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Film profiles gay rodeo pro page 15

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Lesbian Outreach Project promotes better health care

Volunteers need for Feb. 7 training

by ELLA TYLER

When Barbara Walker approaches a woman in a bar and asks "When was the last time you had your breasts examined?" it's not a pick-up line. It's her job. Walker and Deborah Bell, the outreach workers for the Lesbian Health Outreach Project, spend their days (and nights) talking to lesbian and bi-sexual women about their need for preventative health care.

Walker and Bell have been active in the local gay and lesbian community for decades. Walker says she started going to bars when she was a teenager. "I remembers when women had to wear three items of female clothing or risk arrest", she says. She worked for an insurance company processing medical claims for many years. Bell is a former editor of the *Houston Voice* and was the Grand Marshall for the 1997 Pride Parade. She worked for a surgeon.

"Many lesbians do not get the routine health checkups straight women get,"



Barbara Walker

Bell says. The project was started to tell lesbians why they need this care and refer them to places to get these services. Many women are uncomfortable with the mainstream medical system and some do not have insurance to pay for services, Bell stated.

The project began in October and is conducting its first volunteer training Saturday, Feb. 7. "We've spent the past three months assembling information and developing material", Bell said. Volunteers are needed to help at the Well-Women Clinics at Montrose Clinic on Wednesday evenings, give demonstrations and put information packets together. "It's not very intensive," said Bell. The training will be at Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer, from noon to 4 p.m.

The information packets Bell and Walker distribute contain a pink ribbon and card about breast cancer awareness, a coupon good for a \$5 discount on a well-woman exams, a card good for a free See **OUTREACH/** page 14

Judge: "This court finds that the Navy has gone too far."

Sailor back on duty after federal judge rules investigators investigators trampled Don't Ask, Don't Tell rules.

HONOLULU (AP) - Timothy McVeigh was back at work Tuesday, Jan. 20, one day after a federal judge ordered the sailor reinstated to Navy duty while his dismissal case is fully investigated.

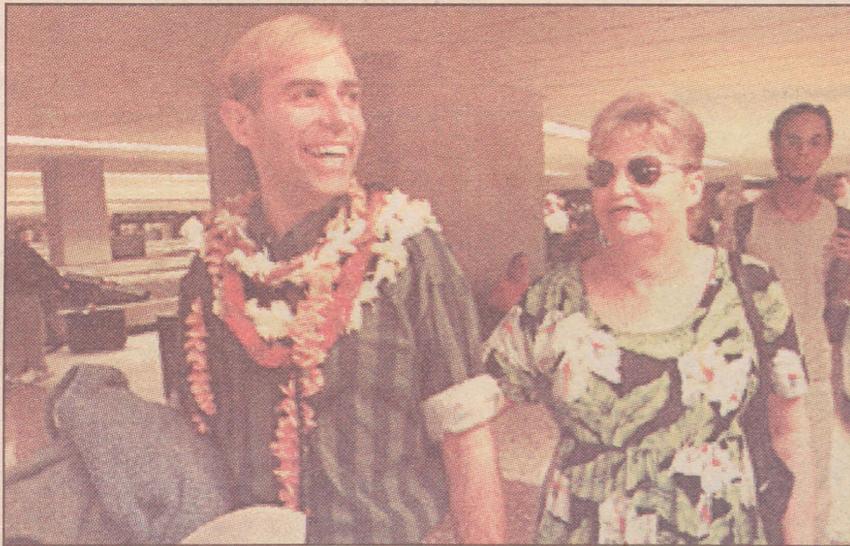
McVeigh traveled back to Hawaii on Monday, and was en route when U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin ruled from Washington that the Navy had violated its "don't ask, don't tell" policy about homosexuals when investigating the senior chief petty officer. He was greeted with the good news upon his arrival in Honolulu, where his mother and friends were waiting.

McVeigh, 36, (who is no relation to Oklahoma City bomber), said he is happy to be returning to the Navy to continue his 17-year career. "There's uncertainty," he said. "I don't know what I'll be doing. They don't know what I'll be doing. But I'm happy. I'm right in this case."

The judge ruled the Navy was wrong to seek out personal information about McVeigh from America Online, where the sailor reportedly described himself as "gay" in his member profile.

Senior Chief Petty Officer. McVeigh, a highly decorated 17-year Navy veteran, landed in trouble last fall when the Navy found a "profile page" in which a "Tim" from Honolulu described himself as gay and expressed a sexual interest in young men. A Navy investigator called AOL anonymously and obtained the author's full name, a disclosure AOL later said it regretted and was a

See **MCVEIGH/** page 13



Timothy McVeigh's mom, Teri, who met him at the Honolulu airport Tuesday, said, "The whole world supports him." He moved her to Hawaii in '93 after she suffered a heart attack.

Gay Internet users react to AOL 'outing'

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

The phone call to technical services last fall seemed simple enough.

"I am the third party in receipt of a fax," the caller said. "I want to confirm the profile sheet and the full name of the sender."

On the other end, the response from Owen, the tech service rep, was brief: It came from Hawaii, a man named Timothy R. McVeigh.

With that, the Navy pursued an investigation against 36-year-old McVeigh, a highly decorated senior enlisted man with 17 years in the service.

McVeigh's profile that the Navy was so interested in was bland compared to some

others posted by AOL's millions of users. Under the screen name "Boysrch," the author of the page—"Tim" from Honolulu—wrote "gay" under marital status. For hobbies, the profile listed "driving, boy watching, collecting pictures of other young studs."

McVeigh inadvertently used that screen name when he sent an e-mail to Helen Hajny, the wife of a shipmate of McVeigh's aboard the USS Chicago based in Honolulu. He was communicating with Hajny, who served as an onshore ombudsman for sailors aboard the nuclear-powered

See **AOL** page 13

WHITE HOUSE SCANDAL

Gays adopt wait-and-see attitude on Clinton

Local leaders fear scandal could make gay voters more apathetic

HOUSTON—Republican or Democrat, most lesbians and gay men do not appear ready just yet to bring to judgment the first pro-gay President of the United States. Like many Americans, most gays have adopted a wait-and-see attitude about

salacious allegations that the Bill Clinton had an affair with Monica



Lewinsky, a former White House intern, and then asked her to lie under oath about it.

"It's too soon to tell the impact of what has happened over the last weeks and continues echoing out over rest of country," said Winnie Stachelberg, Human Rights Campaign Political Director. "We're moving forward just as we would have if none of it had happened. We continue to carry on our business with the White House on a number of issues. We're working with the administration

on the State Of The Union, on general themes we'd like to see included, and on a final budget determination, and that hasn't changed over the week."

Kevin Ivers, public affairs director for the

national gay group Log Cabin Republicans, echoed those sentiments. "Generally, the leaders in Congress are waiting to see if the charges are true, and let the legal process take its course," said Ivers.

"Republicans in Congress have promised they will continue with business as usual, for example, on AIDS issues. We've lost momentum on ENDA with this distraction and having the White House out of the equation for a period of time, but the scope of the impact



Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky (r) and anti-Clinton protagonist Linda Tripp

is not clear."

Lawrie Demorest, HRC's Southern regional chair, admits her opinions are colored by her partisanship as a hard-core Democrat. "I just don't know yet," she said. "But I have to ask why are Republicans

See **CLINTON** page 13

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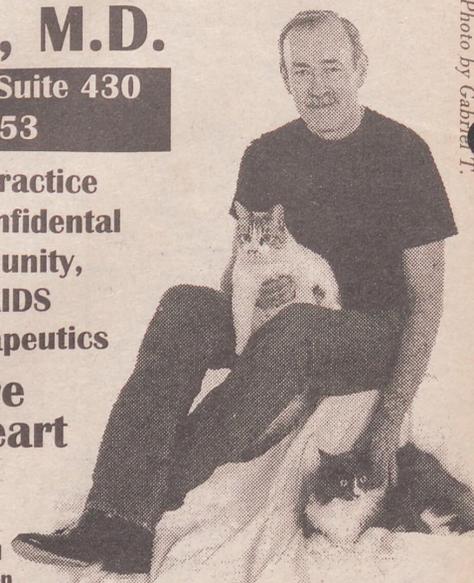


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| WED | 2/4 | Granny's Burgers! |
| THUR | 2/5 | Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos |

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LOCAL

Home Sweet Home

Haven for HIV/AIDS women opens

by J.C. MICHELAK

HOUSTON—Deneen Francis just wanted a place she could call home. A place where she could feel comfortable and safe. Francis, who is HIV-positive, always dreamed of a "Haven" that would enable her to become independent. Last week, in an emotional and poignant ribbon cutting ceremony, AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH) made that dream possible.

Designed specifically for women with HIV/AIDS and their families, A Friendly Haven opened its doors Jan. 23 with a ceremony that drew nearly 200 supporters. Haven is a transitional 30-unit apartment complex for homeless women diagnosed with HIV/AIDS who are physically able to care for their needs and desire to improve their quality of life.

"Women and Children diagnosed with the HIV virus need more than sympathy," Francis told the early morning crowd at the ceremony. "We need—and deserve—your compassion, companionship, and most of all your help."

The "one of a kind" program offers a comprehensive array of services, including educational opportunities for the women and their children, job training and placement, child day care, legal services, support groups, counseling, medical services, drug prevention and case management.

"The goals of Haven is to empower the women to live self-sufficient lives through



Deneen Francis (r, inset) addressed the crowd at the opening of A Friendly Haven homes for women with HIV/AIDS



the provision of a stable living environment, supportive services, education and enrichment opportunities," says John Huckaby, Director of Client Services at AFH.

Although the apartments are new, Haven started as a pilot program last year utilizing an off-site residence. According to Huckaby, "Recently 14 women from this pilot program graduated, successfully completing all phases of the program and are ready for independent living."

The proportion of total AIDS cases attributable to women is increasing. According to the Centers For Disease Control (CDC), nearly 86,000 women have been diagnosed with AIDS between 1982 and 1996. That represents 15 percent of all reported AIDS cases. Locally, the figure is higher. AFH reports that 18 percent of its client base is female. AIDS is the fourth leading cause of death among women ages 25-44.

The magnitude of the problem appears to be ever increasing. Black and Hispanic women have been disproportionately affected, respectively accounting for 59 percent and 19 percent of cases reported in 1996. In 1994, AIDS cases in women attributable to transmission via heterosexual contact surpassed the number attributable to transmission via injecting drug use. The states with the highest number reported were New York, Florida, New Jersey, California, and Texas.

Texas ranks fourth (42,185 reported cases) in the United States in numbers of AIDS cases. Six Texas cities are in the top 20 for numbers of AIDS cases. Houston, with 15,124 cases, ranks seventh in the US. African women account for 60 percent of local AIDS cases, according to AFH.

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"and affecting more women, Haven has been built to address that need."

For Deneen, and many more women like her, Haven will provide them with a place they can call home until they are able to make it on their own. "A place where we feel safe, secure and comfortable" she said. "Where we can strengthen our spirit and become independent."

"The Bible says be doers of the word and not hearers only," said Deneen. "The power that drives people to do good comes from the spirit inside of them. When we take a stand for Christ, he stands with us."

Lesbian Angels organize Sunday food for Montrose homeless.

Two local lesbians, Linda Owens of the Montrose Clinic and Franki Ferranto, are getting up bright and early Sunday mornings to pass out free brown bag lunches to the homeless in Montrose. "We are targeting the older people who cannot work due to age or health," said Owens. "But no one who is hungry will be turned down. We are also encouraging the young and old to come to the clinic for HIV testing." They were christened "Angels" by one of the local recipients.

The women welcome donations of food, especially from local businesses. New volunteers, of course, are also encouraged. Call Owens at (713) 523-0598 or Ferranto at (713) 455-6821.

Medical marijuana forum slated Feb. 4

HOUSTON—The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus is co-hosting an informational forum on the reported medical benefits marijuana for people suffering from AIDS and other diseases. Also that evening, the caucus will vote on endorsements for the March 10 primary elections.

"Many believe cannabis helps people with



Honoring our friends State Representative's Jessica Farrar (left) and Ron Wilson were two of 16 state legislators honored at the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby (LGRL) Honors gala held at the Lovett Inn, Jan. 22. Wilson, who was a first-time honoree, joined a crowd of about 100 for the event, which was organized to recognize legislators who supported equality for lesbian and gay Texans during the 75th Legislative Session.

AIDS wasting syndrome, cancer chemotherapy, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injuries," said Art Smart, president of the Greater Houston Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, one of the event co-hosts. "Yet the government seems to think that police, not doctors, should decide whether or not sick people should have access."

The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd., Houston, with wine and cheese. The caucus vote will be taken at 7:30. The medical marijuana forum will follow at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Bunnies on the Bayou seeks charity recommendations

In advance of its much-anticipated 19th annual Easter Party, Bunnies on the Bayou is soliciting nominations for non-profit charities to be considered for a share of the substantial funds generated by the spectacular

fund-raising event.

Last year, the Bunnies Easter Party drew more than 2,000 celebrants who donated more than \$30,000 at the door, all of which was distributed to seven area non-profits. The 30 friends who founded Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc., with the help of generous sponsors, completely underwrite the expense of the party itself.

Nominations of organizations to benefit from the party are due by Feb. 10. They must include proof of the organization's 501(c)3 status in the form of its IRS determination letter, along with current financial statements, a summary of the organization's purpose or mission statement, and a detailed explanation of what project or activity the donated funds would support. Brochures, press clippings and other information are helpful as well.

Send nominations to: Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc., P.O. Box 66832, Houston TX 77266. Attn: Charities Committee.

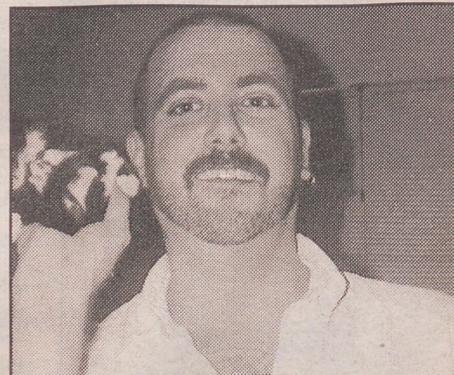
Sports briefs

The Montrose Softball League is preparing for its 1998 season. All interested individuals are urged to contact the MSL office at (713) 867-3913. Also a sign-up table will be set up at JR's Bar and Grill Friday, Jan. 30 from 6 to 10 .m. MSL is open to adult men and women of all skill levels.

The Rainbow Fishing Club is planning 10 deep sea fishing outings this year above an 85-foot catamaran out of Galveston. The first two 12-hour trips are scheduled for Wed., March 18 (\$55) and Sun., April 19 (\$60). A \$20 deposit is required and can be sent to Rainbow Fishing Club, P.O. Box 66450, Houston TX 77266. Call (713) 523-6381 for more information

OBITUARY

Armand Panzera



Houston's gay community lost a much-loved member when Armand Panzera died Jan. 25 after a brief illness.

A long-time resident of Houston, Panzera, 34, was known for his love of automobiles, and his ability to keep friends cars in good repair. He was also devoted to his two cats, Oogie (pictured) and Linky, whom he adopted after finding it under the hood of a Lincoln he was working on. During his years in Houston, Panzera became well-known to many in the community through his work at Mary's, the Ripcord, E.J.'s, Chances, Red Room and the Montrose Inn.

He was raised in Cape May, N.J., where he was returned for burial. He is survived by his roommate and long-time friend Ron Dionne of the Ripcord; special friend Orlin Cullever; his mother, Phyllis Howell; a brother, Tom Nelson and his step-father, Bert Howell.

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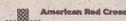
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Family life goes on for Utah lesbian fired from high school coaching job

SALEM, Utah (AP)—Inside the modest home of Wendy Weaver, children play games, do their homework and eat snacks. They laugh, they yell, they run from room to room, they are denied requests for more snacks—so as not to spoil their dinner.

It's a scene not unlike any other home in Utah Valley on a given weekday afternoon, except that despite the veneer of normalcy, this is not a typical family. Especially not a typical Utah Valley household.

From the couch in the living room, Weaver and her partner, Rachael Smith, supervise their seven children while talking with a reporter. They sit close together, hold hands and occasionally stroke each other's hair. Do they feel like a normal family?

"We try to take care of seven kids, if you can call that normal," Smith said. "We talk about bills, make grocery lists, break up fights, get kids to their ball games. We're just trying to love our kids and each other."

Managing a large brood

Of the seven children, five are from Smith's former marriage and two are Weaver's and all but one are boys. Weaver

and Smith have joint custody of the kids, who range in age from 4 to 12, with their ex-husbands.

"My boy (who is 10) has struggled a little bit. We talk about it," said Weaver. "With our kids, the fathers are real involved with them. We work well with our ex-husbands in raising them. We never fought with our husbands. I don't want to underestimate the effects of divorce, but it's not as traumatic as it could be."

"The biggest change for us came when we moved in together. Nothing has been as traumatic as that, trying to meld our families together," Weaver said.

And this is a family that has experienced its share of traumatic changes.

The public revelation last fall that she is gay hurled Weaver, a Spanish Fork High psychology teacher, into the center of a raging controversy in this conservative community.

In October, she filed a civil lawsuit against Nebo School District, contending it violated her civil rights of free speech when it told her she could not discuss her sexual orienta-

tion with anyone inside or outside of the classroom.

The longtime volleyball coach who guided Spanish Fork to four state championships was relieved of her coaching duties before the current school year.

One group, led by attorney Matthew Hilton, sued Weaver for alleged misconduct with her players. Last month, another group of Weaver's former volleyball players called a press conference to refute the charges. The district, meanwhile, is vigorously defending itself against her suit, which will likely go to trial.

Change in identity

"What bothers me is I'm not Wendy Weaver any more. I'm 'the lesbian teacher,'" Weaver said. "It's not who I am. I'm a teacher, a mother, and I was a coach. But being gay is my identifying factor."

"The real issue in my suit was that the government told me what I could and could not say," she said. "The gay issue has become the focal point, but it shouldn't be."

While Weaver and Smith try to shield their children from the publicity as much as

possible, they don't hide their lifestyle. Instead, they talk about it openly.

"The kids have adjusted really well. They're too young to be hassled at school," Weaver said.

For Weaver and Smith, though, the public debate has taken its toll. "We'll take a long drive or long walk and cry a few tears," said Smith, who works as a real estate appraiser from home and takes care of the children when Weaver is teaching. Smith also officiates high school and college basketball, volleyball and softball games.

Still, both Weaver and Smith say they have heard more from supporters than from opponents who want the school district to fire Weaver.

"There's no open persecution," said Smith. "No angry phone calls, no vandalism. No one's thrown snow-balls at us."

Local support

Weaver said she has had support from Spanish Fork residents who may not agree with her lifestyle.

"This community is not like the parents group. Most believe this is my private life. They judge me for how they interact with me."

Weaver never dreamed she'd become embroiled in a controversy that would attract national attention.

For years, she said, she battled her feelings. She and her ex-husband, Gary, who is also employed by the Nebo District, were seen as a model couple. They welcomed foster children into their home and served in the community.

The Weavers were nominated for Family of the Year Award in Salem several years ago.

When the couple divorced after 15 years of marriage, rumors about Weaver's lifestyle arose but didn't become public until last summer when a student who was trying to decide if she should play on the team asked Weaver point-blank if she was gay.

Weaver says she told the truth. Not long after that, the district informed her of the decision to let her go as coach. "I wasn't going to lie about the relationship. These kids are 16, 17, 18 years old. Telling them it's none of their business is unfair."

Weaver denies the allegations from some former students that she promoted lesbianism among athletes. "I pride myself in that I was a coach who played according to who was best. I played the best athletes. I didn't play gays over non-gays," she said.

Surprising change

Smith says she can relate to those who are opposed to Weaver.

"Six, seven years ago I probably wouldn't have gotten involved myself," she said. "I was raised the same way these people were raised.... I told my mom about eight years ago I wished these people would just stay in the closet. I understand their fears, and their ignorance. That's the premise they base it on, that you can make someone be gay. You can't. They're operating on a bias they've been taught from birth."

Weaver said she doesn't regret the decisions she's made.

"I would tell this girl again the truth and I would file the lawsuit again. I still feel that what the school district did to me is wrong. I feel pretty OK with where I am."

Vows to continue

Weaver, speaking Monday, Jan. 26, to the Delta Lambda Sappho Union at Weber State University, said she has gained a lot of insights from the experience of being outed and of filing the lawsuit, with all the consequent media attention.

"The ACLU may not have been my first choice, but I was rebuffed by many law firms," she told the crowd of 150. "They are media mongers, but that is where they win." Weaver divorced her husband, left the Mormon church and moved in with her female companion last spring.

"I did not want to be in the (celestial kingdom) if I had to be with him," she said. "I felt more moral being with Rachel (her companion) than I did in all the years I was married to my husband."

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Ads featuring "Ellen" s mom launched

WASHINGTON (AP)—Every mother likes to brag about her children. Ellen DeGeneres' mother is getting to do it on national television.

Betty DeGeneres stars in a 30-second television ad urging parents to offer loving support to their gay children.

"Hello, my name is Betty DeGeneres and my kid is the greatest. You know her. She's Ellen—and she's gay," Mrs. DeGeneres says in the public service announcement as she and a group of children build a huge American flag out of red, white and blue boxes.

"For too long, gay Americans have suffered discrimination," she says. "As long as our sons and daughters are excluded from the basic protection of law, we must share that burden—as a family."

Ellen DeGeneres made a splash on her television show, "Ellen," in an episode in which her character declared she was gay.

Mrs. DeGeneres, 67, made the commercial as part of her duties as a spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign, one of the nation's largest gay political groups.

She said she is enjoying the job, and believes her appearances and the "Ellen" episode have helped parents accept their gay children more wholeheartedly.

"I'm hearing from young people—especially since Ellen's coming out episode—that their parents are more accepting," Mrs. DeGeneres said. "They're seeing a positive image for the first time instead of all this negativity," she said.

Elizabeth Birch, the group's executive director, said, "Gay people report that one of the most wrenching things in their lives, among all the things they have to confront, is being honest and open with their own family members."

"So, what Betty brings to this is this compassionate voice coupled with common sense why everyone should embrace their

gay and lesbian children," Birch said Wednesday.

The 30-second spot will be distributed to television stations nationwide, HRC spokesman David Smith said. It will include special coding that will allow the group to track where and how often it is aired.

Pro-gay Methodists protest pastor's suspension

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—About 15 protesters gathered outside the office of United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez to protest the continued suspension of an Omaha pastor who performed a lesbian-union ceremony last year.

Last week, Martinez brought formal charges against the Rev. Jimmy Creech for disobedience to the order and discipline of the church.

Creech, pastor of First United Methodist Church of Omaha, initially was suspended for 60 days by Martinez after the bishop ordered Creech not to perform the ceremony in September, saying it violated church rules.

When that suspension expired earlier this month, Martinez extended it until at least the end of the month. Creech will face a trial before the Nebraska Conference of the United Methodist Church.

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, protesters said they wanted the suspension lifted immediately. "We want him back no matter what the situation is," member Jim Keeney said. "If he is found guilty of something, he can work through that process, but we want him back so we can work on reconciliation together."

The group submitted a letter to Martinez asking him to rescind the suspension. Martinez was out of the office at the time.

The majority of active members of the church support Creech, said Elna Peirce, who has been a member there for 45 years. "He needs to be there to speak for himself and answer people's questions," she said.

Martinez has appointed an interim pastor until Creech's case is resolved.

Ind. school bans trip to gay-friendly theater

AVON, Ind. (AP)—An Avon Community Schools official has forbidden field trips to two Indianapolis theaters because the theaters have produced plays with homosexual themes.

The move came after an honors freshman English course instructor at Avon High School asked permission for a field trip to attend a performance of "A Lynching in Southern Indiana" at Theatre On The Square. The play is about a black veteran facing racism when he comes home from World War I.

But Assistant Superintendent Larry Vandeventer, in a memo to administrators in the Hendricks County high school, denied the request because of the theater's past productions. He also forbade classes from attending productions at the Phoenix Theatre. "This theater and the Phoenix have a decided propensity toward homosexual and unsavory, salacious productions," Vandeventer wrote.

Theatre On The Square's current production is "Two Boys In Bed Together on a Cold Winter Night" while the Phoenix Theater is showing "Dear John", a play about the love relationship between a homosexual male and a heterosexual female.

Mass. HS teacher battles gay student club

HARVARD, Mass. (AP)—A Bromfield School teacher has vowed to file a sexual harassment complaint if announcements about the public school's Gay-Straight Alliance are read in his presence.

Alwin Hopfmann, a chemistry teacher, has opposed the alliance since it was formed

last fall, students told the Telegram & Gazette of Worcester. They said Hopfmann has refused to read any Alliance announcements, which usually are about upcoming meetings.

Student gay-straight alliances, which are created to help protect gay students from harassment, violence and discrimination, have been formed in about one-third of the state's high schools during the last 10 years, according to the state Department of Education.

School principal Mihran Keoseian said that when he learned of Hopfmann's stand last month, he told students they could volunteer to read the announcements.

Keoseian said he thought the problem was solved, until Hopfmann objected to being present when the announcements are read in morning homeroom. However Keoseian told the teacher he would have to remain in the classroom to supervise the students.

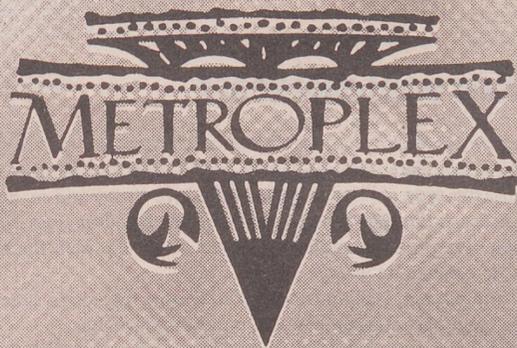
Univ. of Mont. cancels gay lit. course

MISSOULA (AP)—Citing a lack of interest among students, the University of Montana has canceled a planned class on gay literature. Only five people signed up for the course; at least 16 were required.

Controversy flared earlier this month when Republican state Sen. Daryl Toews complained about the course, "Queer Stories: Literature of Sexual Differences." Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, he said offering the course could jeopardize legislative support for higher education.

UM President George Dennison defended the offering, saying the university must offer a diverse curriculum. The class was offered to educate students, not to convert them, Dennison said.

The decision to cancel the class had nothing to do with Toews' complaints, he said: "For us, it was simply a business decision."



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Washing the Cayman Island's laundry

by WAYNE R. BESEN

When the government of the tiny Cayman Islands recently turned away a cruise ship with gay passengers, my initial impulse was to rationalize this unfortunate episode as a culture clash.

Perhaps hundreds of American homosexuals disembarking from an ocean liner, the Norwegian M/S Leeward, would be too much to handle for these God-fearing, virtuous islanders. The public statement by Cayman Minister of Tourism Thomas C. Jefferson drove home the point that the voyagers on the SS Sodom might corrupt his righteous island: "Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands, so we regrettably cannot offer our hospitality," Jefferson said with upright conviction.

As a morally impoverished homosexual, I conducted my own "careful research" on the Cayman Islands to learn more about these "high standards of appropriate behavior." My first tidbit of research was puzzling. With a population of only 30,000, there are more than 570 banks with deposits of nearly \$500 billion.

Why is banking so popular in the Cayman Islands? Is it because they don't have those annoying \$1 ATM service charges? It turns out that banks love the Cayman Islands because the nation's bank secrecy laws allow financial institutions to get their hands on windfalls of illegal currency. In fact, the U.S. State Department still regards the Caymans as a "high priority" country for money laundering. In a March 1997 report, the State Department said that the Caymans continue to be "the most attractive of the Caribbean islands for persons wanting to launder illicit money from drug trafficking or other criminal activity."

In the early '90s, the Caymans played a key role in the downfall of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), one of the biggest scandals in financial history. BCCI founder Agha Hasan Abedi channeled many of the bank's illegal transactions, including bogus loans and payoffs, through Cayman Island subsidiaries. In the end, the bank was plundered for an estimated \$1.5 billion. Despite his character flaws, Hasan Abedi somehow demonstrated the values it takes to get admitted to the Cayman Islands.

*U.S. State Dept. report:
Cayman Islands are
"...the most attractive of the
Caribbean islands for persons
wanting to launder illicit
money from drug trafficking or
other criminal activity."*

In 1994, drug lord Eric Bozeman was arrested for running a ring that hollowed out computers, filled them with cocaine and shipped them across America for sale. Turns out he laundered the majority of his \$30 million in illegal profits through the Cayman Islands. Unlike the morally bereft vacationers on the gay cruise ship, Bozeman's behavior was entirely acceptable to Caymans officials and he was permitted entry.

Additional "careful research" revealed that the Cayman Islands are home to the

most industrious people in the world. So enterprising, in fact, that the 34,000 registered companies outnumber residents, and the gross domestic product is \$700 million. These accomplishments are all the more incredible if you consider that the Cayman Islands have no manufacturing or agricultural base and no exports, with the exception of turtle shells.

But it's the other kind of shells that fill up the coffers of the Cayman Islands—shell corporations. Of the numerous companies listed in the Caymans, a hefty percentage are personal trusts set up by Americans. These trusts ensure that creditors, spouses, business partners and other potential litigants can't get at the money.

Seems like in the Cayman Islands, it's "appropriate behavior" to swindle money from a spouse so long as he or she is not of the same sex.

And when Lt. Col. Oliver North needed to set up a dummy corporation to collect money while arranging the arms-for-hostages deal, he looked to the Caymans.

In an e-mail alert to supporters, the right-wing American Family Association praised the Cayman Islands government for denying the gay cruise ship port of call. The alert urged members to send supportive e-mails to Cayman officials for "their courageous stand upholding a standard of appropriate behavior for their islands."

Perhaps one day, we gay men and lesbians can shed our moral turpitude and live up to the agreed-upon high "standards of appropriate behavior" set by those who would deny us our freedom and basic human dignity. Maybe then, our ship will finally come in.

Wayne Besen lives in Washington, D.C., and has written columns and book reviews

LETTERS

Where's the Beef(cake)?

I'm totally confused by [a letter in *Houston Voice* Jan. 16 complaining about sexually provocative ads in the back pages of the paper].

Is the letter real or planted?

I've been reading the Voice for 18 years. I've seen it change ownership many times.

I've never seen a letter in any gay publication complaining of content. Most people know what they are reading when they pick up a gay newspaper.

Ms. Merritt [the letter writer] says, "The nature of these ads is not objectionable."

Excuse me, but the nature of the ads is nature itself.

Being a gay newspaper, it usually is read by a sexually active population. Also the ads do bring in revenue to publications.

Would Ms. Merritt like to see some other gay publications, such as the ones in Miami or Los Angeles that sell sex with full nudity, not to mention all the guys selling sex in the personals with full-color pictures of their genitalia.

The *Voice* is just fine. I don't think many people are offended by this rather benign display of sex ads. The way the models are dressed is legal.

If you know the ads are in the back, then don't go back that far in the paper. But please don't try to extend your political correctness on the rest of us.

Carl Denton
via e-mail

Titanic review went overboard

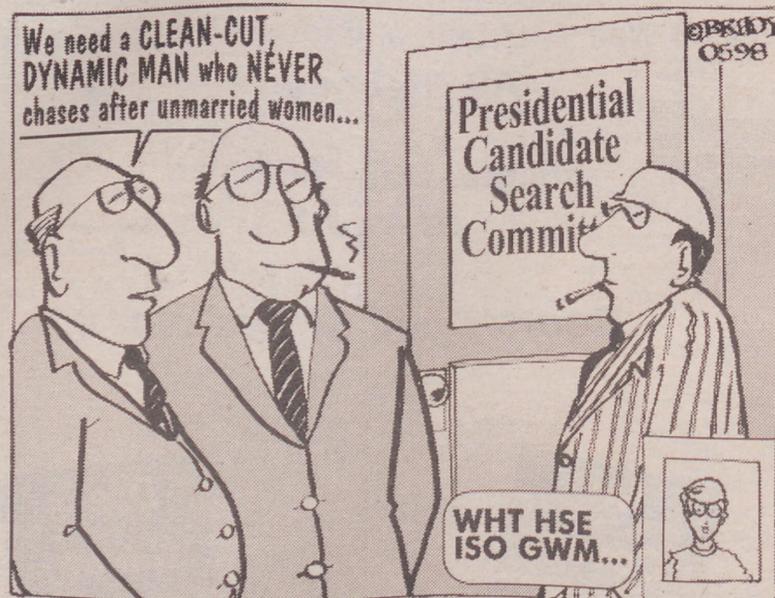
I would just like to express my thanks to Stephen Underwood for "re-thinking" the movie "Titanic" for us (*Houston Voice*, Jan. 16). Never would have thought that someone could take this blockbuster/disaster-type epic (with a nice little love story) and make of it such a dark, dull, Freudian mish-mash, but Mr. Underwood's review has done just that. What—no detailed explanation regarding the phallic overtones of the moment the huge, rigid vessel plunged into the soft, embracing water?

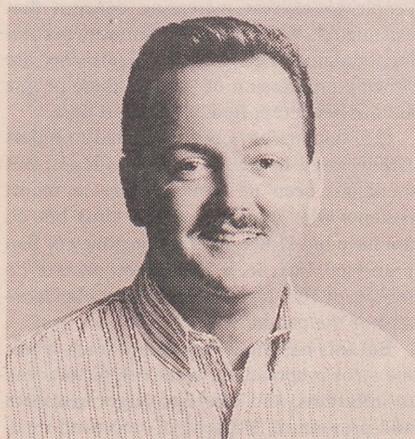
I do hope all of my gay and lesbian friends realize now that there is an important "message" for us in this seemingly straightforward, entertaining movie.

Juicy video rentals suggested for you reviewer: "The High and the Mighty", "The Towering Inferno" and "The Poseidon Adventure", all of which are filled with (possibly) phallic symbols and lots of really messed-up people.

Mr. U., lighten up, please.

Douglas Hill
Houston





PLANT LIFE

Mentoring our young and investing in the future

by DREW PLANT

I almost canceled the dinner appointment. After all, it was my first day on a new job. A 10-hour day that began with a call advising me to dress comfortably because our offices had flooded over the weekend. Then there was the small matter of a column I had to write and a trade magazine article I had to turn around in 24 hours.

Still, I was the one who initiated this dinner get-together with the college student—a remarkable young man I met through a gay professional organization.

And, I try to keep in mind, it wasn't so long ago that I reached out similarly and found any number of people willing to help me.

I'm glad I made the effort—simple as it turned out to be—to head out for Italian food with Colin Mathews. His insight, enthusiasm and openness to some fantastic career opportunities were good reminders why I do what I do.

Suddenly, instead of being at the end of a phenomenally tiring day, I was excitedly telling Colin why I felt so lucky to have spent the day in a damp office writing, rewriting and looking for more chances to write. In turn, Colin ardently talked me through his studies, an array of internships and a challenging final quarter of college.

It isn't often that life is so symmetrically cyclical that you get a clear, concise kick in the rear. (And don't we all need that?) Later that night, when I talked to a friend on the phone and told him about my exhilarating

evening with this bright young man, he snidely said, "You liked him because you think he's a young version of you." To the contrary. I was impressed and heartened because he reminds me of the possibilities. I only wish I could have been as clear-headed and uncluttered as Colin.

Where I was naive, he is cautious. Where I was overly confident, he is more studied. Where I was sure of the answers and my direction, Colin is seeking input and listening.

But no one is telling him what to do. One of his more remarkable qualities is the fact that, without pretense, he exudes an appropriate, admirable confidence.

It's the same confidence that I'm sure helped his parents know his head was on straight (pardon the pun) when he came out to them. After all, this young man is training for a career in communications and knows that messages are received as well as they are delivered.

Colin tells me a touching, endearing story about coming out to his father over a salad in a Wendy's somewhere near Conyers when he was 18 or 19. He provides details that take me directly to the scene—like tear-drenched croutons and pauses when he mostly studied his lettuce and waited for a response. It's a knack for this sort of detail that make his young portfolio of work strong and communicative.

I think young people always tend to remind us of possibilities. They ground us

and help re-adjust our lives back toward the positive. But young guns like Colin are especially gratifying and important in the gay community for two reasons.

One, he is proof of how far we've all come that he can serve as an officer in his gay and lesbian campus organization, show obviously gay-oriented work in his portfolio and seek career advice primarily from gay and gay-friendly referrals.

And, two, you can only have great hope for the future when you're sitting across the table from someone who's done twice as much at his age than you had and accepts no limits on the possibilities an integrated, "out" world has to offer.

Yet, for all he has to offer, Colin needs encouragement, reassurance and guidance. And he deserves it too. Not only has he well-earned that much; chances are someone helped you—or should have—in much the same way. So the next time you get a call for assistance from a young careerist, or you learn of someone who needs a leg up, make the time to do what is right. It's time to pay back kindnesses and return some favors.

If all goes well and the time you spend is with someone of the caliber of Colin Mathews, you won't just change that young life; you may even decide to enhance your own.

Drew Plant is a freelance writer whose work appears regularly in a variety of gay and mainstream publications.

AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD

Boycotting the Cayman Islands? Here's what you won't miss

by SUKIE DE LA CROIX

One of the things I don't like about myself is that I bear a grudge for years. Not against people I know, but against famous people and places. I refuse to watch a movie by that transvestite-lover and hypocrite Eddie Murphy, after his revolting remarks about AIDS in the 1980s, and I'm still boycotting Colorado over Amendment 2, even though it's since been struck down.

(Hey! That's not so weird, because my Jewish mother-in-law—God rest her soul—never forgave the English for the expulsion of the Jews in the 12th century. Go figure!)

Now I can add the Cayman Islands to my list of 'Places I Wouldn't Be Seen Dead In.' Incredible, isn't it? The Government refused to allow a gay cruise ship to stop off there for seven hours, because: "Careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behavior expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands, so we regretfully cannot offer our hospitality."

Well, screw you, sweetheart! You don't have a monopoly on nice beaches and sunshine.

But why are they so frightened of gay men? What do they think we're going to do during a seven hour shopping and diving trip? Set up manicure booths on the beach and not pay taxes, go on a diving binge and steal all the pearls, start up classes to teach the local fisherman how to macrame nets ... who knows what these stupid idiots think!

So now that I've decided to boycott the Cayman Islands, I decided to look them up on the Internet and see what I would be missing out on. And I have to admit that I'm very upset—absolutely mortified, in fact—that I will never experience the joy of visiting the island's most popular tourist attraction: The Cayman Turtle Farm, with its ... "cir-

cular cement tanks of various sizes, in which turtles representing each stage of development are situated. There are thousands of turtles to view from 6 oz. to 600 lbs."

As any of my close friends will tell you, I'm 'hooked on turtles.' In fact, I honestly believe that in a previous life I was the Queen Of The Turtles. "Turtles, turtles, turtles," said my friend Rick, only the other day, "That's all you ever talk about." "Whatever we're talking about, you always turn the subject back to turtles," said my friend Lynda.

Seriously folks, I do agree with the government of the Cayman Islands on one issue; that gay men are incapable of "upholding the standards" of this sophisticated trio of islands. Which brings me to their second most-popular tourist attraction, and that honor goes to Grand Cayman's No. 1 entertainer: "Barefoot Man, together with his band, has thrilled countless tourists and natives for 20 years now, with no end of the fun anywhere in sight. For four nights of almost every week they set the air on fire with heart-pounding calypso rhythms, catchy lyrics and smooth ballads at the Holiday Inn at Seven Mile Beach."

Barefoot Man also writes his own songs, which you can buy on his numerous CD's. Songs with titles like: "Jeff The Muff Diver" ... "Don't Squeeze My Tomatoes" ... "Who Put The Pepper In The Vaseline?" ... "Back To Back—Belly To Belly" ... and the ever-popular, "I Wish I Was Your Bicycle Seat."

What a class act! Admit it boys, they got us beat; gay men could never uphold standards like that.

Sukie de la Croix is an ex-patriot Briton living in the U.S. whose essays appear in a variety of gay publications.

ESSAY CONTEST

Come on Out! (Win valuable prizes!)

Award-winning "coming out" film inspires contest; win tickets and other prizes

"Ma Vie en Rose" (My Life in Pink) is a wonderfully sensitive and warm French film about a young boy's exploration of his gender and sexuality. Winner of the Golden Globe award for Best Foreign Language Film, "Ma Vie en Rose" opens Feb. 13 for an exclusive Houston run at Landmark's Greenway Theatre.

To celebrate the international recognition of this fabulous film about a very "Out" child, *Houston Voice* and the Landmark Theatre have dreamed up a little contest. We want *Voice* readers to submit their own Coming Out story to the paper. The two best stories, as judged by the editors and Landmark Theatres City Manager Sarah Gish, will be published in next week's paper.

The authors of the two stories will each win 10 passes for themselves and a group of friends to see the film at its advance screening on Wednesday, Feb. 11. In addition, winners will

receive a movie poster of "Ma Vie en Rose" and passes for future films showing at the Landmark River Oaks or Greenway Theatres.

Entries should be in the neighborhood of 500 words and can be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail. However you submit your story, it must be received at the Houston Voice offices **no later than 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 2.**

Faxed submissions must be typewritten. Essays sent by mail or dropped off at the *Houston Voice* office (811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston TX 77006) should be typewritten as well, though very neatly handwritten entries will be accepted.

So come on Houston, tell us how it went for you! And we'll see you at the movies...

CLINTON from page 1

wasting our time with this? I assume that Bill Clinton, or anyone in power, is not the most savory character I've ever known. But are they ultimately looking to ensure that Clinton leaves office? Does it benefit them if their candidate is running against Gore as an incumbent?"

"My fear is [relentless news coverage of the scandal] will make people more apathetic about getting involved in politics," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas in Austin. "People get disillusioned with politics in general when they feel it's all about money and sex. And we just can't afford to do that in regard to our community. Right now there are so many issues on the line [that affect] our lives, we can't afford to be apathetic. [A scandal like this] turns people off, and we need more people to be more involved in politics."

"I think it's all very unfortunate, this diversion from issues that are important to the future of our country and the rest of the world," said Clarence Bagby, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. "I'd like to see the media take a wait-and-see attitude, and move on with covering those other issues until we hear some resolution on [the scandal]."

"I think all Americans should be concerned about the millions of dollars [special prosecutor Kenneth Starr] is spending and has spent over the years; I certainly am. It does seem, in fact, that he is on a witch hunt."

Don George, a member of HRC's national Board of Governors who worked on the 1992 and 1996 Clinton campaigns, admits to a persistent feeling of betrayal. "I'm trying to keep an open mind."

by Shelly Roberts, with Terry Murphy

SF AIDS cases drop

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The number of new HIV infections has dropped during the past five years, and a smaller percentage of gay and bisexual men are living with the disease, the city's health department says.

The Consensus Report on HIV Prevalence report, issued Jan. 27, estimates that there will be 500 new HIV infections in 1998, two-thirds of them among gay and bisexual men. The last report—published in 1992—estimated 1,000 new infections per year, 650 of them among gay and bisexual men.

The current report also found that 30 percent of the city's estimated 43,100 gay and bisexual men are HIV-positive, down from 43 percent in the 1992 report.

"The new (report) shows that gay and bisexual men's efforts to change our behavior have paid off," said Dan Wohlfeiler, spokesman for the STOP AIDS Project. "The epidemic is not over, however, and we want to make sure that we don't lose any of the ground that we've won."

The report, based on a May 1997 survey of local AIDS experts, said the improvements were mainly the result of more accurate information on at-risk populations, better prevention efforts and AIDS deaths.

AIDS Summit recommends mandatory HIV reporting

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Doctors should report all patients with HIV, not just those with full-blown AIDS, a new report suggests. That might be the only reliable way to track the course of the disease, experts say.

That finding was presented this week at a San Francisco AIDS summit convened by Mayor Willie Brown.

The report's authors emphasize that the identities of the HIV patients would be encoded to prevent discrimination. But reporting HIV cases may help track the disease's development, concludes the 175-page

evaluation of the city's AIDS programs by an expert panel.

"Changes in the epidemic have led many people to express increasing concern that existing AIDS surveillance efforts are becoming outdated. Because new treatments are slowing progression of disease, these people are not being reported," the report says.

U.S. doctors have been required to report AIDS cases to public health officials, but there has been no similar order to report patients who carry the AIDS virus but do not have full-blown AIDS. The policy of San Francisco has been that there should be no reports of HIV tests without the explicit consent of the patient.

But this has made it tough to track where the virus is spreading, what risk factors lead to infections, and where to target treatment and prevention. Because of improved treatments, fewer and fewer HIV-infected people actually progress to AIDS, so they remain unreported.

Wash. AIDS charities see donations drop

SEATTLE (AP)—Dropping donations are contributing to financial problems at agencies that help AIDS patients.

The Northwest AIDS Foundation, considered the region's pre-eminent AIDS-related charity, ended its last fiscal year with a \$640,000 deficit, for example. Just two years ago, the Seattle-based foundation ended the year with a \$199,000 surplus.

Officials blame the turn for the worse on poor responses to fund-raising, management problems and a changing public perception of AIDS. "The board, myself as treasurer and the auditor have delivered the message that we can't have another year where we end with a deficit," board member Jim Hanson said.

The foundation receives \$2.5 million of its \$5.6 million in revenues from federal and local governments. The rest comes from private donations.

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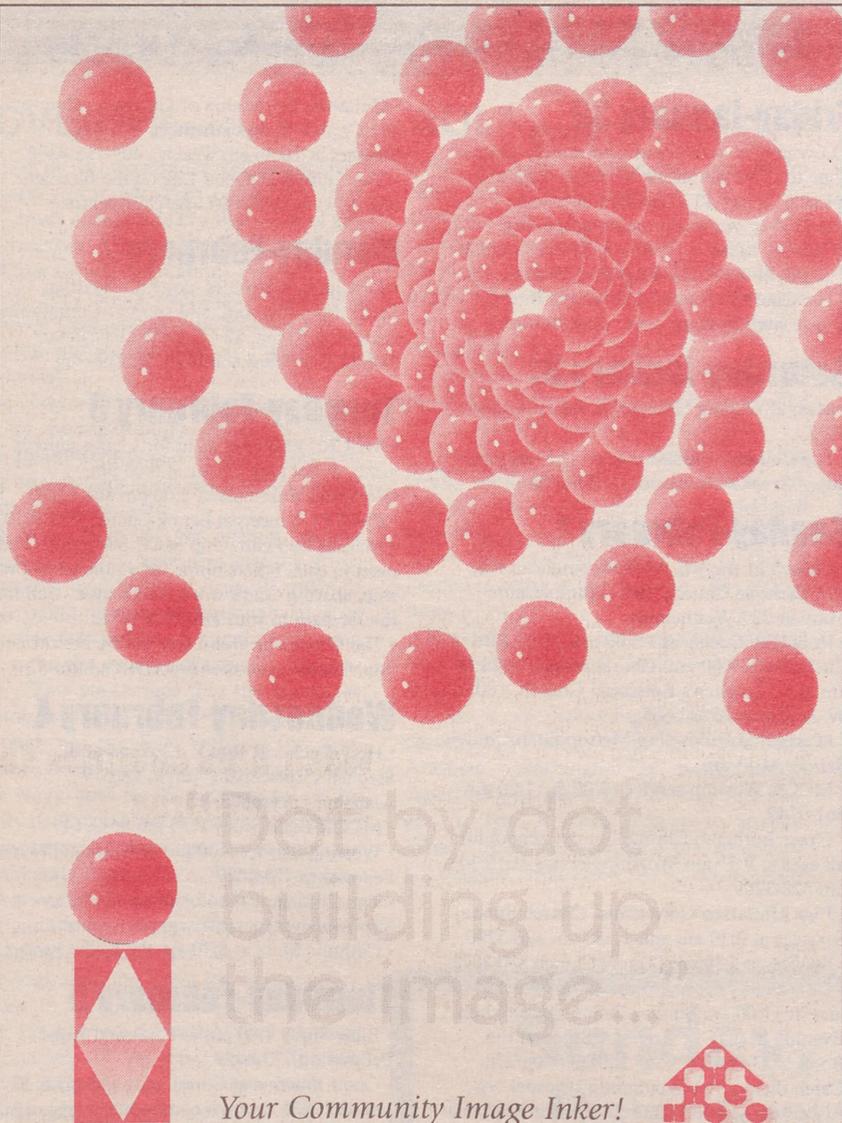
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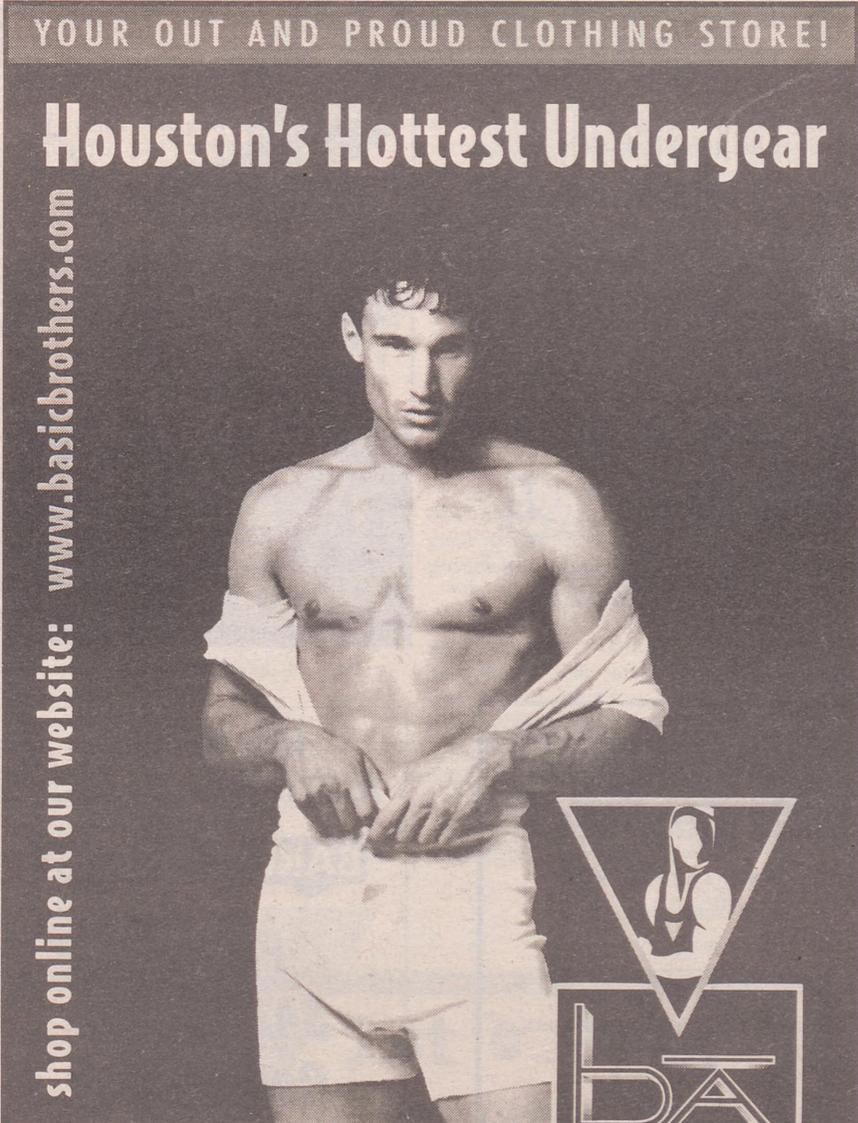
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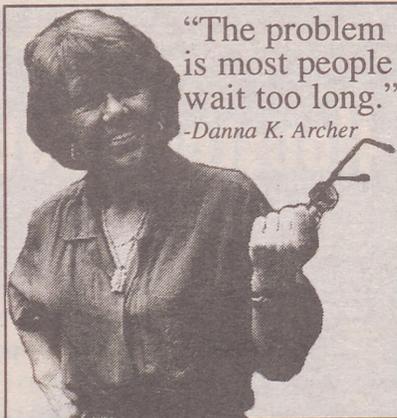
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CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday-January 30

- Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel done to Christian music for body, soul, and spirit. 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Catholic Mass at 10:00 am; Movie Night at 7:00 pm at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday-January 31

- Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday-February 1

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 11am at 239 Westheimer.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service at 11 am.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. (A Study in the Book of Genesis.) 4305 Lillian 880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers-class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.

- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Monday-February 2

- Low impact aerobics done to Christian Music for body, soul, and spirit at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Tuesday-February 3

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

Wednesday-February 4

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149.
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Catholic Mass at 8:30 am the Kolbe Project.

Thursday-February 5

- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Choir Practice at 6:30 pm. Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

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



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OUTREACH/

from page 1

HIV test, and a screaming pink, strawberry-scented dental dam. The packets are about the size of a credit card and fit into a wallet or pocket.

The packets address the health issues important to lesbian women, Bell said. The dental dam is to encourage safer sex practices. "Many lesbians do not know that they can get some sexually transmitted diseases", Bell said.

The Well-Women Clinic offers a pelvic exam, pap smear and lab work for \$45 on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, by appointment. Female doctors and nurse practitioners give the exams. Walker stresses that anyone who can not afford the fee will still be examined.

"Its sexual behavior, not sexual preference that makes a difference in the risk of cervical cancer", Bell said. "Any kind of penetrative sex increases the risk" she said. Particularly at risk, according to Bell, are women who were sexually abused as children.

Walker finds that it is easier to begin talking about HIV. Then she starts to talking about breast cancer and pap smears. Lesbians are more likely to have breast cancer than straight women, but, according to Bell, its is because having children reduces the risk. "Most women don't know that 75% of breast cancers can not be traced to any identified risk factor" Bell said. Transgendered women are at risk because of the estrogen they take, according to Bell.

Walker and Bell both stress the impor-

tance of monthly breast exams. The smaller a tumor is, the easier it is to treat. "We will find a way to take care of you if you find a lump" Walker promises. She and Bell praise the support the project has gotten from mainstream organizations.

Bell finds plenty of lesbians to talk to outside of bars. "I'm of the opinion we will find lesbians everywhere. I wouldn't be surprised to find one at a sewing circle", Bell says. She notes that there are more than 170 different gay organizations.

Walker goes to bars like Chances, Miss B's, the Ranch and the Barn. "I usually know someone there", she says. "Bartenders tell women to talk to me".

The project is funded by a grant from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Hollyfield Foundation, but Walker is promoting two fundraising projects to pay for a mobile mammogram truck for the Lesbian Health Fair in March. The Court (RSICSS) is holding a benefit at Chances on Valentine's Day.

Walker is offering the opportunity to sponsor a mammogram for \$45.00. "Guys are being very supportive. I think they want to do something for women in return for what we have done about AIDS", she said.

When Bell isn't discussing the merits of microwave saran wrap (as opposed to ordinary saran wrap) as an aid to safer sex with a domestically inclined lesbian, she can be found at Montrose Counseling Center at (713) 529-0037. If Walker isn't out bar-hopping, she's at Montrose Clinic at (713) 830-3000. Either of them can provide informa-



Deborah Bell displays a women's health info pack.



Community Gospel

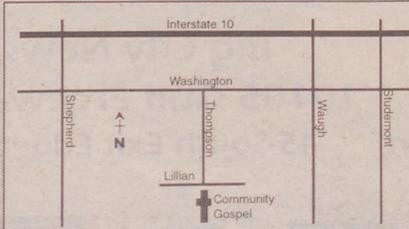
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See Church Calendar for Weekly Events



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MCVEIGH/from page 1

violation of its own confidentiality policies.

Attorneys for McVeigh contended their client never stated publicly that he was gay and, therefore, the Navy had no right to ask about his sexual orientation. Further, they argued the Navy violated the 1986 Electronic Communications Privacy Act by obtaining information without a warrant or court order.

The Navy went too far in pursuing allegations of homosexuality against a senior sailor and surreptitiously obtaining key evidence against him from a computer online service, the judge ruled.

"In these days of 'big brother,' where through technology and otherwise the privacy interests of individuals from all walks of life are being ignored or marginalized, it is imperative that statutes explicitly protecting these rights be strictly observed," Sporkin wrote. "This court finds that the Navy has gone too far."

Though not the final word in the case, Monday's decision represents a sharp rebuke of the Navy, both for its enforcement of the military policy on homosexuality and for the intrusiveness of its investigation. It promises to reverberate beyond the military to all government agencies that might want to bolster investigations by demanding information from online computer services.

McVeigh sued the Navy for violating federal law in trying to force an end to his career. He can remain in the Navy pending final outcome of the case, which Sporkin said was likely to go in the sailor's favor.

"Although McVeigh did not publicly announce his sexual orientation, the Navy nonetheless impermissibly embarked on a search and 'outing' mission," Sporkin wrote.

Attorney Christopher Wolf, who argued for McVeigh in court, called Sporkin's ruling "a milestone" for online privacy and for defining the gays-in-the-military policy.

"The judge knew a witch hunt when he saw one," Wolf said. "What this case means is that when the government violates electronic privacy laws, it should not be allowed to use the fruits of its violation against law-abiding citizens."

"We believe that the Navy and America Online are both at fault," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. "The Navy appears to have violated the law governing gays in the military by both asking and pursuing McVeigh. America Online revealed private information to a Navy investigator masquerading as a friend of McVeigh's."

AOL, the Dulles, Va.-based online service company, acknowledged it broke its own confidentiality rules in providing the information. And Sporkin said AOL also broke the law. But he aimed particular criticism at the Navy for failing to identify itself when it sought McVeigh's identity from AOL.

"The government knew, or should have known, that by turning over the information without a warrant, AOL was breaking the law," Sporkin wrote. "Yet the Navy, in this case, directly solicited the information anyway. What is most telling is that the Naval investigator did not identify himself when he made his request."

Sporkin ruled that McVeigh would lose his job, income, pension, health and life insurance and other benefits if discharged before a final ruling was reached in the case.

A Navy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said McVeigh would remain in his current assignment to Submarine Squadron 3 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. McVeigh was returning to Hawaii when the ruling came down. For now, the Navy is maintaining that it can legally discharge McVeigh from the service.

Sporkin said that by making statements on an anonymous online site, McVeigh had not, in fact, "told" anyone of his sexual orientation, and, therefore, the Navy had no right to "ask" anyone about it. McVeigh has declined to discuss his sexual orientation publicly and told the Navy he dated women and was once engaged.

- Compiled from Associated Press and staff reports

AOL/from page 1

attack submarine, about buying presents for children of crew members for an upcoming Christmas party.

Hajny apparently was struck by McVeigh's screen name and looked up his profile. The woman turned the information over to her husband, who in turn sent it through the chain of command.

The submarine squadron commander ordered an investigation, which snowballed into a discharge hearing last November.

Despite his victory in federal court this week, McVeigh still faces honorable discharge from the service for being a declared homosexual, in violation of "Don't Ask Don't Tell," just three years shy of the 20 needed to retire with a pension. (See related story, p. 1.)

Reaction on AOL has been swift since the story grabbed national headlines earlier this month.

"This is cyber-snooping against American citizens in violation of the law," said John Aravosis, a Washington D.C.-based Internet expert helping McVeigh. "If this could happen to Tim, it could happen to anyone. What is really unfortunate is that somebody got mugged on-line and everyone is scared."

"AOL's 'mistake' is nothing compared to the inquisition gay servicemen face every day," wrote one AOL member in response to a reporter's on-line query. "That should be the issue." Discussions about the actions of investigators, the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and the breach of AOL's policies by one of its own employees have filled message boards on the on-line service.

"If it happened once, it could have happened in the past, and could quite possibly happen in the future," another member said.

"It's one of the biggest reasons I'm getting out of the military," said an Air Force veteran in Charleston, S.C. "I don't like being afraid." Last week, he changed screen names and eliminated a profile that touted gay interests, the second time the threat of military investigations has forced him to alter on-line habits.

AOL members have e-mailed Aravosis to tell him of closing their accounts in reaction to the case, he said.

"I'm an AOL user, and this case scares the hell out of me. A number of people have simply dropped their AOL accounts out of anger and out of safety. That sense of safety is no longer there," Aravosis said.

As the impact of the case unfolds, on-line

specialists and privacy experts warn that users of on-line services should take precautions.

"Any electronic communication you make should be regarded as if you had just told (gossip columnist) Cindy Adams a secret, and asked her not to say anything," Clinton D. Fein told gay newspapers in Boston and Miami. His company manages the web-site for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund, which assists servicemembers impacted by the military's policy on gays.

Tom Reilly, who was co-founder of Digital Queers and now heads the on-line service PlanetOut, which has a presence on AOL and the web, says common sense and good judgment should be enough to offer privacy in most cases.

"People should be very careful with their alternate screen names or mail accounts with suggestive names," Reilly told the newspapers. "The safest thing to assume is that the military is very much pursuing gay enlisted personnel." On-line veterans suggest asking people to clarify that they are of legal age before engaging in any sexual conversations, and your employer's policy about surfing the web from work. Some companies monitor on-line records, they said.

Sunday, February 1st • 9pm

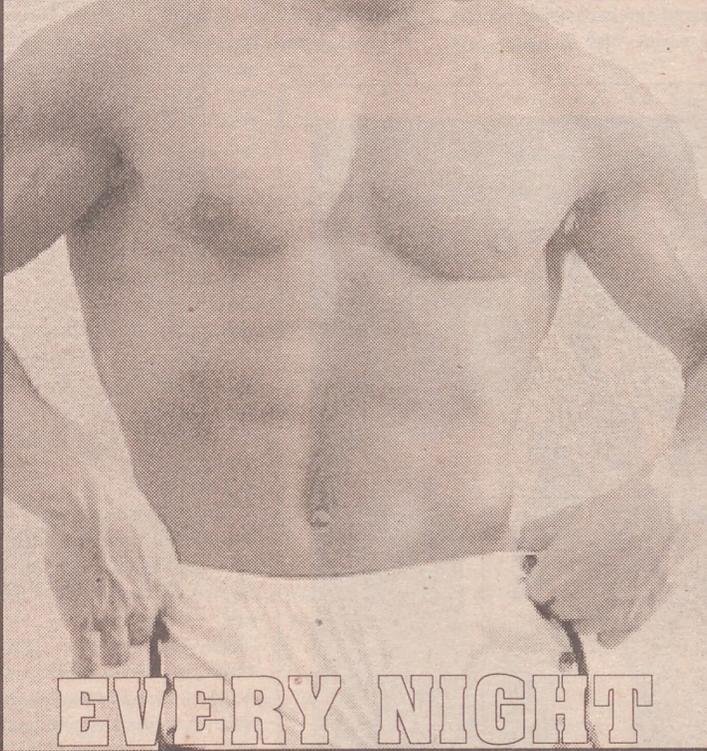
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"Happy Together"

tells gripping tale of troubled gay love

Director won Cannes Festival award for love/hate story of Chinese lovers in Argentina.

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Director Wong Kar-Wai's new art film "Happy Together" profiles a gay Asian couple who are anything but. While living in Buenos Aires, the Hong Kong paramours skip town to visit the churning Iguazu Falls, but their car and their relationship break down along the way.

Lai Yiu-Fai (Tony Leung Chiu-Wai), the film's protagonist, seesaws between love and hate for his lover, Ho Po-Wing (Leslie Cheung Kwok-Wing), who splits without a trace on the Argentinean highway. Lai takes up work as a doorman for a tango bar, and Ho starts tricking for money. Struggling to make ends meet, Lai sees Ho prance into the club with a high-flying john. Ho, it seems, really is a *ho* and doing rather well at it. Lai, on the other hand, resents his ex-lover's "success" while he tries to play by the rules.

Ho phones Lai and asks for a visit: why, Lai wonders, does Ho call after ignoring him for so long? But they do reunite, and the ex-lovers go at each other tit-for-tat. Lai goes off

on Ho's roadside abandonment, his hedonistic wanderings, and his calculated denials. Lai demands the real reasons for the visit. Ho's answer? "I just wanted to be with you." The response is insincere and unconvincing at best.

Later, Ho arrives at Lai's doorstep beaten to a pulp. Lai, not quite ready to let go, takes him in and hides his passport. Ho searches for the passport with banded hands only to come up empty. Clueing in that Lai took it, Ho demands it back: Lai refuses. Ho, in effect, becomes Lai's hostage, imprisoned with his captor in a tiny one-room apartment.

Lai resists Ho's attempts to re-sexualize the relationship. Even so, Ho manages to get Lai to cook all his food and run his errands;

Ho can't be bothered to find traditional employment. Lai, however, is repulsed at Ho's voracious appetite for sex. Perhaps unconscious of the impulses for his actions, Lai remains enamored despite Ho's infidelity and faithlessness.

Kar-Wai localizes the ex-lover's attempt to revitalize a disordered love. The closest Lai and Ho come to sex again is a dance—the tango, which Kar-Wai defines as "the vertical expression of a horizontal desire." The scene is catatonic and poorly executed, but the imagery clearly makes its point. Given the impossible option of "starting over," the tango is a start for letting go.

Wong Kar-Wai won Best Director at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival for "Happy Together." But like most love stories, there is

no happily ever after. Except for Lai, who strikes up an apollonian friendship with a Chinese restaurant co-worker, Chang (Chang Chen): Lai searches for Chang when he returns to Hong Kong; Lai has fallen in love again. Finally, Lai gets a chance to really start over.

HOUSTON VOICE RATING: ☆☆☆

Rated: Not rated; simulated sex scenes and violence

Time: 97 minutes

Genre: Foreign language art film with English subtitles

Director: Wong Kar-Wai

Cast: Tony Leung Chiu-Wai, Leslie Cheung Kwok-Wing, Chang Chen

Theaters: exclusive at the Greenway Plaza 3, opening Fri., Jan. 30 for a one-week engagement.



Dance icon plays Houston Feb. 6-7

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

Having reached a pinnacle of achievement in its 26th year in the dance world, the innovative Garth Fagan Dance troupe comes to Houston this week.

Though this group may not be a household name, its leader, Garth Fagan, has an impressive pedigree as the artistic spawn of such notables as Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey and Judith Jameson. He has been labeled a 'true original, one of the great reformers of American dance.' In the genealogy of contemporary dance he has been accused of 'starting an entirely new branch of the family tree.'

Presented by Houston's purveyor of modern movement, Society for The Performing Arts, the troupe will perform at Wortham Center.

Garth Fagan Dance was formed the company in 1970 to set his works in a new individualized dance language. Several factors contributed to the creation of this company. Fagan has always been drawn to the varied aspects of the human form and its capabilities—the sense of weight in modern dance with its torso-centered movement, the speed of ballet, the groundbreaking experimentation of his fore-

bearers and the energy of his native Afro-Caribbean homeland, where he developed his own unique technique.

Though Fagan choreographs primarily for his

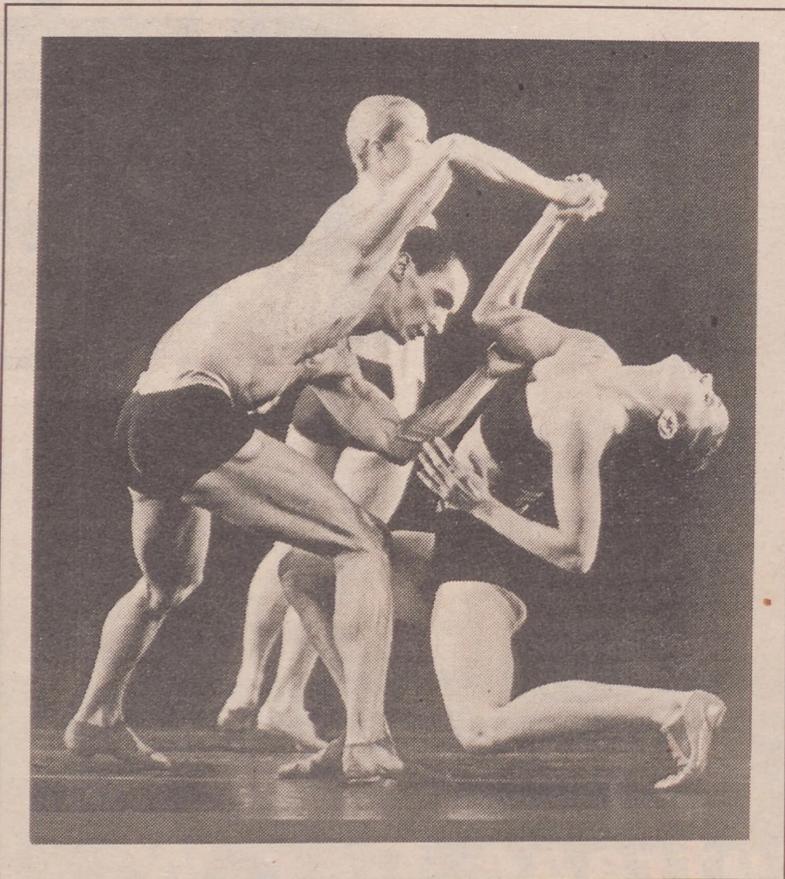
own company, his first work en pointe, "Footprints Dressed in Red" (1986) was created for the auspicious Dance Theater of Harlem. He is currently in demand and has utilized his creative energies for Alvin Ailey America, Jose

The burgeoning of contemporary dance companies in the last 25 years has had many positive effects on what audiences see in dance. As experimentation into new and exciting creative forces receive exposure, the quality of dance (and the talents of individual artists) has increased exponentially. With so many new groups vying for a finite number of needed touring opportunities, audiences benefit by experiencing the best quality performances available. Garth Fagan Dance is no exception. The dancers in this corps are renowned for their individuality, 'unmannered' approach and virtuosity. Their distinctive movement quality is the result of years of training in Artistic Director Fagan's specific technique.

The program offered on Feb. 6-7 offers not only a variety of movement, but a kaleidoscope of musical styles as well. Indian music by the Chief Cliff Singers, jazz inspired by Keith Jarrett and Wynton Marsalis and lush melodies of romantic classical composer Johannes Brahms all provide the evening's musical backdrop.

The dance scene in the Bayou City usually comes out of the 'post holiday Nutcracker slump' rather slowly. Garth Fagan Dance accelerates this process promising a varied and interesting program.

For tickets to the February 6th and 7th performances of Garth Fagan Dance at the Wortham Center call 713-227-ARTS.



Garth Fagan Dance troupe members evince a distinctive movement quality that comes from years of training in the choreographers technique.

Limon and Company, The Kennedy Center and Disney's Lion King production. This disparate client list attests to Fagan's originality and fresh approach.

Positive Voices

HIV-positive chorus releases inspirational CD

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

"You can live with AIDS, but you can't live without hope." So goes the reasoning behind "Until It's Over," an inspirational choral album by Positive Voices, the all HIV-positive chorus of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas.

Jackson Myers, who serves as the group's director, founded Positive Voices in 1994. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognized the 35-member chorus on World AIDS Day 1996 for its encouraging and uplifting message.

The 3,000-member Cathedral of Hope congregation is the largest member church

Positive Voices



until it's over

of Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the nation's largest predominantly gay and lesbian denomination. In order to audition for the chorus, a prospective member of must document and be out about their HIV-positive status.

The CD kicks off with "Stand," a rousing, soul-moving anthem with all the drive of "Onward Christian Soldiers." Passion ignites with "The Face of Love" and the heavenly journey comes full circle with "Celebrate," a selection from "Elegies For Angels, Punks, And Queens"

"Until It's Over" is available at Sources of Hope bookstore in Dallas and elsewhere. To order a copy, call (800) 501-4673.

Film documents out gay cowboy on pro rodeo circuit

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

"What does it mean to be a cowboy," asks University of Texas Graduate School of Film student Kyle Henry. Henry is director of "American Cowboy," a documentary about Gene Mikulenka, a professional gay cowboy, who competes in straight and gay rodeo circuits.

The film follows Mikulenka through the process of dealing with a serious injury—from hospital, to therapy, to recovery. Along the way, his championship horse, Marta, dies of colic and the experience has a profound affect on Mikulenka and his handsome lover, Steven. Both recall their fond relationship with Marta—it's as if a long-time friend has died.

Mikulenka's story is unique because the film examines the difficulty of coming out in the macho subculture of professional rodeo. Recalling his early adulthood, Mikulenka questioned his sexuality when he under-

stood what "homosexual" meant and he kept his orientation a secret.

As portrayed in the film, his relationship with Steven is touching and authentic and an inspiring example in a world full of negative gay stereotypes. Moreover, Mikulenka embodies the honesty, reflection, and humility that Texans have admired in their cowboys since the early days of the Republic.

Henry's direction is tremendously competent, uniquely intuitive and highly creative. And the documentary has several amusing asides: when Henry and his rowdy crew follow Mikulenka to the International Gay Rodeo finals in Albuquerque, someone makes a wrong turn and gets desperately lost. Similarly, he inserts numerous out takes that have an entertaining life of their own.

"American Cowboy" will premiere Saturday, Jan. 31 at the Museum of Fine Arts. Ticket prices are \$5, and you can call the MFA at (713) 639-7300 for more information.



Gene Mikulenka hard at work

© 1991 JOHN NACDING

Grand Opera presents sparse "Madame Butterfly"

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

This is the classic case of 'be careful what you wish for, it may come true.' When I heard that Houston Grand Opera was mounting a new production of Giacomo Puccini's classic love tragedy, "Madame Butterfly," it was welcome news to my eyes and ears. I was so tired of that totally traditional production, complete with the little geisha house that rotated on something resembling a gargantuan lazy susan.

In Francesca Zambello's new production, the house is reduced to a mat on the floor, looking very much like half a futon surrounded by some window shades; the house is gone! I realize that opera is an expensive business, however, this "Butterfly" is a co-production with three other companies, one of which, the Grand Theatre de Geneve, has substantial resources. By my calculations the 'bedroom' scene cost each of the co-producers about \$19—plus shipping to Switzerland.

The only other scene, the Consular office, is marginally better. Costume designer Anita Yavich does contribute to the small aesthetic value of this show with her elegant period costumes. However, the makeup used to transform Caucasians into Asians, always a tough task, was marred by obvious hairlines visible from the midpoint of the theater. Alan Burrett's imaginative lighting did provide some visual interest, though not enough to redeem the work artistically.

The singers seemed to be disproportionately affected by having only the bare essentials with them on stage. Puccini's famously

glorious vocal lines often fell sonic victims to the heavy-handed and visually distracting conducting of Vjekoslav Sutej. Several key moments were all but obliterated by an unbalanced orchestral offering, most notably killing the emotional climax of Butterfly's aria "One Fine Day," a vocal phrase that audiences anticipate as it is the opera's most famous musical moment.

Paula Delligatti was adequate as Cio-Cio-San, aka Butterfly, but seemed to spend the first two thirds of the opera warming up to the role. Her dramatic portrayal could best be described as 'wooden,' and not at all in keeping with that of a 15-year-old in the throes of a first love. Though her voice, like the others in the cast, was lovely, there simply wasn't enough of it to fill the hall. Tenor Paul Charles (Pinkerton) and baritone Frank Hernandez

(Sharpless) all had the same difficulty; beautiful voices none of which possessed quite enough power to convey the complete dramatic and musical message.

This production does improve in the last half of the final act. As the opera sails towards its tragic conclusion the cast finally comes to life. The vacant bedroom reappears (without the futon—even less stuff on stage than before); mistress and wife meet; Cio-Cio-San realizes that she has lost her husband and must also give up her child. Unable to cope, Madame Butterfly ends her own life with real dramatic impact intensified by effective and well-timed stagecraft.

Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" runs through February 15th. For tickets call 713-227-ARTS.



"Phantoms" will make you jump

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

"Phantoms," a film adopted from the same-titled novel by Dean Koontz, explores a Space Age response to a Stone Age anxiety: how can humankind save itself from an unknown evil when it seeks to destroy all life on the planet? Koontz wrote the screenplay himself—I hope the book is better.

At first I thought the plot could best be described as "The Blob Weds The Night of the Living Dead." But "Phantoms" is a bit more complicated than that. It's about inaugurating global genocide in a sleepy town called Snowfield, Colorado, a town chosen as the microcosmic testing ground of an evil force dubbed "The Ancient Enemy."

The movie's plot kicks off like a paranormal roller coaster. Dr. Jennifer Pailey (Joanna Going) and her sister Lisa ("Scream" star Rose McGowan) slowly cruise through Snowfield and find the town completely deserted. Tension escalates when they find a relative's house open and lifeless. Drawn to the kitchen by simmering pots, the pair discovers a corpse whose face displays a horrific death. The camera frantically zooms to other grotesque scenes, swishing and swerving from body part to body part faster than the Batman ride at Astroworld.

Suddenly, three silhouettes slowly approach the frightened pair as the exhilarating music spirals towards a shrieking confrontation. But it's a psyche—it's only Sheriff Bryce Hammond (Ben Affleck) and his posse, deputies Steve Shanning (Nicky Katt) and Stu Wargle (Live Schreiber), investigating a distress call from the town's policeman. The survivors set up shop in a police substation after clearing out a few cadavers, hardly unconscious of the terror about to unfold in the night.

Meanwhile, government authorities politely kidnap Timothy Flyte (Peter O'Toole), a rejected scholar who devotes his life to researching the Ancient Enemy's terrifying incarnations throughout millenia. Flyte assists General Leland Cooperfield (Clifton Powell) and a high-tech Army unit commissioned to confront the evil force which evaporates, consumes, or neutralizes most of its threats. Trapped and unable to escape the town, Sheriff Hammond, Dr. Pailey, Lisa and Flyte commandeer an Army research tank hoping to find a way to destroy the terrifying, malevolent presence.

"Phantoms" borrows heavily from B-movie acting and techniques. The acting, except for O'Toole, is really bad. The camera does most of the scary work and many of the props require a long stretch of the imagination to seem authentic. Even so, the movie teaches an important lesson about the human situation, about where we've been and where we're going while scaring you out of your wits in the process! And yeah, I'll admit it: I jumped a few times. Go see the movie and so will you!

HOUSTON VOICE RATING: •• for the bad acting, •••• for Peter O'Toole, and ••• for the Special Effects

Rated: R, lots of gore, body parts and things to gross you out

Run Time: 91 minutes

Genre: Horror

Director: Joe Chappelle

Screenplay: Dean Kootz

Cast: Peter O'Toole, Rose McGowan, Joanna Going, Liv Schreiber, Ben Affleck, and Clifton Powell

Theaters: multiple venues throughout the city



Rose McGowan and Peter O'Toole

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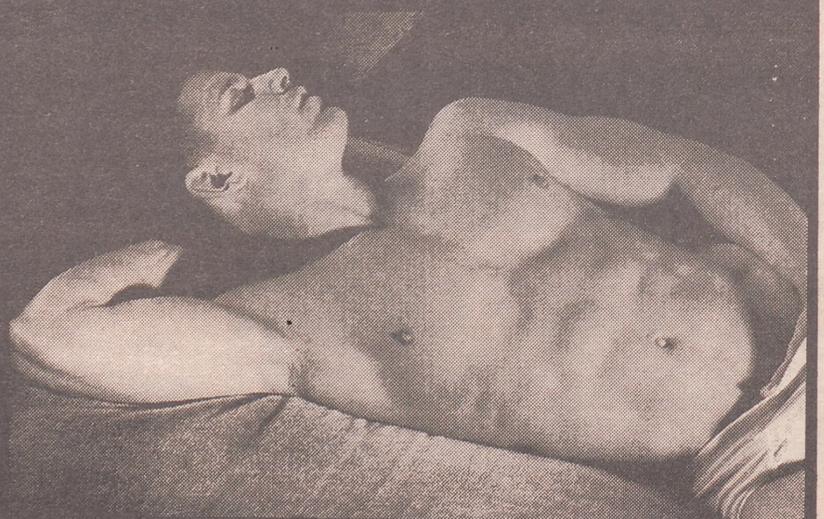
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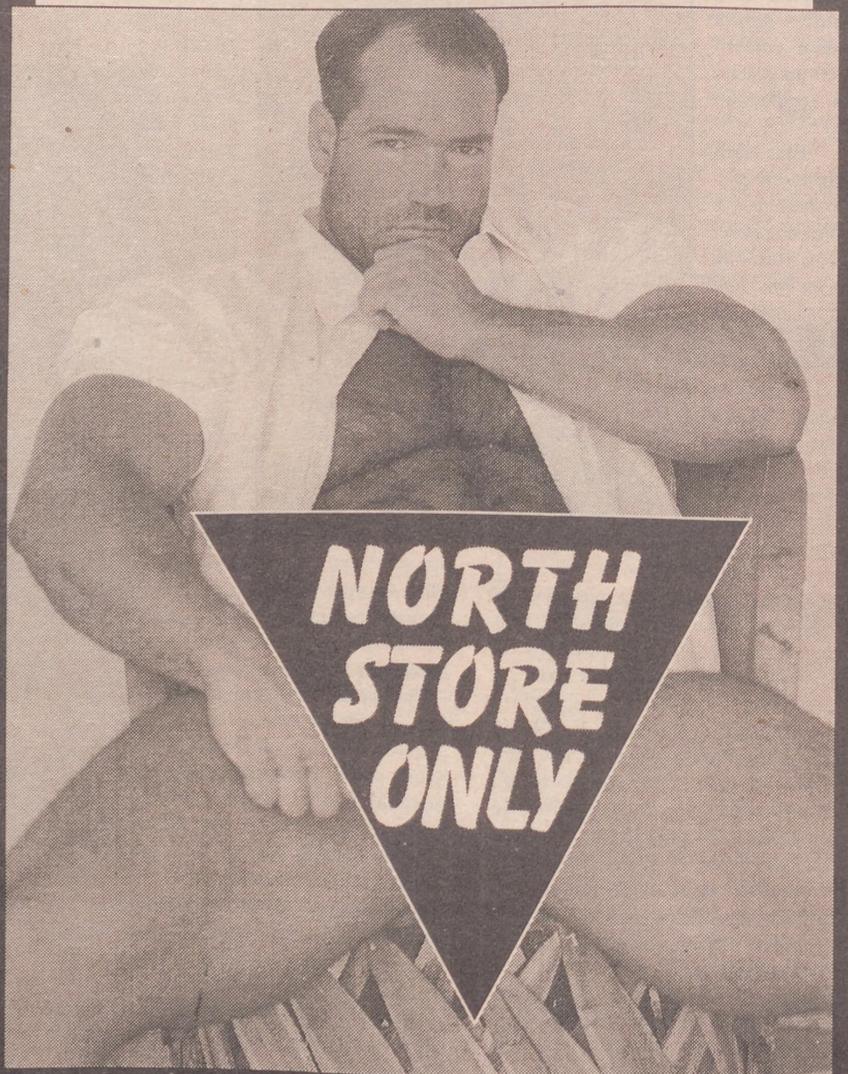
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-Danna K. Archer

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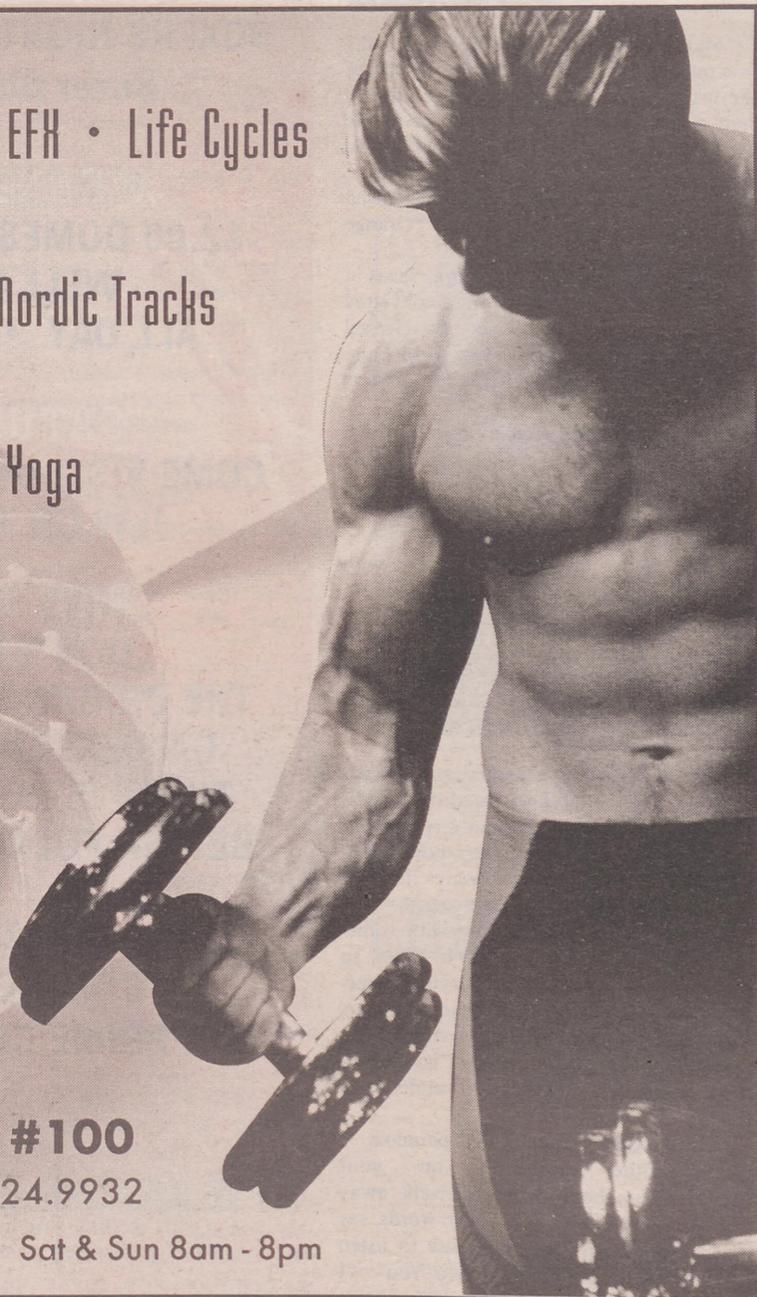
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Houstonian David Rice releases "Greenelectric"

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

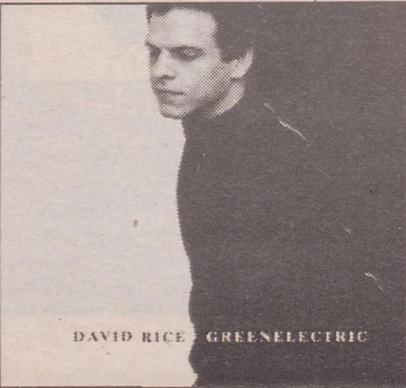
Houston singer/songwriter David Rice could never stay put. After spending much of his adolescence in the Bayou City, Green shackled up with a philosophy commune in Switzerland, taught music for the mentally challenged at a summer camp in Wisconsin, and returned to Houston to work as a film projectionist for a local coffeehouse in exchange for board.

But Rice can't forget how Houston got his music career rolling.

"I graduated from high school with stacks of demos but no concept of what to do next. After a horrifying first day of working at a music store, I decided I'd be better off going to the local college until I could figure it out.

"One night I stopped in a dance club called Power Tools and saw a guy playing cover tunes on the patio. I thought 'Oh, here's something I can do with my songs,' so I went back to the club the next day and played a couple tunes for the owner and she said 'Great, you can play tonight.'

"I only knew a few originals on guitar, so I dragged my home stereo to the club, rigged it up like a P.A. and faked my way through a set full of the cure, the Smiths, Waterboys, whatever I knew the words to.



"All the sudden there was this scene and I was making \$75 on top of it. At the end of the first night, I had already been hired to start a weekly spot at a gay bar down the road. Of course, I dropped out of school immediately."

True to form, Rice picked up and moved again to record his first album, "Orange Number Eight."

"We recorded in Fredericksburg, Texas at a place called Loma Ranch, in a converted barn that belongs to some friends. I released it independently and before long a company called Justice Records bought the masters from me."

It was "Orange Number Eight" which gave Rice a foot in the door at Columbia Records. Shortly thereafter, Rice signed with the label to start work on "Greenelectric."

Rice moved to Box, England to work with co-producer David Bottrill at Real World Studios. Bottrill is best known for his collaborations with Peter Gabriel.

"Bottrill and I had spend a week or so at my house in Austin and had really it off. Of course, I was thrilled at the opportunity to record at Real World."

"Greenelectric" is a synthesis of Rice's nomadic life, a life full of wondrous adventures and travels. Love, naturally, is a centering force. But Rice remembers how terminating a four-year relationship inspired many of the songs.

"When you're that intimate with someone, you start seeing yourself in them, so there's a constant struggle of trying to reconcile feelings of love with feelings of hate. You can be alternately the sweetest or the cruelest, and I suppose a good number of these songs are attempts to understand that."

"Thirsty Girl" explores that paradox: "I was another someone on your shoulder/somebody want to walk away from here/lay down your broken words, say its so serious/ain't no more ears to listen here." And further with "I See You": "I walked along the water till I heard the river's voice retreat/I left my lover drowning — and

with her, me."

Rice left England to return to the serenity of Loma Ranch. But his encounter with the Old World turbo-charged his creative side and Rice found new a more dynamic direction for the seven tracks which remained to be finished.

"I had such a sense of urgency when I got back from England; I had all this energy stemming from all these dynamic things that were happening in my life," recalls Rice. "It was really important for me to start over and breath new life into the record."

"Greenelectric" is certainly a breath of life for a world full of soulless commercial pop. The music, like Rice, travels from acoustic sets to electric guitar, always centering on his deep, resonant voice. Like his music, Rice may not be able to stay in one place long — but at least he always comes back home.

R&B

"Every Kind Of Mood — Randy, Randi, Randee"

Randy Crawford
Atlantic Records

R&B legend and gay community favorite Randy Crawford experienced a comeback with 1995's Bluemoon debut, "Naked and True." The album sold over 250,000 copies—her third most successful effort. Crawford returns once more with "Every Kind of Mood," an album of diverse tracks full of love, sympathy, courage and spirit. Among these are an eclectic assortment of cover versions that include Massive Attack's "Hymn of the Big Wheel," and an energetic rendition of Rose Royce's ballad, "Wishing On A Star." Crawford is upbeat about the new release. "I always want to associate myself with any piece of music that feels good and sounds good," says Crawford. "I don't want to do anything else."

DANCE

"More, More, More"

Dolce & Gabbana
Popular Records

When "More, More, More" was released in 1976 by Andrea True Connection, Andrea caused quite a commotion with her sexy video. Clad in daisy dukes and whipped bleach blonde hair made so popular by Farrah Fawcett, Andrea lip-synced the song on a set that look like a stripper joint. Well, "More, More, More" returns 21 years later and the song is just as fun. DJ Junior Vasquez lends his talents, with his trademark sampling and pounding tribal builds, but retaining a commercial slant. Two additional Italian remixes close out a respectable, contemporary return of this disco classic.

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- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Tootie's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Recovery and Beyond-relationship group meets at 8 pm. 713-333-9092.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- Houston Chain Gang Cycling Club meets for dinner. 768-8793.
- Spay-Neuter Assistance Program. 713-522-2337.
- Montrose Softball League sign up and info at JR's from 6 to 10 pm. 713-867-3913.

Saturday, January 31

- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- Spay-Neuter Assistance Program. 713-522-2337.
- Absolutley Fabulous and Off The Wall at Jags. 713-623-6796.
- Sunday, February 1
- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 9:00 am. 713-868-5039
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- PWA Holiday Charities monthly meeting at noon. 713-521-0911

Monday, February 2

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am.
- Kolbe Project's Parka Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meet at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30 pm. 713-681-1309.

Tuesday, February 2

- Sex, Lies & Video Tapes workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8pm. 495-8009.
- Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.

- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Club Body Center 8pm to Midnite.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Parka Plaza Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Project Ceaser at AFH. 713-623-6796.

Wednesday, February 3

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Bricks II 9 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4pm. 473-7539.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Tooties at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 713-861-1800.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at

- 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Rainbow Ranglers at 8 pm at the BRB.
- Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. 281-933-5818.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 623-6796.
- The Politics of HIV/AIDS-a discussion featuring Dr. Norris Lang, Dr. Janice Hutchinson, Dr. Debbie Brinlow, and Donna Rochon, M.A. At Stages. 52-STAGES.

Thursday, February 5

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Frontrunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.

GALAXY GAYZER A Houston Voice Exclusive
Your Horoscope for the week of January 26 thru 30

ARIES: (March 21-April 20) Your financial prospects are excellent this week, especially if you join up with another to pool both your know-how and resources. It's advantageous to your monetary goals to be flexible and roll with the punches. You yearn to travel - so start planning.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21) Now's the best time to start a new partnership, whether in business or romance, the results will definitely be very positive. Keep your physical energy high. Money dealings will intensify in the next few months, be very careful about the details.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21) Your mind may be totally on pleasure and free time during the week, it's time to think about improving your financial and job situation. Be cautious and heed others' business suggestions. You've the capabilities to tackle any challenges thrown your way, and win.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23) There's a new chapter in your love life ready to be written - be patient, all the details will unfold in due time. Romance will continue to be dominant for the next several months, so enjoy it. Even if you are tempted, refrain from making any hasty decisions.

LEO: (July 24- August 23) The thought of work doesn't do much for you, but it will be surprising just how much you will accomplish if you just put your nose to the grindstone. Keep in mind in the future that you will benefit from a more intellectual approach to moneymaking ideas and finances.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23) Hard work is the key throughout this week. There is friction on the job which can be avoided with diplomacy. The chance to enhance your working skills is good, look for opportunities, however small they may seem. The solution to a nagging problem is evident.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23) This week will be a lot more active and rewarding than the past couple of weeks. Real estate could be a profitable area now. Your financial bandwagon rolls along, producing profits which will be more evident in the next few weeks. Concentrate on doing things yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22) Try to look at things with a fresh perspective. If you go about accomplishing things differently, you may be amazed at how much you'll get done. The next few weeks will favor financial planning, so work closely with someone who knows the business well.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21) The prevailing theme is tranquility. Evenings may be filled with enjoyable social events and romantic interludes. You have attracted the attention of a VIP at work, someone who can help you advance your career and personal goals. Keep your attitude upbeat.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20) Your friends are very supportive, and if you are working on a personal goal, they will be able to give some good advice. A lucky opportunity may enable you to climb up a few additional rungs on the ladder of success. Trim down your expectations to parallel with reality.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19) You will meet a whole new circle of people who can be stimulating on an intellectual level. These new friends will help clarify any important objectives which have been fuzzy. Steer clear of any known troublemakers in the workplace, they may hamper your progress.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20) Distant friends or family will dominate your thoughts and actions. Start working on that special project which may have to do with a home matter. Beware of being overly optimistic concerning finances - remember to not count your chickens before they're hatched.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: You will no doubt achieve your greatest successes by listening to the comments and advice from others, formulating a long range program, and finding joy in your accomplishments and goals, no matter how small they may seem to you. You also have a tendency to speak before you think, hurting those close to you.

such is LIFE!

©EARL STORM

BERT

DISCOVERING THAT HIS BOYFRIEND IS

GAY

IN

THE IMPORTANCE OF

BEING ERNIE!

TICKLE ME QUEER!

INTERNET: [HTTP://WWW.GAYWIRED.COM/QUACK/SUCHLIFE.HTM](http://www.gaywired.com/quack/suchlife.htm) E-MAIL: QUACKATEER@AOL.COM

Friday, January 30

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Buffet at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well; \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Blues Broad Susan Masar sings at 9 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Cousin's: Super Friday Night Drag show with fabulous performers at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm: Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm: \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Lazy J: Pool tournament
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli: hard body male dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm: male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am. \$1 well Vodka Juice Drinks.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: "Fuel" 19 and up. DJ Chris Sill and Fusion.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails, \$2 Cuervo. 9:00
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; Guest Bartenders 9:00 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Saturday, January 31

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 9pm. Joanne in the afternoons!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Cousin's: Super Saturday night Drag show with top Houston talent at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Super Show at 11pm.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 6 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am. Happy Hour

- 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and domestic longnecks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am.; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm, See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard.; D.J. J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. Cuervo \$2.50!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting, 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Sunday, February 1

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; Steak night 5 to 9pm \$6 14oz t-bone & fixins.
- BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Cousin's: Sinful Sunday Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toy Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6pm: Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm. 50¢ draft on the patio starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks: \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tourney @ 1:30pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No cover 7-9 pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; Happy hours noon to 8 pm \$1.75 well drinks and domestic longnecks.; \$1.75 Bloody Mary all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Trash Disco T-Dance. Doors open at 7 pm. DJ Chris Sill. Super cheap drinks!
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo; snacks on the "Far Side" & guest bartenders 6pm till???
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.

Monday, February 2

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all nite 7am-2pm. Football on the big screen; snacks.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLOGIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm: Male Strip 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open

- to close; Free Pool Table.
- Incognito: Male Strip night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Metroplex: Doors open at 8 pm. \$2 well drinks and domestic longnecks. Music by Alex C.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Outpost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am. All top shelf \$3.50 all day and all night!
- QT's: Killer Bee Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Tuesday, February 3

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. \$1 Burgers on the patio 5 to 9pm; Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Night at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2 for Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, frozen Ritas & wine; Jockey short contest at 11pm; grab for cash at midnight.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$2 Cuervo.
- Mela's Tejano: Free Hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colors.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am; \$1.50 well and \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am. Colorado Bulldogs (Kamora) \$3.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo. Dart Tournament at 7 pm.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon to 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Wednesday, February 4

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Free Pool Tables..
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to

- 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea: Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & nite; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight: Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am; \$1 well vodka and \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Rich's doors open at 9 pm. 18 and up.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

Thursday, February 5

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm.
- BriarPatch: Edith Head plays in a number of disguises.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
- Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Amateur Talent contest @ 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Skyy Vodka open to close.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold & Micro brewed beer: Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; 75¢ Schnapps.
- Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm, Linda Lou with open mike 9-10:30 pm, 10:30 pm to 1 am Karokee
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueray or Absolut) \$3.75
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm, Pool tournament.
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's Club Hedd.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar nightly wine tasting. 355-3093

Important Stuff

The Absolutely Fabulous and Off the Wall Gala benefits AIDS Foundation Houston. This will be a smashing evening of fashionable fun, seeing and being seen, and celebrating life and hope. Food and libations are by Houston's own too fab caterer Jackson Hick of Jackson and Co. The fab festivities begin at 7 pm on Saturday, Jan. 31 at Jags, 5120 Woodway. For more info, call 629-9255.



Happy RSICSS Board Members

Have you gotten your bus ticket for Mardi Gras from the Ripcord, Bricks II or the BRB? Well, hurry! If you are headed to Galveston, be sure to check out the costume contest at the San Luis. The fun is on Feb. 21 starting at noon. For more info on the contest, call 409/744-1500.



Hanging out at Chances

Congrats to the new Mr. BRB Byron Norton! I hear the competition was rather difficult this year.

Get your calendar out! June 14 is Pride Day at Astroworld, June 13 is the Pride Jamboree in Memorial Park, and the National Leather Association: Houston's anniversary weekend starts April 18.



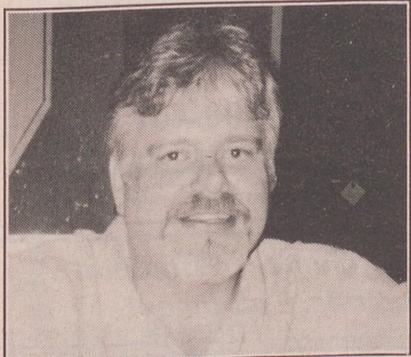
Hazel (hangs at Rich's) in her usual pose!

Milestones

Big get well hugs to Ray Hill. He is in Ben Taub recovering from open heart surgery

Happy birthdays to Laura Lee Love, My old, old, old friend Mark Ferrin, Weldon H. & Tim B. of CCCC, and Denisa.

Belated birthday hugs to Joey Fisher.



Hello Handsome

Congrats to Sam Cunningham! He has a new job and is relocating (for a short time) to McAllen! Good luck, honey.

There will be a "Celebration of Life" for Mike Geinzer at the Venture-N on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 2 pm.

Rodent Droppings

Rascal and Harvey got a manicure this week. It takes both of us to perform this "operation." One person holds the squirmy little creature and feeds treats while the other (that would be me) person quickly trims the nails with a special ferret nail cutter. It is such an ordeal, but it needs to be done every 30 days or so.

My usual disclaimer is in force! Lies, gossip, and trash. If you would like to read real news written by real writers, please turn to page one.



Another Jim at the Venture-N

Overheard at the last Houston Council of Clubs' meeting: "Riders, Colts, and Bears, oh my!"

Bob Bouton: And I quote: "I want it slipped in often!"

Jim (new bartender at the Venture-N): I hear you have a foot fetish!

Keisha (Pacific Street): And I quote: "I grow granola."



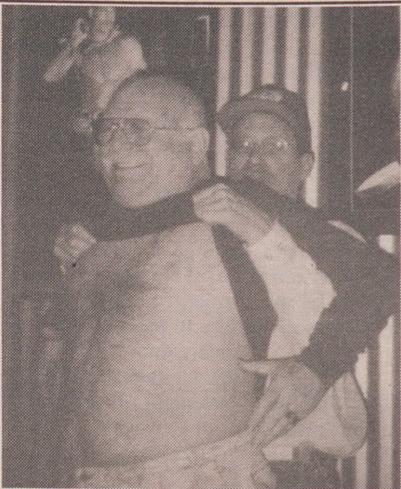
The Fabulous Jerry Atwood at the Brair Patch

Darla K. (Gentry): And I quote: "I can't get drunk off those Cape Cods." Is that at Gentry or in New Orleans? And your mom told me that you need a new suit!

Jeremy (Pacific Street): Chink poop, chink poop!

Dirk: I hear you moved out of Allen's house into Allen House!

Kip (Gentry): When is the new boyfriend moving in? Do you need to install a revolving door?



Only at Mary's

Jerry Atwood: Thanks for the great time last Tuesday night! Do you really have helium tits? And we all know you have a big mike!

Thom (hangs at Gentry): So, how many perfect Rob Roys have you had lately? Did Chad make them for you?

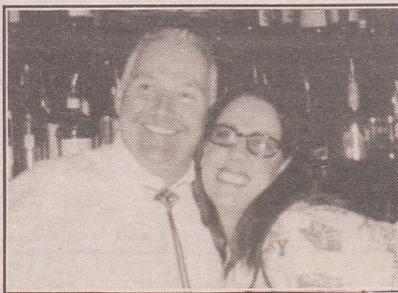
Sweet Mama Cotton (BriarPatch): You are truly sick and twisted! What did you discover on Saturday night in Reynousa?

Scott Lewis (Heaven): And I quote:

"Rehab is for amateurs, baby!"

Brian Munson: No more wire hangers!

Charles Armstrong: I understand that you have a passion for Diet Dr. Pepper and M&Ms!

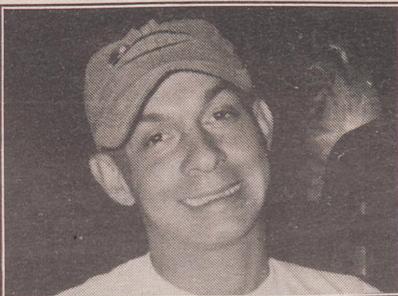


Neil & Amy at the Metroplex

Mavis (BRB): No wonder your legs hurt! Keeping them on Ben's (BRB) shoulder will do that.

Dog Lips (hangs at Mary's): And just what were you doing in that motor home parked behind Mary's?

Jim Sorgini: Rumor has it that you were very "festive" for your birthday celebration this past weekend? Why did my "source" tell me he was amazed you could still walk? Details!



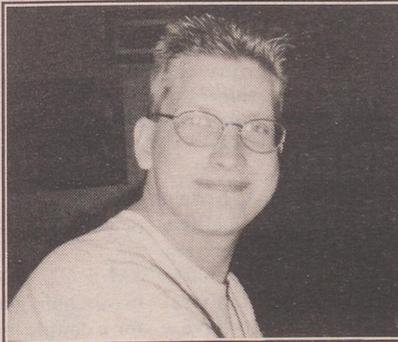
Keisha, Keisha, Keisha

Kathie (Chances): What is this I've heard about you having an audience in the corner? Doing a private show?

Tommie Sue Ellen (BRB): What happens when you get a rag and a bottle of Pine-O-Pine? Do you become Queen for a day?

Jim Roberts (Venture-N): I found out your first name. How much are you going to bribe me to keep it out of print?

Gary Sykes (PWA Holiday Charities): I hear you have a new bouncing baby blue ball! But, really, taking it to Mary's at such a young age.



Oh, BABY!

Miss Zack (Cousins): You are such a party animal!

Mario (BRB): We all hope your vacation is over so Vera can settle down and become a housewife again!



Why drink when I can eat?

Rickydon (hangs anywhere): Who is Rickydon anyway? And how was the party you went to last Thursday night?

Buddy Thompson (RSICSS): And I quote: "We are going to ROMP!"



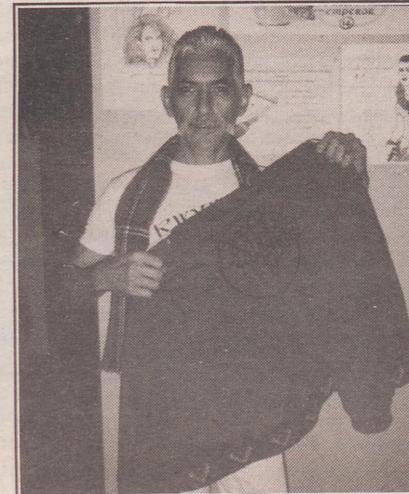
TV Janet gets licked at the Ripcord

Woody (Gentry): How full should the glass be for a Black Russian?

Twister (BRB): Is the honeymoon over? No flowers lately.

Sion (Metroplex): Rumor has it that if you drink Jack Daniels you take your clothes off!

Mike (Montrose Clinic): Why do they refer to you as the "Head" volunteer?



The Animal

Betsy (Ranch): Love the new "butch" hair do!

Michelle (QT's): I'll be by soon for that Jose Cuervo.

Mama Jo (Outpost): We are going to miss you, honey.

Alec (JR's): New roommate?

Tom (Montrose Clinic): I hear you have been a nasty, nasty boy!

Reno (JR's): Leave the "X-Files" pinball game alone!

Bob Ryan: I have more wrinkles under my eye than you do! Can I borrow \$10,000 for an eye job?

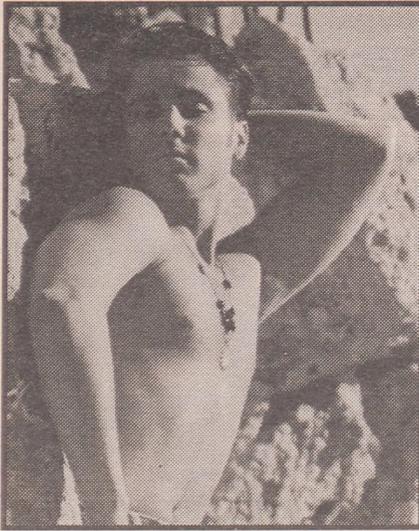


Pet of the week "Feebee" mascot for the Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages

Be sure to send me a photo of your pet!

Have a great week!

Cuerwelyn



HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS

Women SEEKING Women

SF Black hair, hazel eyes, 5'1", 36, a little overweight. I like to go out, socialize, go to parties, camping, motorcycles, the beach and going out to quiet dinners. I'm looking for someone who is interested in the same thing for friendship or possible relationship. I am a Pisces and cute. Call Ext. 5546

SBF Attractive. Seeking someone to spend time with. This is my first time that I have gone within this area. If you're interested in meeting me, give me a call soon. Call Ext. 5682

SBF 46. I enjoy sports & games. I'm looking for someone between the ages of 36-49, to spend time with, have fun & especially if you are interested in playing pinochle. Call Ext. 5637

SF 29, blonde hair, brown eyes, feminine. I'm interested in meeting new people to go out & enjoy movies & dancing. Call Ext. 5634

SWF Attractive, and professional. Seeking someone who is between ages 38-45, to explore a discreet relationship. Must be feminine. Call Ext. 5672

GWF 42, non-smoker. I'm sensitive, thoughtful & considerate. I like dining out, traveling, movies, learning how to dance Country Western. You should have similar interests, be fun-loving, spontaneous, enjoy trying new adventures & have a good sense of humor. Call Ext. 5654

GHF Medium build, attractive, short black hair. I work & live alone. Looking for somebody for a possible relationship. Friendship at first. Someone to talk to, listen to music with, going out & to the beaches. Call Ext. 5666

SF Professional, 34, 5'5", 150 lbs., height/weight proportionate. Looking for a friend. I like to listen to music, read, take walks in the park & camp. Call Ext. 5643

SBF Bi sexual, 18, dark brown hair, brown eyes & medium build. Looking for single female age, race is unimportant. If you would like to get together to have some fun, then give me a call. Call Ext. 5641

SF Bi racial, 5'4", 110 lbs., curly golden blonde hair, big blue eyes, height/weight proportionate & feminine. I'm secure & independent. Looking to meet Black or Hispanic females, must be height/weight proportionate & be feminine only. I love to go out & have fun. Call Ext. 5640

SBF Looking for an attractive, single Black female. Someone who I can spend my time with. Should be very caring, loving & willing to share different things with. Call Ext. 5579

Men SEEKING Men

SM I'm a top Greek man. I am a non-smoker, no drugs, HIV-. I'm 5'10", 175 lbs. Seeking a submissive bottom for dating and maybe more. Any age, any race. You must be a non-smoker, no drugs, HIV-, 5'10" or shorter preferred, no mustache. Call Ext. 5685

SMI would like to get in touch with guys preferably with blonde hair, blue eyes, or dark hair, blue eyes, any race is welcome. Call Ext. 5684

We are a gay, White male couple, we are 57 & 44 years of age & we have a long term relationship. We are looking for similar couples for companionship. We like movies, dining out, New Orleans, cooking & lot's more. Call Ext. 5680



GWM 5'11", 150 lbs., grey hair, 50, HIV+, very healthy. Looking for a long term relationship with someone over 40. I'm sensitive, thoughtful & considerate. I enjoy the beach, movies, traveling, entertaining friends at home & quiet evenings at home. Call Ext. 5681

GBM 35, 6'1", 240 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm a competitive body builder. I'm looking for very muscular men, gym rats or athletes, who are interested in extra-curricular activities. I do have a partner & I'm looking to hook up with guys for fun. You have to be very muscular, body builder or a major gym rat. I'm only interested in guys like that. Please call soon. Call Ext. 5679

SWM 20, bisexual. Looking for a first time experience. I'm looking for other guys, maybe it's their first time or looking for their first time. Looking to get to know some people & let it go from there. Call soon. Call Ext. 5670

GWM 33, 155 lbs., handsome, spiritual, honest, creative, friendly. In search of a Hispanic, masculine top, who is HIV+ or HIV- for quality friendship. I love the company of a younger guy, who is willing to be himself & let me be myself. Race is unimportant, but Hispanic is a plus. Don't wait another day to respond. Call Ext. 5661

SWM 39, 6'1", 170 lbs., HIV-, mustache, hairy body. I live in the country. I enjoy the simple things in life. I'm honest, trustworthy, considerate, understanding, loving & hardworking. I enjoy country dancing & can either lead or follow. I drink only in moderation. Looking for a mature, masculine, romantic bottom with the same characteristics that I have. Call Ext. 5677

SWM 40, masculine, 5'10", 185 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, nice looking. I'm seeking a girl 21-45, who is really a guy & healthy like myself. I want someone to share both nights out on the town & quiet times at home together. You should be a pre-op transsexual or a feminine looking transvestite or cross dresser. A transgender guy that looks like a girl. Call Ext. 5675

SHM 35, 5'7", 150 lbs. Looking for another Hispanic or White male 23-33, who is a top for friendship & possible dating. Someone masculine & straight acting. I have a lot of interests that I would like to share with the right person. Call Ext. 5674

SHM 23, 5'10", 200 lbs., dark brown eyes, black hair, mustache, goatee, earrings, sideburns, hairy bottom. In search of tops, for friendship, dating, sex & possibly more. Age, race, looks are unimportant. Cowboy types & body hair are a plus. I've never had any complaints. Call Ext. 5673

SWM Bi, tall & slender. In search of a passive, feminine, White males 30-45, who are into cross-dressing, role playing & pleasing both men or women. Call Ext. 5366

SM 5'6", 170 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair, good looking. Looking for a couple of guys who would be interested in hanging around with a chubby guy. Must have buff bodies, be good looking & interested in giving pleasures as well as receiving. Call Ext. 5493

SM 6', brown hair, blue eyes, hairy, uncut. I like to go to the movies, live theater, dancing & the outdoors. Looking for someone who is hairy & has the same interests as me. Should be fun-loving & versatile. Call Ext. 5663

GWM Mid-40's, 5'9", 145 lbs., blue eyes, light brown hair, smooth skin, mustache, HIV+. I'm very good looking & athletic. I like fishing, mechanics, outdoors & manly work. I'm honest & lonely. Looking for someone between the ages of 35-55, who has manly type actions, honest maybe for lifetime. No queens, hairy or overweight people. Call Ext. 5664

GHC 27, top & 32, bottom. We are both in good shape. We would like to meet some Black men who are versatile, to have a threesome. Call Ext. 5656

SM 5'8", brown hair, blue eyes, 155 lbs. Hi guys, please no fems or fannies. I'm a bottom looking for a top. I'm very oral & I wish for you to be the same way. I like to dine out, go to movies, take long walks or staying at home having good conversations. Looking for someone 32-40 years old. I'm HIV+, so those that are, need to apply only to my ad. Call soon. Call Ext. 5669

SBM 29, 5'6", 166 lbs. attractive, HIV+ but, very healthy. My interests are sports, fishing, fast cars, movies & dining out. Seeking a White male between the ages of 24-32 years old, with the same interests for friendship & maybe more. Call Ext. 5646

SGM 26, 6', 155 lbs., pretty, but have a classical masculine look. Seeking a long lasting relationship with a happy, sincere, generous business man. I'm sensitive, athletic & disease free. Call Ext. 5639

GWM 5'11", 180 lbs., blonde hair, 18. I'm financially secure & moving to the Houston area soon. I would like to meet someone who is also HIV+ & very fit. Call soon. Call Ext. 5649

GWM 43, 6', brown hair, blue eyes, hairy, HIV-. I like the theater, movies, dining out & good conversations over drinks. Looking for White men, who would like to go out & party. Should have a hairy chest but, not necessary. Call soon. Call Ext. 5665

GWM 5'10", 190 lbs., 34, dark hair, green eyes, professional. Looking for someone who is older & taller than I am. Should be mature, have a good personality, good disposition & comfortable with yourself. Interested in a good friendship & maybe more. Call Ext. 5651

SBM HIV+, 6'3", 180 lbs., masculine, athletic build, mustache, goatee. I enjoy sports, riding motorcycles, horse back riding & quiet, romantic evenings. I would like to meet masculine, physically active man between the ages of 28-48, for friendship & long term relationship. Please call soon. Call Ext. 5662

GWM 38, HIV-, 5'11", 170 lbs., green eyes, hairy chest & masculine. I'm deeply spiritual, cherishing honor above all, loyalty, duty & civility. Seeking a petite, gentle, HIV-, bottom, for walks in the parks, conversations in coffee shop's, movies & trips to the museums. Let's court each other & take it slow. Asian, Eurasian, Pakistanis is a plus. Call Ext. 5660

GWM 28, brown eyes, hairy chest, 5'5", 170 lbs. Looking for a White gay male, 30-45 years old, very to medium hairy and your weight is not important. Should be versatile but, strictly tops would be considered, for a possible relationship if the guy is right. Call Ext. 5659

SWM 38, 6'1", 190 lbs., HIV-, blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth body, 30" waist. In search of a long term relationship with someone with dark hair, olive skin & a hairy chest is a plus. I enjoy cooking, movies, theaters, plays, walks on the beach, quiet evenings at home with a good man & a fine bottle of wine. Call Ext. 5655

GWM 38, 5'10", 165 lbs., mustache/goatee. I'm easygoing, straight acting & moderately hair. Looking for other gay White males 38-50, hairy is a big plus & should be height/weight proportionate. I'm not into the bar scenes or the gay lifestyles. Call Ext. 5653

SWM 45, 6'1", 150 lbs. I drink & smoke, nothing heavier. My 25 year old White female friend wants me to do more than kiss & tell. In search of closet, mature, transvestites or cross dressers. Discretion is assured. Call Ext. 5355

GWM 33, 5'7", 220 lbs., little overweight, hazel eyes, my hair is balding but, it is sandy-blonde hair. Would like to get know some people & go out to dinner. Call soon. Call Ext. 5650

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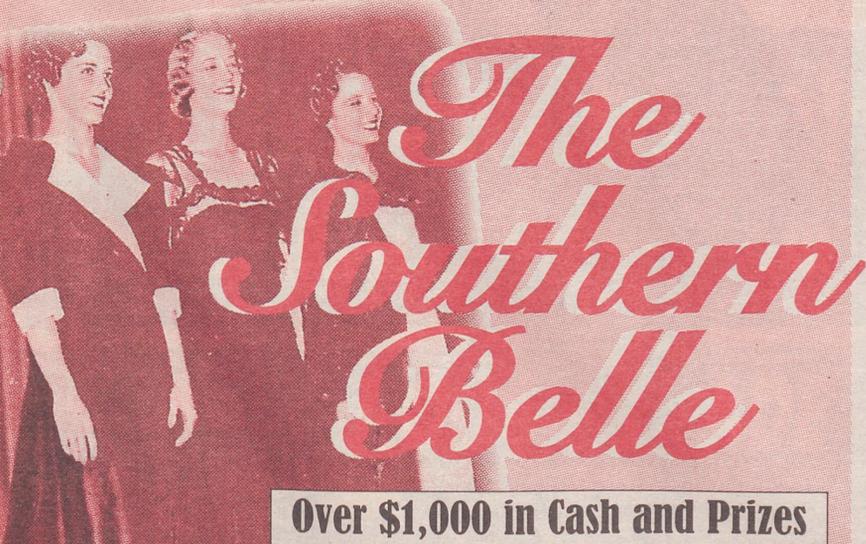
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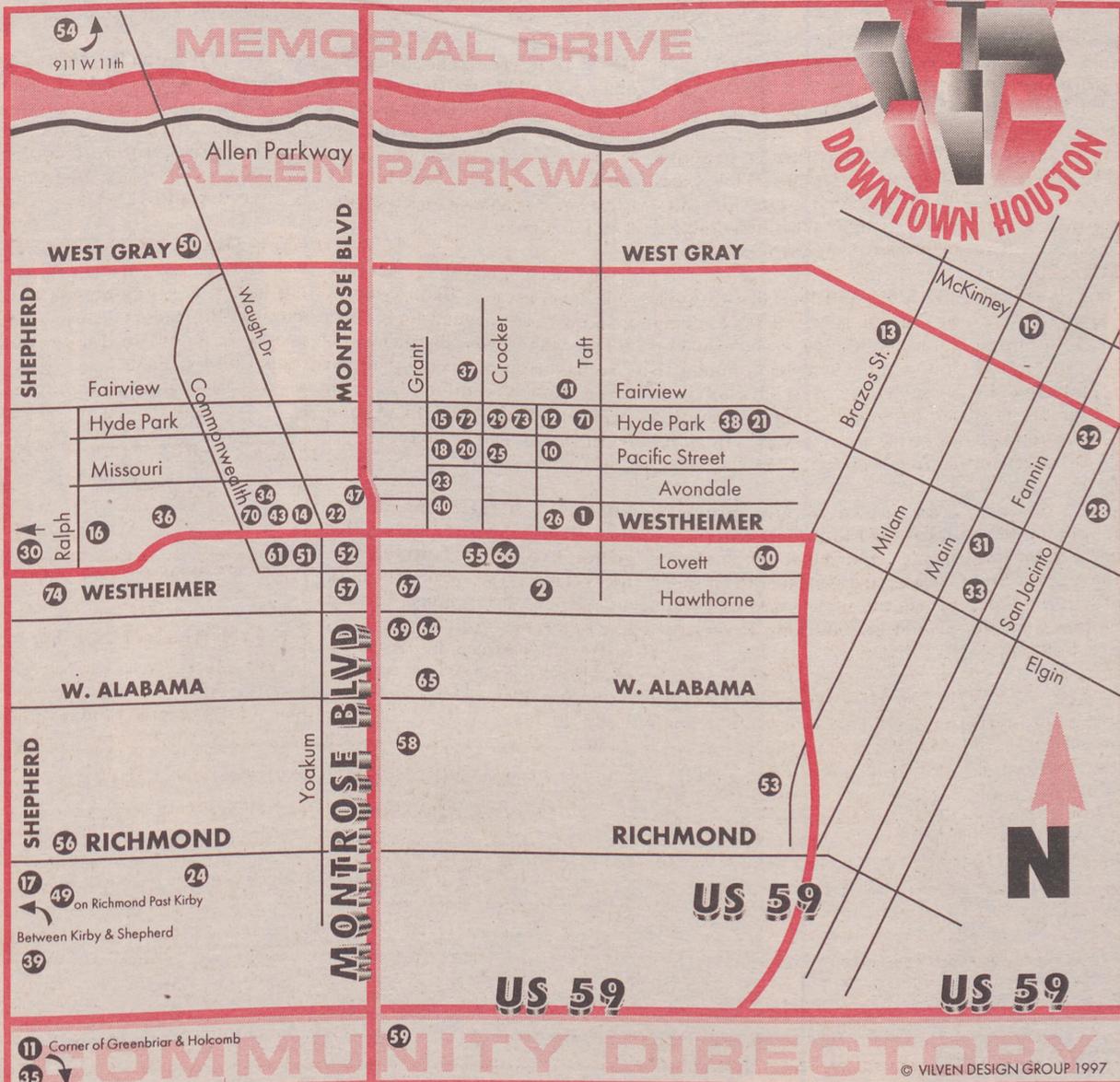


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| 1 | Montrose Inn | 408 Avondale | 713/520-0206 |
| 2 | The Lovett Inn | 501 Lovett Blvd | 713/522-5224 |

BARS & CLUBS

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 10 | 611 Hyde Park | 611 Hyde Park | 713/526-7070 |
| 11 | The Briar Patch | 2294 Holcombe | 713/665-9678 |
| 12 | Bricks II | 617 Fairview | 713/528-8102 |
| 13 | Brazos River Bottom | 2400 Brazos | 713/528-9192 |
| 14 | Chances | 1100 Westheimer | 713/523-7217 |
| 15 | Cousins | 817 Fairview | 713/528-9204 |
| 16 | Els | 2517 Ralph | 713/527-9071 |
| 17 | Gentry | 2303 Richmond | 713/520-1861 |
| 18 | Heaven | 812 Pacific | 713/521-9123 |
| 19 | Incognito | 2524 McKinney | 713/237-9431 |
| 20 | JR's | 808 Pacific | 713/521-2519 |
| 21 | Lazy J | 312 Tuam | 713/528-9343 |
| 22 | Mary's | 1022 Westheimer | 713/527-9669 |
| 23 | Montrose Mining Co. | 805 Pacific | 713/529-7488 |
| 24 | Outpost | 1419 Richmond | 713/520-8446 |
| 25 | Pacific Street | 710 Pacific | 713/523-0213 |
| 26 | QT's | 534 Westheimer | 713/529-8813 |
| 28 | Rich's | 2401 San Jacinto | 713/759-9606 |
| 29 | Ripcord | 715 Fairview | 713/521-2792 |
| 30 | Vintage Bar on Midlane | 4356 Westheimer | 713/355-3093 |
| 31 | Venture N | 2923 Main | 713/522-0000 |
| 32 | The Club Houston | 2205 Fannin | 713/659-4998 |
| 33 | Midtowne Spa | 3100 Fannin | 713/522-2379 |
| 34 | The New Barn | 1100 Westheimer | 713/521-9533 |
| 35 | PLAZA 9200: | | |
| | Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC | 9200 Buffalo Spwy | 713/666-3436 |
| 36 | Raccals | 1318 Westheimer | 713/942-CLUB |
| 37 | Paradise | 2312 Crocker | 713/522-7366 |
| 38 | Mela's Tejano Country | 302 Tuam | 713/523-0747 |
| 39 | Metroplex | 2165 Portsmouth | 713/520-5000 |

RESTAURANTS

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 40 | Baba Yaga | 2607 Grant | 713/522-0042 |
| 41 | Barnaby's Cafe | 604 Fairview | 713/522-0106 |
| 43 | Charlie's Coffee Shop | 1100 Westheimer | 713/522-3332 |
| 47 | Riva's Italian Restaurant | 1117 Missouri St. | 713/529-3450 |

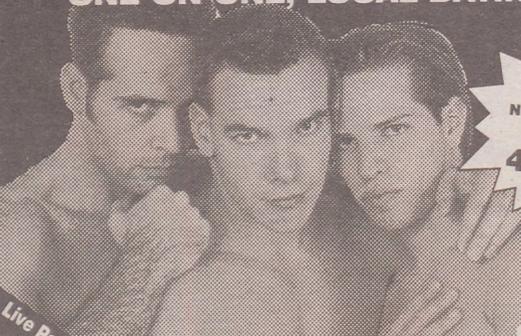
BUSINESSES & SERVICES

| | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 49 | Allstate | 3467 Kirby | 713/526-5553 |
| 50 | Cineplex-Odeon | 1450 W Gray | 713/524-8781 |
| 51 | Crossroads Market | 1111 Westheimer | 713/942-0147 |
| 52 | Eckerd Drugs | 1007 Westheimer | 713/524-9229 |
| 53 | Fitness Exchange | 4040 Milam | 713/524-9932 |
| 54 | Heights Above Florist | 911 W 11th | 713/862-2683 |
| 55 | Houston Voice | 811 Westheimer | 713/529-8490 |
| 56 | Inklings Bookstore | 1846 Richmond | 713/521-3369 |
| 57 | Kroger Grocery | 3300 Montrose | 713/526-7865 |
| 58 | Labo Books & Video | 3939-S Montrose | 713/522-5156 |
| 59 | Main St. Theatre | 4617 Montrose | 713/524-6706 |
| 60 | Montrose Clinic | 215 Westheimer | 713/520-2000 |
| 61 | Four Star Hair Productions | 1201 Westheimer | 713/524-7785 |
| 64 | Vilven Design Group | 807 Hawthorne | 713/526-3212 |
| 65 | House of Coleman | 901 W Alabama | 713/523-2521 |
| 66 | Synchronized Chiropractic | 811 Westheimer | 713/521-7741 |
| 67 | Walgreens | 3317 Montrose | 713/520-8000 |
| 69 | SIAT Script Pharmacy | 3407 Montrose (A5) | 713/522-7373 |

CLOTHING SHOPS

| | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 70 | Basic Brothers | 1232 Westheimer | 713/522-1626 |
| 71 | Jewel's Boutique | 2404 Taft | 713/523-3557 |
| 72 | Leather By Boots | 807 Fairview | 713/526-2668 |
| 73 | Leather Forever | 711 Fairview | 713/526-6940 |
| 74 | Timeless Taffeta | 1657 Westheimer | 713/529-6299 |

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(713) 526.9393
 Adults Only! Restrictions apply. Optional features \$2.49 per minute. 888-337-ACME

MIDNIGHT MATINEE SPECIAL

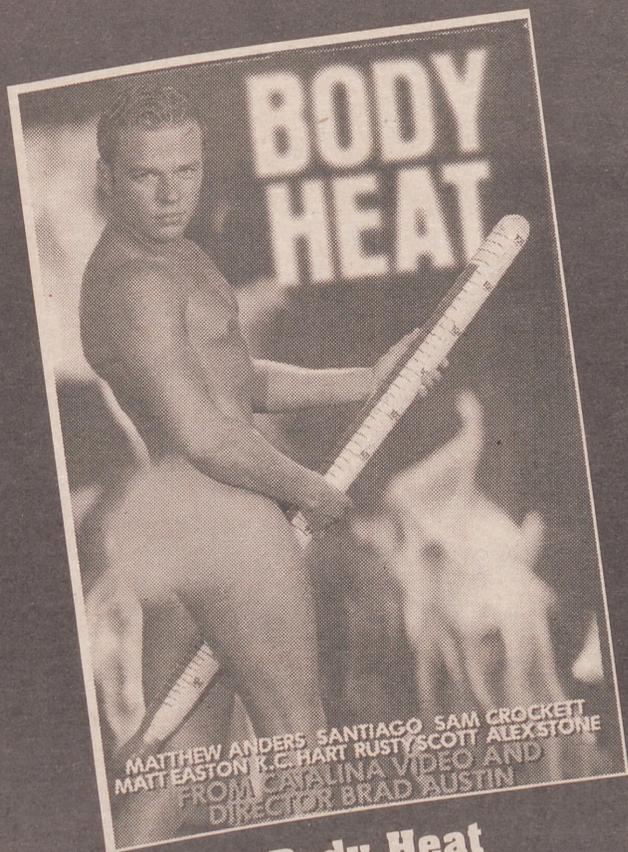
Sunday thru Thursday
Midnight til Closing
Admission \$4
with Membership

FRENCH QUARTER

713-527-0782 • 3201 Louisiana • Houston

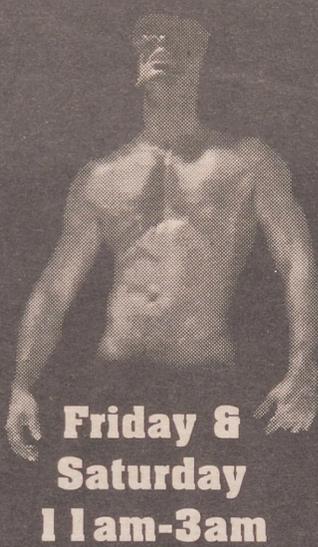
All Male Cinema
presents

Thursday
Matinee
\$4 All Day
with
Membership



BODY HEAT
 MATTHEW ANDERS, SANTIAGO, SAM CROCKETT
 MATTEASTON, R.C. HART, RUSTY SCOTT, ALEXSTONE
 FROM CATALINA VIDEO AND
 DIRECTOR BRAD AUSTIN

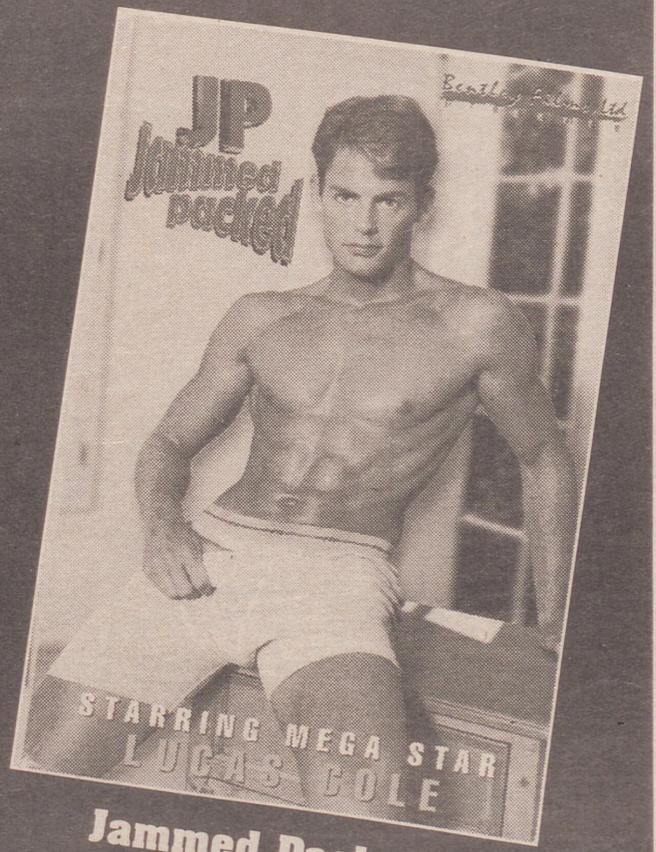
Body Heat



Friday & Saturday
 11am-3am

Monday thru Thursday
 11am-1am

Sunday
 1pm-1am



JP Jammed Packed
 STARRING MEGA STAR
LUCAS GOLE

Jammed Packed

AN OPEN LETTER TO MEDICAID PATIENTS OF THE HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION
2525 HOLLY HALL
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77054
746-5400

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS
2525 HOLLY HALL
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77054
746-5855

SERVICE CENTER
5656 KELLY
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77026
636-5650



BEN TAUB HOSPITAL
1504 TAUB LOOP
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030
793-2000

LYNDON B. JOHNSON GENERAL HOSPITAL
5666 KELLY
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77026
636-5000

QUENTIN MEASE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
MARTIN LUTHER KING CLINIC
3601 N. MACGREGOR WAY
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004
525-4700

P.O. BOX 66769 - HOUSTON, TEXAS 77266

Dear Patients:

The Texas Medicaid managed care programs, called STAR and STAR+PLUS, have begun in Harris County. If you or your children are on Texas Medicaid and Temporary Assistance* to Needy Families (TANF), you must enroll in the STAR program. If you qualify for Medicaid because of SSI or need a nursing facility, you must enroll in the STAR+PLUS program.

In the next few weeks you will be getting a packet of information from Texas Medicaid about these changes. If you qualify for the STAR program your packet will have information about six health plans. If you qualify for STAR+PLUS, your packet will contain information about four health plans. You will be asked to choose a primary care provider (PCP) and a health plan.

Harris County Hospital District participates in the following health plan networks:

STAR PROGRAM

Community Health Choice
TDH Star Healthplan
Access
Americaid
AmeriHealth First
Methodist Care

STAR PLUS PROGRAM

HMO Blue
Access PLUS
Americaid
TDH STAR Healthplan

Listed below are the Harris County Hospital District's providers and their clinic locations. If you wish to continue receiving services at the Harris County Hospital District you need to pick one of these plans and name one of the Harris County Hospital District clinics and physicians as your PCP.

Northwest Health Center
1100 West 34th Street
Houston, TX 77088
(713) 861-3939
M-F 7:00 - 8:00

Family Practice
Diana Blicharski, M.D.

(Also Practice OB/GYN Services)

William Huang, M.D.
Haeson Lee, M.D.
Camille Leugers, M.D.
Huyen Nguyen, M.D.
Sarah Noorbaksh, M.D.
Mallika Rai, M.D.
Nagwa Sabonghy, M.D.
James Schindler, M.D.
Denise Turner, M.D.

Certified Nurse Midwives

Betty Carter
Monica Harden
Debbie Sharp
Cynthia Wade
Susan Wentz

Thomas Street Clinic
2015 Thomas Street
Houston, TX 77009
(713) 793-4000
M-F 8:00 - 4:00

Family Practice
Shannon Schrader, M.D.
Christopher J. Lahart, M.D. (General Medicine)

Internal Medicine
Monica Barrett, M.D.
Thomas Cate, M.D.
James Garner, M.D.
Hunter Hammil, MD.
Penny Jaffe, M.D.
Michael H. Kroll, M.D.
John, D. Reville, M.D.
Shannon Schrader, M.D.
Wayne Shandera, M.D.
A. Clinton White, M.D.

If you have any questions about the STAR program or if you need to enroll, call the STAR Helpline at 1-800-964-2777.

I hope this information is helpful to you and thank you for allowing us to care for your family.

Sincerely,

Lois J. Moore
President and Chief Executive Officer