



HOUSTON

VOICE

One Community! One Voice!



Battling rhetoric with love page 7A

JUNE 26, 1998 • www.houstonvoice.com • ISSUE 922

Supporters: March to boost local activism

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Organizers of the Millennium March want to raise \$2.5 million, in part to help bolster grassroots organizations that can tackle anti-gay initiatives and rhetoric in cities such as Houston, according to the head of the nation's largest gay and lesbian political group.

"We are in a wonderful position to battle," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. "What truly matters in this movement doesn't happen in

Washington. It happens around the dinner tables when gay people are honest and open and take that brave step."

Birch, in Houston Thursday for a whirlwind fund-raising trip through Texas and Oklahoma, said that while the HRC should stay "squarely focused" on lobbying Congress, it must also develop better ties to local and state gay rights groups.

Earlier this year, the HRC, along with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

and the Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Organization — announced the Millennium March, a massive rally to draw gays and lesbians to Washington, D.C. in April 30, 2000.

The effort drew immediate and harsh rebukes from some gay activists who said organizers failed to consult them. The event could also drain slim resources in communities across the country, critics charged.

See BIRCH/ page 5A



Birch: 'Movement doesn't happen in D.C.'

HOUSTON VOICE INTERVIEW

Her toughest battle yet?

Well-known lesbian veteran in bruising election battle

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

We are in a life and death struggle for the spiritual and cultural heritage — and future — of our country.

That's the pitch some 47,000 conservatives across Washington state received in a fund-raising letter from U.S. Rep. Jack Metcalf last month.

The Republican is hurriedly trying to raise money to match the campaign coffers of retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, a military nurse and Vietnam veteran hoping to unseat the two-term incumbent in a district north of Seattle nearly evenly



On to Washington?: Retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer, who announced her campaign for the U.S. House, could become the first openly gay or lesbian candidate to win national office. She visits Houston on Sunday. —Photo by Mark Harrison

split among the two major political parties.

It's a classic tale of incumbent versus well-financed challenger, Republican against Democrat, seasoned politician facing outsider.

But this race has a twist: Cammermeyer is a 56-year-old lesbian.

She is one of four lesbians running for Congress this year. Along with two

gay men seeking reelection to the House and a third gay man running as a challenger, they make up the largest group of openly gay candidates to seek national office.

Their candidacies could turn the 1998 midterm elections into a breakthrough for gays and lesbians, according to political analysts.

Cammermeyer became a hero of the

See BATTLE/ page 4A

Court rules bias law covers HIV

From staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON — HIV-infected people are protected by a federal ban on discrimination against the disabled even if they suffer no symptoms of AIDS, the Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

Also, the Court agreed the government can deny cash grants to artists because their work is considered indecent without violating free-speech rights.

The 5-4 ruling ordered a lower court to reconsider whether a Maine dentist violated the Americans With Disabilities Act when he refused to fill an HIV-infected woman's tooth in his office.

"HIV infection satisfies the statutory and regulatory definition of a physical impairment during every stage of the disease," Justice Anthony M. Kennedy wrote for the court.

The justices said the dentist involved in the case, in deciding how to treat an HIV-infected woman, "had the duty to assess the risk of infection based on the objective, scientific information available to him and others in his profession," Kennedy wrote.

In deciding whether a health-care provider has violated the disability-protection law, "courts should assess the objective reasonableness of the views of health care professionals without deferring to their individual judgments," the justice said.

Today's ruling set aside a lower court decision that said dentist Randon Bragdon violated the anti-discrimination law when he refused to fill

See COURT/ page 6A

Community volunteers prepared for stint as parade leaders

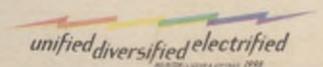
by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

On Saturday, at least one grand marshal in the pride parade will be "unified, diversified, electrified" and terrified.

"It's sheer terror," said gay grand marshal Bill Bouton, 45, recalling the announcement of his election. "To be named grand marshal for my community effort is not the kind of thing I look for. I don't do community service

for the recognition."

Lesbian grand marshal Jackie Doval, 34, sees her election a different way.



"I've been nominated for two years in a row and usually lost by one or two

votes," she said. "This year, I won. So, now I'm no longer the Susan Lucci of the gay and lesbian community."

Like it or not, Bouton and Doval will take center stage with two other honorees — David Berry and Barbara Winston — elected last February in a popular vote by members of the Pride Committee. Nominations are open, and anyone who attends two meetings

See PARADE/ page 5A

INSIDE:

Gay Marriage
N.J. couple takes vows
Page 13A

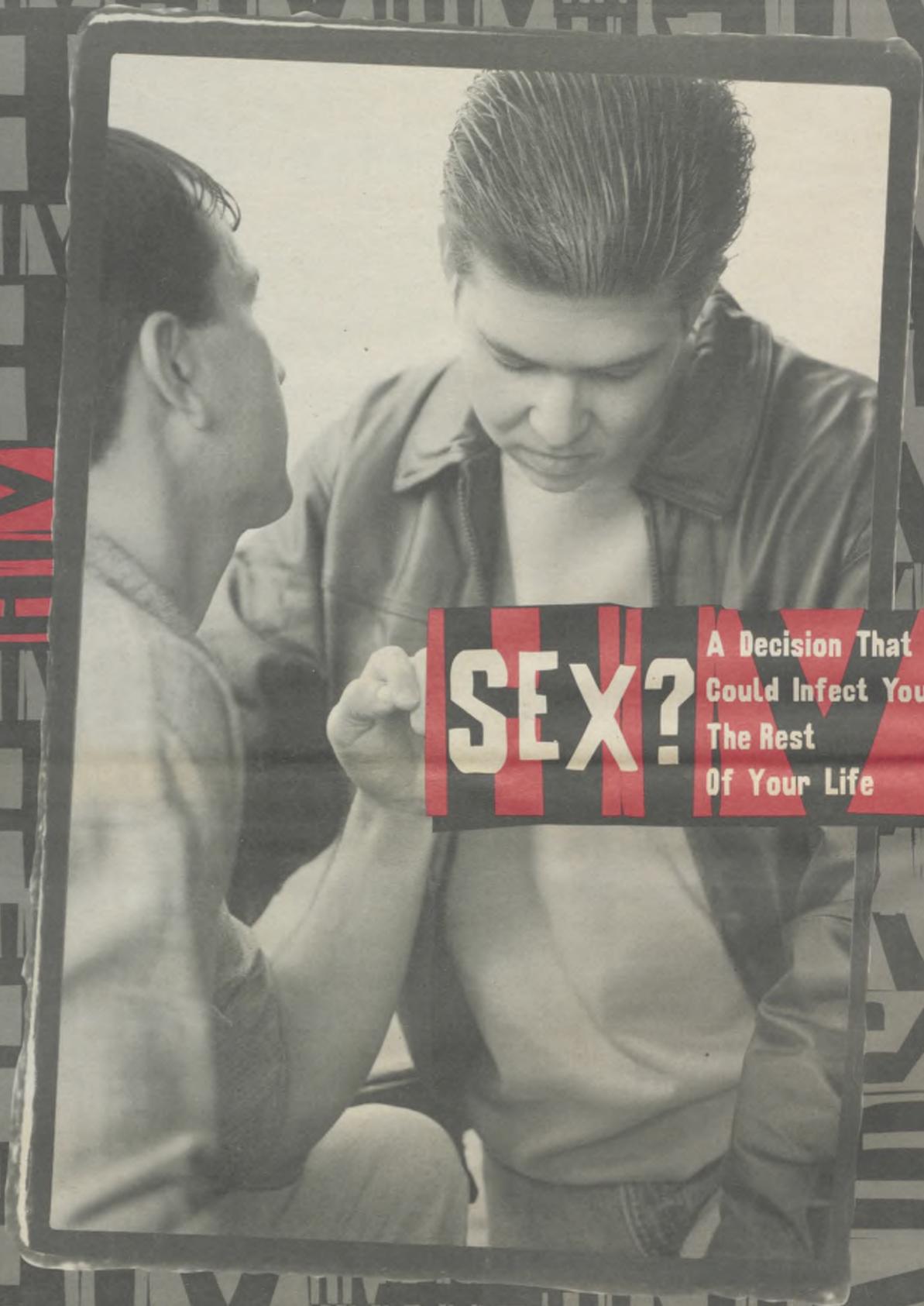


Red Hot
Rupaul
Famous drag queen shows his roots
Page 1B



Best Selling Books
Look at what your neighbors are reading
Page 5B





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In This Issue

Local News
page 3A-9A

Regional News
page 11A

National News
page 13A-15A

Quote Unquote
page 17A

Voices & Echoes
pages 18A-19A

Church Calendar
page 20A

Community Directory
page 21A

Classifieds
pages 22A-23A

Out on the Bayou
pages 1B-9B

Horoscope
page 7B

Community Calendar
page 8B

Scene & Heard
page 11B

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Cast of popular musical hopes to raise \$15,000 for AIDS care

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

The voices of the Phantom will haunt Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House on Monday.

Well, not quite. It'll be 34 cast and orchestra members from "The Phantom of the Opera" taking to the Grand's stage in the hopes of raising \$15,000 for the AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area (AABA).

For nearly six years, the touring cast has organized benefit concerts for local charities in the cities where the musical anchors for extended runs. The concerts are modeled in large part after similar benefits that were inaugurated in 1988 by Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, said Marnee Hollis, a spokeswoman for the production.

For 10 years, BC/EFA has planned charity fund-raisers with volunteer Broadway talent. The funds are dispersed to local and national AIDS service organizations.

"We think it's wonderful to help underwrite AABA. The people there have been great. It's a small organization, but they serve a large area," Hollis said.

George Barnhart founded AABA in May 1993, and began serving the HIV community from offices in Clearlake. Now based in Alvin, AABA serves 145 AIDS clients in Brazoria, Galveston,

Harris and Matagorda counties.

"We really jumped at the chance to do this because half the proceeds go to BC/EFA, and they've been a funder of my agency ever since we've started," said Lew Wiggs, AABA's executive director. "This gives us an opportunity to pay them back a little bit."

Wiggs said AABA's greatest need is transportation for their client's doctor appointments. BC/EFA has been instrumental in funding maintenance for AABA's van services, he said, and much of the proceeds from "Phantom Voices" will fund that need.

Hollis said she likes touring with "Phantom," but "Phantom Voices" gives her and the cast a much-needed break from eight shows a week of the same music.

"It's kind of a selfish thing on our part because we get to do stuff we don't normally do," she said. "It gives us an opportunity to pick something totally different (from "Phantom") and be able to shine as our own if we want to."

The event's program will be a casual assortment of various Broadway tunes, like "Make Them Hear You" ("Ragtime"), "Two Lost Souls" ("Damn Yankees"), and "Stars" ("Les Miserables").

But definitely no music from "Phantom," Hollis said.

'We try to do one in almost every city we can. It's wonderful when we can raise money to fund the costs of local organizations.'

-Marnee Hollis

"We try to do one in almost every city we can. It's wonderful when we can raise money to fund the costs of local organizations and benefit BC/EFA," she said.

Wiggs agrees. "We don't have the people or the resources to organize large fund-raisers. This really is a Godsend."

What: "Phantom Voices" with cast and orchestra from "The Phantom of the Opera"

When: June 29, 7 p.m.

Where: The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St., Galveston

Tickets: \$25. Reservations recommended. 409-765-1894 or 1-800-821-1894.

Newspaper expands production team

by ELLA TYLER

A native Houstonian and veteran of magazine and newspaper production has joined the production team of the *Houston Voice*.

John R. Sweeney joined the newspaper's staff as the senior graphic designer in early June. Sweeney, with 12 years in newspaper and magazine production, most recently was art director for Tune In Publications, a local publisher.

Sweeney, 39, said he enjoys working for the newspaper and with graphic designer Connie Marmolejo, an employee since May 1997.

Sweeney

But compatibility has its limits:

"We're very compatible. Our birthdays are on the same day, 10 years apart" he said jokingly.

Sweeney, a 1977 graduate of High School for Performing and Visual Arts, majored in Clothing and Textiles at Texas Southern University and has studied art at Houston Art Institute, Houston Community College and Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

Sweeney's studies in fashion design led to his first job in publishing.

"An old friend was involved with *Only Music* magazine and called and said they needed a fashion editor, so I became it. It was great fun. We went to New York one day a month to take pictures of celebrities."

By the time the magazine folded, Sweeney was firmly committed to the publishing business, but still turns his hand to fashion work occasionally.

He is an architecture buff, a fan of classic black and white movies and a devotee of 'lounge' music.

Although Sweeney studied vocal

music at HSPVA, he now sings only for his church choir.

"All that music theory turned me off singing for a while, but I've recently discovered jazz, he says."

His experience has already proven to be an asset for the growing newspaper, said Editor Matt Hennie.

"John has been able to build on the internal improvements already taking place at the newspaper," Hennie said. "He and Connie can now do an even better job of delivering an informative and attractive newspaper to our readers every Friday."

Associate Publisher Mike Fleming said hiring more staff maintains the newspaper's aggressiveness and competitive edge.

"John not only has the qualifications to a top rate job, but is a natur-

'John not only has the qualifications to a top rate job, but is a natural addition to our vision for the Houston Voice team.'

-Mike Fleming

al addition to our vision for the *Houston Voice* team," Fleming said.

Sweeney, who is single, lives in Houston's historic Third Ward along with his two black cats Gator and Lil' Boy.

Atlanta-based Window Media owns *Houston Voice* and *Southern Voice*, and recently announced plans to acquire *Impact*, a biweekly newspaper for gays and lesbians in New Orleans.

Singing with Pride



The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston, in its 19th season, delivered a rousing Pride concert June 20-21 at Lambert Hall. The event included old favorites — "Dedicated to the One I Love" and "Stop! In the Name of Love" — to the more modern, including "Material Girl." —Photo by Dalton DeHart

BATTLE/ from page 1

gay community after her discharge from the military in 1992 for admitting she was a lesbian. She fought the move in federal court and won reinstatement two years later. A television movie chronicled her story.

She can talk the issues — health care, education, Social Security — as well as any political insider, but carries unshakable baggage.

Her Republican opponent knows it. "I am surprised it is starting this early," Cammermeyer said this week from her campaign headquarters in Everett, Wash. "Who I am is based on so many facets, the least of which have to do with my personal characteristics. It is not a denial of who I am, but rather it (being a lesbian) is only a portion of who I am and certainly not why I or anyone would run for Congress."

Being an openly gay candidate carries more burdens, she said. But the additional hurdles she has to face are, in part, Cammermeyer's own creation.

In campaigning, her shtick centers on health care and Medicare, bettering education and protecting the rights of workers. Put her in a room full of gays and lesbians, though, and the stump speech broadens to include themes of civil rights, pooling resources and bettering influence.

Cammermeyer, in attempts to build a campaign war chest of \$1.5 million, travels across the country to collect donations from gays and lesbians. Three months ago, it was \$28,000 from a fund-raiser in Atlanta.

Supporters in Houston held a fund-raiser on Wednesday. A stop is scheduled in Dallas before Cammermeyer arrives here to deliver a keynote address on Sunday to the annual brunch of An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, a non-profit group dedicated to supporting lesbians.

The strategy of crisscrossing the

country to raise funds with gays and lesbians has worked as much as it has backfired: Cammermeyer has collected more than \$300,000, compared to Metcalf's \$289,000, and has more money in the bank than her opponent, according to the latest campaign finance reports released in April.

Metcalf has seized on Cammermeyer's fund-raising, criticizing her for raising money from a star-studded list of donors — including Barbra Streisand, Glenn Close and Rosie O'Donnell — as well as gays and lesbians and other out-of-state sources.

Though it's a race for Washington's 2nd District, Cammermeyer said the possibility of her election as the first openly lesbian member of Congress carries broad appeal. That's why she seeks contributions from gays and lesbians across the country, she said.

"There has been enormous support for me standing up to the government for justice and (against) a discriminatory policy. The fact that I happen to be a lesbian is simply coincidental. The support I receive from around the country is because I was an underdog and fought for what was right," Cammermeyer said. "It is curious that I am criticized for what other politicians do."

Before her well-publicized lawsuit against the military, Cammermeyer made a career of service: the native of Norway moved to Washington, D.C. as a child, and became a citizen in 1960. As a college student, she enlisted in the Army student nurse program and eventually served as a head nurse during the Vietnam War and was awarded a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

Discharged from the Army after the birth of her first son, Cammermeyer returned to join the reserves in 1972 when a ban on women soldiers with young dependents was lifted. She went on to become Chief Nurse of the Washington State National Guard, but her career came to a quick end in 1989

when she uttered four words: "I am a lesbian."

She made the declaration during a routine security clearance interview. After 26 years of service, she was discharged in 1992.

Cammermeyer fought back and won. In 1994, a federal district court judge in Seattle ruled the military's ban on gays unconstitutional and ordered her reinstatement, though the ruling had no precedent outside of her case. She retired three years later.

"The one thing I do have is a track record for being honest and standing up for what is right — fighting discrimination against the largest bureaucracy of all and winning that lawsuit and moving on," she said.

Being a lesbian ended her military career once and now it diverts attention from issues on which Cammermeyer wants to base her campaign, she said.

"It means there are people so totally occupied with that aspect of the campaign, they won't let us run for Congress to represent people in their district. I become a media circus that has no bearing on the candidacy or the ability to serve," Cammermeyer said.

As she tries to focus attention on issues important to voters, her opponent's campaign is stepping up the rhetoric. Metcalf's recent fund-raising letter calls his district a "battlefield" in the "fight for our country's spiritual and cultural future."

"The campaign is very concerned about the money she's (Cammermeyer) raised," Chris Strow, Metcalf's campaign manager, told *The Seattle Times*. "We certainly don't have the fund-raising ability and the audience to reach out to that she has. The letter is specifically targeted to conservative donors and addresses the issues they care about."

But for Cammermeyer — along with the other openly gay and lesbian House candidates — gay rights has not been a central theme of her campaign.

"The focus again needs to be on the issues. And there is less and less of that in the campaign arena," she said.

"I happen to be a nurse, a retired military officer, I have a Ph.D., I have kids, I have grandkids, I pay my taxes, I go to church — all of these things that I have to make explicit so that we can get through the notoriety of the fact that I challenged the military's discriminatory work policy, and I happened to win."

According to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a group dedicated to electing gays, there are more than 150 openly gay elected officials around the country. There were none as recently as 1973.

"These candidates are not running as gays or lesbians," said Brian Bond, the fund's executive director. "They are candidates who happen to be gay or lesbian. They have a track record in public service, representing people on a wide range of issues and it's only natural that they start moving up."

If voters push Cammermeyer through a Democratic primary in September — she's expected to win that race easily — and through a predicted bruising November election, she has no plans to immediately tackle the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy as a freshman member of Congress. She does plan to make her voice and experiences heard.

"Remember where we started and how far as a group we have come in terms of freedoms, in terms of opportunities, in terms of what the future will look like," she said. "I felt that I was the right person at the right time to take on the incumbent."

Staff writer Laura Brown and The Associated Press contributed.

What: Retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer speaks at An Uncommon Legacy Foundation brunch
When: June 28 at 11:30 a.m.
Where: Four Seasons Hotel, 1300 Lamar
Contact: 713-522-0864



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PARADE/ from page 1

can vote.

"This year, we had about 70 people voting, representing just about every group and organization in town," said Julie Siska, executive director of Pride Committee of Houston. "But we have a questionnaire out that we hope will tell us how to get more of public involved."

Bouton became involved in community organizations when he moved to Houston in 1980. One of the first organizations was the Texas Renegades, a leather/levis sex club that brought "men of a certain nature" together.

By the mid 80s, Bouton said those types of clubs began to change to charitable organizations that raised money in response to the AIDS crisis. Those who wouldn't change didn't survive.

"When I got involved with my first leather organization 14 years ago, everyone was having to refocus on how they were originally formed and what they were there for," he said. As one example, Bouton credits the Colt 45s for making the change to a successful charity.

Today, Bouton plans parties like LUEY weekend, and he is a member of the Royal, Sovereign, and Imperial Court of the Single Star. He likes to work behind the scenes most times, but he enjoys any chance to emcee an event.

"I have the most fun emceeing a contest because I basically get to insult people I don't know all night long," he said.

If Doval's father had his way, she might have been the gay grand marshal.



Electrified: Grand marshals of Saturday's Pride parade were recognized during ceremonies this week. From left, David Berry, Bob Bouton, Jackie Doval and Barbara Winston. —Photo by Carolyn Roberts

"I was supposed to be born a boy," she said. "In my dad's eyes, I was going to be a Fernando. (But my parents) didn't have a name for a girl, so I was called Jacquelyn, because I was born the day before Kennedy was shot."

Doval and her lover returned to her native Puerto Rico to attend the gay pride parade there June 1. Her lover secretly told the parade organizers that Doval made history being the first Puerto Rican elected grand marshal of America's fourth largest city. Doval wasn't prepared for what happened next.

When they announced that, it was incredible how the crowd just went wild," she said. "Puerto Ricans have a lot of pride. When there's some kind of recognition in the States of a Puerto Rican, everybody is really proud."

As for Bouton, he plays off all the hoop and holler. But he has a jovial attitude about what the honor means.

"There are a lot of people in this community that do more than I do as far as I'm concerned. I'm honored. I think it's great. And it scares me. My feelings at the time were, oh, no, not another obligation."

Puerto Rico would have been much more fun as a kid, Doval said, if she would have understood that she was a lesbian. Today, she realizes she wasn't alone.

"I thought I was the only lesbian in Puerto Rico," she said. "Boy, was I wrong."

Winston, 60, is a volunteer with the Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Berry represents the Texas Gay Rodeo Association. Both are honorary grand marshals.

Pride parade lineup, page 9A

BIRCH/ from page 1

Birch has since worked to include more activists in the planning process and has pledged to donate some proceeds to state groups, such as the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. Organizers also met with about 40 representatives of gay and lesbian groups earlier this month, including Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the state's gay rights lobby.

"(The March) appears to be on very solid ground and moving forward," Birch said during a half-hour interview. "Every organization came into a room, worked through a process and came out ready to move forward."

But eight longtime activists walked out of the meetings June 9-10 and pushed for a more open planning process for the march. The two-day session was closed to the media.

Birch dismissed the continuing criticism as the creation of a small group of dissidents.

"Everyone needs raw cash. The Millennium March, if done properly, is an amazing raising of resources. We want to raise money above the cost of operations and take that pool of money and reinvest it," she said.

Those funds should aid gay rights groups in local communities and states, as well as bolster fledgling

organizations for blacks and other minorities, she said.

Organizers haven't finalized details of how to raise their preliminary goal of \$2.5 million or how to dole out proceeds after the march, Birch said. One approach is to put it in the hands of the Federation of Statewide Organizations, which is organizing events in all 50 states for March 1999.

"The issue is have we effectively built the infrastructure at the statewide level and we haven't. It is important not only to be strong at the national level, it is essential that we build up those statewide organizations," she said.

Strong lobbying with lawmakers in Washington, D.C., Birch said, will improve the chances that Congress will pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would remove certain jurisdictional restrictions that keep Justice Department prosecutors from pursuing hate crimes.

On Tuesday, President Clinton called on Congress to approve the measure. Lawmakers did not act on the legislation after it was introduced last year.

"We feel very optimistic that the support for this bill will grow," said Birch, who stopped short of predicting the legislation's passage this year.



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COURT/ from page 1

Sidney Abbott's tooth in his office because she carries the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The justices instructed the lower court to reconsider the case under today's ruling. Kennedy added, "We do not foreclose the possibility that the Court of Appeals may reach the same conclusion it did earlier."

The ADA, signed by President Bush in 1990, protects the disabled against discrimination in jobs, housing and public accommodations such as dentists' offices. Some of the law's most visible results are aids such as wheelchair ramps in public places.

The law says people are disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment that "substantially limits one or more major life activities."

The Human Rights Campaign called the decision "a great victory."

"We are delighted with the result," said HRC executive director Elizabeth Birch, who was in Houston when the decision was handed down Thursday.

"That's an absolutely sound interpretation of the ADA."

Other activists agreed.

"The Supreme Court sent the message that HIV discrimination is unacceptable," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "This decision is an extremely important first step in eradicating discrimination against all people with HIV."

Abbott visited Bragdon's dental office in Bangor, Maine, for an appointment in September 1994. On her patient information form, she indicated she was HIV-positive but had no AIDS symptoms.

Bragdon found a cavity near Ms. Abbott's gum line and told her that, under his infectious-disease policy, he would not fill the cavity in his office. He said he would treat her only at a hospital and she would have to pay the additional cost.

Abbott sued, saying her HIV infection qualified her for protection under the ADA because the contagious and fatal nature of AIDS limits her ability to have sexual relations and bear children.

A federal judge ruled for her, as did the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The appeals court said the ADA protected HIV-infected people, and added that Bragdon failed to offer sufficient evidence that it would have been unsafe to fill the tooth in his office.

The law says disabled people can be treated differently if they pose a "direct threat to the health or safety of others."

Public health authorities say there is no documented case of a dentist contracting the AIDS virus from a patient. But Bragdon contended he should be allowed to use his own judgment on how to safely treat such patients.

Bragdon's lawyers also argued that having sex and bearing children should not be considered major life activities similar to seeing, walking and hearing.

Abbott's lawyers said that if HIV-infected people did not have clear protection under the law, many would hide their condition.

Thursday, the Supreme Court said, "HIV infection, even in the so-called asymptomatic phase, is an impairment which substantially limits the major life activity of reproduction."

The court said that in deciding whether a health care professional's

actions are reasonable, the views of public health authorities such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health "are of special weight and authority" but are not conclusive.

"A health care professional who disagrees with the prevailing medical consensus may refute it by citing a credible scientific basis for deviating from the accepted norm," Kennedy said.

Kennedy's opinion was joined by Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer.

Dissenting in part were Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Sandra Day O'Connor.

Rehnquist wrote for himself, Scalia and Thomas that decisions on whether asymptomatic HIV-infected people are protected under the disability law should be made on an individualized basis. He added he did not believe Abbott had shown that her infection substantially limited a major life activity. O'Connor agreed with that view in a separate opinion.

Also Thursday, the Supreme Court agreed the government can deny cash grants to artists because their work is considered indecent, saying the policy does not violate artists' free-speech rights.

The 8-1 decision said the National Endowment for the Arts can consider decency, as well as artistic merit, in deciding who gets public money for the arts.

The court said the law requires the NEA to judge grant applications on artistic merit, "taking into consideration general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public."

Excerpts from decision:

Excerpts from the Supreme Court decision Thursday that said HIV-infected people with no visible symptoms are protected by the Americans With Disabilities Act:

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy's majority opinion:

We hold respondent's HIV infection was a disability under ... the definitional section of the statute...

The statute is not operative, and the definition not satisfied, unless the impairment affects a major life activity... Reproduction falls well within the phrase "major life activity." Reproduction and the sexual dynamics surrounding it are central to the life process itself...

HIV infection, even in the so-called asymptomatic phase, is an impairment which substantially limits the major life activity of reproduction...

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's dissent:

It is important to note that whether (Abbott) has a disability covered by the ADA is an individualized inquiry...

The court is simply wrong in concluding as a general matter that reproduction is a "major life activity" ... But even if I were to assume that reproduction is a major life activity of (Abbott), I do not agree that an asymptomatic HIV infection "substantially limits" that activity...

While individuals infected with HIV may choose not to engage in these activities, there is no support ... for the proposition that such voluntary choices constitute a "limit" on one's own life activities...

I disagree with the court ... that in assessing the reasonableness of (Bragdon's) actions, the views of public health authorities ... are of special weight and authority...

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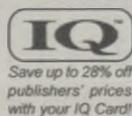
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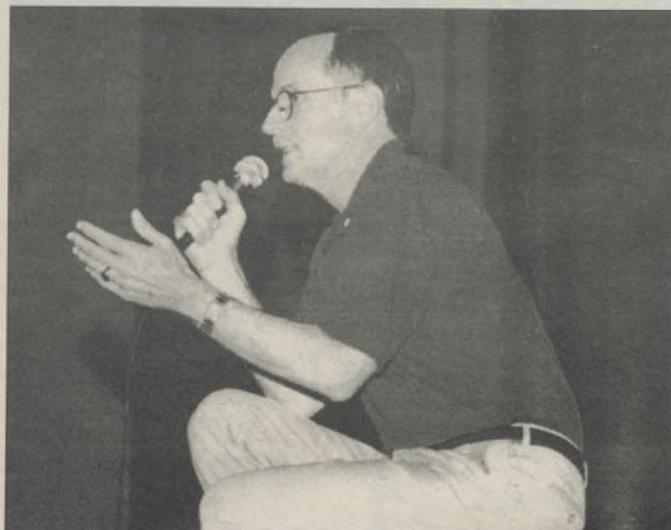
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Activist: Oppose anti-gay rhetoric with 'love, truth'



Relentless: The Rev. Dr. Mel White delivered a call to action for gays and lesbians during a workshop at the Wortham Center on June 21. He asked gays to embrace non-violent activism to fight anti-gay rhetoric. —Photo by J. Roe

by MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Gays and lesbians should embrace non-violent activism to battle the anti-gay rhetoric of some conservative politicians and religious leaders, a prominent activist said last week.

Oppression should be fought at every turn by gays and lesbians who take back their churches and synagogues and deliver "love and truth relentlessly" to anti-gay activists, the Rev. Dr. Mel White told about 400 people during a workshop at the Wortham Center last Sunday.

"The rhetoric is pouring out. There is a stream of rhetoric flowing now that is turning the hearts and minds of the nation against us," White said. "What's going to happen if the stock market goes bad? It doesn't take a Ph.D. to figure out you will be a scapegoat."

White, a former ghostwriter for some of the stalwarts of the religious right, delivered a call to action for gays and lesbians during a two-hour "Pride and Justice Workshop," which capped a day of events at the Wortham sponsored in part by the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection.

To gain strength as a movement, White asked closeted gays and lesbians to step forward to bolster the ranks of those fighting anti-gay oppression. To help, gays and lesbians should first undertake a spiritual renewal, he said.

"Spiritual renewal begins when we join God on the field of justice doing battle," White said. "God wants one thing from us, and it's to do justice. We were made by God to help the oppressed. We've gone on and made a living and forgot life."

From there, gays should understand that their enemies are victims of misinformation, though they are determined in their beliefs, he said.

"They are not phony. If they were phony, it would be easy. Just expose them," White said.

But instead, it is critical to confront harsh rhetoric with truth: White suggests videotaping shows such as Pat Robertson's "The 700 Club" to let others view it and gauge the harshness of attacks on gays. Often people don't believe that leaders of the religious right deliver such hurtful speech, he said.

'You can't picket someone you haven't tried talking to. Show them our homospiritality. Let's reclaim the high ground. We could stop it tomorrow if we had the courage of a King or Gandhi.'

—Mel White

Gays must also learn to negotiate with their opponents and continue pursuing them relentlessly, but without violence, White said.

The author and activist embraced the teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi after coming out and growing frustrated at not being able to meet with some of his conservative former clients. A 1994 letter from an assistant to Coretta Scott King, wife of the slain civil rights leaders, in 1994 marked a turning point.

The letter warned that White had ignored a primary rule for performing non-violent justice — giving up on an adversary was an act of violence. White had done just that.

"You can't picket someone you haven't tried talking to. Show them our homospiritality. Let's reclaim the high ground," he said. "We could stop it tomorrow if we had the courage of a King or Gandhi."

But courage comes with a price, and gays and lesbians must come-out and take action, even if it means losing their job, White said. If not, there will be little success in battling homophobia, he said.

"If you are in the closet, you can't stop it. They will change when they know a lesbian personally," White said. "Who is the enemy? Who is the person that is bringing the false rhetoric onto the national community? It isn't Pat Robertson. It isn't Trent Lott. It isn't Dick Arme. It isn't any of those people. The enemy is us. We haven't taken a role in our own emancipation."

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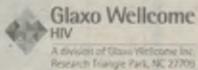
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- 1 — Silver Eagle/Budweiser Beer
- 2 — Cheer Dallas
- 3 — Pride Honorary Grand Marshal Barbara Winston
- 4 — Pride Grand Marshal Bob Bouton
- 5 — Pride Grand Marshal Jackie Doval
- 6 — Texas Gay Rodeo Association/Organization Grand Marshal
- 7 — Street Wise
- 8 — KKK-Radio Young Country
- 9 — Montrose Counseling Center
- 10 — Integrity-Houston
- 11 — St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
- 12 — Montrose Clinic
- 13 — Houston Outdoor Group (HOG)
- 14 — Krewes of Olympus-Texas
- 15 — BRICKS II
- 16 — First Unitarian Universalist Church
- 17 — United States Representative Shelia Jackson Lee
- 18 — Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents
- 19 — Houston Grand Opera
- 20 — City Councilwoman Annise Parker
- 21 — Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays
- 22 — American Express GLOBE
- 23 — The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
- 24 — KRBE
- 25 — Bayou City Boys Club, Inc.
- 26 — Paradise Bar
- 27 — Garden Party
- 28 — United Cab
- 29 — After Hours KPFT FM
- 30 — Omega House
- 31 — Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH)
- 32 — Overland Trail Riders
- 33 — Imperial Court of Iowa
- 34 — OUTRAGE Inc.
- 35 — Astro Rainbow Alliance of the Past
- 36 — Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
- 37 — Ron's American Limo
- 38 — Pacific Street
- 39 — Kindred Spirits
- 40 — Texas Triangle
- 41 — Dignity-Houston
- 42 — Leather Knights
- 43 — Asians & Friends of Houston
- 44 — Lutherans Concerned
- 45 — BiNet Houston
- 46 — Rasca's
- 47 — Kinetic Sports Clinic
- 48 — Faith and Hope Fellowship Church
- 49 — Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston
- 50 — Greater Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center
- 51 — Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR)
- 52 — Houston Voice
- 53 — Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services (AVES)
- 54 — Kolbe Project
- 55 — Houston Pride Bahd
- 56 — Executive and Professional Association of Houston
- 57 — Charles Armstrong Investments
- 58 — Houston Spectrum
- 59 — Tanqueray's Texas AIDS Ride
- 60 — Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus
- 61 — Chase Bank of Texas PRIDE Team
- 62 — People with AIDS Coalition Houston
- 63 — Manline Interactive Media Group USA
- 64 — RICH's
- 65 — Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages-Houston
- 66 — Houston's Transgender Community
- 67 — Brazos River Bottom
- 68 — Supercuts
- 69 — Garden & Yard Society
- 70 — OutSmart Magazine
- 71 — Human Rights Campaign
- 72 — Community Gospel Church
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- 74 — Gay Men's Chorus of Houston
- 75 — Assist Hers Care Team
- 76 — Crash Productions
- 77 — Toyz Disco
- 78 — Megaplexx
- 79 — Body Positive Houston, Inc.
- 80 — Women in Power Society
- 81 — Montrose Softball League
- 82 — American Movies
- 83 — Bunnies on the Bayou
- 84 — The NAMES Project-Houston
- 85 — AIDS Foundation Houston
- 86 — Momentum Motorcars
- 87 — E.J's
- 88 — National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
- 89 — The Little Room Downstairs Theater
- 90 — Houston Area Bears
- 91 — Ripcord
- 92 — Lambda Roller-skating Club
- 93 — City of Houston, Bureau of HIVSTD Prevention
- 94 — HEB Pantry Foods
- 95 — LIB
- 96 — The Mirror Lounge
- 97 — Mela's Tejano
- 98 — Rainbow Room
- 99 — Graduate School of Social Work, University of Houston
- 100 — Club Inergy
- 101 — Gary Brewton, MD
- 102 — Westheimer Street Festival
- 103 — The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star
- 104 — Walgreens
- 105 — Colt 45's, Inc.
- 106 — Independent Billiard League
- 107 — Club Extreme
- 108 — MIX 96.5 KHMX
- 109 — Rainbow de Kloxen
- 110 — Pride Committee of Houston
- 111 — Pride Committee Board of Directors
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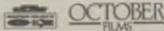
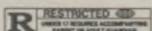
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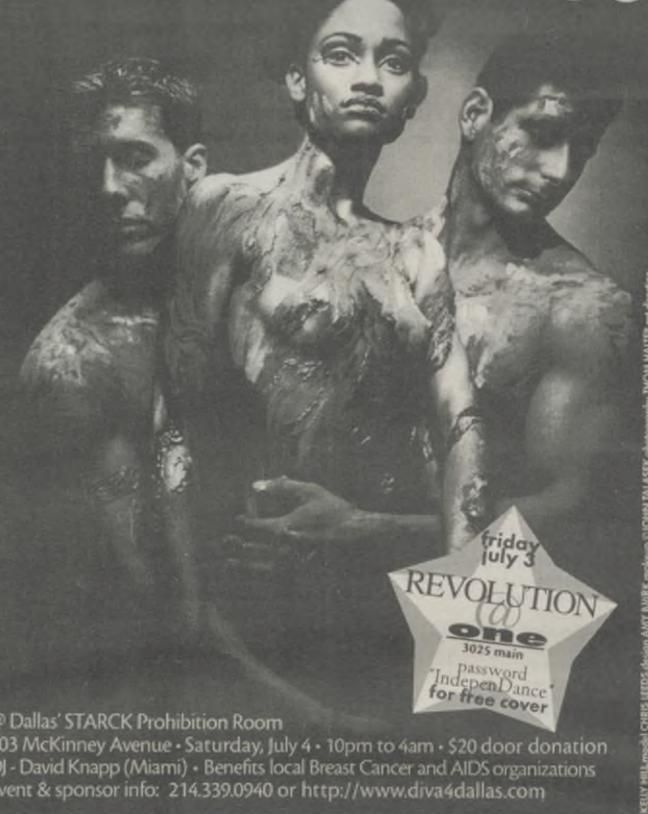
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S.C. Public Television Airs Re-Run Over Gay-Themed Documentary

COLUMBIA, S.C. — "Licensed To Kill," a documentary that examines men who have murdered gays, aired on many PBS affiliates last Tuesday, but not in South Carolina. SC ETV instead ran a repeat of an earlier "Frontline" show. The South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement is encouraging members and supporters to withhold financial support from South Carolina's public television network in a protest over the decision. "The reality of hate crimes against gays and lesbians, which is clearly demonstrated in this film, is something that every South Carolinian needs to see," said Patrick Evans, a GLPM spokesperson. "While there may be some graphic footage in the film, victims of hate crimes need only look in the mirror to witness this reality."

The omission of the film from the South Carolina line-up comes on the heels of several other gay and arts conflicts in the state. An Irmo, S.C. high school recently canceled a concert by the Indigo Girls because the duo are lesbians, and The Burroughs & Chapin development company banned a Village People performance during last month's South Carolina Pride Festival. Both the high school and B&C were subsequently awarded the state's highest honors for support of the arts. Georgia Public Television, which has been criticized for dropping five of six gay-themed shows this month, did air the documentary as its only gay-themed program for Pride month.

Repeal Effort Places Ark. Pro-Gay Resolution on Nov. Ballot

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — A petition has gathered enough signatures to place Fayetteville's Human Dignity resolution on the November ballot for a public vote, according to a report in the *Northwest Arkansas Times*. The resolution, passed by the city council in May, is intended to extend the city's equal access hiring policies, adding "familial status" and "sexual orientation" to the categories that are off-limits when determining suitability for hiring. The group that circulated the petition feels the council overstepped its bounds in passing the resolution and then overriding the mayor's veto.

David Garcia, a spokesman for Citizens for Fair Government, a local political action group, said recently he agrees with efforts to place the resolution on the ballot and actually signed the petition.

La. Grandparents Win Temporary Custody

SHREVEPORT, La. — The grandparents of two children of a lesbian mother are seeking to have the children taken away from her, according to a report in *The Times of Shreveport*. Joe and Patricia Douglas say their daughter-in-law Becky Lynn Davis is "attempting to influence the minor children as to their sexual orientation" and are seeking custody.

On June 5, Caddo Parish District Judge Michael Walker granted the grandparents temporary custody, with a hearing set for later this month. Claudius E. Whitmeyer, Becky Davis' attorney, suspects the dispute may stem from Davis threatening the grandparents with loss of visitation unless they did something about the children's father, Joseph C. Davis, who was sent back to prison for a parole violation. Whitmeyer disagreed with Walker's June 5 ruling, as well, arguing that a temporary change of custody can only take place when children are subjected to immediate harm. "The question is whether a gay or lesbian relationship would cause irreparable and immediate harm," she said. "That's a pretty heavy burden. ... Those kids are as normal as can be."

Controversial Fla. Charity Agrees Not to Use Ryan White's Name

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—The family of Ryan White, the Indiana teenager whose AIDS death led his mother to start a national campaign to fight the disease, has told a Fort Lauderdale charity to stop using the boy's name. The family's decision was in response to a *Palm Beach Post* report last month that cited state records and said a pharmacy affiliated with the Florida foundation's clinic over-billed Medicaid for experimental drugs used to treat HIV-positive patients. The Fort Lauderdale foundation, established to help AIDS patients pay for their treatment, has agreed to stop using the Ryan White name by the end of the month, the newspaper reported. The White family had reserved the right to terminate her agreement with the Fort Lauderdale charity in the event its actions cast a negative light on the Ryan White name. She did so in a June 4 letter to the charity.

—From staff and wire reports



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Gay Couple's Union Blessed in N.J.



Making their vows: Jon Galluccio (left) and Michael Galluccio exchange wedding vows on Father's Day, last Sunday, at the Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Fair Lawn, N.J., in a ceremony performed by Rev. Kevin Coffey. —Photo by Mitch Jacobson

FAIR LAWN, N.J. — In a state that does not legally recognize same-sex unions, Jon and Michael Galluccio came as close as they could to getting married. Standing before family and friends during a weekly worship service at The Episcopal Church of the Atonement last Sunday, the men made their vows to each other and exchanged rings.

"When we first came out 16 years ago, first fell in love, this wasn't an option," said Jon Galluccio, who changed his name earlier this year from Jon Holden. "We thought we had to give that up because we were gay. As we're together longer and longer, we're finding out that we don't have to give up anything because we're gay. Sometimes you just have to ask for it a little bit louder," Galluccio said.

Holden, 34, and Galluccio, 36, were raised as Roman Catholics, but became Episcopalians four years ago, saying the denomination was more accepting of their sexual orientation.

Clinton Wants Tough Hate-Crime Law

WASHINGTON — Citing the dragging death of a black Texas man, President Clinton urged Congress to pass a bill that would make it easier for federal prosecution of hate crimes.

Before leaving for China, Clinton sent a letter to House and Senate leaders of both parties Wednesday urging that they pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which would remove certain jurisdictional restrictions that keep Justice Department prosecutors from pursuing hate crimes.

For example, federal prosecutors now can pursue a hate crime case only if it occurs on federal property or while the victim was performing a federally protected act, such as voting. The legislation also would make hate crimes based on gender, disability or sexual orientation federal offenses. Current rules specify that federal hate crimes cover only incidents based on race, color, religion or national origin.

Using figures from local law enforcement agencies, the FBI reported 8,759 hate crimes in 1996. Of those, 5,396 were based on race, 1,401 on religion, 1,016 on sexual orientation, 940 on ethnic background and six for multiple reasons.

Judge Strikes Down 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' for Calif. National Guard

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — A California judge has made what appears to be the first state ruling to address a state National Guard's implementation of the Clinton administration's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy toward gays and lesbians in the military, according to a report in *The San Francisco Chronicle*. On June 19, San Francisco Superior Court Judge David Garcia struck down as unconstitutional a state regulation that bars gays and lesbians who would be ineligible for the U.S. military under its "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy from serving in the California National Guard. The ruling, which was based on California's state constitution, was issued as part of an anti-discrimination lawsuit filed last year by a former lieutenant in the California National Guard, who was discharged after he told his supervisor that he was gay.

NY Council Approves Gay Measure

NEW YORK — The City Council on Wednesday approved legislation designed to ensure unmarried couples are treated the same as those who are married in issues from housing to parking permits. Viewed as an important victory for homosexual couples, the proposal would make law many policies that have been in effect for years. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is expected to sign it quickly.

A series of city directives extended to domestic partners the rights once reserved for spouses and family members, such as visitation in city jails and hospitals, and succession for city-supervised housing. Since the settlement of a lawsuit in 1993, the city has provided health and dental benefits to the domestic partners of city workers. Under the bill, labor negotiations would be required to extend to employees' partners the same benefits provided for employees' spouses.

Councilman Michael Abel, a Republican who voted against the bill, called it another nail in the coffin of the institution of marriage.

—From staff and wire reports

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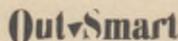
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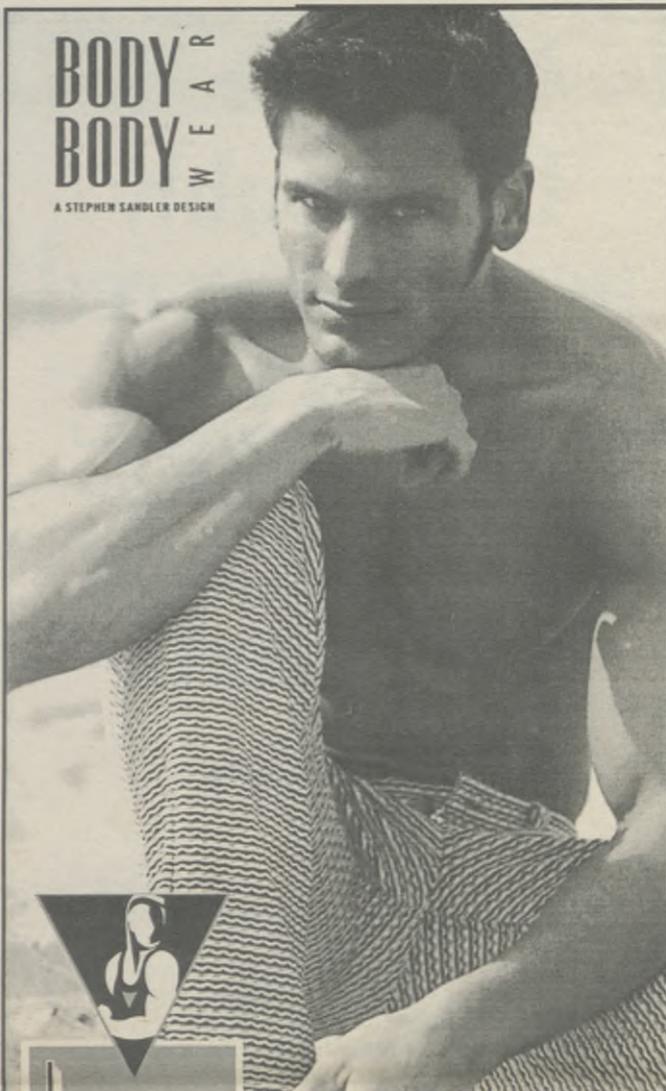
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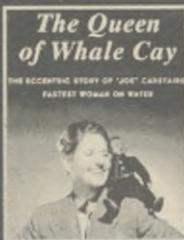


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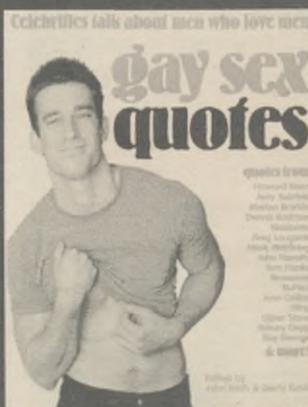
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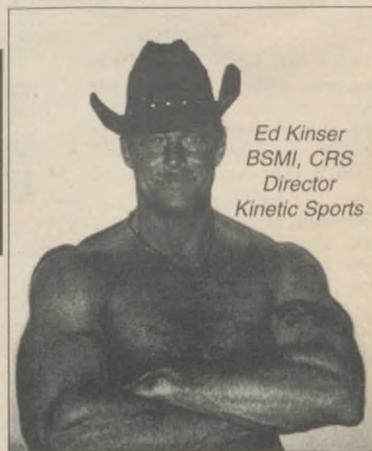


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Human Test of AIDS Vaccine Begins

PHILADELPHIA — Volunteers began rolling up their sleeves Tuesday to receive injections in the first large-scale human test of an AIDS vaccine. The men were among the first of 5,000 U.S. volunteers taking part in the first broad human test of what researchers hope will be an AIDS vaccine.

The three-year trial of VaxGen Inc.'s AIDSVax is designed to show whether it can protect people from infection. The testing that began Tuesday is the final step before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration makes a decision on whether to approve the drug.

Volunteers like the 150 in Philadelphia are injected with either a placebo or AIDSVax, which scientists say isn't dangerous because it is not a live strain of the AIDS virus. Trials begin later this year in more than 30 U.S. cities, including New York, San Francisco, Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and St. Louis.

Volunteers will be given a series of shots, undergo periodic blood tests and discuss their sex lives with researchers. Study organizers are also seeking permission from the Thai Health Ministry to inject 2,500 high-risk people in Thailand.

The tests are open to people considered to be at high risk of contracting the virus, such as gay men and women whose sexual partners are infected. Many volunteers are veterans of the fight against AIDS.

Also Tuesday, several drug companies agreed to cut the prices of their AIDS drugs by 50 percent to 75 percent in developing nations. The discounts could make AIDS drugs accessible to thousands of HIV-infected people in Africa, Asia and South

America. But even with the discounts that were reported, paying for the drugs would be a burden in many regions where incomes are low and health insurance is a rarity.

Lott's Remarks Rallying Call for Vote on Hormel

WASHINGTON — Saying "discrimination is wrong," Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) criticized his party's top leader for refusing to let the Senate vote on the ambassadorial nomination of gay philanthropist James Hormel.

"On a personal level, I am embarrassed that our Republican Party, the party of Lincoln, is seen to be the force behind this injustice," D'Amato said June 25 in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.). D'Amato says he believes Hormel's nomination to be ambassador to Luxembourg "is being obstructed for one reason and one reason only: the fact he is gay."

Hormel's supporters say they have the 60 votes needed to break the hold on the nomination if Lott will allow it to come to the floor. Lott and Sen. Don Nickles (R-Okla.), the Senate's second-ranking Republican, have said Hormel is unqualified because anyone who promotes "immoral behavior" should not represent the United States. D'Amato's letter was in response to comparisons Lott made between homosexuality and "kleptomaniacs" in a June 15 interview with conservative talk show host Armstrong Williams.

—From staff and wire reports



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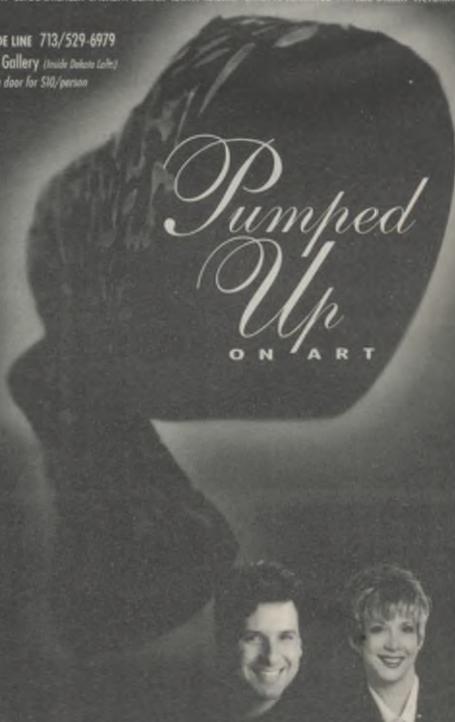
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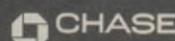
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"My advice to him would be to get a boyfriend and leave his employees alone."

— Former Lambda Legal Defense attorney Mickey Wheatley on conservative talk show host Armstrong Williams (right), the defendant in a sexual harassment suit Wheatley has brought on behalf of a former male producer. The suit alleges that Williams, who famously asked Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) whether homosexuality is a sin, repeatedly kissed, fondled and crawled into bed with the plaintiff, who is not gay.



"Topless lesbians can spend the afternoon lounging in front of the White House, and no police can be found. But let someone sneeze near an abortion clinic, and it looks like the policeman's ball."

— Traditional Values Coalition Executive Director Andrea Sheldon in a June 5 press release about D.C.'s gay-pride celebration.

"I landed in New York at 14 and lived there (with relatives) until I was 22. I was not a club kid, I was a real serious kid. I am still pretty serious. I'm really a homebody, I don't want to leave my house."



— Chastity Bono (left), former entertainment media director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, to the Toronto Star, May 29.

"We were estranged, and I hadn't talked to him in almost a year. I feel terrible about that."

— Chastity Bono to USA TODAY, June 11, on the death of her father, Sonny Bono.

"(My 'Tales of the City') miniseries did very well for PBS (in 1994). It brought bouquets from critics, unprecedented ratings, a Peabody Award and an Emmy nomination for best miniseries. But it enraged some conservative watchdogs who objected to its unapologetic display of nudity and same-sex affection, not to mention Mrs. Madrigal's shrubbery. ... There were official condemnations of the show by the legislatures of Oklahoma and Georgia, the latter seriously endangering a \$20 million public-television facility.



"At the PBS station in Chattanooga, Tennessee, a bomb threat prompted officials to pull 'Tales' one hour before airtime. Within a matter of weeks, PBS had quietly retreated from its plans to participate in the funding of 'More Tales of the City,' a six-part follow-up. ... My characters were abandoned in mid-crisis, with storylines dangling."

— Author Armistead Maupin (right) writing in the June 6 issue of TV Guide. "More Tales of the City" aired on the Showtime cable network June 7-8.



"I don't give a shit whether he goes cottaging (looking for sex in public toilets), but finally George Michael is out, and there's nothing he can do about hiding it anymore. I knew it would happen eventually, but I didn't think it would happen in such a ceremonious way."

— Singer Boy George (left) to London's Pink Paper, May 29.

"Congress doesn't want any gays in the military. Well, maybe gays don't want any drunken womanizers in the Congress. As for gays in the Navy — like we could have a Navy without them."

— Actress/comedian Judy Tenuta to the Michigan gay newspaper Between The Lines, May 28.

"The plaintiff was not fired because of sexual identity; he was terminated because he couldn't perform a function of the job: being gay. ... We just love to live in a politically correct world; it's so evolved, isn't it? But where along the way did we pass the law against common sense? This is a French Bistro. When people go there, it's not just to eat, it's to dine in the ambience of culture — they wanna feel elite, sophisticated—a good gay waiter can make the patrons feel that way. They have that snobbish little entitlement thing going, you know? People like that.



"The waiter kind (of gays) are (elitist snobs). First, they're smarter. They grow up reading more books, probably looking to find an answer as to why they're homosexual, plus they're terrible at sports which gives them more time to study — the point is, they're smart, they wanna work in the arts, they end up waiters — way over-qualified, bitter, snobby — and people have come to expect this when ordering a fruity wine."

— Character Richard Fish (right) on a recent episode of Fox TV's "Ally McBeal" series.

"Whether it is a gay American murdered as he walks home from work, or a Jewish American whose synagogue is desecrated by swastikas, such acts are not only examples of bias and bigotry. They are crimes. That is why I believe now is the time for us to take strong and decisive action."

— President Clinton in a letter Wednesday, urging Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act in the wake of the recent dragging death of James Byrd Jr. by three young white men in Jasper.

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JUNE 26, 1998

Established 1974 as the Montrose Star, reestablished 1980 as the Houston Montrose Star, Changed name to The Houston Voice in 1991 incorporating the New Orleans Crescent City Star, Reestablished as the Houston Voice by Thomas Nelson in 1993
811 Westheimer, Suite 105
Houston, Texas 77006
(713) 529-8490
(800) 729-8490
Fax: (713) 529-9531
Email: editor@houstonvoice.com
feedback@houstonvoice.com
Contents copyright 1998
Office hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., weekdays

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Gender Transgressors

The time has come for equal treatment for transgender issues



by CINDY L. ABEL

"I am here to take a second look at this transgendered thing," said the somewhat disheveled man. "Years ago, I used to have clients who wanted sex-changes and even though they seemed pretty 'normal' according to the testing we used, I figured there must be something wrong."

That admission, which would have been disconcerting enough from your average family doctor, came from a licensed psychologist attending a workshop on "The Transgendered Experience: Is It Pathological?" at the Georgia Psychological Association's recent annual conference.

It was, after all, the first clinically-oriented examination of the topic at the groups' annual conference, and the attendees were a blend of professionals from across the state.

Dr. Barbara Rubin, who also just happens to be my partner in life, led the group through definitions and terminology and then the fun — and fidgeting — began.

"Draw a perfectly gendered person," she instructed. "Then, draw a picture of yourself, and another of how you had always wished you looked."

The results? Women with breasts and men with penises.

C'mon, Babs, doesn't everybody know that? We're all grade-school graduates here.

Actually, the good doctor wanted us to dig deeper and find out why we drew our pictures the way we did. Her point: clinicians should pay attention to their client's experience of their gender rather than determine what "gender slot" they think the client should fit into now or end up in later.

In discussing how gender is attributed on the basis of societal standards developed through movies, religion, society, and experience, she pushed a little more.

"Why, when a person walks into a room," she asked, "do we uncon-

sciously seek to answer 'male or female?' Goodness, those chairs sure were starting to feel uncomfortable.

"And how do we feel if we can't answer conclusively enough for our standards?"

By the end of the session, the psychologist who was once so sure that "something must be wrong" with clients wanting a sex change reached the conclusion that "some of those 'standards of care' books may warrant some re-writes."

This is the revolution your mother warned you about. When you dare to question the beliefs about things like gender, exploring the possibility that maybe there's a little bit more to learn.

After all, to borrow a phrase from the feminists, is biology destiny? Do breasts promise interior decorating and gourmet cooking skills? Does a penis foretell a preference for driving trucks and drinking beer?

Let's face it, most of you reading this column are gender transgressors.

"Not me. I'm a man. I wear pants and don't swish. Just cuz I'm attracted to men doesn't mean I'm not a man."

Back to that drawing of the perfectly gendered person. By transgressors, I mean not fitting societal roles for males and females, determined somewhere along the way.

Isn't that the source of homophobia and heterosexism? Men told they're not "real men" because their partner isn't female, women who "aren't really women" because they're not bearing children as well as their husband's load?

We're breaking the gender rules. Some of us in shame, some of us in freedom, but we're breaking them nonetheless. We're not so different from those whose internal identity doesn't match their exterior bodies.

The struggle for gay civil rights and the battle for transgender rights may not present the same face, but at their heart, they are the same: We're defying biology and renouncing social conformity to be true to our innate identity. Attempts to deny that root cause of discrimination and "keep the issues separate" have already cost us.

In the land of LGBT alphabet soup,

consider ENDA and DOMA:

There's been a lot of hootin' and hol-lerin' about the exclusion of protection for transgendered persons from the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the bill that would outlaw discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation.

A lot of otherwise well-intentioned gay folks have made it clear they don't want their one shot at equal protection jeopardized "because not enough education has been done yet" on gender identity issues. So ENDA moves forward, and once passed, some will be left behind, maybe for a day, maybe for a decade.

Then there's DOMA — that ugly, misnamed piece of legislation called the Defense Of Marriage Act.

In the midst of all the grenade-tossing over DOMA, a little bit of linkage between gay folks and transgendered folks would have brought to light an overlooked detail on the marriage landscape: transgendered marriage.

A heterosexual, legally identified, male and female couple gets married. Later, one of the partners becomes, legally, another gender. They are still, the courts have held, legally married.

What, a marriage between two people of the same gender? Aren't some of us raising and spending millions of dollars campaigning for this freedom to marry? Yes, and some couples of the same gender already "enjoy" those rights — and gays have been left behind.

This linkage thing between gays and transgendered persons cuts both ways.

Maybe we didn't want to admit, to ourselves and to the finger-pointing condemnors, that when we've said repeatedly, "We're just like you," we should have been saying it to our fellow gender transgressors (gay, straight, trans and bi), and not the heterosexuals who play by "the rules" and seem to run the world.

Maybe we didn't want to face and embrace that truth. And in the words of Dr. Rubin, why is that?

Cindy L. Abel is a communications and political consultant. She can be reached at CindyLabel@aol.com.

Tagged An Outcast

It's our responsibility to include, not divide gay community



by MUBARAK S. DAHIR

Although I am not black, I received some early lessons in racism that stick like needle pricks in my memory. Unfortunately, those memories recently surfaced after a discomfiting encounter I had at my local gay bar.

I was 7 years old when my family moved to the wooded mountains of central

Pennsylvania. I was soon to discover not everything was as open as the state's beautiful landscape.

Soon after we settled in our new state, my parents went searching for a house to buy. After many months and many house tours, they found a place they liked. As part of the house tour, the real estate agent walked them around the front and back yards of the house, and even around the community. The point of the walk around the neighborhood was to show my parents how well-kept the area was. But it also served, inadvertently, as a way for the homeowners there to get a glimpse at their prospective new neighbors.

After a few days of discussing the matter, my mother and father called the real estate agent to put in a bid on the house. The agent gladly accepted the bid, but had some important news for my parents: some neighbors had seen my mom and dad walking the streets with the realtor, and knew they were considering purchasing the home. Unhappy with what they saw, some neighbors had circulated a petition and then sent it into the realtor: they were asked that the home not be sold to a "mixed race" couple.

My father is an Arab, not a black man, but his skin is just dark enough that neighbors (who I would later find out didn't know what an Arab was) could mistake him for an African American. My parents decided to buy the house and ignore the petition, and later at school I would be taunted that my father was

black. ("No he's not," I would respond with the innocence of childhood. "He's brown.")

Even after the community realized my father was not black, they still understood he — and thus the whole family — was different. We had funny names and a funny religion and he had a funny accent. They substituted the slurs they once used for black and replaced them with the slurs they knew for foreigners.

Many years later, when I realized I was gay, I thought I had finally found a group of people who understood what it meant to be "different," to be a social outcast. Even before I came out and understood I was gay and what that meant, I had lived my entire life under one label or another. Thank goodness, I thought, that my newfound community understood the scourge of those labels. Surely as a community we would understand our kinship with others similarly tagged outcasts and inferiors by society at large, I believed.

Sadly, I have been sorely disappointed. A reminder of that came just the other day in my favorite local bar.

When I moved several weeks ago from Philadelphia to St. Louis, one of the first things I did was seek out the leather/bear bar. Aside from any sexual interest such bars may carry for me, I had historically found that many patrons understood the outsider label, even from within the gay community. The leather crowd is often pushed aside by the larger gay community, embarrassed by the stereotypes men in boots and biker hats, and women with whips, convey to straight America. And until the relatively recent advent of the "bear movement," large hairy men were considered anything but beautiful in a gay community obsessed with youthful, slim pretty boys. These men, I figured, were the epitome of outsiders in a community of outsiders.

I am standing at the bar, sharing a beer with a man squarely in the bear department. He is asking me the litany of questions a native son of any city asks a newcomer: what do you like about our city, what

don't you like.

I happen to mention that I find my new city surprisingly segregated. For a city that is 60 percent black, there seems precious little interaction between the races.

"Where did you move here from?" he asks after my remark.

"Philadelphia," I reply.

"Oh, well that explains it," he says, as if he's discovered the Rosetta Stone.

"Explains what?" I ask, confused.

"Well, you just don't understand blacks here," he says to my amazement. "Missouri was a slave state, you know. Blacks here are different than blacks from free states."

It would be easy to blame this attitude on the Southern influence of Missouri. But I've witnessed similar attitudes in other cities, north and south, east coast and west coast. We all know they exist in the gay and lesbian community to a greater degree than any of us would like to admit.

Apologists for our community often counter this fact with two observations: First, that homophobia is not necessarily less in minority communities, for example, so the lessons are not learned on the other side of the fence either. This may be true, but it's no excuse.

Second, they point out that gays and lesbians come from every sector of life in America, and that we reflect the attitudes and values of our roots regardless of our sexual identity.

Perhaps I'm naive to believe that just because we are gay and lesbian, we should be less bigoted as a community in our attitudes towards others — foreigners, different races, different religions, whatever. But I do believe as gay men and lesbians it is part of our responsibility, part of our gift, to connect the dots and see the larger picture of the things that needlessly divide this nation — not just this queer nation.

Mubarak S. Dahir can be reached at MubarakDah@aol.com.

Marching to Nowhere?

The Millennium March could be effective, but is it worthwhile?



by Paul Varnell

A few months ago, the Human Rights Campaign, Metropolitan Community Churches, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and the Latino organization LLEGO announced a national gay march in Washington in 2000.

This Millennium March was intended to draw particular attention to gay "people of faith" and gay "family issues," such as gay and lesbian partnerships, gay parenting and gay children.

These are not issues which affect me personally, but they do reflect the lives and concerns of most gays and lesbians I know. They are also issues that are likely to resonate with most decent Americans who, in large part, are the audience for such marches. And we should certainly support equal rights for gay families whether we desire marriage for ourselves or not.

Was the march announcement quickly followed by enthusiasm and approval? Oh, no. Rather, complaints and denunciations of those proposing the idea, it was the wrong date. It would divert resources. It was exclusionary in its planning. It was exclusionary in its emphases. An asteroid might strike. It might rain.

So a large meeting was convened of some 40 heads of national and local gay organizations earlier this month to "collectively design" an inclusive and diverse structure to ensure diversity and inclusiveness.

If it was hard to get much information about the Millennium March in the past two months, and it was, it is now even harder. At this point, the march is no longer about gay "people of faith," or gay family issues, or, in fact, anything at all. No one wants to commit to anything except buzzwords: "diverse," "collective" and "inclusive." And so we wonder whether it is worthwhile having a march.

There can be good reasons to have a march, and they have been adduced for all the previous marches — in 1979, 1987, 1993. They can demonstrate gay numbers and commitment to politicians and opinion leaders. They can create bursts of excitement and enthusiasm among some of those attending. They can draw people together during the planning process. They can expand gay mailing lists. These are not the stated goals of the march, but these are the terms the march is being defended in.

Are these reasons to attend such a march? For many of us, probably not. There are, however, fairly substantial arguments against a national march.

Marches take a great deal of time and expense to plan and carry out. People who spend time, energy and money organizing a march might better devote those same efforts to the wide array of other important, substantive gay concerns. It is hardly useful to divert people's attention from other projects.

Second, a national march siphons off a great deal of money from the people who attend, money that never does a thing for the gay movement. Washington merchants will profit greatly from the march, but will anyone else benefit? In addition, many marchers may well feel that they have fulfilled their obligation to the gay movement by going to the march and be less inclined to contribute anything more.

Third, the enthusiasm created by national marches can be brief. Promise Keepers slid downhill after its national march. The Million Man March seems to have had little lingering impact. The warm fuzzy glow of the first gay march in 1979 seemed to last several months, but each subsequent gay march seems to have had a shorter impact; enthusiasm from the 1993 march lasted about two weeks.

Fourth, each march we hold means less and less because it is just one of a series. Marches have become routine. Unless a march is significantly larger or has a different angle (for instance, faith and family issues?), the media get bored, politicians get bored, gays get bored.

Also, plans for the national march will inescapably

draw some time, energy and money away from the marches planned for each state capital. All talk of coordination, synergy and so forth between the plans makes no sense. There is only so much time and money around, and states are where most important gay issues are decided — from sodomy laws, to gay marriage, to non-discrimination proposals, to school programs for gay youth, to hate-crime data collection.

And, alas, from what little one can learn about the new collective, diverse organizers, they seem bent on repeating all the problems that plagued the 1993 march. That march was poorly organized; it never got everyone on the Mall at once, the events on stage were slow-paced and dull, there was no resultant political gain, and there were so many demands (53) that the march entirely lacked a focus and ended up being just a party and music festival. Did we ever get a financial accounting?

Once again, there is the obsessive and time-consuming concern with process instead of results. Demands for "open process" usually translate to mean, "I think I am important. Why wasn't I consulted?" And "process" is usually a stalking horse for agenda issues.

Once again, as in 1993, planning groups are to be 50 percent minority and 50 percent women even though minorities constitute 26 percent of the U. S. population, and most studies have found that gay men outnumber lesbians by at least 2-1. It is interesting that no one brought this up.

It seems likely that so relentlessly inclusive a group will be unable to reject virtually any "concern" or demand from any constituent group. Indeed it is hard to think of any reason they could offer for doing so since organizers have now stated their aim of maximal inclusiveness.

Forget the national march. Do something useful instead.

Paul Varnell writes for Chicago's *Windy City Times* and other gay newspapers. His e-mail address is PVarne@aol.com.

"IS THIS A CAUSE OF HOMOPHOBIA?"

(This Program is Free and Open to the Community)

Presented by Dr. Jim Hollis,
Director of the Jung Educational Center,

Tuesday, July 7, 1998!



Dr. Hollis will discuss the prohibition against self-awareness under which men labor and the secrets they keep from themselves. He says, "As wounded as women have been in society, it can be argued that men, who are emotionally denied the companionship of other men, and are split-off from their emotional realities, are even more grievously wounded."

Does this offer an explanation for homophobia and internalized homophobia? This program is for men and women who would like to understand the answer to that question.

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Friday, June 26

- Communion and Prayer Service at 10:00 am; at the Kolbe Project. 713-522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday, June 27

- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday, June 28

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church: Holy Communion 10:30 am at 239 Westheimer. 713/665-7903.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Service "Preaching the Gospel" at 11 am. 713-528-6756.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 713-861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 713-528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 713-526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 713-880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. 4305 Lillian 713-880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 713-529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm. 713-668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 713-526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 713-861-9149.
- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

- Faith and Hope Fellowship Service at 11:00 am. 713-520-7847.

Monday, June 29

- Catholic Mass at 7:00 pm at the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800

Tuesday, June 30

- MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm. Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm Orchestra rehearsal at 7:30 pm. 713-861-9149.
- PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 713-520-7870.
- Maranatha Fellowship MCC has groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 713-528-6756.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Bishop's Homosexuality Document-discussion group @7 pm. At the Kolbe Project. 713-861-1800.

Wednesday, July 1

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 713-861-9149.
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Healing Service at 8 pm. the Kolbe Project. 713-861-7212.

Thursday, July 2

- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 713-520-7847.
- Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Choir Practice at 6:30 pm. Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet: <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>

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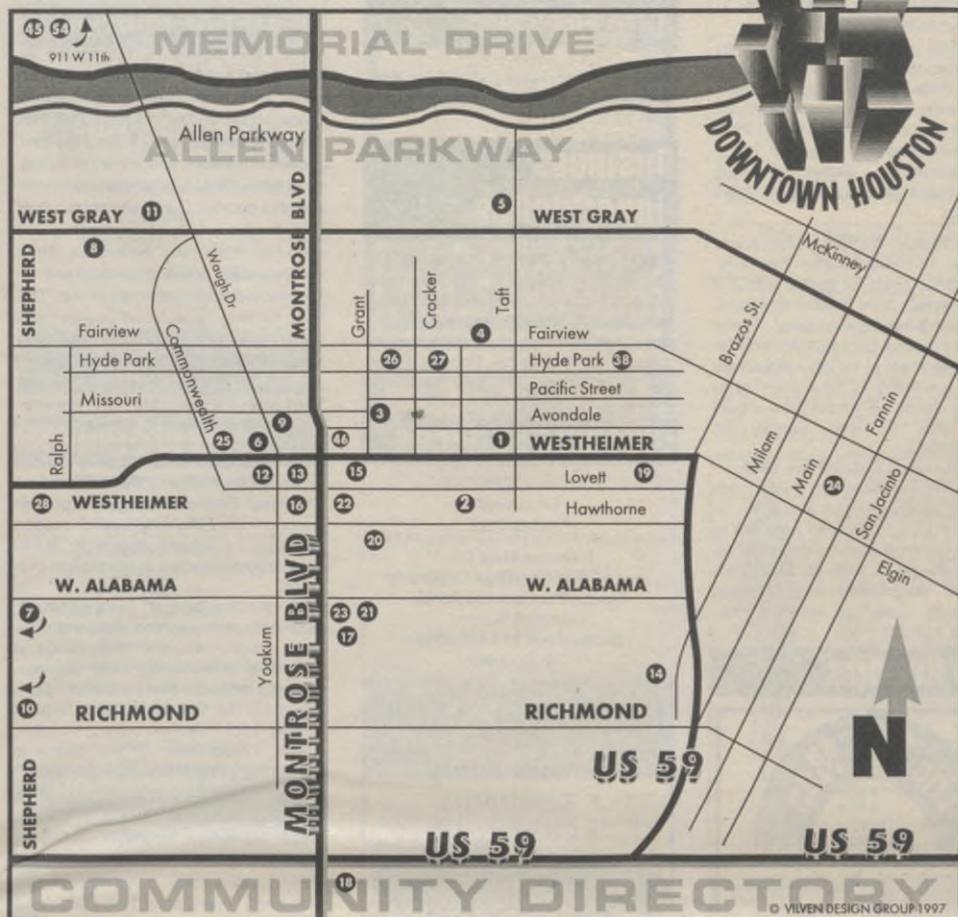
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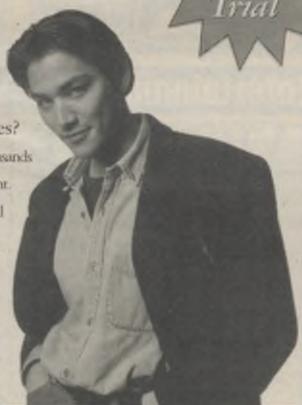
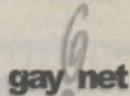


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Announcements

BEARS on the Bayou to host a cocktail party tonight, June 26th, at 9:00 PM @ Nighthawks. The party will include a showing of the artwork submitted to a logo design contest for the three day event which will take place April 23 - 25, 1999.

PRIDE WEEKEND

Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998 unified *diversified* electrified

Friday, June 26th, 7:00pm
711 William Street Gallery

Pumped Up On Art: Footwear of the rich and famous is coming out of the closet for this unique social and fundraising event. Local artists provide their time, talents, and materials to create works of art using the celebrities' shoes or "pumps" as the centerpiece.

Saturday, June 27th, 9:00pm
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GLSH
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The GLSH will be conducting training for new phone staff volunteers on the following date, July 10-12, 1998. The GLSH is a non-profit, information and referral service providing information on organizations, services, events and matters of interest to and about the gay and lesbian community in the Houston area. GLSH also provides information on AIDS, peer/active listening and when necessary crisis intervention. The Hate Crimes/Incidents Hotline is also maintained by the GLSH. To volunteer or for more information please call 713.529.3211 or leave a message @ 713.529.9615.

Houston Pride Band: The Houston Pride Band has a new mailing address. Effective June 12, 1998, the new address is 1412 Richmond Ave., #389, Houston, TX 77006.

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Houston Lesbian & Gay Pride 1998
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LOBO is accepting applications for evening manager. Apply in person 3939 Montrose between 9am-5pm Mon.-Fri.

The Houston Pride Band, a volunteer, non-profit organization is looking for a conductor/artistic director. Duties will include: providing artistic direction, conducting at weekly rehearsals, and participating at bi-weekly board meetings. For more information, please contact Russell Williams at 713.524.0218, or send email to HousTxBand@aol.com

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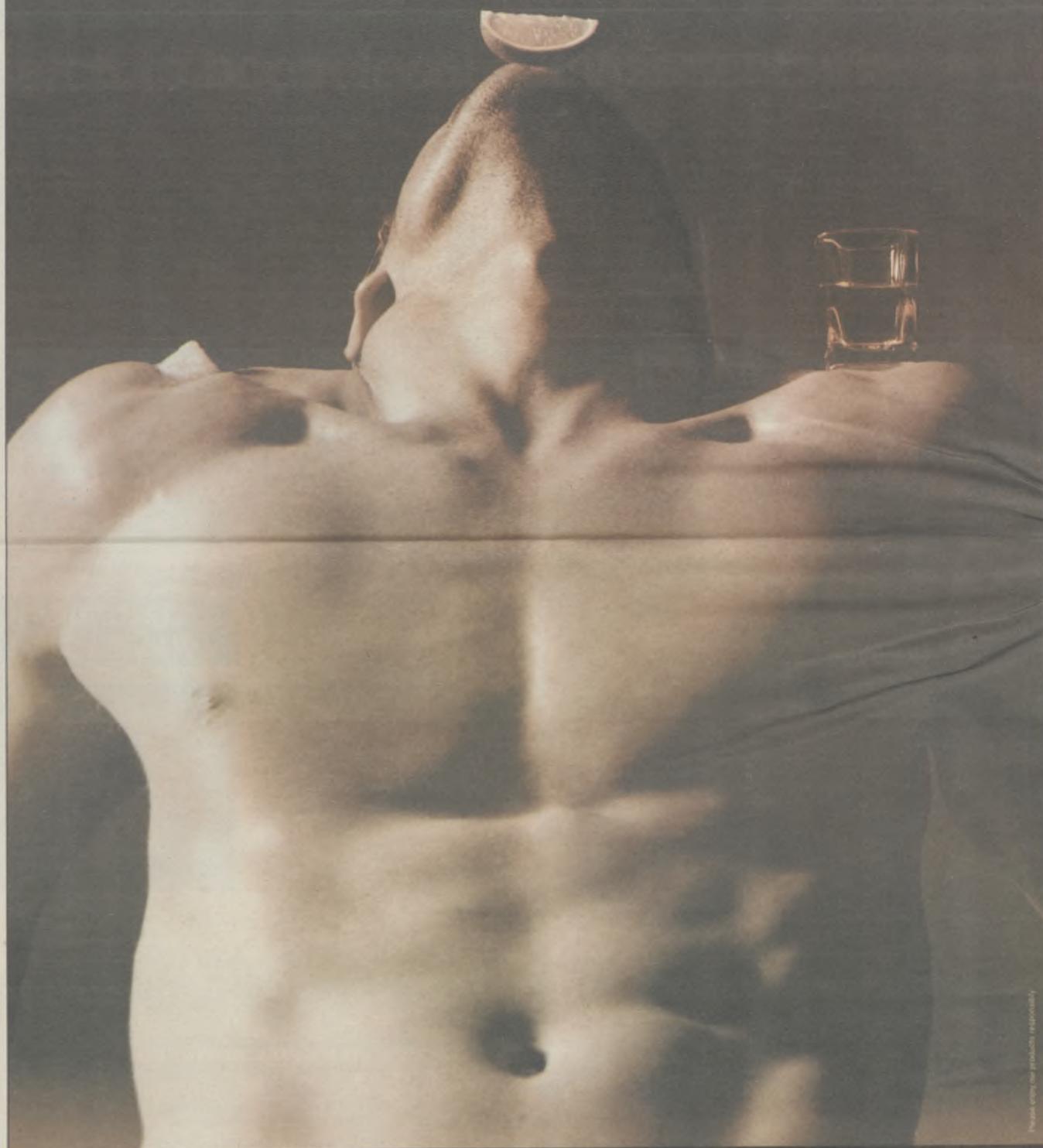
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BODY SHOTS

THE RITUAL SAUZA GOLD TEQUILA

June 26

Got milk? If not, hop on over to Crossroads Market for the "Harvey Milk" CD release party. Houston Grand Opera premiered the work in 1995. Composer Steward Wallace and librettist Michael Korie are scheduled to be on hand to autograph copies of the work. 1111 Westheimer, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 713-546-0230.

June 27

It's what this weekend is all about. Houston lights up the sky with pride for the 1998 Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. The parade is more than 100 units strong this year. It begins at the corner of Westheimer and Ridgewood, and travels east toward Stanford. But get there early to plant your roots: organizers expect 70,000 this year. 9 p.m. 713-529-6929.

Last year, Rich's was packed for Pride Night with circuit boys partying down until early Sunday. This year, expect the mega dance club to pull out all the stops for "Wired: Direct Current," a party they say won't be forgotten. Billboard DJs J.D. Arnold and Chris Sill spin the crowd into a frenzy with their trademark selection of bass-thumping, deep house. 2401 San Jacinto, 9 p.m. 21 and up, \$10. 713-759-9610.

June 28

Make sure your batteries are recharged for J.R.'s Sunday afternoon ritual of cheap drinks. Take your best shot at the club's classic karaoke sing along at 6 p.m., and stick around for the professional male strip contest hosted by that crazy duo of hair teasers, Kofi and Lindsey Love at 11 p.m. Congratulations to the venue, which celebrated its 16th anniversary on Thursday, 804 Pacific. Ages 21 and up. 713-521-2519.

June 29

Tickets are on sale for TUTS' productions of "Camelot" with Robert Goulet, and Andrew Lloyd Weber's freshman work "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." The latter stars David Osmond — yes, as in Donny and Marie. "Joseph" opens June 30 and runs through July 12. "Camelot" opens July 21 and runs through August 2. Call 1-800-678-5440 for tickets. Prices vary.

Tickets have been so hard to get for Andrew Lloyd Weber's "The Phantom of the Opera" that the musical has been extended through July 18. Eight additional performances have been added. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana Ave. Tickets: \$16 to \$66, 713-629-3700.

OUT ON THE BAYOU



HOUSTON VOICE • JUNE 26, 1998
A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

HOUSTON VOICE INTERVIEW

RED HOT RuPaul

The world's most famous drag queen tells *Houston Voice* about his roots, his lover and the new millennium.

by DAVID GOLDMAN

Superstar RuPaul, whose remarkable ascension to international fame began in Atlanta's gay bars, comes home this Saturday night for his first Atlanta concert since 1995. RuPaul's show at The Tabernacle is set for 11 p.m.

Long a legend in dance clubs from New York to Miami, RuPaul hit the big-time with his 1993 smash "Supermodel." Since then, he's released three more CDs, published an autobiography ("Lettin' It All Hang Out"), appeared in films ("The Brady Bunch Movie," "To Wong Foo ... Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar") and hosted his own drive-time radio show on New York's WKTU-FM.

Two weeks ago, *The New York Times* and *The Los Angeles Times* debuted new print ads for Rockport shoes featuring a suave RuPaul in male clothes. For Saks Fifth Avenue billboards in Las Vegas, New York and L.A., he showboats in both male and female drag. And he appears as a guy with Stockard Channing in the made-for-cable movie "An Unexpected Life," which premiered on USA Network on June 24.

RuPaul just wrapped up taping on another season of his "RuPaul Show" on VH-1, where his guests included Olivia Newton-John, Rick James and the Pointer Sisters. And on July 4, Chancellor Media will unveil his dance music program "RuPaul Radio," which will premiere in New York and then go into nationwide syndication.

But long-time observers know that RuPaul's stellar career began right in Atlanta, with frequent appearances on public access cable's "The American Music Show" and with his wild nightclub performances. From the early '80s until he moved to New York in 1987, Ru was an institution in Atlanta's gay scene. He danced on a go-go box at Weekends, plastered fliers of himself wearing a jockstrap and hair extensions ("RuPaul is Everything") on telephone poles, and spent hours waving from the porch of his Midtown apartment above a billowing bedsheet with his seasonal message Kryloned in red: "This Summer, RuPaul is Red-Hot."

Though preoccupied with moving into a new apartment he's



Photo by Mathu & Zaldy

purchased in New York's West Village, preparing for a trip to South America and planning a family reunion at his Miami Beach vacation home, RuPaul recently took time to talk to *Houston Voice* about his career, his relationship with his dashing Australian lover and why Atlanta — where he returns this weekend for the city's Pride celebration — still feels like home.

HoVo: What's your secret for being a successful superstar and having a happy romance at home?

RuPaul: The first moment I met (lover) Georges (LeBar), I felt safe. I was very vulnerable at the time I met him. In his presence, I felt really safe, at my most vulnerable point. He's very warm and loving. He reminds me of what's really important. I don't know what the hell he sees in me. (laughs) I get really tied up in my career. I can be really introverted and get very into work.

HoVo: You've done several high profile things recently that involve working in men's clothes. I know you've often said that everything we put on is drag, but for a long time you've been associated with a particular kind of high-glam female drag. How is it psychologically different for you to get

ready to work as RuPaul the guy, as opposed to being RuPaul the Queen of All Media?

RuPaul: It's a lot more relaxing. All that shit I put on, I act like, "Oh, it comes on easy and I feel great." But it's like having a uniform on. Somehow when I'm in glamour drag, it's almost like a goddess. I feel like the pope, who other people want validation from. People pay you more attention and give you more energy.

When I'm not in drag, I'm able to focus on my own energy and linger and really be in that moment. I can focus on my own energy from the inside out, rather than the energy that's coming to me based on what I'm wearing.

HoVo: You're launching your new nationally syndicated radio show in July. What are you going to play on it?

RuPaul: It's going to be a lot like the TV show on VH-1. It

See RUPAUL/ page 3B

INSIDE:

"Opposite of Sex"
Hilariously mangled lives on the big screen.
Page 2B



"Ray Hill"
The memories of a citizen provocateur.
Page 4B



"X Files"
For Duchovny and Anderson, life is out there.
Page 9B



MOVIE REVIEW

Mangled lives a treat in 'Opposite of Sex'

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Forever, it seems, gay films have had only two ingredients: a pretty boy gone wrong, and an estranged lover who won't give up.

But in his hilarious new film "The Opposite of Sex," Don Roos bakes a satirical cake mixed with those same ingredients, yet scores big with a catty recipe that doesn't fall flat on its face.

The movie stars Christina Ricci as 16-year-old Dedee Truitt, a plotting, conniving, rebellious sex kitten who elopes from her mother's Louisiana country house after her incestuous stepfather gets plowed six feet under.

Short, plump and sporting two colossal, milky-white breasts, Christina could easily be that missing mistress on a dairy carton, or the next underage centerfold. Yet she splits with the help of her Bible-quoting, white supremacist boyfriend (William Lee Scott), landing unannounced on the doorstep of her half-brother Bill.

Bill (Martin Donovan) is a wealthy, late thirtysomething gay man who lives with his handsome, young lover Matt (Ivan Sergei) in an idyllic, middle-class Eden. Their gigantic house is packed with waspy mementos that look more like a scene out of "Leave it to Beaver" than a cesspool of homosexual deviance bound to be struck by a meteor.

Yet Dedee is the meteor that strikes this Indiana paradise. She succeeds in convincing Matt that he might be bisexual (how would he know he's not if he's never tried?), and she beds him in the afternoons while Bill is away teaching at high school. With an intellect just a notch above Cro-Magnon man, Matt is clueless of Dedee's set up. In record time, she announces he's made her pregnant — in spite of scores of Trojans.

Shocked by the news of Matt's infidelity, Bill is wounded deeper when the new couple skip town for

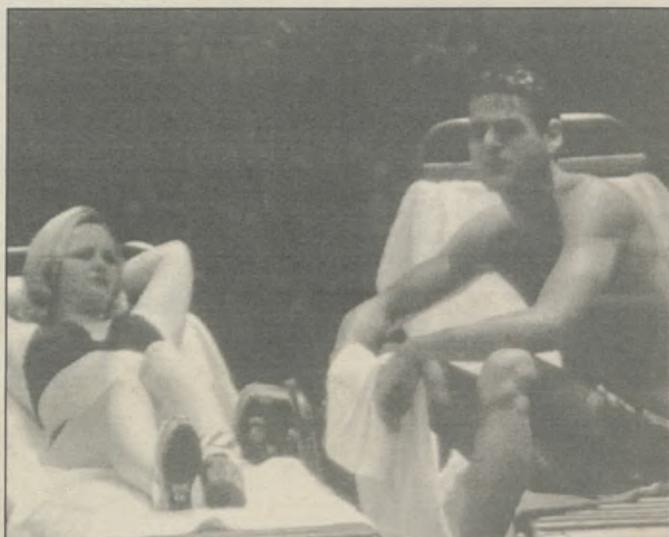
California, after stealing \$10,000 of his money. To keep him at bay, Dedee steals the ashes of Bill's lover who died of AIDS, infuriating his surviving sister Lucia ("Friends" regular Lisa Kudrow), who hangs onto Bill like a pseudo housewife, in part to temper her sexually-repressed life.

To matters worse, Jason (Johnny Galecki), a queeny ex-high school student, pays Bill a visit, demanding to know Matt's whereabouts. Jason threatens to trump up sex charges against Bill to the school board if Matt doesn't call. Of course, Matt doesn't. The school board suspends Bill when the media breaks the story. Regrettably, he decides to hunt Matt and Dedee down to wipe disgrace from his name with Lucia reluctantly in tow.

Ricci's sinister glances are reminiscent of her stint as Wednesday on "The Addams Family" film series. She seems psychologically suited as the film's femme fatale. She waxes and wanes from pitiful to pitiless as we love her and hate all at the same time.

Eagerly, we applaud her doom only to be drawn back into her wicked web when she lives after birthing the baby. Yet we can't help but shake our heads at the sheer cruelty of her shenanigans, and marvel at the mental circus that mangles the lives of the innocents. Trouble is, on any day of the week, there's people out there just like her.

Houston Voice Rating: **** (of 5)
MPAA Rating: R
Run Time: 100 minutes
Genre: Comedy
Director/Script: Steven Diller
Cast: Christina Ricci, Martin Donovan, Lisa Kudrow, Lyle Lovett, Johnny Galecki, Ivan Sergei, William Scott Lee
Theaters: Opens today at the Landmark Rivers Oaks 3, Shepherd and West Gray, (713) 524-2175. \$6.75.



Seduction: Christina Ricci (Dedee) seduces and then steals Ivan Sergei (Matt) from his boyfriend in "The Opposite of Sex," which opens locally today. —Photo by Bob Akester



Twisted sisters: Ivan Sergei (foreground) lets himself get entangled in a bisexual love triangle in a new amusing film by director Steven Diller. —Photo by Bob Akester

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner

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THE AGES
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1985
Pre-Rainbow

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1989
Dawning of Rainbow Awareness
(Kind of the bronze age of rainbow accessorization)

Labels: RAINBOW-COLORED FREEDOM RINGS, TURTLE SHELL, JFK-STYLE SUNGLASSES, SIGN: TURTLE SHELL JFK-STYLE SUNGLASSES

1993
Maximum, Ultimate, Way Full-Blown Rainbow

Labels: RAINBOW WIND-SOCK, RAINBOW SUN BAND, RAINBOW SUSPENDERS, SIGN: RAINBOW WIND-SOCK

1995
Rainbow-So-Last-Week
(Over the Rainbow)

Labels: NON RAINBOW CAP, NON RAINBOW SHIRT, AMERICAN FLAG PIN WITH RAINBOW STRIPES, SIGN: NON RAINBOW CAP

1997
Anti-Rainbow ("wouldn't be caught dead wearing...") Backlash

Labels: WINGS, SIGN: THE YEAR THAT YOU WENT TO THE PARADE DRESS-ED AS A LUTHERAN STONEMASER, SIGN: MORE SAUERBRATEN? SA? GAY?

1998
RetroRainbow

Labels: RAINBOW PARACHUTE, RAINBOW FLIPPERS WITH MATCHING RAINBOW SPOTTY FLIP-FLOPS, SIGN: RAINBOW PARACHUTE BEACH SHOES WITH MATCHING RAINBOW SPOTTY FLIP-FLOPS

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RUPAUL/ from page 1
 launches on the Fourth of July. "My America" is the theme of the show. I want to celebrate everything I love and think is really cool about America. We'll have specials, like the "You Better Work Out" special — all the music will be geared to what I like to work out to. It will be on in New York first, then we'll sell it to other markets.

HoVo: You just did a new season of your VH-1 show from Los Angeles. What was the most unusual show you did?

RuPaul: We have a lot of great stuff going on. My favorite, the one I was really living for, was Olivia Newton John. On one of the shows, we did a plastic surgery fashion show — which is so unique to RuPaul and the nuts who produce this thing. I was so excited, because I'm obsessed with plastic surgery. I haven't had any myself, but that hasn't stopped me from being obsessed about it. We got a doctor and he brought some models who had a lot of work done. It was great.

HoVo: How is it different shooting the show in L.A.?

RuPaul: It was a different type of guest that we got. Anna Nicole Smith — people who normally aren't hanging out in New York. We got those people. We were going to have Zsa Zsa, but she got sick and didn't come.

HoVo: Between the early '80s and now, you've gone from being a kid living with your sister in Atlanta to being an international star living in New York. But during those same years, the gay community has undergone unbelievable losses to AIDS. You've had such an extraordinary rise, yet there's been this concurrent tragedy that we've all had to go through. How has this affected your life and your art?

RuPaul: It makes the urgency factor more. It makes you think about what's really important in life. Death is synonymous with life, and that's always been. It's the fine print that no one likes to talk about.

You think about what's really important. I think my most important work comes inside my marriage. I think my most important work is to learn how to love Georges more.

This isn't the beginning or the end of our lives, this earthbound experience. Yes, AIDS is a thing, and because it's like this silent serial killer, it makes it very scary. But there are always things like that in the life experience.

HoVo: Recently Pat Robertson predicted that Orlando was going to be hit by a hurricane for flying the gay rainbow flag and that America was going to be hit by a meteor as punishment for its acceptance of gays and lesbians. How is your work as an openly gay entertainer affected by the increasingly inflammatory rhetoric that we hear from these far-right folks?

RuPaul: The first thing that comes to mind when I hear that is that those people who are so extreme are really getting desperate. Because the truth is finally coming out — which is that Pat Robertson needs a frontal lobotomy. Their small world is changing so fast that they're getting desperate. It's like crabs trying to come out of the boiling pot by pushing the others down. When you clean house, all the roaches start running around. We're cleaning it up now for the next century, and we're going to hear a lot of roaches coming out of the woodwork screaming foul. That's to be expected.

HoVo: What's life going to be like after the year 2000? What's going to happen?

RuPaul: I hope that the shift toward

thinking with your heart, rather than your brain, will be fully underway. The number-one accessory for the new millennium is knowledge and intuition. It's something you really can't buy. So much of the past century has been about consuming — the industrial age, making all this stuff that we can buy.

I think the reason that people have been able to accept a 7-foot tall blonde black drag queen in their hearts is because of my heart. Because they can see through that, and they know that I'm good people.

The last frontier is inside your heart. In what I'm doing and my work, hopefully I'm a part of that shift, of saying, "You know what? The clothes I'm wearing? This is not who I am. Who I am is in my heart." I think that's the major shift for the next century.



Red hot: RuPaul and his idol Olivia Newton-John on the set of "The RuPaul Show." —Photo by John Collazos



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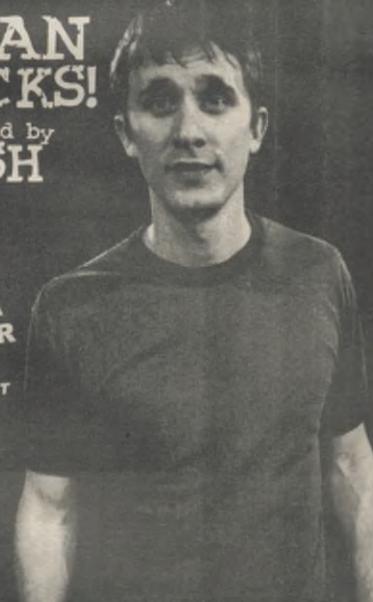
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OUT ON THE BAYOU

THEATER REVIEW

'Citizen provocateur' tells his stories of life inside prison walls

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Two rowdy activists are synonymous with the gay rights movement: Harvey Milk and Ray Hill.

Born in the Heights in 1940, Hill has been involved in the gay civil rights movement in Texas for almost 40 years. He is a self-educated civil activist who resents "the uncontrolled exercise of government power over private lives." That resentment has landed him in jail several times, yet he's turned those brushes with the law into an autobiographical one-man show called "Ray Hill: The Prison Years."

One of the most interesting stories Hill talks about involves a First Amendment case against the City of Houston. Ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court would decide the case. Hill had counted on it. But the fascinating roots of this case involve a prison story, he said, which led to the judicial pinnacle of his life.

"I never thought that the most important thing that I would do in my life would be to call two police officers mother f---er," he said about the case against the city of Houston. "When I have been dead a hundred years, the only thing anyone will know about my life is that I stopped two police officers from beating a black man in my front lawn by calling them (that)."

On February 14, 1982, just before midnight, Ray Hill watched two city police officers stumble onto the front lawn of his Montrose home. For some reason, the cops were ganging up on a young black man. Seeing this, Hill walked out of his house and protested, telling them to leave the man alone. Irritated, the officers threatened Ray's arrest if he didn't back away. Defiant, Hill told them to make his day.

The officers didn't refuse. Limping from a motorcycle accident, the police took Hill without his crutches to the far away Beechnut substation, rather than a closer facility five minutes away. That was an ominous development because Beechnut was allegedly a cesspool of police violence in the 80s, Hill said. Fortunately, he got a private cell that night because he had

a press badge and was released by a judge on his own recognition the next day.

Charged with violating a city ordinance, Hill lost the initial court challenge, but won on appeal. The city's legal department decided to appeal its loss, and lost, which eventually pushed the case to the Supreme Court five years later.

"My case was argued before the Court by one of Richard Nixon's former lawyers. It was Charlie Wright of the University of Texas, the most conservative advocate I could find. He didn't charge me anything," Hill remembered.

Eight justices agreed that Hill was thrown in prison on a bogus charge. Hill was compensated \$50 per minute for his jail time, and Wright made \$750,000 in legal fees.

Today, Hill takes pride in the court brief that describes him as a "homosexual, an ex-convict, a pesky, contented troublemaker, and a 'citizen provocateur.'" He enjoys getting arrested, he says. In fact, he welcomes it. Prison time is fertile ground for his rich treasury of stories.

But you have to remember two things when you decide to listen to Ray Hill.

"One, I'm 57 years old, and the older I get, the better I used to be," he said. "That's just an axiom of life over which few people have control. And second, I draw my stories from (prison experiences), and one tends to be the hero of one's own stories."



Ray Hill

What: "Ray Hill: The Prison Years"
When: Wednesdays through July 8, 8 p.m.
Where: A Little Room Downstairs, 2326 Bissonnet, between Greenbriar and Kirby.
Tickets: \$10, 713-523-0791

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-Richard Corliss, TIME MAGAZINE

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BOOK NOTES

Lambda recognizes the best in books with its 'Lammys'

by ELLA TYLER

In a salute to excellence and imagination in literature for gays and lesbians, the Lambda Book Report and Lambda Literary Foundation recently announced its annual Literary Award winners.

"Beyond the Pale" by Elana Dykewomon, and "The Far Euphrates" by Aryeh Lev Sollman, were tops for Lesbian Fiction and Gay Men's Fiction.

"Does Your Momma Know?" edited by Lisa C. Moore, and "Gay Metropolis" by Charles Kaiser, were winners of the award for Lesbian Studies and Gay Men's Studies. Moore's book, which is self-published, tells the coming-out stories of black women. Her first book, it also won the Small Press award.

The winner for Gay Men's Poetry is "Beautiful Signore" by Cyrus Cassells. Two lesbian poets, Eileen Myles for "School of Fish," and Joan Larkin, for "Cold River," won Lammys.

There were also double winners for Photography/Visual Arts and Transgender books: "Naked Men: Pioneering Male Nudes 1935-1995," by editor David Leddick and "Particular Voices: Portraits of Gay and Lesbian Writers" by Robert Giard. The transgender award, now in its

second year, went to Lawrence Schimel and Carol Queen, editors, for "PoMoSexuals," and to Daphne Scholinski and Jane Adams for "Last Time I Wore a Dress," an account of the author's hospitalization to force her to accept her gender.

"Blue Windows" by Barbara Wilson was chosen the best lesbian biography/autobiography and "Poetry of Healing" by Rafael Campo was named the best gay men's biography/autobiography. The best lesbian mystery was "Father Forgive Me" by Randy Lordon and the best gay men's mys-



tery was "The Magician's Tale" by David Hunt.

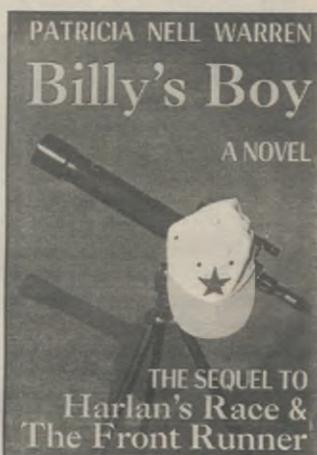
Other winners were the fiction anthology "His (2)" edited by Robert Drake with Terry Wolverton, and the non-fiction anthology "Queers in Space" edited by Gordon Brent Ingram, Anne-Marie Bouthillette and Yolanda Retter.

Lammys are also given for spiritual/religious books, for science fiction/fantasy and for children/young adult books. Winners in those categories are "Like Bread on the Seder Plate" by Rebecca Alpert, "Bending the Landscape" edited by Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel, and "The House You Pass on the Way" by Jacqueline Woodson.

"Gross Indecency" by Moises Kaufman won the Drama Award and "Openly Bob" won the Humor award.

The Editor's Choice Award was given to Patricia Nell Warren for "Billy's Boy," the sequel to the groundbreaking book, "The Front Runner."

Douglas Mitchell of University of Chicago Press received the Publisher's Service Award. Some 20 years ago, Mitchell played a key role in legitimizing Gay Studies with his acquisition of "Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality" by John Boswell, which not only won a National Book



Award, but also sold 100,000 copies. University of Chicago Press remains a leader in gay studies.

The Lambda Literary Foundation Pioneer award went to Ron Hanby of Bookazine, the magazine and book distributor company.

Finalists for the awards are selected from books nominated by the public and publishing executives and given to a panel of judges, which selects the winners from five choices in each category. More than 50,000 nominating forms were distributed for the awards, given out in Chicago last month.

What your neighbors are reading ...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Buddy Babylon
by Scott Thompson (Dell, \$12.95)</p> <p>2 The Naked Eye
by Catherine Emis (Nalad, \$11.95)</p> <p>3 California Screaming
by Doug Guinan (Simon & Schuster, \$24)</p> <p>4 Fallen From Grace
by Pat Welch (Nalad, \$11.95)</p> <p>5 What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality
by Daniel Holminkak (Alamo Square, \$9.95)</p> <p>6 Generation Queer
by Bob Paris (Warner, \$28)</p> <p>7 Stranger at the Gate
by Mel White (Penguin, \$13.95)</p> <p>8 Jocks
by Dan Woog (Alyson, \$12.95)</p> <p>9 The Bond Between Women
by China Galland (Riverhead, \$25.95)</p> <p>10 Awakening the Virgin
by Nicole Foster (Alyson, \$12.95)</p> | <p>1 Buddy Babylon
by Scott Thompson (Dell, \$12.95)</p> <p>2 Shirts & Skins
by Tim Miller (Alyson Press, \$12.95)</p> <p>3 Life Outside
by Michelangelo Signorile (Harper Collins, \$13)</p> <p>4 Handjobs Anthology 3
(Avenue Services, \$20)</p> <p>5 Don't Get Me Started
by Kate Clinton (Ballantine Books, \$22)</p> <p>6 Men From the Boys
by William J. Mann (Plume/NAL, \$12.95)</p> <p>7 501 Great Things About Being Gay
by Edward Taussig (Andrews McMeel, \$7.95)</p> <p>8 Gay Sex Quotes
edited by John Erich and Gerry Kroll (Alyson Books, \$13.95)</p> <p>9 Dead As A Doornail
by Grant Michaels (St. Martin's, \$22.95)</p> <p>10 Idols
by Jonathan Black (Bruno Zeman, \$29.95)</p> |
|---|--|

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SATURDAY, JUNE 27

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97.9 BOX NIGHT #2

M.C. Alexis Vanderhurst & Tiffany Brooks
DRINK SPECIALS

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97.9 The Box Night

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

After The Box Night

DRINK SPECIALS

\$5.00 Cover

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MC Sophia McIntosh

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.....
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Mr. EJ's Steven Baker

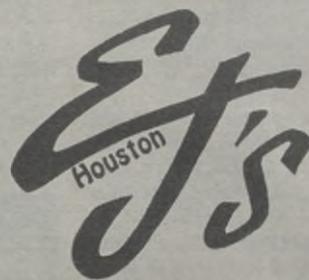


Talent Night
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Week #6 Preliminary

Winners of the Tuesday & Thursday preliminaries return for finals.

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- FRI 6/26 MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
- SAT 6/27 SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER at 11 pm
- SUN 6/28 \$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day and All Night
- MON 6/29 MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
- TUE 6/30 Amateur/Talent Night, 11 pm with Dyan Michaels.
- WED 7/1 Burger night with Grandma
- THUR 7/2 Amateur/Talent Night, 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love. Burger night with Grandma

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Attractive, very shy BM, 49, 145lbs, 5'7", HIV+, homebody, seeks WM, 49+, tired of bars, who likes to travel, cuddle, and loves lots of attention. ☎1226

HEART AND SMILE
Hairy, romantic WM, 5'9", 155lbs, sexy legs, enjoys movies, dining, quiet times. Prefer someone non-hairy, 21-35, for companionship, possible lover. I could make you happy if you let me. ☎1275

TOP MAN
Very assertive, sensual, prime-timer WPM, 5'10", 170lbs, HIV-, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, seeks submissive bottom man, 5'10", HIV-, N/S, no facial hair, for dating and more. ☎1320

WHERE ARE YOU?
HM, 31, 5'8", 158lbs, seeks WHM, 25-32, who enjoys movies, dining out, hanging out, for friendship, possibly more. ☎1250

HIV POSITIVE
Sensitive, thoughtful, considerate GWM, 50, 5'11", 150lbs, gray hair, HIV positive, very healthy, looking for LTR with someone over 40. ☎1101

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PROFESSIONAL BM...
early 50s, intelligent, self-directed, and serious with a playful side. Interests include travel, reading, quiet times at home. Seeking meaningful relationship with secure other. ☎1125

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WM, 38, 5'10", 170lbs, short black with gray streaks/green, moderately hairy, seeks hairy male, 38-45, N/S, D/D-free. Conroe/Woodland area, please. ☎1154

BLUE-COLLAR GUY
Healthy, masculine, attractive GWM, 36, 6'4", 205lbs, swimmer's build, brown/brown, goatse, HIV+, seeks masculine, muscular GH/WM, 30-40, HIV+, nice build, who enjoys working out. ☎1153

DANCING COWBOY
Attractive GWM, 40, 6'2", 170lbs, HIV-, moustache. Seeking masculine, honest, dependable man, who enjoys the country, C&W dancing, romance, home life, etc. H/W proportionate. ☎1155

CABALLO BUSCA...
Ranchero, compassionate, marcon, sensible GWM, 26, seeks same for wild rides across Texan plains. Sense of humor, bilingual desired. Come gallop into the sunset with me! ☎1150

ATTRACTIVE HISPANIC
GWM, 32, 5'6", 145lbs, dark/brown, employed and stable, enjoys quiet times, long drives, sports. Seeking good-looking, straight-acting WHM, 23-35, slim-muscular build, for friendship, possible LTR. ☎1152

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GALAXY GAYZER

by JOSEPH MOLINA

JUNE 26 — JULY 2, 1998

Sultry Venus takes a dip with hypnotic Neptune entrancing romantics all over the world. Are you in a mood to play? Nightclubs, private parties, Club Kids, introverts and extroverts, there's no holds barred. Put on your dancing shoes and celebrate the gay spirit around the world.



Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)

Happy birthday Cancer. Another year, another chance to revamp your life. It is a time to turn within, to evaluate your homosexual emotions and put your life into perspective. You may have a strong desire to break the limits you have established, to act totally radical and force change into your life. In the days to come, you must be honest with yourself and pay attention to your emotions, or else you run the risk of being decadent.



Leo (JULY 24 — AUGUST 23)

This week, the influence of Saturn can no longer be avoided. Walls break down and you are given opportunities to shed your limitations. Be certain of where you place the blame for the stress in your life. Is it another or is it you? If you insist on avoiding this issue, you will continue to lead your life into stagnation. You will keep on planting seeds that will take a long time to grow.



Virgo (AUGUST 24 — SEPTEMBER 23)

Unseen forces permeating your life produce a heavy mood. Inner turmoil surfaces to rebuild your identity. For a few days, you could be bitter with the world, a mood causing you to look at yourself in a critical manner. In all the evaluation, a new you is formed. A new way to do your hair, changes in the way you dress and a refreshed outlook on life.



Libra (SEPTEMBER 24 — OCTOBER 23)

Mars and Venus combine efforts to stimulate your homosexual growth. The thrill of the challenge will attract you. The air around will stimulate you into action. Prepare, as you become motivated to get focused. Just as focus settles in, everyone will try and take what is yours. The idea is to see the humanness in those around you, to exert love and compassion.



Scorpio (OCTOBER 24 — NOVEMBER 22)

Saturn's influence draws from your psyche thoughts of power, achievement and responsibility. Keep this in mind over the next few weeks as the universe challenges your ability to stick with your goals. Remember this: prepare. For a short moment, you will move backwards at the brink of manifesting your desires. Do not rely on others or begin projects requiring assistance. For a moment, live in silence, get used to working alone or become as one with your lover.



Sagittarius (NOVEMBER 23 — DECEMBER 22)

This week, the universal influences of Mars and Venus shake up your gay life. Keep your head high and prepare for stress to manifest in the arena of romance. You will hesitate before you are forced to make some major decisions about your life. Remember, with all the structures you have built, your responsibilities will not take a day off and no one is worth your happiness and success.



Capricorn (DECEMBER 23 — JANUARY 20)

This week, you will have sudden mood swings throwing you off course. The sun is in a direct face off with those born under this sign and rattles up the cage of your life. Prepare and realize what is behind your current emotions. A sense of bitterness about some aspect of your homosexual life will become unavoidable. For a moment everyone that has ever hurt you, taken advantage of you or stole your lime light will dominate your thoughts. Take in these emotions and realize the simple fact that you cannot change your past, but your future is still in the making.



Aquarius (JANUARY 21 — FEBRUARY 19)

At the early part of this week, you must be careful in being your own worst enemy. Perhaps it's paying attention to all those little things, which are unimportant. A partnership could be formed — with another or yourself — which will become life empowering. Both Uranus and Neptune are being stimulated, affecting relationships on all levels gay and straight. Pay attention to the unique resonance that Mars and Venus is setting into motion.



Pisces (FEBRUARY 20 — MARCH 20)

Pluto's power working through the influence of Venus puts a tight squeeze over you. A three week phase set into motion puts a pressure on facing obstacles. Set free oppression and pay attention to your gay mood. Take the steps to liberate yourself from stress. With the weight of the universe pressing down upon you, your rational mind is the tool for success. Do some serious contemplation and some problem solving writing.



Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

Three months after your gay birthday, the universe encourages some fancy foot work. Put the pedal to the metal and hold on. Things are moving, life is shaping the universe is catapulting you forward. Is it love, achievement or wealth? Expect challenges that will stimulate you into growth. You must ask yourself how bad do you want it? Love, prosperity, success — all before you. You just have to grab.



Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

Cosmic forces rain down throughout your flamboyant life restructuring your ego. It is a time of trials and your greatest struggle will be confronting personal fears, doubts and insecurities. Pay attention to inspirations as they will show you how to deal with stress. Signals from your subconscious will show you the way out.



Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

Venus' spell blows up attractions, heats up relationships and puts the rhythm in your stride. Combined with the influence of Mars, prepare for fast shifts, quick movements and action. You are sure to find one or more situations which you enjoy, such as a perfect mate or a stronger love between you and your lover. Take your time and maintain your head about it. Keep in mind. You are in danger of letting your emotions get the better of you and could end up getting hurt. Your determination and overactive emotions could lead you into futile relationships.

Joseph Molina, a practicing psychic for over 15 years, can be reached at 713-524-4411. Check out his web site at www.Astralwind.com or e-mail him at joemo@swbell.net.

WATT A WEEKEND

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Saturday,
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PRIDE NIGHT!
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Sunday, June 28

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Friday, June 26

- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at E/J's 6-10 pm and at the Midtown Spa 10 pm to 1 am. Inergy at 8:30 pm to midnight.
- * HATCH meets. 713-942-7002.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713-864-8468.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 713-830-3000
- * Lesbian Avengers meet at Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- * Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 713-528-SAFE.
- * Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- * Positive Art Workshop 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 713-521-1118.
- * Lesbian and Gay Voices on KPFT 7pm 713-526-5738.
- * Pride Gala @ 8:30 p.m. 713-626-2837
- * Harvey Milk CD Release party @ Crossroads. 713-546-0230.

Saturday, June 27

- * Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at Brick's II 4 to 8 pm and the 611 Hyde Park Pub 8 pm to midnight. Toys 8:30 pm to midnight.
- * AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition. 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 713-526-5738.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 713-528-SAFE.
- * Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 281-583-8408.
- * Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence support group meets. 713-526-1017.
- * Rainbow Fishing Club meets. 713-526-7070.
- * The Movie Club meets. 281-835-5312.
- * Time Travel at 8 p.m. 713-521-7464.

Sunday, June 28

- * The Women's Group meets 10:45am. 713-529-8571.
- * HATCH meets. 713- 942-7002.
- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets.713-802-0165
- * Rainbow Riders: A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

- * FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- * Lone Star Volleyball plays. 281-878-4629.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 am. 713-864-8468.
- * Rainbow Fishing Club goes fishing. 713-523-6381.

Monday, June 29

- * Free Yoga Classes at 9 am. 713-965-9642.
- * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- * Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 713-529-1223.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 713-830-3000.
- * AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 713-732-4300.
- * AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 1pm to 6:15 pm 713-626-2837
- * Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 713-535-6363.
- * Free Yoga Classes at 7 pm 713-965-9642.
- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic: Mary's 9 am to 1 pm; and Cousin's 8:30 pm to midnight.
- * Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation: 713-861-1800.
- * AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- * FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- * TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- * Log Cabin Republicans meet @ 7 p.m. 713-529-9100.
- *Gay & Lesbian Readers Group meet @ 7 p.m. 713-349-0050

Tuesday, June 30

- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 7pm. 713-495-8009.
- * Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 713-822-8511.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037
- * AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 713-488-4492.
- * Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 713-861-9149.

- * PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 713-520-7870.
- * Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic Club Body Center and Mela's 8pm to Midnight.
- * Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation: 713-861-1800.
- * Bering Support Network-Lunch Bunch Gang meets at 7 pm. 713-526-1017.
- * HIV + Support group for men over 50 meets at 7:30 pm. 713-527-9106.
- * Love, Lust, and Intimacy discussion group meets at 7 pm. 713-524-2374.
- * TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- * HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer @ 7 p.m. 713-527-8219
- *Houston Outdoor Group meets. 713-KAM-POUT.

Wednesday, July 1

- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic: Mary's 4-8pm; Chances 6 to 10 pm, Nighthawks 10 pm to midnight and the Ripcord 10 pm to 1 am.
- * Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 713-830-3000.
- * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 713-524-0218.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:30 pm. 713-864-8468.
- * GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4:30pm . 713-791-1412.
- * Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 713-622-7250.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- * HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 713-782-4050.
- * Free Yoga classes at 7 pm. 713-965-9642.
- * Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 713-830-3000.
- * BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 713-861-9149.
- * AVES offers free HIV testing from 1 to 6:15 pm. 713-626-2837.
- * Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- * Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation: 713-

- 861-1800.
- * Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- * Rainbow Ranglers at 8 pm at the BRB.
- * Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. 281-933-5818.
- * Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- * Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 713-623-6796.
- * TV Montrose airs on Warner Cable Channel 54 at 8 pm. 713-523-6302.
- * Rainbow Fishing Club goes fishing. 713-523-6381.
- * Gay & Lesbian Political Caucuses meets @ 7:30 p.m. 713-521-1000.

Thursday, July 2

- * Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic at the BRB from 4 to 8 pm and QT's 8 pm to midnight.
- * Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 713-521-7464.
- * Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 713-315-6786.
- * Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 713-622-7250.
- * HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 713-529-0037.
- * Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 713-942-0923.
- * HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 713-796-2272.
- * HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 713-782-4050.
- * Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 713-738-RACE.
- * FrontRunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- * HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
- * HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- * Women's Clinic opens at the Montrose Clinic 713-830-3000.

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The Truth Is Out There

Duchovny takes Agent Mulder to the big screen and the big-time

by TIM NASSON

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Though some remember him as Dennis/Denise Bryson, the transvestite detective in David Lynch's short-lived television series "Twin Peaks," it is as Agent Fox Mulder on "The X-Files" that smooth and sexy David Duchovny hit the entertainment stratosphere.

For five years, Duchovny has portrayed the FBI agent who is hell-bent on proving the one thing that most people scoff: the existence of extraterrestrial life and things paranormal.

"The X-Files" entered a whole new orbit recently when a feature-length film based on the television show was released in movie theaters, as a bridge to a sixth season starting in the fall.

A lot of skeptics doubt the TV series transition to the big screen, like they did before the casts of "Star Trek" old and new rode that series to movie success. And they're saying the same thing: only die-hard X-Philes, the Trekkies of the 90s, will show up.

"Not to worry," says Duchovny, decked out in black loafers, sans socks, khaki pants and a light blue, buttoned up shirt, with sleeves rolled half way up. "Fans of the television show will be satisfied with the movie, and the word will get out very fast to non-fans that this is a movie for everyone."

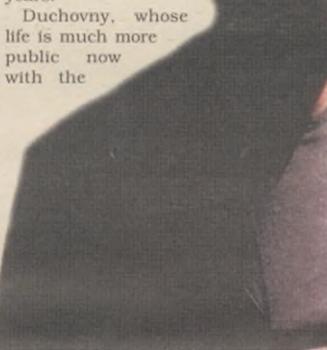
Sipping from a bottle of Evian, in a suite at The Four Seasons in Beverly Hills on a recent Friday morning, Duchovny, 31, seems thrilled to be

part of a film that many hope will turn into a franchise.

Five years can take a toll on anyone, and Duchovny and co-star Gillian Anderson have played the same role, day in and day out, on the long-running series. Not surprisingly, Duchovny is interested in other roles.

"As an actor, you want to play different roles, so it is somewhat stifling to play the same role week in and week out. It is just human nature to feel that way," he says. "It is not at all a slap to the series. When I am done with the series, I would love to come back and do an 'X-Files' movie every couple of years."

Duchovny, whose life is much more public now with the



success of the TV show and his marriage to actress Tia Leoni ("Deep Impact"), admits begrudgingly the effect that stardom has had on his privacy and even on his ability to crack a joke.

"I wouldn't say that I like being under scrutiny or a public person. I don't think anyone would like to be unless they have an agenda or something to accomplish," he said.

"Many fans and readers have taken things I have said out of context. It is unfortunate. Now I will have to just keep my mouth shut and not joke about some things."

One comment that got him into a bit of trouble was in an interview for *Details* magazine, when he said, "I have 91,000 points (on Canadian Airlines), which I think entitles me to have sex with any employee (of the company)."

For the half-decade that Duchovny and co-star Anderson have starred in "The X-Files," the plot-line motivation for Mulder's determination to chase things extraterrestrial has been the horrifying abduction of his sister by aliens when Mulder was a pre-teen.

Scully seems less willing to believe so freely in the paranormal world, but devotion to her partner keeps her intrigued and always in pursuit.

During the five years, though constantly at each other's side, and at least in deep like, Mulder and Scully have never even embraced in a kiss.

On the big screen, with the stakes higher and the atmosphere more intense, the two come together. But how far does it go?

"I think people will walk away satisfied and very happy, once they leave the theater," says Duchovny, a sentiment echoed later that morning by Chris Carter, responsible for the creation of the show and for the movie's.

Though Duchovny has worked with Carter during the first three seasons developing Mulder's background, his never contributed a script to the series, which surprises some who know that the actor graduated from Princeton with a degree in English and came very close to getting his Ph.D.

"I wanted to become a professor, which would have been my guaranteed income and also to write novels on the side," he recalls. "How I became an actor of this proportion, I will never know."

Down to the nitty-gritty, Duchovny is blunt when asked his own personal stance on the existence of aliens.

"I think that the odds are that there are aliens out there somewhere. But I don't think this world has ever been contacted. Do you think a secret like that could ever be kept?"

After five years and a movie, Anderson looks beyond Agent Scully

by TIM NASSON

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Last month's season finale of "The X-Files" had FBI special agents Dana Scully (Gillian Anderson) and Fox Mulder (David Duchovny) discovering that their office had been torched, fueling a mania that culminated with the theatrical release last week of "X-Files," the movie.

Walking into a suite at The Four Seasons in Beverly Hills a few days ago, Anderson at first seemed to be more in character than in a mood to expound on her feature film debut.

Wearing a long black silk dress, covered by a brown silk shirt, she sat down and began picking at an unbandaged blister on her right hand. Bystanders half-expect a sort of green fluid to start oozing out.

There are those rumors that Scully is alien, not human, but all soon, it's clear that Anderson at least is human, and the blister is real and not left-over makeup from "The X-Files."

"I was making my daughter a grilled cheese sandwich a couple of days ago," Anderson explains, "and burned my hand on the stove."

Anderson's daughter Piper, now three years old, is very much on her mind, but the conversation soon shifts to her successful transition from the boob tube to the silver screen.

"My favorite thing about Scully," she says, "is her integrity and that she will stop at nothing for justice, and cares about other people's feelings. I think that is the closest thing I have in common with her character. The caring about other people's feelings."

For five years, Anderson (who spent a good portion of her time growing up

in London) has played opposite David Duchovny on the television series and her Scully has never developed a romantic interest in Agent Mulder. In the film, that changes. Sort of.

"I like to think of 'The X-Files' movie as a sort-of love story action-adventure," she says. "In most films of that genre, it is hard to convey a believable look. I am certain that people will leave the movie and not feel cheated by what transpires."

Among Anderson's most difficult and scary scenes in the film involves Scully being secured in a cryogenic-like pod filled with fluid that is keeping her alive yet incapacitated.

"That scene was very technical," she recalls, "especially when the water was running out of the tank. I had to keep my eyes open yet have the look of being unconscious and frozen."

The film's director, Rob Bowman, was behind the camera on more than 30 episodes of "The X-Files" on television, including the series premiere and season finale. He says scenes like these proved far more pain-staking than the standard fare for the TV show.

"Attention to detail was the biggest difference between filming the television series and this movie," he says. "On TV, if the set isn't that great, we can turn the lights way down and close in on the faces. With this movie, you really have to pay attention to everything from the wind to the number of snowflakes.



Not surprisingly, Anderson has at times felt constrained as an actress surrounded week after week by pods, green fluids and the paranormal.

"Right now, I feel fed by a desire to play as many different roles as possible," she says. "It is easier for me to jump into caricature. Most of the characters that I have played recently other than Scully have been completely opposite. I think the most challenging role would be a role that was very similar to the one I play on television. I would have to bring a freshness to it so that when people watched they wouldn't be saying, 'Oh she is playing Scully, but in a different character.'"

Asked why she thinks many viewers find the tough character of Scully so attractive, Anderson replies with a grin. "I would like to imagine that the balance of Scully's strength and intelligence is what makes men find her

attractive." But what about the women who go for Scully? And what about the cyber-techies who spent hours attaching Anderson's face to a bogus picture of a 'perfect' nude Anderson-esque body?

"Don't people have anything better to do?" she asks about the somewhat insulting craze sweeping the web these days—people fixated on creating fictitious nude bodies for celebrities.

Anderson, 29, has already won Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards. She got her start at the Goodman Theater School at Chicago's DePaul University, then followed a stint off-Broadway. She says she wouldn't mind returning to the stage. "I love theater. I love the impact that theater and film can have on people's lives."

When she first left the stage for her role on the TV "Files," Anderson saw big screen roles in her future — just not the exact path she took there. "I figured that the television show would be picked up for a season, two at best," she laughs, "then I would graduate to the movies."

With "The X-Files" movie in the bag, Anderson is ready to begin other projects. She's already completed "Dancing About Architecture" with Sean Connery and Gena Rowlands, due out later this summer, and in the fall can be seen opposite Sharon Stone in "The Mighty."



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Saturday, June 20

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* BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories: Ruddy deals Blackjack @ 9:30 p.m.
* Bricks II: Happy hour 7 a.m.-9 p.m. \$1.75 well & domestic beer.
* Chances: Power hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Happy hour 3-8 p.m. with \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well. \$2 Cuervo
* Club Extreme: Doors @9 p.m. with \$5 cover, \$2 well & frozen, 50¢ draft. Male & female dancers.
* E/J's: \$1.50 well 4-7 p.m. Mug club 7 a.m.-10 p.m.: \$1.50 vodka 7 a.m-6 p.m. Super Show @11 p.m.
* Gentry: Boy Toys @9 p.m.: \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open-close
* J.R's: Texas pride happy hour 4-7 p.m. \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
* Lazy J: Drag show@10:30 p.m.
* Mary's: Happy hour 7 a.m.-7 p.m.: \$1.75 domestic beer open-close.
* Montrose Mining Company: Male dancers 9 p.m.: \$1.50 well, \$2.50 well til 10 p.m. After hours til 4 a.m.
* Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, and wine until 7 p.m. \$2.50 Cuervo.
* OutPost: Happy Hour 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 domestic beer & \$1.25 well. Pool tourney @ 1 p.m.
* Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night Doors@9pm: no cover in erotic leather.
* Paradise: Doors@ 11 a.m. Happy house 11 a.m.-8 p.m. \$1.50 well & beer.
* Rich's: Doors@ 9 p.m. 21+ no cover 9-10 p.m.: \$1.25 well 9-11 p.m. DJ J.D. Arnold.
* Ripcord: Happy hour 1-8 p.m. After hours until 4 a.m.
* The New Barn: Power Hours \$1.75 beer & well 12-3 p.m.: Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well.

Sunday, June 21

* Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 beer & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon-7 p.m. 50¢ draft.
* BriarPatch: Happy hour 2-8 p.m. \$2 beer & \$2.25 well.
* Bricks II: Happy hour Noon-9 p.m.: \$1.75 well, \$1.75 beer.
* Chances: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well noon-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
* Club Extreme: Doors @5 p.m. no cover until 11 p.m., free buffet, \$2 frozen, \$1 schnapps and Karaoke@ 8 p.m. Drink specials all night long.
* E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light open-close.
* Gentry: Happy hour 2-8pm: Boy Toy Dancers 7-11 p.m.; Pool tournament@ 6 p.m.; Male Strip Contest @11 p.m.; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open-close.
* J.R's: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon-11 p.m.; \$2.75 Shiner Bock; SRO Karaoke@6 p.m.; Male Swim wear strip contest@ 11 p.m.
* Mary's: \$1.75 Well & beer 10 a.m-4 p.m. 50¢ draft @2 p.m. \$1.50 beer 7-11 p.m.
* Montrose Mining Company: \$2 beer; \$1.75 well drinks. \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers@ 9 p.m.
* Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine, noon to 7 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
* OutPost: Happy hour noon-7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 domestic beer & \$1.25 well.
* Pacific Street: Doors@7 p.m. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No cover 7-9 p.m.
* Paradise: Doors@noon; Happy hours noon-8 p.m. \$1.50 well drinks & beer; \$1.75 Bloody Mary open-close.
* Rich's: Doors @ 7 p.m.
* Ripcord: \$1.50 well & beer open-close.
* 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch @ noon.
* The New Barn: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well noon-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2.50 Cuervo.

Monday, June 22

* Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps open-close.
* BriarPatch: Happy hour 2-8 p.m. Open Pool Table.
* Bricks II: \$1.25 well & beer 7 a.m.-noon, \$1.75 well & beer noon-2 a.m.
* Chances: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
* Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
* E/J's: Happy hour 7 a.m.-9 p.m.: \$1.50 well 4-7 p.m.; \$1.50 vodka 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mug Club 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Male Strip @11 p.m.
* Gentry: Happy hour 2-8 p.m.; Boy Toy Dancers @9 p.m.; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open-close; Free Pool Table.
* J.R's: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7 p.m. \$2.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 beer, frozen Ritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest@ 11 p.m.
* Mary's: \$1 beer 8-11 p.m. \$1.75 well & beer 7 a.m-9 p.m.; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7 a.m.-2 p.m.
* Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
* Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament@ 8:30 p.m. male dancers@ 9 p.m. Happy hour until 10 p.m.
* Outpost: Happy Hour 11 a.m-7 p.m. razy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 domestic & \$1.25 well. Shuffleboard Tourney @ 7 p.m.
* Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7 p.m. \$2.50 Cuervo!
* Pacific Street: Doors @ 9 p.m. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
* Paradise: Doors@3 p.m. Happy hours 3 p.m.-8 p.m.
* Ripcord: Happy hour 1-8 p.m.; Boxer Shorts Night :Boxer Shots \$1.25.
* 611 Hyde Park Pub: Free Pool after 6 p.m.
* The New Barn: Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well \$2 Cuervo.

Tuesday, June 23

* Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well 7 a.m.-11 p.m. \$1.25 schnapps til 11pm; \$1 beer open-close. Variety Show at 8 p.m.
* BriarPatch: Marcie as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
* Bricks II: \$1.25 well & beer 7 a.m.-noon; \$1.75 well & beer noon-9:30 p.m.
* Chances: Power hour \$1.75 well & beer 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3 p.m.-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
* Club Extreme: 97.5 the Box night with \$5 cover, \$2 well & \$1 draft.
* Club Houston: Half price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
* E/J's: Happy Hour 7 a.m-9 p.m.; \$1.50 well 4-7 p.m.; \$1.50 Vodka 7 a.m-6 p.m.; Mug Club 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Burger night, Amateur/Talent Night @ 11 p.m.
* Gentry: Happy hour 2-8 p.m.; Boy Toys@9 p.m.; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
* J.R's: 20¢(st Tuesdays!) \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, wine, and frozen margaritas. Male strip@11 p.m.
* Mary's: \$1.75 well & beer 7 a.m-9 p.m. \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7 a.m.-2 p.m.; \$2 Cuervo.
* Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
* Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 beer, \$2.50 well drinks, \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10 p.m. Male dancers 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
* OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 beer & \$1.25 well.
* Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7 p.m. \$2.50 Cuervo!
* Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors@9 p.m.
* Paradise: Doors@11 a.m. Happy hour 11 a.m-8 p.m. \$1.50 well and beer
* Ripcord: Happy Hour 1-8 p.m. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Martini specials. Classic Rock night
* The New Barn: Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well \$2 Cuervo.

Wednesday, June 24

* 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11 p.m.
* Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well 7 a.m.-11 p.m. & \$1 beer 7-2 a.m.
* BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
* Bricks II: \$1.25 well & beer 7 a.m.-to noon; \$1.75 well & beer noon-9 p.m.
* Chances: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo; Shelia Lennon's Karaoke night@ 9 p.m.
* Club Extreme: \$5 cover with \$2 well & \$1 draft.
* E/J's: Happy Hour 7 a.m-9 p.m.; \$1.50 well 4-7 p.m.; \$1.50 Vodka 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mug club 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Burger night.
* Gentry: Happy hour 2-8 p.m.; Boy Toys@7 p.m.; \$1.25 Schnapps open-close; Male Strip contest@11 p.m.
* J.R's: Texas Pride Happy hour 4-7 p.m. \$2.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$2.75 premium frozen drinks, \$2 beer all day and all night. Joe Boxer dance contest@11 p.m.
* Mary's: \$1.75 well & beer, \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
* Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight; Amateur Strip@ 10 p.m.
* Montrose Mining Company: \$2 beer & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers@ 9 p.m.; Happy hour til 10 p.m.
* Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7 p.m. \$2.50 Cuervo
* OutPost: Happy hour 11 a.m-7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 beer & \$1.25 well.
* Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors @9 p.m. No cover with a "Measure You" pass.
* Paradise: Doors @11 a.m. Happy hours open-close \$1.50 well and beer. Fajita night \$5 per plate & 1.50 Ritas.
* Ripcord: \$2 well & beer open-close Star Trek @ 8 p.m.
* The New Barn: Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.

Thursday, June 25

* Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 beer, \$1.25 schnapps until 11 p.m. Free dance lessons.
* BriarPatch: Doors @2 p.m.
* Bricks II: \$1.25 well & beer 7 a.m.-noon; \$1.75 well & beer noon-9 p.m.
* Chances: Power hours \$1.75 beer & well 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Happy hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well, \$2 Cuervo.
* Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon-midnight.
* Club Extreme: Talent night with \$200 cash prizes. \$5 cover \$2 well & \$1 schnapps.
* Cousin's: Show @11 p.m.
* E/J's: Happy hour 7 a.m-9 p.m. \$1.50 well 4 p.m-7 p.m.; \$1.50 vodka 7 a.m.-6 p.m.; Mug club 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Burger night; Amateur Talent contest @ 11 p.m.
* Gentry: Happy hour 2-8 p.m.; Boy Toys @9 p.m. \$3.25 Skyy open-close.
* J.R's: Texas pride happy hour 4-7 p.m. \$2.25 well, \$1.75 beer \$3.75 all top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imports and Micro Brews. Star Search Gold Karaoke @ 9 p.m.
* Mary's: \$1.75 well & beer 7 a.m.-9 p.m.; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7 a.m.-2 p.m.; \$5 schnapps.
* Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon-Midnight.
* Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 beer, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9 p.m.; Happy hour until 10 p.m.
* Nighthawks: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo
* OutPost: Happy Hour 11 a.m-7 p.m. Crazy Hour 5-6 p.m. \$1 beer & \$1.25 well.
* Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
* Paradise: Doors@11 a.m. \$3 anything in the house.
* Rich's Club Hedo: 18+ college crowd with \$1.75 well.
* Ripcord: Happy hour 1 to 8 p.m.
* 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9 p.m.
* The New Barn: Happy Hour 3-8 p.m. \$2.25 beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.

Help Wanted

CLUB HOUSTON is now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person. Mon. - Thurs., 10am - 2pm at 2205 Fannin.

Mary's naturally is accepting applications for part-time maintenance. Apply Tues. - Thurs., 9am - 2pm, see Walter or Gaye.

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for management trainees, bartenders, door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group health insurance. JR's BAR & GRILL and THE MONTROSE MINING CO. are looking for honest, self-motivated and customer service oriented individuals who want to join a winning team. Apply Mon thur Fri between 1pm and 5pm at JR's, 808 Pacific. A recent photo is required. No phone calls please.

Nighthawks is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time is Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

Brazos River Bottom is now accepting applications for a full-time Country Western D.J. Apply in person Mon-Sat, 8:00am-1:00pm.

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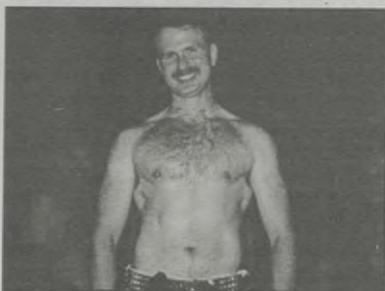
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2	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	713/665-9678
3	Bricks II	617 Fairview	713/528-8102
4	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos	713/528-9192
5	Chances	1100 Westheimer	713/523-7217
6	Cousins	817 Fairview	713/528-9204
7	EJ's	2517 Ralph	713/527-9071
8	Gentry	2303 Richmond	713/520-1861
9	Heaven	810 Pacific	713/521-9123
10	Incognito	2524 McKinney	713/237-9431
11	JR's	808 Pacific	713/521-2519
12	Lazy J	312 Tuam	713/528-9343
13	Mary's	1022 Westheimer	713/527-9669
14	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific	713/529-7488
15	Outpost	1419 Richmond	713/520-8446
16	Pacific Street	710 Pacific	713/523-0213
17	Mail Box	4215 Washington	713/864-2977
18	QT's	534 Westheimer	713/529-8813
19	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto	713/759-9606
20	Ripcord	715 Fairview	713/521-2792
21	Vintage Bar on Midlane	4356 Westheimer	713/355-3093
22	Nighthawks	2923 Main	713/522-0000
23	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin	713/659-4998
24	Midtowne Spa	3100 Fannin	713/522-2379
25	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer	713/521-9533
26	Rocals	1318 Westheimer	713/942-CLUB
27	Paradise	2312 Crocker	713/522-7366
28	Mela's Tejano Country	302 Tuam	713/523-0747
29	Metraplex	2165 Portsmouth	713/520-5000
30	Viviano's	5219 Washington	713/862-0203
31	Club Spy	112 Travis	713/228-0007

Important Stuff

Mark your calendars. The Denim Party is the last Sunday in July and the Garden Party is the first Sunday in August. Congrats are in order to Simply Divine. The Miss Houston US of A at-large contest was her first and she won the big tiara. You go girl. The new "Rough Trade" royalty is Rene Monroe, Felisha Flesheater and Sherri.



Tom - Bear of the Month at Nighthawks

Texas Fantasy is on July 11 at the Dallas Eagle. For more info call 521-0911.

Milestones

Happy (Gay Pride) birthday to Franki, Lee of the BRB, Juan, Cliff and Sonny T. Get well hugs to Tom Z.

Rodent Droppings

My usual disclaimer is in force. Lies, gossip and trash. If you want real news written by professionals, don't read the garbage I type. The A/C went out in our building this week. It was too hot to stay in the office. Therefore I am at home. Our home PC is located in the ferret's room. Rascal is currently pulling on my toes and Harvey is depositing some droppings. These are still warm:

Wiley (New Barn): I hear you want to be called a "Drink Fairy" instead of a bartender.

Reno (JR's): I hear you "blew" the audience away with your tribute to the Titanic.

Dana (Texas Riders): Why were you drawing funny faces on your breasts with a magic marker?

MJ Summers (RSICSS): You do a great Annie Lennox.

Franki (Ms. Gay Pride): And I quote: "I like sticky noses."

Tena (hangs at Chances): I was nice to meet you, but you better watch out who you hang out with. Those two are troublemakers.

Mama Carol (JR's): I understand that you can't keep from pulling your dress up over your head.

Jane (hangs at Club Extreme): Boy, did I pay for Friday night.

John & Boris (hangs at Mary's):



RSICSS's Board Members

Why was the Garth Brooks tour bus at your house?

JD (BRB): Is it true your bicycle has been getting too drunk to ride?

David Parker and Rickydon (Brick's II): I wonder which one of you will kill each other first during your long drive to Palm Springs? Are you stopping in Ft. Stockton?

Rogers (Montrose Clinic): You have a secret admirer and I know who it is. PS, don't tell your lover Andre.

Larry (BRB): I saw some of your shirts going down Montrose last week!

Eldon (hangs at Brick's II): Why are you walking funny?

Don Gill (Mr. Wonderful): Why did you have to borrow David's truck?

Cliff & Gaye (Mary's): How do I get into your Chrysler Fleet leasing program?

Miguel (BRB): What's wrong? You were too good this week, no stories on you fit to print, except the one about you going into a jealous rage when Pooh Bear went to see Robert at Brick's II instead of you.

Ben (hangs everywhere): How do you like waking up to Gospel Hour at your apartment complex?



Chris (alternate) Jim (winner) & stepping down Daddy of Montrose Ken Claude at Mary's

George (JR's): Was that your real nose? But it was your real (chined) waist. Mario (BRB): I hear you and Vera have an anniversary coming up. Fireworks, again? How many years?

Daryl (Montrose Mine): Why are they calling you "Don't cry for me Barbara Striesand"?

Paive Lee Love (E/J's): Decisions, decisions. Which of your many tiaras will you be wearing for the parade?



Pet of the Week "Pooh" owner Quay of The New Barn

Keep sending in your pet of the week!

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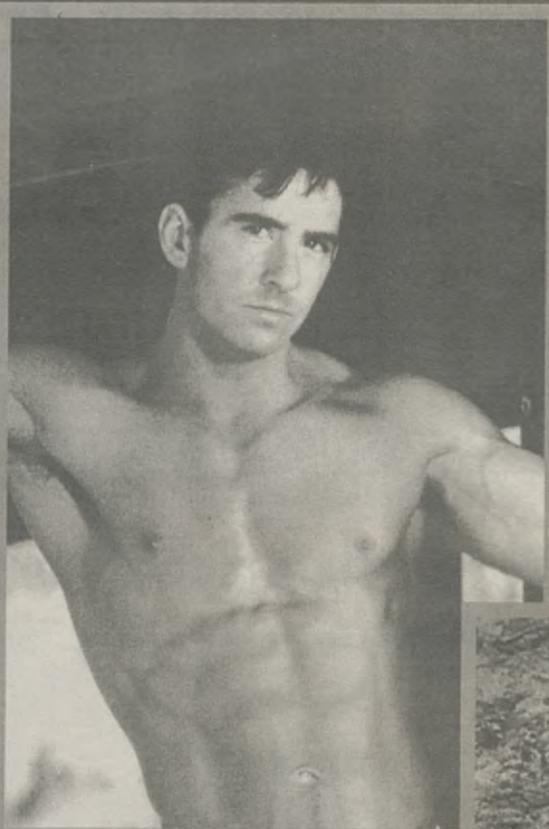
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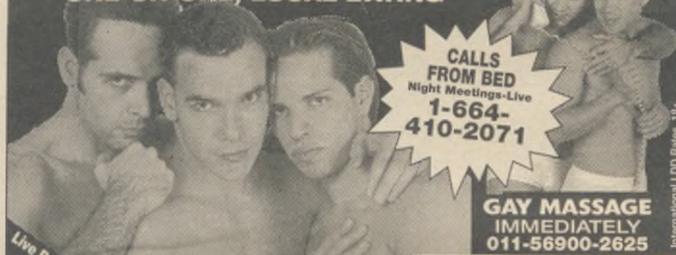
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