

Laughter through tears

Gay cartoonists explain how they try to make people laugh even through serious historic times.

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State Rep. Glen Maxey of Austin, the only gay Texas legislator, will not seek re-election next year.

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Volunteer performers raise funds for a good cause as they entertain at the annual Christmas Songfest.

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'Romance/Romance' offers audiences a delight with a story that centers on the lives of two married couples.

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Pro-gay Brown squeaks by with win



PHOTO: DALTON DEHART



Gay-friendly Houston politicians who won victories in the Dec. 1 runoff election include Mayor Lee Brown, who garnered a third and final term, and Ada Edwards, elected to Houston City Council, where she will represent District D, an area that includes heavily gay Montrose.

Two Gay-friendly City Council candidates win, others lose in runoff election races

by PENNY WEAVER

Not all of Houston's political candidates perceived as the most gay-friendly won in the Dec. 1 runoff, but pro-gay incumbent Mayor Lee Brown garnered a third term much to the relief of many gay Houstonians.

"It's a mixed bag," said Annise Parker, the only openly gay City Council member, of the runoff election results. "The mayor coming back is a positive for the gay community."

At the same time, Parker expressed doubt that the new Council will be one through which gay city residents can pass legislation in their favor.

By a slim margin of 52 percent to 48 percent, Brown defeated challenger Orlando Sanchez. A former Council member whose

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AIDS deaths on the rise in TX

Health officials attribute at least part of increase to a larger number of people living longer with HIV/AIDS

by PENNY WEAVER

While state officials recently released data that indicates deaths from AIDS are going up in Texas, health experts caution that comparing year-to-year data can be highly subjective.

Still, more than one HIV/AIDS health care provider cautions that the latest figures remind the public — and particularly gay men — that this disease remains a killer.

"I think that there probably is an increase in deaths, mainly as a result of complications," said Joel Martinez, a founding director of Houston's Center for AIDS.

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GRAPHIC: KYLIE WILLIS

Data from state health officials show that the rate of deaths from AIDS has increased across Texas after two years of a decline in HIV/AIDS-related deaths.

State's only gay lawmaker calls it quits

Maxey says he won't pursue re-election after new boundary lines put him with fellow liberals in one district

by PENNY WEAVER

AUSTIN — State Rep. Glen Maxey, a Democrat and the only openly gay member of the Texas Legislature, announced Thursday he will not seek re-election.

Houston gay political activists said the news is clearly a blow to future gay-friendly legislation and inroads at the state level.

"I'm not at all surprised that Glen made this decision, but I think it's going to be a loss for our community," said Annise Parker, the only openly gay member of the Houston City Council.

Houstonian Clarence Bagby, a national board member for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, said Maxey's mere presence as a gay man in the Texas House has been a political plus for gay Texans.



Texas House of Representatives member Glen Maxey, a Democrat and the only openly gay member of the state Legislature, said this week he will not seek re-election. Redistricting had put Maxey with two other liberal lawmakers in his south Austin district.

"What it has meant ... is the proverbial place at the table — that's so meaningful in the way that it changes the tenor of conversations on GLBT issues," Bagby said. "That influence and his hard work and respect

that he has earned from both sides of the aisle is really going to be missed, and it's going to leave a tremendous void in Austin and in the Legislature."

Maxey is known as an advocate for health and human services programs. He announced his decision at the state Capitol.

Fighting back tears and surrounded by supporters, Maxey said he was proud to have served in the Texas House for a decade as someone "who spoke out, as I had pledged, for many constituencies and people without a voice in these halls."

"I came here as the gay representative. I'll leave here as the representative who just happened to also be gay. That in itself is my most important achievement," Maxey said.

Maxey, now in his sixth term representing District 51, began his legislative tenure in 1991. He ran for the office despite warnings from friends that as a gay activist he would be "pigeon-holed as a single-agenda legislator," he said.

He previously was a school teacher, a legislative aide and a lobbyist for the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

As Republicans prevailed in legislative redistricting battles this year, Maxey was

placed in the same district as fellow Austin Democratic representatives Ann Kitchen and Elliott Naishtat.

The prospect of running against those two political friends figured into his decision not to seek re-election, he said.

Parker noted that gay-friendly Houston lawmakers Debra Danburg and Scott Hochberg, both Democrats, also have seen their legislative seats put in jeopardy thanks to Republican-controlled redistricting.

"[Maxey, Danburg and Hochberg are] three of your strongest votes on gay issues right there," Parker said. "The Republican Party did their best to make sure that no [liberal] Democrats had an opportunity to win re-election."

But she does not think Maxey was targeted because he is gay.

"The fact that he and Debra represent clearly the most gay-friendly districts in the state are more a matter of their progressive politics," Parker said.

Bagby, whose NGLTF is the national progressive organization working for the civil rights of gays, said now is the time to push for more gay lawmakers in Texas. As 5 per-

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Gay Houstonians observe World AIDS Day



The NAMES Project Houston's candlelight march was held Nov. 30 and preceded a panel dedication ceremony for new pieces to add to the AIDS Memorial Quilt.



Many gay Houstonians and supporters stopped by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center to view an ongoing exhibition of photographs by artists living with HIV/AIDS as part of World AIDS Day activities.



Houstonians participate in the NAMES Project Houston's candlelight march in observance of World AIDS Day. Many carried panels to become part of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.



Participants in World AIDS Day activities included (from left) Fred Walters Jr., executive director of Houston Buyers Club; Lark Lands, Ph.D.; Patricia Salvato, M.D.; and Nelson Vergel, treatment advocate.



NAMES Project Houston displayed a number of homemade panels that will be added to the AIDS Memorial Quilt to honor people who have died from the disease.

Hundreds participate in health fair, candlelight vigil and more

A number of events in the city marked World AIDS Day on Dec. 1. These included a World AIDS Day Health Fair at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, hosted by Houston Buyers Club; day-long events on Nov. 30 hosted by NAMES Project Houston; an ongoing photo exhibition at the Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center; free HIV testing by local clinics; and AIDS Foundation Houston's (AFH) annual World AIDS Day Luncheon. Hundreds of people participated in the various events on both Friday, Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 1. The AFH luncheon, sponsored by Wells Fargo, raised more than \$250,000 to help provide programs and services to people with HIV/AIDS throughout Houston. More than 500 guests were in attendance at the event to honor Shelby Hodge for her longstanding support and communication in the community. Hodge received "The Elton John Angel of Hope Award." "The Shelby Hodge Women of Vision Award" was presented to luncheon co-chairs Janis Fishman Goldstein and Susan Bischoff.



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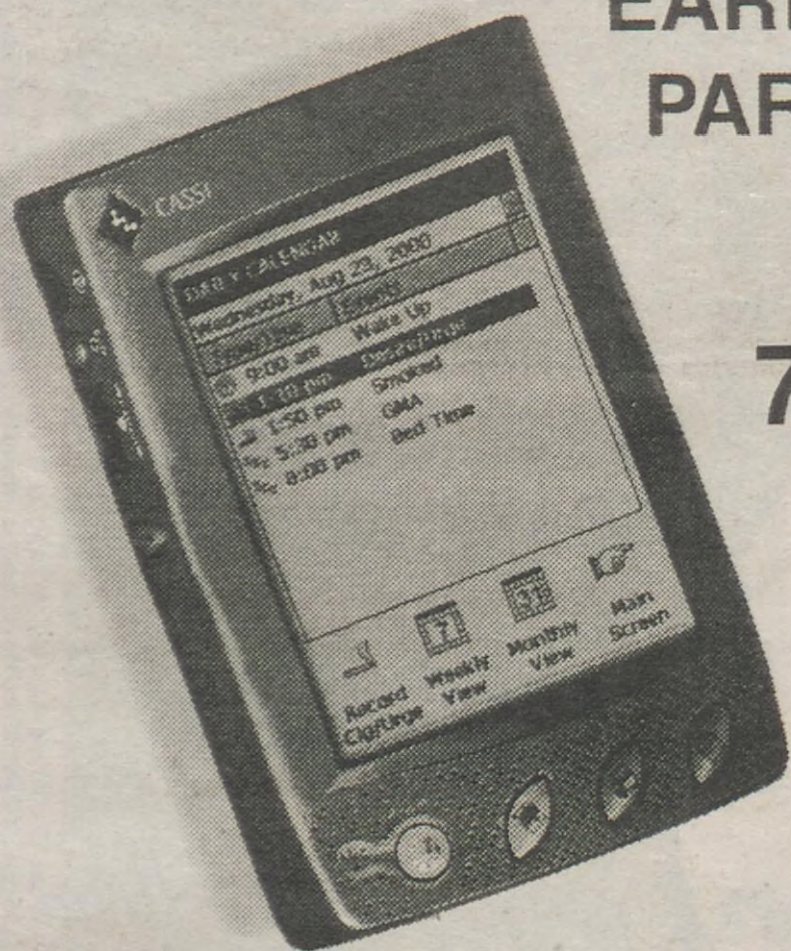


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Dennis M. 'Dan' Radke, 59, gardener

Dennis M. "Dan" Radke, 59, of Houston died Nov. 26, 2001, after a lengthy illness.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, at Earthman Bellaire Chapel, 6700 Ferris. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Kolbe Project, 1030 Heights Blvd., Houston, TX 77008.

Radke was born on Jan. 1, 1942, in San Bernadino, Calif. He was a resident of Houston for 31 years. A graduate of Cal Poly University, he was head gardener for the City of Bellaire for 13 years.

Survivors include his partner of 32 years, Ron Conrad; three aunts; numerous cousins and friends; and his dog, Dollie.

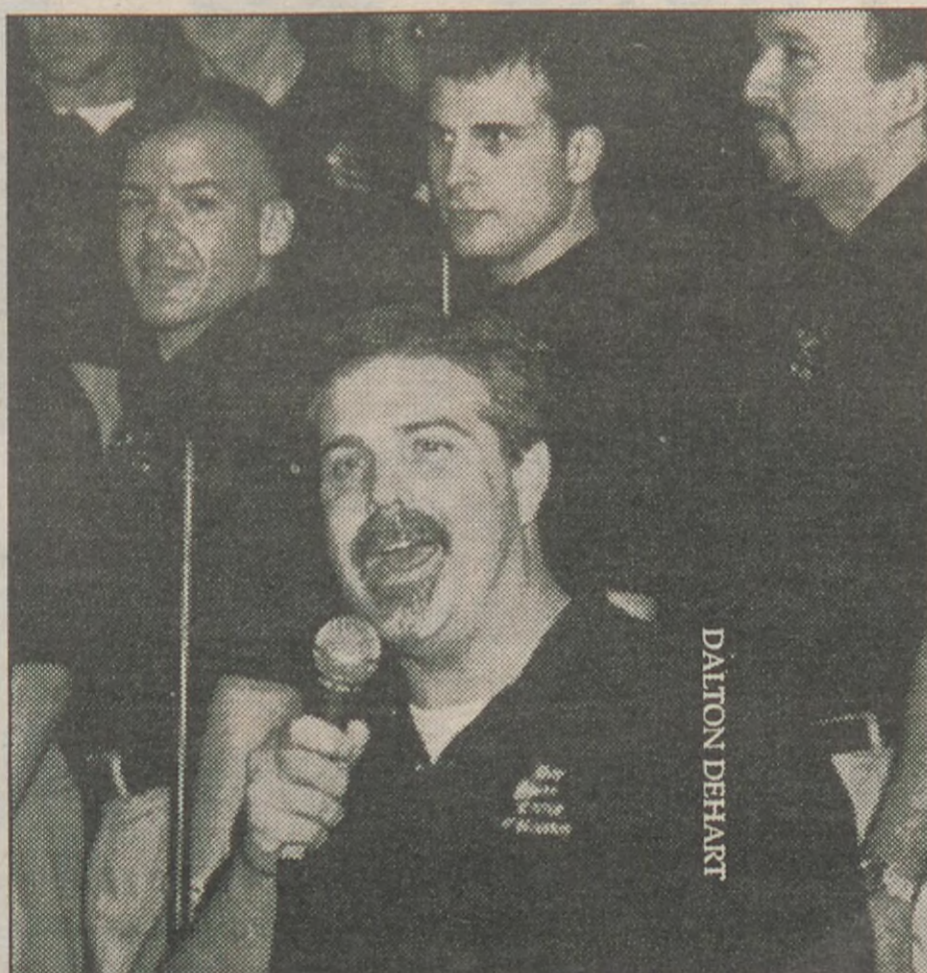


Tunes for the holiday

The annual Christmas Songfest held on Dec. 2 raised funds for Steven's House and AssistHers, both local HIV service organizations. A number of Houston entertainers joined other volunteers on stage to perform during the event at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center.



Entertaining as part of Songfest are (from left) Marcy Rae, Sharon Montgomery, Terry Pierce and Tommie Lee Jackson. The event allows guests, in groups or singles, to sign up to sing Christmas songs on stage while the audience sings along.



James Knapp, artistic director, helped lead the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston as the group performed for the audience at Songfest.



Also among entertainers was Jerry Atwood, who both sings and plays piano. His rainbow-colored socks added pizzazz to the tuxedo he chose to wear for the night.

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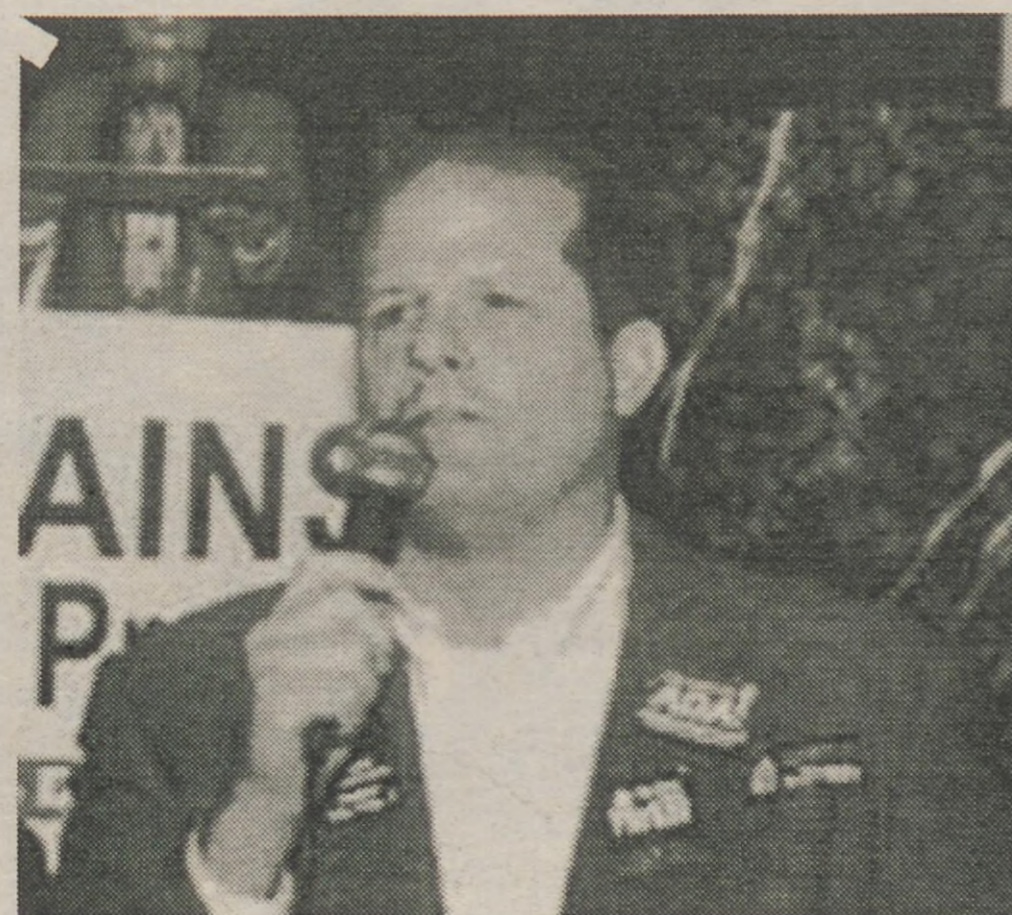
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Two gay-friendly candidates lose in runoff

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stances on issues pitted him against gays more than once, Sanchez was heavily backed by high-profile Republicans including former President George Bush and his wife, Barbara, and their son, current President George W. Bush.

Brown, on the other hand, received support from more than one high-profile Democrat, including former President Bill Clinton, in the officially non-partisan race.

In runoffs for City Council seats, Ada Edwards won the hotly contested battle for District D, which includes heavily gay Montrose. Her opponent, Gerald Womack, earned 48 percent of the vote to Edwards' 52 percent. The two earned the right to compete in the runoff by eliminating four other candidates in the Nov. 6 election.

In that first round, Edwards won 39 percent of the vote to Womack's 32 percent. Term limits had stopped Jew Don Boney Jr. from seeking re-election in District D this fall.

The District D race made headlines just a week before the runoff with allegations of gay-baiting. Supporters of Edwards — including state Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston) — accused Womack's campaign of distributing an anti-gay flier. The document warned District D residents of the growing influence of gay residents and against voting for Edwards.

Womack denied any involvement in the flier. He was supported by high-profile gay-friendly leaders including U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democrat. Boney also endorsed Womack, as did Sen. Rodney Ellis, a Houston Democrat who fought for passage of the state hate crimes



A new member of the Houston City Council, Shelley Sekula Rodriguez (above) is not likely to be a friend to gay Houstonians, notes Annise Parker, currently the only openly gay member of the Council.

law, which enhances penalties for crimes motivated by factors including the victim's sexual orientation.

Those who endorsed Edwards included Parker; Janine Brunjes, who is Brown's liaison to gay Houstonians; and the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus.

In other City Council races, gay-friendly candidate Claudia Williamson lost the race for At-Large Position 4 to opponent Michael Berry. For At-Large Position 3, gay-friendly Andrew C. Burks Jr. was defeated by Shelley Sekula Rodriguez.

As indicated by Census 2000 results, the city districts which are home to 1,000 or

"I don't think it looks good for us. In terms of passing any kind of legislation, I think it's going to be almost impossible."

—Annise Parker

more same-sex couples are District A, D and H. Both District A and District H seats were decided Nov. 6, with incumbent Bruce Tatro retaining his District A post and unopposed Council member Gabriel Vasquez retaining his seat in District H.

Council makeup may mean stonewall for gays

Houston City Council now includes six women, a record number for the city. While encouraged by that change, Parker noted that the panel is now equally split along party lines, with seven Republicans and seven Democrats.

"I am thrilled to have so many women on the Council. I think it will improve the working relationship," she said. "[But] we had a net loss of one Democrat."

How those changes might affect gay Houstonians remains to be seen. But other factors make Parker pessimistic about chances for pro-gay legislation.

She pointed out that two outgoing Council members were on the opposite ends of the spectrum from each other: strongly pro-gay Chris Bell, who was shut out of the election runoff for mayor by Brown and Sanchez on Nov. 6; and Sanchez, considered anti-gay.

The two people replacing Bell and Sanchez, however — Rodriguez in the seat formerly held by Sanchez, and Berry taking Bell's old post — both are "moderate Republicans," Parker said.

Both Rodriguez and Berry have opposed pro-gay legislation. Neither was endorsed by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. Also, neither returned e-mailed questionnaires to the Houston Voice prior to the Nov. 6 election or the Dec. 1 runoffs.

"I don't think it looks good for us," Parker said this week of the Council's new makeup. "In terms of passing any kind of legislation, I think it's going to be almost impossible."

Maxey to stay in politics

➤ Continued from Page 2

cent of the state's population, gay Texans should have more than just one out of 150 seats in the House, he said.

"Surely we can come up with ... two or three, at the least, openly gay members of the Legislature," Bagby said. "We need to be thinking creatively about how to do that."

He said just the presence of gay men and lesbians as state lawmakers can be a positive factor for gay-friendly legislation. He gave Parker's election to the Houston City Council as an example.

"It's great to have friends, and yet just having Annise Parker walk in the room and sit down at the table is so meaningful — just her presence," Bagby said. "Glen represented not just those folks in south Austin, but he represented GLBT people all across the state."

According to Bagby, the next election cycle may be a chance for gay Texans to increase their representation now that Maxey has begun to pave the way.

"The opportunity here is to really focus on the Legislature and to maybe get GLBT folks energized: We're losing our only openly gay member of the Legislature," Bagby said. "The challenge is going to be to figure out how we continue to have that voice in the



Debra Danburg

Legislature, and the opportunity is maybe we can get multiple voices."

Maxey said he will remain active at the Texas Capitol lobbying for Good Company Associates as its division director overseeing health, human services and consumer issues.

—The Associated Press contributed to this story.



U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee talks with a voter on Dec. 1 during the runoff election. The gay-friendly Lee campaigned on behalf of District D candidate Gerald Womack, who lost that race to opponent Ada Edwards.

Health officials warn of dangers of complacency

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"People are still dying."

Death rates will continue to rise without new treatments, more effective prevention programs and stronger adherence to medication regimens, health experts say.

"We need a cure," said Dr. Gary Werntz, medical director of the David Powell Clinic, Austin's HIV/AIDS clinic. "I want to go out of business."

The Texas Department of Health reports that the rate of AIDS deaths declined from 1996 to 1998, but rose again in both 1999 and 2000. The TDH Bureau of Vital Statistics, Statistical Services Division, reports that in 1996, there were 10.8 deaths as a result of HIV infection per 100,000 Texas residents.

That number dropped to 6.2 for 1997, and declined again in 1998 to 4.7. But for both 1999 and 2000, the latest available figures, that rate was up again, to 5.3.

The AIDS epidemic, now 20 years old, has killed 31,446 Texans. Worldwide, 21.8 million have died since 1981.

A significant number of those people contracted the disease through male-to-male sex. Likewise, gay men make up the largest portion of the population in the state to be living with HIV/AIDS.

The state health department reports that out of cumulative AIDS cases documented to date, 58.3 percent of those patients contracted the disease through male-to-male

sex. Thus far, 55,752 cases of AIDS have been reported in Texas, with 32,530 of those among men who had sex with men.

Although new drugs since AIDS was first reported in the early 1980s have helped patients combat the disease, health care providers are not surprised at the apparent recent rise in deaths from HIV/AIDS.

Werntz and other public health officials said they expected the virus to eventually become resistant to some of the wonder drugs introduced in the mid-1990s.

Those medications, which can cause bad side effects, produced the sharp decline in deaths from 1996 to 1998. Werntz is now noticing that some of his patients are no longer benefiting from the drugs and are reverting to the condition they were in before the medicines appeared on the scene.

Martinez agrees. He said between 50 and 70 percent of HIV/AIDS patients see no positive results from the first drug regimen they attempt.

Between 50 and 70 percent of HIV/AIDS patients see no positive results from the first drug regimen they attempt.

"That's an astronomical number."

—Joel Martinez, Houston's Center for AIDS.

"That's an astronomical number," he said. "There've been lots of reports on the failure rate [of HIV drugs]."

"We really only have one or two regimens because we start combining them," Martinez noted. "You really only get one or two shots at getting this virus under control."

He said the deaths of HIV/AIDS patients often actually are caused by other ailments or even contributed to by long-term drug regimens.

"People are living longer and they're dying of diseases that have to do with things like liver cirrhosis and other ... toxicities that are either caused by the drugs or are caused by the co-infections," Martinez said. "Clearly, people are getting sick. I think what is happening [is that] the illnesses they get tend to be a lot more likely to kill them in a short period of time."

He also attributes the increase in the rate of AIDS deaths to pure numbers of those

living with the virus.

"We have a greater population of people living longer with this disease," Martinez said. "As drugs and treatments got better, that prevalence rate got bigger and bigger. We have many many more people living longer with HIV."

"Because the prevalence is higher, that could be the reason [for an increased number of deaths]," he added. "It may not reflect actual increases in infection, but it probably reflects increasing numbers of prevalence."

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Issue 1102



VIEWPOINT

Get off my phone and out of my mailbox!

by RICH ARENSCHIELDT

Ring...Ring...Ring! The telephone squawks, interrupting my Sunday afternoon.

I'm in a trance watching my one and only video, "The Lion in Winter." Katharine Hepburn has just uttered my favorite line: Upon receiving a necklace from her hubby the king, Queen Elinor quips, "I'd hang this from my nipples, but it would shock the children." Not one to let a line like that go to waste, I decide to let my answering machine pick up the call. What follows sends me into shock — I hear the voice of a man who sounds exactly like the president. I wonder, "How did Rich Little get my phone number?"

I realize that no one could impersonate that particularly halting delivery or imitate speech patterns of kindergartners who are being taught a foreign language. This guy is the real thing, my ponderosa pal, George Dubious Bush, and he's taken time to call me. Little ole "raised-in-a-white-conservative-Republican-household-now-a-keep-your-laws-off-my-body-and-out-of-my-bedroom-gay-male-version-of Bela-Abzug" me.

I must have lost consciousness from the shock; surely his "handlers" (never has a word been more appropriate) must have been smart enough to eliminate my home phone number from their omnipresent database. I feel certain there's a "Fag Alert" satellite up there floating around listening in on all of the 713-521- telephone prefixes in Houston.

Certainly they would have utilized filtering criteria to zoom in on our subversive conversations. Using advanced voice recognition software developed by the world's homeliest billionaire, they must know that phrases such as "I swear, it was huge," "Rikki's not here right now, she left to get some barbecue tongs," "No! Tonight I want to be Little Bo Peep," or "What? You faded my Janeth Arcane Comets jersey?" All those phrases would be a sure sign that these were households that would not be fertile soil for new Bushes.

Since current military technology enables us to see living color pictures of the Taliban playing "hide the mongoose" while watching stolen re-runs of "I Dream of Jeanie," Donnie Rumsfeld, et al, should be able to find garden-variety gays and lesbians easily.

I strain my gay matter trying to mentally recreate Mr. Presidential Coattails' telephone message. I think it went something like this:

"Umm, hello? Domino's? Oh, wait a minute. Hi, this is ummm George, George Bush, NO, the other one. Ooops, hang on one sec. Will you tell the girls it's not even five o'clock yet! Hell, those two would hire the CIA in order to get into a locked liquor cabinet! Sorry 'bout that.

"Progress through rebuilding?" Who's he kidding? I made money selling pictures of myself in a Berka using Elgin Street as Afghani background — a photo essay: "The Taliban and The Women Who Love Them."

Hi, it's me again. I want to excerpt some influence on your answering machine to vote for (pause). Will someone tell the dog to quit that, I'm trying to work here. (pause) Hey Laura, what's the name of that lil guy that looked like a midget standin' between Mamma and Daddy on the TV commercial? (covers phone) You know, honey, the guy who looked like a piece of baloney between two slices of Wonder Bread. (uncovers phone) Oh, umm, yep, that's right. I'm callin' askin' ya to vote for the next mayor of Houston, Orlando Giuliani."

I bolt out of bed and run to retrieve the disinfectant and the emergency vial of holy water pilfered from my last visit to the shrine of Saint Ignatius Of Rynoplasty. Immediately I spray my answering machine with a fine mist, attempting to save it from what is sure to be an unattractive death as the result of its recent intercourse with pure undiluted Republicanism.

Feeling as though I've been violated by Rush Limbaugh on the set of the 700 Club, I seek the outdoors and decide to get the mail. On my way to the mailbox I am soothed by two thoughts: I heard a rumor that Rush is going deaf — perhaps his mouth will be similarly affected, and, maybe the new Pottery Barn catalogue will arrive in today's mail. (Dad, please see the Shaker-Inspired antique sideboard on page 10).

Upon opening my mailbox, a white powdery substance drifts out. Some people would be alarmed by such an event; I, however, am unaffected. My neighbors

and I only receive each other's mail, primarily as the result of our delivery person's crack cocaine habit. He's harmless and would never perpetrate workplace violence — he can't focus long enough to injure anything.

In one of my brief conversations with him he confided in me that he'd always found mathematics and English somewhat troublesome in junior high, often having difficulty with numeric and alphabetic recognition.

Amidst bills and plain brown envelopes from somebody named "Bel Ami," a slick postcard catches my eye. Tinker-toy houses are the backdrop for a phrase like "progress through rebuilding."

"Hmm, a new Toys R Us in the neighborhood?" Heavens no — it's a card from our re-elected Mayor Lee Brown. I guess the cartoon rendering is better than actual photos of inebriated downtown partiers attempting to crawl out of Hyundai-sized mud holes scattered through our "revitalized" downtown.

"Progress through rebuilding?" Who's he kidding? I made money selling pictures of myself in a Berka using Elgin Street as Afghani background — a photo essay: "The Taliban and The Women Who Love Them." (Soon to be made-for-TV miniseries). CNN has yet to figure out the ruse.

Thank God the election is over. I hope to have some peace and quiet. Now we can get back to ignoring politicians and they no longer have to pretend that they care about our opinions.

What a relief!

Let us know what you think!

Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Include a name and phone number for verification.

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LETTER

Overheard bigotry ruins Thanksgiving flight

To the Editor:

This letter is about one side of a conversation I overheard while waiting to board a Continental Flight from Fort Lauderdale to Houston last week, on Nov. 20.

While waiting to board, I was five feet from a businessman working in the row of seats adjoining the boarding area. There was absolutely nothing remarkable about him, and I would never have noticed him had I not overheard one of those buzzwords that stiffen my spine and make my jaw clench.

The word was "AIDS." From this unassuming man, enclosed in his artificial zone of silence all mobile telephone users believe they operate from within, I heard "AIDS."

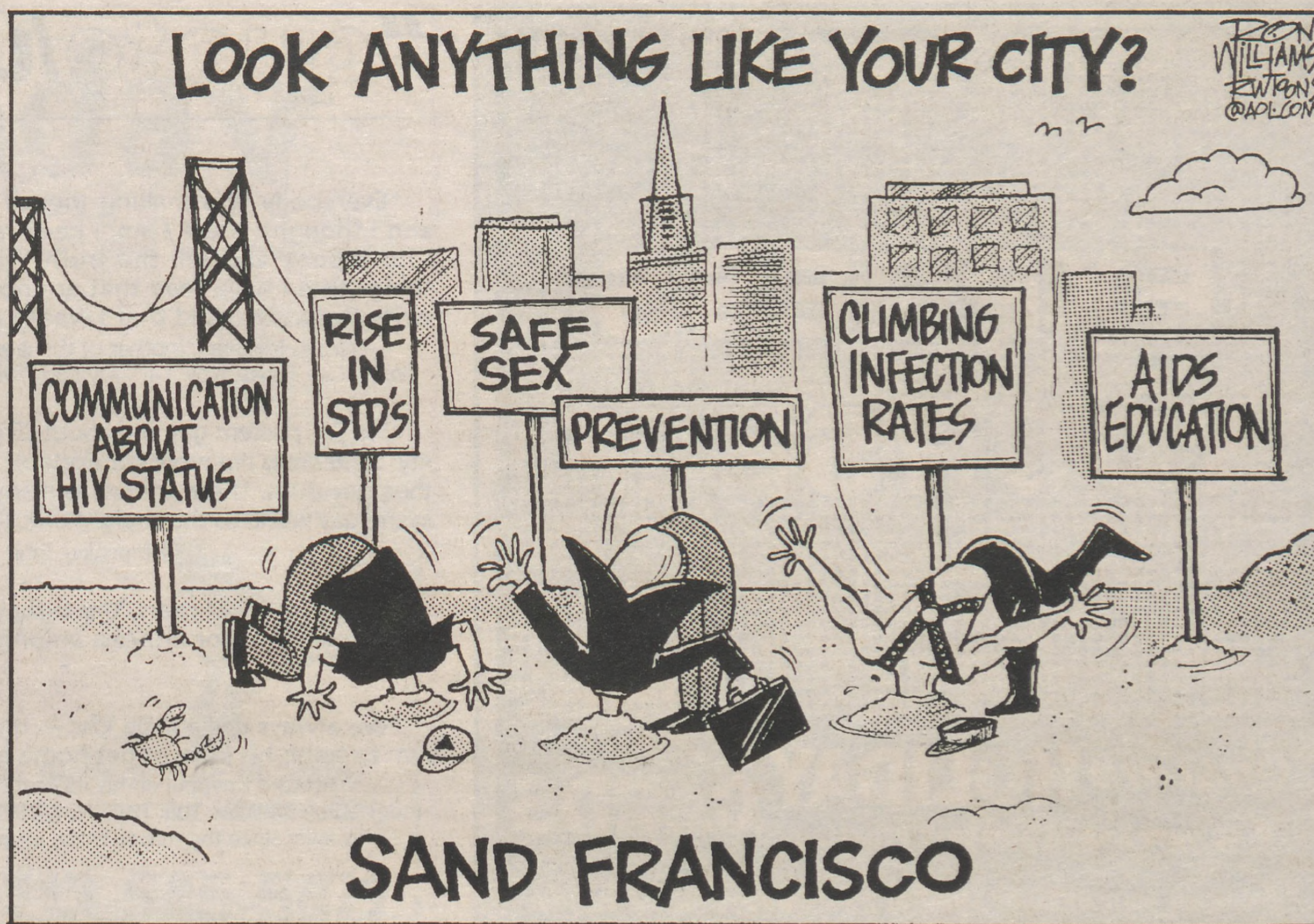
He was oblivious to the leatherman less than a body's length away. I focused on his conversation. His voice was voluble and clearly spoken. Entering the dialogue in the middle, I am recounting this as I remember it.

I heard him say, "... fire him over the AIDS. He's had too many absences. If we dodge the FMLA thing, we can fire him. If we don't need to preserve FMLA rights it's OK. It's only if we run into that it's a problem."

I stood dumbfounded. Here, in a busy airport in South Florida, I was hearing this.

"We can meet and then do this tomorrow."

I made fists of both my hands. I edged closer and listened while studying this dreg of humanity. He was an Anglo in his 30s, dark brown hair, thinning noticeably to a bald spot, and small wire framed glasses. Beside him was a dark valise with a tan flap emblazoned with the logo of a large, Houston-based company that markets and



distributes food products.

The conversation droned on a few moments as the businessman and the other party finalized their plan. "Well then, that's all we have to do," he said into the phone. "If FMLA doesn't come up, we fire him and stand on our record of non-discrimination."

It was over that quickly. If I comprehended, a man his employer had identified as having AIDS was to be fired for it on Thanksgiving Eve. Then, secure that the federal rights and litigation issues had been

evaded, the miscreants would go home to enjoy their holiday after the indifferent destruction of some poor soul.

Was it someone I knew? Was it someone who would succumb to the disease without insurance and income?

By now, someone in Houston has probably been fired. His civil rights have been violated. He has been raped at a time of rejoicing and thanksgiving by a cruel and mercenary reaction to a disease. The virus wasn't blamed. The man was.

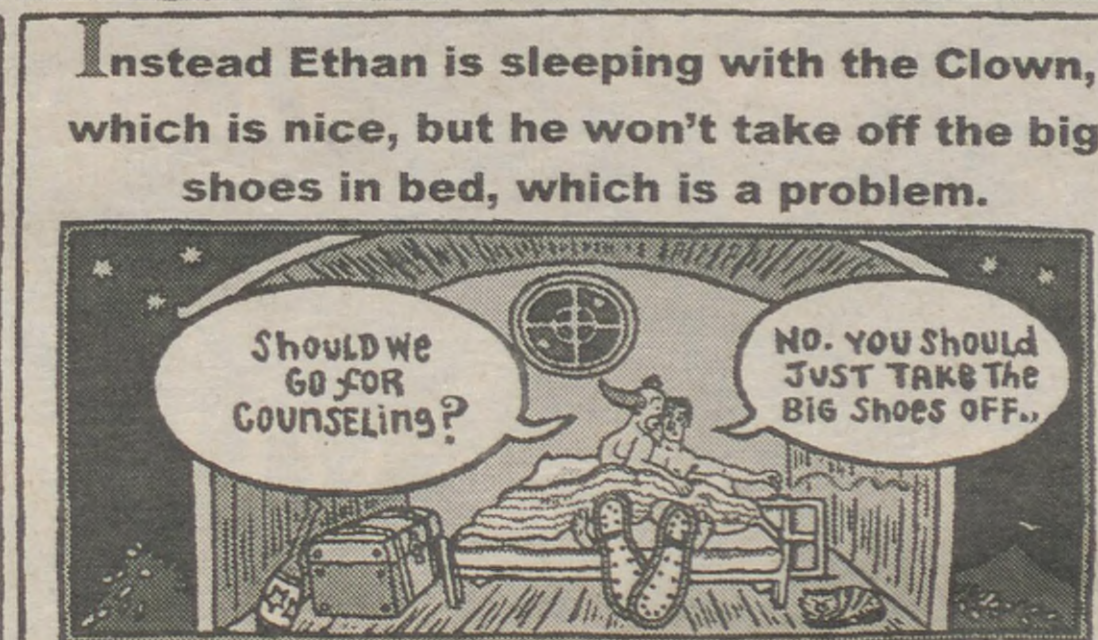
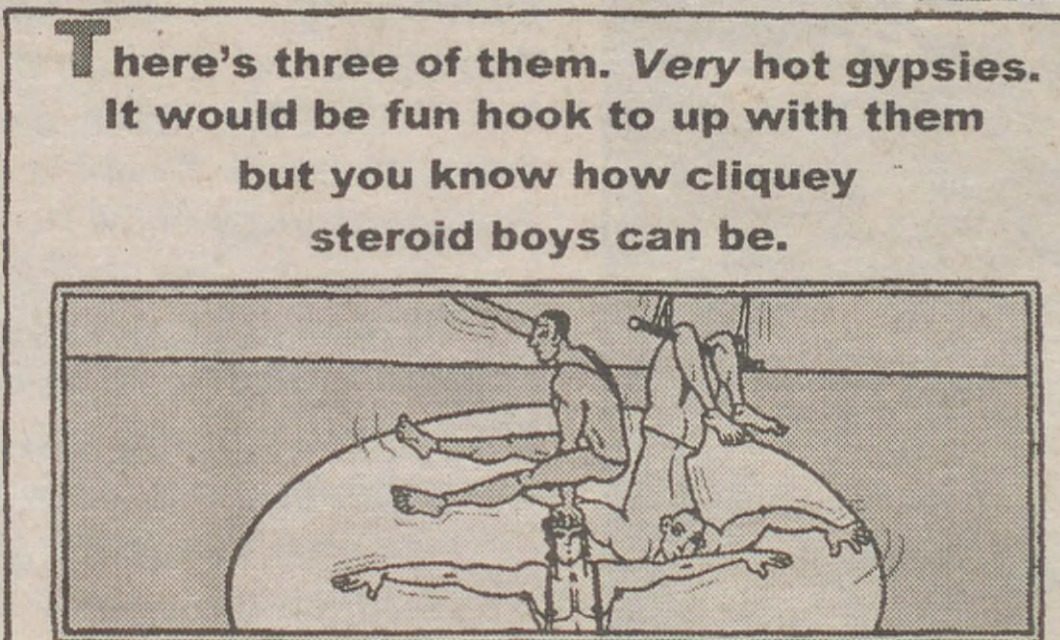
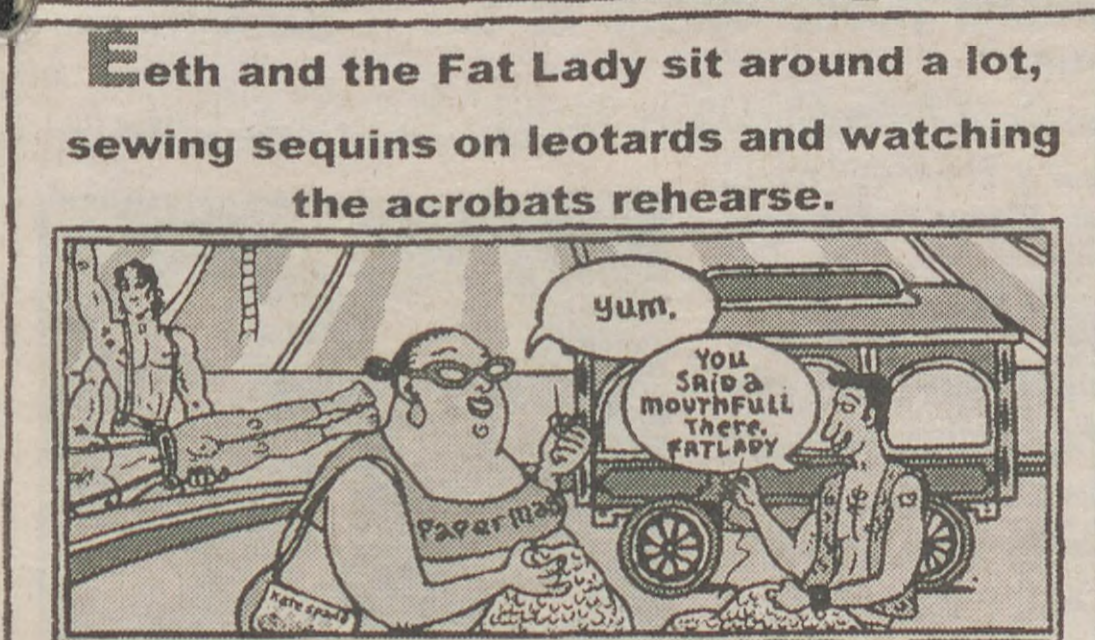
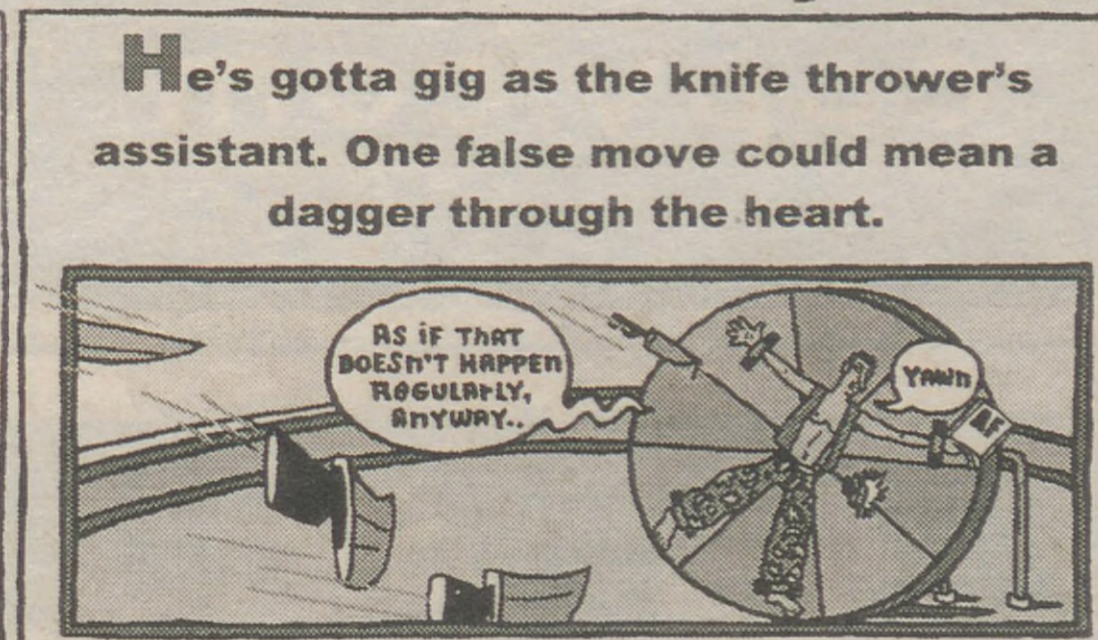
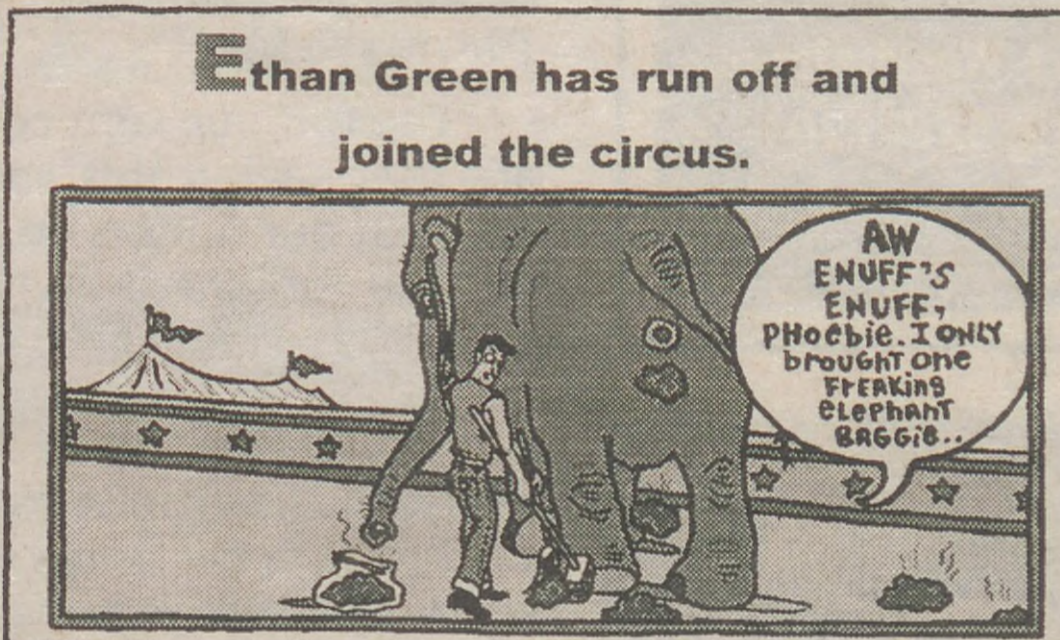
Now, my plea: If you know of anyone with AIDS terminated by a large, Houston-based food distributor, please let me know. I think I can help this man. I am absolutely willing to testify to everything that I saw and heard.

Donald Clabough
Houston

The letter writer is the proprietor of Houston's Leather in Exile.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner



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"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and staff reports

"Everybody was making money off my son's life and I thought: 'Here I am, I need money. Why don't I do a book and tell the truth? There are a lot of things that I have read that are not true. I'm gonna write the truth.' And that's what I did."

—Frances Milstead, mother of the late Divine, to Chicago's Windy City Times, Nov. 14. "My Son Divine" is in stores now.



Divine

"I'm 100 percent gay and about 20 percent in gay society. Sometimes I'm more comfortable in punk rock clubs than gay clubs. There are just as many rules I rebel from in the gay world as the straight one. I'm gaily incorrect, but I do vote gay."

—Filmmaker John Waters to Out magazine, December issue

"In the last few years, the turkey baster has become more popular than Xena, Warrior Princess among the lesbian elite."

—New York Post, Nov. 21

"We always get a little kiss — it's cute. We make him laugh. If I tell him to finish his juice or get home early tonight, he calls me 'mother.'"

—Howard Koepfel on his roommate, New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, as reported by the New York Post, Nov. 25. Giuliani has been living with Koepfel and his lover since the mayor broke up with his wife and moved out of the Gracie Mansion last year.

"The far gay left is one of the most virulent hate-groups in the country. Tolerated by much of the gay media and beyond, their hate-filled and near-violent tactics are often ignored or tolerated by other gay men and women and liberal straights who should know better."

—Gay writer Andrew Sullivan on his Web site Nov. 26, in reference to www.usqueers.com, which contains a list of vociferously anti-gay public figures that the site says it wishes would die.



Olivia Newton-John

"[Olivia Newton-John] thinks the mistaken idea that she is a lesbian was born in the 1970s, when she sang her hit song, 'I Honestly Love You,' on 'The Tonight Show' on U.S. television. When the show's legendary host, Johnny Carson, asked her if she had more girlfriends or boyfriends, she answered 'girlfriends' (meaning 'female friends,' not 'lovers,' she says) — eliciting a raised eyebrow from Carson."

—The British national lesbian magazine Diva, August issue

"The rumour kept coming back to me, and I kept wondering, 'Why are they saying this about me?' That's the only thing that we could ever put our fingers on. As if anyone would ever say anything like that on 'The Tonight Show!' Let alone *me*, for crying out loud!"

—Olivia Newton-John, in Diva, August issue.

"I question whether Anne [Heche] should have put her past relationship with Ellen [DeGeneres] back out for public comment in the way that she has with her book. Ellen deserves her privacy. [However,] the Anne I know was always honest in her relationship with the gay and lesbian community. ... This newfound public ridicule of her is beneath the Advocate and the community."

—Hillary Rosen, president of Recording Industry Association of America to the Advocate, Dec. 4. Rosen's spouse is Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign.

"I'll always be glad I was offered it [my knighthood] after I'd come out, and Maggie knew she was giving it to an openly gay man, not a species she is renowned for favoring."

—Actor Sir Ian McKellen to ananova.com, Nov. 20, on conservative British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher



Sir Ian McKellen and Margaret Thatcher

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OUT ON THE DRAWN

houston voice • december 7, 2001

Comic relief

Gay cartoonists keep creating through these historic times

by ROB NIXON

In the 19th century, the political cartoons of Thomas Nast almost single-handedly brought down the corrupt reign of "Boss" Jim Tweed and Tammany Hall in New York City.

At the height of the Great Depression, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia used to read the "funnies" (the daily comic strips) to his constituents over the radio.

In the 1960s, the underground comics of R. Crumb and others sketched the counter-culture in all its subversive glory and inane folly.

Cartoonists have long provided society with welcome humor in historically momentous or difficult times as well as a look at itself that was sometimes affectionately critical, often scathingly so.

Taking the form's unique ability to wed verbal wit and social comment with funny, outrageous and daring visuals, gay cartoonists have used the full range of the medium's possibilities — from one-panel editorial sketches to serial strips following many characters through daily life — to provide a handy reference point to the evolving attitudes, behaviors and hopes of gay readers.

At a time in world history that is most certainly momentous, we checked in with a few well-known gay cartoonists to see where they've been and where they're going with their art.

Alison Bechdel

Vermont-based Alison Bechdel says she began cartooning so long ago (1983), it's hard to remember how she got started. Today, her bi-weekly strip "Dykes to Watch Out For" follows the lives of Mo, Harriet, Lois and their friends and family, and is one of the best-known gay comics around.

An ongoing theme of her work is the conflict inherent in being a socially progressive person in the U.S., most often played out in the character of Mo, who constantly finds herself complicit in something she doesn't approve of. These days, Mo and company are grappling with the upheavals of the past few months.

"After the Sept. 11 attacks, I was pretty paralyzed. At first I thought, how the hell am I going to address something of this magnitude in a freaking comic strip?" Bechdel says in a recent phone interview.

"I tried to capture some of the shock and horror in my first strip after the attacks by not having any words, but just showing my characters reacting to the news and doing the things in their life we were all doing that first week. Not using words was a real departure for me. Normally the strip is extremely wordy. But it seemed like anything I could possibly say would only trivialize what happened."

As time went by, Bechdel returned to what she calls her "usual rhetorical mode." One of the most recent strips has Mo fretting over the U.S. war on Afghanistan and how suddenly dissent is being seen as pro-terrorist and anti-American.

That sort of stigma attached to radical, critical voices is one that progressive gay writers and artists have had to deal with more often in recent years. It's the sense that any critical view, however humorous, is a betrayal of the community and the cause.

Bechdel says she hasn't received a lot of negative feedback from readers or publishers, because "I'm the queen of political correctness. I mean, I've paid my dues."

"I think it's clear to anyone who's read even a couple episodes of my strip that I love queer people and that any criticism I make is meant kindly," she says.

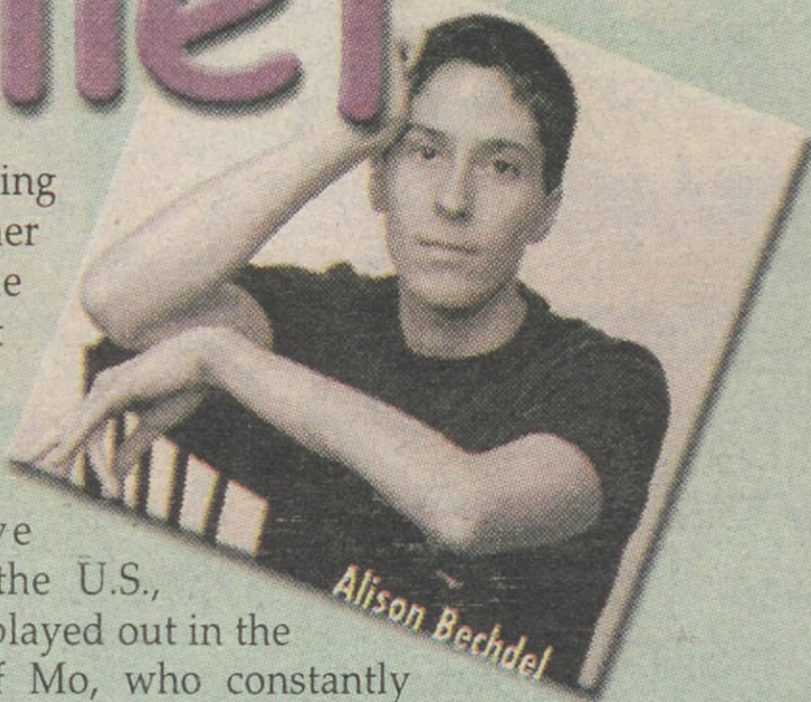
Paige Braddock

Although she says she got the "usual slacker start" in the business, "drawing in class when I should have been paying attention," Paige Braddock has come a long way. After a stint with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, she moved to California and joined Charles "Peanuts" Schultz's company. Her strip — "Jane's World" — is the first gay strip to be distributed by a mainstream syndicate, United Media.

Although, like Bechdel, Braddock creates a serial comic that follows the lives of a central character and her friends, she says her work is the antithesis of "Dykes to Watch Out For."

"My characters are sometimes shallow,

Continued on Page 16 >



Paige Braddock's 'Jane's World' the first gay strip to be distributed by a mainstream syndicate like United Media.

appts

ongoing

The Company OnStage Inc. presents "Lilies of the Field," a play by F. Andrew Leslie from the novel by William E. Garrett. Drama unfolds when Homer Smith meets a group of German nuns while driving through the American Southwest. He offers to work with them and is drawn into their lives and dreams. Through Jan. 12. Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12 or \$10 for seniors and students. The Company OnStage, Inc., 536 Westbury Square. 713-726-1219.

saturday, dec 8

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston presents its holiday concert, "Jubilation," on Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday, Dec. 8, 9 and 11. Selections will include "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," "We Three Kings" and "Gloria." Tickets: \$15 on the Web, \$18 at the door. Group, senior and junior discounts available. Showtime is 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Tuesday. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. www.gmch.org.

thursday, dec 13

Montrose Softball League, Meteor lounge and the AIDS Foundation Houston plan to unveil the 2001 Faces of the Montrose Softball League Calendar. Models will be available to sign calendars. The groups also are taking donations of non-perishable food items to benefit the AIDS Foundation Houston's Stone Soup food pantry. 7-11 p.m. at Meteor, 2306 Genesee. 713-521-0123.

starting friday, dec 14

The award-winning Houston-based contemporary dance group Suchu Dance presents a Fall Repertory Concert of mainly new works from Dec. 14-16. Featured among the pieces will be "Bright



Suchu Dance group offers 'Bright Behemoth' as part of its fall repertory concert at the Heinen Theatre next week.

Behemoth," which premiered recently on the "Weekend of Texas Contemporary Dance" program at Miller Outdoor Theatre. The work fills the entire stage area with groupings of dancers that are split apart and then recombined at high velocities. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 14-16, 8 p.m. Heinen

Theatre, central campus of Houston Community College, 3517 Austin St. Tickets: \$11-16. 713-529-1819. www.suchudance.org.



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Comics draw laughs

Continued from Page 15 >

goofy, never wear strap-on sexual devices in public and certainly don't drink enough herbal tea," she says. "I tend to poke fun at how women are in the world and how lesbians are in the world.

"Sometimes if you're a minority working in any sort of media, you're expected to be a 'political' voice for the minority you represent. I'm opposed to that way of thinking.

"I can't represent the voices of all women or all lesbians. I can only authentically speak my own voice. And sometimes, that voice isn't very politically correct."

Ron Williams

Like Braddock, Williams hopes to expand his work for more general readership, "although I'll always want to do gay cartoons." Currently, he's trying to find a publisher for a compilation of his work, which began in New Orleans in 1995.

Now based in Santa Fe, N.M., his editorial cartoons deal with national themes, reflecting the wider distribution of his work in a number of cities. His pieces often poke fun at anti-gay public figures, like Dr. Laura and Rev. Jerry Falwell.

But he says he expects his readers to be able to laugh at themselves, too.

"It's important that we not constantly take ourselves so seriously," Williams says. "I think humor has always been really important to gay people and their survival.

"I try to avoid any form of internalized

homophobia, but I still think we're open to criticism and satire as much as anyone. And I don't want to be constantly bashing straight people."

But the terrorist attacks were another matter, he says. Like most people, Williams says he found himself in a kind of daze after Sept. 11 and felt what he was doing was suddenly irrelevant.

"There's little to find funny about 9/11," he says. "But for less serious matters, things do become funny afterwards.

"Now it's kind of shifting; people are joking about anthrax, bin Laden. They say humor is pain remembered at a more comfortable moment."

Like any political cartoonist, Williams realizes he can't please everyone all the time. But sometimes objections come from unexpected places.

Recently, he did a strip addressing the comments of Falwell and Pat Robertson blaming the attacks on feminists, gays and others, with the televangelists dressed as grand inquisitors incanting over their bubbling cauldrons.

Surprisingly, he received words of protest from wiccans who resented being associated with Christian fundamentalists.

"I put my e-mail address on my cartoons, so once in a while I get a note of appreciation, too," Williams says. "What's really great is when you see one of your cartoons on someone's refrigerator. That's the museum for cartoonists."

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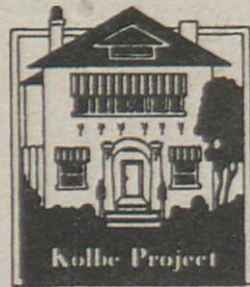
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Eucharist 7:30pm

on stage

THEATER REVIEW

Stages musical delights

'Romance/Romance' will win over even the non-romantic theater-goer

by GEORGE JONTE

In her directorial notes, Chesley Krohn states something to the effect that if you're as incurable a romantic as she is, you're sure to fall in love with "Romance/Romance." But even the non-romantics will fall in love with this latest outing at Stages Repertory Theatre.

For its holiday offering, the theater has chosen a dandy little musical piece. As the title suggests, "Romance/Romance" is actually two one-act musical comedies, each with diverse and yet similar messages. Romance is always in the air during the holidays and this piece is no exception.

Act One, "The Little Comedy," is set in 1890s Vienna. Based on a short story by Arthur Schnitzler, a wealthy aristocratic man and an equally wealthy girl take on different identities in order to find true love. Musically, one could describe this as Franz Lehár meets Stephen Sondheim: clearly Viennese operetta style with modern Sondheimish arrangements.

Act Two, "Summer Share," brings the audience to the 21st century. Set in the Hamptons, two happily married couples share a house for summer vacation. Enter the complexities of relationships and the attraction of one partner to the other's spouse and you have the electricity created from a short story, "Pain de Menage" by Jules Renard.

The real genius in this musical offering is the collaboration of Keith Hermann's music and Barry Harman's book and lyrics. The book is unimpressive, but the wonderful music and clever lyrics created by this duo make a powerful piece of theater.

The ensemble is one of the strongest ever assembled on a Houston stage. Returning from previous successes at Stages, Joanne Bonasso and Tom Prior are the star couple in the first piece. Add to this two seasoned Houston performers, Jennie Welch and Jonathan McVay, and you have a quartet of consummate talent.

In "Little Comedy," the show is carried ably by Prior and Bonasso with Welch and McVay providing shadowed imagery and incidental characters. Thankfully, the latter two are given much more material in "Summer Share." Particularly notable for these two is a hysterical song and dance number, "My Love For You," complete with walkers, as the two portray the others' spouses as aging, crippled, toothless paramours.

While the entire score has merit, a few songs — "Oh, What a Performance,"



Joanne Bonasso and Tom Prior, along with Jennie Welch and Jonathan McVay, offer strong lead performances as two married couples in 'Romance/Romance.'

"Happy, Happy, Happy," "Yes, It's Love" and "The Night It Had to End" — are standouts in the first act. The second act gives us such notables as "Think of The Odds," "So Glad I Married Her," "Words He Doesn't Say" and "Moonlight Passing Through a Window."

Krohn has directed and choreographed the entire production with fluidity but yet retained a tight crispness that makes one wish the show would not end. Careful attention has been paid to detail so that the two contrasting styles are vivid. Musically, the score is difficult, with tight harmonies and hard melody lines beautifully rendered under the talented musical direction of Steve Jones.

No longer do we have those musicals where you can be either actor, singer or dancer. The performer must be a triple threat, and this ensemble is definitely up to the challenge. While all are admirable, the real star of the evening is Bonasso. Especially delightful in the first act, she presents a Bernadette Peters style that is both winning and pleasurable.

Everything adds up to a delightful evening of theater — a must for everyone's holiday calendar.

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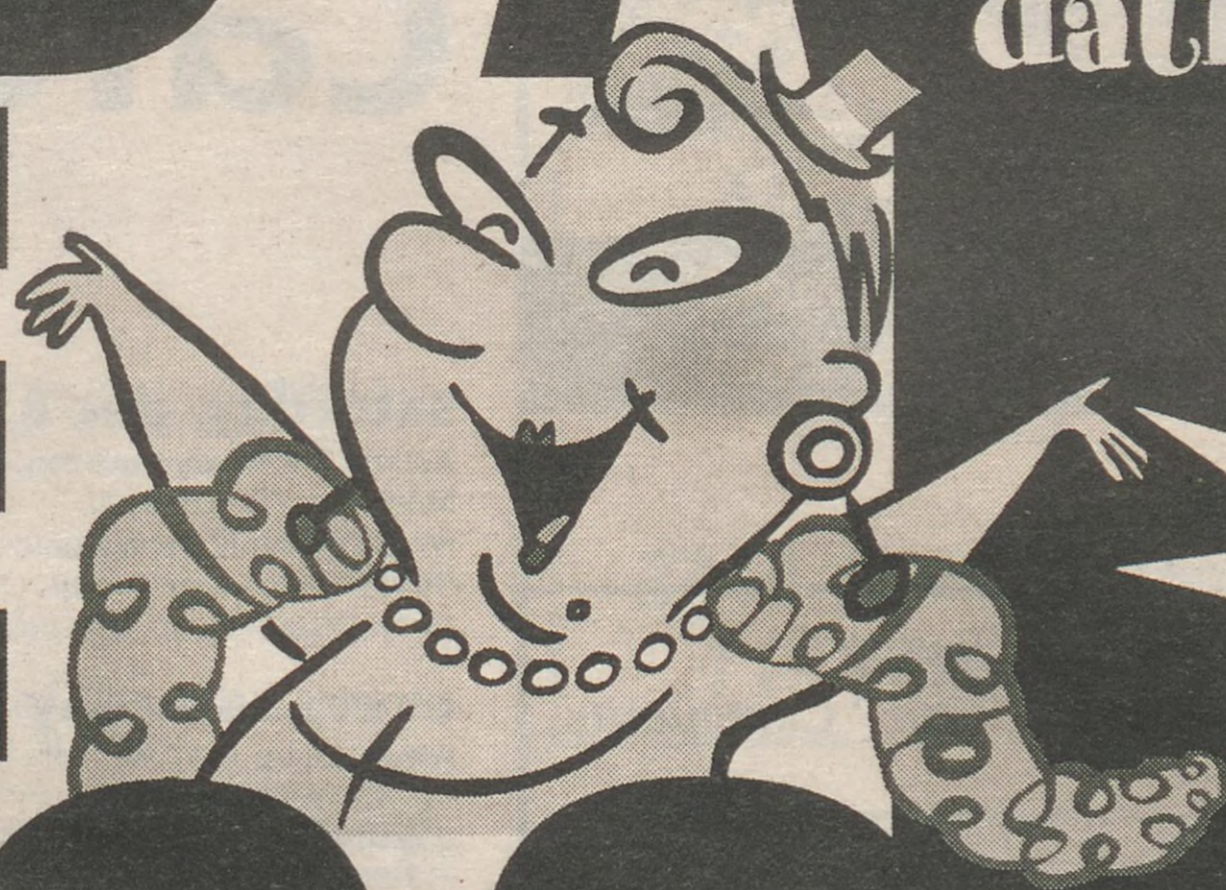
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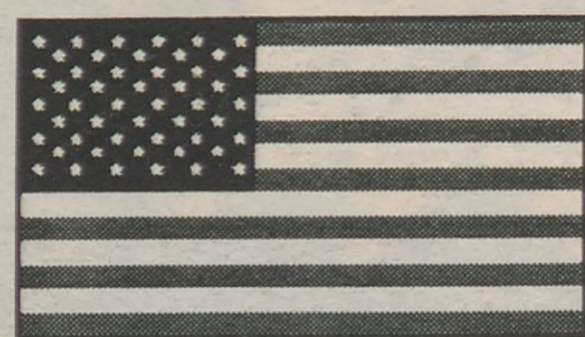
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community calendar

saturday, dec 8

Asians & Friends Houston. Christmas party in Montrose. 713-626-6300.
www.asiansandfriendshouston.com.
Houston Outdoor Group. Christmas party/potluck. 5 p.m. Don and Ray, 713-522-7809.

every saturday

After Hours. KPFT 90.1 FM. 12 a.m. to 3 a.m. 713-526-5738.
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.
Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.
Q-Patrol walks the streets 9:30 p.m. Convenes at community center. 713-528-SAFE.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • Center cleanup, 10 a.m. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston volunteer appreciation reception, 1-4 p.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 3 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

sunday, dec 9

People of All Colors Together. 3 p.m. at Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713-524-3818.
S.I.S.T.E.R.S. 3 p.m. at Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713-524-3818.

every sunday

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.
First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.
First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.
Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930
Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.
Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.
Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 and 11 a.m.

Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Holy Rite Eucharist I 7:45 a.m.; Holy Rite Eucharist II 8:55 a.m.; Education hour 10 a.m.; Choral Eucharist 11 a.m. 713-528-6665.

The Women's Group. Meeting & Discussion. 10:45 a.m. 713-529-8571.

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

Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County. 502 Church St. Service 10:30 a.m. 409-765-8330.

Unitarian Fellowship of Houston. Adult forum 10 a.m. Service 11 a.m. 713-686-5876.

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

monday, dec 10

Classic Chassis Car Club. Board meeting. General membership welcome. 7 p.m. 713-797-8615. www.classicchassisclub.org.
H.E.A.T. (Houston Employees' Affinity Team). Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713-524-3818.

every monday

AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8-9:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church. Tom: 713-726-8736. www.geocities.com/gaydadshouston/
Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsals. 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, dec 11

PFLAG-Houston. Meeting. 713-867-9020. www.pflaghouston.org/meetings.htm

every tuesday

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.
For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.
Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.
Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.
Gay youth. New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support

community calendar

group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.
HTGA. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Noon, Thanksgiving dinner potluck. • Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming-Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

wednesday, dec 12

Houston Area Bears. Dine out and meeting. Biba's, West Gray. 6:30 p.m. 713-867-9123. www.HoustonAreaBears.com.
Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus. Board meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713-524-3818.
Mayoral Liaison Community Roundtable Forum. 5-6:30 p.m. at Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, 713-524-3818.

every wednesday

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.
Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.
Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.
Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.
Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.
Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.
Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling. 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.

thursday, dec 13

Bi-Net Houston. Women's meeting. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.
Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force Houston. 8 p.m. meeting. Chris, 713-426-3128. lgirtf-houston@egroups.com.

every thursday

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

Free HIV Testing. By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.
FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
Gay Houston. New social group for all ages. 7 p.m. 713-526-9318.
Hep C Recovery. Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.
HIV Art Therapy Program. 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.
Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.
Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.
Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.
STD exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.
Spanish Charla Conversation Group. 7 p.m., Empire Cafe. Email charlahouston@msn.com. 713-416-7203.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 6-9 p.m. • Monthly volunteers' meeting, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

friday, dec 14

Garden & Yard Society. Meeting. 713-661-6378 or 713-863-1066.

every friday

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Govinda Yoga Club. Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.
Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com
Kolbe Project. Morning prayer. 10 a.m. • Movie night, "Much Ado About Nothing." 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Lesbian & Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
Q-Patrol. Walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Women's Game Night, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

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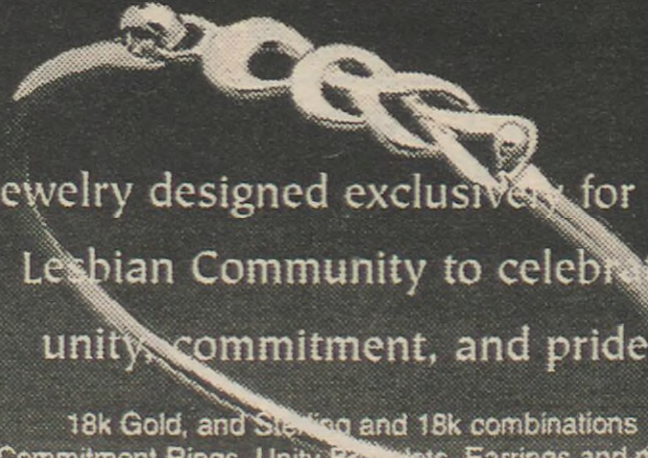


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Continued on page 25

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- One's hairy date?
- Project for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
- R.E.M.'s "It's the End of the World ___ Know It"
- Artist Horn
- College buildings of same-sex roommates
- Cukor's "A ___ Is Born"
- Jewelle Gomez's "The Gilda ___"
- Pantyhorse-wearing Mel of "What Women Want"
- Island not far from Queens
- Do equivalent, in song
- Ann Bannon's pulp character Brinker
- Cut leaves of grass
- Consenting votes
- State of Cathedral of Hope
- It shows a drag queen's knees
- Nureyev's country, once (abbr.)
- Stuck with a Democrat?
- "Shall We ___?"
- Ursine mascot of UCLA
- "Annie on Her Mind" author Nancy
- P of PFLAG
- Lindbergh biographer A. Scott ___
- Sean of "Will and Grace"
- "Whar" she blows
- Tops
- ___ sex (telling dirty jokes?)
- Hairy stockbroker's workplace?
- Loads
- Wilde country
- Distributed some queens, perhaps
- Xtra's prov.
- "Cheeky" linemen?
- Vogue

DOWN

- Rock band going either way?
- Ballots that vote out
- Chew like a beaver
- Ways to come out
- Down and out
- Crisp or Callow
- Gielgud of "Arthur"
- "Significant Others" author Maupin
- Some leaves of grass
- Hairy guy of one's dreams?
- "C'est Moi," to King Arthur
- "One Night in Bangkok" musical
- Get lucky
- Coward's confession
- Inflict upon
- Rocky top
- Hunter picking up the check?
- G of PFLAG
- Bad day for Caesar
- Anita's hairy closeted son?
- "Battle of the ___" (victory for Billie Jean)
- "West Side Story" composer
- First word in fairy tales
- Setting of Tom Hulce's "Amadeus", to Austrians
- Nothing appendage?
- "Forbidden Fires" author Anderson
- The NRA makes them shoot off
- Fans of Molly Pitcher (abbr.)
- Mary Guzman output
- Idea's beginning
- Mapplethorpe work
- Composer Copland
- Homophone of the animals in this puzzle's theme
- Scoppettone's "Trying ___ to Hear You"
- Neither top-of-the-line nor bottom-of-the-barrel
- Title role for Jodie Foster
- Suffix with Smurf
- Insect whose boss is a queen
- You see them only after they're taken out

Answers on Page 27

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AD POLICY: Houston Voice reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject ads not meeting Houston Voice standards. No refunds for early cancellation. Misprints: Houston Voice is not responsible for misprints appearing after first week. Check ads promptly.

Deadline for ad submission is: MONDAY at 12 NOON

- 1 PICK YOUR CATEGORY**
- FREE:** Call for guidelines
 ___ HIV Services & Education
 ___ Volunteers
 ___ Non-Profit Organizations
 *First 20 words
- INDIVIDUAL RATE \$10:**
 ___ Announcements
 ___ Auditions
 ___ Employment-Seeking
 ___ Pets-Free or Lost & Found
 ___ Roommates
 ___ Personal Web sites
- BUSINESS RATE \$18:**
 ___ Auto Repair
 ___ Business Opportunities
 ___ Entertainment
 ___ Help Wanted
 ___ Help Wanted-Seeking
 ___ Home Improvement
 ___ Items For Sale
 ___ Licensed Massage
 ___ Moving Services
 ___ Professional Services
 ___ Real Estate For Rent
 ___ Real Estate For Sale
- Call 713-529-8490 for other categories

2 WRITE YOUR AD
Please print clearly

CATEGORY: _____ **# OF ISSUES:** _____

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

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

TEXT: _____

3 TOTAL YOUR COST
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Subtotal: _____ x _____ # of issues
Total: \$ _____

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Additional words _____ x 75¢ per word (per week): _____
 Bold headline: 5.00 (per week) _____
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My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN

YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE



Dec. 7-13

ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

The new moon in your house of travel calls out to you on the 14th. Call back to it, baby! Take a major trip or at least stay inside and trip the light fantastic with a Scorpio.

TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

You may not be able to get to the heart of someone's deepest, darkest emotions, but it's worth a try. A Cancer is hard to get to know, but the payoff is worth it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

This is the most romantic time of year for you. A Leo is enamored by your soulful ways. The harder you try, the more you can enjoy this relationship.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

This could be a week of surprises, Cancer. But you've got to make them happen. Don't just sit and wait. Catch a Virgo off-guard. It's time to revive the top in you, darling.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

You can make a new commitment to your artistry, dear. The new moon in your house of creativity on Dec. 14 helps you to give birth to your inner child. Raise her with a Gemini.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Mars in your house of love is making you sex-crazed, slow-witted and super-psy-chic when it comes to pleasing a partner. If your lover is a Libra, you are really in for a wild ride!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

A bunch of planets are dancing through your social third house this week. Get out and about and meet new people. Let's face it, your old cronies are becoming tedious. A Sag breathes new life into your night life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Jupiter retrograde in your ninth house of adventure may make you feel like you've missed the boat in some major way. Not to worry, darling. You will be able to break out. A Pisces can show you the way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

This is truly your week for new beginnings, major love affairs, and all-around thrills and chills. Don't resist, dear. Go into the new with barrels blazing. A Taurus wants to be your baby tonight (during the new moon on Dec. 14).

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

Allow yourself to go through a melancholy phase, sweetie. You've got a bit of Morrissey in you now. Your time in the Sun is coming (just before Christmas). For now, lay low. An Aquarius can see right through your defenses. How refreshing!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

The new moon in your house of friends (on Dec. 14) should make you feel loved and loving. Revert to your true Aquarian nature. Go totally polygamous ... at least for a night. All right, a week! Another Aquarius will egg you on.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

Saturn in your home sector is forcing you to take care of a family or apartment situa-tion. Don't be so avoidant, Pisces. Deal with your life before it deals with you! A Virgo is watching you, waiting to pounce.

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

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Answer to Puzzle on Page 24

E	L	Y	T	S		S	D	N	E		T	N	O
T	A	L	D	E		E	R	E		S	N	O	T
T	E	K	A	R	M	A	R	B	E	A	L	O	R
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H	E	T	S		Y	C	O	R		O	G	O	B
I	B				A	J	A	R		E	L	A	N

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