions or just for fun.

Crossroads Market
BOOKSTORE & CAFE
1111 Westheimer Road, Houston
(713) 942-0147

YOUR VOICE ON THE WEB

WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM

Houston Voice

to sign up for a weekly email preview, send your address to editor@houstonvoice.com

visit us on-line today at www.houstonvoice.com

© 2011 Miller Brewing Company, Milwaukee, WI. www.millerlite.com

THEY'RE YOUR
RESET
BUTTON.

COME OUT & PLAY



IT'S MILLER TIME.

Please **THINK** when you drink.