

houston VOICE

In a striking change in strategy, a gay media watchdog group is going public with details of a meeting with Paramount over the creation of 'Dr. Laura's' television talk show, which debuts in Houston in September. Page 3



Wild rumors surfaced about Sharon Stone's love scene with Ellen DeGeneres in 'If These Walls Could Talk 2,' three stories about lesbians that airs March 5 on HBO. Page 15



ISSUE 1010

ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR LIFE. AND YOUR STYLE.

MARCH 3, 2000

State to fight order to free condemned killer

A gay man from Houston has spent 16 years on death row for his role in killing his roommate, despite a sleeping attorney and anti-gay slurs during his trial

by GIP PLASTER

An attorney for a gay death row inmate from Houston will not be surprised if the state does everything it can to keep Calvin Burdine in prison.

And in fact, the state attorney general's office is doing just that.

After 16 years on death row, and enduring anti-gay slurs from a prosecutor and a defense attorney who slept through much of his 1984 murder trial, Burdine could be set free on Monday.

A federal judge ordered his release, ruling Wednesday that the state missed an earlier deadline to either set Burdine free or retry him for killing his roommate and former boyfriend.

Last fall, the same judge, U.S. District Judge David Hittner, agreed that Burdine's former defense attorney, provided inadequate counsel and threw out Burdine's conviction, giving

the state 120 days to either retry or release him.

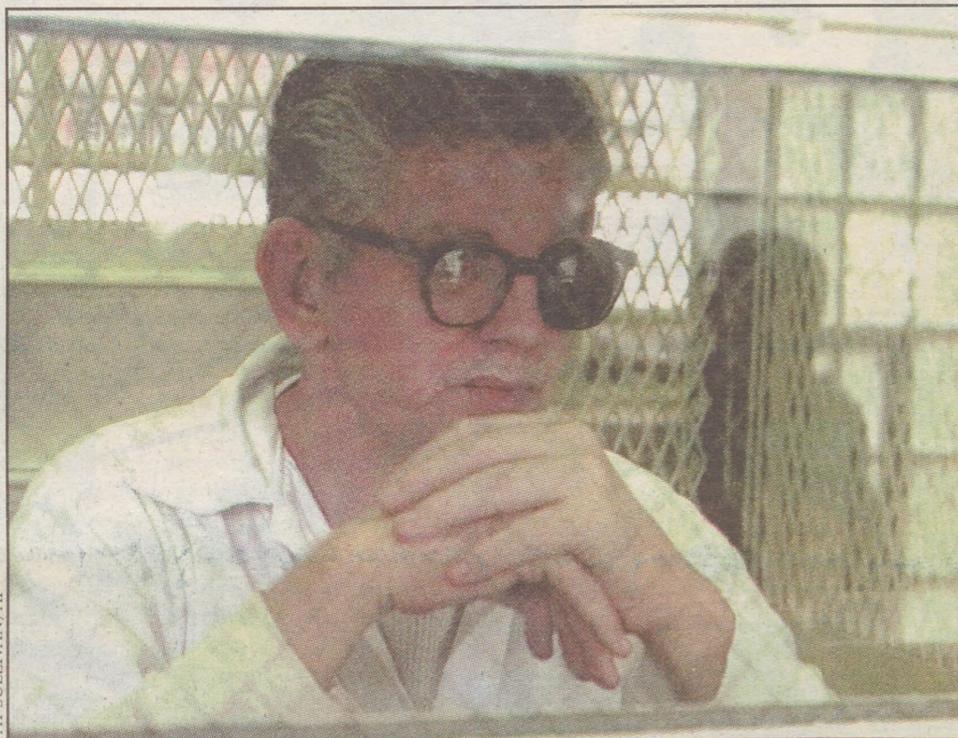
"I would assume that the state is going to do everything in their power to avoid carrying out Judge Hittner's order," Robert McGlasson, one of Burdine's attorneys, said from his Atlanta office. "Basically, he ordered that Calvin be released. I think this court's order is right on with the law."

The American Civil Liberties Union has cited the case in calling on Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the leading contender for the GOP presidential nomination, to impose an immediate moratorium on the death penalty in the state.

In Wednesday's order, Hittner appeared to be irritated with state prosecutors.

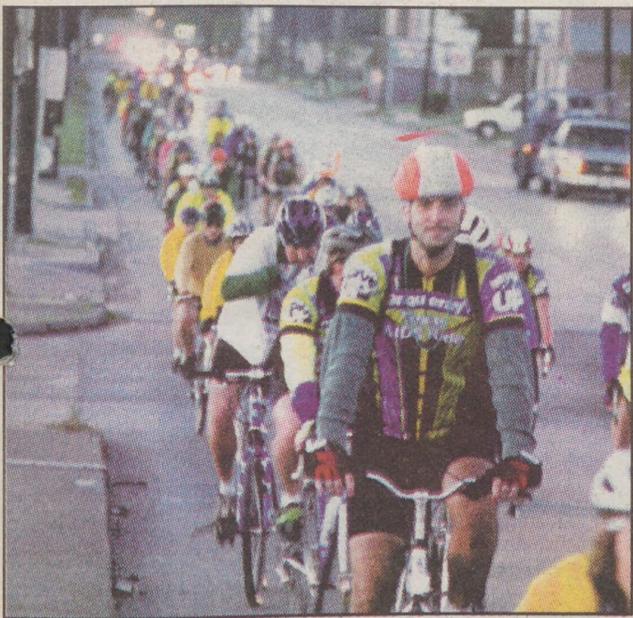
"Throughout its brief, the state seeks to minimize its failure to comply with established procedural rules as 'excusable neglect.' However, a similar procedural error by defense counsel in a capital case could result in a defendant's execution," Hittner wrote.

> Continued on Page 10



A federal judge has ordered Calvin Burdine be released from death row, though Harris County authorities have pledged to arrest him again for killing his former boyfriend if he is freed.

AIDS ride cuts fail to make financial difference



Some 700 cyclists took part in the Tanqueray's Texas AIDS Ride in 1998, though weaker than expected financial returns for beneficiaries prompted some riders and agencies to drop out a year later.

Nearly 300 people have registered for the Texas AIDS Ride in October, though some agencies have pulled out as financial cloud continues

by GIP PLASTER

Despite dramatic changes in the Tanqueray's Texas AIDS Ride last year, final accounting results are expected to show that expenses for the 1999 event consumed about 85 percent of the money raised, matching disappointing returns a year earlier that prompted several beneficiaries to drop out.

Although final numbers for the 1999 ride have not been released, event officials said they expect financial results from 1999 to be only slightly better than in 1998, when 13 percent of the money raised went to HIV/AIDS service organizations across Texas.

Organizers said that if more riders will participate in the 2000 event in October, the ride will be able to return more money to benefiting agencies.

A severe shortfall in the amount of money returned to beneficiaries of the 1998 AIDS Ride led at least 10 agencies to pull out

of the 1999 event. Only \$380,000 was distributed among the 40 AIDS groups that took part in 1998, less than 15 percent of the \$2.8 million raised.

That amount fell below the expected \$1.4 million that was supposed to be split among the AIDS service groups.

In an effort to cut costs, organizers dropped the Austin to Houston leg of the seven-day cycling event after the 1998 event because of poor support from Austin-area agencies.

The 1999 event was trimmed to a four-day, 325-mile trek from Houston to Dallas.

In addition, an Austin ride office was closed and the Houston office relocated to donated space. Staff was also reduced.

Organizers said at the time that the changes, and the fact that start up equipment like tents and computers would not have to be bought again for future events, would lower the costs of fund-raising and allow more money to be returned to agencies that take part.

Some 702 riders took part in the 1998 event; 615 came out for the 1999 ride, despite registration from more than 1,300 people for the AIDS Ride each year.

"I think the difference [between the 1998 and 1999 final numbers] is going to be negligible," said Glen Fillmore, the event's associate director.

> Continued on Page 11

2000

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GLAAD steps up criticism of Paramount, Dr. Laura

Responding to critics, insiders and Dr. Laura herself has gay media watchdog taking action

by PAIGE PARVIN

After agreeing to a confidential meeting with Paramount TV executives on the developing "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger show, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is changing its tack and speaking more openly about its dealings with the studio.

In a striking change in strategy, the gay media watchdog group has placed an advertisement in trade magazines *Variety* and *Hollywood Reporter* opposing the "Dr. Laura" TV show, which is being developed and syndicated by Paramount and is set to air this fall, including a Sept. 11 debut on Houston's KPRC Channel 2.

In an open letter dated Feb. 28, Executive Director Joan Garry acknowledged that GLAAD has "not given the GLBT community enough information" since the Feb. 14 meeting, and outlined generally the organization's plan to limit the anti-gay rhetoric of the popular radio talk show host.

The letter, published on the organization's web-site, breaks the "gentlemen's agreement" GLAAD made with Paramount not to discuss the meeting, admitted Steve Spurgeon, GLAAD's deputy director for communications. Those who attended were supposed to stick to a terse statement released jointly after the meeting.

But GLAAD wasn't the first to speak out of turn, he added.

A spokesperson for Schlessinger, Kevin Bellows, who was at the meeting, was quoted in the *Washington Post* as saying Schlessinger has not "capitulated" to anything, a statement that also breached the agreement, Spurgeon said.

And in *Variety* magazine Feb. 23, Schlessinger herself was quoted as saying she has never been anti-gay in her commen-

tary, a misstatement GLAAD just couldn't let slide, Spurgeon said.

GLAAD's closed-door tactics have drawn some criticism from gay activists via e-mail, phone calls and statements circulating on the Internet, Spurgeon said.

The combination of factors led GLAAD to shift its approach, communicating more readily with gays following the issue, and more publicly opposing the show.

"I think it was an error on our part. ... We weren't keeping the community as up-to-date about things as possible," Spurgeon said. "We realized we could not have it both ways, to have the community's support and also have them not know what was going on."

GLAAD has been working for months to gain access to decision-makers at Paramount who will influence the format and content of Schlessinger's show, Spurgeon said.

At the meeting, Paramount agreed with GLAAD that Schlessinger's opinions should be tempered by other voices, and that credible research on homosexuality should be cited, according to Garry's letter.

A third request, that Schlessinger avoid defamatory language, "remains unfinished business," Garry wrote. "And it is GLAAD's intent to finish it."

GLAAD has requested a second meeting within a week, according to the letter.

"We will ask for direct assurance—in writing—that Paramount has zero tolerance for defamation directed at the gay and lesbian community," reads Garry's statement. "We are hopeful that Paramount will see such a request as an opportunity to illustrate a fundamental sense of fairness towards all of us."

"Without an assurance of this sort, we'll call on Paramount to pull the plug on Dr. Laura and will ensure that our power as a community is felt."

This step-by-step approach has been GLAAD's strategy all along, said Garry.

Paramount may already be feeling the pressure of GLAAD's tougher stance. An ad paid for by GLAAD featuring some of Schlessinger's most overtly anti-gay statements ran Tuesday in *Variety* and *Hollywood Reporter*, followed by the words, "Paramount Domestic Television

will bring Dr. Laura to TV this fall. Tell Paramount what you have to say."

Asked about backlash from Paramount, Spurgeon said, "We have heard from Paramount. They would rather we didn't take such a strong public position, but we really believe it was the right thing to do. It was time for us to take a bolder public stance."

"It is important for Paramount to really understand the depth and the extent of concern, really outrage, within our community," he added.

Some of GLAAD's critics are still skeptical, despite the change of tune.

"Is GLAAD's position supposed to be that Dr. Laura gets to say the most negative hateful things, and, through GLAAD's negotiations with Paramount, we get to defend ourselves while we drive up her ratings?" asked longtime activist Robin Tyler, in a statement released Tuesday.

"Does Joan Garry really believe that Dr. Laura will be silent? We need to be on the offensive, not continually on the defensive," Tyler argued.

Little is known about the format of Schlessinger's TV show, but stations in 90 percent of U.S. markets have signed on. "Dr. Laura's" radio show draws some 18 million listeners weekly.

Schlessinger has repeatedly called gays "deviant" and "biological errors" and criticized gay activists for their stridence.

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation

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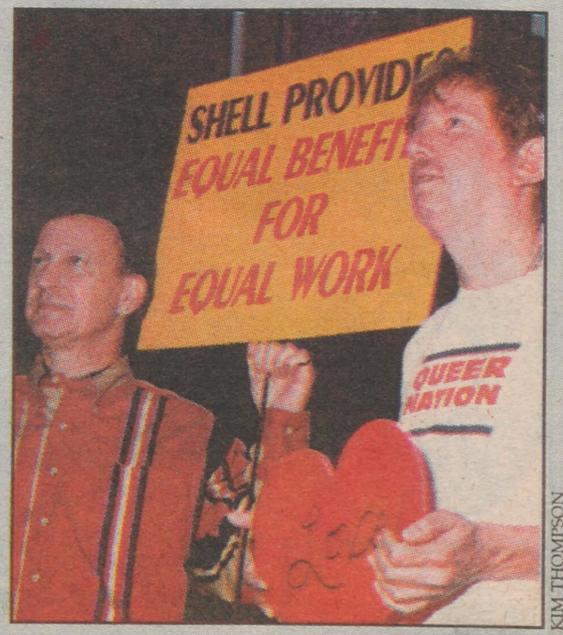
INFO



KIM THOMPSON

A second try at equality

About three-dozen people rallied against Exxon Mobil on Tuesday for the company's refusal to add sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy and for ending domestic partner benefits for gay employees when the two oil giants merged earlier this year. After the rally, protesters marched with a police escort to Exxon Mobil's Houston offices. Company officials have said Exxon Mobil does not discriminate and strongly enforces its anti-harassment policy. A Jan. 28 rally against the company drew about 70 people.



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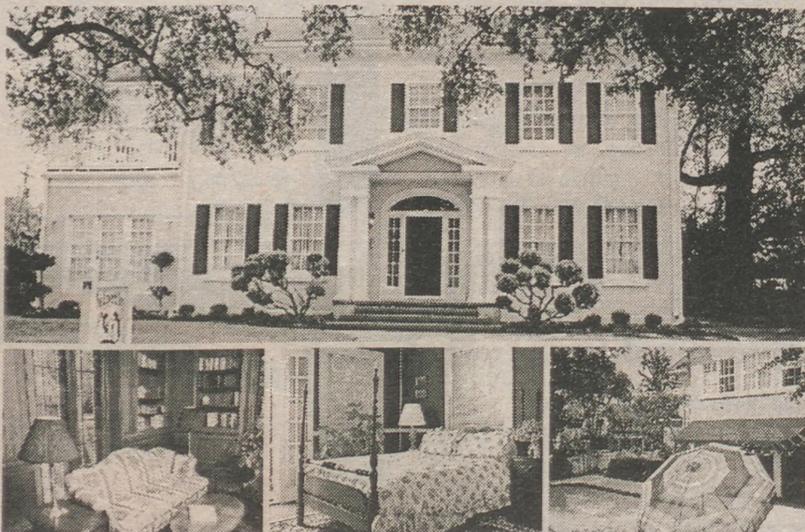
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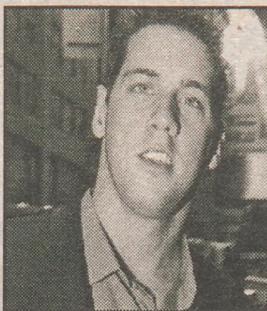
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Around the South

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Arbiter cuts suspension of Braves pitcher over slurs in half

NEW YORK (AP)—John Rocker's suspension was cut in half to the first 14 days of the regular season, and he was allowed to report to the Atlanta Braves' spring training camp Thursday. The reliever was punished for disparaging foreigners, gays and minorities in a magazine interview. Shyam Das, making his first decision as baseball's independent arbitrator, also cut Rocker's \$20,000 fine to \$500. Rocker originally was suspended for all 45 days of spring training and the first 28 days of the regular season by commissioner Bud Selig, who disagreed with Das' decision. "It does not reflect any understanding or sensitivity to the important social responsibility that baseball ... has to be the public," Selig said. Atlanta City Council member Derrick Boazman, leader of a coalition of minority groups that has called for the Braves to release Rocker, also was unhappy with the decision. "Hate and bigotry and homophobia and racism have a place, evidently, and that place is in major league baseball," he said. In his Jan. 31 decision, Selig said Rocker's comments in a December issue of *Sports Illustrated* "offended practically every element of society."



Atlanta Braves reliever John Rocker, who told *Sports Illustrated* he would never play for a New York team because he didn't want to ride a subway train 'next to some queer with AIDS'.

Fla. school pulls European history textbook over gay references

NAPLES, Fla. (AP)—Collier County school officials pulled a European history textbook from a high school class after a teacher raised questions about its references to homosexuality. Barron Collier High School teacher Terry Walters objected to "graphic descriptions of alternative and aberrant sexual practices during the Renaissance" in Houghton Mifflin Co.'s "A History of Western Society." Homosexuality is discussed in nine passages in the 1,063-page textbook, which is used in an advance placement class offering college credit for students who pass a national exam. "What really troubled me was the description of the 40-year-old guy with the 15-year-old boy," Walters said. "No one, including gay rights advocates, want that idea promoted." Margaret Sherry, a spokeswoman for Boston-based Houghton Mifflin, said she was not aware of any other complaints about the book used in colleges and high school courses. The decision to pull the book comes as the school district considers whether gays should be protected by an anti-harassment policy.

Hate crimes move forward in Tenn.; sodomy repeal stalls in Va.

NASHVILLE—Several state legislatures throughout the South acted on gay issues last week. In Nashville, a hate crimes bill that includes sexual orientation passed the Tennessee Senate by a vote of 23-9, with five Republican votes in favor. The bill would increase penalties for criminals found to have picked their victim because of race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry or gender.

In Richmond, a Virginia senate committee voted 8-6 to kill a bill that would have reduced sodomy between consenting adults to a misdemeanor. The bill had already passed the Virginia House of Delegates by a 50-49 vote. The move was made as an alternate to an effort to repeal Virginia's "crimes against nature" law, which makes sodomy a felony for both gay and straight Virginians.

In Frankfort, the Kentucky Senate approved a bill that would allow churches to refuse to rent facilities to gays, atheists and others who violate their religious beliefs, but not blacks or other racial groups. The bill now goes to the desk of Gov. Paul Patton, who has not indicated whether he supports it.

And in Jackson, a Mississippi House committee will take up a ban on gay adoptions. In addition, the bill says Mississippi will not recognize adoptions by gays in other states. "I don't view this as a major policy issue that we have to address at this time. These issues tend to be divisive and emotional," said Democratic Judiciary Committee chairman Percy Watson, who was reluctant to hold hearings on the bill. Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, a Democrat, has said he will sign the bill into law if it passes.

Fla. teen conference on 'converting' gays draws more than 700

BRANDON, Fla. (AP)—More than 700 parents, teachers, pastors and youth workers showed up in this small town 20 miles east of Tampa to attend a conference designed to send teens the message that they can change their sexual orientation. "This message is just unheard of: Homosexuals can be changed," said John Paulk during a break in the all-day gay conversion symposium he helped coordinate. "We of all people should know what it's like to be there." Paulk, 36, is a policy analyst with Focus on the Family, a Colorado Springs-based conservative Christian organization in its second year of hosting symposiums around the country. Paulk also heads a group called Exodus International, which is designed to help homosexuals make the transition. While Paulk and the conference focused on one side of the debate, a group of 200 pro-gay and lesbian activists met across town in Tampa, holding placards reading: "Ex Gay. No Way." and "Stay Outta My Genes."

—From staff and wire reports

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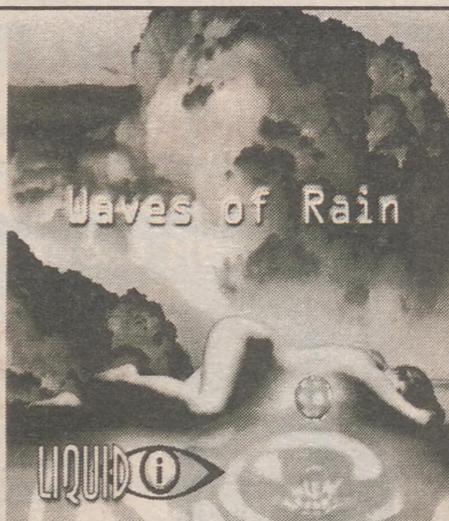
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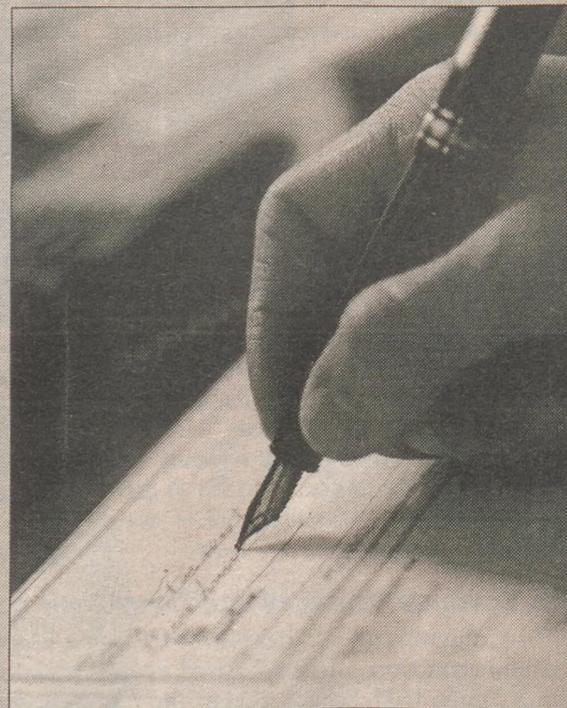
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Around the Nation

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Vermont House committee passes civil unions bill for gays

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—The House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday recommended on a 10-1 vote creating "civil unions" for gay men and lesbians, which would be the most far-reaching domestic partnership system in the nation. "I'm incredibly proud of what we've done," Rep. William Lippert, a Democrat and only openly gay member of the Legislature, said outside the cramped committee room moments after the panel voted. Randall Terry, an anti-abortion activist from New York who has set up shop in Vermont to make opposing rights for gays and lesbians his primary cause, stood near the door scowling. "The day of judgment is coming, folks," Terry said. Only Rep. William Mackinnon, a Democrat, voted against the bill because, he argued, gays should be granted full marriage equal to what heterosexuals enjoy. The bill approved by the committee grants to gay men and lesbians all of the benefits and rights or marriage the state of Vermont can legally offer. The bill is not likely to go to a floor debate until the middle of the month. Gov. Howard Dean supports the measure. In a related story, nine Republicans and three Democrats called for the impeachment of Vermont Supreme Court justices who forced the legislature to take up the issue, the Washington Blade reported Feb. 18.



CRAIG LINE/AP

Catholic Bishop Kenneth Angel called Feb. 17 for a constitutional amendment overturning the Vermont Supreme Court's ruling on gay couples, while others demanded impeachment of the justices.

Resignations follow publisher's refusal to print pro-gay news

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A group of weekly newspapers distributed free to 126,000 households has created an outcry with its refusal to publish news favorable to gay or pro-choice viewpoints. More than a dozen editorial employees of two of the papers have quit since the policy was enforced. "We've received 400 e-mails this week that are just positive and supportive," said chief operating officer Todd Hansen, who also reported 400 cancellations and 13 new advertisers because of the uproar. The controversy stems from a community calendar listing for a local PFLAG chapter that ran in the *Atascadero Gazette* from Nov. 25 until Feb. 17, when editor Ron Bast was told the owner had ordered the listing pulled. Bast, who has since resigned, said he was told there were to be no stories that showed gays or abortion in a favorable light. "The issue has everything to do with integrity and nothing to do with journalistic ethics," said owners Mary and David Weyrich in a Feb. 24 statement. "Call us old-fashioned, but it hasn't been too many years since our professed beliefs were the accepted norm in America."

Mich. mayor faces fine for pamphlet on defeated gay rights ballot

FERNDALE, Mich. (AP)—An ordinance that would have banned discrimination against gays was narrowly defeated in Ferndale, a Detroit suburb, on Feb. 22 by a margin of 117 votes. Meanwhile, Tom McMillin, the mayor of nearby Auburn Hills, may have violated state election laws in attempting to influence the election by circulating 5,000 pamphlets opposing the referendum. McMillin's organization, Oakland County Residents for Equal Rights Not Special Rights, received funding from the Tupelo, Miss.-based American Family Association and their address was omitted from the pamphlets, which is a violation of state election laws. McMillin, who became Auburn Hills mayor in November, defended the mailing. "So I didn't put a post office box on it—what good would that have done them?" he asked. "We had our name on it." Anne Corgan, director of the compliance and rules division of the state's election commission, said failing to include an address on campaign literature is a misdemeanor punishable by 93 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Gay teen's clothing prompts debate at Oregon high school

GRESHAM, Ore. (AP)—Oregon school administrators have started policing a high school student's wardrobe because he wore a dress to school after they asked him to stop wearing gay-themed T-shirts and pins. Brian Peters, a junior, started wearing a more "out" wardrobe this year at Sam Barlow High School, starting with buttons on his backpack, then "out" T-shirts like "Sorry Girls, I'm Gay." When school administrators Peters him to remove the pins and to cover the T-shirt, the self-described activist struck back. "If you want to see gay, I'll show you gay," he said. The next day, he wore a black velvet dress, high-heeled pumps and red lipstick. Now his attire is screened daily by Barlow Assistant Principal Val Garrison. The case has caused teachers and students to talk about free speech, homophobia, gay rights and dress codes. Peters and his allies, for example, believe his clothing is neither "sexual" nor "disruptive." But Principal Wally Scherler and other staff said cross-dressing is disruptive because it can prompt hoots, snickers and stares. This controversy has left Peters depressed, sad, singled out, and angry. "I feel like they're putting me back in the closet," he said.

—From staff and wire reports

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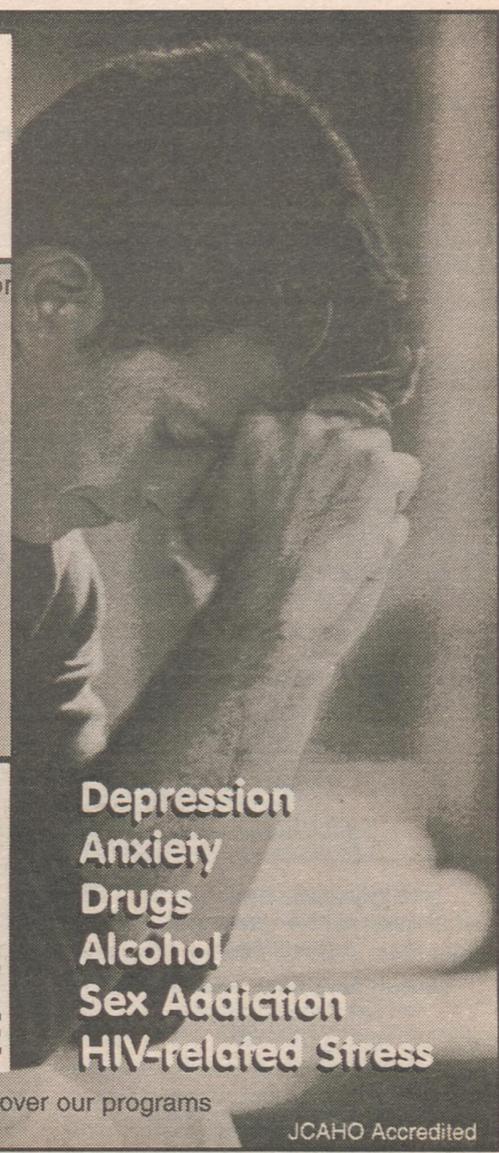
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EDITORIAL

Grading the presidential contenders

Every time a gay voter steps into the booth, we consider how important our civil rights should be in deciding which lever to pull. Never is that decision more important than when we decide who will occupy the White House for the next four years.

Of course being gay is only one part of who you are. Of course you have a general affinity on non-gay issues with one party or another, or one candidate or another.

But consider, after relative prosperity at home and abroad under presidents from both parties, how much more important it should be at this time in our country's history to vote our civil rights, not our pocketbooks.

With that exhortation in mind, the *Houston Voice* is grading the major presidential candidates from both parties on our prospects for fair treatment under their administration. When you vote on March 14, we hope that you will keep this report card in mind.



**Bill
Bradley:
A-**

Never before has there been a serious presidential contender like Bill Bradley. Since his first public pronouncements of the campaign on gay civil rights last fall, Bradley has led the way.

On "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," he was the first to announce his opposition to anything less than equal treatment for gays in the military. On the Knight Initiative in California against gay marriage, he was the first presidential candidate to call for its defeat.

On basic civil rights, he advocates amending the historic 1964 Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination in employment and public accommodations, as well as housing.

To be sure, Bradley has been fairly criticized for his newfound voice on gay rights. His Senate voting record is a solid one, but his promises of leadership on our issues lack much historical foundation.

He is also an opponent of gay marriage, but even there Bradley favors the broadest benefits of domestic partnership. It would be a separate and unequal institution, but it is the best offered by any candidate running.



**Al
Gore:
B**

Al Gore has thus far run the classic "safe" campaign of an incumbent, only his current job is vice president and voters look for more leadership in their commanders-in-chief.

On gay rights, Gore has been the consummate follower, adopting a more progressive position only when pressed by his opponent.

On DADT, Gore sounded like George W. Bush last fall when he advocated "more compassionate enforcement." Only after Bradley and both Clintons called for DADT to be scrapped, did Gore chime in.

On the Knight Initiative, he professed igno-

rance until Bradley took a position; that quickly educated Gore into a likewise position.

Gore also opposes gay marriage, and months after Bradley called for broad DP rights, Gore tried to match positions but it led him only to push for a federal commission to study to what extent we are entitled to equality.

The one gay rights issue on which Gore has chosen to differentiate himself from Bradley is also the most telling. Time and again, the vice president has criticized his challenger for advocating federal civil rights protection for gays for anything beyond employment.

Gore's limited view of federal civil rights isn't just a strategy call, either. He has touted that difference to African-American leaders, warning them that Bradley threatens to "open up" the 1964 Civil Rights Act for gays, thus threatening it with amendments that might undermine affirmative action.

Wedge politics aren't entirely new to Democrats, who play the "class" card with regularity, but preaching the politics of division among minority groups ought to be intolerable. And HRC ought to remember whose ox got gored by the vice president.

For seven years, lesbian and gay Americans have endured too much lip service and too many failed promises from the White House. When Gore shows himself this early unwilling to lead and willing to sacrifice our rights to a higher vote count elsewhere, we should consider ourselves warned.



**John
McCain:
D+**

The maverick senator from Arizona has unquestionably caught the imagination of many Americans, and gay voters have by no means been immune to his appeal. For one thing, his insurgent campaign has tweaked the Republican establishment, which through gents like Newt Gingrich and Trent Lott has been no friend to gays.

Still, there's no escape from McCain's steadfast opposition to our civil rights. He favors "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and opposes adoption rights and hate crime protection.

Just last Sunday, minutes after emphasizing he's against discrimination in any form, including against gays, he explained his opposition to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act as a straightforward vote against "special classes" of citizens.

Civil rights laws have categories—like race, religion, gender or sexual orientation—because those are the identified bases upon which people discriminate. There's nothing "special" about being in a class of people subject to discrimination.

His vaunted "Straight Talk Express" has also derailed on some important social issues. When pressed in South Carolina for his position on the Confederate flag, he insisted he doesn't meddle in state-level issues. A week later, he happily endorsed the Knight Initiative, which would decide California's position on gay marriage.

Still, McCain earns a slightly higher grade because he has not resorted to gay-baiting like so many others in his party, and he shows a greater degree of comfort and openness on gay rights than any serious Republican presidential candidate to date.

His decision to meet with representatives of the Log Cabin Republicans is an important signal that his office door and his mind are open, and his maverick streak at least gives legitimate cause for hope.

But lest we get carried away, John McCain is no gay rights Trojan horse at the Republican Party. A vote for McCain is a vote for more conservatives on the Supreme Court and a guaranteed four-year wait for civil rights protection. There are better messages to send with your ballot.



**George W.
Bush:
D**

When George W. Bush announced his candidacy last year, he excited many gay moderates who saw in his "compassionate conservative" message a move away from the religious right that has come to dominate the party's primaries.

But much like his father's promise of a "kinder and gentler" GOP, George W. has thus far shown compassion only for fellow conservatives.

Like McCain, Bush is opposed to every form of gay civil rights, from adoption and marriage to hate crimes, employment protection and military service.

Early on, he said on national television his ideal Supreme Court justice was Antonin Scalia, the ardently anti-gay jurist who mocked and belittled the majority for its narrow recognition of gay rights in the Colorado Amendment 2 case.

And even before he showed the first signs of weakness in the polls, he said last year he wouldn't even meet with Log Cabin Republicans because he is "a uniter not a divider," an Orwellian stand if there ever was one.

His first campaign stop after losing the New Hampshire primary was at the notoriously bigoted institution of Bob Jones University. So the candidate proves he's a "united not a divider" by refusing to meet with those seeking civil rights protection but embracing those who demonize blacks, Catholics and gays.

Bush has since offered belated, half-hearted apologies for appearing at a school that forbids interracial dating and spews anti-Catholic hatred. But he has been completely silent on the BJU policy of excommunicating openly gay alums, who are informed in writing that they are subject to arrest for trespass should they return to campus.

Like his father, George W. comes across as a good-hearted, if soft-headed man missing that darned "vision thing." Unfortunately, that makes him a fairly empty vessel vulnerable to whomever can claim credit for his election.

So far, that's the anti-gay GOP establishment and virulently anti-gay religious right.



PLANT LIFE

Loving the Lord—and the look—on cable TV

by DREW PLANT

I only had cable television installed a few short years ago. I just didn't

know what I was missing.

Even with all of those new channels, I quickly found my new favorite channel, and I have been faithful to it. And faithful is the key word here. I'm talking about the Trinity Broadcasting Network. Praise cable television. And Praise big hair and tacky sets.

My best friend accuses me of having bad taste and indeed my bad taste had found new focus. I also had found a new friend and soulmate-in-tackiness in the person of Jan Crouch. That would be Jan your crying hostess and co-founder of TBN.

Jan and her husband Paul started their empire with prayer, some pennies and a wiglet. As the empire grew, so did Jan's hair. She now sports something on her head that I am sure is a conglomeration of several Dynel, hair-like wig products. It also is a slightly pink color. You might call it Heavenly Pink.

The ever-tearful, prayerful and humbling Jan complements her heavenward hair with raccoon-chic eye makeup and bride-of-the-old-west, prairie-looking dresses. A Kleenex tucked in the sleeve is easily concealed by lacy fringe.

Break away from Jan's fashion sense and her pleas for "love gifts" (payable by check, credit card or money order), and you'll notice the sets. TBN has invested in a number of different lovely sets for its on-air crusades.

The baroque, gilt, over-sized furniture is heaven on earth. Who couldn't sit in this kingdom of bad taste and have a good cry with several million strangers

watching? It's Rooms to Go meets the Palace at Versailles.

All of this grandness takes place in Trinity City, because it takes a city to hold the extended TBN family.

That family includes Edith and LaVerne Tripp. I believe husband LaVerne is the resident minister of Trinity City and wife Edith—with her big hips, paste-on lashes and coal black hair—is generally just introduced as "a Native American princess." I didn't know our country's first people had royalty, but there she is, right where the reservation meets the outlet mall.

The Tripps witness a lot, but they also sing. Come to think of it, everybody on TBN sings. Or they try to anyway, bless their little hearts. Edith and LaVerne sing with a son and some other unfortunately large family member as The Tripp Family. And, honey, this ain't the sound of music.

The Tripps sing with passion and pre-recorded accompaniment, but I'll be damned (oops, I don't really mean that) if they rehearse. And the singing son is family in more ways than one, if you know what I mean. If he hasn't been on his knees in front of a man, then I haven't either.

Now another of my singing TBN favorites is Betty Jean Robinson. Poor Betty Jean is a "healthy girl" as my grandma would say, just about matching her height with her girth. Still, she wraps herself in the love of the Lord and some festive florals and sensible gingham fabrics and sings as if she could.

Betty Jean cries a lot, too, and tells you of her own temptations, which I think mainly involve buffet lines.

Then there's Dottie Rambo, who revealed in one telecast how she chose

her name when she knew Jesus had directed her to show business. I wondered how she (and the Lord) could have chosen that name, but I wondered even more how they did that facelift on her after the stroke. Interesting combo.

Apparently Dottie has penned some well-known and respectable gospel tunes, but the ones she sings on late-night TBN seem to involve your Chrysler breaking down on the way to church services. I like Dottie because she talks about herself a lot when she witnesses and that's something I can respect.

Then there is Marilyn Hickey. She doesn't sing, but she can work a bouffant better than Georgia's own Nancy Schaeffer. Marilyn has a ministry that seems to revolve around you sending her money or going on a trip with her somewhere to a Third World country so you can scare underprivileged children with tales of hell and coiffure only the devil himself could tease up.

The hunks of TBN make me hot and guilty. First there's Michael English. He's that contemporary Christian singer who got socially defrocked a few years ago for knocking around with another Christian minstrel's wife. Well, honey, he tests my faith, too.

He's a former student of cosmetology (really), so I am holding out hope, but the man is hot. I am damn sure he is a gift of God. He is at the very least a sight for horny, er, sore eyes. Michael must work out his bod as much as he works his hair.

Carman is my other parochial paramour. He is the one-named, Eastern European-looking, middle-aged babe who makes sassy, overly butch, overly theatrical videos about his faith. He even



TBN's Jan Crouch has inherited Tammy Faye's fashion sense, and her penchant for 'love gifts' (payable by check, credit card or money order).

hosts a TBN Video Gold show that gives me sinful thoughts. Every time.

So, I hope you will tune in. Jan loves you, and I love her. In the meantime, my personal pledge is to keep watching her and her friends. After all, they taught me the true meaning of cable television.

Drew Plant often calls friends late at night so they can tune in and share especially moving segments of TBN programming. He wants you to know TBN also is on the web at www.tbn.org; Drew can be reached at drewplant@sovo.com.

LETTERS

Marriage a special right for straights

To the Editor:

I do not believe that I have ever seen anything in *Houston Voice* with which I agree more than the editorial "Who wants to trivialize marriage?" (Feb. 25).

Keep in mind these words that appeared in the amicus brief submitted to the Vermont Supreme Court by Pat Robertson's legal cadre: "The result of cutting off our cultural understanding of and commitment to heterosexual marriage may well be to make marriage a less realistic option, and perhaps even practically unavailable, to many in our society."

Until these anti-Constitution legal charlatans of theocracy are forced to try to prove these claims—which, of course, are unprovable—same-sex couples will be forced to stand by without legal rights or remedies while Rev. Moon presides over a million episodes of Fox's "Who Wants To Marry A Multi-Millionaire Who Isn't The Same Sex

As You Are?"—each with 50,000 Rick Rockwells marrying 50,000 Darva Congers, creating 50,000 marriages, burdening 50,000 employee benefit programs, burdening the government 50,000 times with initial marriage paperwork, and burdening the government 50,000 more times when the couples get divorced, the marriages annulled, or when one of the spouses dies, necessitating Social Security death benefits.

Who's tired of a nation that gives special rights to heterosexuals?

Katrina Rose
Minnesota

Will Paramount stay silent on 'Dr. Laura'?

To the Editor:

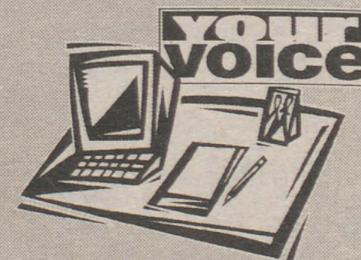
I am writing to oppose the airing of the "Dr. Laura" television program, which will air on Houston's KPRC Channel 2 in September ("Frasier" producer slams Paramount on 'Dr. Laura,' Feb 25). Popularity should not be the

only major factor in determining who to put on our nation's airwaves. Message, character and context should be just as important factors.

When will we learn as a nation that pandering to the worst in our character ultimately hurts all of us. The names of George Wallace, Joseph McCarthy, Orville Faubus, Walter Winchell and their like are not that far back in our history. They have their modern-day banner carriers in people like Dr. Laura, Rush Limbaugh and Pat Robertson. It is a simple truth that if Dr. Laura were making the kinds of statements about other minorities that she makes about gay men and lesbians, she would be driven from the airwaves.

So Paramount, will you remain silent? Will you just go forward providing a bully pulpit for this flagrant bigot? Just because she isn't male, middle aged, with a Southern accent and a beer belly, doesn't mean she isn't just as bigoted as that Southern stereotype.

Jeffrey Garrett
Houston



Let us know what you think

Send the editor your letters
(400 words maximum)
or op-ed submissions
(800 words maximum).

Names may be withheld upon request, but submissions must include a name and phone number for verification.

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Condemned killer faces re-arrest if freed in Houston

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The judge also pointed to Burdine's good behavior during 16 years in prison as evidence that he would not be a danger to society.

"In fact, the court is only aware of one incident involving Burdine. In that incident, Burdine was the victim of an unprovoked and vicious attack by a fellow inmate which left him permanently disfigured and disabled," Hittner said, referring to an attack that blinded Burdine's left eye.

"Moreover, Burdine suffers irreparable harm each day that he is imprisoned in violation of the United States Constitution," the judge said.

Hittner gave the state five days to release Burdine, but the Texas Attorney General's office said it will ask a federal appeals court in New Orleans to block the release.

"We are filing an immediate appeal and are confident the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals will block the release and keep Mr. Burdine in prison," said a one-sentence statement issued by the attorney general's office Wednesday.

Local authorities to intervene

McGlasson and co-counsel Mandy Welch both said they are concerned that if Burdine is released on Monday, Harris County officials would intervene.

And they will, according to Harris County District Attorney John B. Holmes.

"We're going to tread water until March 6 while the attorney general works his magic in the 5th Circuit," Holmes told the *Houston*

Chronicle. "If they won't consider the appeal on an emergency basis, [prison officials] will unlock the door and let Burdine free. Our standby position will move him to the Harris County Jail."

Holmes said Burdine will be re-arrested on the same 1983 indictment under which he was charged with killing his roommate.

But Hittner's ruling leaves doubt about whether that's possible. The judge cited an appellate rule that a prisoner be freed on personal recognizance while a release order is appealed.

Burdine's 1984 trial was ruled invalid by Hittner in September because of overwhelming evidence that Burdine's then-lawyer Joe Cannon, who died in 1998, slept through large portions of the trial. In Hittner's September ruling, he gave the state 120 days to retry or release the man.

But the state did neither. They appealed the judge's order without asking the judge to stay, or suspend, the judgment. The 120 days expired on Jan. 27.

Last month, Hittner ordered state lawyers to appear and explain why they should not be held in contempt for violating his order. They apologized for their mistake. But since the time period had expired, Hittner said Wednesday that he could not modify the retry or release order issued in September.

But Hittner also said that a new trial would not violate Burdine's constitutional rights.

"This is a wonderful development for Texas in that there is someone looking out for the citizens and trying to keep them alive in the face

of bad lawyering," William Moffitt, president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, told the *New York Times*.

A flawed trial

Burdine's 16 years on death row began after he was convicted of the April 1983 robbery and murder of W.T. Wise, a 50-year-old night supervisor for a security service.

Testimony showed that the pair had a relationship and had been living together for 3 1/2 months before a dispute caused Burdine to move out of their trailer. Burdine told police that Wise wanted him to work as a prostitute.

Evidence showed Burdine and an accomplice, Douglas McCreight, were involved in the burglary in which Wise was stabbed. McCreight served eight years in prison for a lesser crime before he was paroled.

Burdine admitted to taking part in the burglary, but said he did not kill Wise.

"I've never denied the fact I took part in the burglary. I've done 16 years for the burglary. That's almost a life sentence," he said. "If I had killed to begin with, then I could understand. I was there, I just didn't stop it. I never killed before and don't plan to kill now."

Welch has said she would like to see Burdine eventually get a sentence of less than life in prison.

But even if appeals based on inadequate legal counsel fail for Burdine, attorneys can press ahead with new challenges based on anti-gay slurs used by a prosecutor and Burdine's defense attorney during the 1984 trial, Welch said.

Cannon, already accused of sleeping through parts of the trial, also used an anti-gay slur against his own client, Welch said. That could be additional proof of inadequate legal representation, she said, adding that the anti-gay slur is important, but other issues in the appeals process have kept it from surfacing.

And in 1995, gay activists and the American Civil Liberties Union called Burdine's 1984 trial a "travesty of justice" because of anti-gay slurs by a prosecutor and Cannon.

The ACLU filed a brief in the case as a judge was preparing an execution order for Burdine. Hittner later granted a stay of execution on April 11, 1995, the day Burdine was to be executed.

At issue were comments made by prosecutor Ned Morris during closing arguments in the 1984 trial.

"Sending a homosexual to the penitentiary certainly isn't a very bad punishment for a homosexual, and that's what (Cannon) is asking you to do," Morris told the jury.

Morris was accused of playing on incorrect stereotypes and images of gays to prejudice jurors against the gay defendant.

Cannon was also accused of allowing three people onto the Burdine jury who admitted prejudice against gays and was criticized for failing to call witnesses who might have helped the defense.

Cannon denied the charges.

'The greatest day'

On Wednesday, a CBS television crew was interviewing Burdine as news of the judge's ruling arrived, according to the Associated Press.

Burdine called it "the greatest day of my life." "I'm gonna get to hug my mama," he said. McGlasson said Burdine understands that



Calvin Burdine was sent to death row in 1984 for his role in the murder of his former boyfriend.

he may not be freed, but Burdine was already planning his future when he spoke to a reporter last month.

He said he might move to Lake Livingston, 75 miles northeast of Houston, or to Oklahoma.

"The state of Texas don't have to worry about Calvin Burdine. We've got 80 acres in Oklahoma, and I can get out there and fish and relax—out of sight and out of mind. I don't want them to think I'm going to roar down those streets and in those bars. I'm not like that anymore," Burdine said.

McGlasson said Hittner is trying get justice for Burdine by once again ruling that Burdine at least get a new trial, whether his release is blocked or not.

"What Judge Hittner has ordered is that Calvin Burdine get a real trial with a lawyer that's awake," McGlasson said.

Moffitt, who has been a defense lawyer for more than 25 years, said the case was unusual.

"The trend," he told the *Times*, "has been that the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals generally passes on these kinds of cases and allows people to die. I'm happy that a federal judge at least has finally stood up and said, 'Where there is an ineffective lawyer, we're going to do something about it.'"

Texas' death penalty policies have recently been the focus of national attention both because of the number of executions and the visibility of Gov. George W. Bush's presidential campaign. There have been 121 executions in Bush's administration, the *Times* reported.

On Thursday, the ACLU called on Bush to suspend the death penalty in Texas.

"The justice system failed not only Calvin Burdine, but also the people of Texas by permitting bigotry and shoddy representation to open the door to this result," said Matt Coles, director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project.

In a letter sent to Bush today, the ACLU said an immediate moratorium on the death penalty is the "moral and Constitutional" response to continued injustice in Texas' capital punishment system.

"This is not the only case where gay men or lesbians have been sentenced to death because of their sexual orientation," Coles said. "Just as the death penalty is applied selectively to people of color and low-income people, it is also used against lesbian and gay people. It's unconscionable and it's also unconstitutional."

Bush has said he opposes Burdine's release.

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AIDS ride officials hope large turnout improves event finances

> Continued from Page 1

Fillmore, who previously worked in the ride's Houston office, moved to Dallas after the 1999 event and the Houston office was closed.

"The fact is that we had less riders on the road because of the controversy with the 1998 numbers," Fillmore said.

The final 1999 accounting, which could be released within days, is expected to be "slightly better" than in 1998, "but only marginally," according to Steve Hawkins, a board member of the Resource Center of Dallas, which is the lead beneficiary of the event and responsible for the ride's finances.

"There is no campaign to make the numbers out to be something other than they are. The secret to the event is butts in seats. It's a high fixed-cost event," Hawkins said.



Some 700 cyclists turned Memorial Park into a tent city when they camped overnight during the AIDS ride in 1998.

Who takes part

The Resource Center and other benefiting agencies provide seed money for the Texas AIDS Ride in hopes of recouping their investment, plus a profit. But while the costs of fund-raising are high, consuming all but 15 percent of the money collected, the return on each agency's initial investment is higher than the return on most traditional investments.

Beneficiaries for the 1998 event recovered their initial investment, or seed money, and made a profit of about 56 percent. Profits from the 1999 event are expected to be about 60 percent.

In addition to the Resource Center, eight other agencies take part in the ride, including AIDS Services of Dallas, AIDS Interfaith Network of Tarrant County in Fort Worth, AIDS Services of North Texas in Denton and Plano, AmFAR and the National Minority AIDS Council.

In Houston, Center for AIDS, New Hope Counseling Center and PWA Coalition participate.

Center for AIDS has continued to take part in the Texas AIDS Ride, despite the departure of seven other beneficiaries because of the positive attention the event attracts to

HIV/AIDS issues and the high return on the initial investment, said Michael Peranteau, the center's co-founding director.

Media coverage and public participation as the ride passes through small Texas towns is an important reason for the agency to continue to participate, he said.

"We're happy with the financial returns and we're especially happy with all the other returns that you can't put a dollar amount on," Peranteau said.

Don Maison, executive director of AIDS Services of Dallas, said proceeds from the help make up for a gap left by slim state funding.

"You know what happens to social services in Texas. They get shafted," Maison said. "We need this to supplement what little money we get from federal and local governments."

Seven agencies, stretching across the state, have withdrawn from the event this year, including AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas in Galveston, AIDS Resources of Rural Texas, Body Positive Wellness Center in Houston and Legacy Counseling Center in Dallas.

But some of those groups said concerns about the event's finances did not cause them to leave the event.

In Dallas, AIDS Arms dropped out after acquiring the rights to that city's AIDS walk, according to Rodney Holcomb, executive director. Legacy Counseling Center streamlined its programs and became involved in other fund-raising events, said Melissa Grove, the group's executive director.

Across the state, Deborah Benedict, a consultant for Border AIDS Project, said her organization needed to keep its money free for immediate grants. Katherine Greysen of HIV Wellness Center in Austin said the agency dropped out because the ride does not come through their city.

Andy McPhaul, executive director of AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, declined to comment on the Texas AIDS Ride.

Registration underway

Almost 300 riders have registered so far for the 2000 event, said Janie Bush, who operates the event's pledge office at the resource center.

Bush would not say if that figure is on track with expectations. But organizers said they want 1,000 people to take part in this year's ride.

Fillmore said that while other officials hope for 1,000 riders, he would like to see 1,200 and he is focusing efforts on assuring that people who register actually show up for the event.

"The main change [from 1999 to 2000] is going to be in recruitment because we have already trimmed expenses," he said.

Hawkins, a resource center board member, said that his organization will have to decide whether it wants to participate in the 2001 event in August or September, before the ride takes place this year.

"If the performance is consistent with past levels, there's



Jennifer Williams and Michael Roufa, both of Austin, in Memorial Park during a stretch of the Tanqueray's Texas AIDS Ride in 1998 that stopped overnight in Houston

certainly a chance we won't be involved," he said.

The ride generates a lot of enthusiasm and draws contributions from many who would not otherwise give to AIDS causes, Hawkins said, but people who want to support an agency, rather than an event, can cut out a step.

"I'd be the first to tell you that if somebody wants their money to go directly to an agency, they should write them a check," he said.

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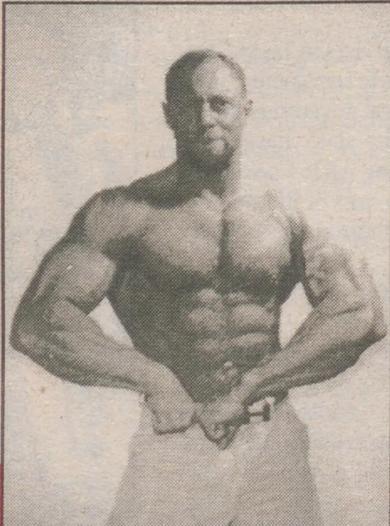


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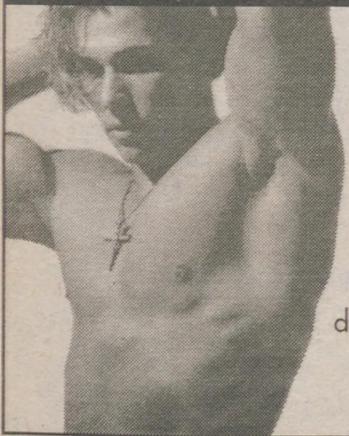
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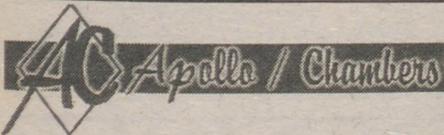
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Health News

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Maine is first to expand Medicaid to include HIV medications

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an experiment that could expand federal benefits to patients infected with HIV, the Clinton administration will allow Maine to provide Medicaid payments to people are HIV-positive but do not yet have AIDS. Previously, patients could not qualify until they had full-blown AIDS. Health Secretary Donna Shalala said Feb. 24 that Maine would be the first state to offer such a plan, "which can give more people living with HIV access to promising therapies." Wisconsin announced Feb. 27 that it would petition the federal government for similar permission. A previous request from Wisconsin was rejected in 1997. Without the plan, "the Medicaid program was in the untenable position of having to wait until someone grew so sick with AIDS that they became disabled" before treatment and drugs could be made available, said Francis Finnegan, Maine's Medicaid director. The state's five-year demonstration project begins in September. To be eligible, a participant must be HIV-positive and have an income of less than about \$25,000.

Researchers fear gene patent could block new AIDS research

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A feud between two groups of researchers over who owns the rights to a gene that might be helpful in AIDS therapy threatens to slow the development of new drugs and treatment. Maryland-based Human Genome Sciences secured a patent earlier this month that gives it a 17-year claim on a gene that apparently controls how AIDS begins infecting its victims. The biotech firm only isolated and decoded the gene, and company officials acknowledge they had no knowledge of its use when they applied for a patent in June 1995, but they now control who can use the gene in commercial development of new AIDS drugs. A group of academic scientists say they were the ones who proved the gene could be used to explain why some people repeatedly exposed to HIV never develop the disease. The ownership decision by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office outraged the group of academic scientists who say the biotech firm co-opted their discovery. "If the patent office awards a patent to someone who clones a gene, even though they have no notion of its function and no real idea of its use, that would be like saying, 'I found a fungus, therefore I should get credit for penicillin,'" said Dr. Robert Gallo, who headed the academic researchers.



Researcher Robert Gallo said awarding a patent to a gene discoverer rather than its developer is like giving credit for penicillin to those who found the fungus.

Hawaii, Maryland consider legalizing medical marijuana use

HONOLULU (AP)—Two states are considering bills that would line them up against the U.S. government on the issue of legalizing medical marijuana use. In Honolulu, Hawaii's House Judiciary Committee deferred action until Feb. 29 on a bill preventing authorities from arresting and prosecuting people who use marijuana for medical purposes. Meanwhile in Annapolis, Maryland's House Judiciary Committee opened hearings Feb. 24 on the issue. In Maryland, both the American Cancer Society, and the state's 6,000-member medical society do not support the bill. Since 1996, voters in six states have approved referenda on the medical use of marijuana.

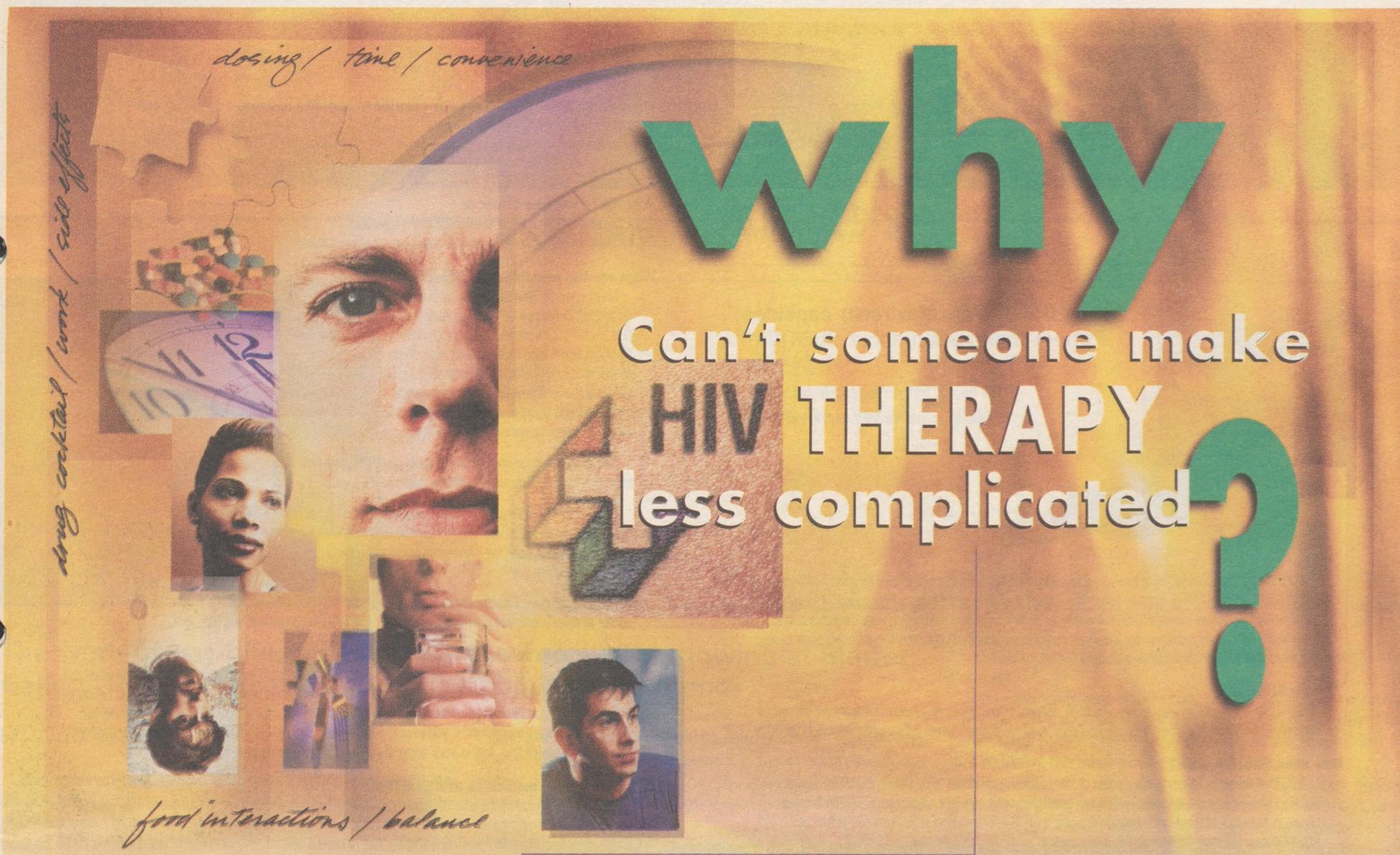
In tourism-heavy Caribbean, silence over AIDS is hard to break

CHARLOTTE AMALIE, U.S. Virgin Islands (AP)—A Caribbean AIDS conference, designed to express solidarity with AIDS victims, had no attendees with HIV, providing a stark reminder of how stigmatized AIDS is in the tourism-dependent Caribbean islands. Simultaneous meetings had been scheduled Feb. 26 on Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, the Bahamas and the Virgin Islands, but the hotel conference room in Charlotte Amalie had only five uninfected attendees. Peggy McEvoy, the top United Nations official on AIDS in the Caribbean, said the number infected with the HIV virus in the region likely exceeds 500,000 and could reach 700,000—double the previously reported figure. "It is definitely an epidemic, and in the Caribbean we have the second largest (infection) incidence in the world after Africa," she said. It was reported last year that seven out of eight youths being infected between the ages of 10 and 19 are female.

Alaska House votes to regulate viatical settlement contracts

JUNEAU (AP)—Viatical settlement contracts would be regulated by the Alaska state government under a bill approved by that state's House Feb. 21. Republican Rep. Norm Rokeberg said that some viatical companies had started abusing policy owners when the policies did not "mature" as expected and investors lost money. Rokeberg said other states have seen marketing abuses in the sale of viatical settlement contract because risks are not adequately disclosed. House Bill 190 puts viatical settlements under insurance regulators before a contract of sale is signed and under securities regulators when a viatical settlement provider begins to market the investments to others. The bill was approved 36-0 and now moves to the state Senate for consideration.

—From staff and wire reports



why

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SUSTIVATM is the first HIV drug approved to be taken once-a-day as part of your combination therapy. Just take three 200 mg capsules together once daily, with or without food; high fat meals should be avoided. Your doctor may suggest taking SUSTIVA at bedtime to reduce any side effects you may experience.

SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

Now listed among preferred anti-HIV drugs in government guidelines.¹

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

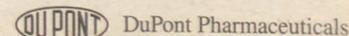
We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

FOR HIV

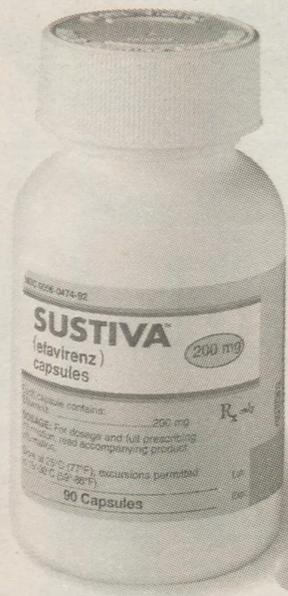
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1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), December 1998.

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*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.
 For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at <http://www.sustiva.com>
 For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at <http://www.hivatis.org>



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SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules
 Patient Information about SUSTIVA*

(sus-TEE-vah)

for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection

Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehzh)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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Out on the Bayou

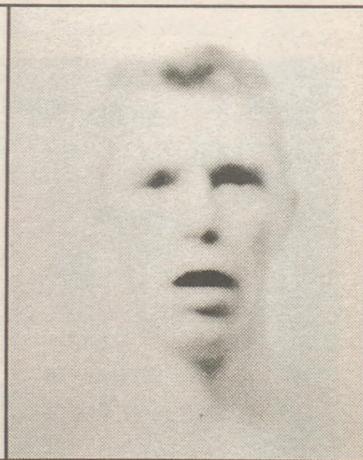


HOUSTON VOICE • MARCH 3, 2000

A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME



Bleeding
into the
background



The work of gay photographer Bill Jacobson, now showing at Blaffer Gallery, is eerie, striking and tells us about losing friends

by D.L. GROOVER

The whitewashed, bright rooms of the Blaffer Gallery are deserted. An occasional muffled voice, indistinct, echoes into the mezzanine from below. The floor is gray poured concrete, flecked with white paint from recent installation work. There is no color. It could be post-modern tomb or chapel or hospital ward.

Walking up the open staircase of chrome and brick, you see them: large framed sketches. White and gray inside white frames on a white wall. Like the voices, these haunted images are indistinct, hazy, washed-out.

The portraits, the torsos, the sculptural heads—all light and shade—aren't coming toward you; the closer you approach, the farther away they become. They are not sketches, but photographs, receding into their out-of-focus white walls. They are already memories.

"Interim Portrait #373" stares straight out. The man's mouth is open as if speaking, perhaps trying to say a last good-bye. His eyes are black smudges; cheekbones delineated by soft gray shadows. The entire face is comprised of tones.

"Interim Figure #616" lies obliquely in his dream space face down with his arm wrapped around his shoulder. The face has no features. His off-white pants bleed into the off-white matte.

He could be sleeping. He could also be dead. An inhabitant of Pompeii.

One man embraces another in "#1164." It is not an erotic embrace, for the other man's arms are down at his side. His hands have been cut off by the framing, so we don't know if he's touching the other young man.

There's a finality through the mist in these painterly photographs—reading into the image a story that is overlaid, giving meaning to these people. In so doing, they are remembered, even as their physical selves dissolve.

These striking, eerie works displayed in the first room of the exhibition at Blaffer Gallery, entitled "Portraits, Songs, Thoughts (1992-1998)" are those of Bill Jacobson, a gay photographer living in New York City. As part of FotoFest 2000, an international photography exhibition held in Houston through

> Continued on page 18

TALKING WALLS

Two



Despite wild rumors about a love scene between Sharon Stone and Ellen DeGeneres, and directed by Anne Heche, filmmakers and actresses alike say it was a great experience.

by EARL DITTMAN

The success of "If These Walls Could Talk," the original HBO film that traced the trial and tribulations of a group of women having to deal with abortion over three decades, surpassed not only the cable channel's expectations but those of the its producers as well.

Suzanne and Jennifer Todd, the sister production duo known collectively as "Team Todd," say they were "completely blown away" when the film picked up a number of prestigious awards and set the record

for the highest rated original movie in HBO's history.

The cable execs were so impressed with the film's numbers that they approached the duo for a sequel.

"We told them we wanted to try something a little different—another one with the same structure, but one that looked at a totally different female issue throughout three different time periods," Jennifer Todd recalled.

The two researched a number of different storylines, but admit they kept coming back to one they felt needed the most attention.

> Continued on page 17

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IMAGE: GUY AROZ/ARTS; DANCER: JACQUES ANDREWS; PHOTO: ERIN SKOWLES

On Stage

Walking a gender tightrope

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT and D.L. GROOVER

Intimacy is the key for **WALKING THE DEAD**, now enjoying its Houston premiere at Atomic Cafe.

Actors address each other, and at times, they address the audience during this bizarre comedy that tackles gender dysphoria, sexuality, mother daughter relationships, interracial dating—and co-dependence of gay men and women—all set in a cozy, cave-like venue.

"Walking" has a real density to it, as playwright Keith Curran tries to cram as much theater into two hours as he can. It's a welcome reprieve from gay-themed shows that present us with nothing but predictable stereotypes. From the jabber-filled opening, this work moves to make sense of several intertwined relationships, doing so with effective results.

Gender issues and acceptance are the play's lifeline. Veronica (Rebecca Byars)—a.k.a. Ronnie and Homer—and her partner Maya (Ann James) are what, at first, appear to be a typical lesbian couple. But all is not what it seems.

Veronica is actually a heterosexual man trapped in the body of a lesbian. Much of the content of this play is comprised of a true-to-life discussion about Veronica's journey toward obtaining all that is male and dispensing with all that is female, emotionally and physically. As the show progresses, we examine most of the issues surrounding sexuality and interpersonal relationships.

The acting talents of Byars and James provide a strong dramatic foundation for the rest of the cast. The two lead characters metamorphose from a pair of garden variety gay gals to a couple who must determine how crucial gender packaging is as it relates to the love that they have for each other.

And the script is peppered with humor. The supporting cast is funny and most, particularly Veronica's fundamentalist/remarried-and-now-discovering-good-sex-with-a-much-younger-man mother, Dottie (Barbara Jones), are perfectly cast.

Veronica's gay boy nestling, Chester (Dodd Bates), provides gangly comic relief as we witness his attempted relationships. Notably, most of these interactions take place while this yearling is wrapped in a bath towel.

Let it snow

It's still snowing at Houston Ballet. After the glistening "Nutcracker," what better way to begin the winter repertory program than Sir Frederick Ashton's delectable **LES PATINEURS** ("The Skaters").

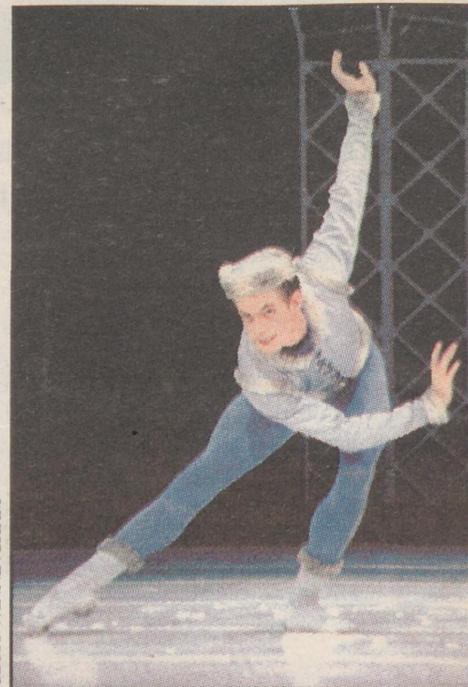
This Victorian valentine, an homage to classical ballet, is a modern masterpiece, in which Ashton in plotless mode sets the standard for elegance, mood and technical proficiency for future ballets. It has taste, charm and an effortless construction—the work of a master choreographer.

In an evening gathering, 15 diverse

skaters try out their prowess on ice with varying success, but great delight. The tour de force role is the Boy in Blue, the "Turning Boy," danced by Dominic Walsh with enough Olympic sass and pizzazz to warrant a perfect 10.

And the Olympic standard is maintained when Nina Ananiashvili bursts forth on the empty stage for "Black Swan pas de deux" from "Swan Lake."

Even out of context, this pyrotechnic excerpt had enough drama and character study for an entire evening. Ananiashvili soared through her variations with speed and precision, all the while seducing the hap-



GEORGE WINNINGHAM

Dominic Walsh brings Olympic sass and pizzazz to his Houston Ballet performance in 'Les Patineurs.'

less Siegfried. She has star power to spare and enough power of a star to stop the music after her fouette combination to take a bow.

Her cavalier, Sergey Filin, brought here from the Bolshoi to partner, was attentive and has the brooding looks of a Pushkin prince, but, to be fair, can't compete with Ananiashvili's natural light stage presence, nor her technical magic.

Christopher Bruce's dramatic, ultra-satisfying poem to the immigrant experience, "Sergeant Early's Dream," closes the program. Danced and acted with perfection, the cast of nine fills the stage like a cast of thousands.

Veronica was a sweet little girl in a pretty dress. She grew up to be a lesbian called Ronnie. Then, Ronnie became a man named Homer.

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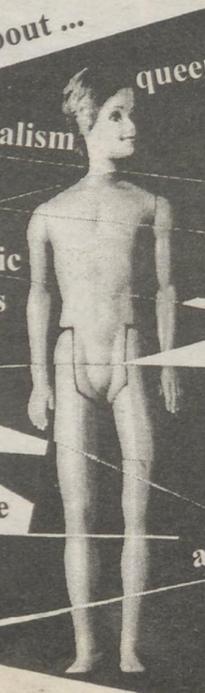
queer art

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radioactive cake mix

and grabbing The blades



INFO

Walking the Dead
Through March 18th
Atomic Cafe
1320 Nance Street
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Houston Ballet
Winter Repertory Program
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www.houstonballet.org



Chloe Sevigny plays a butch lesbian whose appearance upsets the ideals of a 1970s feminist collective in 'If These Walls Could Talk 2.'

TALKING WALLS Two

> Continued from page 15

"The one that we kept coming back to was one on homosexuality, specifically lesbian stories," Suzanne Todd said. "Like the first movie, we wanted to develop character stories based in elements of the human condition that everybody could relate to. It was our hope that whether or not you have ever been a gay woman, you could relate to what all the characters in the new film are going through."

Featuring a stellar cast that includes Hollywood heavyweights Sharon Stone, Vanessa Redgrave and Ellen DeGeneres and critically-acclaimed rising stars Nia Long, Natasha Lyonne, Michelle Williams and Chloe Sevigny ("Boys Don't Cry"), "If These Walls Could Talk 2" takes a heart-warming, and often heart-breaking look at the struggles and triumphs of lesbian women from the past to the present.

"If These Walls Could Talk 2" opens with the segment titled "1961." Vanessa Redgrave and Marian Seldes portray a pair of women who have loved one another for more than half-a-century. When one suffers a stroke and dies, her soulmate is forced to erase all traces of their longtime love affair and is put in danger of having the house they shared together being sold right out from under her.

"It's a very tragic love story," Redgrave admitted. "In those days, longtime com-

panions had no rights when something happened to their mate, no matter how long they had been together. It's only recently that those kind of things have started to change. But I think it is an important history lesson. If we ignore the past, we are always condemned to repeat it."

The second story, "1972," deals with the hypocrisy that accompanied the feminist movement of the '70s. The house of "1961" is now home to a group of gay, feminist, college co-eds (Williams, Long, Lyonne and Amy Carlson). Their straight feminist roommates oust them from their collective when the foursome insist on having all-female dances. They fear the sexuality of their lesbian sisters are endangering what they see as the real fight: feminism.

Matters become even more complicated when one of the women (Carlson) falls for a butch lesbian (Chloe Sevigny). As their relationship begins to blossom, her once "open-minded" lesbian friends begin to denounce her behavior and coerce her into ending the affair.

"Feminists and even other lesbians aren't above discriminating against each other, that's the main theme of our segment," Sevigny said. "Even though they are all women who have been oppressed by men and are fighting to be treated as equals, they refuse to treat others as equals. They simply can't accept a woman who is butch. She just doesn't fit into their ideals."

In "2000," the final segment of "If These Walls Could Talk 2," the house is now home for a loving, committed thirtysomething lesbian couple (Stone and DeGeneres) yearning to have a child of their own.

According to published reports, "2000" has been drawing intense interest from the Hollywood community, due almost entirely to the fact that it features Stone and openly-gay DeGeneres in a nude, love-making scene—directed by DeGeneres' real-life partner, Anne Heche.

"I have to laugh at all the tabloid reports concerning this part of the film," Stone joked. "They have been reporting—rather inaccurately, I must say—that Anne had trouble with Ellen and I doing the love scene. They've said that she just couldn't handle being on the set while we

were filming it, even though she was the director. That's hogwash. She was there all the time, and she was laughing right along with us the whole time the camera wasn't rolling."

The Todd sisters agree with Stone.

"We had a small crew that day we shot the nude scene, out of respect for the two actresses, but Anne was right there making sure it looked genuine," Suzanne Todd said.

"In fact, it was a very happy day on the set. Of course, there had been a little drinking that day to calm everyone's nerves, but the scene was shot without a hitch."

"I mean, in some ways I can understand why everyone is so interested in seeing this particular part of the film," Jennifer Todd said, "but it's just a love scene, just like a heterosexual one. It wasn't graphic or anything. I mean, with Sharon we've all seen her naked a number of times, but this was Ellen's first time doing nudity. Maybe that's what has everybody so curious."

When asked why she has never done a nude scene before, DeGeneres quips, "Because no one has asked me. Go figure."

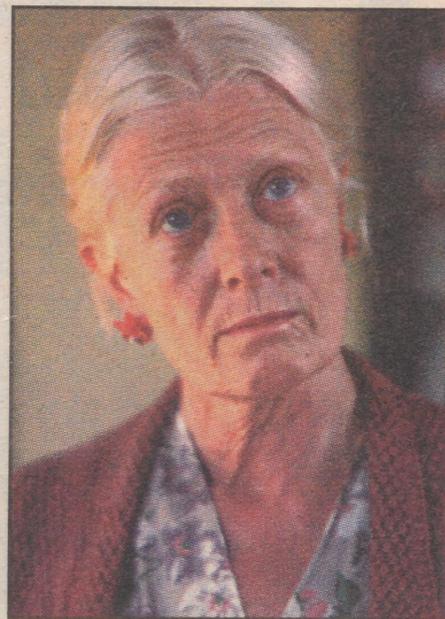
Anne Heche is happy that she was given the honor to direct "2000," because of the three stories it offers viewers an optimistic view of a future where being gay is no longer treated as an aberration or social disease.

"The two women of our segment share the hope that when their baby becomes an adult, whether gay or straight, it won't have to face the hate and discrimination that many of us

have had to endure," Heche said.

"I think that's what makes shows like this one so important. It's not a film just for gay people to watch, because that would be like preaching to the converted. It's a film that shows that gay people are just like everyone else and we should enjoy the same freedoms as everyone else.

"I think, one day, that'll happen," Heche said. "I don't know if I'll see it in our lifetime. But films like this will certainly speed up the process."



In the '1961' segment, Vanessa Redgrave plays a longtime lover forced to hide all evidence of her relationship after her partner of more than 50 years dies.

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Bleeding into the background

> Continued from page 15

April 3, this is the first major survey of Jacobson's work to be presented by an American museum.

"It's a range of work," Jacobson said in a recent interview. "Not exactly a retrospective, but the show's sequenced chronologically. There's also a tonal shift as you go through the whole show, from pictures that are very white to gray to medium dark to very dark."

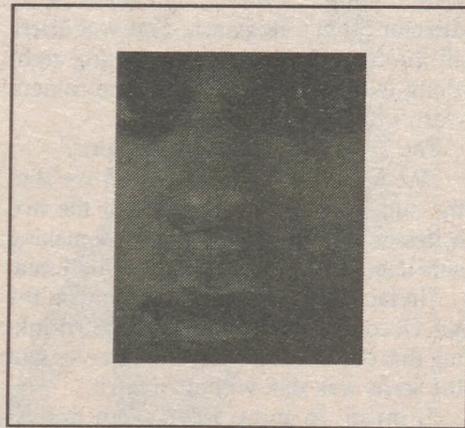
What adds to the evanescent sheen of his "white pictures" is Jacobson's masterful command of printing.

"I printed the white ones on color paper instead of black and white paper. I found I could get a very soft contrast level to it; I could achieve a nice softness. My desire is to get the most ethereal image possible," he said.

The second room of the exhibition, which is the vestibule between two large spaces, showcases the medium tonal range as well as dramatically smaller pictures.

Coming after the radiant and ghostly portraits of overexposure, these images are murky. The dark muddiness imparts an earthy, grounded reality, neither wistful nor sad like the "white" series, rather a specific time caught in fleeting transition.

Here, the white underwear of the men



doesn't fade into the white background, but reads as underwear. Their embraces connote more blatant sexuality than the androgynous portraits in the first room.

"The work doesn't only exist in a gay context," Jacobson said. "In a way, what the work is about is that life for everybody, be they gay or straight, young or old, is always a transitional time, a temporary time. It's acknowledging the cycle of life and death."

"To a certain extent, one of the things that brought me to thinking about those issues was having friends who died of AIDS, but the work itself is not about AIDS. It's really about what I learned through having lost some friends and having such strong reactions to so many deaths that were occurring 10 years ago."

"It's what I learned from that time about life. Really the notion of photography is being so much about memory, of a time with somebody, which is AIDS applicable but it's also applicable on a much more general level as well."

The third room is filled with Jacobson's newest series, "Songs of Sentient Beings."

They are his largest pictures. Black is prominent, whether in great blobs of inky bubbles such as "#1053," a large portrait of a seated woman with a helmet of jet hair, or as in "#1530," a medium shot from behind of a woman's back whose shoulders and neck form a perfect triangle of light set against a murky background.

But the most impressive of Jacobson's works are the large abstracts, which consist of pure light, like "#1612," in which the bent-over figure, gray against black, pulsates with a visible aura and only lines of light delineate the arms and legs. In "#1617," a curled up figure, seen from behind, ominously floats in a black void, its undulating body a round slash of gray and white light.

Interspersed with "Songs" are the least successful "Thought" pictures of gray water. Placed next to Jacobson's extreme close-ups of men's faces, eyes wide shut, the pictures of a New York lake don't resonant as anything other than large pictures of gray water.

"My favorite pictures are the millions and

millions of anonymous pictures you find at flea markets. Those have been a big influence on me, because in a way my pictures are anonymous, too. You can project onto the lives of the people," Jacobson said.

Bill Jacobson: Portraits, Songs, Thoughts

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Never wowed, quoth the Raven

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Always a sucker for a good restaurant name, I had an auspicious feeling about the RAVEN GRILL, a neighborhood cafe on the tony end of Bissonnet. I envisioned a menu as feverishly haunting as Poe's quothing bird, or dishes as slick, sexy and polished as black feathers.

Instead, the more appropriate raven parallel was those birds at the Tower of London, who aimlessly roam the ground with clipped wings. The setting is pretty enough, with a comfortable bar and spacious dining room. But the food never takes flight.

If weather permits, it's a sin not to sit outside on the patio where fresh flowers

border the tables with candles. Kings of white Christmas lights muted above a translucent black mesh covering make for an elegant and innovative starry sky. And each table included a romantic gesture—one or two fresh cut flowers on each.

But the rather pedestrian quality of the food becomes clear as soon as the menu is opened. The names could be more creative than New York Strip, Salmon Steak, Grilled Tuna, Chicken Salad and Tuna Salad. And the repetitive descriptions—"served with herb rice and grilled vegetables" or "served with herb rice and black beans"—reinforces the lack of inventiveness.

We began with a special appetizer, Oyster Ravioli (\$6.95). The lightly fried oysters, only two or three, on top were

tasty and meaty, but the cream sauce and thick pasta overpowered the shredded seafood stuffed inside. The small dinner salads (\$3.25) consisted of greens, tomatoes and cucumbers—not even a pepper or radish to jazz it up.

To be fair, I happily devoured the Soup of the Day (\$4.95), a cream of mushroom puree. The texture of the tiny mushroom bits allowed savoring of the smokiness of the mushrooms. The rich base was buttery, but light enough to allow a taste of the fresh parsley and pepper to sneak through.

The Sea Bass Special (\$23.95) consisted of fresh and tender fish, but the lack of sauce was almost unforgivable. It made the grilled vegetables an overly dull addition.

My friend ordered perhaps the most compelling-sounding entree, the Poblano Lime-Grilled Chicken (\$9.95), served with—you guessed it—herb rice and grilled vegetables.

The spicy chicken was moist and flavorful, although a bit

overcooked. Although the herb rice doesn't win points for lack of originality, it came dusted with a grassy, Italian combination of spices. The vegetables were pleasing enough, and the long, thin slabs of zucchini steaming in vinaigrette were also favored.

In addition to dinner entrees, Raven Grill offers burgers and grilled sandwiches, including a respectable Portabella (\$5.95), and a zesty, Margarita Grilled Cheese (\$6.50) with marinated plum tomatoes and a generous slathering of nutty pesto. Seafood Enchiladas (\$11.95), with shrimp, crab, scallops and jack cheese, feature large chunks of seafood. But the seasoning is rather bland and each tortilla stews in too much cheese.

For dessert, we tried the Raspberry Swirl Cheesecake (\$3.95), a rather overly-glossy version, perhaps due to an abundance of cream cheese. We picked at the crust for a few minutes and then turned to the allusive Chocolate Nevermore (\$4.95), a chocolate mousse cake covered with ganache. We were sated, but not wowed.

Our server was helpful and knowledgeable, and offered us friendly recommendations for appetizers and desserts. Service was never inefficient or inattentive.

This simple, no frills approach to food is a bit more palatable for lunch to fill a need for a quick sandwich or burger. But for a trendy neighborhood establishment, with trendy neighborhood prices, what's the point? It would take culinary excellence, or a menu overhaul to transform the weak and weary choices into something worthwhile.



FOOD FILE

The Raven Grill

1916 Bissonnet
713-521-2027

Food: ☺☺☺

Service: ☺☺☺☺

Value: ☺☺☺☺

Scene: ☺☺

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BOOK NEWS

Reflecting a lifetime of being 'Left Out'

by ELLA TYLER

Historian and political activist Martin Duberman has been both a participant in, and an observer of, the political and cultural clashes—civil rights, feminism, gender and sexuality—that have marked the times since the 1960s. Duberman's essays and book reviews about the controversy de jour were printed in publications as diverse as *Village Voice*, *New York Times*, *New Republic* and *Atlantic Monthly*.

As we approach a presidential election, a march on Washington, and other events that could be turning points in the battles for gay and lesbian rights, **LEFT OUT: THE POLITICS OF EXCLUSION** is a collection of his essays worth reading. Duberman is often passionate about his subject and, in many of the essays, states his position with a fierceness that is thought-provoking and intellectually entertaining.

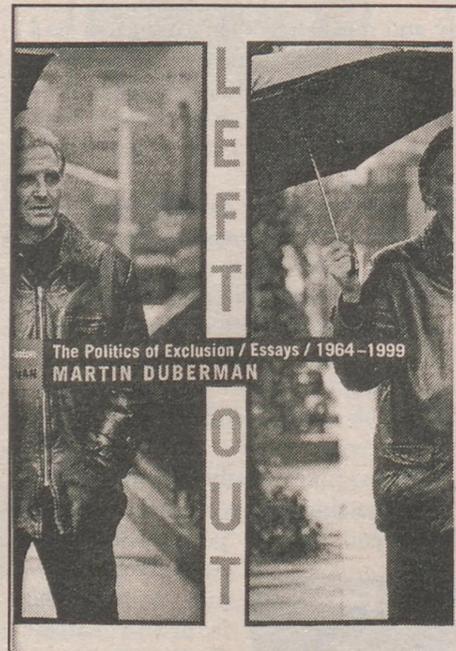
In the essay titled "Kinsey's Urethra," a review of a 1997 biography of Alfred Kinsey by James B. Jones, Duberman shreds Jones' homophobic biography. What set Duberman off is the repeated labeling of Kinsey as "homosexual" and "masochistic" with, Duberman charges, the goal of devaluing Kinsey's work.

Jones' describes homophobic sexologist Richard von Krafft-Ebing as prompted by "deeply moral concerns" but calls pansexual Kinsey "sex-obsessed." Duberman responds: "This is like calling Albert Einstein "physics-obsessed." And it leaves us wondering about Jones, who has devoted 27 years to researching Alfred Kinsey's "perverted" life.

My favorites in "Left Out" are those in which Duberman is personally involved. "Historical Interpretation and the Politics of Evidence," an article that includes an account of Duberman's attempts to gain permission to publish letters archived for 150 years, had the potential to be a boring discussion of the politics of archives.

But Duberman confesses his tactical errors and mistakes and it turns into an engaging story. For those of you who think the topic a bit dull, the letters in question "out" a significant figure in South Carolina history.

Duberman's account of writing Paul Robeson's biography includes Duberman's diary entry of the reasons he, as a gay white male, was an appropriate biographer for Robeson. It's almost painful to read: "I know about the tensions of trying to be a 'good' role model.



I know about the conflict between the yearnings of lust and the demands of a good public image. I know about concealment. I know about loneliness."

The book includes several reports about what is now part of the history of the modern gay civil rights movement, like essays about Anita Bryant, Donald Cory/Edward Sagarin, and Leonard Matlovich's trial, which explain the feeling of déjà vu we have about some current events. We have been here before.

Several essays explore the future of the gay movement, though Duberman may not have intended them to be that way. The pieces about racism, sexism and the importance of protecting private lives raise issues that remain unresolved. Several articles deal with the fluid nature of sexual preferences.

Much of the book takes on gender and sexuality, but don't ignore the rest. Tempted to skip the first essay—the 1964 piece "The Northern Response To Slavery"—I discovered it historically interesting with insights about politics that are relevant today.

Duberman tells us that one of the debates within the abolitionist movement was whether to end slavery quickly or gradually. The argument against gradualism was that it "would require the spelling out of precise 'plans' and that would give the enemies of emancipation an opportunity to pick away at the 'impracticality' of this or that detail." "Hostility can always find its own justification," Duberman writes.

Comforting advice worth cross-stitching on a pillow to give to your favorite beleaguered activist. Duberman adds: "A second mode of attack on the abolitionists has centered on their personalities rather than their politics." Sound familiar?

After spending 35 years in the fight for social change, Duberman remains optimistic about the potential for change.

INFO **Left Out**
by Martin Duberman
Basic Books, 466 pages, \$30

What your neighbors are reading . . .

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by Felice Newman, \$21.95
- 2 **Friction 3**
ed. by Jesse Grant, \$14.95
- 3 **The Brethren**
by John Grisham, \$27.95
- 4 **The Men's Room**
by Michangelo Scruggs, \$14
- 5 **Golden Men: Gay Man's Guide to Midlife**
by Harold Kooden, \$14
- 6 **The Sex Squad**
by David Leddick, \$12.95
- 7 **Here I Stand**
by John Shelby Spong, \$25
- 8 **Finding the Boyfriend Within**
by Brad Gooch, \$21
- 9 **Pagan's Father**
by Michael Arditti, \$14
- 10 **Barbara Jordan**
by Mary Beth Rogers, \$14.95

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AIDS Walk preps to raise \$500,000 for local charities

by KAY DAYUS

It's time to get out your walking shoes for the 11th Annual AIDS Walk set for March 12.

Organizers hope to raise \$500,000 to benefit 12 local HIV/AIDS organizations, up from last year's tally of \$300,000, said Anna Kaplan, a walk organizer for AIDS Foundation Houston, which produces the event.

AFH keeps 85 percent of the event proceeds; 15 percent is equally divided among the 12 partner agencies, said Ken Kelly, an AFH spokesman. Those groups include Body Positive Wellness Center, Brentwood Community Foundation, Colt 45s, Resurrection MCC, People with AIDS Coalition and Center for AIDS.

So far, 115 teams have committed to taking part in the walk and organizers expect more to register, he said.

"The primary chunk of change comes from the walk teams, especially the corporate teams," Kelly said.

Houston has one of the highest HIV-infection rates in the country and public health officials have recently called attention to a growing infection rate in the area's African-American community.

"We are seeing 60 to 80 new cases per month, African American women in particular. For a lot of these people, HIV is one of a long list of problems. Many are suffering from drug abuse, physical abuse and mental problems. Each month we seem to be breaking our record," Kelly said.

Complacency, fed in part because of promising new drug therapies, has helped feed the steady flow of HIV infections in the area, Kelly said, though "the reality is that there is treatment failure."

"Unfortunately, we are seeing new cases in the gay community, especially the younger folks," he said.

AFH targets young, gay males through Project Caesar, an outreach program that goes into gay bars and bathhouses to hold workshops and distribute condoms and prevention information, Kelly said.

But even with an ambitious goal of raising \$500,000 from AIDS Walk this year, organizers are still at a loss to explain why the event in Houston doesn't raise as

much money as similar events in cities like Atlanta or Denver, which typically collect up to \$1 million, Kaplan said.

"It's still a cause for some concern. Maybe it's because we are not as financially strong, or we're more conservative, or because of the stigma associated

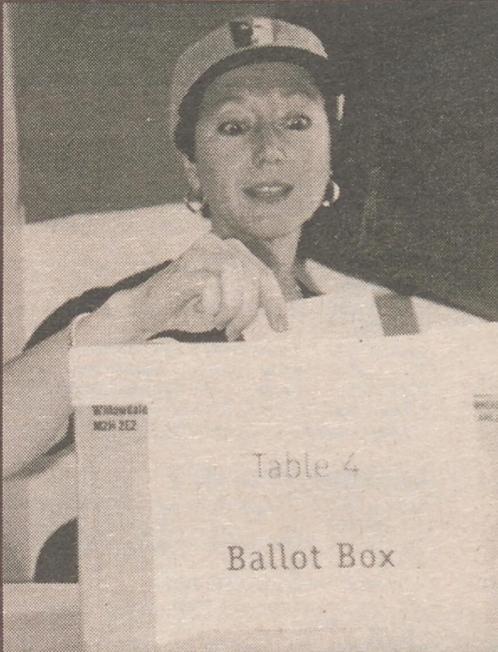
with AIDS. We're not sure, but it's very strange," she said.

But the Houston walk still serves as a critical awareness tool, Kelly said.

"We still have a problem [with AIDS] and the media attention we get is as important as raising funds," he said.

INFO

AIDS Walk Houston
March 12
registration at 7 a.m., walk begins at 8 a.m.
George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida de las Americas
713-524-AIDS



Pride Polling

Susan Guerrero was one of dozens of people who voted for Pride parade grand marshal positions on Feb. 26 at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. More than 340 local residents took part in mail-in and poll balloting to select four grand marshals from among 20 candidates for the June 24 event. Results of the voting will be announced March 9 at Riva's at 7 p.m.

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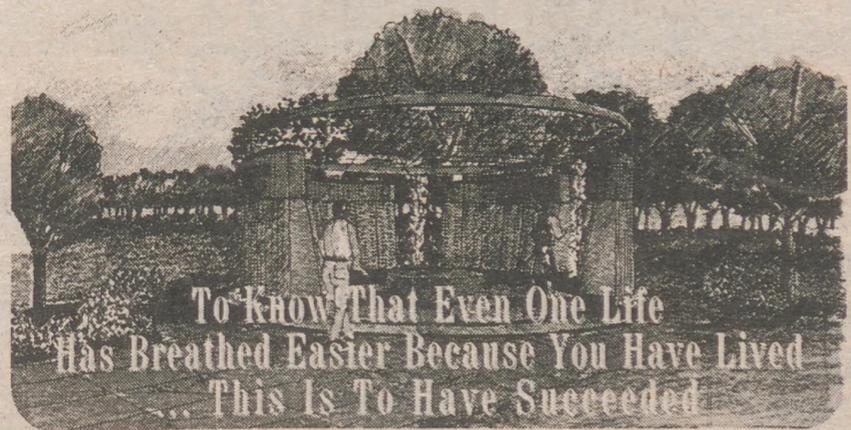
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community calendar

saturday, march 4

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM, 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Visual Arts Alliance. 10 a.m. 281-583-8408.
 Dignity mass at 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary at 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
 Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. 713-863-1860.
 Rainbow Fishing Club. 713-526-7070.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay drop-in hours from noon to 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-956-1866.

sunday, march 5

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.
 Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
 Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church. Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I at 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II at 8:55 a.m.; Education hour at 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
 Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. "Preaching the Gospel" Bible study at 9:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
 Resurrection MCC Services at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. 713-861-9149.
 Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
 First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. Sunday School for children. 4305 Lillian. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 Houston Mission Church. Service at 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
 Covenant Baptist Church. Service at 1:30 p.m.; education hour at 3 p.m. 713-668-8830.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m., 10:50 a.m. Sunday school at 9:40 a.m. 713-526-1017.
 Resurrection MCC Handbell Choir rehearsal at 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
 The Women's Group. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
 Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 402 Church St. in Galveston. Service at 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.
 Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 11 a.m. 713-520-7847.
 First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
 Church of Kindred Spirits (Beaumont). Service at 7 p.m. 409-835-4765.
 Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum at 10 a.m.

Service at 11 a.m. and noon. Open Circle Family Support at 12:30 p.m. 1504 Wirt. 713-686-5876.
 Interfaith Worship Celebration. 7 p.m. 2515 Waugh Dr. 713-528-3601.
 Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion at 9:45 a.m.; service at 11 a.m. 3945 Greenbriar. Stafford. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-868-5039.
 Montrose Ice Picks. Galleria. 5 p.m. 713-629-1432.
 Lecture/book signing by "Universe on the Move" by Tara Rae. 4 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Minnie Bruce Pratt reading at 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

monday, march 6

Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group, 8 p.m. 713-861-6181.
 Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week, 7 p.m. 713-529-1223.
 Bering Support Network. Grief and Divorce Groups at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 AIDS Caregivers' Support Group. 6 p.m. 713-732-4300.
 HIV testing. Free from AVES from 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
 FrontRunners. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 Kolbe Project. Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
 Integrity Houston. For gay and lesbian Episcopalians. 7:30 p.m., Autry House, 6265 Main.
 More Light Presbyterians. Meeting. 1110 Lovett. 9:30 p.m. 281-444-8861 X309.
 AIDS Foundation Houston Creative Writing Class. 3 p.m. 713-623-69796.
 gayDAR. Wellness community. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017 X211.
 Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition's weekly meeting at 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. Houston Lesbian and Gay Community drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
 Lesbian in Coalition. 6:30 p.m. 2700 Albany. 713-522-6713.

tuesday, march 7

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. 7 p.m. 239 Westheimer. 713-495-8009.
 Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center at 4:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
 Youth-Rap. 6:30 p.m. 713-822-8511.
 Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
 AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. 7 p.m. 713-488-4492.
 PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse. Montrose Counseling Center at 6:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
 Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang at 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
 Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m., 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
 Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men, 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 More on Relationships. Discussion group. 7 p.m. 415 W. Gray. 713-861-9149.
 Lambda Skating Club skates at 8 p.m. at the Tradewinds. 713-523-9620.
 Gay & Bi Male Support Group support group forming. Sponsored by AVES 713-626-2837.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m.; Lesbian Coming Out Group meets at 7:30 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-528-3818.
 Impotence Support/discussion group. 7 p.m. 713-523-0451.
 Lesbian Health Initiative. 7 p.m. 713-603-0223.

wednesday, march 8

Free HIV Testing at Thomas Street Clinic at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting at Cafe Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713-529-0037.
 HIV survivor support group. 7 p.m. 713-782-4050.
 Mind/Body Connection: Alternative Approaches. 7 p.m. 1475 W. Gray. 713-524-2374.
 Project: Caesar. 7 p.m. AFH, 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. at 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
 HAMS Motorcycle Club meets for coffee. 713-688-1300 or hams1999@yahoo.com
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons at the Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Houston Pride Band. All skill levels. 7:15 p.m. 713-522-4282 or www.houstonprideband.org.
 Hospital Volunteer Training. Kolbe Project. 1 to 4 p.m. 713-861-1800.
 Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 803 Hawthorne. 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3181
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. Volunteer meeting. 6:45 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

thursday, march 9

Art Labs. The Art League at 1 p.m. 713-225-9411.
 Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal at 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
 HIV+ Men Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center, 1:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.
 Relapse Prevention. Montrose Counseling Center, 2 p.m. 713-529-0037.

Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center, 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
 Women's Therapy Group. Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
 Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 713-738-RACE.
 FrontRunners at 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 713-830-3000.
 Faith and Hope Fellowship. Bible study 7 p.m. 713-520-7847.
 Twenty Something Rap Session. 7:30 p.m. 713-315-6786.
 Open Mike Night at Cafe Artist. 8 p.m. 713-528-3704.
 Community Gospel. Service at 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 HIV/AIDS Support Group, 2:30 at Family Service Center. 713-861-4849.
 Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group, 4:30 p.m. Family Service Center. 713-247-3810.
 HIV/AIDS Support Group, 7 p.m. Family Service Center in Conroe. 888-247-3810.
 Yoga at Body Positive. 6:30 p.m. \$5. 713-524-2374.
 Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston (GLOBAL) meets at 4 p.m. 713-743-7539.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.

friday, march 10

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.
 Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Lesbian Avengers. Cafe Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama at 7 p.m.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer at 10 a.m. Park Plaza Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM, 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Movie Time at the Kolbe Project. 7:30 p.m. 713-522-8182.
 Life Begins at 40. Pot luck dinner and discussion. 6:30 p.m. 1440 Harold. 713-526-1017.
 Mishpachot Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
 Co-dependents Anonymous. 7:30 p.m. at MCCR. 713-861-9149.
 Men's Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. 713-524-3818.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.
 Healing Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral. 7 p.m. 1117 Texas. 713-222-2593.

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

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Occasions

Birthdays

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 No root canals for Dr. Bruce Smith on his birthday March 3.
 Andrew Flores sings his birthday song on March 3.
 Carol P. celebrates her birthday on March 4.
 Talented, handsome and all around fabulous diva Damion Sondergaard has a birthday on March 7.
 David Sawyer adds another birthday candle to his cake on March 9.

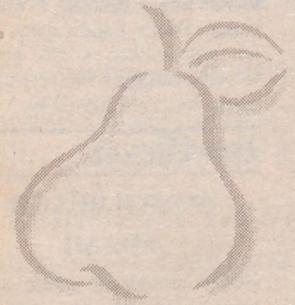
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CINEMARK THEATRES HOLLYWOOD - USA 2010 E. Beltway 8 713-475-0081	CINEPLEX-ODEON RIVER OAKS PLAZA W. Gray & Waugh Dr. 281-444-FILM #016	LOEWS THEATRES SPRING I-45 & Holzwarth 281-288-7200	LOEWS THEATRES MEMORIAL CITY 502 Memorial City Mall 713-467-5639	GENERAL CINEMA POINT NASA 6 I-45 & NASA Rd. 1 338-1275
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Classifieds

Announcements

LOW VISION

Support Group forming • First Organizational meeting Sunday, March 5 • 2 p.m. • 515 Richmond • 713.528.2555.

THANK YOU

Community Resale Shop • 515 Richmond • 713.528.2555.

Body Positive Wellness Center

is a non-profit organization that seeks to empower those with HIV infection, through nutrition chiro-practic services, yoga, and peer counseling. If you are interested in participation or volunteering, we want to speak with you! Visit our website at www.bodypositive.org or call 713.524.2374.

RYAN WHITE PLANNING COUNCIL

is looking for volunteers to serve on the council. The primary responsibility of the council is to determine what services are most needed. Last year's Council received over \$17 million from the federal government for use in the greater Houston area. Your participation DOES make a difference. Contact Tori Williams at 713.572.3724 or email www.rwpc.org.

GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD

Volunteer classes now forming. Reserve your space online or call 713.529.9615 • www.gayswitchboardhouston.org

gayDAR

Dream • Affirm • Restore: A new wellness community for persons 18 to 29 years old who are interested in making healthy connections meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. For more information, call Russ Robinett at 713.526.1017 X211.

The PFLAG/HATCH Scholarship Foundation's dinner and celebration will be held on Friday, March 31 at the Warwick Hotel. The evening will include a social hour with a silent auction, followed by dinner and presentations by some of the scholarship recipients. The fund raising goal for the millennium year is \$100,000. For more information about the Foundation and the scholarship program see www.pflaghouston.org/scholarship.htm.

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Volunteers

The Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center is seeking volunteers to staff the facility in more extended hours. If organizations and individuals are interested, please contact Kevin Davidson at 713.524.3818 to discuss how you can help.

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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



March 3 - 9

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

It's the end of a long, strange trip for you when it comes to love. You are just around the corner from a big break that could come in the form of some real admiration. But it's not about love; it's about pushing your own sexual boundaries. Push it real good with another Aries.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Jupiter could give you a real lift—if you are willing to throw yourself head-long into the future. You've been living in the past too long. Are there people in your life you just hate? Now is the time to love and hate with a passion. A Capricorn will bring out both in you.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

It could be time for you to make a significant change in your home life. You need more stability. You need more beautiful things and meaningful people around you. With bosses and people in power, listen to your instincts and show some courage. An Aries can teach you to hang tough.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Mercury retrograde in your travel sector suggests you should double-check all train, plane and automobile connections before hitting the road. You are embarking on a magnificent artist's journey that starts with a leap of faith. Don't be afraid to take risks. And don't be afraid of a Pisces.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

The moon meets Jupiter in your career house on March 10, so please, pay attention to your wildest success fantasies. Then take stock of your financial situation. You could reach your goals if you cut corners a little and invest some money in a long-term venture. A Gemini wants to invest in you.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

Strange coincidences abound as the universe teaches you how to cut yourself some slack. If you're totally without romantic prospects, get back in touch with your lovesick teen within. And if you have your eye on an Aquarius, then let your feelings show.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

Do all you can to satisfy a demanding lover. This isn't just about sex; it's about submitting to a part of yourself you don't often deal with. Make sure you are dotting all your i's at work; the boss is interested in all the details. You could get to know yourself a whole lot better in the days ahead, with the help of an Aquarius.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Don't be afraid to express your creativity in unusual ways. This period of your life is all about self-discovery. Relationships actually don't have to be all about power and control; you could loosen up and just enjoy the ride. Challenge your imagination, and use a Virgo as your muse.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

Venus in your social sector promises many a date during these (emotionally) chilly days of March. You don't have to go deep with anyone yet. Spell out what you need as clearly as possible, and keep your sense of humor at all costs. A Taurus needs your good spirits.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

It could be hard for you to figure out what you want from your relationships during this cycle. Don't worry about it. You need to experience more and analyze less. But choose your words carefully. The world makes shallow judgments, but a Cancer is your good luck charm.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - Feb. 19)

You are about to enter a period of great wealth (or at least much greater than what you're used to). Try not to spend like a maniac. A Libra has a sixth sense about your non-monogamous ways. Don't deny who you are; instead, fess up and enjoy being the person none of us understand.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

It's going to be hard to improve your luck because so much good fortune is already coming your way. Go after what you want on the career front with real passion. Be willing to commit to the things you desire. The same holds true in love. A Libra may not have been what you wished for but is what you need.

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



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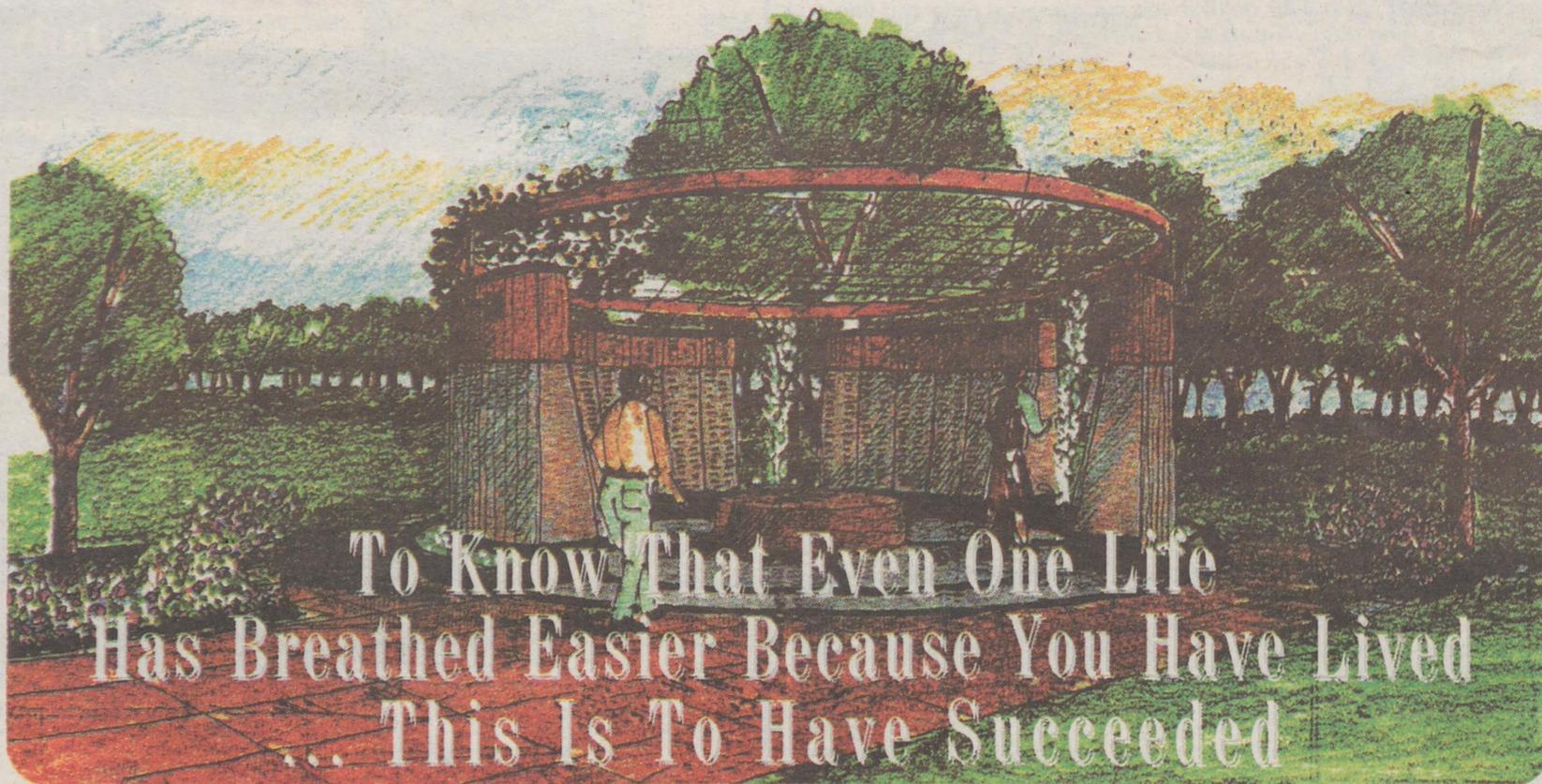


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