

Playing on 'Max Bickford'

Transgender character brought to life on small screen by actress known for 'Desert Hearts' role as a lesbian.

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INSIDE



A new equality coalition targets Irving, Texas-based ExxonMobil Corp., headed by chairman Lee Raymond.

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The 2006 Gay Games will be held in Montreal, Canada, officials announced early Thursday.

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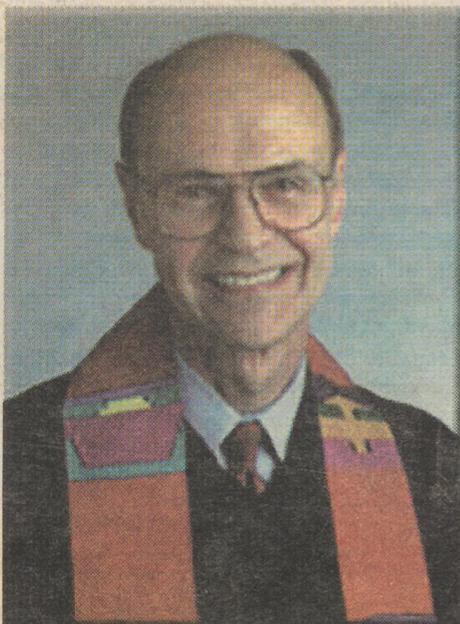
Dmitri Hvorostovsky plays the lead in a strongly flavored, bittersweet 'Rigoletto' by Houston Grand Opera.

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Clergy oppose anti-gay measure

Nearly 100 religious leaders step up against City Prop. 2

by PENNY WEAVER



Rev. Robert Schaibly, senior pastor at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston, is among those who have spearheaded the efforts of Clergy for a Fair Houston to oppose the anti-gay City Prop. 2.

HOUSTON—Coming forward as “supporting equal rights in employment for all people,” a large group of Houston spiritual leaders has voiced opposition to the anti-gay ballot measure that goes before voters Nov. 6.

Clergy for a Fair Houston was formed early this year and now offers a “supportive religious response to the situation of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people,” according to literature from the group.

As of Thursday, about 98 religious leaders in the city had signed a letter opposing City Prop. 2. (See story, page 9.) The measure would stop the City of Houston from offering insurance benefits to domestic partners of city employees.

Rev. Robert Schaibly, senior pastor at

First Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston, started Clergy for a Fair Houston to combat the ballot amendment, which is supported by Houstonians For Family Values, led by Dave Wilson.

Schaibly said it is encouraging that so many clergy have signed on to support equal rights for all people.

“I’m very excited. I think that it’s important to give our [GLBT] community a sense of hopefulness

about religious support — support from religious leaders,” Schaibly said. “That was why we wanted to start the group.”

Wilson said Thursday he had not heard about Clergy for a Fair Houston or the list of people who have signed on with the organization.

“Before I really make a comment, I’d have to see the list,” Wilson said. He did note that many leaders of black congregations in the city support the ballot amend-

'No on City Prop. 2' group gains more support, volunteers

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City Prop. 2 may power gays' mayoral choice

Brown, Bell have overall positive gay records; Sanchez trails

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON—The three top runners for the post of City of Houston mayor include the incumbent and two City Council members, one of whom opposed the city's pro-gay non-discrimination ordinance.

But both incumbent Mayor Lee Brown and Chris Bell supported the anti-bias measure and now offer strong opposition to the anti-gay City Prop. 2 on the upcoming ballot.

On Nov. 6, voters will choose from among six candidates for mayor: Luis Ralph Ullrich Jr., Anthony M. Dutrow, Orlando Sanchez, Brown, Larry J. DeVoy and Bell, in that order on the ballot.

Brown, Bell and Sanchez are considered the top three runners in the race. Big issues for residents are the city's rail project, road and infrastructure improvements and eco-



In the running for Houston's mayoral post is Chris Bell, current Houston City Council member; current Mayor Lee Brown, who is seeking a second term; and current Council member Orlando Sanchez.

nomc development.

For gay voters, issues such as City Prop. 2 are likely to help make their decision on which mayoral candidate to support.

Both Brown and Bell supported the City of Houston's anti-discrimination legislation — approved by the City Council in July — that included sexual orientation. Sanchez, however, voted against the measure.

A political hot potato this fall is City Prop. 2, which would prevent the City of Houston from offering health insurance and other benefits to domestic partners of city employees.

In response to questions this week from Houston Voice — posed identically to all three major mayoral candidates — Bell stated that he is against City Prop. 2. The measure is

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Houston has its own homegrown health food restaurant. . . . See Eating Out, page 17.

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Issue 1096

houston voice

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Experts: Lesbians more at risk for breast cancer

Health officials urge awareness, prevention to fight deadly disease

by KAY DAYUS

HOUSTON—Although there are no firm statistics, it appears that lesbians may be more at risk for breast cancer than heterosexual women, according to officials at two Montrose area agencies.

October is national Breast Cancer Awareness Month and it seems that lesbians should be made more aware of the risks of breast cancer, a disease that is the deadliest form of cancer in women in the U.S. But early detection significantly increases the chances of surviving the disease.

Sonna Alton, director of communications and events at the Montrose Clinic, said there are at least four reasons that lesbians are at higher risk for breast cancer than other women.

"In general, lesbians don't access health care on a regular basis; they typically don't have children; and they typically don't use birth control so they don't have regular checkups," Alton said.

The fourth reason, according to Alton, is that lesbians don't usually opt for hormone replacement therapy.

Lee Willis, a counselor with the

Montrose Counseling Center, agreed that some of the risk factors for breast cancer "may fall more on the lesbian side."

"Family history, gender, age, hormones, obesity, smoking, diet and child bearing," are the general risk factors for breast cancer, said Willis.

"People who don't have children are at a higher risk for breast cancer and typically lesbians don't have children as much as heterosexual women," she said.

According to both health care officials, lesbians are less likely to go for well-women exams, are less likely to have mammograms and are less likely to perform self-breast exams.

Willis said lesbians are also less likely to have health insurance. "And even if they get diagnosed, they can't get treatment because they have no insurance," she said.

Another problem, she noted, is that lesbians are often hesitant to go to doctors with female problems because many physicians are less sensitive to health issues that are unique to lesbians.

"They are mostly heterosexual doctors and lesbians are reluctant to disclose their sexuality because of the perceived attitude toward them," Willis said.

Lesbians are strongly encouraged to get regular check-ups because early detection is paramount. Nearly three-quarters of patients with breast cancer are cured of the

disease, according to the Methodist Hospital at the Texas Medical Center.

The Montrose Clinic offers a well-women exam that includes a breast exam as well as diabetes screening, blood tests and physical, for \$65, said Alton.

She added that if breast cancer is detected, Clinic workers refer those with no health insurance to a facility called The Rose, which provides health care to the indigent and underserved.

INFO

Montrose Clinic

215 Westheimer
713-830-3000
www.montroseclicnic.org

Montrose Counseling Center

701 Richmond Ave.
713-529-0037
www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

Lesbian Health Initiative

713-603-0023

Groups form ExxonMobil equality coalition

Efforts to include shareholder resolutions, lobbying, protests at franchises

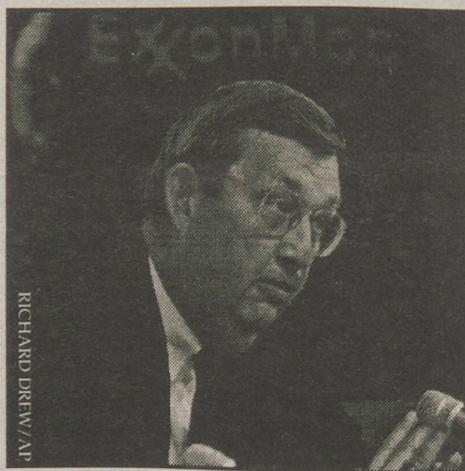
by RHONDA SMITH

A coalition of gay civil rights groups recently bolstered the Human Rights Campaign's call for a boycott of ExxonMobil Corp. — based in Irving, Texas — by vowing to use various tactics to persuade the company to adopt policies that support its gay and lesbian employees.

In addition to supporting the boycott, organizers said the seven gay-supportive groups plan to use more shareholder resolutions, lobby business leaders who have ties to the publicly traded energy company, and hold protests at ExxonMobil franchises where owners refuse to support the coalition's efforts.

At issue is ExxonMobil's refusal to include specific language in its written policy prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. Coalition members announced Oct. 7 they also want the energy company to include language in the non-discrimination policy protecting employees based on gender identity.

ExxonMobil, which employs 100,000 workers worldwide and had \$17.7 billion in net income in 2000, also repeatedly has refused to offer domestic partner benefits for all of its employees.



RICHARD DREW/AP

ExxonMobil Corp. chair Lee Raymond, shown here at a news conference in 1999, was CEO at Exxon before the merger. While Mobil had an anti-bias policy that explicitly included gays — as well as domestic partner benefits — Exxon did not.

"The boycott is fine; we don't discourage it. But I don't think the boycott alone is enough to move this company," said T Santora, a representative for Pride at Work, an AFL-CIO affiliate and a national organization of gay labor activists and their allies. "It's commendable that HRC has retreated and joined the coalition and engaged its partners in a broader effort, because that's what it's going to take."

In addition to HRC and Pride at Work, other groups in the Coalition to Promote Equality at ExxonMobil are: the Equality Project, the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, the National Transgender Advocacy

Coalition, Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, and Out & Equal Workplace Advocates. Details about the coalition can be accessed online at www.equalityatexxon.org.

The Equality Project is a non-profit coalition of individuals and institutions dedicated to using investor pressure to advance workplace rights for gay employees.

"What this does is establish a process by which each member of the coalition determines — given its mission, resources, and capabilities — how it's going to contribute to the overall effort," said Allan Mann, a board member for Out & Equal Workplace Advocates.

Tom Cirigliano, ExxonMobil's spokesperson at the company's headquarters in Irving, Texas, did not return a call from the Voice for comment.

INFO

Human Rights Campaign

919 18th St., NW
Washington, DC 20006
202-628.4160
fax: 202-347.5323
www.hrc.org
Coalition: www.equalityatexxon.org

Exxon Mobil Corporation

5959 Las Colinas Blvd.
Irving, TX 75039-2298
972-444-1000
www.exxonmobil.com

Montreal chosen to host 2006 Gay Games

Atlanta, Chicago and Los Angeles also bid to host massive gay sporting event

by LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The 2006 Gay Games will return to North America for the first time in 12 years, but not to the United States.

The city of Montreal in Quebec, Canada, will host the 2006 games, officials with the Federation of Gay Games announced Thursday at their annual meeting in Johannesburg.

Three cities in the U.S. — Atlanta, Chicago and Los Angeles — also bid to host the quadrennial gay sporting event, which rivals the Olympics in size. Representatives of each bid city traveled to South Africa to make final presentations to the federation delegates.

"I think Montreal impressed us with the quality of their venues — although all of the cities proposed outstanding venues — and the open atmosphere of their city," said Roberto Mantaci, co-chair of the Federation's site selection committee.

Montreal also proposed the lowest registration fee for participants of all bidding cities, and the current value of the Canadian dollar will make the city an "affordable"

place for athletes and spectators, Mantaci said.

Montreal was selected in only one round of voting by the 50 Federation delegates. The Federation will not release the second place city or the exact vote in favor of Montreal until its annual meeting in 2003, Mantaci said.

"We want to avoid any hurt feelings now while the emotions are so strong," he said.

The recent terror attacks in the U.S. did not play a role in the selection of a Canadian city to host the Gay Games, Mantaci said.

"We all want to believe this is just a temporary situation, and in five years the situation will not be the same, so I don't believe this factor went into the decision," he said.

The 2002 Gay Games are scheduled for Nov. 2-9, 2002, in Sydney. The 2006 Gay Games will take place July 29-Aug. 5, 2006, in Montreal.

INFO

Federation of Gay Games

www.gaygames.com

Montreal 2006 Bidding Committee

514-868-3436

www.montreal2006.org

Sydney 2002 Gay Games

Nov. 2-9, 2002

www.sydney2002.org.au



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Photo: Martin Ryter

Obituaries

Lynch known as 'fix-it' man

Charles Lynn Lynch, 31, of Magnolia, Texas, died Sept. 10, 2001, in an automobile accident in Magnolia.

His companion, Monte Killian, was slightly injured in the incident. Both worked offshore and were enroute to their Magnolia home.

Friends and family members remember Mr. Lynch as a man who "wore many hats" over the years. He was a carpenter, painter, baker and all-around handyman; his e-mail address was "boyfixit."

Friends recall Mr. Lynch's warm and easy smile, spontaneous laughter and enthusiasm for life.

Survivors include his companion, Monte Killian; mother and father, Dora Giffin and Gregory Lynch; and numerous relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas or the donor's choice.



Charles L. Lynch

Parmenter a regular at Mary's

John Parmenter, 70, died in Houston on Oct. 16, 2001, of bone cancer. Mr. Parmenter was born on July 15, 1931, in Seattle, the son of Versa L. and Harold E. Parmenter.

He was a graduate of the University of Illinois, where he majored in music (piano). He worked for Frederick & Nelson in Seattle and also as a purchasing agent for Boeing in both Seattle and New Orleans.

Mr. Parmenter moved to Houston in 1980, where he worked for the Gulf Oil Co. in the exploration department, worked for the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Bank for several years, and most recently assisted Volunteer Houston.

He had many friends at the local club, Mary's...Naturally, where he reportedly had a time-share on a stool.

Survivors include his cousin Jean Fleagle of Redmond, Wash.; nephews Larry Muse of Seattle and Bruce Muse of Anchorage; niece Marilyn Muse of Anchorage; and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, contributions maybe made to the Diabetes Foundation.

Dunbar a popular local bartender

Rodney Dale Dunbar, 31, died Oct. 19, 2001, in Columbia, S.C.

Mr. Dunbar was born on May 13, 1970. He was a popular Houston bartender, employed most recently at Bricks II. He also had worked at Venture-N of Houston.

A private service was held Oct. 24 in Columbia. Friends and family members stated they will sorely miss his humor, wit and zest for life.

Survivors include three sisters, two of South Carolina and one of Tennessee; and many friends.

Donations in memory of Mr. Dunbar may be made to the Houston Buyers Club.

—Penny Weaver

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Women's music fest arrives in Houston next weekend



Houston-based singer/songwriter Elizabeth White is among performers slated for the GoGirlsMusicFest, stopping in Houston on Nov. 3.

HOUSTON — GoGirlsMusicFest "Rockin' Houston For A Good Cause" presents a local show to benefit the Nicole Brown Charitable Foundation. Featured musicians will include Carolyn Wonderland, Houston-based Elizabeth White, Hillary Arwen, Rebecca Torrellas and Kristi Rae. A silent auction also will be held, and the first 100 audience members will receive a free festival compact disc featuring Patrice Pike, White and more. The festival is a series of annual showcase events across the country. Madalyn Sklar, founder of GoGirlsMusic.com, envisioned the festival to promote independent women musicians while also supporting various charities. This is the second year for the festival, which will make stops in 20 cities around the country. The Nicole Brown

Charitable Foundation offers long-term transitional housing and life skills programs for victims of family and partner violence.

INFO

GoGirlsMusicFest

9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3
 Tickets: \$5
 The Continental Club
 3700 Main St.
 713-529-9899
www.GoGirlsMusicFest.com
www.NBCF.org

Houston attorney earns award from national GLBT law group

DALLAS — The prestigious 2001 Dan Bradley Award will be presented to Houston attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye this Saturday as part of the Lavender Law Conference in Dallas. Frye receives the award from the National Lesbian & Gay Law Association, the nation's premier group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender attorneys. Frye also is a board member of the Stonewall Lawyers' Association of Greater Houston. The Dan Bradley Award Banquet is Saturday, during which Frye will be honored. The award is given to one attorney each year for contributions to GLBT legal issues. The Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston is an affiliate organization of NLGLA and will sponsor several portions of the three-day conference, which ends Saturday.

around houston

Center to host night of ghost stories, scary poems

HOUSTON — The public is invited to the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center on Nov. 2 for "Spooky Reads." The event observes Halloween, Dia de los Muertos and All Soul's Day with the telling of ghost stories, creepy urban legends and the reading of scary poems. The GLBT Interest Group of the Texas Library Association will host the event at the center. Costumes are encouraged, and refreshments will be served. Those who attend are asked to offer a donation to support the center. Works to be covered include Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven" and "The Tomb of Ligeia," Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Legend of Sleepy Hollow," and more. Victor Schill of the GLBT Interest Group also encourages participants to bring their own favorites to read.

—Penny Weaver

INFO

Spooky Reads

7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 2
 Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center
 803 Hawthorne
 713-524-3818.

Author leads seminar on photography



Author/photographer Adam Mastoon talks with Sally Huffen during his stop at Freed/Montrose Library on Saturday to lead an interactive discussion with teens using Polaroid cameras. Mastoon's book, "The Shared Heart: Portraits and Stories Celebrating Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Young People," is a collection of photographs, many of which are on display at the library through Oct. 31. During his stop in Houston, Mastoon also signed books for fans at the Lobo on Sunday.

TON DEHART



Resurrection MCC Celebrates

La Raza Month in October

La Raza Month will celebrate the rich and varied heritage of Hispanics in the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender (G/L/B/T) community.

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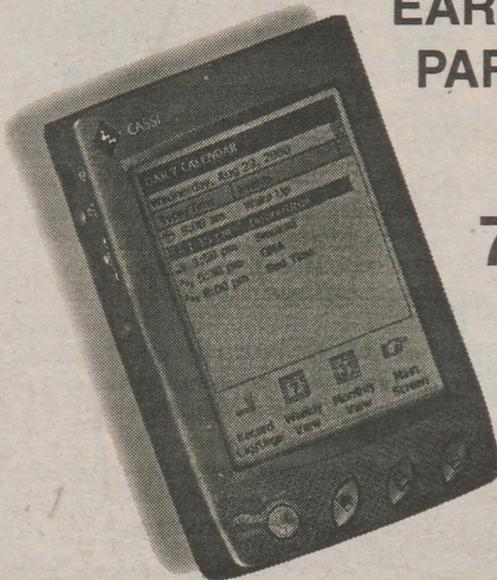
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Mass. interprets laws to grant trans protections

BOSTON (AP) — For the first time, Massachusetts' anti-discrimination and disability laws have been interpreted by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination to grant protections to transgendered people. The rights of transgendered individuals under those statutes have never been explicitly addressed by the legislature, and some critics say the decisions required contortions of state laws. But transgendered activists hailed the interpretations as an important step forward. "There's no principled reason to exclude transsexual people from the law's protections," said Jennifer Levi, an attorney with the Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. The MCAD is authorized by the state to interpret anti-discrimination laws. In one case, a transgendered woman claimed that her boss at a convenience store in Worcester County harassed her by forcing her to use her birth name, Raymond, and wear men's clothes to work. The other case involved a transgendered woman who alleged that her supervisor disciplined her because she was transgendered and threatened to fire her after she complained.

Ohio state court overturns gay custody ruling

FINDLAY, Ohio — A state appellate court has overturned an order granting custody of a child to an HIV-positive couple, United Press International reported. The court ruled that the couple had failed to go through proper adoption procedures. Linda Lowd filed the case against her brother, Robert Decker, and his partner, David Pope. Lowd had agreed to bear a child for the couple with donor sperm. Lowd signed an agreement which stated that the three adults would all participate in the child's upbringing. Lowd said Decker picked up the child for a doctor's appointment in 1999 and did not return the child to her. A lower court ordered the men to retain custody of the child; the appellate court ruled that the lower court had no right to award custody to the two men who had no biological connection to the child. The court also ruled that no legal adoption existed. The court granted full custody of the child to Lowd.

Online survey suggests gays are often affluent



Betsy Gressler, a spokesperson for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, said the results of an online survey of gay consumers should not be broadly applied to all gay men and women.

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — An online survey suggests that gay consumers are typically affluent, well-educated professionals who are highly involved in politics and have money to spend, especially for products and services from companies seen as gay-friendly. "Now we actually have statistics to certify what we believed. That's the breakthrough," said Jeffrey Garber, president of OpusComm Group, one of three partners involved in the "2001 Gay/Lesbian Consumer Online Census." The Internet-based survey was designed to poll gay men and lesbians about their education, jobs, spending practices and politics and make that information available to advertisers. Nearly 6,000 U.S. respondents completed the 40-minute survey. Betsy Gressler, a spokesperson for the Washington, D.C.-based National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, said she had reservations about the results of the survey. "I think it is wrong to project these findings on the entire gay and lesbian community. By its very definition, this was a consumer survey and those were the individuals who responded," Gressler said.

Procter & Gamble adds DP benefits, snubs city charter

CINCINNATI — Procter & Gamble has become the latest Fortune 500 company to begin offering domestic partner benefits to its gay employees, CNSNews.com reported. The company will broaden eligibility requirements to include employees' domestic partners and their children. "We have done what we can to provide benefits that will help our employees in need, and so our recent [benefits] expansion... is really in keeping with that," Procter & Gamble spokesperson Linda Ulrey told CNSNews.com. Ulrey said the company expects the costs incurred from offering domestic partnership benefits to be minimal. "We expect the cost impact of the new change to be too small to measure," she said. Cincinnati, where the company is headquartered, is home to Issue 3, a city charter amendment approved by voters in 1993 that prohibits City Council or any other city entity from enacting or enforcing any measure that gives "minority or preferential status, quota preference or other preferential treatment" to gays.

Okla. law restricting banners to be tested in court

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A new law that restricts the type of banners that can be flown from city light poles will be tested in federal court, said an attorney for a gay rights group whose banners were rejected. The Cimarron Alliance Foundation applied for approval to display Gay & Lesbian History Month banners this month. The banners were rejected by City Manager Jim Couch under a new law that says such banners should "promote or celebrate the city, its civic institutions, or public activities or events in the city." The law does not allow banners promoting any political, religious or social advocacy organizations or their messages. Attorney Mark Henricksen, an attorney for the Cimarron Alliance, said the group intends to challenge the law in federal court. "We think the First Amendment is more important than anything else in our Constitution, and that is what this dispute is about," he said.

—From staff and wire reports



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around the nation

San Antonio settles 'viewpoint discrimination' lawsuit



San Antonio City Council member David A. Garcia said he was embarrassed that the Council cut funding for a group after it sponsored a gay film festival.

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — San Antonio's city council has agreed to pay the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center \$550,000 for cutting the group's funding four years ago after it sponsored a homosexual film festival. The money is part of a settlement reached last week in the center's "viewpoint discrimination" lawsuit, prompted by a previous council's actions. Negotiations began in May to end the lawsuit after U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia chided the council for violating free speech, equal protection and open meetings laws when it cut \$62,000 in taxpayer support for the nonprofit group. Councilman David A. Garcia said he was embarrassed about the violation of Esperanza's constitutional rights. "I apologize on behalf of the city to Esperanza," he said. The settlement includes a consent decree that prohibits the city from engaging in "viewpoint discrimination" for such funds and requires it to establish clear criteria for future art projects. The settlement has been approved by Esperanza's board and the San Antonio Lesbian & Gay Media Project and the art organization VaN. Judge Garcia must approve the settlement to make it final. In legal briefs, city attorneys claimed the funding decision was rationally based on strong community opposition against "homosexuality as immoral and unacceptable."

Settlement reached in former trustee's suit against media

DALLAS (AP) — A settlement has been reached in a privacy-invasion lawsuit filed by a former Dallas schools trustee and three others against a television station and one of its reporters. Michael Quilling, an attorney representing former trustee Dan Peavy, said his client, along with insurance agent Eugene Oliver, and their wives would be paid \$5 million. Guy Kerr, senior vice president and general counsel for Belo Corp., which owns the Dallas station, said he could not confirm any details of the settlement because of a confidentiality agreement. The lawsuit was filed after the station aired a series of reports in 1995 detailing allegations of insurance fraud in the school district. As part of his reporting, WFAA reporter Robert Riggs used tapes of cordless-telephone conversations that had been illegally recorded by Peavy's neighbor, Charles Harman. The tape purportedly included a Peavy conversation laced with racist, sexist and anti-gay slurs. After the tapes surfaced, Peavy was pressured to resign from the Dallas school board.

Latin pop singer to serve as grand marshal at S.A. Pride

SAN ANTONIO — Latin pop artist Jade Esteban Estrada plans to return to his hometown of San Antonio to lead the San Antonio Pride 2002 parade as grand marshal in June. "He's been asked by many cities to perform the grand marshal role in 2002, but we had to be selective and we are pleased so far with the San Antonio agreement," said Adam Salazar of Vicarious Records. Estrada has received significant recognition from the international gay and lesbian media for his debut album, "Angel," released in February. The work has topped the Latin charts on OutVoice since August. He is currently featured in the October issues of QV and Instinct Magazine. San Antonio is one of 88 cities where Estrada will stop during next year's "Passions Tour" to promote his second album, "Passions."



Jade Esteban Estrada — the Latin pop artist whose freshman album 'Angel' has received international GLBT acclaim — returns to his hometown next year to serve as San Antonio Pride's parade grand marshal.

LifeWalk in Dallas nets \$220,000; officials disappointed

DALLAS — AIDS Arms, Inc.'s annual LifeWalk, held Oct. 20, raised about \$220,000 but that amount fell short of the agency's goals for its largest annual fund-raiser, officials told the Dallas Voice. "We got about half of what we needed. We already run an extremely lean organization," said Rodney Holcomb, executive director for AIDS Arms. "It will be leaner in 2002." Organizers had hoped to raise \$500,000 at the event, according to the Dallas Voice. Last year's event netted \$385,000 and attracted several hundred more participants than Saturday's 3,500 walkers, Holcomb noted. He attributed the results to several factors — the Sept. 11 terrorist tragedies and the U.S. military response, a flagging economy, poor weather and an FBI alert that warned of the possibility of renewed terrorist attacks, the Dallas Voice reported.

—From staff and wire reports

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Both sides of City Prop. 2 claim more support

'No on Prop. 2' releases list of opponents; Wilson claims endorsement for measure by county group

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON—With Election Day less than two weeks away, both opponents and proponents of Houston's anti-gay ballot amendment claim increasing support for their cause.

"No on City Prop. 2" is the group fighting the measure, which would prevent the City of Houston from providing health insurance and other benefits to domestic partners of its employees. The city does not currently offer such benefits.

Houstonians For Family Values is the organization that has supported the amendment — and opposed domestic partner benefits — and garnered signatures to put the question before voters.

This week, No on City Prop. 2 Campaign Manager Grant Martin released a list of social justice organizations that endorse the group's mission: to get voters to say "no" to the proposition.

"Together with our business supporters, it just continues to show that we've got a citywide coalition of people that think that City Prop. 2 is a really bad idea," Martin said. "It's unprecedented for a gay rights issue to have such a broad coalition around it in Houston [but] people understand that

it's not just about gay rights — it's about discrimination."

The No on City Prop. 2 list includes the American Jewish Committee, Houston Area Women's Center, Baptist Ministers Association of Houston & Vicinity; Holocaust Museum of Houston; Houston Area Urban League; Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund-Houston; and Parents' Reconciling Network.

At the same time, Dave Wilson, leader of Houstonians For Family Values, said the Harris County Council of Organizations is one of the groups that has come forward to support the ballot amendment.

He said the group is made up of leaders from several of Houston's primarily black congregations and includes 63 member churches.

Officials for Harris County Council of Organizations could not be reached by press time for comment.

Wilson also reiterated his opinion that Houstonians For Family Values and the ballot amendment are not "anti-gay."

"I characterize what we're going as pro-family and pro-traditional marriage," Wilson said. He emphasized that the group is not anti-gay. "As far as I'm concerned, anytime we're labeled as that, we're mischaracterized."

He said HFFV's efforts will continue right up until Nov. 6, Election Day.

Opposition continues vigorous efforts

Progressive Voters in Action is part of the No on City Prop. 2 effort. PVA Executive

Director Alex Morua said volunteer recruitment for the group is snowballing, with hundreds of new volunteers stepping up in the past few weeks.

PVA plans phone banks to call and identify voters who will vote against City Prop. 2 every evening through Nov. 1. In addition, the group will lead an Election Day effort to talk to voters at the polls across the city.

Martin said fund-raising was a high point for No on City Prop. 2. In a press release, he stated the campaign raised \$200,000 this week alone. He noted most of that will be used to buy advertising on local radio and television stations.

Almost half of those funds were raised with the help of the city's current mayor. According to Martin, Mayor Lee Brown gathered business leaders and obtained their promise to raise an additional \$90,000 to defeat the proposition.

"There are many heroes in this effort, and Mayor Brown is definitely in the top tier," Martin said.

The campaign raised more than \$100,000 this week at an event hosted by Virginia and Richard Mithoff and underwritten by Jackson & Co. Caterers, Martin noted.

"We're not done yet," he said. "I won't stop asking for money to defeat this discriminatory measure until the polls open at 7 a.m. on Nov. 6."

Democrats plan vote

The Harris County Democratic Party votes Saturday on a resolution to oppose the anti-gay amendment.

People for a Fair Houston/ No on City Prop. 2

P.O. Box 667307
Houston, TX 77266-7307
713-523-1762
www.fairhouston.org

Progressive Voters in Action

2700 Albany, Suite 205
Houston, TX 77006
713-521-7161
www.votePVA.org

Houstonians for Family Values

506 Melbourne
Houston, TX 77022
713-699-3399
www.hffv.com

The Democratic measure is passed by the party's resolution committee to the executive committee, which includes about 540 members across the county, according to Sue Schechter, chair of the county party.

Schechter said she expects the measure to be approved by the committee.

An earlier resolution regarding the proposed charter amendment stalled for lack of clarity in the wording, according to Schechter. But she said she is confident the local Democratic Party will approve Saturday's resolution to encourage voters to vote "no" on City Prop. 2.

Brown seeks second term as Houston mayor

Continued from Page 1 >

backed by conservative Dave Wilson and Houstonians for Family Values.

"I oppose Dave Wilson's proposal, as well as any attempt to repeal the non-discrimination ordinance," Bell said. "Through his petition, Wilson is fostering a community of hate and discrimination."

Brown also opposes City Prop. 2. He has worked actively to raise funds to defeat the amendment. (See story, page 8.)

"Houstonians should come out and vote on Nov. 6 to defeat this proposition," Brown said. "The proposition is working to send our city, the state and the rest of the nation the message that Houston discriminates. The right thing to do is to defeat Proposition 2 by voting 'no.'"

Sanchez did not return answers to the Voice's questions by press time Thursday afternoon.

Other questions posed by the Voice — and candidate answers — include:

• Would you support or oppose domestic partner benefits for City of Houston employees? Why or why not?

Bell: "I support domestic partner benefits for ALL couples that can prove shared financial responsibilities — gay, lesbian, and heterosexual couples, as well as parents who rely on

the financial support of their children, or adult children who might require the financial support of their parents. I support it because I feel it is the right thing to do."

Brown: "I would support domestic partner benefits for the City of Houston employees. Again, Houston should not be in the business of discrimination."

• Would you include qualified gay men, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people on your staff if elected or re-elected?

Bell: "Yes. My staffs have always been diverse."

Brown: "Yes. I believe in selecting the most qualified person for the position and I will not discriminate for any reason."

• With gay and lesbian voters specifically in mind, what do you think differentiates you from your opponents?

Bell: "I support anti-discrimination legislation as well as domestic-partner benefits. More importantly, my message of Customer Driven Government should appeal to this group. We need better streets, our potholes filled and our water mains repaired quickly and efficiently. We need strong financial management, and I will implement zero-based budgeting."

"You actually have two candidates who are

supportive of the community. I hope you will also look to the big picture of issues impacting Houston and vote accordingly. Alison and I have been friends and will continue to be friends to the community.

"I received the Political Equality Award from the Human Rights Campaign Fund in 1998 and the Black Tie Dinner Political Service Award in 1999. In my second race for Houston City Council, I was in a run-off with the Rev. James Dixon. He decided to make my support of domestic partner benefits an issue and attacked me vigorously on the issue. Many of my supporters said I should change my position but I stuck with my conscience and we both won an election that February."

Brown: "What differentiates me from my opponents is that I have been a mayor for 'all of Houston.' I was the first mayor to issue an executive order banning discrimination of employees based on sexual orientation. I sponsored the nondiscrimination ordinance and I am working to follow defeat City Proposition 2."

"I have represented all communities of Houston by implementing the Super Neighborhood plan, after school programs, more police officers and more firefighters. Our economy is doing well, crime is down and we are working to ensure public safety during this time of international uncertainty."

"Finally, I am the first mayor of Houston to appoint a liaison to the GLBT community and I will to continue that role."

Bell has been endorsed by Log Cabin Republicans of Houston, the local chapter for gay and lesbian Republicans.

Brown received the endorsement of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, a political action committee. He has served as mayor since January 1998. Brown and Bell each had entries in this year's Gay Pride parade.

Chris Bell for Mayor Campaign

P.O. Box 2405
713-266-VOTE
www.chrisbellformayor.com

Mayor Lee Brown

Office of the Mayor
713-247-2200

Orlando Sanchez

3100 Timmons Lane, Suite 100
713-871-8468
www.orlandosanchez.com

Clergy letter supports gay rights

The following letter was distributed to Houston area clergy in opposition to City Prop. 2, which would prevent the City of Houston from providing health and other insurance benefits to domestic partners of city employees. Below the letter is a list of names of the clergy who have so far signed on in support of Clergy for a Fair Houston — and therefore against City Prop. 2 — as of Oct. 24.

Clergy for a Fair Houston
c/o First Church
5200 Fannin Street
Houston, Texas 77004

Dear Fellow Clergy:

We are writing to articulate a supportive religious response to the situation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people in Houston. The Houston City Council recently amended its Non-discrimination in Employment Ordinance by adding sexual orientation and gender identity. We support the decision. We have enclosed this statement for your thoughtful consideration and hope you will support it:

We come from many faith traditions and communities. We are residents of a great city, and citizens of a nation that guarantees constitutional freedoms and protections to all. Discrimination in the workplace is economically costly as well as immoral.

In our various faiths we find support for laws which protect persons from discrimination. We respect the diversity of the world in which we live. Hatred and prejudice are not family values. Therefore, we urge Houstonians to defeat any attempts to limit equal rights in employment. We support the goals of equality, dignity, and respect for all people.

As you may know, a group called Houstonians for Family Values has brought a petition for a referendum on this Election Day, November 6. Their main purpose is to prohibit domestic partner benefits for City of Houston employees.

We hope to see voters motivated to defeat this petition. Equal rights are not special privileges. If the clergy will lead with courage, the people will follow. The issues of justice, civil rights and human dignity are now before us. Will you please add your signature and the weight of your moral presence to this issue?

We also request your physical presence at a Press Conference scheduled for Sunday, October 28 at 3:00 pm, at Interfaith Ministries, 3217 Montrose, just south of Westheimer. The more clergy who show up, the greater the impact we can have in demonstrating that discrimination has no place in Houston today.

Signatures as of Oct. 24, 2001:

- Rabbi Judith Abrams, Maqom, School for Adult Talmud Study
- Rev. Dr. Jim Bankston, St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- Rev. Bernard E. Barbour, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
- Rabbi Eve Ben-Ora, Jewish Community Center

- Cantor Elizabeth Berke
- Cantor Steven C. Berke
- Rev. Glynden Bode, John Wesley United Methodist Church
- Rev. Guinn Blackwell-Eagleson, Presbyterian Church USA
- Rabbi James Brandt, Congregation Beth Shalom of the Woodlands
- Rev. Susan Quinn Bryan, Community of the Servant Saviour, Presbyterian Church USA
- Rev. Peter J. Cammarano, Jr., Bellaire United Methodist Church
- Rev. Don Carlson, Zion Lutheran Church
- Rev. Clark Chamberlain, Central Congregational Church
- Rev. Harvey Chi, First Taiwanese Lutheran Church
- Rev. Bill Clark, Henry David Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Rabbi Jeffrey Clopper, Congregation Emanu El
- Rev. Robert L. Coberly, Presbyterian Hospice Chaplain, VITAS Hospice Care
- Rev. Fred deOliveira, St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Rev. Dr. Fane Downs, Presbyterian Church USA
- Rev. Becky and Rev. Mark Edmiston-Lange, Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church
- Rev. Rick Elliott, Presbytery of the New Covenant
- Rev. W. Douglas Ensminger, DMin, Presbyterian Hospital Chaplain
- Rabbi Stuart Federow, Congregation Shaar Hashalom
- Rev. Bruce Felker, United Methodist Church
- Rev. John Fellers, Institute of Religion
- Rev. Martha Frances, Episcopal Church
- Rev. Paul D. Fromberg, St. Andrew's in the Heights
- Rev. Robert C. Gentry, United Methodist Church
- Rev. James Giannantonio, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
- Rabbi Brenner Glickman, Congregation Beth Israel
- Dan Gordon, Temple Beth Torah
- Rev. W. C. Hall, Jr., United Methodist Church
- Rev. Helen Havens, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- Rev. Dwayne Johnson, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
- Rev. Lynn Johnson, Minister, Presbyterian Church USA
- Rev. Milton Jordan, Grace United Methodist Church
- Cantor Marilyn J. Ladin
- Rev. Ralph Lasher, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
- Father John Lasseigne, Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church
- Rev. Virzola Law
- Rev. William Lawson, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church
- Rabbi Michael LeBurkien, Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism
- Rabbi Martin W. Levy, Temple Beth Tikvah
- Rev. Gail Lindsay Marriner, First Unitarian Universalist Church
- Rev. Jane T. MacColl, Northwoods Presbyterian Church, Pastor Emerita
- Rev. W. Stewart MacColl, Northwoods Presbyterian Church, Pastor Emeritus
- Rev. Walter L. McFadden, Blessed Sacrament Ecumenical Old Catholic Church
- Rev. James C. McGill, St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Rev. David Meeker-Williams, United Methodist Church
- Rev. Marilyn Meeker-Williams, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
- Rabbi Mathew Michaels, Jewish Community North
- Rev. Marcia Miscal, Presbyterian Church, USA
- Rev. Carolyn Mobley, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
- Rabbi Steve Morgen, Congregation Beth Yeshurun
- Rabbi Shaul Osadchey, Congregation Or Ami
- Rev. Janet Parker, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches
- Rev. Stacy Pever, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church

- Rev. Bill Pierce, Grace Lutheran Church
- Rev. Troy G. Plummer, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church / Orthodox Catholic Priest
- Rabbi Joseph Prass, Congregation Emanu El
- Rev. John W. Price, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital
- Cantor David Propis, Congregation Beth Yeshurun
- Rev. Dr. William C. Poe, Presbyterian Church USA
- Rev. L. Brian Porter
- Rabbi Joseph Radinsky, United Orthodox Synagogues
- Rabbi David Rosen, Congregation Beth Yeshurun
- Rev. Hugh Sanborn, University of Houston, United Campus Ministry
- Rev. Robert L. Schaibly, First Unitarian Universalist Church
- Rabbi Deborah Schloss
- Rabbi Avi Schulman
- Rev. Frank Schulman, Unitarian Universalist Church
- Rev. Charles Sheppard, St. Paul Lutheran Church, retired
- Rev. H. Richard Siciliano, New Covenant Presbytery
- Rabbi Howard Siegel
- Rev. Don Sinclair, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, retired
- Rev. B. A. Skyles, Episcopal Church
- Rev. Robert Sneed, United Methodist Church, retired
- Rev. F. H. Stellknecht, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church

- Rev. Jim Stockton, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- Rabbi Brian Strauss, Congregation Beth Yeshurun
- Rev. David B. Tarbet, Episcopal Church
- Rabbi Todd Thalblum, Temple Sinai
- Rev. Charles Tirrell, Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- Rev. Bob Tucker, Central Congregational Church, retired
- Rev. James T. Tucker, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany
- Cantor Vadim Tunitsky, Congregation Emanu El
- Rabbi Roy Walter, Congregation Emanu El
- Rev. Beth Warpmaeker, Christ the King Lutheran Church
- Rev. Mark Warpmaeker, New Hope Lutheran Church
- Rev. Terry Weber-Rodriguez, Epworth-Parker United Methodist Church
- Rabbi Kenneth S. Weiss, Hillel Foundation
- Rev. David L. Wells, Presbyterian Church USA
- Rabbi David Whiman, Congregation Beth Israel
- Dr. Mark Weldon Whitten, Interim Minister Covenant Church
- Rev. Dr. Belinda C. Windham, St. Giles Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Marlin Wogstad, Lutheran Church, retired
- Rev. Joe D. Reynolds, Christ Church Cathedral
- Rev. Ann Arnett, United Methodist Church
- Rev. David Denham, United Church of Christ
- Betty Jane Duff, United Methodist Church, retired
- Rev. Philip Libby, Presbyterian Church, USA
- Rev. Timothy Sloan

Clergy plan Sunday announcement

Continued from Page 1 >
ment. (See story, page 8.)

Nearly two dozen people have powered the "steering" of Clergy for a Fair Houston, according to Schaibly.

"Obviously there are many more out there who are willing to ... support this, saw this as a moral issue and were willing to speak up," Schaibly said.

His own congregation includes about 20 percent of people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, the reverend noted. But all people from many religions have signed on with Clergy for a Fair Houston.

Schaibly said that helps break the stereotype that many who are religious are automatically anti-gay.

"There are really good people in every religious tradition who do not necessarily support a stance that most of us would perceive as hostile [to gays]," Schaibly said. "We wanted to let people know that to be a religious person is not to be anti-gay. We wanted to be supportive of loving relationships as best we could and we wanted to urge people to vote 'no' to hate, and to be in favor of equal rights. That was the purpose of the group."

The decision was not a simple one for many clergy who support the group, Schaibly noted.

"There were people who felt that there ought to be universal insurance ... but they also had trouble with the practice of homosexuality, so there were some com-

peting ethical claims," he said.

The group plans a 3 p.m. news conference Sunday at Interfaith Ministries, 3217 Montrose, to announce opposition to City Prop. 2.

Schaibly said it is important that religious leaders come forward on this issue, which is reminiscent of a 1985 vote in which city residents overwhelmingly rejected a measure that would have banned discrimination against gays.

"I didn't want this to be a repeat of 1985 when the churches were mostly silent," Schaibly said. "I didn't know a good way to find all the people who would be supportive of this, so probably there are many, many more out there who haven't heard of Clergy for a Fair Houston, but we're all a group of volunteers, and so we just did the best we could."

Members of Clergy for a Fair Houston signed a petition earlier this year urging adoption of the city's anti-discrimination ordinance. The Houston City Council approved the measure in July. The group's base has broadened with opposition to City Prop. 2.

"There are bright points of light everywhere," Schaibly said.

INFO

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VIEWPOINT

Under Rumsfeld's Rules, we shouldn't be the enemy

By LISA KEEN

On board the USS Enterprise in the Arabian Sea, there are 50 Muslims. They serve alongside about 5,000 service members on the ship, carrying out the U.S. military's current mission to bomb Afghanistan, a Muslim nation, in the hopes of stopping terrorism perpetrated by Islamic fundamentalists. But these 50 Muslims are U.S. service members.

One of these Muslim sailors, according to the *New York Times*, is the Navy's first Muslim chaplain — a "devout Muslim" who wears a skullcap, carries a prayer rug, and prays five times a day, as his faith requires.

The chaplain, a lieutenant named Muhiyyaldin (identified in the *Times* report by his first name only), said he "cannot support a military attack against his fellow Muslims." He sees Operation Enduring Freedom as an attack against terrorism.

Since Sept. 11, he has heard harsh words from other sailors, noted the *Times*, but he has also fielded numerous questions from them about Islam and, in responding to those questions, Muhiyyaldin "tries to teach them, and to reassure them, that Islam is not their enemy."

"And now everyone on the ship," he told the *Times*, "has a functional ability to say I knew a Muslim," and to understand that Muslims are not just the people who bombed the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The *Times* article did not explore to what extent Muhiyyaldin and the other Muslim service members aboard the USS Enterprise and elsewhere in the U.S. military might be experiencing harassment right now, or whether they might be fielding as many derisive comments as they are questions.

We can only hope that our service members are heeding President Bush's repeated call for Americans not to see this military action as being one against Muslims or against Islam. And we should praise our armed services for their ability to pull together, despite powerful differences like religion.

But sexual orientation represents a difference that is apparently much more powerful than religion and one the military can withstand only through complete suppression. Gay American service members are among those fighting in and around Afghanistan; statistically speaking, there is a good chance that about 400 to 500 service members onboard the Enterprise right now are gay.

But nobody can ask them questions about their romantic lives and personal attachments, and they cannot tell. They must hide all traces of their sexual orientation, whether a piece of clothing or something they would otherwise feel free to say or do or read.

Any trace of their being gay, according to the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

The Defense Secretary says there is no 'us' and 'them,' but his military treats sexual orientation as a difference more powerful than religion that must be suppressed.

policy, would undermine morale and unit cohesion and render our fighting forces incapable of concentrating on the mission at hand.

Such is the power the military believes inherent in homosexuality.

Bombs away

On the same day the *New York Times* published its story about the Muslim chaplain, the Associated Press released a photograph of a red-jacketed ordnance crewmember preparing to load a missile onto an F-14 or F-18 atop the Enterprise. Scrawled in bold letters upon the nose of the missile were these words: "HIGH JACK THIS FAGS."

Admirably, several newspapers, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network contacted the Navy to express concern about the slur as soon as they saw it featured in a news photo released by Associated Press and published in a British paper Oct. 11.

By last Thursday, Rear Admiral S. R. Pietropaoli assured HRC that the slur was "inappropriate" and that Navy leadership "immediately notified Navy commanders involved with Operation Enduring Freedom to ensure steps were taken to prevent a recurrence of this unfortunate incident.

"They have done so," wrote Pietropaoli, in an Oct. 17 letter to HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch.

"The U.S. Navy does not tolerate discrimination of any kind," the admiral wrote. "I sincerely hope this isolated incident will not detract from the hard work and dedication of the thousands of Sailors and Marines serving our Nation in this war on terrorism."

I believe many gay Americans have the capacity to see the difference between an isolated smear perpetrated by a (hopefully) lone and pathetic soul who has a compelling need to demonstrate that he hates "fags," even while he's on duty and participating in a serious military mission.

What I think most gays will have a harder time with is the notion that, "The U.S. Navy does not tolerate discrimination of any kind."

It was Navy, after all, that joined the Air Force this month in ordering its commanders to continue discharging sailors for being gay despite the Defense Department's policy of suspending discharges during this time of war. And it the Navy, according to a report by SLDN earlier this year, that recorded large numbers of sailors discharged for coming out "due to unchecked anti-gay harassment." In the year 2000, noted the SLDN report, the Navy, for the fourth

year in a row, led "all services in incidents of anti-gay harassment."

When the SLDN released its report earlier this year and reporters questioned a Pentagon spokesperson about its findings, Navy Rear Admiral Craig Quigley brushed off the question quickly, noting that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld "is very much against a climate of anti-gay harassment."

There is a troubling disconnect there. It is a disconnect between what commanders in the field are allowing and what President Bush has urged (to hire based on merit) and Secretary Rumsfeld has opposed (anti-gay harassment).

Now might be a good time for Rumsfeld to dust off his little-publicized paper — dubbed Rumsfeld's Rules — and share another worthy thought with the troops.

The paper is one Rumsfeld began jotting down back in 1974 when he was chair of then President Ford's transition team. He most recently revised it last month, and one of his "rules" is this:

"Don't divide the world into 'them' and 'us.'"

At the time Rumsfeld wrote down that advice, he was intending it to be used by future White House officials, who sometimes feel like "us," while the press and members of Congress and various political opponents as "them."

But the essence of Rumsfeld's Rule is sound and can be applied broadly onboard the USS Enterprise and back home.

There is no gain in dividing the world up into "them" and "us," Muslim and non-Muslim, gay and straight. The military must come to trust that its service members are as capable of working past their differences in sexual orientation as they are in working past their differences in religions.

The Congress and military leadership must come to see that the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is only half right. By requiring that military leaders "don't ask" about a service member's sexual orientation, it does avoid separating the ranks into "them" and "us."

But the "don't tell" aspect of the policy silences gay service members in a way that cripples their ability to do what the Muslim chaplain is doing for sailors aboard the USS Enterprise: "to teach them, and to reassure them, that [we are] not their enemy."

Lisa Keen is senior political correspondent for the *Houston Voice* and former executive editor of the *Washington Blade* and the *New York Blade News*. She can be reached at lkeen@washblade.com.



VIEWPOINTS

When gay = bad, even terrorists turn queer

by PAULA MARTINAC

Just when we think we're making real progress in the fight against anti-gay prejudice, something happens to remind us how deeply rooted and insidious homophobia actually is. The fact is, many people continue to associate "gay" with "bad" and still don't get enough information from the media to counter their assumptions.

The war on terrorism has provided a number of disturbing examples. Most notable may be the Associated Press photo of a bomb aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise, on which an American soldier had scrawled the message "HIJACK THIS FAGS."

But even before that photo surfaced, there were even more outrageous examples, especially the suggestions floating around that the Sept. 11 terrorists and the infamous Osama bin Laden might be homosexual.

Radio talk shows and online message boards — ever-popular spots for such rantings — have been breeding grounds for "terrorists are gay" hogwash.

At the America Online boards, for example, you can find plenty of cagey references to bin Laden's sexual orientation.

There have been subtle implications in the press, too. One conservative commentator in Britain, Ros Coward, wrote in the Manchester Guardian that "intense sexual ambiguity" surrounded bin Laden, whose appearance he called "languidly feminine."

On this side of the Atlantic, CNN interviewed a heterosexual couple in Florida who had rented a house to two of the alleged hijackers in the months preceding the attacks. A now-familiar profile of the

hijackers emerged — they kept to themselves, they paid the rent on time, and so on. But at the end of the interview, the landlady added another piece of "information" in a hushed tone: "They didn't seem to like the ladies." Amazingly, the reporter never challenged or questioned her but simply let the statement stand as the last words viewers heard.

Then there's that AP photo. Perhaps more upsetting than the word "fags" scrawled on the bomb was the fact that the news organization did not address the slur in the photo caption or in a separate story. Instead, after groups like the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Human Rights Campaign raised objections, AP pulled it completely from circulation and threatened to sue publications that used it without permission — even if papers wanted to offer critical commentary on the image's content.

Of course, it's not new when people foolishly equate a real threat like terrorism with something they perceive as threatening, like homosexuality. It's not new either when journalists make such associations, let them stand unquestioned, or cover them up.

In the last century, those who reported on Hitler often made "wink, wink" suggestions about him and his colleagues. After she interviewed Hitler in 1931, Dorothy Thompson, a renowned U.S. journalist (and a bisexual to boot), wrote that Hitler had a "soft, almost feminine charm" and probably "crooks his little finger when he drinks a cup of tea."

In his epic "Rise and Fall of the Third Reich," William Shirer, an American correspondent in Germany before and dur-



ing the Nazi takeover, put unusual emphasis on the fact that the "weird assortment of misfits" who started the Nazi Party were homosexuals.

It's a little chilling, then, that at the same time associations between today's mass murderers and homosexuality are being tossed around, a new book revisiting the idea that Hitler was gay has just been published. Written by a Bremen University history professor named Lothar Machtan, "The Hidden Hitler: The Double Life of a Dictator" alleges that Hitler's anti-gay policies, dating back to the 1930s, came about because he was trying to hide his past, which had included erotic friendships with men.

Critics of Machtan dismiss his work, maintaining that he doesn't have any evidence to back up his assertions. But here's a

curious fact about the press coverage of the book's publication. Of the many stories I've seen, only one so far (on the Reuters news service) quoted the author as saying that it would be absurd to think that homosexuality had anything to do with Hitler's other policies, like the extermination of the Jews. In other words, Machtan seems to be saying what many gay historians have argued — that even if some historical "evil-doers" turn out to be gay, "gay" does not equal "evil."

That's an important piece of information, and one that, amazingly, the media still often fail to convey to the public.

Paula Martinac is an author and syndicated columnist and can be reached at Lncolumn@aol.com.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner

An Unmarried Man

Doug's love for Ethan was always competing with Doug's need for space....

...The kind measured in square feet...

...As well as the kind measured in inches...

Oh, when Eeth insisted that he and Doug buy a place together. Things fell apart pretty fast.

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"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and staff reports



Jane Fonda

"What we have experienced on Sept. 11 was the most flagrant kind of ... what could be called patriarchy. Look at how these people treat women. Look at what their notion of a man is. I'm so glad that one of the heroes that went down on that plane in Pennsylvania was gay. Why do you think homophobia is so strong and such violence is brought against it? Because it is so threatening to the patriarchal status quo."

—Actress and activist Jane Fonda, speaking Oct. 17 to the Atlanta Executive Network, a gay business group with a mostly male membership

"People will kill themselves for a cause, a country, or a creed, but not reliably. To be confident that the attacker will finish the job, you have to make him not just willing but eager to die. Religion offers the only reliable inducement. Without its religious element, the current war would be literally inconceivable."

—Gay writer Jonathan Rauch in the National Journal, Oct. 13

"The real enemy is not Osama bin Laden. It is not Afghanistan. It is not even terrorists. The real enemy is the thing that drove the terrorists to become terrorists. Religion."

—Gay syndicated columnist Rex Wockner, in a recent filing

"I am taking Cipro, twice a day, because 'Erin M. O'Connor, 38,' as the New York Times called her on the front page, is my colleague and my friend and happened to handle a letter full of brown powder addressed to Tom Brokaw. Every day, I think to myself, I can't prevent the terror, but I sure wish I knew when it was going to happen so I could at least plan. If I'm going to die within the week, I need to spend all my money and get really fat and at least die happy."

—Lesbian network news producer Barbara Raab in an Oct. 14 interview



John Waters

"The people running Hollywood now have grown up on my movies. It was their parents who were offended by them."

—Filmmaker John Waters to Cleveland's Gay People's Chronicle, Oct. 12

"I don't want to offend anybody, any groups, that's just my expression. In English, it's tough. ... I swore on the court in Indianapolis, and a religious group, they call."

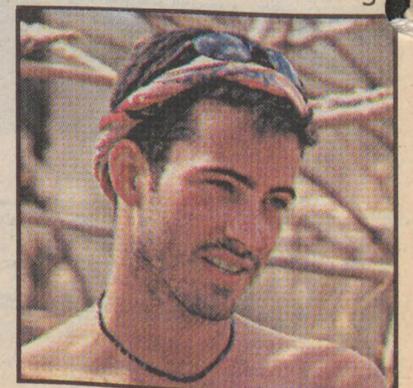
—Tennis pro Goran Ivanisevic, explaining to reporters at last month's U.S. Open why he used the word "faggot" in describing a long-haired linesman whose call he disputed at Wimbledon this year

"Life is a work-in-progress. ... I've had therapy, I've hugged trees, I've chanted. I've done all that. What that does is it helps you control your responses to situations, but I don't think you can ever change who you are."

—Boy George to London's Gay Times, October issue.

"Richard Hatch is not like any gay man I know. He's 50 years old, he's got a kid, he's retired from the military. He's not your typical gay person. He is what a lot of conservative gay people want to represent."

—Brandon Quinton, the gay bartender from Dallas on this season's "Survivor" program set in Africa



Brandon Quinton

Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE • OCTOBER 26, 2001

Changing roles

Shaver acts out as transgendered Erica in 'The Education of Max Bickford' on CBS

by ELLEN HOWELL

Helen Shaver isn't like most actors. She's been able to make a living by actually acting. And now she's breaking ground as Erica, a transgender character on the CBS series "The Education of Max Bickford."

"A lot of other actors have had to do a lot of other things to pay the bills — I've been a self-supporting actress since I was 21," she offers.

She admits that there have been times that she took roles to actually "pay the rent," but that the work has always been interesting. She's also said no to a number of things over the years. Once this actress starts working on a project, however, she's always discovered that she was there for a reason.

"I am 50 years old," Shaver says. "When I look at my life, I see that I have a great life."

Indeed. At the age of 50, she's been in 65 movies and has been directing for the past several years, including episodes of TV shows like "Judging Amy" and "The Outer Limits." She recently directed and produced "Due East" for Showtime.

Her movie roles have included parts in movies like "Amityville Horror," "The Color of Money" and "Desert Hearts." In the latter film, she played the part of a repressed teacher who discovers her true sexual orientation. Shaver says that role was one she liked since it involved lesbians in a film that didn't end with one of them going crazy or killing each other. At the time, it was groundbreaking.

Now she's doing ground-breaking work again in "Max Bickford." She plays Richard Dreyfuss' (Max) best friend Steve, who just returned from a sabbatical as the newly female Erica. In the show, Max realizes that he's an old-fashioned man in a modern world.

As Steve, Shaver's character had been in a great dilemma, she says, trying to do everything she could to align her insides with her outsides. Erica's struggle as the best friend who's made a radical change is juxtaposed to Max — and his unwillingness to change.

"It's an enviable role," she says. "In most shows a transgendered character is usually a joke, a walk through or is there for sweeps month. It's interesting to see the public's perception change about the whole transgender community. When most folks think of a transgender, they think of a man in a

THE EDUCATION OF MAX BICKFORD



The cast of 'The Education of Max Bickford' (above) includes Richard Dreyfuss (seated) Marcia Gay Harden (from left), Helen Shaver, Regina Taylor and Katee Sackhoff. Gay fans are familiar with Helen Shaver's (right) lesbian role in 'Desert Hearts.' Now she's cast in the role of transgendered Erica Bettis in 'The Education of Max Bickford.'



appts.

saturday, oct. 27



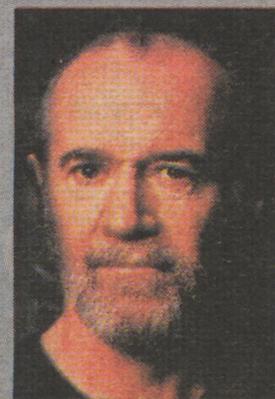
Performer Ann Reed is among headliners at this Saturday's Houston Women's Festival.

The annual **Houston Women's Festival**, in its seventh year, features art, music and crafts, and all are welcome to attend. One of the event's headliners is singer, songwriter, humorist and storyteller

Ann Reed. Also set to perform are Houstonian folk rocker Elizabeth White, singer/songwriter Jennifer Marks, "blue-eyed soul diva" Sean Wiggins and salsa duo Cafe Mocha, who hail from New Mexico. The not-for-profit Athena Art Project, which supports the artistic endeavors of women, produces the event. Tickets: \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Saturday, Oct. 27, 1 p.m.-midnight. Garden in the Heights. 713-861-3316. www.hwfestival.org.

Another Saturday event raises funds to support the American Cancer Society's Houston Metro Market breast cancer detection programs, patient information/support programs and breast cancer research. **Making Strides Against Breast Cancer** is a pledge event; there is no registration fee and participants of all ages are welcome. The 4.5-mile event begins and ends at Robertson Stadium at the University of Houston Main Campus. The United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast partners with the American Cancer Society to hold the event. Registration: 8 a.m. Event steps off at 9 a.m. American Cancer Society, 1-877-606-WALK.

Comedian **George Carlin** takes the stage for two performances Saturday at Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House. Since the mid-60s, the notorious Carlin has offered audiences his "decidedly anti-establishment, satirical" shows. He is best known for "Seven Words You Can Never Say On Television" and his Grammy Award-winning comedy albums. 7 and 10 p.m., Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice, Galveston Island. 1-800-821-1894. www.thegrand.com.



Called the 'most influential comedian since Lenny Bruce,' George Carlin performs in Galveston this weekend.

wednesday, oct 31

Stonewall Lawyers of Greater Houston will host attorney **Alyson Meiselman**, a renowned national voice on civil rights and transgender issues. She will discuss "Slavery, Sex & Gender and the Ancient Doctrine of Stare Decisis" at a program open to the public and students. A social will be held from 11:30 to noon on Oct. 31, with the program running from noon to 1 p.m. Cost is \$10, which includes a beverage and gratuity. Chapultepec, 813 Richmond.

Helen Shaver tackles 'Max' transgender role with aplomb

➤ Continued from Page 13

dress, it's actually quite stereotypical.

"In real life there are transgendered individuals who look all types of different ways. They pass through life and nobody knows."

As it happens, life helped Shaver prepare for this role of a lifetime: One of her best friends has been a male to female transgender for 15 years.

"She has shared different aspects about her life with me — the beginning and now. She is someone you'd never think was ever a man," Shaver says. "She was a model and has beautiful skin, a very sexy woman."

Shaver says she's been able to draw on her personal awareness of her friend and then her history with the Erica

role. She also spent time with a therapist who works with transitioning transgender people. One of the first questions she asked the therapist was about what to change physically.

If she were going to portray this woman, what would she need to do? Shaver has a naturally strong physical stature; she's tall and broad in the shoulders. It's helped her reinforce the idea that she was a man.

She also read "Crossing" and "Trans-Sister Radio," a novel by Chris Bohjalian — suggestions by GLAAD to prepare herself. The book is about a male to female transgender woman who is a professor at a university in Vermont. The story is told from all points of view. It turned out to be a great piece of resource material for Shaver. It gave her an inner dialogue as Erica.

One evening Shaver decided to have a bath and while she was in the tub, she caught herself admiring the femaleness of her own body.

"The experience was like 'what if I felt like exactly the way I do, instead of there being a female body, there was penis or testicles?'" she says. "How would I be able to relate? What would my reality be?"

It was then that she realized how powerful a moment Erica must have had to be a woman and to touch herself for the first time as a woman — instead of a man.

Shaver tries to bring the depth of knowledge she gleaned from her own self-introspection to the show's character.

"The show is undeniably respectable — Richard Dreyfuss has such a charismatic quality and audiences relate to him — hopefully they will relate to me, too," she says.

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on stage

THEATER CALENDAR

A strongly flavored season opener

Houston Grand Opera's 'Rigoletto' centers on father-daughter relationship, drama within

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

Those expecting the typical sorrowful hunchback are in for a shock — Houston Grand Opera's initial offering of the season sports a stud with a semi-detached hump, curses galore and one of the strongest casts in recent memory.

Giuseppe Verdi was well in his stride when he premiered "Rigoletto" in 1851. This work is the first in his "Trilogia Popolare," synonymous with his "middle period" works, "Il Trovatore" and "La Traviata." "Rigoletto" signals somewhat of a radical change in Italian opera in the mid-19th century. Audiences had previously come to expect certain set pieces interspersed with story line recitatives. In his newest work, Verdi departed from the previous bel canto norm, single handedly moving the art form to a new level of expression and continuity.

"Rigoletto" is based on Victor Hugo's 1832 play "The King's Amusement," a work in which the king of France and his court are depicted as womanizing hedonists. French censors closed the play after only two performances and their Venetian counterparts had much the same reaction to Verdi's adaptation, forcing him to make changes to the story line. Hugo's king was demoted to a duke and his jester aptly named Rigoletto, derived from the French *rigoler* (to laugh).

A father/daughter relationship stands the center of "Rigoletto." Many scholars think this is derived from Verdi's early tragic experience as a husband and father — within three years of his marriage in 1836, his wife and two children had died.

While there is no wife present in "Rigoletto," the Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky as the tormented father and American soprano Laura Claycomb as his sheltered daughter, Gilda, provide enough drama for a family of eight.

This richly hued production, premiered in 1994, is directed by Frank Corsaro. This time, the director opts for a more muscular, less pitiful "Rigoletto." One could hardly imagine the tall silver-haired Hvorostovsky as a maimed victim; instead, he projects a swagger worthy of a protective father, trying in vain to guard his daughter's virtue from the decadent Duke of Mantua, whose men inadvertently kidnap Gilda, believing her to be Rigoletto's mistress.

As a result, Rigoletto engages the assassin, Sparafucile, to slay the duke. Rigoletto thinks the deed is "in the bag," only to realize that a tragic error has been made in the name of love.

Patrick Summers' eloquent conducting provides each of the singers space and dynamic room to shine. His musical flexibility allows Verdi's score to move far beyond a typical "boom-chick-chick" real-



Maddalena is portrayed by Stephanie Novacek, and Roberto Aronica is the Duke of Mantua in 'Rigoletto.'

ization. Unfortunately, the men of the HGO chorus and their sloppy diction of this well-known repertoire provided the only musical weak link.

"Rigoletto" is full of emotion and each of the singers in this production brings their respective roles to fruition. Claycomb's Gilda is just as one might imagine it — tentative when under her father's watchful eye and lovelorn when away from it.

Claycomb evokes passion as an actress, which is completely matched by her ability to coax deep feeling from Verdi's musical line, even while lying flat on her back in a second story hallway. Her coloratura zoomed past the orchestra and up into the balcony with ease. As her zealous father, Hvorostovsky's unusually dark tone provides a more menacing jester, one bent on vengeance rather than acceptance of the inevitable.

Italian tenor Roberto Aronica is appropriately amorous and audacious. His clear voice is even and unforced. Tenors in "Rigoletto" are always judged by La donna e mobile, which is, next to Puccini's *Nessun Dorma*, probably the most famous tenor aria in operatic literature. Aronica's crisp interpretation have many wondering when we will see him next.

The surprise dark horse of the evening is American bass Raymond Ace. His dastardly effective portrayal of the hired killer Sparafucile was inspired — a mean-looking guy with a big booming voice. He was perfectly cast and rounded out a complement of wonderful performers.

This "Rigoletto" is like a cup of strong espresso — dark, rich and satisfyingly bittersweet.

INFO

Rigoletto

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A long, long walk home

Lesbian author tells story of her own journey of self-discovery

by ELLA TYLER

A long walk is a time-honored remedy for emotional confusion, but Kelly Winters' walk was extreme - a six-month, 2,000-mile trek along the Appalachian Trail. Winters did have a lot of issues to work out, but her problems are not the focus of "Walking Home," written from the journal of her trip.

Winters' account of daily life on the trail makes fascinating reading, revealing experiences that are totally different from expectations. This is no leisurely stroll in the woods. Weather shuts down the Northern end of the trail from October to March, so a hiker must trudge on, day by day, to finish the trail. Hikers make elaborate preparations to have money, mail and food sent to towns along the trail.

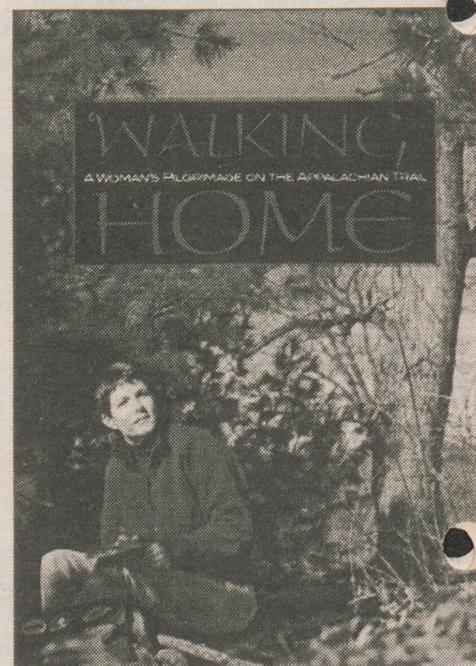
The center of Winters' problems is her confusion about, or unwillingness to accept, her sexual identity. Early in the book she confesses, "My personal life is, to say the least, confusing. I don't fit in. I've had women lovers, alternating with men, as if I can't make up my mind. This disturbs me. It makes sense that if you're able to be partners with a man, why put up with all the discrimination you get if people see you with a woman? Give it a try." She tries both, and is comfortable with neither.

She thinks she needs to make some kind of pilgrimage, and when she reads about the Appalachian Trail, decides it will be her answer. She studies everything she can find about the trail, saves her money and is ready to go when she meets the perfect man, the one she can make it with. "He's talented, kind, funny, and so wholesome it's hard to believe. He goes to church, respects his parents," she writes.

Winters empties her savings account to move to be with him. Soon after they move in together, she discovers that he is a Peeping Tom. She continues the relationship until she discovers that he is having affairs with other women. She leaves and begins to save money again.

Although these pages are only a small part of the story, they help explain why Winters is making this journey. Why is she hiking through rain and tornadoes, suffering from dehydration or hypothermia, with blistered feet and toenails that are so bruised they are black and will fall off? Winters answers for herself and her fellow thruhikers when she writes, "I'm definitely not normal. If someone is well adjusted and happy in their life, they don't have a compulsion to leave everything and walk over mountains for six months." Winters' honest appraisal of herself makes the book more interesting.

Thruhikers are, in trail lingo, people who hike the entire Appalachian Trail. The sto-



Author Kelly Winters takes readers along her own trail of self-discovery in 'Walking Home.'

ries about Winters' interactions with other hikers and the townspeople and day hikers who feed, shelter and give rides to them sustain the book.

The hikers are mostly male, and Winters is the only woman who is hiking alone. The exposure to a variety of men, particularly several who are "everything a straight woman would want," allows Winters to realize that men are just not for her. She decides that when the trip is over she will see what happens.

The first few weeks of the journey do give Winters much time to meditate about her life or admire the scenery. She had tried to physically condition herself for the hike, but the reality is very different. She burns 6,000 calories a day, the equivalent of running two marathons. When she does have a moment to think, she is consumed by memories of Wade, the man she just left.

Eventually Winters gets past being able to think of nothing but how her body feels, and she begins to notice the scenery. She also gets less compulsive about her hike. Near the end of the trip, Winters meets a woman who is day hiking who interests her. They exchange addresses and correspond. Eventually the two become lovers and are now partners. It's a happy ending to a hard road.

INFO

Walking Home: A Woman's Pilgrimage on the Appalachian Trail

Kelly Winters
Alyson Publishing, 334 pages,
\$14.95

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RESTAURANT REVIEW

Healthy hometown eating

Ziggy's provides extensive menu for all types of health-conscious patrons

by KATHREEN LEE

It seems that more and more people these days are becoming calorie counting vigilantes, painstakingly calculating their daily total caloric intake and meticulously comparing the amount of saturated "good" fat versus the unsaturated "bad" fat in every food item ingested, even down to their after-dinner breath mints.

From advertisements of breakfast drinks and diet pills to Jared, Subway's poster boy, traipsing about his low-cal/low-fat sandwich success, one cannot escape the constant and urgent barrage of suggestions to eat healthy.

Here in Houston, we fortunately have another alternative to Lean Cuisines and the less-than-three-grams-of-fat-six-inch-veggie-subs-on-wheat-with-no-cheese-and-mayo: We have Ziggy's Healthy Grill. Tucked away in a small shopping complex on West Alabama and wedged between two other establishments frequented by health nuts, Whole Foods and a Moveable Feast, Ziggy's does not catch a passerby's easy attention. However, once tipped off to its location, anyone is likely to become a regular customer thanks to Ziggy's extensive menu selection and quiet dining atmosphere.

Ziggy's claim to fame is its Exotic Burgers (\$5.95), which feature burger patty choices of antelope, kangaroo, ostrich, caribou and venison. If anything, the novelty of eating kangaroo meat should prompt any virgin patron to try Ziggy's. Most of the "exotic" meat choices do taste very similar, though, with the exception of the ostrich, which does taste a bit gamey. Regardless, how many places do you know serve antelope for less than \$6?

Ziggy's very extensive menu includes a wide variety of burgers, sandwiches, quesadillas, salads and pizzas. Most entrée items range in price from \$4.95 to \$8.50, with the pricier dishes including dinner specials such as Grilled Salmon Fillet Dinner (\$9.50) and Veggie Lasagna (\$7.50).

One specialty item which I have not seen elsewhere is the variety in French fries. Unlike the usual potato-based fries, Ziggy's offers Sweet Yam, Idaho Whites and Sweet Onion Fries, all prepared in cholesterol-free canola oil. Soft and sweet, the specialty fries offer a non-greasy and healthy alternative.

Ziggy's cuisine does not necessarily stand out in terms of taste. When one compares Ziggy's burgers to those offered at any other respectable establishment, there is not a wide gulf of difference in their sumptuousness.

However, at least one knows that the low fat, lean and high protein meat used in



FOOD FILE

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Food: ●●●●●

Service: ●●●●●

Value: ●●●●●

Scene: ●●●●●

● Opt for bread, water at home

●● OK, if you really must

●●● Fine for most

●●●● Worth the drive, so live a little

●●●●● As good as it gets

Ziggy's burgers are healthier than those in other restaurants, and therefore one can enjoy his or her burger and fries guilt-free. This regret-less dining provides the added incentive for any health-conscious diner to patronize Ziggy's.

For those calorie trackers, Ziggy's maintains a large binder behind the counter which details the caloric and fat content of every item on their menu. Despite the management shift in the past year, the lunch and dinner selections have not changed and the new owners, three doctors, adhere to the commitment to offer Houston diners a healthy alternative.

This commitment has provided Ziggy's with a steady stream of loyal patrons. According to a friend, prior to the management change, the general clientele featured mainly the Hans and Franz body building variety who would effortlessly devour their low-fat high-protein Buffalo Burgers (\$5.25) and wash them down with a shot of Red Bull, before moving on to their next dinner course.

Now, the clientele seems more mixed, ranging from wealthy retirees enjoying a Chicken Pecan Salad (\$5.95) after their morning tennis to new age vegetarian disenchanted Gen-Xers sporting clay disks in their ears and enjoying their Spinach and Mushroom Quesadillas (\$7.50) before going to work at Whole Foods.



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Swiss or Cheddar Cheese Fondue,
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SALAD COURSE

Bitter Sweet-California Salad, Chef's
Salad or Mushroom Salad

MAIN COURSE

Twin Maine Lobster Tails, Center-Cut
Filer Mignon, Japanese Tiger Shrimp,
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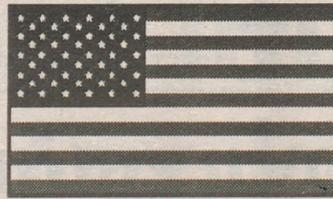
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community calendar

saturday, oct 27

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.

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston volunteer appreciation reception, 1-4 p.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 1 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Houston Ruggerfest. Women's rugby tournament. All day; finals are Sunday. Rice University rugby pitch, entrance No. 12 off Rice Blvd. 713-522-4737. www.houstonrugby.org.

Blessing of the Animals. Annual event. 10 a.m. to noon. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church courtyard, 1440 Harold St. 713-526-1017. www.beringumc.org.

NAMES Project yard sale. Held last weekend of each month. 713-52NAMES.

Houston Women's Festival. 1 p.m.-midnight. Garden in the Heights. www.hwfestival.org.

sunday, oct 28

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 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 & 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.

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 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.

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930

Thoreau Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Adult discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 281-277-8882. www.tuuc.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in 2-5 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. • 713-524-3818.

Houston Ruggerfest. Women's rugby tournament. Finals start at 10 a.m. Rice University rugby pitch, entrance No. 12 off Rice Blvd. 713-522-4737. www.houstonrugby.org.

NAMES Project yard sale. Held last weekend of each month. 713-52NAMES.

Classic Chassis Car Club banquet. CCCC Houston Annual Awards Banquet. 5:30-9 p.m. The Courtyard on St. James Place, 1855 St. James Place. 713-621-0555.

monday, oct 29

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 713-782-5414.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 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.

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

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, oct 30

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.

HTGA. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

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.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

Bi-Net Houston. Men's Social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming-Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Houston Outdoor Group. General meeting. 713-522-7809.

wednesday, oct 31

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.

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. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796.

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. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 -9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Blessed Sacrament Church. Workshop Series for Christian Faith and Ecumenical Old Catholicism. 713-476-9776.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.

thursday, nov 1

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

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. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

HIV Art Therapy Program. 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

Community Gospel. Service. 7:30 p.m. 713-880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.

Gay Houston. New social group for all ages. 7 p.m. 713-526-9318.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Gay/lesbian Jewish study group. Meets the first Thursday of every month. 7:30-9 p.m. Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 N. Braeswood Blvd. Alan, 713-523-3673.

Gulf Coast Transgender Community. Meeting. 713-780-4282.

friday, nov 2

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.

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, "Much Ado About Nothing." 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lesbian & Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

Govinda Yoga Club. Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Film Night, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Service of Healing. For persons living with HIV/AIDS. Christ Church Cathedral Golding Chapel, 1117 Texas Ave. 7 p.m. 281-331-4851.

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

Maranatha Fellowship MCC

1311 Holman

(across from HCC-Downtown Campus)

meets in the home of Central Congregational Church

Maranatha Fellowship MCC is on the Move!

Our church offices have relocated to 3333 Fannin, Suite 106, Houston, TX 77004!

The anticipated move to 10:00 AM Sunday morning Worship Service at 3333 Fannin, Suite 106 is Sunday, December 2, 2001.

For more information, call the church office at 713.528.6756.

Please Join Us For Evening Services And Experience The Love That Maranatha Fellowship MCC Has To Offer!

October 28 "Building Community Involves Ministry" Rev. Janet Parker
November 4 "The Role of the Twelve Disciples" Rev. Janet Parker

Church Service begins at 6:30pm and nursery is available for small children. Mid-week "Home Group" services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

For more info...
713-528-6756 or email
maranatha@ev1.net

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"Building Community Through Compassion"



Enjoy worship at your home church in the morning and visit us in the evening for an alternate worship experience!

houston classifieds

Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

OCCASIONS

CCCC member Rogers A. has a birthday on Oct. 28.

Oh, Mary!! Cliff Owens sneaks in a birthday cocktail on Oct. 28, and Mary cheers in her birthday on Oct. 30.

"We have had our ups and downs and enjoy all of them." Happy 1st anniversary to Michael Blackburn and Neal Sanford on Oct. 28.

It is scary how long they have been together... Happy anniversary to Lee Davis and Cliff on Oct. 31.

Our very own editor-in-charge, Penny writes up another birthday on Oct. 27.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUTCH-FEM

Starting Butch-Fem group for Lesbians • If interested call 713-917-8987 Press 4 to leave a message for us.

EROTIC MASSAGE WORKSHOP

CELEBRATING THE BODY EROTIC • 2 days of erotic exploration and sexual initiations • For Gay & bisexual men • Experiment with sacred sex rituals based on Tantric and Taoist traditions • Relearn human sexuality as sacred, transcend & healthy • October 27 & 28 • Call 713-426-5196 or visit www.bodyelectric.org.

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Seeking cook • Responsible for preparation of nutritional meals for program participants • Meal planning • Prepare grocery list • Clean kitchen and utensils after use • Call Taylor @ 713-522-5757

Home repair helper needed • Montrose • \$10 per hour • 713-521-3359

STEVEN'S HOUSE

Seeking caregiver for HIV+ adults • Part-time overnight and weekend staff • Minimum requirements include high school diploma and at least 3 years prior work experience in caregiving • Light duties include cooking, cleaning, administration of medications and crisis intervention • Call Taylor @ 713-522-5757

MILAM HOUSE

PWA COALITION

Housing Assistance needed for Knowledge of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse (recovery) preferred • Fax resume to 713-522-2674

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seeks a highly organized individual with excellent telephone, writing and computer skills to fill position of Support Staff secretary/receptionist • Must be fluent in English/Spanish • Requirements: Knowledge in Microsoft Office and typing 45wpm • Starting salary \$1900 per month • View job description at www.rwpc.org • Apply at 1310 Prairie, Suite 240 • Reference #7982-C

Resurrection MCC is seeking a maintenance specialist/caretaker • Individual will clean and maintain interior and exterior of church properties • Qualification: High School diploma/equivalent • Salary & benefits • Send cover letter with resume to: Resurrection MCC • 2025 West 11th Street • Houston, Texas 77008 • Attn: Maintenance/Caretaker

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VOLUNTEERS

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CALENDAR

<p>Friday • Oct 26 Morning Prayer 10am Movie Night 7pm "The Name of the Rose"</p> <p>Monday • Oct 29 Eucharist 7:30pm</p> <p>Wednesday • Oct 31 Halloween Gathering 7-10pm Happy Halloween</p> <p>Friday • Nov 2 Morning Prayer 10am</p>	<p>Monday • Nov 5 Eucharist 7:30pm</p> <p>Tuesday • Nov 6 Don't forget to vote!</p> <p>Thursday • Nov 8 Understanding the Islamic Faith 7pm (guest speaker)</p> <p>Friday • Nov 9 Morning Prayer 10am</p> <p>Saturday • Nov 10 Kolbe Breakfast 9:30am</p>
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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 \$10:
 Announcements
 Auditions
 Employment-Seeking
 Pets-Free or Lost & Found
 Roommates
 Personal Web sites

BUSINESS RATE \$18:
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 Business Opportunities
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 Help Wanted-Seeking
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 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: _____

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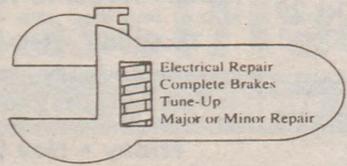
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My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



Oct. 26 - Nov. 1



ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

Mars and Neptune could bring more friends into your life during this beautiful cycle. You should open your heart instead of acting like a suspicious nut! A Virgo is ready to change your life. Can you return the favor?



TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

The full moon in your sign late on Halloween night could inspire passion for love or for war. A Leo knows how to fight fair. Take him or her on - and take it off, baby. You know you want to.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Passionate Mars conjunct yearning Neptune in your house of spirituality during late October and early November could make the mystical bug bite you. It's time to find your religion. Or at least look for it. Worship at the altar of another Gemini.



CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

This is the only time of year when the stars insist that you act like a drama queen. Get into a two-person costume with an Aquarius, who wants you to stand behind him at all times.



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

Mars conjunct Neptune in your house of love could make your romantic life magical and unpredictable. Just in time for Halloween. If a Pisces asks you to switch costumes during the middle of a party, say yes, and undress!



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

This is definitely your time of year to lighten up, darling, and let yourself be free and flexible. A Taurus isn't into your rigidity as much as your fluidity. Change your strong suit to your work suit and vice versa, dear.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

You may feel like a stranger in a strange land during this time of transition, and that's okay, babe. You are in a state of metamorphosis. A Virgo pictures you in a state of grace. Go with that image, doll. It suits you right now.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

The full moon in your house of love late on Halloween could bring you a dream come true and a nightmare come to life - all in the form of a beautiful stranger, probably of the Aries persuasion. Don't fight it.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You'd better get more comfortable with your contradictions, sweetie. Everyone else is seeing you in three dimensions - so why are you simplifying your own sense of self? It's time to get real with a Capricorn. Play time is over.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Your friends can help you out of some sticky jams this week. But be careful. Don't get too complacent with a Scorpio friend, who could lure you into even more trouble than usual.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

You may have to rein in your temper and your ominous talk of "omens" during this intense time. Mars and Neptune are teaming up to help you release a long-dormant wish out into the world. But that doesn't mean you have to torment everyone around you in the process. Don't try a Sag's patience.



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

Don't worry about your career so much right now, darling. Life is for living, so put some energy back into relationships you've neglected. Begin with a Cancer.

Jill Dearman is the author of the best-selling "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women" (both from St. Martin's Griffin). For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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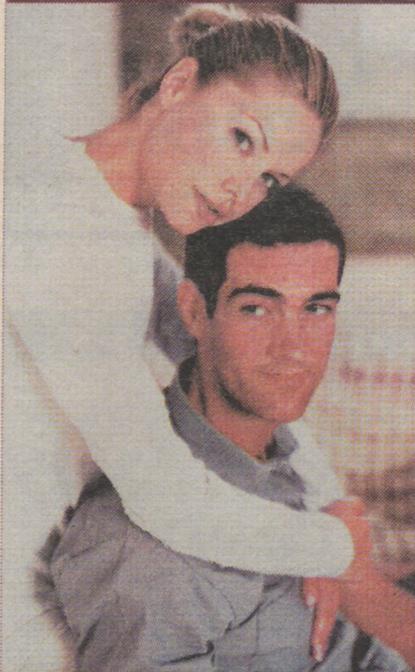
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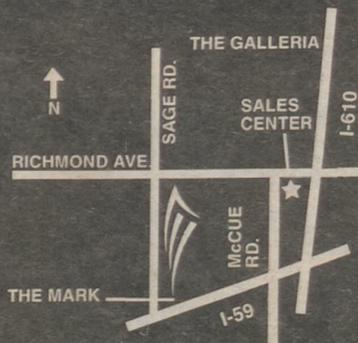
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