



'Rent' raises the roof at Jones Hall

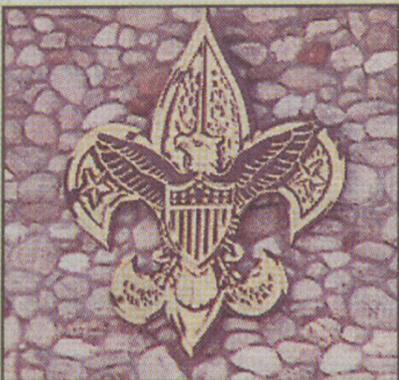
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Democratic convention reaches out to gays

More than 200 gay delegates, at least six gay speakers on tap, as gay issues get prime-time attention

by LAURA BROWN

Building on a promise to be the "truly inclusive" political party, the Democratic National Convention opened this week with record gay visibility, including a performance by one of the country's best known gay musicians, a prime-time address by a leading gay rights activist and gay-supportive comments from the podium by non-gay speakers, including President Bill Clinton.

By the second day of the convention that ran Aug. 14-17 at Los Angeles' Staples Convention Center, the Democrats had already showcased six times the number of openly gay speakers as the Republican National Convention.

The Republican event, held earlier this month in Philadelphia, featured one openly gay speaker, U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, who



PHOTO: DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Flanked by a copy of the 'Declaration of Independence,' Melissa Etheridge sings 'America the Beautiful' during the opening session of the Democratic National Convention at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Monday.

delivered a three-minute prime-time address on trade issues. Although Kolbe was not introduced as gay and did not identify himself as such on stage, some Republican delegates bowed their heads in prayer during his speech to protest his

inclusion.

The "fact that George Bush was willing to say, 'Well, take the person who has these kinds of credentials,' and we're not going to worry about any of those other personal

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The hidden population

Transgendered segment often feels isolated from GLBT community

by KAY DAYUS

Cross dresser, transsexual, transgendered, transvestite—call them what you will; they are, by their own admission, the hidden or unseen population in the gay community.

And whatever tag they have, one thing is certain: they are the least understood and perhaps the most maligned group within the GLBT community.

More importantly, they do not always understand themselves. Born with the mind of a woman and the body of a man, or vice versa, they constantly struggle to find their true identity.

This is the second of a four-part series exploring the definitions, distinctions and discrimination in the GLBT world.

Most of the folks who attend weekly meetings at Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous (HCDA), are pretty sure of their identity now. But they are a little older—many in their forties or fifties. It's taken a long time for most of them to arrive at this more comfortable point in their lives.

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PHOTO: DALTON DEHART

Brenda Thomas founded Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous to offer transgendered people a safe place to be themselves and talk with other transgendered people. The group meets each Tuesday.

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Scouting For All National protest is Sunday

Local demonstration planned at BSA building at Bagby from 8-11 a.m.

by KAY DAYUS

Scouting For All's National Day of Protest against the Boy Scouts of America is still set for Sunday and so far, groups in 21 states have committed to protest the recent Supreme Court ruling allowing BSA to discriminate against open gays in its organization, says Scott Cozza, president of SFA.

Cozza and his son, Steven, will lead the main protest at the Circle Ten Council in Dallas. After the protest, Steven will lead a contingent to the BSA headquarters in Irving to request a meeting and to give BSA officials a copy of a 55,000-signature petition against the policy of discrimination.

Steven, an Eagle Scout, initiated this movement against gay discrimination in the BSA more than two years ago. Although the father and son team is not gay, they have taken on the fight against the BSA because they feel that anti-gay discrimination should not be allowed in an organization that is supposed to be open to all.

Houston's protest is slated from 8 to 11 a.m. outside the Houston Area Council of BSA at 1911 Bagby, says Bruce Reeves, who with Clarence Bagby, is spearheading this



PHOTO: TERRY SULLIVAN

A local protest against the recent Supreme Court ruling allowing the Boy Scouts of America to exclude gays from their ranks is planned for Sunday from 8-11 a.m. outside the BSA building at 1911 Bagby.

city's effort.

Bagby, a board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, says he has been working with Cozza to coordinate efforts in Texas.

"Because Scouting for All is a young California-based organization, we decided that NGLTF would help him in Texas as far as grass roots contacts," Bagby said. "We are planning in Houston a Scouting for All ecumenical service for non-discrimination at 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20 at the Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church."

The church (formerly MCCR) recently moved to new quarters at 2025 W. 11th Ave.

Rev. Carolyn Mobley, assistant pastor of RMCC, will conduct the service and State Rep. Debra Danburg is scheduled to speak.

Bagby says one of the reasons they are planning a church service is because the lion's share of sponsoring institutions for Boy Scout units are churches.

"Our approach, is to focus on the grass roots. And we believe that troop by troop, district by district, council by council, state

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Gay guide closes its Texas-wide doors

This Week in Texas ceases publication after 26 years

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

A venerable Friday tradition across Texas has come to end.

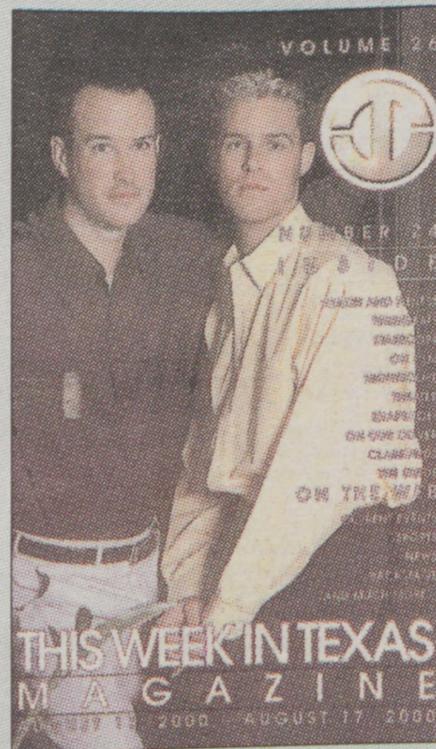
Saddled with debt and strapped with a dwindling advertising base, This Week in Texas has closed its doors after 26 years of publishing the only weekly gay statewide entertainment guide, according to publisher Alan Gellman.

And the closing of the TV Guide-sized magazine, best known for its racy pictures of male cover models, has left a vacuum that at least two gay publishing companies in Texas are looking to fill.

"This Week in Texas is gone," Gellman said Thursday. "It is dead in the water, and it is not coming back in its present form."

The final issue of the 22,000-circulation magazine appeared Aug. 10, nearly half-

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The Aug. 11 issue of This Week in Texas, above, turned out to be the last one for the 26-year-old publication.

PVA's list of liberal voters is growing

Group drawing closer to goal of 100,000 names

by ELLA TYLER

Progressive Voters in Action's efforts at the Pride Parade to add names to their data base were, "a mixed bag," Grant Martin, a founder of the group, said.

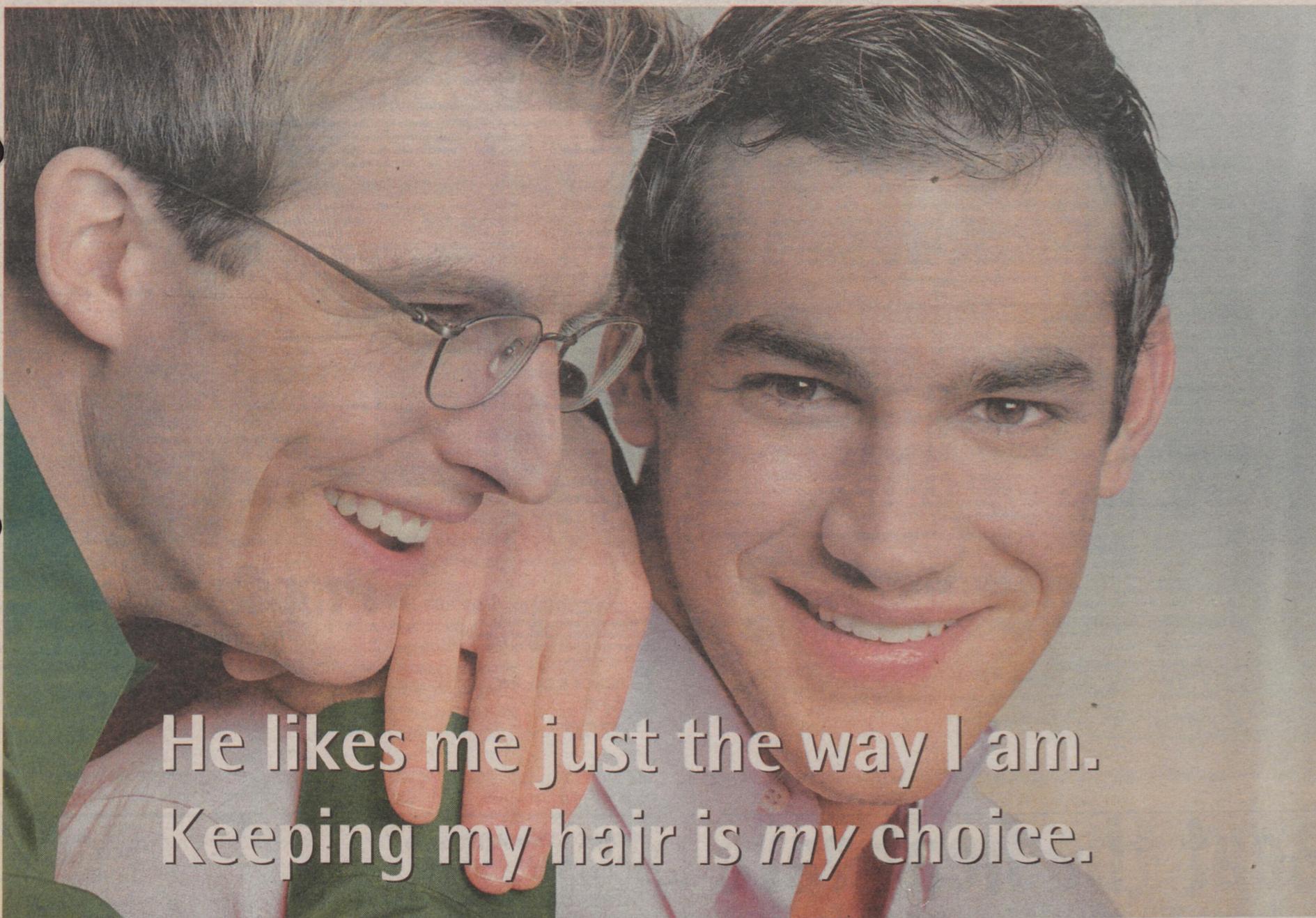
"We had 91 volunteers, which is great, but many of them were marching in the parade, so we were short on volunteers to collect names from the viewers."

The project netted 1,600 names at the parade, Martin said. "That is well short of our goal, but the great thing is that a third of the people who we signed up say they are willing to volunteer in the future. We didn't expect that."

Progressive Voters in Action is a group that organized in September 1999 to help Annise Parker carry out her goal of amassing a data base of progressive voters to be used in campaigns for progressive candidates.

"Each new candidate starts from scratch," Martin said. "We wanted a group

> Continued on Page 15



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*Based on vertex studies at 2 years of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss. There is not evidence that PROPECIA works for receding hairlines at the temples.

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Clinical tests showed PROPECIA was very well tolerated. Only a very small number of men had some sexual side effects, with each occurring in less than 2% of men. They included less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. When the men who had these side effects stopped taking PROPECIA, the side effects went away.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

PROPECIA is for men only. Women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA because of the risk that the active ingredient may cause a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Product Information for details.) Likewise, they should avoid handling the tablets when they're crushed or broken. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

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Take PROPECIA daily and you could see results in as little as three months. If you stop taking it, however, your results will gradually go away over twelve months. And if it hasn't worked in twelve months, it is unlikely to be of benefit.

For more information, call **1-888-806-3725** or visit our website at www.propecia.com/info.

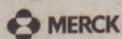
PROPECIA is available by prescription only, **so the best thing to do is talk to your doctor.**

Know the facts. Many men do, which is probably why over 30,000 prescriptions for PROPECIA are filled each week.**

Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

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PROPECIA™ is for use by **MEN ONLY**.

Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area. PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do **not** take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will **not** work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

Who should **NOT** take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:
 - must not use PROPECIA
 - should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

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health news

San Francisco health officials stand by higher HIV statistics

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—AIDS and public policy experts at an Aug. 9 supervisors' Finance Committee hearing said HIV infections have risen to "Sub-Saharan African" levels in San Francisco. Mitchell Katz, the city's public health director, estimated that new HIV infections rose from 498 in 1997 to 790 in 1999. The statistics, culled mostly from city clinics where people can take anonymous HIV tests, showed that the increase of 573 new infections among gay men more than doubled the 283 new infections in 1997. About 32 percent of gay men in the city are infected with HIV, according to the statistics. Katz said techniques established in the 1980s to curb the spread of the disease are no longer working. He said an end to unprotected sex, encouraging the gay community to know their HIV status, developing programs that emphasize prevention for HIV-positive people and expanding drug treatment were steps that should be taken to stop the spread of HIV. The statistics have come under fire from some AIDS activists who do not believe HIV causes AIDS, and said the statistics contribute to anti-gay prejudice.



Despite coming under fire from AIDS dissenters, San Francisco health chief Mitchell Katz said HIV infections are on the rise among gay men in the city.

Study identifies protein 'fat switch' that turns cells into flab

WASHINGTON—A protein that switches fat cell formation on and off may help explain some of the causes of both obesity and the increasing flabbiness that comes with age, Reuters reported. The protein stops cells from becoming fat cells when it is on. When it is absent, or produced at low levels, fat cells are born, a team at the University of Michigan reported. The protein "functions as a fat switch," said Sarah Ross, a graduate student who led the study. Ormond MacDougald, an assistant professor of physiology who oversaw the work, stressed that the finding is not a cure for obesity. "Obesity is a complicated problem and it's largely controlled by centers in the brain that control our appetite and also control whole body energy metabolism." The study will help scientists understand how obesity develops, and how cells function in the body.

Knowledge of HIV, other STDS sometimes slim in people over 50

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. (AP)—Sexually transmitted diseases are becoming a big problem for people over age 50, particularly those who haven't dated since they were in their early 20s. "Condom negotiating skills and how to say 'no' are not necessarily something they've ever had to deal with," said Tracey Adams, community outreach and promotions manager for the American Social Health Association's AIDS hot line. "There's a large perception that everybody already knows how HIV is transmitted or prevented, but it's important to remember that everyone doesn't already know. Anyone who is 20 probably has more HIV knowledge than anyone who is 50," Adams said. Seniors are the age group with the fastest-growing AIDS rates—up 22 percent between 1991 and 1996.

Texas court rules that pharmacists not obligated to warn customers

AUSTIN (AP)—A Texas court has overturned a \$1 million jury verdict against a Wal-Mart pharmacy, saying pharmacists are not obligated to warn patients about potentially dangerous side effects to prescription drugs. The 3rd District Court of Appeals ruled Aug. 10 in a case involving a pharmacy sued by a family who said their son died from an allergic reaction to a prescribed drug. Cameron Pettus, 12, was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. A doctor prescribed the drug desipramine, which carried a package insert from the manufacturer saying that it was not recommended for children. Two years later, the boy died from an allergic reaction. The family sued, claiming that pharmacists have a general duty to warn customers of potential adverse side effects. The appeals court found that although pharmacists may warn a patient, they are not required by Texas law to do so. Attorneys for the family plan to appeal to the Texas Supreme Court. Defendants other than Wal-Mart had already settled out of court.

Surgeon General says aggressive efforts would cut smoking rates

CHICAGO—U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher issued a report on smoking Aug. 9 that suggests smoking rates could be cut in half if proven anti-smoking campaigns were implemented, Reuters reported. "During the past four decades we have made unprecedented gains in preventing and controlling tobacco use," Satcher said in a statement released along with the report at the 11th World Conference on Tobacco or Health. "However, the sobering reality is that smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in our nation." One problem is that public anti-smoking campaigns are much more poorly funded than the tobacco industry's billion marketing efforts. Satcher's report advocates restrictions on tobacco advertising targeted at youth, a federal ban on all indoor smoking and more graphic cigarette labeling similar to those in place in Canada and Australia.

—From staff and wire reports

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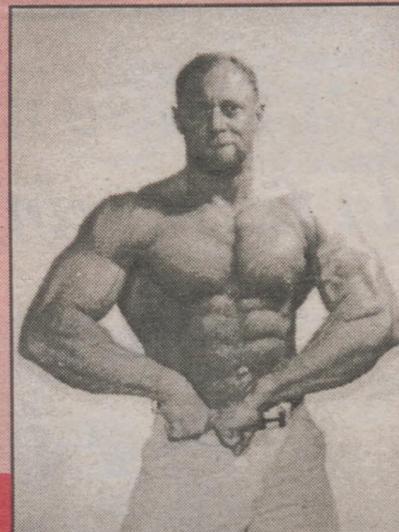


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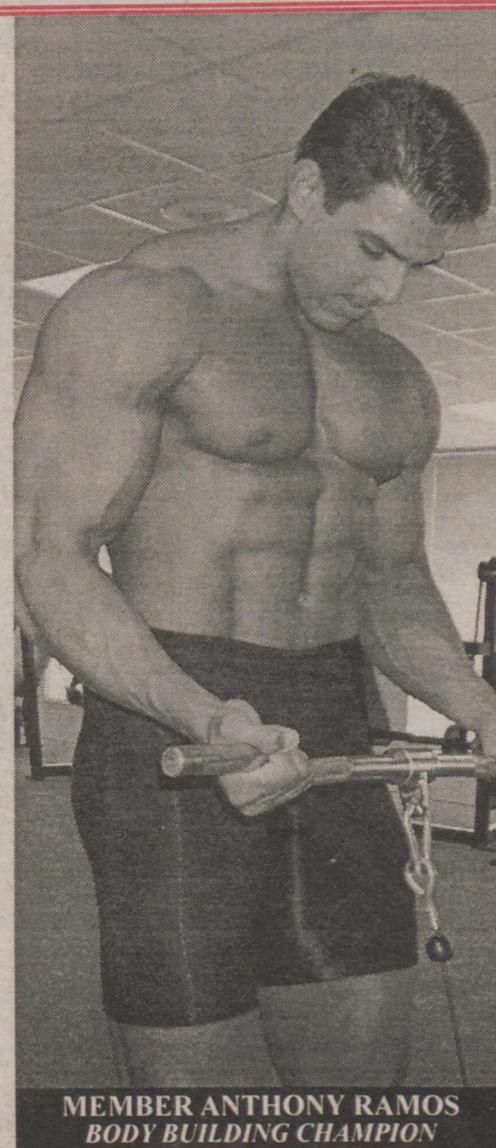
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around the south

A&M reverses decision to add sexual orientation to student policy

COLLEGE STATION—Gay and lesbian student rights groups at Texas A&M University are upset by school President Ray Bowen's decision late Wednesday to temporarily stop a planned revision in school policy to include language prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Early Wednesday, Bowen said a proposal he had approved earlier this year to rewrite the policy was in place for the 2000-2001 academic year. However, Bowen said the policy was no different from the one that has been in place and that officials had merely done some "wordsmithing" on the policy to better explain protections afforded to students, faculty and staff.

But late Wednesday, Bowen issued a short written statement reflecting a change of heart.

"The intent of some of the revisions in the 2000-2001 Student Rules has been misinterpreted, so I am deferring the implementation of the rewording of the rule until we have achieved a better campus understanding," he wrote.

Bowen's statement did not say when the revisions would be put into effect.

The 1999 Princeton Review Guide ranked TAMU as the third least gay-friendly campus nationwide.

Homophobic remark by Dallas police community liaison may prompt change

DALLAS—A heterosexual Dallas Police officer who served as one of the Police Department's gay and lesbian community liaisons made a homophobic comment two years ago during a sensitivity training session on Hispanic issues, the *Dallas Voice* reported. Officer Gabriel Grimes, who was appointed to the liaison position along with Sr. Cpl. Michelle Thomas, admitted that in 1997 he made the remark when asked about gay and lesbian issues. "I said something like 'God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve,'" Grimes said. "But that was two years ago. It has nothing at all to do with what I am doing today and how I have been dealing with the [gay] community. "My actions now are totally different."

Local activist John Wimberly, who revealed the comment to Police Chief Terrell Bolton, said that he was told the previous liaison, Sr. Cpl. Lynne Albright, will be reappointed to the position as soon as her six-month probationary period following a promotion she received is over. The report was not confirmed by the Dallas Police Department.

Anti-gay policy could cost Scouts \$90,000 from Broward County, Fla.

FORT LAUDERDALE—Broward County has become the third jurisdiction in Florida to consider cutting its aid to the Boy Scouts because of their ban on gay scouts and scoutmasters, the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel reported. Following the lead of two Broward County municipalities, Wilton Manors and Fort Lauderdale, Broward County Administrator Roger Desjarlais has launched an investigation into whether any charities doing business with the county discriminate. Last year, the Scouts received \$95,000 from the county. Desjarlais said he wants to know what groups receive county support, which are exempt from its anti-discrimination law and which are in compliance. The Boy Scouts signed a contract last year that requires the group comply with the law, county officials said in a memo to the commission. "If they are supposed to be in compliance and they are not, we will make a recommendation to the commission to withdraw funding," Desjarlais said. Two other charities, the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities, sent letters to the county saying that they prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Transsexual NASA physician steps into limelight



DALLAS—A physician and former Navy pilot who has served as part of the ground medical crew for NASA missions has revealed that she is a transgender lesbian preparing to undergo gender-reassignment surgery, the *Dallas Voice* reported. Dr. Christine McGinn, 31, has served twice as part of the team that would go into space in case of a medical emergency during a space mission. McGinn's process of coming out began in her home town of Philadelphia, where her therapy group was approached by MSNBC to create a documentary on transsexuals. McGinn felt a responsibility to come forward as the documentary went forward. "They were interviewing all these people and the people they were picking weren't really what I would call a good representation," she said. McGinn's surgery was scheduled for Aug. 9, and the documentary is slated to air on MSNBC this fall.

Wake Forest to offer health insurance to faculty same-sex partners

WINSTON-SALEM (AP)—Wake Forest University will join more than 125 other colleges across the country who offer health insurance and other benefits to same-sex partners of faculty and staff members. The move becomes effective Sept. 1. The benefits will not be extended to heterosexual domestic partners or to employees of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. "This is a case where it's very accurate to say that the university listened to the faculty concern," said Kevin Cox, a university spokesperson. Among other requirements, Wake Forest employees who wish to take advantage of the benefits must be able to prove that they have been living together in a relationship for at least a year. Cox said. "We have no idea what the number [of applicants] will be," said Cox, who also indicated that the university doesn't expect its insurance rates to increase following the decision.



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—From staff and wire reports

around the nation

D.C. settles suit over death of trans accident victim for \$1.75 million



Tyra Hunter was denied treatment after a 1995 auto accident when firefighters discovered she was a biological male.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The mother of a transgendered auto accident victim who died when firefighters mocked her after the accident agreed Aug. 10 to settle a lawsuit against the District of Columbia. "No one should suffer because they are different from other people," said Margie Hunter, who will receive \$1.75 million from the city. The settlement ends an ordeal that began when she learned her transgendered son was denied life-saving treatment as firefighters stood by and laughed. "This has never been about money, but about finding justice for my son," she said. Tyra Hunter, 24, a hairstylist, was wearing women's clothing when the vehicle she was riding in crashed in 1995. When firefighter Adrian Williams slit open Hunter's pants to begin rendering medical aid, he discovered Hunter was a biological male, and stopped medical treatment. The fire department has launched a diversity and sensitivity training program for its employees, which will be named for Hunter.

Mass. court rules lesbian couple can list both names on birth certificate

BOSTON (AP)—A state probate court has ruled that a lesbian couple—one of whom gave birth to a child with an egg donated by the other—can list both their names on a child's birth certificate under the category of "mother." Mary Jane Knoll and Christine Finn found out June 28 that they could put their names on the birth certificate of a baby boy delivered by Finn five days earlier. The judge's ruling found that because both women were connected to the child by either birth or biology and intend to parent the child, that they both can be listed as mothers. "This decision protects the best interests of the child by protecting the rights of the two legal parents," said the couple's attorney, Joyce Kauffman. The ruling precludes the need for the couple to go through a co-adoption procedure, which has been legal in Massachusetts since 1993. It also strengthens the rights of couples who use birth surrogates, who often fear that the surrogate will change her mind and attempt to claim custody of the child, Kauffman said.

Protection program for gays started out of lawsuit against Mo. school

PLEASANT HILL, Mo. (AP)—A school district will pay \$72,500 to settle a lawsuit filed by a former student who said he was sexually harassed by other students who thought he was gay. The Pleasant Hill Public School District also has agreed with the U.S. Justice Department and Attorney General Janet Reno, who had intervened in the case 11 days earlier, to establish a two-year program to prevent discrimination on the basis of sex or sexual orientation. The student, who is not gay, had alleged that other students taunted and beat him, and school officials did nothing to stop it. Justice Department officials said the two-year program appeared to be the first in the nation authorized to protect students based on their sexual orientation.

Gay jailers in two states win lawsuits over on-the-job harassment

LOS ANGELES—A jury has awarded \$385,000 to a former jailer in Glendale, Calif. who claimed she was discriminated against because she is a lesbian, the *Los Angeles Times* reported. On July 28, a jury awarded \$260,000 to Joni Grand, 43, for lost earnings and medical expenses and \$125,000 in damages after the city was found liable for intentional infliction of emotional distress. In her lawsuit, Grand said she had complained to her supervisor about sexual advances made toward her by three female employees and a jail supervisor. Grand said the harassment forced her to take leave from her job in 1996, and to resign a year later when the city would not transfer her to a new position outside the jail.

In Nassau County, New York, three legislators are calling for the resignation of Undersheriff Jerome Donahue, partly over concerns about an anti-gay climate at the jail, the *New York Blade News* reported. James Manning, a gay former corrections officer, won a \$1.5 million award July 18 after a jury found that Nassau County Sheriff's Department was "deliberately indifferent to the anti-gay harassment Manning had suffered."

Tucson officials want probe into leaks in alleged anti-gay slur case

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The Tucson City Council will ask the state attorney general to investigate a leak to the media about a confidential investigation into a city council member's former top aide. The council voted 5-2 to ask for an investigation into the public disclosure of a report on John Macko's alleged racist, anti-Semitic, sexist and anti-gay comments. Macko, who worked for Council member Shirley Scott, allegedly referred to two council members and two other city administrators as "the Mexican Mafia"; called a developer and his associates "inbred Jews"; and said members of the Pima County-Tucson Women's Commission were "dykes." Macko denied the accusations and said he intends to file a claim against the city. He had worked for Scott since December 1995. Last month,

Scott suspended Macko for 30 days without pay, but mounting demands for his firing culminated in his resignation last week.

—From staff and wire reports

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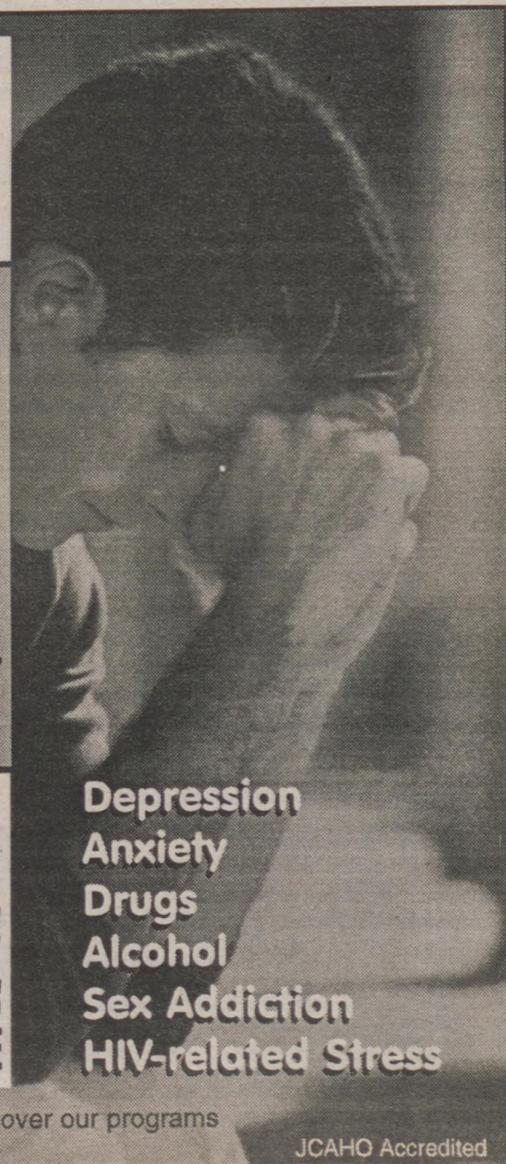
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EDITORIAL

The fire and brimstone of Joe Lieberman

by CHRIS CRAIN

Al Gore's decision to tap Joe Lieberman as his running mate has lit a fire under the sitting vice president's lethargic presidential campaign, and the historic nature of the selection has many voters reconsidering the Democratic ticket.

That's good news for gay civil rights, given the stark differences between the two major-party candidates on every policy issue important to the movement, but we should be careful lest we get burned in the would-be veep's fire and brimstone.

As the first Jewish candidate on a major party presidential ticket, Lieberman symbolizes the expanding participation of all Americans, regardless of difference, in the country's political life.

Or, as Rev. Jesse Jackson put it, "Each time a barrier falls for one person, the doors of opportunity open wider for every other American."

What makes the selection all the more remarkable is that Lieberman is not a member of the Reform Jewish faith, the largest branch of Judaism in this country, or even the Conservatives, the second-largest. He is an Orthodox Jew, a faith more closely aligned in biblical interpretation with Christian fundamentalists, though not to the extreme practiced in Ultra Orthodox Judaism.

And Lieberman has not chosen to make his religious faith a non-issue, the way John F. Kennedy did 40 years ago, when he emphasized that his Roman Catholic religious views would not guide White House policymaking.

Instead, partially because Lieberman's selection was intended to "inoculate" the top of the ticket from the moral lapses of the current president, the senator from Connecticut has made his faith, religion and morals a central tenet of the campaign.

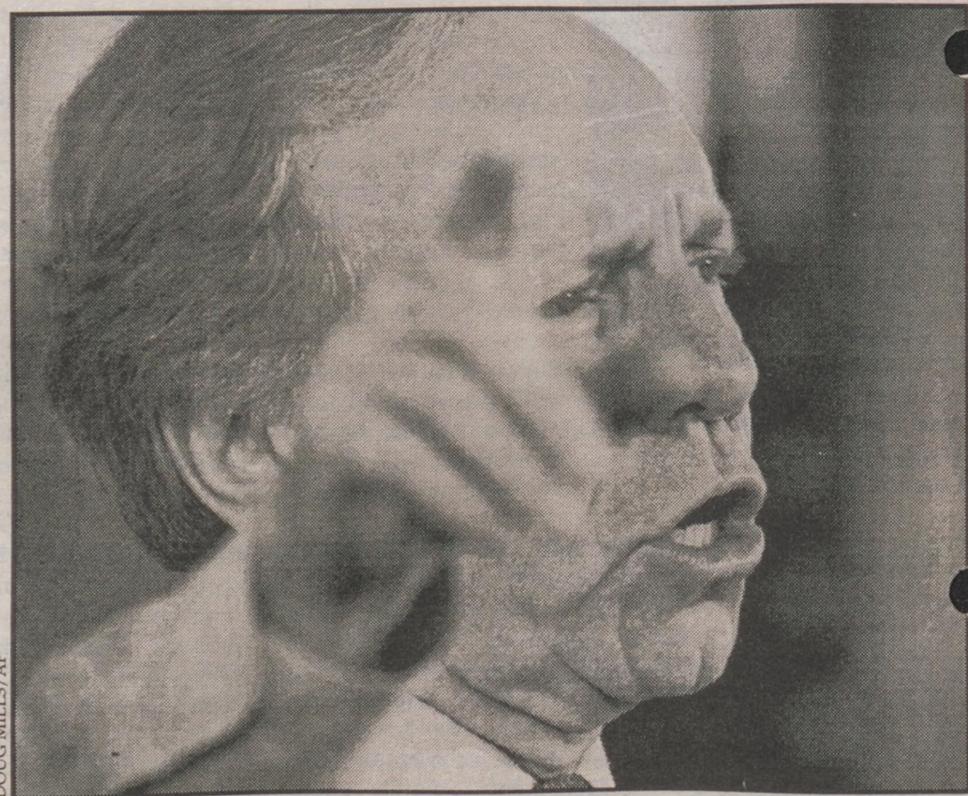
At a Nashville rally the day his selection was announced, Lieberman invoked his Maker no fewer than a dozen times, sometimes sounding more like a preacher (or rabbi) than political candidate.

He implored his audience "to give thanks to God and declare his name and make his acts known to the people. To be glad of spirit. To sing to God and to make music to God, and most of all, to give glory and gratitude to God from whom all blessings flow."

Lieberman's religious rhetoric wasn't limited to generalized thanksgiving, either. He declared that he would, along with "Al and Tipper" and his wife Hadassah, "help renew the moral center of this nation so that families can be stronger, children safer and parents empowered to pass on to their children their faith and their moral values."

He praised Tipper Gore's campaign back in the '80s to coerce the recording industry to place "parental warning labels" on music with violent or sexually charged lyrics.

"We're going to stand with parents across



For 30 years, the siren call of the gay movement has been that religion has no place in politics, so how do we respond to Joe Lieberman, a pro-gay candidate who invokes God and morality with every other breath in his stump speech?

this country who are working so hard to raise PG kids in an X-rated society," Lieberman said.

He even went so far as to praise Al Gore for "never waver[ing] in his role... as a servant of God Almighty."

If that kind of language had come from the pulpit of George W. Bush or Dick Cheney, the giant humming sound you'd hear would be fax machines at progressive groups across the country, including at our own gay rights organizations, warning that the GOP ticket was out to transform our democracy into a theocracy.

So why aren't we as worried about the imposition of religion into politics from the left?

One obvious reason is that Lieberman has reconciled his progressive policy positions with Orthodox Jewish law, including on such hot-button issues as abortion and gay rights. Al Gore, a Methodist who attended divinity school at Vanderbilt University, has presumably done the same.

But for 30 years, the siren call of the gay rights movement has been that privately-held religious beliefs have no place in politics, and certainly no place in lawmaking. To do so only enshrines the majority's religious faith, often at the expense of the minority's basic civil rights.

Therein lies the challenge of Joe Lieberman's fire and brimstone. If he finds his faith supportive of embracing lesbians and gay men into full participation in American life, then he could be a powerful witness for our movement, challenging the traditional

assumptions about which way "family values" cut.

Gays have always been somewhat resistant to answering religious conservatives on their own terms, especially in the political arena. With resounding support from someone like Lieberman, we could open a new front in the Culture Wars.

But once that battle is joined, and at the highest levels of government, how will a Gore/Lieberman administration oppose those who say their majority Christian belief, which holds that homosexuality is sinful, justifies sodomy laws and withholding legal recognition from gay couples?

If our political debates turn on questions of biblical interpretation, then haven't the conservative Christians (and Jews) succeeded in transforming our democracy into a theocracy?

The introduction of Joe Lieberman on the national political stage has already changed irrevocably the tired old choices facing the American public for more than two centuries.

We should welcome his fresh challenge to the right wing's claim to God's political endorsement, but we should also be wary of his challenge to progressive orthodoxy about the separation of church (or synagogue, in this case) and state.

Chris Crain is the editorial director of Window Media, LLC, which publishes this paper and the Southern Voice.



THE VIEW FROM HERE

Eight years later, are gays better off?

by CINDY ABEL

It was 95 degrees last week and about to get hotter. "Where were you eight years ago?" asked the man who would be president, leaning into the podium.

"Is your life better today than it was then?" he continued passionately, the crowd following him to the inevitable altar call.

"Then let's stay the course we set back then and make it better for everyone!"

The last few words could barely be heard over the roar of applause and "amens," signs and hands swaying in the air. "Al Gore's doin' church," said a lady in her Sunday best.

Standing there, I relived the answers to his questions. Eight years ago, I joined a gay organization for the first time ever. I joined the Metropolitan Business Association in Orlando, Fla., and publicized their meetings—provided I didn't have to put my name on the press release.

I used to park behind the gay community center so no one would see my car sitting under the rainbow flag they proudly displayed out front.

Eight years ago, I voted for a man I wasn't too sure about, but who at least was married to a woman with chutzpah and who dared speak our name. Gay.

Lesbian. At a time when I hated the "L" word. ("Lesbian," not "liberal").

Watching the inauguration almost eight years ago, I started thinking change was possible. Like so many, I was mesmerized by this skilled speaker who articulated a plan to move us—all of us—forward.

As I sat alone in my bedroom, watching as Bill and Hillary Clinton waved to the cheering crowds lining the streets of Washington, D.C., tears streamed down my face. Perhaps it really was possible, this world of which he spoke, about which some of us had never dared dream.

The next few months and then years would bring a whirlwind of change, personally and professionally. Coming "all the way out" included managing a couple of gay political organizations and then returning to run my own business.

Now, eight years later, we've gone from working just to obtain a place at the table to being invited, and in some situations encouraged, to speak openly. More and more, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is not enough.

It wasn't enough last month when Georgia Gov. Roy Barnes made a historic visit to the Atlanta Executive Network, a gay business organization, and didn't address gay-related topics until he took questions from the audience. Even then, he



Eight years ago, Bill Clinton opened the door for inclusion of gay rights in mainstream politics. Are we better off for it?

showed no vision, no real plan for inclusion.

It is not enough for George W. Bush to refrain from anti-gay comments and for his running mate's lesbian daughter, Mary Cheney, to attend the convention, seated between her sister and her brother-in-law, but with her own partner rendered invisible.

But as we persist in claiming our rightful places, we must also remember the change that has occurred. Most Americans believe we should have at least the most

basic of civil rights.

The number of openly gay and lesbian elected officials has tripled to 156 in the past nine years. Log Cabin Republicans have found a presidential candidate who will accept—and keep—their contributions.

How did we get here? In part, by electing a president who dared take the first steps. As he survived the fallout, others followed his example.

Did he fall short of expectations? Absolutely. But he raised the bar regarding what was acceptable and what was enough.

Who then is our best chance to continue openly including us, as we seek to move forward? The vice-presidential candidate and his wife who can't accept that their daughter is openly gay or the vice president and his wife who addressed the national dinner of the country's largest gay and lesbian organization?

This election counts: If we gamble on Bush and his father's advisors, at best we start over. If we continue with Gore, we keep moving forward.

Let's stay the course.

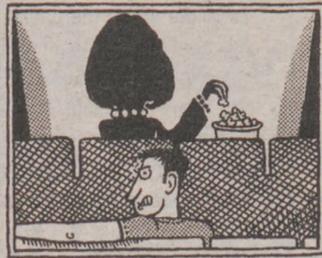
Cindy Abel is a communications and political consultant. She may be reached at clabel@realworld-usa.com.

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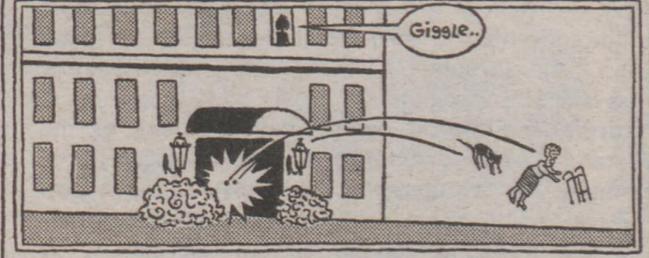
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Has leopardskin cat suit & masseuse named Jorge, both of which you covet.



Pent your parents those undercover surveillance photos of you in drag a few Halloweens ago...



Gay delegates, speakers prominent at DNC

> Continued from Page 1

matters" does "make a statement to the Republican party," Kolbe told ABC News after his speech.

The Democratic convention offered a far different scene Tuesday, when Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, became the first leader of a national gay rights group to address a convention, according to HRC.

Birch's speech, also delivered during a coveted prime-time slot, began with a litany of hate crime victims, including slain gay college student Matthew Shepard.

She stressed the need for gay-inclusive hate crimes legislation, employment non-discrimination legislation, protection for gay parents who fear losing their children, curing HIV, and allowing gays to serve openly in the military.

Birch praised Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic presidential candidate, and his vice presidential running mate, Sen. Joe Lieberman.

She then took clear aim at the Republican ticket of George W. Bush/Dick Cheney.

"The other party's vision for America excludes as many as it includes," Birch said. "To be blunt, the Republican platform remains shameful."

"It is not enough to love your own child," Birch continued, referring to the Republicans' acceptance of Cheney's lesbian daughter, but refusal to support gay rights issues. "Leaders must love all children and safeguard the family of America."

The Democratic platform, officially accepted Tuesday at the convention, includes support for gays serving openly in the military, banning anti-gay job discrimination, hate crimes laws and "equitable benefits" for gay families.

The Republican platform opposes each of these issues, expressly stating that "we do not believe sexual preference should be given special legal protection or standing in law."

Clinton address includes ENDA

While Birch's address put gay issues on center stage Tuesday, inclusion of gay speakers and gay issues began when the convention opened Monday—and also merited a mention from President Clinton during his 40-minute address later in the evening.

Andrew Tobias, the openly gay treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, addressed delegates from the podium Monday afternoon. And when California Gov. Gray Davis took the stage to officially welcome the convention, he specifically included gay men and lesbians.

"In California and throughout America, we must continue to expand opportunities for all people—blacks, Latinos, Asians, Anglos, men, women, straights and gays, Christians, Jews and Muslims," Davis said.

Monday night's three-hour prime-time slot opened at 8 p.m. with a flag presentation by the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts.

While the Boy Scouts have fought to exclude gays from their ranks, they were followed on stage by lesbian rocker Melissa Etheridge, who performed "America the Beautiful."

A film tribute and valedictory speech from President Clinton was the highlight of the evening. While Clinton did not say the words "gay" or "lesbian," he said that Democrats are "fighting for the employment nondiscrimination legislation"—a reference to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill to ban job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.



Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch addressed the convention during prime-time Tuesday, becoming the first leader of a national gay rights group to do so.

The president also included support for "opposing all forms of bigotry from church burnings to racial profiling to murderous hate crimes" and fighting "the deadly spread of AIDS" in his speech.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, who preceded her husband on the podium, did not specifically address gay issues in her speech, which focused mainly on children's issues and health care.

But the First Lady and New York Senate candidate did make a surprise address to the convention's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus earlier in the day, stressing the need to elect Gore and Lieberman to continue progress on gay rights.

"In this election, everything is at stake," she said. "We are going to either take a step forward or we're going to make a U-turn and go back to the days of deficits, discrimination and derision."

More gay delegates, speakers

Recognized for the first time as an official DNC caucus on equal footing with groups like organized labor and racial minorities, a total of 212 openly gay delegates are attending this Democratic convention, up from 140 at the 1996 Democratic convention, and compared to less than 20 at this year's Republican convention.

According to the DNC, gays make up four percent of all delegates. They represent 30 states, including Houston's Sue Lovell, nine attendees from Florida, six from Georgia, two from Louisiana and one, the first ever, from Alabama.

Lovell said with 212 gay delegates at the convention, homosexuality is "almost like a non-issue."

"We've had just overwhelming acceptance. We're included in everything that goes on. We're included in every caucus and every element [of the convention]," Lovell told the *Houston Voice* on Wednesday. "The fact that Lieberman came today and spoke to the gay and lesbian caucus was history-making."



Sue Lovell

Democratic, Republican platforms side by side

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A look at how the Democratic platform approved at the party's convention in Los Angeles and the Republican Party platform approved in Philadelphia deal with some issues. The platforms are not binding on the parties' candidates.

ABORTION RIGHTS:

Democrats: "The Democratic Party stands behind the right of every woman to choose, consistent with Roe vs. Wade, and regardless of ability to pay."

Republicans: "The unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed."

BUDGET:

Democrats: Balance budget every year, barring national emergency, and pay off publicly held national debt by 2012.

Republicans: Amend Constitution to require balanced budgets. Reduce national debt.

CRIME:

Democrats: Notes Al Gore's support for death penalty and for constitutional amendment on rights of crime victims.

Republicans: Support for death penalty and constitutional amendment for crime victims.

DEFENSE:

Democrats: Develop technology for a "limited" national missile defense.

Republicans: Deploy "robust" national missile defense as soon as possible.

ENVIRONMENT:

Democrats: Tax credits for state and local bonds to preserve open spaces, create parks, improve water quality. No oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or coastal California or Florida. Ratify Kyoto protocols on global warming.

Republicans: Expand tax credits for renewable energy and provide tax break for residential solar power. Allow oil exploration in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Environmental problems "at times" require "federal intervention." Preserve "high priority" wilderness and wetlands, such as Everglades. Kyoto protocols "ineffective and unfair."

GAY RIGHTS:

Democrats: No position on gays in the military. Same-sex unions: "We support the full inclusion of gay and lesbian families in the life of the nation. This would include an equitable alignment of benefits."

Republicans: "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service." Same-sex unions: "We support the traditional definition of 'marriage' as the legal union of one man and one woman, and we believe that federal judges and bureaucrats should not force states to recognize other living arrangements as marriages."

HEALTH CARE:

Democrats: Guarantee affordable health care for all children, expand Medicaid to help people move from welfare to work, add Medicare drug benefit, let people aged 55 to 65 buy into Medicare.

Republicans: Make coverage more affordable through tax breaks, increased competition, letting small companies band together to buy group insurance. More federal spending on community health centers in poor communities. Affordable prescription drugs for elderly.

TAXES:

Democrats: Targeted tax breaks for college saving, child and elderly care, job training.

Republicans: Broad tax cuts, with fewer income tax brackets and lower rates across the board.

PHOTO: DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Transgender: The hidden community

➤ Continued from Page 1

HCDA sees few that are in transition from female to male. Apparently, one or two come to a meeting now and then. They feel that women can masquerade as a man easier than the other way around.

For the casual visitor to a HCDA meeting, one not accustomed to being in the company of transsexuals, it can be a very different experience. But it can also be an enlightening experience. It is odd to look around the room and see people in varying stages of their metamorphosis from male to female. Some are taking hormones; some are not. Not many have had the "operation," because it's so expensive. And although they smile and laugh, there is an underlying sadness in them, for theirs can often be a lonely world.

A glance around the room at a recent meeting, revealed that most wore makeup, wigs, dresses and sported breasts. A couple are eager to say they are not wearing wigs. One or two are dressed as men, but with a definite feminine flair.

When they talk, the listener soon realizes these are complex people beneath the makeup and the smile.

Take Stephanie Stout for instance. When "she" stands up, she stretches to six-foot-three. She has long light brown hair (her own, she says), and she's fully made up. Her nails are very long and painted a deep red. She's wearing a long flowery skirt, a tight top that emphasizes her breasts, and feminine sandals. She seems very unselfconscious.

Stout, 47 (more or less, she says), is a veteran, recently retiring from the Army after spending almost 30 years in uniform. Why would a transsexual join the Army?

"I always wanted to be a woman, but I wanted to be a warrior too," she says with a smile. She thought wanting to be a woman would go away, but it didn't. "It was twenty-some years before I knew it was permanent."

Stout plans a legal name change to Stephanie, but until then has to dress like a man for work. "I have to dress in pants and a blouse or shirt for work." Sometimes her attire is more feminine, sometimes more masculine. "It all depends on which side of the closet I pull them out of," she says.

Stout has felt no discrimination in the gay and lesbian world, but she usually associates with them only at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church where the atmosphere is very accepting. She says she gets stares in the street from heterosexuals, but just smiles in return.

It seems that most transsexuals have known from an early age about their propensity to at least dress like a woman. Brenda Thomas, founder of HCDA, says she has always known. "For 54 years; from the time I was five or six years old, it's been there always. But for the last 15 years, very much in the forefront," she says with a hearty laugh.

Married twice, Thomas has five children. Thomas's first wife divorced her when she found out her secret and left with their four boys. She refuses to let Thomas see them.



Brenda Thomas

Thomas is still married to her second wife and they have a 21-year-old daughter, who apparently accepts Thomas as a "she." But the future of the marriage is not quite clear. "We have a pretty good relationship going. We live together and are talking about the options we have. Whether to stay married or whether to get divorced and live in the same house," says Thomas. What's important, she says, is that they are friends.

What is certain for Thomas is that she knows who she is and she cares about the transgendered society.

"I've had the opportunity to bring this issue out around town. And I do it as Brenda. There's no doubt, I'm Brenda in my head," she says emphatically.

Stout and Thomas all believe they are women in their heads even though their bodies do not agree. A little harder to understand

is Karen. He prefers not to use his last name because he says he is happily married with two children.

Karen, 41, loves to dress as a woman and can remember doing so since the age of four. Often, he makes the change from male to female several times a day. "Today, I was at work in guy-mode, switched to Karen to see my therapist, changed back to guy-mode for work, and changed to Karen again to come to the meeting."

But isn't this totally confusing? "Sometimes," he says. "For instance, when I use the restroom, I have to stop and think 'who am I?'"

But it is not all fun for cross-dressers or transsexuals. Many suffer from bouts of depression and loneliness, and are shunned by family and friends. Stout suffered from depression.

"It was because of the isolation," she says. That's why she goes to the meetings at HCDA. "I need to touch base with others like me."

Like many of her ilk, Stout likes women sexually. So do Thomas, Nelson and Karen. Some, however, prefer men. And, Stout says she has changed her definition of a woman to include other transgendered women, thinking perhaps it's safer.

Next week, part three in this four-part series will address issues faced by bisexuals.

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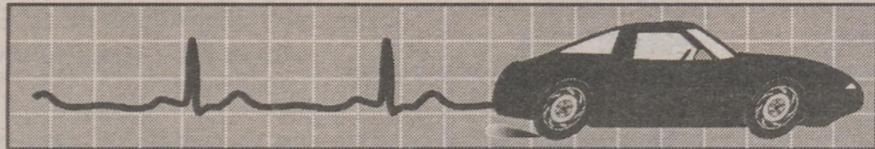
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time out

Comets need focus and will to garner fourth championship

Editor's note: The following is a new monthly column exploring sports of interest to the gay community. Got an idea for a future column topic? E-mail your suggestions to editor@houstonvoice.com.

by D.L. MURPHY

The WNBA Conference Finals are underway and it's just a few short days to the 2000 WNBA Championship series. However, once the Western Conference Finals are over, the Championship will already be won.

Forget the Eastern Conference. It doesn't matter who comes out of the East; they are not going to be the champions. Who won in the first round series? Who cares? Let's look at the best the East had to offer.

The New York Liberty, first place team in the Eastern Conference, has the same record as the fourth place team in the Western Conference. And, that fourth place team (the Monarchs) beat New York the one time they met this year. The Eastern Conference even managed to send a team with a losing record to the playoffs. Again, forget the East. It's just not going to happen. Sorry New York, looks like once again you are going to be a bridesmaid.

The Houston Comets and the LA Sparks are playing for the Western Conference Championship, and most likely, the WNBA Championship. What a series this is going to be. LA has home court advantage.

However, the WNBA playoff format gives the lower-rated team just that little bit of a break Houston needs. Win one game at home, play one legendary game away, and boom—you've won the series. And we've all seen Houston play legendary games, remember Game 2 of the Houston-Phoenix series?

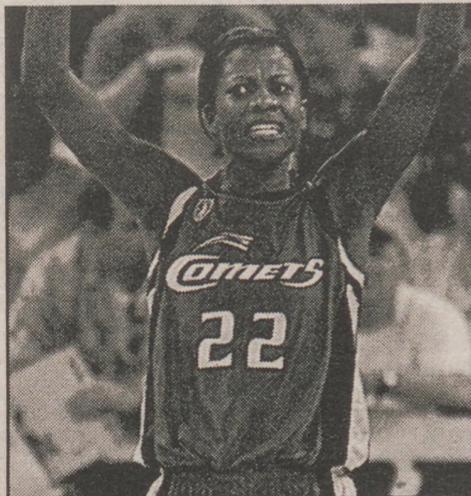
Houston can beat LA. I don't care that LA beat us all three times we met this year, let me repeat, Houston can beat LA. We beat them for the Western Conference Championship last year, and we can beat them for the Western Conference Championship this year. And we will do it by remembering what we know.

LA has a solid eight-player rotation. Someone having an off game? No problem, their depth allows substitution to keep those with hot hands and strong defense on the floor. LA's starting lineup is awesome.

Lisa Leslie is one of the best players in the world, and sister, has she been playing well lately. Temeka Dixon, watch out, not only is she a very good defender, she can score big if you let down at all. DeLisha Milton has been strong since the all star break, watch out for her. Mwadi Mabika is strong both offensively and defensively.

Houston's single largest problem this year is their inability to play the second half of a game as well as they do the first. What's this about? I think a lack of concentration, a lack of focus, a lack of will and a lack of a good center.

The lack of concentration and focus should be taken care of by experience. Of our starting five (Janeth Arcain, Cynthia Cooper, Tiffany Johnson, Sheryl Swoopes and Tina



Houston Comets guard Sheryl Swoopes celebrates after scoring the winning basket against the Sacramento Monarchs in the second half of game one of a Western Conference WNBA playoff game in Sacramento, Calif., Aug. 12.

Thompson), four have three rings. And, if Van Chancellor starts Tammy Jackson, all five starting players have three rings. They've been there, they know what to expect, and they know what they have to do.

The lack of will should have been resolved by now. Houston Comets players know the only way to beat LA is to show up for both halves of the game. And finally, finally, they have played full out for two halves, allowing them to come from behind and win both games of the Houston/Sacramento series.

As for the lack of a starting center, Tammy Jackson may very well be Houston's not-so-secret weapon. Jackson is in many ways the most remarkable of the original five still on the team. Despite being one of the oldest players in the league, despite bad knees that limit her playing time, she is always in the game, even when she is on the bench. She paces the sidelines, totally involved in the game, cheering her teammates on. When she's on the floor, she is the crafty old veteran who knows all the tricks of her trade.

And let's not forget, she gives Lisa Leslie fits. Want to get Leslie into foul trouble, just attack her a little bit. No one has done this as well as Jackson. And Leslie in foul trouble means a frustrated LA offense. Leslie in foul trouble means Leslie on the bench. Yes, LA has a deep bench, but no one can replace LA Number 9.

My starting lineup: Thompson, the fully realized future of our franchise. Arcain, a bona fide basketball goddess in two countries. Cooper, a true legend in our time. Sheryl Swoopes, the best all around player in the world. Jackson, our "X-Factor."

So Coach Chancellor, remind our women of what they know. Sit Tiffany Johnson on the bench and just flat out sit Monica Lamb down. Start Jackson against LA, let her do her stuff, and let the team play to its full potential.

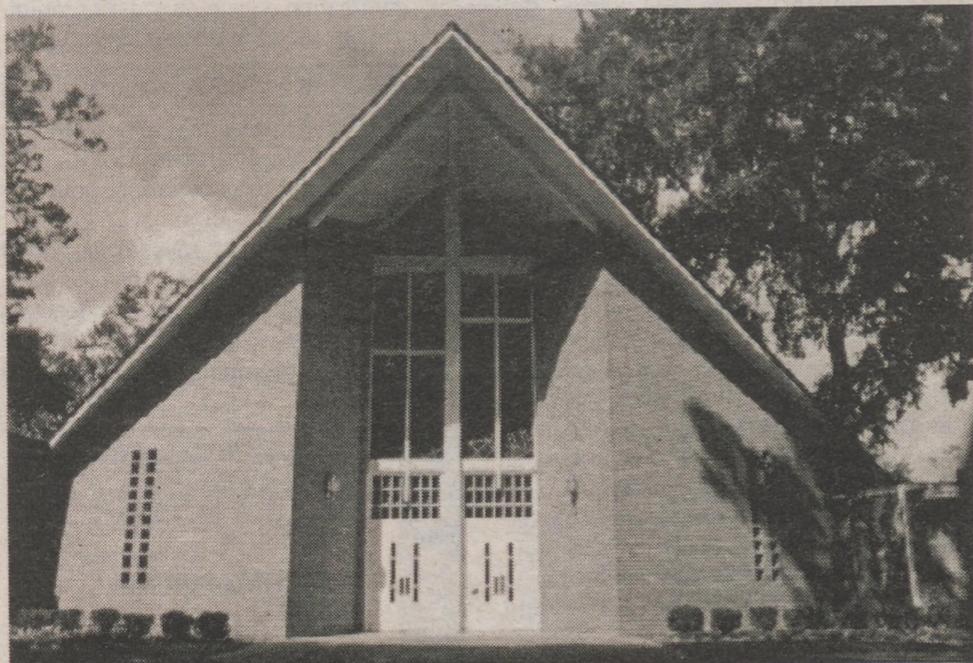
Murphy is one of the many sports fans lurking in the gay community. She may be reached at possumproducts@cs.com.

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Ecumenical service at RMCC to be part of Scout protest

> Continued from Page 2

by state, we're going to transform scouting into an organization that doesn't discriminate against anybody," said Bagby.

Bagby, a former Boy Scout, stresses that it's important not to lose sight of the fact that the Boy Scouts is a "great organization." But, he adds, "we need to hold them accountable, especially where they're publicly supported. But, the bottom line is, it is a private organization; it is their organization."

The goal of the protest, says Bagby, "is to encourage troops to enact non-discrimination policies and if they have them already, to include sexual identity. And, hopefully, at one point in the near future, the national office in Irving will turn around and say, 'Oh my God, 50 percent of the troops have non-discrimination policies that include sexual identity. I guess we need to look at this and maybe change our outlook.'"

Bagby thinks the sought-after change will come about eventually. "That's how change comes about in this country; one person at a time. You can change the world one person at a time."

Cozza says they have had no reaction from the BSA about the protest or about the issue. "The BSA continue to keep their head

in the sand. They do not acknowledge SFA," he said.

However, according to recent news reports, some BSA councils are not toeing the official BSA line. To date, five Massachusetts Bay councils have complied with the United Ways anti-discrimination policies in order to continue to receive funding.

In a written statement, the United Way has said they would meet with Boy Scout leaders to ensure its anti-discrimination policy is enforced.

"The BSA," says Cozza, "don't allow themselves to feel the pain. We've allowed ourselves to feel that pain." And, he says, the fight will not stop. "This is just the beginning for human rights in America."



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INFO

Publications posed to fill void left by This Week in Texas

> Continued from Page 2

way through its 26th year of publication.

Some 13 full-time employees, located mostly in two offices in Dallas and Houston, will lose their jobs due to TWT's closing.

Gellman attributed the magazine's demise to his poor health, which has kept him from closely overseeing the publication's editorial and financial operations for more than two years and led to "foolish mistakes," he said.

That also kept him from embracing the Internet and infusing his operations with new technology, Gellman said.

"Our staff meant well and were good at what they did, but they had so many extra duties out on them. There was nobody steering that bus," he said.

At least two gay weekly newspaper companies with a presence in Texas are making plans to fill the void left by TWT's closing.

Robert Moore, publisher of *Dallas Voice*, said his company is "exploring its options" in the wake of TWT's closing, but wouldn't provide more details.

"A quality gay and lesbian statewide entertainment guide is definitely a viable publication in this state," Moore said.

William Waybourn, president of Atlanta-based Window Media, said the

company's *Eclipse*, a weekly gay nightlife guide for the Deep South, will immediately expand its presence from Houston, New Orleans and Atlanta to include Dallas.

In its Aug. 25 issue, the magazine will include a Dallas section and expand into Austin and other cities across Texas in the coming weeks, Waybourn said.

"We've been working on the expansion of *Eclipse* for some time," Waybourn said. "Texas was a logical next step for us. We are delighted we can move up that timetable and expand to Dallas."

Window Media also operates the *Houston Voice* and the *Southern Voice*, which covers Atlanta, New Orleans and the cities and states in between.

Started in 1975 as an eight-page newsletter reproduced on a copy machine, *This Week in Texas* helped to build a sense of a gay community in the late 1970s and early '80s and served as a symbol of the domination of gay life by bars and clubs, said Ray Hill, a longtime Houston gay civil rights activist.

"Prior to *This Week in Texas*, the term 'gay community' meant that part of town were the bars are."

"It came along and we came to build a sense of community. We could not have done that if it weren't for *This Week in Texas*," Hill said.

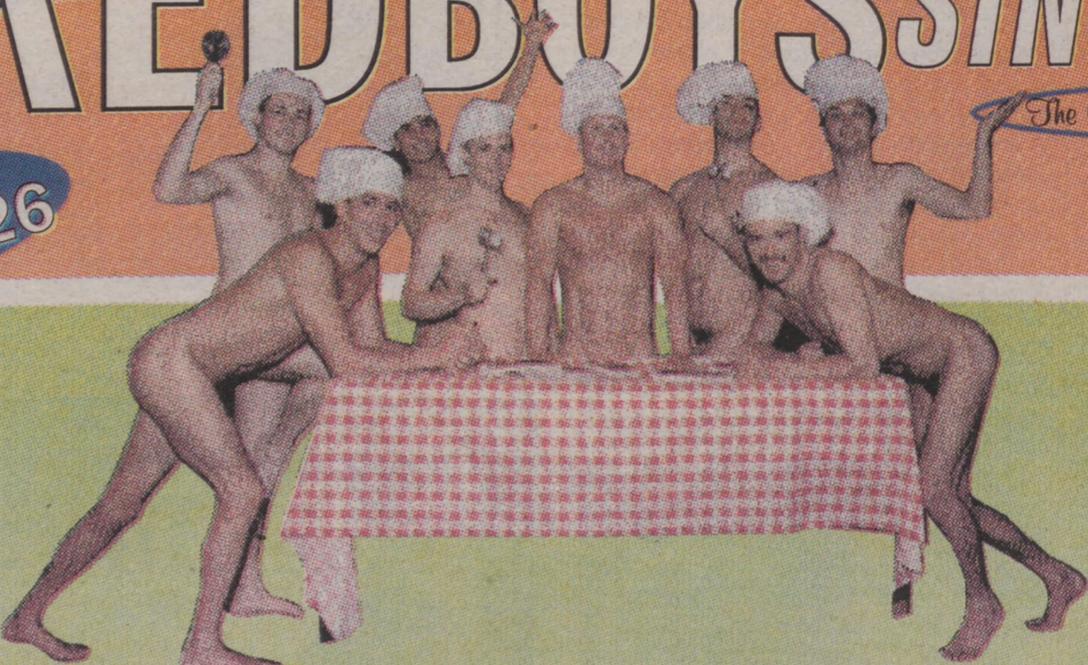
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photo by dalton dehart

PVA adding to database of progressive Houston voters

> Continued from Page 2

that was independent of any campaign and that organizes year round.

"By 2003, we want to have the names of 100,000 voters who can be counted on to vote for progressive candidates and issues."

PVA's first project is to help re-elect State Rep. Ken Yarbrough, a Democrat. "We picked this race because it's small and we're small and we can make a real difference here," Martin said. "In 1996, he won by only 600 votes and in 1998 he won by about 200. He votes right on our issues and is a target of the Republicans."

The district, Martin says, "is interesting. It is multi-racial, with significant Black, Latino, and Anglo populations and an increasing gay and lesbian population in areas like Garden Oaks, Oak Forest, Timbergrove and Lazy Brook. It is ideologically split, and is not quite suburbia."

"Our volunteers are working indoors now, making phone calls into the district," Martin said. "Our goal is to make 9,000 phone calls, and add 900 names to the list. It's a conservative part of North West Houston."

In September, volunteers will begin block walking again, and Martin will be with them. He clearly enjoys the personal contact with voters.

"We talk about including gays and lesbians in hate crimes legislation, allowing

We talk about including gays and lesbians in hate crimes legislation, allowing gays and lesbians to adopt, and choice.

It is interesting to hear what people say.

—Grant Martin,
PVA co-founder

gays and lesbians to adopt, and choice. It is interesting to hear what people say. One woman who I was with about gay adoption said 'Well, I don't think gays couldn't screw up any more than regular parents.'

Martin, who does a lot of campaign training for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, believes personal contact with voters is important.

"The consensus among the people I meet with the Task Force is that we need to take the message to the streets."

PVA volunteers will be adding names to the list at Empower 2000 in October and on election day, PVA volunteers will be at polling places, adding new names to the list. Call 713-521-7161 for more information.

HGLPC targets young voters

Group wants twenty-somethings to register

by ELLA TYLER

If you're between the ages of 20 and 30, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus wants you to register and vote.

"This age group isn't voting," said Deborah Rogers, chair of the group's voter registration project. "They feel disenfranchised because of the Electoral College, and think that since it's probable Bush will carry Texas, their vote doesn't matter. They don't understand the power of their vote at the local level."

"When we elect judges and legislators and members of congress, the power we bring to shape our lives is enormous," Rogers said. "At the local level, we can effect real change and take power back."

"Furthermore, what many people don't realize is that the leaders of the religious right began at the local level, on school boards and city councils. They made names for themselves at the local level and then stepped into national leadership."

Another message that Rogers wants to deliver is "people need to be sure that they are registered at their current

address. If you moved and your 2000 voter registration card was returned, you have been dropped from the list," she explained. "We're registering voters at places like Chances, InBetween, the Barn, JR's, numerous coffee houses and bookstores, retail centers and community outposts. We're doing block walking in certain areas, as well."

Rogers is looking for volunteers to help register voters. Her e-mail plea for volunteers promises "I CAN SHOW WOMEN A GOOD TIME" and she is clearly enthusiastic about the work.

"It's a wonderful way to get in touch, and not at all boring," she said. "If someone is nervous, they can go with me or work with someone else."

Rogers said a short orientation is all the training anyone needs. She's so certain that volunteers will enjoy the work that she makes a guarantee.

"All I'm asking is that you just try it once. If it wasn't as fulfilling as you expected, your next cup of coffee—good coffee—is on me. That's how strongly I feel about it."

The deadline for registering to vote for the November election is Oct. 7.

INFO

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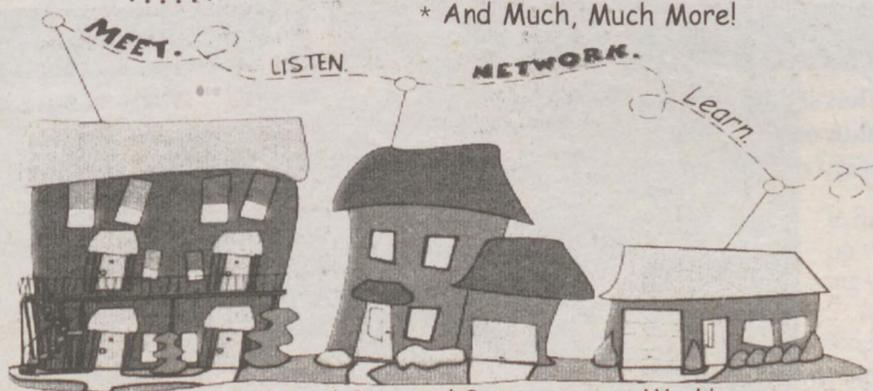
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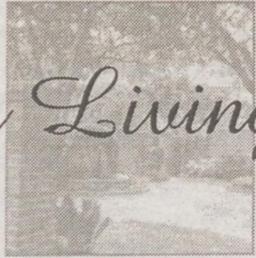
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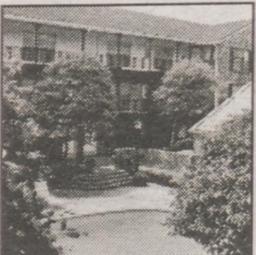
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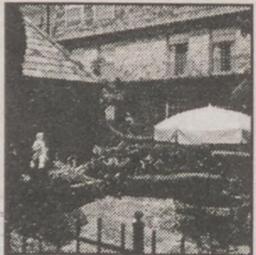
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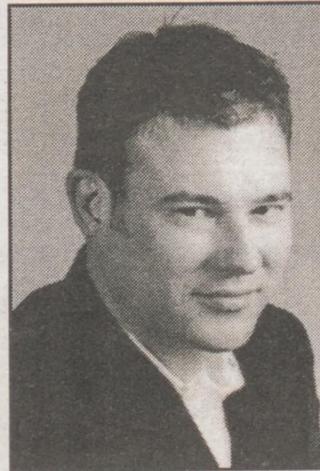


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Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time

HOUSTON VOICE • AUGUST 18, 2000

Waters-hed moments

Filmmaker John Waters returns to form with 'Cecil B. Demented'

by EARL DITTMAN

Director, writer and all-around gay pop icon John Waters says he realizes why critics and fans who have already seen the brilliantly outrageous "Cecil B. Demented" (his latest exercise in obliterating the boundaries of good taste in contemporary cinema) are calling it a return to his celluloid roots.

But while they may feel "Cecil B. Demented" is a film that has more in common with early, "underground"

Waters' classics like "Pink Flamingos" and "Multiple Maniacs" than latter-day, more "mainstream" creations such as "Serial Mom" and

"Pecker," Waters explains that any real differences are purely cosmetic.

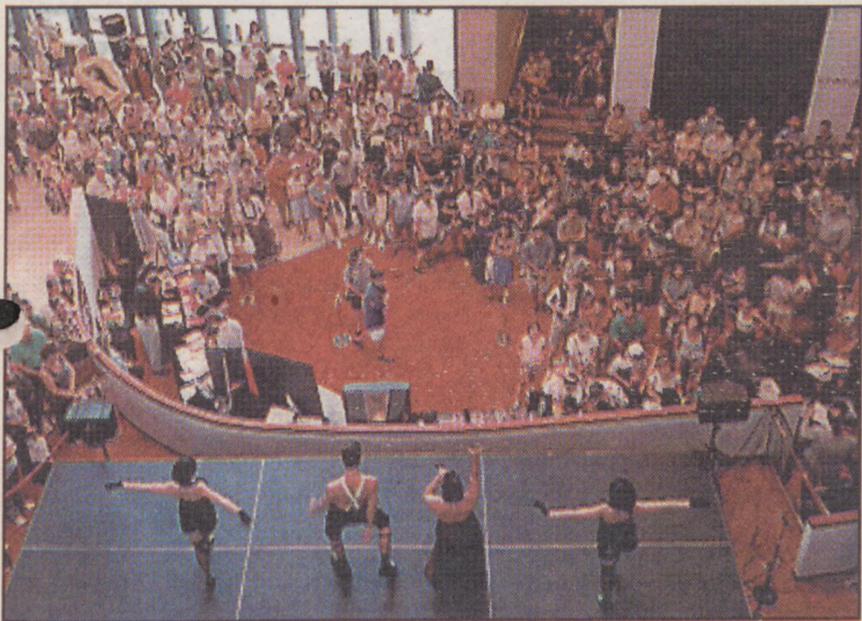
"To be honest, I don't know how far I've ever really gone from my roots, because my movies are still as tasteless and campy as they've always been," the 54-year-old, openly-gay auteur said with a laugh.

"I mean, I can understand why people say that, because 'Cecil' has some very extreme things in it. It's about terrorists, it's about horny teenage terrorists, which I guess is a little bit different than being about the art world which my last movie, 'Pecker' was all about. But 'Pecker' was a sweet movie about pubic hair, harassment and lesbian strippers.

"So I don't know how far I've really gone away from my core subject matter. But, yes, I guess it is in some ways more like my earlier

> Continued on Page 21

Alicia Witt is Cherish, a member of the Sproket Holes in John Waters' latest film, Cecil B. Demented.



The greatest show on earth, at least downtown

Theater District opens its doors Aug. 27

by D.L. GROOVER

Come one, come all! The Houston Theatre District is having a massive free open house Aug. 27, from 1-6 p.m., and everyone is invited.

The eight resident non-profit arts organizations, some among the best in the US, are opening their doors to the public in their seventh annual open house extravaganza. This is a remarkable opportunity for a close-up view of performers usually only seen from across the footlights, while it gives the audience a mesmerizing backstage look at the theaters themselves and a glimpse at the hard work involved in putting on a show.

Many of the organizations will offer special "sampler" packages on this day only for reduced ticket subscriptions. For the arts groups, it's a public relations bonanza as they woo potential new subscribers and happily introduce them to the magical world of the arts.

The hosts for this unique carnival are the eight downtown arts organizations that comprise the Theater District: the Alley Theatre, Da Camera of Houston, Houston Ballet, Houston Grand Opera, Houston Broadway Series, Houston Symphony, Society for the Performing Arts and Theatre Under the Stars.

> Continued on Page 20

The eight performing art organizations of Houston's Theater District will hold the seventh annual Theater District Open House Aug. 27 from 1-6 p.m. at Wortham Center, Alley Theater and Jones Hall.

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On Stage

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Sky high 'Rent'

Musical is a don't-miss
production

By DL Groover

While the last joyous chord of RENT still reverberated through Jones Hall, the audience was already on its feet, cheering and stomping, whistling and clapping.

There had been applause from the moment the musicians gathered on the stage as this show began. There were appreciative whistles and hoots at the beginnings of songs, and great big bursts during particular bits of glossy staging.



The audience, heavily weighed with Rent-heads, needed no coaxing from Maureen to moo along with her protest performance piece, "Over the Moon." And when Angel made her flamboyant star turn in full drag, the roof could have blown off.

Jonathan Larson's exuberant rock paean to life has become a pop culture phenomenon, tinged with ineffable sadness from his horribly ironic death on the eve of this work's premiere in New York City. Posthumously, Larson has been heaped with Tonys, Drama Desks, Obies and a Pulitzer. In a decade or so of really egregious musical theater, "Rent" deserves all its awards.

Taking its inspiration from Puccini's verismo opera "La Boheme" that dealt with poverty and sickness among the unconventional bohemians of Paris, which in turn was derived from the more shocking serial novel by Henri Murger, "Rent" spins its tale in contemporary hues of AIDS, sexual nonconformity, drug addiction, multi-culturalism and the horrors of selling out to those emotionless mega-conglomerates.

The verities of poverty, the homeless and gut-wrenching illness, still with us, run thick and deep, infusing this story of community with gravity and seriousness.

"Rent" strikes something deep within us, I think, because it plays so tellingly with the theme that those disenfranchised from their families—the outcasts and bohemians, if you will—make successful new families out of their friends.

Larson's heartfelt empathy for his band of outsiders can be as sappy as a Hallmark card (a chorus line of homeless junkies

seems just as unreal as a convent of singing nuns) but his passion packs a mighty wallop, and we respond in kind. His pop and rock score, a melange of styles ranging from tangos to blues, gospel to reggae, funk to MTV, is none the less rooted on good ol' Broadway stock.

The love ballads are haunting, and the up-tempo pieces, feisty and energetic, are filled with sophisticated rhythms that keep us off balance. His dramatic lyrics, agile and propulsive, shift in off-kilter ways, too; sometimes comic, sometimes heartbreaking, yet always right.

Bar none, I do believe this is the finest touring production of a Broadway musical I have ever seen. It is an amazingly theatrical show, directed with a panther's sleekness by the show's original director Michael Greif, using all the high-tech smoke and mirrors that money can buy. Grunge never looked so high gloss.

The young cast, singing their lungs out while scampering all over the functional erector set that represents NY's East Village, is well-nigh superb. Shaun Earl's Angel, the drag queen, is the heart of the show and justifiably steals every scene. He never plays down to his character and invests this real beauty with grace and pride. His gymnastic song and dance, "Today 4 U," purred while costumed in Santa Claus coat, zebra stockings, and patent leather platforms, is a knockout.

Matt Caplan as Mark, the edgy filmmaker who's our narrator and keeps his emotional distance by never letting go of his ubiquitous camera, shines in this nebulous role with trumpet voice blessed with the pizzazz of a true Broadway trooper. His comic "Tango Maureen" danced with his former girlfriend's lesbian lover is one of many high points in this show of ultra altitude.

Cary Shields as Roger, the AIDS-infected musician whose turbulent relationship with Mimi keeps the plot spinning, has the sexy presence of a rock star and a powerful reedy voice that aches with emotion. His dynamic rendition of "One Song Glory," accompanied by his giant shadow thrown onto the backstage brick wall, would melt anyone's heart.

"Rent" is a milestone in musical theater. Although its theme that love conquers all is descended right from the flower-pressed pages of '60s Haight-Ashbury, there's no better time to embrace such a dream and keep it alive. It's a potent message for any age. Obviously, the audience agrees. What a positive sign that is.

Don't miss this one.

INFO

"Rent"
through Aug. 20
Jones Hall
615 Louisiana
713.629.3700

"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and from staff reports

"I'm so in love with the guy, if there was a fire in my apartment, the one thing I would save is the photo of David [Furnish] as a little boy that sits by the bed."

—Elton John (right, with David Furnish) to British Airways' in-flight magazine, July issue



"Now it's like there are times when you look at the front-page meeting and... literally three-quarters of the people deciding what's on the front page are not-so-closeted homosexuals."

—New York Times national political correspondent Richard Berke, as quoted in the July 28 Washington Times

"If you're talking about political rights in the civil realm, the Bible argument is totally irrelevant. There are people who still think divorce is a sin. They are entitled to their religious opinions, but they are not entitled to have those opinions be the basis and justification of our laws. That shouldn't affect the rights of my son, just because he has a different sexual orientation."

—PFLAG Executive Director Kirsten Kingdon to the Michigan gay paper *Between The Lines*, July 6



"We've had a gay following since day one. Why? I don't know. But they have always been very receptive, and we probably have more gay fans than straight. Maybe it has something to do with our glamour, and things of that nature."

—Mary Wilson (left), one of the three original Supremes, to San Diego's *Gay & Lesbian Times*, July 27

"I fully understand that the GOP is not a church. Rather, it is a political institution that maintains members with a wide range of political and social views—some of which I embrace and some of which I do not. I believe conservative Christians would be unwise to expect any political party to uphold identical values that we require from our churches and church leaders. The Republican Party obviously has members who are homosexual, atheist, and even pro-choice."

—Fundamentalist Christian spokesman Rev. Jerry Falwell in an Aug. 3 public e-mail

"I'm just a person who believes in civil rights, and I don't care who they're for. That's why I signed the bill."

—Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, at an Aug. 14 reception at the beginning of this week's Democratic Convention, honoring the state's lawmakers for passing historic legislation recognizing same-sex relationships

"Gay rights, I guess I don't have a problem with that. But don't push this gay marriage thing on me. I still can't see that."

—Democratic Convention Delegate Ernest Chavez of Albuquerque, N.M., in the Aug. 15 issue of the *New York Times*

"Why do I love Domenico? Because he enjoys life. All I know is that when I see Domenico, I'm delighted, I'm moved."

—Fashion designer Stefano Gabbana (right), talking in the September issue of *Out* magazine about his romantic and business partner, Domenico Dolce



"We try not to confuse love with sex."

—Fashion designer Domenico Dolce (right), talking in the September issue of *Out* magazine about his relationship with partner Stefano Gabbana

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Theater District holds seventh annual free open house

> Continued from Page 17

These varied and multi-talented groups, housed in the Alley Theatre, Jones Hall and the Wortham Center, will all be open for free tours, a wide sampling of entertainment, sneak previews of their coming seasons, and an array of food and drink for the taking.

With a seating capacity of 12,948 for live performance and an additional 1,480 movie seats, the Theater District with its five theaters and a new one rising, the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts, boasts a ranking second only to New York City in the number of theater seats in a "concentrated downtown area."

Here is just a sampling of the rich and varied fare each organization will offer to amaze and entertain their guests.

Alley Theatre

Two performances of "Harriet Returns for Us." This one-hour play by Karen Jones Meadows documents Harriet Tubman's incredible life as a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, leading slaves to freedom in the North during the Civil War. Neuhaus Arena Stage at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

"It's an actor's life for me" according to five resident members of this Tony-award winning company. Paul Hope, Ty Mayberry, James Belcher, Bettye Fitzpatrick and Charles Krohn offer their insights and experiences in the theater during two informal "Q and A" sessions on the Neuhaus

Arena Stage at 3:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Want to play actor? Rummage through the costume trunk and try on some new togs. A pirate shirt and top hat, why not? But bring your own putty nose.

Backstage tours of the scene, prop, and costume shops also are offered. Free tickets are available on the front steps of the Alley, and tours depart every five minutes from 1:15 p.m. through 5:30 p.m.

Da Camera of Houston

Houston's preeminent presenter and producer of chamber music and jazz concerts will showcase three different types of music which emphasize this organization's repertory.

The Cullen Theater at the Wortham will swing with the local jazz group Sam Dinkins and Diversions at 1:30 p.m.; harmony and peace will reign with the Marian Anderson String Quartet at 3 p.m.; while virtuosity and nimble fingers will end the day as classical guitarist Edward Grigassy takes us to heaven at 4:30 p.m.

Houston Ballet

If you've forgotten the story of "The Nutcracker," classical ballet's eternal gift of wonder and beauty for children of all ages, get your fix as modern day Aesops regale you with winter's best fable.

The exquisite shorthand beauty and elaborate decoration of ballet costume and set

design will be apparent when you see these examples displayed in the alcove of the Wortham. Count the jewels inlaid on the train of the Czarina's coronation gown from "The Snow Maiden." It will take you until 6 p.m. at least.



Houston Grand Opera

From stage to Founders' Box to the stars' dressing rooms, let the Opera Guild cicerones lead you on a fascinating tour of the cavernous, intricate Wortham Center. There are more levels and crannies than Dante could have imagined, but kindly refrain from belching like a prima donna while on center stage to test the acoustics.

Beautiful music will resound throughout the Wortham as HGO's touring arm for educational outreach, Opera to Go!, presents "The Adventures of Peer Gynt;" while the HGO Studio, the training program for young professionals, presents Scott Scully and Leticia Austria in recital. 2:30 p.m., 4 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. in Cullen Theater.

Houston Broadway Series

Relive the disco craze in the lobby of Jones Hall as the white leisure suits come out in force for a tribute to "Saturday Night Fever" at 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m., and 3:15 p.m. This is part of their 2000-2001 season which will transport us to the wild west in "Annie Get Your Gun," Czarist Russia in "Fiddler on the Roof," and fairy tale land in "Cinderella."

Houston Symphony

If you've ever wanted to finger an oboe, then visit the Instrument Petting Zoo at Jones Hall from 1 to 4 p.m.

See where those oboes are stored. Tour the backstage of Jones Hall. 1-4 p.m.

Listen to the symphony in their "Airmail Special" concert from 4-5:15 p.m.

Society for the Performing Arts

Take off those Travolta platform shoes and get cool another way with the hot sounds of New Orleans jazz at 1, 2, and 3 p.m. in Jones Hall.

INFO

2000 Theater District Open House

Aug. 27, 1-6 p.m.

Alley Theatre, 615 Texas @ Louisiana

Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana @ Capitol

Wortham Theater Center, 500 Texas

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Waters back to tacky form

> Continued from Page 17

movies. Because at times, while filming it, I did think to myself, 'Is this a \$8 million version of 'Pink Flamingos?'"

Starring Hollywood mega-stars Melanie Griffith and Stephen Dorff as well as Waters alumni Mink Stole, Ricki Lake and Patricia Hearst (yes, that one), the hilarious "Cecil B. Demented" is the wildly insane tale of a young crazed director who enlists his devoted cult of "cinema terrorists" to kidnap Honey Whitlock, a Tinsel Town starlet, to force her to play the lead in "Raving Beauty," their radical underground film shot in "ultimate reality."

Sickened by Hollywood's crass commercialism, Cecil and his cinematic zealots vow to exorcise the film industry of its demons by making a no-budget epic, committing brazen, random acts of guerrilla filmmaking and stirring the populace to new levels of cinema unrest.

Having been christened Cecil B. Demented by The Advocate a few years ago, Waters always felt like he was just the right person to do a film about extreme civil disobedience—not against the government, but targeted toward the industry that has crowned him the "King/Queen of Cinematic Camp."

"I wanted to do a movie about horny teen terrorists, something that was really based on radical politics of the 1960s," Waters recalled. "But I had no interest in making a nostalgic movie. I remember when I was a teenager, we didn't go to raves every week, we went to riots."

"So I tried to imagine that kind of insane behavior and the insane '60s left-wing world and apply it to the politics of movie-making instead of the war in Vietnam or fighting the draft. If there was that kind of activism about movies, what would it be like? I think I've come up with the answer."

And while "Cecil B. Demented" is not your garden variety, big budget studio flick, Waters says he had absolutely no prob-



John Waters gives Melanie Griffith direction on the set of 'Cecil B. Demented,' Waters' fifteenth feature film.

lems convincing Stephen Dorff or Melanie Griffith to commit to the project.

Now in his 36th year of movie-making, Waters is the first to admit that gay audiences were extremely instrumental in making his early movies successful cult hits.

"Gay people have always had a good sense of humor, so without their support I don't think I'd be here today," he explained. "The gays that were really my fans in the beginning, though, were even rebels from gay society. They were gay, hippie punks. But not drag queens."

And what's the best advice he could give to a young and up-and-coming filmmaker?

"Put a lot of sex and violence in it!" he declared. "As filmmakers, we haven't done it all in movies, because that's youth's responsibility to come up with a new way to do it. And I think they are. I think this is a very good time to be making movies for young people, because the studios are finally looking for fucked-up movies...hey, that's why I'm still working."

Bayou Calendar

"Romeo and Juliet"

Shakespeare's dramatic poetry in motion. Superb.
Houston Ballet
Aug. 18, 8 p.m.
Woodlands Pavilion
\$7-\$12

friends who haven't a clue and the woman who loves them in spite of themselves.
Through Aug. 26
Ashland St. Theatre
2610 Ashland
713-426-3019

"Naked Boys Singing"

A little song, a little dance, some flapping members without pants. Cute, but no cigar.
Bienvenue Theatre
Closing date TBA
3722 Washington
713-426-2626

"West Fest: Portrait of a Street Festival"

An exhibition by Houston resident Charles Tatum II of past Westheimer Street fairs. Nine color prints relive those good old days when the Westheimer festival actually appeared on Westheimer.
Through Aug. 31
Diedrich's Coffee
1901 Westheimer Rd. @ Hazard

"Tamalalia 2000"

Hilarious and thoroughly entertaining magical mystery tour guided by the warped musings of Tamarie Cooper and Andy Nelson. Hosted by Infernal Bridegroom Productions.
Through Aug. 26
Stages Repertory Theatre
3201 Allen Parkway @ Waugh
713-527-8243

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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

A worthy replacement

Divino more than adequately fills space Toopee's left behind

by KATHREEN LEE

Every time my girlfriend and I drove past the skeletal remains of Cafe Toopee's, we would shake our heads and rue the loss of one of the few authorized lesbian hang-outs not just in Houston, but in all of Texas. As time passed on, we would notice piecemeal changes in the exterior construction and speculate as to what impostor would replace our abandoned haven. Hoping beyond hope that whatever establishment reared its head would retain the offbeat funk and mellow atmosphere of our deserted retreat, we carefully monitored the developmental progress of the incoming restaurant.

Much to our surprise, *Divino*, now just shy of two weeks old, more than lived up to our scrupulous expectations. Gone are the bright murals, sculptures and other local artwork adorning the walls. Dark cherry wood furnishings, wine racks and a modest display of paintings now trim the once off-beat interior. The only recognizable remnants of Toopee's (referred to as "that toupe place" by our unwitting waiter) are the stool-lined counter and the location of the restrooms. While the decor is modest, *Divino* menu, however, inherited some of Toopee's eccentricities.

For instance, the Bruschetta Trio (\$4) is served more in the create-your-own-bruschetta fashion with your choice of three toppings: diced tomatoes and basil soaked in olive oil, pureed cannellini bean spread and olive tapenade, Kalamata olives pulsed with garlic, capers and thyme. Whether you select one spread or created some amalgamation of all three, the flavorful toppings complement each other perfectly over the grilled rustic bread.

Other appetizer selections include the Rosemary Shrimp Skewers (\$6) or *Divino* offers selected entrees in appetizer portions. For instance, we ordered Merlin's Pasta (\$6.50), which are tortelloni filled with ricotta and nutmeg in a porcini mushroom cream sauce. The bite-size tortelloni were scrumptiously doused with the thick mushroom cream sauce which was every bit worth its enormous caloric intake.

Divino offers a wide variety of entrees, ranging from housemade pastas such as the Veal and Prosciutto Agnolotti (\$12) to savory meat dishes such as the Pork Tenderloin Medallions (\$14). One telltale hallmark of a skillful chef rests in whether or not he/she can prepare a Filet Mignon

(\$18) to specified "well-done" conditions without charring the exterior and without allowing any hint of rarity, while simultaneously preserving all the luscious natural juices in the filet. *Divino* masterfully prepared my steak using red wine demi-glacé reduction that perfectly sealed in the filet's natural succulence.

My dinner companion ordered the Sicilian Seared Tuna (\$16) which is served on a bed of lemon basil risotto. While she praised the dish for its unique blend of flavors, she commented that the tuna seared in white wine lacked a defining contrast between a crunchy exterior and soft rare interior. Furthermore, she remarked that the lemon overwhelmed the risotto to the point that it often

tasted like lemon soda and suggested that more basil would have properly balanced out the risotto.

Being less than two weeks old, *Divino* can be

excused for a few mistakes and lapses in their service. However, *Divino* has regrettably left out three key features of any Italian establishment. One, bread. A basket of bread is always instrumental in shaping a diner's initial impression, especially for an Italian restaurant. Second, soups. *Divino* offers no soup options whatsoever. Third, *Divino* offers only two dessert options, none of which is a Tiramisu. An Italian restaurant without Tiramisu is like a Greek establishment without a gyro or baklava. A travesty.

While *Divino* may tout these holes as hallmarks of their own originality and eccentricity, I only offer them as suggestions. Compared to the grander scheme of *Divino* many other delightful offerings, however, these lapses are minor and amendable. *Divino* has proved itself worthy of its predecessor.

divino

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out in music

by MO McMILLER



Flashback madness

Great CDs from the past year that you may have missed

Natalie Cole

Snowfall on the Sahara

www.natalie-cole.com

Rating: ★★★★★

After seven years of singing nothing but standards and classic pop, it is refreshing to hear Natalie Cole return to pop/R&B. Although this album was not a commercial success, it is a very good effort from one of our most enduring artists.

As many artists have done in recent years, this is primarily a collection of songs made famous by others. Although this has almost become a common practice for many established artists, it is the perfect tool for Natalie's re-entry into current popular music.

She covers everyone from Bob Dylan to Patti Page to Roberta Flack. The production is sleek, complimentary to her voice and to these great songs. Standouts on this set include Bob Dylan's "Gotta Serve Somebody," Jennifer Holliday's "Say You Love Me," and Bette Midler's "Stay With Me."

The title track is the zenith of this collection. "Snowfall on the Sahara" is gorgeous. It is one of the most musically simplistic and lyrically descriptive love songs to come along in awhile.

Eurythmics

Peace

www.peacetour.net

Rating: ★★★★★ 1/2

The opening track of this disc was the perfect choice. I was around 17 when I first discovered the Eurythmics. With their return on this highly touted comeback, I have discovered them again.

When the group broke up and pursued solo careers 10 years ago, who would've dreamed they would resurface. This is exactly the album I would have expected from the Eurythmics for a reunion. It showcases their individual talents, yet shows why they work so well together.

The set is primarily acoustic and very



simple. Lyrically, these are some of the strongest songs written by Annie and Dave.

The title track is a powerful call to the world for "Peace". It is unadorned by a lot of useless words and the musical build is quite noteworthy. Other standouts include "I Saved The World Today," "I Want It All," and "Lifted."

Patti Austin

Street of Dreams

www.pyramid-ent.com/austin.htm

Rating: ★★★★★

What can you say about Patti Austin? Probably one of the best singers no one has heard of. To make people remember her you have to say "the girl that sang 'Baby Come To Me,'" then you might get an "ooo yeah, I remember!"

Patti Austin has never gone away—she is still making great music and no doubt will for a long time to come. Her latest release "Street of Dreams" is another gem.

COMING SOON

August 22

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BOOK REVIEWS

Capturing the essence of a faerie

Keri Pickett's six-year photo study of a Minnesota faerie community celebrates their diversity

by WEB BEHRENS

Anyone who's ever spent any time with radical faeries knows there's no completely accurate way to describe them. They're gay men, sure—except for a small but significant number of faeries who aren't gay, and some who are women.

They're hippies, true—only some of them have Republican haircuts, and some prefer urban jungles to green forests.

But they all love to dress in drag, right? Absolutely! Except for those faeries who always wear pants, and those who like to run naked.

The best way to understand faerie mentality, to appreciate the paradox, is to experience it. Thanks to the work of photographer Keri Pickett, that opportunity is now as near as the closest bookstore.

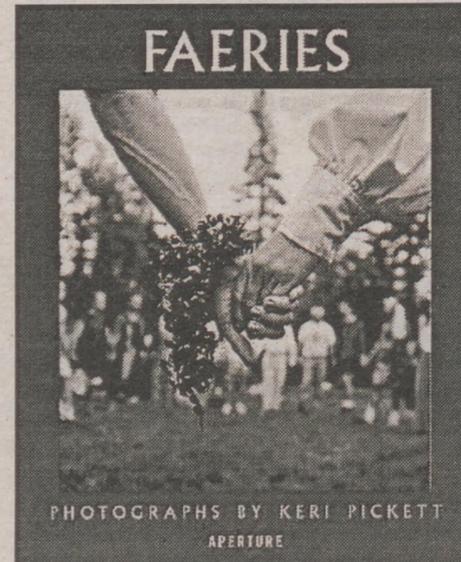
In her bold new coffee-table book, **FAERIES: VISIONS, VOICES AND PRETTY DRESSES**, Pickett, a Minneapolis-based artist, has tackled the paradoxical task of encapsulating a community as elusive as

water. With a keen eye and an open heart, a cache of Fomapon film and a dollop of magic, she has somehow captured the wave.

Accompanied by interviews and poetry, the black-and-white prints contain the essence of a faerie sanctuary tucked away in the Minnesota woods north of Duluth, a 17-acre parcel of land called Kawashaway, meaning "no place between."

It's a sequestered paradise to which Pickett has made a pilgrimage every year since 1993, when she first fully experienced the faeries. That summer, she joined them in their annual gathering—a time when about 60 queer-spirited folk, mostly from Minnesota and northern Wisconsin, convene a meeting of their tribe.

Pickett, an extensively published and exhibited photographer, initially connected with her fellow faeries while on assignment that year for an article about the home health-care network established for a Minneapolis man named Daisy, who was dying of AIDS complications. Daisy's chosen family had united to organize hospice care for him, so Pickett got an intimate look at this fascinating com-



munity in an intense setting.

"I immediately felt at home," she remembers. "I immediately had a core connection with Daisy, and also with some of his primary caregivers."

Pickett's friendship lasted beyond her job, so when Daisy's health took a turn for the worse just before the summer gathering and he expressed a wish to visit Kawashaway one last time, she decided to ride north with him.

It was a fateful trip for both: Daisy was blessed with a dying wish fulfilled, while Pickett discovered the seemingly boundless joy of being in one's soul home. She remained on the land for a weekend, getting to know her own faerie self, and taking pictures.

At the end of the year, when she reviewed the work she'd done, "I kept coming back to the portraits of the faeries," she says. "They were really among the most important pictures I'd made. They looked at issues of gender and identity and growth, being able to accept everyone for who they are." The book had been conceived; when she proposed it to the Kawashaway circle the next summer and they all hissed approval, its six-year gestation period was begun.

The finished product depicts an eclectic community in all its many glories. The book is not about queens camping it up in endless photo opportunities, nor does it resemble the endlessly posed work of so many beefcake photographers. This book, like the faeries themselves, isn't easily summarized.

Here's a worthy attempt: It's about all kinds of beauty. Gay couples kiss, lesbian couples embrace, and butch meets femme all at once as a shirtless faerie chops wood in a skirt.

These images carry such striking power because they are the result of a candid collaboration between a gifted artist and people who trust her thoroughly.

E. Lynn Harris

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E. Lynn Harris comes back to Crossroads Market to read from his latest novel, *Not A Day Goes By*.

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INFO

**'Faeries: Visions, Voices and
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by Keri Pickett
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community calendar

saturday, august 19

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama.
713-528-6665.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070.
Houston Faerie Circle. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-533-0150.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry Southwest Center. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 281-633-2555 & Conroe 936-441-1614.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours noon to 4 p.m. i Montrose Writer's Project. 3 to 4:30 p.m. i Lesbian Island Association. 3 p.m. 713-528-3818.
Houston Glass Club. "Festival of Glass Show" Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. 713-729-4267.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 11 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.
Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation: Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center 713-692-2703.
FrontRunners. Running Club. 9 a.m. 713-522-8021.
PFLAG-Woodlands. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-867-9020.

monday, august 21

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.
gayDAR. Wellness community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. i Black Lesbian & Gay Coalition weekly meeting. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, august 20

New Hope Christian Center Worship Service. 11 a.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.
Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.
Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

tuesday, august 22

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support Group. 7 p.m. 281-495-8009.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 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.

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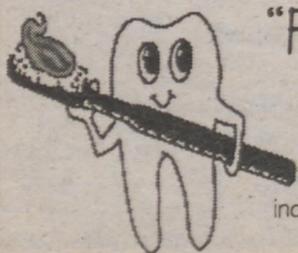
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Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 Lambda Skating Club skates. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. 713-410-7215.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. 1 Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-28-3818.

wednesday, august 23

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
 STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVEs. Free. AVEs. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Ripcord & Midtowne Spa. 713-830-3000.
 BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Social meeting. 713-467-4380
 Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
 Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.
 Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.
 Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
 Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
 Freelance Art Classes by Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.
 Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. www.houston-prideband.org.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. 713-524-3818.
 Center for AIDS. Women's Mixer. 6 p.m. 713-527-8210.

Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.
 Hep C Recovery. Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVEs. 713-626-2837.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
 Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
 FrontRunners. Running Club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
 HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer 713-526-1118.
 Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
 Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 HIV Testing. Free. AVEs. 713-626-2837.
 Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the University of Houston. (GLOBAL) Meeting. 4 p.m. 713-743-7539.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m.

friday, august 25

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
 Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.
 STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVEs. 713-626-2837.
 Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
 Q-Patrol walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
 Kolbe Project. Morning Prayer. 10 a.m. Movie Night. 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.
 Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
 Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.
 Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
 Mishpachah Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
 Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Men's Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

thursday, august 24

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

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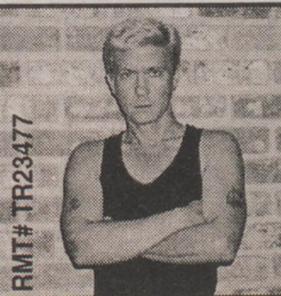
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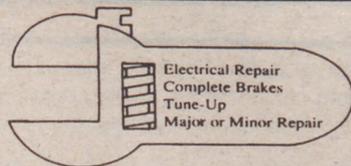


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BY FAX: Fax completed order form and credit card information to Classifieds 713-529-9531. **BY E-MAIL:** feedback@houstonvoice.com

AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation.

Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY

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

INDIVIDUAL RATE \$7:
 Announcements
 Auditions
 Employment-Seeking
 Pets-Free or Lost & Found
 Roommates
 Personal Websites

BUSINESS RATE \$15:
 Auto Repair
 Business Opportunities
 Entertainment
 Help Wanted
 Help Wanted-Seeking
 Home Improvement
 Items For Sale
 Licensed Massage
 Moving Services
 Professional Services
 Real Estate For Rent
 Real Estate For Sale

Call 713-529-8490
for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD

Please print clearly

CATEGORY: _____ # OF ISSUES: _____

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

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

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST

CALL FOR DIRECTORY AD RATES

INDIVIDUAL RATE ADS

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

Up to 20 words: 7.00

Additional words _____ x 50¢: _____

Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) _____

Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues

Total: \$ _____

BUSINESS RATE ADS

Up to 20 words for \$15.00 per week.

Additional words _____ x 75¢ per word (per week): _____

Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) _____

Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues

Total: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Check Enclosed _____ Charge to my AMEX MC VISA

Card # _____ Exp. ____/____

Signature _____

Occasions

Birthdays

- Belated birthday greetings to Maranatha Fellowship members Theresa C., Susan M., and Omar M.
- Belated tossing of the birthday beads to Krewe of Olympus members Paul H., Bill H., and Denise M.
- Ray Y. of the Four Seasons Club celebrated his birthday on Aug. 15.
- The fabulous Lexie Bowne adds some sparkle to the birthday tiara on Aug. 18.
- Sing me a song, you're the Piano Man...

Wayne Gray, owner of the Briar Patch tickles the ivories for his birthday on Aug. 19.

- Tall, blonde and sexy Ken Long toasts in his birthday on Aug. 21.
- Cindy E. rides in her birthday on Aug. 21.
- William F. of the CCCC turns his birthday odometer over on Aug. 22.
- Handsome cowboy and smartly dressed Brick's II bartender Robert Harwood toasts in his boot-scooting birthday on Aug. 24.

Anniversaries

- Manny Gutierrez and Bill Burford celebrate

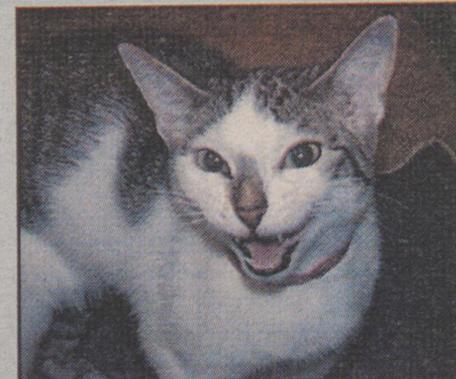
their third anniversary on Aug. 22.

Celebration of Life

- There will be a Celebration of Life and Balloon release for Ken McNames at EJ's at 2517 Ralph Street on Saturday, Aug. 19 at 3 p.m.

Appointments

- Houston neurologist William S. Gilmer, MD, was named vice-president of the board of directors of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) on Aug. 9, 2000.



To adopt Panda, our pet of the week, contact the Houston Humane Society at 713-434-5555 or pr@houstonhumane.org

The Houston Voice welcomes your special occasions. Send e-mail to croberts@houstonvoice.com. Fax: 713-529-9531. Mail: Occasions, Houston Voice, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006. Please include a telephone number so occasions can be verified and considered for publication.

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Power Up Now

Charge up your plans to participate in EMPOWER 2000 and help support this energetic effort from The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Held at the George R. Brown Convention Center each year, EMPOWER 2000 endorses National Coming Out Day and entertains everyone with the: Business Fair, Job Fair, Health Resources, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Sports & Outdoors, great food, drink, as well as special interest seminars.

Plug In Today. There are lots of ways you can play a part in this powerful one day event. Arrange a corporate sponsorship. Underwrite a special program or seminar. Exhibit your products and services with a cool booth. Run an ad in the Empower 2000 program. And last, but not least, bring your family and friends to the event.

Call the EMPOWER Hotline today for details and exhibitor discounts. 713-523-7576

 CHASE

COMPAQ

OutSmart
Houston's Gay & Lesbian Monthly Magazine

houston voice

Triangle

 Shell Services International



EMPOWER
The Community
Event of the
Millennium

October 8, 2000 George R. Brown Convention Center

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copy.com

Your Disk to Document Copy Specialists

presenting new cutting-edge technology

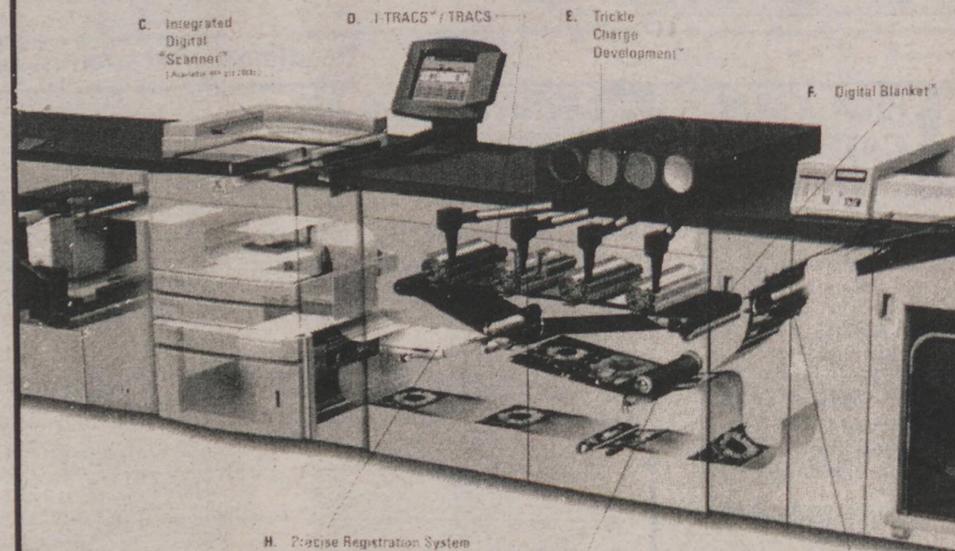
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- Great prices, call for a quote.

1201 Westheimer 713/528-1201

My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



August 18 - 24

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Look into what your body needs, and while you're concentrating on your breathing, do some soul searching. Creative projects that reveal some inner truth about your own heart and love affairs that push you to put your money where your mouth is (particularly with Virgo types) are all favored.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Money matters sway in your favor, thanks to pals Saturn and Jupiter. It's time to put that dough to good use. You could fall under the spell of someone creative, passionate, childish, and possibly heavy on the Capricorn planets. You may feel as if you are going through a second adolescence. Do it right this time!

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Jupiter is newly in your sign and newly joined by Saturn, so if you're not living life to the fullest you should have your head examined, babe! It's easy to mock others for living their lives as if they are the stars of their own movies, but you could stand to up the drama quotient in your own life, droll darling, perhaps with a Pisces.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

If you stop whining (your Achilles heel, babe!), you can turn your present life in to a wonderfully heightened version of itself. Mars transits your money sector in late August, so put some serious energy into your financial wheelings and dealings. Let a Gemini be your inspiration.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)

This is a great time for you to solidify new friendships and get to the heart of problems in existing ones. Look at how you deal with other people. Instead of acting as if your personality has only a few sides, dig up the other hundred-and-ten personalities lurking down below. Another Leo will happily go diving with you to try and find 'em!

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)

The Sun enters your sign Aug. 23 and forces you to admit you are fabulous! The false humility routine has grown tired. You can accomplish much in a very key area of your work life if you concentrate on what's really important. An Aquarius wants to work for you in every way possible.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)

It's a phenomenal time to travel to places unknown or to explore parts of your spiritual world that have been gathering cobwebs for years. Meditate on the wild and wondrous experiences since your last birthday. Whatever you're still pining for, now's the time to visualize getting it. A Gemini could help you in ways you never thought possible.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)

Venus in your friendship house could make people in your inner circle look awfully sexy to you (especially after a few cosmopolitans and a night of dancing). This is the perfect time for you to expand your role in the community, darling. An Aries sees your potential better than you do right now.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)

The Sun slips into your career house Aug. 23, so take a good look at your image. Is it as squeaky clean (or as exciting and dangerous) as you want it to be? Work issues are coming to a head—and so is a key relationship with a very elusive person who loves to give mixed messages. A Cancer wants to be your sidekick.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)

Take good care of your body and you will uncover the secret to what's been causing you anxiety for the last five years! Instead of muttering every time you have to deal with an obnoxious colleague, try to figure out the emotions beneath the annoyance. If you can get closer to a Taurus, you can learn a lot about your own psyche.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)

Finally, you can let go of an old relationship pattern that you have outgrown. The key is to be painfully honest, even if it embarrasses you both. If you are feeling uncomfortable in the spotlight, all you can do is stay there and get more comfortable. A Scorpio has no doubt that you've got the goods.

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)

This is one of the sexiest times of the year for you, Pisces. If you've been complaining about your lack of romance, shut up! You may get too much of what you've been hoping for. A Libra wants to give you even more.

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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Surrounded by quaint courtyard with lush landscaping

No pets allowed

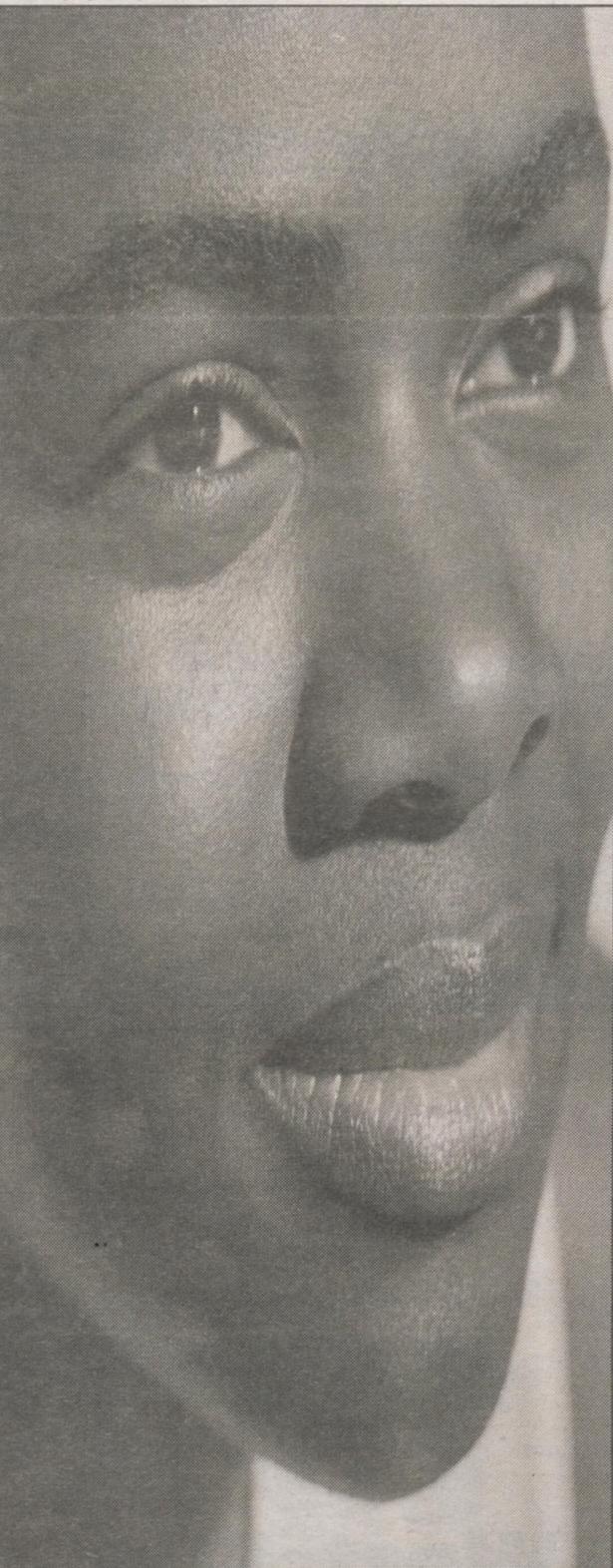
Bedroom/1 bath = \$765 and up*

1 bedroom/1bath = \$595*

*prices subject to change without notice

Budweiser
CONCERT SERIES

TRACY CHAPMAN
TELLING STORIES TOUR
AUGUST 20



THIS SUNDAY!

With Special Guest
Jeffrey Gaines

This Bud's For You:

Houston Chronicle
www.houstonchronicle.com



LAS VEGAS



Theater

www.aerialtheater.com
Aerial Theater Box Office 520 Texas Ave. 713-230-1600

get tickets at **sfx.com**

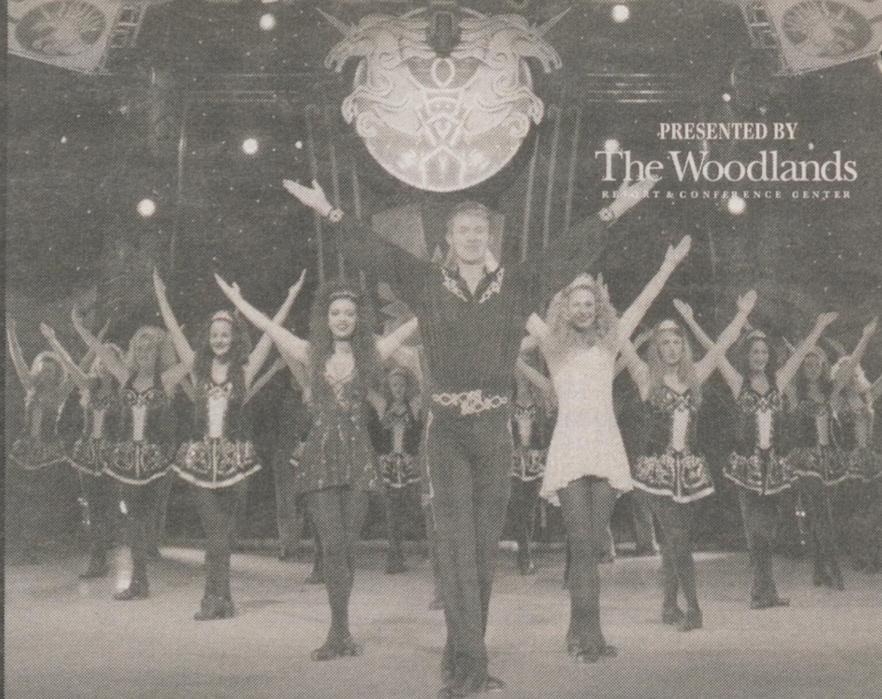
Tickets also available at 713-629-3700 and all **ticketmaster** outlets, or from the Aerial Theater box office. All dates, act(s), and ticket prices are subject to change without notice. A service charge is added to each ticket price. Brought to you by SFX.

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Michael Flatley's
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PRESENTED BY
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- NEW YORK TIMES

**A SHOWPIECE
EXTRAVAGANZA!**
- LOS ANGELES TIMES

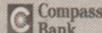
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AUGUST 24 & 25

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Houston Chronicle



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