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Baring It All

Web cams provide inside look at some not-so-shy guys

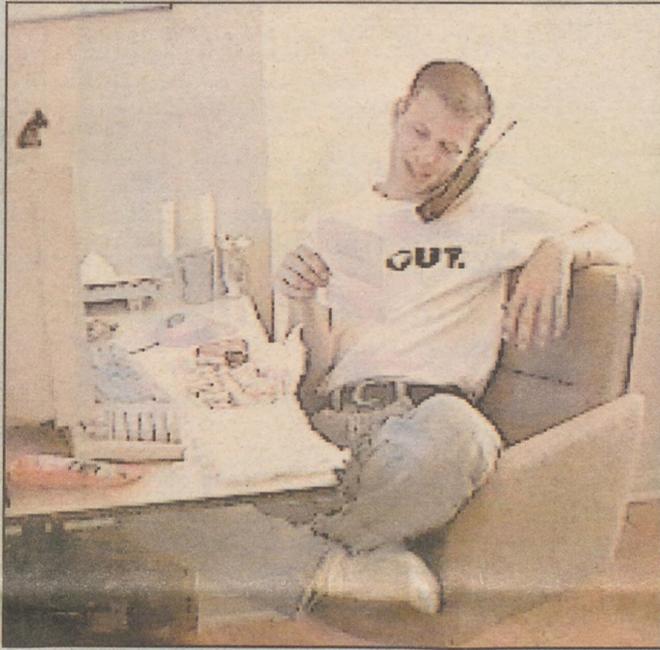
by RICH ARENSCHIEDT
Think "The Truman Show" is a little far-fetched? It's not.

The Internet has provided us with all kinds of wonderful opportunities — ways to meet others, unlimited information on any topic and the ability to buy anything. The anonymity of the web makes all kinds of behavior possible, leaving some people compelled to present their lives for unabated viewing pleasure.

In "The Truman Show," Jim Carrey portrays a man who has spent his life being viewed, albeit unknowingly, by the entire world community. Already a new breed of web net posers are upending Carrey's oblivious character. These online latent exhibitionists revel in being seen and overtly observed.

From Houston to Washington, D.C., these web-savvy people — some of whom are gay — use a golf-ball sized camera to broadcast images of their lives to anyone who wants to watch.

During a recent interview, Washington D.C.'s Sean Patrick (www.seanpatrick-live.com) addressed some of the most commonly asked



Yes, everything: Sean Patrick shares even the most intimate details of his life through a tiny 24-hour camera for anyone who logs on to his website.

questions regarding those who let the world peek into their homes and lives.

"I view this merely as a method of self expression," Patrick said. "I originally started this site as a place to present my work."

The 26-year-old is an avid writer and opines about everything from circuit parties

(which he profoundly dislikes) to "activism parades" (which he also disdains). He initially became interested by the challenge of web technology and wanted to see if a camera focused on an individual could sustain interest as a kind of "virtual personal photo fest."

"I originally wanted to create this free community, a

place where people could sound off to one another," Patrick said.

The aim of this website isn't entirely self-serving. The site includes a pleasant view of the young Irishman, and numerous other opportunities for the interested voyeur.

Logging on brings about a black and white mosaic, inspired by the floor in Patrick's kitchen. Clicking on the tiles provides entry into a chat room and personals section.

The middle square is always reserved for a worthy cause — this altruistic component has a link to related web sites. Patrick has helped raise money and given a spotlight to many non-profit entities, such as Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

In spite of his honorable intentions, Patrick receives a fair amount of criticism. He dismisses those who label him as vain and self centered, though interest remains — some 75,000 to 100,000 hits a day are recorded.

Patrick's life has changed as the result of becoming something of an Internet icon.

"I have received some very

See WEB/ page 7A

Congress lobbied on hate crimes

From staff and wire reports

Gay bar owner Pat Cramer has seen the effects of hate firsthand.

The married heterosexual woman from rural Boswell, Penn., has watched as patrons of her Casa Nova Lounge were verbally and physically threatened and authorities refused to act.

Last year, three customers were injured when gunshots littered her lounge.

"My husband and I live above the Casa Nova and every day I

See HATE/ page 4A

Gays rank third in reported hate crimes

Category	Reported Incidents
Race	5,396 (61.6%)
Religion	1,401 (16.0%)
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	1,016 (11.6%)
National Origin	940 (10.7%)
Multiple Bias Incidents.....	6 (0.07%)
TOTAL.....	8,759 (100%)

Source: Human Rights Campaign, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 1991-96

Unique production highlights seven internal struggles QuAC's artists pull no punches in new work

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

If Jesse Helms had a clue about QuAC, he'd try to ban their funding from the National Endowment — if the artists were on the list.

But since they're not, QuAC ("Queer Artist Collective") explores the fringe of performance art at DiverseWorks this weekend in a new work labeled "Off the Map: QuAC, Texas Pop. 7."

Formed in 1996 by Daaimah Mubashshir and Sixto Wagan, QuAC featured three works over the last two years performed by individual members based on themes like racism, sexism and AIDS.

Mirroring the motley crew from Broadway's "Rent,"

the seven-member group takes pride in their diversity, which includes a multi-racial, multi-gender mix of youthful, creative artisans. Yet they proudly celebrate the one thing they have in common: they're all gay.

For the past three months, the group has worked on material for "Off the Map," exploring the diverse issues which surface within the group itself in hopes that a meaningful equilibrium for the their individual differences might emerge from the verbal soup.

While the group is mum about the show's content, 27-year-old Wagan said QuAC attempts to bring reality to its performance.

"We are the ones who have written all of our work," he said. "We're really trying to establish a whole sense of realness and reality upon the stage that's not somebody else's words coming out of our mouths. ('Off the Wall' is) something that's very ingrained within us that we are allowing the space to actually come out."

A large part of the secrecy might have to do with the fact that most of the work is improvised, but the quasi-political nature of the piece allows the performers ample space for intellectual expansion, which is a unique strength for this genre of expression.

"I think it communicates on a lot of different levels," said ensemble member Travis Mader, 27. "It's

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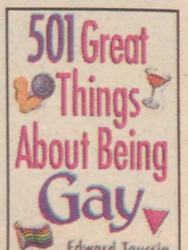
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H-E-B comes to Montrose.
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Birthday Luau
Four guys in grass skirts donate gifts.
Page 5A



Best Selling Books
Look at what your neighbors are reading.
Page 3B





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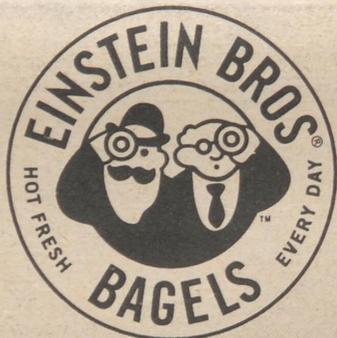
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QUAC/ from page 1

fun to watch, but it's also something to think about. We talk about race, gender, and words that are used to describe body parts."

Mader believes that people "may unconsciously have an opinion about a certain group of people," but harbor unconscious prejudices that are harmful. "It's great to open doors through abstract performance that might enlighten people, and give them a fun experience," he said.

According to Wagan, queer performance art has its roots in AIDS political activism. That's a good thing for member Michael Crawford, 29, a political activist who judges local gay political groups as complacent and marginal. For him, QuAC is a much-needed alternative for social and civic expression.

"I was bored and frustrated with the whole political activism scene here in Houston," he said. "QuAC was a different way of saying what I felt needed to be said. (The show) explores new avenues for creating community, and how seven men and women from diverse backgrounds can come together to create something positive."

As an ensemble member, Crawford said he doesn't have to shed his African American background, which is something he refuses to leave behind. According to him, predominantly white gay organizations want to deal with gay-only issues, not issues like race or gender.

"With QuAC, we deal with all of that," he said.

Based on his experience, Crawford said that gay groups just want minori-

ties for photo ops, so "they can trot you out and say, 'Look, we have people of color.' But it's not like you're accorded a say in the agenda of the group," he said. "(Mainstream gay groups) are about posturing, not action: QuAC is about action."

Even though QuAC may not have answers for the gay community's problems, Crawford said that's not the point.

"I don't think it's necessary that we come up with a solution, but that we pose questions, and are actually trying to figure out the solutions. What we are doing is trying to create a space where we feel comfortable expressing all aspects of our identity, which is something that I don't think the other gay organizations in Houston are trying to do," he said.

Even so, "Off the Map" represents a philosophical growth for the group, which is emerging from the roots of its individualistic foundation to an expanded group focus. For Mader, that journey has been a rich and rewarding experience.

"The performance is about being in a collective," he said. "It traces our development as a group, and how even though we have come together to form this safe space, we have our own internal struggles like any community. Despite our differences, we realize we have something better together than we do apart."

What: "Off the Map: QuAC, Texas Pop. 7"

When: July 10-11 at 8 p.m.

Where: DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway, off N. Main at Naylor

Tickets: \$7-\$10. Call 713-228-0914

Feeding Montrose



Juan Escalante (right) helps bag some of the first groceries sold after H-E-B Pantry Foods opened its newest facility on Westheimer and Montrose last Wednesday. The 20,000-square-foot store, which employs about 90 (below) and is directed by an openly gay manager, has already reached out to gays and lesbians through a float in the recent 20th annual Pride Parade. H-E-B operates 77 stores in Texas and Louisiana. —Photos by Dalton DeHart



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HATE/ from page 1

fear for our lives," said Cramer, in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday to support calls for strengthening the federal law against hate crimes.

The oldest daughter of a Texas man who was chained to a truck and dragged to his death also urged the Senate Judiciary Committee during a hearing to rebuild the law.

Francis Renee Mullins, 27, of Lufkin, Texas, said a Senate bill is important because "it makes hate crimes like the terrible act that took my father a federal crime and says that anyone who commits a hate crime will pay the price for their crime."

The Senate committee will act on the anti-hate crimes bill, the panel's chairman says.

"In a country as good as ours, we have too many hate crimes," Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said during the hearing Wednesday, adding the panel would "move on a hate crimes bill."

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act, sponsored by Sens. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., would provide greater protection against hate crimes.

It would broaden the law to cover offenses based on gender, disability and sexual orientation. It also would allow federal authorities to prosecute such crimes when the victim is not engaged in a federal protected activity, such a

voting or serving on a jury, as the law now requires.

Current law applies only to crimes motivated by race, color, religion or national origin.

Law professors, a federal judge and a California state's attorney criticized the bill at the hearing. But Hatch, who voiced concerns of his own, called it a "good step in the right direction."

A grand jury in Jasper County, Texas, this week indicted three white men with links to racist groups in the alleged hate-slaying of James Byrd Jr., who was black, on June 7.

While crimes motivated by race constitute nearly two-thirds of all hate crimes, those targeting gays and lesbians represent nearly 12 percent, according to the Human Rights Campaign

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, an umbrella organization for local groups that combat violence against gays, reported a 6 percent increase in reported anti-gay crimes in 1996.

Thirty-nine states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws against hate crimes, 22 of which include sexual orientation, according to the HRC, the nation's largest gay and lesbian advocacy group. Eight states have no hate crimes laws

State laws in Texas, Maryland and Utah are considered unclear, according to the HRC. State and local offi-



Focus on hate: Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., right, and Francis Renee Mullins take part in a Capitol Hill news conference on Wednesday to discuss the introduction of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1998. Mullins, of Lufkin, Texas, is the oldest daughter James Byrd Jr., who was chained to a truck and dragged to his death last month in Texas in an alleged hate crime by three white men. —Photo by Joe Marquette

cials are also working to strengthen Texas law in the wake of the killing in Jasper.

City Councilman Jew Don Boney and state Sen. Rodney Ellis were scheduled to hold a hearing late Thursday to develop ideas on how to reform current laws when state legislators return to session in January.

Details of the hearing were not available at presstime.

Mullins, who attended a news conference today with Kennedy and Wyden, said she and her mother, brother and sister have only just begun to experience the tragedy of her father's death.

Some 21 states include "sexual orientation" in hate crimes law, according to the Human Rights Campaign:

- Arizona
- California
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Washington
- Wisconsin

blacks, Latinos, Asian-Pacific Americans also support it.

"I hope we don't have to wait until a bombing or a shooting before they listen. I believe this bill will allow federal law enforcement to become involved in cases like mine," Cramer said.

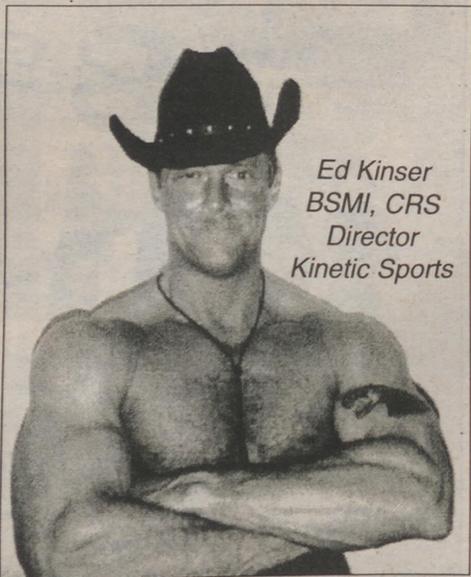


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Classes Begin In Early August

Montrose Clinic benefits from birthday luau

by ELLA TYLER

Four guys don grass skirts and Hawaiian print shirts to throw a birthday luau. Sound like fun?

This one, though had a unique twist. The men took to heart the adage "It is better to give than to receive."

James Rodriguez, David Downing, Peter Conroy and Silvester Martinez, requested that birthday presents be in the form of office supplies for Montrose Clinic.

It provided a windfall for the clinic, a non-profit AIDS service agency.

More than \$600 worth of office supplies, including a small copier, was given to the clinic after the event.

More than 150 guests bearing reams of copy paper, rolls of fax paper and pens and paper arrived at Rodriguez's Heights area home to find the four birthday boys sipping pineapple margaritas and wearing Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts.

"The house looked like a Hawaiian florist had done the place up", said one guest.

The gifts helped find another creative way for the agency to raise funds and supplies, officials said.

"We spend about \$500 a month on office supplies, so this was a significant gift," said the clinic's Todd Foster.

Foster said the party was an excellent way to introduce the work the clinic does to new people.

"Some of the guests did not know about us until the party" he said.

The clinic's work with HIV-positive clients and AIDS patients convinced Martinez and his friends to dedicate the party to the facility.

"We're all pretty lucky and each of us has lost friends to AIDS. Montrose Clinic is an excellent facility," he said.

The office supplies will stretch a long way for the clinic.

"The clinic depends so much on community support and this party is an excellent example of the creativity and generosity that is so abundant in our community," said executive director Katy Caldwell.

Montrose Clinic, founded in 1981, provides free or low cost provides health, social, and educational services. It has a woman's clinic and provides extensive services to people living with AIDS.



No presents: From left, James Rodriguez, David Downing, Peter Conroy and Silvester Martinez threw a birthday bash recently and had well-wishers donate their presents to Montrose Clinic.



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LOCAL

OBITUARY

**Openly gay precinct judge, gardener
Marsters dies at 76**

by ELLA TYLER

Leland (Lee) Marsters, the first openly gay precinct judge in Houston, died July 2 at age 76. Marsters was the garden columnist for the *Houston Post* for several years and retired in the mid 1970s.

Marsters lived at 711 Hyde Park for more than 35 years, where he honed his gardening skills.

"The garden was absolutely beautiful and had something blooming all year long," said longtime friend and neighbor Carmen Pollack. "I went to some lovely parties there."

Marsters presided over elections for Montrose's 34th precinct, one that often logged high numbers of voters, from 1970 to 1990. Although Marsters was a Democrat, he always hired at least one Republican clerk.

Local businesswoman Marion Coleman said she looked forward to working with Marsters at elections.

"We had so much fun," Coleman

said. "The elections were held in Felix Restaurant's back room. Lee liked to hire senior citizens and he and they told wonderful stories about Montrose's history. Lee used to jab me with his elbow when a cute guy came in so I could get his phone number. I was black and blue by the end of the day."

Marsters was an active participant in scores of political campaigns and was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus in 1996.

He was a decorated Marine officer from World War II and taught at Texas A&M. He landscaped the Medical Center, was a popular lecturer for garden clubs and was always willing to help friends with their garden problems. Marsters was also a noted collector of modern art and of early Mexican religious art.

He is survived by a brother, sister and niece. A memorial service is planned for September.

CORRECTION

A report from The Associated Press, and published in the July 3 edition of *Houston Voice*, erroneously reported that U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher called for televised condom commercials in the United States.

In a speech at an AIDS conference on how to prevent the spread of HIV in the United States, Satcher noted that there have been difficulties in getting approval for TV commercials advocating the use of condoms. He did not specifically advocate such commercials.

We regret the error.

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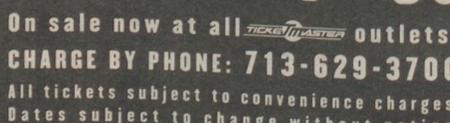


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WEB/ from page 1

strange requests. One, from a particularly frustrated Utah resident, asked that I wear a specific article of clothing and return it, worn, back to the sender," he said.

Patrick didn't reply.

He tries to keep his Internet life and his everyday life somewhat separated. He does not usually respond to mail, email or otherwise, and receives other mail through a post office box.

Patrick's friends seem mildly intrigued by his proclivity for publicity.

"One of the most interesting things I did was to host a 'virtual happy hour' with several of my pals. I put a camera in each room and the evening's events things were recorded as they occurred. I gave each guest an email address and several of them received fan mail. It was a big hit. I've had several viewers ask me when it will happen again," he said.

But sometimes Patrick forgets the camera is always on.

"There are times when I've forgotten that the camera is there — it's only about the size of a golf ball and sometimes I just don't think about it."

A few sharp eyed visitors to his site have caught some rather personal nocturnal moments, something for which Patrick makes no apologies.

"I am single, but have just started dating someone" Patrick said. "My boyfriend has been pretty tolerant of this whole process."

There are points when the camera is pointed away from visiting guests, many of whom who are less than comfortable showing themselves to the world on a bad hair day. But Patrick lets viewers see him at his best and worst.

"One particular evening was rather memorable," he said. "I came home from a happy hour, sat down in the chair and passed out in my underwear, I awoke while hitting the floor, weggie and all — not very glamorous, but very amusing. There are moments when I'm less than beautiful and the camera doesn't miss much."

Another less-than-shy focus of the 24-hour web cam is Houstonian Cary Thomas (disc.cba.uh.edu/~cthomas/webcam.htm).

Though the website of this Houston native is not nearly as popular as "Sean Patrick Live," it is just as admired by viewers. During a recent interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Company, the affable Thomas stated that he has developed a small but loyal following. Since its inception last April, "CaryCam" averages 2,500 visitors a day.

As a full time student during the day and a full time network administrator at night, Thomas utilizes his webcam to maintain some contact with humanity.

"My schedule is so different from that of the rest of the world, sometimes I feel a bit disconnected from the universe," Thomas said. In spite of his busy calendar, the 27-year-old maintains contact with many of those who observe him.

"I've been fortunate to make some good friends through this endeavor," he said.

In addition to the panoramic view of Thomas' intimate apartment, you can also view examples of his programming work, resume, pictures from his latest camping trip, and various portraits of friends and family. It is important to this webmeister that you actually get to know a little bit about him.

"I don't mind letting people into my life, but I don't think about it too much. This is like an interesting hobby. If people get to know me in the process, all the better," he said.

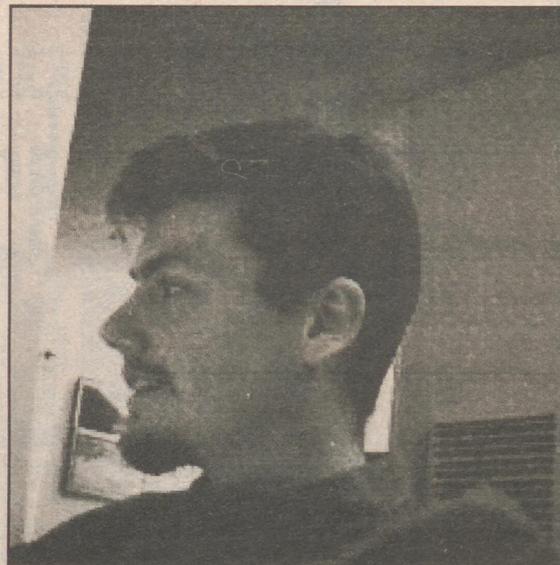
There are, however, limits beyond which the privacy of the boyish Thomas does not extend.

"When I first started this site I received many requests to do things that were inappropriate. I eventually posted a notice on the page stating that it was not a sexually oriented website," he said.

But Thomas is quick to add that the activity on his site mirrors what he actually does in real life.

"You know at some point we all have to take our clothes off," he says with a shy smile. "Eventually this has to happen. If people happen to see me "au natural," that's just part of my life, but it is not the focus of "CaryCam" at all. Besides, sometimes I look pretty scary — just check the site when I wake up."

The experience has been a good one for Thomas. In addition to constant communication from viewers, he has received anonymous donations for the upkeep of his site and exposure throughout Canada.



Not so shy: Houston resident Cary Thomas, 27, has developed a small but loyal following, after starting "CaryCam."

"There are times when I've forgotten that the camera is there — it's only about the size of a golf ball and sometimes I just don't think about it."

—Sean Patrick

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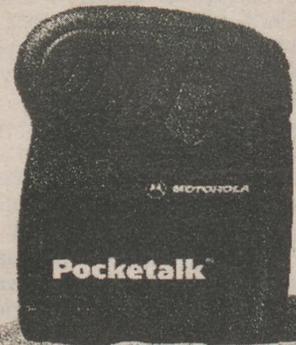
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DIVINE RETRIBUTION:

Televangelist Pat Robertson, whose comments about divine retribution and Central Florida provoked a small furor last month, is donating food, clothing and money to fire victims and firefighters, including 40,000 pounds of food and a \$25,000 check to Orlando's Human Crisis Council.

A spokeswoman for Robertson said Tuesday that the donation was unrelated to Robertson's comments about



Robertson

Orlando. The city is the scene of the annual Gay Days celebration, during which rainbow-striped flags flew from downtown utility poles. The event is sponsored by gay groups. "I would warn Orlando that you're right in the way of some serious hurricanes, and I don't think I'd be waving those flags in God's face if I were you," Robertson said June 8 on "The 700 Club," his Christian Broadcasting Network talk show.

BOOK DISPUTE: Four members of a gospel ministry appeared before the Wichita Falls city council last Tuesday to protest two books about children with homosexual parents, continuing the dispute over gay-themed children's books in the public library.

Council members said they won't yet decide what to do about "Daddy's Roommate" and "Heather Has Two Mommies." Neither the mayor, city manager nor council members have moved to vote on the books' fate.

Library Administrator Linda Hughes decided in late June to keep the two books on the shelves but to move them from the children's section to the juvenile area. Two churches and several residents have publicly argued that the books should be removed or at least placed behind a desk so a patron must ask for them.

PROTECTED DRESS: The New Orleans City Council has adopted an ordinance prohibiting workplace discrimination against cross-dressers. The council voted 5-1 July 1 in favor of the amendment to the city's ordinance against other workplace discrimination based on sex.

The ordinance says its purpose is to "protect those whose characteristics are different from their own sex and they then dress accordingly." It applies to city government and all other workplaces in New Orleans. The issue is complicated for businesses because they currently have the right to institute dress codes, but it's unclear if such codes could be mandated to be gender-specific under the new ordinance.

LESBIAN MURDER: A woman convicted of killing another woman in Richmond, Va., who interfered in what authorities said was a lesbian relationship, was sentenced to life in prison on a capital murder conviction. Kelly Ann Tibbs, 19, burst into tears July 2 as she turned to face the mother of victim Stacey Hanna and apologize. Chesterfield County Circuit Judge William R. Shelton also sentenced Tibbs to 10 years in prison each on convictions of robbery and abduction.

Hanna was beaten, slashed and stabbed at a secluded area near the county airport, then taken down a gravel trail, stabbed again and left to die in July 1997, shortly after moving to the Richmond suburb from

Lynchburg. Tibbs and three other women were charged in the slaying. Tracy Lynn Bitner and Domica C. Winckler also were convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life in prison. Stephanie Cull was sentenced to 20 years in prison for first-degree murder. According to court testimony, Hanna became obsessed with Tibbs, who had recently ended a lesbian relationship with Bitner, and all four women believed Hanna was trying to interfere with their relationships.

CONDEMNING GAYS: A United Methodist Church congregation in southwest Tennessee is withholding an estimated \$15,000 or more from the denomination because of the denominational policy about homosexuality. East End United Methodist Church in Savannah, Tenn., is the first in the state's United Methodist fellowship to take such action. Savannah church leaders say the denomination does not condemn homosexuality strongly enough. The denomination teaches homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching but lesbians and gay men, nevertheless, are people of sacred worth. East End church leaders believe the denomination teaching should say also that homosexuality is a sin requiring repentance. But Nashville-area bishop Ken Carder said withholding the money, or apportionment, only punishes the many United Methodist ministries.

"There are more creative ways of dealing with issues than withholding support from children in Africa and Savannah and our 950 missionaries," Carder said. The Savannah church stance follows the lead of First United Methodist in Cobb County, Georgia, which withheld its denominational gift over a policy permitting some gay weddings to be performed at Methodist-affiliated Emory University.

PARTNER BENEFITS: A three-part ordinance, introduced June 17 by Miami Beach Mayor Neisen Kasdin and unanimously approved July 1, extends

benefits like sick leave, annual leave and bereavement benefits to domestic couples, heterosexual or homosexual, employed by the city, according to the Miami Herald.

"The city is committed to treating everyone equally and giving everyone the same benefits," Kasdin said. The ordinance defines a domestic partner as the dependent of an employee in a committed relationship in which the partners consider themselves a member of each other's immediate family.

GAY SLURS: Vandals defaced an entire neighborhood in Virginia with racist graffiti, covering about 30 pieces of property with swastikas and slurs. Residents of the racially diverse Salem Lakes neighborhood woke up on the Fourth of July to find graffiti written in black spray paint on homes, cars, fences and signs. The graffiti, much of it violent and obscene, defamed Jews, blacks and gays. On one spot, vandals wrote "Hitler was right." On another, they used a racist epithet to warn black people to "get ready." The vandals apparently did not single out individuals, Virginia Beach police spokesman Mike Carey said. Instead, they struck one house after another and painted messages on fences lining several streets. Residents of the suburban neighborhood set aside holiday plans and worked together to scrub, paint and blast the messages off their property.

—From staff and wire reports

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The first couple and the first gay couple: Rep. Barney Frank (far left) and Herb Moses (far right) with the President and First Lady.

FRANK SPLIT: After more than a decade as Washington's most prominent and influential gay couple, Rep. Barney Frank and his partner, Herb Moses, have separated. Frank, 58, said July 3 that the reason for the breakup "is nobody's business," but that the two split amicably. Moses, 41, recently left an executive position at the Federal National Mortgage Association to open a pottery studio. Moses was the first partner of an openly gay member of Congress to receive spousal access privileges through the Capitol, although the decision was controversial. "I know I speak for most members when I state that the only Moses we like to hear about on this House floor is our Moses of Exodus, Moses the lawgiver, Moses of the Ten Commandments," former Rep. Bob Dornan (R-Calif.), told the House in 1996.

RESTROOM BUSTS: A crackdown on sex in public restrooms at a commuter bus terminal has netted dozens

of offenders — all men having sex with other men, soliciting sex from other men or masturbating — and raised the concern of advocates who fear that the campaign targets gay men.

The California Highway Patrol started the undercover patrols about four months ago after a father and son walked in on two men having sex in a restroom at the state-owned terminal near the Financial District. Officers have made about 50 arrests for crimes such as lewd conduct and prostitution.

Some commuters at the bus terminal welcome the clean up. They said they avoid using the restrooms because of an unpleasant atmosphere overall. Authorities say that they are not singling out gay men. Officers also patrol the women's bathrooms, though they have not witnessed any sex there.

CATHOLIC SUPPORT?: The Vatican has approved revisions to a pastoral letter, released last September, that is geared toward encouraging Catholic parents who have gay children to be more supportive, the Catholic News Service reported. Modifications to the letter were made public after the National Conference of Catholic Bishops held a meeting in Pittsburgh from June 18-21. The modifications have been made to "Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children and Suggestions for Pastoral Ministers" has drawn criticism from gay Catholics and their supporters who say the changes water down the original version of the letter.

The changes range from deleting and replacing key paragraphs to adding footnotes and changing words that

appeared in the original 10-page document, according to a report in *The Washington Blade*. For example, one sentence addressing sexual orientation originally provided that "it seems appropriate to understand sexual orientation as a fundamental dimension of one's personality." The revised version replaces "fundamental" with "deep-seated."

CONGRESSIONAL COURTING: In advance of an expected bid for the White House in 2000, House Minority Leader Richard A. Gephardt (D-Mo.), is engaged in an aggressive campaign to court gay and lesbian voters, according to the *Washington Post*. Although Gephardt has long been a supporter of civil rights, gay activists and people close to Gephardt say it is only recently that he has been willing to promote the cause of gay civil rights.



House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.)

Since the beginning of 1998, Gephardt has battled the White House over needle exchange, prodded the Pentagon to investigate alleged violations of its "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and complained to the State Department when a gay cruise ship was denied docking permission in the Cayman Islands. Last February, he was the keynote speaker at the Human Rights Campaign's annual dinner in Denver and in April he received the "Partner for Life" award from a local AIDS clin-

ic. Last week, he attended services at the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas, the largest congregation in the Metropolitan Community Church, a predominantly gay Christian denomination. "The 2000 campaign is going to be the first presidential election in which gay and lesbian voters will play a role similar to significant other groups in the Democratic Party," Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), one of two openly gay House members, told *The Post*.

NEW YORK PARTNERS: Gay advocates are praising a controversial new law — which affects everything from burial rights at a city cemetery to parking permits — meant to ensure that the city treats domestic partners the same as married couples.

"The passage of this bill into law is a significant step on the long road toward full equality," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda, a gay advocacy group, after Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's signing of the legislation on Tuesday. Much of it cements into law what has been long-standing city policy, such as visitation rights in city jails and hospitals, and succession for city-supervised housing.

But it also ventures into new areas, such as allowing domestic partners of police and other uniformed city employees to be eligible for death benefits if the employee is killed in the line of duty. The legislation encountered token opposition in the overwhelmingly Democratic City Council, but it placed the mayor at odds with Cardinal John O'Connor, who argued that "an institution as fundamental as the family cannot be manipulated."

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AT ODDS: NGLTF's Kerry Lobel (left) has criticized the decision by Log Cabin Republicans to award their highest honor to Ward Connerly (right) author of California's controversial Prop 209.

GAY GOP: The nation's largest gay and lesbian Republican organization is planning for more trouble when it holds a national convention August 14 in Fort Worth, just weeks after a heated confrontation with the Texas Republican Party over a harsh rebuke of the gay group's request for booth space at the state party's convention. But this time, the trouble will come from the left, in particular the National Gay & Lesbian Task force. Log Cabin has announced plans to present its highest honor, the Spirit of Lincoln Award, to Ward Connerly, founder of the California Civil Rights Initiative, also known as Proposition 209, that ended race and sex-based affirmative action in the University of California system. Log Cabin says the award is intended to honor Connerly for that effort and for his support of the gay GOP group and for his vote, as a member of the University of California Board of Regents, to grant domestic partner benefits to gay and lesbian couples in the UC system.

NGLTF has publicly called on Log Cabin Republicans to reconsider the decision to honor Connerly, citing criticism

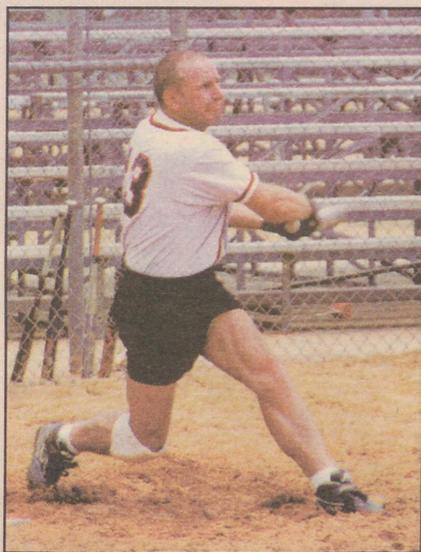
from civil rights groups who charged that Connerly's campaign utilized "intentional misinformation and deception" to dismantle affirmative action. "Mr. Connerly's support of domestic partnership for same-sex couples does not mollify me," said NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel. "Domestic partner benefits are of little value to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people of color who cannot get a job or admission to a university where such benefits are offered."

SELF-ESTEEM HELPS: Young gay men who are comfortable with their sexual orientation are more psychologically healthy and more likely to practice safe sex, says a new study that found self-esteem plays a part in determining who gets AIDS. The University of California survey, presented at last week's 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva, involved 302 young gay men, ages 18 to 29, in three northwestern cities. University of California, San Francisco researcher Craig Waldo said that among those men "who accept themselves as gay the most," 30 percent had engaged in unsafe sex. That contrasted with 46 percent among those who "accept themselves the least as gay," he said.

Waldo said gay men should be helped to accept themselves because it makes them less risky sexually. In a separate but somewhat related study conducted by UC researchers and presented last week, the psychological well-being of HIV patients was linked to the successful treatment of the disease. In that study, patients who felt they were part of a community and involved in their own care were more likely to take medication, keep medical appointments and follow their caregiver's advice.

—From staff and wire reports

ONTO THE WORLD SERIES



Three teams from Houston's Montrose Softball League will join teams from around the nation next month for the Gay Softball World Series in Atlanta. Roy Green (left) helped lift Pacific Street to win the recreation division playoffs last month. LOBO (below) captured the competitive division during a tournament two weeks ago. Both teams, along with JR.'s Force, will travel to Georgia for the World Series. Some 250 players compete in the 13-team league, which holds its post-season banquet July 25 at Treebeards Restaurant. —Photos by Dalton DeHart.



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June 1998

Q U O T E U N Q U O T E

"Important note: please go before you come as all conveniences will be locked to protect the host."

— Note on the invitation sent to 300 people for George Michael's 35th birthday party at a London restaurant June 27.



"I wanted to end it all, I wanted it to be over. I didn't have a bright future, and drugs and alcohol didn't help my situation, it depressed me even more. Everything seemed to be going wrong."

— Ryan Idol (left), who has starred in dozens of gay adult films, on his fall from a fourth-floor Manhattan window March 20, to Los Angeles' *In* magazine, June 29.

"Although gay journalists need to be journalists first and foremost, I sometimes feel that they employ a divide and conquer strategy for no other purpose than to sell magazines. I just wish that the gay press would see that the true enemy is the far right, not us."

— Elizabeth Birch (right), executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, to the *Advocate*, June 23.



"My gay men friends think (Viagra) will make straight men happier, which is good for gay men, who are often the target of straight sexual resentment. Maybe with something to do at home other than spin cats by the tail, Jesse Helms, Strom Thurmond, even Dan Burton will retire."

— Lesbian comedian Kate Clinton writing in the June 23 *Advocate*.



"I'm the longest married woman in my family. I guess it was serious when we put them rings on. I put one in her left nipple and she put one in my p— and ever since then we felt like we owned a piece of each other."

— Author Dorothy Allison (left), ("Bastard Out of Carolina," "Cavedweller") to *Curve*, the national lesbian magazine, July issue.

"If it's serious crime you're trying to prevent, then having lots of people around is very effective. And one of the cool things about public sex is that it gets people into the parks at night."

— Toronto city planner Carolyn Whitzman to *Now*, Toronto's biggest weekly newspaper, June 25.

"The last year I was in Illinois, I started going out with this guy. When I went to his house, he had a little poodle and all these pictures of Judy Garland on his wall, and I just couldn't relate to that at all. But that is a certain stereotype of what it means to be gay. There's nothing wrong with it, but it just seems that it's predominant in a way that is oppressive — or at least it was in that place at that time. I just couldn't be gay (in that way). That's why I ended up starting this band — to try to reconcile the two main threads of my life, which were my sexuality and my music."

— Jon Ginoli (right), lead singer of the pop-punk band Pansy Division, to the *San Jose Mercury News*, June 12.



"I don't see any reason in the world why the state of Colorado should become a haven for homosexuals, gays and lesbians. God ordained marriage the way it is and I think that's the way it should stay."

— Colorado state Sen. Ken Arnold in response to a state commission that recently recommended granting same-sex couples the same legal rights and benefits as married heterosexual couples.

"I would argue that monogamy is part of a pleasure-hating package being sold by aging gay leaders, now in their 50s and 60s, people who through some ghastly process of natural selection managed to survive the plague precisely because they were so dysfunctional that they never could get laid. Whereas normal red-blooded gays in the late 70s were breaking down roles and indulging themselves, these tight-asses were too unredeemably macho to experiment or too drunk to stay awake for the coupling or too homely or self-loathing to attract partners. The virus selected against men who were affectionate, progressive, and fun-loving and left us with these boring old prudes."

— Famed gay writer Edmund White in the June 23 issue of *Advocate*.

"We're like an old pair of slippers, kind of worn-down and raggedy. There are certainly better-looking shoes out there, but none quite so comfortable. Nobody would laugh at my stupid jokes the way Aleta does. I can't imagine being with anybody else, and I don't want to imagine it."

— Jean Mayberry of Omaha, Neb., in the June 23 issue of *Advocate*, which was devoted to the topic of gay monogamy.

"My husband and I live above the Casa Nova (Lounge) and every day I fear for our lives."

— Pat Cramer, a heterosexual married woman who owns a gay bar in rural Boswell, Penn. She was in Washington, D.C. this week to lobby for Congress to toughen federal hate crimes laws.

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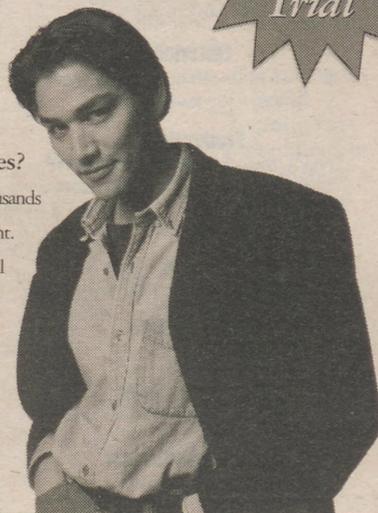
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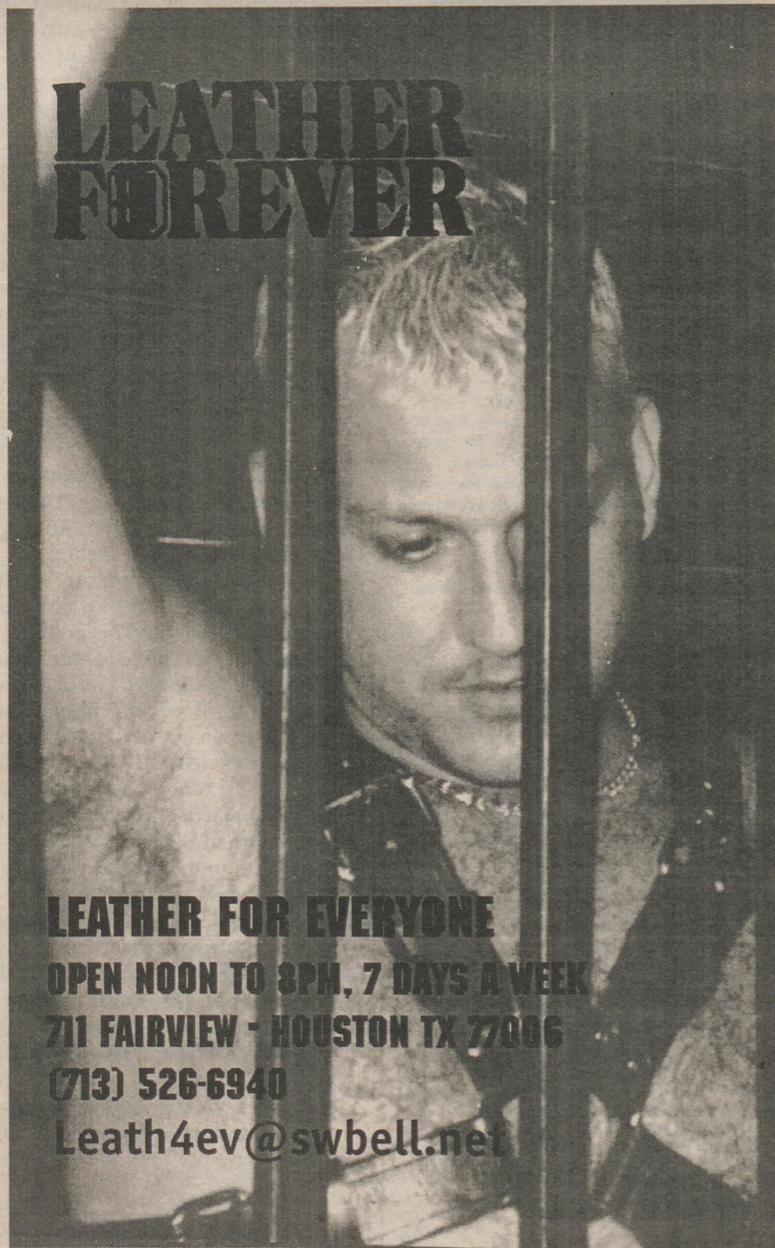
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A Fruitless Fight

It's time for everyone to take a deep breath. The story of a politician's miscues, followed by criticism from the camps of other politicians, capped off with intense media coverage has the makings of a prime time scandal. We see it almost every day in the continuing firestorm of coverage surrounding charges against President Clinton.

This time the names should be familiar to gays and lesbians in Houston — Shelia Jackson Lee, Debra Danburg, Andres Pereira — and this cast of characters ought to know better.

Jackson, a U.S. Congresswoman, presides over the 18th District, which includes Montrose and a constituency of gays and lesbians and a diverse host of other minorities. She's a friend to Houston's gay and lesbian community, attends all the right events and has the track record to prove it.

Danburg, the longtime state representative, has fought for gays and lesbians in the Texas legislature since 1981. Her powerful presence on the House Calendars committee has helped keep legislation damaging to gays — bills that stood a strong chance of becoming state law — from ever reaching a vote. The Democrat's 137th District is home to a large contingent of gays and lesbians.

Pereira, a 31-year-old gay attorney, serves as secretary of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, but is a relative newcomer to gay activism and local politics.

Therein lies the rub.

Last month, Lee appointed Pereira as her unpaid liaison to the gay community. Pretty simple stuff. The Congresswoman wanted to follow the lead of Mayor Lee Brown, who in March appointed an unknown attorney as his gay liaison to fulfill a campaign pledge.

Since his appointment, quiet whispers in the gay community have developed into a full-fledged attack on Pereira. The political rhetoric and personal attacks have come from some unlikely sources, including Danburg.

Lee's staff, which apparently didn't properly research or vet the choice of Pereira with gay and lesbian community leaders, failed to notice that last year he filed papers and hired a consultant to develop a campaign for the state legislature. He wanted to unseat Danburg.

Lee signed off on the gay liaison, though her media handlers attempted to downplay it when news of the appointment filtered out to local media outlets. The endorsement of Pereira issued by the Congresswoman's office in early June was lukewarm at best.

Supporters of Danburg rallied, attacking Pereira and suggesting that Lee made a poor choice. Danburg took the appointment as a personal slight.

Now the rumblings have boiled over into open warfare. Danburg has fired off a terse letter to Lee, criticizing the Congresswoman for not consulting with her on the appointment. Danburg also charged that Pereira's new role undermines support Lee has established in the gay and lesbian community.

The controversy even received noticeable coverage from the *Houston Press*, a 110,000 circulation weekly newspaper. An 11-paragraph story in the July 9 edition chronicles the

appointment and includes portions of Danburg's letter to Lee.

Danburg's retort also included personal attacks on Pereira.

For his part, Pereira says it's not Lee's job to "clear things" with a state representative. Lee hasn't entered the fray.

This is nothing more than dirty laundry. Unfortunately, it's being aired not only in the gay and lesbian community, but throughout Houston. It's an unneeded black eye for our community, particularly at a time when rhetorical attacks on gays and lesbians are increasing across the state and nation.

As right-wing Republicans such as U.S. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and their religious backers target gays and lesbians, we're too busy presiding over — and sometimes fanning the flames — of a fight between two of our most strident heterosexual supporters.

That's why the *Houston Voice* has sat on the sidelines for this squabble. The newspaper reported Pereira's appointment on June 12 with the full knowledge that some aspects of it were amiss. We knew Pereira had mounted a short campaign to

oust Danburg. We knew Danburg was angry. We knew that Lee's staff bungled the appointment process. But we stopped short of reporting the mudslinging.

In the struggle for gay civil rights in Texas, this is minor league stuff. While controversy bubbled around Lee's appointment, gay Republicans were being denied space at their own statewide convention. They protested. We reported.

Six Flags AstroWorld banned a gay television crew from filming the more than 1,700 gays and lesbians that arrived on June 14 for the city's version of Gay Day. While others were concerned with the missteps of one politician and the bruised ego of another, we presented details of the lockout.

When a nationally-known gay religious leader arrived in town June 21 to teach other gays and lesbians how to force change through non-violence, we were there. We explained his methods to you.

As 112 entries — from local businesses to drag queens and gay parents — marched along Westheimer in the 20th annual Pride Parade on June 27, our staff was on hand. We brought you photos, the impressions of some of the estimated 50,000 visitors, and reports that vandals damaged the float of a religious group that ministers to gays.

There's too much that's too important to our readers to bother with a trivial political mess. Bickering between politicians in Washington, D.C. bores Americans. This political firebombing should stop before Houstonians tune us out. Some media like to focus on rhetoric and name-calling. We didn't. It is clear there is too much at stake.

Activism in the gay and lesbian community is apathetic enough. It's no wonder, though, when even our leaders and gay-friendly politicians make a mockery out of an appointment intended to benefit the same community it has thrown into a tailspin. We are waiting for tempers to cool, the rhetoric to ease and for someone to throw in the towel. Enough is enough.



Danburg



Pereira

LETTERS

Transgendered aren't movement's villains

If there is one thing that Beren deMotier was most correct in her article it is when she suspects that she's turning into an "irrational right-wing fanatic." Certainly she seems to use many of the same arguments that the right wing has used against us — and I mean all of us — gay, lesbian, bi and trans.

I, too, do not want to be "different, 'queer' or outside the norm." Sadly, I live in a society that views me as all of the above — much like gay and lesbian individuals were viewed in their past — and often still are. I do wish to be free to live my life, and to love who I love, and to maybe even raise kids someday. I face many of the same obstacles to these goals. Am I an extremist for wishing to live my life? Ms. deMotier seems to think so.

Am I "shooting the movement in the foot" for doing so? A movement based on excluding those who don't fit a narrow definition is no movement at all. It is a small attempt to redefine a status-quo.

Resolving ones gender conflicts has nothing to do with a dearth of things to do with one's time: I have hobbies, I volunteer for several organizations, and, yes, I even practice my religious beliefs. I also have gender issues that must be resolved. It's not something that can be so easily dismissed as a "busywork" project. This is no pastime.

I also cannot say that most transfolks "take their body for granted; in fact, I'm sure that most transfolks would say that our bodies are one thing we cannot take for granted. It's never quite been what we expected, and we need to go through psychological, social and medical hoops to get it to a point where it gains a semblance of what it should appear as.

Also surprising was deMotier's view that transgenderism was "the latest fad." Certainly a form of human expression that dates back to Joan d'Arc and beyond can hardly be called a fad. Of course, I'm sure that there are many who would say that being gay or lesbian is a fad, or is done just to "annoy" a parent.

Indeed, Ms. deMotier has a picture of transgender individuals that seems to be bred out of a lack of understanding, or education, about those of us who are trans. Isn't that we already see from the straight press and from the religious right?

Gwen Smith
Concord, Calif.
(via Internet)

Transgendered want equality not sympathy

The recent article by Beren deMotier is quite puzzling. She seems to judge the transsexualism purely on superficialities. Substitute "black" or "colored" at certain key points and you could have an apology for what happened in Jasper, Texas.

Surely the people who are undergoing sexual reassign-

ment surgery are not doing so merely to make a "social statement," as deMotier writes, but to seek peace of mind in their own lives. It is a statistical fact that for preoperative transsexuals, everyday life is such a torment that suicide attempts occur frequently. Only through completion of the sexual reassignment surgery do most find themselves whole.

The incredible cost of the procedure, coupled with social discrimination, would not lead a rational person to conclude that transsexuals go through surgery and other hardships simply out of ennui, as deMotier insinuates. Certainly, the process is "synthetic", just like having a cleft palate surgically corrected or any other kind of birth defect. No one considers surgery to correct a "hair lip" as controversial.

She is using the same arguments fundamentalists make regarding the "unnatural" sexual practices of gays and lesbians. Contained within the bastion of "maleness" are the seeds of woman. No one is completely Yin or Yang. We all have attributes of the opposite sex contained within ourselves to varying degrees. This is scientifically born out through physiological studies.

If a person should have aspects of the opposite sex that literally command themselves to be exhibited for that person's own psychological well being, then it is their human right to do so as long as they are not harming others. I find it difficult to believe that (contrary to what deMotier writes) that she really has any sympathy at all with the transgendered community.

To give lip service to the protection of the transgendered on the job, and then to turn around and dismiss the phenomena as "narcissism" pretty much says it all. It is clear that deMotier doesn't mind TS's as long as they are not "out" about it — just like may white folks don't mind blacks as long as they act white.

K. Messer
It's Time Ohio
Columbus, Ohio
(via Internet)

Are Queerly Correct cops next?

I cannot believe that *Houston Voice* would print such a mean-spirited slap at transgendered people (Beren deMotier's "The trans movement is not what Gay Pride's all about," July 3).

Legal protection, yes; but unmentionable by announcers at a Pride Parade? Would deMotier approve of Queerly Correct cops escorting anyone away who dare to uttereth a transgender's name?

I better learn to goose-step as it looks like that's what we'll all be doing in next year's parade — whether we like it or not.

Jackie Brewster
Missouri City

Inclusion enhances gay rights movement

It is a sad day when the oppressed become the oppressor, but such is the case with Beren deMotier's column regarding the inclusion of trans pride with Gay Pride.

I lived for over 15 years as an out dyke until I found the resources and information which allowed me to follow a life path that I didn't think was possible for me — living as man. I am a female-to-male (FTM) who has transitioned and now live my life as a man and as an activist — both within the gay community for many years, and now, within the trans and broader queer communities. I often hear this type of argument about how trendy it is to be trans or the argument that trans issues don't belong with gay issues. What a myopic viewpoint.

The opponents of fairness to gays already lump us together. Further, gender issues are at the heart of much of the discrimination faced by gays and lesbians. Who among gays and lesbians are the greatest targets of discrimination? Butch dykes and effeminate men. Much of that discrimination is about those folks transgressing normative gender roles and expression.

I assume that deMotier would also exclude from pride celebrations those transmen who identify as fags and those transwomen who identify as dykes. Apparently their being trans would determine their appropriateness at pride celebrations.

The inclusion of trans people and our issues doesn't diminish the movement toward civil rights and acceptance, but rather enhances it.

Spencer Bergstedt
Seattle, Wash.
(via Internet)

Mean-spirited attack is trans-bashing

Beren deMotier doesn't "want to be different, 'queer' or outside the norm." In spite of that, as a lesbian she will be viewed as unacceptable by most people in the United States ("The Polls — Trends: Attitudes Toward Homosexuality," by A. Yang). Moreover, the combining of gender nonconformity with homosexuality is active in the popular mind. On this point, it is interesting to note that homophobia among straight men is strongly related to their attitudes about masculinity and what it means to them to be a "man" ("On Heterosexuality Masculinity: Some Psychological Consequences of the Social Construction of Gender and Sexuality," by G. Herek).

What has gender got to do with gay pride? Quite a lot, actually. It is beyond my comprehension that deMotier doesn't recognize the gender based prejudice against lesbians and gay men. I tend to expect such oversight from gay men but not from lesbians who usually have experienced, and hence recognized, the gender-based oppression of women in addition to that they might see and feel as lesbians. Beren deMotier's rant in your paper is not only unsound to "queer" sensibilities, but also to the values and goals of the early gay liberationists as they articulated gay pride. The tone of her column also seemed a tad judgmental and mean spirited.

David Knapp Whittier
Houston
(via Internet)

DeMotier missed the point

I picked up a copy of *Houston Voice* the other day and saw something surprising. There on page 19A of the July 3 edition was my picture. That made me feel good, at least until I read the article that appeared with it (Beren deMotier's "The trans movement is not what Gay Pride's all about").

I don't want to start a segment versus segment feud within the diversified community that is represented by all of those who collectively form the Gay Rights movement. However, I feel that there are some statements that appeared in her article that I have to take exception with.

First, a bit of history. Early in the gay rights movement there was a group of transgendered individuals — drag queens to be specific — who got tired of being harassed by the police, and from this came the Stonewall riots. To write that "the trans movement is not what Gay Pride is all about" is to forget the roots of the oppression that started it all. While it started with the transgendered community, it is going forward by the concerted efforts of all the various groups working together. That is the sort of understanding that will bring the whole gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered group the fairness that is the right of all. That is what I was trying to say with the sign, which I carried in the parade.

The writer made the statement that she was pestering people on the subject of transgender and sex change operations. Any member of the transgendered community who is computer literate can easily provide a list of web sites that provide a wealth of information on the subject. Two of the best are those hosted by Melanie Ann Phillips and Brenda Thomas. Local groups exist all over the nation that can provide information about psychiatrists and professional counselors very familiar with this subject. I urge anyone who is dealing with the situation of transgendered individuals to get into contact with knowledgeable people. There is a lot of misinformation out there.

One of the bits of misinformation is that this is something that is an option that one may or may not choose. The thought that this is simply a choice is like saying that being gay is simply a

choice. The best medical evidence doesn't back up this statement.

Typically, in the case of transsexuals, they have known from some time in early childhood that they feel that they have been born into bodies that are at odds with their minds. Average age of this knowledge seems to be between four and eight years of age. That is a little young for narcissism, much less vanity, as deMotier suggests. These things aren't done to make a social statement, but rather to allow a person who is this way to feel comfortable with the body that they live in.

I too am happy that there is a dichotomy of sexes and that there is a vast majority of people who are happy with the sex that they are born



into. The transgendered group isn't about sex at all, instead it is a case of the mind's gender being at odds with the body's conformation.

Since there has never been a documented case of a person being "cured" of being transgendered, it

seems appropriate to accommodate in a manner that allows the person who is this way to function in society as a productive individual. In some cases the accommodation will involve physical or hormonal changes to the person's body. In the majority of cases, the needs can be met by allowing the person to dress in a manner that provides comfort to them. This doesn't seem to be extreme.

The rise in the number of young people who admit being transgendered shouldn't surprise anyone who is familiar with the history of the gay rights movement. Not too many years back there were very few people who admitted to being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. Now as the onus of being a member of one of these groups is mitigated, the number of young people who are out is skyrocketing. Are there really more GLBT people out there? I don't think so. They are just less suppressed and more willing to live a life that makes them happy without hurting anyone.

I just want to be free to live my life and love who I love. For me, that is what Gay Pride is all about. Is that any different than what Ms. Beren deMotier wants?

Marti Bennett
martigirl@geocities.com
(via Internet)

The *Houston Voice* welcomes your comments on editorials, columns and other topics important to you. Letters should include name, address and day and evening phone numbers to be verified and considered for publication. Send e-mail to editor@houstonvoice.com. Fax 713-529-9531. Mail Letters to the Editor to 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston, Texas 77006.

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Tuesday, July 14
Discussion Group - 7:00pm
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Morning Prayer - 10:00am

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Friday, July 10

- Communion and Prayer Service at 10:00 am; at the Kolbe Project. 713-522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday, July 11

- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday, July 12

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 10:30 am at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 713- 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service "Preaching the Gospel" at 11 am. 713-528-6756.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 713-861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 713-528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 713-526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 713-880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. 4305 Lillian 713-880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 713-529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm. 713-668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 713-526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 713-861-9149.
- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

- Faith and Hope Fellowship Service at 11:00 am. 713-520-7847.

Monday, July 13

- Catholic Mass at 7:00 pm at the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800

Tuesday, July 14

- MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm. Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm Orchestra rehearsal at 7:30 pm. 713-861-9149.
- PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 713-520-7870.
- Maranatha Fellowship MCC has groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 713-528-6756.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Discussion group @7 pm. At the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800.

Wednesday, July 15

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 713-861-9149
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Healing Service at 8 pm. the Kolbe Project. 713-861-7212.

Thursday, July 16

- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847.
- Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Choir Practice at 6:30 pm. Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>

If you want an event listed in this section, please call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490 by 12 Noon Mondays.

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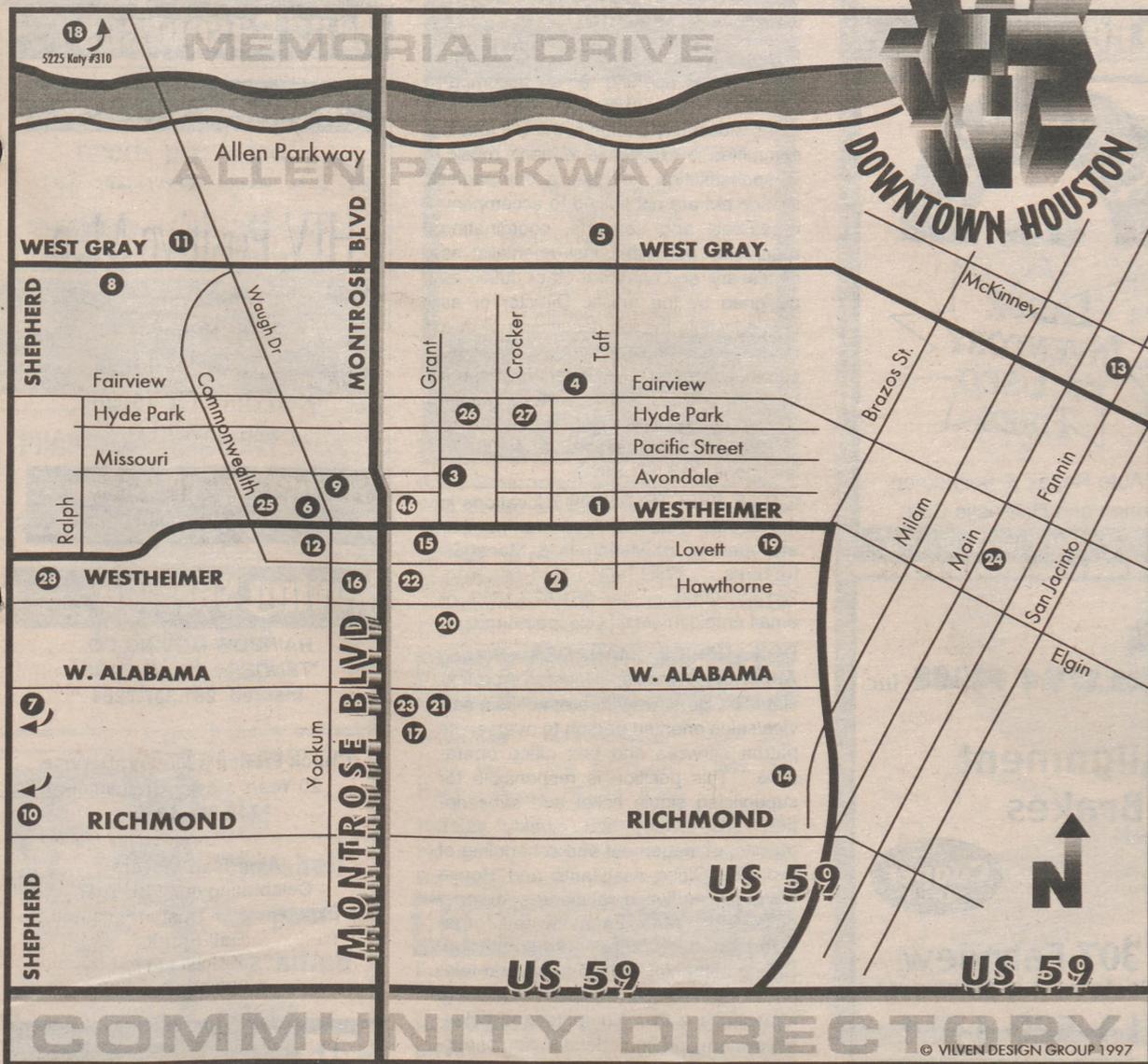
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SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Friday, July 10

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at E/J's 6-10 pm and at the Midtowne Spa 10 pm to 1 am, Inergy at 8:30 pm to midnight.
- HATCH meets. 713-942-7002.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713-864-8468
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 713-830-3000
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Toffee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 8:45 pm. 713-528-SAFE.
- Positive Art Workshop 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
- Lesbian and Gay Voices on KPFT 7pm 713-526-5738.

Saturday, July 11

- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at Brick's II 4 to 8 pm and the 611 Hyde Park Pub 8 pm to midnight, Toyz 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 713-526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 8:45pm. 713-528-SAFE.
- Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group meets. 713-526-1017.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets. 713-526-7070.
- The Movie Club meets. 281-835-5312.
- Gulf Coast Transgender Community meets. 713-780-4282
- Houston Area Bear's monthly Social. 713-867-9123.

Sunday, July 12

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am. 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 713-942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-802-0165
- Rainbow Riders: A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.

- Lone Star Volleyball plays. 281-878-4629.
- Men of All Colors Together (MACT) meet @ 4:30 p.m. 281-493-1777.
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents have a pool party. 713-284-4939.
- Texas Gay Rodeo Association's monthly meeting. 713-777-1444.
- Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (Woodlands) meet. 713-867-9020.

Monday, July 13

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 713-529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 713-529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 713-861-3000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 713-732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 1pm to 6:15 pm 713-626-2837
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 713-535-6363.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 9 am to 1 pm; and Cousin's 8:30 pm to midnight.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302
- Miss Camp America meets. 713-520-STAR.
- Houston Area Women's Center Volunteer Training. 713-535-6363/
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets @ 5 p.m. 713-523-5539.

Tuesday, July 14

- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 7pm. 713-495-8009.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 713-529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 713-822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 713-488-4492.

- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 713-861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 713-520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic Club Body Center and Mela's 8pm to Midnight.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 713-529-0037.
- Kolbe Projects' Parka Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Bering Support Network-Lunch Bunch Gang meets at 7 pm. 713-526-1017.
- HIV + Support group for men over 50 meets at 7:30 pm. 713-527-9106.
- Love, Lust, and Intimacy discussion group meets at 7 pm. 713-524-2374.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Parents meet. 713-284-4939
- AIDS Equity League meets @ noon. 713-529-9966.
- Pride Committee of Houston meets. 713-529-6929.

Wednesday, July 15

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Chances 6 to 10 pm, Nighthawks 10 pm to midnight and the Ripcord 10 pm to 1 am.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 713-520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 713-524-0218.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4:30pm. 713-791-1412.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 713-529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 713-622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 713-782-4050.
- Free Yoga classes at 7 pm. 713-965-9642.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 713-830-3000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 713-861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 1 to 6:15 pm. 713-626-2837.

- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Rainbow Ranglers at 8 pm at the BRB.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 713-623-6796.
- TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- National Organization of women meet. 713-665-8NOW
- OutVote meets. 713-520-VOTE.
- Roundtable: The Houston Philophy Fourum meets. 713-779-8620.

Thursday, July 15

- Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at the BRB from 4 to 8 pm and QT's 8 pm to midnight.
- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 713-521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 713-315-6786.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 713-622-7250.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 713-529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 713-529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 713-529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 713-942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 713-796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 713-782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 713-738-RACE.
- FrontRunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Women's Clinic opens at the Montrose Clinic 713-830-3000.

To advertise in the Classifieds call (713)529-8490 or (800)729-8490 if not in Houston. Our office hours are 9:00 am-5:30 pm Monday through Friday. Classified deadline is Monday at noon for the following Friday publication. Most major credit cards and personal checks accepted. *Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.*

Announcements

PWA Coalition needs Volunteers
Volunteers are needed at the Coalition's main offices, serving clients in the Warehouse Program, Ticket Program, and assisting with Administrative functions. The Coalition also needs assistance in its Volunteer Program at Thomas Street Clinic, which serves thousands of clients each month at the Clinic in a variety of departments and functions. To find out more about volunteer opportunities, please call Jackie Wear, Volunteer Coordinator, at 713.938.1533 or Michael Miller, Administrative Manager, at 713.522.5428.

FREE HIV/AIDS ART WORKSHOP
The Glassell School of Art located at 5101 Montrose Blvd. will be offering FREE Art Courses to those with HIV/AIDS! Classes are offered every Friday until August 1st, from 1:00 to 4:00p.m. All instruction, materials, and even lunch are provided free. Come explore the healing power behind your creativity! Call either 713.639.7500 or 713.526.1118 for information.

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Tanqueray's® Texas AIDS Ride® - seven days from Austin through Houston to Dallas October 5-11 benefiting 44 AIDS service organizations throughout the Lone Star State - is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help spread the word about the Ride. Call 713.521.RIDE for more information.

Houston Pride Band: The Houston Pride Band has a new mailing address. Effective June 12, 1998, the new address is 1412 Richmond Ave., #389, Houston, TX 77006.

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HOPWA Funds Available for Rural Counties. The PWA Coalition has housing assistance funds for People with HIV or AIDS residing in Austin, Colorado, Walker and Wharton Counties. These funds are provided by a contract with the Texas Department of Health. Individuals or families residing in these counties in need of rental or utility assistance should contact the Coalition directly at 1.800.999.0325.

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Position available, Gay Men's Chorus of Houston has opening for an accompanist. GMCH, now in its 20th Year, is one of the oldest gay chorus in the US and is committed to excellence in men's music. Responsibilities of the accompanist include but are not limited to accompany rehearsals and concerts, coordinating rehearsals with other instrumentalist as necessary, and carry out other duties as assigned by the Artistic Director or as defined within the job description. For a complete job description and or more information, send cover letter and resume by July 17th, 1998 to: Accompanist Search Committee, GMCH, P.O. Box 541004, Houston, Texas 77254-1004 or telephone 713.521.SING.

CYCLE SPECTRUM with 7 locations in the Greater Houston Area has immediate opening for Managers & Manager-trainees. Will train. Non-smoking. 281.587.6808 or fax 281.579.1603 or email employment@cyclespectrum.com

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LOBO is accepting applications for evening manager. Apply in person 3939 Montrose between 9am-5pm Mon.-Fri.

The Houston Pride Band, a volunteer, non-profit organization is looking for a conductor/artistic director. Duties will include: providing artistic direction, conducting at weekly rehearsals, and participating at bi-weekly board meetings. For more information, please contact Russell Williams at 713.524.0218, or send email to HousTxBand@aol.com . **The Fitness Exchange** is now hiring for receptionist/trainer. Must be people oriented and willing to work on some weekends. We are also looking for a detail oriented housekeeper. Please come by 4040 Milam to apply.

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The Homeless Pet Placement League will be holding pet adoptions at the following locations: • **PETSMART**, located @ 12914 Willow Chase Drive off FM 1960, every Saturday from 11am to 5pm. • **Petco**, located @ 2110 S. Shepherd at Avalon, second and fourth Saturday of every month from 11am to 5pm. • **Petco**, located @ 6883 Hwy. 6 at FM 529, second and fourth Saturday of every month 11am to 5pm. • **Cats Pajamas**, located @ 12572 Westheimer at Dairy Ashford in the Moore Shopping Center, first and third Saturday of every month from 11am to 5pm. • Adoption costs are \$65 and all animals are spayed/neutered and have received their first set of shots. For additional adoption sites or for more information please call **713.862.7387(PETS)** or look for us on our web site at www.HPPL.org.

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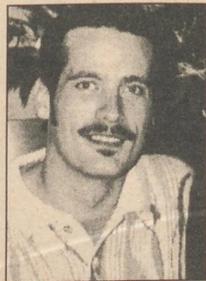
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Additional services on page 10, in section B. Help Wanted Bars/Clubs, Personals and Models/Escorts.

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Houston Voice is seeking freelance writers for our growing team of news, feature and entertainment reporters. Join the staff of Houston's leading newspaper for gays and lesbians and the nation's largest media group for our community.

This is a fast-paced newspaper with weekly deadlines. If you are dynamic, professional and have the ability to write interesting, in-depth pieces, we are interested in you.

As a writer, you can cover topics such as civil rights, local events and politics that affect this community, or even opine on theater, music, movies and issues that touch gays and lesbians.

Please send 3-4 writing samples, resume and cover letter for consideration to:

Matthew A. Hennie
Editor
Houston Voice
811 Westheimer, Suite 105
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VOICE

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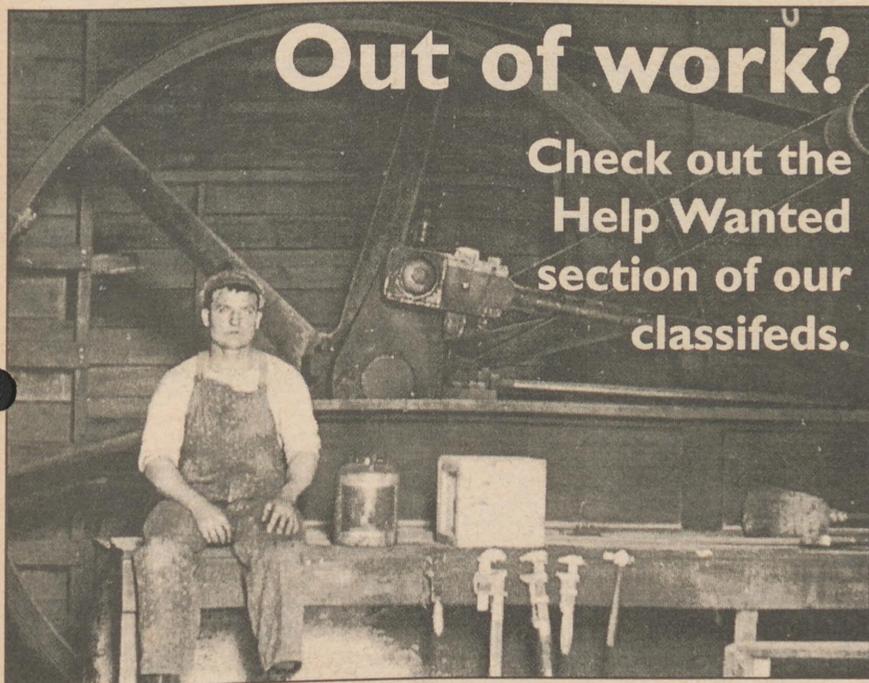
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July 10

JAZZED GARDEN: If you're out of ideas for your Garden Party drag, jitterbug over to the Heritage Society Museum for "All Jazzed Up: The Rise of the Roaring Twenties." You'll find all types of dresses, pumps and purses that made a bang in the roaring 20s, when dancing was the rage and Prohibition ran drinkers underground. To add style, stroll down the exhibits to the sounds of high-energy jazz. 1100 Bagby St. (Between Lamar and Dallas). Free, runs through August 28. For more information, call 713-655-1912.

July 10 - 11

SEVEN IN ONE: Seven queers with different backgrounds and cultural experiences join together in one performance piece in DiverseWorks' "Off the Map: QuAC, Texas Pop. 7." The production — with a cast that includes a banker, waiter, school teacher, graduate student, coffee house bartender and a grocery store clerk — centers on gender identity with the multi-ethnic, multi-gendered collective and includes footage from "Alice in Wonderland," "West Side Story" and "South Park."

Performances are July 10-11 at 8 p.m. at DiverseWorks, 1117 E. Freeway (off N. Main at Naylor). Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 713-228-0914.

SYMPHONY HOORAY: The Houston Symphony rolls out the red carpet for their musical salute to Tinseltown, "Hooray for Hollywood!" This weekend, guest conductor Emil de Cou leads the award-winning organization in a cabaret-style odyssey of popular music from movies like "Titanic," "E.T.," and "Gone with the Wind." Wow, the symphony is so up on trends, they even have a few numbers from "The Truman Show." Shows are at 8 p.m. Aerial Theater at Bayou Place, 520 Texas Ave. (between Bagby and Smith). Tickets are \$15-45. For information, call 713-629-3700.

Through July 25

MORE 'MUSIC': The Little Room Downstairs has extended its bizarre comedy "Alternative Music" through July 25. Set in a small bar, R.J. Soule's script offers witty commentary on life and the singles scene in a spatially challenged and intimate venue. The cast of characters includes Matt, the bisexual man on a mission to find sex; Penny, a 16-year-old with a fake ID; angry young gay poet Al; Margo the beauty queen; Todd, the straight guy with a kinky secret; and Scooter, the lesbian bartender who serves up a fun evening.

Performances on Friday and Saturday and 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Little Room Downstairs, 2326 Bissonnet (between Greenbriar and Kirby). Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 713-523-0791.

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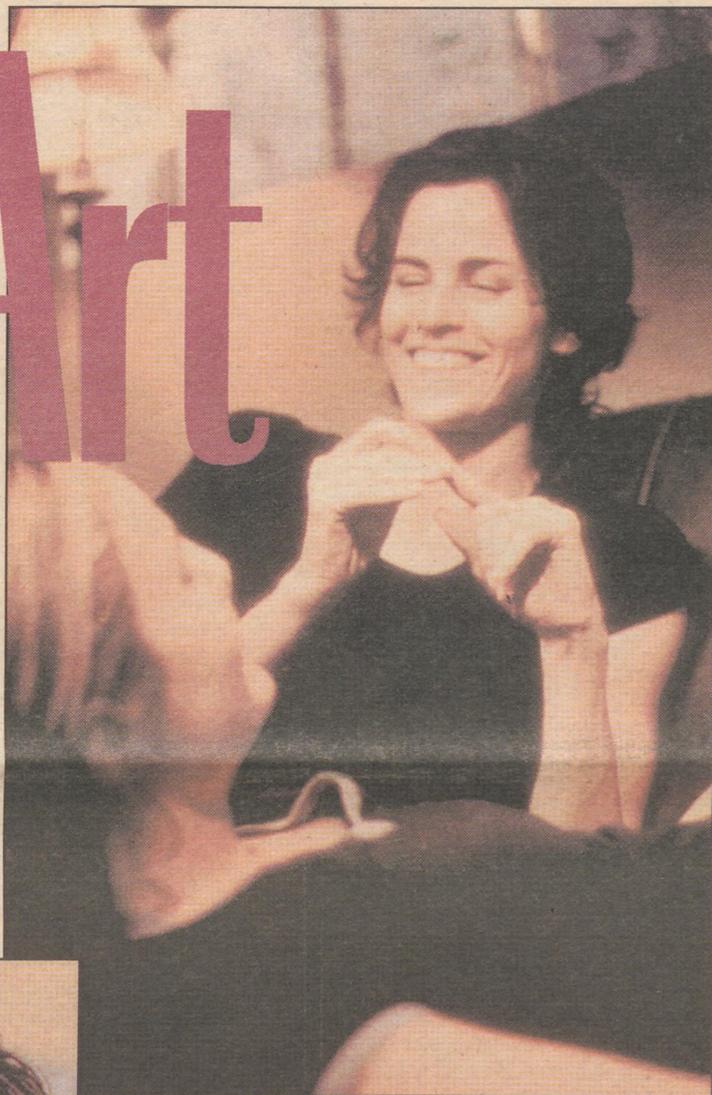
HOUSTON VOICE • JULY 10, 1998

A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

INTERVIEW: LISA CHOLODENKO

High Art

Director, actress talk with Houston Voice about story of lesbian artist who loses control



by JIM FARMER

A simple leak in the ceiling forever changes the lives of two people in Lisa Cholodenko's acclaimed new feature "High Art."

The film's young heroine, 24-year-old Syd (Radha Mitchell), has a comfy job at a photography magazine, but she's not really taken seriously and finds herself still fetching coffee. She also has a boyfriend, but their relationship is a little sterile and dull. One night while soaking in the tub, Syd notices a leak in the ceiling, and she goes upstairs to investigate the source. There she meets Lucy Berliner (Ally Sheedy).

Lucy is a once-famous photographer who has all but dropped out of sight. She is living with her girlfriend, Greta (Patricia Clarkston), an actress whose claim to fame is having worked with Fassbinder. Greta is now a drug addict and spends her nights with a living-room entourage getting high. Lucy has become part of that circle.

Syd becomes enamored of Lucy and her world and persuades her editors to let Lucy do a shoot. At first, both parties are hesitant, but eventually decide to collaborate, with the stipulation that Syd be Lucy's editor. As Syd and Lucy work together, they eventually become lovers.

"High Art" won the Screenwriting Award at the Sundance



Drugs and art: Ally Sheedy (top) told lesbian director Lisa Cholodenko (left) that she strongly related to the role of Lucy, an artist who no longer seeks the limelight, in the seductive tale of drugs and art. —Photos by Andrew Lepley, JoJo Hilden

Film Festival earlier this year and was warmly received at Cannes. It has been slowly opening around the country since June. Cholodenko and actress Radha

Mitchell have been traveling the country recently to promote the film, including stops in Atlanta, Chicago, Seattle and the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Mitchell says the chance meeting between Syd and Lucy really opens her character's eyes.

"I think Syd is drawn in by Lucy's world. I don't know if it's Lucy that Syd is immediately attracted to, or what she has to offer," Mitchell said.

"I agree," Cholodenko said. "I don't know if it's necessarily a sexual attraction to begin with, but the fact that Lucy opens up another world for Syd."

One of the film's surprises is Ally Sheedy as the heroin-addicted Lucy.

"I wrote the part very specifically, and I don't know that she would have been a first choice," said the director. "But Ally called me at home and said she loved the script. It obviously had an affect on her. She felt she really related to the role."

"When she was young she was with 'The Brat Pack' and

See **HIGH ART**/ page 7B

INSIDE:

Osmond and Joseph
Summer musical opens at Wortham
Page 2B



Comedic Ensemble
Cast of one returns to stage with 26 characters
Page 2B



Leaky roof leads to desire
Reviewer says 'High Art' intense film
Page 7B



'Dreamcoat' provides light summer diversion



by RICH ARENSCHIELDT

Now that the infamous hunk of real estate, the Music Hall, has actually been demolished, Houston's Theater Under The Stars starts a 40-month nomadic existence, traveling from venue to venue. What better way to begin it's theatrical wanderings than with the biblically based "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat?"

Though "Dreamcoat" could be considered to be about as current as "Brigadoon," this touring cast brings the work as up to date as possible. Written by the now famous Andrew Lloyd Webber/Rice team, this show started as a short school play and has since metamorphosed in a Broadway production, almost.

In a none too rare feat of dramatic nepotism, Donny Osmond's nephew (yes, nephew) proves that he can sing. Although this work doesn't call for a dramatic tour de force, the nephew does move around the stage well.

"Dreamcoat" is basically a kids show and the action of the first act is continuous and the music strictly upbeat. Even Joseph's imprisoned soliloquy is fairly bouncy and optimistic. Osmond keeps the pace fast and furious, helped by 11 biblical brothers.

This gaggle of guys, all dressed in ridiculous leotards, carry the action.

They form a wonderfully blended male chorus and capably handle the show's multifaceted musical diversity. The brothers, five of whom are genetically linked to musical matriarch Donny, provide most of the music, and all of this show's humor. The siblings vocal highjinks provide a kind of levity, pulling the audience's focus away from the heavy-handed biblical tale.

Narrator Jodi Benson shines with a voice suited to the role. There is not a lot for her to do but she offers her contribution so easily that we don't really mind — she could just stand in the pit and chirp like a bird. Her diction is absolutely clear and her vocal clarity balances the male-heavy cast.

The show's only letdown is Eric Martsolf's Elvis-inspired portrayal of Pharaoh. His extended solo was wholly indecipherable and as a result he earns the weak-link award in this cast.

The fast movement direction, vibrantly colored costumes and vivid lighting help this production wiz along. This show is no "The Phantom of the Opera," Webber's other production in town, though it is an interesting piece that previews what's to come from a theatrical team (Rice/Webber) that has historical importance.

The show is a pleasant summer diversion. Grab the tykes in your family and take them to the show — it's not too long, packed with positive energy and it would be a great first experience for any child who wants to experience musical theater.

What: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

When: Through July 12

Where: The Brown Theater at Wortham Center, 500 Texas.

Tickets: 713-237-1439

Lesbian comics return for musical variety show

by ELLA TYLER

The Therapy Sisters, Austin's popular music and comedy team, returns to Houston this weekend for a single performance.

Maurine McLean and Lisa Rogers, who are partners in life and music, perform a variety of topical songs and comedy skits, loosely organized as a "Therapy Session." Mary Catherine Reynolds will be joining the duo for Saturday's performance.

Rogers and McLean write many of

Nash presents serial ensemble performed solo

by RICH ARENSCHIELDT

Known as an actor and comedic specialist, Rob Nash has found his niche in the one-man show genre.

"Freshman Year Sucks," the latest from this fixture on Houston's dramatic landscape, is a string of single act offerings highlighting human foibles and inadequacies. Awkwardness and frailty are central themes in Nash's creative corpus. Most of his titles include some form of the word 'dysfunction' which leads one to wonder what kind of family life little Bobbie Nash had.

"Freshman Year" chronicles the survival of a troika of pals and to a lesser degree, 23 other characters that influence them. This sybl-esque undertaking requires absolute dramatic clarity and a fair amount of attention from audience members. As the first installment of the "Holy Cross Quadrilogy," this work clearly sets the scene for some amusing sequels. Three off-kilter and unlikely friends at an upper middle class catholic high school reveal themselves to us — mentally, emotionally and sexually.

Nash's concept of the three main characters is clear. He has, as is necessary in this type of endeavor, assigned specifically unique mannerisms to each. Voice, posture and gesture are all different for the principles and sub-characters. Nash effectively portrays people of every age, gender and social condition, and much of the time, accomplishes dramatic separation.

There are instances when action is blurred, most notably when Nash offers

the songs they perform and crib freely from a variety of musical genres. You'll hear rock and roll, western swing, folk and perhaps a traditional sounding, a cappella explanation of why the vicar had a choir boy in his bed. (A hint — he began as a frog.)

The pair has written several musical reflections on gay and lesbian life. Some of "My Best Friends Are Straight" is a funny, but affectionate, look at customs and dress of straight peoples. "Wishful Thinking" includes the memorable line "So what if she drives a U-Haul". The more serious song "Secrets," is a favorite with the singers and with audiences.

No subject is sacred to the team, which is frequently inspired by the nightly news. Avon's announcement



Nash

multi-level conversations involving more than one participant, requiring Nash to move and speak with alacrity. At times the action becomes vague and the audience can become a bit surprised at all

the stuff that this one slender man accomplishes on stage. Mental energy is spent wondering how Nash does that, sometimes causing lapses of concentration during points of dialogue.

The sparseness of the set for this work serves to highlight Nash's actions. There are however, only two main points of reference on stage. If you happen to be seated behind one of these pivotal action points you will spend a lot of time looking at looking at the playwrights back. Director Gregory Gunter might consider rethinking some of the broader placing for this talented young actor.

There are also several occasions when Gunter's directional subtly is wonderfully presented. The sound design of Brad Hasting is marvelously conceived and at times provides side-splitting humor. The best laughs in the show come when spoken line and manufactured noise merge to compliment each other.

"Freshman Year Sucks" is humorous, no matter your educational experience. Which of us hasn't gone through an extended period of gawky insecurity?

What: "Freshman Year Sucks"

Where: Stages Theater, 3201 Allen Parkway

When: Through July 12

Tickets: \$12-\$15, 713-52-STAGES

that it was expanding to the jungle inspired "Amazon," which speculates about the products that will be sold in the rain forest and how they will be paid for. Their newest hit is "Scandal in the U.S.A." This song allows the audience to join in the fun by playing the role of the White House press corps.

Their greatest hit is "Weenie", a rock-styled song about the Bobbitt family's troubles. The "Therapy Session" is proof that laughter is the best medicine.

What: The Therapy Sisters with Maurine McLean, Mary Catherine Reynolds and Lisa Rogers

Where: Tootie's, 1830 W. Alabama

When: July 11 at 8 p.m.

Tickets: \$5, 713-522-7662

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner



Chances

AN ALL PEOPLES BAR
DEDICATED TO
COMMUNITY UNITY.



FRIDAY, JULY 10 · 9PM
Susan Masar *Sings* the
songs you want to hear.

SATURDAY, JULY 11 · 9PM
Bob Bouton & Brian Martin
present

"Patsy Cline, She's Dead You Know"
benefiting P.R. Ball & Pet Patrol

SUNDAY, JULY 12 · 9PM
"The Queerest of the Queers,
Wiley has made it 45 Years"
A Birthday Show to help Wiley Walters
Celebrate his 45th Birthday
benefiting Streetwise & Colt 45's

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 · 9PM
JOIN IN THE FUN WITH
SHIELA LENNON'S
KARAOKE NIGHT.



THE NEW BARN

Fri., July 10 & Sat. July 11 · 9pm
Bridgett
The best damn chick DJ in town

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EMPOWER 98

Last year, over 100 Houston businesses recognized the economic power of the lesbian & gay community. Did yours?

From the most basic purchase to the greatest financial investments, consumers are searching for the best – the best service, the best quality, the best price. We want to know the businesses we support have an interest in supporting us through employment opportunities, community services, business expansion and economic growth. Successful businesses understand the unlimited economic advantages of supporting the lesbian and gay community, and tapping into the wealth of talent and diversity we offer just makes economic sense. That's why last year's Empower '97 drew exhibitors like Shell Oil, American Express Financial Services, Coldwell Banker Realtors, Microsoft, Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages, Merrill Lynch, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Chase Bank of Texas and many more. The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce invites your participation as an exhibitor at our second annual business trade show, Saturday, November 7, 1998 at the George R. Brown Convention Center. EMPOWER 98, benefitting the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, will be the pre-eminent source for exposure to Houston's large and diverse gay and lesbian community. As an exhibitor, you will be telling our community you want our business, you recognize our talents and our economic power, and you support our community on all levels. For a free information package, including Exhibitor, Sponsorship or Program Advertising information, call now.

It's your business to be there.

Empower '98 Hotline
713.462.1354



presented by:
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1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178 • Houston, Texas 77006
713-462-1354 FAX 713-864-8523

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LEATHER ☆ LEVI ☆ CRUISE

Saturday, July 11 · 9pm
**Houston Area
Bears Social**



☆ Noon til 7pm everyday All Well and Beer \$2 ☆
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July is Exploding with Excitement at the



The Way We Were

JOIN US EVERY
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
\$1.00 WELL 7AM - 11PM
\$1.00 LONGNECKS 7AM - 2AM

Look for a different show every
Tuesday at 8:30

hosted by Mr. & Miss. BRB • Byron & Shawna

- 1stBonzai Benefit
- 2ndAmateur Talent Night
with \$150 in cash prizes
- 3rdViva Las Brazos Variety Show
- 4thMen In Boots Strip Contest
with \$150 in cash prizes.

GODDESS

Sunday, July 12, 1998 at 8:00p.m.

Two (2) Votes per ballot
One (1) Ballot per person

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ Lana Blake | _____ Paivi Lee Love |
| _____ Devon De Vasquez | _____ Thumper Knight Lea |
| _____ Day Leigh Edwards | _____ Jamé Roberts |
| _____ Brandi Houston | _____ Gypsy Rose Tee |
| _____ Samoa Jackson | _____ Selena St. John |
| _____ Crystal Rae Lee Love | |

Please return ballots to the BRB, Basic Brothers or Studio 911
by July 11, 1998

VISIT TGRA BARTENDING ON THE PATIO
SUNDAY JULY 12 • 6PM - 10PM

LEARN TO C&W DANCE
with SCOTT every Thursday.



COMMERCIAL MEMBER



2400 Brazos . Houston, TX
713-528-9192

OUT IN HOUSTON

Saturday, July 11

- * Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 beer & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7 a.m.-9 p.m.
- * BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Randy deals Blackjack @ 9:30 p.m.
- * Bricks II: Happy hour 7 a.m.-9 p.m. \$1.75 well & domestic beer.
- * Chances: Power hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. with \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo
- * Club Extreme: Doors @9 p.m. with \$5 cover, \$2 well & frozen, 50¢ draft, Male & female dancers.
- * EJs: \$1.50 well 4-7 p.m.; Mug club 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; \$1.50 vodka 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Super Show @11 p.m.
- * Gentry: Boy Toys @9 p.m.; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open-close
- * J.R.'s: Texas pride happy hour 4-7 p.m. \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- * Lazy J: Drag show @10:30 p.m.
- * Mary's: Happy hour 7 a.m.-7 p.m.; \$1.75 domestic beer open-close.
- * Montrose Mining Company: Male dancers 9 p.m.; \$1.50 well, \$2.50 well til 10 p.m. After hours til 4 a.m.
- * Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, and wine until 7 p.m.
- * OutPost: Happy Hour 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 beer & \$1.25 well. Pool toumey @ 4 p.m.
- * Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night Doors@9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- * 611 Hyde Park Pub: Male dancers @ 10 p.m.
- * Paradise: Doors @ 11 a.m. Happy house 11 a.m.-8 p.m. \$1.50 well & beer.
- * Rich's: Doors @ 9 p.m. 21+ no cover 9-10 p.m.; \$1.25 well 9-11 p.m. DJ J.D. Arnold.
- * Ripcord: Happy hour 1-8 p.m. After hours until 4 a.m.
- * The New Barn: Power Hours \$1.75 beer & well 12-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well.

Sunday, July 12

- * Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 beer & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon-7 p.m.; 50¢ draft. Miss Goddess Contest at 8 p.m.
- * BriarPatch: Happy hour 2-8 p.m. \$2 beer & \$2.25 well.
- * Bricks II: Happy hour Noon-9 p.m.; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 beer.
- * Chances: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well noon-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo. Birthday fundraiser for Wiley Walters at 9 p.m.
- * Club Extreme: Doors @5 p.m. no cover until 11 p.m., free buffet, \$2 frozen, \$1 schinapps and Karaoke @ 8 p.m. Drink specials all night long.
- * E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light open-close.
- * Gentry: Happy hour 2-8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 7-11 p.m.; Pool tournament @ 6 p.m.; Male Strip Contest @11 p.m.; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open-close.
- * J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon-11 p.m.; \$2.75 Shiner Bock; SRO Karaoke @6 p.m.; Male Swim wear strip contest @ 11 p.m.
- * Mary's: \$1.75 Well & beer 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 50¢ draft @2 p.m. \$1.50 beer 7-11 p.m.
- * Montrose Mining Company: \$2 beer; \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers @ 9 p.m.
- * Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine. noon to 7 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- * OutPost: Happy hour noon-7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 domestic beer & \$1.25 well.
- * Pacific Street: Doors @7 p.m. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No cover 7-9 p.m.
- * Paradise: Doors @noon; Happy hours noon-8 p.m. \$1.50 well drinks & beer; \$1.75 Bloody Mary open-close.
- * Rich's: Doors @ 7 p.m.
- * Ripcord: \$1.50 well & beer open-close.
- * 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch @ noon.
- * The New Barn: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well noon-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2.50 Cuervo.

Monday, July 13

- * Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps open-close.
- * BriarPatch: Happy hour 2-8 p.m. Open Pool Table.
- * Bricks II: \$1.25 well & beer 7 a.m.-noon; \$1.75 well & beer noon-2 a.m.
- * Chances: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- * Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- * E/J's: Happy hour 7 a.m.-9 p.m.; \$1.50 well 4-7 p.m.; \$1.50 vodka 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mug Club 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Male Strip @11 p.m.
- * Gentry: Happy hour 2-8 p.m.; Boy Toy Dancers @9 p.m.; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open-close; Free Pool Table.
- * J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7 p.m. \$2.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 beer, frozen Ritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest @ 11 p.m.
- * Mary's: \$1 beer 8-11 p.m. \$1.75 well & beer 7 a.m.-9 p.m.; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7 a.m.-2 p.m.
- * Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- * Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament @ 8:30 p.m. male dancers @ 9 p.m. Happy hour until 10 p.m.
- * Outpost: Happy Hour 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 beer & \$1.25 well.
- * Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7 p.m. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- * Pacific Street: Doors @ 9 p.m. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- * Ripcord: Happy hour 1-8 p.m.; Boxer Shorts Night :Boxer Shots \$1.25.
- * 611 Hyde Park Pub: Free Pool after 6 p.m.
- * The New Barn: Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well \$2 Cuervo.

Tuesday, July 14

- * Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well 7 a.m.-11 p.m., \$1.25 schnapps til 11pm; \$1 beer open-close. Variety Show at 8 p.m.
- * BriarPatch: Marcie as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- * Bricks II: \$1.25 well & beer 7 a.m.-noon; \$1.75 well & beer noon-9:00 p.m.
- * Chances: Power hour \$1.75 well & beer 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3 p.m.-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- * Club Extreme: 97.5 the Box night with \$5 cover, \$2 well & \$1 draft.
- * Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- * E/J's: Happy Hour 7 a.m.-9 p.m.; \$1.50 well 4-7 p.m.; \$1.50 Vodka 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mug Club 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Burger night. Amateur/Talent Night a @ 11 p.m.
- * Gentry: Happy hour 2-8 p.m.; Boy Toys @9 p.m.; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- * J.R.'s: 2(x)ist Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, wine, and frozen margaritas. Male strip @11 p.m.
- * Mary's: \$1.75 well & beer 7 a.m.-9 p.m. \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7 a.m.-2 p.m.; \$2 Cuervo.
- * Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- * Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 beer, \$2.50 well drinks, \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10 p.m. Male dancers 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
- * OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 beer & \$1.25 well.
- * Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7 p.m. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- * Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors @9 p.m.
- * Paradise: Doors @11 a.m. Happy hour 11 a.m.-8 p.m. \$1.50 well and beer
- * Ripcord: Happy Hour 1-8 p.m. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Martini specials. Classic Rock night
- * The New Barn: Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well \$2 Cuervo.

Wednesday, July 15

- * 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11p.m.
- * Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well 7 a.m.-11 p.m. & \$1 beer 7-2 a.m.
- * BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- * Bricks II: \$1.25 well & beer 7 a.m.-to noon; \$1.75 well & beer noon-9 p.m.
- * Chances: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo; Shiela Lennon's Karaoke night @ 9 p.m.
- * Club Extreme: \$5 cover with \$2 well & \$1 draft.
- * E/J's: Happy Hour 7 a.m.-9 p.m.; \$1.50 well 4-7 p.m.; \$1.50 Vodka 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mug club 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Burger night.
- * Gentry: Happy hour 2-8 p.m.; Boy Toys @7 p.m.; \$1.25 Schnapps open-close; Male Strip contest @11 p.m.
- * J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy hour 4-7 p.m. \$2.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$2.75 premium frozen drinks, \$2 beer all day and all night. Joe Boxer dance contest @11 p.m.
- * Mary's: \$1.75 well & beer, \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- * Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight; Amateur Strip @ 10 p.m.
- * Montrose Mining Company: \$2 beer & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers @ 9 p.m.; Happy hour til 10 p.m.
- * Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7 p.m. \$2.50 Cuervo
- * OutPost: Happy hour 11am-7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 beer & \$1.25 well. Shuffleboard Tourney @ 7 p.m.
- * Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors @9 p.m. No cover with a "Pleasure You" pass.
- * Paradise: Doors @11 a.m. Happy hours open-close \$1.50 well and beer, Fajita night \$5 per plate & 1.50 Ritas.
- * Ripcord: \$2 well & beer open-close Star Trek @ 8 p.m.
- * The New Barn: Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.

Thursday, July 16

- * Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 beer, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11 p.m.; Free dance lessons.
- * BriarPatch: Doors @2 p.m.
- * Bricks II: \$1.25 well & beer 7 a.m.-noon; \$1.75 well & beer noon-9 p.m.
- * Chances: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well, \$2 Cuervo.
- * Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon-midnight.
- * Club Extreme: Talent night with \$200 cash prizes, \$5 cover \$2 well & \$1 schnapps.
- * Cousin's: Show @ 11 p.m.
- * E/J's: Happy hour 7 a.m.-9 p.m. \$1.50 well 4 p.m.-7 p.m.; \$1.50 vodka 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mug club 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Burger night.; Amateur Talent contest @ 11 p.m.
- * Gentry: Happy hour 2-8 p.m.; Boy Toys @9 p.m. \$3.25 Skyy open-close.
- * J.R.'s: Texas pride happy hour 4-7 p.m. \$2.25 well, \$1.75 beer \$3.75 all top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imports and Micro Brews. Star Search Gold Karaoke @ 9 p.m.
- * Mary's: \$1.75 well & beer 7 a.m.-9 p.m.; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7 a.m.-2 p.m.; 75¢ schnapps.
- * Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon-Midnight.
- * Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 beer, well, & wine; Male dancers @ 9 p.m.; Happy hour until 10 p.m.
- * Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo
- * OutPost: Happy Hour 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 beer & \$1.25 well.
- * Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- * Paradise: Doors @11 a.m. \$3 anything in the house.
- * Rich's Club Hedo. 18+ college crowd with \$1.75 well.
- * Ripcord: Happy hour 1 to 8 p.m.
- * 611 Hyde Park Pub: Free Burger Night 6-9 p.m.
- * The New Barn: Happy Hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well \$2 Cuervo.

Important Stuff

If you have a birthday in July, head over to the Outpost on July 15 for the "July Babies" birthday bash hosted by Crystal Rae Lee Love.

The new HEB is open. Be sure to try the HEB brand chips that are shaped like the state of Texas. They are very tasty and can be used as earrings in a pinch.



At JR's

After weeks of speculation, it has been announced that the club formerly known as HEAVEN will reopen in December of this year. The club was closed last December after a fire devastated the interior. The new name will be SOUTH BEACH.

Milestones

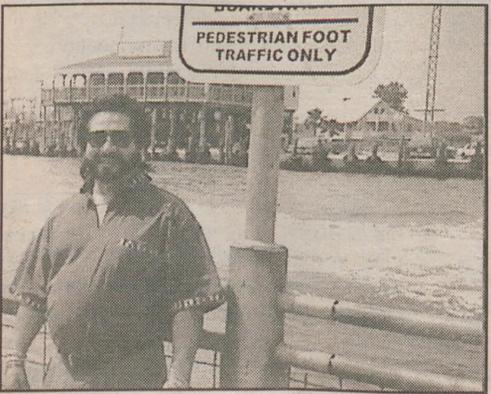
The queerest of queers, Wiley Walters has made it 45 years! Join Wiley at Chances on Sunday for his birthday bash/fund-raiser.

Happy extreme birthday to Tony Williams of Club Extreme.

Happy (gimme me a drink) birthday to Ron Souix.

Rodent Droppings

Rascal has learned a new game. It is called "hide under the new dust ruffle and attack at anything that moves as it passes by." After installing a new dust ruffle, I brought Rascal into the bedroom. She loves to stick just her little pink nose out from underneath the ruffle and wait for her prey. I would dangle my arms/feet/whatever and she would leap out to attack. Just a little tag-you-are-it kind of hit. We played for hours.



The Sugar "Plump" fairy

My usual disclaimer is in force. No real news here, just lies, gossip, and trash. I verify no facts, just tell you what I hear or see. On with the droppings:

Linda Owens (Miss Montrose): I understand that you were not the only one to get wet at the parade.

Doug d. & Luther (Iowa Colony): My spies tell me you two were rubbing a lot of buff guys at the rooftop fireworks party.

Brian K. (NLA:H): How many times have you heard "Oh, my, you have such a big truck" this past week?

Miguel (BRB): Did you enjoy your dinner date with Ray M.? He is telling everyone he had a great time. And is it true that Todd is carrying your baby?

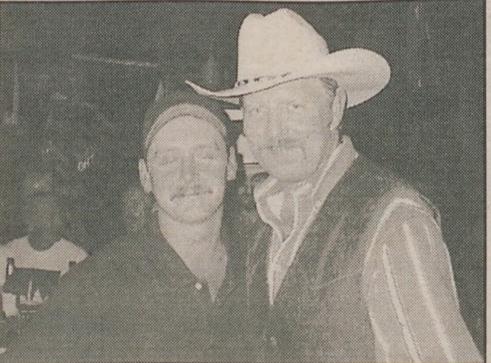
Rich A. (PWAC-H): So your friends think you should be a "rodent dropping?"

Jim S. (Daddy of Montrose): Thanks for lunch.

Staff of Brick's II: All of you should loose a pound or two. Ken and Kelly's transmission went out after pulling the Brick's II float.

Bob Bouton (The one, the only): Do you like drinking free Vodka?

Tuna Melt: Is it true that after the parade your shoes and "breasts" were seen upon the bartop at QT's?



Craig & Byron over celebrate the 4th at Brick's II

Miss Alabama (BRB): Did it really take 16 hunky men to lift you upon the float? Why did you leave a puddle everywhere you sat after the parade?

Stephen (hangs out at Nighthawks): And I quote "I was born under a yield sign."

Al (Pacific Street): Bad, bad boy. Jason (Paradise): E-mail me baby.

Jerry(Mary's): Naughty,Naughty. Randall (JR's): Say 10 times a day "I love to drink Cuervo!"

Mark (hangs at Nighthawks): Who really won the fight? You or the weedeater?

Sean & Jerel : Sorry to hear about the jeep?

Jim Roberts (Nighthawks): I'm sorry I stole your keys.

Papa Del (Gentry): This Sunday is not a "Viagra" party.

Keep sending in your "Pet of the Week."



Pet of the Week "Cookie the Wonder Dog" - Trainer: Mark, Owner: Richard Lemos

There have not been any "Cuervolyn Impostor" sightings in the past few weeks so I guess all gossip whores now know who the real Cuervolyn is!

Have a great week!

Cuervolyn

MARYS

MONDAY-FRIDAY • 7AM - 2PM
\$1.50 WELL DRINKS

SUNDAY • 7pm - 11pm
\$1.50 DOMESTIC LONGNECKS

MONDAY • 8pm - 11pm
\$1.00 DOMESTIC LONGNECKS

TUESDAY • OPEN TO CLOSE
\$2.00 CUERVO SHOTS

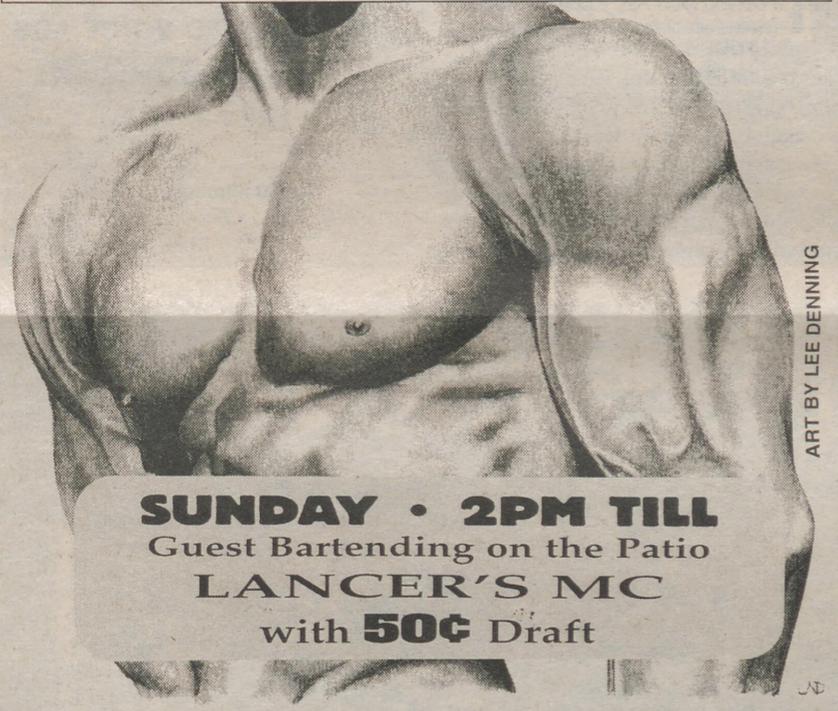
WEDNESDAY • OPEN TO CLOSE
\$1.75 WELL DRINKS & DOMESTIC LONGNECKS

THURSDAY • OPEN TO CLOSE
75¢ SCHNAPPS

FRIDAY • 7am - 9pm
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SATURDAY • All Day
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Preplan your Birthday Party and receive Complimentary Champagne!



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SUNDAY • 2PM TILL
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CUSTOMER APPRECIATION MONTH!

JULY
The **611** **JULY**

\$1.50 Longnecks & Well Drinks
OPEN — CLOSE

Open 8:00am
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To advertise in the Classifieds call (713)529-8490 or (800)729-8490 if not in Houston. Our office hours are 9:00 am-5:30 pm Monday through Friday. Classified deadline is Monday at noon for the following Friday publication. Most major credit cards and personal checks accepted. **Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.**

Help Wanted

DECADES - OPENING SOON

Help wanted • Experienced & Certified Bartenders • All shifts available • Call after the noon hour 713.521.2224.

The 611 Club is now hiring 713.528.1582.

CLUB HOUSTON is now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person. Mon. - Thurs., 10am - 2pm at 2205 Fannin.

Mary's naturally is accepting applications for part-time maintenance. Apply Tues. - Thurs., 9am - 2pm, see Walter or Gaye.

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for management trainees, bartenders, door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group health insurance. JR's BAR & GRILL and THE MONTROSE MINING CO. are looking for honest, self-motivated and customer service oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. Apply Mon thur Fri between 1pm and 5pm at JR's, 808 Pacific. A recent photo is required. No phone calls please.

Nighthawks is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time is Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

Brazos River Bottom is now accepting applications for a full-time Country Western DJ. Apply in person Mon-Sat, 8:00am-1:00pm.

CHANCES & The NEW BARN

Taking applications for speed bartenders who can come to work sober and unescorted by current lover. Your pay is commensurate with your professionalism. We need folks who want to work & serve our valued customers! If you are sick & tired of not earning a decent take home

pay come work with us & be delightfully surprised! Jerks need not apply!

GENTRY is accepting applications for full time barbacks. Apply from 2pm to 6pm @ 2303 Richmond. No Phone Calls Please.

Help Wanted! Houston-Join the friendly staff at Montrose's favorite men's dance bar: Pacific Street! Applications now being accepted for Bartenders, Door & Floor positions. Recent photo required. Apply Mondays & Fridays, Noon - 4pm. No Phone Inquires, Please.

Personals

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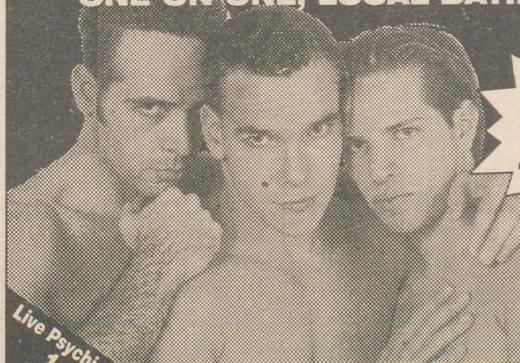
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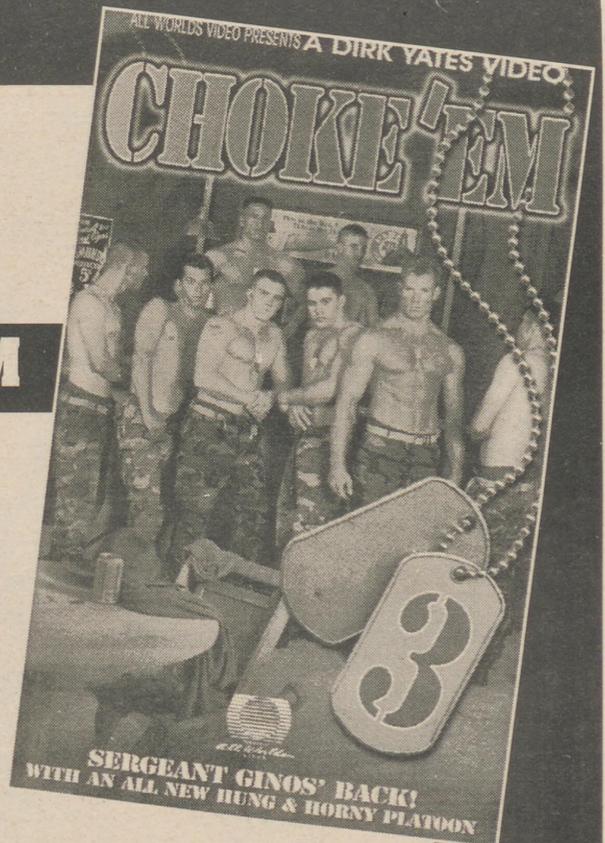
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BOOK REVIEW

Hundreds of interviews brighten account of gays in 20th Century

"The Other Side of Silence," by John Loughery; Henry Holt and Co., 507 pages, \$35.

by ELLA TYLER

Award-winning writer John Loughery's book — subtitled "Men's Lives and Gay Identities: A Twentieth Century History" — is an ambitious but meticulously researched work examining the ways in which gay men have identified themselves as members of a larger group during the 20th century.

Merely reading this book is a challenging, but satisfying, project.

Loughery conducted more than 300 interviews with gay men for the book. Their stories and recollections brighten and relieve the book's accounts of names, dates and events. Loughery freely admits that there are limitations on his research and is enthusiastic about research now in progress.

The book begins by discussing the scandal of 1919 and 1920 concerning gay sex among sailors in Newport. The first scandal was that such activities went on; the second, and more serious, was that the Navy's officers in charge of the investigations became overzealous and recruited young sailors to entrap civilian homosexuals. When a well respected Episcopal minister, who had tended to the sick during an influenza epidemic, was arrested, the Navy lost all credibility. The minister was tried and acquitted, and the Navy's conduct was as much on trial as that of the minister.

This chapter establishes one of the important themes of the book. For much of the century, the public perception that all homosexuals were effeminate pansies protected those who were not. It also led to isolation and confusion for many.

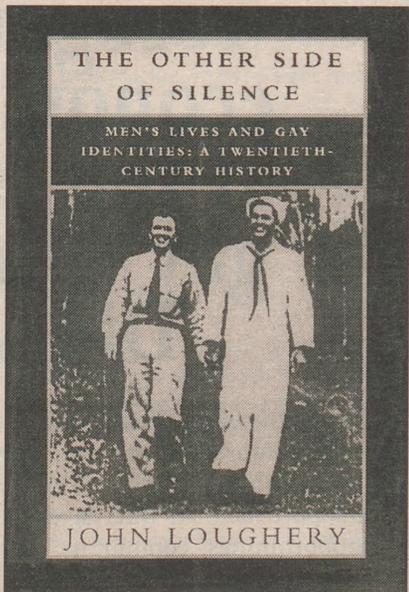
In the late 1920s and early '30s, there was what Loughery terms "the pansy craze" in popular culture. Cross-dressing men were a staple of vaudeville and early films. The Hollywood Code, adopted in 1934, ended sex in film, whether it was gay or straight. The writer notes that by the end of the 1930s Hollywood had become the biggest gay enclave of all.

The book also touches on blue collar gays. In the 1930s the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union's motto was "No red-baiting, no race-baiting, no queen-baiting." There was substantial gay behavior and serious affection in the hobo colonies and C.C.C. camps of the depression.

For most of the century, the process by which gay men self-discovered began with what was written or said about gay men by outsiders. One of the most destructive factors in achieving a positive self-identity and public identity, according to Loughery, was the determination of the psychologists and psychiatrists to study and 'cure' homosexuality. It was not until 1973 that homosexuality was deleted from lists of mental disorders.

Nonetheless, for many gay men, their first hint that there were others like them came from the medical books on the restricted shelves at the library. For others, it was careful studies of newspapers for the accounts of the places these debaucheries occurred.

A favorite passage from the book is that of James Baird, a Stanford law student who had been reading these stories hoping that an address would



be revealed. None were, but one evening he and some classmates happened into the Golden Nugget in San Francisco. After about an hour he concluded "that a few of the other patrons — all of whom were men, looked gay — that indeed the whole place seemed to fit the description he had been studying of homosexual gathering places." His classmates (this was 1950) did not notice anything out of the ordinary, but Baird returned alone as soon as he could and discovered that the Nugget was indeed a gay bar.

A controversial idea in the book suggests that the 1970s popular image of gay men as affluent, well educated and white contributed to the reaction against gay rights ordinances led by Anita Bryant. The often unspoken sentiment of the ordinary voter was why should they have any more rights?

This book does not allow such a narrow a view of gay men. J. Edgar Hoover, Roy Cohn, Rock Hudson, Harvey Milk, Rudi Gernreich (as an early gay activist, not the designer of the topless bathing suit), Langston Hughes and more share space with people like Jose Sarria of San Francisco's Black Cat Club. On Sunday afternoons, he made the patrons stand, join hands and sing "God Save Us Nelly Queens."

The book reminds us that Stonewall was not the beginning of the gay rights movement. Loughery defends the importance of bathhouses, outlines the establishment of MCCR, and mentions the court cases that established the rights of gays to hold professional licenses and established that magazines were not obscene solely because of gay content.

Although about gay men, the book does not ignore lesbians.. Among other mentions, Loughery notes that the idea that women would have a sexual preference for women was not as frightening as the idea of men preferring men, so there was less notice and official reaction.

In the introduction, Loughery quotes Gore Vidal's question "What on earth do Roy Cohn and Eleanor Roosevelt have in common." His answer: "How one reacts to loving or sexually desiring members of one's own sex does matter in 20th century America because society has made it matter by repressive laws, by condoning violence and discrimination, by its own incessant style of classifying and naming."

What your neighbors are reading ...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Husband Hunting Made Easy
by Patrick Price (St. Martin's, \$12.95)</p> <p>2 The Naked Eye
by Catherine Ennis (Naiad, \$11.95)</p> <p>3 What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality
by Daniel Helminiak (Alamo Square, \$9.95)</p> <p>4 Points of Origin
by Patricia Cornwell (Putnam, \$25.95)</p> <p>5 Strachey's Folly
by Richard Stenenson (St. Martin's, \$22.95)</p> <p>6 Are You Nuts?
by Mark Zubro (St. Martin's, \$23.95)</p> <p>7 Stranger at the Gate
by Mel White (Penguin, \$13.95)</p> <p>8 The Dating Dance
by Joyce Gayles (Transformation Works, \$14.95)</p> <p>9 California Screaming
by Doug Guinan (Simon & Schuster, \$24)</p> <p>10 I Know This Much Is True
by Wally Lamb (Regan, \$27.50)</p> | <p>1 Serving in Silence
by Margarethe Cammermeyer (Penguin, \$11.95)</p> <p>2 Buddy Babylon
by Scott Thompson (Dell, \$12.95)</p> <p>3 Generation Queer
Bob Paris (Warner, \$23)</p> <p>4 Husband Hunting Made Easy
by Patrick Price (St. Martin's, \$12.95)</p> <p>5 Klaus Gerhart
Edition Euros (Bruno Gmunder, \$16.95)</p> <p>6 Maurice Vellekoop's ABC Book
by William J. Mann (Plume/NAL, \$12.95)</p> <p>7 501 Great Things About Being Gay
by Edward Taussig (Andrews McMeel, \$7.95)</p> <p>8 Stephen Sondheim A Life
by Meryle Secrest (Knopf, \$30)</p> <p>9 Idols
by Jonathan Black (Bruno Gmunder, \$29.95)</p> <p>10 Men From the Boys
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GALAXY GAYZER

by JOSEPH MOLINA

JULY 10 — 16, 1998

Expressive Mercury tangos with reforming Uranus to pull the whole world on their evolutionary strings. Venus's attractiveness challenges impressionable Jupiter, setting out expansion all over the world. Perfecting Saturn sets into motion sobering truths about emotional Neptune. And dynamic Mars sits still under the influence of sensitive Cancer. Ice cream prices are going to skyrocket; masseurs get ready as the whole world is tense.



Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)

Happy birthday Cancer. On your sojourn, remember: life's obstacles have always stood in your way. Threats to your stability have always challenged your pride. Circumstances forced you to look at yourself and see the flaws in your personality. Ahead lies a creative season and freedom from all your woes, including possibilities and new avenues that will eventually break off the chains.



Leo (JULY 24 — AUGUST 23)

Sit for a moment and let's have a talk. Bring to mind those areas where stagnation and jealousy are fraught. Honestly consider areas not reaching the highs you wanted. Take some action, do something about this. Your life will not maintain this closeted position, so stay one foot ahead of the rest and take control of the situation. An outside relationship could cause latent emotions to be stirred. Apprehensive, you should be hesitant about allowing your emotions get the better of you.



Virgo (AUGUST 24 — SEPTEMBER 23)

This week, a powerful shift has been initiated, causing financial issues to dominate your mind. You will experience thoughts about reordering your business life and the ways in which you handle your money. A need for more wealth could motivate you to do something about it. You could talk to brokers about investments or look for a better paying job. Either way, it's about alleviating the stress and ending a worrisome budget.



Libra (SEPTEMBER 24 — OCTOBER 23)

Get ready Libra, a highly emotion mood will rock your world over the course of this week. In walking away from some aspect of your life, be aware that you are in transition. Sleep aids might be useful during an upcoming period of insomnia. The only way to reconcile your homosexual differences is to allow time to assist you in the healing process. Acknowledge the experience and prepare for a new beginning that your whole life will eventually benefit from.



Scorpio (OCTOBER 24 — NOVEMBER 23)

This week, Saturn working along side with Neptune stimulates emotional fluctuations. Family matters and aspects about your home will continue to provoke an emotional heaviness. Friendships lost will be remembered. Living in the past you need to simply discard worn-out morals and manners. It is a time to discard past emotional attachments and carry a sense of hope and optimism about your homosexual future.



Sagittarius (NOVEMBER 23 — DECEMBER 22)

Venus' cycle through the sign of Gemini sets all sorts of issues into your life. One must always beware of the choices one makes when choosing a mate. If something doesn't work out, one must be honest about the reasons. Romances could begin, friendships will be set into motion and matters of the heart will dominate your mind. Remember, during this period, you're prone to extremities and overindulgence. Beware, your need for attention could put you into potions that may not be enjoyable.



Capricorn (DECEMBER 23 — JANUARY 20)

Each year, during certain parts of the year, crises are destined to occur. Two and a half weeks ago, a yearly cycle began to bear its weight upon you. Mars joined this solar influence and there's no avoiding the refinement process making its way through your life. Power struggles and ego confrontations with masculine figures will challenge all of your opinions. Get ready to make some changes, say good bye to habits and attitudes that must be discarded. Although some adjustment may not be easy, a ripping away is occurring. It is fortunate to know your life is in an uphill swing.



Aquarius (JANUARY 21 — FEBRUARY 19)

All of life is a game, fraught with all sorts of puzzles, ranging from the discipline of getting up in the morning to confronting your personal emotions. Integrate an awareness of the things that throw you off course and get ready to focus. The next part of the game is about to begin with rewards and triumph in your undertakings. You are en route to a lot of hard work. Emotions should be the first thing considered and use organization to make it all so.



Pisces (FEBRUARY 20 — MARCH 20)

The willful sun, with the help of courageous Mars, sets a cycle of movement throughout your life. Where things have been unstable and insecure, a smoothing over is indicated and a patching of holes will occur. The Midas touch befalls you and everything you touch turns to gold. The danger this week is when you cut corners and give less than your full potential.



Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

Astrologically Mars, Mercury, and Venus catapult you into a high state of stimulation, collectively drawing out the wild child. Sex, psychical activity, adrenaline pumped — expect action, participation and hands on playing. Casanova of the conversation you'll be talking all the eyes on you. Everything you say, think before you say it, keep track of your words and watch loose lips. Any mess you get into to, you did it to yourself.



Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

Opinionated Mercury chats witty words encouraging you to set and establish future goals. Assess your money and how much you want to make in the future. Evaluate your beliefs and in the way you think about possessions. Projects may not get off to the best of start. Finding a foundation, Chippendales is in your view. Picture it: white BMWs, midnight blue Mercedes. The start of this cycle will be rough. But, in the end, you'll be wearing success and the fruits of your labor.



Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

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Joseph Molina, a practicing psychic for over 15 years, can be reached at 713-524-4411. Check out his web site at Astralwind.com or e-mail him at joemo@swbell.net.

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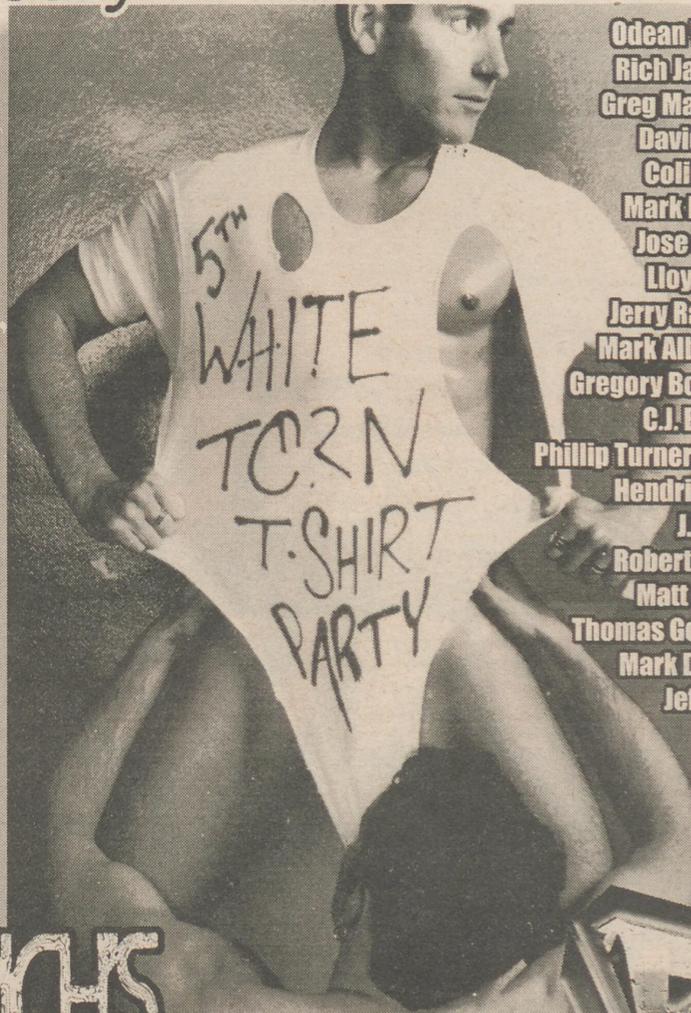


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HIGH ART/ from page 1

kind of burned out and got disillusioned with Hollywood. I wasn't really aware of her work but was flattered that another artist would speak about how the work touched her. Ally tested with Radha and they had great chemistry."

Mitchell was a bit more familiar with Sheedy, but was nonetheless impressed with her so-called "comeback."

"I knew her from 'The Breakfast Club,' but that was a long time ago. This is brave of her. This is really an adult role and a new side of her. I look at Lucy as someone who has dropped out and refused the tendency to 'sell out,'" said Mitchell, a native Australian best known for her work in the film "Love and Other Catastrophes."

Cholodenko wrote the screenplay back in 1994 and was lucky to get to direct it as her first feature. She had previously studied with Milos Forman at Columbia, and Forman read the script a few times and gave her advice. Cholodenko had also worked in post-production with John Singleton on "Boyz 'N' The Hood," and Gus Van Sant on "To Die For."

The film's drug use is graphic, and Cholodenko says it was meant to be that way. "I haven't got any negative reaction about it," she said. "I wanted to present it non-judgmentally, but show that there is a danger."

The character of Greta is a source of much of "High Art's" humor, but also much of its despair.

"Greta has this power over Lucy. Greta is this decadent kind of person who has been sort of a mentor. When Syd shows up, Lucy is slowly realizing that she is losing control of her life, that Greta is always high and not able to give anymore. Yet, for Lucy to leave Greta is hard

MOVIE REVIEW

'High Art' adds irresistible dimension to 'lesbian composite'

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Lisa Cholodenko's directional debut "High Art" adds a whole new dimension to the life of Syd (Radha Mitchell), a shy yet ambitious cog at *Frame*, a trendy photography magazine, where she hopes to make a name for herself.

Syd is a petite, blond blue-eyed twenty-something, who lives in a small New York apartment with her boyfriend James (Gabriel Mann). At best, she's completely ignored by her bosses Dominique (Anh Duong) and Harry (David Thornton), whom she wishes so desperately to impress.

By chance, Syd notices a leaky roof dripping into her bath one night, and she hustles upstairs to nix the problem. It is then she meets Lucy Berliner (Ally Sheedy), a photo world darling on a 10-year hiatus, who lounges in a heroine induced world with her girlfriend Greta (Patricia Clarkson). Greta is German, an ex-actress, and a hyper-addicted junkie who drags Lucy down with the help of a cool group of "friends."

In the apartment hangs Lucy's stellar photographs, which catch Syd's attention. In fact, they mesmerize her. Entranced by the images, a unique chemistry unfolds between Syd and Lucy. The looks are unmistakable: the roaming eyes, the unspoken desire, the magnetic attraction and the forbidden

feelings — it is powerful, unmistakable and almost irresistible.

By chance, Syd mentions Lucy's work to Dominique and Harry. Enthralled, they task her to get a meeting with Lucy; having her on the cover of *Frame* would be an incredible scoop for the magazine.

Later, Lucy agrees to their proposal on the condition that Syd edits the shoot, giving her the chance to break into the big time if she can deliver by deadline.

Yet meeting deadlines isn't Lucy's style. The heroine had lots to do with her tardiness, that's for sure, but Greta had a hand in it, too. You can't help but chuckle at Greta's pathetic life: she punches up every chance she gets, lingering on the edge of consciousness, barely able to reason, with her eyes struggling to focus. Lucy is addicted to her as well.

It is Greta's detachment that opens the door for Lucy to fool around with Syd. Greta recognizes the threat, yet she mounts a pathetic protest.

With the deadline approaching, Syd pressures Lucy to come up with "something." Syd's career hangs in the bal-



Mitchell

ance; Lucy can't care less. Eventually, Lucy asks Syd to join her on a country outing, which is complicated by the fact that Syd has nothing to turn in to *Frame*, and she is falling in love with Lucy.

The personal images become a composite in quintessential lesbianism, reflecting the flowering of eroticism, the deflowering of hidden desire, and the captivation of youth. These

scenes become Lucy's pictures for *Frame*. Shocked, Syd resists.

Of course, "High Art" is a tasty play on words, but the interpretation unfolds quickly once you notice how easily the heroine flows. Even so, this film takes the cake for the year's best gay or lesbian film. It is unmatched in intensity, homoeroticism and realism.

MPAA Rating: R

Run Time: 101 minutes

Director/Script: Lisa Cholodenko

Cast: Ally Sheedy, Radha Mitchell, Patricia Clarkson, Gabriel Mann, Bill Sage, Anh Duong, Tammy Grimes

Theaters: Landmark Greenway 3, 5 Greenway Plaza East, 713-626-0402. \$6.75.

because of their past," Cholodenko said. Cholodenko, who is a lesbian, and Mitchell, who is not, see the film's les-

bian relationship as one element. "I loved the script because Syd is so complex. Syd is at a point in her life

where she is wondering where and who she is. Lucy awakens her, and I think vice versa," Mitchell said.

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