

houston voice

A challenge to the state's anti-gay sodomy law went to court, a lesbian politician took her second term in office and a gay man was appointed municipal judge—a recap of news from metro Houston. Page 3.

And from Paul Hope to Simone Cunningham, Cher, Rufus Wainwright, Scott Wolf and Donna Garrett, see what local artists and national celebrities told us during interviews in 1999. Page 15

1999

year in review

ISSUE 1001

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DECEMBER 31, 1999



'Our' decade brings dramatic change • Page 12



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Issue 1001

houston voice

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AROUND HOUSTON 1999

January

'Good chance' of winning sodomy appeal

A two-pronged legal argument may be enough to convince a Texas appellate court to strike down the state's 119-year-old sodomy law, according to an attorney representing two men recently charged under the statute. Tyrone Garner, 31, and John Geddes Lawrence, 55, stand a "good chance of winning" their appeal to one of two state appellate courts, but if they don't, their legal team will take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, said Mitchell Katine, a Houston attorney representing the two men. Sheriff's deputies arrested Garner and Lawrence Sept. 17 as the two men were allegedly engaged in consensual sex in Lawrence's second-floor apartment in northeast Harris County. Authorities entered the apartment after a report of an armed intruder inside.

Texas is one of five states with a sodomy law that bans sex only between same-sex partners; 12 other states ban oral and anal sex for same- or different-sex couples. The state's sodomy law makes gay anal or oral sex a class C misdemeanor punishable with a fine of up to \$500. Gay men and lesbians have tried for years to invalidate the law, which was a felony until 1974. But with no defendant in a criminal case, efforts to strike the law have met with mixed success.

Bush supports adoption ban for gays

Popular Texas Gov. George W. Bush, a possible Republican presidential candidate in 2000, would sign into law legislation banning gays from adopting children or serving as foster parents, a top aide said. Two conservative state lawmakers filed bills last month seeking to keep gays from adopting or becoming foster parents. If either of the bills were passed during the Legislature, which opened Jan. 12, Bush would sign the measures, said Terral Smith, the governor's legislative liaison, according to a report in the Jan. 21 *Houston Press*.

February

Two gay men slain in Texas City

Two gay men in Texas City were brutally shot to death and burned Jan. 17 in the city's first double homicide in more than 25 years. Investigators have combed gay bars, collected mounds of forensic evidence and interviewed more than two dozen people since friends Laaron "Larry" Morris, 28, and Kevin Tryals, 30, were discovered by police early on Jan. 17 as they responded to reports of smoke near Loop 197 South. Police have yet to say what motivated the killings, or if they were hate related. And the shocking crime has received a muted reaction from gay rights activists in Houston and across Texas.



An estimated 7,000 people crowded the south steps of the Texas Capitol in March to rally against anti-gay adoption proposals before the state Legislature.

March

Thousands of gay men and lesbians from across Texas rally

Some 7,000 gay and gay-friendly marchers came together in Austin in what was one of the largest events of Equality Begins at Home, a week-long series of 250 actions in all 50 states this week. The two-hour rally and march came as part of a three-day series of events in Texas spurred by a handful of anti-gay legislative proposals and a measure that would expand and toughen the state's hate crime law, in part by including sexual orientation.

First openly-gay municipal court judge in Houston confirmed

John Paul Barnich, 53, longtime community activist and lawyer was unanimously confirmed by city council, March 24, becoming the city's first openly-gay municipal court judge. He will serve a two-year term and will judge class C misdemeanors, such as traffic tickets. He was nominated to the post by Mayor Lee Brown.

April

TV Montrose signs off after months on 'life support'

TV Montrose is going off the air. After months of being on life-support, show producers are reluctantly pulling the plug citing financial and community concerns. Producers Steve Baker and Russell Byrd had been hoping to give the 16-month-old program a new lease on life by hooking up with a Dallas producer. It was hoped the collaboration would work to create a statewide news program called Out TV. But the marriage didn't stick.

May

Hate crime legislation dies in Texas

The Texas House gave initial approval on April 27 to a hate crimes bill that would toughen penalties for crimes that target Texans because of their race, "sexual preference," and religion. Passage was secured by expanding the bill's coverage to discrimination based on "sexual preference,"

"age," and "pregnant women." One supporter, GOP state Rep. Pat Haggerty, told colleagues that the dispute wasn't a partisan or racial fight. "This bill even covers white male Republicans," he said. Even then, the 83-61 vote was neither overwhelming nor final. But the bill died May 14 in the state senate, where supporters said Texas Gov. George W. Bush privately urged Republicans to kill it.

June

Man awarded \$7.3 million in same-sex harassment case

An El Paso jury awarded \$7.3 million to a Dillard's employee who claimed his male supervisor sexually harassed him. In a unanimous decision, the six men and six women of the jury voted, May 20, to award \$5 million in punitive damages and \$2.3 million in actual damages. In addition to a sexual harassment claim, the case also included a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress. Spurgin said settlement negotiations are "ongoing," but if they fail, an appeal by Dillard's is likely. If a settlement is reached, the amount awarded to Gonzales will likely be lowered.

Tens of thousands pack Montrose for annual Pride parade

Pride, power and pizzazz was the theme of the 21st annual Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade held in the heart of Montrose. And there was plenty of all three P's. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and families and friends came out in force to show their pride and growing power. This year's parade, the only nighttime parade in Houston, was the largest yet with over 120 floats and an estimated 85,000 spectators.

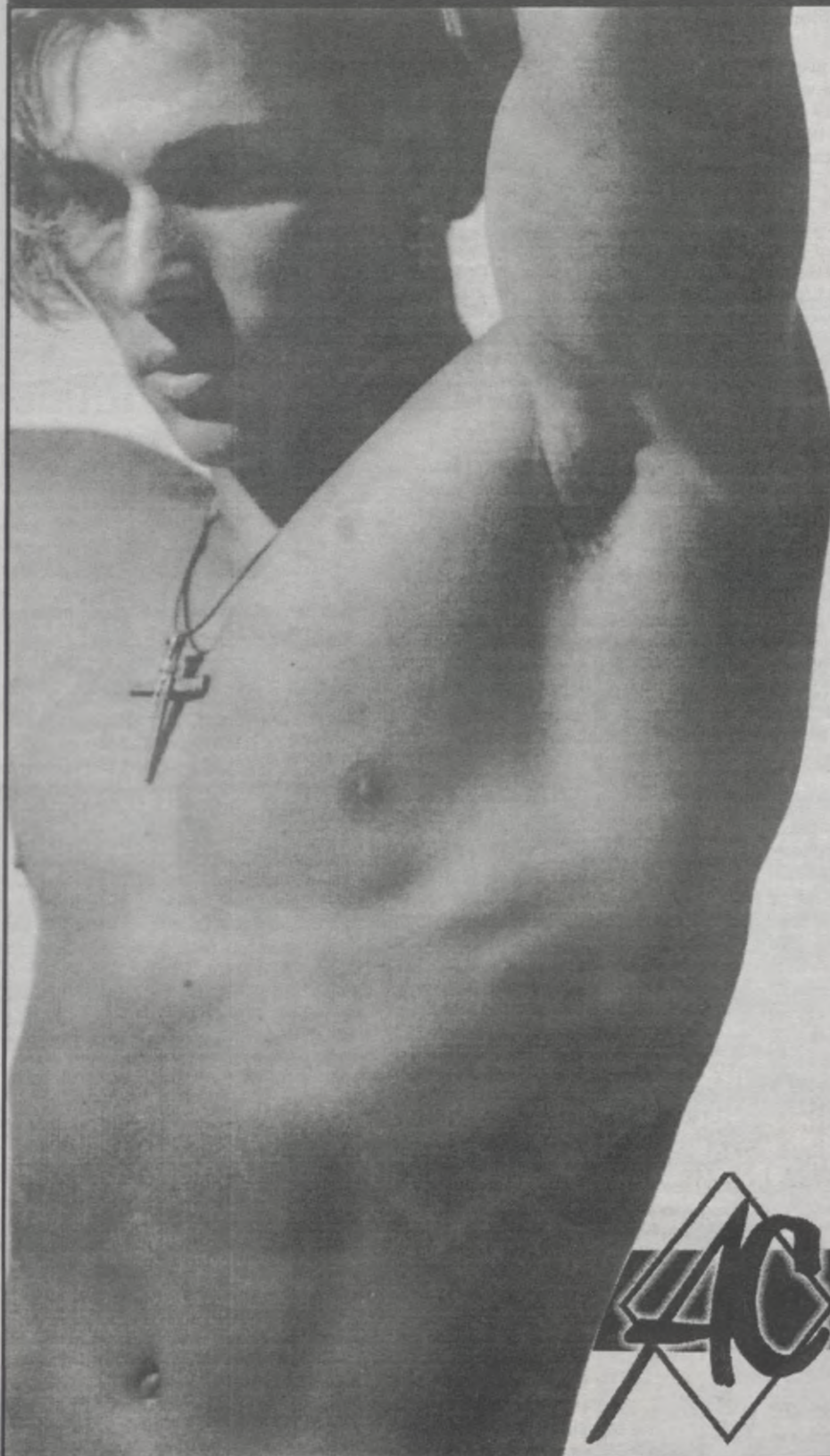
July

Caucus votes to include transgendered in mission statement

In an effort toward inclusion, members of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus unanimously voted July 7 to include bisexuals and transgendered in their

> Continued on Page 7

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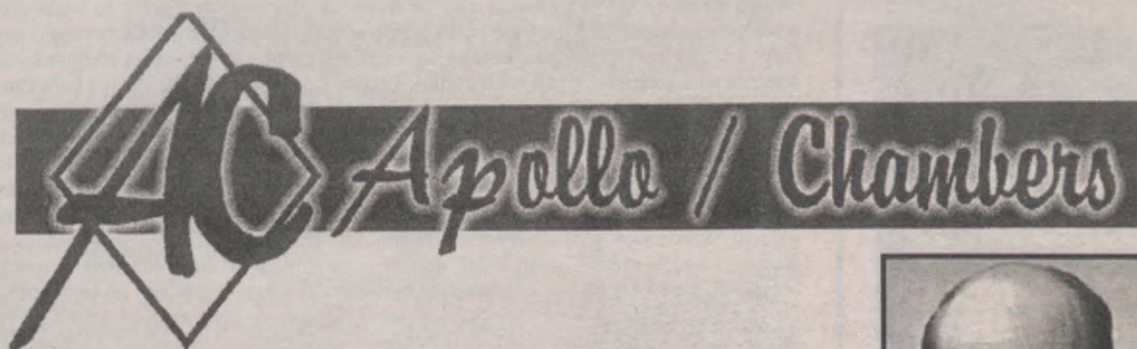
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Around the South

Two gay men convicted of fraud through Texas AIDS agency

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—A federal jury found a man and his seven-year life partner guilty of more than 70 fraud charges Dec. 22, including charging AIDS patients rent while receiving money for them to reside at an AIDS center and redistributing dead clients' medications. David Crader, former South Plains AIDS Resource Center executive director, and Gerald Eckert, a former care coordinator at the facility, each face up to 1,000 years in prison and a \$32 million fine. A third man was also charged in the same crimes, Jeff Echols died prior to the trial. Crader founded the center in 1988 from his living room, originally providing AIDS information and food to those in need. Among the allegations against the pair is that they defrauded the Social Security Administration by paying salaries to "phantom employees" instead of actual ones in an effort to prevent them from losing disability benefits. Maxine Schoenrock, once a friend of Crader's, said he told her in 1990 that he had tested positive for HIV, and that over the next four years she gave him more than \$15,000 for AIDS-related medication, doctor visits and tests. Last week, Crader told the court he was not HIV-positive. U.S. Attorney William Mateja warned the jury, "This is not a Robin Hood situation... what the defendants were doing was stealing from the poor and taking this money and doing whatever they wanted to do."

Texas Instruments to offer DP benefits to employees in 2000

DALLAS—Texas Instruments is the latest Fortune 500 company to authorize domestic partner benefits, officials said, in an attempt to keep its edge in the competition for qualified employees, the *Dallas Voice* reported Dec. 24. "We made this change for the same reason that we make any other changes in our benefits, to stay competitive with other companies in the industry," said Tegu Pulley, vice president for staffing and diversity issues. The benefits have been offered to heterosexual employees in common-law marriages for some time, Pulley said. The change will not be implemented until sometime in 2000, she added. She said TI would not require employees signing up for domestic partner benefits to submit any kind of legal documents or affidavits as proof of the status of their relationships. "If an employee wants to add a child to their insurance, we don't ask them to show us a birth certificate," said Pulley. "It's all part of trusting our employees."



Texas Instruments is the latest Fortune 500 company to add same-sex DP benefits, and a spokesman said TI won't require employees to submit documents to prove the relationship.

Gay center issues guides on avoiding public sex arrests

SAN ANTONIO—Gay activists have followed up a travel advisory they issued earlier this month with a wallet card intended to help protect gay men from alleged abuses by local law enforcement, according to the *Dallas Voice*. A pocket-sized "Survival Guide" is a continuing effort by the San Antonio Gay and Lesbian Community Center to warn about undercover operations in the city's parks, which some gay activist say unfairly targets gays. Since 1997, more than 500 people have been arrested on misdemeanor sex charges by San Antonio park rangers. "You'll see that [the Survival Guide] advises the kind of behavior to keep you from being arrested in many cases, in addition to suggestions that will preserve your constitutional rights," said Michael McGowan, the community center's executive director. Ron Smudy, assistant director of operations for the Parks and Recreation Department said that law-abiding citizens have nothing to worry about. "We told [McGowan] that we welcome anyone in our parks. We say that if they break the law, then we will have to react to it. That's the bottom line." The controversy over the undercover program, which sometimes includes notifying employers of those arrested, prompted Mayor Howard Peak to call for a meeting between city officials and gay leaders during a recent radio talk show.

Baton Rouge gay student group on hold as district drafts policy

BATON ROUGE—A student's request to start a gay-straight alliance chapter has been denied, and the school district says it will not approve any more clubs until it can draft a written policy, the *Baton Rouge Advocate* reported Dec. 23. Martin Pfeiffer, a McKinley High School senior, said he has endured name-calling and social harassment ever since middle school. He is openly gay, but classmates ridiculed him before Pfeiffer even realized he was gay. When McKinley Principal Almenia Warren denied him permission to start the club, Pfeiffer asked to see the policy they were enforcing. Schools Superintendent Gary Mathews acknowledged in a letter to Pfeiffer that school system administrators have fallen short in guiding schools on such matters, and suspended all requests to start clubs until a policy is drafted. "It prompted us to say, 'Good point. We don't have a policy,'" said Assistant Superintendent Don Mercer. "I don't think we can have a policy that everyone can meet except this club."

—From staff and wire reports

1999
 year in review

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> Continued from Page 3

mission statement. "It shows that in Houston we are moving along with the national trend towards inclusion," said caucus president Carl Smith. Longtime transgender activist Phyllis Randolph Frye said the unanimous vote was in a word, "glorious." She said her quest for inclusion in the caucus began over nine years ago, and members wouldn't even discuss the issue.

Mayor, police chief decry Gay bar 'inspections' during Pride

Inspection of Houston gay bars should not be done during Gay Pride celebrations, Police Chief C.O. Bradford ruled following his internal investigation as to why three popular gay nightclubs were inspected June 24. He called the inspections of JR's, 611 Hyde Park and Cousins "inexcusable." One of the bars was inspected twice in one evening. Mayor Lee Brown said he has concerns the inspections were not better handled between the two agencies conducting them—HPD and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC).

August

Texas court tells mother she can't take daughter to gay church

A Texas court ruled in a custody case that a child could only attend a "mainline" church with her lesbian mother. The parents are of different faiths—a Christian

mother and a Jewish father—and part of the divorce proceeding was about determining what faith the child would be raised in. The father objected to the mother's decision to take her child to the predominantly gay Metropolitan Community Church. The Texas Court of Appeals agreed with the father, holding that only "mainline churches would be utilized by the parties for the religious training of the child," and listing which Protestant denominations qualify as "mainline."

September

Black community declares HIV state of emergency

African-Americans in Houston are fighting back against the number one killer of its youth—AIDS. According to data from the national HIV Prevention Conference held this month in Atlanta, AIDS is now the number one killer of young blacks in America, moreover, death rates in the African-American community are 10 times those in the white population. Locally, the statistics are equally as sobering. Increased publicity within the black community about HIV/AIDS has prompted some progressive African-American civic leaders in to call for action. The prevalence of infection rates in this community is now being discussed in the press, via presentations in front of political leaders and in the organization of a town hall meeting.

October

Gay business expo draws record crowds

Some 5,000 people attended EMPOWER '99 at the George R. Brown Convention Center, setting a record attendance and helping the event meet most of its goals this year, organizers said. A church service organized by a handful of gay and gay-friendly churches—including Bering United Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Interfaith Ministries, Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection and Maranatha Fellowship MCC—closed the day-long event. "They did a wonderful service of health and wholeness," said Coy Tow, an EMPOWER organizer. "They had a wonderful procession with all their banners down the middle aisle at the end of the day. It was a wonderful way to end a day of celebration. The whole day was truly like a festival."

November

Open lesbian wins second term on city council

Houston's first openly lesbian city council member easily defeated her challenger on Election Day, but three gay men hoping to join Annise Parker on the council failed to make it into the run-offs that will decide their races. Parker was among a handful of gay and lesbian candidates that did well in elections this week across the country. "Although I had anticipated the win, I'm glad to have job security for the next two years," Parker said. "I'm very glad the election is over."



Annise Parker, Houston's first openly lesbian city councilwoman, was elected to a second, two-year term in November.

Jury awards former dental professor \$448,000 in harassment suit

Former dental professor Luis Mota was awarded \$448,000 on Nov. 8 after a federal jury found that he was sexually harassed by the man who was at the time the acting dean of his department. The jury also found that Mota's employer, the University of Texas Houston Health Science Center, failed to take prompt action to stop the harassment, then retaliated against Mota by firing him when he com-

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Around the Nation

Dayton rejects gay rights bill; Lakewood considering DP benefits

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—City leaders on Dec. 22 refused to change Dayton's anti-discrimination law to protect gay men and lesbians in employment and housing. More than 40 people spoke before the city commission voted 4-1 to remove Commission member Mary Wiseman's proposal from the calendar, effectively killing the proposal for now. After the vote, the commission unanimously approved an informal resolution stating that it does not condone discrimination against any group, including gays, and opposes any attempt to deny gays their rights. Meanwhile in Lakewood, a Cleveland suburb, the city council is considering providing unmarried partners of city employees, including same-sex couples, with the same benefits as married couples. A council vote could come as early as Jan. 17.



Dayton City Commission
member Mary Wiseman.

Washington, N.Y. schools sued over anti-gay harassment

SPOKANE, WASH.—School officials in two states have been sued by students who charge that they were harassed for being gay, or for having gay family members. In Spokane, Wash., two brothers—one who other students thought was gay, and one who was taunted because of his brother's reputed sexual orientation—have sued for unspecified damages, charging that the actions the school district took "only increased the harassment to both children." The younger brother says he is not gay, "but it doesn't matter if you're homosexual or heterosexual," said Sheryl Phillabaum, the family's lawyer. "It's still not okay to be called those derogatory names."

Meanwhile, in Sand Lake, N.Y., the mother of a student who dropped out of high school because of verbal and physical abuse from classmates is suing the school district and the Board of Education, the Albany Times Union reported Dec. 22. The 17-year-old boy dropped out of school in April after years of almost daily mocking, ridicule and torment. In a letter to Averill Park Central Schools Superintendent Michael Johnson, attorney Richard L. DiMaggio wrote: "The viciousness of the student body is no worse than the deaf ear your faculty has turned on [him]."

Judge delays ruling in school's bid to dismiss DP suit

PITTSBURGH—A judge withheld his ruling until at least Jan. 12 on the University of Pittsburgh's latest attempt to kill a four-year-old same-sex benefits case, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported Dec. 22. Pitt asked Common Pleas Judge Robert C. Gallo to dismiss seven current and former workers' complaints that the university discriminated against gay and lesbian employees in denying health care coverage to their same-sex domestic partners. The university is arguing that the Pittsburgh City Council had no authority to enact anti-discrimination protection for gay and lesbian citizens. In November, Pennsylvania passed a law that sought to exempt state and state-related universities from any local ordinance that might require them to provide same-sex benefits.

Judge denies eval for 12-year-old who had sex with HIV+ man

COLORADO SPRINGS (AP)—A 12-year-old boy will not have to undergo a psychiatric evaluation as part of an HIV-positive man's defense against an attempted manslaughter charge. Defense attorneys for Anthony Dembry, 32, contend the boy may be gay and initiated the sex that led to the charge. Dembry signed a confession admitting to sodomizing the boy Feb. 17. In his confession, Dembry said the boy "wanted me to make love to him, and I did." Dembry's defense attorney Pat Behan said a psychiatric evaluation would help jurors grasp the victim's mental state and provide insight into whether the sex was consensual. But Judge Thomas Kennedy denied that request Friday. "I don't want to try a 12-year-old boy in this courtroom when he is the victim," Kennedy said. Prosecutors charged Dembry with attempted manslaughter, claiming he knew of his HIV diagnosis at the time of the alleged assault.

Wyoming school allows anti-gay program as 'counterbalance'

CASPER, Wyo. (AP)—A Casper College instructor who believes homosexuality is wrong will be allowed to give presentations on campus supporting his ideas, the Casper Star Tribune reported Dec. 13. Mike Keogh said his prospective program, "Anchor," will provide a counterbalance to the school's "Safe Zone" program. The school offers one-hour training Safe Zone sessions on a voluntary basis to college employees about two or three times a year. The proposed counterbalance to Safe Zone characterizes homosexuals as "sexual deviants" who may try to seduce others into a "homosexual lifestyle." It was presented to Casper College President Leroy Strausner in 1998. The college has agreed to allow Keogh, a photography instructor, to use campus facilities to present his views, although it does not endorse the program. "A college should be a bastion of thought," said Strausner. "People should disagree but without being disagreeable." Keogh said his anti-gay stance would not affect his relationships with those students in his classes who are gay or who oppose his views.

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➤ Continued from Page 7

plained to officials. Sexual harassment suits involving two gay men are rare because judges typically dismiss the cases as simple horseplay, legal observers noted.

Transsexual can't marry man, Texas court rules

A transsexual who transitioned from male to female remains legally a man, despite having completed sex reassignment surgery, a Texas court ruled late last month. Christie Lee Littleton, a male-to-female transsexual, married Jonathon Mark Littleton in 1989, a decade after completing sex reassignment surgery, according to court documents. Littleton sued Dr. Mark Prange for medical malpractice after her husband died in 1996. Prange's attorneys argued that Christie Littleton did not have standing to bring the lawsuit, because she remained a man and therefore could not qualify as Mark Littleton's "surviving spouse." A Texas district court agreed, and Littleton appealed the ruling to the 4th Court of Appeals in San Antonio. The three-member panel of the appeals court upheld the lower court's decision on Oct. 27, ruling 3-2 that chromosomes—not genitalia, outward appearance, or even legal documents like a birth certificate—determine gender.

Ministering in the suburbs

An openly gay rookie minister with

experience in caring for people with AIDS has found an unlikely home—a small church in suburban Houston in Fort Bend County. Rev. Bill Clark began his duties as the first full-time minister of Henry David Thoreau Unitarian Universalists Congregation in Stafford in September. Since then, the 80 or so members of the congregation have been nothing but supportive, Clark said.

Texas sodomy appeal moves forward

The 14-month-old legal battle of two men against the state's ban on gay sex continued in a packed courtroom, marking the next step in what legal experts have called one of the strongest fights yet against the 120-year-old sodomy law. And when Tyrone Garner, 32, and John Geddes Lawrence, 56, walked into the 14th Court of Appeals with a team of attorneys, it started the second challenge in three days to sodomy laws in two Southern states. "In 1999, it's too late in the day to say we can draw a line that discriminates along sexual orientation," Ruth Harlow, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, told the three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals. "It's too late in the day to deny the right to privacy between two consenting adults." Harlow told the Appeals Court the state ban on gay sodomy is

unconstitutional and violates privacy rights.

December

Mayor declares 'AIDS emergency'

Houston Mayor Lee Brown marked World AIDS Day Wednesday by announcing a nearly five-year, \$3 million effort to battle a growing AIDS epidemic in the city's black community. Brown was flanked by local elected officials, AIDS activists and service providers in declaring a state of emergency in Houston's black community over AIDS, two weeks after the Ryan White Planning Council, the area's leading funding source for AIDS care, criticized Brown for not speaking out on the issue.

City health officials had repeatedly said they first wanted to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing startling new statistics that show 61 percent of new HIV infections in the Houston area this year are among African-Americans.

Texas activist takes new role with Millennium March

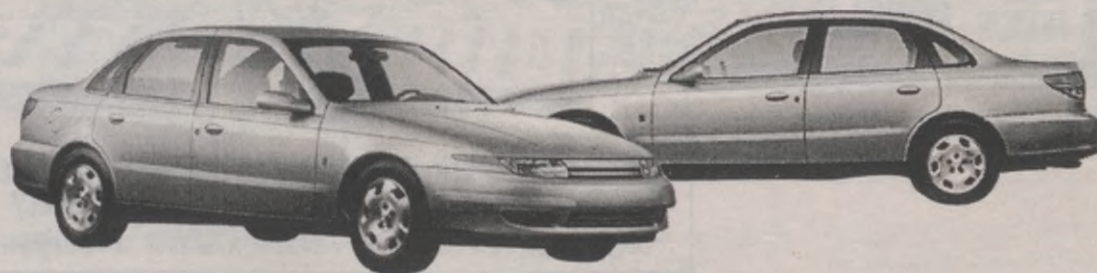
After two years of planning, the departure of its founder and numerous attacks on the way it is being planned, details of the Millennium March on



Producers Steve Baker (above) and Russell Byrd made the difficult decision to close down TV Montrose in April.

Washington planned for April 30 are finally becoming clear. The march's new vision is largely due to the work of Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL). She has taken over as co-executive director of the march and is running the event's Washington D.C. office. As executive director of a large and powerful statewide gay and lesbian organization, Hardy-Garcia has become one of the most vocal and influential activists in Texas.

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1999 year in review

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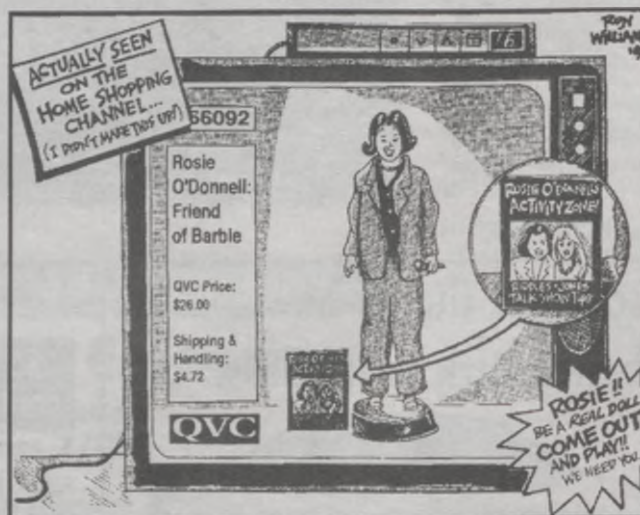
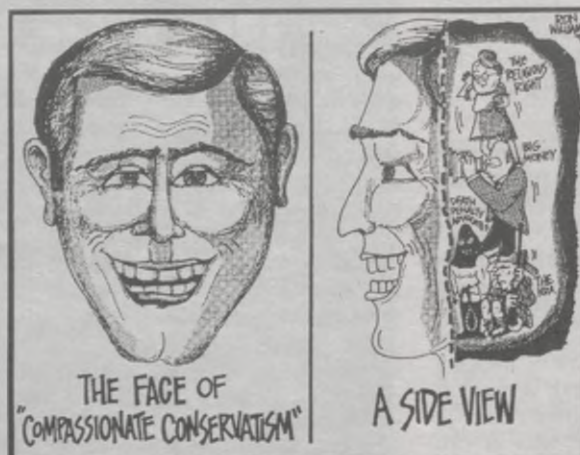
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The year according to cartoonist Ron Williams





VIEWPOINT

Only baby steps forward for lesbians in 1999

by JENNIFER VANASCO

The last year of the decade wasn't a banner one for lesbians and bisexual women. It came with no major breakthroughs—no lesbians declaring a run for the presidency, no laws passed that would unambiguously make our lives easier, no major public figure coming out and changing the world.

Yet change is often brought about in small ways, and this year highlighted many individual women and organizations slowly pushing the lives of lesbians and bisexual women forward—or backwards, as in the case of Donna Brazile.

Debra Chasnoff

Academy-Award winning documentary producer Debra Chasnoff crossed a major hurdle this year. Her 1996 documentary "It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in Schools," was aired on 100 of the 347 total PBS stations nationwide, despite demonstrations and a write-in campaign from opposition groups.

"It's Elementary" has also been distributed to 2,000 educational institutions and, thanks to a \$10,000 grant from tennis legend Billie Jean King, was made available to every principal in the Chicago public school system.

NOW Lesbian Rights Summit

Eleven years after the last one, NOW hosted a Lesbian Rights Summit in Washington, D.C. Speakers included Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, NOW President Patricia Ireland and Urvashi Vaid of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. Though the April gathering garnered little press coverage, the

conference reminds us all that lesbians gather to talk about our rights all too infrequently.

Lesbian Herstory Archives

One of our community's best sources of history, the Lesbian Herstory Archives, based in Brooklyn, N.Y., celebrated its 25th anniversary in October. What began with an armful of books from the personal collection of Joan Nestle and Deborah Edel has grown to 20,000 books, 12,000 photographs, miles of film and video footage and hundreds of artifacts. There's no better place to soak in the weight of our history.

Lesbian moms

Battles over parental rights were fought on several fronts this year. In the case of J.A.L. vs. E.P.H., a Pennsylvania lesbian sued the birth-mother of their child for visitation rights—and lost. The family court judge, Allan L. Tereshko, said his ruling was not anti-gay, but based on the limited amount of full-time parenting J.A.L. had done.

This was different from a Colorado ruling, in which the court ordered Kelly Cunningham and Leanne Bueker to split custody of their 9-year-old daughter, even though they now reside in separate states. The non-biological mom in a New Jersey divorcing lesbian couple, meanwhile, won visitation rights but not joint custody.

In Boulder, Colo., a judge was the first to give lesbians full rights over their children when he awarded full parental rights to both members of a lesbian couple, including the right to both be named on the birth certificate, even though one had no biological ties to the child.

And, in a move that affected both gay

male and lesbian parents, New Hampshire lifted that state's anti-gay adoption ban, leaving only Florida with a law prohibiting gay adoption. But then Utah and Arkansas went the opposite way, adopting a policy to ban unmarried couples from providing foster care.

Melissa Etheridge

After a long, four-year wait, our favorite lesbian rocker Melissa Etheridge released a new album, "Breakdown," which features a heart-wrenching song called "Scarecrow" about the hate murder of Matthew Shepard. Etheridge is more than a musical role model; her long-term relationship with Julie Cypher and her commitment to her two sons make her a light within our community.

Donna Brazile

The reticent Donna Brazile, formerly on the board of the Millennium March and chosen in October as Al Gore's campaign manager, has continually sidestepped the issue of whether she is a lesbian or bisexual. "If I had a personal life, I'd have a sexual orientation," she told the Washington Post. Gore seems proud of the fact that she's an African-American, so why shouldn't he be highlighting her (presumably gay) sexual orientation, too? We can only hope that Brazile's silence is not used as the model for lesbian political appointees of the next decade.

**World Cup Soccer**

Women's sports had never seen anything like the hoopla surrounding the U.S. women's World Cup champions. More than 650,000 people attended the 32 games, according to Sports Illustrated for Women, making the tournament the largest women's sporting event in history.

All the attention, though, brought lesbians some internal conflict. Sure, the women on the team weren't being dismissed as "dykes," as so many female athletes have been in the past. But was it worth it, when they were sold as "babes" or "soccer mamas" instead?

Samantha Geller

"Life Versus the Paperback Romance," by 17-year-old lesbian Samantha Geller, was selected as one of the five best plays submitted for the Charlotte Young Playwrights Festival. What a shock it must have been to Geller, then, when her play was banned from production by the North Carolina festival due to "inappropriate" lesbian content—a kiss, as it turns out.

Happily, the Great Aunt Stella Center staged the production. Geller's experience serves as a reminder that even in more "liberal" fields like theater, we still can be silenced.

On a more hopeful note, we can be proud that a 17-year-old lesbian would feel enough self-confidence to write a play about lesbians for a state contest. If any event this year showed we should have faith in the future, this was it.

Jennifer Vanasco is a Chicago-based freelance writer and can be reached at j-vanasco@uchicago.edu or in care of this publication.

Transphobic code speak

To the Editor:

Michael Alvear is fooling no one ("Log Cabin Republicans play the civil rights doormat," Dec. 17). "Perpetual victimhood over incremental victory" is just more code speak for transphobia by a known transphobe. Alvear needs to go join Log Cabin Republicans—he has more in common with them than he thinks.

Katrina Rose
via e-mail

Public places

To the Editor:

I read the article on the arrest of so many gay men in the parks in San Antonio ("Weapon of Homophobia?" Dec. 17). and thought it was an insult to the general gay population. My first thought was, "Give me a break." Every time a gay man does some-

thing that he shouldn't and gets into trouble, there is an outcry of injustice. Please.

There are places that gay men can go to if they want to exhibit that kind of behavior. But that place is not in a public park, where children and families are present. Take it someplace else guys.

Paul Couch
Houston

Neither apologists nor cheerleaders

To the Editor:

Michael Alvear's column was based on the premise that the Georgia Log Cabin Republicans are unprincipled ("Log Cabin Republicans play the civil rights doormat," Dec. 17). This is totally unfounded. We do hold Republican candidates, elected and party officials, accountable on the gay issues our members support and have done so repeatedly, publicly. First we seek to educate them, privately. Where we cannot agree,

Georgia LCR states so for the record. We are neither apologists nor cheerleaders for the GOP, but we are a partisan political group. Our role and approach are different from a community activist organization.

What Alvear apparently fails to realize is that our agenda is not that of the gay left, of other state or local LCR clubs, nor even of the LCR national office. Generally, Republicans choose the rights of individuals over the rights of groups. We will not be coerced by anyone to take positions deemed correct by the collective gay community. It is a diverse community, even in political matters.

Finally, Alvear's characterization of the

September fund-raiser chaired by me for Gov. George W. Bush's presidential campaign and attended by Senator Paul Coverdell, a national co-chairman of Bush's campaign, as a Log Cabin event is also wrong. No more than five of the 80-plus attendees are now or ever have been LCR members. This event was held prior to George W. Bush's foolishness regarding gays and LCR. He is wrong now to say that he will not appoint openly gay people to his administration and wrong not to meet with LCR.

Michael Brown
President

Log Cabin Republicans Georgia



Let us know what you think

Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Names may be withheld upon request, but submissions must include a name and phone number for verification.

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The Gay '90s: 'Our' decade brings dramatic change

by LAURA BROWN

Despite some disappointments and setbacks along the way, the decade fulfilled its promise of being the gay '90s—with dramatic changes that could not have even been envisioned 10 years ago, leaders of several national gay organizations said this week.

Perhaps the greatest change has come in the treatment of HIV and AIDS, and the subsequent social changes as many of those affected by the virus adjusted to living, rather than quickly dying, with the disease. AIDS dominated many aspects of organized gay life in the 1980s and early 1990s, as countless friends and lovers succumbed to the disease and organizations, many gay-led, offered care to the dying and comfort to the bereaved.

Out of the abject loss also rose a new political spirit—a spirit born of the activist ACT UP mantra, "Silence equals Death"—that brought gay men and lesbians into the streets time and again, first to fight for better funding and access to HIV treatment, then for other gay rights issues as groups like Queer Nation formed chapters around the country based on ACT UP's grassroots model.

But the face of AIDS, and many AIDS organizations, changed dramatically in the mid-1990s, when protease inhibitors became available to treat the disease. Taken as part of complicated medicine regimen dubbed "drug cocktails," protease inhibitors offered



The brutal October 1998 killing of college student Matthew Shepard was covered more extensively in the general press than any other anti-gay crime and exposed the fears of gays to the rest of the world.

the first real hope of significantly prolonging the lives of those with HIV. Death rates began dropping and headlines filled with stories of those who appeared to have been literally resurrected from the grave.

In the wake of the renewed hope, many AIDS groups found themselves restructur-

ing to focus on managing life with HIV, rather than mostly on hospice and other care for the dying. Agencies, many formed and led by gay men in the beginning of the epidemic, also struggled to target their outreach and programs to people of color and women, as HIV began spreading most rapidly in these populations.

Further study soon proved that protease inhibitors were no miracle cure: Some patients did not respond to the drugs, developed serious side effects, or were unable to adhere to the complicated dosing schedules, developing drug-resistant strains of HIV and sparking fears of a new epidemic.

But the success of the new treatments for many offered breathing room to activists focusing on other gay rights causes, and the later years of the decade offered victories that would have seemed impossible 10 years earlier.

To be certain, major battles remain to be won—as in 1989, the U.S. still has no federal law banning job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, no federal law recognizing the rights of same sex couples and no law allowing federal intervention in anti-gay hate crimes.

Yet an unprecedented level of visibility in this decade has led to advances in the fights for each of these, as well as myriad other changes, both in public policies and private opinions, which many say will pave the way to larger victories to come.

The U.S. Senate fell only one vote short of passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to ban anti-gay job discrimination in 1996, and a bill to add sexual orientation to federal hate crimes laws passed the Senate in 1999 attached to a spending bill, although it was cut from the final version of the bill.

Meanwhile, gay lobbyists and their Congressional supporters battled back numerous anti-gay bills and amendments during the heyday of Newt Gingrich's "Republican revolution," including a measure that would have overturned President Clinton's executive order banning sexual orientation discrimination in the federal civilian work force.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell"—the 1993 "compromise" bill that banned gays from serving openly in the military while supposedly protecting them from witch hunts—and the "Defense of Marriage Act," which banned federal recognition of same-sex marriages, were the only major anti-gay bills to pass Congress in the 1990s, despite repeated pressure from right-wing organizations.

Still, "the single greatest accomplishment of the '90s was not legislative," said Wayne Besen, spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, the national gay rights lobbying group. "Before the 1990s, when you heard coming out stories, they always began with, 'I thought I was the only one,' and you don't hear that anymore."

"In the 1990s, we blew the door off the closet. ... Even though someone might not know another gay person in their small hometown, they know there are role models out there, and they know there are places they can go and be safe."

The historic efforts of this decade created

numerous markers of how far we've come, from the growing attention to gay rights issues in the current presidential campaign to local victories ranging from more openly gay politicians, and an increasing number of local and state governments banning anti-gay job discrimination and even providing domestic partner benefits.

In addition, gay leaders pointed to the following as key moments of "our" decade:

• Gay youth come out

Gay youth are among the biggest beneficiaries of the role models and safe spaces that emerged in the 1990s, creating an ever-expanding area of civil rights activism that was virtually non-existent until this decade.

"For all practical purposes, there was no movement to end homophobia in schools 10 years ago, and the entire LGBT youth movement was very embryonic," said Kevin Jennings, who founded the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network in 1990 and now serves as its national executive director.

"Ten years ago, gay youth were an issue no one wanted to touch—the gay movement didn't want to give the right-wing the ammunition of us being recruiters, and the mainstream education community didn't believe there were gay students. ... I think there has been a complete sea change, from an issue no one even acknowledged, much less addressed, in 1990 to a front-burner issue now," he said.

Jennings attributed the "sea change" to young people coming out at earlier ages and "demanding to be treated equally," as well as an ever-increasing number of schools recognizing their duty to educate and protect all students.

• Fighting anti-gay tide in court

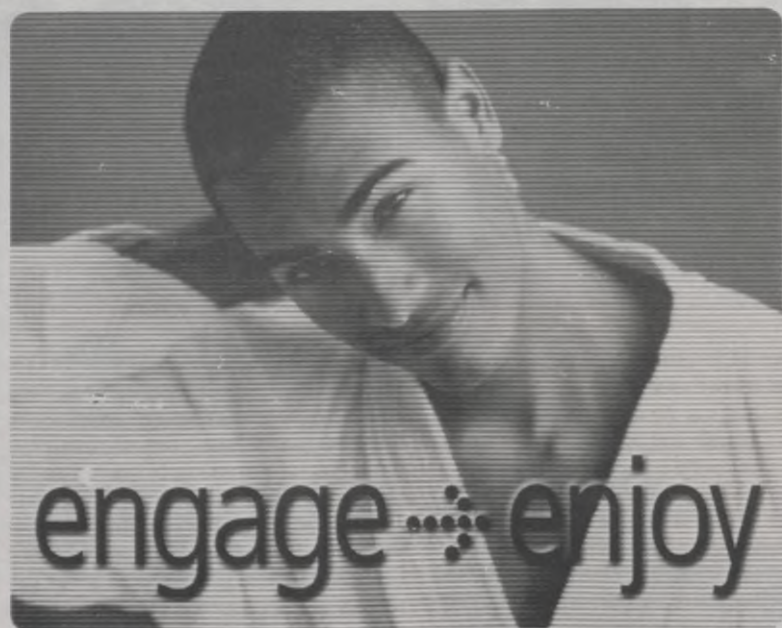
In the face of sometimes hostile school systems and public officials, gay youth joined other gay rights activists in taking their battles to court, resulting in key legal victories that will influence policies for years to come.

In one of several landmark legal decisions of the 1990s, the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 1996 that public schools, and school officials, may be held liable under federal law for failing to address anti-gay abuse of a student by other students.

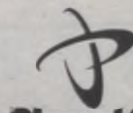
Jamie Nabozny, a student from Wisconsin, sued his school district after enduring years of anti-gay abuse in middle school and high school, and his case offered powerful leverage to gay youth facing discrimination around the country.

"From youth issues, to sodomy laws, anti-gay referenda, family law and custody, marriage, the military, asylum, immigration, employment, HIV issues—from all of these issue areas I can pull out key cases, and it is an amazing thing to me," said Kevin Cathcart, executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Network, the national gay legal group involved in many of the precedent-setting cases of the 1990s.

"There has been dramatic change in the last 10 years, ... and I don't think anyone



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could have predicted either the amount of litigation that has taken place or the range of victories that have occurred over the course of the decade," he said.

Based on breadth and impact, Cathcart picked the 1996 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Romer vs. Evans* as "the highlight of the decade."

In November 1992, Colorado voters passed Amendment 2, which would have repealed all anti-discrimination measures for gays and lesbians statewide. The measure touched off a firestorm of similar attempts in other states, and became a key issue at the 1993 March on Washington.

With the *Romer* case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Amendment 2 unconstitutional, in one of the high court's first pro-gay decisions, deflating many of the efforts to pass copycat legislation in other jurisdictions.

"Up until the time of *Romer*, it looked like we as a community were going to be faced with putting extensive time, energy and money into fighting these bad anti-gay referenda, which was time and energy that could be spent pushing for positive steps," Cathcart said.

Even high profile defeat, like the Hawaii Supreme Court's decision in December 1999 ending hopes for gay marriage there, helped advance the cause of gay rights in the courts by at least bringing the issues to public attention, Cathcart said.

This month's decision by the Vermont Supreme Court that gay couples in that state must receive equal rights is proof of the growing success in that debate, he noted.

• 'Visibility and access'

For many who don't follow politics closely, one of the most tangible moments of gay progress in the decade came in 1997, when Ellen DeGeneres came out on her prime-time television show. The event, hyped in the mainstream media for months in advance, put

gays in America's living rooms as never before, although the show lasted only one season longer.

And while "Ellen" showed mainstream America the daily life of a gay person, the 1998 murder of gay Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard, covered in the general press more extensively than any anti-gay hate crime to date, showed the world our greatest fears.

"I don't think, even as optimistic as we were, that any of us thought we would see the amount of change that has happened in the last 10 years, and the level of progress we have made in terms of visibility and access," recalled Cathy Renna, community relations director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"In the very early 1990s, the only way to get access to the media was through mass protest or picketing," she said. "Now, there is an unbelievable increase in the level of access we have, whether it is Time magazine or one of the TV stations or movie studios."

Like HRC's Besen, Renna said she believes the rise in gay visibility in the media began with "a ground swell of people coming out," especially those involved or interested in journalism.

Increased coverage of gay issues in the news media, in turn, helped change the hearts and minds of those in the public, creating a climate where television producers were willing to take a chance on "Ellen" in 1997.

"What this really shows is the challenge that we now have," Renna said. "The level of media visibility has prompted an enormous amount of public discussion, and now we have to translate that into more legislative victories and institutional victories."

"Now that we have all of this visibility and access, what do we do with it?" she said. "That is the what our community needs to be asking as we head into the next century."

POLITICS

Openly gay elected officials

1991: 49

1999: 180 (including four in Ga.; Atlanta City Council member Cathy Woolard became the state's first in 1997)

YOUTH

U.S. schools with gay-straight alliance clubs

1989: two (both New England private schools)

1999: 600+

MILITARY

Gays discharged from the U.S. military

1994: 617 (first year of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy)

1998: 1,163

MEDIA

Gay lead characters on prime-time TV

1996: zero (Ellen DeGeneres became the first on "Ellen" in 1997)

1999: one (Will on NBC's "Will & Grace"; plus 28 more supporting and recurring characters on cable and broadcast shows)

LEGAL

States with sodomy laws

1990: 25 (plus the District of Columbia)

1999: 16

States with non-discrimination laws that include sexual orientation

1990: one (Wis.)

1999: 11

DOMESTIC PARTNERS

Companies offering domestic partner benefits

1990: 17

1999: about 3,000 (including 80 Fortune 500 companies)

SOURCES

Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Human Rights Campaign.



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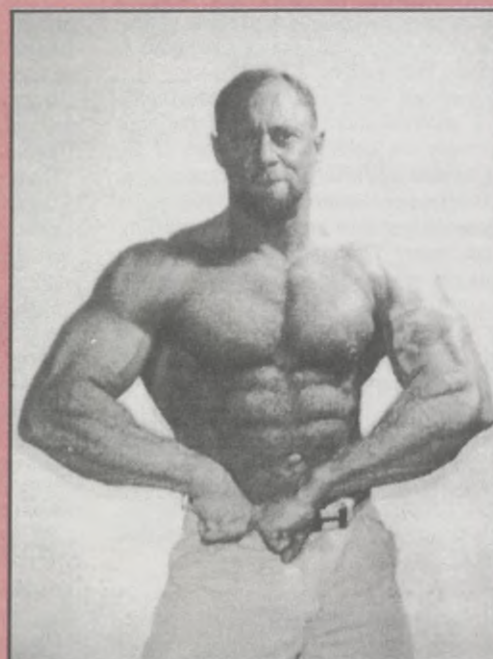
#5 Exclude the phrases "Miss Thang", "You Gyo Girl" and "Girlfriend" from my vocabulary.

#4 Quit making dramatic exits by snapping my fingers in the air.

#3 Leave all baggage concerning my EX in the last millennium.

#2 Watch more shows on Discovery and less shows on Lifetime.

#1 Call my friends at Kinetic Sports Clinic.



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Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE • DECEMBER 31, 1999

A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

Out in the arts

“My intent for Sundance was to focus on unheard voices. [‘Longtime Companion’] proved to the industry that there was a market for gay and lesbian films and that they should be taken seriously.”

—Robert Redford, Sundance Film Festival founder, January

“The four different lines represent different male body fluids. The red ones are blood, the yellow are urine, the blue is the sweat of the brow, a metaphorical notion of sweat, and the white ones ... are semen. It’s a reference to Onanism—you know, ‘spilling the seed.’ That’s why they’re on the floor.”

—Artist Michael Petry explaining his “Fluid Man” during a showing in Houston, January

“I’ve not missed anything by not being in the closet. I can’t imagine having to keep my life in the closet. Life’s too short, and there are too many wonderful things to experience along the way—whether you’re gay or straight.”

—Glenn San Marco, “Les Misérables” cast member, January

“Cher and Diana Ross and David Bowie were my role models.”

—RuPaul, April



“I tend to shoot for the stars in what I want. With music and fashion and stuff like that, that’s pretty feasible. But in terms of love and relationships, you’re most often disappointed if you keep such high standards, which I believe a lot of gay people do. Growing up in the ‘80s, the whole AIDS freak-out—you did put a lover on a pedestal, because they were going to save your life. Or they were going to kill you. It’s like a life-or-death situation.”

—Songwriter and recording star Rufus Wainwright, March

“I get a lot of letters from gay fans, and I do a lot of interviews with gay publications. They always tell me that I’m a hero to them, which I consider an honor... I always take it as a compliment when gay guys hit on me—which happens fairly often.”

—Punk rocker and poet Henry Rollins, February

“People think because [the Queerstock tour] is called ‘queer’ that it is this raging political music... but ‘queer’ is a new word and it’s a great word, because it encompasses everything—it’s not just black and white, gay or lesbian, it includes the gray areas.”

—Queerstock organizer Doria Roberts, March

“After reading the script, I didn’t think twice about the sexuality of Adam... From the moment I finished reading the script, I just knew it was a story I wanted to be a part of telling.”

—Scott Wolf on “Adam,” the closeted gay character he plays in “Go,” April

“... I’ve never regretted anything I’ve said, even the stuff about being a male prostitute. I’m not ashamed of it. It was necessary for me at that time in my life. I was going for a career in acting, but I wasn’t completely successful. So, I

became a male escort.”

—Rupert Everett, June

“I like to think that if I were gay I would be out, Rupert Everett-style.”

—Ben Affleck, September

“I’m queer and I’m proud but I’m also mentally ill—so don’t expect me to be a role model. I must be gayly incorrect. I’m perhaps the only gay man who has never been to the baths or the gym—I’ve done much worse. But certainly I can’t be your leader.”

—John Waters, September

“When you look at it all, realistically, gay roles only make up two percent of prime time’s lead characters. That’s really not a good number... It’s very disappointing.”

—Scott Seomin, GLAAD Entertainment Media Director, on the unprecedented 28 gay, lesbian or transgender characters in the current TV line-up, September

Strange bedfellows

“The existence of an extreme left wing as the representation of gay people prevented me from coming out... The establishment of these left-wing elites actually impedes the

➤ Continued on Page 18

1999

year in review



“So many women, particularly African-American women, are oftentimes left unsatisfied after sexual encounters. Millions of women have yet to explore their full sexual curiosity. Women need to take time to find out what they want in a sexual relationship.”

—Houston poet Simone Cunningham, December

TERRY SULLIVAN

Out In Print

BOOK NEWS

Top shelf reading from 1999

Three of our reviewers—J.S. Hall, Debbie Fraker and Colleen McMahon—pondered their 1999 reading lists for highlights of the year in print.

THE BOOK OF LIES by Felice Picano, Alyson Publications. In the next decade, an up-and-coming queer studies scholar discovers both more and less than he bargained for when he learns of a previously unknown member of the gay male writing group, the Purple Circle. Picano shows his considerable range in excerpts from nine different fictitious authors in this sprawling tale, which is part literary mystery, part affectionate tribute to his fellow members of the Violet Quill.

BRUISED FRUIT by Anna Livia, Firebrand Books. Possibly the funniest novel ever about childhood trauma, abusive relationships, and serial killers. The scene in which one character uses a Mickey Mouse mask to disguise herself while shopping in Good Vibrations is worth the price of admission alone.

CINNAMON GARDENS by Shyam Selvadurai, Hyperion. A refreshing change of scenery from the present day gay ghetto that takes place in 1920s Sri Lanka. Its leisurely pace recalls a bygone era of writing, and as its characters evoke

classic English literature, the novel contains pride, prejudice, and a passage to India as well.

THE CRISIS OF DESIRE by Robin Hardy with David Groff, Houghton Mifflin. With a striking combination of eloquence and pulling no punches, Robin Hardy reaches from beyond the grave to remind us that AIDS is not over and



explores the not-so-obvious ways in which the virus affects the daily interactions of gay men. Chilling and thought provoking.

THE ELUSIVE EMBRACE: DESIRE AND THE RIDDLE OF IDENTITY by Daniel Mendelsohn, Knopf. Personal memoir mixed with gay cultural research and a touch of philosophical musing make this a very thought-provoking book on gay iden-

tity, how we define it and how that identity interacts with our various communities.

FULL EXPOSURE by Susie Bright, Harper San Francisco. The queen of sex writing has done it again. She can always come up with new, original and exciting material, even when you think she's said everything she could possibly say about sex.

THE GUMSHOE, THE WITCH AND THE VIRTUAL CORPSE by Keith Hartman, Meisha Merlin Publishing. One of the best books of the year, queer or otherwise. Keith Hartman combines a suspenseful plot and on-target cultural commentary with a near-future Atlanta setting, lots of well-drawn characters, and oh yeah, it's laugh-out-loud funny. What more could you ask for? A sequel.

TALES OF THE LAVENDAR MENACE: A MEMOIR OF LIBERATION by Karla Jay, Basic Books. A personal account of the gay and feminist movements of the late '60s and early '70s. The two movements have not always worked well together, causing difficulty and confusion for lesbian feminists like Jay. Though she has done a lot of work in academia, this book is very readable and close to the heart.

THAT'S MISTER FAGGOT TO YOU: FURTHER TRIALS OF MY QUEER LIFE by Michael Thomas Ford, Alyson Publications. Ford's follow-up to his hugely successful "Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me" is darker, angrier and just as bitingly funny. Fabulously testy and trenchant, he simultaneously exposes our foibles for ridicule and embraces them. The essay dealing with a disastrous first try at active anal sex will have readers rolling on the floor with laughter.

TO BELIEVE IN WOMEN: WHAT LESBIANS HAVE DONE FOR AMERICA by Lillian Faderman, Houghton Mifflin. Though it is thick and densely academic, this is a very important account of lesbians in the early history of the women's movement. One hopes that it will inspire an equally brilliant historian to fill in the gaps of lesbians of color missing from these pages.

WEDDING BELL BLUES by Julia Watts, Naiad Press. A zany marriage-of-convenience tale about a gay man and a lesbian in a sham marriage to protect her daughter from her dead lover's vengeful family. It's light entertainment with something serious to say about the tenuous state of child custody for queer non-biological parents.

A WOMAN LIKE THAT edited by Joan Larkin, Bard Books. Who'd have thought that in 1999 an anthology of coming out stories could still be fresh and worthwhile? The writers filling this book are top-notch, from established lights of the community like Judy Grahn and Minne Bruce Pratt, to newer voices like Cecilia Tan. The stories range from funny to sexy to heartbreaking, just like real life.

What your neighbors are reading . . .

- 1 **Cybersocket 2000**
by Gaynet Directories, \$9.95
- 2 **Comfort & Joy**
by Jim Grimsley, \$21.95
- 3 **Way to Go, Smith**
by Bob Smith, \$24
- 4 **Let Nothing You Dismay**
by Mark O'Donnell, \$12
- 5 **Best of the Superstars 2000**
edited by John Patrick, \$11.95
- 6 **Murder Undercover**
by Claire McNab, \$11.95
- 7 **Best Little Boy in the World Grows Up**
by Andrew Tobias, \$12
- 8 **Outfoxed**
by Rita Mae Brown, \$24
- 9 **The Hours**
by Michael Cunningham, \$13
- 10 **Girls Will Be Girls**
by Leslea Newman, \$12.95

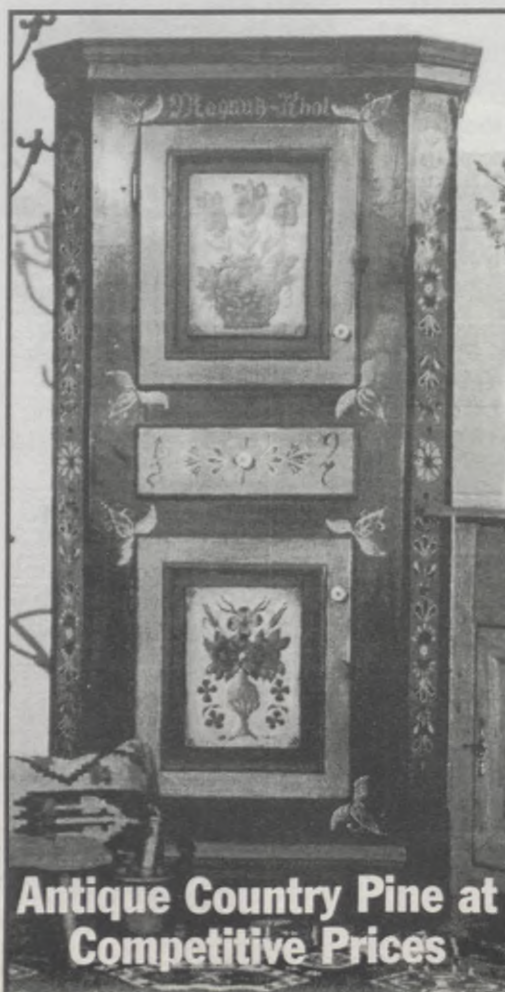
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- 1 **Best of the Superstars 2000**
edited by John Patrick, \$11.95
- 2 **Chop Suey Club**
by Bruce Weber, \$60
- 3 **Sensual Men**
by Bruno Gmunder, \$29.95
- 4 **Best Lesbian Erotica 2000**
ed. by Tristan Taormino, \$14.95
- 5 **Best Gay Erotica 2000**
ed. by Richard Labonte, \$14.95
- 6 **Innuendo**
by R.D. Zimmerman, \$21.95
- 7 **Mayhem at the Marina**
by Carlene Miller, \$11.95
- 8 **Down From the Dog Star**
by Daniel Glover, \$26.95
- 9 **The Woman Who Rode to the Moon**
by Bett Reece Johnson, \$12.95
- 10 **Girls Will Be Girls**
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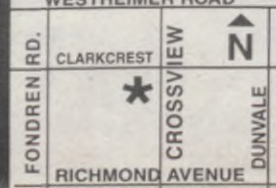
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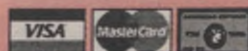
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—Diana Ross, May

1999 year in review

> Continued from Page 15

possibility of gay people's living fulfilling lives. It keeps them back in the ghettos."

—Gay writer Andrew Sullivan, January

"I suggest we work together to flush Judaism, Christianity and Islam into the Mediterranean and restore the Greco-Roman world, where, believe it or not, there was no word for fag or dyke, nor was there any conception that an occasional sexual activity constituted an entire personality."

—Writer Gore Vidal, February

"Watch your back, be careful who you come out to. I've been with my partner 10 years, but I'd never hold his hand in public—because in Alabama, it's a death wish."

—Alabama Gay & Lesbian Alliance spokesperson David White, March

"I think if I had a gay son, I would hope he would be in a committed, loving relationship—I would worry about the safe sex part. That's one reason why it's so important for parents to be supportive and give their children a sense of self-worth, so they can make good choices."

—Betty DeGeneres, April

"I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 1999 as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month."

—President Bill Clinton, June

"It would be great for straight people to read this and say, 'You know, next time somebody makes a joke I'm not going to be silent.' It's the little things as well as the big things that will make a difference."

—Dan Woog, author of *Friends & Family: True Stories of Gay America's Straight Allies*, September



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"Poetry can offer the world peace of mind. You need somewhere your mind can go, where your mind can go and chill, to cool your mind."

—Houston poet Donna Garrett, May

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"This is the hardest thing I have ever had to do, but I owe it to our fans, as well as to myself, to be completely honest. I know this may come as a bombshell to our followers. Many of them may be upset. I only hope they understand how important it is for me to reveal I am gay."

—Stephen Gately, 23, of the Irish band Boyzone, July

"I'm single and available. If I had a personal life, I'd have a sexual orientation."

—Gore 2000 Campaign Manager Donna Brazile, December

"Gays in the military, I find absurd. I came from a time when people were being killed by our government in a war in Vietnam. My cousins and school friends came back in pieces in body bags."

—Novelist Felice Picano, December

Boys will be boys (and girls)

"Talk about a motivator. I had gotten in the best shape of my life. We should all have to be naked on

stage all the time. I lost 30 pounds and lived at the gym and tanning salon. Before the Second Act, you'd see us doing crunches in the wings and pushups and lunges. Boobs, butt, and abs; boobs, butt, and abs."

—Actor Paul Hope on his role in a Houston production of "Love! Valour! Compassion!," December

Women rock!

"I was making a joke the other day that I'm a 'female-bodied Southern gentleman.' I identify as a trans, but it's hard to describe that to people in a way that readers understand it... I don't really know how to

say it, but I don't feel like a lesbian anymore."

—Recording artist Angela Motter, April

"She's a rather spunky kind of lady, extremely outspoken and much more modern than the other women—that sounds familiar, doesn't it?"

—Lily Tomlin on "Georgie," the lesbian character she plays in "Tea with Mussolini," May

"There are actually women out there who are shaped like Barbie, but they're not real women. There are drag queens who do a good Barbie. Men have no hips. With the help of some surgery and some male genes, it's funny that they can be this feminine icon."

—Houston City Councilwoman Annise Parker, February

"My gay fans have been so loyal, and so great—at times—when other fans weren't there. Gay fans usually love you when you're in the dumps, the toilet. I have a very Judy Garland feeling about it. It's a special thing."

—Cher, August

"A great nude photograph of



"Nightlife is a subject that has always fascinated me... Why do we all have to go out at night? What is it we're searching for?"

—Neil Tennant on the Pet Shop Boys' new album "Nightlife," October

Martha Stewart and David Letterman's job. I think that's not asking too much."

—Comic Suzanne Westenhoefer's Christmas list, November



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1999 year in review

AROUND THE NATION 1999

January

AOL, Merriam-Webster
dump anti-gay thesaurus

In response to pressure from activists, Merriam-Webster announced it would remove offensive synonyms for the word "homosexual" that had been included in a thesaurus on the company's web-site and America Online. Words included as synonyms for "homosexual" included fag, faggot, fruit, homo, invert, queer, uranian and uranist.

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'
discharges highest since 1987

According to figures released in January, the military discharged 1,145 service members in 1998 for violating the DADT ban on openly gay soldiers, the highest number of discharges since 1987. Discharges from the Air Force were more than 30 percent higher than in 1997.

'Barebacking' on the rise,
new epidemic feared

A study released by the Centers for Disease Control showed the proportion of gay men who reported engaging in unprotected anal intercourse, known as barebacking, rose from 30.4 percent in 1994 to 39.2 percent in 1997, a near 30 percent increase. The report fueled fears that a new generation of gay men would be decimated by HIV/AIDS.

February

Tinky Winky outed by Jerry Falwell

According to the February issue of Rev. Jerry Falwell's *National Liberty Journal*, Tinky Winky—a character on the popular "Teletubbies" television show—is gay and a dangerous role model for children. "He is purple—the gay pride color, and his antenna is shaped like a triangle—the gay pride symbol," the group said, also noting that Tinky speaks with a boy's voice but carries a red purse-like bag.

March



Billy Jack Gaither, an Alabama man who cared for his ailing parents, was stabbed, beaten to death with an ax handle and his body burned on a pyre of tires Feb. 19 by two men who claimed a pass by Gaither prompted the attack.

Gay man brutally
murdered in Alabama

Steven Eric Mullins and Charles Monroe Butler confessed to the Feb. 19 murder of Billy Jack Gaither, a gay textile worker from Sylacauga, Alabama. Gaither was stabbed, beaten to death with an ax handle, and his body burned on a pile of tires. Mullins told authorities he killed Gaither because Gaither made a pass at him. In June,

Mullins pleaded guilty to capital murder; in August, a jury convicted Butler of murder and kidnapping.

April

Shepard killer gets life in prison

Russell Henderson, one of two men charged with the October 1998 killing of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, pleaded guilty to kidnapping and felony murder to avoid a possible death penalty. He was given two consecutive life sentences.

May

San Francisco 'Equal Benefits'
ordinance upheld

A federal judge upheld important portions of San Francisco's landmark "Equal Benefits" ordinance, which requires companies that contract with the city to provide domestic partner benefits. In July, United Airlines, a plaintiff in the ATA suit, became the first airline to offer full domestic partner benefits, including health insurance. American Airlines and U.S. Airways quickly followed suit.

June

Hormel appointed
ambassador to Luxembourg

While Congress was on a 10-day break for Memorial Day, President Clinton offered a "recess appointment" to James Hormel, which will allow the openly gay philanthropist to serve as ambassador to Luxembourg until January 2001. Hormel, who became the United States' first openly gay ambassador, was first nominated to the post by Clinton in October 1997, but Republican senators opposed the nomination and refused to allow it to come to a vote.

July

Vatican shuts down ministry to gays

In a move that rocked the already shaky relationship between gays and the Catholic Church, the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith ordered a well-known American nun and priest to halt their 25-year ministry to gay and lesbian Catholics. The Vatican had been investigating Father Robert Nugent and Sister Jeannine Grannick for more than 10 years.

Senate passes gay-inclusive
hate crimes bill

Gay rights advocates declared victory July 22 when the U.S. Senate passed the Hate Crimes Prevention Act as an amendment to a spending bill. But because the House version of the budget bill did not include the measure, it required approval by a conference committee. In November, under pressure from Republican Congressional leaders, conferees and White House negotiators allowed the hate crimes bill to be dropped. The HCPA would add sexual orientation, gender and disability to existing federal hate crimes laws.

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August

New Jersey Supreme Court rules against Boy Scouts

The Boy Scouts ban on gays is illegal under state law, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled Aug. 4 in the case of James Dale, an assistant scout master who was kicked out nine years ago after leaders learned he is gay. In May, the Boy Scouts formed a committee to study the causes of homosexuality.

September

Democratic candidates come out on gay rights

Vice President Al Gore and former Sen. Bill Bradley, the two candidates vying for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000, came out as strong proponents of gay rights in dueling interviews with the gay news magazine, the *Advocate*. First, Gore told the magazine he favored a more "compassionate" implementation of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on open gays in the military. Then, Bradley told the *Advocate* he would overturn the military ban completely. Both men opposed gay marriage, but Bradley said he supported domestic partnership and would oppose the Knight Initiative, a California ballot measure to limit marriage to "one man and one woman." Gore later said he too would oppose the Knight Initiative.

Drug-resistant HIV on the rise

Highly drug-resistant strains of the AIDS virus are on the rise, showing up in as many as 4.5 percent of newly infected patients, according to two studies in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. While powerful "drug cocktails" including protease inhibitors have helped many with HIV, the complicated drug regimen has proved difficult to adhere to.

Anti-gay harassment 'the rule' at school

A first-ever national survey conducted by the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network found that 69 percent of gay students surveyed around the country said they had experienced verbal, physical and sexual harassment and assault at school. Results show 61 percent reported verbal harassment, 47 percent sexual harassment, 28 percent physical harassment, and 14 percent had been physically assaulted.

October

Calif. governor signs landmark gay rights bills

California Gov. Gray Davis signed into law three landmark gay rights measures passed by the state legislature, including a measure to outlaw the harassment of gay students and teachers in public schools and colleges, a law creating a statewide domestic partners registry for couples who are gay or over age 62, and legislation to ban job and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Falwell meets with gay Christians

Rev. Jerry Falwell, the Moral Majority founder long known for his condemnation of homosexuality, held a weekend meeting with 200 gays from 30 states organized by Rev. Mel White's non-violent "Soul Force" movement. White, a former ghostwriter for

Falwell and other religious right figures before coming out himself, organized the meeting with his former boss and his church members to try and reduce violence against gays and Christians and lower the rhetoric between both groups.

November

Gay S.F. supervisor forces mayor into run-off

On the strength of only a write-in campaign launched just 20 days before the election, Tom Ammiano, the openly gay president of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, shocked many by qualifying for a run-off in the city's mayoral election against incumbent Mayor Willie Brown. The contest, between the openly gay Ammiano and strong gay rights ally Brown, divided some in San Francisco's huge gay community, but Brown beat Ammiano decisively in the December run-off vote. Ammiano would have become the first openly gay mayor of a major American city.



James Hormel finally became the United States' first openly gay ambassador in June, three years after he was first nominated.

December

Bradley, Gore, Clintons oppose 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Politicians continued lining up against the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on openly gay service members, prompted in part by the July murder of a gay soldier at the Army base in Fort Campbell, Ky. Former Sen. Bill Bradley, running for the Democratic presidential nomination, led the pack in September. In December, First Lady Hillary Clinton—planning a run for U.S. Senate from New York—joined him in declaring DADT a failure that ought to be scrapped. President Clinton was next. Finally, Gore said he, too, would overturn DADT.

Hawaii court rules against gay marriage

Hawaii's Supreme Court upheld a 1998 constitutional amendment against gay marriage, closing the door on three gay couples who had sued the state for the right to marry. But gay rights activists said the ruling does not reverse the high court's 1993 that failure to recognize same-sex marriage amounts to gender discrimination.

Gay couples win 'equal' rights in Vermont

In a first of its kind decision, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that gay couples must be given "equal" rights and benefits. The court stopped short of calling for the state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, holding that the state legislature should decide whether to grant the benefits through marriage or a separate system of domestic partnership. Vermont officials, including Gov. Howard Dean, predicted the state would adopt a DP system.

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Occasions

Birthdays

Lisa Garrett celebrated her birthday on Dec. 26.
Punk rocker Patti Smith on Dec. 30.
Original 'Simpson' Tracey Ullman on Dec. 30.
Norman of Toopee's celebrated the big 5-0 on Dec. 30.

Keith Nappier ads a jewel to his birthday septe on Jan. 1.

CCCC member Sonny ads a mile on his birthday odometer on Jan. 4.

Singer Michael Stipe on Jan. 4.

Super singing sensation Susan Masar sings her birthday song on Jan. 6.

The one and only Darrell (a.k.a. Darla K.) toasts his birthday on Jan. 6.

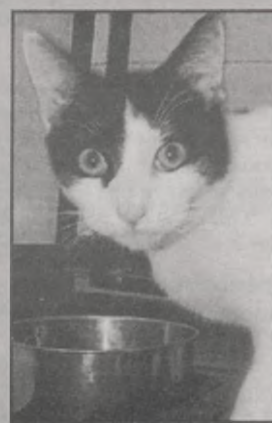
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Houston Voice columnist Cindy Abel celebrates her birthday on Dec. 31.

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'96 Mercury Cougar XR7 • V8, Leather, power package, and much, much more, Stk.#26161-1 • \$9,975 • Call Saturn of Houston - Southwest Frwy., 713.777.6100.

'96 Nissan 200SX SE • 32K super low miles, spoiler, and many sporty exciting options! • Only \$8,988 • Call Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'98 Volkswagen Beetle • Black, Only 17K miles, PW, PL, 5-speed, let this one take you back! • \$16,988 • Contact Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'96 Infiniti I-30 • Green, sunroof, leather, full power pkg., low miles • \$16,295 • For more information, call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'97 Jeep Wrangler • Black, lots of fun to drive, go anywhere! • \$15,120 • For details, call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'91 Oldsmobile Ninety-Eight • Great bargain in an affordable, good-driving vehicle! • Only \$4,995 • To find out more, call Saturn of Houston - Gulf Frwy., 713.944.4550.

'98 Saturn SL-2 • Auto, PW, PL, tilt, speed control, only 22K miles, Saturn Certified Warranty • \$12,900 • Call Saturn of Houston - North Frwy., 281.847.8700.

'97 Saturn SL-2 • 46K miles, tilt, cruise, great fun-driving vehicle, Stk.#S1107 • \$10,975 • Call Saturn of Houston - Southwest Frwy., 713.777.6100.

'96 Saturn SL • 4-Door, A/C, great driving economical car with plenty of room • Sale priced at \$5,995 • To drive today, call Saturn of Humble - Hwy. 59N, 281.540.8855.

'98 Pontiac Sunfire • 4-Door, perfect car for school, don't miss this one! • \$9,898 • For your test drive, see Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'97 Nissan Pathfinder • Champagne, ready to go with lots of equipment! • \$19,290 • For more information, see Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'93 Saturn SL-1 • Auto, A/C, low miles, very economical and dependable vehicle • Only \$5,995 • For details, call Saturn of Houston - Katy Frwy., 281.556.1400.

'95 Chevrolet Suburban 1500LS • Only 59K miles, dual A/C & Heat, CD, towing pkg., privacy glass, must see! • \$18,995 • Call Saturn of Houston - NW290, 281.894.3100.

'95 Ford F150 Extended Cab • Custom Conversion w/ ground effects, don't miss this one! • \$11,995 • See Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'94 Nissan Maxima • 4-door, auto, PW, PL, and much more! • Only \$7,998 • For more information, see Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'97 Toyota LandCruiser • The Cream of the Crop! A one of a kind beauty • \$30,595 • For all the details, call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'97 Honda Passport 4X4 • V6, PW, PL, tilt, cruise, nerf bars and more! • Sale priced at only \$15,760 • Ask for Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'97 Ford Windstar GL • Great, roomy van loaded with many features! Rear A/C • \$11,995 • For all the details, call Saturn of Houston - Gulf Frwy., 713.944.4550.

'97 Saturn SC-2 • Leather, 5-speed, PW, PL, tilt, cruise, 58K miles, Certified Saturn 12/12 Warranty • \$9,950 • Call Saturn of Houston - North Frwy., 281.847.8700.

'99 Saturn SL • Tilt, 5-speed, great vehicle at a great deal! Stk.#S1108-1 • \$9,675 • For details, call Saturn of Houston - Southwest Frwy., 713.777.6100.

'98 Dodge Neon • 4-door, A/C, auto, good transportation at a drive anywhere price! • \$8,688 • To test drive, call Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'98 Chevrolet Prism • 4-door, auto, A/C, only 35K low miles, very affordable and economical vehicle • \$8,895 • Call Saturn of Humble - Hwy. 59N, 281.540.8855.

'99 Saturn SL • Very economical, drive anywhere! • Sale priced at only \$9,995 • For details and a test drive, call Saturn of Houston - Katy Frwy., 281.556.1400.

'93 GMC Sonoma P/U • 6-Cylinder, only 69K miles, A/C, bedliner, very clean truck! • Only \$5,995 • Contact Saturn of Houston - NW290, 281.894.3100.

'95 Nissan Extended Cab Pickup 4X4 • Bedliner and much more! Great, go anywhere truck! • \$10,988 • Call Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'99 Chrysler LHS • 17K, Super clean vehicle w/ lots of options, Let's do business! • \$24,180 • Call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'98 Saturn SL-2 • Loaded w/ all the options, a must see, great vehicle, save thousands! • Only \$11,995 • Call Saturn of Houston - Gulf Frwy., 713.944.4550.

'96 Saturn SC-1 • Black Gold, auto, alloy wheels, PW, PL, Certified Saturn Warranty, a must see! • Only \$8,600 • Call Saturn of Houston - North Frwy., 281.847.8700.

'96 Saturn SL-2 • Power package, rear spoiler, sporty and lots of fun to drive, Stk. #90987-1 • \$7,975 • Call Saturn of Houston - Southwest Frwy., 713.777.6100.

'97 Chevy S-10 Extended Cab Pickup • Great truck, auto, V6, Like New! • Priced to sell at only \$10,988 • Contact Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'97 Ford F150 Extended Cab XLT • 3rd door, many great options and features • \$18,120 • For information, call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'97 Jeep Grand Cherokee • White, real clean, low miles • \$15,790 • For more information and a test drive, call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'96 Saturn SC-2 • Auto, sunroof, leather, plus much more, drive in style! • Only \$8,995 • To test drive, contact Saturn of Humble - Hwy. 59N, 281.540.8855.

'98 Saturn SL-2 • Power steering, power brakes, cassette, and much more • \$11,795 • For further details, call Saturn of Houston - Katy Frwy., 281.556.1400.

'98 Ford Mustang Convertible • Metallic red w/ black top and interior, auto, CD • \$15,995 • For your test drive, call Saturn of Houston - NW290, 281.894.3100.

'94 Nissan Maxima • Fully loaded, this one won't stay around long, priced to sell! • Hurry! Only \$7,498 • Call Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'98 Jeep Grand Cherokee • Red, real sharp vehicle w/ lots of room • \$18,860 • Call Henry Craft for details at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'98 Saturn SL-1 • Many exciting options! Great-driving vehicle at a great price • Only \$9,995 • For all the details, call Saturn of Houston - Gulf Frwy., 713.944.4550.

'97 Toyota Tercel • Green, auto, A/C, only 30K low miles, much more! • \$8,900 • For more information, contact Saturn of Houston - North Frwy., 281.847.8700.

'97 Buick LeSabre • Leather, alloy wheels, all the bells and whistles, a must see! Stk.#S1119 • \$11,975 • Call Saturn of Houston - Southwest Frwy., 713.777.6100.

'96 Chevy Blazer LS • CD, alarm, and all the bells and whistles, very nice, clean vehicle! • Only \$14,598 • For details, call Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'95 Mazda 626 • PW, PL, Tilt, cruise, and many great features • Sale priced at only \$8,595 • Call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'94 Ford Escort S/W • Auto w/ full power package, A true must see to appreciate! • Sale priced at only \$3,995 • Call Saturn of Humble - Hwy. 59N, 281.540.8855.

'96 Lexus ES 300 • Pearl white, loaded, CD & cassette, leather, all the options, extra clean! • \$18,595 • For information, call Saturn of Houston - Katy Frwy., 281.556.1400.

'94 Infiniti J30 • Red w/ beige leather interior, CD, sunroof, only 62K miles, must see! • Only \$12,995 • Just in time for Xmas, Saturn of Houston - NW290, 281.894.3100.

'95 GMC Yukon 4X4 • Leather, one owner! Like new! Save thousands! • Only \$16,998 • To find out more, contact Frank Love at Lonestar Nissan-Oldsmobile, 281.243.8600.

'97 GMC Bravada • Low miles, leather, CD, PW, PL, tilt, and much more! • \$19,360 • Ask for Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'98 Saturn SW-2 • Great driving, very affordable and economical car, gas and go! • Sale priced at only \$12,295 • Call Saturn of Houston - Gulf Frwy., 713.944.4550.

'97 Honda CRV 4X4 • Red, auto, A/C, PW, PL, 47K miles, must see! • Only \$14,950 • For more information, call Saturn of Houston - North Frwy., 281.847.8700.

'98 VW Beetle • 17K miles, alloys, PW, let this car take you back! Stk.#S1117 • Sale priced at \$15,975 • Call Saturn of Houston - Southwest Frwy., 713.777.6100.

'97 Nissan Maxima • Pearl white, PW, PL, tilt, cruise, snappy vehicle! • \$17,260 • To test drive, call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'96 Toyota Camry • PW, PL, Tilt, cruise, great vehicle! • A great deal at only \$12,350 • For details, ask for Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'97 Saturn SL-1 • 4-Door, A/C, power sunroof, many great options, Saturn Certified 12 mos/12K mi. Warranty • \$8,250 • Call Saturn of Humble - Hwy. 59N, 281.540.8855.

'98 Toyota Camry LE • Auto, PW, PL, tilt, cruise, and more. Dependable and reliable! • \$13,995 • For more, call Saturn of Houston - Katy Frwy., 281.556.1400.

'96 Lexus ES300 • Champagne w/ tan leather, sunroof, CD, privacy glass, only 57K miles • Only \$18,995 • To test drive, call Saturn of Houston - NW290, 281.894.3100.

'99 GMC Yukon • The one and only, 9,875 low miles, must drive to appreciate! • \$26,395 • Call Henry Craft at Archer Motor Sales, 281.445.6400.

'99 BMW 318Ti • Avus Blue, sunroof, cass., Stk. #30067 • MSRP \$25,975, this week's special \$21,969 • Call Mauricio Hussmann - Advantage BMW, 713.653.8300.

community calendar

(Some events may be changed due to the holiday.)

saturday, jan. 1

After Hours, KPFT 90.1 FM, 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Visual Arts Alliance, 10 a.m. 281-583-8408.
Dignity mass at 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics, 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary at 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Lesbian and Gay drop-in hours from noon to 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Psychic Fair and Wholistic Health Expo. CenterPoint, 1920 Hollister. 713-932-7224.

sunday, jan. 2

The Women's Group, 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets, 713-942-7002.
Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church. Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. at 239 Westheimer. 713-665-7903.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I at 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II at 8:55 a.m.; Education hour at 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. "Preaching the Gospel" Bible study at 9:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. Sunday School for children. 4305 Lillian. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Baptist Church. Service at 1:30 p.m.; education hour at 3 p.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m. Sunday school at 9:40 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Resurrection MCC Handbell Choir rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 402 Church St. in Galveston. Service at 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 11 a.m. 713-520-7847.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Church of Kindred Spirits (Beaumont). Service at 7 p.m. 409-835-4765.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum at 10 a.m. Service at 11 a.m. and noon. Open Circle Family Support at 12:30 p.m. 1504 Wirt. 713-686-5876.
Interfaith Worship Celebration. 7 p.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. 713-528-3601.
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion at 9:45 a.m.; service at 11 a.m. 3945 Greenbriar. Stafford. 281-277-8882. www.neosoft.com/~thoreau.

monday, jan. 3

Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group, 8 p.m. 713-861-6181.
Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week, 7 p.m. 713-529-1223.
Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group. 713-526-1017.
Bering Support Network. Grief and Divorce Groups at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
AIDS Caregivers' Support Group. 6 p.m. 713-732-4300.
HIV testing. Free from AVES from 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
FrontRunners. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Integrity Houston. For gay and lesbian Episcopalians. 7:30 p.m., Autry House, 6265 Main.
More Light Presbyterians. Meeting. 1110 Lovett. 9:30 p.m. 281-444-8861 X309.
Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition's weekly meeting at 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m., 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Classic Chassis Car Club. Monthly meeting. at Blue Agave. GVBUICK@aol.com.

tuesday, jan. 4

FREE HIV testing at Club Houston at 8:30 p.m. to midnight. the Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. 7 p.m., 239 Westheimer. 713-495-8009.
Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy. "The Survivor's Circle" ceremony and celebration. Montrose Counseling Center at 4:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Youth-Rap. 6:30 p.m. 713-822-8511.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.

AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. 7 p.m. 713-488-4492.
PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse. Montrose Counseling Center at 6:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang at 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m., 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men, 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
More on Relationships. Discussion group. 7 p.m. 415 W. Gray. 713-861-9149.
Lambda Skating Club skates at 8 p.m. at the Tradewinds. 713-523-9620.
Gay & Bi Male Support Group support group forming. Sponsored by AVES 713-626-2837.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m.; Lesbian Coming Out Group meets at 7:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.

wednesday, jan. 5

Free HIV testing by the Montrose clinic at Mary's (4-8 p.m.) and Midtown Spa (8 p.m. to midnight), and Ripcord (9 p.m. to midnight). 713-830-3000.
BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting at Cafe Toopees. 1830 W. Alabama. 713-467-4380.
Women's Network. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 701 Richmond. 713-529-0037.
HIV survivor support group. 7 p.m. 713-782-4050.
Mind/Body Connection: Alternative Approaches. 7 p.m. 1475 W. Gray. 713-524-2374.
Project: Caesar. 7 p.m. AFH, 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
Out Skate Rollerskating Club, 8 to 10 p.m. at 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours noon to 9 p.m. Computer Class 7 to 8 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

thursday, jan. 6

Free HIV testing at Toyz (9 p.m. to midnight) by the Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
Art Labs. The Art League at 1 p.m. 713-225-9411.
Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal at 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
HIV+ Men Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center, 1:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Relapse Prevention. Montrose Counseling Center, 2 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center,

6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Women's Therapy Group. Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 713-738-RACE.
FrontRunners at 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
Faith and Hope Fellowship. Bible study 7 p.m. 713-520-7847.
Community Gospel. Choir practice. 6:30 p.m.; service at 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
HIV/AIDS Support Group. 2:30 at Family Service Center. 713-861-4849.
Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group. 4:30 p.m. Family Service Center. 713-247-3810.
HIV/AIDS Support Group. 7 p.m. Family Service Center in Conroe. 888-247-3810.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.

friday, jan. 7

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Lesbian Avengers. Cafe Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama at 7 p.m.
Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Kolbe Project. Park Plaza Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.
Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM, 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
Movie Time at the Kolbe Project. 7:30 p.m. 713-522-8182.
Life Begins at 40. Pot luck dinner. 6:30 p.m. 1440 Harold. 713-526-1017.
Mishpachah Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
Co-dependents Anonymous. 7:30 p.m. at MCCR. 713-861-9149.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.
Healing Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral. 7 p.m. 1117 Texas. 713-222-2593.
Community Awareness for Transgender Support (CATS) monthly meeting. 409-927-1705.

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

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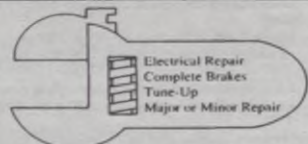
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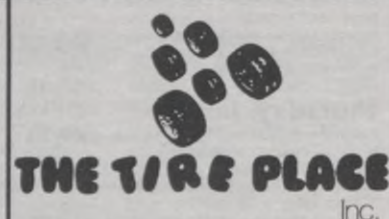
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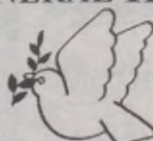
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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

by JILL DEARMAN

Dec. 31 - Jan. 6, 2000

**ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)**

The new moon falls in your career house on Jan. 6, so get focused about what you really want to do for a living. It's a good time, too, to print up some business cards and let the right people know who and where you are. Make your presence known, especially to a Leo.

**TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)**

Jupiter moves forward in your house of the unconscious, so write down your wild fantasies and listen to what your dreams tell you. In love matters, it may be time to commit rather than stay on the fence. A relationship with a Capricorn may not completely make sense, but it sure could make you happy.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)**

The moon will be in your house of love Jan. 3-4, so it could be hard for you to concentrate on work—you'll want to concentrate on another Gemini. But you could do extremely well financially if you hook up with the right business partners. Just be sure to follow through.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)**

You have the resources to move on with your life and make the changes you've been too scared to make in the past. Friends can be a great source of support. The new moon on Jan. 6 falls in your house of love, so cuddle up with someone you care about, maybe a Libra.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)**

You should keep plugging away at the projects that give you the most joy and the greatest sense of integrity. Stay quiet for awhile. You know who to charm and who to stay away from. Not everyone has to love you. Let them go and focus on a Capricorn who does.

**VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)**

Mercury (your ruler) moves into your house of creativity early in the year, so try your hand at writing something clever. It's also a good time to spruce up your home and give yourself the sense of safety and beauty you need. A Sagittarius, by the way, would look lovely in your bedroom.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)**

Family members can provide you with important information in the days ahead. Pick their brains. You'll get lots of insight. Build on your strengths: your creativity, your love of people and your belief in true love. You and a Cancer can make beautiful music together.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)**

It's fine for you to get into a little mischief. In fact, those closest to you (and your newest fans) are wondering what crazy scheme you'll pull next. But with Venus in your money house, you should think long and hard about how to make your dough grow. A Pisces has faith in you.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)**

Jupiter (your ruler) brings you luck in all of the arts, especially the performing ones. Consider getting on stage and letting your bawdy and righteous sides shine. These days you're hard to resist. An Aries appreciates you—in and out of costume.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)**

The new moon falls in your sign on Jan. 6, making this a power-time for you. Other people look to you for answers and advice. The more you give, the more you get. In love, you should take charge. Do some secret rituals to build your willpower; a Scorpio won't resist.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB 19)**

Mars in your money house promises great rewards for your hard work. People expect you to ask for what you're worth. You're extremely sensitive these days, so keep your nearest and dearest on call at all times (especially a Pisces). A psychic breakthrough is coming soon.

**PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)**

Enjoy the lighter side of life: Read more, see more movies, hang with your friends. You've isolated yourself in your dream world for too long. The more objective opinions you hear, the smarter and more successful you will be in the months ahead. Learn from a Taurus.

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

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Classifieds

Announcements

Prism

PRISM is an employee network for employees of Equilon Enterprises LLC, Motiva Enterprises, LLC, Equiva Services LLC, and Equiva Trading Company. This network is open to any employee of these companies and includes Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual employees and their friends. The mission of PRISM is to provide support for members and co-workers, promote equality for employees regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification and create awareness in management of issues and concerns affecting people in a diverse workplace inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identification. For more information call Jim at 281.544.8138, Robert at 713.241.1238 or Dick at 281.544.8730.

STELLA LINK SEVILLE

JANUARY 9, 2000- Stella Link Seville, Candidate for Empress XVI of the RSICSS will be hosting a candidate show entitled "Millennium Madness", held at the Brazos River Bottom. Show time is 8:30 drag standard time p.m. Some of Houston's biggest and brightest stars will be performing. Draft Beer and Hot Dogs. Benefactors for the show are Emperor & Empress XV for their stepping down at Coronation XVI.

Place To Play?

If you play bass/acoustic guitar, brass or keyboards, a gay Christian praise and worship team needs you. Call 713.686.7735.

PROTECT

PROTECT provides a safe place every Tuesday at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold, for HIV negative people to share their experiences in a effort to understand and change behaviors that could lead to infection. Visitors and new members are welcome at every meeting. For more information, call 713.526.1017, ext. 211.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Abuse offers support for gay men who are in a current or past relationship with an abusive or violent partner. For information or assessment/screening, call Russ Robinett at 713.526.1017, ext. 211. Leave your name and a safe telephone number where your call can be returned.

Community Resale Shop, 515 Richmond has been providing clothing to people living with AIDS for 14 years. We urgently need fall clothes. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Sunday. Purveyors of couture to starving artists of all ilk. Independent 501 (c) (3). 713.528.2555.

Education

Spanish Classes Alfredo Sámano B.A./M.A.

Conversational Spanish • Beginning Spanish • Intermediate Spanish • Spanish College Instructor • Individual or Groups classes • 713.521.7805.

Entertainment

Alfredo Sámano B.A./M.A. Pianist/Organist

Holiday Parties, Dinners, Company/Corporate Events • Weddings, Anniversaries, Receptions. Over 30 years experience. 713.521.7805.

Employment

CARTER & COOLEY

Busy Heights area deli needs counter help. Apply in person • 375 W. 19TH Street or call Doug at 713.864.3354.

WindowMedia

Window Media, the published of the Southern Voice (Atlanta), Houston Voice (Houston), Impact News (New Orleans) and eclipse magazine is experiencing unprecedented growth with ambitious plans for the future. Talented, hard-working, creative and dedicated individuals are constantly in demand as opportunities arise within our publication areas: Sales, Administration, Circulation/Distribution, Editorial, Design/Production. If you are interested in a career path with a growing organization, please submit your resume to: Window Media, Attn.: Human Resources Dept., 1095 Zonolite Road #100, Atlanta, Ga., 30306.

Help Wanted

NEED SPACE?

Seeking motivated massage therapist, personal trainer, nutritionist and other health therapists to lease space in a new multi-discipline health center. Historic Heights location. Convenient to Downtown, Montrose, River Oaks. Fax inquiries to 713.426.1258.

MIDTOWNE SPA

All shifts and positions. \$6.50 per hour. 3100 Fannin. Apply in person only.

WAIT STAFF

Wait Staff needed, Evenings 4 p.m. 6 nights • Mon-Sat • Apply in Person • Josephine's Italian Ristorante • 1209 Caroline @ Dallas • Behind the Four Seasons Hotel • 713.759.9323.

Resurrection MCC

Houston, Texas is seeking a director of Administration and Accounting. Please contact us at 713.861.9149 for job description and application.

RESURRECTION MCC

Experienced musically degreed individual to direct and administer the music and worship program of Resurrection MCC-Houston, Texas. Full time • Contact us at 713.861.9149 or mccc@neosoft.com for an application.

Nightingale Employment Services (Division of NADC) is a non-profit organization that provides job seeking skills training and placement assistance for persons with HIV. For more information call 713.981.1543.

EROS 1207

Houston's newest erotic boutique super store is now accepting applications for energetic sales staff. • Full/Part-time, excellent opportunity • Apply in person, 1207 Spencer Highway, South Houston, TX, 10AM to 2PM, Monday through Friday • 713.944.6010.

BASIC BROTHERS

Now accepting applications for Management positions and full/part-time Retail employment. Prior retail/sales experience and computer knowledge a plus • Come join our team and enjoy one of the best benefit packages around • Apply M-F, 10am-4pm, 1232 Westheimer • No phone calls please.

Executive Director

Houston based private foundation is looking for an Executive Director position. • Accounting, writing, property management skills needed. • For more information call 713.861.7063.

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You Need Therapy!

Massage therapy now available at Muscle Mechanics personal training & wellness studio - sports massage, therapeutic massage, relaxation therapy. Call now for your appointment! Muscle Mechanics 713.523.5330.

Pets

The Homeless Pet Placement League is a Houston area, non-profit animal welfare organization. HPPL provides for the rehabilitation of stray and abandoned dogs and cats through its unique foster care program. All animals are spayed/neutered and have their first set of shots. For more information call 713.862.7387 or view website at www.HPPL.org

The Spay Neuter Assistance Program will provide FREE spaying/neutering, rabies vaccinations and city licenses for animals belonging to qualifying low income dog and cat guardians. For qualifications and transportation information please call 713.522.2337.

Professional Services

BODY WAXING

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

Real Estate For Rent

Heights 2/1 \$575+ electric • New paint • Carpet • Central AC/H • Security Gates • Small complex • Gay managed/ friendly. 713.298.8999 or 713.868.2890.

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Commercial & residential for lease • 2 suites 675 & 875 sq ft (\$700 & \$900/mo), 2/1 1500 sq ft (\$1100/mo), 3/2 875 sq ft. (\$900/mo). All available now. Reduced \$ for qualified non-profit orgs. Hollyfield Foundation. 713.523.6900.

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\$100 OFF FIRST MONTH'S RENT. One bedroom in small gated complex • \$450 plus utilities • \$200 deposit • Convenient to clubs and shopping • 713.524.4551.

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3308 Branard @ Audley • 1/1 8 \$475. per month • \$150 deposit • Free basic cable • Move in special • Agent 713.524.9660.

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New mini-blinds /carpet • \$495 per month with \$150 deposit • \$100 off move-in special • Agent 713.524.9660.

Executive office sublease \$250 per month. • One office in a very nice building located West Loop 610 near Bellaire Blvd. • Private entrance & suite number. • Call Rob at 713.661.7700.

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Y2K?

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HEIGHTS

\$180's • 2-3 Bedroom • 2 1/2 bath • 2 car garage • Townhouse • Patio and landscaped courtyard • Close to the Boulevard & 19th Street shopping. Call Alan Morlan @ 713.520.8888.

Looking for a home on the North side? • Call Bernie Johnson, Agent Keller-Williams Realty your Real Estate specialist, 281.364.4862.

Roommates

1400 RICHMOND

SGWM seeks roommate (non-smoker/drug user) to share 2/1 apartment. • Includes cable, security gates, and pool • \$375 month plus 1/2 of utilities • 713.520.7662.

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Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

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Web-sites

www.houstonvoice.com
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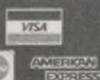
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AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

FREE: Call for guidelines
— HIV Services & Education
— Volunteers
— Non-Profit Organizations

INDIVIDUAL RATE \$7:

— Announcements
— Auditions
— Employment-Seeking
— Pets-Free or Lost & Found
— Roommates
— Personal Websites

BUSINESS RATE \$12:

— Auto Repair
— Business Opportunities
— Entertainment
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— Help Wanted-Seeking
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— 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

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

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Up to 20 words for \$7.00 per week. Additional words at 50¢ each per week.

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Additional words _____ x 50¢: _____

Bold headline: 3.00 (per week)

Giant headline: 5.00 (per week)

Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues

Total: \$ _____

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