

## Still loved

Years after her death, gays still love Lucy, and one gay man who was her close friend tells why 'I Loved Lucy.'

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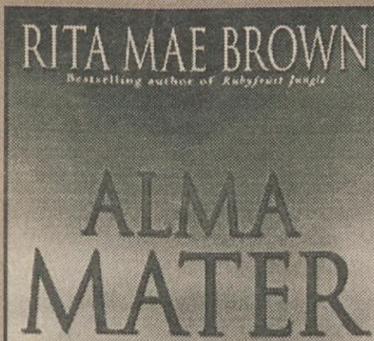
Guest speaker Alec Mapa provided plenty of laughs for the night's festivities at the Houston Black Tie Dinner.

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Janine Brunjes, liaison to Mayor Lee Brown for gay Houstonians, urges gay voters to flex their political muscle Dec. 1.

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Expectations for Rita Mae Brown's latest work, 'Alma Mater,' could be compared to hopes — or the lack thereof — for President George W. Bush.

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## Anti-gay tactics surface in runoff

State lawmaker says candidate for District D post distributed anti-gay flier, is 'race-baiting' for Dec. 1 runoff election

by PENNY WEAVER

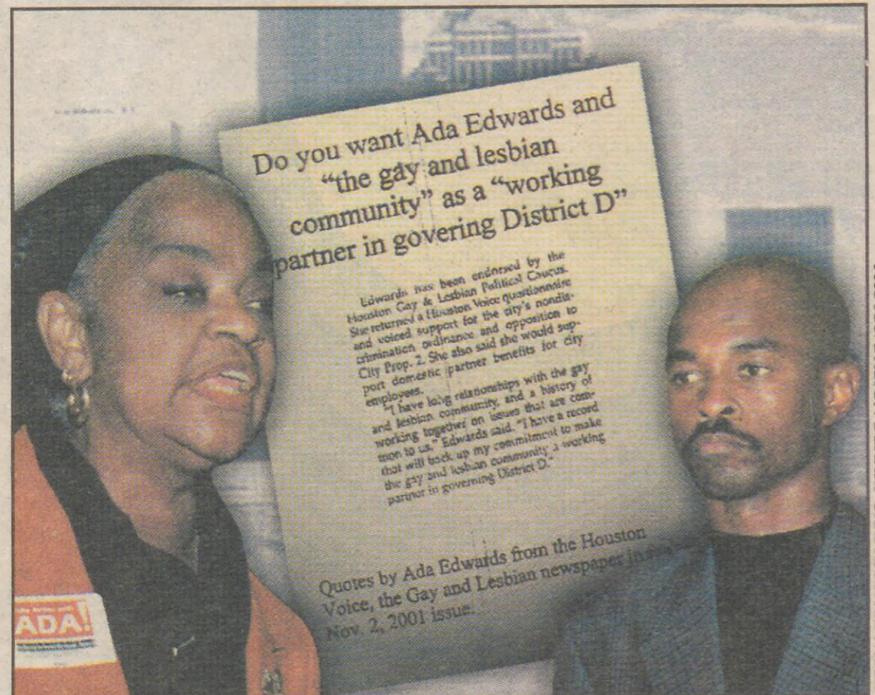
A state legislator from Houston condemned a long-time friend and candidate for City Council this week over an anti-gay flier that has surfaced in the runoff for the District D post, which includes heavily gay Montrose.

State Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston) said the campaign of Gerald Womack is responsible for distributing a flier that warns District D residents of the growing influence of gay residents and against voting for Ada Edwards.

Womack said he had nothing to do with the flyer. "I'm 100 percent on the record on this," said state Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston). "I have no problem standing up when it comes to people doing wrong, and this is wrong."

"Gerald Womack has decided that to divide this district and divide this city ... [and] to win, he has to say

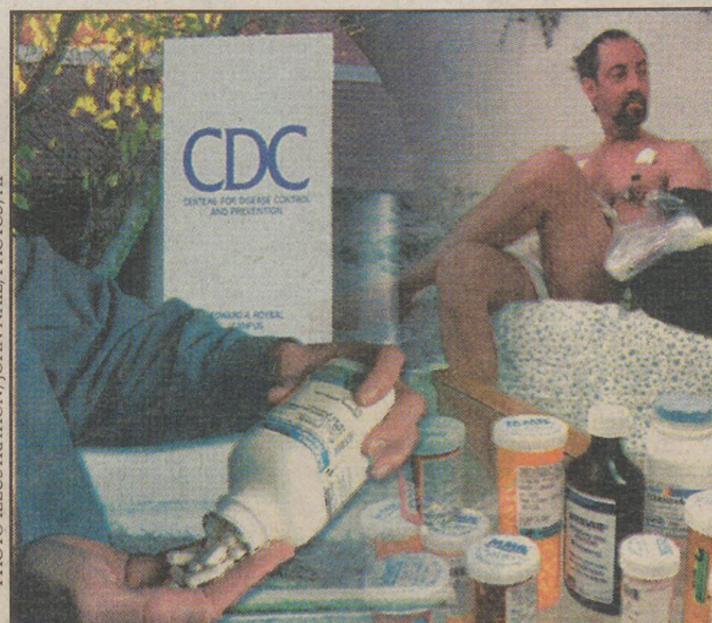
> Continued on Page 8



The battle for Houston's District D — which includes heavily gay Montrose — is heating up over an anti-gay flier that has surfaced. A state lawmaker says candidate Gerald Womack is behind the document, a charge he flatly denies, in an effort to affect his campaign against Ada Edwards in the Dec. 1 runoff.

PHOTOS: DALTON DEHART GRAPHIC/KYLE WILLIS

## Will anthrax derail nation's AIDS fight?



Will Cipro tablets, a treatment for Anthrax, eclipse commend AIDS treatments like Norvir and Crixivan? AIDS activists are concerned that as the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reallocates resources to combat anthrax, the agency might lose focus on the fight against AIDS.

Federal agency that led battle against AIDS now consumed with anthrax probe; Houston AIDS educators watch for future affects of CDC's new focus

by ERIC ERICKSON

With the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention at the helm of the investigation into recent anthrax cases, some AIDS activists are wondering how the war on bioterrorism could affect the fight against AIDS.

Houston health educators active in the battle to control the disease say the change in focus at the Atlanta-based CDC is not likely to have a direct affect on most local efforts to curb the disease.

In the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S., the new buzzword is bioterrorism. The CDC has mounted the largest epidemiological investigation in its more than 50-year history, larger even than in 1981 when its disease detectives first uncovered what would soon become AIDS among gay men.

CDC officials said that while priorities of the agency have shifted since Sept. 11, the changes are temporary.

"It is important to say that most of CDC is continuing to work on

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/JOHN NAIL; PHOTOS/AP

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OUT ON THE BAYOU



A gay man was one of Lucille Ball's best friends, and now he tells his story in 'I Loved Lucy.' See Out on the Bayou, page 15.

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# Annual Houston Black Tie Dinner a big hit

Nov. 17's Houston Black Tie Dinner was sold-out to an enthusiastic crowd that arrived for an evening of food, fun and entertainment. The dinner is a fund-raiser which this year benefitted local groups An Uncommon Legacy, The Assistance Fund, AssistHers, Bering-Omega Community Services, Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals, Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, Lesbian Health Initiative, Montrose Clinic, People With AIDS Coalition of Houston, PFLAG-Houston, PFLAG/HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation, Texas Human Rights Foundation, The Center for AIDS, Montrose Counseling Center and Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church. The national beneficiary is the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force.



DALTON DEHART

Among political speakers during the evening was Mayor Lee Brown, who seeks a third term in office in the Dec. 1 runoff elections.



DALTON DEHART

Nationally known actor Alec Mapa drew plenty of laughs from the Houston crowd as he delivered the key address of the evening.



DALTON DEHART

The presentation of American, Texas and gay rainbow flag colors was a part of opening ceremonies at the event.



DALTON DEHART

Houston entertainer Sharon Montgomery wowed the Black Tie crowd with appropriately themed tunes she sang for the night.



DALTON DEHART

The theme of the evening, 'And the Beat Goes On...', was reflected in everything from the music to this colorful ice sculpture during the event, which was held at the George R. Brown Convention Center.



DALTON DEHART

Local activist Kevin Davidson received the Humanitarian Award at the dinner for his many works of volunteerism in the community.



DALTON DEHART

Sandy Clough, co-chair of the dinner committee, presented Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, with the Hollyfield Political Service Award.



DALTON DEHART

James Knapp, artistic director for the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, spoke briefly, flanked by chorus members, before the group sang tunes with patriotic themes.



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Central blue area containing the main text and logo.



# Remember Our Names

**November 30, 2001**

**Candlelight March 6:00 pm**  
4617 Montrose, Chelsea Market, Suite C140

**Panel Dedication Ceremony 7:00 pm**  
The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross

**Tree of Remembrance 10:00 am to 6:00 pm**  
NAMES Project Learning Center at  
4617 Montrose, Chelsea Market, Suite C140

## NAMES PROJECT HOUSTON

The Menil Collection  
Alley Theatre  
Houston Ballet  
Houston Grand Opera

THE AIDS MEMORIAL  
QUILT

## Project plans day-long observation of World AIDS Day

The NAMES Project Houston has organized "Remember Our Names," a day of events commemorating World AIDS Day on Friday, Nov. 30. Also participating in the day are The Menil Collection, Alley Theatre, Houston Ballet and Houston Grand Opera. A candlelight march will be held at 6 p.m. at the NAMES Project Learning Center, 4617 Montrose, Chelsea Market, Suite C140. At 7 p.m., a panel dedication ceremony for the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be held at The Menil Collection, 1515 Sul Ross. All day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the center, a Tree of Remembrance will be available. The project's mission is to use the AIDS Memorial Quilt to help bring an end to the AIDS epidemic, according to organizers. It is a local nonprofit chapter of the national organization based in San Francisco which sponsors the quilt and provides outreach to local schools, businesses and houses of worship to help put forth the names behind the statistics in the battle against AIDS.

INFO

### 'Remember Our Names'

Friday, Nov. 30  
NAMES Project Houston  
4617 Montrose, Suite C140  
713-526-2637  
www.namesproject.org

## Upcoming festival focuses on women's health issues

The Lesbian Health Initiative and Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church in Houston are hosting a Dec. 1 Holiday Health Fest/Health Fair for women. The day-long event will include health screenings, speakers on a number of health issues, vendors of interest to women and for holiday items, and live music and dancing. In addition, free mammograms will be provided, but those interested must sign up in advance until all appointments are filled. Funding for the event is provided by a number of individual donations and Uncommon Legacy, Susan Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Project, Bunnies on the Bayou, Hollyfield Foundation, Houston Black Tie Dinner Inc. and Magnolia Ball Christmas Party.

INFO

### Holiday Health Fest/Health Fair

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1  
Resurrection Metropolitan  
Community Church  
2025 W. 11th St.  
713-603-0023  
e-mail: LHIHouston00@aol.com

## Christmas Songfest this year benefits local service groups

around houston



Popular local singer Sharon Montgomery and Jerry Atwood, who entertains through both singing and piano playing, share the fun at the 2000 Christmas Songfest. This year's event is slated for Dec. 2.

As Thanksgiving quickly passes, a sure indication that the holiday season is in full swing is the annual Christmas Songfest charity fund-raiser, set for Sunday, Dec. 2, this year. The event features guests, in groups or singles, who sign up to sing Christmas songs on stage while the audience sings along. Souvenir song books, with tunes ranging from the reverent to the zany, are furnished. Multi-talented Houston entertainers including Jerry Atwood, Sharon Montgomery, Terry Pierce, Bubba McNeely and Kim Yvette participate and give a helping hand to first-time performers. As is tradition, Atwood, Montgomery and Divas close out the evening with "Dangerous Disco" and peppy Christmas songs. A dinner buffet and open bar are included. Individual tickets are \$50 at the door, or tables of 10 may be reserved prior to the event for \$500, \$650 or \$800. Beneficiaries of this year's Songfest are Steven's House and AssistHers, both local HIV service organizations.

INFO

### 'A Christmas Songfest'

5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2  
Edwin Hornberger Conference  
Center  
2151 W. Holcombe Blvd.  
713-868-9585  
www.christmassongfest.org

—Penny Weaver

## Gays attend breakfast with mayor



Mayor Lee Brown greets supporters including Janine Brunjes (center), his liaison to gay Houstonians, at a breakfast he hosted for gay political activists Nov. 17 at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Houston. Among other politicians attending the event were former mayoral candidate Chris Bell, who has endorsed Brown; Houston City Council District D candidate Ada Edwards; and Council At-Large Position 4 candidate Claudia Williamson.

DALTON DEFAKT

## Two high school students seek approval for gay group

FORT WORTH — Two gay Southwest High School students turned to a gay advocacy group to help them win administrative approval last week to start the first Tarrant County high school Gay-Straight Alliance, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported. Southwest juniors Brad Carter, 17, and Shawn Poling, 16, asked Principal Barbara Cager on Nov. 5 whether they could form a club for gay and straight students to discuss issues that sometimes lead to harassment. Cager told the teens that she needed time to research the proposal they spent months preparing, according to the Star-Telegram. In the meantime, the students and their faculty sponsor sought help from the Tarrant County Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. The newspaper reported that network Chairwoman Sarah Hogue delivered letters last week to Cager and Superintendent Thomas Tocco detailing federal laws that require districts to give "equal access" to different types of groups. Tocco agreed and instructed Cager to allow the students to form the club, according to the Star-Telegram. "We'll follow the law of the land," Tocco said. "If we were going to deny access to this group, we'd have to deny access to other groups meeting in the school, from Boy Scouts to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes." Cager told the Star-Telegram that she never told the teens that she wouldn't approve the club. "I asked them to allow me the time as they had the time to research," she said. "They didn't give me that time." But Southwest English teacher Leanne Thomas, who will be the club's adviser, said administrators had approved other student clubs with no delay for research. "Mrs. Cager obviously thought she could sweep it under the rug," Thomas said. Cager acknowledged to the Star-Telegram that she was worried that a gay-straight alliance might cause students to be targeted for harassment. "I'm interested in the safety of all students, whatever their sexual preference, race or religion," she said. "I don't want anyone identified with the group receiving harassment or anyone who doesn't want to join being forced to join."

## Race to fill mayor's post in Dallas may be key election for gays



Dallas City Council member Laura Miller is expected to be a leader in the race for mayor after gay-friendly Mayor Ron Kirk resigned last week to compete for a U.S. Senate slot. Gay political leaders in that city expect January's municipal special election to be key for gay residents.

DALLAS — January's municipal special election will be particularly important for gay residents, local gay political leaders told the Dallas Voice this week. Mayor Ron Kirk resigned earlier this month to campaign for U.S. Senate. He was an exceptional friend to Dallas gays, Brian Burton, co-chair of Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Political Action Committee, told the newspaper. "He will be hard to top," Burton said. Front-runners in the mayoral race are expected to be insurance executive Tom Dunning, who announced this week, and Council member Laura Miller, expected to announce her candidacy on Sunday, the Dallas Voice reported. Both Dunning and Miller have significant support among gays and lesbians in the city. Reaction to Dunning by gay and lesbian political leaders who attended the McDaniel luncheon ranged from "favorable to somewhat favorable," Tim McMullen-Sullivan, president of the Dallas Chapter of Stonewall Democrats, told the Dallas Voice. Dunning reportedly expressed support on gay issues, McMullen-Sullivan said, according to the newspaper. Miller, a frequent critic of the business developers who support Dunning, is well known and liked in many liberal quarters of the city, Dallas Voice reported. She earned respect among gay and lesbian residents of Oak Cliff whom she represented on the City Council. "There is no better friend to the gay and lesbian community than me," Miller told the Dallas Voice. "I have never differentiated between gay and straight. It has always been the same to me."

## Box with HIV brochures contained broken vial, odor

TYLER — Smith County Fire Marshal Jim Seaton expects U.S. postal inspectors to answer the question of how a box from the University of Oklahoma addressed to a Kansas doctor ended up in a box shipped from Austin to courthouse officials in Tyler, according to the Associated Press. Seaton said the small box, with a biohazard label, arrived Tuesday. The box and a small glass vial inside were broken. The box was inside a larger box containing brochures on HIV infection, the AP reported. It was addressed to the county clerk's office and was sent from the Texas Department of Health in Austin. "The people who opened the box in the clerk's office were expecting the brochures," Seaton told the Tyler Morning Telegraph. "They found the smaller box inside. The smaller box had been crushed and there was a strange odor coming from inside." A label on the smaller box showed it had come from the University of Oklahoma Health South Division and was addressed to a physician in Wichita, Kan., Seaton said. The Kansas doctor told Smith County health officials he suspected the vial was an empty one used to ship lab specimens being shipped to his office, Seaton told the AP. The boxes have been sent to Dallas for analysis as a precaution, Seaton said.

—From staff and wire reports

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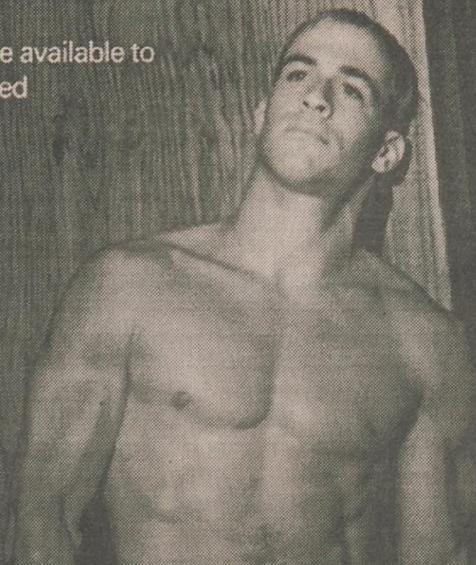


Photo: Martin Ryter

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## Gay-friendly Vt. governor considers White House bid

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Gov. Howard Dean has taken the first step toward a possible 2004 presidential bid by earlier this month forming a federal political action committee that will finance his political travels and contribute to Democratic campaigns around the country. The governor said Monday, however, that creation of the PAC does not indicate he has made a decision about running for president. "That's an enormous commitment and there are a lot of things that have to be shaken out before I make a decision like that," he said. Dean, who announced in September that he will not seek re-election next year, said he likely wouldn't decide on a presidential run until he leaves the governor's office. He easily won re-election in 1994, 1996 and 1998. But last year, his popularity plummeted when the legislature passed Vermont's pioneer civil unions law, which grants gays the benefits of marriage. The law divided Vermonters, but Dean defended it, saying it was the right thing to do. Dean said his PAC was designed to promote an agenda based on "fiscal stability, universal health care and equal rights for all Americans."



TONY TALBOT/AP

Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, a Democrat who helped shepherd a civil unions bill for gays last year, is pondering a 2004 presidential campaign.

## Pa. man who swapped pictures for steroids sues

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — A Lackawanna County man who posed for photos in scant attire in exchange for steroids has sued the physician who prescribed the drugs, saying he allowed the photos to be published in gay magazines and on the Internet. Richard Kilmer, of Springville, said in his lawsuit that he is heterosexual and married, and the publication of the photos has humiliated and embarrassed him. The lawsuit names Dr. Charles F. Connors, of Clarks Green, who was charged last year with furnishing steroids, testosterone or other controlled substances to Kilmer and 14 other men. Connors was sentenced June 1 to one to two years in Lackawanna County's work release program. The drugs were provided to Kilmer and the other men in exchange for them posing for photographs in scant attire. Photos of Kilmer, the lawsuit said, have appeared in various Philadelphia-area magazines and on Web sites that "cater to the homosexual community." Kilmer said the men had an understanding that the photos would not be published.

## After debate, Fort Wayne OKs protections for gays

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) — The City Council has made this the largest city in Indiana to include sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination law. After four months of debate on the issue, the council on Nov. 13 voted in favor of an ordinance drafted by Councilman Tom Henry. Henry, a Democrat, agreed to put off implementing the change until next March, and to put it up for another council vote in mid-2003. "This is basically the right thing to do, but we need to take a hard look at it after a year," said Councilman Tom Hayhurst, who offered the limited lifespan as a way to win other votes. Only three other Indiana cities — Lafayette, West Lafayette and Bloomington — previously had broken from state policy to add protections for gays and bisexuals. Without state law on sexual-orientation bias, the Human Relations Commission cannot require businesses to participate in investigations and cannot fine those the agency rules are discriminatory.

## Judge: R.I. city violated rights of strip club owner

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that a city board violated the U.S. Constitution by rejecting a businessman's request for a license to open a gay strip club. U.S. District Court Judge Ronald R. Lagueux said the Board of Licenses illegally turned down Alan Bogossian's request to get various licenses to open "Brief Encounters," and "Saints & Sinners" to cater to gay customers. "The First Amendment makes no distinction between male strippers and female strippers," Lagueux wrote in a 21-page decision filed on Nov. 13. "It protects nude and semi-nude dancing, regardless of the size of the breasts on display." The judge ordered the city to issue an adult entertainment license and grant a transfer of an existing liquor license, concluding that there is a "high probability" that the city board will continue to violate the Constitution unless the order were issued.

## Grant keeps L.A. gay radio program on air

LOS ANGELES — A matching grant provided by the Gill Foundation is alleviating the funding crisis threatening the long-running gay public radio program "This Way Out." According to a news release, the Gill Foundation, an organization offering funding to groups working for gay civil rights, will match all donations and grants up to a total of \$10,000. The funding will allow the program to continue weekly production and distribution. Greg Gordon, the coordinating producer of the 13-year-old gay radio program broadcast on 125 local, public radio stations, said earlier this month that his program was struggling to survive. Gordon attributed the program's financial problems to the overall economic downturn that began last year, not the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, although he said the Sept. 11 developments could have an impact on future funding drives.

— From staff and wire reports



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# District D candidates condemn negative politics

➤ Continued from Page 1

that white people and gay people are bad. I think that's unconscionable."

Both Womack and Edwards earned the highest percentages of the vote among a total of six District D candidates in the Nov. 6 election, propelling the two into the Dec. 1 runoff. Womack gained 32 percent of the vote, while Edwards earned 39 percent.

Womack, Coleman and Edwards are African-American.

The headline of the flier states, "Do you want Ada Edwards and 'the gay and lesbian community' as a 'working partner in governing (sic) District D'."

It reprints two paragraphs from a Nov. 2 Houston Voice article that details support from gay Houstonians for Edwards. Although there is no attribution on the flier, Coleman said Womack's campaign distributed the piece.

"It originated from the Gerald Womack campaign," Coleman said. "We all know what race-baiting and gay-baiting is. We know what that is."

But Womack denied having any role with the flier.

"Absolutely not. We did not [print or distribute the flier]," Womack said. "I don't know anything about it. It's an insult certainly for me for the [gay] community to think that I would support something like that."

"I certainly know that this was not coming out of my campaign," he added. "I think it's just embarrassing to think that we would stoop to that level, because we would not."

Edwards said she does not know the source of the flier, which surfaced less than two weeks before the runoff election.

"I don't have any personal knowledge that it was coming directly from Mr. Womack," she said.

But Edwards said she is angry about the literature. She pointed out that she and Womack both sought the endorsement of



State Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston) stands by his assertion that Gerald Womack's campaign produced and distributed an anti-gay flier attacking Womack's opponent, Ada Edwards. Womack flatly denies that charge.



State Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston) stands by his assertion that Gerald Womack's campaign produced and distributed an anti-gay flier attacking Womack's opponent, Ada Edwards. Womack flatly denies that charge.

the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.

Womack confirmed that he also sought that endorsement, which Edwards ultimately won.

Both Womack and Edwards also opposed the anti-gay City Proposition 2, which voters approved earlier this month. The measure prohibits the city from offering domestic partner benefits to city employees.

"I'm just appalled that, in this race, this type of issue would come up," Edwards said. "I was just amazed that someone would... from a sneaky position try to imply that the position that I took... was some kind of closeted position."

"I'm just really kind of disgusted by it," she added. "I think this is the type of tactics that turn people off from politics. Young people who are gay and straight are looking at this and are really kind of pissed off."

## State rep stands by allegations

Coleman said he is convinced that Womack's campaign has distributed the flier. At a Nov. 11 meeting of the Harris County Council of Organizations, an African-American group, Coleman witnessed alleged anti-gay comments from a supporter of Womack in the candidate's presence, Coleman said in an interview this week.

About a week later, Coleman said he was at a voting center and talked with a Womack campaign worker, who told him that other Womack volunteers were passing out the anti-gay flier and she had told them not to.

According to Coleman, Allen Parker, a campaign volunteer for Mayor Lee Brown, also was present when the Womack volunteer made the statements.

Parker said Wednesday he did not hear anyone say that Womack campaign workers had distributed the anti-gay flier.

"I just heard that that individual person

I'm ashamed of him because I've known Gerald since I was 11 years old and I didn't think he'd stoop to this, I'm so disappointed ... for me, you cannot condone hate to win an election. This is the same person who tried to get endorsements out of the Montrose community.

— State Rep. Garnet Coleman

refused to pass them out," Parker said.

Later that day, according to Coleman, he was driving toward downtown when he encountered Womack, who honked his car horn, and the two then stopped in a parking lot to talk.

"I said, 'You're wrong for doing this Gerald; this is wrong. You shouldn't be race-baiting and gay-baiting,'" Coleman said.

The state representative said Womack accused him of "loudtalking" and attributing the anti-gay flier to him, which Womack denies distributing.

"[I told him] 'I'm going to continue loudtalking you as long as you are doing this because this is wrong,'" Coleman said. "Finally... at the end of the conversation, he said, 'Well, those gays are trying to take over the district; they're trying to take over the Democratic Party.'"

Womack denied making that statement.

"I never said that. That is not true. Anybody who knows me knows that I wouldn't say that," he said. "I believe that it's just a ploy of my opponents to confuse the issue."

Womack said he is unsure why Coleman is involved in the issue.

"It's Ada Edwards and I that's in the race," Womack said. "I've been supportive of the [gay] community. I just think it's a ploy."

Coleman, however, stands by his comments.

"These are things that people said to me — this is not hearsay," Coleman said. "This is what they said to me and I have no problem going on the record about it because it is wrong. The problem that I have with this is that ... the world cannot work on hate and bigotry."

He said he would not expect Womack to use such campaign tactics.

"I'm ashamed of him because I've known Gerald since I was 11 years old and I didn't think he'd stoop to this," Coleman said. "I'm so disappointed ... for me, you cannot condone hate to win an election. This is the same person who tried to get endorsements out of the Montrose community."

"Now his campaign is saying they're not going to represent a part of District D?" added Coleman, who served as a campaign co-chair for the 'No on City Prop. 2' effort. "This is about representation for the whole district."

Womack called Coleman's comments a "strategy move to distract voters."

"I'm disappointed in him too," Womack

said. "I know that he's working very hard to get Ada elected."

## 'Divisive' politics denounced

Along with Edwards, Womack condemned campaign tactics that attempt to divide any portions of District D voters.

"I've got people in the gay and lesbian community that are on my team, have been my supporters from early on," Womack said. "It's a shame that people would try to put one community against another."

"Instead of us talking about the issues... we're stooping ourselves to [talk about] some blank flier that someone mailed out," he added. "I think it's very poor taste on Mr. Coleman's behalf. [He] shouldn't be spreading rumors."

"This is a tactic that really divides our community one from the other and I think that it's poor judgment," Womack said.

Gay-friendly U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat, is among those who have endorsed Womack. She said this week that Womack wouldn't distribute the anti-gay flier.

"I love the gay and lesbian community. It is my community. I would not support anyone who would not represent the entire community," Lee said. "[Womack] would not be involved [with such a flier] ... I would not stand for it."

Edwards said the anonymous literature is not a big factor for her as the Dec. 1 runoff approaches.

"My position hasn't changed and I'm proud of all of the endorsements that I've received from [the gay] community," she said. "I don't think that that memo is representative of the majority of people who live in District D."

INFO

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4412 Almeda  
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# Bioterrorism shifts nation's attention from AIDS fight

➤ Continued from Page 1

our other critical health priorities, including HIV prevention," Dr. David Fleming, the agency's second-in-charge and deputy director of the CDC for science and public health, said in an interview last week.

## New priorities

Of the agency's nearly 8,000 employees, about 500 have been working on the outbreak of anthrax in the U.S. and in dozens of countries across the globe. Some of those employees and researchers have been reassigned from the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD & TB Prevention.

"There are a number of employees that have been detailed to this emergency," said Curtis Allen, health communications specialist with the CDC's bioterrorism unit. "Once the emergency passes, we will go back to our normal positions."

But with an end to the war on bioterrorism nowhere in sight, AIDS advocates are concerned about prevention efforts and research.

"We can't reduce our efforts in the fight against HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis and malaria and the other diseases that the CDC has traditionally focused on and I don't think we will," said Sandy Thurman, the former AIDS czar in the Clinton White House who is now executive director of the International AIDS Trust in Washington DC, a new non-profit AIDS service organization.

The focus on anthrax and bioterrorism, though, may mean other branches of the

CDC are suffering, Dr. Jeffrey Koplan, the agency's director, hinted during a conference call with reporters last week.

"We've had lots of occupational safety and health people working on [bioterrorism], and yes, the things they were working on before are either going slower or are on hold until they can get back to them," Koplan said. "I think important public health urgent activities are ongoing, but not with the same level of staff support that they would have had before."

## Increased funding

The anthrax effort comes just a year after the CDC received more than \$180 million to fund bioterrorism efforts.

Since the outbreak of anthrax cases, the agency has received 10,000 anthrax false alarms, Koplan said. Agency scientists are working 18-hour days and offering assistance to a wide range of local, state and federal agencies and more than 60 other countries with concerns about anthrax, he said.

Congress is considering a proposal that would add \$1.5 billion to the CDC's 2002 budget for efforts in combating bioterrorism, more than six times the amount spent this year.

Thurman said increased funding for bioterrorism shouldn't come at the expense of HIV/AIDS programs.

"Just because we ratchet up our activities on one hand doesn't mean we reduce our activities in another," Thurman said. "I think it means we have to go to Congress,

we have to ask for increases in funding for CDC and not reduce our funding for HIV and other activities, but to get Congress to give CDC the money they need to increase their work in bioterrorism."

## Houston health educators have eyes on CDC changes

Eric Roland is director of education at the Montrose Clinic, which is among leading organizations assisting persons with HIV/AIDS in Houston. He said the CDC funds many clinic programs.

"We're obviously directly affected by it," Roland said.

But he expressed confidence that the national agency can handle both the fight against anthrax and the continuing battle to stop AIDS.

"A lot of the funding for HIV and AIDS prevention programs has already been allocated. It takes an awful lot for them to take money away," Roland noted.

He does not expect the CDC's focus on anthrax to take away from its work on HIV/AIDS.

"I don't think that's been a concern of ours. They're very departmentalized, and those folks who are working in the HIV prevention portion of the CDC, that's their specialty," Roland said. "Those people who are working in HIV will continue to work on HIV."

Houston Center for AIDS founding Director Joel Martinez said AIDS social ser-

vices programs are most likely to be affected by the CDC's increased workload due to anthrax threats.

He expressed concern that anthrax will distract Americans from the battle against AIDS, whether at the CDC or private fundraising levels.

"It diverts attention from a critical issue," Martinez said. "You can't downplay those lives that are lost every day to AIDS."

"[Anthrax is] just another one of those things that is a diversion. It makes people look in another direction and forget about the urgency of the AIDS situation," he added.

—Inga Sorensen and Penny Weaver contributed to this report.

## INFO

### Center for AIDS

1407 Hawthorne  
713-527-8219

### Montrose Clinic

215 Westheimer  
713-830-3000  
www.montroseclinic.org

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Paid for by the Ada Edwards Campaign. Monica Lamb, Treasurer.

## Gay or Lesbian Dollars PAC condemns the anti-gay

and divisive tactics that have surfaced in the District D race. Some Gerald Womack supporters have distributed literature attacking Houston City Council District D Candidate Ada Edwards for her support of and by the LGBT community, and made preposterous statements on the radio and at community meetings that "white gay" people supporting Ada Edwards "are trying to take over" District D, which includes Montrose.

There is no place in civilized society for hate speech. We have worked hard and long to build strong coalitions. Let's not permit the political ambitions of one individual to divide our district.

Send a simple message to Gerald Womack: Cast your vote for the candidate who has the integrity to unite District D:

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Paid for by Gay or Lesbian Dollars, PAC. Kathy Hubbard, Treasurer.

# houston VOICE

## VIEWPOINT

# Tell straights just the facts, ma'am

by LISA KEEN

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I was out chatting with neighbors recently and somebody asked what I was working on. I explained that I had been working on an article looking at the legal climate for gays in the 50 states.

My neighbors are all straight, but they're cool, curious, and inquisitive, so they asked for the facts. When I told them that my home state, Virginia, had landed third from the bottom in my analysis because it had a law making same-sex sexual relations a felony, they were genuinely surprised — not so much that Virginia had fared so poorly but, as they put it, "There are laws against that?"

"Oh, yes. In more than a dozen states," I told them. "And only about a dozen states have laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation," I told them. They seemed puzzled.

"In all the other states," I explained, using my partner and me to illustrate the point, "a hotel can refuse us a room because we're gay. A restaurant can refuse to serve us because we're gay."

They were incredulous.

"No way!" exclaimed one of them. "That doesn't sound right!"

I can't say I was as surprised by their reaction. Even straight people who are generally well informed about other current events often don't understand the legal reality for gays in this country.

What did surprise me, however, was data from a survey released Nov. 13 by the Kaiser Family Foundation that showed most Americans put gays way down at the bottom of a list of types of people they think experience discrimination. The respondents were asked to "think about groups of people in this country that experience prejudice and discrimination — that is, unfair treatment because of who they are. What specific group first comes to mind?"

They were asked to name a second group, too. Sixty-five percent mentioned African Americans, followed by 38 percent mentioning Latinos. In third place, with 10 percent of the mentions, was "white people." Gays got six percent of the mentions.

Asked to gauge "how much the government is doing to protect" various groups from discrimination, 53 percent believed the government is doing the "right amount" or "too much" to protect gays, even though the largest number of them (39 percent) later said they believe that violence against gays has increased and most of them (76 percent) later said they believe gays "sometimes" or "often" experience discrimination in the workplace.

But if the Kaiser survey demonstrated anything, it was how the general attitude toward gays is still based very much on gut feeling rather than fact.

What straight people don't know may surprise you,  
but what you don't know about them may  
surprise you even more.

For instance, 51 percent of the 2,283 people surveyed nationwide said they believe "homosexuality is morally wrong," and yet:

- 64 percent believe sex ed classes in high school should teach that being gay is a normal part of some people's sexuality,

- 58 percent said their views have not been influenced at all by what they've learned about homosexuality at church, synagogue, or other place of worship,

- 49 percent believe homosexuality comes from a combination of genetic and environmental influences, and,

- 48 percent believe it cannot be changed, 66 percent believe it is a "normal part of some people's sexuality."

Fifty-five percent said they are opposed to legally sanctioned marriages for same-sex couples, and 54 percent said they believe same-sex marriage would "undermine the traditional American family," and yet:

- 73 percent said gay partners should have inheritance rights,

- 70 percent said gay partners should be able to share health insurance benefits,

- 68 percent said they should have social security benefits, and

- 56 percent said gay couples can be as good at parenting as heterosexual couples.

In other words, the facts about homosexuality and gay people are getting to the general population, but they are having a hard time penetrating generations of conditioned beliefs that feel akin to superstition. Very few people know where superstitions come from, but still they won't walk under a ladder, will say "bless you" when someone sneezes, and try to blow out all the candles on a birthday cake.

Despite the staying power of this kind of conditioning, there are signs that the gay rights movement is succeeding.

On the visibility front, 73 percent of those surveyed said they know someone gay. Sixty-two percent have a friend who is gay. That's up dramatically. It's up from 55 percent in 1998, and up from 24 percent in 1983.

We have made significant progress in breaking down the myth that gays are not to be trusted around children. Sixty-one percent said they would allow their children to have an elementary school teacher who is gay, and 46 percent said gay couples should be able to adopt children.

On the legal front, we've gone from having sodomy laws in all 50 states

back in the 1960s, to having them on the books in only 14 today.

And while we don't have a federal law to prohibit anti-gay discrimination like other civil rights legislation, 76 percent believe there should be laws to prohibit discrimination against gays in employment, 74 percent believe there should be laws to prohibit discrimination against gays in housing, and even 56 believe the military's policy should be changed to allow gays to serve.

Where we must work harder is in educating straight people to the reality that these laws don't exist now — that, in their absence, discrimination can and does take place.

Though things have improved greatly since the Stonewall Riots against police harassment 30-plus years ago in New York, we still suffer from police harassment. Just this month, a jury exonerated a small-town Pennsylvania police officer who was accused of pushing a local high school student to suicide under the threat that the officer would tell the youth's grandfather that he was gay.

Things have improved greatly since 1987, when thousands of ACT UP protesters had to storm the doors at the Food & Drug Administration to get accelerated research and approval of AIDS drugs, but there are more new HIV cases reported each year now than there were back then.

Though most states abandoned their anti-gay sodomy laws, even after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of such laws in 1986, the high court just last year allowed the Boy Scouts of America to ride roughshod over a state anti-discrimination law and exclude gay leaders and members.

And though many people came to understand the gruesome reality of anti-gay hate crimes three years ago, with the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, the violence hasn't slowed; witness the multiple shooting in a Roanoke, Va., bar, the bludgeoning death of a 16-year-old in Colorado, the gang beating of a New Mexico college student, just to name a few.

The movement is succeeding, but there is much work still to be done. We must work swiftly and carry a big stack — of facts.

*Lisa Keen is the senior political correspondent for the Houston Voice and is the former executive editor of the Washington Blade and New York Blade News. She can be reached at lkeen@washblade.com.*



VIEWPOINT

# A second shot on Dec. 1 for gay voters

by JANINE BRUNJES

We have another chance.

It's not a chance to vote against City Prop. 2, but a chance to prevent our community from rolling back 20 years. We can avoid going back to the days of a conservative, anti-gay mayor by not allowing Orlando Sanchez to prevail on Dec. 1.

Even if you did not vote in the primary, it is truly critical that you exercise your right to vote by going to the polls and voting for Mayor Lee Brown and for gay-friendly runoff candidates like Ada Edwards, Claudia Williamson and Andrew Burks. They all believe in a city that should not be in the business of discrimination.

Many of our lives are working just fine without getting involved politically. It's not necessary that you truly "get involved" politically. All we need to do is simply vote for the best candidate, one who is good for all of Houston and who is good for gay and lesbian Houstonians. That's all we need to do. Exercise our right to vote, a right that cannot be taken away even as we wait to be treated equally by our government.

I believe we have to create equality for ourselves; if we don't do that, no one else will. We have received so

We should be more concerned and more frightened than ever before but also more passionate and angry than ever before.

much help already from our gay-friendly friends and family and, now, we must take it the rest of the way — in any way we can.

If being defeated on Prop. 2 wasn't enough, gay Houstonians now face new affronts. Ada Edwards' opponent for City Council District D is accused of engaging in what we all call "gay-baiting." Campaign supporters for her opponent, Gerald Womack, assert that white gay men are trying to "take over the district."

Why would we want a council member who feels that way about our community? Why demonize gay white men?

Womack may be worried about losing, but the tactic of gay-baiting is not acceptable. Being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered is not something any of us need to be ashamed of, and I am personally insulted at the insensitivity of Womack's campaign toward constituents he hopes to represent.

Then along comes Orlando Sanchez, who did not support the hate crimes legislation, was "for" City Prop. 2, against after-school

programs and against the 2012 Olympics for Houston, just to name a few choice issues.

Who would truly want this candidate even if the temptation to vote in a partisan manner were at stake? We must cast a conscious and heartfelt vote for who we are and what kind of city we wish to live in.

Wisdom and being an informed voter will lead our way. Orlando Sanchez is not good for our city, nor is any candidate for any office who "gay-baits" or cannot be proud of the gay community, its history and its issues.

We must re-elect Mayor Brown and surround him with supportive council members, even as they challenge him politically. This year and the next two are our years, I believe, but we must win in this runoff with the support of Chris Bell and former Mayor Bob Lanier.

Mayor Brown has the experience to manage our city and there is simply no time for the "on-the-job training" that Sanchez would require or pretend he doesn't need.

We should be more concerned and

more frightened than ever before but also more passionate and angry than ever before. Our non-discrimination ordinance could be dissolved; we run the risk of elections in 2003 not yielding any gay or gay-friendly winners. All that can happen, tragically, if we do not vote and aggressively get others to the polls to do the same.

It is clear that between the increased turnout from the African-American community and gay voters, we could win this race and re-elect Mayor Brown for two more years. Hopefully, each of us understands that each vote is critical and each vote we make is flexing our political muscle.

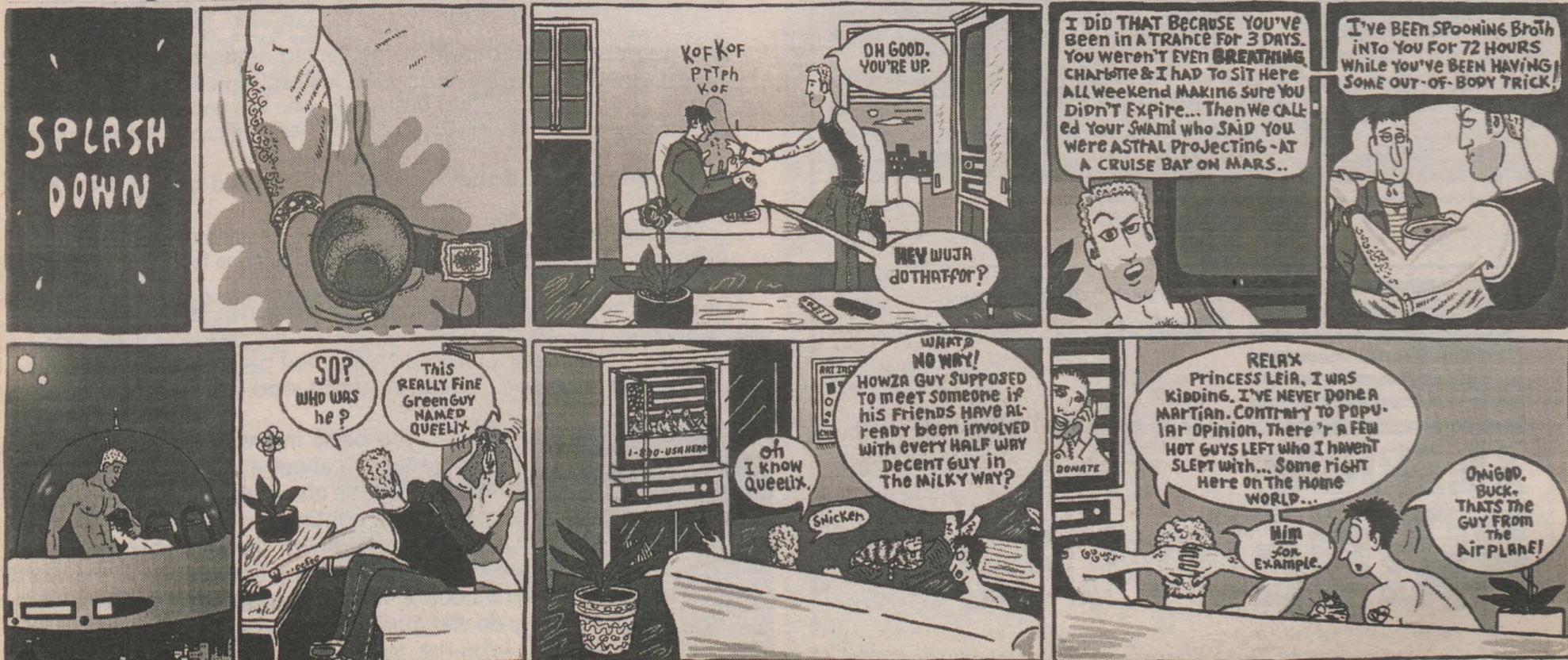
I appeal to every one of you to flex that muscle in early voting and on Dec. 1. We are not being called a "swing" vote for nothing. We could swing a solid fist into the career of a smug, arrogant and homophobic candidate like Orlando Sanchez, as well as those who support his platform.

What is the real issue at stake here in this election? Well, I would think that anything that looks like our inalienable rights as gay and lesbian citizens is at stake. Equal rights, that's all. Please vote and make it happen, one vote at a time.

Janine Brunjes is a longtime activist and the gay liaison for Houston Mayor Lee Brown.

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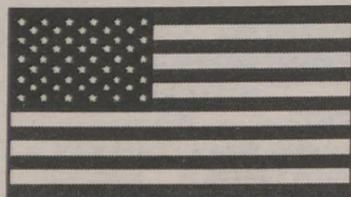
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## "quote/unquote"

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Coretta Scott King

"I have a special responsibility as a human rights activist to speak out against homophobia, which I am convinced contributes mightily to the spread of AIDS. By spreading shame, homophobia contributes to low self-esteem, particularly for those who have not yet come out and affirmed their pride in their identity. Some studies have indicated that this issue of self-esteem discourages many from protecting themselves or seeking treatment after being infected."

—Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King Jr.'s wife, to the AIDS magazine *A&U*, November issue

"I read the letter from 'Hurting in Ohio,' the lesbian whose sister became upset when she let her hand rest on her partner's knee at a nephew's birthday party. Since then, the entire family has been in an uproar. Your response was that she should keep her hands off her partner's knee, and you suggested that she reiterate her apology. You've got this all wrong."

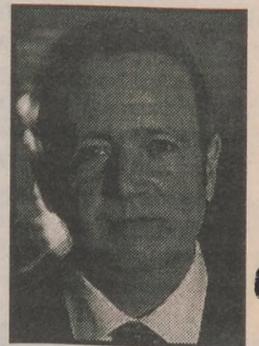
—A letter from "Adele in Connecticut," to advice columnist Ann Landers, in her Oct. 30 syndicated column

"'Hurting' wanted to know how to make things better. I told her. ... Of course the sister should accept the couple, but you cannot force her to do so. This isn't about right or wrong. It is about how to make the family close again."

—Ann Landers' response to "Adele in Connecticut"

"[AIDS Czar Scott] Evertz is a throw-away. He's low-level. ... I doubt Bush has met him more than once. There's no sign he has any influence about anything. The [Romanian] ambassador appointment was a very useful thing, ... but Bush didn't go out of his way to appoint this guy. He was a career foreign-service guy who had reached a point where he was due for an ambassadorship. To have refused him would have been gay-bashing. He was entitled to it."

—Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) in reference to the director of George Bush's Office of National AIDS Policy and the new openly gay U.S. ambassador to Romania, Michael Guest, in a Nov. 9 interview



Scott Evertz

"We and our children should be protected against homosexuals."

—An unidentified resident of Martinsville, Ind., at a Nov. 5 town council meeting, defending Assistant Police Chief Dennis Nail, who was under fire for a letter to the local paper blasting "queers" and "Hadji Hindu and Buddy Buddha."

"All homosexuals and their sympathizers should be put on a boat and sunk."

—Another Martinsville, Ind., resident, defending Assistant Police Chief Dennis Nail, who was also praised by the mayor and all but one town council member

"Open your eyes, America. This wasn't a surprise. It was coming our way. Abortion. Queers."

—Sharisse Nail, daughter of Assistant Police Chief Dennis Nail from Martinsville, Ind., explaining the Sept. 11 terrorist attack at a Nov. 5 town meeting



Mark Bingham

"How can you be so insensitive to put a story — purely conjecture — about a homosexual on an airliner next to an article about two soldiers who died in a helicopter crash fighting for our country? ... If the whole story were known, he probably kissed the hijackers goodbye. Being a homosexual is the worst abomination a human can do against God's word. Why do you glorify them?"

—Don Hall, from Taft, Calif., in a letter published in the Nov. 1 issue of the Bakersfield Californian newspaper


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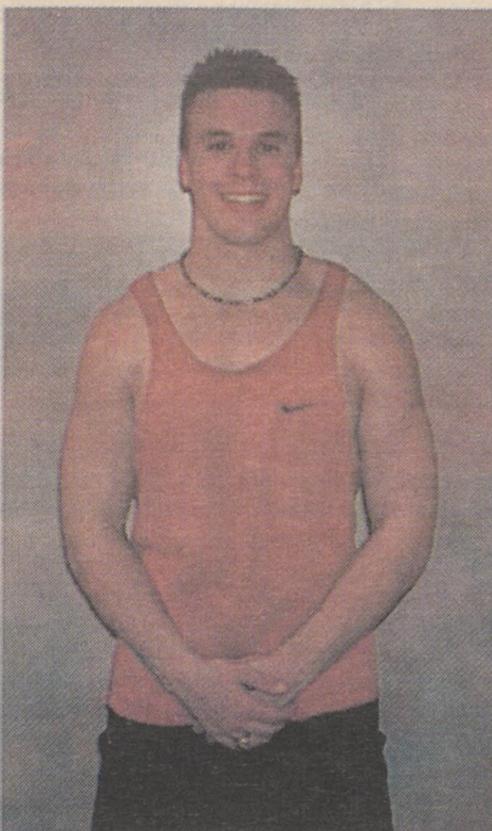


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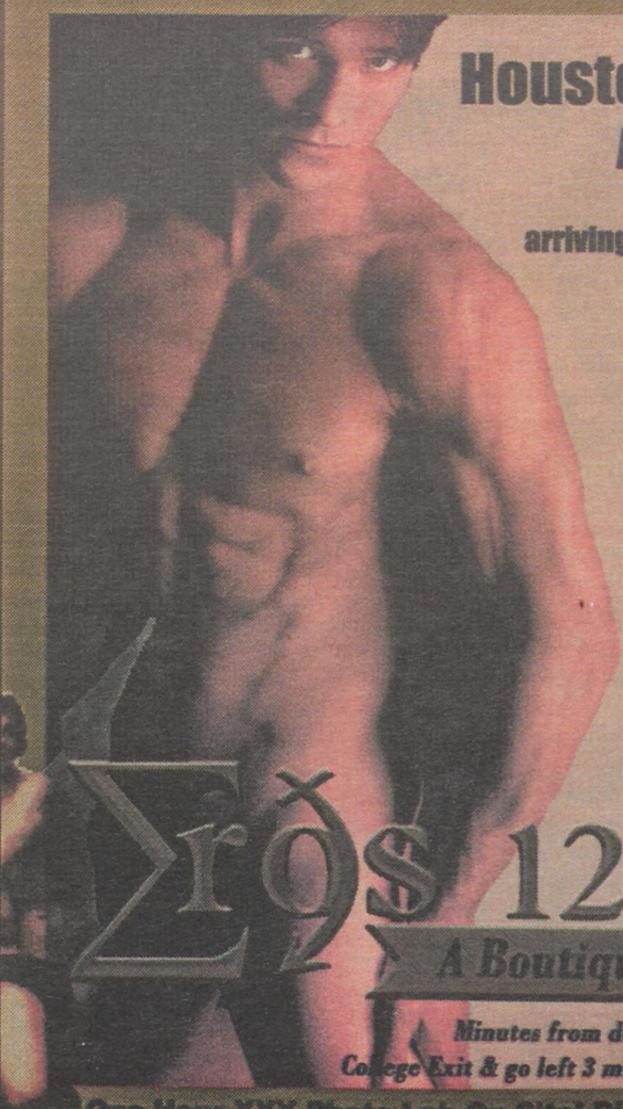
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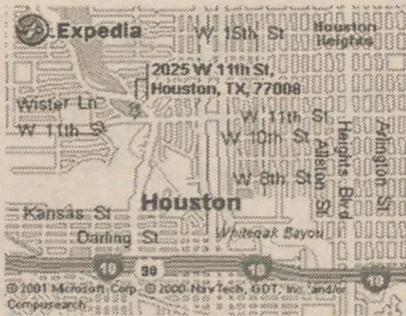


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# Out on the Bayou

houston voice • november 23, 2001

## Belle of the Ball

**Lucille Ball's best buddy, a gay man, shows us why the whole world has loved Lucy for the past 50 years**

by LAWRENCE FERBER

We all loved Lucy, but few got to actually be friends with her like Lee Tannen did.

His days with the de facto gay icon are recounted in the loving, yet never unsparing memoir, "I Loved Lucy: My Friendship With Lucille Ball."

"I don't think Lucille Ball was a gay icon," Tannen muses. "But I think Lucy Ricardo became one because she was the 'underdog,' who always seemed to make it no matter what the odds were.

"Lucy had an impact on all culture, gay and straight, and Lucy always knew she had millions of gay fans. But then again, who didn't love Lucy?"

A distant relative of Lucy's husband Gary Morton, the openly gay Tannen, a writer and director of theatrical productions, grew close with Lucy around 1980. And until her death in 1989, the pair — and often Tannen's life partner Tom Wells — spent time on both coasts playing endless rounds of backgammon, attending events, cracking each other up and even fighting.

Also during that time

Tannen witnessed Lucy's heartbreaking failure at returning to TV comedy (the disastrous 1986 "Life With Lucy"), her strained relations with her children and other less-than-shining moments, many of which are relayed here.

It's a warts-and-all approach Tannen says that she would have wanted.

Tannen first met Lucy when he was 10, and admits her fame was his original motivation for wanting to spend time with her. But meeting her again later as a recently out adult, he immediately found values and virtues beyond her iconic status attractive.

"Oh, she was one of the most fascinating people," he says. "Probably the most fascinating person I've ever met.

"It was immediately evident. She was incredibly bright, astute, loving, and accepting of who I was and my [male] partner. There was a real simpatico there, I loved her at the first."

And why did Lucy warm up to him above so many others dying to merely do lunch in her presence? "Why me? Because I was not a sycophant," he offers.

"I spoke my mind and I think ultimately Lucy really respected that. Life was never boring with Lucy, it was always a ride," he says.

Lucy was a ravenous and demanding backgammon player, who would snap orders at partners and friends to sit down at her portable backgammon table and play endlessly.

Tannen's memories often spring from times spent around a board or en route to, but there's also memorable outside excursions involving Lucy's disappointingly flailing attempts to return to TV, trips to restaurants and theaters.

Lucy's provincial behavior manifested itself at other times as well. While she wholeheartedly accepted Tannen, his lover and

Continued on Page 16 >

## appts

### ongoing through dec. 9

Spellbinders Variety Theatre presents "The Fabulous Valentis" and "Close-Up Miracles & Grand Stage Illusions." Steven and Michelle Valenti bring to Houston the act that has captivated corporate clients such as Toyota, Pepsi, IBM and more. Also appearing will be Beaumont Bacon, a "knock-out blonde" who has been likened to "Sam Kennison and Danny Kaye rolled into one," according to Entertainment Today. Tickets: \$10-\$17.50.

Showtimes: 8 p.m. Thursdays, Wednesdays and Sundays. 7:45 and 10:30 p.m. Fridays. 7 and 10 p.m. Saturdays. Spellbinders, 7620 Katy Freeway. 713-223-8669.

### through dec. 14

Alley Theatre — working in conjunction with AIDS Foundation Houston, Texas Children's Hospital and the University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center — is powering the foundation's Red Ribbon Toy Drive. The theater offers patrons the opportunity to contribute to AIDS Foundation Houston's Red Ribbon Toy Drive and get a discount to the Alley Theatre production of "A Christmas" Carol through Dec. 14. Houstonians are asked to bring new unwrapped toys to the Alley Box Office, 615 Texas Ave., to receive a 20-percent discount off a full-priced ticket to the performances. Tickets: \$37-\$54. Alley Theatre. 713-228-8421.

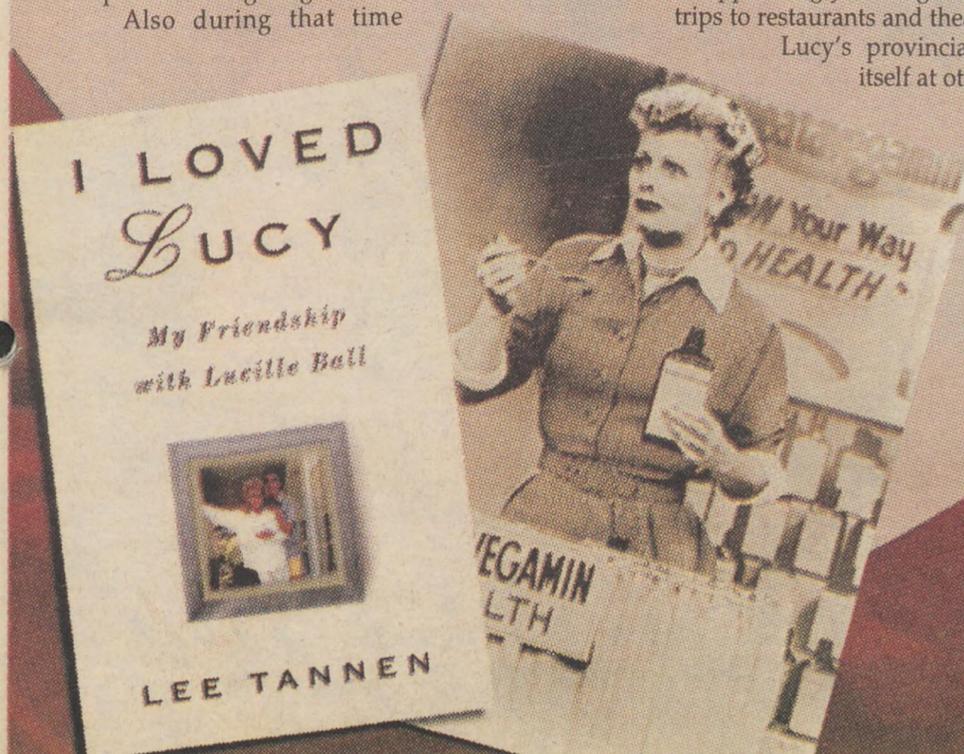
### through dec. 22

The Masquerade Theatre presents "Annie," the musical. The classic fun-filled production features the peppy orphan whose life at an orphanage has grown intolerable, until billionaire Oliver Warbucks rescues her from the gin-guzzling matron, Miss Hannigan. Through Dec. 22 at 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets: \$25, except for "Pay What You Wish" Monday, Dec. 10. Masquerade Theatre, 1537 N. Shepherd Drive. 713-861-7045.

### through jan. 5

The Company OnStage Inc. presents "Rudolph Rides Again" by Laura Williams. The children's play features the story of Santa's goof — leaving Mrs. Santa's favorite elf behind — in Houston — on Christmas Eve. Santa quickly calls Rudolph out of retirement, and the red-nosed favorite teams up with Santa's tallest elf, Elvis, to journey to the Bayou City in search of the missing elf. The production will be shown every Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. through Jan. 5. Tickets: \$6. Company Onstage, 536 Westbury Square. 713-726-1219.

Charlene Harvey (Mrs. Santa) and Mike Essmyer (Santa) try to convince Jim Kearney's Rudolph to search for Mrs. Santa's lost elf in the play, "Rudolph Rides Again."



# Lucy still loved by gays 12 years after her death

Continued from Page 15 >

numerous other gay friends, she wasn't exactly enlightened in regards to current political and social issues.

During one incident in the book that takes place in 1989, she expresses complete ignorance about AIDS, irrationally warning Tannen away from spending time in the company of those who have it.

"Lucy was very up on what was happening, and Lucy was very philanthropic, but in a very different kind of way," he says. "She gave a lot of money and time to causes but did not come out publicly with them. I never urged her to be more socially conscious, just more conscious at backgammon."

The twosome maintained a friendship until her death, but it wasn't without challenges. After a much-needed outburst from Tannen shocked the redhead, resulting in a rift between the friends, they didn't speak for more than a year. They reconciled before her death.

Tannen recalls that the positive experiences far outweighed the unpleasant ones.

"I remember when I took her to see 'Terms of Endearment' in New York, and also when we stole silverware from the Hotel Westbury," he says with a laugh. "[Sometimes] she was the most like Lucy Ricardo and yet in so many ways she wasn't. That was my biggest revelation in writing the book. In many ways she was just like her."

On why Lucy has endured in the gay

and American public consciousness, Tannen credits "the timelessness of her comedy and her incredible talent," he says. "And I don't think there's a Lucy for the new generation.

"I think Gilda Radner had a shot at carrying on that kind of pedigree, but comedy just isn't drawn the same way anymore.

"Of course, the comedy itself has to be credited to the writers of 'I Love Lucy' and her subsequent shows, but I think the appreciation of Lucy is in her longevity," he says.

But Lucy isn't the only enduring famous personality dwelling within Tannen's memoir. Having worked in theater, industrial shows, and on ad campaigns, he's had run-ins and relationships with icons like Shirley MacLaine and Elizabeth Taylor, both who appear in the book.

Regarding the latter, Tannen says that "[Taylor] liked to keep people waiting. That was very different from Lucy. Lucy knew she was famous but never forgot fans, and Liz liked to make fans wait a long time."

Tannen says that there are further Lucy stories and memories within his noggin, which he teases might become "I Loved Lucy 2." But besides these memories, published and otherwise, Tannen admits the redhead imparted a lifelong influence upon his manner and habits.

"I'm able to, because I knew Lucy, deal with just about any kind of person, famous



Lucille Ball in a classic scene from 'I Love Lucy' (inset) and pictured with her dog, Tinker, in the summer of 1982.

or not," he affirms, "because Lucy had a way of cutting right to the chase.

"I think about her every day," he adds. "It's hard to believe it's been 12 years [since her death].

"I still miss her very much, but this book has been a catharsis for me so I'm happy about that and hope people enjoy it."

Happily, one of those people who does is Lucy's daughter, Lucie Arnaz, and she even sent a note of high praise regarding

Tannen's loving, compulsive read. But what about Tannen's own partner, Tom Wells, who appears quite often in the book's pages?

"He loves it except that at one point I say Lucy laughed at everything [Tom] said, and he's not even that funny," Tannen says.

"All of his friends came to his defense and wrote me e-mails saying, 'Tom is funny! Tom is funny! Why are you saying he's not funny?'"

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# on stage

THEATER REVIEW

## Plays are works in progress

Four of productions bring laughter, poignancy, but struggle with stereotypes

by GEORGE JONTE

True to his mission statement of producing new plays by local as well as national playwrights, Unhinged Productions Artistic Director Chris Jimmerson has put two original one-act comedies in a double bill for his current outing.

Now under the lights, at the troupe's new home at 3304 LaBranch in midtown, these two plays deal with relationships, one lesbian and the other gay male.

First on the bill is "Fly Away" by Houston playwright and thespian Patti Aldredge. Set in Houston but with small-town flavor, it opens after the funeral service for a woman who has succumbed to ovarian cancer, referred to amusingly as "Bavarian cancer" in the opening scene. Two spinster aunts have gathered at the woman's apartment to lift her spirit and send it with grace on its continued journey to everlasting life. They purport to be deeply religious fundamentalists.

Next on the scene are four friends: the recently departed woman's lesbian lover and three other friends, including a next-door neighbor drag queen, all whom have had an intimate relationship with the deceased. The two spinster aunts don't know that their niece is lesbian but find themselves in funny situations like finding sex toys all over the apartment and further indulging in some old-fashioned Alice B. Toklas brownies brought by one of the friends.

Needless to say, this all sets the stage for some hilarious moments. Standouts in this cast were Janice Dickard as one of the spinster aunts and Greg Gordon as the drag queen next-door neighbor. Although the play's opening was rather slow, it soon gathered momentum and kept moving to the interesting and amusing conclusion.

"And So I Met This Guy" is just about that and nothing more — interestingly presented with a female narrator — who is a frustrated writer — and her two best male friends. She insists the two guys should not know that when they each tell her about this new guy they've met, they're



Unhinged Productions of Houston — known for its early success with 'Quentin Crisp' (pictured) — now offers a pair of one-act plays by local writers.

talking about the other.

The real highlight of this show is Lisa Marie Singerman's portrayal of the female friend and narrator. Full of spark and impeccable comedic timing, she pulls the whole piece together with great aplomb. Her two friends are ably played by Michael Johnston and Mike Evans.

These two works are indeed works in progress. Despite some flaws in writing and in staging, they are works that deserve production and are worth seeing. The stronger of the two scripts is the first piece, "Fly Away." Aldredge has kept a nice flowing story line while also presenting issues that are prevalent today. However, this reviewer would have liked to see this piece played as a '60s nostalgic production to see if it has merit as such, especially since there are casual references to that period.

"And So I Met This Guy" has some problems in that it is very episodic. Tied together fairly nicely with the female narration, it could still use some tightening.

Both pieces have over the top stereotypical characterizations. In all probability, these are necessary. They are directorial choices in many cases, I am sure, but some of these could have been softened. A case in point in "And So I Met This Guy" is in the scene in which the two men finally consummate their relationship. This might have played a little better off to the side instead of direct center stage. Asymmetry might be a better option; putting that moment in center drove home once again the belief by many that all gay male relationships tend to be based purely on intense sexual attraction.

In general, Director Marissa Elkins has done well with the material, keeping the movement fluid throughout both pieces. Through all the hilarity and strong stereotypes, both pieces have poignant sub-messages which provide a nice cathartic moment toward the end.

### 'Fly Away' & 'And So I Met This Guy'

Through Dec. 15

8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday

Tickets: \$15

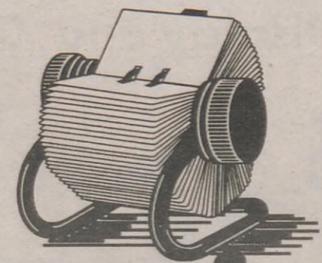
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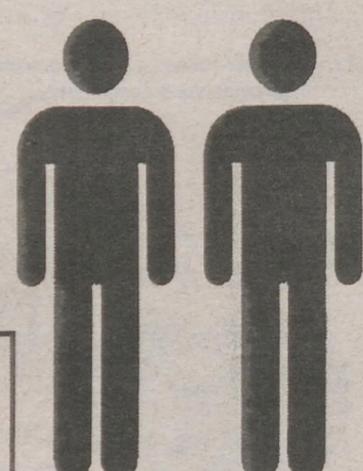
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# out in print

BOOK REVIEWS

## Rita Mae's less than stellar

'Alma Mater' is a love triangle between three William and Mary co-eds

by JACQUELINE DEAN

Gather round folks. Today's secret confessions include a young coed who will confess to her long time boyfriend that she's in love with her female friend.

What's more, the friend will confess that she is pregnant by the boyfriend. But the dysfunction in this family doesn't stop there.

Dad has lost all the family's money and little sister is blackmailing the receptionist at her uncle's business after finding out she is having an affair with her uncle. And wait 'til you see what happens when Aunt Bunny finds out about that!

Sound like the latest episode of "Jerry Springer" or "Ricki Lake?" No, it's just this month's release of *ALMA MATER* by best-selling author Rita Mae Brown.

If it's accepted for what it is, it's tolerable. What it's not is an example of the outstanding writing talent of this author.

In "Alma Mater," Brown weaves the story of a love triangle between three William and Mary coeds. The characters are the usual colorful and sharp-witted folks which fans have come to expect from Brown. In fact, the characterization of the secondary characters in this novel is its saving grace.

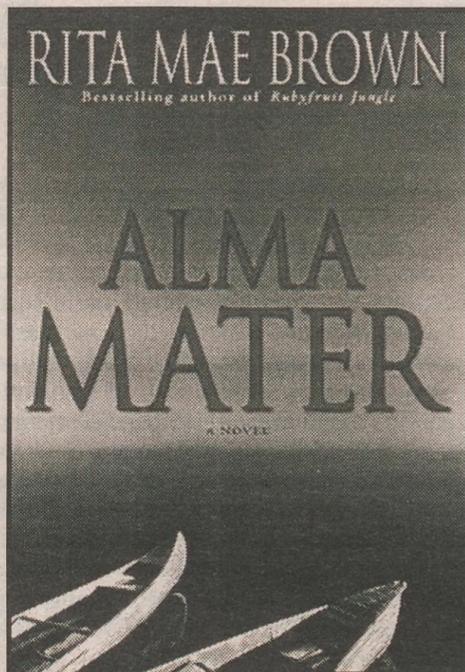
Treat this book like the President Bush of literature. Don't expect too much from it, and you'll probably be pleased.

Victoria "Vic" Savedge is the central figure in this unsatisfying tale of awakening sexuality. Unbelievably beautiful at over six foot with jet black hair, Vic's life is all but set.

It has been carefully planned and she has been trained exquisitely for the role of society matron. The expected groom is none other than the star of the football team, the too good to be true Charly Harrison, the jewel in Virginia society's crown.

All this changes for Vic when she meets Chris Carter, a lovely blond transfer student whose introduction to our heroine is a display of astounding physical proportions.

Seeing her new neighbor struggling with a dresser, our dashing leading lady



hoists the dresser on her back and carries it up several flights of stairs to the top floor apartment without breaking a sweat.

Right. We all knew Brown wrote fiction, just not that she delved into science fiction.

As Brown's tale unfolds, Vic's sexuality goes into over-drive as she enjoys sexual relations with both the other members of this triangle. Separately and together. Hence Chris' pregnancy.

Brown fails to make Vic an interesting character or to create any empathy or connection with the reader. Vic's manipulative behavior actually causes the reverse as she loses the high ground. Even in the glossed over tie up at the end, Vic comes across as less than sympathetic.

Some may argue that by making Vic flawed, Brown made her more real. Not so.

Chris and Charly, with their willingness to surrender their self-respect and safety of their hearts for love, are real. The righteous anger that is directed at Vic by Charly in the climax makes him real.

What saves Brown's story is the secondary characters. R.J. Savedge,

Vic's mother, is a delightful and strong woman who holds her family (and a few others) together.

In fact, the entire Savedge clan is well developed and enjoyable. The side stories about infidelity in marriage, sibling rivalry and economic pressures are intriguing and sadly under written.

What Brown has created here is not a quality piece of literature and that is sad. She is probably one of the most gifted writers today. Her past work has shown her skill and ability to develop wonderful characters and engaging plots resulting in irresistible treats for readers.

Treat this book like the President Bush of literature. Don't expect too much from it, and you'll probably be pleased. But if you go in expecting Rita Mae Brown, you'll be disappointed.



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# eating out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Cuisines don't always blend

Restaurant still refining its melding of different types of flavors

by KATHREEN LEE

Various restaurants will savor periods when their select cuisine is all the rage and vigilant diners who pay attention to such ephemeral trends patronize those establishments in vogue. Fusion, the latest cuisine craze, has generated a rash of predominantly "east meets west" themed restaurants that cater to a growing cosmopolitan, yuppie, trendy social group who possess the expendable cash flow for chic dining.

This new fusionera has added yet another establishment to its growing ranks — Epoch Fusion Café — which offers an amalgam of French, Italian, Vietnamese and Southwestern flavors.

Located in the same doomed restaurant site where first Sabines then Ciro's went under, Epoch will need more than just a modish concept to annul the curse and establish and sustain a loyal following.

When executed properly, fusion cuisine blends its various elements into a smooth uniform product where distinctive flavors complement rather than clash with each other. Epoch's attempt to mingle the individual flavors of Vietnamese, Italian, French and Southwestern cuisines, while admirable in its endeavor, results in jarring clashes where, for instance, one might wonder how the marriage between raspberry hoisin sauce and roasted parmesan polenta in their Pollard Grilled Duck (\$17) could ever work out.

The various cuisine elements in the Macadamia Encrusted Soft Shell Crab (\$16) maintain their individual unique flavors and never quite integrate with or harmonize each other to create a distinctive unified taste. For instance, the sweet and tart tamarind sauce cloyingly overwhelms the mild, staid and overly dry risotto, on which the crab is served. In addition, the peculiar presence of red cabbage boiled with cloves furthers the disparate hodgepodge nature of the dish, and resists any attempts at integration. However, the brittle nut encrusted exterior blends well with the soft moist crab meat, one instance where different constituents of the dish balance each other well.

The Island Steak (\$17) features a grilled New York strip highlighted with a guava and raspberry sauce served on a bed of tropical fruit linguini. While the succulent and tender steak is grilled to perfection, the fruity accessories hinder rather than accentuate the natural meat flavors. For instance, the potently sweet flavor of the raspberry and guava sauce overwhelms both the steak and the linguini. Furthermore, the supposed tropical fruits which are to be served with the linguini feature mainly

pears and raspberries, two very non-tropical fruits. Once again, an attempt at fusing distinct elements results in a clashing of incongruent tastes.

In addition to fusing cuisine styles, Epoch attempts to implement its fusion concept on a broader and grander scale. The restaurant is segmented into two partitions — the restaurant and lounge, where two Internet terminals and a comfortable sofa seating area are offered for customer use. French pastries, delivered from a local bakery, are available for those patrons who wish to indulge in various mousse and tarts while surfing the Web. Through this, Epoch endeavors to synthesize one establishment that offers both formal dining and informal and casual recreation.

The décor also includes a wide range of cultural cues such as Greek column pedestals for Asian style vases, a mural of a quaint Italian street, bar lining of corrugated metal reminiscent of Southern ice houses, and ceramic figurines of lions commonly found in East Asian establishments.

Epoch Fusion Café, new in its inception, seems to still be struggling with its identity and unsure of how to successfully amalgamate its distinctive ingredients into one unified theme. The restaurant may need to continue with its experimentation with different cuisine types and physical arrangement before it can settle into its own unique groove etched by trial and error.

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# Epoch

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### Epoch Fusion Café

1915 Westheimer  
713-630-6507

Food: ●●●●●●

Service: ●●●●●●●●

Value: ●●●●●●

Scene: ●●●●●●●●

●● Opt for bread, water at home

●●●● OK, if you really must

●●●●● Fine for most

●●●●●● Worth the drive, so live a little

●●●●●●●● As good as it gets

FOOD FILE

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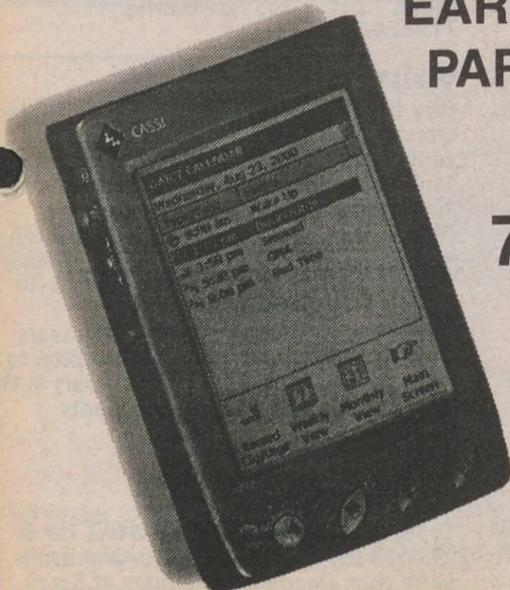
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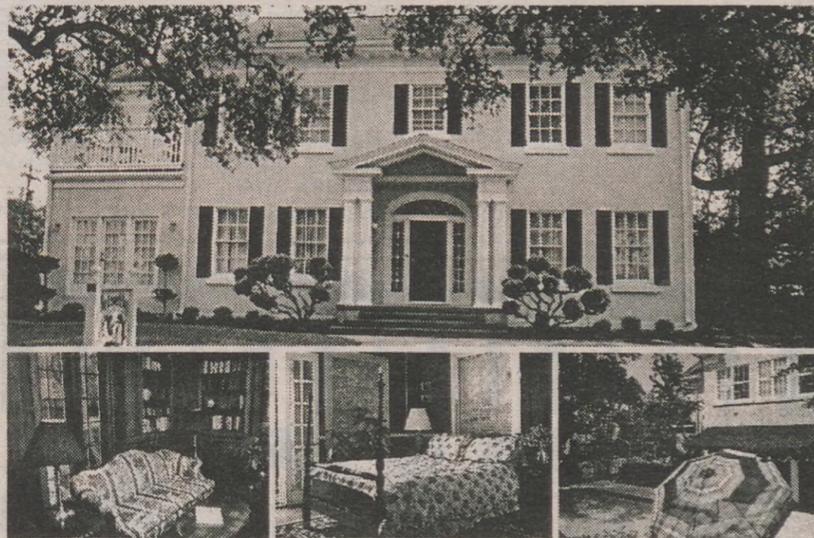
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# community calendar

## saturday, nov 24

**Names Project Yard Sale.** Last weekend of each month. 713-52NAMES.

## every saturday

**After Hours.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.

**Dignity mass.** 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.

**Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club.** 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

**Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club.** Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.

**Houston Wrestling Club.** Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

**Q-Patrol** walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

**Rainbow Fishing Club.** Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.** Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston volunteer appreciation reception, 1-4 p.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 3 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## sunday, nov 25

**Names Project Yard Sale.** Last weekend of each month. 713-52NAMES.

## every sunday

**Anarchist Black Cross**

**Federation/Anarchist Reading Group.** 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.** Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m.

Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

**Community Gospel.** Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or

www.communitygospel.org.

**Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist.** Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

**First Congregational Church (Memorial).** Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

**First Unitarian Universalist Church.** Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

**Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston.** 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930

**Grace Lutheran Church.** Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.

**Houston Mission Church.** Service 10:30

a.m. 713-529-8225.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center.

houstontennisclub@aol.com

**Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church.** Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.

**Rainbow Riders.** A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

**Resurrection MCC. Services.** 9 and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.** Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.

**The Women's Group.** Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

**Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation.** Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882.

www.tuuc.org.

**Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County.** 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

**Unitarian Fellowship of Houston.** Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

**Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center.** Drop-in 2-5 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

## monday, nov 26

**Stonewall Democrats.** Meeting, last Monday of each month, 7 p.m.

stonewallhouston@hotmail.com.

## every monday

**AIDS Mastery.** 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

**Frost Eye Clinic.** Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

**gayDAR.** Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

**Gay Fathers/Fathers First.** Support group. 8 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom: 713-726-8736.

**Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.** Open rehearsals. 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

**Grief & Divorce Support Groups.** 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.

**HIV testing.** STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

**Kolbe Project.** Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

**Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show.** 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community**

**Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## tuesday, nov 27

**Bi-Net Houston.** Men's meeting, 7 p.m., Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. 713-467-4380.

**Houston Outdoor Group.** General meeting, newsletter mailout. Don and Ray, 713-522-7809.

## every tuesday

**Bering Support Network.** Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

**CPR Classes.** 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

**For Mature Audiences Only.** Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

**Free HIV Testing.** Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

**Gay Men's Process Group.** 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.

**Gay youth.** New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.

**Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous.** Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

**HTGA.** Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.

**Men's Network.** Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Noon, Thanksgiving dinner potluck. • Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming-Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## wednesday, nov 28

**Center for AIDS.** Women's mixer, 7 p.m.. 1407 Hawthorne. 713-527-8210.

## every wednesday

**Bering Memorial United Methodist Church.** Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

**Bible Study.** Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

**Blessed Sacrament Church.** Workshop Series for Christian Faith and Ecumenical Old Catholicism. 713-476-9776.

**Free HIV Testing.** Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.

**Freelance Art Classes.** By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

**Houston Pride Band.** Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931.

www.houstonprideband.org.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

**Lesbian Literature Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

**Spiritual Uplift service.** 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

**Women's Network.** Montrose Counseling Center discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net

Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.

## thursday, nov 29

### every thursday

**Community Gospel.** Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.

**Free HIV Testing.** By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

**FrontRunners.** Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

**Gay Houston.** New social group for all ages. 7 p.m. 713-526-9318.

**Hep C Recovery.** Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

**HIV Art Therapy Program.** 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

**Lambda Skating Club.** 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

**Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry.** 10 a.m. -6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

**Rainbow Ranglers.** Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

**STD exams & treatment.** Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

**Spanish Charla Conversation Group.** 7 p.m., Empire Cafe. Email charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.

**Women's Clinic.** Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

## friday, nov 30

**NAMES Project Houston.** "Remember Our Names," a day of events commemorating World AIDS Day. 713-52NAMES.

### every friday

**Frost Eye Clinic.** Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

**Govinda Yoga Club.** Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

**Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting.** 713-942-7002.

**Houston Tennis Club.** 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

**Kolbe Project.** Morning prayer. 10 a.m. • Movie night, "Much Ado About Nothing." 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.

**Lesbian & Gay Voices.** KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

**Q-Patrol.** Walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

**Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.** Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Film Night, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### volunteer/self-help

**Gay & Lesbian Help line.** For gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. Staffed by volunteers of all ages. 11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. 888-340-GLBT.

**Peer Listening Line.** Youth only. Staffed by GLBT youth for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday. 800-399-PEER.

**Volunteers needed.** Trauma volunteers needed at Memorial Hermann Hospital to comfort and support family members in the emergency and trauma departments. 866-666-6772.

To list an event, call 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houston-voice.com. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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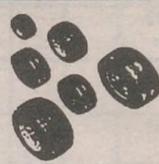
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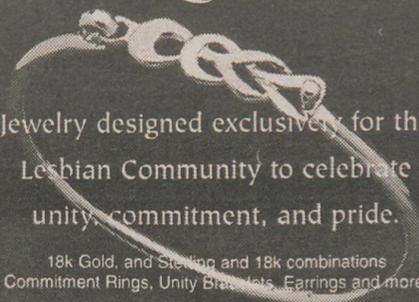
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# houston classifieds

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### PWA COALITION PART-TIME

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Resurrection MCC is seeking a maintenance specialist/caretaker • Individual will clean and maintain interior and exterior of church properties • Qualification: High School diploma/equivalent • Salary & benefits • Send cover letter with resume to: Resurrection MCC • 2025 West 11th Street • Houston, Texas 77008 • Attn: Maintenance/Caretaker

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## Q Puzzle

|    |    |    |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |    |
| 14 |    |    |   | 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |   | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |   | 21 |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |
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|    |    |    |   | 28 |    |    | 29 | 30 |    |    | 31 |    |    |
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| 59 |    |    |   |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |
| 62 |    |    |   |    |    | 63 |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |

### "FIND THE NAME"

#### ACROSS

- Those, to Gomer
- "...the \_\_\_ Aquarius"
- Straight
- Mark Bingham of United Flight 93
- Scheme coming first
- Janet or niece Hunter
- Give out
- Pear peeler
- Silence for Bernstein
- k.d. hugged by a painter?
- Made possible
- Hans Christian Andersen's "Under the \_\_\_-Tree"
- Gore and "South Park's" Big Gay
- Normandy city
- Rocker Brian
- Joey and others
- Audre caught in a difficult task?
- Say aloud, with "out"
- 80's bumper sticker: "The \_\_\_ Majority Is Neither"
- Slightly
- Gertrude among the cows?
- Feature of pine paneling
- Clive Barker's "Nightmare on \_\_\_ Street"
- Pay to play
- 1903 Gertrude Stein novel
- Frequent harassers of Princess Di
- Women named for dawn
- Oscar engulfed in confusion?
- Acted like a top
- Behave like Cunanan in a manhunt
- Voyeur's confession?
- Gore Vidal work, with "At"
- Author Conrad
- Gung-ho quality
- "Happy New \_\_\_" ("Rent" song)
- Actor Robert and family
- To be "lesbienne"

#### DOWN

- Main melody in a musical
- Surround
- Lesbian Bianca's mom on a soap opera
- Tiny testicles?
- Proof that oranges aren't the only fruit
- Org. opposing media bashing
- Take home
- A hundred sawbucks
- "So Long, \_\_\_"
- Swashbuckling Flynn
- Neckline shape
- Tennessee Williams twosome
- "We're \_\_\_ Gonna Take It" ("Tommy" song)
- Countee Cullen's pair
- Floor covering, for short
- Resulted in
- "\_\_\_ at time!" (No threesomes!)
- Hidden \_\_\_ (gimmick used in this puzzle)
- "Flesh" in an Almodovar movie title
- "Woe is me"
- Filmmaker Pier \_\_\_ Pasolini
- "\_\_\_ Children" (program of 3-Down)
- "Are you up \_\_\_?"
- Put in no particular order
- Cry that rhymes with and evokes the response "Where?!"
- Where butches may buy clothes
- Maupin story of the city
- Smith of "Dawson's Creek"
- Gay section of New York City?
- Mason of Massachusetts
- Extra
- Button pressed on a TV that's out
- Lend \_\_\_ (listen)
- Upright erection
- "Would \_\_\_ to you?"
- Sissyfag, once of ACT UP
- Not outgoing
- Mary Cheney's partner Heather
- Thurman of "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues"

Answers on Page 27

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**OCASIONS**

Super organizer, activist and has a great smile Coy Tow has a big bang for his Nov. 23 birthday. • Maranatha MCC members sing in birthday cheers for Mario N. and Scott U. (11/24) as well as Rhonda K. (11/26). • CCCC member Bruce H. motors in a birthday on Nov. 29.

**PETS**

**HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY**

NO ANIMAL TURNED AWAY!! The HHS relies solely on donations. They receive NO local, state, or federal government funding. Call 713-434-5555 to find out the many ways YOU can help.

**PET OF THE WEEK**



Here are the precious pictures for these precious kitties! Snowball and Tabitha! They came in as itty bitty babies and now are all grown up...well enough to get into a home for XMas!

**PRODUCTS & SERVICES**

**ORTHOPEDIC QUEEN MATTRESS SET**

Brand new • List \$699 • Sell \$99 • 832-435-2677 • Can Deliver.

Rent-To-Own computers! Starting at \$19.95 a week • 1-800-422-3368

Rent-To-Own 50" Big Screen TVs! • Starting at \$29.99 a week • 800-774-4553

**KINGSIZE MATTRESS NEW IN PLASTIC**

20 year warranty • Must sell \$199 • 713 560-7108

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

**PET SITTING**

**BOOK FOR YOUR VACATION**

**PLAN YOUR FALL GETAWAY NOW!!**

"Pets love their own home even when you can't be there"

Established 1995.

Book your vacation now

E-mail: loyal989@aol.com

Call Loyal at 713-942-8816.

**M2M BODY GROOMING**

Body Waxing • Clippings • Coloring • Personal grooming by Dale. Waxing specialist & licensed Cosmetologist. Private location in Montrose. Call 713-529-5952 for appointment.

**PSYCHIC EDUCATION**

**LEARN REIKI COMPLETELY 2 1/2 DAYS NOV 16-18**

ONLY \$425 • Gift certificates available for this and many other intriguing (and cheaper) services • Details at rain-bowprod.com/bilbo • Reiki Master Bill O'Rourke

**ROOMMATES**

GWM looking for roommate to share large 2b/2ba Galleria Apartment • \$400/mo + 1/2 utilities • Great location • 713-409-1980

GW Couple seeking roommate to share 3/1 in NW Houston • 3/4 acre overlooking Cole Creek and forest • (Tidwell & 290) • \$400/mo and 1/2 elec • References required • 713-462-8511

Share 2/2 remodeled home in the Heights area with 30's WM • Non-smoker • Hardwoods • \$425 + utilities • 832-309-0822

**TRAVEL**

IF YOU LIKE KEY WEST OR HAWAII, YOU'LL "LOVE" PARADISE • Accepting reservations • 409-762-6677 • Toll Free 877-919-6677 • 2317 Ave. P • Galveston • www.galveston.com/paradise • paradise@galveston.com.

**VOLUNTEERS**

**STEVEN'S HOUSE**

Seeking caregivers for transitional housing program for HIV+ adults • Must have high school diploma and experience as a caregiver • Contact Ms. Straham @ 713-522-5757 or fax resume to 713-522-1910

**FOR INFORMATION**

**ON PUTTING YOUR**

**CLASSIFIED AD TO**

**WORK FOR YOU,**

**GIVE CAROLYN A**

**CALL AT**

**713/529-8490**

# Houston Voice

all the news for your *life.* and your *style.*

houston voice

**Classified Order Form Fax: 713-529-9531, Phone: 713-529-8490**

**TO PLACE AN AD:**  
**IN PERSON:** Bring completed order form with payment to Houston Voice offices (M-F, 9-5:30 pm) 500 Lovett, suite 200. **BY MAIL:** Mail completed order form with payment to Houston Voice Classifieds, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, TX., 77006. **BY PHONE:** Call in with completed order form to 713-529-8490. **BY FAX:** Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 713-529-9531. **BY E-MAIL:** croberts@houstonvoice.com  
**AD POLICY:** Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: **MONDAY at 12 NOON**

**1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY**

**FREE:** Call for guidelines  
 — HIV Services & Education  
 — Volunteers  
 — Non-Profit Organizations  
 \*First 20 words

**INDIVIDUAL RATE \$10:**  
 — Announcements  
 — Auditions  
 — Employment-Seeking  
 — Pets-Free or Lost & Found  
 — Roommates  
 — Personal Web sites

**BUSINESS RATE \$18:**  
 — Auto Repair  
 — Business Opportunities  
 — Entertainment  
 — Help Wanted  
 — Help Wanted-Seeking  
 — Home Improvement  
 — Items For Sale  
 — Licensed Massage  
 — Moving Services  
 — Professional Services  
 — Real Estate For Rent  
 — Real Estate For Sale

Call 713-529-8490 for other categories

**2 WRITE YOUR AD**  
Please print clearly

**CATEGORY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# OF ISSUES:** \_\_\_\_\_

Giant or Bold Headline – Not to exceed 14 characters and spaces

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**3 TOTAL YOUR COST**  
CALL FOR DIRECTORY AD RATES

**INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS**  
Up to 20 words for \$10.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

Up to 20 words: \$10.00  
 Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ x 50¢: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ # of issues  
**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BUSINESS RATE ADS**  
Up to 20 words for \$18.00 per week.

Additional words \_\_\_\_\_ x 75¢ per word (per week): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Subtotal:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \_\_\_\_\_ # of issues  
**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

**EVEN IF IT'S SCARY.**

Free HIV Testing  
Saturday December 1st  
In Honor of World AIDS Day

(World AIDS Day is Saturday, December 1st)

Donald R. Watkins Memorial Foundation  
4900 Fannin Street  
Houston, Texas  
Phone: (713) 528-1748

*Knowing your HIV status has never been easier. The test is free. The results are confidential. And while getting tested can be a little scary, knowing is a source of relief. If you're negative, there are things you can do to stay that way. If you're positive, there are things you can do to stay healthy. Either way, isn't it time you know?*

**Protect yourself and the ones you love.  
Know your HIV status.**

 **Abbott Laboratories**  
Abbott Park, IL 60064

Provided as a service of Abbott Laboratories  
Committed to HIV/AIDS care, education, and research.  
[www.abbott.com](http://www.abbott.com)

# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

Nov. 23-29



**ARIES (March 21 to April 20)**

Mars and Uranus conjunct in your friendship house could make you want to fight with your friends for no reason. Perhaps you are just testing your toughness on people who let you act out! A Leo will only take so much of your b.s., darling.



**TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)**

Saturn's conjunction to the moon in your money house at month's end could make you a little emotional about finances. Create a new budget for yourself and you'll feel more in control. Let a Cancer take you out to dinner.



**GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)**

You may have to put your career on the back burner, babe, as you shift into red-hot love mode. Spend extra time with an Aries and you'll feel like the hot-blooded whore you used to be.



**CANCER (June 22 to July 22)**

Several planets in your sixth house of body issues in late November and early December could make you want to lead a more physical life. Options? (1) More time at the gym. (2) Quit your office gig. (3) Knock boots with an energetic Aquarius.



**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)**

Mars and Uranus are stirring up trouble in your house of love and making you a little more impulsive than usual. If you have to act like a total (nonviolent) psycho with a Gemini - so be it! Sometimes you need to be a wild animal, Leo.



**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)**

The full moon falls at the top of your chart on Nov. 30 and could bring you more fame than you know how to handle, darling. Deal it with, dear, deal with it! An Aries thinks your power is an aphrodisiac.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)**

Venus in your second house of money could bring you luck when it comes to suitors and holiday gifts - buying and receiving. A Sag wants to end up in your stocking - and you may not be sure whether you should fight or flee. Try the former, honey. It will lead to fun and then to forever with a Taurus.



**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)**

Concentrate on the tangible things in life. Those are the things you can count on. Save the mystical searches for early 2002. Let the metaphysical part of your psyche sit and simmer. A Cancer can stand to cool her heels too.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)**

Focus your energy where it counts, Sag. This is the time to be a big-picture person. Please avoid the urge to be petty. A Capricorn knows you are more generous than that.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)**

Mars and Uranus in your money house could make this an unpredictable time for your finances. It's up to you to keep your cool, even under the most bizarre circumstances. It'll all even out by Chanukah. A Virgo feels your pain.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)**

You definitely are putting out electric energy this week. Try not to sleep with everyone who crosses your path. Leave 'em wanting more. A Libra won't give up on you, baby.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)**

Venus is transiting your house of travel. Take a day trip and you may meet a very trippy and transformational Scorpio. Adventure is all around you. Grab some, you dreamy thing. Reach out and touch or be touched by someone.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

# Holiday Gift Guide



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Don't be Alone for the Holidays!  
Stress Management for Women Only!



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## SPECIAL HOLIDAY RATES AND SIZES

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pager 281-722-3403 • wfaulkner@houstonvoice.com

Answer to Puzzle on Page 24

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*a fondue restaurant*

Dip into something different.<sup>SM</sup>

The Melting Pot, Houston's only fondue restaurant has been voted one of Houston's "Most Romantic Dining Experiences." Come join us for a unique and intimate dining experience in a casual but comfortable environment. We offer a wide variety of entrees as well as our wonderful cheese appetizers, but don't forget our chocolate desserts that have made us famous! We are now featuring the ultimate in dining pleasures.

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