



INSIDE



Tammy Hamilton says she used to feel confident in her ability to defend herself. Until her lesbian partner came after her with a gun. Our domestic violence series this week examines gay victims and how they are—and sometimes are not—protected by the nation's legal system.

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Death row inmate Calvin Burdine's fate still undecided as Louisiana court ponders whether his sleeping lawyer provided an adequate defense

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Stumped for Valentine's Day gift ideas for your sweetheart? Why not promise them a rose garden?

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City may add domestic partner benefits



Openly gay Houston City Councilwoman Annise Parker says she'll take note of any Councilmembers voting against a plan to offer health benefits to same-sex partners of city employees. "I'm going to look at my colleagues and say, 'if you vote against this, you're voting to deny me basic rights and you're going to have to look at me every day for the rest of my term, and hopefully another one, and know that,'" Parker said.

Employees already offered insurance for unmarried heterosexual couples

by WENDY K. MOHON

Houston City Council will likely take up the issue of domestic partner health benefits at its next scheduled meeting and Councilwoman Annise Parker is hopeful the measure will pass.

The city currently offers health insurance to unmarried spouses of heterosexual couples who declare themselves married under the Texas common law marriage statute.

Adding DP benefits to a new insurance plan for the city will likely come up for vote at the City Council's 9 a.m. Wednesday meeting. Parker said she expects the issue to also be debated at the city's Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

"We'll run it up and see if it can get the vote. Right now, it seems to be a partisan

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Legislative session offers mixed bag for GLBTs

Bills filed include pro-gay measures, laws to limit gay rights

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Bills filed during the first three weeks of the 77th state legislative session have signaled both good and bad news for GLBTs in Texas.

Among legislation filed in the opening days of the 120-day session are bills to toughen up the state's hate crimes laws, a measure to strike down the homosexual conduct statute and a defense of marriage act designed to prohibit recognition of same-sex unions.

While on Jan. 10 Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, filed the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act, named for the black man who was dragged to death behind a pickup

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Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives Pete Laney, right, talks with Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, left, after he announced committee assignments Jan. 17 in Austin. Danburg recently filed a bill to strike the state's homosexual conduct law.

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Same-sex domestic violence



DALTON DEHART

Tammy Hamilton escaped with her life when her female lover threatened to shoot her in the head, but says she has faced repeated harassment since the woman received only probation in the case.

Most domestic violence laws apply to same-sex couples, but reaction from authorities varies

Editor's note: Last week, Houston Voice began a two-part series on same-sex domestic violence, which advocates say receives far too little attention from gay men and lesbians, as well as mainstream domestic violence resources.

This week, gay victims and how they are—and sometimes are not—protected by the nation's legal system is examined.

by KAY Y. DAYUS and LAURA BROWN

Most victims or survivors of domestic violence, whether heterosexual or gay or lesbian, have a difficult time asking for help, especially from the police. Usually, they are too ashamed to tell anyone and fear retaliation from the one who is doing the beating.

They don't want to anger them anymore and often believe the promises that it won't happen again. But invariably it does.

For the GLBT community, these issues are compounded by the fear of outing themselves; by the fear of ridicule from the police; or by the fear of simply being ignored by the police because they are lesbian or gay.

A military veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Tammy Hamilton
 > Continued on Page 12

LA court revisits case of gay death row inmate

Convicted killer wants new trial because former attorney slept in court

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

A Texas death-row inmate deserves a new trial because he was deprived of "the guiding hand of counsel" when his lawyer slept for 10-minute stretches during trial, a defense lawyer argued Monday as a federal appeals court reconsidered the 17-year-old case.

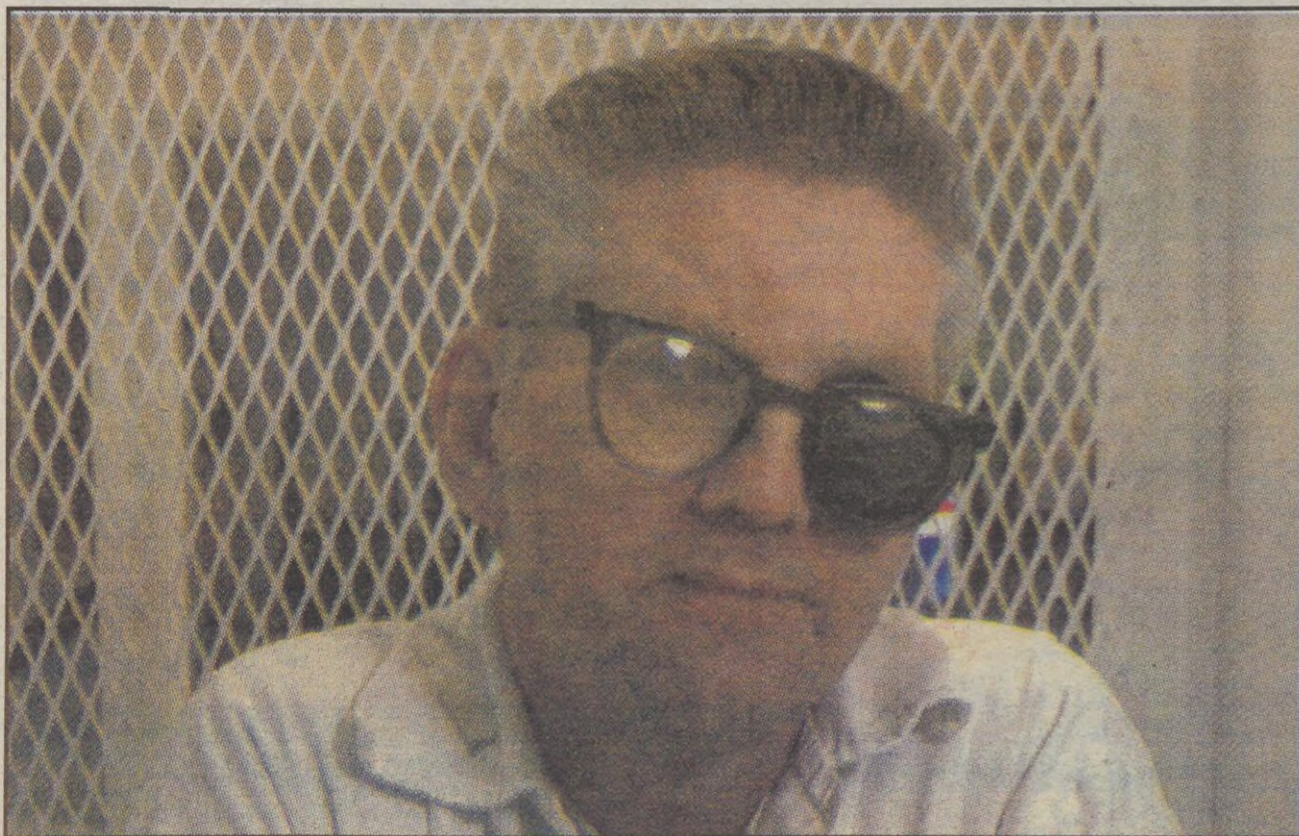
The court gave no indication Monday when it might rule.

The napping lawyer "didn't just doze or daydream—he was unconscious," Robert McGlasson told the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

McGlasson is the new defense attorney for Calvin Burdine, who came within moments of execution in 1987 before receiving a court-ordered reprieve. Burdine confessed to police but now denies killing his boyfriend, W.T. Wise, at a trailer they shared in the Houston area in 1983.

McGlasson cited the testimony of several witnesses who said Burdine's original attorney, the late Joe Cannon, slept in the 1984 trial at which Burdine was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Witnesses testified that Cannon's head often bobbed up and down and he sometimes rested his head on his desk, McGlasson said.

Prosecutor Julie Parsley agreed that Cannon slept but argued the naps did not mean Burdine deserves a new trial. Parsley argued that the naps may have caused Cannon to make legal errors but said there is no way to prove that those errors rendered



AP

Calvin Burdine, sentenced to death for killing his lover, awaits word from a federal appeals court in New Orleans on whether he will get a new trial.

the guilty verdict "unreliable," she said.

"Regardless of how Mr. Cannon's errors affected the outcome, those errors were not systemic," she said.

The 15-member court agreed to reconsider the case after a panel of the appeals court ruled 2-1 that Burdine does not deserve a new trial. The panel said McGlasson could not prove that Cannon slept through critical parts of the trial.

Burdine was arrested in California and told police that he fatally stabbed Wise, 50, with a butcher knife. He later recanted and said police intimidated him into confessing.

"I keep praying and hoping justice will be done," Burdine, 47, said last week from Texas death row, where he's been impris-

oned 16 years.

At a 1995 evidentiary hearing, three jurors and a court reporter testified that Cannon often napped for as long as 10 minutes at the trial. Burdine's current lawyers called the dozing attorney "no more sentient than a potted plant."

A federal judge ruled Burdine did not receive a fair trial and ordered the state to retry him or set him free. But the 5th Circuit ordered the former nurse to remain in prison while it considered the case. Burdine's attorneys appealed to the full court.

At Monday's hearing, McGlasson said Cannon's naps essentially deprived

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around the nation

Republicans form new gay-straight alliance to foster outreach

WASHINGTON—A new Republican organization will attempt to foster greater tolerance toward gays within the party, the *Washington Post* reported. Republican Unity Coalition is headed by Charles Francis, a gay Washington public relations executive who helped arrange a meeting last year between then-presidential candidate George W. Bush and several gay Republican activists. At a breakfast meeting Jan. 19, Francis said the group's objectives were "about making being gay or lesbian a non-issue in the Republican Party." In a policy statement posted on its Web site, the coalition said it will serve as "a policy forum for Republican leaders—both straight and gay—who will work together in a unified effort to encourage greater tolerance of gays and lesbians, ... and to join forces on issues of interest to all Republicans." The group said it was not designed to be a "gay rights advocacy group" or a grass-roots organization of gay Republicans like the Log Cabin Republicans, which helped organize last week's breakfast meeting.

GOP lawmaker sponsors bill to repeal Vermont's civil unions

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—A bill that would repeal Vermont's civil unions law for same-sex couples was introduced Jan. 18 in the Vermont House. Republican Rep. Nancy Sheltra offered the proposal, backed by 16 other Republican members of the House. The chair of the Judiciary Committee, Republican Peg Flory, said six or seven other potential bills that would alter civil unions were also under consideration. Flory also has prepared a bill that would open civil unions to a broader population. Under the current law, only gay couples can form civil unions. Flory's bill would permit any couple who cannot now legally marry, including same-sex couples or blood relatives, to form civil unions. Vermont Gov. Howard Dean has vowed to veto any effort to repeal the law.



Vermont lawmaker Rep. Nancy Sheltra, a Republican, introduced a proposal last week to repeal the state's civil unions law.

Military's gay ban won't change, despite recent case, Pentagon says

PHOENIX—The U.S. Army ended its bid last week to oust openly gay state Rep. Steve May from the Army Reserve, but Pentagon officials said that changes to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" are not likely, the *Arizona Republic* reported. The decision regarding May was contingent with his agreement not to try to reenlist when his term runs out May 11, and followed prior policies. "In cases where the Army has begun involuntary separation procedures, a decision voluntarily to resign will end those procedures," said Pentagon spokesperson Kenneth Bacon. Dixon Osburn of the Servicemember's Legal Defense Network was not optimistic that DADT would change. "If the Army thinks there is a basis for discharge under the current law, they will continue," Osburn said. Openly gay Arizona Rep. Jim Kolbe said the May case demonstrates that it's time to scrap DADT. "This is a compromise that still doesn't resolve the real issue as far as I'm concerned," Kolbe said. "Service to your nation has zilch to do with gender preference."

Clinton issues last presidential call for expanded hate crimes law

WASHINGTON—Five days before leaving office, President Bill Clinton sent an official statement to Congress reiterating his call for the passage of a hate crimes bill that includes protections for sexual orientation, the *Washington Post* reported. He also called on Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would outlaw discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. The issues were discussed in a broad civil rights context as part of Clinton's One America program on racial reconciliation. "The fact is, important gaps in civil rights law and their enforcement remain. We need to ensure equal opportunity for all Americans, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation," Clinton said in his statement. He also called for an end to racial profiling, more money for research into AIDS and other diseases, and electoral reform.

VA lawmakers halt sodomy repeal effort, hate crime expansion

RICHMOND—A Virginia House of Delegates committee voted Jan. 19 to keep that state's law banning oral and anal sex between consenting adults, the *Norfolk Virginian-Pilot* reported. The House Courts of Justice Committee voted 13-9 against legislation that would have repealed the law making those acts a felony. Last year, a similar bill to change the law passed in the House for the first time and was defeated by the Senate. Repealing the ban against sodomy would encourage homosexuality and "unravel the moral fabric of the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Richard H. Black, a Republican lawmaker who described a boyhood incident when he was temporarily kidnapped while hitchhiking by a driver who made advances toward Black and a friend. "So I'm very sensitive to the web of protections for children and public decency," Black said.

Meanwhile, the state Senate Courts of Justice Committee voted 9-6 to defeat a bill that sought to add sexual orientation to Virginia's hate crimes law, the *Washington Blade* reported.

Gay activists have tried to amend the state's hate crimes law to include sexual orientation every year since the law was first approved in 1994.

—From staff and wire reports



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police beat

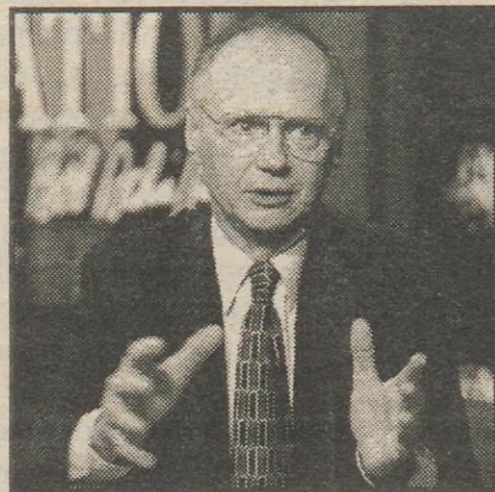
Police search for 'Ninja slasher' who attacks gay men in NY park

NEW YORK—The New York Police Department has released a sketch of a black-clad "Ninja slasher" who has assaulted five gay men in Brooklyn's Prospect Park since June 28, the *New York Post* reported. "This is clearly a bias-motivated crime. It's an unfortunate, outrageous and despicable attack," said City Council member Stephen DiBrienza. The most recent victim was a 51-year-old social worker who was slashed across the throat and stabbed in the chest and back Jan. 15 as he walked in the park's Long Meadow in broad daylight. Previous attacks have been between midnight at 4 a.m., and occurred in the park's Vale of Cashmere, a gay cruising area. Police said the most recent slashing was carried out by the same assailant. A \$12,000 reward for information leading to the assailant's capture is being offered.

Dramatic jump seen in hate crimes on college campuses, feds say

WASHINGTON (AP)—Homicides fell, but hate crimes, sexual offenses and robberies rose on U.S. college campuses in 1999, the U.S. Education Department said in its report to Congress on campus crime. The analysis covered crime data submitted by some 6,300 public and private colleges and universities, both two-year and four-year institutions, and included reported incidents from 1997 to 1999. It found that generally students are safer on campus than they are off-campus. In 1999, only 19 percent of the reported crimes happened on campus, compared with 73 percent elsewhere, the department said. The report found an increase in hate crimes from 1,312 incidents in 1997 to 2,067 in 1999, with assaults making up more 92 percent. The report did not list specific categories for hate crimes.

Former U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley released a report Friday that detailed a steep rise in the number of hate crimes reported on college campuses.



PA man charged in teen's death to claim insanity and 'gay panic'

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A lawyer representing a man charged with killing a 15-year-old boy at a party last August is seeking permission to mount an insanity defense, he said, because the defendant suffers from "homosexual panic" and has a "confused sexual identity." Michael Gambler, 24, allegedly shot Kevin Kleppinger to death at a party in Gambler's boarding house room after Kleppinger accidentally spit on Gambler and wiped saliva off Gambler's arm. Gambler suffers from "disinhibition and loss of faculties from the use of a significant amount of alcohol and alcohol dependence, homosexual panic from lack of inner integrity, feelings of inadequacy and vulnerability, and a tenuous and confused sexual identity as a heterosexual," according to his attorney, Richard W. Kolosky. Prosecutors have asked that the trial judge rule that Gambler's alleged disorders didn't affect his ability to know right from wrong. A hearing is set for February.

WV teen blames co-defendant for brutal killing of gay black man

FAIRMONT, W.Va. (AP)—One of two West Virginia teens charged with the July murder of a gay black man told a court psychologist last year that he's not to blame for the death. Jared Wilson admitted that he kicked Arthur "J.R." Warren Jr., 26, of Grant Town twice on the night of the murder "at the direction of David Parker," Dr. William Fremouw said in Wilson's psychological evaluation, which was recently made public. Wilson and Parker, both 18, are accused of beating Warren to death in a vacant house last July, then running over him with a car to disguise his injuries. Wilson told Fremouw that "he was intimidated and afraid of David Parker, which was the reason for his presence at the incident," Fremouw said. Wilson's defense will be that he was in the car, but did not cause Wilson's death, Fremouw said. Police have said Parker initiated the beating, enraged that Warren had revealed an alleged sexual relationship. Parker told Fremouw that Warren had sexually abused him for five years, starting at age 12. A trial in the case has been postponed until June.

Utah high school student hospitalized after name-calling scuffle

ST. GEORGE, Utah—Differing accounts of which student called the other "gay" are clouding charges over a fight that required one of the students to be airlifted to a Las Vegas hospital, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported. The student who was hospitalized, Dereck Isom, was initially thought to have fallen and hit his head on concrete after a fight started when another student called him gay for wearing two earrings. Isom's mother said that when her son turned away, the other boy struck him in the head. But Principal Rob Goulding said Isom started the confrontation. "Dereck called the other boy gay because the other boy is a cheerleader. They called each other gay. You know how kids will make a comment and say, 'That's gay' or 'That's lame.' There was never the intention on either kid's part to say that the other one was homosexual. It clearly wasn't a homosexual situation," Goulding said. The other student was suspended for a day, the school's usual disciplinary procedure for fighting, Goulding said.

—From staff and wire reports

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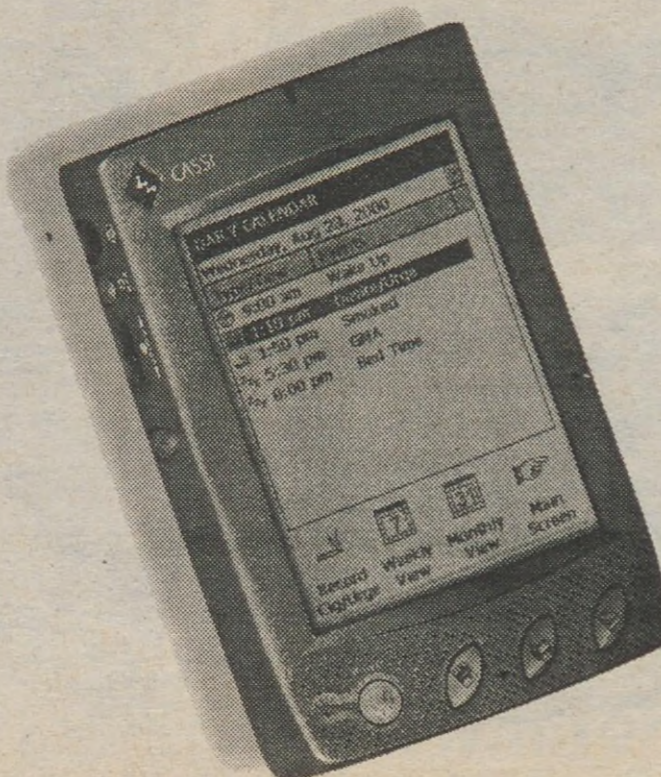
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Danburg files bill to strike sodomy law

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truck in East Texas, State Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, filed a bill the same week to prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages.

That bill, HB496, would invalidate "marriage or civil union between persons of the same sex" in Texas.

Current Texas law already prohibits recognition of same-sex unions. Last year, Chisum filed a similar bill, which failed to make it out of committee. This year, presumably in response to Vermont's approval of civil unions, Chisum added civil unions to the marriage bill.

"This bill is unnecessary, redundant and divisive," Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby Executive Director Dianne Hardy-Garcia said. "Texas already prohibits gay unions. Our Legislature has so many other valuable, important things to do that we all can agree on; why should we waste our time prohibiting something that's already prohibited?"

The Defense of Marriage Act, a federal law passed under President Clinton, already restricts same-sex unions to states in which they are specifically legalized, so Texas will not have to recognize couples united in other states.

"Clearly, Texas has no use for this bill. It is an attack on gays and lesbians in our state, and we will work hard to stop it cold," Hardy-Garcia said.

"Congress told us that if we wanted to protect family marriages and marriage statutes in the state of Texas, we had to pass this. It was passed in 34 other states, and Texas is one of the few states that hasn't passed it," Chisum said. "We can't protect our families under the marriage statutes

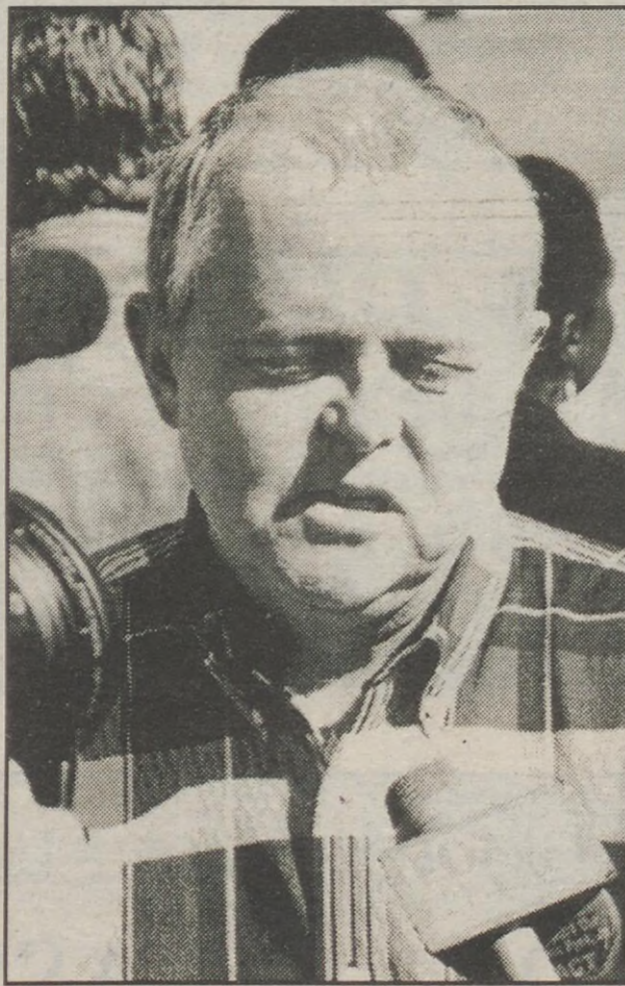
unless we pass this."

Steve Labinski, spokesman for the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, told the Amarillo Globe-News it's too early to predict the bill's future.

"Committees have to be formed and the bill has to be assigned to a committee. At that point we can better understand the bill's chances," he said.

State ENDA bill filed

On Monday, Reps. Glen Maxey (D-Austin) and Dawnna Dukes (D-Austin) filed HB816, legislation designed to prohibit work-



Glen Maxey

place discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity for Texas state employees.

The bill would protect workers from discrimination in hiring, firing, promotion and treatment within state agencies.

"Texas state agencies are funded by our tax dollars, and every Texan who serves this state should be treated fairly and equally," Maxey said. "There is no room in Texas government for discrimination of any kind."

Currently, Austin and Fort Worth are two major metropolitan areas in the state with citywide ordinances to protect gay, lesbian and bisexual people from discrimination in the workplace.

Federal law provides basic legal protection against employment discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin or disability, but not sexual orientation or gender identity. Those who experience this type of discrimination have no legal recourse.

"Critics of employment non-discrimination laws say the government shouldn't tell private employers how to handle these kinds of personnel practices," Dukes said, "but Texas state agencies have absolutely no justification for allowing any type of job discrimination. Job performance is what should matter most in state government, and this bill helps guarantee that."

"We have heard many state employees say they live in fear that they may face discrimination if their employer finds out they are gay," Hardy-Garcia said. "It is time to give these workers some peace of mind. This bill would let hard-working state employees finally stop worrying about job discrimination and harassment and focus on their critical work on behalf of the citizens of Texas."

Danburg again fights to remove sodomy statute

Rep. Debra Danburg, D-Houston, again filed a bill to remove the state's homosexual conduct statute, often called the sodomy law, from the books. Danburg said the law is "not enforceable and it's quite simply archaic."

Danburg wouldn't speculate on whether the bill has a chance of passage, but says filing the legislation each session sends a message.

"I think that we are making headway with getting the Legislature to see that enforcing the sodomy law is virtually impossible," Danburg told the Voice Thursday from Austin. "Having laws on the book that are unenforceable only encourages a disrespect for the law."


Mitchell Katine, the attorney who defended two Houston men charged in September 1998 with violating the state's homosexual conduct law, said he doubts the bill will pass, but instead feels the courts must signal an end to the law.

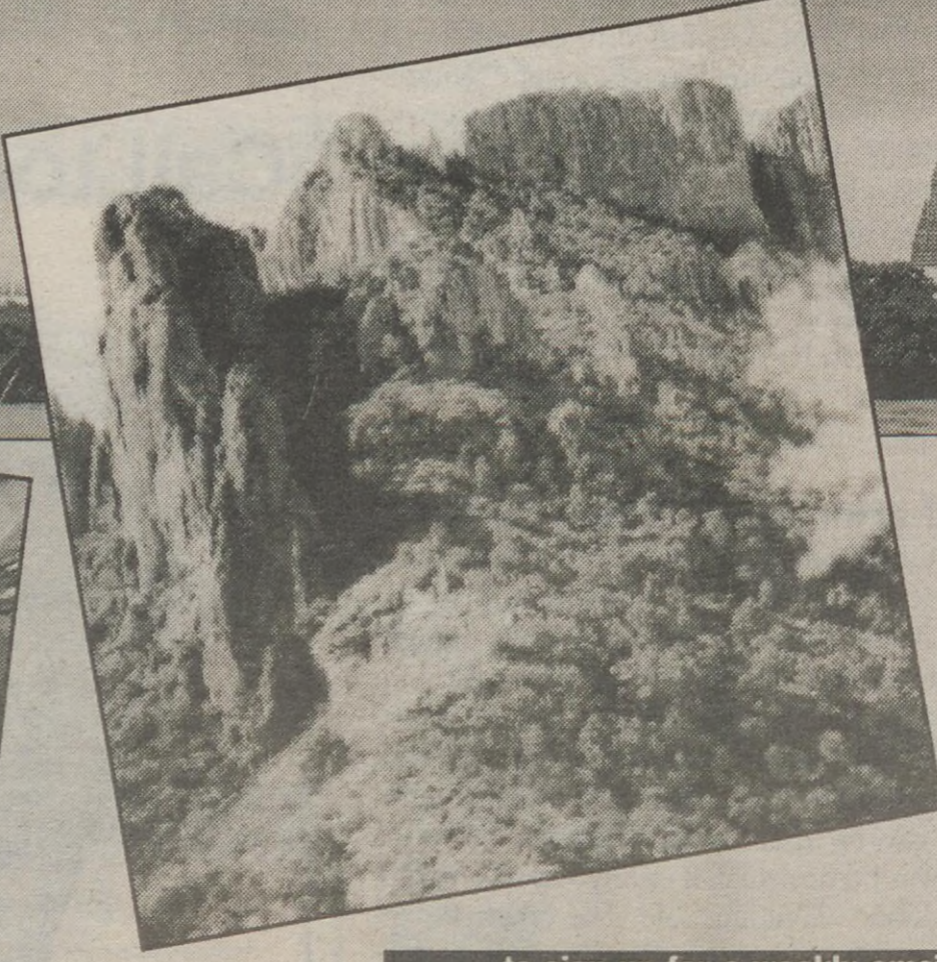
Katine praised Danburg for filing the bill each session, but said he thinks political pressure will keep most legislators from supporting it.


"Unfortunately, Debra Danburg has introduced the bill on an annual basis and our Legislature has, for political reasons, chosen not to pass it," Katine said. "I absolutely think this is going to take the courts to do this simply because of the pressure from right-wing groups to discourage the Legislature from passing the bill."


"It's going to take the courage of the independent judiciary to erase this unenforceable statute."

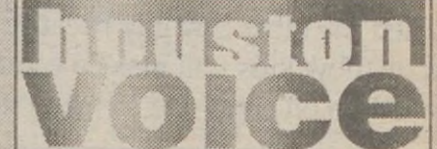
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Parker: City needs DP benefits to stay competitive

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issue with Council," Parker said, noting the Council is made up of nine Democrats and six Republicans with the Democrats mostly favoring adding DP benefits to the policy.

Parker noted that Councilman Rob Todd brought up the issue during a Jan. 3 Council meeting. As reported in the *Houston Chronicle*, Todd questioned the makeup of a committee, of which Parker is a member, negotiating the insurance policy for the city. Todd implied the committee might be meeting secretly or is comprised mostly of members supporting a certain agenda.

Parker said being an openly gay Councilmember doesn't mean she's constantly pursuing a gay agenda.

"There aren't really many gay issues in city government," she said. "I would like to think the fact that I'm an out Councilperson might convince people that this is a case of equity. I don't get the same benefit as my colleagues because I'm gay."

Parker said she's always been a proponent of domestic partner benefits, but says timing, rather than political motivation, was the factor in bringing the issue to the forefront.

"It's always been my intention to pursue, but this is being driven by the timing

of the expiration of our health benefits contract," Parker said. "I wasn't particularly planning on moving forward right now, but once it became public, I decided to go ahead with it."

Parker's campaign manager, Grant Martin, noted that since the city is negotiating a multi-year contract for health benefits, "if this is going to get dealt with anytime in the near future, the time is now."

He and Parker both said that offering DP benefits will help make the city more competitive in the job market.

"We really believe the city needs to do this to stay competitive in a really tight market," Martin said. "This is mainstream. The city risks being on the fringe and being left behind if they don't do this."

In an interoffice memo Parker sent to Houston Mayor Lee P. Brown earlier this month, Parker writes that 65 percent of Fortune 500 companies, government enti-

ties, colleges and universities offer DP benefits to both same-sex and heterosexual partners.

Parker notes that Houston companies offering DP benefits include Enron, Continental Airlines, Compaq, Rice University, Shell Oil Company and BP Amoco.

Martin said he has begun to notify members of organizations in which he's involved to get people to encourage the city to include DP benefits in its health coverage.

"We're beginning to alert our base of people that they should contact the councilmembers," Martin said.

Among the organizations Martin is involved with are the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Progressive Voters in Action.

At City Council's Jan. 9 meeting, two citizens spoke out in favor of the city offering same-sex benefits to its employees.

Alex Morua, executive director of

Progressive Voters in Action, told Council that during the Nov. 7 election, 105 PVA volunteers talked to voters in 25 precincts around the city and surveyed more than 2,000 voters.

Among the questions asked was one on whether voters would encourage a nondiscrimination policy for the city of Houston.

"The vast majority of the people we talked to said they would support nondiscrimination policies for city employees," Morua told the *Voice*.

He pointed out that the survey included a diverse cross-section of the city.

"These were voters in the Heights, voters in the East End, voters in Montrose, voters in Southwest Houston, so we talked to voters all throughout the city and again, the consensus was that in regard to nondiscrimination, GLBT people should be included in the city's policies," Morua said.

Parker, who is in her fourth year on City Council, said if Council votes down an insurance plan including DP benefits, she will take note of dissenting voters.

"Win or lose, when it comes up for vote, I'm going to look at my colleagues and say, 'if you vote against this, you're voting to deny me basic rights and you're going to have to look at me every day for the rest of my term, and hopefully another one, and know that.'"



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GUEST EDITORIAL

What does the future hold for HISD and GLBT students?

by ANDREA WASHINGTON

Now that Houston Independent School District superintendent Dr. Rod Paige has been nominated as Secretary of Education by President George W. Bush, where does that leave HISD and what does the future hold for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students and staff?

During Paige's six-year tenure as superintendent of one of the largest school districts in the nation, very little consideration was ever given to the issues of GLBT students and staff. No policy was ever suggested or made that would protect GLBT students and staff from discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation.

No training was ever given or even available to teachers and administrators on GLBT issues, nor was there any curriculum that was inclusive of GLBT historical figures or current issues.

There was and still is a pervasive atmosphere of fear of being harmed or fired for GLBT students and staff.

Where the nation is concerned, my only hope is that Paige will broaden his mind and his approach to GLBT issues and support the passage of policy and legislation that will protect GLBT students and staff from sexual orientation based discrimination and harassment.

Now our eyes turn toward home and the

appointment of a new superintendent. Will Dr. Kaye Stripling, as interim superintendent, perpetuate the legacy of Paige and continue to ignore the needs and issues of GLBT students and staff? Or will she commit herself to helping the board of trustees select a future superintendent who will ensure that all schools are safe for all students and that the emotional well being of all students is a top priority?

It is highly unlikely that Dr. Stripling will deviate from the course Paige has already set. However, we, the GLBT community of Houston, have a unique opportunity to start fresh and make our voices heard with the school board trustees as they search for and select a new superintendent for HISD.

Parents of GLBT youth, GLBT teachers, staff and administrators can call, write, e-mail or even phone your school board trustee and let her/him know you are concerned about GLBT issues and the safety of GLBT youth in HISD schools.

You can also attend the meetings of the local Houston chapter of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network. It is important that our future superintendent know that silence in the face of GLBT issues will no longer be acceptable nor tolerated. It is imperative that the school board trustees know that the parents of GLBT youth, their constituents, want their children to be treated with dignity and respect, and for them to

be able to attend school without fear.

To find out who your school board trustee is, call the HISD Board Services Office at 713-892-6121 or go to their Web site www.houstonisd.org.

To find out about the location and time of GLSEN Houston's meetings please send an e-mail to www.glsenhouston@yahoo.com.

Lastly, some very important legislation is going before the state house and senate concerning this very issue: making policy and passing laws to protect GLBT students, teachers and state workers from sexual orientation based discrimination and harassment, and a state hate crimes bill.

Now is the time to call, write, e-mail or even phone your state representative and state senator demanding the passage of these bills.

Our voices must be heard, and we must demand that our civil rights no longer be ignored and denied. Our children should not fear being harmed while at school because they are GLBT. We should not be afraid of losing our jobs, our homes or even our lives because we are GLBT.

If we do not stand up for our rights and the rights of our children, who will?

Andrea Washington is a former HISD teacher and current co-chair of the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network Houston Chapter. Her e-mail address is glsenhouston@yahoo.com.

Stepping up to the challenge of a Republican inauguration

by CINDY L. ABEL

I don't remember watching any presidential inaugurations before 1993. It didn't seem to matter that much, just another ceremony full of promise that it was incapable of fulfilling. Another President who didn't address issues that touched my life, whose vision didn't include all of me.

Like so many others, I believed in Bill Clinton. I took the risk of getting involved politically, not knowing whether we really could make a difference, whether we really would be heard, whether, finally, we would be counted and valued—"we" who weren't born to money, weren't friends with "the Man," and who weren't considered "mainstream."

Four years later, I again watched the inauguration in tears. This time, my fingers freezing and my heart warm, surrounded by cheering thousands along the parade route, I celebrated a hope partially fulfilled blended with the promise of more to come.

Now, watching the inaugural interviews and events of 2001, I again had a visceral reaction. I found it hard to watch, feeling as though we were headed for an inevitable period of darkness, where we would again be forced into the shadows.

As George W. Bush has articulated his own vision, I was repeatedly struck by the knowledge that while he called for unity and inclusion, he only called out to some. Those who were willing to be silent about certain

Bill Clinton helped our cause,
but we were the ones who made
the difference where it counted
most. Even in the face of
George W. Bush's silence, we
can still speak up.

aspects of their being were welcome. Those who refused to hide characteristics deemed unsuitable were not—and issues that affected our lives were called "divisive."

I felt as though the progress we'd made was slipping away, to be undone in one brief swearing-in, sealing our fate for the next four years.

I thought back on the shining and sometimes sobering moments that marked the past eight years: a presidential candidate meeting for the first time with gay men and lesbians; openly gay and lesbian elected officials meeting in the White House; President and Mrs. Clinton reading names at the display of the AIDS Quilt in Washington D.C.; hundreds of corporations expanding their policies to include gays; Elizabeth Birch, the Human Rights Campaign executive director, speaking at the Democratic convention; and all our other "firsts."

These "firsts," I realized, took place not

because a president had signed a law that bestowed full equality upon us, but rather because he changed the nature of the debate. While he took the first step in openly including gays in his vision of America, we took the next step, and the one after that, and kept walking.

We walked into the White House and the halls of Congress, into our state houses and workplaces, and into our families' and friends' homes. We took a deep breath and told the truth about our lives.

While President Clinton helped, we were the ones who made the difference where it most counted. And regardless of Bush's silence, we are still the ones who can either speak up or be silent.

Today, we again get to choose. When we first ventured out, unsure of the territory and perhaps feeling for the first time the responsibility that accompanies inclusion, we determined to learn our way and helped move our country forward.

Though it feels a bit shaky again, there are more of us now and we know the ropes a bit better, so why stop? Either we all keep moving forward or we're going to need bigger closets to store our abandoned hopes and unpursued dreams.

Cindy L. Abel is former executive director of Georgia's statewide gay rights group and owns an advertising and public relations firm based in Atlanta. She can be reached at clabel@realworld-usa.com.



SLOUCHING THROUGH SODOM

Add Bill Clinton to the civil rights' Mt. Rushmore

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

As George W. Bush enters the White House, President Clinton leaves without a single pundit or historian recognizing his true legacy.

Thirty or 40 years from now, Clinton will not be remembered for his impeachment, his balanced budget, his economic expansion or even his scandals.

Instead, history will see Clinton as one of the great and accomplished civil rights heroes. In fact, historians will compare Clinton to two of America's most treasured civil rights legends: Martin Luther King Jr. and President Harry S. Truman. What these three men accomplished is astonishingly similar. It is only the minorities they championed that set them apart.

In 1963, King said to a mostly black audience, "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed," and he broke open the consciousness of white America.

In 1992, Clinton said to a mostly gay audience, "I have a vision for America and you are a part of it," and he broke open the consciousness of straight America.

Both men used soaring oratory to broaden the idea of rights to include a despised minority. One urged us not to judge people by the color of their skin, the other not to judge people by the partners in their lives. Both created homesteads in the hostile outer fringes of America's consciousness, settling the land and tilling the soil for future residents.

Each enraged much of America by holding up our stated ideals with one hand and a mirror with the other.

But William Jefferson Clinton is no

Martin Luther King. Clinton was the head of government; King was the victim of it. King championed a minority from a position of weakness, Clinton from a position of strength. King had no power, just a constituency. Clinton had both.

These men had nothing in common except a profound belief in America's capacity to grow into its greatness.

Clinton is more like President Truman in his tangible accomplishments. In 1948, Truman did the unthinkable: Over the strenuous objections of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, he signed an executive order desegregating the armed forces.

In 1993, Clinton did the unthinkable: Over the strenuous objections of Colin Powell, then the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Clinton promised to sign an executive order lifting the ban on gays in the military.

While Clinton failed where Truman succeeded, historians will ultimately credit him for making the lifting of the ban possible. In fact, it is precisely because "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" so perfectly captures the cruelty and unfairness of the military's treatment of gay recruits that the ban will eventually be lifted.

Clinton's similarities to Truman are remarkable. Truman appointed the first black judge to the federal bench; Clinton appointed the first openly gay woman to the federal bench.

Truman was the first president to appoint blacks to high-ranking administrative posts; Clinton was the first president to appoint openly gay people to high-ranking administrative posts. According to Clinton, more than 200 openly gay people served in his administration.

Truman signed an executive order

barring discriminatory hiring practices in the federal government; Clinton signed an executive order expanding it to include sexual orientation.

Truman established a Fair Employment Board within the Civil Rights Commission; Clinton endorsed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the first gay civil rights bill ever championed by a U.S. president.

And in what historians now agree was an act of great symbolic importance, Truman was the first sitting president to address a black civil rights group (the NAACP). Clinton was the first sitting president to address a gay civil rights group (the Human Rights Campaign).

Historians do not see civil rights as a Clinton legacy for the same reason historians didn't see it for Truman when he left office in 1952: Because to much of

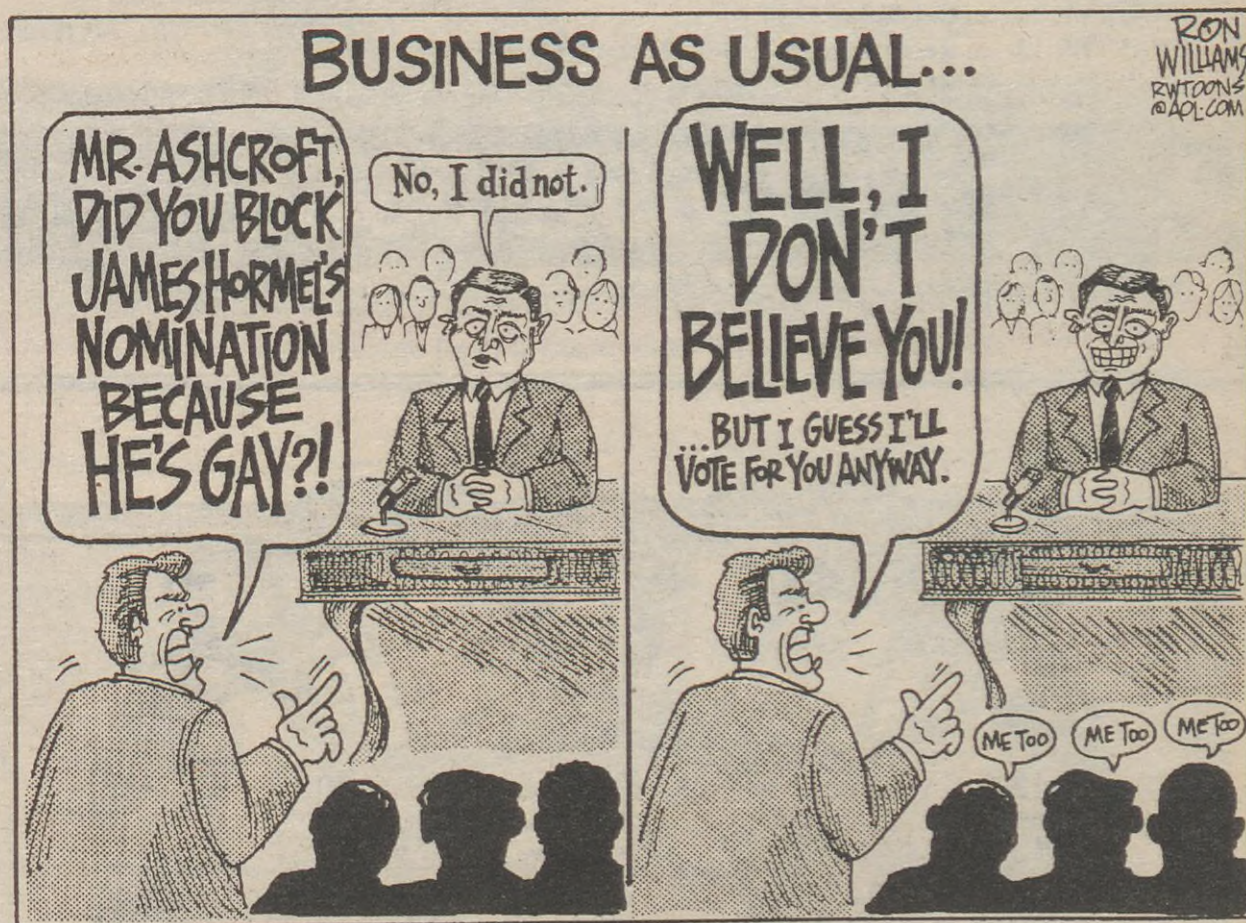
America, the minorities in question didn't matter.

As the American consciousness evolved to see African-Americans as fully human, so too did the consensus of historians that Truman's civil rights work was one of his greatest legacies.

Similarly, as the American consciousness evolves to see gay men and women as equally human, historians will see Clinton as one of the late 20th century's greatest human rights crusaders.

The real Clinton legacy isn't how he reformed welfare or reshaped the Democratic Party. It's how he reshaped the American conscience. Like King and Truman, Clinton will come to symbolize the American ideal of justice and equality.

Michael Alvear lives with Zoey & Zack, his lesbian Labrador and girlie-boy Vizsla. He can be reached at mikealvear@aol.com.



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



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around the world

Chengdu becomes first Chinese city to pass draconian AIDS laws

CHENGDU, China—The capital of the Sichuan province has become the first city in China to enact draconian legislation to deal with the AIDS epidemic, the *Washington Post* reported. The Chengdu City AIDS Prevention and Management Regulations, which go into effect in May, prohibit people infected with HIV from marrying, require the testing of high risk groups, like prostitutes and drug users, within five days of arrest, and mandate separate incarceration facilities for those who test positive. They also require testing of Chinese citizens who have been abroad for over a year, recommend abortion for pregnant women infected with HIV, and prohibit HIV-positive people from working in certain professions, such as kindergarten teachers and surgeons. The Chinese government maintains that nationwide, there are only 20,000 HIV-positive Chinese citizens, while Chinese media now estimate the number as high as 1 million.

Queen's representative in Canada criticized for backing gay couples

OTTAWA—Canada's Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson has fallen under harsh criticism for appearing to give royal blessings to two gay couples who are using an ancient ritual form of marriage called banns to challenge Canada's ban on same-sex marriage, the *Boston Globe* reported. Clarkson, who is Queen Elizabeth II's representative in Canada, had e-mailed the couples congratulations, which Rev. Brent Hawkes read aloud at the marriage ceremony. "It's highly unusual" to have the representative of the queen "wade into issues which are so highly charged politically," said Bob Runciman, Ontario's minister of consumer and commercial affairs, who refused to certify the marriages. The couples filed suit Jan. 19 to force the province to recognize their marriages. Bishop Gerald Wiesner, president of the Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops, called Clarkson's message "controversial and offensive to most faiths." Clarkson has refused to retract her e-mail, saying through a spokesperson that, "there was no political intent at all" in her message.



Adrienne Clarkson, Canada's governor-general, is standing by a congratulatory message she sent to two gay couples challenging that country's ban on same-sex marriage.

Australian lesbians who conned British aristocrats released on bail

LONDON—Two Australian lesbians, who talked their way into Britain's equestrian high society, even taking tea with the queen, have pleaded guilty to bilking millions of pounds with fraudulent investment opportunities, the *Australian* reported. Evelyn Burton, 57, and Lyla Andre, 50—dubbed the dirty rotten scoundrels by police—are former brothel madams who have been on the run since 1996 for suspected crimes in Australia. They promised 108 percent profits on a minimum investment of more than \$700,000 and also sought higher prize money for equestrian shows, though the prizes were never paid to the race's winner. Shirley Watts, wife of Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts, is still waiting for a prize of more than \$40,000 she won at one of the horse events. Judge Peter Ader granted the women bail until pre-sentence and psychiatric reports were prepared.

Korean TV star fired as host of children's show after he comes out

SEOUL—A South Korean actor who hosted a popular children's show has been fired for disclosing that he is gay, the *Christian Science Monitor* reported. Hong Seok-chon, who also played an effeminate fashion designer in a popular Korean sitcom based on "Friends," was asked by a talk-show host to comment on rumors about his sexual orientation. Hong told the truth, in part because he teaches kids on his show to "always tell the truth." In an interview with the *Monitor*, Hong said, "I shouldn't have to lie every moment of my life. ... I don't want to apologize to people." But Hong did apologize in a television interview, tearfully asking forgiveness from those whom he had misled. Producer Kim Chul-Yeoung says that too many parents would have complained about having a gay role model for young viewers. "Children's programs are conservative, and parents do not wish their children to grow up to become lesbians or homosexuals, Kim said. "Hong forgot to consider the feelings of the general public, and therefore he got discharged."

Japanese firm settles gay sex-harassment case against president

TOKYO—A Japanese employee at an unnamed firm has received a settlement after suing the company for sexual harassment he endured at the hands of its president, the *Mainichi Daily News* reported. The employee charged that the head of the company fondled and propositioned him. "We settled the case because the other side was unwilling to have the details of the sexual harassment brought before the court," the employee's attorney said. The employee said the harassment occurred on business trips between August 1999 and April 2000. He kept a diary of the incidents, and when he left it where the president, who was 74, could find it, he was fired the next day. As part of the settlement, the firm acknowledged that it should not have fired the young man, but did not address the harassment charges.

—From staff and wire reports

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health news

Nonoxynol-9 increases HIV risk during anal sex, according to study

WASHINGTON—Nonoxynol-9, a spermicide that was once hoped would prevent HIV transmission during anal sex and was included in condoms and personal lubricants in the 1980s and '90s, may actually increase the risk of HIV transmission during anal sex, according to a study in the journal *Contraception*, Reuters reported. Researchers have found that nonoxynol-9 causes the protective cells that line the rectum to peel off or shed during intercourse, leaving "a person more at risk for infection by HIV and other sexually transmitted pathogens," researcher David Phillips said. A previous study showed that nonoxynol-9 may increase the likelihood of anal transmission of herpes simplex virus-2.

Feds to announce change in AIDS treatment philosophy next month

WASHINGTON—Federal health officials next month will release new protocols for the use of AIDS drugs that will change the common philosophy of AIDS experts to hit the disease as early and as hard as possible, according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergies & Infectious Diseases, Reuters reported. Because of the severity of the drugs' side effects, which can include nausea, diarrhea, diabetes, bone loss and heart disease, the new treatment guidelines will suggest waiting to prescribe the drugs until there is more significant damage to the immune system. "We have been observing, as others have for the past couple of years, that there is a cumulative toxicity with some of these drugs," Fauci said. The new guidelines, to be released at an annual scientific meeting of HIV experts in Chicago in February, will mean tolerating a bit more virus in the body in return for sparing the patient the side-effects and inconvenience of the drug regimens. And one very small group of HIV patients is not included in the new guidelines—those whose disease is caught within days of infection. Studies suggest that if they get treatment right away, their immune systems might remain strong enough, and might be trained, to fight the virus on their own.



Federal AIDS researcher Dr. Anthony Fauci said health officials will pull back from their philosophy of treating the disease 'early and hard' next month.

Los Angeles health activists charge reaction to syphilis 'ineffective'

LOS ANGELES—A year after a syphilis outbreak, health activists are concerned about broken promises and ineffective messages from city health officials. "As syphilis goes, so goes HIV," said Lee Klosinski, Director of Education for AIDS Project Los Angeles. "Any sexually transmitted disease is a marker for HIV. Current prevention messages are not resonant with the target groups and people are having unsafe sex." Klosinski charged that the L.A. County Health Department had failed in some of its earlier commitments to stem future epidemics, including a pledge to appoint a liaison between the health department and the county's commercial sex clubs. A similar report is also being prepared in connection with a syphilis outbreak in San Francisco last year.

Meanwhile, in Dublin, a syphilis outbreak was noted Jan. 15, with 30 cases reported, 27 of which were diagnosed in men who have sex with men.

Italian researchers close to human tests of attack HIV vaccine

ROME—Plans are moving forward for widespread testing of a new AIDS vaccine in Italy, Reuters reported. "Phase One [of human testing] is already in an advanced organizational phase. ... We hope to start after the summer," said Dr. Barbara Ensoli, head of virology at Italy's National Health Institute. While more traditional vaccines attempt to bolster the immune system's response to HIV, this vaccine attempts to inhibit the virus' ability to grow in the body by attacking one of its proteins that is essential for it to take root and spread. "By targeting the TAT protein, ... we will be able to control virus replication, to render the infection abortive, to block disease onset in HIV-negative subjects," Ensoli said. The traditional vaccine method has worked with many viruses, but it has not been successful against HIV's ability to mutate and revive itself. Ensoli said she does not expect any vaccine to be publicly available for up to seven years.

CT judge protects needle exchange participants from arrest

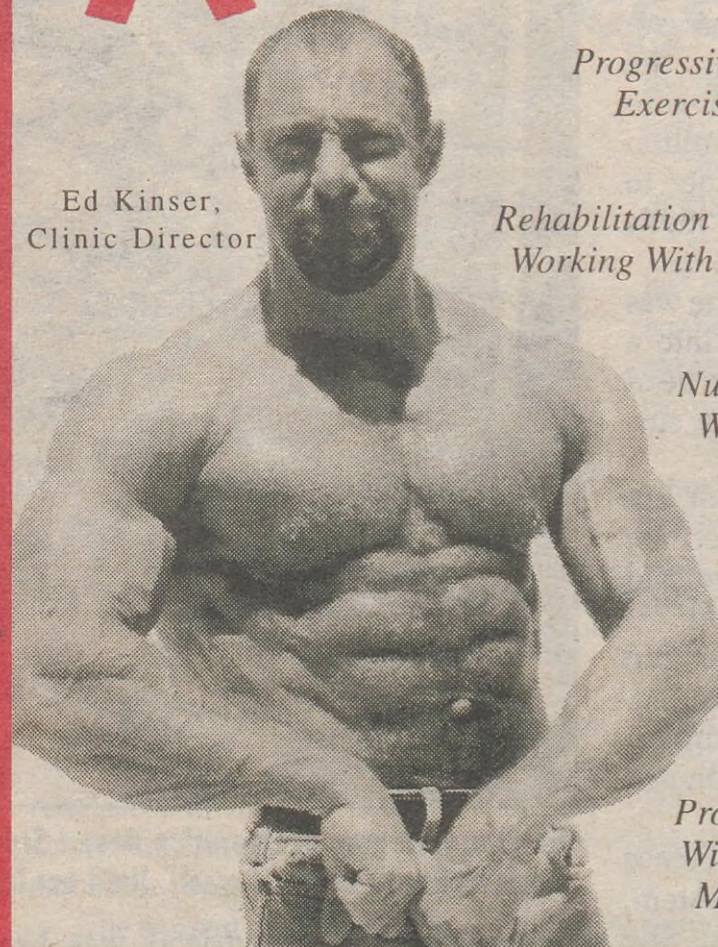
BRIDGEPORT, Conn. (AP)—A federal judge has issued a ruling prohibiting the Bridgeport Police Department from stopping, searching, arresting or threatening any person found in possession of up to 30 clean or dirty hypodermic needles. The ACLU and its Connecticut affiliate filed the suit last fall on behalf of two Bridgeport heroin abusers who take part in the needle exchange program, accusing the city's police of violating state law by harassing and threatening needle exchange program participants. In 1992, the legislature passed the law, permitting pharmacies to sell up to 30 needles to people without a prescription. Graham Boyd, an ACLU attorney, said the law has helped cut the spread of AIDS by nearly one-third. The city argued that the state law should not apply to people who aren't participating in the needle-exchange program but are carrying needles containing drug residue.

—From staff and wire reports



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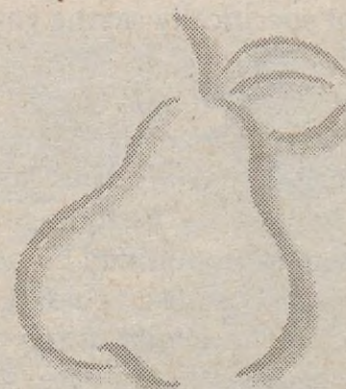
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Response to gay domestic violence remains mixed

> Continued from Page 3

says she used to feel confident in her ability to defend herself. Until her lesbian partner came after her with a gun.

After financially supporting the woman, named Ginger, and facing constant accusations and arguments, Hamilton said she eventually asked her partner to leave their Houston apartment, and made plans to leave herself when she refused.

But when Hamilton told Ginger she was moving, she says the woman flew into a rage, choked her and slammed her head against a wall—taking her totally by surprise.

"I started running for the front door, but she got my gun, tackled me, grabbed my neck and put the gun to my head and said 'I'm going to kill you,'" Hamilton said.

Hamilton struggled, getting the gun away from her head, and escaped. Reaching a security guard in the complex, Hamilton called police and later pursued her case in court.

But like many gay domestic violence victims who enter the judicial system, Hamilton reported mixed results: She praised the actions of the Houston Police Department, but said she was frustrated when the district attorney's office gave her attacker a plea agreement that included two years probation, but no jail time.

"She tried to kill me, and she got a slap on the wrist," Hamilton said.

Jorge, who prefers to use only his first name, has first-hand experience at being ignored by the police.

Jorge is not in an abusive relationship; his new boyfriend was-for 10 long years. But Jorge has felt the repercussions. His life has been threatened several times by his boyfriend's ex.

He followed Jorge into the restrooms of two local Montrose restaurants and said he would kill him. "He also told someone at the City Club that he was going to have 'Jorge bumped off,'" says a frightened Jorge.

The latest threat came aboard a recent 7:15 a.m. flight to Mexico. Apparently, it was coincidence they were on the same flight says Jorge.

"He threatened to kill me if I stepped on his property and one of the flight attendants heard him." Jorge was so scared that he drove all the way back from Mexico rather than risk being on a flight with this man.

Jorge went to the Houston Police Department at Bush Intercontinental Airport and spoke with Officer Tratani. Jorge hastens to add that Tratani was "a wonderful man. He deserves a definite pat on the back. He took my report and took it seriously big time."

Tratani told Jorge it was an "assault by threat," and said someone from the homicide division would call him back within two days.

It's a week later and Jorge is still waiting for that call. "For them not to follow up is terrible," says Jorge. "This guy lives a block away from my house and that's in the police report too."



A military veteran of Operation Desert Storm, Tammy Hamilton says she used to feel confident in her ability to defend herself. Until her lesbian partner came after her with a gun.

Jorge says his boyfriend was beaten often by his ex so he takes the threats seriously. In the meantime, Jorge is scared. He can't eat, can't sleep. "I'm freaked out. I can't go out of my house without looking over my shoulder."

Gays and the law

Most federal and state laws governing domestic violence include language that makes them applicable to same-sex couples, without specifically saying gay or lesbian.

The massive federal Violence Against Women Act, reauthorized by Congress last October, amends federal laws to define domestic violence as including acts or threats of violence committed by people in a variety of relationships, including "a person who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the victim."

Despite the act's title, male victims, including gay males, are "entitled to seek services" at funded projects, said Linda Mansour, a Justice Department spokesperson. But activists working with VAWA funding said they were less certain.

In January 2000, representatives of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects announced that they would receive federal funds to provide technical assistance to domestic violence programs serving "lesbian, bisexual and transgender women" in six cities—the first time VAWA funding had gone to a specifically gay program, according to the group.

But while the definitions in VAWA can theoretically apply to victims regardless of sex, Rachel Baum, coordinator of domestic violence programs for the NCAVP, said the programs providing training to police and mainstream service providers feel required to focus their training on "non-straight identified" women.

Trainers believe they can only deal with gay men when participants ask questions, "although the question comes up all the time," Baum said.

Where to turn?

The Montrose Counseling Center recently assumed responsibility for the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, which is on call 24 hours a day, says Chris Kerr, a counselor with the center.

"We are now a full service provider for domestic violence in the GLBT community. We provide cab vouchers to take people to the hospital or to shelter and provide temporary shelter for up to two weeks—for males or females in the GLBT community," Kerr says.

The center also provides advocates to guide victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence or hate crimes through medical or legal services.

"These advocates can go to court with the victim, help them talk to police and tell them what their entitled to under the Texas Crime Victim's Compensation Program," Kerr said.

He says that some victims may be eligible for up to \$3,800 in financial assistance through the program, for relocation or rent if they are forced to move.

Kerr says that unfortunately, Houston doesn't keep statistics on same-sex domestic violence, so it can't be quantified. However, he adds, "The center hopes eventually to get together some statistics on same-sex domestic abuse."

Deanne Hodge, a legal advocate with the Houston Area Women's Center, said there are several legal avenues for survivors of domestic violence to follow once they seek help.

They can obtain a restraining order, which is filed in civil court by a private attorney and primarily protects property. The drawback? Police cannot arrest for violations. However, says Hodge, "you can file for a restraining order whether you live together or not."

For those who live together, the abuse survivor can file a protective order free of charge with the Harris County district

attorney's office, whether they still live together or not. "As long as they have lived together at some time in the past," says Hodge.

The police can arrest for violations of a protective order, says Hodge. But, although good for up to two years, it can take up to five weeks to obtain a protective order.

In the meantime, a survivor can file for a temporary protective order, which is good for 14 days. The problem here is that a person cannot be held criminally liable for violation of a temporary order.

There is another alternative says Hodge, and that's a magistrate's order for emergency protection, but can only be issued after an offender has been arrested for family violence.

"It allows time for the survivor to get other services," says Hodge.

The Women's Center provides services for all women, says Hodge. "The staff is sensitive to all cultures and ethnicities and to gays and lesbians." They can even help male survivors of abuse, if only very short term.

The Women's Center recently began keeping numbers on survivors of same-sex domestic violence, said Michele Ostrander, vice-president of community education.

"We began asking if it was same-sex abuse last year and we've had 16 who have said yes so far," she says.

Of course, there may be more, she says, but they are afraid to reveal their sexuality because of the perceived stigma attached to it. However, she stresses, the staff at the center treats all domestic violence the same regardless of sexual identity.

The Women's Center has a 24-hour hotline to handle emergency calls. In December 2000, there were 1,090 domestic violence calls alone. Last year's total was staggering 17,798 calls.

Houston Areas Women's Center

local hotline: 713.528.2121
outside Houston: 1.800.256.0551
www.hawc.org.

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs

c/o NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project
240 West 35th St., Suite 200
New York, NY 10001
212-714-1184

Montrose Counseling Center

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Web: www.neosoft.com/~mcc/

INFO

No timeframe set for ruling

➤ Continued from Page 3

Burdine of counsel. By sleeping, Cannon turned the trial into a one-sided process in which Burdine had no one to argue for him, McGlasson said.

"An unconscious lawyer can't object, can't rebut an argument and can't effectively cross-examine a witness," McGlasson said. "The trial lost its character as a confrontation between adversaries."

Burdine's case has bolstered arguments that capital punishment is unfair—and legal representation often inadequate—for defendants who can't afford to hire their own lawyers.

"This case, for opponents of capital punishment, has been a godsend," said Neil McCabe, a professor at the South Texas College of Law.

"But for opponents of the death penalty to act as if this case is symptomatic of what actually goes on, it's actually unfair. There's plenty of bad things about the death penalty in the way it's done in Texas, but sleeping lawyers... is not one of them."

"This case is so notorious now. It's gotten such attention as a case of bad lawyering and the problems with the criminal justice system in Texas, one would have hoped the court would have found a way to send a message to the state of Texas and to the country," he said.

Burdine's 17 years on death row began

after he was convicted of the April 1983 robbery and murder of W.T. Wise, a 50-year-old night supervisor for a security service.

Testimony showed that the pair had a gay relationship and had been living together for 3 1/2 months before a dispute caused Burdine to move out of their trailer. Burdine told police that Wise wanted him to work as a prostitute.

Some trial evidence showed that Douglas McCreight was the primary perpetrator. McCreight pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and was paroled after eight years in prison.

During Burdine's 1984 trial, prosecutor Ned Morris said in his closing argument to the jury, "sending a homosexual to the penitentiary certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what (Cannon) is asking you to do."

McCabe said that these gay slurs could eventually play an important role in the case.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the Supreme Court gets interested in that at some point," he said.

Last week, a measure was filed in the Texas Legislature that would halt executions in Texas until 2003 while a commission studies issues such as legal representation. The state has executed two prisoners this year after a record 40 executions last year.

AT&T offering scholarships to GLBT college students

by ELLA TYLER

College scholarships for self-identified gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students are available from LEAGUE at AT&T Foundation. The application deadline is Feb. 17.

LEAGUE is the AT&T employee group for GLBTs and was created in 1987. The foundation was organized five years ago, "so we could give scholarships," said LEAGUE spokesperson Charles Eader. "The first scholarships were given in 1997, and last year, we gave 10 scholarships in amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$2,500," he said.

The scholarships are open to students who will be attending either a 2- or 4-year college in the fall of 2001 or who are already enrolled. The applicant can live anywhere in the country.

The student must have at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 grade point average and be accepted to or currently attending an accredited college or university. The applicant must also be "actively and substantially" involved in community service.

"We are a community service group," Eader said, "so we think it's important that

the people we give scholarships to are also involved in serving the community."

Awards will be announced by the end of May.

It is not a requirement that the student be "out," Eader said. "If a student asks for confidentiality, we give it to them. Some student's aren't out to their parents, for example."

The applicant must write two personal essays; one about his or her academic career goals and plans for service to the community and one about the impact of his or her sexual orientation on his or her personal life.

The scholarships available are the Matthew Shepherd Memorial Scholarship, the Ed Chilcott Memorial Scholarship and the LEAGUE at AT&T Foundation Scholarship.

The group had solicited contributions only from AT&T employees, but recently began soliciting contributions from others.

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible.

For applications or information, see the LEAGUE Web site at www.LEAGUE-att.org/foundation or call 703-713-7820.

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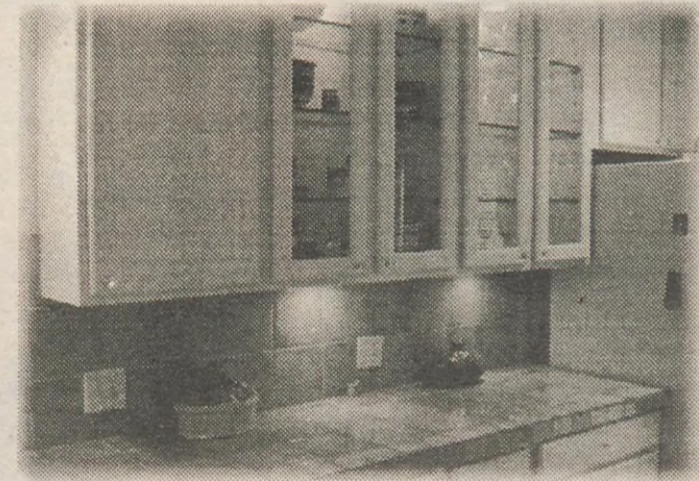
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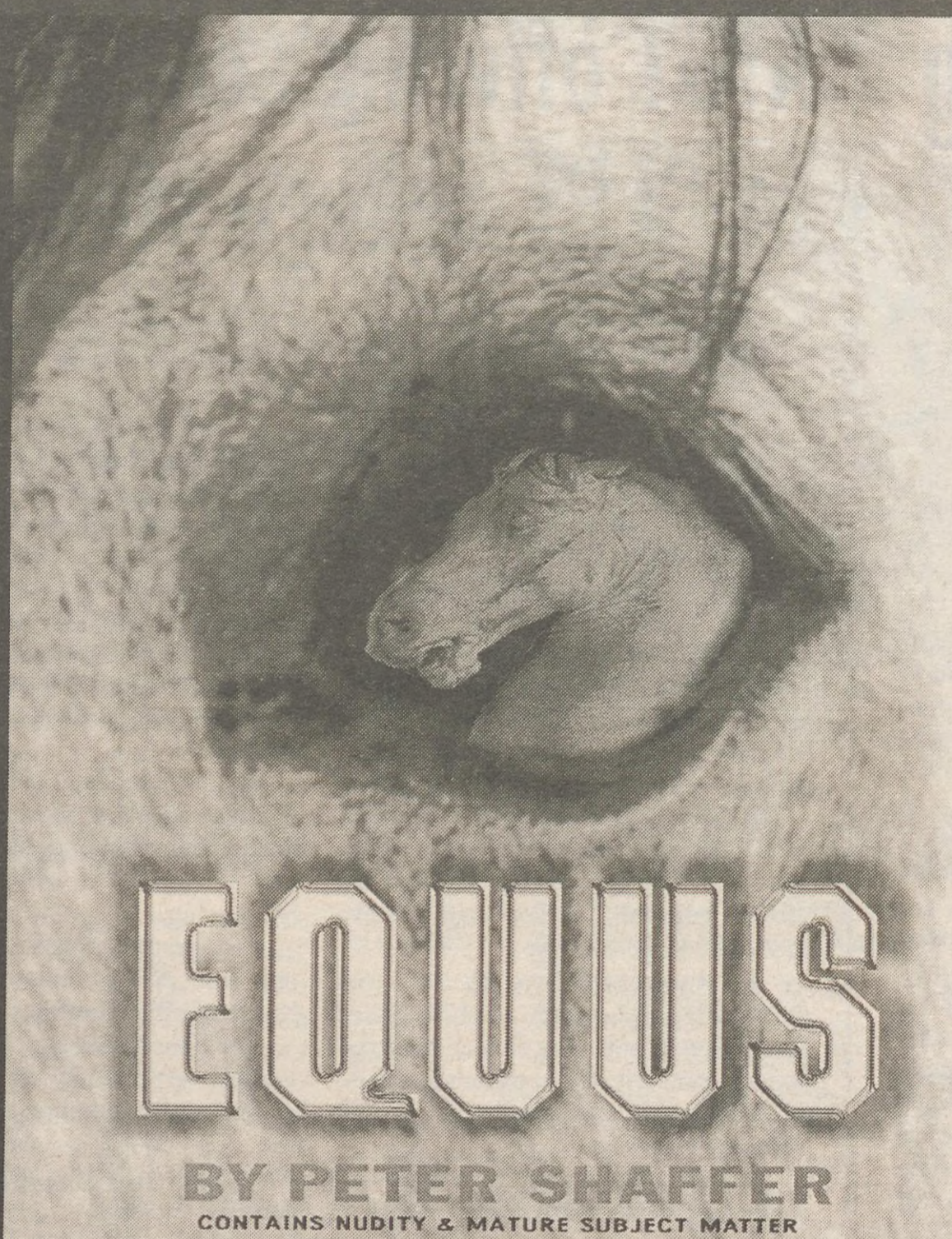
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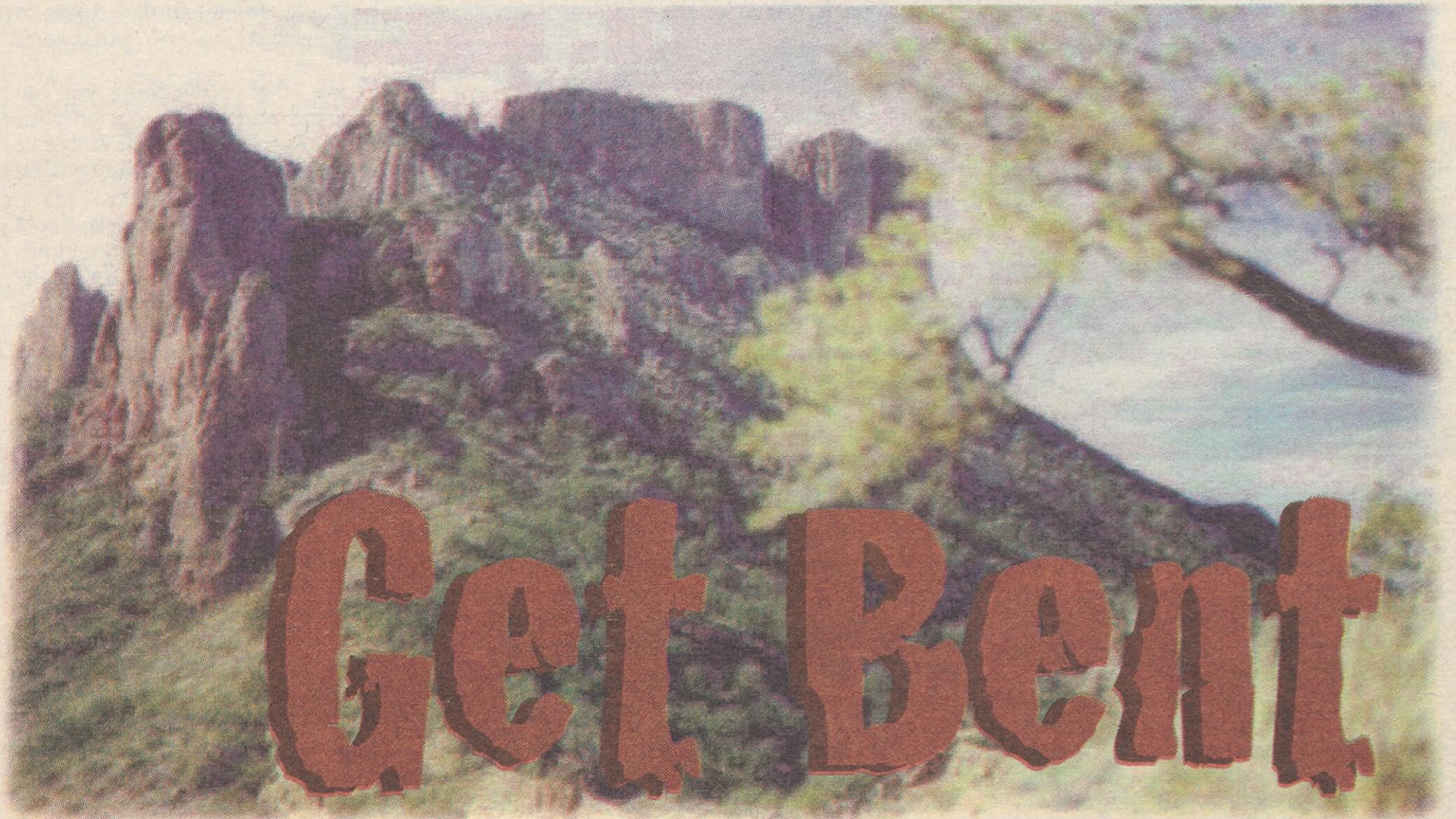
Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time



HOUSTON VOICE • JANUARY 26, 2001

Big Bend offers quiet seclusion, breath-taking beauty and the chance to see real, live wax smugglers



by D.L. GROOVER

Inaccessible. Prehistoric. Incomparable natural beauty. Ocotillo and cottonwood. Coyote and roadrunners. River rapids. Stony peaks. Apache and Comanche. Ambling walks or treacherous treks. Campfires or rustic cottages. And smugglers, too.

It's Big Bend National Park; the least visited of all national treasures, and it's right here in our own backyard.

Okay, it's not quite in our backyard, but this being Texas with such vast expanses, a little hyperbole is in order.

We are west of the Pecos in Texas' largest county, Brewster, where Big Bend encompasses some 1,200 square miles of the Chihuahuan Desert and its own mountain range, the Chisos.

Across the park's southern edge, the Rio Grande marks the international border with Mexico, gouging through ante-diluvian limestone over millennia to cut wondrous fiords and tricky boulder-strewn passages that the rubber rafts squeeze around.

At places, the meandering river is placid and shallow enough to be forded on foot. It's so remote an area that the U.S. border patrol has just about given up their vigilance.

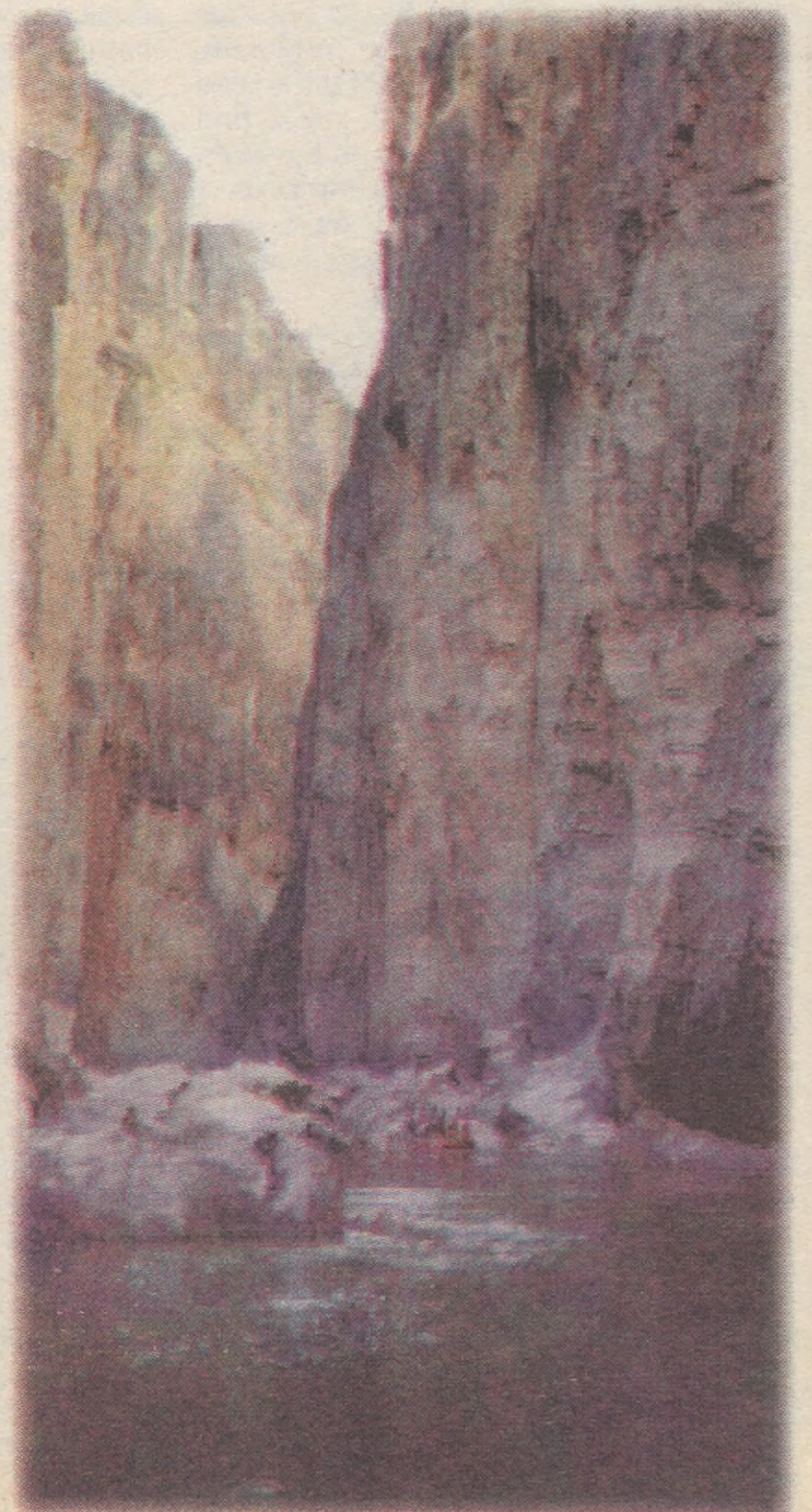
The week before, our raft guide reported seeing an armed troop of Zapata-like smugglers with bullet bandoleers watching from the foreign shore for the guided tour to pass before crossing over.

The illegal shipping is most often candle wax, not drugs. These days, the native candelilla plant with its prized resin used in manufacturing plastics, chewing gum, polishes and candles is more lucrative on the black market than a good high.

For all its splendor, Big Bend is hardly crawling with tourists and nature lovers. It's very remoteness protects it. It's 650 miles away from Houston, so if you don't mind a full nine hours of driving, you can get there for a late dinner

> Continued on Page 16

Professional rafting outfitters are abundant in Big Bend and offer all manner of package tours to explore the rapids in the three area canyons.



Train ride offers quaint route to Big Bend

if you leave before breakfast.

Of course, it's quicker to fly to Midland/Odessa on Southwest or Continental (approximately \$170 round-trip, if booked in advance) but you must still rent a car and drive three hours south toward the park. If you have money to burn, you can always charter a private plane which will deposit you right at Lajitas, a stone's throw from the park entrance.



If you prefer a leisurely (and the schedule is always leisurely) mode of transport, try the overnight Amtrak sleeper train, the Sunset Limited, departing Houston's Washington Ave. station three times weekly to Alpine. Hassle-free, the romance of riding the rails snuggled in your Murphy-bed bunk is unforgettable.

The food is surprisingly good (all meals come with the price of your ticket), there's a domed observation car, and you can make as many new friends as you'd like. Round-trip fare for a double is \$250 per person.

You detrain at Alpine, a one-horse town smack out of the '50s, that boasts Sul Ross State University and a four-star restaurant, The Riata. A car rental service at the station is most accommodating, and you'll find your car waiting with the keys on the visor.

The only caveat is a big one: don't expect to leave or arrive on time. This train, starting in Orlando, Fla., and crossing to Los Angeles, is never, ever, on time.



Tinged with nostalgia and mystery, the Sunset Limited nevertheless must share the tracks with freight trains, errant cows and unforeseen mechanical problems, but if you plan accordingly and make your schedule flexible on both ends of your trip, this is the ideal way to get to Big Bend. Train service may also end sometime this year if Congress deems this route through Texas' badlands unprofitable.

Ideally suited as the way station for Big Bend, 60 miles to the south, Alpine, located in the "alps of Texas," is convenient for an overnight stay. Marathon with its historic register Gage Hotel is a half hour east; the artist colony of Marfa, where "Giant" was filmed, is down the road to the west; and Fort Davis with its famed McDonald Observatory is off to the north.

All you "X-Files" groupies probably know about the Marfa Lights, those unexplained flashes in the night sky over the

desert on Route 90. There's a posted scenic overlook right on the highway for the paranormals.

The most scenic route into Big Bend is south from Marfa on Route 67 to Presidio, a border crossing, following 170 East to Lajitas and Terlingua, on the outskirts of the park.

Unless you decide to camp it up (with tent and sleeping bag, that is), there's only one hotel inside the national park, Chisos Mountain Lodge. Located in the Chisos Basin at 5,400 feet elevation, the motel/cottage complex has breathtaking views, and is the hub for many of the hiking trails.

It's a popular spot, so as soon as you know when you're taking the trip, make reservations. The stone cottages always go first. When you see them with their fireplaces and aerie porches, you'll know why. Most sleep four, and can squeeze in six, so they're quite the bargain for such a luxurious, atmospheric setting.



For you Grizzly Adams's who already know how to put up a tent and prefer to sleep on a tarp under the big sky, there are three campsites inside the park. Water and bathrooms are provided, but only Rio Grande Village on the southeastern corner near Boquillas del Carmen offers pay showers and laundry facilities, however.

So if smelling like a used coyote is not a problem for your partner, the roughing it camp sites at the Basin and Castolon should satisfy your back-to-nature craving.

Cooking stoves are permitted, but no open fires. Kindly turn off all cell phones before retiring, so as not to disturb the javelinas and migrating panthers. (Fortunately, the park seems inaccessible to heaven-sent telecommunication signals.)

Depending upon what guide book you purchase and the condition of your shoes, there are enough hiking trails at all levels of difficulty to work up quite an appetite. The best sunset views can be witnessed on the Window Trail, a five-mile round trip of moderate difficulty, which starts at the Basin and ends with an aerobic workout as you retrace the 800-foot incline toward the lodge.

If desert scenery is your passion, then Mule Ears Spring with its four-mile flat hike is your chance to see tarantulas and scorpions up close and personal. By the end of this day's sun-baked quest, you'll know everything there is about prickly pear and creosote.

Fabulous views are at trail's end on Lost Mine Trail, another five-mile strenuous climb from Panther Junction, where the spectacular Juniper and Pine Canyons spread out before you as if painted. Most trails, even the most difficult, have at least an easier first part, for those less inclined to hike till you drop.

Always take a backpack with water and favorite snacks. If the trail gets too much, just turn around and head for home. Usually, the way back is downhill.

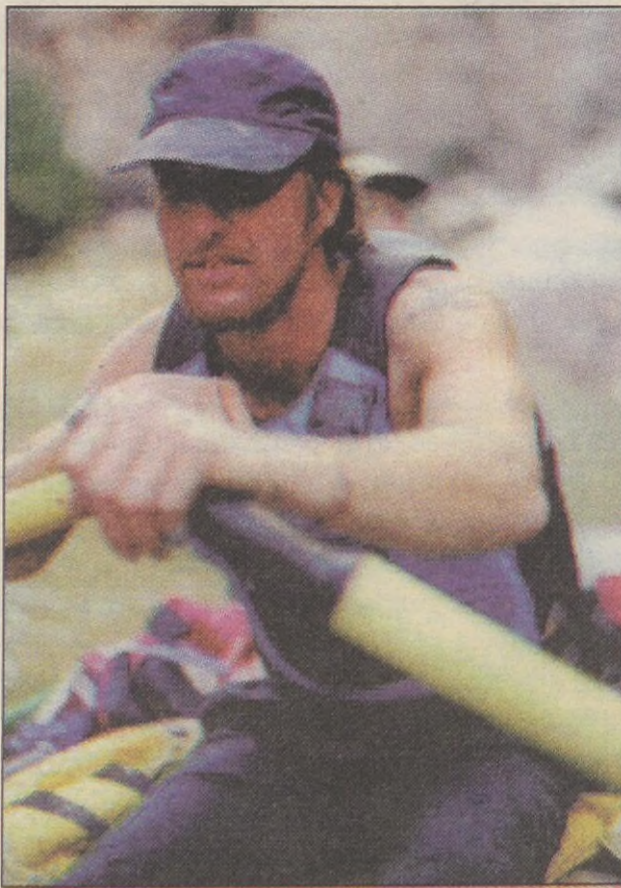
Then there is the Rio Grande, coursing through Big Bend for 188 miles.

Any trip to the national park demands a river cruise. Professional rafting outfitters are as numerous as jackrabbits and they offer all manner of package tours of the spectacular route, from half-day floats to overnight sleep-outs in the prehistoric canyons.

If you know what you're doing, you can even rent kayaks and paddle out on your own, after securing a free permit at one of the visitor centers. You may, or may not, be seen again.

The rapids in the three canyons, Santa Elena, Mariscal and Boquillas, range in difficulty from Class I to Class IV, which can be pretty hairy; but they're rated not only for the amount of water flowing into your mouth at any one time, but also for the degree of difficulty in a rescue party getting to you from the outside.

Drifting at the bottom of the Santa Elena canyon with sheer rock walls towering above at 1,500 feet, blocking out the strong sunlight, is both a majestic and humbling experience. Depending upon the height of the river, the lower level usually means a relatively calm journey, while a high river



volume can resemble "The River Wild."

You'll probably get wet, which is half the fun, but the guides are extremely knowledgeable and must pass rigorous training tests before they're allowed to take anyone else down river.

Needless to say, except for the plaintive cries of the coyotes, a scampering mountain lion and a blinding bright sea of overhead stars, nightlife is fairly limited in this desert mountain area. When the pizza trailer on Highway 170 between the park entrance and the resort town of Lajitas closes after 8 p.m., then the Starlight Theater Bar and Restaurant howls.



It's in Terlingua Ghost Town, a hillside little hamlet with ruined houses tumbling down toward the highway. For \$50, the shells of the stone structures can be rented, fixed up, and lived in. From the evidence of clotheslines and flower boxes, a lot of locals do just that.

But at night, they fill up the porch outside the Starlight. Everyone comes here for the food, the bands, the liquor: unrepentant hippies, burned-out Vietnam vets, iconoclastic macho river guides, potters and artists, ranch hands, tourists with eyes wide and calves sore. It's the only place around for good food and company.

The crowd's raucous, the band's loud, the margarita's cold and salty. After a day of strenuous outdoor exercise and wonder, it's the perfect place to unwind.

It's live and let live down here west of the Pecos at Big Bend, and the night's just begun.

Bayou Calendar

The Countess

The scandal of the century didn't happen last century, but the previous one, in 1853 to be exact. That's when John Ruskin, England's preeminent art critic and admirer of very, very young girls, invited studly pre-Raphaelite painter John Millais to join him and his young bride on a trip to Scotland where Ruskin would impart his considerable knowledge to the impressionable artist. What got impressed instead was Ruskin's nubile bride and the painter. Repressed Victorian England wasn't prepared for a picture like this. Gregory Murphy's drama lays it all out. And you thought finger painting was messy.

Through Feb. 25

Main Street Theatre, 2450 Times Boulevard (Rice Village)
713-524-6706

Prince Igor

Without question, Alexander Borodin is the only composer to have a degree in chemistry, and the only Russian musician to possess a truly sunny disposition. He was, also, so laid back and somewhat disinterested in pursuing his musical career that when the Russian

Music Society asked in 1876 to perform his latest symphony he couldn't find it. He had to completely rewrite the two middle movements. And he never finished his greatest work, "Prince Igor." When Rimsky-Korsakov offered to complete it, which Borodin had been working on-and-off for eighteen years, Borodin was delighted. R-K was shocked to find only a few scenes, individual arias, and mostly sketches and jottings for the rest. None of it had been orchestrated, and there was no libretto. Glazunov, one of Borodin's executors, wrote most of Act III. Even so, this tremendous hodge-podge of an opera packs quite a wallop, full of exotic color and brutal force. The stirring "Polovtsian Dances" are worth the price of admission.

Jan. 26 through Feb. 11

Houston Grand Opera
Wortham Theater Center, 501 Texas
713-227-ARTS

The Butter and Egg Man

Long before Mel Brooks' "The Producers," there was George S. Kaufman's 1925 comic gem, "The Butter and Egg Man." It's the same premise: get a rube to invest in a

stinker of a show, have the rube turn the tables and the show into a hit. Brooks had Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder on his A-list; here, all this play needs is the legendary Kaufman, the "great collaborator" flying solo the only time in his long, lucrative career. Filled with enough Runyonesque zanies to stock a Marx Brothers road show, "The Butter and Egg Man" pays loving tribute to '20s Broadway with egotistic directors, fluffy-headed chorines, overworked writers, and hard-boiled producers. It's gonna be swell.

Jan. 26 through Feb. 11

Strand Theatre, 2317 Ships Mechanic Row, Galveston
409-763-4591

Sondheim's 'Follies'

Ask and ye shall receive. After last fall's stunning three performances of Stephen Sondheim's greatest musical, "Follies," the Voice pleaded for a revival (so did the Chronicle, but we don't count that). Well, our wish came true. Paul Hope's vivid production, now pumped into a real Wiseman show, plays for one night only as a benefit for The Center for AIDS. The dream cast includes some of the

best in Houston talent: Jim Bernhardt, Marjorie Carroll, Hilary Fields, Mr. Hope, Charles Krohn, Chesley Santoro, Susan Shofner and Marijane Vandivier, among others. In this staging, Sondheim's blistering and embracing tribute to the musical is an unforgettable evening. Don't miss this one!

Jan. 29, 8 p.m.

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Avenue
713-228-8421

C1TV

If you subscribe to Time Warner cable, don't forget channel 74 every Monday at 10 p.m. to 11 p.m. For one hour, the press blurbs gush that this network's "uniquely positioned for hip, urban and gay audiences." What position might that be? Anyway, Monday's (Jan. 29) show comprises episode #5 of the original British "Queer as Folk" and the half-hour gay style show "Wow," all about Fire Island. Keep your hands off my clicker.

Jan. 29, 10 p.m.

C1TV (Time Warner's Channel 74)
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homefront

Promise them a rose garden

Rather than a dozen, consider giving your sweetie a whole garden for Valentine's Day

by ELLA TYLER

Instead of giving roses on Valentine's Day, be extravagant and give a rose garden. In Houston, your sweetheart can have roses from April to November.

Since Valentine's Day is also the day local gardeners prune and fertilize their roses, your gift next year can be tending the roses. Your gift-giving dilemma is solved for the life of your rose bed.

Roses require three things—six hours of sun per day, 1 to 2 inches of water per week and good drainage. Everything else falls in the category of "roses do better with (fill in the blank)," and whether or not you chose to provide it depends on the type of rose you grow and how much of a perfectionist you are.

Sun and water are easily had, but the challenge here is drainage. Local rosarians build beds that are raised 8 to 12 inches above ground level. Any durable edging material will do, but leave room for water to drain.

Beds should be 3 to 5 feet wide. If the bed is 5 feet wide, and you have access from both sides, you can have two rows of bushes. Roses can also be grown in 5-gallon or bigger pots. A bed that is 5 by 10 is big enough for six roses, enough for a beginner.

Roses like a mix of equal parts topsoil, sand and humus. You can make the soil mix yourself, buy it bagged or get it from a soil yard. Do not work the soil mix into the existing soil. Your goal is to keep your rose's roots out of the native clay soil.

Now that the hard work is done, you can choose your roses.

There are two very broad categories to choose from, each with their virtues. Hybrid teas and their cousins, the grandifloras, have been bred for beautiful flowers.

If you want roses to cut and bring in to the house, these are the ones to grow. They are, however, the drama queens of the rose world. They get black spot, powdery mildew, thrips, the vapors. Then again, if you want beautiful and abundant flowers, the maintenance required is worth it.

If what you want is a pretty flowering bush for your garden, floribundas, shrub roses or antique roses are the best choice. They are less temperamental than hybrid teas and have more attractive and smaller bushes. The flowers are pretty, just not fancy.

Most roses bloom on new wood, so pruning is essential to keep the supply of roses coming. On all roses, remove dead canes and ones that cross each other. Hybrid teas and floribundas are pruned severely—as much as 2/3 of the plant is



DALTON DEHART

When pruning roses, remember to keep the sharp edge of the pruners next to the part that is remaining on the plant, which requires that you turn the pruners upside down sometimes, and prune to an outward facing eye. Valentine's Day is the day local gardeners prune and fertilize their roses.

taken off. On hybrid teas, cut down to 4 or 5 good canes that are thicker than a pencil and about a foot tall.

Floribundas are pruned similarly. Antiques and shrubs are pruned just enough to thin them out and encourage new growth.

Pruning is not difficult. Remember to keep the sharp edge of the pruners next to the part that is remaining on the plant, which requires that you turn the pruners upside down sometimes, and prune to an outward facing eye.

Use bypass pruners; they have a scissors action rather than an anvil action, so the stem is not crushed. The Rose Society's February meeting is devoted to pruning; and visitors are welcome.

We prune on Valentine's day because we do not expect freezes after then—if the weather is ugly, wait a week or so.

After everything is pruned, and all the leaves are stripped off the bush, I will feed the roses with a commercial fertilizer, a half a cup of Epsom salts and a cup of alfalfa pellets. After all that, I will rearrange the soaker hoses and renew the mulch to a 3-inch level.

When cutting a rose, cut to a five-leaf stem. They should be fertilized after every bloom cycle until October, and I usually manage that about half the time.

The Houston Rose Society is an excellent source of advice about growing roses here, which is quite different from growing roses in most other places. Members will be at several area nurseries on the first Saturday in February and the group will have a booth at the Home and Garden Show.

INFO

Houston Rose Society

www.houstonrose.org

713-227-ROSE

Time Out

Rolling, rolling, rolling

SPORTS COLUMN

● Come to dust off, tune up bikes for a brisk winter ride

by D.L. MURPHY

Bicycle riders in Texas recognize four distinct cycling seasons: too cold, too windy, too hot and too wet. Arguments abound as to which is the best season to ride. Having ridden to Austin multiple times (too wet), Hotter n Hell twice (too hot), the Hurricane 100 way too many times (too windy), my favorite cycling season is right now (too cold).

So, if you are new to (or revisiting) disce cycling, let's review the basics.

First, make sure your bike is in good condition for comfortable and safe riding.

Take your bike out and just look at it. If its been a while since you rode, or if storage conditions have been less than ideal, your bike probably looks terrible. If so, take it to a reputable bike shop for an overhaul.

Next, check for play in the headset and bottom bracket bearings. Don't know what I'm talking about? Take your bike to a reputable repair shop for a tune up.

Inspect your tires. Make sure there are no sidewall cracks, tread cracks, or bald spots. Make sure your tires are properly seated on the rim. Pick all the debris out of the tread. Tires should be replaced at the first sign of wear and tear.

I replace my tires (and the Kevlar tubes inside them) at least annually. This expense will seem very small the first time you find yourself sitting on the side of the road repairing a flat, or worse yet, trying to figure out how you're going to get someone to give both you and your bike a ride.

Check your wheels. Tighten any loose spokes. Remember that the spokes on the left side of the rear wheel are a little looser than the others. The spokes are looser on the back left to allow the gearing system to work properly.

Check the wheel for trueness once you are done tightening any spokes. This is not for the uninitiated, get someone familiar with the process to work with you the first time you do this, or you are going to be a Weeble who wobbles and then falls down.

Tighten all major bolts and screws (don't forget the water bottle cages).

Check your frame pump. Make sure your patch kit is still usable. Every year, I help out someone who has let the glue in the patch kit harden or who has a totally non-functioning frame pump. Trust me when I tell you these particular failures make you look truly stupid.

Lube shift cables where they pass under the bottom bracket. Remember to lube the chain. Check your shifting and adjust the shift cables as required.

Inspect the brake pads. Make sure the

pads do not drag on the rims (you will pedal like crazy and not go anywhere). Make sure the pads grab the rim easily when you grasp the brake lever. Replace the brake pads when they are worn, the expense is minimal, and the consequences of failed brakes too severe.

Clean the poor baby up! You look like a Fred on a dirty bike, no matter how well you ride.

If its just a little dirty, apply a cleaner made especially for bicycles and wipe your machine down. If that poor baby is really dirty (i.e. neglected) a more thorough cleaning is in order. Remove the wheels and carefully clean the rims, clean the drive train, clean the crankset, clean the derailleurs, and clean the frame.

Remember not to spray the bike with the hose, this will force water into the bearings, assuring a future dramatic failure, usually involving the loss of large patches of skin.

Sound too complicated? Take your bike to a reputable shop for a tune up.

Next, let's make sure you are dressed to ride. One of the attractive things about cycling is that you can spend as much or as little as you like on your apparel.

A few things you should not skimp on though. Get a good quality helmet with both ANSI and Snell certification stickers, and replace it every three years. Get good quality padded cycling gloves. Get good quality padded cycling shorts—one long ride without them and it will be a long, long, long time before you get on your bike again.

Shoes depend on the pedal style you use, consult with your bike shop. One thing to note: shorts and jerseys made of synthetics let you slide easier when you hit the pavement, reducing damage to your hide.

Make sure you're ready to ride. Make sure you are comfortable, those of us with ever expanding middle-aged butts should have our bike refitted every year.

Carry the basic tools you need for on the road repairs. Carry identification, insurance information, change for a phone call and money for a cab. Stretch before you ride and during the ride as needed.

Take plenty of water. Take a snack. Don't go on a longer ride than you are ready for. Remember that this is supposed to be fun. Get your head ready to help, rather than laugh at, less-experienced riders.

Finally, be safe. Wear your helmet. Glasses of some sort make you more comfortable and protect your eyes. Follow the rules of the road. Don't react to insane drivers. Ride with friends.

And don't forget the Vaseline! If you really don't know what I am talking about, take it anyway, the reason will be evident after about 20 miles. Vaseline reduces the irritations caused by long miles on the bicycle seat.

D.L. Murphy can be reached at sumproducts@cs.com.

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Worth the trip

Fadi's Mediterranean Cuisine in Southwest Houston offers quality, originality

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Does the thought of impatiently holding onto a brown plastic tray in a long, noisy cafeteria line conjure up images of chipped beef and grade-school chocolate milk?

Then it's time to pay a visit FADI'S MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE in Southwest Houston, a cafeteria-style Middle Eastern restaurant, packed with the multi-lingual voices of a diverse group of Houstonians eagerly awaiting their baba ganoush, hummus, salads, or marinated lamb, chicken, and fish.

At Fadi's, Arab- and Greek-speaking customers mingle with their Asian, African, Jewish, Latino and good ol' white Texan neighbors. The wood-burning oven produces pillowy fresh or hard, crispy pitas, and the dessert trays gleam with layers of honey and green pistachios, as customers stake out tables in the always-packed dining room.

Although the decor, with its bland tile floors and brown and beige vinyl booths, isn't much more elegant or inviting than, say, a city bus station, the gorgeous beaded chandeliers add a more intimate, aesthetic touch.

As you make your way along the deliciously tempting dishes on the cafeteria line, you'll see the logic in ordering one of Fadi's combination platters. Depending on the number of meats and sides, these platters run anywhere from \$4.99-\$8.99 and guarantee that you leave full and satiated with a little taste of (nearly) everything.

The Vegetarian Plate (\$7.99) works similarly, so that no veggie dish goes untasted. The hummus is creamy as cake batter, and contains just the right balance of garlic, cumin, lemon to bring out the slightly nutty tahini (for those new to Middle-East chow—a paste of sesame seeds and oils) and chickpea base.

As the counter server artfully spoons some onto your plate, forming rippling wells and waves, you can request the added pools of olive oil or a sprinkle of paprika. The Baba Ganoush, a mix of eggplant, tahini, lemon and garlic, is similarly silky in texture and rich in taste. Both these spreads are best eaten between scraps of soft, complimentary, pita bread.

It took me at least 10 forkfuls of Tabouli Salad for me to realize the dish was in fact missing one key ingredient—namely, the tabouli grain. The mounds and mounds of fresh parsley blended with the marinated tomatoes, garlic and white onions, and yielded such a savory mix of herbs and vinegars that I didn't miss those round sandy grains one bit.

The eggplant salad featured tangy, yet sweet eggplant still in their purple skins. The feta in the Greek Salad added a milky, ripeness to the dark greens and juicy tomatoes.

The Italian Green beans still retained a

Fadi's Cuisine


8383 Westheimer
713.532.0666
www.fadiscuisine.com


FOOD FILE


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

crunch in their warm tomato sauce, and while the Zucchini Marinade was rather pedestrian, the Baby Okra was part of a hearty stew of onions, cumin, garlic, and tomatoes.

Other than stinging dose of lemon juice, the Cabbage Salad contained little taste or accent. The most impressive side, however, was the Roasted Potatoes, which consist of golden brown potato cubes cooked with parsley, pepper and a delectable combination of other herbs and spices.

If you're feeling more decisive about your dinner, Fadi's offers a la carte platters and sandwiches, including shish kebobs galore.

The Red Snapper Platter (\$8.99) slightly disappointed, as the fish wasn't as fresh as the other ingredients I've tried, but ironically, the somewhat soggy and bland snapper featured a light, yet tantalizing sauce of lemon, feta and parsley.

The Chicken Schwarma (\$7.99) was succulent, and the fruity, pickled coating lent a sweetness that reached every bite of meat. The Lamb Platter (\$7.99) was so tender it fell right off the bone. All platters come with one vegetable side of your choice, as well rice, bread and salad.

With the emphasis on fresh, home-cooked dishes, Fadi's understandably forgoes the use of heat lamps. However, this means that some dishes forgo heat. Such was the case with both my fish and potatoes on one occasion. By the time I made it through the line and sat down ready to dive in, my food was cold. Sure it was still edible and tasty, but so much for my anticipation of a comfy, steaming warm meal.

An original, quality establishment like Fadi's makes a welcome addition to the strip-mall and chain-store laden Southwest. It's the perfect destination, in fact, for when you emerge hungry and sleepy from a film at the airport-like AMC 30 just around the corner.

Though, of course, Fadi's is worth the trip all by itself.

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FRI Dinner & Dancing
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CALENDAR

Friday • Jan 26 Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "My Best Friend's Wedding"	Friday • Feb 2 Morning Prayer 10am
Monday • Jan 29 Eucharist 7:30pm	Monday • Feb 5 Eucharist 7:30pm
Thursday • Feb 1 Potluck 6:30pm Center For AIDS, Speaker	Friday • Feb 9 Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "Steel Magnolias"

"quote/unquote"

compiled from staff reports



"We must remember that America cannot lead in the world unless here at home we weave the threads of our coat of many colors into the fabric of one America. As we become ever more diverse, we must work harder to unite around our common values and our common humanity. We must work harder to overcome our differences, in our hearts and in our laws. We must treat all our people with fairness and dignity, regardless of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, and regardless of when they arrived in our country; always moving toward the more perfect union of our founders' dreams."

—From Bill Clinton's farewell speech, delivered Jan. 18

"It was about as sexual as being in a doctor's office and turning your head and coughing. Now I'm more comfortable than ever with my sexuality."

—Heterosexual actor Hal Sparks on his gay love scenes in Showtime's 'Queer As Folk,' to USA Today, Jan. 3

"When we were in contract negotiations, they were like, 'Well, we just want to make sure she understands that the character is a lesbian, so at some point in time she will probably have to kiss another woman.' I was like: 'How many guys have I had to kiss that I really didn't want to kiss? And at least if it's a girl, she'll probably be hot! So where's the problem?'"

—Actress Valarie Rae Miller who plays Original Cindy on Fox TV's "Dark Angel," to Lesbianation.com, Dec. 20

"You faggots can vanish to volcanic ash and re-appear in hell with a can of gas and a match."

—Lyrics from rapper Eminem's Grammy-nominated 'The Marshall Mathers LP'

"My words are like a dagger with a jagged edge that'll stab you in the head, whether you're a fag or lez, or the homosex, hermaph or a trans-a-vest, pants or dress. Hate fags? The answer's yes. Homophobic? Nah, you're just heterophobic."

—More lyrics from rapper Eminem's Grammy-nominated 'The Marshall Mathers LP'

"He represents some of the worst in defamation."

—The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation on rapper Eminem, Jan. 2

"I liked the Eminem record. I think it's a great-sounding record, and whether you like the content or not, it's a well-made record, and it's interesting-sounding and very infectious."

—Rocker Sheryl Crow to *Wall of Sound*, Jan. 5



"What happens with a serodiscordant couple when the guy who expected to die has a shot at living [thanks to new HIV treatments]? There's a term I use in [my new novel, 'The Night Listener']—cocktail divorce—that I heard several times around town, and I felt a sense of relief that there was an applicable expression for what was happening to [ex-lover] Terry [Anderson] and me."

—Author Armistead Maupin to *Poz* magazine, January issue

"The press eulogized him as a saint, when in fact, the pious creep was a stuck-in-the-1950s anti-gay menace. Good riddance!"

—New York City's *Time Out* magazine on the late New York Roman Catholic Cardinal John O'Connor, Jan. 4. The magazine later apologized for the item.



"I don't go in the locker rooms. And I don't pat butts. It sounds corny, but being a pioneer I've gotta be extra careful."

—Openly gay Oberlin College Athletic Director Mike Muska to the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, Dec. 10

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February 4 "You Did This For Me?" Rev. Janet Parker

February 11 "I Loved You Enough To To Become One Of You" Rev. Janet Parker

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community

saturday, january 27

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.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.
Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.
CPR Classes. Noon. 713-607-7700.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. Noon.
Gay Broadcast Network auditions. Noon to 3 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.
Houston Outdoor Group. Day trip/hike. 713-529-2691.

sunday, January 28

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

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. Super Bowl Viewing party. Kick-off 5:25 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3418.

monday, january 29

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. 713-529-0020.
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. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Stonewall Democrats. Meeting. 7 p.m. stonewalldemocrats@hotmail.com.

tuesday, january 30

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.



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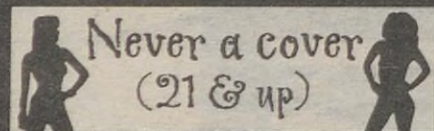
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calendar

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
 Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
 Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming Out Group meeting. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Houston Outdoor Group. Monthly meeting & mailout. 713-527-7809.

wednesday, january 31

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'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. 713-692-2703.
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • 713-524-3818.
 Houston Area Bears. Newsletter mailout. 6:30 a.m. 713-867-9123.

thursday, february 1

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. • "What Do Women Do? sex workshop. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

friday, february 2

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.
 Mishpachah Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Movie Night. "The Wedding Banquet." 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

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

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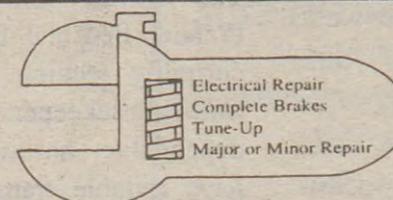
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Classifieds

Announcements

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Community Resale is becoming "The Whispering Hope" • 515 Richmond • www.wordgarden@mindspring.com

Whispering Hope Resale is gathering donations of warm clothes to be sent to Russia.

Whispering Hope, the motion picture, coming soon • Filmed in Montrose

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club now forming • Walk Memorial Park 8:00 AM every Saturday morning • 3 Mile Track • Then head to breakfast at Java Java Cafe at 911 11th Street • Call Jimmy at 713.864.7299 or email: keysweb6@aol.com

The Spay & Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) will provide FREE spaying, neutering, rabies vaccination and Houston city license for animals belonging to qualifying low income dog & cat guardians • Call 713.522.2337 for qualifications, locations or more information.

QUIT SMOKING!

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

BAY AREA GAYS

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Ashland St. Theatre Co will be holding auditions for STEEL DRAGNOLIAS (AKA Steel Magnolias) on Sunday, January 21st at 6pm • Director Byron Norton is looking for 3 males and 3 females (all ages - all sizes) • THE ENTIRE CAST WILL BE IN DRAG • CALL 713.426.3019 for information or to set up an appointment

CASTING CALLS

• Casting for three transexual roles for a campy "Charlie's Angels" takeoff. • Casting for local gay, lesbian and transgendered talent for an upcoming independent film website. Contact Casting at 713.867.7965

Employment

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

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Fax: 713-623-0106
email: tdavies@kmjq.com
EOE

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF HOUSTON SEEKING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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

To request an application packet, please visit www.gmch.org/adsearch

Or call 713-927-3129

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Needed for transitional residence for HIV+ males • Bachelor Degree in Social Services or related field • Knowledgeable in the areas of HIV/AIDS, alcohol/substance abuse and recovery a plus • Fax resume w/salary history to: Executive Director 713.522.2674

MIDTOWN SPA HOUSTON

Apply in person • Start at \$6.50 per hour

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GMC offers free, private furnished room by pool in exchange for two days per week housework/laundry • Full time with small salary/board possible later • Beautiful Montrose home in quiet location • Be responsible, organized, no drugs • Available now • 713.522.6197 (Voicemail)

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Accounting experience required • Knowledge of Quycbooks and Excel required • Flexible working hours • Please fax resumes to: PWA Coalition, Attn: Executive Director, 713.522.2674

800 PACIFIC

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for managers, management trainees, bartenders door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group health insurance.

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Is looking for honest, self-motivated and customer service-oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. To join our family of clubs, apply Wednesday through Friday between 1 pm and 5 pm at 804 & 808 Pacific
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Independent Cosmetology Barber Stylist with clientele to least space • Montrose area • Frank 713.522.2263 or 713.522.8576 • Very Reasonable
The Club Houston is now accepting applications for Certified Personal Trainers • Apply in person at 2205 Fannin or at www.the-clubs.com

HOUSEKEEPER

The Lovett Inn, Houston's Premier Bed and Breakfast, is currently seeking a full/part-time housekeeper • Must be dependable, hardworking and have reliable transportation • Previous experience helpful • Apply in person at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd • Mon-Fri, 9:00am to 4:00pm

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New Revolutionary HIV/AIDS Treatment lowers the viral load & increases the T-cell count dramatically! • No side effects from the injectable medication • Be symptom-free of weight loss, body pain, nausea, vomiting & diarrhea • Approximately \$25,000 for treatment • Contact website: drrezimmer.com

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MOVE-IN SPECIAL!

Montrose 1 Bedroom • Close to busses, clubs and shopping • Gated complex • \$500/mo + \$200 deposit • For information call Buz at 713.524.4551

Real Estate for Sale

WESTBURY GARDENS CONDOS

FOR SALE

• Very large upstairs condo in the "Spanish Courtyard" • 1413 sf • New ceramic tile in most rooms • 5 appliances (refrigerator new), 2 full baths (one w/built-in cabinets), 3 walk-in closets, large kitchen with a window & pantry, large balcony • Must be seen to be appreciated • Only \$35,000

• 2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 Bath Townhouse for investor • Excellent tenant paying \$750/mo • 1 1/2 years left on lease • In beautiful courtyard w/fenced patio • \$40,000

• 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath unfurnished flats • About 850 sf • Good condition • Upstairs & downstairs • One with washer/dryer • \$29,000

FOR LEASE

Several 1 Bedroom flats • \$450-\$600/mo • All refurbished, some with washer/dryers or connections

Call Lyn, on-site Agent, for a showing

713-729-9316

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Send your name, address, daytime phone number, # of weeks the ad will run, plus a credit card number and expiration date for payment. Or call Kyle Cooke at 713.529.8490

Occasions

Birthdays

Jeff O. of the CCCC shines his birthday chrome on Jan. 26.

Smart and sexy Jeffrey Bules sneaks in a birthday on Jan. 28.

Tate L. surfs the Web for his birthday on Jan. 27.

Barry (Vanna White Lee Love, etc.) Larson pours a stiff one for his birthday on Jan. 28.

CCCC member and all around great guy, Weldon Hickey, motors in his birthday on Jan. 29.

Asian & Friends member Ninh D. blows out birthday candles on Jan. 29.

John K. is looking for e-mail birthday greetings on Jan. 30.

John Bell rings in a birthday on Jan. 30.

Laura Lee Love shines up his birthday tiara on Jan. 31.

Pet of the Week



This is Beanie (baby). She is a 3-year-old female dilute calico and a pretty little thing. She is okay around other cats, but probably not dogs. She is very mellow and quite the cuddler.

If you'd like to adopt Beanie, email the Houston Humane Society at pr@houstonhumane.org or call 713.434.5555.

In Memory

Crad P. Duren:

A memorial service will be at Settegast-Kopf Funeral Home, 3320 Kirby, on Friday, Feb. 2 at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to any HIV-related charity or the S.P.C.A.



Walter Leon Keen

Walter Leon Keen, born Aug. 18, 1975, a native Houstonian, passed away on Dec. 7, 2000. Services were held on Dec. 10, 2000. He loved to go camping with his faithful dog, Samantha. Walter enjoyed music and dancing. He was a beautiful person who brought sunshine to all who knew him. Walter was a free-spirited person who loved his life to the fullest. He is survived by his parents Troy and Jeanette Keen, sisters Lucinda Ortiz and Briana Keen, brother-in-law Henry Ortiz, a niece Ariana, nephew Mac and many friends.

Paul V. Carolla

Paul V. Carolla, a longtime Montrose resident, passed away Jan. 5 in the Hospice at the Medical Center after a long battle with cancer. A celebration of life service will be held at Rothko Chapel on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 10:30 a.m. Family, friends and coworkers are invited to participate in this service.

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

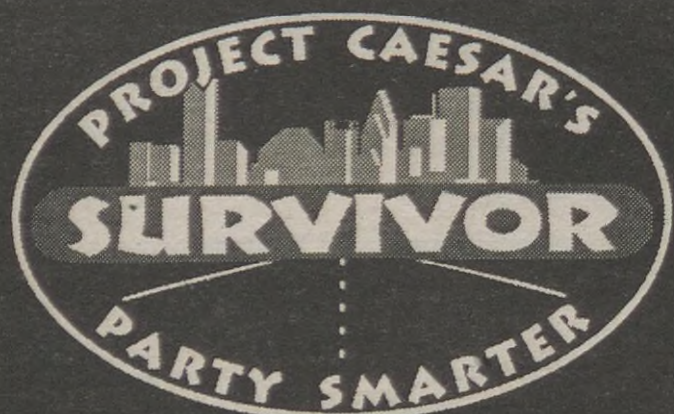
20 years ago, Reagan was president.

20 years ago, polyester leisure suits were all the rage.

20 years ago, the world was jamming to Blondie.

20 years ago, we started to get sick.

2001 is the 20th anniversary of HIV/AIDS. As we look around 20 years later, we are in many ways no better off than we were then. Young gay men in Houston have the highest HIV infection rate in the nation, and STDs are infecting us at a greater rate than ever before. Hepatitis is a deadly new threat to our community, and medications are falling short of our hopes.



HIV/AIDS is as much a reality today as it was to become 20 years ago. Know the facts, protect yourself, get involved AGAIN. Do your part to stop history from repeating itself.

Because AIDS is not over. In many ways, the fight has just begun.

Want More? Call (713) 623-6796 or visit us at: GenerationSex.org

My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

January 26 - February 1



ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

You may have to stand up to an ex-lover or ex-buddy. How can you be so strong, yet such a doormat for that one numbskull? The Sun in your house of friends is offering you protection and love. Don't take it for granted. And be particularly thankful for a Leo in your life.



TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Pierce through your own fears and go forward with a career plan that is as tough and uncompromising as you are. You've got the passion to make it work. The more intensely you experience your emotions, the more intensely you can experience incredible sexual heights with a Capricorn. Cool incentive, eh?



GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

You may have to focus on what you want before you even know what it is. Don't worry about the details—just move forward. Choose your words carefully in early February while Venus is squaring your Sun. You could be coming on to someone you work with, without even realizing it. A Taurus can inspire you.



CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Feeling burnt out? That's too bad, because there are many who are ready to throw a ring your way and marry you on the second date. Make a decision about who you want to be in business with. And it's time to get serious. Focus on someone you can count on. In your personal life that just may be a Virgo.



LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

While so many planets are opposing and squaring you in early February, you may have to throw up your hands and ask for help. When you want to whine, try screaming or bawling instead. Go all the way with your heart. An Aquarius will respect you more. You will too.



VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

You have all the answers you need inside you, Virgo dearest, so why aren't you trusting your own counsel? Pay attention to the tiny things that make you uncomfortable. They are keys to something much greater. An Aries sees things that you are too close to recognize.



LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Mystery is surrounding you, sweetie. Enjoy it while it lasts! You are at your best when people don't know what you're thinking. If you've been faking something, you are only hurting yourself. Now that I've given you a Mom speech, let a Leo spank the lesson into you.



SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Things actually are what they seem in early February, honey. So stop trying to make your sex life into a military secret. With the Sun, Uranus, and Neptune all transiting your fourth house, you've got to take charge of a family situation—gently, but firmly. A Pisces will stand behind you and do other gentle but firm things to you.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

You may have to rest on your laurels just a little bit, dear Sag. You have a lot to be smug about. Maybe you should toot your horn a little more while the Sun and Uranus are in your chatty third house. If you can get your nine-to-five life together, your nightlife will greatly improve. A Libra can sense when you are at wit's end.



CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

You may have to mourn someone who hurt you deeply and allow yourself to be really, really sad for awhile. If you don't trust someone, don't do business with 'em. You hold the cards now, sweetie, so stop giving your power away. Don't let a Sag push you around.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Be a little cautious about money while Saturn is squaring you and a little wild and adventurous in every other aspect of your life. If you have to focus on one idea for awhile instead of 20, so be it. Brilliant measures are called for. A Cancer wants to call you up and see just how well you measure up.



PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

The healing is about to begin, babe. For all the b.s. you've gone through and all the ego blows, the scales will even out. If you can picture yourself in domestic bliss with a daily dose of sexual thrills, you're on the right track. But that ain't gonna happen overnight with a Scorpio. Be clever, careful, and true.

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

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