

HOUSTON

# VOICE

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## MFA film fest looks at issues of racism, sexism and homophobia



Ruby Lucas (left) and Tiny Davis (right) with an unidentified friend in a scene from the 1988 documentary "Tiny and Ruby, Hell Divin' Women"

this film examines issues of sexism and racism.

"Reeling in Hope: Images of African-Americans in Film," an examination of the gains blacks have made in the American film industry, opens with award-winning, openly gay producer Marlon Riggs' last film, "Black Is, Black Ain't."

Marlon Riggs' "Black Is, Black Ain't" kicks off "Reeling in Hope" on Friday, Feb. 24 at 8:00 p.m. This video essay re-examines the definitions of blackness while exposing paradoxes and prejudices within the black community. It was Riggs'

last film before his death from AIDS last April; it was finished posthumously by his collaborators. Riggs, an Emmy Award-winning director and professor of journalism at the University of California at Berkeley, also directed "Tongues Untied;" "Color Adjustment: Blacks in Prime Time" and "Ethnic Notions."

The series, organized by the Houston chapter of the National Black MBA Association, runs Feb. 24-26 and also includes a panel discussion with local film makers; the premiere of "B" by Houston director Lawrence Williams; and films from the Tyler Texas Black Film collection.

(All films will be presented in the Brown Auditorium of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet. General admission is \$5; \$4 for members, seniors and students with ID. Double feature admission \$6 (\$5) for both films or \$5 (\$4) for one film only. For more information, call 639-7530 or 639-7531; recorded film information line: 639-7515).

## GOP House Leader gets 'frank' rebuke for anti-gay slur



Barney who?

From STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

(WASHINGTON)—House Majority Leader Dick Armey's reference to openly gay Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) as "Barney Fag" on a radio talk show last Friday prompted a swift, outraged response from House Democrats and gay leaders—and an equally quick retraction from Armey himself.

As House Democrats demanded that the Texas Republican publicly apologize for the comment, a visibly rattled Armey protested on the House floor that he had merely "mispronounced" Frank's name, and that the mistake had been blown out of proportion by the media.

Frank said he did not believe Armey's use of the slur was intentional. However, he added that the slip may be symbolic of an increasingly intolerant climate in the newly Republican-controlled Congress concerning gay and lesbian people. "I don't think it was on the tip of his tongue... (but) I think it was probably in the back of his mind," he clarified.

The controversy started when Armey, during a radio interview, was asked to comment on a pending publishing deal. In noting that he planned to donate proceeds

from a book he was writing to charity, Armey told reporters during the interview: "I like peace and quiet... and I don't need to listen to Barney Fag—Barney Frank—haranguing in my ear because I've made a few bucks off a book I've worked on."

In recent weeks, Democrat and Republican representatives have sparred over another book deal involving House Speaker Newt Gingrich. That book contract, which reportedly could net Gingrich millions, has been a point of controversy primarily because of the publisher—a media mogul with earlier ties to the Speaker and troubles with the Federal Communications Commission. Frank, though not among the original critics of Gingrich's book deal, did criticize Republicans for attempting to stop the Democratic criticism.

(Continued on following page)

### Entertainment Highlight

In February, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts takes its turn among organizations in the local arts community daring to exhibit a new attitude that rejects homophobia, with the prominent inclusion of gay and lesbian images and experience among diverse offerings in its film festival celebrating Black History Month.

"Tiny and Ruby: Hell-Divin' Women," a documentary about two members of an interracial, all woman jazz band—who are also lesbian lovers—will be screened as a double feature on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. with Spike Lee's breakthrough film "She's Gotta Have It." Both features give an unconventional look at women's roles in film.

"Tiny and Ruby" is a documentary about legendary jazz trumpeter Tiny Davis and her lover, drummer Ruby Lucas, members of the 1940's jazz band The International Sweethearts. Directed by Greta Schiller and Andrea Weiss,

## Houston Clinical Research Network included in record grant from AmFAR

### Local Site Among 12 To Share \$6.2 Million

(NEW YORK)—The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) announced this week that it will award a record \$6.2 million over the next three years to 12 Community Based Clinical Trials units—the largest single investment in community based clinical research since the inception of the CBCT program. In addition, the units will augment their awards over the next three years with \$2 million in matching funds. These funds will bring the total investment in the AmFAR CBCT Network to \$8.2 million, through 1997.

The 12 CBCT units, which according to

AmFAR were selected on the basis of their clinical research experience and technical excellence, serve a diverse patient population and cover major geographic areas affected by the epidemic. The studies being conducted at the 12 units will provide much needed new data on how best to use approved drugs to treat people with HIV/AIDS. AmFAR's research data complements the federally sponsored research effort by focusing on important, unanswered questions in the medical management of HIV/AIDS.

In Texas, the Houston Clinical Research Network was selected as a Network unit and will receive \$355,737 from AmFAR over the next three years.

Texas has the fourth highest number of reported AIDS cases in the nation and Houston—with over 10,000 reported cases—ranks among the top ten most affected U.S. cities. HCRN operates the only ongoing program of HIV clinical trials for adults in the Houston metropolitan area.

HCRN was created in the fall of 1989 as the HIV research department of the Montrose Clinic. HCRN, while still affiliated with the large, non-profit sexually transmitted disease clinic that recently moved into a new facility on Westheimer, now operates as an independent organization and is an active unit in AmFAR's CBCT Network.

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"TELL 'EM YOU SAW IT IN THE HOUSTON VOICE"

## Congressional leader denounced over 'Barney Fag' remark

(Continued from preceding page)

Arme's quite clear, taped reference to "Barney Fag" made the rounds of broadcast media Friday morning.

Later in the day, 17 members of Congress from 11 different states—all Democrats—appeared Friday at a Capitol Hill press conference organized by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a national gay and lesbian rights organization. Joining Daniel Zingale, HRCF public policy director, were Representatives John Lewis (D-Ga.); Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.); John Baldacci (D-Maine); Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.); Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.); Elizabeth Furse (D-Ore.); Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.); Jim McDermott (D-Wash.); Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.); George Miller (D-Calif.); John Oliver (D-Mass.); Lynn Rivers (D-Mich.); Tom Sawyer (D-Ohio); Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.); Jose Serrano (D-N.Y.); Mike Ward (D-Ky.) and Lynn Woolsey (D-

Calif.). Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) issued a written statement.

Despite Arme's insistence that he would never use an anti-gay slur intentionally, the Texan in fact has a record of hostile voting on issues affecting gay and lesbian people, according to HRCF. He has voted to deny schools funds for suicide and violence prevention counseling to help gay youth, to write into law the discriminatory ban on gays in the military and to summarily discharge HIV-positive service members, Zingale noted.

Zingale also alluded to the recent, highly publicized string of murders of gay men here in Texas. "In light of the violence going on in his own home state, Mr. Arme should be more careful about the effect of his words," he said. "This is the language of criminals who commit hate crimes, not responsible Members of Congress."

## Disappointing Connection

From LOUIS E. VANECH

Houston, Texas

On Saturday less than 5000 gay men and lesbians were motivated enough to get out and vote for Annise Parker, a well qualified, intelligent, and honest candidate. Annise has a proven record of public service, and for the most part, was ignored by the very community that has benefited from her immeasurable sacrifices of personal time and energy.

Her campaign spent over \$20,000 and had over 100 committed experienced volunteers. Yet, the Parker campaign and gay and lesbian activists were unable to persuade gays and lesbians that not voting has consequences too!

The benefits of electing a qualified openly gay person to council should be clear to every homosexual. The connection between winning and losing, and voting and not voting, should also be clear. Why would a gay person not take the 20 minutes necessary to vote, especially in this election?

## Understanding Log Cabin

From KEN WILK

President, Log Cabin Houston

Last year, during this past election, our community found it had a choice. No longer did our vote belong as "property of the Democratic Party." By working with the Republican Party, (we learned) there are candidates that deserve our vote. In the United States, where we have a two party system, many freedoms and law will almost always be passed on a bipartisan basis. If any group becomes overwhelmingly aligned with one political party, it risks the possibility of becoming politically irrelevant, whereas its vote becomes a given and little politi-

cal capital will be risked on these groups.

In the last two years on a federal level we've had both a Democratic Congress and a Democratic President. Our community didn't see any new civil rights laws or non-discrimination laws. We still discriminate against gays in the military and ban HIV infected people from immigrating to this country. We never got a "Manhattan Project against AIDS" or any major new funding in the battle against AIDS. As much as our community seems to have a passion in hating the Bush presidency, at least George Bush signed into law the Ryan White Care Act and the Americans with Disability Act.

In Texas, where we have a Democratic controlled House of Representatives and Senate, we got the unconstitutional Sodomy Law added back into the Crime Bill which was signed into law by our Democratic Governor Ann Richards. This is not bashing Democrats, these are facts! Like it or not. We need to support all our friends regardless of party affiliation.

As President of Log Cabin Houston, let me make this perfectly clear so there will be no more misunderstanding, Log Cabin's mission is to educate and support Republicans that share our common goal. Period. We are only a gay rights group, and although we work with the Republican Party we are an independent corporation, not affiliated with any political party. We work for three things, equal rights, non-discrimination and social justice.

To this day I cannot understand how anyone in our community who believes in these goals can be so against Log Cabin's efforts. When people speak out against Log Cabin one must wonder where their loyalties lie and one must question their motives. Log Cabin will continue to speak out against hatred, bigotry and intolerance whether it comes from the radical religious right or from our own community.

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Letters to the Editor

## One View Of Tearoom Arrests

From JOE A. PEREZ

Senior Psychology student, University of Houston

A recent article in the University of Houston daily paper (Jan. 25, 1995) entitled "Five charged with indecency in library," chronicles the ongoing resistance that UH gays and lesbians face by their own cohort. Although the article never states that homosexual acts were the crime, all five were arrested and charged with public lewdness and/or indecent exposure, well known euphemisms for homosexual sex acts in public places.

In addition, the arrested had their names, ages and relation to the university printed in the paper. Sadly, only two were UH students, while the other three were campus visitors.

It is a well know fact and documented in many gay guides that the UH library bathrooms are hot spots for cruising and fast anonymous sex. Some refer to it as the "notorious tearoom." Lavatory sex has been identified as common practices of many gay men who lived in the seventies, an era that I believe was filled with oppression, and (a public restroom) was almost the only place that they could congregate and find one another.

I have been a student at the University of Houston for four years. I will be an alumnus after his semester and plan to continue my graduate studies there. During the course of my studies, I have seen the UH community accept gays and lesbians in an extraordinary way. The campus wide non-discrimination policy now includes sexual orientation. I have walked hand in hand with my boy-

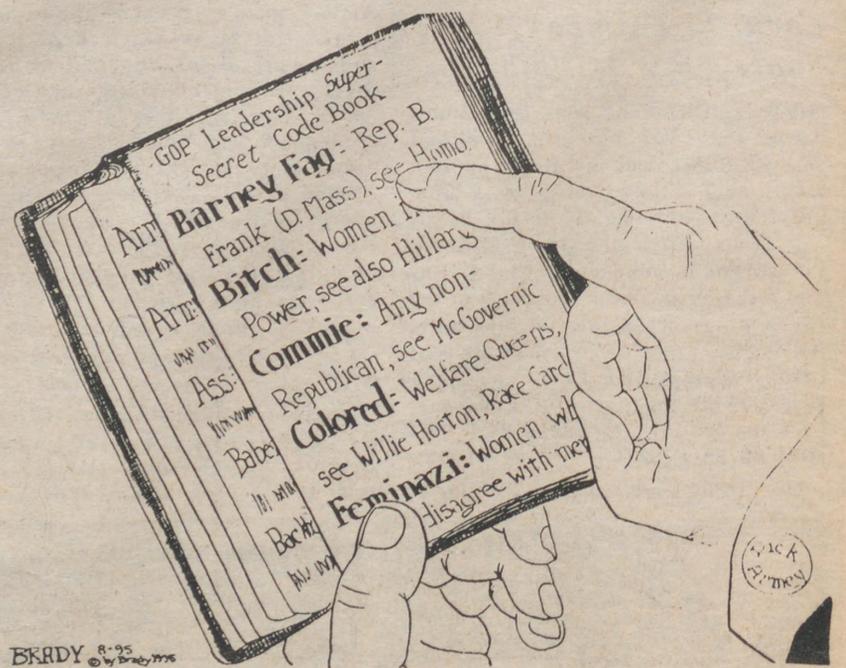
friend without fear of repercussions, and have watched as the UH community has encouraged Coming Out Rallies and parades. The UH gay and lesbian community has worked long and hard to achieve these goals. These arrested visitors on our campus are ruining a reputation that has taken a long while to obtain.

I ask and implore all visitors to my campus to treat it with respect. Respect for its facilities as learning institutions rather than locations for sex. Respect for the students who pay good money to study in an environment conducive to learning. Lastly, visitors to my campus should treat themselves with respect, realizing that they can have sexual boundaries.

Sexual acts should be a private matter, not one of public nuisance. When discussing the editorial with friends, some commented on something I too believe. There is within any community a wealth of diversity. No two people are alike and just as there is sexual deviancy in heterosexuals, there exists a minority of homosexuals who engage in questionable sex acts. Some might argue that I am trying to limit the sexual freedom that so many gays from a past generation treasure. I am one example of a gay person who finds that type of behavior offensive and am glad that arrests are being made. I am only sorry that it has to happen on my campus, affecting all the work that I personally have done to make gays and lesbians more accepted. I know that as a gay man, I need to remember that when I ask society to start living in the 90's and accept homosexuality, I too should accept that my sexual practices should match an era of safety and privacy, both of which will not be found in the library bathrooms at UH.

The Houston Voice welcomes well-written, insightful and to-the-point opinion pieces for our editorial page. We also welcome "counterpoint" articles that represent a different view on the issues approached in commentaries that we have run. We reserve the right to edit for length, format and readability, and we will run only one full-length counterpoint to an opinion piece. Shorter responses may run as "letters to the editor" at our discretion.

## Brady's Corner



## The myth of the liberally-biased, pro-gay media

### Guest Commentary

By AL KIELWASSER

For the Houston Voice

Paul Weyrich, founder of NET ("National Empowerment Television"), claims that his cable network is dedicated to countering the "far left political bias" of the media. According to Weyrich, the mainstream media is riddled with news about "gender norming, racial quotas, global warming, gays in the military and other 'unacceptable' ideas.

This notion—that the media exhibits a pervasive liberal bias—is a common myth. The myth of media liberalism is touted routinely by right-wing critics in an effort to censor all but their own hateful speech. Media analyst Michael Parenti explores that effort in "The Myth of A Liberal Media," his cover story in the January/February issue of *The Humanist* magazine.

In his article, Parenti carefully exposes the hypocritical arguments of right-wing critics who claim they are shut out by the mass media. To make their case, such critics routinely use the very media they claim are so "biased." As Parenti notes: "To complain about how the media are dominated by liberals, (Rush) Limbaugh has an hour a day on network television, an hour on cable, and a radio show syndicated by over 600 stations.

"Then there are the well-financed right-wing media watch organizations like Reed Irvine's Accuracy in Media (AIM)," Parenti continues. "In a syndicated column appearing in over 100 newspapers and on a radio show aired on some 200 stations, Irvine and his associates complain that conservative viewpoints are frozen out of the media. Many left critics would like to be frozen out the way AIM

(and) Limbaugh are."

Parenti further explains that "religious" media enterprises in the U.S. also manifest a "gross imbalance of right over left." He writes: "The fundamentalist media—featuring homophobic, sexist, reactionary televangelicals like Pat Robertson—comprise a \$2 billion-a-year industry, controlling about 10 percent of all radio outlets and 14 percent of the nation's television stations. In contrast, tens of thousands of liberal and often radically oriented Christians and their organizations lack the financial backing needed to gain media access."

Parenti also examines the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), and his points are especially relevant given the PBS funding debate now taking place in Congress. "A favorite conservative hallucination is that the Public Broadcasting system is a leftist stronghold," Parenti writes.

In fact, he points out, most PBS programming is "politically non-descript or centrist" at best. Moreover, a clear right-wing perspective dominates a number of PBS programs, such as *One on One* (hosted by John McLaughlin) and *Firing Line* (hosted by William F. Buckley). Parenti reports that, according to at least one exhaustive study of PBS news/public affairs programming, corporate representatives far outnumber activists as sources or guests. (Actually, there is wide and growing research literature demonstrating the falsity of the "Liberal bias" myth; unfortunately, such research seldom crosses over from the academic to the mainstream press).

Parenti concludes his article with this question: "If news and commentary are so preponderantly conservative, why do rightists blast the press for its supposed leftist bias?"

His answer is chilling. Parenti suggests that the myth of media liberalism is used (or abused) as "a way of putting the press on the defensive, keeping it leaning rightward for its respectability, so that liberal opinion in this country is forever striving for credibility within a conservatively defined framework." Thus, he concludes, "the media limit public debate to a contrast between right and center...meanwhile, real liberalism and everything progressive remains out of the picture." This framework fully supports the conservatives censorious objectives: "Their goal is not partial control but perfect control, not an overbearing advantage (which they already have) but total dominance of the communication universe."

Certainly, the liberal media myth continues to be used—often to great effect—in the effort to censor fair and factual reporting on gay, lesbian and bisexual issues. Consequently, journalists must be encouraged to aggressively challenge that myth, and do what they do best—seek out the truth.

Regarding the media's treatment of gays, the realistic topic of debate is omission. For example, though public broadcasting is often accused of promoting homosexuality, evidence of this "promo-homo" bias is hard to find. Unfortunately, in fact, public broadcasters frequently omit any reference of lesbian/gay/bisexual subjects from relevant news reports.

On Jan. 17, National Public Radio (NPR) featured an installment of a series on sex, hosted by the New York correspondent Joe Richmond. This week on NPR the subject is sex," the announcer said. "Today, we focus on youth."

Remarkably, the well-intentioned

15-minute report never once mentioned lesbian, gay or bisexual youth. The gross omission only perpetuates the invisibility of queer kids, who are systematically ignored by mainstream media.

Through so many films, books and television shows—the popular culture in which they live as strangers—queer youth are treated as if they do not (or should not) exist. The stigma that attaches to such cultural annihilation partially explains why lesbian and gay teens suffer disproportionately from verbal and physical harassment, forced homelessness and suicide attempts.

Right-wing pundits must not be allowed to make sweeping generalizations about pro-homosexual bias in the media. Instead, and at every turn, they should be asked to supply rigorous research as opposed to empty rhetoric. They should be asked for systematic rather than anecdotal evidence to support their ridiculous claims.

They should, quite simply, be asked for the facts.

And—if they are asked often enough—the facts will ultimately surface, putting an end to the myth of media liberalism.

(Editor's note: Al Kielwasser, a member of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, weekly column GLAAD Media Watch. Comments or compliments regarding Michael Parenti's article can be directed to Frederick Edwards, Editor, "The Humanist," 7 Harwood Drive, P.O. Box 1188, Amherst, N.Y., tel. 800-743-6646 or 716-839-5080, fax 716-839-5079. Feedback concerning the NPR report may be sent to Delano E. Lewis, President, NPR, 635 Massachusetts NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, tel. 202-414-20000).

## Scientists say nation losing interest in AIDS epidemic

SAN FRANCISCO, Monday, Jan. 30 (AP)—Fourteen years and more than 250,000 American deaths since AIDS began making headlines, scientists say they're worried that the nation no longer feels an urgency to treat and find a cure for AIDS.

"As long as everyone believed we could find a cure and it would go away, there was incredible interest on the part of the press and the community," said Marcus Conant, who treats AIDS patients. "But now AIDS has become a

permanent fixture."

While scientists will be discussing new research results at the National Convention on Human Retroviruses in Washington, D.C. today, they say they're facing another obstacle outside the laboratory: declining interest in AIDS.

According to a 1991 survey conducted for the San Francisco Examiner, AIDS ranked sixth on a list of "the single most important issue facing San Francisco today." By 1994, the disease was 17th on the list, behind crime, the

economy, the crumbling urban infrastructure and other social ills.

During that same time, AIDS became the leading cause of death among men in San Francisco. The city's health department reported that in 1992, AIDS was the first of any illness to surpassed heart disease as the leading cause of death among the city's male population.

Scientists admit that the early advances came easy: the discovery of HIV, the development of the anti-viral drug

AZT and other treatments. But since then, the pace has slowed, and along with it, research funds.

"We worked harder this year to get fewer dollars," said Christine Lubinski of AIDS Action Council.

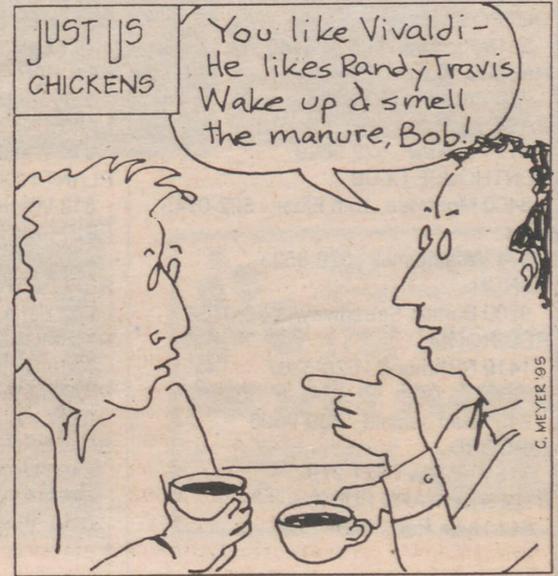
Part of the problem, scientists say, is that the general public no longer feels at risk of contracting AIDS. Additionally, AIDS is viewed as a disease of the poor, intravenous drug users and their partners, according to the National Commission on

AIDS.

But despite the decrease in public interest, the United States still faces an ongoing emergency in treatment, care and housing for people with AIDS.

"A lot has been accomplished in the last decade," said Thomas Coates, an AIDS prevention expert with the University of California at San Francisco.

"But all the easy stuff has been done," he said. "The hard work is still ahead of us."



# IN MEMORY OF

## WILLIAM, (WILLIE) H. CAGLE III

William, (Willie) H. Cagle III, 33 of Houston, Texas. Born in Huntington Park, California, on February 4, 1961 to William Harvey Cagle, Jr., and Yvonne Marie Smith Cagle. Called home to be with the Lord on January 26, 1995 at his home. His mother, Bonnie, Father, Bill and companion of eleven years, Bill Tetz, all by his side. Willie will always be remembered by his family and loved ones for his warmth, compassion and positive attitude and his joy for life itself. He will be truly missed and never forgotten by those whose lives he touched. He succumbed to AIDS after a courageous battle over five. Donations can be made to The Assistance Fund, 1116 Jackson Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77006, or the charity of your choice. Bill Claire Mortuary,

2603 Southmore Boulevard, Houston, Texas in charge of arrangements. Final disposition of the urn will take place at St. Stephens Episcopal Church upon completion of the church's columbarium.

The family and close friends would like to thank the Assistance Fund Staff and Dr. Paul Gustafson, M.D., and his staff, as well as Dr Linda Pope-Pegram, and her staff, Pam Striplin and Willie during his final moments. We shall all hold these memories in our heart.



## WILLIAM ROY "SKIP" FELKNER, JR.

William Roy "Skip" Felkner, Jr. passed on to the light on Saturday, December 17, 1994, after a long courageous battle with AIDS. Skip (as his friends knew him) was born April 16, 1959 in Brownsville, Texas and had lived in Houston the last 14 years. Skip is survived by his mother, father, brother and sisters, all of which gave their support and love until the very end. Skip also leaves behind a large family of friends.

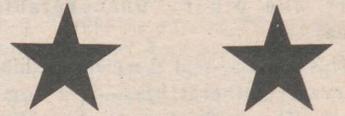
Skip was a member and avid participant in the Sundance Cattle Co. where his compassion, leadership and spirit will truly be missed. Skip also lent his talents and time to many different clubs and organizations including the Texas Riders, Texas Renegades, LVL's PWA Holiday Fund, Sommers Family and the Whorehouse of Lust.

A memorial celebration of life service was held in Mary's Outback in January. We will always remember Skip and know that our lives are a little better by having been touched by his love and friendship. "As your gay Mother before you..." "Walk on"

With love,  
Buddy, Lloyd, The Sundance Cattle Co., countless friends in the leather-levi community and of course those at Mary's... Naturally!



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811 Westheimer, Suite 105  
Houston, Texas 77006  
(713) 529-8490  
(800) 729-8490

Fax: (713) 529-9531

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Office Hours: 9am-5:30pm  
weekdays

Tad Nelson/publisher  
Matthew Pennington/production manager

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT  
Sheri Cohen Darbonne/editor  
Tad Nelson/entertainment editor  
Judith Meyer/book review editor

STAFF WRITERS:  
Vada Carroll, Bob Ainsworth,  
Jon Harrison, Javier Tamez

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:  
David Batterson, Andrew Edmonson,  
Leonard Earl Johnson, Brian Reed,  
Paul Varnell, Joan Jordan

CARTOONISTS  
David Brady, Leanne Franson,  
Robert Kirby, Cat Meyer, Scotty T.

PHOTOGRAPHERS  
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Please report errors and corrections to the  
HOUSTON VOICE (713) 529-8490  
(Issue 745)

## Gay rights activists girding for setbacks in new GOP Congress

By KIM I. MILLS  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Sunday, Jan. 29 (AP)—Gay rights activists are bracing for setbacks in the Republican-controlled Congress, their fears fueled by legislation introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms and promises of a hearing on schools and homosexuality.

"The early signs are not good, and the Republican leadership has a fundamental decision to make, and that is whether they are going to lead with hate and discrimination or with common sense," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest gay lobby.

On the first day of the 104th Congress, Helms, R-N.C., introduced a bill to stop government agencies from using taxpayer funds "to encourage its employees or officials to accept homosexuality as a legitimate or normal lifestyle."

He also dropped in a bill to protect federal employees from being fired for speaking out on their own time against the federal government's policies toward homosexuals.

Helms says the two bills are necessary because the Clinton administration has extended homosexuals "special rights in the federal workplace, rights not accorded to most other groups and individuals."

Earlier this month, House Speaker Newt Gingrich said he had promised the Rev. Lou Sheldon, head of the Traditional Values Coalition, a hearing on whether the federal government should provide money to school districts that "promote" homosexuality.

Sheldon, leader of the conservative national church network based in Anaheim, Calif., says he does not know how much federal money is spent

for such purposes. But, he added, "It isn't so much the money as it is ... that the first—and second-largest school districts in America are promoting it: New York and Los Angeles."

Then on Friday, House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas, the second-ranking Republican in the House, called Democratic Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts "Barney Fag" during an interview with reporters. Armey quickly apologized and said the comment was a slip of the tongue.

Frank, who is gay, told Armey he understood the remark was not intentional. But after listening to a tape of the interview, he said, "I could not accept that it was wholly accidental."

Even before the incident, Frank said the congressional landscape is looking desolate for gay and lesbian Americans.

"If you project the way the Republicans have always voted, it looks pretty bleak," Frank said. "The Republican majority has been consistently and overwhelmingly anti-gay."

The first two years of the Clinton administration provided gay activists exposure on such issues as gays in the military and job discrimination based on sexual orientation. They didn't win on either issue and expect to spend the next two years on the defensive, fighting off anti-gay amendments to legislation.

"I believe this year the homosexual agenda will be seriously curtailed," Sheldon said.

In December, President Clinton abandoned plans to propose philanthropist James C. Hormel, who is gay, as ambassador to Fiji, avoiding a showdown with Helms, then incoming chairperson of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

## Phone company says anti-gay business pitch was unauthorized

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Wednesday, Jan. 25 (AP)—A long-distance phone company says it didn't authorize a business pitch that linked competitors to homosexual groups.

The pitch, connected to a fund-raising project for the Boy Scouts, a group that bars homosexuals, was included in a letter mailed to scouting supporters by ATS Network Communications Inc., headquartered in Memphis.

The letter, soliciting new business, contended that competitors AT&T and Sprint support homosexual rights organizations.

AT&T and Sprint both said the letter was misleading.

"AT&T prides itself as being out front in helping homosexuals gain special rights to protect their sexual behavior," the ATS letter said.

It said Sprint "donates directly" to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood Inc.

It added: "ATS Network chooses to support the Boy Scouts! Won't you?"

ATS President Tim Whitehorn said the letter was drafted by an overzealous employee and mailed without authorization.

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## Heights Tanning Center adds new features; Restaurant Project expands



Kerry Smith and Tom Jones of Heights Tanning Center are gearing up for the '95 tanning season

### Business Notes

Heights Tanning Center, one of Houston's newest gay owned and operated businesses, is getting ready for the tanning season in a big way. Not only have they updated their equipment, but they have added several new tanning products and have a registered massage therapist available.

On August 11 of last year, partners Kerry Smith and Tom Jones opened Heights Tanning Center as an openly gay and lesbian tanning salon. From the start, response from the community has been terrific, they said.

"We knew that many people would give us a try because we were gay owned and operated," said Tom, "but we also knew that customers would not stay if they did not get good service at good prices. To this point, 96 percent of our customers have signed up again, and customers are recommending us to their friends all over town. We take that as a sign that we are making progress toward our goal of being the best tanning salon in Houston. It also helps that we chose the best tanning beds, and have kept our prices as low as possible.

"The atmosphere helps, too," Kerry said "We have a really fun place. After a couple of sessions, people stop being customers and start being friends. Some people will come in and tan 20 minutes, but hang out for an hour. Last week a couple of guys actually got to know each other so well just from talking in the lobby that they exchanged phone numbers! I think people appreciate a place where they can be comfortable just being themselves.

"Because people like us and tell their friends, our business is growing," continued Kerry, "which is enabling us to get more involved in the community. We have contributed to some organizations, and we are looking forward to doing more. When we first discussed opening a business, one of our priorities was something that

would serve the community, and enable us to give something back. We both think that's really important."

Heights Tanning Center is open 7 days a week, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. They are located at 918-A North Durham, just south of 11th Street next to the Family Thrift Center. Walk-ins are welcome, or you can call (713) 802-9373 to make an appointment. Massage services are available by appointment only, and weekend and evening appointments are available.

### Red Ribbon Restaurant Project

The Houston-Area Red Ribbon Restaurant Project, a subsidiary group of The Larry Garrett Foundation, Inc., will soon be expanded into Florida and Colorado, according to Larry Garrett, the project's president and chief executive officer. Initial agreements have been reached for the expansion, Garret announced.

The out-of-state projects will be managed locally and report directly to Candy Anderson, the local director, and The Larry Garrett Foundation Inc., a 501(c)3 charity organization. A written contract and license agreement will be utilized to ensure the projects are operated according to set guidelines.

This project is a unique community awareness program supported by local restaurants in the fight against AIDS. Restaurants dedicate 10 percent of the proceeds of a designated table on an on-going basis. The dedication table displays a beautiful acrylic obelisk. The money raised in Houston benefits a variety of local, well-respected educational and direct service providers established to assist those living with HIV. The project is also looking to expanding to other types of establishments like bars, hair salons, etc. that would like to participate in the project.

A variety of restaurants participate in the project, including such well known venues as The Brownstone, Cafe Adobe, Charley's 517, Giorgina's, La Strada, Pico's, Rugles Grill, Star Pizza, Truluck's, and Vargo's, just to name a few. If your favorite establishment is not participating, encourage them to become part of this community effort. And remember to request the Red Ribbon Project Table whenever you visit a participating restaurant!

Those interested in more information on the Project are invited to call (713) 935-2370.

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# PERFORMING ARTS NOTES

By John Reed



The Houston Symphony presents "A Symphonic Night at the Movies," an exhibition of celebrated film segments and music, Feb. 10-12 at Jones Hall

## Symphonic Cinema

Conductor Stephen Stein will lead the Houston Symphony in "A Symphonic Night at the Movies," a presentation of celebrated film segments and music comprising the next concert in the Houston Symphony-Exxon Pops series. Slated for Friday, Feb. 10 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m., the evening will be hosted by John Goberman, producer of "A Symphonic Night at the Movies" and originator of the "Live From Lincoln Center" television series.

The program will open with Maurice Jarre's overture to "Lawrence of Arabia," and will continue with music and scenes from the following films: The adventures of Robin Hood with Errol Flynn, composed by Korngold; Madame Bovary with Jennifer Jones, Van Heflin and Louis Jourdan, composed by Rozsa; "Gone With the Wind" with Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh, composed by Steiner; "Citizen Kane" with Orson Welles, composed by Hermann; "An American in Paris" with Oscar Levant, composed by Gershwin; and Ben-Hur with Charlton Heston, composed by Rozsa.

"For me, this program provides quite a marvelous technical and musical challenge," commented Stein. "Rather than having complete freedom for musical interpretation, I'll be conducting while watching a video of the films on the screen as well as the ticking clock. The production is timed literally to the second. I'm looking forward to these concerts, because I have an affinity to all films which have great soundtracks, and all of these fit the bill handsomely."

Tickets to "A Symphonic Night at the Movies," performed at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana Street, range in price

from \$15-50 and can be purchased at the Houston Ticket center in Jones Hall or by calling (713) 227-ARTS or 1-800-ARTS.

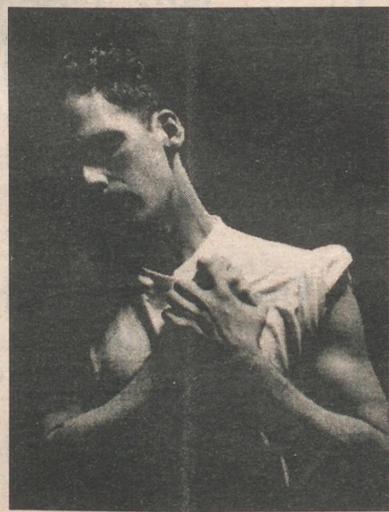
## 'The Night' At The Heights

The New Heights Theatre, 339 West 19th Street, is presenting the Houston premiere of "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me" by David Drake, Feb. 10 through March 25. Joe Kirkendall, who acted the title role in Stages recent production of "Jeffrey," is featured in this solo performance piece, directed by Ron Jones.

In 1992, "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me" enjoyed a successful run Off Broadway at the Perry Street Theatre, where it ran for over a year. Drake has subsequently performed the play for extended runs in San Francisco, Los Angeles and London.

The play consists of a series of vignettes which tell the story of a gay man's journey toward self-discovery and affirmation. The title refers to the night in 1985 that the play's author saw a performance of Larry Kramer's landmark AIDS drama "The Normal Heart" and found himself empowered by the experience and jolted into an awareness of the disease. Alternately lyrical, brutal and hilarious, "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me" is a theatrical collage of events, feelings, joys, triumphs and tragedies in the life of a gay man.

(Preview performances Feb. 8 and 9, 8:00 p.m.; Champagne opening Feb. 10 at 8:00 p.m.; performances every Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. through March 25, with Sunday evening performances March 5, 12, 19 and 26. To make reservations, or for ticket prices or other information, call 869-8927).



The New Heights Theatre's production of David Drake's "The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me," featuring Joe Kirkendall (pictured), opens Feb. 10

## HIV art course awarded grant

Patrick Palmer, coordinator of the HIV Art Course at the Art League of Houston, has been awarded a 1995 Creative Artist Program Grant for \$3,750.

Palmer founded the outreach project, which offers art classes to persons with HIV or AIDS, in 1990. The course is free and is offered every Thursday and Friday from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Art League of Houston, 1953 Montrose Blvd. Monthly projects include painting, drawing, ceramics, mask making, and many other artistic media.

The 1995 CACH-H Creative Artist Program grant will enable more students to attend, and will bring in guest lecturers to teach ceramics and jewelry, according to Art League representatives. The project is supported in part by a grant from the City of Houston through the Cultural Arts Council of Houston, the Texas Commission on the Arts and National Endowment of the Arts.

(For more information on the HIV Art Course, call the Art League of Houston at 523-9530).

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HOUSTON GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK 1995

Official logo, Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Week '95

**Quick Notes**

A community march against gay bashing and other hate crimes, sponsored by a new Houston organization called Community United Against Violence, is scheduled this Saturday, Feb. 4. The march begins at noon at Mulberry and Brannard (between the Menil Collection and Rothko Chapel) and will end at Hermann Park, according to organizer Michael Crawford.

The march was organized as a grass-roots response to increasing incidence of anti-gay violence including the murders of at least eight gay men in Texas, said Crawford. The march is also a call to the Texas Legislature to pass House Bill 365, a current priority of the Lesbian/Gay rights Lobby of Texas, based in Austin. A state wide march against hate crimes is scheduled to be held in Austin in April.

For more information on the Houston march, call 942-9752.

**Spectrum Kickoff**

The official kickoff for Spectrum '95, an event planned for June, 1995 that includes a Business Expo, all-star concert, art show/sale and 'Town Meeting II,' is set for Thursday, Feb. 9 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Penthouse Club, located at 3400 Montrose Blvd.

Entertainers at the kickoff include some who will be featured on the Spectrum '95 commemorative CD, "Hand in Hand."

Besides music and comedy from top local performers and featured guest hosts John Reny ("Mr. Gay All-American") and Deni ("Lady of the Year"), those attending the event will have a chance to see a sample of booths that will be available at the Spectrum Business Expo and participate in a raffle with over \$5,000 in exciting prizes. Admission of \$10 includes food, entertainment and "a couple of surprises." For more information about the party, or any of the events scheduled for

Spectrum '95, call (713) 526-2853.

**Successful Songfest**

Entertainer Jerry Atwood, the board of directors and host committee of Songfest 1994 have announced that this year's event was the most successful in its seven year history. The Hyatt Regency Hotel's Grand Ballroom was the elegant setting for a fun filled evening of holiday celebration featuring group sing-alongs, a silent auction and entertainment by many of Houston's most popular artists.

Omega House, A Hospice for persons suffering with AIDS, was the event's beneficiary of over \$30,000. Songfest has raised more than \$175,000 in its support of the Omega House building and operating funds.

Songfest 1995 is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 3rd and will again be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Casa De Esperanza, a care facility for children with AIDS, and The Houston Clinical Research Network, an AIDS study resource, have been selected as the beneficiaries for 1995.

**Pride '95 Logo**

The Pride Committee of Houston has announced that Kirk Baxter is the logo contest winner for Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week 1995. Five finalists were chosen from the 12 original entries, judged by professionals in graphic arts and design in the community; from those five, committee members chose Baxter's as the winning logo.

Each logo was judged on uniqueness, marketability, style and communication. Competition was close, as there were many high quality entries, PCOH noted.

Pride Week '95 merchandise is expected to be available soon. For more information on Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, or to find out how to get involved as a volunteer, call the Pride Line at 529-6979.



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## AmFAR-funded research at 12 sites to concentrate on clinical care

(Continued from Page 1)

AmFAR's clinical trials research agenda focuses on improving the day-to-day clinical care of people with AIDS, an approach the organization says is intended to complement the federally sponsored, clinical research effort.

"The AmFAR Community Based Clinical Trials Unit is an important player in the national research effort," said Dr. Ellen C. Cooper, AmFAR's director of clinical research and information. "The information gathered through its trials will affect standards of care for people with HIV disease and AIDS, not just in the United States, but around the world."

Because HIV/AIDS manifests itself differently in each individual, physicians must design an appropriate treatment regimen for each patient with HIV.

"The ability to tailor the use of drugs to the responses of the individual patient is woefully inadequate," Dr. Cooper said. "Primary care physicians have always been on the front lines in battling this epidemic. They know the most urgent questions that

need to be answered to move forward in improving care."

Studies to be undertaken by AmFAR, the CBCT Network physicians and their patients include clinical trials to improve the prevention and treatment of common opportunistic infections, including Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), and nutritional deficiencies.

In addition to HCRN, units that have received AmFAR funding are the AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta; Brown University AIDS Program, Providence, R.I.; Clinical Directors' Network of Region II, New York, N.Y.; Community Clinical Trials Unit at Cornell Medical College, New York, N.Y.; Community Research Initiative of New England, Boston; Community Research Initiative of South Florida, Coral Gables (Miami), Fla.; HIVCare-St. Francis Memorial Hospital, San Francisco; Kansas City AIDS Research Consortium, Kansas City, Mo.; North Jersey Community Research Initiative, Newark, N.J.; Philadelphia FIGHT, and the Research & Education Group, Portland, Ore.

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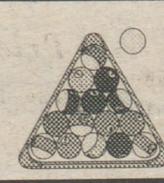
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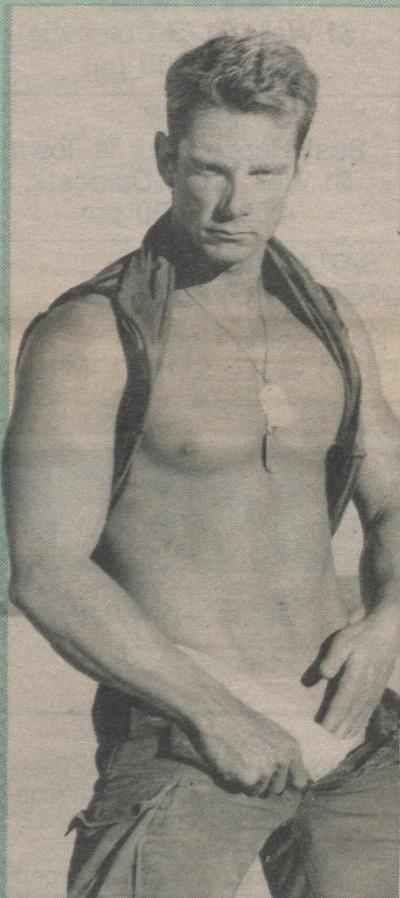
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**Arts groups join forces to present  
John Kelly & Co. in 'Pass the  
Blutwurst, Bitte'**



Alley Theatre, DiverseWorks and National Performance Network have teamed up to bring master performance artist and impersonator John Kelly back to Houston in "Pass the Blutwurst, Bitte"

**Entertainment Notes**

The Alley Theatre, DiverseWorks and the National Performance Network have teamed up to bring Houston audiences a very special event—a masterwork by one of the country's foremost performance artists. John Kelly and Co. will perform "Pass the Blutwurst, Bitte" Friday through Sunday, Feb. 3-5, at 8:00 p.m., on the Alley's Neuhaus Arena Stage.

Over ten years in the making, John Kelly's theatrical portrait of Viennese painter Egon Schiele has received more rave reviews since its premiere in 1986, and was remounted this month at New York's La Mama E.T.C. "Pass the Blutwurst, Bitte," reveals the connection between interior life and external expression in the life of Schiele, whose brief, intense career was the subject of courthouse controversy until his death at 28 from the 1918 Spanish influenza epidemic. The story—which includes Schiele's wife, mistress and two "Alter-Egons"—is told without dialogue, instead drawing on Kelly's prowess as singer, dancer, actor and director. He uses filmed sequences, operatic interludes and his keen knack for mimicry to draw the viewer in.

The New York Times (Jan. 7, 1995) said "Mr. Kelly has used his brand of interdisciplinary performance to embody artists, their muses and their subjects throughout the ages, from Leonardo da Vinci to Jean Cocteau. This revised and expanded version of 'Blutwurst' now reads as a clear articulation of the theme implicit in all of these incarnations..." Mr. Kelly has quietly taken his place among other well known artists such as Eric Bogosian, Reno and Blue Man Group. He has received two New York Dance and Performance (BESSIE) Awards (one for Blutwurst), two Obie Awards, An American Choreography Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. His most recent success, "Light Shall Lift Them," was performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's 1993 New Wave Festival. In the performance, he portrayed a Texan who gained fame as a transvestite aerialist. Kelly is also known for his portrayals of Dagmar Onassis ("the illegitimate child of Maria Callas and Aristotle Onassis"), the Mona Lisa, Joni Mitchell and others. As Vogue said, "He evokes pathos and humor, characteristi-

cally treading the edge between horror and camp. The edge and mix are what John Kelly works with; in the midst of highly stylized presentations, moments of utter simplicity break through to produce his intimate and touching theater."

This presentation of John Kelly and Co. is a continuation of previous collaborations between the Alley Theatre and DiverseWorks that began in 1985. "We are excited to be working together again," say Alley Director Gregory Boyd and DiverseWorks Executive Director Michael Peranteau, "especially on such a unique and acclaimed project as this one." The presentation is one of a national series of such programs which constitute the National Performance Network (NPN), designed to create traffic and creative opportunities for non-traditional and experimental artists of all cultural backgrounds in dance, music, theater, performance art and puppetry. The NPN is a project of New York's Dance Theater Workshop in cooperation with DiverseWorks and similarly dedicated arts organizations in 26 cities across the country, all of which play an important and ongoing role in nurturing innovative work. The Network has been made possible with major national funding from Philip Morris Companies, Inc., The Ford Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Iila Wallace/Reader's Digest Fund, and the Dance, Music, Presenting and Commissioning and Challenge III Programs of the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency).

Tickets for "Pass the Blutwurst, Bitte," at the Alley's Neuhaus Arena Stage, are available at the Alley Box Office, 615 Texas Avenue, or by calling (713) 228-8421 or 1-800-259-ALLE. Tickets are \$15 or \$20 (\$13 or \$18 for DiverseWorks members). Student tickets are \$12.

**Audition Notice**

Auditions will be held Wednesday, Feb. 8, for "Scenes From My Love Life" by Ronnie Larsen. Producers are looking for nine male actors, ages 20-50, for the play about phone sex, sex clubs, and personal ads. Small stipend paid. Open call Feb. 8, 6:00-10:00 p.m.; cold read from script. Stages, 3201 Allen Parkway near Waugh. No appointments. Call for directions: (713) 527-0220.

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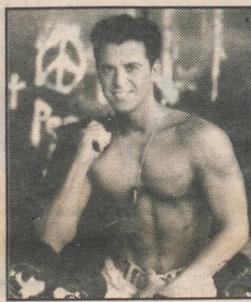
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## Good & Evil ... better than ever

### Theater Review

By JAVIER TAMEZ

*Houston Voice/Houston*

Next stop—Broadway! Well, not quite. But if the artistic team of composer Frank Wildhorn, librettist/lyricist Leslie Bricusse and director Gregory Boyd have their druthers, the Great White Way will be the climax of an American tour for "Jekyll & Hyde." And this clicking collaborative team will almost certainly see their pop-opera musical raise its lights on a Broadway stage.

When it premiered at the Alley in 1990, "Jekyll & Hyde" received generally positive reviews for its essential story, its principal stars and for some of its music. Well, it's gotten better. The current production is being co-produced by the Alley Theatre and Theater Under the Stars along with the 5th Avenue Musical Theatre Company (a TUTS stepchild) in Seattle, Washington. And its present form is better in no small part because it is considerably revised from the original.

Actually, the stronger pop ballads from the original are still present: "This is the Moment," "Someone Like You," and "A New Life," as well as the bouncy melody of "Bring on the Men" among others. But the addition of new material such as the sassy swipe at social circle gossips in "Bitch, Bitch, Bitch" and the invigorating passion of "Take Me As I Am," and the transformation to a grander scale,

mark "J&H" as a sure-fire hit.

The story is adapted directly from the Robert Louis Stevenson novella, possibly the least-known well-known story in literature. Dr. Henry Jekyll (Robert Cuccioli) is certain he can separate the good and evil sides in men, and thus help eliminate a good many of society's ills, through some sort of chemical reaction.

The hospital's board of governors, however, refuses to sponsor Jekyll's research. The board's decision is particularly relishing for one of its members, Simon Stride (Bill Nolte), for it was to Jekyll that Stride lost his love, Lisa (Christiane Noll). Angered by the board's decision, Jekyll wanders to a brothel where he meets and is captivated by Lucy (Linda Eder).

Jekyll, of course, proceeds with his experiment, using himself as a guinea pig. The experiment at first proves successful, but Jekyll is unable to control the dark manifestation of his evil half—Edward Hyde—as he launches a vindictive killing spree in which all of the victims are nemesis of Jekyll. Eventually though, Hyde's murderous inclination also endangers those loved by Jekyll, making the plot resolution inevitable.

The story is already good (as any "Phantom" fan will attest, it's hard to go wrong with Gothic horror/romances), and to this is added the strength of fluid musical numbers. From the resounding pulse of Jekyll's "I Need to Know"; to the wry, whimsical

observation of personality pretense (and by extension the good mask one always wears over one's darker side) in "Facade"; to the angst-laden "Girls of the Night"; and the enticing "It's a Dangerous Game;" not to mention the aforementioned pop material, the music in this production will carry the weight of the show's success.

Not that the music is without its miscues. Stride's and Lisa's vacuous good-bye in "Lisa Carew" and the cheesy melodrama of "Transformation," which really isn't much of a song at all, stand out as less appealing numbers. Also suffering from a lack of allure are the whiny rationalizations of "His Work and Nothing More" and the moaning mulch of "In His Eyes." "Murder, Murder" was an interesting enough number, but its presentation made the rash of murders seem almost comic rather than frightening. Nevertheless, when the music works, and it does most of the time, it works superbly well.

The acting has all the rich luster of the production. Robert Cuccioli is mesmerizing as Jekyll/Hyde. He easily moves from the debonair socialite scientist to the bloodthirsty madman. As Jekyll he is suave and sophisticated, while he makes Hyde lustful and vicious. Cuccioli's vocal prowess is masterful. His giant voice has the booming capacity for the power of "This is the Moment" and "Alive," yet also has the subtlety to deliver a soothing "Take Me as I Am."

(Continued on following page)

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## Revised 'Jekyll and Hyde' could be Broadway bound



Linda Eder and Robert Cucioli star in "Jekyll and Hyde"

Far and away the best performance, though, comes from Linda Eder. The woman is simply magnificent. She has an appealing sauciness as the street-wise slut, conveys an aching sincerity as a waif dreaming of a better life, and displays with equal vigor, the heart-touching dreaminess of a young woman in love, and the trembling fright of a child. Eder's voice is a monument to the music which accompanies her. The sheer loveliness of her gift cannot be overstated. Her vocal strength is overarching and her presence is the show's true anchor.

Gregory Boyd directs with a grandiose flair, taking full advantage of the

(Continued from preceding page)

Christiane Noll is a lovely and delicate Lisa with a voice exquisite enough to match her character's dainty personality. Bill Nolte casts a pall as the slithering Simon Stride. Martin Van Treuren is a diabolical Spider and Dave Clemmons makes an impassioned Bishop.

greater physical size of the show. Vincent Mountain's scenic design is an industrial urban-scape of ugly imposing edifices, befitting, and contributing to, the overall broodiness of the production.

"Jekyll & Hyde" is an immense production that carries its audience to musical pleasures on the wings of vocal delights. It's a smash.

## Teen goes on trial in Mississippi for gay men deaths

By GINA HOLLAND  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

LAUREL, Miss., Sunday, Jan. 29 (AP)—An attorney will try to convince a jury this week that his teen-age client killed two gay men last fall to protect himself from possibly being raped and infected with AIDS.

Jury selection in Marvin McClendon's murder trial begins today in Jones County.

As many as 30 witnesses could be called to testify about the night Joseph Shoemake and Robert Walters disappeared after telling gay friends they were going to find a sex partner.

Their bodies were found the morning of Oct. 8 near an abandoned railroad track. Both had been shot in the head at close range.

"The defense attorney is hoping this jury will think gay men or people with HIV have lives that are worth less. That's what he's banking on," said Catherine Hanssens, AIDS Project director for the New York-based Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc.

Laurel lawyer J. Ronald Parrish said McClendon agreed to help the men buy drugs, but panicked when they drove him to a rural area and tried to sexually assault him.

"We've got a 16-year-old black kid that these sexual predators tried to rape. We're not talking about some monogamous couple. They were in the real gay lifestyle, having sex with whoever the hell they can find," he said.

Gay rights groups have criticized Parrish's defense tactics.

"He's attempting to trot out personal and past information about the victims' lifestyles ... relying on people's bias and fear and trying to distract the jury's attention," Hanssens said.

Even more disconcerting to Hanssens and other activists is Parrish's attempt to use AIDS as an aggravating factor in the deaths.

Circuit Judge Billy Joe Landrum has not decided whether to allow the jury to consider the results of the HIV tests he ordered on the victims.

"At the appropriate time, I will pounce on it," Parrish said. "If one or both of these guys have this virus, that tells you something about their state of mind. There's no difference than them playing with a gun."

District Attorney Jeannene Pacific opposes the use of AIDS tests but has refused to discuss the case outside the courtroom.

McClendon, a high school sophomore who turned 17 in jail, is ready for the trial, which could be finished in three days, his lawyer said.

"He can't get out on bond. He's trapped in the filthy jail. He's ready to get it over with," Parrish said.

Parrish would not say if McClendon will testify. He said two or three people could testify in McClendon's defense and as many as 30 people have been subpoenaed by the prosecution.

McClendon was first accused of robbing and killing Shoemake, a 24-year-old factory worker, and Walter, 34, who worked in the commercial art business. The trial is on murder charges only.

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## Dallas city council upholds anti-gay bias protection

By **TERRY WALLACE**  
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

DALLAS, Thursday, Jan. 26 (AP)—Despite a second crack at it, opponents failed to topple a new policy protecting homosexual city employees from discrimination in hiring, firing and promotion.

The Dallas City Council voted 9-6 on Wednesday to uphold the policy, two weeks after adopting it by a 9-5 vote Jan. 11.

"The policy that you enacted was very unclear," said Dallas accountant Ken Sibley. "I've asked many people what 'sexual orientation' means. You've opened yourself up to many different recognitions."

Several critics warned that the policy might not only protect homosexual men and women, but also sexual predators such as pedophiles.

But supporters said the policy would raise a shroud of fear from the minds of gay men and women already on the city payroll, many of them covertly.

"It is good business and responsible management of tax dollars to hire the most responsible individual, regardless of sexual orientation," said Steve Atkinson, co-chairperson of the Gay and Lesbian Political Coalition of Dallas. "Otherwise, gay and lesbian employees would not be as productive because of fear of discrimination."

The second vote came after the council was informed by City Attorney Sam Lindsay that the first one may have violated the Texas Open Meetings Act. The public wasn't notified that the potential changes in personnel policy would include a change to the anti-discrimination provision.

Council member Donna Blumer urged

that the vote be put off.

"An issue as divisive and controversial as this requires further discussion by the council," she said. "To ratify the original vote would only continue the acrimony and further the feeling that this (Jan. 11) vote was railroad through."

Nevertheless, the public apparently was ready as the large council auditorium was filled through much of Wednesday afternoon. Opponents and supporters alternated before the council.

Council member Glenn Box, a policy opponent, said city rules and ordinances should reflect a community's mainstream morality.

"I've heard a lot of things, a lot of terms thrown around. But it's pretty simple from my standpoint. It all boils down to whether you believe homosexuality is right or wrong. I believe it's wrong," he said.

"Every single law that we enact ... is a reflection of our society's moral code," he said.

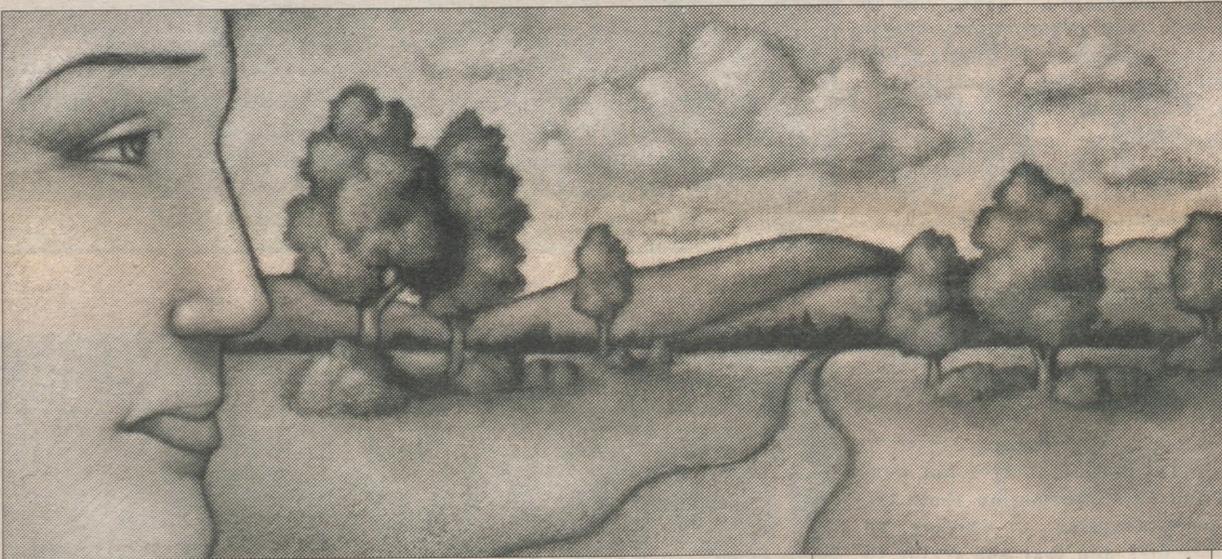
But Mayor Pro Tem Domingo Garcia, a policy supporter, quoted Anne Frank's observation that all people deserve respect as human beings. Miss Frank was a German-Jewish girl who kept a diary while she and her family were in hiding during the Holocaust.

"I believe that. I've heard the debate from both sides. But the bottom line is we're all human beings. None of us should be discriminated against, at any time, for any cause," Garcia said.

The policy comes in the wake of the city's settlement of a lawsuit filed by Mica England, who was denied a job as a police officer because she is a lesbian.

The city settled her lawsuit in September for \$73,000. Ms. England has since decided to become a chef.

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## West Virginia delegate says gays' office space should be made into daycare

MORGANTOWN, W.Va., Wednesday, Jan. 25 (AP)—A state delegate said he wants to cut funding for West Virginia University office space that is used by a gay rights group.

Delegate Eric Blass, R-Monongalia, said it is "discriminatory" for the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Mountaineers to have space in the student union, the Mountainlair.

"You don't see the heterosexuals asking for their own meeting space," Blass said Wednesday. He said he is drafting a bill to cut funding.

Erick Rexrode said the group serves students of all sexual orientations and is entitled to office space along with such groups as the Black Unity Organization, Campus Crusade for Christ and the student administration.

"To separate our group from other groups who are based on race or religion is to totally ignore the university's social justice policy," Rexrode said.

Blass said he wants to turn the gay group's office space into a daycare center.

"I'm sure there are considerably more students with small children than there are students who are gay," Blass said.

"He's obviously not seen the space," said Dave Taylor, director of student activities. "The space is an office space for two people. I don't know how that could be a daycare center."

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## 'California Suite' at Actor's Theatre funny and touching



Cindy Hogan plays three roles in "California Suite."

### Theater Review

By JAVIER TAMEZ

Houston Voice/Houston

You can always count on Neil Simon for crowd-pleasing laughs. His accessible style of presentation unveils the humor—sometimes knee-slapping, sometime heartwarming—that can be found in life's day-to-day trials. In "California Suite," Simon created four playlets, which are presented together under the collective title because all the action in each of the four short plays takes place in the same suite of the Beverly Hills Hotel (at different times of the year, of course). The collection of plays is being presented at Actors Theatre of Houston on weekend evenings through Feb. 19.

Each of the plays is labelled to indicate the point of origin for the hotel guests. Thus the first playlet is "Vis-

itors from New York." Here a divorced couple, Hannah (Cindy Hogan), a successful, high-powered magazine editor and William (Kirk Sisco), an equally successful writer now working for Hollywood studios, are meeting to discuss their daughter. Their never-seen, teenage daughter, who spends two months of the summer with her father, has taken advantage of the Thanksgiving holiday to run away from her mother's New York home to live with her father in California.

Unfortunately, discussing their daughter's welfare becomes almost secondary to Hannah and William for a large part of their conversation. The two exchange awkward pleasantries that fail to conceal an inimical attitude.

Hannah denigrates California and all things west coast with one caustic remark after another. She is arrogant and carries an eastern establishment superiority, pointedly making references to friends such as Adlai Stevenson and the U.S. Attorney General.

William has adopted a new lifestyle, shedding himself of old bad habits—smoking, drinking—and taking up new pastimes—regular exercise, eating healthily. William's ostensibly easy-going nature belies an arrogance of his own, a certainty that his change of pace could not have been accomplished in New York.

The repartee between Hannah and William continues in a knowing fashion—slightly combative, somewhat endearing, achingly familiar. A mother and a father determining the best course for their daughter becomes background to a former husband and wife re-learning how to communicate. Simon's use of quick-witted one-liners works as

well in this effort as in any of his works, and he underscores the continuing nature of relationships.

In the "Visitors from Philadelphia," Marvin (Danny Sorce), a married man, wakes with a hangover to discover that a prostitute from the evening before is still in his hotel suite bed, and his wife, Millie (Hogan) is due to arrive at any minute, so together they can attend their nephew's bar mitzvah. Marvin scrambles to make things presentable, but the hooker is hopelessly in the throes of a liquor-induced stupor, and his best efforts to revive her fail.

Millie shows up before Marvin can get rid of the whore and what ensues are the largely predictable antics committed by Marvin as he tries to keep his wife from discovering the hooker unconscious in the bed. The laughs are present, but the situation is ridiculously trite for someone of Simon's caliber, and he offers nothing appreciatively new in this second-rate variation of an oft-told tale.

In the "Visitors from London," Diana (Carolyn Houston Boone) a renowned but aging British actress, and her antiques dealer husband, Sidney (Sisco) have come to the Beverly Hills Hotel because she has received an Academy Award nomination, and they're attending the ceremony.

Routine jitters, expressed in salutary British banter, occupy the first scene. In the second scene, the couple have returned to their suite after the evening's events. Diana is now drunk and she snidely rails about the unfairness of the awards. But her real reason for unhappiness soon becomes apparent. Sidney is gay, and Diana knew about it before she married him. However, for the sake of appearances, she maintains the marriage, despite the hollow satisfaction she derives from it. This is a bittersweet story, and in Simon's capable hands, one touchingly relayed.

In "Visitors from Chicago," two married couples—Mort and Beth (Sorce, Hogan) and Stu and Gert (Sisco, Kristi Reinersten) are vacationing together. Their holiday is winding down and the two couples, particularly the men, are starting to get on each other's nerves. Beth injures herself in a tennis match and Mort accuses Stu of deliberately volleying the ball out of Beth's reach, making him directly responsible for Beth's injury.

That is, of course, only the beginning of what develops into a heated argument that really isn't funny most of the time. The physical substance of the play is certainly notable, but it is nowhere near enough to overcome the material in this, the weakest of the four.

The acting in the production is handled capably by all the artists. Cindy Hogan is of particular note. She was a cool, unflappable negotiator with a mordant wit, who only reluctantly engages her emotions, in "New York"; as Millie in "Philadelphia," she has a strong handle on her character's ethnicity; and in "Chicago" she displays amusing exasperation. Kirk Sisco also does a fine job in his three roles moving from California smugness, to British propriety, to midwestern affability without skipping a beat. Carolyn Houston Boone has a regal air and understated elegance as the stage aristocrat, Diana. Danny Sorce brings a good deal of vitality to his roles, but he seemed more Italian than Jewish in the Philadelphia segment.

Director Chris Wilson displays all the confidence and proficiency of a woman with her years of experience, eliciting sound portrayals from her cast and staging with a true artist's flair. "California Suite" is a warm, funny diversion and this production suits the work well.

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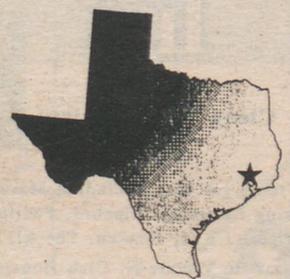
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## Ice picks skating; taking the ball to the 'net

**Sports Notes**

The next monthly Montrose Ice Picks ice skating get-together is Thursday, Feb. 9 at the Galleria Ice Rink, 5015 Westheimer.

The cost is \$5 plus \$2 for skates, and the session runs from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The rink is also open to the general public. For more information, call Angel at (713) 629-1432.

**Internet Sports**

What makes a sport gay? Well, nothing, really. But gay, lesbian and bisexual athletes often have special concerns, experiences and goals that they'd like to talk about.

Now, there is an Internet computer mailing list devoted to gay, lesbian and bisexual sports topics. The "Lesbian-Gay-Bi sports list" already has more than 250 recipients worldwide and will accept all manner of discussions on such topics as lesbian and gay athletic teams worldwide, the Gay Games, homophobia and gay positivity in sports, media coverage of lesbian and gay sports personalities and issues, sports strategies and anecdotes...and virtually anything else that seems relevant. The list is unmoderated, which means that no one will censor or inhibit messages.

There is no charge to subscribe to the list. All that is needed is a computer, a modem and an e-mail account. Interested persons should send an e-mail message to the address: list-manager@hookup.net. The subject line can say anything (or nothing). In the BODY of the message, type the words: subscribe lgb-sports. The person will automatically be added to the list and will then receive a confirmation message. (To unsubscribe, follow the same process but type the words unsubscribe lgb-sports in the body of the message.)

Contributions may be sent to the list by addressing them to lgb-sports@hookup.net.

Subscribers link up cyberspatially with athletes, sports boosters and organizers, including the gay Games V organizing committee in Amsterdam, and researchers into sports issues. One word of caution: lists can become addictive, and athletes should take care that they continue to spend as much time on the field as they spend on the line!

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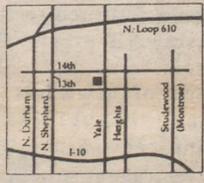
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**ASK THE PASTOR**



Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "If I am saved by the grace of Jesus, what is Judgment Day all about?"

A: "Salvation is a gift of eternal life that is given to us by Jesus Christ. It is a gift that is not taken back. Salvation means "to be set free." We are set free from the bondage and guilt and shame of sin. We are set free from the penalty of sin. Jesus paid the debt incurred by sin through his death on the Cross. Along with the gift of salvation, Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit so that we might learn to live free from the power of sin in our lives. As long as we walk this earth, the ruler of this earth (Satan) will try to influence us accordingly. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to help us, deliver us, give us strength to say "no" to the enemy's tactics. When we yield to the Holy Spirit we are victorious. When we do not accept the help of the Spirit, we succumb to the tricks of Satan and experience defeat.

The Holy Spirit also gives us gifts. They are called spiritual gifts and the Bible lists as many as 26 of them. Examples of spiritual gifts are: Service, Helps, Mercy, Giving, Missionary, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher, Hospitality, Administration, Leadership, Wisdom, Knowledge, Intercessory Prayer, and so many more. I'm sure this is not an exhaustive list. You will find the majority of them listed in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 in the New Testament. God gives us responsibilities to carry out. We are to discover, develop and use our gifts for God. One day we will be asked to give an account of how well we managed God's resources. Our resources are our time, talent and financial wealth. Judgment Day for Christians will be a reward day based on our effective use of our spiritual gifts. There are other components to Judgment Day, but this is the primary one that applies to Christians. We will not be judged for our sins because Jesus paid that penalty. Our acceptance of Christ took care of that.

Q: "What does 'once saved always saved' mean? What are your views?"

A: "Control issues in many of our lives keep us from accepting this theological perspective. One of the popular responses from a legalistic perspective would be, 'If a person is always saved no matter what they do, what will keep them from then living like the devil?' Rather than debate this response, isn't it wonderful to know a God who does not take back what has been given based on performance? We belong to a mighty God who loves us with an everlasting love. This means that we have security in our relationship with God. We are God's children. I don't know of very many earthly parents who would disown their children because of a behavior. There are some, of course, but it is not the majority or the norm. Jesus promised us that He would never leave or forsake us. No human being has ever been able to keep that promise. What God promises to do once we have been 'saved' or 'set free' is to give us the Holy Spirit to walk beside us. The Holy Spirit is the One who makes us miserable when we are out of God's will for our lives. The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the 'hound of heaven' because it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to watch and keep us on the path that God has for us. For this reason, God disciplines us. God doesn't leave us alone. In fact, that's one way that you are assured that you are God's child. When you are walking in God's will you have peace in your heart. When you are walking away from God you have disharmony, or the lack of peace. This is deliberate so that you will do something to find your way back to God. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our wrong doing and offers us forgiveness when we confess our need for God. It is a fear tactic of legalism that would say to a Christian, "If you sin, you will lose your salvation." That is not true. We serve a God who does not play with our emotions or yank us around to do what God wants us to do. The hardest task for us is to separate religious abuse from the truth of God's Word. What is your God like that you serve?"

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932.**

## Billiards and bowling weekly standings

### Sports Notes

The Houston Metropolitan Billiards League has announced its weekly standings for Week 3 of the 1995 winter/spring season, as follows:

(1) Coalition; (2) Jackson 5; (3) Knights; (4) Oui, Cousins; (5) BP's Med Center Mob; (6) Crazy Eights; (7) E/J's Misqued; (8) 611 Sticks; (9) Ripcord Rebels; (10) Masters of the Mine; (11) Tight Racks; (12) Suicide Squad; (13) Sioux's Boys; (14) Kissin' Cousins; (15) King's X; (16) B.R. Bottoms.

The first monthly meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 19 at E/J's.

### Bowling Leagues

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening League reported the following standings: first place team, Fish-N-Pole; second place, Gone Swishin' and third place, President and First Ladies. For the men, High Scratch Game of 257 and series of 640 was bowled by Mace Adams. For the women, Diann Thompson bowled scratch game of 243 and series of 643.

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports these Division A standings in first, second and third place: 4 Non-Blondes, Pin Ups and Party of Four. Division B standings are The Point After, 5 Easy Pieces and Ms. Dee Dee and doo dahs. High scratch game of 243 was bowled by Bob Roberts and series of 647 by Rodney Seiler. For more information call Gardy at 641-5424.

The Monday Night Women's League reports Maybe, Maybe Not in first place, followed by Can't Bowl Straight in second. In third place is Balls R Out and in fourth, Lesberados. For information, call pat at 437-6218.

The Houston Thursday Nite Mixers' first place team is Download and Unzip. In second place is pat & Company and in third place, Bowling Impaired. High scratch game of 256 was bowled by Tom O'Dell and Chris Barnett and series of 708 was bowled by Chris Bennett for the men. For the women, Marla Aizenshtat bowled scratch of 192 and Pam Spayde bowled series of 482. For more info, call Tom at 522-9612.

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## Westheimer Street Festival poster contest

### Art Notes

The board of directors of the Westheimer Street Festival has announced an open competition for the design of the 1995 Spring Westheimer Street Festival poster.

The spring festival will take place April 8 and 9.

The poster contest is hosted by the Hyde Park Art Gallery, 711 Hyde Park, and all entries will be on display at the gallery from Feb. 26 through the month of March. First prize in the poster contest is a \$250 purchase award.

All entries will be juried and the winner will be announced on March 3. The remaining entries will be exhibited and for sale for the rest of the month of March at the gallery.

Entry requirements follow:

The contest is open to all; there is no

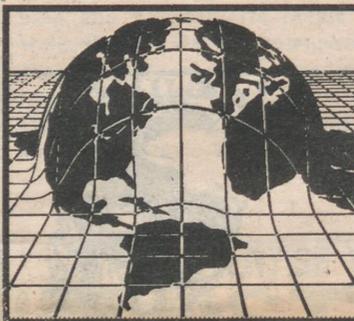
entry fee.

An artist may enter one work only; all work must be original and not exceed 30" in any direction. Work must be either framed or shrink wrapped and wired for hanging.

Winner receives \$250 purchase award. All artist rights regarding the work for reproduction and royalties are waived. Remaining works on exhibit at the Hyde Park Gallery will remain there for the month of March, and sales will be conducted by the gallery.

All entries should be hand delivered to the Hyde Park Art Gallery by february 25, during work hours. The award will be announced on March 3.

Contact person for the contest is Larry Crawford, director, Hyde Park Gallery, 526-2744. He may be reached during gallery hours (the gallery is closed Tuesday and Wednesday).



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## Fundraising chocolate gala set for Feb. 5 at Pavilion on Post Oak

### Quick Notes

"Sweet Charity," Houston's chocolate gala benefiting The Foundation for Interfaith Research and Ministry (FIRM), will sate chocolate cravings galore on Sunday, Feb. 5, at The Pavilion on Post Oak, 1800 Post Oak Boulevard. The city's finest pastry chefs will present specially created chocolate desserts for judging and tasting by such celebrated guests as recording star Rita Coolidge, on tour to promote her new album, "Love Lessons," and Honorary Chair and Mistress of Ceremonies Melanie Lawson. Co-chairing the benefit are Dr. Paul R. Gustafson, Barbara Shoemaker and facial plastic surgeon Kevin R. Smith, M.D.

The benefit will be chock-full of desserts prepared by Backstreet/Prego's; Black Labrador Pub; Boulevard Bistro; Cafe Annie; Cafe Noche; Carmelo's Italian Restaurants; Diet Gourmet; Elizabeth Swift; Escalante's; Gugenheim's Deli; House of Pies; Jackson & Co.; Jalapeno's; La Strada; Marriott Medical Center; Marshall Fields; Montesano Italian Restaurant; Rice Epicurean Markets; Ruggle's Grill; Sea Senior; Three Brothers Bak-

ery; and Vargo's. There will also be samples of the all-new Paragon Cherries & Chocolate and Blueberry Bliss 97 percent fat free ice cream.

The gala evening will kick off at 5:00 p.m. with a cocktail reception to honor FIRM underwriters, supporters and special friends, followed by a "live" auction featuring a selection of fantasy-filled vacations from Small Luxury Hotels of the World in Mexico. Destinations include the Hotel Avandaro Golf & Spa Resort, Valle de Bravo; Hotel Marquis Reforms, Mexico City; and Villa Del Sol, Zihautanejo. The dessert presentation and silent auction start at 7:00 p.m., followed by a special tribute to honor Lawson.

Tickets to the cocktail reception and dessert tasting are \$75 per person. Tickets to the dessert tasting only are \$35 per person. Funds raised by "Sweet Charity" will go to FIRM, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing compassionate hands-on care to adults and children with HIV/AIDS, frail seniors and those afflicted with Alzheimer's. Tickets are available by calling Barbara Alexander at (713) 682-5995.



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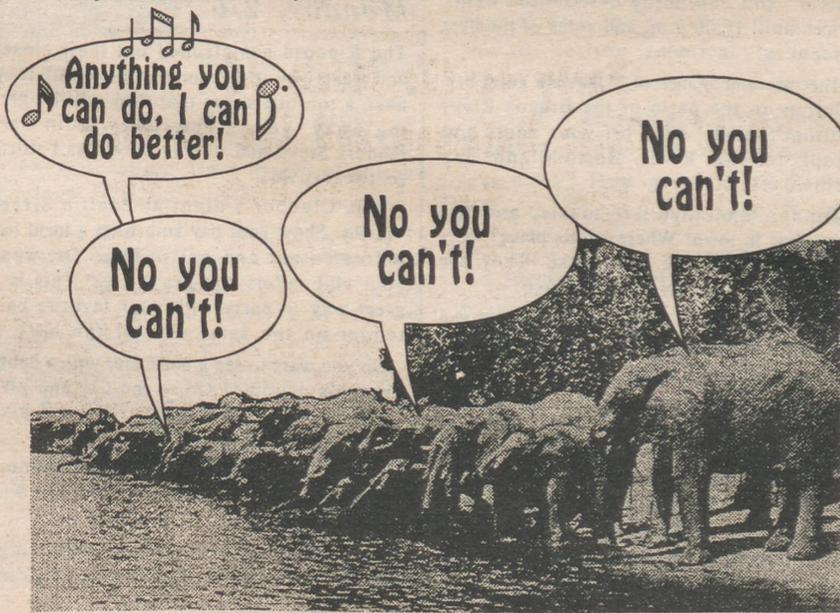
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Week # 5

TUE

Coming February 2  
Mark Payne in  
LIZA with a "M"

THURS

February 11th  
Miss Sweetheart/EJ's '95

SAT

# Soiree Aubergine kicks off; congrats to Reign XI monarchs, Crystal Rae Lee Love & Jerry Morin

## Houston Soap, Part 1

By CAROLYN LARSON

### Past Events

Houston Voice/Houston

Soiree Aubergine does it again! 1995 is beginning with a bang for Soiree Aubergine. On Sunday, Jan. 29th, their annual kickoff began with a barbecue dinner, the Superbowl game, and concluded with Peter Houston's "Lipstick & Levis" benefit show at Gentry. Altogether, Sunday's event raised over \$1,700 for the Bering Care Center!

The Livin' Joy show at Heaven was a great success. The crowd loved Janice Robinson!

The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star starts off Reign XI with Crystal Rae Lee Love as Empress and Jerry Morin as Emperor. This was the largest Coronation to date, with 17 courts from all over the US and Canada. The "Community Spirit Award" went to a well deserved Brazos River Bottom. The proceeds from the evening will go to Pet Patrol. The check will be presented at the PR I Ball on Feb. 18th.

### Friday, 2/3

Boogie down this and every Friday at Rich's with trash disco! Jonn Mott spins your favorite tunes tonight for all your disco fun! Check out the Rich's ad on page 9 for a \$2 off cover coupon!

It is Talent night at the MailBox Bar. Latina is your hostess. It is week #2. They have cash prizes! The MailBox bar is located at 4215 Washington.

### Saturday, 2/4

There is no place like home, and home is Rich's on Saturday night! The gorgeous ones flock to the dance floor every Saturday for some of the best in high energy dance music. You can enjoy discounted drink prices until 11:00 p.m. and some of the best "scenery" in town!

The men and women of TGRA are guest bartending on the patio of the Brazos River Bottom tonight! Dust off your boots and scoot to the River Bottom and say "Howdy!"

Dinner, dancing, live music, and the best view in town! Where is this place? Why it is the Penthouse, of course. They are located hi-atop 3400 Montrose.

There is a cash pool tournament at the Venture-N this Sunday starting at 5:30 p.m. There is a cash prize!

Erica's showcase tonight at the Lazy J features the talents of Miss (it's my birthday) T.T., The lovely Miss Dyan Michaels, Paivi Lee Love and Tricia Blake. The show starts at 11:00 p.m.

The Krewe of Olympus continues their party tonight at the BriarPatch after their ball. Join the Rae-lets as they sample the BriarPatch's buffet at midnight. The party doesn't stop at the BriarPatch until you do!

Join Jim Bushey at Gentry this afternoon. From noon until 5:00 p.m. he offers \$1.50 well drinks and longnecks! Get there early and stay all night! The regu-



'Lipstick & Levis' cast



They are at it already! The new reigning monarchs, Jerry and Crystal

lar happy hour prices are extended until 10:00 p.m. with the sexy Boy Toy dancers strutting on the stage.

Go and check your male at the MailBox bar tonight. Dancing until 3:00 a.m. to the disco and Tejano music.

### Sunday, 2/5

Mr. BRB '94, Eddie Taylor is hosting the Mr. BRB '95 contest tonight at 7:30 p.m. Join Eddie and the rest of the BRB gang to search for the new Mr. BRB '95! The contest ought to be a "heck of a good time!"

Jerel McNeill and Anita Mann present "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better" tonight at E/J's. This is a benefit for the Loving Arms Foundation. This will be an evening of "High Camp-Drag," of course picking on Wassieland resident Damita Jo. This ought to be quite a show!

Join the Lone Star Volleyball Association at Gentry for a party at 7:00 p.m. Then stick around for the annual Jock Auction at 10:00 p.m. sharp!

Hal and Jim are back! Yea! Buffet! continues at the Venture-N again! The table is set starting at 5:00 p.m.

### Monday, 2/6

The Ripcord has cleaned out their closet and wants you to get some of the stuff! They have a ton of t-shirts that they will be giving away, yes, giving away. Join bartenders Steve and Lee as they toss t-shirts to the crowd.

It is Clubber's night at Pacific Street tonight. Show your pay stub from a local bar or restaurant and get in free. Or, wear your club colors and get in free! This is a great way to party with your favorite bartender on the same side of the bar!

Do you want to see a bartender with a hangover this morning? Go to the 611 and give Ralph a holler! For a dollar he will give you a vodka drink!

The Toy Box has cute male dancers tonight. Go by and check out how their wieners wave!

The BriarPatch's new hunk Clint brings 'em back for more on Monday nights.

### Tuesday, 2/7



All these men and I'm still single



So you want to take our picture!

Dance Lessons! BRB! 10:00 p.m.!

I'm supposed to do something every Tuesday. What can it be? Golly, gee-whiz I can't seem to remember! Maybe I should not drink Cuervo so much! Maybe if I go to Mary's I'll remember! I have \$2. That should be enough!

Registration for the Mr. Toy Box 1995 Contest starts tonight.

Corona Tuesdays promise a night that you will not soon forget. Kofi takes the stage at 11:00 p.m. and hosts her infamous Jockey shorts contest. That paired with your chance to grab for cash at midnight and \$1.50 Corona longnecks all night make J.R.'s the perfect place to hang out!

### Wednesday, 2/8

Mary's, naturally, has happy hour all day and all night this and every Wednesday!

It is Ladies' night and oh what a sight, at the Penthouse tonight. There is a great happy hour drink special where house brand cocktails are only a dollar and domestic longnecks are only \$1.75.

Wednesday nights at the Mine are a real San Francisco treat. The theme is Bear's night out. San Francisco style. Throw on those Levi's, thermals, a flannel shirt and hiking boots and try to get to the pizza they serve on the patio at midnight before Miss Damita Jo finishes the last slice. Plus, all longnecks are a buck all night long!

Warm up at Gentry's male strip contest! Dyan is doing it again at 10:30 p.m.

### Thursday, 2/9

Dance Lessons! BRB! 8:30 p.m.!

Check out the new game room at the Penthouse tonight. They have pool tables, great pinball machines, a dart machine, and other fun things to play with.

It is open mike night at the Toy Box bar. If you have a new "act" or new material you would like to try out, this is one of the best places to do so. The Toy Box bar (formerly the Red Room) is located at 1419 Richmond.

The MailBox bar has free pizza and hot links from 8:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. tonight.

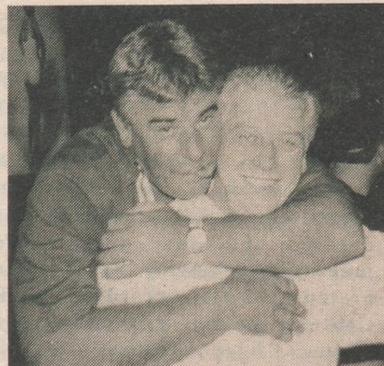
You are cordially invited to... thrashing alternative rock, inspiring lilting opera, snazzy Broadway tunes, happy homo-humor; killer cocktails and decadent food. Tonight is the Spectrum '95 kick-off party at the Penthouse. There is a \$10 door charge requested. The party is from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more info, call 526-2853.

### Other Important Stuff

Introductions is having a party on Valentine's Day at the Penthouse! There will be door prizes, live entertainment, complimentary buffet, and a "gay dating game." Be sure to register to win free memberships to their service. If you would like more info, please call 520-MATE.

Have you done your taxes yet? Well, Guilory and Associates, Inc. will be glad to help you! Call them at 526-9972 to get help with those pesky taxes.

Cafe Anthony's is a delightful place to have lunch. My favorite is the Eggplant



Ken & Ken...what a pair!

Rotillini! The sauce is fantastic. Be sure to clip out the coupon on page 12 for the buy-one-get-one-free lunch or dinner!

There is a new information service in town! MedHealth, Inc. offers all the current information on HIV/AIDS. For more information, call 1-800-MED-HLTH.

Have you ever thought about becoming a travel agent? Well, Travel in Style offers the classes. Call 624-7600 for more info.

Pacific Street and Basic Brothers are proudly presenting the "Mr. Gay All-American 1996" contest on Sunday, Feb. 12th, at 9:00 p.m. Call Basic Brothers at 522-1626 for more info.

Travel Points is having a special trip to the Player's Casino on Feb. 26th. \$5 per person will be donated to Stone Soup. Call 998-1493 for more info.

The kitchen of the Penthouse will be reopening on Feb. 17th. The menu has also been revamped. The kitchen will be open on Friday and Saturday nights only and they highly suggest reservations. Call 522-0745 to reserve your table!

Anyone interested in submitting a design for the Westheimer Street Festival Poster, please contact Larry Crawford at the Hyde Park Gallery (526-2744). There is a prize of \$250 (purchase) to be given to the winner. Entries will be on display at the gallery the week before judging. All entries must be in by Feb. 24th.

I hear the masseur at Heights Tanning gives a great rubdown. Call 802-9373 to make an appointment.

The Club Houston is a great place to meet your mate! They are having a super blow-out on Friday, Feb. 10th to give you time to find that "certain someone." Leave it to Damion and his hunky staff to give you what you want!

Basic Brothers is in the middle of one of the biggest sale events they have ever had! Merchandise from all departments has been marked down from 40% to 75% off the original price. This is also a great time to check out what's new for Spring and Summer '95 as shipments are arriving daily. Stop by the store at 1232 Westheimer. Richard, Bill, Cody, and Oscar will be happy to show you the great savings and what's new. Come and experience the friendly helpful service Basic Brothers has become known for.

I went to see Harvey Milk, and well, I don't like opera, but I loved this one! It was a real mixed crowd, and lots of pretty people, both in the audience and on the stage.

### Carolyn's Calendar

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call me at 529-8490 or fax the facts to me at 529-9531.

02/03 to 5 \* "Sweethearts in Texas"—A 3-day meeting of the International Association of Gay and Lesbian C & W Dance Clubs in Austin. Call Steve at 880-0670 for more info.

02/04 \* Montrose Clinic's 2nd annual Bowl-a-thon. A fundraiser for the Clinic's Deaf and Hard of Hearing programs. Call Steve Nettles at 520-2015 for more info.

02/05 \* T.G.R.A. guest bartend at the Brazos River Bottom on the Patio!

## Calendar, continued; birthday corner and this week's gossip



Why do photographers always catch me with a ciggie hanging out of my mouth?

### Houston Soap, Part 2

02/05 \* Mr. BRB 1995 contest at the Brazos River Bottom.

02/05 \* Lone Star Volleyball Association's "Date with a Jock" auction at Gentry.

02/05 \* "Sweet Charity, 1995" benefit at the Pavilion on Post Oak. Call 682-5995 for more info.

02/05 \* "East Side Trash" at E/J's.

02/06 \* Birthday Party for Jack Jackson sponsored by the Montrose Counseling Center. Call 526-4367 for more info.

02/09 \* Fundraiser for Spectrum '95 at the Penthouse. Call 526-2853 for more info.

02/10 \* Creme de la Creme show at Heaven. Hosted by Soiree Aubergine.

02/10 \* Pre-sale of tickets for the Diana Awards at the BriarPatch. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

02/11 \* "Miss Sweetheart—E/J's '95" contest at E/J's.

02/11 \* 5th Anniversary party for the Brotherhood of Pain at the Ripcord. 9:00 p.m.

02/11 \* Valentine's Party and membership drive for the Gulf Coast Bears at the Venture-N. 9:00 p.m.

02/11 \* Miss Toy Box 1995 contest.

02/11 \* Erica's Showcase at the Lazy J.

02/12 \* TGRA presents a variety show at Gentry. A benefit for the Bering Care Center.

02/12 \* Mr. Gay Pride All-American Contest at Pacific Street.

02/12 \* Gulf Coast Bears monthly meeting. Call 867-9123 for more info.

02/12 \* "Hearts for Erica" show at the Lazy J.

02/12 \* "TGRA Celebrating Life" at Gentry. A benefit for Bering Care Center.

02/13 \* Valentine's Day party at the Club Houston.



Have a drink with me on Friday and Saturday nights at the Venture-N

02/14 \* "Cafe Attitude" at the Venture-N. Fundraiser hosted by NLA:H.

02/14 \* Party at the Penthouse sponsored by Introductions.

02/14 \* Valentine's Day Ball and Coronation at Chances. 7:30 p.m. A King, Queen, Prince, and Princess of Montrose will be crowned. This is a benefit for the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston. Call Susan at 523-7217 for more info.

02/18 \* RSICSS's PR Ball I at the Travelodge Hotel.

02/11 \* Mr. Toy Box 1995 contest.

02/19 \* Fundraiser at the Toy Box for the Bering Care Center.

02/25 \* Mardi Gras Bus trip from the Ripcord. Tickets still available. Call 521-2792 for more info.

02/25 \* Mardi Gras Bus trip from the Brazos River Bottom. Call 528-9192 for more info.

02/25 \* Fundraiser for NAMES Project at the Venture-N.

02/26 \* Scooter Lee performs at the Brazos River Bottom.

02/26 \* "Mr. & Miss Gentry" benefit show at Gentry hosted by Soiree Aubergine.

03/03 to 5 \* L.U.E.Y Weekend kicks off.

03/05 \* Cajun Belle Festival at the Lazy J.

03/03 \* Cabaret night at Penthouse hosted by Soiree Aubergine.

03/05 \* RSICSS Benefit show at Gentry.

03/04 \* to 11 \* Soiree Aubergine's silent auction at Gentry benefiting the Bering Care Center's meal program.

03/09 \* NLA:H Education meeting, 711 Hyde Park, 7:00 p.m. A tattooing seminar and demo by Ragoo.

03/11 \* Gulf Coast Bears Prowl night at the Venture-N.

03/12 \* La Soiree Grande at Gentry.

03/12 \* Garden Party presents "Radio Daze—a blast...from...our past" a musical review at the Brazos River Bottom, starting at 7:00.

03/12 \* Deb-U-Not Ball at Rich's. A Miss Camp American function starting at 4:00 p.m.

03/12 \* Gulf Coast Bears Monthly meeting. Call 867-9123.

03/17 \* Party at the Penthouse! A fundraiser for the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard. Live band Peggy and the Dreamers will be on stage.

03/23 \* "Angels in America" Opening night performance with a special guest. At the Alley Theater. A Benefit for DIFFA/Houston. \$150 per ticket. Call 552-9445 for more info.

03/25 \* The Diana Foundation Awards.

03/30 to 04/02 \* AIDS Memorial Quilt on display at the George R. Brown. For more info, call 52-NAMES.

03/31 \* Art Opening at the Hyde Park Gallery. Artist is David Greiger. 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

04/01 \* EPAH's Leather and Lace benefit at Pacific Street. 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

04/7 to 9 \* NLA:H's Anniversary

weekend run. Call 527-9666

### Birthday Corner

Well, well, Steve Nally (TWT) is having a birthday this week as well as Tom Z. (Firedancers), Rita Charles (Chances), Steve (Gentry), my mother (Hi Mom), and a very dear and old, old, old friend Mark Ferrin! Have a tiny triple on me!

### Rodent Droppings!

It is that time again! You know the drill. This is not journalism...this is lies, gossip and stuff I feel like making up! Just thought I would remind you that I take no responsibility for anything that follows! Read at your own risk!

Alan (VN): I hear that one of your "farm hand" friends is coming down from Wisconsin! You are going to dress this "fresh off the farm" hunk in full leather and turn him loose in the Ripcord and the Venture-N. Look out men of Montrose—there is fresh meat in town!!!!

Bobby O'Brien: Didn't your mother tell you that if you played with it too much you would go blind?

Pumpkin (PS): How was your visit in the jail in Mexico?

Kirk (Penthouse): Just because you drive a huge butch pick-up truck does not automatically make you butch.

You need a good pair of hi-heeled pumps to get into it!

Roni (Garden Party): See, I can get it right sometimes!

Message to David B. (Tx Riders Pledge): There IS life after 12 Oaks! We love you. Love, Kelly.

Kerry (Heights Tanning): I understand that you have a tough time figuring out what to order for breakfast! Whole

wheat or white? Hash brown or cottage fries?

Sissy (VN): I understand you hate being called "Sissy," so you have renamed yourself "Casey." You looked so cute in your little railroad outfit that I guess the name fits!

Roland (Galveston): Nice to meet you! Keep reading!

Jeff (Toy Box): How come Ray's bunny was attacking your cow slippers? Were they in heat?

Dean (NLA:H): I know how much you love to fax, but be sure that when you send stuff to me, it is really for me!

JoAnn (BRB): Just what is a "beer slurpee?"

Lance (Penthouse): I can't believe you got a high school senior grounded! What is next, hanging around the school bus stops?

Dyan Michaels: Good Luck!

Michael P.: Wearing your wine again I see! Did Clay (Penthouse) give you a dribble glass?

Brian Keever: So, Clay finally read your beads! I bet you had consumed so many Skyy Vodkas that you don't even remember that it happened. See me, I've got all the details!

Clint (BriarPatch): Why do they longingly call you "Squint?" Does it have anything to do with Southern Comfort?



And all this time we thought you had a basketball stuffed under your shirt



Larry Crawford and the real Carol Channing

Paula (Penthouse): Welcome!

Lee (Ripcord): What are you going to do with the pearl you found in the oyster? Give someone a "pearl necklace?" Remember, pearls go best with basic black!

Doug A. (PS): So, you have a new beau? How long you gonna keep this one around? You change husbands more often than I change earrings!

Portia: I saw you laid out on the steps...again!!

Jim Cheek: Now that you are no longer seeing this before it is printed, be afraid, be very afraid!

JT (PS): Lassoed any cowboys lately?

Marsha (Ms. TGRA): Yes, honey, everyone in town saw Linda's hickie!

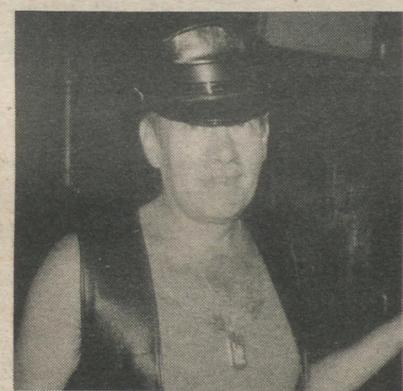
Vanna (Gentry): What was that little message you sent to me in the Court's program? "The size of one's hairdo has NEVER been directly disproportionate to the size of one's I.Q." Where did you learn those \$10 words?

Curtis (Garden Party): Why did you break the ledge with a picked-up man last week? How much is the Ripcord going to charge you to repair the damages?

A special get well hug to Fuzzy Bear/Piggy! (He is in Park Plaza!)

Where else but Montrose would this happen? I had just had lunch at Cafe Anthony's and, like the silly blonde that I can be, left "something" on.. well, I had a dead battery! I popped the hood and got the jumpers out and who should stop to help.. but a woman! Thanks to the unknown woman that gave me a jump!

Huggs and Kisses,  
Cuervolyn



The Trucker says hi!

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