



HOUSTON

VOICE

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Stuart
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The Battle of Words Between Kelley and Garcia City Controller Race Takes on Bitter Tone

HOUSTON - Lloyd Kelley, the incumbent city controller, elevated the race to the forefront of the news last week when he told the State Republican Executive Committee his primary opponent, Chief Municipal Court Judge Sylvia Garcia, was gay.

"I'm finishing a race back in Houston, before I do anything else, against somebody who is gay, whose first act was to go out and get the gay political caucus endorsement," Kelly told the Republican group. His remarks drew heated response from Garcia who called him a "shameless liar."

Kelley told the *Houston Voice* that his remarks were not the focus of his comments and that he did not even mention her by name. He claims he was merely using a descriptive term.

"The *Houston Chronicle* about a week ago in Alan Bernstein's column mentioned that Rob Mosbacher's sister is gay," said Kelley. "Now she's not running for anything. And, where do they get the permission to use a descriptive term like that. I was using it as a descriptive term on something I thought was common knowledge. I wasn't using it to attack her."

Kelley said he backed off of the issue the moment she denied it. "I'm not out to prove

that she's gay or not," he said. "To me it's not an issue." Kelley said the office has nothing to do with gay issues and was merely wondering why she would seek the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Endorsement (HGLPC) endorsement, which he claims does not ask financial questions.

Kelley said the only relevancy his office has with respect to gay issues is adding partners to an insurance program if the city approves a domestic partners benefits program. "I might have to do the calculations as to how much that would cost," said Kelley. In fact, Kelley said he does not believe in discrimination against gays or lesbians "I don't think gays ought to be discriminated in the work place period. I think that conduct is wrong. Even if it is not illegal."

Kelley said his opponents sexual orientation is irrelevant. He does however contend that recent allegations of same-sex sexual harassment charges against Garcia should however be an issue. "I read in the paper that a female employee of hers in a lawsuit filed sexual harassment charges against her," said Kelley.

"Here's a case where somebody a year ago in a grievance has alleged sexual harassment. They went to the civil service commission and

alleged sexual harassment. The civil service commission did nothing, didn't investigate it, didn't even pursue it or send it over to the affirmative action division. She puts it in a lawsuit and it has to be dropped because it's not illegal," said Kelley. "Now if you guys were really pursuing principles here that ought to outrage you. And, yet nobody is jumping on it."

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has rendered same-sex harassment is not protected under the law. The Supreme Court is expected to review the decision in the next session which begins October 6, 1997. "Sexual orientation is not an issue for me in this race," said Kelley. "But sexual harassment ... is a legitimate issue."

Garcia has come under some criticism from some community leaders for her strong response against Kelley's remarks about her sexual orientation. Some have likened her response as though she had been accused of murder.

Garcia told the *Houston Voice* her response was strong because it was a lie. "It's not the substance of the lie, its the fact that he lied,"

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Between the Covers

An Interview with Famed
Novelist Edmund White



by Marc Almond

With his new novel, *The Farewell Symphony*, Edmund White completes the acclaimed autobiographical trilogy that he began with *A Boy's Own Story* (1983)

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Ray Hill Enters Race for District D City Council Seat



informed the *Houston Voice* that he will be conducting an "unfunded campaign."

After months of speculation, long-time Community activist Ray Hill officially filed to enter the race for the District D City Council seat against the incumbent Jew Don Boney. Hill

"The only reason I'm in this race is because I, among others, who supported the incumbent two years ago, feel that promises weren't kept and commitments were ignored," said Hill. "There is a negative vote out there against the incumbent as big as a mule in a Baptist church. If somebody had not gotten on the ballot, that would be difficult to estimate or measure because not voting for an uncontested candidate doesn't tell anyone anything."

Hill said, in reality, he doesn't think he can beat Jew Don Boney because the power

of the incumbency is very good. "But, he could lose this election by continuing to carry everybody's water but those who have regionally supported him," said Hill. "The first rule of politics according to Lyndon Johnson ... was you dance with them that brought you."

Hill said that the incumbent was a hard sell in Montrose two years ago, but the Caucus endorsed him and got every vote they could get for him and contends that Boney did not appreciate their effort. "He said the gays didn't turn out for him, so he

was going to take another route. But the very coalition of people, not just in Montrose, but in the third ward and fourth ward, that carried him in his first election - all of those folks are now abandoned and all of those folks have reported to my campaign since my announcement."

Boney has long been a controversial candidate in the gay and lesbian community. His support of the Sexually Oriented Business Ordinance, in conjunction with city councilwoman and mayoral candidate

See HILL page 13

Log Cabin to Debate Affirmative Action, Controversial City Council Endorsements

Edwin Blum, Sponsor of
Anti-Affirmative Action
Initiative, to Address Group

The Log Cabin Republicans of Houston will tackle a range of controversial topics, including whom to endorse in city council races and whether to support a ballot initiative to abolish the city's affirmative action program, at the gay GOP group's next meeting, 7 p.m., Monday, September 29 at Renata's Restaurant, located at 2007 Lexington. The meeting is open to the gen-

eral public

The meeting will feature a debate between Edward Blum, chief sponsor of an anti-affirmative action initiative appearing on the November ballot, and an opponent of the measure. Decisions on whom to endorse in the upcoming November city election will top Log Cabin's agenda at the September 29 meeting.

The group will decide on endorsements for all city council seats, the city controller's race, and seats on the board of trustees for Houston Community College (HCC) and the Houston Independent School District

See DEBATE page 14

Boney and Bradford Slated to Address HGLPC

Police Chief Clarence Bradford and District D City Councilmember Jew Don Boney will address the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus membership at their next meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday, October 1, 1997 at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Boulevard at Whitney.

"Chief Bradford and Councilmember Boney want to hear from our membership and the community at-large about issues of concern to the gay and lesbian community," said Caucus President Lane Lewis. We appreciate their commitment to being accessible in this way."

"The chief came to speak to us a few months ago and of course Councilmember Boney has attended several Caucus meetings and functions

over the past few years," said Caucus Board Chair Clarence Bagby. "We're happy to facilitate this type of open dialogue between members of the community and these officials; we consider this part of our organization's mission."

Lewis serves as the HGLPC representative on the Houston Police Citizens Review Board, a position previously held by Houston City Council At-Large Position One Candidate Annise Parker, also a former Caucus president and board chair.

Complimentary wine, coffee and soft drinks are served beginning at 7pm with the actual meeting beginning at 7:30pm. The general public is invited. For more information call 713-521-1000.



Fairy Tale Big Time! Houston Ballet's Cinderella Magically Appears with a Poof!



by Rich Arenschieldt

Houston Ballet Artistic Director Ben Stevenson's world famous version of this classic story converts the cave-like Wortham Theater into a delightfully fluffy fairy land filled with magic, evil, romance and stepsis-

See BALLET page 18

Clinton to Address Gay Rights Group

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton will be the keynote speaker Nov. 8 at a gala dinner of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest national gay and lesbian political organization, officials said today.

"President Clinton's participation at this event will be historic," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the organization. "The president's attendance will mark the first time a sitting president has participated at a gay and lesbian civil rights event."

White House officials confirmed that

Clinton would attend. The dinner, in Washington, falls two days before a White House conference on hate crimes.

Clinton spoke at a Human Rights Campaign event in May 1992 before he was elected president. Last year he provided a videotaped message a Human Rights Campaign convention designed to promote volunteer involvement on behalf of candidates supportive of equal rights for gays and lesbians.



H.A.T.C.H. to Celebrate 10 Year Anniversary at Annual Awards Banquet

The Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals will celebrate a momentous occasion, its 10th Anniversary, at their annual awards banquet, October 17, 1997. The fundraising event, which will be held at Grace Lutheran Church (2515 Waugh Drive), begins at 7 p.m. and concludes around 10 p.m.

Following the evenings social from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., participants will enjoy a light buffet dinner, entertainment and the presentation of the awards. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Crossroads, Toupees and at the door. For more information, call (713) 942-7002.

Keith Chapman to Inaugurate New Season of Bering's 'Art Concert Series'

Keith Chapman, a prominent Houston pianist, will inaugurate the 1997/98 season of 'Bering and the Arts Concerts Series.'

The concert, an all Debussy program, will feature the First Book of Preludes, the Second Images Series, and L'isle Joyeuse. Chapman, the Music Director for the Houston Opera Theatre, has been a soloist with The Houston Symphony Orchestra and The Texas Chamber Orchestra. In addition, Chapman is on the staff at Rice University, St. Martin's Episcopal Church and an active participant at The High School for The Performing and Visual Arts.

The performance will take place 4 p.m., October 5, 1997 at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church (1440 Harold at Mulberry). The concert is free and open to the public. A reception to meet Chapman will follow. For more information, call Bering at (713) 526-1017.

Kolbe Project to Host Open House for New Facility

The Kolbe Project moved into their new headquarters, located at 1030 Heights Boulevard, this week, according to the organizations Executive Director, Ralph Lasher.

"We look forward to our new facility which is a one-story structure and will, therefore, be thoroughly accessible to persons who are physically challenged," said Lasher.

The organization will host a public open house featuring a catered dessert reception at the new facility, Thursday, October 2 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., with a Blessing of the House to take place at 7:30 p.m.

Founded in 1989, the Kolbe Project is a ministry to adults who are or believe they might be gay or lesbian, bisexual or Transgender. The Project serves persons of all religious faiths or none. For more information, call the group at their new number (713) 861-1800.

This Years 'Club Carnival' Marks Sixth Anniversary

More than twenty AIDS service providers and organizations will join forces to provide a day of fun for their clients. The event, held at the City of Houston Metropolitan Multi Service Center at 1475 West Gray, will take place Sunday, October 5, 1997. More than 500 individuals and families are expected to attend.

The free event has evolved over the years to become a day of frolic and fun for those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Among

the many activities planned for this years event are a Petting Zoo, Puppet Show, Bingo, Children's Games, Clowns, Fortune Tellers, Cake Walk, Music and Food.

The sponsors of this years events include: AIDS Foundation Houston, American Red Cross, Bering, Body Positive, MCCR, Montrose Counseling Center, Omega House, PWA Coalition and the PWA Holiday Charities. Transportation is provided for those in need. Call (713) 641-1135 for details.

PWA Holiday Charities Dispersed 77 Dalmatians to PWA's

The PWA Holiday Charities, a newly designated 501(c)(3) organization, visited People With AIDS this past Labor Day Weekend at area hospitals and halfway houses to distribute stuffed Dalmatian puppies.



The volunteers were able to visit each PWA patient at the respective facilities and provide them with enjoyment and attention. The group is in need of volunteers for future holiday visits. Interested parties should contact ken Parker at (713) 729-5277.

SEAShell Founder Rick Schroder to Speak at Upcoming AWARE Meeting

Rick Schroder, a founder of the gay and lesbian employees group at Shell oil, is the scheduled speaker for the Houston AWARE meeting, 6p.m., Sunday, September 28 at The Hobbit Hole, 1715 S. Shepherd.

Schroder will share his experiences of publicly coming out within his company and how that led to the formation of Support, Equality, and Awareness at Shell (SEAShell). Shell Oil has included sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policy and is now offering domestic partnership benefits. Schroder, who was appointed by management to the Diversity Council at the companies Westhollow Technology Center, participated in the company's first Diversity Awareness Workshop addressing the topic of sexual orientation.

AWARE, a Southwestern Bell Corporation employee group for both management and non-management lesbian and gay personnel and non-gay supporters, is open to current and retired SCB employees. For more information, call (713) 235 7929.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing Bowl-a-thon

The Fourth Annual Deaf/Hard of Hearing Bowl-a-thon will take place Saturday, September 27, at Palace Bowling Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd., from 12 noon until 4:00pm. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Interpreter Fund for HIV positive deaf/hard of hearing clients.

For more information, contact Brian Determan at TTY 713-830-3072 or Todd Foster at 713-830-3015.

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Prison Board Chairman Wants Review of HIV Infection Among Inmates

by Mark Babineck

LUBBOCK - The chairman of the state Board of Criminal Justice has called for a review of the prison system's AIDS policies in response to a series of recent newspaper articles on the issue.

Allan Polunsky asked his Health Services Committee last Thursday to explore education, testing, treatment and housing of HIV-positive offenders and AIDS patients. Additionally, he called upon the Institutional Division Committee to examine prevention of sex among inmates.

Recent *San Antonio Express-News* reports about the proliferation of HIV infection in state prisons prompted concern, Polunsky said. He cited "the nationwide increase in AIDS cases and tremendous expansion of the Texas prison population over the last few years" in requesting an updated look at Texas Department of Criminal Justice policies.

The newspaper reported that the disease has become the leading killer of inmates, claiming 475 since 1992. Last week, Senate Criminal Justice Committee chairman John Whitmire, D-Houston, and Mike Moncrief, D-Fort Worth, called for hearings on the subject. Moncrief sponsored a bill in 1995 to establish a hospice for dying inmates. He also is chairman of the Senate General Investigating Committee.

Nearly 70,000 inmates have undergone voluntary HIV tests over the last three years, Polunsky said. The newspaper reported that 1,979 of those tests have come back positive.

In Lubbock for the board's bimonthly board meeting, Polunsky and TDCJ executive director Wayne Scott said TDCJ rules currently prohibit segregation of HIV-infected inmates because of confidentiality laws.

"We'll see if there is flexibility in that respect," Polunsky said. "We're looking into the legal issues involved."

The idea of HIV-only units appeals to Whitmire, who said the state should concentrate more on the inner workings of a prison system that has doubled in size this decade. "We're going to have to determine what's the greater good," Whitmire said. "We might have to come down on the side of less confidentiality and less individual rights for the common good of better health care for inmates."

Scott said sick inmates have access to the most up-to-date treatments available, through Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and the University of Texas Medical Branch. The criminal justice department follows federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention treatment guidelines, he said.

Prevention of inmate sex is also paramount, and Institutional Division director Gary Johnson said a roving camera system that's being tested at the Luther Unit could be the answer. "At some point I'd like to try them in day room areas," said Johnson, explaining that inmate sex usually occurs in common areas.

Guard stations cover virtually every inch of newer units, but jailers encounter blind spots in older prisons.

However, even areas monitored by officers aren't totally safe, prison spokesman Larry Todd said. "They may be faster than a correctional officer is in stopping them," he said.

Both Moncrief and Whitmire said they supported increased education and rape prevention measures. "Can we reduce the incidence of rape among the population as well as separate those individuals who are infected from the rest of the general population without violating their constitutional rights?" Moncrief said. "... Obviously we what we are doing is not taking care of the problem. It is not sufficient."

The AIDS issue overshadowed an otherwise routine agenda for the board's commit-

tees. The one major item - discussion of where to locate three proposed super segregation units - was tabled. "The state's leadership has requested that the board defer any action at this meeting," Polunsky said.

Former Hospital Patients Urged to Test for HIV

HOUSTON - A hospital is urging 53 former patients to get tested for the human immunodeficiency virus because an HIV-positive nurse may have tampered with some drugs they took.

Officials at Twelve Oaks Hospital fear the nurse, who was not identified, might have contaminated vials of narcotics such as Demerol, Dilaudid and morphine, which the patients were given during their hospital stays.

"We are working on the infectious disease aspect of this," city Health and Human Services spokeswoman Kathy Barton said. "We are trying to identify the potential for communication of disease in this situation and in his previous employment situations." She noted that "the risk may be low, but the consequences are very high."

The 53 patients who are being notified were hospitalized on two floors between mid-July and mid-August. The nurse had worked the 3-11 p.m. shift. The nurse began working at the hospital in July after passing a mandatory drug screening. He resigned three weeks later, on Aug. 6, after informing hospital officials he had participated in a drug-treatment program for nurses. He agreed to undergo blood tests, and this week they showed that he carries the virus associated with AIDS.

Hospital officials did not know the nurse may have had a substance abuse problem. After the nurse left, officials found narcotic supplies at the hospital improperly had been accessed or tampered with during the same three-week period as the nurse's tenure.

Danburg and Van Oothenhem to Receive Recognition at HGLPC's Annual Dinner

State Representative Debra Danburg, longtime community activist Gary Van Oothenhem and prominent Houston physician Dr. Gordon Crofoot are among those who will receive recognition from the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus at its annual Awards Dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel, Saturday, October 4.



Debra Danburg

The Dinner, the organizations 22nd, will also feature Travis County Sheriff Margo Frazier, a Democrat and the first open lesbian to be elected as a county sheriff in Texas and Dallas City Councilmember John

Loza, a Republican and the first person initially elected to the Dallas City Council as an openly gay candidate.



Annise Parker

We are thrilled to have two courageous people like Margo Frazier and John Loza as our speakers, in keeping with our goal of making Annise Parker Houston's first openly gay elected official, said Clarence

Bagby, Caucus Board Chair. Parker received the groups endorsement in her race for City Council At-Large Position 1.

Crofoot will receive the organizations coveted Humanitarian Award for his outstanding record of professional and civic achievement, according to Caucus President Lane Lewis. [Dr. Crofoot] has done tremendous work in the management of HIV infection during his years in private practice and as a member of the team at OnCol Medical Associates, said Lewis. Previous recipients of this award include the late U.S. Representative Mickey Leland, State Representative Garnet Coleman, Dr. Clair Koepsel and Kathy Hubbard.

Van Oothenhem will receive the distinguished Bayard Rustin Civil Rights Award, previously bestowed upon former U.S. Representative Craig Washington, Texas Southern University Law Professor Gene Harrington, Attorney and President of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas Dale Carpenter, and Brian Bradley.

Gary Van Oothenhem has been a crusader in the fight for civil rights for a generation from his work as the founding president of HGLPC in 1975 to this efforts to make the Houston Chapter of Log Cabin republicans the fastest growing chapter in the nation, said Bagby. He has certainly earned the Award.

Danburg will receive the organizations Harvey Milk Award for her work in the last session of the Texas Legislature on Employment Non-Discrimination and Hate Crimes legislation. The award is designed to honor public officials who demonstrate great courage on behalf of gay men and lesbians. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock have received the award in the past.

Other award recipients: John Kellet will receive the Don Hrachovy Life Achievement Award for his work through the John Steven W. Kellet Foundation to fund significant projects in the gay and lesbian community; Scott Tillinghast, a longtime gay activist, will receive the Barbara Cigainero Volunteer of the Year Award and new Caucus Board member Robert Johnson will receive the Jim Owens Newcomer Award; and Chris Bacon, founder of the Bar Association for Human rights, will receive the Dennis Spencer Award.

The group will also be presenting several community service awards. Those recipients include Susan and Don Upchurch, co-presidents of the Houston Chapter of PFLAG; activist and local attorney Mitchell Katine, the Lesbian Gay/Rights Lobby of

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Texas, Suzanne Anderson Properties, Miss Camp America Foundation, OutSmart Magazine and the Houston Voice.

Individual tickets for the event are \$65, table of eight can be purchased for \$500. Underwriting is available. The event begins with a cocktail reception at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. For more information, call (713) 521-1000.

Brown Unveils Seven-Point Economic Development Plan

Mayoral candidate and former Houston police chief Lee Brown announced a seven-point economic development and housing plan to promote business expansion and home ownership in low and moderate income neighborhoods. Brown, who last week unveiled an eight point transportation plan, proposed the following economic development and housing initiatives:

- Establishment of a capital investment pool of public and private funding sources to facilitate business start-ups by entrepreneurs who live and work in specified low-income areas.
- Creation of an enhanced Houston Micro-Enterprise Fund with loans ranging from \$500 to \$25,000 that would be available to start-up and expand business. The loans would be either direct or guaranteed by financial institutions.
- Reducing the cost of home construction within the city by expanding the use of the TIFZ (tax increment financing zones) to lower the cost of water and sewage hookups, thereby making the inner city competitive with unincorporated areas.
- Providing tax abatement incentives for certified builders to renovate or construct low-to-moderate-income housing in enterprise zones.
- Strategically targeting city deposits to sound financial institutions with a high CRA (Community Reinvestment Act) rating.
- Establishing an evergreen (down payment assistance) fund to assist first-time homebuyers in obtaining financing for closing costs.
- Creating a small Business Liaison to work with area banks to identify small businesses eligible for the Texas Capital Access Program

(TexCAP). Loan amounts can not exceed \$575,000.00.

The centerpiece of my campaign is neighborhood oriented government, said Brown. Houston is an entrepreneurial city and tapping that vital energy is key to ensuring the long-term success of our neighborhoods.

Chamber Treasurer Bill Green Makes Worths List of Nations Top 250 Financial Planners

William L. Green, CPA, CFP, current treasurer of the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, has made the list of *Worth* Magazines top 250 financial planners for the second consecutive year, according to the magazines October issue.

In a largely unregulated business, each adviser was subject to an intense review process. The magazines criteria for excellence met steep tests: thorough background and credit checks, personal and client references, data on education, job history and credentials, method of compensation, samples of contacts with clients, and original credit reports on each nominee. Translation: Would you recommend this advisor to family and friends?

In 1994, *Worth* published the first list of the country's top 60 financial advisers, when there were less than 100,000 people calling themselves financial planners. In 1996, the list was updated and broadened to 200. Since the advisory field has more than tripled since 1994 to more than 300,000, the editors revisited the advisers selected from the previous year, accepted several hundred new nominations for review, and expanded geographical coverage so readers can select a planner in their vicinity.

The story also includes an article written by Harold Evensky, a highly regarded financial planner from the list, describing in detail what an adviser does for clients seeking investment advice. His insights provide a solid curriculum for what one should expect from a thorough financial planner.

Greens firm, Green White Advisors, is located at 1225 N. Loop W., Suite 1030 in Houston. Green is also on the board of the Montrose counseling Center, and a member of the Executive Professionals Association of Houston (EPAH).

"I am very pleased to be on the list of top planners once again," said Green. "I love this business. Its a lot of fun for me working with clients of all type and financial goals. And, its kind of nice for members of our community to have this type of professional recognition."



50 People Volunteer to be Injected with Live HIV for Research

by Alexandra Zavis

CHICAGO - Joe Zuniga says he has watched too many friends and loved ones die of AIDS. He is now willing to risk his life by being among the first humans to be injected with a vaccine made of a live, though weakened, strain of HIV.

"Considering that there are 8,000 new infections of HIV per day, we think that bold steps should be taken while observing good science," said Zuniga, who is deputy director of the international medical association that wants to conduct the test. Zuniga said Sunday his organization had received a flood of telephone calls from people wanting to volunteer for the trial since news accounts of the study appeared over the weekend.

The Chicago-based International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care already has 50 volunteers for the trial, all of whom are doctors, nurses or health policy activists from the United States and abroad. For the past 10 years, research has focused on vaccines that do not involve a live strain of the human immunodeficiency virus because of fear that even a weakened strain might cause AIDS or other complications.

The Chicago group argues that live strains of HIV have shown the most impressive protection abilities so far in tests on animals. Gordon Nary, the group's executive director and another one of the trial's volunteers, said the risks of being in the study are outweighed by the benefits. "There are millions of lives going by while we sit around debating the research," said Nary.

So far, the greatest strides in AIDS research have been made in developing drugs that prolong the lives of HIV-infected patients. These drugs are out of the finan-

cial reach of all but 6 percent of the world's population, Nary said. "It is shameful at this point that we have not shifted funding to developing a vaccine," he said.

Study participants point to the success of Dr. Ronald Desrosiers, a researcher at Harvard Medical School's New England Primate Research Center, who developed a vaccine that seems to protect monkeys from the primate-equivalent of HIV. It is Desrosiers' vaccine the group would like to use in its experiment. But animal test results have been mixed, with other combinations of the vaccine prompting disease in test monkeys.

"We are not calling for a trial tomorrow, or even the next day," said Zuniga, who only envisages human tests in 2-4 years. "We want there to be enough safety protocols in place for this not to harm anybody."

Dr. Mark Grabowsky of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is skeptical of the proposed study, and says it's premature to talk about injecting healthy people with a live vaccine.

Nonetheless, Grabowsky told the *Chicago Tribune*. "I admire them. That kind of activism can't help but be inspiring. But the scientific questions still remain." Grabowsky said he has invited the group to discuss the project with him and other scientists on Thursday at the National Institutes of Health offices in Rockville, Md.

The Chicago group wants approval from the NIH and the Food and Drug Administration but promises to go on even if they don't get it. They could proceed with the trial without FDA approval by containing the study to one state or conducting it outside the United States.

Meanwhile, prominent AIDS researcher David Ho told the 2,500 people gathered in Miami Beach, Fla., for the U.S. Conference on AIDS that researchers are

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developing protease drugs that would be taken once a day - instead of the current regimen of dozens of pills several times a day. Trials involving patients could begin within six months, he said.

The combination drug therapies have been widely successful in making the virus undetectable in some people's bloodstreams. Ho is a New York virologist who was named Time magazine's 1996 Man of the Year for his pioneering AIDS work.

AIDS Czar: 'It Ain't Over Til it's Over'

by Eddie Dominguez

FLORIDA - One of the biggest problems facing the AIDS community in the United States is complacency that has flourished in the wake of a series of new and effective treatments, the nation's AIDS czar said.

Sandy Thurman, who was appointed director of the Office of National AIDS Policy in April, told 2,500 experts and front line AIDS workers last week that the treatments have had an unexpected side effect.

The drug cocktails, said Thurman, together with good news about a decline in AIDS deaths and infection rates, are leading many into a false sense of security.

"I'm not sure if we're at the end of the beginning or the beginning of the end," Thurman said at the first U.S. Conference on AIDS. "Many believe the fight against AIDS has been won. They are wrong." She encouraged AIDS workers to fight to "temper hype with reality" and to get the word out "that AIDS is thriving."

Part of the problem is marketing. She said people have been hearing the same message for more than 15 years and are starting to turn a deaf ear. "We must find new ways to shout from the mountaintop, 'It ain't over 'til it's over,'" said Thurman. And the problem, she said, is just as bad with Congress, where many have latched on to the successes of new treat-

ments as a reason to cut funding. Thurman said the White House is committed to battling the virus. The president is not only making big promises, she said, he is backing them with dollars.

Discretionary spending on AIDS research went up 60 percent last year, she said, compared to an overall increase of just 1 percent in discretionary spending. Ryan White Care Act money - named for the teen-age hemophiliac who contracted the virus from a blood transfusion - tripled from 1996 to 1997 to \$167 million and will likely double again next year, she said. "We remain absolutely committed to insuring that everybody that needs the AIDS treatments in this country gets them," Thurman said.

Other obstacles that AIDS workers must focus on include outreach to minorities, the new generation and fighting to maintain confidentiality laws. She said that while infection rates dropped dramatically for whites, blacks and Latinos did not enjoy the same reduction. AIDS infection rates dropped 26 percent in 1996 for white men, but for black men fell only 10 percent.

"For young gay men of color the epidemic is worsening," Thurman said, adding that many teenagers don't seem to be getting the safe-sex message. "We have a whole new generation of young people out there," she said. "And they are having unprotected sex."

Reaching the disenfranchised, such as homeless people and drug users, and minorities, who have been underserved, will be a major challenge for AIDS groups, Thurman said. "How every community across America responds ... will mean life and death for literally hundreds and thousands of Americans," Thurman said.

Man who Admitted Murdering Lesbian Couple Fate in Jury's Decision

by Jeff Barnard

OREGON - Roxanne Ellis' pickup truck was full of Christmas presents for her 2-year-old granddaughter on Dec. 4, 1995, when

she drove to a suburban neighborhood to show a house for rent to a man from California.

Instead, Robert Acremant was looking for money to start life over. A former accountant in Los Angeles, his life had fallen apart. He'd been spurned by a Las Vegas stripper and was drinking heavily. When Ellis showed Acremant the house, he pulled a gun and demanded she write a check. When she refused, he lured her companion and business partner, Michelle Abdill, to the house and demanded that Abdill write the check. When Abdill also refused, Acremant bound them with duct tape, ordered them to lie in the back of the pickup truck and shot them in the back of the head with a .25-caliber pistol.

After pleading guilty last year to two counts of aggravated murder, Acremant, 29, goes on trial for his life Tuesday in Jackson County Circuit Court. A jury will decide if he should die or get life in prison without parole.

The slayings had sent a shiver through the gay and lesbian community of southern Oregon. Partners for 12 years, Ellis, 53, and Abdill, 42, had worked for the defeat of a statewide measure to limit the rights of homosexuals and cared for AIDS victims. "I can't even tell you how frightening it was, especially for the lesbian community," said Cherie Garland of Ashland, a member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and a close friend of the victims.

Born in Stockton, Calif., Acremant lived with his mother and brother after his parents divorced when he was 5. His father is a bartender and lives on a ranch that has been in the family for 140 years. His mother, Darlene Bradshaw, is an accountant.

Acremant joined the U.S. Air Force after high school and worked in medical supplies while earning a bachelor's degree. After his discharge, he earned a master's degree in business administration from Golden Gate University and went to work for Roadway Express.

Expecting his job to be eliminated, Acremant left the trucking company to market software he had developed. His personal life fell apart. His drinking increased. After the slayings his mother recognized her son from a police sketch and turned him in. He was arrested and freely admitted killing the women.

He also confessed to killing Scott George of Visalia, Calif., the son of a friend of his mother's, during a night of heavy drinking. He dumped the body in a mine shaft on his father's ranch. At first, Acremant told police that he knew the women were lesbians, and figured they wouldn't have any families to miss them.

Later, he wrote a letter to the Stockton newspaper saying he killed the women because he hated homosexuals and bisexuals. While in jail, he tried to hang himself. "I believe he's a headline hunter," Garland said. "I think if he thought it would get him more headlines if he said he killed them because they were lesbians, he would do that."

Acremant has said he wanted to be executed by lethal injection rather than spend life in prison, but last week he allowed his attorney to request a life sentence without parole. The request was denied.

For Lorri Ellis, the two years spent waiting for justice for her mother's killer has been painful. "I lost my house, I lost my career, I lost all of my goals, my dreams, and it pretty much financially ruined me for who knows how long," she said.

Ellis has moved with her daughter back to Colorado Springs, Colo., where she grew up. She sold the property management business and manages an apartment complex. Ellis hopes for the death penalty.

"Christmas for me is pretty much out the window," said Ellis. "My daughter (now 4) is the only person who keeps it alive for me."

While believing Acremant deserves to be put to death, Garland doesn't feel she could vote for death if she were on the jury. She prefers knowing that the slayings served as a catalyst for creation of the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center, a Victorian house in Ashland that serves as a sanctuary for homosexuals.

"What could you possibly do that would be a satisfactory revenge?" Garland said. "There isn't a way. You just turn it into

something beautiful. That's what (Acremant), in his wretchedness, gives us the opportunity to do."

Governor Locke Backs Non-Discrimination Initiative

by George Tibbitts

WASHINGTON - State voters have a moral and patriotic duty to approve an initiative to bar employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, Gov. Gary Locke said.

Initiative 677 "is one of the simplest, shortest and clearest initiatives ever put before the people of Washington," Locke told a luncheon fund-raiser for backers of the measure Thursday. "It also is one of the most important."

Locke said the "radical right" has waged a smear campaign against the initiative, which will go before voters at the Nov. 4 general election. "They make the old, tired and utterly false claim that this simple act of justice will extend 'special rights' to gays and lesbians," he said. "We all know how utterly misleading that argument is."

Locke said the initiative would simply allow homosexuals to earn a living without discrimination. "When I tell people that it's legal to fire people simply because they are gays or lesbians, most people can't believe that's true," the governor said. Locke, the nation's first Chinese-American governor, said his family has struggled with the same problems of discrimination that many gays and lesbians face today.

Locke said he believes "that when the majority of the voters in this state know the truth, they will do the right thing" and pass the initiative. "This is not a gay or straight issue. It is not a Republican or a Democratic issue. This is an American issue," he said. "Doing this work is both our birthright and our patriotic duty," Locke said.

The luncheon at the 75th-floor Columbia Tower Club in downtown Seattle was attended by about 100 people. It raised more than \$20,000 for the initiative campaign, said Suone Cotner of Hands Off Washington, a sponsor of the event.

City Departments May Get Power to Waive Domestic Partners Law

CALIFORNIA - Some city departments may be able to issue waivers to San Francisco's new law that requires city contractors to offer benefits to employees with registered domestic partners.

Three San Francisco supervisors proposed the waivers to give city departments time to process the thousands of applications businesses have filed since June. So far, more than 4,000 of the 12,000 businesses thought to be covered by the legislation have either complied or sought information about how they can.

But the process at the Human Rights Commission has not been fast enough. Several city departments have complained that the slow-moving certification process, coupled with the lack of firms in compliance for some contracts, made it hard to let contracts for basic city services.

"We're victims of our own success," said Supervisor Leslie Katz, who introduced the amendment with supervisors Susan Leal and Tom Ammiano. "We thought the HRC could handle it. But the commission has been overwhelmed. It's taking up the bulk of the HRC's time."

Under the amendments proposed Monday, the authority given to the Human Rights Commission and the Board of Supervisors to grant waivers under certain circumstances would be transferred to individual city departments.

The domestic partners law requires companies that do business with the city to offer the same benefits to unmarried couples - gay or straight - that they provide for married couples. The legislation has not been without controversy.

The Air Transport Association, which represents 25 major airlines, has sued the city claiming that a local law should not

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affect companies that provide national or international service. Meanwhile, just two weeks ago, the city thought it would be without overnight mail delivery service because it could not find a company in this field that offered the benefits.

Supervisors were prepared to ask for a six-month waiver for overnight mail services until Katz found a local firm that offered both the benefits and, in many cases, lower rates. "We are now putting the onus on department heads to do such research," Katz said. "We have to have faith that our department heads will do the research and apply this properly." She said she does not expect many waivers to be issued, if the amendment passes.

Infected Man Doomed to Prison

LOUISIANA - A Zachary man with the AIDS virus was given two life sentences Tuesday after pleading guilty to first-degree murder for strangling and raping two women. The life sentence agreement for Timmie D. Walker required prosecutor Jim Murray to reverse his plans to seek the death penalty in the slayings of Mary Maten, 62, and Linda Cefalu Houston, 37.

After the agreement was accepted by state District Judge Jewel E. "Duke" Welch, Murray said that, given Walker's health, the sentence made sense. "It would be a poor use of taxpayers' money to go through a trial and all the appeals when he's more likely to die of AIDS than be executed," Murray said.

He said officials confirmed through medical records that Walker had the virus that causes AIDS and was being treated at Earl K. Long Medical Center. Also, the victims' families had agreed with letting Walker plead guilty, Murray said. Welch ordered the sentences to be served consecutively.

Walker, a 30-year-old high school dropout who had given investigators a taped confession, listened to the sentencing impassively before being led from the courtroom. Walker's attorney, Tyrone Brown, said Walker will be moved from East Baton Rouge Parish Prison to Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, but should still get treatment for HIV. "Full-blown AIDS is not far in the future," Brown said.

Walker pleaded guilty to strangling Ms. Houston on June 19. He also pleaded guilty to strangling Ms. Maten two weeks later at her home on the same street where Ms. Walker had lived. Exams showed both women were raped after being killed.

Walker was taken in for questioning by sheriff's deputies after reportedly trying to sell a fan found missing from Ms. Maten's home. Walker also pleaded guilty Tuesday to three counts of forgery and received seven-year terms on each from state District Judge Tim Kelley, Brown said. The sentences will run concurrently, but will be tacked on to the end of the life sentences, Brown said.

Spacey Blasts 'Esquire' for Implying He Outed Himself

CALIFORNIA - Actor Kevin Spacey denied ever outing himself despite a cover story in the October issue of *Esquire* magazine that implies he disclosed a secret about his sexuality.

Throughout the article, titled "Kevin Spacey Has a Secret," writer Tom Junod teases about Spacey's "secret," beginning and ending the story with rumors about the actor's sexuality. Spacey never confirms nor denies the rumor. In a statement through his publicist, Spacey called the article "dishonest and malicious."

Esquire editor David Granger insisted the criticism was unwarranted. "We didn't do anything underhanded in this story," he said. "Kevin has acknowledged the rumors about his homosexuality. What reason could there possibly be not to include this in the story?"

Esquire "has made it abundantly clear that they have now joined the ranks of distasteful journalism, and this mean-spirited, homophobic, offensive article proves that the legacy of Joseph McCarthy is alive and well," Spacey said.

One passage in the *Esquire* story reads: "He came out of the closet last spring ... when he got rid of his beard, when he had no more use for his disguises, when he was relaxed by drinking a few vodka-and-tonics and then stood up and finally allowed people to see him for what he was, or at least for who he had become."

Junod was actually writing about a gay character Spacey plays in the upcoming film *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Spacey agent, Brian Gersh of the William Morris Agency, has called for other celebrities not to cooperate with *Esquire*.

Yale Gets \$10.8 Million Grant for AIDS Research Center

CONNECTICUT - Yale University has been awarded a \$10.8 million federal grant to open an AIDS research center that will seek new ways to get prevention messages to low-income women and stem the spread of HIV among intravenous drug users.

Yale President Richard C. Levin said Monday that the new Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS will draw upon the university's expertise in public health, the social sciences, policy analysis and legal and ethical issues.

The center will conduct four projects over several years involving adolescents, women and intravenous drug users. It will also examine legal policy and ethical issues related to its findings. Researchers will investigate how to best frame HIV prevention messages for low-income women, study adolescent pregnancy and the risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, and look for ways to better understand social networks of injection drug users and to pre-

vent HIV infection.

Once the projects are under way, the center will extend its research to children and other populations and begin collaborating with colleagues throughout the nation and world. The funding was awarded by the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

New Gay Newspaper to Launch in New York City

The country's oldest and largest gay newspaper has joined forces with New York's leading publisher of community weekly newspapers to launch a free weekly newspaper for New York's gay community. *The New York Blade News* will begin publication Friday, October 24, and will focus on timely, in-depth coverage of America's largest gay and lesbian community.

The New York Blade News is a joint enterprise of *The Washington Blade*, a well-known and respected gay community newspaper based in Washington, D.C., and News Communications, Inc., publisher of *Manhattan Spirit*, *Our Town*, *Dan's Papers*, 17 other metropolitan New York area publications, and *The Hill*, in Washington D.C.

With an initial pressrun of 50,000, *The New York Blade News* will be among the largest gay newspapers in the country. Its first issue will preview the issues and candidates of the November elections, as well as other timely local, state and national reporting in the serious, balanced style for which *The Washington Blade* is widely noted. The paper will also delve into the city's arts scene, culture and night-life, providing the reader with an extensive calendar listing of community events.

According to *Washington Blade* publisher Don Michaels, his company has been developing plans to enter the New York market since 1995. The project jelled when news Communications CEO Wilbur Ross proposed a joint venture.

"We've been hearing from gay New

Yorkers for years that New York needs a gay newspaper like the *Blade*," said Michaels. "Now, we can make that a reality."

Couple Wanting to Donate House for AIDS Patients Faces Opposition

South Carolina - A couple who wants to donate their 4,000-square-foot house to a group that cares for homeless AIDS patients faces opposition Awendaw residents.

Bobby and Mary Rabon's son died of AIDS and they now want to give their home to Harvest Ministries in Charleston. But their neighbors just want the home someplace else and at least 200 people have signed a petition opposing it.

"We thought more people would be open, but it's the same 'not in my back yard attitude.' We think it's fear," said Steven Carrigg, director of Harvest Ministries.

Robert Baker owns 28 acres across the street and another 10 acres adjacent to the Rabons. "It's a residential community, and a boarding house is inappropriate," he said. "We're not opposed to housing AIDS patients; we're opposed to the location and opposed to the process."

Only one nursing home in the area accepts HIV positive patients. Six to 10 people would live in the house and pay a small fee. Harvest Ministries, a nondenominational, Christian ministry, won't move in until it raises \$45,000 to cover first-year costs, Carrigg said. The Rabons plan to build a smaller house on their property.

Out in Front 'In and Out' Top Film in Summer Finale

CALIFORNIA - *In and Out*, a comedy about a teacher whose life is turned upside down when he is declared to be gay by a for-

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The World of Genetics

by Larry Lingle

While we would all like to be the master of our own fate, the truth be known we are more likely to be the product of forces beyond our control. A young friend of mine thinks his obsession with a straight youth is an affair of the heart when, in fact, it is the illusion of a chemical imbalance inherited from his mother. Nutritionists like to say you are what you eat (now careful with those puns) but, in the world of genetics, you are what your genes say you are.

Last week's New York Times Magazine had an informative article on Harold Ickes, formerly deputy chief of staff to Bill Clinton. He had become Clinton's hatchet man and the lightning rod for all that is wrong with campaign fund raising. Michael Lewis' brief biography of Ickes, however, points to a vastly different picture of a man of dedication and high principle.

Ickes got his start on the civil right trail, including a severe beating while protecting some fellow protesters, all of whom were black. But what is really clear in Lewis' sketch of this latter-day radical is that he is his father's son. Most of you probably have enough difficulty pronouncing Ickes' strange name, least of all to be aware that his father served a similar presidential role during the long administration of Franklin D.

Roosevelt.

And if any of you spent any time in college studying the New Deal (I both lived it and, as a history graduate student, studied this epic period) at some point you probably discovered the Ickes Diaries, three volumes (much remained unprinted and held by the family) which chronicled the insides of the Roosevelt White House.

So it is not surprising to discover that

And as I grew older and better understood the facts of living, I realized that my maternal genes dominated my own development.

Ickes Junior is also an avid note taker and diary writer, much to the delight of Fred Thompson and his committee staffers now exploring those insides pertaining to fund raising - and if Whitewater is any example, one-time actor Thompson will troll for any other fish he can troll for any other fish he can land. That Ickes was dismissed as the price for landing Erskine Bowles as the new chief of staff has led many to assume that he will be a willing cohort with the committee.

Lewis' profile of Ickes seems to burst that particular bumble.

This article set me to thinking about my own life. My parents married relatively young. My mother, the first in her family to do so, graduated from college as the Great Depression took hold. Jilted by her college boyfriend (the mystery of which went to her grave) she married my father the next year, clearly on the rebound. He was a ninth

er, which everyone seemed to note in the Lingle clan was their temper. Sons could not get along with fathers, and brothers could not abide brothers. Consequently, while I had six Lingle uncles and twenty-five such cousins, most of them did not speak to each other and I have not seen any of them for over thirty years.

My mother's family, on the other hand, were more typical of their Scottish forebears who traversed the hills of Virginia to Kentucky with the end of the Revolutionary War and finally traveled by covered wagon to my native Missouri before that territory became a state. That they were not particularly practical is evidenced by their un-Scotsmanlike behavior in parceling our property to all their children instead of to the oldest.

By the time my grandmother (to me the saint of the family) got her share it amounted to forty acres of rocky and hilly farmland in that part of the state which had become known as Truman country, named for a native son.

And as I grew older and better understood the facts of living, I realized that my maternal genes dominated my own development. How I had wanted to be like my father physically - tall, good-looking - but without his clan's ill-tempered disposition.

But rather I inherited my mother's intelligence, my grandmother's love all things which grow and of history, and my grandfather's love of card games. Most importantly to my life, the homosexual gene was passed on this side of the family. I still cherish the memory of two great uncles and to maiden (only my grandmother could refer to two elderly women as "maiden ladies") aunts who showered me with unspoken preference throughout an otherwise troubling childhood.

While I would like to think I am the captain of my ship, these forebearers definitely set my course. And, once on my own, the greatest influence on it's direction came from one much younger: Bill, my late lover and friend. While I was often given to pursue an easy course, Bill would spur on challenge me into new and often unfamiliar waters.

So at this point in my life I must reconcile a familial tendency to stop and smell the flowers and Bill's spirit which challenges the future. As much as I cherish the youthful memory of quiet times in the country now I am at home amongst the bustle and commerce of the city. I don't regret those family genes, but I am ever thankful for that day a twenty-one year old aggie came into my life.



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Discrimination Affirmed?

by Leslie Ramsay

The Houston city council, under the thumb of Mayor Bob, is actually considering a measure offered by Councilman Jew Don Boney, Councilman John Castillo and surprisingly Councilman Chris Bell to change the ballot language for the proposed Houston Civil Rights Initiative that would completely undermine the intent of the initiative.

Months ago, Ed Blum and a band of like-minded individuals gathered more than the 20,000 required signatures to get the Houston Civil Rights Initiative on the November ballot. The ballot language was very clear in its intent. The ballot measure offered by Blum reads:

"The city of Houston shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in the operation of public employment and contracting."

the issue. I was completely shocked to hear this from one candidate. The fact that they were willing to state that they were planning on being hypocritical on this issue while attempting to become a representative of the varied multi-racial citizens of this city, gave me the uneasy feeling that this candidate was truly out of touch.

Race relations are very touchy in this town. I have worked in the many different areas of Houston. I have traveled through every "ethnic" neighborhood in the city. I know where all of the city money is being spent to improve and upgrade the neighborhoods.

If you would like to see the "racial disparity" of the current city council spending plans, try driving across Highway 59 on Anita. The roads are impassable. The crack houses and "abandoned properties" line the streets. Trash is piled up on the weed filled vacant lots. Rats are running freely across the road.

Then drive down almost any cross street between Richmond and Westheimer. Be careful of the speed humps. The speed

The street closures in the Westmoreland Historic District have just gone into effect. Now they are safe from the incoming cross-town ala "riff raff" traffic from mid-town. The city has spent thousands of tax dollars to protect neighborhoods from "speeding" cars and traffic jams while they neglect the neighborhoods that are rotting from neglect.

Apparently, Mayor Bob doesn't like it. He attempted to modify the language last Tuesday. The wording on Tuesday was:

"Shall the charter of the city of Houston be amended to end the use of preferential treatment (affirmative action) in the operation of city of Houston employment and contracting?"

The HCRI people didn't like that, so on Wednesday Councilman Boney et al offered something worse:

"Shall the charter of the city of Houston be amended so that the city may maintain the Bob Lanier administration program establishing voluntary good faith goals of approximately 20 percent of the city's contracting work for women and minority owned firms?"

I wonder if by the time you read this that the ballot measure proposal may read:

"Shall the city of Houston charter be amended to keep the Bob Lanier administration in office and in charge of all aspects of the future hiring and contracting with the city in perpetuity?"

I have written in the past that I thought that the city council should do their job and fix this problem without having to involve the November elections. They, of course, did not heed my suggestion. Now we will have this issue blown out of proportion by the talking heads on the evening news every night until the election.

The mayoral candidates are already voicing their mimicked opinions on this issue. Most are for the Bob Lanier administration's "program establishing voluntary good faith goals of approximately 20 percent of the city's contracting work for women and minority owned firms". Those that have lined up on this issue in order to get elected are proudly waiving the "I Like Lanier" flag proudly. They are assuming that the city of Houston voters will vote for them if they pretend to be Bob. I wonder if they have attended many events in the Kingwood, Clear Lake or Alief areas of Houston?

Some city council candidates have also voiced opinions in private and some in public, that they are for the status quo in order to get the "black" vote. After they were elected they may "rethink" their position on

humps were installed to slow people down. In actuality, all they do is wreck the alignment on your car. They cause motorists to reroute their journey to a none "speed humped" street at a higher rate of speed to make up for the time they lost while trying to find such a street. The Houston Police department should set up shop and write speeding tickets for those who are zipping through a neighborhood at 50 mph. Once the word gets out that HPD is writing tickets people will slow down.

The city just completed a sewer line upgrade on Woodhead in the Montrose area to improve that neighborhood's waste disposal transport. The area out by Intercontinental Airport that the city annexed 20 years ago is still without city water and sewer. Go figure...

The street closures in the Westmoreland Historic District have just gone into effect. Now they are safe from the incoming cross-town ala "riff raff" traffic from mid-town. The city has spent thousands of tax dollars to protect neighborhoods from "speeding" cars and traffic jams while they neglect the neighborhoods that are rotting from neglect.

I challenge the city to bring the neighborhoods in Third Ward, Fourth Ward, and Fifth Ward up to standards. Prove that the city is truly committed to the issue of race relations. Put in some streetlights. Fill in the potholes. Tear down the crack houses. Rebuild the sidewalks. Put in some lighted bus stops. Add some police protection. Make the streets safe for the children that live there.

Giving preferences to a certain group of people over another group is immoral. Ignoring the basic needs of a community while throwing them a jobs program is immoral. Giving a city contract to a minority owned business from New Orleans, Los Angeles, or Denver does not change the plight of the folks that live in one of the wards in the city of Houston.

Unfortunately, the city will once again prove that they are just giving lip service to a constituency that they only care about during an election cycle. The hypocrisy of some of the city government officials and candidates is just plain disgusting.

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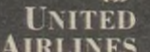
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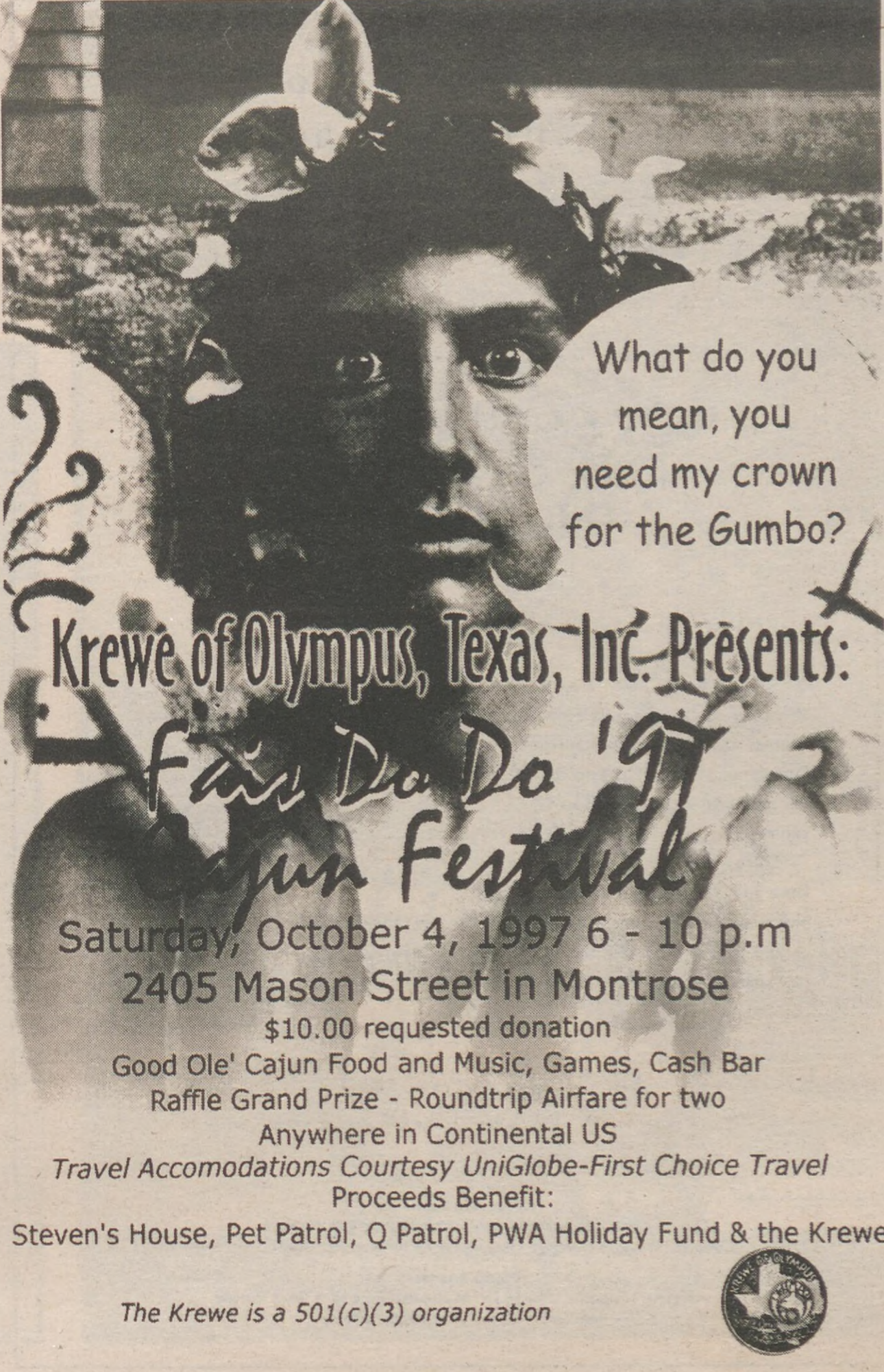
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NAT'L from page 7

mer student, was the top film over the summer's final weekend. The film starring Kevin Kline earned an estimated \$15.3 million.

The Game, a thriller starring Michael Douglas, was second with \$9.2 million, a 36 percent drop from last week's debut at No. 1. *In and Out* played on 1,992 screens and had the highest per-screen average of any weekend film., according to figures released Sunday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

"I think it's broadened a lot of people's opinions on these topics. Maybe five years ago you wouldn't see a film like this," said Robert Bucksbaum, publisher of the industry newsletter Reel Source. "If you've got a funny picture it's going to do well no matter what," added Art Rockwell, Yeager Capital Markets analyst.

Tafel to Clinton: End The Silence on AIDS Drugs

The leader of the nation's largest gay and lesbian Republican organization wrote to President Clinton to urge him to end his official silence on the future of a crucial AIDS drug program, strongly supported by Republicans in Congress, which expands access to life-saving breakthrough AIDS treatments.

In the letter, Tafel urged Clinton to publicly request an additional \$132 million for AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) funded through the Ryan White CARE Act, a program which the Clinton administration flat-funded in the 1998 budget, proposing no increase. The \$132 increase has already been passed by the House Appropriation Committee, chaired by Rep. Bob Livingston (R-LA).

"We have an appropriations bill close to completion, and a specific funding problem with a solution on the table which the leadership is supporting, and the White House

has been silent," Tafel wrote in his letter to Clinton. "In fact, some members of Congress are seeking to attack these AIDS funding increases, and are using your no-increase budget figures on ADAP as justification for their efforts," continued Tafel. "It is critical for you to get involved today, for the sake of so many people with AIDS whose lives hang in the balance, and publicly request the increase immediately."

Clinton is receiving criticism from other groups for his lack of commitment to the increase as well. "The President supported an inadequate budget that in no way reflected the true needs of the community affected by (the) Ryan White (CARE Act)," said Regina Aragon of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in a July 31 article in San Francisco *Frontiers*. "It was, quite frankly, an embarrassment."

Earlier this year, the White House confirmed that AIDS programs are off the list of priority programs that Clinton will oppose cutbacks in.

Cape Cod Town Braces for Protest from Kansas Church Group

MASSACHUSETTS - Town officials are bristling at a letter from a fundamentalist Kansas church whose members say they intend to travel to Cape Cod to protest pro-gay sentiments in a school educational program.

The Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka outlined the protest plans in the letter, faxed to the school system, announcing that its members would travel across the country to protest the town's new Anti-Bias School and Community Project, a system-wide educational project encouraging tolerance towards gays and lesbians.

The Rev. Fred Phelps, head of the 200-member church said he learned of the program from a *Washington Times* article head-

lined: "Provincetown preschoolers to learn ABC's of being gay." An anti-homosexual activist, Phelps said approximately 25 church members are planning to fly to Provincetown in October.

"We will probably spend a day or two picketing with signs," said Phelps, 67. "Every time the gays have a big event, we go."

For the past several years, the church has spent more than \$250,000 annually on travel expenses related to anti-gay protests around the country, Phelps said. Although the church distributes inflammatory materials referring to gays as "sodomites" and "perverts" and members have been photographed at rallies holding signs reading "No Fags in Heaven" and "AIDS Cures Fags," Phelps said the church has peaceful intentions. "I hope to be able to peacefully and safely preach the message of truth," said Phelps.

Town officials said they are drafting a response to Phelps which disputes the facts of the article, while affirming the church's right to protest. "What they won't find is a program where preschoolers are taught the ABCs of being gay," Town Manager Keith Bergman told the *Cape Cod Times*. "What they will find is a community equipping itself with the tools to combat racism, sexism, classism, homophobia and all kinds of prejudice."

Jeannine Cristina, the town's Parent Teacher Association president, said she believed the town would rally against anti-gay picketers. "I know they are a very angry hateful group," said Cristina, a lesbian and mother of a young daughter. "I think the town will show its solidarity and that we aren't interested in what they have to say," she said. The anti-bias project, started in March, is intended to train teachers and students to handle issues of race, gender, religion and other differences, Cristina said.

Although Provincetown has attracted unwelcome attention since launching the project, nearly 150 schools across the state already have such programs in place.

Bob Parlin, a history teacher at Newton South High School and a trainer with the state Department of Education's Safer Schools program, said he has given hundreds of training seminars on making schools safer by teaching tolerance. "That's what was so unusual about the reaction," Parlin said. "The (Provincetown) program is not that different or unusual."

Provincetown teachers and administrators held a meeting Tuesday to discuss the possibility of a protest and its implications for student safety. The *Washington Times* article also caught the attention of the Christian Broadcast Network, which sent a crew to Provincetown last week to cover the controversy.

CBN is part of televangelist and Christian Coalition supporter Pat Robertson's Family Channel and is carried on the MediaOne cable systems in most Cape towns. CBN correspondent Randall Brooks distanced her network from Phelps' group. "There are a lot of people who do things in the name of Christ who are not Christ-like," Brooks said.

Cop Suspended After Alleged Run-In with Gay Officers' Group

NEW YORK - A police officer who won a medal from a gay cops' group has been suspended for 30 days for allegedly using sexual epithets when he gave the medal back after the ceremony, police said.

The Gay Officers Action League gave Officer Lawrence Johnston a medal for valor at the NYPD's annual Medal Day ceremony at police headquarters on Thursday, said Marilyn Mode, a police spokeswoman. He allegedly used "some very vulgar language with sexual innuendos" when he returned the medal shortly after ceremony, Mode said. He has been suspended without pay, she said.

It was not immediately clear why Johnston was given the medal or why he returned it. If the allegations against him are true, they suggest "the worst sort of homophobic behavior," Mode quoted Police

Commissioner Howard Safir as saying. Safir learned of the allegations on Friday, she said.

Johnston was assigned to the Emergency Services Unit, an exclusive squad that negotiates hostage situations and rescues, Mode said. Officers must be selected for it. A number of police and fraternal organizations participate in Medal Day, during which officers are singled out for commendation.

The charges against Johnston have not been determined, pending an investigation, Mode said. GOAL president Officer Edgar Rodriguez said he would not provide any details on the incident before a GOAL news conference next week.

Pharmacia and Upjohn to Offer New Benefits for U.S. Employees

MICHIGAN - Pharmacia and Upjohn Inc. will begin offering benefits to unmarried partners of its U.S. employees, the company said. The pharmaceutical giant, with 31,700 employees worldwide, already offers such benefits in some foreign countries including Canada, where they must be provided by law.

Medical, dental, life insurance and other benefits for same-sex or opposite-sex partners of Pharmacia and Upjohn's 9,500 U.S. employees - two-thirds of whom live in the Kalamazoo area - will become available Jan. 1.

"The decision to do this was undertaken in a context of the overall redesign of the benefits program," spokesman Steve Latus told the *Kalamazoo Gazette*. "First intent of the program is to meet the needs of a diversified work force. Second was to improve our position as an employer of choice. Benefits programs are one way you attract and retain good people. Third was to provide equitable treatment of employees without regard to sexual orientation or personal choices."

To be eligible for the benefits, the non-spousal partner must be at least 18 and have joint ownership of debts such as mortgages and credit cards, and assets such as a car, house or bank accounts. Latus said he did not know how many Pharmacia and Upjohn employees' partners might take advantage of the new program.

Cunanan's Father Plans Documentary on Son's Alleged Killings

CALIFORNIA - Any money Andrew Cunanan's father makes from a planned documentary about his son's alleged cross-country serial killings will go toward building a shrine in Cunanan's memory.

Modesto "Pete" Cunanan, accompanied by a filmmaker from the Philippines, came to Los Angeles this week to begin work on the project he said will allow him to "sleuth around" for facts.

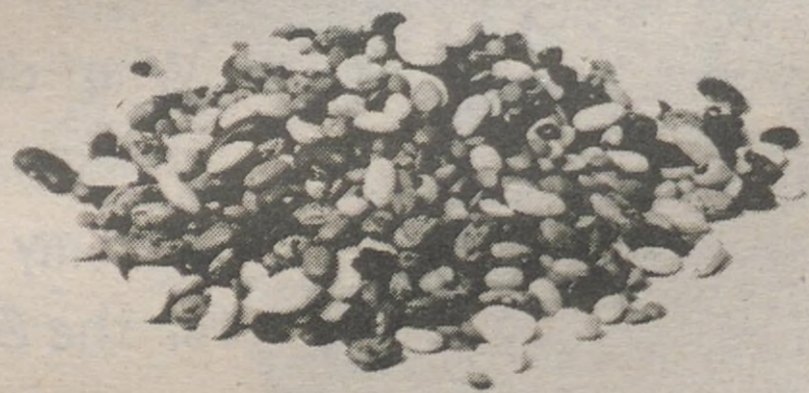
Andrew Cunanan, whom authorities considered the prime suspect in five murders, including that of Versace, shot himself to death July 23 in a Miami Beach houseboat. The father also plans to go to court here seeking to be named executor of his son's estate. Any money he makes from the film, Cunanan said, will go toward building "a church, a chapel or a temple" in his son's memory.

He plans to interview his son's friends and acquaintances, said Cunanan, a former U.S. Navy chief petty officer who lives outside of Manila. Cunanan, 74, a follower of Elizabeth Clare Prophet, who heads the Montana-based Church Universal and Triumphant, said "if any money comes of it, it's sacred money."

The father said he turned down offers from two Filipino film studios for the rights to his story. "I knew what those guys would do. The FBI would be the heroes and Andrew would be on the run like Dillinger," he said, referring to the 1930s gangster John Dillinger.

Cunanan instead chose an independent See NAT'L page 11

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Appeals Court Says Homosexual Mother Can Keep Custody of Daughter

by Scott Bauer

NEBRASKA - A judge who disagrees with granting a woman custody of her daughter after the woman had a homosexual relationship is imposing his morals on the family, said the director of Nebraska's American Civil Liberties Union.

Matt LeMieux criticized the dissenting opinion of state Court of Appeals Judge Edward Hannon, who said since homosexuality is against the parents' moral code as Catholics, that conduct will impair the girl's moral training and the father should be given custody.

Hannon's colleagues on the court did not agree. Nor did LeMieux. "He's imposing his morals on these folks," LeMieux said. That would be the equivalent, LeMieux said, of a judge saying the children of a pro-choice Catholic family could be taken away because the family's lifestyle conflicts with the teachings of the religion.

The court ruled 2-1 Tuesday to allow Carol Hassenstab to retain custody of her 11-year-old daughter. The court upheld a lower court's ruling denying Thomas Hassenstab's request for custody of the child. Hassenstab cited concerns about what effect Carol's homosexuality would have on their daughter.

The woman's attorney, Edith Peebles, said "there was never any showing that the child had any adverse impact from the mother's relationship." She said the relationship with the other woman was a one-time thing that ended two years before the trial. Peebles said her client had a homosexual experience, but was not a homosexual. Carol Hassenstab no longer lives in Douglas County. Peebles would not say where she lives.

In his dissent, Hannon said Jacqueline Hassenstab eventually will be taught at school and home that her mother's conduct was morally wrong. "With regard to this family's moral code, Carol has obviously set a horrible example," Hannon wrote. "The record shows Carol's conduct will necessarily impair Jacqueline's moral training," he wrote. "Therefore, it is in Jacqueline's best interests that custody be modified."

The majority ruling said that because

there is no evidence of any harmful effect on the girl, there is no evidence that it is in the child's best interests to change custody. "There was no showing that the daughter was directly exposed to the sexual activity or that she was in any way harmed by the homosexual relationship between Carol and her partner," said the decision written by Judge Everett Inbody.

The third judge, Wesley Mues, had no philosophical disagreement with the general tenor of Hannon's dissent but said the mother should keep custody because there was no evidence that the girl's knowledge of her mother's sexual relationship had no ill effects. "I simply cannot ignore that evidence," Mues wrote.

LeMieux said it is obvious that the mother's sexual relationship had no bearing on whether the child was at harm. "This is a case where at least two judges used common sense and acted rationally," he said.

Thomas and Carol Hassenstab were married on Sept. 13, 1986, about six months after their daughter's birth. The girl also told the trial judge in his chambers that she wanted to remain with her mother. When the couple divorced in 1990, the Douglas County District Court awarded the mother custody.

The girl was described as a happy, self-assured and confident child during a 1995 trial on the father's request to get custody. Witnesses said she was well kept and dressed in clean clothes. The record also showed that she is a "B" student and has few discipline problems.

The father argued unsuccessfully that he should have custody because the mother entered into the homosexual relationship and had attempted suicide a few years before the divorce. The appeals court rejected all those arguments.

Lesbian Ex-Partner's Parental-Custody Claim Tossed Out by Judge

by Arthur H. Rotstein

ARIZONA - Elise Green's effort to convince a judge that she should be declared a legal parent of her lesbian ex-lover's child has been tossed out. Pima County Superior Court Judge Pro Tem Stephen Rubin dismissed the complaint filed by Green, who

sought a parental right to Hayley Wilson, now 2.

Green and Shari Wilson, both 32, ended a six-year live-in relationship last year. Wilson has contended that Green deserted her for another woman with three children. Green had said she stayed home from her job for the first 15 months of Hayley's life and was her primary care-giver. Wilson said Green stayed home because she could not find a job that suited her. Hayley was conceived through artificial insemination.

Wilson said she was "somewhat relieved" with the decision, "but rather than feeling victory, I feel a lot of loss, as no one wins in these disputes." She said she continues to focus her efforts on providing her daughter "a stable, safe and happy environment" and asked that news media not show Hayley's picture since "we still live in a world where gay-hate and gay-bashing could threaten her safety."

In a ruling Monday, Rubin dismissed Green's original complaint, saying she had failed to state a claim upon which the court could grant relief under state law. He also ordered Green to pay partial attorney's fees of \$1,500 for Wilson. On another claim, seeking visitation as a nonparent under a new law that took effect this summer, Rubin set a status conference for Oct. 20.

The judge said he'll determine at a hearing whether visitation would be in the child's best interests and whether any of the requirements under the new law have been met. That law allows someone who is not a legal parent to ask for visitation rights with another's child if one of the legal parents is dead, if the parents have a pending or completed divorce or if the natural parents were not married, said James Stroud, Wilson's lawyer.

Stroud contends that the new law does not apply. "The situation in which the legal parents are not married assumes that there are two legal parents," he said. But since Wilson was artificially inseminated through

an anonymous sperm donor, "it's no more accurate to say she is not married to herself than that she is married to herself," Stroud said. "We just don't think it's good for mother or child having to go through this."

Green's lawyer, Nancy McDade, said no decision has been made whether to appeal Rubin's ruling. "I'm just hopeful that we can get visitation reinstated very soon, so that we can get this relationship re-established, for both the benefit of my client and the child," McDade said.

S.F., Pasadena, Marin County Ask Supreme Court to Review Prop. 209

CALIFORNIA - The cities of San Francisco and Pasadena and the county of Marin asked the U.S. Supreme Court last Friday to review the constitutionality of Proposition 209, which bans race and sex preferences in public affirmative action.

The local governments, concerned about their programs for minorities and women, joined civil rights groups who earlier asked the court to review a lower-court ruling upholding Proposition 209. The initiative, approved by the voters last November, took effect Aug. 28 when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling became final.

The Supreme Court refused to block enforcement but could still decide, as early as next month, to take the case and issue a ruling by the end of its term next June. The local governments' request said they were "trapped between the competing hazards of liability to minorities if affirmative action is not taken to remedy apparent ... discrimination and liability to non-minorities if affirmative action is taken."

San Francisco grants preferences to firms owned by minorities and women seeking contracts with the city. Its ordinance has been upheld by federal courts on the grounds that the

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city's own studies show it has discriminated against those groups in past contracting decisions.

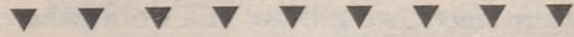
City officials cite the federal court rulings in contending that their program would survive Proposition 209, which contains exemptions for affirmative action programs required to comply with federal court orders or to avoid loss of federal funding. But sponsors of Proposition 209 say it conflicts with the San Francisco program.

Pasadena's program is different. The city determines which groups are underrepresented among its contractors and their workers, then puts notices in ethnically oriented newspapers and sends teams to community centers to explain how to do business with the city, said Assistant City Attorney Lawrence Newberry. "We've tried to widen the pool," he said. Although contracts are awarded neutrally by

race and gender, he said, the city's "targeted outreach" program has made the work force more diverse.

Newberry said Gov. Pete Wilson's office has declared that such programs violate Proposition 209. Pasadena believes elimination of the program would jeopardize some of its federal grants, but cannot rely on the federal-funding exception to Proposition 209 because of a narrow interpretation by Attorney General Dan Lungren's office, Newberry said.

He said the city is trying to revise its outreach program to include non-minority organizations. "Those people already have access to us, know how to do business with the city, so it seems like kind of a meaningless gesture," he said. Marin County lawyers did not return a telephone call about the case.



lawyer that a fair trial was impossible because of pretrial publicity and hostility toward gays in this southern African nation.

Blackie was expected take up to two weeks to make a ruling on the application to postpone the proceedings indefinitely, said defense attorney Chris Andersen. An indefinite postponement would effectively mean the charges were dropped.

Andersen told the High Court that evidence against Banana, a 62-year-old Methodist minister, academic and diplomat, was tainted by offensive publicity and "irresponsible" wording in documents prepared by prosecutors.

Those documents referred to Banana, a father of four who served as titular president after independence in 1980 until 1987, as "a sodomite" who took advantage of his authority to prey on bodyguards and employees. Andersen said emotive media coverage and the prosecutors' wording would inevitably influence the outcome of the case.

Banana, 62, a Methodist minister, academic and diplomat, faces 11 charges of sodomy, attempted sodomy and sexual assault of a former police aide, bodyguards and other men, including a cook and a gardener at his presidential residence. He was accompanied in court by his wife, Janet, for the second day.

Gays are reviled in Zimbabwe, where homosexual acts are illegal and carry a possible prison term of up to 10 years. In 1995, President Robert Mugabe launched a campaign against same-sex partners, describing them as "lower than dogs and pigs."

Banana has not been asked to plead. He has denied being gay, saying the allegations were politically motivated "character assassination." Allegations of Banana's long-rumored predatory homosexuality surfaced earlier this year when former police aide Jesta Dube said Banana raped him and

forced him into a three-year homosexual relationship while he served on Banana's staff between 1983 and 1986. Dube was sentenced to 10 years in jail for killing a colleague who taunted him as "Banana's wife."

AIDS Spread on the Rise in Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) - Almost 7,000 people in Vietnam have been diagnosed with AIDS and the virus that causes the fatal disease - twice the number of cases found in 1995. At least 6,817 people have been identified as HIV-infected, National HIV/AIDS Prevention Committee representative Nguyen Quang Hai said in an interview Tuesday.

Hai warned, however, the real number could be much higher. In 1995, there were only 3,190 registered cases of AIDS in Vietnam. "The World Health Organization says the actual number of cases could be 10 times as much, for Vietnam that would mean we have 70,000 cases," he said.

Although the number is relatively small by the standards of other Southeast Asian nations, it represents a sharp increase in the spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and the government's growing recognition of the need to combat the illness. Of cases registered by the government, there are about 1,020 cases of full-blown AIDS and at least 528 Vietnamese have died from AIDS-related illness.

The southern economic hub Ho Chi Minh City continues to bear the brunt of the disease, with more than 2,300 cases of HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, according to government figures. Government studies indicate the disease is spreading from high risk groups, including prostitutes and drug users, into the general population.



U.N.: Companies Need to Help Employees More Against AIDS

by Philip Waller

GENEVA (AP) - The world's biggest companies need to do more to combat AIDS, according to a U.N. agency. While international companies are undertaking anti-AIDS campaigns inside their own work forces, they should expand their efforts to surrounding communities, said Sally Cowal, spokeswoman for UNAIDS.

An estimated 22.6 million adults and children worldwide are now living with HIV/AIDS, a study released Wednesday by UNAIDS said. More than 3 million new cases were reported during 1996 and half the new infections affect people ages 16 to 24, it said.

"The latest data show the majority of AIDS cases occur before the age of 35, affecting people in their prime working years," said UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot.

South African President Nelson Mandela helped launch the UNAIDS program last

February to encourage international business to combat AIDS and HIV, the virus that causes the disease. In South Africa, the continent's economic powerhouse, it is estimated the AIDS epidemic will eventually strike one-quarter of the country's work force and reduce economic growth by 1 percent a year.

"We know that Kenya's gross domestic product will be 15 percent less than it would have been by the year 2005 had AIDS not taken a hold there," said Cowal.

The survey of leading companies carried out in 14 countries showed nearly three-quarters of the 203 firms who responded now have programs to help protect their employees against AIDS and HIV.

Banana Asks for Sodomy Charges to be Dropped

by Angus Shaw

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - The trial of a former president of Zimbabwe charged with sodomy and homosexual assault was adjourned Tuesday while the judge considered whether to drop the case.

Judge Feargus Blackie was to weigh an application by Canaan Banana's defense

FUED/ from page 1

said Garcia. "He played to the hatred and prejudice of the people to divide us and to cater him for his own political gain. If I had been accused of being a murderer or a thief, I would have been just as outraged."

Garcia said his remarks were offensive to her and every women in this city. "Men think, not all men, but many men think that if there's a woman that looks strong and she's moving up that, then they think that they can just slander and then lie about that woman to try to bring her down."

Garcia does not regret seeking the endorsement from the HGLPC and appreciates the groups support. "I was supported by HGLPC in my race for county attorney," said Garcia. "I intend to be the city controller for everybody. We all pay taxes."

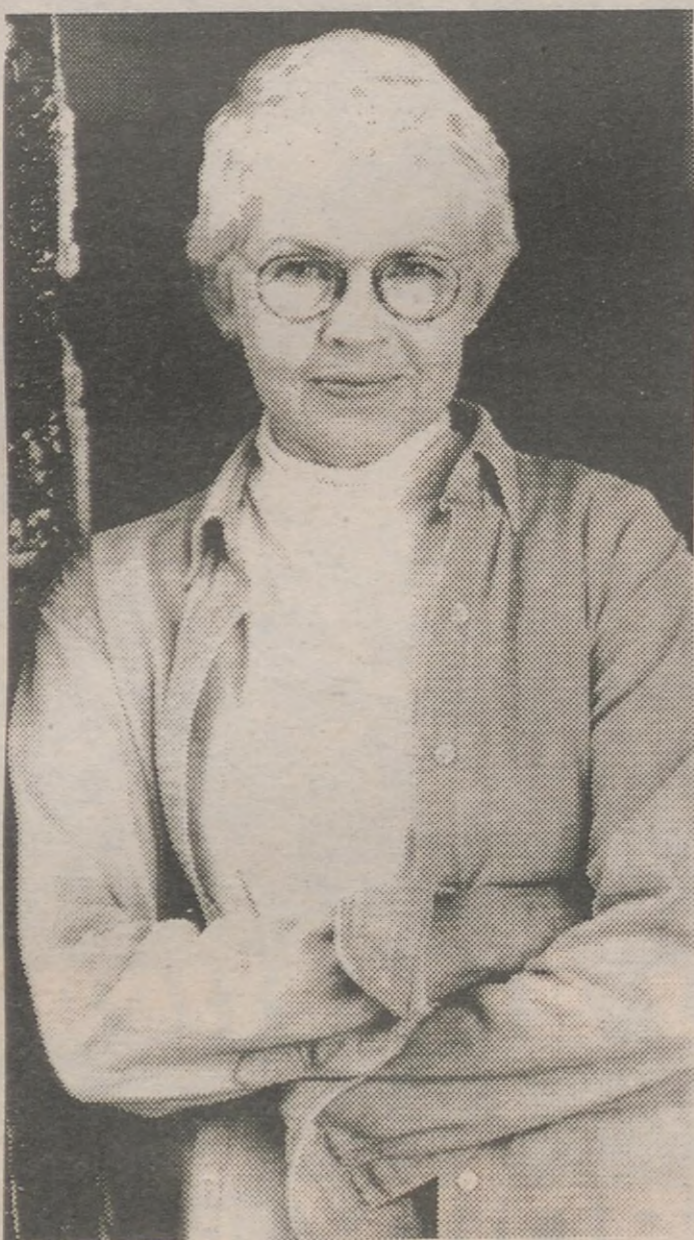
As for the same-sex allegations, Garcia claims no one has filed a lawsuit against her. "She has been fired by Mayor Lanier under my recommendation based on the grievance she filed in my department," said Garcia. "She went through the grievance procedure. She's had a grievance hearing, she's had a civil service commission hearing ... they've all been sustained. She was fired for poor performance and insubordination. She's still an unhappy

camper, she goes to federal court, she files a lawsuit against the city of Houston. She wants her job back. That's what it is, a firing of an employee who did not perform their job. I am not a party to the lawsuit. At best, I'm going to be a witness."

Garcia contends that Kelley, an attorney, knows better than to place merit in allegations. "First he relies on rumors, now he relies on allegations. He knows better. He knows that allegations have to be proven," she said. "Once again, its just Lloyd Kelley playing against prejudice, rumor and innuendo for his own political game."

Asked if she were gay, if she would openly admit such, Garcia responded: "It's pure speculation but I suppose I wouldn't," she said. "It's really hard to answer your question. I don't think for people who want to admit that their gay, I don't think it's shameful. It's not relevant."

According to Garcia people should be looked at for their performance. Again, she reiterated that this is a perennial attack on women when they are in leadership positions. "You know Kathy Whitmire, Ann Richards, Debra Danburg, Katy Caldwell. Whenever there is a woman whose doing something - particularly with men - this is always the easy shot. Enough is enough, we're just tired of it."



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WHITE/from page 1

and *The Beautiful Room is Empty* (1988). Ambitious and deeply personal, White's latest unfolds nothing less than a secret history of gay sexuality from the late 1960s to the present.

White, considered one of the preeminent writers of our time - gay or straight, takes the reader on a journey of remembrance for the narrator that will recount his struggle to become a writer and his discovery of what it means to be gay. Throughout his literary career, White has deflected criticism for his candor and descriptive writing style, yet managed to remain above the fray - perhaps because of his honesty and straight forwardness when it comes to acknowledging truths.

During a recent conversation with the *Houston Voice*, White demonstrated his reputation for candid responses, regardless of the question. Born in Cincinnati, in 1940, White has taught literature and creative writing at Yale, Johns Hopkins, New York University and Columbia. He was a full professor of English at Brown, and served as executive director of the New York Institute for the Humanities. In 1983 he was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres, one of France's most coveted and prestigious honors. Additionally, White, who resides in Paris, has won the National Book Critics Circle Award and Lambda Literary Award for his 1994 book *Genet: A Biography*.

White's latest *The Farewell Symphony* is garnering critical praise, and as expected, creating controversy for because of its content. Ironically, the criticism is not necessarily from the mainstream critics. In fact, one of White's biggest critics is another noted gay author Larry Kramer. Kramer is upset over White's portrayal of gay men as being pre-occupied with sex.

"[*The Farewell Symphony*] is mainly about New York in the 1970's," said White, "sort of before and after the outbreak of AIDS. It starts in the present in which the narrator is mourning the death of his French lover in France and then he begins to remember the first time he ever visited France back in the 60's and then it slowly winds its way back to the present."

White maintains that his book is a novel, albeit it is autobiographical and personal. He asserts that, unfortunately, there are not many gay men left who could chronicle the history of gay lifestyle from the 70's.

"It's a self contained novel that doesn't assume you know anything about the characters," said White, who maintains that it is not necessary to read the first two books to follow the narrative of *The Farewell Symphony*. "I think what's controversial about it so far is that it's very much a picture of the promiscuity of the 70's and it's very unapologetic about that and people like Larry Kramer have attacked me and the *Advocate*."

White maintains that his novel is a realistic account of what gay male culture was like after gay liberation and before AIDS. "Anyone who was honest would admit that promiscuity was rampant at that period - as is well demonstrated by Larry Kramer's

1978 novel, *Faggots*."

"It does have a lot of promiscuity in it though he condemned it even then. I think it shows that he was already very sex negative even in those days. AIDS just simply gave him an excuse for continuing a campaign against promiscuity. Basically everybody was getting laid in those days except Larry."

"He and I participated in a conference in Key West last January called AIDS and Literature. Basically, he already delivered his diatribe that he came up with for the *Advocate*, but he had not yet read my book. I had then sent him the manuscript in the spring. He just used the diatribe that he had already delivered against gay fiction in general for being pornographic and just used my book as a focus saying. Even he saying these things, doing these things, that shows what a sorry state we're in."

"I would claim that my book is not at all pornographic because pornography is one handed reading, that is meant to insight and stimulate the reader, my writing is very literary. And I think if somebody wants to get off, the last thing in the world they do is read my book. But you describe what goes on inside peoples heads when they're having sex, but it isn't meant to excite the reader."

White says the 70's were a transition period for gay males. He contends early gay periods were fairly elitist because the only people who could afford to be conspicuous as gays and come out were people who were independent financially. As a result, he thinks, people felt that the price of admission to being gay was to be cultured. Now, as gays become more accepted, he believes, the culture has been dumbed down.

The trilogy traces an arc of gay male culture - shunned in the '60s, celebrated in the '70s and decimated in the '80s. White's assessment of the '90s? "I think that some gay men in the '90s would like most to be fully integrated into the straight community - through marriage, even adoption of children." White does not believe that that kind of complete integration is on the horizon anytime soon. "My feeling is that the Christian Right is so strong in the United States that this ... is still a dream."

White is HIV-positive and has been for nearly fifteen years. He has not taken any medication and his counts are normal. He belongs to a tiny minority of "slow developers" - individuals who have been infected with HIV for more than 15 years and still have normal counts, a low viral load, no symptoms, and are in need of no treatment.

"When I began *The Farewell Symphony* in 1992, I thought my own imminent death was inevitable," says White. "Accordingly, I wanted to put in the novel everything - and everyone - I knew. Toward the end of the composition of the book in 1996, I realized I might be around for quite a while, but this new hopefulness in no way reduced my urgent need to record a world (especially the gay world of the '70s) that was in danger of being entirely forgotten."

Edmund White will be signing copies of his latest tome at Crossroads Market, Tuesday, September 30 at 7 p.m.

HILL/from page 1

Helen Huey, has been a primary source of contention. Despite having received the endorsement of the HGLPC, Boney won only one precinct in the Montrose area. It should be noted however that all gays and lesbians do not live in Montrose. Boney has again received the endorsement of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Ray Hill did not file for his candidacy prior to the deadline for consideration of the HGLPC's endorsement.

"I think the endorsement of the Caucus of my incumbent was number one premature. Everyone else is still available to endorse candidates in the races. I notice that Log Cabin is still available to endorse candidates," said Hill. "I think that, largely, what the inside group of the Caucus does these days is irrelevant. I think the community will follow them where the community agrees. The community will not follow them when the community does not agree."

"The majority of gay people in Houston do not live in Montrose," said Clarence Bagby, HGLPC Chair. Bagby told the *Houston Voice* that the Caucus does not state they represent the entire gay community. "The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, and our solely owned subsidiary, the HGLPC PAC, represent the membership of the organization and the portion of that

membership that chooses to participate in all of the different programs and activities of the organization."

Hill said his standing in the community speaks for itself. He reminds that when someone from the community is in trouble, the come to him, not an organization. Hill does not apologize for his commitment to protecting the rights of sexually oriented businesses.

"I think that government staying out of people's private and business lives and decisions is always going to be an issue," said Hill. "It's always been an issue to me. And, Jew Don Boney and I use to be on the same side of that issue. It is only since the election that he has moved his position." Hill claims he engaged in frequent dialogue with Boney while the SOB ordinance was being written. He also infers that the law was written to give Huey a "leg up" in the mayor's race, a strategy that is not working, according to Hill.

What could have been a laconic race has suddenly emerged into a race that will probably be dominated by heated debate. Hill, himself not immune to community criticism, intends to keep the incumbent on the defensive. Most pundits predict Hill will have an uphill battle, then again, Ray Hill has never been one to back down from a fight.

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DEBATE/

from page 1
(HISD). Candidates in the races on the ballot have been invited to speak at the meeting.

In August, Log Cabin became the first gay political group in Houston to make an endorsement in the mayor's race by backing former city controller George Greanias. Recently, controversy has arisen in several city races. The race for city council in District D, which covers Montrose, is heating up.

Ray Hill, a long-time gay community activist, filed to run against the incumbent Jew Don Boney. In 1995, gay voters in Montrose solidly rejected Boney's candidacy in favor of his opponent. Boney, according to the group, won anyway on the strength of black votes outside of Montrose.

Since then, Boney has drawn sharp criticism from some members of the gay community for, among other things, his support for a sexually-oriented business ordinance which restricts the freedom of adults in adult bookstores and strip clubs.

"Nevertheless," the group stated in a press release, "the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus recently endorsed Boney before Hill had a chance to file. Log Cabin will be the only gay political group to weigh all of the candidates in the District D race and decide whether to support Hill, Boney, or neither candidate."

Also up for grabs is Log Cabin's endorsement for city council at-large position 1, a race which features openly gay community activist Annise Parker. Log Cabin declined to make an endorsement in the race at its

August meeting so that the group's screening committee could interview as many candidates as possible for the position.

"It's important for us to make it clear that we don't endorse a candidate just because he or she is gay," said screening committee co-chair Ed Inderwish. "We support candidates because they're the best candidates, regardless of sexual orientation. That's the way we should treat others," Inderwish added. "Under the circumstances, it would have been unseemly for us to endorse Parker last month before we even knew who her opponents were."

Controversy has also arisen in the race for city controller. Incumbent Lloyd Kelley recently said that his main opponent, Sylvia Garcia, is gay. Garcia vehemently denied the claim. Both candidates have been asked to address Log Cabin on Monday night. Log Cabin will also consider whether to endorse Terence O'Neill, an openly gay candidate who is running for HCC board of trustees.

Additionally, the upcoming Monday night Log Cabin meeting will feature a debate between Edward Blum and yet-to-be-determined opponent of the anti-affirmative action initiative, known as the "Houston Civil Rights Initiative."

The initiative is stirring controversy within the gay community between gay liberals, who have traditionally supported preferential treatment of minorities, and gay conservatives, who believe everyone should be treated equal. After the debate, Log Cabin members will vote on whether to support the initiative.

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INTERVIEW

Jason Stuart...Gay Comedy for the Entire Family

by Scott Lewis

You might find it hard to believe that a man famous for his sexuality and his comedy had a sad childhood.

"I remember feeling like I had a secret," said Jason Stuart. "I didn't know what it was but I knew it was bad. I identified with the movie *Funny Girl* when I was young. She was Jewish me. She was really sad like me and she was in love with Omar Shariff like me."

Stuart was twenty four before coming out to his family and chose his birthday dinner to make the announcement.

"I was in my mid twenties, twenty-four I think. My father was very calm. My mother who was always very funny and very over dressed. She dressed like she was divorced, even before she was. She immediately wanted to know if I had had sex with a man. She thought it was something that I was testing. For a couple of years we had a lot of problems but now she is very supportive."

Stuart attributes his waiting so long to coming out to a lack of gay role models for youth. So he decided to become a comic because of a lack of role models?

"I really wanted to be an actor. I wasn't dying to be a comic, my manager pushed me to do it." Not that he is without comic inspiration. "I really love Margaret Cho, Louis

Anderson, Bette, Ellen, of course Sandra (she is an icon for gay comics). She was the first one to play with it (Gay comedy). Although she is no longer on the cutting edge as she enters her 40's. Kevin Maye. I thank God he came out as HIV positive. It is something that needs to be talked about and I am sure it has made his show easier to do."

Comedy has opened doors for Stuart who has found many acting jobs through his comedy fame. "I am one of the few gay comics that also acts. I don't do clubs as much as say Scott Kennedy and Kevin Maye. They are very busy aren't they?"

Stuart can be seen in Vegas Vacation with Chevy Chase "Now available on video," he reminds.

And in the HBO film *Gia* with Faye Dunaway due in January. With all of the success he has found you would think that he is where he wants to be.

"I want to be better. I want to be the best actor I can be. I want to work with Meryl Streep." And on the topic of love life. "Men feel competitive." Which he believes is a situation that is created and can be corrected "through compromise and willingness to make adjustments." He promises lots of new comedy from his experiences in the past year when he brings his show to Rockefeller's this Friday Night.

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BOOK SIGNING

Joe Lansdale, who wrote "Two Bear Momo" which the Voice reviewed favorably last year, will be signing his new book "Bad Chili" at Murder By The Book on Saturday, September 27, 1997 from 3 to 4:30. This is the third of a series set in East

Texas which features the detecting team of Leonard and Hap, a straight white guy and a gay black guy. "Bad Chili" has not yet been reviewed, but promises to be a wickedly funny, although somewhat violent, book. Murder by the Book is at 2342 Bissonnet.

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Steven Spielberg Doing Okay After Limo Collision

LOS ANGELES - Director Steven Spielberg was doing OK Wednesday after suffering a shoulder sprain in a traffic collision that made him and his wife miss a movie premiere, a spokesman said.

"He's feeling fine, but is a little shook up," said Marvin Levy. "Kate (Capshaw) is fine and the driver was fine."

The driver of the other car involved in the Tuesday evening crash was treated for minor abrasions and released. The couple were in a limousine heading to see the Los Angeles premiere of *The Peacemaker*, the first release from the Dreamworks SKG studio, in which Spielberg is a partner.

The collision occurred shortly after 7 p.m. as the limousine was turning left from eastbound Fountain Avenue to northbound Gardner Street in West Los Angeles, according to police. Spielberg spent the evening getting X-rays at Cedar-Sinai Medical Center. On Wednesday he worked from home while his wife was back at work on a movie.

"It was our first Dreamworks movie, so it became an event," Levy said. "They were just relieved that nothing serious really happened."

No charges have been filed and police have not determined who was at fault in the accident, said Officer Jason Lee. Names of the drivers weren't released.

Scandal Over Game Show Sparks Lawsuits, Battle at TV Network

PARIS - Grainy photos of a game show referee appearing to tip off a winning town's contestants with his fingers have shaken France's leading TV network, setting off a storm of legal finger-pointing.

The popular *Intervilles*, a show drawing sellout crowds of thousands watching towns compete in grueling obstacle courses, cow-dodging and other stunts, came under fire last week when a muckraking newspaper broke the news.

The Canard Enchaîné reported that during a July 2 show on the TF1 network, referee Olivier Chiabodo discreetly signaled contestants from Puy-du-Fou to pick answer No. 3 with three fingers on his thigh.

The teams from Puy-du-Fou and Ancenis were asked what Henri-Desire Landru's final request was before the convicted murderer was guillotined at Versailles prison in 1922: 1. a haircut, 2. toothpick or 3. a foot-bath.

Le Parisien newspaper on Friday ran grainy front-page pictures showing what it said was Chiabodo signaling the Puy-du-Fou contestants in July and during another show last year. In both cases, the town's contestants gave only the number of the choice.

Puy-du-Fou went on to win the championship this month for a second year in a row on *Intervilles*, whose final competition drew 7 million viewers according to the ratings.

Since the scandal broke, TF1 fired and sued Chiabodo, Puy-du-Fou has filed suit against the Canard for defamation, and Pont Saint Esprit, the town that lost the final last year, is also suing Chiabodo.

Chiabodo has denied the accusations against him.

Mayor Upset That Utica is the Butt of Jenny's Jokes

UTICA, N.Y. - Mayor Ed Hanna insists he can handle a few good-natured jokes about his struggling city. But he thinks the new sitcom *Jenny*, starring Jenny McCarthy, goes too far.

That's why he has vowed never to watch the new show, which premiered last Sunday on NBC. Hanna called it "indecent" and "horrible."

McCarthy plays Jenny McMillan, a 20-something grocery clerk who flees her dead-end job in Utica and moves to Los Angeles. But Utica is still a source of laughs in the

show.

In one scene, a snooty LA attorney tells Jenny to "go back to your little burg ... marry a couple of nice local boys named Buck and Bo, join a bowling league and start popping out babies."

Hanna said he's waiting for McCarthy to respond to his recent invitation to visit Utica to see the city's beauty for herself. He said residents have a sense of humor about their hometown as long as the jokes are light-hearted and tongue-in-cheek.

"The best punishment we can give is for her to come to Utica and see how wrong she was," Hanna said. "In the meantime, neither my wife nor I will watch the show. Who needs it?"

Mark Reisman and Howard Gerwitz, the show's executive producers, said the Utica jokes were all in good fun. The New York City natives said they picked Utica as the main character's hometown because it's a small city that's far from Los Angeles.

"We like the name. It sounded right," Reisman said.

Singers Urge Congress to Reject Nuclear Waste Storage Facility

WASHINGTON - Singers Bonnie Raitt, Jackson Browne and the Indigo Girls on Wednesday urged Congress to reject legislation creating a temporary storage facility in Nevada for tons of nuclear waste.

Appearing at a news conference at the foot of Capitol Hill, the entertainers said the transportation of nuclear waste across the nation's highways would be dangerous to the public.

"We all think the transport of nuclear waste is an insane idea (and) that the American people, if they were only informed about it, would be outraged," Raitt said, calling herself a "town crier."

Emily Saliers of the Indigo Girls urged people to be more efficient in their use of energy and to turn to alternative sources solar and wind among them. "We're here to tell ya'll that nuclear power is dirty, it's dangerous and it's a bad deal," she said.

Legislation creating a centralized nuclear waste storage site in the Nevada desert cleared the Senate earlier this year and was approved by the House Commerce Committee last week, paving the way for action by the full House in the coming weeks.

While House approval is likely, it is still uncertain whether Congress could override a promised presidential veto. The singers, who met Tuesday with White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles, said administration officials reiterated the president's veto pledge.

The nuclear industry contends a permanent waste repository is a must because little on-site storage space is left for spent nuclear fuel at nuclear power plants.

"Nuclear is here to stay, and it's a terrific deal for the American people," said industry spokesman Steve Kerekes. Over the past 30 years, the industry has transported more than 2,000 shipments of nuclear fuel in special canisters without any radiation release, he said.

Referring to the singers' safety concerns, Kerekes said, "I think they are kind of off-key here - and I'm not talking about their music."

Actors: Hollywood Ignores Latino Actors, Community

WASHINGTON - Hollywood's spotlight rarely shines on Latinos and when it does, the portrayals are often negative stereotypes or the characters a footnote, actors Jimmy Smits, Sonia Braga and Esai Morales contend.

"Some of us have been more fortunate than others ... but the salient issue here remains: Why can't more Latinos participate in this industry at a more senior and signifi-

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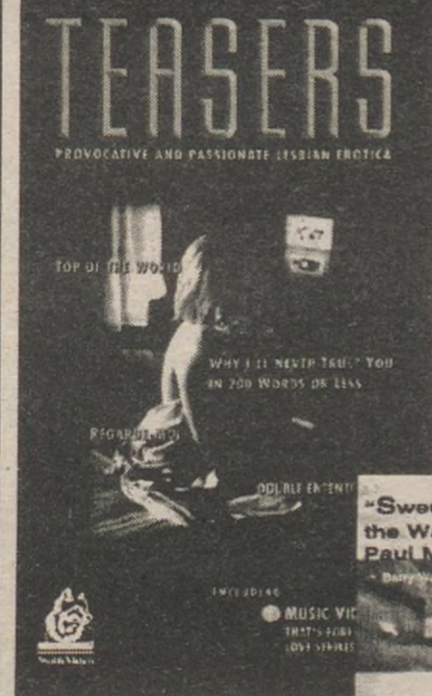
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cant level?" Smits, a star of television's *NYPD Blue*, asked Tuesday during an appearance on Capitol Hill.

Morales, whose screen credits include *La Bamba* and *Mi Familia*, also took issue with mass media portrayal of Latinos.

"We can't break into mainstream films as mainstream characters because scriptwriters and directors don't visualize us as mainstream individuals and it seems as if they don't believe that audiences will find us credible if we just happen to be Latino, educated and normal," Morales said.

The actors, members of the newly-created National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts, appeared before an informal hearing of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Caucus members said they will gather information before deciding how to work to improve Latino participation in the entertainment industry. "We discovered we're not even in the yard yet, much less in the door," said Rep. Solomon Ortiz, D-Texas, who chaired the event.

Smits cited Screen Actors Guild figures showing the number of Latino performers in film and TV roles has remained virtually stagnant for the last five years - going from 3 percent of all actors in 1992 to 4 percent now. Yet the growing Hispanic population is poised to become the nation's largest minority by 2005, and Latinos command \$228 billion in annual buying power, the actors noted.

"Hollywood should open its doors to this vibrant community because it is the right and lucrative thing to do," said Braga, whose movie credits include *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Moon over Parador*. The film industry's top lobbyist denied any effort by Hollywood to discriminate.

"It's the least discriminatory business I've ever seen in my life," Motion Picture Association of America chief Jack Valenti said in an interview before the hearing.

The film industry's single-minded focus is

putting "butts in seats," Valenti said. Film producers "would love to find 10 more Jimmy Smits, a dozen more Antonio Banderas," he said, rattling off efforts by studios to cultivate Latino talent in front of and behind the camera.

Homestead Loses Stones Concert, Wants Apology

HOMESTEAD, Fla. - Homestead can't get no satisfaction. The Rolling Stones have dropped their Dec. 5 concert at the Homestead-Miami Speedway, opting instead to play the same day at Miami's Orange Bowl.

At first, promoters said no deal to a concert in the speedway when they were told the speedway president charges \$500,000 per day. They then turned to the city of Homestead, which can book events there 12 days a year. The promoters agreed to pay the city price of \$100,000 for the first day, \$60,000 if there were a second concert.

The deal began to unravel Sept. 10 during a visit to the speedway to work out logistical details and security. City commissioners learned Monday night that the Stones were going to the Orange Bowl.

Homestead Mayor Tad DeMilly said the city was studying its legal options and compared the situation to the Cleveland Indians leaving their training facility in Homestead after Hurricane Andrew blew through in August 1992. "The people of Homestead deserve an apology from these people," he said.

Vice Mayor Steve Bateman blames racing promoter Ralph Sanchez, who leases the facility, for driving the rock band out of town. Sanchez's organization poo-hooped any personality problems.

"We have stood ready, willing and able to help both the city and the promoter throughout," said spokesman Chase Campen.

"We would have loved to be in Homestead," said Ron Cohen, spokesman

for Cellar Door Concerts, the show's local promoter. But he said the infield does not allow enough space for all the production equipment.

Free Concert Fulfilled Community Service

CARRBORO, N.C. - When the Squirrel Nut Zippers did a hometown concert here last week, drummer Chris Phillips said the band wanted to "give something back to the community."

As it turns out, the two-hour concert also fulfilled Phillips' 24-hour community service obligation for a charge of driving while impaired. Phillips and Carrboro's mayor, Mike Nelson, said Tuesday the concert was planned for months before anyone knew it would provide a convenient way for Phillips to complete his sentence.

"When my lawyer suggested we ask the judge to consider the benefit in lieu of the community service, that was fine with me," said the 28-year-old Phillips. "But in no way, shape or form was it the impetus for this concert. That was an after-the-fact thing."

Phillips is the band member who approached Nelson about doing the show. The band had achieved national acclaim with its most recent CD, "Hot," and the members said they wanted to do something for the town where they began. Phillips said the band usually would command \$25,000 or more for such a concert.

"I gave something that not a lot of people can give," he said. "I helped to give 7,500 people a wonderful experience."

Phillips was charged with driving while impaired May 18 after a Chapel Hill police officer saw Zippers producer Michael Napolitano mooning through a car window about 4 a.m.

Napolitano was issued a citation for indecent exposure, which later was dropped, and Phillips was charged with DWI. He had a

Breathalyzer reading of 0.15 and failed a variety of sobriety tests, the police report said.

On Aug. 19, Phillips pleaded guilty. It was a first charge for Phillips and, in general, he received a standard sentence: Alcohol assessment and counseling, restricted driving privileges, a 30-day suspended sentence, a year of unsupervised probation and a \$100 fine.

Estes Returns to the Stage One Week After Voice Cracks

BURLINGTON, Iowa - Opera singer Simon Estes is performing again following a bout with hay fever. Estes was forced to step off stage last week for the first time in 33 years as a professional singer when his bass-baritone voice cracked during a concert in Iowa City.

On Tuesday, he entertained 1,400 southeast Iowans with a concert to open the Civic Music season in Burlington. An allergic reaction to ragweed was blamed for his voice problems.

"I'm feeling fine now, and the doctors tell me my vocal chords are back to normal," Estes said. "I'm taking medication for my allergies and shouldn't have any more trouble."

Estes, who grew up in Centerville, is on a 16-performance tour of Iowa. It continues Friday in Ottumwa and Sunday in his hometown.

Sax Player Chooses Counseling Over Court Battle

ISLAMORADA, Fla. - Clarence Clemons, a saxophonist nicknamed "The See NOTES page 17

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Big Man" who played with Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, has chosen counseling over a court battle to settle charges he battered his girlfriend.

Clemons also will have to donate \$1,000 to a Monroe County charity and check in once a month with an Upper Keys pretrial intervention program. He also has to write a letter of apology to Sharlene Smalley. He began the yearlong program Monday.

Smalley said she and Clemons were arguing Dec. 6 while visiting a friend in Islamorada when he allegedly pushed her to the ground, and later that night threw her into a wall, kicked her and punched her repeatedly.

Authorities said she suffered a cut below one eye that required stitches, bruises around both eyes, and other various bruises and scratches. Clemons was arrested in January at his Riviera Beach home.

He played for most of the 1970s and '80s with Springsteen. The E Street Band split in the late 1980s, reuniting briefly in 1995 for a greatest-hits album. Springsteen was to be on the witness list had the case gone to trial.

**U2 in Sarajevo:
Reconciliation for a Few
Hours**

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina - Fulfilling a promise made at the end of Bosnia's 3 1/2-year war, the rock band U2 went to Sarajevo to unite Muslims, Croats and Serbs in song.

For two hours, 45,000 people from all over bitterly divided Bosnia, the former Yugoslavia, and troops serving in the NATO peace force joined for a rock concert Tuesday that drowned out any talk of war.

At one point, when the band sang its hit *Pride* - known best as *In the Name of Love* - the audience joined in so forcefully that it overpowered even the loudspeakers.

"Sing in Sarajevo," lead singer Bono told the crowd in Serbo-Croatian. "It's a present from you to us."

Weeks after the war ended in 1995, Bono visited Sarajevo and pledged to give a concert. All revenues from Tuesday's show - with tickets costing an average of \$18 - were to benefit Sarajevo hospitals.

From a bullet-pocked stadium built for Sarajevo's last magical moment - the 1984 Winter Olympics - the sound of rock music echoed through a valley that had known only the terrifying explosions of shells and the snarl of snipers' bullets during war.

On tour in 1993-94, Bono established a direct video link with Sarajevo, broadcasting one of the group's concerts and bringing it a glimpse of the outside world amid its time of greatest isolation a gesture Bosnians never forgot.

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Coffee Talk with k.d. lang

by David Buaer
Associated Press

It was a long way from the cowboy bars of western Canada. Dressed in a sleek, pin-striped suit, k.d. lang was working a swanky party in her honor on Central Park South in Manhattan. Tuxedoed servers offered up caviar. Madonna sat at a table making small talk with friends.

lang stood under a spotlight holding a microphone, in front of her longtime piano player. She sang a half-hour's worth of songs from her new album, *Drag*, moving from the romantic joy of *The Air That I Breathe* to the pain of *Last Cigarette*.

She looked right at home, soaking up the big-city audience's adoration. lang began her career fronting a turbo-charged band that shook up the country establishment and has evolved into one of her generation's premiere torch singers.

Along the way, she became an icon in the homosexual community for a "coming out" that prefigured the more publicized announcement of television star Ellen DeGeneres. Even before her announcement, lang was used to an intensely devoted group of fans.

It's both flattering and scary; lang would log on to the Internet and see a posting describing where she and her girlfriend ate dinner the previous night. "It started to make me feel neurotic so I just turned my computer off," she said.

Her eyes still getting used to the morning light - all right, it was near noon - lang sat by the empty bar of a Manhattan hotel for an interview.

Buaer: You reportedly were not happy with how your record company got behind your last album, *All You Can Eat*. Do you think that's why it didn't do as well as *Ingenue*, or was it because it wasn't your best work?

lang: That's just artist bitterness, I think. You can't win them all. I think it's my best work in certain aspects but not my best in



other aspects. Every record has its ups and downs It was a really big record for me personally, for personal transition reasons. It's over now. It's still a good record and I'm proud of it. It's still there. People can still buy it.

Buaer: How much work goes into keeping your voice in shape and improving your singing style?

See lang page 18

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Lite Concert Series

BALLET/ from page 1

ter drag bad enough to scare smaller balletomanes-in-training.

As supreme monarch of the classical set piece, Stevenson is utterly true to form with this *Cinderella*. The score of Serge Prokofiev and set design by David Walker prompted the New York Times to label the work as "dazzling and splendid." Currently in the repertoire of 20 companies throughout the globe, this is probably the one costume piece for which Ben will be remembered. It is a work that established him here in America and also introduced him to longtime choreographic muse, Janie Parker.

Audiences from Norway to Chile have been introduced to dance through *Cinderella* and, while readers know of my preference for contemporary dance, this work has provided the initial inspiration for many a new ballet audience member. I view it much the same way as I do composer Carlyse Floyd's

opera *Susannah* — this is an ideal first-time experience in a specific art form, sort of like dance with training wheels.

This ballet is a unique opportunity to take your smallest living relative, be they brother, sister, cousin, niece or nephew to an experience that may leave them slack-jawed. The wonderful thing about a story ballet is that there is so much to look at (or, more properly, at which to look). These works are ideal for the younger crowd just because there is so much happening on stage.

Fulfill your obligation as a gay brother, sister, aunt or uncle and drag a kid away from the television for a few hours. Give kids a real *experience*, something they don't get enough of from their parents or thier schooling. *Cinderella* contains enough humor and beauty to keep everyone interested.

Cinderella appears now through September 28th at Wortham Theater. For tickets call 713-227-ARTS.

**lang/** from page 17

lang: It's a 100 percent, lifestyle-encompassing process. It's everything that I do. It's being extremely disciplined. It's being not-so-disciplined that you feel burdened by it. It's understanding that there's always room to improve. It's understanding that it's a huge responsibility to have a voice, both mentally and spiritually and compassionately - something you have to pay attention to and do your very best. I really do see it as a gift.

Bauder: Do you take lessons when you want to master another style? How do you study it?

lang: The only classical training I had was when I was in college. Now when I want to study a style, I listen to it and think about it and try it somewhere in my car - somewhere private. I really just listen and try to study the emotion of it and the essence of it.

Bauder: What was it like to participate in the coming out episode of *Ellen*? (lang portrayed a singer in a lesbian coffeehouse.)

lang: It was fun. I've known Ellen for six or seven years so for me, it was more like supporting the person, supporting Ellen, my friend, to come out.

Bauder: What's been the fallout from your own decision to come out? Any regrets?

lang: No regrets, total emancipation. It was a totally positive experience.

More Conversation on Drag...

k.d. lang doesn't smoke. She never liked the taste of cigarettes and besides, if you've got a voice that soars to the heavens, why risk ruining it with a smoker's rasp? Yet at a time when cigarettes are under political siege, lang turned to them for inspiration.

Cigarettes or smoking are common to all of the songs on her new concept album, titled *Drag*. lang repeats Les Paul and Mary Ford's 1950s advice to "puff your cares away" and covers Steve Miller's "The Joker" ("I'm a joker, I'm a smoker, I'm a midnight toker").

"I like the cigarette as a visual stimulant, as a prop initiating all this imagery and commentary, both social and personal commentary," said lang. "The cigarette has been viewed as an extension of the personality in art so much, and now it's so topical in our consciousness with the war between smokers and nonsmokers," she said. "To me, it was an interesting time to do an overview or a musical documentary of the history of the cigarette."

Of course, her project isn't nearly so simple. In lang's world, the cigarette is an elaborate metaphor for love and relationships, for addiction and release. lang tries to layer so many meanings upon one another that she risks getting lost in smoke rings herself. The album title, for instance, can refer to a hit on a cigarette or the music's languorous pace. There's no ignoring the sexual meaning, either, with lang pictured on the cover in a men's pin-stripe suit.

At a Manhattan cocktail party to celebrate the album's release, guests such as Madonna settled their drinks on tables topped with note cards saying, "Please do not smoke." Cigars were handed out to guests as they headed for the door - candy cigars.

Part of the reason for lang's ambiguity is the political connotations. She wants no part of being a soldier for either side of the debate; she's already turned down an offer to film a Virginia Slims commercial in Japan.

She notes that a photographer putting together an exhibit about smoking would probably include glamorous pictures of peo-

ple in evening gowns holding cigarettes alongside depictions of lung cancer. "I really ... was very careful to pick songs to balance the record so I wasn't making a political statement," she said. "Contrary to popular belief, I really don't like controversy."

She really shouldn't worry. A spokesman for the tobacco industry, Walker Merryman of the Tobacco Institute, hadn't even heard of the album. And a fellow singer who is crusading against Virginia Slims' efforts to get into the music business said lang's intentions are clear. Leslie Nuchow, who formed the Virginia Slams organization to arrange benefits to fight smoking, went out and bought *Drag* when asked to comment about it.

"There's a big difference to me between singing about the angst of being alive and using smoking as a metaphor to explore that and directly supporting the tobacco industry," she said. The Mary Ford song, *Smoke Rings*, was the impetus for *Drag*. lang has addressed this topic in song before - covering Patsy Cline's *Three Cigarettes in an Ashtray* and performing it in concert with a cigarette as a prop - and thought it would be interesting to explore the subject further.

lang seems to work better with albums that hang together thematically, such as her tribute to Cline and *Ingenue*, a gorgeous hand-wringer about a love affair that proved her commercial breakthrough. It's her performance art background, she theorized.

She put the word out to song publishers that she was seeking songs about cigarettes. Using the keywords "smoke," "drag" and "cigarettes," she searched through the computer. The search turned up a handful of familiar songs. But about half of the album is new: songs written specifically for her by Jane Siberry and Boo Hewerdine, and a collaboration between Roy Orbison and T Bone Burnett that had never been released.

The Air That I Breathe represents addiction at its purest form. lang covered the song to depict someone consumed by a perfect love that remains, for most people, unobtainable.

"I kind of looked upon it as a replacement for the post-sex cigarette," she said.

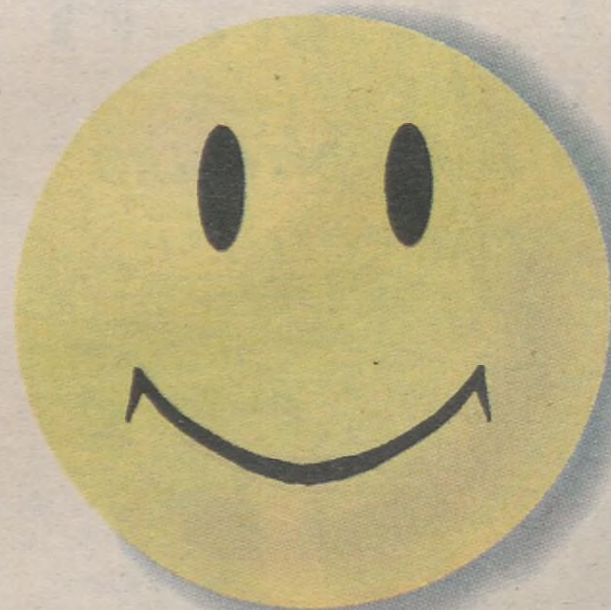
lang raided her own record collection for *The Joker*. The twist on Miller's macho anthem is lang at her most playful: watch her perform it on VH1's upcoming concert series and the lyric, "really like your peaches, wanna shake your tree," will never sound the same again. "I thought because the album is called *Drag*, it would be interesting to take a male-identified song and try dressing it up in drag and giving it a female point of view," she said.

Drag also shows lang maturing as a singer. She's learning to harness her weapon, concerned less with proving the power of her voice and more about the shadings of a particular song.

lang, 35, grew up in western Canada. She first came onto the scene in the mid-1980s with her backup band, the reclines, playing a turbocharged form of country music. The band's name was a reference to one of her musical heroes, Patsy Cline. She's since moved beyond country to become something of a torch singer.

And by now, she's established her ability to jump with ease from style to style. Good thing, because she's torn between which project to try next. One idea is a return to country music, though she wants to explore the genre's darker material.

Another idea she calls neoclassical music. "I don't know what I mean by that, but I'd like to move into a more unstructured song type - free form and classically oriented," she said. It's not something she does intentionally to keep her fans and record company guessing. "I do it to keep myself motivated, intrigued and interested," she said. "I love so much music and it's such a huge palette of color. If I can't use all the color, I'd feel squelched, in a way."



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Hit makers produce...

by Leslie Ramsay

DreamWorks Pictures' first theatrical release, *The Peacemaker*, opens this weekend. The trio of Spielberg, Katzenberg and Geffen did a really good job with this one. This is a top-notch action adventure story.

The film begins with a nuclear weapons train highjacking in Russia. The train is emptied of all of its cargo except one warhead. That warhead is set to explode as it collides with another train. The story is gripping and frightening. The knowledge that this type of situation does exist in Russia only makes this film all the more frightening.

Nicole Kidman (*To Die For*) plays Dr. Julia Kelly, a nuclear scientist and acting head of the White House Nuclear Smuggling Group. She is the lead person in charge of

the investigation to recover the nine stolen nuclear warheads.

George Clooney (*Batman and Robin*) plays the U.S. Army's Special Forces liaison to the NSG, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Devoe. Devoe has his own way of getting information out of people. He doesn't play nice. Mel Gibson or Bruce Willis or Wesley Snipes could have played the role. The actor didn't really make that much of a difference in this role.

Mimi Leder makes her motion picture directorial debut as well. Leder has won three Emmy Awards for the television series "ER". She is an excellent storyteller. The production quality was exceptional.

This is the movie to see this weekend if you are into action adventures. The body count is somewhere around 2000.



Alaskan Bloodbath for deaux...

by Leslie Ramsay

Anthony Hopkins (*Silence of the Lambs*) and Alec Baldwin (*The Shadow*) lead us into the Alaska trip from hell in "*The Edge*". Twentieth Century Fox spared no expense on the special effects for this blood bath.

with Mickey. Robert is obsessed with money. Every other line he utters is about Charles' money or his own lack of money. Even though the tension is set up to be about the girl, I soon realized that what Robert wanted was Charles' lifestyle. Robert goes on and on through out the film about "the



David Mamet (*Glengarry Glen Ross*) is the writer and Lee Tamahori (*Mulholland Falls*) is the director. They are touting this film as a psychological drama. I do not believe that with the amount of blood in this movie that it quite reaches the cerebral level they were shooting for. Once the blood stops flowing the film is over.

Anthony Hopkins plays, Charles Morse, a brilliant, paranoid, intellectual billionaire. He travels with his beautiful wife, Mickey, as played by Elle Macpherson, and her entourage to the Alaskan wilderness for a two day photo shoot.

Unfortunately for Charles, one of the members of the entourage is Robert Green (Alec Baldwin). Robert is having an affair

rich". He loathes "the rich". He despises "the rich". He wants to kill "the rich" or at the very least he wants to kill Charles.

Through an elaborate scheme Robert gets Charles alone out into the wilderness so that he can do the deed. This is after the plane crash and the wild bear feasting on another hanger on. The one saving grace for this film was the bear, Bart. He was really scary. He was even scarier than Alec Baldwin stalking Charles with a gun.

The man against nature aspect of the film was lost because of the socialist, political dogma that David Mamet wrote for Alec Baldwin to spew. *Glengarry Glen Ross* should have been my last Mamet flick.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Hot and Spicy Soul Food

by Leslie Ramsay

Mama Joe says: "You do what you have to...to stay strong, to save the family."

Soul Food hits the streets running this weekend from Twentieth Century Fox. Expect a very enthusiastic movie audience experience. The film is rated "R" for a very good reason. There is a lot more cooking at Mother Joe's house during Sunday dinner than the usual fried chicken, cornbread and homemade peach cobbler.

The soundtrack is smoking. Babyface, Earth Wind and Fire, En Vogue, Xscape, Tony Toni Tone and a couple of rap artists fill the speakers with a whole host of new R&B jams. Wendy and Lisa provide the transitional music. The soundtrack is worth picking up at your local retailer as well.

As for the film...My all time favorite character actress, Ms. Irma P. Hall (*Nothing to Lose*) plays Mother Joe the Grande Dame of a large black family in Chicago. Every Sunday for the past forty years, her family gathers at her home to share some home cooking and family bond-

ing time. Some bond more closely during dinner than others. Mother Joe keeps her family on the right track with her wisdom, humor, and stubbornness. Ms. Hall should be recognized come Oscar time.

Vanessa Williams (*Eraser*) plays a lawyer who pays more attention to her career than she does to her man. She is the oldest sister. Vivica A. Fox (*Set It Off*) plays the middle sister who has a very close relationship with her family. Nia Long (*Friday*) plays the youngest sister who is a hairdresser.

The family is running along semi-smooth until cousin Faith, as played by Gina Ravera (*Get on the Bus*), turns up looking for some family support. Her career as an exotic dancer out in Los Angeles was not as successful as she planned. Her mischief comes very close to breaking up a one of the sister's marriages.

Usually with a cast this large, the minority lines get lost in a film but in this case the stories are easy to follow. The subject of family unity is timely and generally positively portrayed. The film was very entertaining.



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Ex-State Worker Pleads No Contest

FLORIDA - A former state health worker accused of breaching confidentiality by revealing a list of 4,000 AIDS patients switched his plea to no contest Wednesday. William Calvert III was fined \$1,000 fine and put on one year probation on the first-degree misdemeanor charge of misuse of confidential information.

Calvert was scheduled to go to trial on Monday, but said he wanted to avoid the proceedings and the publicity. If convicted, he could face up to a year in prison. The former AIDS investigator for the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services was the second person charged following a September 1996 incident described by officials as the nation's worst breach of AIDS patient rights to have their medical records kept secret.

Calvert, 35, who as a Florida health worker collected AIDS data for the state, was fired by the state. His former roommate, funeral home director Gregory Wentz, was sentenced to 60 days in jail in May for leaking the AIDS list to the media. Pinellas County Judge William Overton said Wentz, 33, deserved the maximum sentence because he released the list in a mean-spirited way to spite his former lover.

Wentz was convicted of mailing computerized lists of nearly 4,000 Tampa Bay area AIDS and HIV patients to area newspapers. He has been allowed to remain free during his appeal.

Woman Appeals Conviction In Murder Of Lover

WEST VIRGINIA - A Jefferson County woman seeking a new trial for killing her lesbian lover said a judge erred by allowing a jury to hear statements she made to police while under the influence of mind-altering drugs.

Barbara Jean Milburn, in a petition to the state Supreme Court on Wednesday, also said she was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder at the time she was questioned. Milburn is serving life in prison with a chance of parole after 16 years for the June 1995 killing of Judy Jenkins. She also was sentenced to up to 10 years for arson and 120 days for giving false information.

She told investigators the shooting was a mercy killing. Jenkins wanted to die because of a failed relationship with a Charles Town man, Milburn said. Authorities said Milburn shot Jenkins, then burned down her property to confuse police. They contend the two women had a long romantic relationship that fell apart when Jenkins, 51, began seeing another woman who has since moved to Florida.

Milburn's petition also said the trial judge should have granted her a mistrial when the jury, after seven hours of deliberations, reported that it was hung on two of the four counts against her. The jury returned shortly afterward with a conviction on all charges.

The judge also failed to give the jury instructions on manslaughter and self-defense, she said.

Milburn's 15-year-old foster son also has been charged with murder. Police say he confessed to firing one of the shots at Jenkins. <

Arraignment Held For Woman Accused Of Staging Attack

CLOVIS - A woman accused of harassing seven people in a purported homosexual "hit list" has pleaded innocent to seven counts of harassment and one count of tampering with evidence.

Miranda Prather, 23, entered the pleas Monday during her arraignment before state District Judge Robert Brack. She remains free on \$800 bond. A pre-trial hearing has been scheduled for Dec. 1, and her trial is slated to

begin Jan. 26 in Portales.

Ms. Prater was arrested July 23 after allegedly staging an attack on herself and placing her own name atop the anti-gay "hit list." Police accused her of distributing posters around Portales urging people to "beat up a queer," "harass a queer" and "kill a queer." One flier listed eight people, including herself, whom it identified as homosexuals. It threatened to "begin executing one queer a week."

Police said Ms. Prather initially told investigators she was beaten by two men but changed her story to accuse a woman who was a former friend. Police concluded Ms. Prather beat herself. Ms. Prather, who was a graduate student in the Eastern New Mexico University English department, was believed to have acted partly out of obsession with an ENMU professor whose name was on the list, police have said.

Judge Says Multnomah County Rights Rule Can't Be Enforced in State

OREGON - A city civil-rights ordinance protecting gays and welfare recipients cannot be enforced in state courts, a judge has ruled. In the case of a chef alleging he was fired because he was gay, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Pro Tem Monte Bricker said the ordinance doesn't provide access to the state's court system.

City Attorney Madelyn Wessel said Bricker's finding on Tuesday would not affect cases brought earlier under the ordinance. She added that although the ruling was not technically binding for other Multnomah County circuit judges, "it is bound to be influential on other cases."

Portland's ordinance, passed in 1991, was the first in Oregon to guarantee equal rights for homosexuals and welfare recipients in employment, housing and public accommodation. It expanded equal protections already

afforded others by the federal and state governments.

But because the state provides no such protection for gays, lesbians and the poor, those seeking recourse for alleged discrimination can't do so by suing in the state's courts, Bricker found. Richard Beasley and his wife, Geri, own Besaw's Restaurant. "We are elated," he said.

Charles W. Carnese, the Beasleys' lawyer, said his main argument rested on whether the city and plaintiff David Sims had a right to take the city matter to a state court. "We can't have a patchwork of laws," he said, with different laws applying in different cities. No previous case has resolved that question, Carnese said.

An attorney for Sims called the judge's opinion a disappointment. "The judge's ruling dismantles the protection against sexual orientation discrimination, which the ordinance prohibited, and that's a real shame," said Renee E. Jacobs, Sims' attorney. "But it's not the end of the story, and we're very hopeful that the appellate court feels differently."

Richard Beasley said Sims was fired for performance issues and not for sexual orientation. Carnese said Sims worked at Besaw's just four days before being dismissed. Beasley said the restaurant has other gay employees, some of them on the staff for four or five years.

Sims took his discrimination claim to the state Bureau of Labor and Industries, where the case was dismissed with a "no cause" finding. Bricker's ruling won't affect plaintiffs' rights to file claims with the bureau. But city officials contend that the bureau is too understaffed to investigate and enforce discrimination claims properly, making the right to sue critical.

Mayor Vera Katz pledged to appeal. "The civil-rights ordinance was created to give gays, lesbians and others exactly the same rights to be free from discrimination as most of us have long enjoyed - no more and no less," Katz said.



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by Ella Tyler

**The Farewell Symphony
by Edmund White
Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher**

413 pages, 25.00

I was seduced by the first two hundred pages of this book. White is a "writer's writer"; his incredible talent with words makes me envious but reminds me why I love words. The book begins in the mid-Sixties, and much of the book talks about sex -- wanting it, cruising for it, sometimes paying for it, getting it and remembering it - in graphic and obsessive detail; but the writing is so beautiful that even the most boring, anonymous encounter takes on the quality of a work of art. He makes acute and often wry observations about the subject, describing a pick-up in a bar "I liked his speed, his self-assurance, so rare in gay pickups, which usually advanced with the speed of an auction between misers". However, just as the talk about sex become boring, White's (this is an autobiographical novel, though it frequently resembles pure fiction [to me, at any rate]) switches briefly to other

subjects -- the New York publishing world, his apartment in Italy, and his family. These are the best parts of the book they are perfect images of their place and time.

I suspect this book is best read in small bites, like a too rich dessert. Around page 200 I began to fret about whether White ever did anything that wasn't about sex, like go to the opera or museum, or even go shopping, and began skipping ahead. When I did that I discovered that I missed fragments and commentary that should be read, such as "Joshua and I read the new poem for Cassiopeia, worked our way through its elaborate astrological conceits and consulted with each other. Finally Joshua, . . . , dared to say to Eddie, "Isn't it . . . a bit . . . cold". Eddie slapped his head and said "Of course, I forgot to put the feeling in" He rushed upstairs . . . and fiddled with the verses for an hour before he descended with lines that made us weep, so tender were they, so melting and exalted."

Success, age, therapy, sobriety and the threat of AIDS changed White's life. The second part of the book is less obsessive about sex and more human, and I think, more interesting.

This book should be read either for it's photographic detail of time in Gay History, or as a masterpiece of writing, or both.



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• Catholic Mass at 10:00 am; Movie Night at 7:00 pm at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
• The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday-8/27

• Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.
• The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Sunday-8/28

• Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 11am at Suzanne Anderson Realty, 239 Westheimer.
• 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. 528-6665.
• Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor" (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 am Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 am at Maranatha Fellowship 528-6756.
• MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
• Worship Service 11:00 am at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
• Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
• First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
• Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
• Community Gospel Worship service at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm. 4305 Lillian 880-9235. Catch them at www.communitygospel.org. Study Series on Heaven—or Life after Death..
• Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
• Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830.
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Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
• Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182.
• MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 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>.

Monday-9/29

• Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Tuesday-9/30

• MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149.
• PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 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 528-6756.
• The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Wednesday-10/1

• Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
• MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149.
• Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
• The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Thursday-10/2

• Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
• Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
• Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
• The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

If you want an event listed in this section, please call John at 529-8490 by 12 Noon Mondays.

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Join our Home Groups each week to discuss and give feedback from the sermons and learn God's truth about YOU!
3400 Montrose, Suite 800, Sunday Service at 11 am
713-528-6756
Weekly Home Groups on Tuesday/Wednesday

RELIGION

Christian Family Network Supports 'Gay Day' at Theme Park

OHIO - A get-together expressly for gays received support from an unexpected source. The Christian Family Network, which has members in 40 states, said it supports a plan by Cincinnati's Gay and Lesbian Community Center to rent Paramount's Kings Island for a private party.

Although it does not condone homosexuality, the network said a private party is preferable to informal "Gay Day" events of the past 13 years, when gays and lesbians

visit the park en masse while it is open to the public.

"By holding a Gay Day at a time when the general public is not present ... families are safe from unwanted, unsolicited subjection to homosexual activity, which at times has been reported to be quite explicit," said Don Jackson, president of the network. "I would say that everyone wins in this situation."



Steven's House Wish List

- *Pillows (standard size)
 - *Paper goods
 - *Cleaning products
 - *Steam cleaning service for furniture & carpet
 - *Outdoor furniture & patio table umbrella
 - *2 small desks & chairs for bedrooms
 - *Table lamps
 - *Bicycle
 - *Cable ready television
 - *Locking 4-drawer file cabinet
 - *2 secretary chairs
 - *1 executive style chair
 - *Volunteer electrician
 - *Portable wheelchair ramp
- *Apartment nearby for office & lodging for visiting family members.

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Top AIDS Researcher: We are on the Brink of Better Drug Treatment

FLORIDA - The creator of the drug cocktails used to treat AIDS says some patients soon may be able to get away from taking dozens of pills several times a day. Instead, they'll be able to take a single pill.

Some patients complain that the side effects of taking the cocktails are worse than those of the virus. And people with AIDS who stop taking the medicines risk developing new, more virulent forms of the virus. But Dr. David Ho told the 2,500 AIDS patients and activists gathered in Miami Beach for the U.S. Conference on AIDS Saturday that researchers have reached the final stage of developing protease drugs that would be taken once a day. The trials involving patients could begin within six months, he said.

"In terms of once-a-day drugs, we see on the horizon several such candidates," Ho said. "It would be great if we could come up with a triple- or quadruple-drug combination that the patient takes once in the morning or once in the evening and that's it. Then, I'll bet you the adherence rates will be much higher and the outcomes will be much better."

The combination drug therapies are enjoying wide success in making the virus undetectable in some people's bloodstreams. Ho reported that he and his colleagues have discovered tiny, dogged traces of virus in bits of lymph tissues, the very heart of the immune system.

"We still don't know whether it's feasible to eradicate HIV, mainly because we don't know if it's feasible to eradicate the last residual bit of virus," Ho told an audience that hailed him with gusto typically reserved for a rock star. "Where we are is sort of at the endgame, like a chess game. But the endgame could be as tough as any part of the game."

Ho, a New York virologist who was named *Time* Magazine's 1996 Man of the Year for his pioneering AIDS work, is credited with developing three-drug therapies that have reshaped the war on the epidemic.

Gone are days when a single drug, such as AZT, was the preferred course for patients.

Today, if patients have the money or the private or public insurance to cover bills topping \$15,000 a year, they take two older-generation medicines in combination with a drug from the newest, strongest category, protease inhibitors.

Already, with the existing regimens, the outcomes have been impressive: In 1996, for the first time since the start of the epidemic, AIDS deaths declined nationwide.

Denver One of AIDS Vaccine Test Sites

COLORADO - Denver will be among a handful of cities where an AIDS vaccine will be tested, perhaps as early as next year, says Dr. Frank Judson, head of the city's health department.

VaxGen of San Francisco has been testing

a vaccine for more than a decade, and plans to test it in up to a dozen cities. A total of about 5,000 people will be given the vaccine, said company President Donald Francis.

Tests already done have shown it is not harmful. The study in Denver will be part of the nation's largest vaccine test to date and people at risk of getting the disease will be among the test subjects. Francis said his company is waiting for approval to begin the tests, which will run for four years.

AIDS Divide Widest in Black Community

FLORIDA - How to reach blacks and Hispanics - the groups most disproportionately ravaged by AIDS - has been the hot topic of the first U.S. Conference on AIDS which ended last Saturday.

As America's AIDS divide widens, the determination to reach those minorities has turned feverish. In 1996, for the first time, more blacks received a diagnosis of AIDS than any other group in the country. And while AIDS cases dropped 26 percent for whites. For black men it dropped the least - just 10 percent.

Unless this divide is addressed, activists fear it will grow wider, especially in the era of new drug treatments that have been successful in curbing AIDS. A lack of drugs and information fuels the widening gap, AIDS experts believe. The old ways of doing things - many of them devised when AIDS was principally a disease of gay, white men - have not translated well in other communities.

"The color of your skin," said Paul Kawata, executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council, "should not determine whether you live or die."

How can AIDS be stopped? The answer is complex. It means surmounting cultural barriers and old stigmas about AIDS and gays in the black and Hispanic communities.

It means persuading immigrants to trust government agencies and understanding the legacy of suspicion wrought in the black community by unspeakable medical experimentation in the past. And it means being creative. As one AIDS activist put it: You have to know your market.

That's what Tangela Sears says, too. Her brother died of AIDS a year ago, and she has spent the past months treading the streets of Liberty City, telling her story, her brother's story. And she has done it in ways that struck some people as curious at first. She has enlisted the rapper Luke Campbell and radio personality Jill Tracey. She has sponsored talent shows and basketball games and candlelight vigils.

At each of them, a van from the University of Miami discreetly rolled in, to perform AIDS screenings.

"Sometimes, people don't understand why I do what I do. 'Why do you do the talent show? Why do you use Luke? Why do you use Jill Tracey? They're not experts on AIDS.' You know what? They're right. But our purpose is to bring literature in, to talk to them about HIV, about what's going on in our community. We want them to know it's real. And I'll do whatever I have to do to let them know that."

embezzled funds from his stock brokerage company. He has said his marriage to his American wife broke down when his son was a young boy, but he waited until his son was 18 to get a divorce.

Aguiluz, who is attempting to sell distribution rights for a film on Andrew Cunanan, said the task is difficult because of other Cunanan projects, including "The Versace Murder," already filming in Florida.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

NATIONAL NEWS

NAT'L from page 10

filmmaker, Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI, to tell the story of his son's life and death. Cunanan said he believes his son was the victim of a conspiracy, "a deep cover-up."

"Hopefully, we'll come up with some plausible explanations when we run the movie," he said.

The elder Cunanan fled to his native Philippines in 1988 amid allegations he had

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THE CLUB
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by Ella Tyler

The time lag between planting and blooming makes planning a summer garden (or any other garden) more complicated than furnishing a house. A sofa will look the same in six months, a shrub or tree won't. Take a look around your neighborhood to see what still looks good. These are plants that survive our summers. Also notice the conditions of the site. For example, the begonias in the shade at 4200 Montrose look much prettier than ones in the sun at other places. Make a note or two, because when you're planning your summer garden or reading seed catalogues, you may not remember what you admired. I tend to forget how much I like the hot-pink flowers of coral vine until late summer when its too late to plant them.

The crepe myrtles were beautiful all this summer, but so were the althea's, which are not used as often. They do not make a tree, but do make a large shrub. Mexican Firebrush, or *Hamelia*, with its orange little tubes for flowers, is thriving now. It makes a medium sized bush. In my own garden, the antique roses are doing well, and the plumbago is taking over. Plumbago is a useful plant for some summer gardens because its pale blue flowers look so cool and the plant looks dainty and fragile. It is not. It takes full sun and if it didn't freeze back, it would take over the world. Another plant



Mexican Firebrush

that takes sun (maybe a little afternoon shade) and is fragile and cool looking is *Jasminum sambac*, also called Arabian Jasmine. It has incredibly fragrant flowers, in fact, it or a very close relative, is what makes Jasmine tea. Although it freezes, it comes back. I also have a lavender lantana which is thriving and looking particularly artistic because some wild morning glory has joined it. Its flowers match the lantana. I have no idea where the morning glory came from, maybe birds brought seed. Howard Garrett's book "Plants for Texas" has pictures that are good enough for you to be able to identify many of the plants seen in this area, if you don't know what a plant is. I use it a lot.

There are lot's of Golden Rain trees blooming in my neighborhood. If you see a tree with spectacular yellow flowers blooming now, that is what it is. The proper name is *Koelruteria paniculata*. It is deciduous, tolerant of many soils, and easy to grow but relatively short lived. You may be able to grow it from seed. Wait for a tree to produce pods and try.

I have noticed that some sage bushes have just burst into bloom. Sage is a desert plant and blooms after rain. It is a small bush with silver grey foliage and small purple flowers.

I assume that the turquoise material that has been sprayed around many of the street trees along Montrose Blvd is some kind of fertilizer, probably a water soluble type. It is too late to fertilize most plants, because you

do not want to encourage new growth which will freeze. This stresses the plant, in addition to being a waste of fertilizer.

Don't forget the Garden Club of Houston's Bulb and Plant Mart today and Saturday (Sept. 26 and 27) at Westminster United Methodist Church, 5801 San Felipe from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. On Saturday they have the "Plants That Merit Attention" booth. Visitors receive a free booklet describing all the items on sale and planting and culture information. It's worth going just to get the book.

You should not run home and plant your newly purchased bulbs yet. It is too early (and too wet) to do anything with them except stick the tulips and other bulbs that require chilling in the frig. If you don't follow instructions, none of your pricy little bulbs will flower. They should be planted at various times from mid-October to January.

Store the ones that aren't being chilled in a cool, dark, dry place until its time to plant them. Remember that bulbs are poisonous and should be kept safe from pets and children.

If you feel impelled to do something, plan where you're going to put all these bulbs. I refuse to believe that you've already done that. No one who I know is disciplined enough not to buy lots more bulbs than their plan (if they have one at all) calls for. I don't have a plan for fall bulbs for my own garden, but I do for a friend's garden. She has a long bed beside her sidewalk that faces south, so it gets sun most of the day. We'll put in ranunculus and freesias and overplant with pansies and snapdragons.

The other thing you could be doing is — Get Ready for A Martha Stewart Moment — spraying flowerpots gold so that you can plant amaryllis bulbs in them and give them for Christmas gifts. I am very fond of Design Master's spray paint which is available at many arts & crafts supply stores. It dries within a few minutes and the colors are decent. The pots need to be only a tiny bit



Golden Rain Tree

bigger than the bulb. Although the bulbs are expensive, the ones in flower in December will be much more expensive. This is a fool-proof plant and the flowers are spectacular. They come in red, white, pinks and mixes of these colors.

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MON	9/29	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
TUE	9/30	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Dyan Michaels
WED	10/1	Granny's Burgers!
THUR	10/2	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos

by John Toups

New Motorcycle Club Begins

A motorcycle club is being formed in Houston for Gays and Lesbians who own motorcycles and are interested in going on organized motorcycle rides held their first meeting a week ago with nine people attending.

The next meeting will be held shortly to officially organize the club.

Those interested in helping to organize the club or who wish to be on the club mailing list can contact Roy Hendrick at 713.523.7347 or call John Krimm at 713.528.4350.

Women's Flag Football

Houston Women's Flag Football League begins its fall season this year with Exhibition Games on October 4th and Season Opener on October 18th. The HWFFL is a non-profit sports organization open to all women ages 18 and over. We have two divisions - competitive and recreational. You can join by bringing in your own team. Or, if you do not have a team, we will be holding two drafts to place individuals - September 13, and September 28. For individual registration forms, Team Captain forms and/or more information, call the HWFFL hotline at (713)981-6753.

Deep Sea Fishing

The Rainbow Fishing Club will be going out on the 85 foot catamaran, the New Buccaneer, on Sunday, October 26. The club has 20 reservations. The total cost is \$60 with a \$20 deposit needed to reserve your fishing spot by September 20. The boat catches lots of Red Snapper as well as King Mackerel, Sharks, Amberjack and Groupers. The Sunday September 14 trip on the New Buccaneer is totally sold out.

On Wednesday, October 8, the club will go out on the Cavalier, the 70 foot catamaran, sister boat of the New Buccaneer. The cost will be \$55 with a \$20 deposit due by September 20. These deposits must be received by the club by the due date in order to hold the reservations.

Both boats are the largest and finest deep sea fishing boats in Galveston. They supply all fishing tackle and bait. The 12 hour trips start at 7:30am. Both boats have a sundeck and food and drink at reasonable cost. Call 713-523-6381 for more information or send deposits to the club at P.O.Box 66450, Houston, TX 77266.

Ice Play!

The Houston Harpies Women's Ice Hockey Team is actively recruiting women of all levels interested in playing organized women's ice hockey. The Harpies practice every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8pm at the Sharpstown Ice Center, and drop-ins are welcome. For more info call 713.802.1248 or 713.864.1650.

Singles/Doubles?

The Houston Tennis Club is constantly seeking new members, both male and female, of all playing levels. Meet at Memorial Park Tennis Center on Wednesdays from 7-9:30pm, Fridays from 7:30-9pm, and two sessions on Sunday mornings, from 9-10:30am and 10am-12 Noon.

Lost Maples

The Houston Outdoor Group invites all to join them for a return trip to Lost Maples November 7-8th. This is their annual primitive camping trip. Mark your calendars now and call Michael at 942.9077 for details.

More Club Info

A Gay sky diving club called Houston Triangle Divers hosts outings for those brave of heart throughout the year. For info call 530.7822.

A Bicycling Club for Womyn, Rainbow Riders meet every Sunday morning for easy, long off-road rides. All womyn are welcome regardless of ability and experience. For info call Cookie Davenport at 869.1686 or email her guusje@aol.com.

If you like running, then go with the FrontRunners who meet at 9am at the Memorial Park Tennis Center on Sundays. If Sundays are not good for you, meet them at 6:30pm on Tuesday or Thursday nights. For info call 713.522.8021.

Think dancing isn't a sport? Try to argue with these two organizations! The Southern Country Dance Group provides dance lessons at the Ranch, 8-10pm on Fridays. The Ranch is located at 9200 Buffalo Speedway.

The Rainbow Ranglers promote Texas Style

couple dancing, including the beginning level. Classes are free and open to the public from 8:30-10pm on Thursdays at the Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. For more info call 713.880.0670.

The Houston Force, a local basketball team, is forming a league in Houston. If interested in joining, please call Mike or Lyle at 880.4765.

Under Wear Skate Night

The theme for Lambda Roller Skating Club's October 1 skate is "Boxers and Blades". Skaters may choose to wear their favorite boxer shorts on this night.

Lambda Skate Club skates every Wednesday 8:00-10:00 at The Zenith Roller Rink (formerly Starlite) located at 8075 Cook Road (corner of Beechnut and Cook). Admission is \$5.00 plus \$1.50 if you need to rent skates. You may bring your own skates. Mark your calendar for our Halloween Skate on Oct. 29. Cash prizes for best costumes. All ages Welcome. For more information call 281.933.5818.

Fall Fun League

Just a reminder that the MSL Fall Fun League is scheduled to start on Sunday, September 28. There will be a fall league get-together on Sunday, September 14, from 4:30

pm until 6:00 pm at the 611 Hyde Park Pub (located at 611 Hyde Park) and everyone is welcome to stop by and socialize as we kick off another great fall season!

If anyone has not yet registered you may do so at the 611 on Sunday. Forms will be available and the \$20.00 registration fee MUST ACCOMPANY THE COMPLETED FORM!

Because of the continuing construction work on Tim Hearn our games this fall will be played at T.C.Jester. The season will run six consecutive Sunday afternoons beginning September 28 and concluding November 2. Game times are tentatively scheduled from 11:00am until 5:00 pm. For additional information contact Gary Gano @ 713.880.3712. Hope to see everyone at the 611!

MSL Fall Fun League Registration

The Montrose Softball League Fall Fun League begins play this Sunday, September 28. Anyone who wishes to play in the fall league and who hasn't yet completed an application may still do so by showing up at T.C. Jester Park Sunday morning at 9:30. there is a \$20.00 registration fee. The park is located on West T.C. Jester Blvd. between W. 34th and W. 43rd

Streets. The fall league is open to players of all skill levels and teams will be weighted so competition will be balanced. The league will run six consecutive Sunday afternoons and consist of doubleheader action. Come on out and have a ball this fall. For more information, call Gary Gano at 713.880.3712 or the league voicemail at 713.867.3913.

Houston Chain Gang

On Sunday, September 28, 1997 at 8:00am, the Houston Chain Gang invites you to join us in an enjoyable 35 mile cycling ride into Fort Bend County. Ride leaves from the parking lot by the Southeast side to Mervyn's at West Oaks Mall located on Highway 6 and Westheimer. Please RSVP by calling 713.768.8793. All Chain Gang rides are free and opened to all.

Let's Bowl

Houston's Gay and Lesbian bowling leagues got off to a rousing start with 350 bowlers between the four leagues turning out for the first nights of bowling. Still needed are a few individuals to fill out some teams. Call 522.9612 for information. Also, join us this Saturday at 8pm for the monthly Candlelight No Tap Doubles at Palace Lanes. Come alone or bring a partner.



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Montrose/Cherryhurst Park area. Eff apt \$400.00, one bedroom apt \$525.00, hardwoods, in great location. Won't last! realtor/owner 713-297-5605 or 713-528-2874.

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1969 Plymouth Barracuda. \$8,000 firm. Runs & Drives Great. Comes with a 1970 340 totally rebuilt with high performance parts. It has a 318 in it now. Frost Mint Green w/ black racing stripes. Serious inquiries only. Call Ricky @ 281-568-0358 or talk to Trisha in Eckerd Photo Lab (Westheimer @ Montrose)713-524-4979.

1987 Toyota Tercel, needs Work! Missing Hoses, Hole in Radiator, no inspection sticker, 160,000 +miles and still running!! Good project car or great for parts. \$500 or best offer. Pgr: (281)626-9222.

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Wanted: Bartender for Montrose area club who is professional, personable, and capable of serving a variety of customers in a friendly manner. Apply in person at Vera's Closet, 534 Westheimer. M-F, 2-5pm.

Mary's, naturally is accepting applications for Bartenders, Barbacks & clean-up. Apply with photo Tues. - Thurs. 9am-2pm.

Part-time Accounting Position at PWA Coalition: 8hrs per week. Educational/Experience Requirements: Two years college level accounting courses; or AA degree. Experienced with Quickbooks Softwqare, - Excellent spreadsheet skills, Knowledge of accrual and fund accounting. Fax or mail resume, with references and salary history to: PWA Coalition, 3400 Montrose, Suite 106, Houston, TX 77006. FAX: 713-522-2674.

Gentry is interviewing for a full time bar-back. Please apply at 2303 Richmond Avenue between 2pm and 6pm. No phone calls please.

Venture-N is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time = Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

The Gay Information Network (888-GAYINFO) is seeking Sales Representatives in the Houston area. Successful applicant will have previous sales experience, some computer knowledge, a professional appearance and excellent local contacts within the Gay/Lesbian community. Excellent opportunity for highly motivated professionals. fax resume to 760/778-7750 or mail to: The Gay Information Network, 100 South Sunrise Way, Suite 299, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

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

Management Opportunities
Houston's most popular family of clubs is now accepting applications for management and management trainees. Offering **Houston's** best benefits package, including group health insurance, the clubs at 800 Pacific - **Heaven, JR's Bar and Grill** and the **Montrose Mining Company** - are looking for self starters who believe teamwork is essential to success. If you live in another city, we are open to assist with your relocation expenses if you are found suitable. Fax Resumes to **Charles Armstrong Investments, Inc.** at (713) 521-3926 or contact our promotions Director .at (713)521-0193.

Rich's is now taking applications. If you are a fun, energetic, creative individual, apply in person at Rich's-2401 San Jacinto. (Just south of downtown). Fridays, 2-4pm.

HOUSTON'S #1 LEVI-LEATHER CRUISE BAR - THE MONTROSE MINING COMPANY- is accepting applications for honest, hard-working team players to work as bartenders, barbacks and doorstaff. Apply Mondays 12-2 p.m. with a recent photo. No phone calls. **MONTROSE MINING COMPANY, 805 Pacific, Houston.**

Seeking energetic, honest, dependable, and hard working individuals who want the opportunity to grow with a service oriented company. Positions available include floor/desk staff and male dancers. Apply in person only. No phone calls. **MIDTOWNE SPA, 3100 Fannin.**

The **BRB** is accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person with recent photo. No Phone calls please. 2400 Brazos

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LOST IN HOUSTON, JR's - SUNDAY AFTERNOON 9/14/97. DAN - The most gorgeous man I have ever laid eyes on. I sent you a drink and you came over and introduced yourself. I am not from Houston but would love to see you again. I promise you a great weekend. Call me and let's talk. **GREG** - 1-888-688-8747.

Men's Resources

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Whatever your size, we'll increase it!!

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Please also inquire about any other

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Professional vacuum pumps with instructions. Gain 1" to 3". Permanent, safe. Enhance erection. Free brochures. Dr. Joel Kaplan (312)409-5557. Latest surgical/non-surgical enlargement information: 1-900-976-PUMP (\$2.95/min).

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Single White GM looking for play buddies. Blue & Red hankie, versatile, enjoys fantasies, long sessions. Masculine, party favors O.K. 50's, 5'11", 160#. Paul. 713-721-0091, leave message.

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Houston's Newest Hottest Gay Dateline. Meet local men and women NOW. 1-900-285-0074 ext. 8850. Must be 18+ \$2.99 per minute.

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Montrose - Must See, W/D, cable, all utilities - \$450. Immediate Occupancy. 713-526-1964. Pgr - 713-647-4768.

Montrose - Looking for professional roommate to share 3/3/2 victorian house. References needed. Non-Smoker. No Drugs. \$500/mo + 1/2 utilities. 524-2184.

Mature Male to share House. Heights Area \$300/mo includes utilities, w/d 713-862-3989.

Bedroom to rent in Timber Grove House. 3/2/2, Non-Smoker, \$425/mo + 1/2 utilities. 713-868-2750.

Wanted to Buy

Fast Cash. Highest Prices Paid. We buy antiques, estates, furniture, collectibles, jewelry etc. We come to you. 281-391-7515 or 713-994-5986(pgr). If You Have to Ask...

Wanted-Apartment

Inner Loop: Hardwoods, storage. Single male. Terrific tenant. Garden-lawncare. Will do upgrades. Currently housesitting 5yrs. 3 properties. Able to open and maintain. 713-415-5240 (pager)

WebSites

- <http://www.dupontmerck.com>
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- <http://ticketmaster.com>
- www.agouron.com
- www.usagaynet.com - Click "The Guide"
- www.the/clubs.com
- <http://www.Roxane.com>
- www.pacificstreet.com
- <http://www.midtowne-spa.com/spa>
- www.dudejack.com
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- www.confidentialconnection.com
- www.movo.com
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A cat can have as many as 500 mates in one year.

(So much for being finicky.)

The fact is two breeding cats with all of their offspring can produce 420,000 kittens in just six years. Spaying or neutering will prevent homeless kittens and help your cat live a longer, healthier life.



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"YES, THERE IS LIFE AFTER BREAST CANCER. AND THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT."

-Ann Jillian



A lot of women are so afraid of breast cancer they don't want to hear about it.

And that's what frightens me. Because those women won't practice breast self-examination regularly.

Those women, particularly those over 35, won't ask their doctor about a mammogram.

Yet that's what's required for breast cancer to be detected early. When the cure rate is 90%. And when there's a good chance it won't involve the loss of a breast.

But no matter what it involves, take it from someone who's been through it all.

Life is just too wonderful to give up on. And, as I found out, you don't have

to give up on any of it. Not work, not play, not even romance. Oh, there is one thing, though. You do have to give up being afraid to take care of yourself.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
 Get a checkup. Life is worth it.

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call John at 529-8490 or fax at 529-9531 by Monday Noon.

Friday, September 26

- False Prophets or Just Dang Good Guessers: An eclectic mix of composed and improvised music, vibrant visual art and Southern style storytelling; sponsored by Diverseworks, runs until September 13, 12:00 pm to 11:59pm, The Orange Show, 2401 Munger, FYI 713-228-0914.
- Ken Claude Fundraiser: Fundraiser to raise money to represent Houston in the International Mr. Drummer Contest, 5:30pm to 10:00pm, Ripcord, 715 Fairview.
- The Gardening and Yard Society: Lesbian and Gay Gardening Club, 7:00pm to 10:00pm, 2415 McClendon, Houston, FYI 713-661-6378.
- Astro Rainbow alliance for the Deaf: general meeting, 7:00pm to 9:30pm, Montrose Clinic, 215 Westheimer, FYI 713-869-2287.
- Movie Time: Free Les/bi/gay film showing at Kolbe House, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 1509 Fairview, FYI 713-522-8182.
- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- Borders Book Store Gay /Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. 786-6066.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- "Out of the Closet: Cinema" group meets 822-8511.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Free Spay & Neutering (SNAP) 522-2337 at Acres Home Multi Service Center.
- Gulf Coast Transgender Community meets. 780-4282.
- Lesbian Love Letters at DiverseWorks. 228-0914.
- Kolbe Project's Night at the Movies 7pm. 522-8182.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 522-8182.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.

Saturday, September 27

- Gulf Coast Transgender community: is a non-sexual support group for all transgendered individuals and their partners. Montly socials are held, FYI 713-780-4282.
- 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. 526-5738.
- Gulf Coast Transgender Support Group meets. 780-4282.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.

Sunday, September 28

- Happy Birthday Cuervolyn!! How old are you - again??
- Rainbow Fishing Club: New Buccaneer 12 Hour Trip, \$60, 7:30am to 7:30pm, 611 Hyde Park Pub, 611 Hyde Park, FYI 713-5232-6381.
- Golf Tourney Fundraiser for Annise Parker. Golf Tournament Fundraiser for Annise Parker, \$100, 8am to 5pm, Pinecrest Golf Club, Houston, TX, FYI 713-688-3888.
- The Women's Group: The Women's Group is a feminist groups for all women; each woman defines feminism by her experience, 10:45am, First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- Houston Area Bears: General Meeting, 2pm to 4pm, varies, FYI 713-867-9123.
- Texas Gay Rodeo Association: Regular monthly meeting of the TGRA, 2pm to 5pm, The New Barn
- The Women's Group meets at 10:45 am. 529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.

Monday, September 29

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Miss Camp America meets. 520-STAR.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am.
- Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.

Tuesday, September 30

- Sex, Lies & Video Tapes workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8pm. 495-8009.
- Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Club Body Center 8pm to Midnite.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30pm. 778-2677.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) at West End Multi Service Center.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- Women for Sobriety Meeting; 7-8pm; 701 Richmond; 281-855-8616.
- Lesbian Health Initiatives meet at 7pm. 526-7828.

Wednesday, October 1

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Bricks II 8pm - 12am.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- GLOBAL meets at 4pm. 473-7539.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Tootpees at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.

- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) at 5th Ward Multi Service Center.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 522-8182.
- Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus monthly meeting, 7pm, 501 Lovett Blvd.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic: Mary's 4-8pm, Midtowne Spa 9pm-1am, and The Ripcord 8pm-12am.

Thursday, October 2

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Social Group meets at 7:30pm. 822-8511.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston meets at 7pm. 521-SING.
- The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) at Sunnyside Multi Service Center.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- Free HIV Testing by Montrose Clinic; VentureN 4-8pm, and The 611 8pm-12am.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.

GALAXY GAYZER A Houston Voice Exclusive
Your Horoscope for the week of September 28 - October 4

ARIES: (March 21-April 20) Anything that you have previously started needs to be pushed to the next level now, so get on with it. Your personal life takes precedence this week, so don't hesitate to resolving any troubling situations. Keep your energies focused, your goal is at hand.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21) You have a very sensible and practical philosophy on life, as long as you can avoid getting into a rut. Take a few chances. With just a little extra effort, you can charm most of the people around you to your way of thinking, so put on a big smile.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21) Support for your ambitions will come from both your family and your friends. Money matters in general are not looking real bright lately, take the time to re-evaluate just where you spend your money. You are very flexible in your thinking, which will open up doors.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23) Your feelings towards those you love are deep, but you don't always agree with their ideas and actions. Having the tendency to go to extremes will cause some friction at home - let moderation be the key to keeping everyone and everything on an even keel.

LEO: (July 24- August 23) It's time to let go of some of your past problems, which will bring a soothing influence on your present thinking. It may be best to modify your behavior in the workplace before problems arise. Having such a strong ego will get you in trouble over and over again.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23) There may be conflict with someone you love, but it can be avoided if you listen before you speak. While you are practical by nature, you would never know it this week, since you seem to be spending money everywhere you go. Some quiet time will be good for you.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23) Balance is really what works for you, so exercise moderation when dealing with your relatives and family members. Make your time count, especially when dealing with children. You seem to be taking a whole new look at your-

self - rebuild your image in a positive way.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22) A smile will go a long way, so try to be tolerant of others, even if you strongly disagree with them. There are new doors of opportunity being thrown open for you, so be aware before the chance passes you by. Try to keep a low profile and you will be surprised at what gets accomplished.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21) Make changes now in your financial picture, and money matters will start to look better almost immediately. Try to go against your most extravagant nature and steer towards conservative thinking instead. There is a positive exchange of energy in a partnership.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20) Your partner or members of the family may be impatient, so you should be at your best to deal with them correctly. Clear up any misunderstandings as soon as possible. You seem to have plenty of mental energy this week, use it to your advantage in the workplace.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19) Avoid any impulsive spending, or it will put you more in the hole than you can imagine. But do follow your hunches in money matters, especially those in which you do not have much experience. Be candid in your communications and it will smooth out any snags.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20) You are in tune with the feelings of someone you love, making it easy to do just the right thing - how nice. If you are feeling a bit depressed and out of sorts, don't sit around and mope, start making new friends instead. The truth is hard to get at this week.

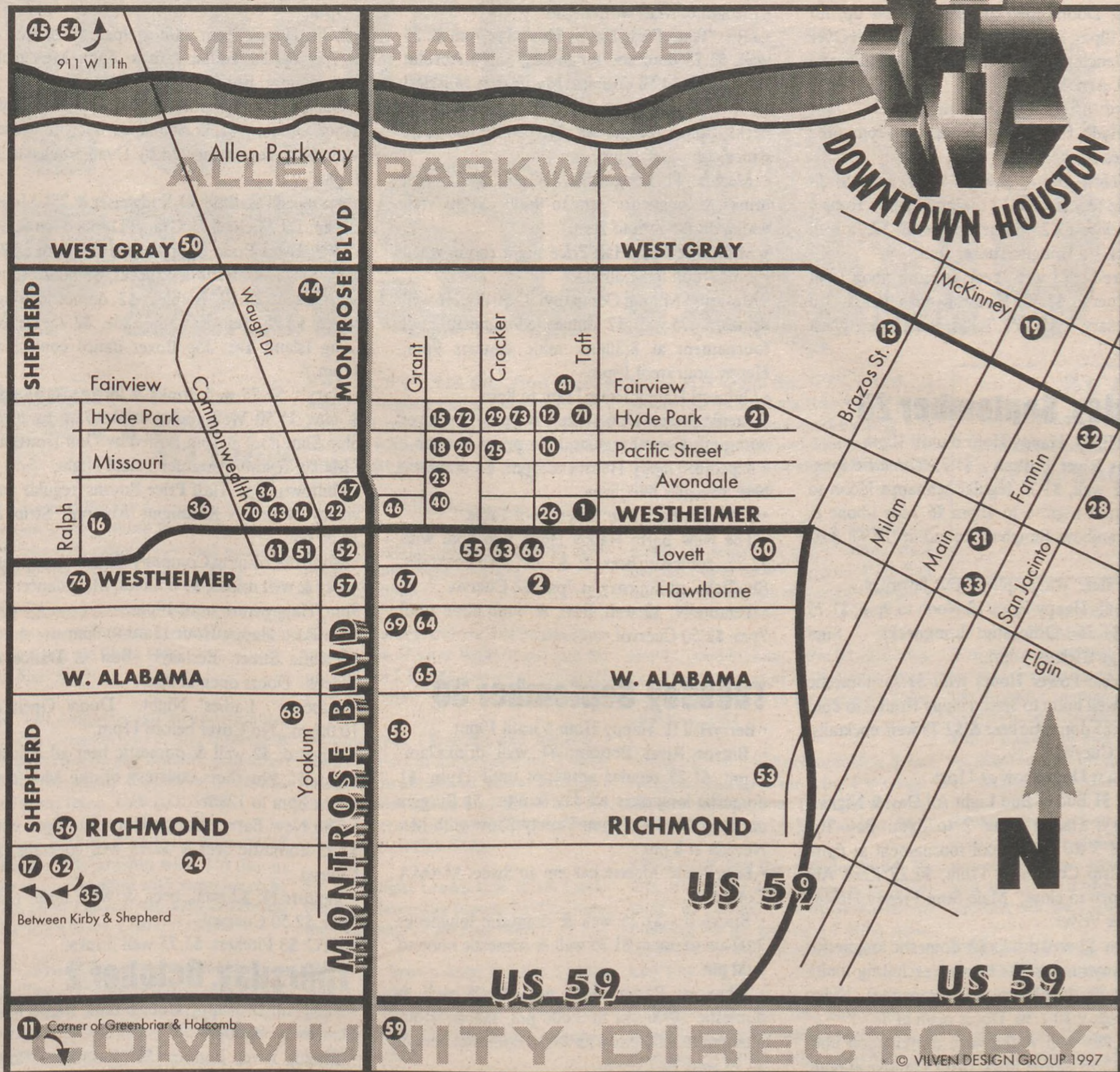
IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You don't like to be taken unaware by emotions, so be prepared. There is much about you that is never revealed, and you prefer it this way, your privacy is extremely important. Others may see you as being too picky. Welcome change in your life.

such is LIFE!



©EARL STORM

INTERNET: <http://www.gaywired.com/quack/suchlife.htm> E-MAIL: QUACKATEER@AOL.COM



ACCOMMODATIONS		
1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale 713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd 713/522-5224
BARS & CLUBS		
10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park 713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe 713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview 713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos 713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview 713/528-9204
16	Ejs	2517 Ralph 713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond 713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific 713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney 713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific 713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Tuom 713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer 713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific 713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond 713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific 713/523-0213
26	QT's	534 Westheimer 713/529-8813
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto 713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview 713/521-2792
31	Venture N	2923 Main 713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin 713/659-4998
33	Midtown Spa	3100 Fannin 713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer 713/521-9533
35	VoDoo Lounge	2151 Richmond 713/520-8636
36	Rascals	1318 Westheimer 713/942-CLUB
RESTAURANTS		
40	Baba Vega	2607 Grant 713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview 713/522-0106
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer 713/522-3332
44	Christy Donuts	1103 W Gray 713/524-4005
45	Java Java Cafe	911 W 11th 713/862-2683
46	Ming's Cafe	2703 Montrose 713/529-7888
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St. 713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES		
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray 713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer 713/942-0147
52	Eckard Drugs	1007 Westheimer 713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam 713/524-9932
54	Heights Above Florist	911 W 11th 713/862-2683
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer 713/529-8490
56	Inklings Bookstore	1846 Richmond 713/521-3369
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose 713/526-7865
58	Loba Books & Video	3939-S Montrose 713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose 713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer 713/520-2000
61	Four Star Hair Productions	1201 Westheimer 713/524-7785
62	CreADrive Unlimited	2219 Richmond 713/526-5190
63	Preferred Graphics	811 Westheimer 713/528-7654
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne 713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama 713/523-2521
66	Synchronized Chiropractic	811 Westheimer 713/521-7741
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose 713/520-8000
68	KAD Computer, Inc.	1437 W. Alabama 713/522-7813
69	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (A5) 713/522-7373
CLOTHING SHOPS		
70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer 713/522-1626
71	Jewel's Boutique	2404 Taft 713/523-3557
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview 713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview 713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer 713/529-6299

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You must have read it in the



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On Your Next Visit to Houston...

What you get at the motel on the highway & what you get at the Montrose Inn

Motel: Heterosexuals with kids fighting next door.

Montrose Inn: Gay men next door. Only gay men. Nothing but gay men.

Motel: Several miles to the gay bars.

Montrose Inn: 5 tiny blocks to the gay bars.

Motel: Drive to the gay bars & pay \$5 to park. Or take a \$15 cab.

Montrose Inn: Walk to the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.

Motel: Drive back from the gay bars and risk the cops making you walk the straight line. Or take a \$15 cab.

Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.

Motel: Rooms start at around \$50.

Montrose Inn: Rooms start at around \$50.

Motel: Eat in their restaurant. Food for the masses. Pay plenty. \$1 soft drink machine.

Montrose Inn: Complimentary late night sandwiches & full breakfast the next day. Free soft drinks, juices, coffee 24 hours.

Motel: Cruise the parking lot? Whoa! You're taking chances.

Montrose Inn: Meet our other guests. Please!

Motel: The receptionist sneers at you.

Montrose Inn: The receptionist winks at you.

Motel: Washing machine? Ironing board? Hair dryer? Refrigerator? Stove? Microwave? VCR & gay movies? Are you kidding?

Montrose Inn: All of the above. Free to use.

Motel: Full size bed, plastic flowers.

Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, fresh flowers.

Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m.

Montrose Inn: Handsome man next door knocking 11 a.m. to join him for breakfast. Checkout 1 p.m.

Reservations requested. 1-800-357-1228. The house at 408 Avondale.

The Montrose Inn is NOT a motel. We're NOT a hotel. We're a Bed & Breakfast. (And we're Basic & Butch. We're the B&B that's B&B.) We're completely different!

Friday, September 26

- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Buffet at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well; \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Cousin's: Drag show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm: Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm: \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Heaven: \$1 well & \$1.75 Miller. Doors open at 9pm.
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli: hard body male dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm: male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Midtowne Spa: Fundraiser for the TGRA! Show at 10pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Klub Kamp..a comedy drag review 9pm doors open, 11:30pm show—Retro Modern Hits by D.J. Chris Sill, \$1, \$2, \$3 drinks..
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails, \$2 Cuervo. 9:00 Shiela Lennon on stage!
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; Texas Cowgurlz Guest Bartenders 9:00 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Saturday, September 27

- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 9pm. Joanne in the afternoons!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Cousin's: Drag show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm.
- 800 Pacific block party: \$1 well & \$1.75 domestic longnecks! 9 to 9:30pm at Santa Fe Bar & Patio, 9:30 to 10pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10 to 10:30pm at J.R.'s Bar & Grill, & 10:30 to 11pm at Heaven.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Heaven: \$1 well 9 to 11pm; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 9pm.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$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 at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night

- 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm, See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard.; D.J. J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. DJ Bridgett Tucker spins.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. Cuervo \$2.50! Houston Area Bears' 3rd Anniversary PARTY! Texas Renegades guest bartend.

Sunday, September 28

- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; Steak night 6 to 10pm \$6 14oz t-bone & fixins. Ranibow Ranglers Round-up IV @ 8:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Cousin's: Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toy Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- Heaven: \$1 well drinks \$2. domestic longnecks; \$3.00 Anything in the house; (excluding multiple liquor drinks and champagne) Video Classifieds 9:30-1:30. Doors open at 8.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6pm: Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm. 50¢ draft on the patio with the Lancers guest bartending starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks: \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tourny @ 1:30pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No shirt, no cover, no kidding!
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: 18 & up welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call, Deja Vu "Phat Grooves & Cheap Drinks", doors open at 9pm, 90's Retro House Disco with D.J. Chris Sill.
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo. Cook-out on the "Far Side" & The Houston Area Bears guest Bartenders bartend 6pm till???

Monday, September 29

- BerryHill II: Free pool.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all nite 7am-2pm. Football on the big screen; snacks.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLOGIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm: Male Strip 11pm.

- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open to close; Free Pool Table.
- Incognito: Male Strip night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- 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 at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Outpost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourny at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Tuesday, September 30

- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. \$1 Burgers on the patio 6 to 10pm; Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie has em as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Night at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2 for Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, frozen Ritas & wine; Jockey short contest at 11pm; grab for cash at midnight.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$2 Cuervo.
- Mela's Tejano: Free Hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- 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 open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colors.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon to 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- VooDoo Lounge: Doors open 9:00 pm. No cover with ad from the Houston Voice. \$2 well, domestic, and special drinks 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Send off show for Miss Texas US of A.

Wednesday, October 1

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Free Pool Tables. FACES plays at 9pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm Country Music Awards party at 7 pm..
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic

- beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.
 - E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
 - Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
 - Heaven: \$1 well, \$1.75 Budweiser & 75¢ Miller on tap; DJ Michael DeGrace: Doors open 9pm.
 - J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea: Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
 - Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & nite; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
 - Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
 - Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight: Amateur Strip at 10:00 pm.
 - Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
 - OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
 - Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
 - Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
 - Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night. \$5 Flu shots courtesy of the Montrose Clinic 8pm to 12am
 - The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
 - Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
 - XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.
- Thursday, October 2**
- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Male Dancers at 10:30pm.
 - Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm. Party with Sam and ANimal. Dance lessons with Scott at 8:00 pm.
 - BriarPatch: Edith Head plays in a number of disguises.
 - Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
 - Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
 - Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
 - Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
 - E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Thursday Night Follies @ 11pm.
 - Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Skyy Vodka open to close.
 - Heaven: \$1.25 Frozen Ritas, \$1.00 well drinks. Amateur Strip Contest at 11pm hosted by Kofi. \$200 in Cash Prizes.
 - J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold & Micro brewed beer: Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
 - Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; 75¢ Schnapps.
 - Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
 - Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
 - Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
 - OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
 - Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
 - Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
 - Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night.
 - 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
 - The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
 - Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women SEEKING Women

SF I am looking for a woman. I am bi-curious. I am looking for a friendship, someone who can go slow and possibly more in the future. Call Ext. 5615

SWF 45, nice person. Seeking a single female who is honest, sincere and willing to treat me like a lady. Call Ext. 5517

SBF Tall, height/weight proportionate, attractive, mysterious & fun. Interested in a bi sexual or gay female, should be tall, for friendship & possibly for things to develop later. Call Ext. 5577

Seeking a White female between 35-45 to have a relationship with. I'd like to have an involvement with someone right away. I don't have a car. Very interested in having a lover. Call Ext. 5498

SF 27, Professional, Adventuresome. I enjoy the outdoors and just about anything with a good company. Seeking a positive friend to enjoy life. I'm down-to-earth. Call Ext. 5556

SBF Gay, sincere, love God. Interested in meeting other gay Black females for friendship & possibly more. Should enjoy life and have the same qualities. Leave a message. Call Ext. 5536

SBF 5'7", 162 lbs., big breast. Looking for a female with similar qualities for a night of fun. Call Ext. 5105

SF 23, 5'7", full figured & reddish hair. Bi sexual or gay females that is in the Southwest part of Houston, who is open-minded and outgoing. Must not be in a relationship at this time. Call Ext. 5574

SBF 36, very attractive, professional, I love life and god. I'm fun loving and intelligent. Interested in meeting other Black females for friendship and possibly more. Call Ext. 5535

I'm an attractive SBF, 38, 5'6", professional. Seeking an attractive bisexual SBF, 30-39 to explore the possibility of a discreet friendship. She must be professional, financially independent, healthy, light smoker ok, in good shape, weight and height proportionate. Call Ext. 5609

SBF Professional, gay, 40, 5'4" with an athletic build. I enjoy sports, running & working out. New to Houston. Looking to date a single gay female, who is a non-smoker, non-drinker & a non-drug user. Should be soft butched or butched, professional & preferably around ages 37-50. Call Ext. 5602

SBF Looking for an attractive single Black female, someone who I can spend my time with. Should be very caring, loving & willing to share different things with. Call Ext. 5579

SBF 5'10", attractive. I love the outdoors, sports & exercise. Would like to get know someone who is pretty much the same as me. Should be height/weight proportionate & seeking a deep, loving, caring friendship. Call Ext. 5578

SF 47, brown eye & shoulder length black hair. I enjoy dining out, going to the movies, staying home and watching TV. Interested in meeting someone that is honest, caring, very stable & know what you want out of life. Call Ext. 5312

SWF 24, 5'2", 120 lbs., short blonde hair. I'm in good shape. Looking to meet educated, professional woman to go out dancing with, have coffee, go to movies & basically just hang out. Call Ext. 5569

SF 31, 5", 110 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, athletic. Seeking females who are interested in sports, swimming and non-smoker, and a light drinker. Call Ext. 5566

SF Tired of being alone. I'll be your special friend, if your woman enough for me call me I'll give you what you need. Call Ext. 5529

SF blue eyes. I love life and females. I have 42 years of life experience. I'm intelligent, professional and articulate. I have a quick mind. Do I sound like the type of person you would like to meet? Call me. Call Ext. 5526

SF 5'7", light brown hair & 18. Looking for a feminine female 18-22. Leave me a message. Call Ext. 5603

SF 31, 5', brown hair, 115 lbs. I enjoy sports, outdoors and having fun. Looking for a friendship with a female between ages 28-35 with similar interests. Call Ext. 5525

SWF 22, 5'7", 125 lbs. Interested in spending time with a cute single White or Hispanic male, who doesn't mind me working in a sexually orand having ented business. Should enjoy nature & intellectually stimulating conversations. Call Ext. 5559

SF 5'9", brown eyes. I'm down-to-earth, easy going & a great sense of humor. Looking for friendship first & possibly a relationship down the road. Call Ext. 5560

Men SEEKING Men

SM 45, 5'7", 147 lbs., handsome, masculine, hairy chest. Seeking a single male between 30-45 who is interested in casual satisfying encounters. Body hair is a plus. Call Ext. 5616

SAM Mid-30's, attractive, intelligent & successful. Looking for very submissive, 60-older, White male for fun, friendship and more. Must be very clean, discreet & HIV-. Call Ext. 5576

SWM 37, 5'10", 160 lbs., brown hair & blue eyes. I'm country, versatile & love to cuddle. Looking for a hairy, handsome White male 35-45, height/weight proportionate. Should have no personal baggage. Call Ext. 5589

SHM 35, HIV+, 5'11", 195 lbs., black hair, brown eyes. Looking for a down-to-earth, good-looking, muscular, straight-acting gay White male who is also HIV+ & 35-40. He should be 5'9"-6', height/weight proportionate. Looking for a non-smoker & someone who doesn't mind being a bottom. Looking for friendship or more. Call Ext. 5345

SM Professional. Working on getting in better shape. Want a tennis player who can be out there with me. Call Ext. 5521

SWM 61, caring, assertive 5'10", 175 lbs. I'm a non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user & HIV negative. I'm a hot top seeking a submissive bottom, any age, any race & 5'10" or shorter. Must be a non-smoker, non-drug user & HIV negative. Call Ext. 5550

SWM HIV+, 190 lbs., 6'2", healthy. I would like to meet another White male who is also HIV+ and good-looking. I'm financially secure and looking for the same. Seeking someone to join life with me. Call Ext. 5464

GHM 35, 5'11", 195 lbs. & financially stable. In search of a gay White male between ages 30-45, country boy, that likes the beach, movies or just hanging out. Call Ext. 5581

SM 42, good looking, little bit of money. Looking for a couple of young guys, maybe one live in to have a good time. Call Ext. 5551

GHM 21, 5'6", light complexion & hazel eyes. I like to go out a lot. I'm outgoing & a nice person. Looking for anybody, any race & 18-30. Call Ext. 5613

SWM 6'1", 165 lbs., slender build, 39, salt 'n' pepper hair, green eyes, mustache & goatee. I'm down-to-earth. Looking for a Latin or a Latino male, 25-45 & I'll respond to anybody. Call Ext. 5612

GWM 41, 5'7", 147 lbs., hairy chest & masculine. I'm versatile, good looking, nice guy & a nice body. Searching for other gay White or gay Hispanic males 30-45, who are interested enjoying a safe, fun & affectionate time together. Call Ext. 5611

GWM 5'10", 185 lbs., 44, HIV+. Have dark hair, blue eyes, a mustache. Looking for a tall, husky or muscular cowboy, Levis, leather top man, age 35-45, who is financially stable and interested in home repair and improvement, landscaping, movies, long weekends at home and Sundays by the pool. Call Ext. 5596

SWM 190 lbs., 6'. Seeking a top black man HIV+. Like the outdoors, movies, sports. Just looking to get together. Seeking a friend or a relationship. Let's see what happens. Call Ext. 5600

GHM 33, HIV-, 5'7", 135 lbs. Looking for a gay White or Hispanic male, preferably 33 years old +. Call Ext. 5604

GWM 26, 6', black hair, green eyes. Seeking a GBM 26 and older, 6' or more. Wanting a dominant, masculine guy who's HIV+. I enjoy the outdoors, sports, movies, getting together with friends and having a good time. If interested, leave me a number. Call Ext. 5601

SM Responding to ad #5417, you are a bottom and non-drinker. I'm very much interested in you. Please call again and leave your number. Call Ext. 5557

SWM 50, HIV+, 5'11", 160 lbs. & I'm extremely healthy. Leave your number & we can get together. Call Ext. 5573

GWM 44, HIV+, 5'7", 147 lbs., dark beard & mustache. I'm handsome, masculine, educated & considerate of others. Seeking other males who are also HIV+, who are in need of attention, affection & romance in their lives. Call Ext. 5575

GWM 38, short dark brown hair & hazel-green eyes. I have a muscular, smooth body & I'm HIV+. Looking for a man who is 5'8" or taller, who enjoys being on the top, has a rugged look with body and facial hair. Should be mature, between the ages of 32-45 & good looking. Call Ext. 5524

SWM Gray and brown hair, 6'1", 150 lbs. I'm in good shape & average-sized. In search of Black, Hispanic or Native American male who is dominant. I can be versatile. Call Ext. 5340

SM Bi sexual. In search of feminine bi men, into transvestites and cross-dressing. Discretion is assured. Must be height/weight proportionate, almost pacifiable and versatile. Call Ext. 5528

SWM 47, 6', dark blonde hair, hazel eyes & very hairy. Looking for a White or Hispanic male, 35-50, to go to garage sales, movies & out to eat. Must be clean, honest, outgoing & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5568

SM I like gray haired men, in their late 40's & up. I like to go to movies, dining out & go to comedy clubs. Interested in meeting mature, wealthy gay White men. Should be willing to show me the finer points of gay life in Houston. Call Ext. 5586

SM 5'10", 175 lbs. Looking for a tall male who is a top. I'm financially stable. I like going out and having fun. Call Ext. 5563

SM Would like to meet other masculine guys, for friendship or more. Should be handsome, over 22, height/weight proportionate & med. - dark brown a plus. Must enjoy reading, writing, music & dancing. Call Ext. 5584

GWM 35, 5'11", 190 lbs., financially stable & in good shape. In search of a gay White male 30-45, country boy, that likes the beach, movies or just hanging out with each other. Must be HIV-. Call Ext. 5580

GWM Brown hair, blue eyes, 5'8", 140 lbs. Loving and caring relationship oriented. I enjoy outdoor activities, tennis and traveling. Seeking GM 35-50 for friendship and possibly more. Must be healthy and responsible. Call Ext. 5553

SHM 43, HIV positive, healthy, attractive. Seeking a male race is not important. Call Ext. 5562

SWM HIV positive seeking the same. I'm good looking and very healthy. Would like to meet a single White male HIV+, who is willing to share life with me and live it to the fullest. Must be honest, sincere, considerate and deserving person. Call Ext. 5554

GWM 38, 5'8", 170 lbs., brown hair & hazel eyes. Masculine, nice body. Seeking males 35-45, HIV positive, who are fun, good-looking and enjoy being on the top. Call Ext. 5522

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We'd like to hear from you with comments, personal testimonials. How are the personals working for you? Any true testimonials will be printed right here! Write to:

BureauCom Corporation ATTN: SHERI
921 14th Ave.,
Longview, WA 98632

SM 36, 6'2", masculine with a muscular build. I'm sincere, down-to-earth & if my life would have been different, I would have been a cowboy in a different life. Looking to meet men for a possibly long term relationship if we hit it off well. I'm a non-drug user & you should be to. Must be able to carry on a good conversation. Call Ext. 5591

SWM Mature, 5'10", 175 lbs. I'm greek active, french passive, well-endowed, a non-smoker, non-drug user & HIV-. If you are HIV-, a non-smoker, 5'10" or shorter, call me. Call Ext. 5610

GHM 33, 167 lbs., 30". Looking for a good time & someone to spend some time with. Call Ext. 5607

Professional White male looking for male Hispanic top. If you're out there, give me a call. Call Ext. 5598

GBM 29, 5'4", 128 lbs., brown eyes, mustache & well endowed. Looking for friendship, you must be height/weight proportion, open-minded, uninhibited, with a healthy appetite for giving and receiving cream, from both ends. Call Ext. 5592

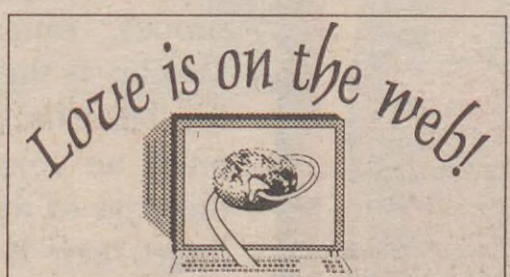
GWM 45, HIV+, A symptomatic for 11 years, 5'7", 145 lbs. I'm attractive & affectionate. My interests are classic autos, theater & board games. Looking for other HIV+, gay males, 30-45 young, for friendship. Call Ext. 5590

GWC Handsome, versatile, HIV+. In search of another gay third man 25-45, for long term relationship. We take pride in being very down-to-earth, open-minded, open hearted & honest. We are romantic and extremely passionate. We have a wide variety of interests indoors and outdoors. Should be versatile, financially, emotionally secure & handsome. One stands 6', 190 lbs., 34" waist, short brown hair, hazel eyes, mustache and goatee. The other stands 5'10", 175 lbs., 33" waist, short blonde hair, blue eyes, mustache & goatee. Call Ext. 5555

GWM 44, HIV+, 5'7", 147 lbs., dark beard & mustache. I'm handsome, masculine, educated & considerate of others. Seeking other males who are also HIV+, who are in need of attention, affection & romance in their lives. Call Ext. 5575

GWM 38, short dark brown hair & hazel-green eyes. I have a muscular, smooth body & I'm HIV+. Looking for a man who is 5'8" or taller, who enjoys being on the top, has a rugged look with body and facial hair. Should be mature, between the ages of 32-45 & good looking. Call Ext. 5524

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Tuesday, September 30 - 10pm A USofA At-Large Send Off Show

Miss Texas USofA At-Large

Chevelle Brooks



Miss Southwest USofA At-Large

Vanessa Casti



Miss Gulf Coast USofA At-Large

Donet McKim



Coming October 28 - A Gown Collection Showing from Fashions by ANIL

Tuesdays are strange, Tuesdays are queer, Tuesdays are cool.

\$2 Well and Domestic Beer plus Voodoo Specialty Drinks - 9-11 pm



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Coming October 14 - Houston Press Romance Night

SCENE AND HEARD

Important Stuff

We are all rooting for Ken Claude! Look out Mr. International Drummer constantants, 'cuz Ken is gonna give you a run for your money!

I know a secret! There is a new bar opening in just a few weeks! No, it is not on Westheimer! Paradise! is a little closer than you think! An oasis in the middle of Montrose!

Warm and fuzzy! The Houston Area Bears are celebrating their 3rd anniversary this Saturday at 9 pm at



Daddy of Montrose, Max Mixon



Barbara Valour performs at Midtown's Anniversary Party.

next door. For more info, call 713/529-7627.

The Men. The Music. The Mine! Sundays at the Mine offer \$1 well vodka drinks as well as \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night!

Congrats to Sean Carter for coming in the "top 12" at the Mr. Gay All-American Contest!



At EJ's.

Friday, September 27, sexy singer Shiela Lennon performs your favorite C&W dance music at the New Barn! She scoots on stage at 9 pm. Also, mark your calendars for October



Tiffany moos on stage for the HCC benefit at The Venture-N.

the Venture-N. Be sure to stop in their den! The Texas Renegades will be guest bartending for his occasion!

Congrats to the new Mr. Rascal's Chaunce Davenport and the new Ms. Rascal's Tiffany Brooks!

The Rainbow Ranglers are dancing up a storm this Sunday at the Brazos River Bottom! Showtime is 8 pm.

The Lancer's MC are guest bartending on the patio of Mary's, naturally this Sunday at 2 pm. They will draw you a 50¢ draft beer



At the Lazy J.

Tuesday! VooDoo! This Tuesday, a USofA at-large send-off show will grace the stage at 10 pm. Join Chevelle Brooks, Vanessa Casti, and Donet McKim as they make their moves for the big title. The VooDoo Lounge offers no cover with the coupon on this page of the Houston Voice. Don't forget their Houston Press Romance night on October 14.

I had the pleasure of previewing the "Vampyre House." This live (or dead in some cases) performances are a tasty treat for the blood thirsty. Not your run-of-the-mill "haunted house," Vampyre House will be worth the wait in line! And if you get thirsty, jump inside the Venture-N, 'cuz it is right

The NEW BARN

Friday, September 26 at 9 pm

SHIELA LENNON

performing your favorite C&W dance music...

Come Enjoy our Great Music and Dance Until the Cows Come Home!

Saturday • 9pm

DJ BRIDGETT TUCKER

spinning the latest in C&W and Dance Music!

Coming Friday, October 10 • 9pm

RSICSS' Yearly

**Emperor's Turn-About
Drag Show**



starring Emperor Jerel McNeill

and his bevy of beauties and beasts!

Come Enjoy this Fun-Filled Night of Fundraising for a Worthy Community Charity.

Chances
523-7217

**Every Wednesday
Shiela at 9:30pm**

Happy 27th Birthday - Miss Chances, Renee Monroe

Happy 28th Birthday - Nick V. at Charlie's

Oct. 1st, Happy Birthday to Dot Thompson

We are happy to see you are home and on the mend!

1100 Westheimer • Houston

Marlene

10! The RSICSS's Turn About Show will be at The New Barn! This is a not to be missed show!

Gentry! Male strip contests on Sunday and Wednesday nights! Bare! Hot!

Sundays, the gates of Heaven open for FREE! No cover all night, featuring \$1 Miller Lite Draft, \$1.50 frozen Ritas, \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.50 well drinks, and \$3 for almost anything else in the house! Groove with



At P.S.

the go-go boys!

Grey Party, Inc., a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization held their first fundraiser at Mary's, naturally on Sunday, Sept. 21. The Wolf Pack guest bartended as well as food, fun, and entertainment. Over \$400 was raised to benefit the Grey party's charity fund.

A couple of Sunday's ago, a cheering crowd at E/J's helped raised over \$300 to help send Tara Dion to Miss Gay World and Byron and Cameron to Mr. All American.

Members of the Houston Council of



This photo needs no caption!

Clubs are in the planning stages for LUEY 25. Last Sunday, \$147 was raised for the hungry LUEY 25 kitty!

Daddy of Montrose Max Mixon and the "Queens of my Double Wide" unhooked on the stage of the Brazos River Bottom. The Bering Care Center is \$473 richer because of theses hard working trailer park trash!

Sunday, Sept. 28, the Jekyll & Hyde/It's Time CD release party at JR's Video Bar! Join in with Marsha Carlton's Karaoke from 6 to 11 pm.

Party at Mela's Tejano Country on Thursday nights! It is happy hour all day and all night!

Sundays! No shirt! No cover! No Kidding! Pacific Street! Where real men still dance!

E/J's now has talent night twice a week! Tuesdays and Thursdays! Be



Visit Cathy at Chances.

there by 11 pm.

Midtowne Spa has a benefit for TGRA this Friday night. Showtime is 10 pm.

Did you like to play bridge? Call the 611 Hyde Park Pub about their Bridge Club!

The Ripcord has after hours on Friday and Saturday nights!

Bricks II open at 7 am! Stop in for coffee or maybe that first eye opener of the day!

The New Barn has changed open-



Getting ready for Grey Party!

ing times! The doors open daily at 3 pm and Saturday and Sunday at noon!

Fridays are BlackJack nights at the BriarPatch!

Cousin's has drag shows Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights! Showtime is 11 pm.

The Lazy J is having one hell of a pool tournament blowout this Saturday. Registration is at noon!



Jack and Sam.

Milestones

Hugs and prayers to Tom Zito. He is at 12 Oaks.

Both Dot Thompson and Jim Cheek are home and recovering!

Damion of Club Houston is feeling much better!

Happy Birthday to Patricia (a.k.a. Roberta) from Connie who loves you

and wants you to know your present is at the house.

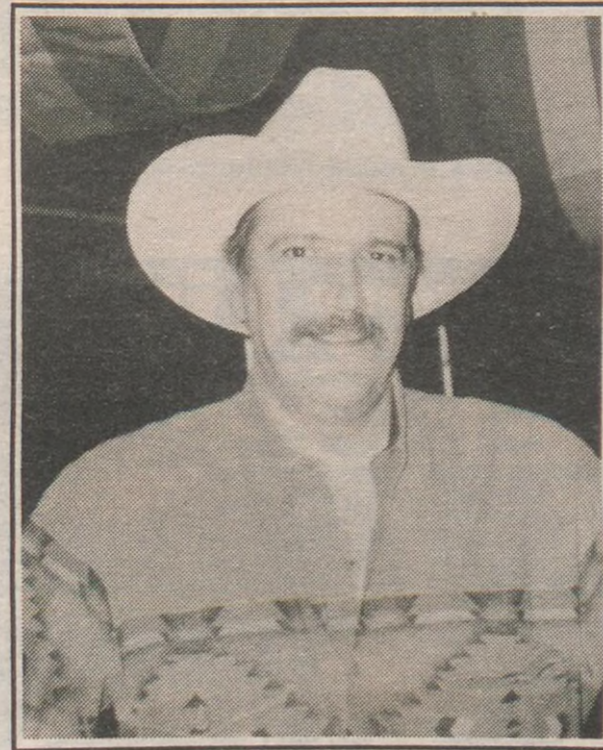
Belated birthday hugs to Chad of Gentry!

Drag another birthday candle to Renee Monroe's cake!

Put another jewel on King Father for life Dot Thompson's birthday crown!

Pour another cup of birthday coffee to Nick of Charlie's

Add another hair on Don Dowden's birthday mustache!



Tommie Sue Ellen at the BRB.

Joe DeRosa is having a birthday, too this week!

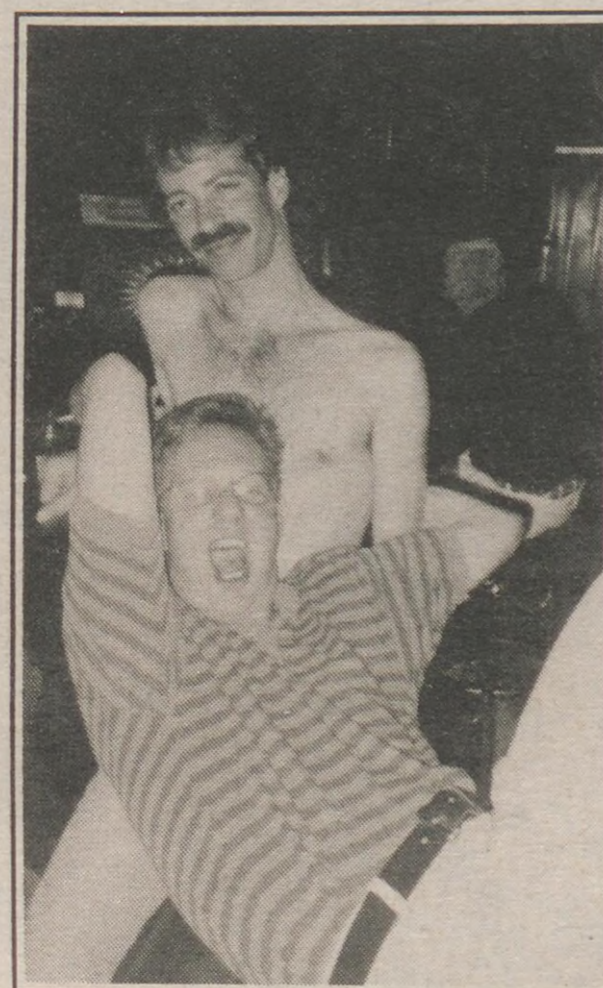
Rob Baker gets a birthday hug this week!

Camping without Boas!

Jeff and I went to Garner State Park this past weekend! Yes, in a tent and everything. Shopping Saturday after-



Lovebirds at Bricks II.



At the Venture-N.



Lucky Val at Gentry



Harvey, the monster ferret.

noon in the "General Store" in Utopia, Texas was a real experience. I have never seen so many "toys" in one small place! There, tucked back in the corner of the store was riding crops, harnesses, ropes, chains, leather gloves, bits, and cattle prods! Sounds like the play rooms of many of my friends!



Vanna's back!

Rodent Droppings!

Harvey and Rascal missed us while we were gone for the weekend! They missed us sooooo much that there were NO droppings on the bottom of the cage! But, look out, with that much constipation, next week ought to produce a full load! I'm sorry about the lack of gossip!

There is a video (available at Lobo) called "First Tryers-Houston" that stars some of Montroses' own local celebs in some rather unique positions! Check it out!

Have a great week!
Cuervolyn

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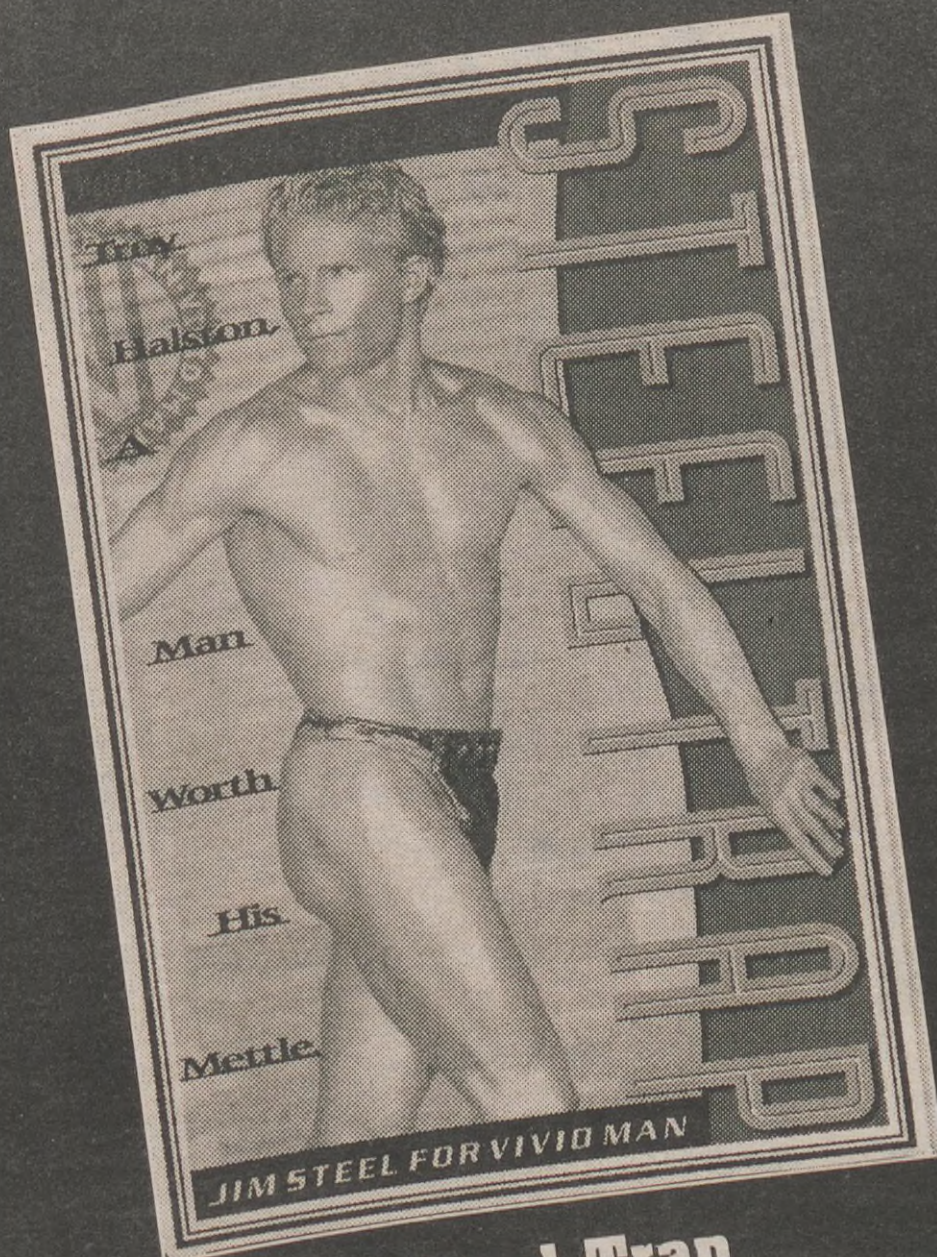
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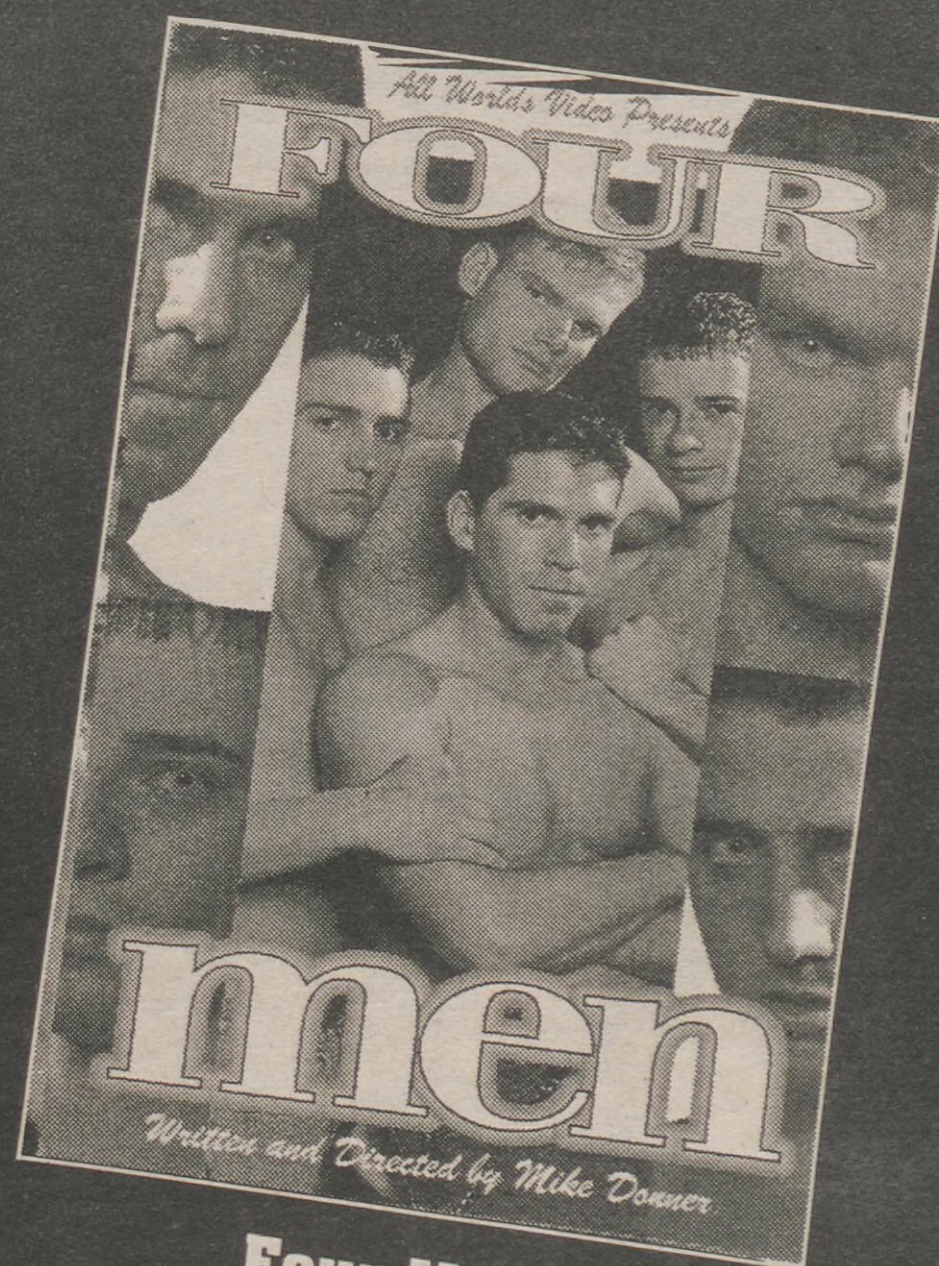
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Sunday
1pm-1am



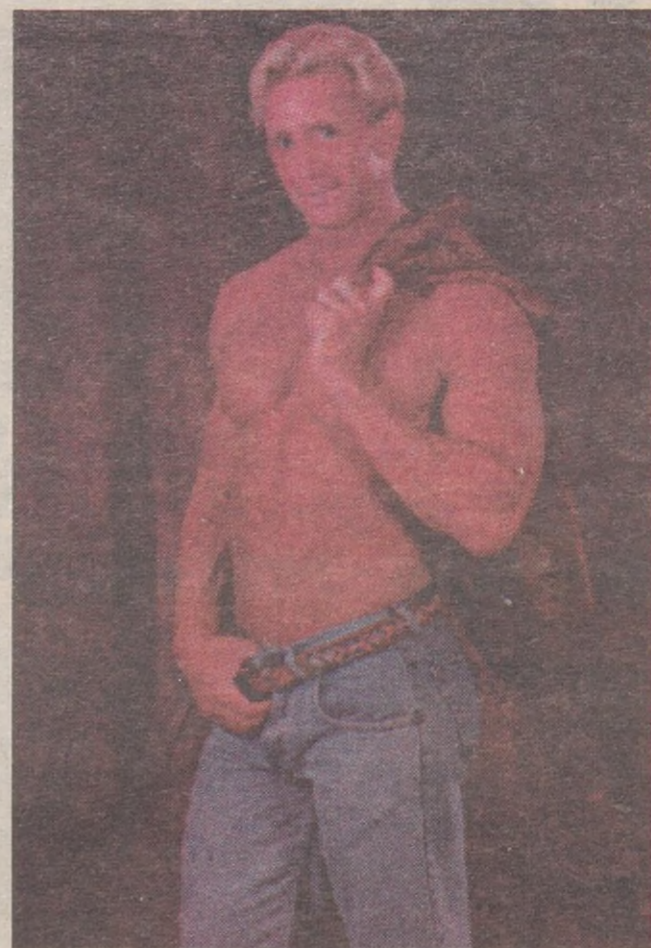
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