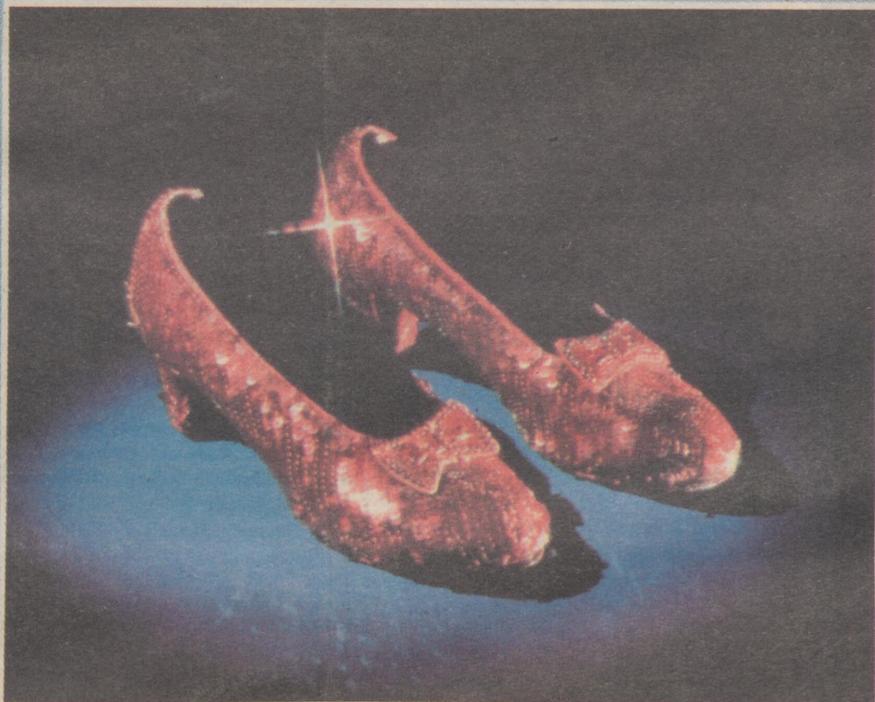


DECEMBER 6, 1996 • ISSUE 841



One Step Closer! Hawaii Court Decision

By Curt Morrison

A state court struck down Hawaii's ban on same-sex marriages this week marking the first time a state court has ever recognized homosexual marriages. The historic decision was handed down by First Circuit Court Judge Kevin Chang in the case of Baehr. v. Mike.

Chang indicated that the state failed to demonstrate a compelling reason why the public interest in the well-being of children and families would be affected by same sex marriages.

Although Hawaii's Deputy Attorney

General believes the ruling "basically redefines marriage, like it or not," he promised a quick appeal to Hawaii's Supreme Court. In 1993, the state's high court ruled that, under the state constitution, the ban was discriminatory. Most analysts expect the court to keep the ban in effect during the appeal process.

The decision has raised the ire of the religious right. "This is hardly the time to be tinkering with the definition of marriage," intoned Ralph Reed of the

(Continued on page 14)

First Ladies' Gowns Sweep Into Town Dorothy's Ruby Slippers in "America's Smithsonian"

See page 8 for story



BANK UNITED
THANKSGIVING PARADE

Houston Caregivers Honored

See
page 13
for story



Lady Bird Johnson's Dress - See story page 8.

A Conversation with Elizabeth Birch

By Curt Morrison

She is, arguably, the most powerful person in the gay and lesbian community. Even, the President of the United States returns her calls. She is articulate, bright, energetic and a public relations wizard. She is Elizabeth Birch, the Director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a position she assumed in the latter part of 1994.

Birch, the founder of AIDS Legal Services and a former co-chair of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, was in Houston last week to lobby community leaders and promote HRC. In a candid interview with the Houston Voice, she discussed a

wide range of issues in detail. Since she arrived in Houston, she has had barely a moments rest. Back to back meetings. Fundraising receptions. Press interviews. Throughout, Birch does not seem phased, yet readily admits that there are "not enough hours in the day."

In 1985, Elizabeth Birch graduated with honors from the Santa Clara University

(Continued on page 14)

Mounted Officer Hurt

See Story Page 8

Election Coverage

See Story Page 7

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- * "Your Sacred Self" study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. At Kingdom Community Church 862-7533
- * Catholic Mass at 10:00 am. Kolbe Project 522-8182
- * Eucharist and Healing service for those with HIV at Christ Church Cathedral at 7:00 pm. 432-0414.

Saturday-12/7

- * Mass at Dignity Houston at 7:30 pm. 880-2872.

Sunday-12/8

- * 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 am & 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. SERVICE IN NEW LOCATION, 4305 Lillian 880-9235
- * Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225
- * Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School at 10:00 am 862-7533 "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 am
- * Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830
- * Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 am Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017
- * Church of the XII Apostles worship service at

10:00 am. Chapel of the Santana Funeral home, 5352 Katy Freeway. 665-7903.

Monday-12/9

- * Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182
- * MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149

Tuesday-12/10

- * MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm. The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149
- * PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- * HIV Affected group meets at 7:00 pm. Judy or Pam at 880-9235; HIV Infected group meets at 7:00 pm. Catherine or Robert at 880-9235. At Community Gospel.
- * Maranatha Fellowship MCC has home 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.
- * Advent Scripture Study at Kolbe Project. 7:30 pm. 522-8182.

Wednesday 12/11

- * MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149
- * Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429
- * MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm, Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 861-9149
- * "A Course in Miracles"—Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm 862-7533.

Thursday-12/12

- * Bible Study 7:00 pm At Faith And Hope Fellowship 773-4429
 - * Community Gospel midweek service 7:30 pm 880-9325
 - * Healing Service with Anointing at the Kolbe Project at 7:30 pm. 522-8182.
- If you want an event listed in this section, please call 529-8490*

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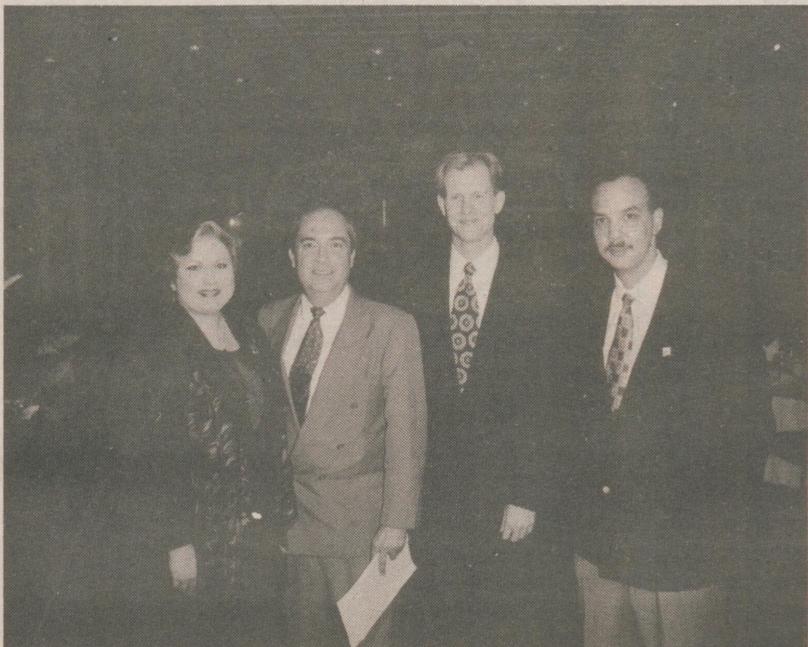
JANUARY 3 • ISSUE 845
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Milam House Gala A Success



Milam House Executive Director Viktoria Gotting, Fundraising Director George Jonte, Channel 11's Dan Meador and Dr. Joseph Gathe, Jr. attending the annual Founder's Day Dinner. (Photo by Dalton DeHart)

The 1996 Milam House Founders' Dinner was a resounding success. The crowded gala celebrated the organizations growth and contributions to the gay and lesbian community, specifically concerning AIDS.

Founded by Houstonians William Blake Rider, Ken E. Wilson and Connie S. Merhley, the hospice has become an integral facility for respite care for individuals with HIV, the cause of AIDS. The 501(c)(3) non-profit organization became totally operational in April 1993.

Milam House is governed by an active Board of Directors that provides exemplary guidance on an oversight basis to the staff and volunteers who make this organization successful. Managed by Viktoria Gotting, the executive director, the facility offers the community a transitional and long-term residential center with a home-like atmosphere for HIV+ persons who because of health, social and/or economic conditions are unable to provide for their own basic needs.

The organization works in tandem with many other reputable organizations in the community including The AIDS Foundation Houston, People With AIDS Coalition, The Foundation for Interfaith Research and Ministry, Over The Hill, VA Hospital and Harris County Social Services.

The annual dinner brought some of Houston's most respected dignitaries and community activists together to celebrate the successes and plan for future endeavors. The evening was emceed by George Jonte, one of the organizations Board of Trustees and the Public Relations master behind Milam House. Channel 11's Dan Meador introduced the Board of Directors and the evenings special guests. An invocation was provided by the Reverend Sally Fox from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

The evenings keynote speaker was the Dr. Joseph Gathe, Jr., a widely and highly respected medical doctor whose knowledge of HIV is impressive indeed. Dr. Gathe was cautiously optimistic about the new protease inhibitors. He indicated that we must be diligent in our

fight against HIV and urged that we do not become complacent as a result of the positive results from the protease inhibitors. Dr. Gathe also stressed that the community needed to address societal issues in order to completely eliminate or control the virus in the future. "This war and this battle is not over until it's over," lamented Gathe. "We are now able to go into the future with a much brighter outlook," he stressed.

Viktoria Gotting addressed the attendees with a moving speech on how her brief tenure has made a tremendous impact on her dedication. A dedicated community service leader and provider, she is notorious for her lengthy days and commitment to her responsibilities. Gotting joined the organization with the Boards blessing in June earlier this year. Gotting stressed that the most difficult task in maintaining appropriate funds to keep the organization in the black. Gotting informed the group of the organizations goals including a unique cooking and nutrition program and the piloting of a Resident Managers Program. "We have a vision that Milam House will continue to provide housing to persons with HIV/AIDS who are facing homelessness. It feels good to know that as the hope for longer lives becomes a reality, that Milam House may happily provide transitional, rather than long term care, and much needed services to improve quality of life. I hope that you are all as proud as I am to be associated with such goals," said Gotting.

Gotting's stirring speech was interrupted by a telegram sent by Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee praising the organizations work. Gotting presented Jonte' and silent auction chair Ken Wilson with a dinner certificate compliments of 8.0 Restaurant and Bar for their dedication and commitment. Milam House is always in need of sincere volunteers and provides a comprehensive training program. Assignments range from clerical and general office assistance, to planning and execution of fund raising events. For more information concerning volunteering or other matters, contact Milam House at 713-649-6035.

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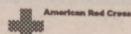
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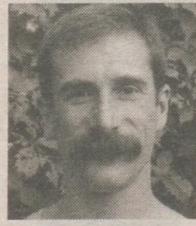
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CHARLES A. DALLY, IV

Charles A. Dally, IV, 41, passed away Tuesday, November 27, 1996 at his home in Houston. Chuck

was a 1977 architecture graduate of Kent State University and held masters degrees from Texas A&M University in Architecture and in Landscape Architecture with a concentration in Urban Planning. He was employed by the City of Houston for the past six years as a manager in the Planning Department and had previously worked in a similar position for the City of Dallas. He was an active member of the local chapter of the American Planning Association. Chuck loved travel, music, movies and reading and had participated as a supernumerary in a number of productions of the Houston Grand Opera and the Dallas Opera. He is survived by his life partner, David Neu, Houston; parents, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dally, III, Sewickley, Pa.; Sisters, Elizabeth Dally, Portland, OR, and MarySue Dally and Kate Shriver, Pittsburgh; nieces, Helen Dally, Sadie Shriver and Violet Shriver; and nephew, Stephen Houser. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 7, 1996 at 6:00pm at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St., Houston.



Christmas Ornaments

The Hyde Park Art Gallery is conducting its third annual Christmas ornament and objects de art sale. The Gallery takes great pride in announcing this sale to support our community. This sale will benefit the Montrose Police Store Front.

The ornaments and objects de art are hand made and designed by area community artists. Each piece is unique, collectible and artistic.

The Hyde Park Art Gallery Christmas group art show will feature a variety of local artists. The gallery invites you to come and meet the artists at the reception to be held on Friday, Dec. 6, 1996, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The Hyde Park Gallery is located at 711 Hyde Park. For more information, please call Larry Crawford at 526-2744.

Your Hometown Community Paper

HOUSTON VOICE

The Voice of Houston's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community

ISSUE 841

December 6, 1996

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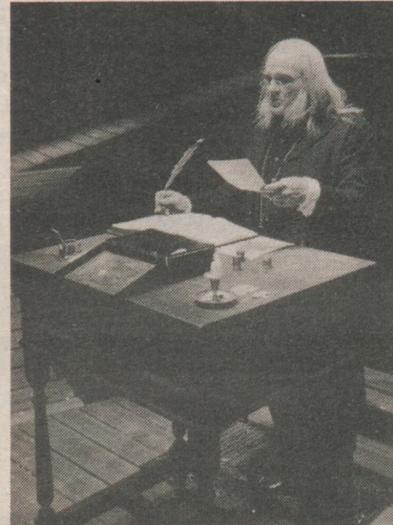
Dickens Classic Delights

By JON ANTHONY

We are all familiar with the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge. As with all classics, if they are good—they stand the test of time. A Christmas Carol is a holiday tradition and it has become a Houston staple at the Alley Theatre.

Originally published in London on Dec. 17, 1843, A Christmas Carol—A Ghost Story of Christmas was an immediate success and quickly established itself as a literary classic. This holiday treasure tells the story about Ebenezer Scrooge's transformation from a wizened old miser to a benevolent benefactor. From Scrooge's first "humbug" to the late Tiny Tim's "God bless us, everyone," we are reminded of why this tale has become part of holiday folklore. It resonates with warmth, laughter and generosity, all of which are the spirit of the season.

The Alley Theatre—this year's recipient of the special Tony Award for outstanding regional theatre—has staged the production since



Miserly old Scrooge (James Black) discovers the true meaning of Christmas in the Alley's production of A Christmas Carol, which has become a Houston holiday tradition. (Photo by Bruce Bennett)

1989. Nearly 200,000 Houstonians have seen the production that encompasses 40 actors and splendid production sets.

James Black is extraordinary as Ebenezer Scrooge. His portrayal is precise, crisp and utterly entertaining. Black's brilliant performance is the anchor of the entire production. The rest of the cast is impressive with the exception of a few. Since it is the holiday's, a refrain from negativity is appropriate.

Besides, this production is whimsical and refreshingly entertaining. It is a production you can enjoy with your family and friends or by yourself.

Adapted and originally directed by Alley Associate Artist Michael Wilson, A Christmas Carol is sponsored by 1996-97 Large Stage Season Sponsor Compaq Computer Corporation and Production sponsors Browning Ferris Industries, Shell Oil Company and Vastar Resources, Inc. A Christmas Carol will play at the Alley through Sunday Dec. 29. It is a must see production.

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Rock Legend Stewart Visits Houston

Pop Star appears on KHMx

International superstar Rod Stewart whose career spans three decades as a top concert draw and recording artist stopped by to promote his latest CD, available on Warner Bros. records.

Stewart visited local radio station KHMx, more commonly known as 'Mix 96.5' and hit the airwaves with morning stars Shelby Sweeney and Larry Moon. The duo offer a delightful array of banter each morning that is uproarious. Stewart cajoled with the hosts and appeared to be enjoying the repartee.

Stewart's latest album is a compilation of some of his best adult contemporary hits. The legendary rocker looked tanned and rested and sported new locks. Stewart has resigned his spiked hair for a more relaxed look. The station had hosted Stewart and promoted a private reception for 10 lucky fans who won tickets for the event.



Rod Stewart with Mix 96.5 Morning Drive co-host Shelby Sweeney

A Win For Gay Marriage, But a Long Way to Go

A Legal Commentary

By Dale Carpenter

A trial court in Hawaii has found that the state's refusal to allow three same-sex couples to marry violates the Hawaii constitution's guarantee of equal protection of the law. The Hawaii judge said that the ban constitutes sex discrimination and that the state had failed to show a compelling reason for its ban on gay marriages. Although the decision is the first definitive ruling permitting same-sex marriage in the United States, same-sex couples cannot yet flock to Hawaii seeking marriage licenses.

The state of Hawaii immediately announced that it would appeal the judge's decision to the Hawaii Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the state said that it will ask the trial judge to delay the effect of his order while the appeal proceeds. Most legal observers expect that the judge will stay his decision until the state Supreme Court has a chance to review the matter.

However, most legal observers also predict that the Hawaii Supreme Court will uphold the decision, making Hawaii the first state to recognize same-sex marriages. Several European countries already recognize gay marriages. Whatever the decision, there will be no appeal of the case to the United States Supreme court because the judge's decision involves an interpretation of only the Hawaii constitution.

Despite the good news for gay and lesbian

civil rights advocates, the Hawaii legislature may amend the state's constitution to explicitly ban same-sex marriage before the state Supreme Court has a chance to rule on the issue. Advocates of a ban on gay marriage gained seats in the state legislature in the November election. It is not known whether they will have enough votes to enact a state constitutional ban, which failed to gain approval in the last session. Thus, the stage is set for a dramatic political battle over the issue in Hawaii in addition to the legal one.

If same-sex marriage becomes legal in Hawaii, it is still unclear whether such marriages would be recognized elsewhere in the United State. The Defense of Marriage Act, passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton in August, forbids federal recognition of gay marriages. Additionally, more than a dozen states have adopted legislation to prevent recognition of same-sex marriages in their jurisdictions. The Texas legislature will consider a bill barring recognition of same-sex marriage at its next session beginning in January.

Advocates of same-sex marriage have announced plans to challenge those state laws, in addition to the Defense of Marriage Act, as unconstitutional. The United States Constitution requires states to honor and enforce the judicial acts and decrees of other states.

(Dale Carpenter, an attorney, is the state President of Log Cabin Republicans of Texas).

Runoff Elections Held Dec. 10

This Tuesday, Dec. 10, there will be several run-off elections throughout Houston due to the redistricting mandate. In District 25, Democrat incumbent Ken Bentsen will face Republican challenger Dolly Madison McKenna for the hotly contested congressional seat. Bentsen, who is endorsed by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, faced 11 challengers for the seat during the November elections. McKenna, a moderate pro-choice Republican, came in a close second in the race.

"Ken Bentsen will continue his fight for equal rights for all Americans when he is re-elected to the United States congress," said HGLPC board member Clarence Bagby. "He has committed to vote for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and has repeatedly supported increased funding for breast cancer and AIDS programs." "We do endorse Republican, Libertarian and Democratic candidates on a regular basis who support equal rights for gay people, but they must screen and stand for endorsement," explained Jay Seegers, PAC Screening Committee co-chair.

"We stand by our previous endorsement," said HGLPC president Pat Gandy. The HGLPC endorsed the incumbent in November and continues to do so during the run-off. "None of the candidates from District 8 or 9 sought our endorsement," added Gandy.

It should be noted that both candidates are seen as moderates and many in the community believe that neither candidate, if elected, will be a detriment to gay and lesbian equality. "Dolly Madison is a great candidate and can do the job. She has compassion for all of her constituents and that is all we should expect from a candidate," says Gary Van Ooteghem, President of Log Cabin Houston.

"Former President Bush's recent comments lambasting Al Clements for working against McKenna points to the problem of the right wing influence in the Republican party when the right wingers try to prevent an otherwise qualified candidate from obtaining office due to their own personal prejudices and bigotry's, exemplifies the absurdity of the situation," said Van Ooteghem. Clements is the religious right extremist who was removed last year from his post as Senate District Chair for the Senate District 13 in a collaborative effort between Log Cabin Republicans and other moderate Republicans.

In District 8, arch-conservative Gene Fontenot faces Kevin Brady for the fourth time. The re-match between the two Republicans will finally play out on Tuesday. Fontenot is known for his desire to incorporate his religious views into government policy. Brady, also a conservative, is construed as being less discriminatory concerning his views. Fontenot, a millionaire, has far exceeded Brady in the spending arena. Most gay pundits believe that Fontenot poses a greater threat to our civil liberties.

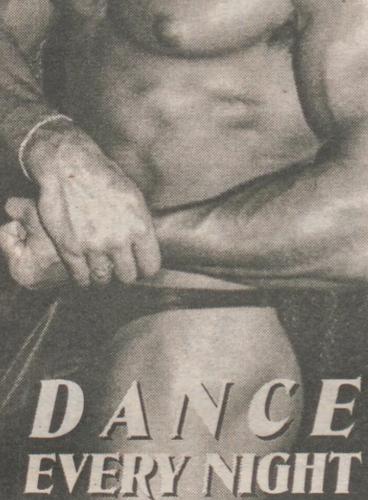
District 9 represents a contest between incumbent Steve Stockman, a Republican, and Nick Lampson, his Democrat opponent. Stockman was a freshman Republican in the 104th congress and was seen as vulnerable. Neither candidate has focused their attention on gay and lesbian issues. This election is as important as the general election as it will determine the exact ratio of Democrats and Republicans on Capitol Hill. It will have an impact on committee chairpersonships and other appointed positions. The election will be held next Tuesday, Dec. 10.

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Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



The True Spirit of Community

Andy Lights Up Her Life

Andy Mills is a traffic-stopper, all right. Tall and graceful, with a broad smile and engaging manner. If he did not deliberately wave and direct travel around him there would be wrecks and worse as drivers admired him instead of observing the rules of the road.

Andy has stopped traffic on Westheimer so often that it has become a legendary tradition that the community looks forward to. The myths and rumors that have evolved from these misty, starry spectacles are all true, even when they contradict each other. This is because Andy is partly real, partly magic. Like Christmas. And, like all gay people.

The irrefutable facts are these: in 1980 we were all well and strong. We partied in the bars and on the streets. We all had money and jobs. Instead of HIV, we feared HPD, but not that much. That year was such a good year that at Christmas the gay community planned to have our own Christmas tree, one that would demonstrate and reflect back all the joy and pride and glamour that is gay.

A 30-foot conical fir was sent for, and after multiple sightings and committee debates, The Tree was located. In Michigan. So, what's the problem? We were well and strong. We had jobs and money to spend back then. And, The Tree was donated, and shipped to Houston by handsome, healthy, burly Yankee lumberjacks.

The Tree was tenderly carried all the way to Houston, and left at the designated site at Elgin and Bagby, where there used to be a triangle esplanade, not a freeway. The city had granted permission to the community to run electricity to it. The design and decoration plans were elaborately made, and a party was planned, replete with speeches, strutting and preening.

When Andy and his friends had collected all their ornaments and tinsel, they went to set The Tree up and decorate it, but could not believe what they saw. Or what they did not see: The Tree was gone!

The police were summoned, and the television news media arrived shortly thereafter. The devastating incident was broadcast and within minutes, a witness called in: two men in a jeep were seen fleeing the site with a 30-foot tree. Andy gathered 50 of his best friends into his Cadillac convertible and rushed to the crime scene. All that remained was a clump and a trail of pine needles that led—not towards The

Woodlands, or Sharpstown—to a garage in the neighborhood. The group removed what remained of The Tree from the garage. They did not need the assistance of the cops. They had The Tree! Courageously, they pounded the doorbell of the thieves' home. When the door opened, a lovely foyer was revealed with a 20-foot ceiling. Almost tall enough for a stolen 30-foot Christmas tree, but not quite. That's why they had cut its trunk almost in half.

The police made the motions to arrest the red-handed outlaws, but Andy intervened. Surely, these wealthy queens did not need their tasteful records besmirched by a criminal conviction. Perhaps this could be worked out. And, with a personal check from the crooks for \$1,000 to the community as a "donation to cover any inconvenience" everyone was appeased.

The Tree was not as mighty as it had been, but propped up on a tall box, bereft of trunk and foliage, it was almost better than a Charlie Brown tree. Drawing a happy crowd, there was a splendid celebration. Unfortunately, that night The Tree was set on fire by queer-haters. The following day, wide tire tracks were visible over the broken, cut up, burned up fir.

The next year the community Christmas tree was positioned at the corner of Montrose and Westheimer, where Blockbuster and Eckkerd's are now. It was not as big, or as publicized as The Tree, but it was our tree. However, that tree was vandalized too, despite being shielded by a protective fence.

In 1982 a safer location was sought for our Christmas tree, and the choice was obvious: on top of Mary's, where it would be accessible and, still, we could all enjoy its splendor, safely. Andy, who stood in the street elegantly extending his hands, stopped traffic in all directions as we sang. That tree came alive with lights and glory. As a result, it remains—the tradition. Our family tree, at our historical home, where the pulse of the neighborhood beats.

This year there will be a brass band playing while the whole community engages in song. Santa Claus will light the tree. And again, Andy Mills will be there, in the middle of the street, stopping traffic, and directing it all.

The annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is Jazz's favorite holiday tradition, and Andy Mills is her favorite hero. This year the celebration will be on Dec. 8, at 6pm. Mary's is at 1022 Westheimer. Be there.

Gay and Lesbian Campaign Institute Comes to Houston

Victory Foundation To Train Candidates And Campaign Managers

Nov. 25, 1996, Washington D.C. The Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation Training Institute is coming back to Texas, offering its first training in Houston Feb. 6-9, 1997.

The Institute will train openly gay men and lesbians to run for political office and serve as campaign managers.

"We're very pleased to offer strong,

potential gay and lesbian leaders the leadership development training and technical support they need to enter public life," said Jonathan Wilson, executive director of the Victory Foundation.

The non-partisan training is limited in size. Tuition is \$300; a limited number of partial scholarships are available. For more information, or to apply for the training, potential participants should call Dave Fleischer, Coordinator of Training, before Jan. 6. Fleischer can be reached at (718)230-9865.

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Thursdays:	\$1.50 Vodka Wells
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Gay Today



by Glen Webber

Dementia, Baptism and Drugs.

I find myself making a major concession to my AIDS virus. I now have to give up driving. Actually, I'm taking the news pretty good. I realize one thing. I am posing a danger to the drivers in Montrose. I have already given up driving at night. I can no longer distinguish where the headlights are coming from. When I turn on a street I am not familiar with, I panic because I think I am lost.

Daytime driving hasn't been too bad, but my ability to see around me is being compromised by my failing eye sight. I believe my problems are stemming from my dementia. For those of you who are not familiar with this illness, its effects are similar to Alzheimer's Disease. This illness affects the part of the brain housing your motor skills. Not only is it affecting my vision, it is affecting my ability to walk unassisted. I am now using a walking stick to help me keep my balance and from falling down. Of course, it has affected my memory, to which I can't remember names or numbers. If I ask you to repeat your name, please don't be offended. I would rather re-ask your name than not know it. I have been told that there is no medicine to treat it, and it will come and go. I wish it would go.

I can live with these limitations placed on me. As long as I can still do my fabulous weekly column, I will not complain. AIDS is now a part of who I am. I am not ashamed or embarrassed about having it. I have no problems telling anyone I meet that I have AIDS. Most people's reactions are one of sympathy and caring. Many people ask good questions wanting to know more about the virus. Most people can't believe that a handsome, articulate and personable man like myself can have AIDS. I tell them it is true. Of course, I wish it wasn't. The good thing about using a cane is when I am in the 15 item or less line at the grocery store. If someone in front of me has 17 items, I will wack them on the buttocks with my cane and tell them to get in another line. Usually they do. One guy yelled at me and I told him I would wack him again, so he left.

Other than the dementia, I am feeling pretty good. I am proud to say I have finished my membership classes in MCCR church. I was baptized Sunday, Dec. 1st, and will become an official member Dec. 8. I am very excited. Because I live off of \$600 a month in Social Security, I can't give much money. But because I have plenty of free time, I will give of myself in the church's monthly newsletter. It will give me another outlet for my writing and my newspaper experience. I want to make the church proud to have me as a member.

I would like to address all of you dear readers who have had your lovers pass on in the last two years. Christmas is coming, and it will be a lonely time of year for you. If you are like me, I didn't celebrate Christmas for two years after Kelse died. But now, on the third anniversary of his death, I have decided it is time to be festive. I want to decorate my beautiful new apartment with Christmas lights. I would also like to go to some Christmas parties. So, if you are having a fabulous Christmas party, I would be more than happy to honor you with my presence and promise I will come, bearing Christmas cheer. I enjoy meeting new friends, yet treasure my old friends.

If you are one of the many who will be spending the holiday's alone, please don't stay home and mourn. Spend time with your closest friends. Before he died, Kelse told me to go out and live my life. He said he did not want me to be alone and mourn. Be with your close friends this year. Share the common bond of cheer holidays are meant to bestow.

Finally, I would like to address a problem that I think is worse than AIDS. It is drug addiction, specifically cocaine and crack. These are the two most lethal and evil drugs permeating our society. Once you get hooked, you become a slave to these drugs. You begin to sell or pawn your possessions. The crack dealers must have a room full of VCR's and color TV's. Once you have nothing more to sell, you start stealing to support your habit. You start stealing from your friends and family. You might ask yourself who the crack or cocaine addicts friends are? Well, they are other addicted men who will be your friend as long as you have drugs. And, they will do anything to get your drugs from you. These are not the kind of friends you want.

Many crackheads start hustling on the streets of Montrose. You see all those young men on the streets, nothing to look forward to but their next fix. The crack situation in Montrose has become shameful. I have been told that residents of the Third Ward do not want white men coming down to buy crack at night. They will beat you up or worse.

If you know someone who has a crack or cocaine addiction, do your best to help them. If they say they don't need help and don't have a problem, get them out of your life. They are no longer conducive to your well being and will only create unnecessary havoc. I am speaking from experience. I have learned my lesson and hope that none of you will have to endure a similar situation. Suffice it to say, I will never let anyone in my apartment if I think they have a drug problem.

If you are using drugs—Stop! Instead of using drugs, start using life.



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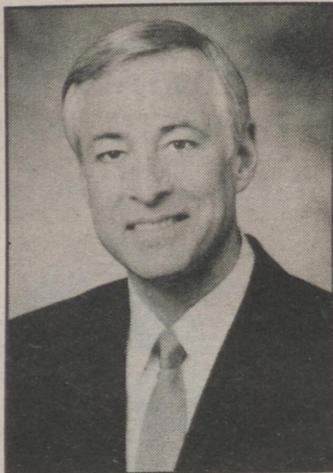
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Jackson Lee Approaching Petroleum Industry

Community Support Needed For Diversity Discussions

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is amidst the process of approaching several industry leaders in the petroleum industry to address issues of diversity and recent bouts of discrimination in the industry.

The Houston Voice has learned that Jackson Lee is contemplating the

inclusion of sexual orientation into the roundtable discussions, providing that the constituents of District 18 concur.

Community activists are encouraging all lesbians and gays to send Jackson Lee a letter requesting that sexual orientation be included in the agenda for the proposed Roundtable. Jackson Lee, a Democrat, won her seat in District 18 in a landslide. The Congresswoman received widespread support from the community.



Rainbow Reader

The Rest of the Story

By JONE DEVLIN

Rose vs. Wade Prequel

Much was made last year when Norma McCorvey, a.k.a. Jane Roe of Roe v. Wade fame, "converted" and became a member of the anti-abortion forces. What wasn't said in all the press releases issued by the religious right was that Norma, while claiming to suddenly oppose abortion, still believed the procedure should be legal for up to the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, and, more importantly, that she was (and is) an openly gay woman who lives to this day with her lover of nearly 20 years.

Shortly before her miracle-"conversion," Norma McCorvey, with assistance from Andy Meisler, wrote an autobiography entitled "I am Roe." This was Norma's story, from her humble beginnings in the middle of nowhere to her meeting at a pizza parlor with the woman who would make her the poster child for national abortion rights and beyond.

Norma Nelson was born in a small town in Louisiana, to a loving (but never around) father and a beautiful, yet abusive, mother. She moved from place to place with her family while growing up—sometimes with her dad, but most times without. As Norma grew, happenstance became increasingly tense between her and her mother. So, at age 10, Norma decided that she, along with a female friend whose domestic situation was similarly disturbing, would run away to Oklahoma.

Norma robbed a local gas station to get bus fare for their excursion. The two girls then ran away to Oklahoma City. Once there, Norma manipulated a local hotel clerk into renting them a room. The girls had a wonderful time for a couple of days, until a maid walked in on them "necking." The end result was that Norma ended up in a reform school in Gainesville, Texas charged with robbery and "sodomizing" her friend.

Gainesville ended up being more like home, than her real home, for Norma and she managed to get sent back there several times over the next few years. Since the home was only for girls, Norma had more than ample opportunity to experiment with her burgeoning sexuality. She admits herself that she was one of the most popular girls there, with more girlfriends than any other resident. She also admits that she probably would have been willing to stay there the rest of her life, only she got too old. After a warning from her counselor that one more arrest would put her in prison, since she was now fifteen and therefore could be tried as an adult, she decided to straighten out her life the best way she knew how. So, in 1964, she married what she thought was a nice man with a nice car named Woody McCorvey.

Together, the two sold the "nice car" and took a bus to L.A. to find their fortune, as Woody was firmly convinced that Norma sang well enough to get a record contract instantly. Of course, that wasn't what happened at all. Instead, they wound up broke in a shack in Hollywood. It was there Norma discovered she was pregnant. Woody, when she told him, flew into a rage and beat her into unconsciousness. Norma then flew home with money borrowed from a lesbian friend and set up temporary residence with her mother, who she still wasn't getting along with all that well.

It was right around this time that Norma began to admit to herself who she really

was. She had always preferred to hang around at bars that seemed to attract only women customers, but she had never bothered to wonder why. Shortly after her baby was born, Norma embarked on a series of relationships with other women. She was so thrilled with finding a place where she belonged and felt fulfilled that she told her mother all about how she "loved women." Her mother's reaction was uncharacteristically calm. In fact, when Norma mentioned going away for a weekend to visit with a lesbian couple she'd become friendly with, her mother even offered to baby-sit. Two days later when Norma came home, she found out why her mother had been so easy going. Her baby had been taken from her.

Losing her daughter was too much for the already fragile Norma, so she began to drink heavily and do drugs. Eventually she ended up pregnant again, and not knowing what else to do, gave the baby up for adoption. More drinking and drug abuse followed, and then Norma found herself pregnant yet again. Only this time it was different. By now she'd heard about abortion, and she wanted one. She even went so far as to tell people she'd been raped, thinking that would ensure her being able to get the procedure. Doctor after doctor and lawyer after lawyer turned her down, until finally by chance, one attorney she'd talked to put her in touch with two women, Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffee. These two women were attorneys and were planning to challenge the Texas abortion law. To do this they needed a pregnant woman who wanted an abortion and couldn't get one. Norma, in spite of the fact that neither she nor the two attorneys particularly liked or got along with each other, seemed to fit the bill. So, over pizza and soft drinks in a Dallas restaurant, Norma McCorvey became Jane Roe.

The rest of the story is familiar, how the decision was won, but appealed by the state, and how, after all her struggles Norma still ended up forced to have her unwanted child. In fact it took three years after Norma's meeting with her attorneys for abortion rights to become the law of the land.

Afterwards, Norma faded into anonymity. It wasn't until the mid eighties, when the Reagan administration began to mount furious attacks on abortion rights, that Norma McCorvey decided it was time to put a face on Jane Roe.

By then, she was living openly with her lover Connie Gonzalez. In fact, it was this very openness about her sexuality that made many in the women's movement nervous. Some even refused to believe that she WAS Jane Roe. But others did, including most members of the opposition, who made a point of sending the two women hate mail, scattering doll clothes and baby clothes on their lawn, and, on one particularly frightening morning, riddling their home with bullets.

Yet, in spite of the death threats, arduous public appearances and repeated dissension among herself and others in the women's movement (who never could seem to get comfortable with the fact that she was openly gay), Norma came through with shining colors. Indeed, it is impossible, after reading this biography to figure out what made this courageous woman defect (even if it was only part way), to the other side. We can only hope that she'll come back to us soon.



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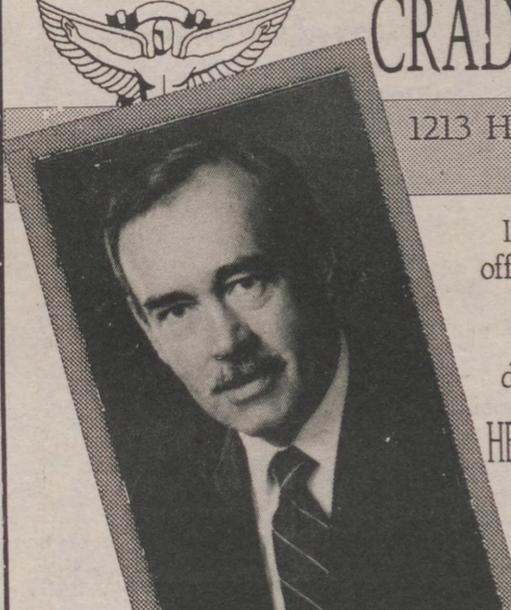
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Vietnam Revisited

By CHRIS RUND-QUIST

Touchstone Pictures' big-screen adaptation of James Duff's critically acclaimed 1984 Broadway play Homefront, aptly titled The War at Home, was a labor of love for its star, director and producer Emilio Estevez. At the behest of his father, actor Martin Sheen who also co-stars, Estevez acquired the film rights. In an effort to retain the flavor of the original stage version, Estevez recruited Duff to write the screenplay for the film.

Although the film is poignant and thought provoking, the movie's storyline does not resonate to the degree of the original groundbreaking 84 stage production. That is not entirely the film's fault. The premise, while groundbreaking in 1984, does not transcend the test of time. Martin Sheen and Academy Award Winning Actress Kathy Bates co-star as the parents of Jeremy (Estevez), a Vietnam vet whose family has difficulty understanding why he has changed so drastically as a result of his combat experiences. Unfortunately, the film is formulaic.

Set in Texas, circa 1972, the film takes place in the families home over the



Martin Sheen and Academy Award winner Kathy Bates star as Bob and Maurine Collier, whose domestic lives are shattered when their son Jeremy (Emilio Estevez) returns emotionally scarred from active duty in Vietnam.

Thanksgiving holiday. The familiar premise can be summed up accordingly. Boy grows up in upper middle class America. A budding pianist with a bright future. Boy gets drafted right out of high school. Boy attempts to flee to Canada to no avail—primarily because his father will not have it. Boy spends two years in Vietnam dodging death, all the while watching his friends die and dealing with the stigma of killing Vietnamese people. Boy returns home emotionally scarred. As the drama unfolds, we all understand that he is unable to relate to who he was prior to being drafted and his family can no longer relate to the person he has become.

The films saving grace is the acting. The stellar cast give wonderful per-

formances that alternately provoke laughter and tears. Kathy Bates lives up to her moniker and, truly, stands out. Bates plays the archetypical neurotic, guilt inducing, selectively forgetful middle class mother who constantly strives to make believe she has the perfect family. Her portrayal is so sincere and real, that her character is the most believable and provides the film with an air of credibility. I would not be surprised if the Academy nominated her for another coveted statuette. Her performance is Oscar caliber.

Aside from the films familiarity flaw, it is well produced, directed and acted. It is emotional, poignant and at times compelling. More than likely, it will strike a nerve with most people. The films only real problem stems from the fact that this has been done before, to the point of redundancy. And, it does not add any new dimensions to the Vietnam saga or provide a different perspective or understanding to the plight of those vets who returned home. It merely reminds us of the devastation that the war imposed on many of our soldiers. That in itself can be positive as this *** film is a reminder to the current generation, that we should not forget the sacrifice that was made.

AFH Hosts 2nd Annual Toy Drive

The AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH) will be hosting their second annual Red Ribbon Toy Drive from Nov. 11 to Dec. 13, 1996. The drive is meant to instill some holiday cheer to nearly 400 HIV infected and affected children in the Houston area.

The Texas Children's Hospital and The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center have joined forces with AFH to ensure that this years drive is enormously successful. Toys will be distributed the week of Dec. 13 to the parents of children referred to the Red Ribbon Toy Drive. Most of the families live on a fixed income and are unable to provide toys for their children during the holiday season. University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center Director of Social Services, Sharon Haymore, MSW, ACSW, stated that "for some of our children, this will be their last Christmas." Haymore believes that the communities generosity will help to "make this Christmas special."

Houstonians are being asked to share the holiday spirit and bring new, unwrapped toys to the AIDS Foundation Houston (located at 3202 Wesleyan Annex). A second drop off has been added for convenience. It is located at Diverse Works (1117 E. Freeway) and the site will be available during the performances of The Yellow Boat, a play as performed by Express Theatre on Dec. 4 through Dec. 15.

For further information concerning the aforementioned or other services provided by AFH, please call 713-623-6796 or visit their website at <http://www.aidshelp.org>.



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And There You Have It!

By David Richardson

The Sounds Of Silence!

The Hills Are Alive With the Sound of Music...so why don't they just shut up already?

No matter where you go these days, it seems you can't escape it. The menace that haunts our ears like a pair of ugly earmuffs given to one by a well meaning relative at the holidays. It's in the supermarkets, the doctor's office, even on the street corners...of course I am talking about music.

It has been said that music soothes the savage beast, although after a recent listen to some of today's popular tunes, I'm not sure that music isn't what causes the beast to be savage in the first place. I find it ironic that music is supposed to inform, entertain, and make us aware of our surroundings as performed by people who are blissfully unaware of their own. Most of today's singers have voices like angels—Hells Angels, that is. Are they hitting the notes, or are the notes hitting them? I wonder.

Since there are many people who seek my expert advice on subjects I pretend to know a lot about, I will attempt to provide a brief, yet ridiculous look at the music world.

First off, there's this thing called Grunge Rock. Thank heaven, finally a trend which brings dirty laundry back in vogue as a fashion tie-in. Traditionalist go in for something a little more sedate, like opera for example. A multitude of people with big hats and big horns (I knew there was a reason to like it) strutting around the stage wailing in misery and abject despair. I do a similar thing during the tax season. Then there is Folk Music. Sad songs about being poor as done

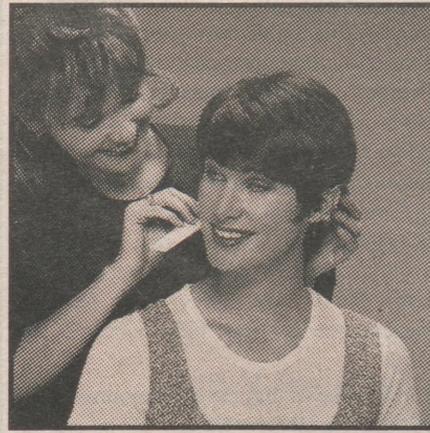
by people who are not. Disco came along in the seventies and cut down on pedestrian oriented traffic accidents by allowing people to wear tinfoil, sequins and other reflective clothing. Oldies are songs which will date you as a dinosaur if you admit to remembering the words to (and as I know tunes that Adam and Eve used to whistle in the Garden of Eden, you know where that puts me). Anarchy came to us via Punk Rock and songs about feeling bad by people who looked like they did. My parents tried to get me hooked on classical music. To me it was beautiful music composed by people who have long since decomposed. Rap was rhyming songs which brought a new meaning to the word 'ho' as something other than a garden tool (don't ask). Country music concerns itself with issues like heartbreak and sadness, so I have often wondered why my bank teller isn't on stage at Opryland. If you knew the depressing state of my accounts, this would make sense.

Now having dealt with the classifications of music in such a dark and nasty way, I have to admit there are some perks to being a musician. For example, nowadays musicians become so popular they only need one name to get by. For example: Cher, Prince, and Madonna. Kinda like God, only he doesn't get to wear a tacky outfit to the Grammy's. When I was a kid, I dreamed of becoming a pop star and leading a life of wealth, fame and over-indulgences in harmful substances. As an adult, I am gratified that I have achieved this lifestyle (except for the wealth and fame part, sigh!)

So now I am off to buy myself a stereo, just so I can take it home and shut it off...and there you have it.

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Houston Caregivers Honored at World AIDS Day Reception

Professional and personal caregivers of HIV patients were recognized at a World AIDS Day reception on Sunday hosted by Park Plaza Hospital. "You've Touched My World of AIDS" was the theme of the awards ceremony, which honored Houston area caregivers for their outstanding acts of humanitarianism for people with HIV/AIDS. Two key individuals were given special awards by hospital CEO Judy Novak for their outstanding commitment to caring for others.

Claudia Commo, Director of Nursing for Omega House, was honored as the professional caregiver of the year. She received five nominations from co-workers and volunteers who have witnessed her unselfish contributions to ensure quality care for those with HIV/AIDS. She has actively trained more than 350 caregivers who continue her mission.

Alneda Davis of Houston was honored as the personal caregiver of the year. Davis was nominated by Howard Anderson, for whom she has provided care for the past seven years. Anderson credits Davis for improving his life and extending his time on earth. "If she doesn't meet you in life, you'll know that she is an angel," said Anderson.

In addition to making sure Anderson stays in good health, Davis goes above and beyond her call of duty to make sure medications are taken properly, favorite foods are kept in the pantry,

and doctor's appointments are kept. She also takes him on outings to the mall, parks and movie theaters. In all, Davis epitomizes the term "caregiver."

Davis said she is grateful and thankful to God to have Howard in her life. "It is truly the soul that lives and never dies. I'm so glad we're soul mates," said Davis. "Howard is simply the best. Although impatient at times, he's loving, compassionate, warm-hearted and kind. He has the gentlest touch and gives the sweetest hugs that mean so much to me. His letter of nomination shows me how much he really appreciates me. That to me is the best," said Davis.

A native Texan born to Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Davis in Palestine, Davis moved to Houston with her parents and twin sister, Alfreda, in 1956 and has lived here since. She is an active member of Church of the Living God, Pillar and Ground to the Truth.

Other Houston area caregivers recognized at the reception included Rowena Ballas, Francis Bueno, Richard Capin, Rick Chapin, Mamie Connors, Billie Fitzgerald, Cathy Galvin, Sharon Garner, Mary Harris, Angelina Liescheski, Fran Moncure, Oleta Morrow, Father Paul, Sandy Rabinowitz, Preness Thomas, and Van J. Wisdom. Caregivers from other areas included Mr. & Mrs. C.D. Gurkle of Alvin; and Galveston residents George Armstrong, Tommie McNeil, Jr. and Sandi Simon.

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Elizabeth Birch continued...

(Continued from page 1)

School of Law. During her years at the University, she clerked at the California Supreme Court. She ventured into commercial litigation with a prestigious San Francisco law firm with an emphasis in computer law.

Prior to her appointment at the HRC, Birch was worldwide director of litigation and human resources counsel for Apple Computer, Inc. During her tenure at Apple, she was the driving force behind the implementation of a the company's policy allowing same-sex domestic partners benefits program. Legend has it that Apple chairman John Sculley obtained the approval of the board of directors for the benefit proposal in less than a week, primarily as a result of Birch's behind-the-scenes negotiations and political savvy. She was the catalyst that brought the issue of gay equality in the workplace to the forefront of the political landscape.

"I literally believe the entire country has been transformed in the last five years and we are beginning to see it play out in Congress in a significant way," opined Birch. "When you think of November 1994 and the very profound conservative sweep, one might have suspected that gay and lesbian Americans would be at very high risk," she said. However, that is not Birch's assessment of the situation. "Coming out of that election, we read below the tea leaves and we understood that something different was happening. Even with the Republicans taking over both houses and, with laser precision, the American public ridding the Congress of incumbents, what happened was instructive and has played out even more significantly in this years elections," affirms Birch.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Senate defeated the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) by one vote. Birch contends that of the 120 ENDA co-sponsors in the House that were up for re-election in 1994, 110 were re-elected and every Senator that endorsed the bill were also re-elected. She argues that even in states where Republicans were overwhelmingly elected to Congress, anti-gay ballot initiatives in those states were defeated. "November

1994 was not anti-gay and in this year's elections, all the progress is in the details," she exclaims. "This election was a continuation of a scramble for the middle. There is a very centrist sentiment in the country. People want fiscal responsibility. They did not want social scapegoating. They want a better managed federal government, strong fiscal controls but not to balance the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable...People want balance, they want politicians to grow-up and want them to unite rather than divide. The extreme right and the extreme left were fully rejected," said Birch.

Birch believes that the gay community has to understand that we are on a long journey here. She is convinced that our community must educate in our churches, schools, communities and homes and do the hard grass roots work that brings about change, which she says is how understanding in the workplace came about. Birch contends that public opinion is in our favor on most issues with the exception of marriage and that they will come to terms with that in time.

Birch also thinks that our community has finally gained access in the political arena and feels we need to reassess our strategies. She labeled recent actions by the San Francisco chapter of ACT-UP as "outrageous" and unnecessary. "I think that ACT-UP has played an important role historically and when the rage is turned on appropriate objects, like decision making institutions, then it serves a purpose," reflects Birch. "When I hear people lamenting for the days when people were more radical and, I have to tell you, it strikes me as ridiculous given that what we longed for in those days was an opportunity to actually sit and exchange policy. We now have that opportunity," she declares. "It is part of the natural maturation process of any movement that once you gain access, you have to be accountable and take responsibility for your authority and power. I think there will always be a role for those who want to vent...but when it is turned on our own people, it reaches a level of meanness that is unproductive, inappropriate and probably rivals some of the cruelties we're trying to avoid living as gay people in

America," observed Birch.

Birch addressed a host of other issues during our conversation. She does not believe it is conducive to the community to align itself with one political party. "No gay organization should align itself with one political affiliation ever in terms of partisanship, unless, and I will qualify this with saying that I think the Log Cabin Republicans play a unique role because they are not trying to leverage power back and forth across party lines...they are trying to be evangelists within the party structure on a grass roots level which is productive."

Birch was angry with the White House for not acting quickly enough in response to the criticism of the now infamous ad on Christian radio broadcasts touting his support of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). "Everyone (White House Staff) admits the mistake...Now the issue is how are you going to correct the mistake, it's a mean mistake, now get it fixed. What made me angry about it is a failure to act quickly enough," admits Birch. Asked if she believed the President is committed to issues of gays and lesbians, she replied: "To a point. He has his limits. I think he wants to champion gay and lesbian civil rights more than any other leader that we've ever seen in the country...The problem with President Clinton is that he has a personality characteristic that causes him to set expectations way too high and then disappoint," said Birch. "He has substantially delivered except for two glaring exceptions - gays in the military and DOMA."

She attributes the gays in the military debacle to Senator Nunn, a Democrat who sabotaged Clinton's efforts. "The only thing that Nunn is more distinguished for beyond being an absolute certified anti-gay bigot is his disloyalty to President Clinton," says Birch.

As for the controversy surrounding the HRC's endorsement of Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-MA) over Gov. William Weld (R-MA) in the hotly contested Massachusetts Senatorial race, Birch ascertains that it was politically appropriate. Weld is considered



by many, Democrats and Republicans alike, to be the most pro-gay Governor in the United States. "He is," said Birch. "By the way, you won't find a greater admirer of Weld than me, I really admire Gov. Weld," she professes. So, why the endorsement of Kerrey? "The logic behind our decision is that if you want to run a credible political PAC in Washington D.C., you do not ask politicians in year one - will you please do the next 20 things we ask you and do them perfectly and achieve a 100% voting record and then, by the way, after you do everything we ask you to do, including DOMA...we'll take a walk on you. You have to decide what your PAC guidelines are. Birch claims that there was "absolutely" no pressure from the White House to throw their support to Kerrey. "We frankly have invested in more Republicans than any other gay organization in the country," she added.

During her reign at the helm of the HRC, Birch has managed to increase membership from 80,000 to nearly 200,000. Birch, 39, remarked that the organization's ultimate goal is 1 million members by the end of the century. She would like to rival the Christian Coalition in clout and political stature. Birch resides with her partner Harriet Rosen, president of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and a long time gay activist.

Hawaii continued...

(Continued from page 1)

Christian Coalition. Reed indicated in USA Today that our society is in a "moral crisis," and that we don't need to add another dimension.

The Hawaii court case - initiated in 1990 by three Oahu couples, two female and one male - has catapulted into the national spotlight. The nationwide interest stemmed from the knowledge that marriages performed in one state are recognized as legal in other states. Opponents were outraged and set in motion what became law earlier this year, the Defense Of Marriage Act (DOMA), when President Clinton signed the bill. DOMA denies any federal recognition of homosexual marriages and allows each state the right not to recognize such a union.

National polls indicate that the general public is in favor of equality for gays and lesbians in the workplace, but overwhelmingly opposes same-sex marriage.

"This decision is one small but crucial step forward in a long march toward civil equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people," said Kerry Lobel,

executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "[The Judge's decision] proves what our community has said all along: there are no intelligent reasons why same-gender couples should be denied the right to marry," said Lobel adding that the Attorney General has had three years to present evidence for his case and failed to do so.

"HRC salutes the tremendous legal talents at Lambda Legal Defense," intoned Elizabeth Birch in an interview with the the Houston Voice. Birch believes that the Lambda Legal Defense worked tirelessly on this case and deserve the utmost recognition for their efforts. Birch also indicated that states will challenge DOMA through the courts as well. "At this moment, it's legal to get married in Hawaii," argues Birch. "The state didn't have their request for appeal ready to file for a stay."

Although the decision in an important step toward the right to marry, it should not be construed as legal at this point. (Local Houston Attorney and President of Log Cabin Texas, Dale Carpenter provides a guest commentary concerning this case on Page 7.)

A Fertle Holiday!

From RMT Release

Radio Music Theatre is proud to announce the opening of its twelfth annual production of **A Fertle Holiday!** Steve Farrell's original comedy has become a Houston classic and has spawned eight full-length additional plays about the popular "Singing Fertle Family from Dumpster, Texas". A Fertle Holiday chronicles the family's trouble-ridden reunion as they attempt to entertain their rich relatives from San Diego. Rich Mills, Vicki Farrell, and Steve Farrell bring the big Texas family to life by portraying all the relatives and townspeople needed to create the illusion of a bustling Christmas get-together. If you come from a family background you'll have no trouble enjoying this Houston Christmas Classic. And feel free to bring the kids and grandparents... RMT's comedy is suitable for friends and family of all ages.

A Fertle Holiday returns to the stage on

Friday, November 29th and continues through January 18, with performances every THURSDAY and FRIDAY at 8:30pm, and SATURDAYS at 8:30 and 10:50pm. Desserts, munchies, champagnes, wines, beers, cappuccino, and soft drinks are available throughout the show.

Admission remains \$14, reservations are required, and tickets must be purchased in advance at Radio Music Theatre, 2623 Colquitt, near Richmond and Kirby, or by calling the theatre box office at 713/522-7722.



Radio Music Theater's Vicki Farrell, Steve Farrell, and Rich Mills

Judge Denies Motion To Withdraw Guilty Plea In Oregon

By JEFF BARNARD, ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Medford, Ore. (AP)—Confessed killer Robert Acremant's plan to be sentenced to death for the slayings of a lesbian couple stayed on track Monday when a judge denied a defense motion to withdraw his guilty pleas. Acremant had maneuvered to get a taste of prison life before making a final decision on whether to fight a death sentence, but has gone back to seeking his own execution after the plan fell apart.

"He is seeking the death penalty," defense lawyer Ralph Monson said after Judge Mitchell Karaman denied the motion to withdraw the guilty pleas. Acremant, 27, pleaded guilty Sept. 11 to four counts of aggravated murder, two counts of kidnapping and one of robbery in the Dec. 4, 1995, slayings of Roxanne Ellis and Michelle Abdill.

Bound and gagged with duct tape, the women were shot execution-style and their bodies left in the back of a pickup truck abandoned in an apartment complex parking lot. Acremant pleaded guilty with the condition that he be held at the Oregon State Penitentiary pending sentencing. The motion to withdraw his guilty pleas said Acremant wanted to get a first-hand look at prison before making a final decision on whether to seek execution. However, his transfer from the Jackson County Jail was delayed two weeks and once he got to the prison, he was kept in isolation and out of the general prison population.

After hearing testimony for the prose-

cution about administrative and logistical delays in transferring Acremant, Judge Karaman ruled that the delays were reasonable and denied the motion.

From his arrest two weeks after the slayings, Acremant has freely admitted to anyone who would listen that he killed the women. He has also said that he wanted to be executed. Initially, Acremant told detectives and reporters he killed the women after a plan to rob them fell apart. Later, he wrote a letter to his hometown newspaper saying he had made up the robbery motive and the killings were really a hate crime against homosexuals.

"He'll have his taste of prison life and he'll have his taste of death," Lorri Ellis, daughter of victim Roxanne Ellis, said of Acremant after the court proceedings. "That's going to be my final end to all of this when he has to walk that line and meet his maker."

Karaman also denied a defense motion to withdraw Acremant's initial statement to police following his arrest, where he admitted the killings. Karaman ruled that while detectives violated Acremant's rights by continuing to question him after he had asked for a lawyer, Acremant did not reveal any incriminating evidence. Karaman delayed ruling on a defense motion to move the trial to another town until he can review television and newspaper accounts. A hearing on a motion challenging the constitutionality of Oregon's death penalty was delayed for a second time because a defense witness was unable to attend.

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Editorial Draws Ire of Weber Gays

Ogden, Utah (AP)—Published assertions that homosexuals molest children and have shorter life spans due to their sexual practices has prompted demands from Weber State University's gay community for an apology. The uproar stems from an editorial published in Wednesday's Signpost student newspaper by Cody Strong, president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and a member of last year's student senate.

Strong defended his commentary, "Gay families hurting America, not helping," as being supported by research and articles in medical journals. "I don't think I need to apologize for something I think is right. Obviously, there are some strong words there," he said. "But I do think that we live in a time where there is a gulf between what people think is right and wrong is becoming farther apart. "People have to take a stand and they have to take an educated stand. I took the stand I did because of the information I have," said Strong, a 24-year-old former marine and current member of the National Guard.

His editorial fulfilled an assignment for the communications class that produces the tri-weekly tabloid. Strong has worked on the campus newspaper for about a year. "Two gay men-women, whose identity is defined by a behavior of having sexual relations with each other, should not lead America to believe that they can become "normal" parents of a family. The facts speak for themselves," Strong wrote. "Homosexuals have demonstrated a high propensity to engage in promiscuous sexual abuse of children."

The newly formed Delta Lambda Sapphos Union will not "let this rhetoric go by," said member Jody Parr. "As a student leader, to espouse those types of views and express them in a public forum, he is giving the impression that it's OK to gay bash—that it is OK to smear a queer," Parr said. Parr claimed that the studies cited by Strong were homophobic, false or distorted by right-wing groups.



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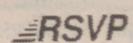
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By LEE DAVIS

AMPLICOR

The AMPLICOR HIV-1 MONITOR Test was the first test to accurately & precisely measure quantities of HIV-1 RNA in the blood ("viral load"). At the same time, Roche Diagnostic Systems (RDS) launched its AMPLICOR ACCESS PROGRAM, which offered two free HIV RNA baseline tests to all HIV-positive patients in the U.S. for a period of 60 days, starting on June 17, 1996. A dedicated toll-free hotline, 1-888-TEST PCR, was also established to provide information to patients & physicians wishing to obtain related information. The ACCESS PROGRAM generated approximately 80,000 specimens.

To date, more than 70% of the 80,000 specimens have been processed & returned to patients. However, the sheer volume of specimens submitted resulted in a significant backlog by the beginning of August. When RDS became aware of this unfortunate situation, they immediately began to find feasible solutions. Concurrently, they sent a letter to physicians informing them about this backlog & stating that measures were being taken that would permit the processing of the outstanding specimens by mid-October. Despite these measures, approximately 24,000 specimens remain to be tested.

To expedite the remaining specimens, all backlogged specimens will be processed & returned to physicians by Dec. 14. RDS is contracting with a sufficient number of labs that will process these tests at RDS' expense. In addition, beginning on Nov. 15, physicians who did not receive their patients' test results back by Oct. 18 will begin receiving a MailGram announcing the availability of two free coupons for each of these patients, valid for a period of six months, to have these patients retested. Coupons will be issued for testing beginning the week of Dec. 16. RDS has also received a written guarantee from these labs that all samples will be processed within 10 business days of receipt by the labs. RDS will absorb the costs for the labs' performance of the AMPLICOR HIV-1 MONITOR Tests. Neither the patient nor any third-party will be billed for the tests.

Smoking & The Brain

Smoker's cravings begin in the brain. "With the first puff of the day, nicotine goes to work at the synapses, the places in the brain where nerve cells communicate," said Dr. John Dani, a neuroscientist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Dani & his colleagues are studying how nicotine affects cellular & molecular "reward pathways" in the brain.

Nicotine receptors may enhance the release of a neurotransmitter called Dopamine, Dani said, which provides a feeling of reward. If researchers can determine which receptor is responsible for addiction, they may be able to inhibit it.

Boost Your Energy!

Want to put more pep in your step? Exercise. This is just one of the energy-increasing tips from a free brochure entitled "Vitality, Vim & Vigor: Six Steps to More Energy" from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. The brochure includes lifestyle changes that can give your mind & body a "jump start."

In the U.S., a free copy of "Vitality, Vim & Vigor: Six Steps to More Energy" is available by sending a self-addressed, stamped business-size (#10) envelope to Energy, Office of Public Affairs, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, 77030.

Elderly Care

They brought you into this world, made sure your needs were met and cared for you—now it is your turn! With more than 3.7 million Americans expected to be over age 85 by the year 2000, many adult children will find themselves taking care of their children & parents at the same time.

"Regardless of whether the disability is due to progression of a chronic illness or the combined effects of multiple medical & social factors, the caregiver role is a profound change for both parents & children," says Lynda Collins, Manager of Social Services of The Methodist Hospital in Houston. "Although most accept this role out of love & find it rewarding, it can exhaust a person physically & emotionally, leading to illness & inability to further provide care," she continues.

The care of an impaired older person can create stress in a variety of ways. The stress experienced may be physical, financial, environmental and/or emotional in nature. Recognizing & accepting these stressors is the first step toward adjustment. To assess the feelings, pressures & stress that caregivers may be experiencing they might ask themselves: Which of the following are seldom true, sometimes true, often true, or usually true?

- I find I can't get enough rest.
- I don't have enough time for myself.
- I don't have time to be with other family members beside the person I care for.
- I feel guilty about my situation.
- I have a conflict with the person I care for.
- I have conflict with other family members.
- I cry everyday.
- I worry about having enough money to make ends meet.
- I don't feel I have enough knowledge or experience to give care as well as I'd like.
- My own health is not good.

If the response to one or more of these areas is usually true or often true it may be time to look for help with caring for the care-receiver & help in taking care of the caregiver. "Help is not only okay to seek & accept, it is essential," explains Collins. "People need to realize that they are not alone & that reaching out for assistance does not mean that they consider their loved-one a burden."

"Contact your hospital's social work department," says Collins. "They are a valuable resource whether the caregiver is just assuming this new role or has depleted their energy caring for someone with a chronic illness." For information about Methodist's services call (713) 790-3333 or access their home page at Internet address www.methodisthealth.com.

Smart Program

College undergraduates interested in biomedical careers can experience scientific research as a summer job. The Graduate School of Baylor College of Medicine in Houston sponsors the 10-week Summer Medical & Research Training (SMART) Program. Undergraduates from throughout the U.S. get first-hand experience in laboratory settings. Participants also attend daily research seminars & other educational activities.

Acceptance is highly competitive. More than 700 applicants vie for 80 positions. Inquiries should be directed to Dr. Gayle Slaughter, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, Texas 77030. The telephone number is (713) 798-5915. The deadline is Feb. 1, 1997.

Community Calendar by Carolyn Roberts

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

Friday, Dec. 6

- * Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. 782-6066.
- * HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817
- * HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- * 12-step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.
- * AIDS Mastery workshop starts. 861-6453.
- * Free Spaying and Neutering Program. 522-2337.
- * Dance and Sing Along to Christmas Music presented by the Houston Holistic Art Group. 7:15 pm. 813-4842.

Saturday, Dec. 7

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. 863-1860.
- * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 am to 3:00 am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- * Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. 780-4282.
- * Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 pm. 528-SAFE.
- * Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 am. 583-8408.
- * Autumn's Seasons Bondage Club discussion group meets at 10:30 am. 788-5593.
- * Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents Family Activity: Making Gingerbread houses. 4:00 pm. 284-4939.
- * Pet Patrol fundraiser at 219 Marshall, photos of your pets and Santa and buffet. 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- * Bayou Village Drum Circle presented by Houston Holistic Arts Group at 7:30 pm. 813-4842.
- * Houston Professional Men's Association meets at Baba Yega's for brunch at 11:30 pm. 869-4543.
- * Art Opening at the Toni Jones Gallery at 5:00 pm. 528-7998.

Sunday, Dec. 8

- * Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 863-1860.

- * The Women's Group meets at 10:45 am. 529-8571.
- * FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. 522-8021.
- * HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- * Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. 522-9612.
- * Rainbow Fishing Club goes fishing. 523-6381.

Monday, Dec. 9

- * Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 pm. 861-6181.
- * Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 pm. 529-1223.
- * Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 pm. 539-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.
- * Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 pm. 529-0037.
- * Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- * The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.
- * HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- * \$2 off haircuts and free beer at Four Star Productions. 524-7785.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

- * RUNOFF ELECTION DAY!! VOTE!!
- * Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 pm. 495-8009.
- * Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- * Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.

- * AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 pm. 488-4492.
- * Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- * PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7:00 pm. 520-7870.
- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.
- * Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30 pm. 778-2677.
- * FrontRunners meet at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.
- * Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- * Colt 45s' monthly meeting at the BRB at 8:00 pm.
- * Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents Support group meets at 7:00 pm. 284-4939.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 pm. 537-1348.
- * Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- * GLOBAL meets at 4:00 pm. 743-7539.
- * Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees at 7:00 pm. 867-9581.
- * Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 pm. 537-1348.
- * Lambda Rollerskating Club skate at 8:00 pm. 933-5818.
- * Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250 for more info.
- * Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7:00 pm. 782-4050.
- * Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Call 520-2000.
- * AVES offers free HIV testing from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

- * Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 pm. 529-0037.
- * The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.
- * Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus meets. 521-1000.
- * "Live to be 100 Plus thru Hypnosis" seminar at 7:30 pm. 492-6077.

Thursday, Dec. 12

- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- * Art Labs at The Art League at 1:00 pm. 225-9411.
- * Front Runners meet at Memorial Park at 6:30 pm. 522-8021.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 pm. 521-7464.
- * Twentysomething meets at 7:30 pm. 315-6786.
- * KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, "Sexuality: Public or Private?," Pride Conference, and "Hair" the Musical are the topics. 866-6505.
- * Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. 622-7250.
- * Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 pm. 528-3704.
- * HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 pm. 529-0037.
- * Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 pm. 942-0923.
- * HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 pm. 796-2272.
- * Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 pm. 529-0037.
- * HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 pm. 782-4050
- * Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 pm. 738-RACE.
- * Gay Men's Chorus of Houston meets at 7:00 pm. 521-SING.
- * The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.
- * The Spay/Neuter Assistance Program offers low cost services. 522-2337.

Nabozny Wants To Graduate; District Says No

Superior, Wis. (AP)—A 21-year-old man who won a \$900,000 settlement from the Ashland School District after suffering years of gay bashing still dreams of graduating from Ashland High School.

But a top administrator of the school district said it won't happen unless Jamie Nabozny returns and finishes class work first. Nabozny left the high school in his junior year and earned an equivalency diploma in spring of 1994.

He won the settlement Nov. 20 over what he contended were years of harassment from other students while he attended middle school and high school in Ashland. He accused school officials of failing to stop the gay bashing.

The settlement came hours after a federal court jury found that three school administrators violated his rights, although it found the district as a whole was not guilty

of discrimination. The school district has denied Nabozny's request for either a diploma or a ceremony. Stephen Kelly, Ashland District Administrator, said Nabozny did not meet the requirements for necessary class hours to receive a diploma and the school has no plans to issue one.

"We treat everybody the same and if you don't attend the school, you don't get a diploma," Kelly said. He said the issue was raised during talks on the settlement, and it was clear Nabozny could not graduate because he left in his junior year and didn't have the necessary class credits. About the only option, Kelly said in a telephone interview Monday night, would be for Nabozny to return and complete the class work.

Nabozny said Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the gay and lesbian rights organization that supported him through his lawsuit, may stage an unoffi-

cial spring graduation ceremony in Ashland for him and other gay and lesbian students from Wisconsin who dropped out of school because of harassment. The ceremony would not be at the same time as any high school graduation this spring, Nabozny said. "I don't want to take away from any of the other kids," he said.

Nabozny claimed in his lawsuit that the abuse ranged from name-calling to being shoved, beaten, spat upon and even having his head pushed in a urinal and being urinated upon. He said he was kicked in the belly so many times he needed surgery.

The harassment started when he entered Ashland Middle School in 1988 until he dropped out of Ashland High School in 1993. After filing his lawsuit, Nabozny said he discovered that he wasn't alone in facing harassment at school. He said he has received hundreds of letters, and e-mail contacts from around the world. Kids and

adults have come to him with their own high school horror stories, he said. "This wasn't just something that happened to me because I was in Ashland, Wisconsin," he said.

Nabozny said not everyone who has contacted him is gay. Some are shy, had weight problems or other differences that made them targets. "For whatever reason, they don't fit in, they're different," Nabozny said.

Nabozny, who is preparing for college, said he also found support during the court case. Town police officers and even those who once harassed him, and the parents of his attackers, came forward in court to verify what happened, he said. "There's been a tremendous amount of support from people in town," he said. "I haven't had one negative response whatsoever."

BULLETIN BOARD

NLA:H Toy Drive

The National Leather Association: Houston has kicked-off its 6th Annual Christmas Toy Drive on Dec. 1. The 1996 beneficiaries are the Loving Arms Foundation & the P.W.A. Coalition.

Twenty collection boxes and twenty coin jars will be located in various businesses and clubs throughout Montrose and the Houston area including Venture-N, Brazos River Bottom, Mary's Naturally, Chances, Basic Brothers and more.

New toys ranging from infants to seven-year olds are requested and can be placed in any of the white, red, or green boxes with the NLA: H 1996 Christmas Toy Drive Poster. Coin jars have the same markings & all contributions are welcomed, from pennies to dollars.

For more info or for special pick-up arrangements, contact NLA: Houston's Toy Drive Chair Neil Thompson, or Mike Geinzer at 713-861-2598 or fax 713-861-5969.

Holiday Schmooze

On Thursday, Dec. 12, The Center for AIDS will host their 2nd Annual Holiday Schmooze, benefiting the Storefront Information Project. The event will take place in their new facility at 1407 Hawthorne, corner of Yupon from 6-8pm.

The Center for AIDS is the first & only HIV/AIDS organization in the Houston area devoted exclusively to treatment information & advocacy. Founded in 1995 by three concerned individuals, they recognized that treatment information & advocacy was a missing & critical link in the continuum of AIDS services in the Gulf Coast region. Increasing requests for information, coupled with new advances in HIV/AIDS treatment, made the need for a larger, more accessible facility necessary.

Food is being generously provided by Boulevard Bistrot. Holiday music will be performed by The Morris Minors. Admission is \$50 per person. For info, call 713-527-8219.

Seasonal Anxieties?

"Anxiety or Excitement...that Holiday Feeling" will be presented by TER-RAP Anxiety Treatment Center on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7:30pm. Located at the Rosewood Medical Center, 9200 Westheimer in Cottage 56, tips will be given on how to manage holiday as well as daily stress. There is no charge. For info call 713-266-5111.

Theater Lab & Randalls

The new Randall's Remarkable card is available, and it comes with good news—discounts on merchandise & a contribution to your favorite theater! All you need to do is remember #1448—That's the number for Theater LaB. Then tell any Randalls' checker to "marry" your Randalls Remarkable card to #1448.

Just remember to have your Randalls card scanned every time you shop at Randalls. Between one & three percent of your purchase will be donated by Randalls to Theater LaB Houston. The more our friends spend at Randalls, the more is gained by Theater LaB. It is an easy way for you to give financial assistance to TLH.

GLSTN Meeting

The Houston Chapter of The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) will meet Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:30pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore. In 1997, GLSTN will meet every 3rd Wednesday, 7:30pm.

Making schools safe for everyone—straight & gay—is the goal of GLSTN, The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Teachers Network. All interested persons are invited to attend. The GLSTN mailing address is P.O. Box 541871, Houston, Texas, 77254-541871 or call 713-529-4571.

Holiday Shopping Tips

The Houston Police Department has issued this year's list of safety tips for holiday shopping. Stay alert to your surroundings & the people around you; shop with a friend whenever possible, there is safety

in numbers; avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay for purchases with a check or credit card; carry only your driver's license, necessary credit cards or personal checks; and if you must carry a purse, do not wrap straps around arms or shoulder, you could risk injury from a would-be purse-snatcher. Carry a clutch purse tightly under your arm & don't leave it unattended.

The list continues with the following: don't carry wallets in a back pocket, it is easier to see in front of you than what is happening behind you; be alert that crooks look for the "high dollar store" shopping bags with your purchases; watch purchases while eating in mall food courts; educate children about what to do if they are lost as well as stranger danger; do not overburden yourself with packages that prohibit you from safely walking to car; have car keys ready in hand before leaving store; if you do return to vehicle to unload packages & continue shopping; and try not to shop until the store closes, fewer people will be present.

Next week look for safety tips for parking lots & for your home.

G.A.Y.S.

The Garden & Yard Society (G.A.Y.S.), a newly formed gardening club meets on Friday, Dec. 13 at 7206 Prestwick (Holcombe & Stella Link area). Bring your gardening friends & supporting partners. For info, call Regina at 862-3922 or Vickie & Clyde at 661-6378.

1st Internet Tournament

The Maxim Hotel & Casino announced that Houston's own Tom Turcich is a winner in the world's first Internet Blackjack Tournament: Blackjack Time (www.blackjacktime.com). Tom's victory resulted in a coveted seat in the Maxim's Casino's Invitational Tournament to be held on Friday, Dec. 13, where he will compete for thousands of dollars in cash.

Tom Turcich was one of the ten tournament winners to proceed to a sudden death round that awarded an additional prize of an all expense paid trip to Las Vegas. The ten contenders spent a tense but exciting three days challenging each other for leadership of the sudden death round. Not content with the results, Turcich will sit at his computer tonight to play in another free, no-gamble, no-risk www.blackjacktime.com tournament. This next tournament offers a seat in the Las Vegas Riviera Hotel & Casino National Finals where he will have the opportunity to win a \$100,000 grand prize. Blackjack Time is able to offer Internet tournaments without charge by having ads appear next to the cards during the game.

Simple Gifts

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston (GMCH) will present their holiday concert, "Simple Gifts," Dec. 14 & 15. GMCH members Rex Gillit & John Hall are conducting the concert, with piano accompaniment by Neal Massey, sign-language interpretation by Nancy Busch, and a guest appearance by Marsha Carlton.

The concert will begin at 7pm on Dec. 14 & at 2:30pm on Sunday at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin. For tickets (\$10) call 713-521-SING or stop by Crossroads Market, Inklings Book Shop, or Lobo Book Shop.

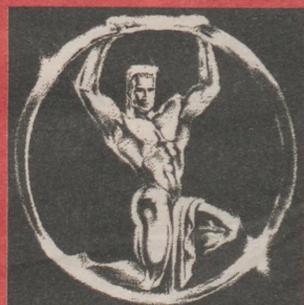
Rose & The Ballet

Martin's Fine Art Gallery, 1641 Westheimer, takes great pleasure in presenting E. G. Rose's "Rose and the Ballet, One Man Show." Thirteen recent paintings are on view from Dec. 13 through Jan. 13. Rose is one of the most highly regarded of the younger generation of Houston area painters whose style of painting is realistic/impressionism. Mr. Rose has chosen a theme of the Houston Ballet for his first one man show.

Martin's art gallery cordially invites one & all to the artist's reception on Friday, Dec. 16 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Located at 1641 Westheimer, Martin's hours are from 10am to 6:30pm Monday through Saturday, and Sunday 1:30pm to 6pm.

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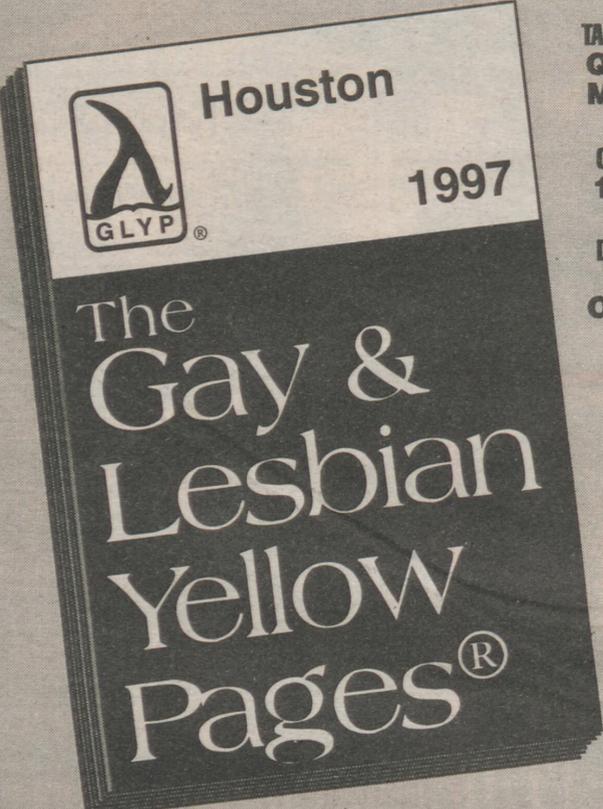
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SPORTS NOTES

By Lee Davis




Rainbow Fish

The **Rainbow Fishing Club's** excursion on the 70-foot deluxe cruiser, *Texsun II* will occur on Sunday, Dec. 8. The trip is 12 hours in duration and costs \$60 per person. All fishing tackle & bait is provided. Expected catches are red snapper, amber jack, grouper & triggerfish.

Additionally, the club will go out on the *Texsun II* Sunday, Jan. 19. Both outings will be mostly Gay & Lesbian. Call the Rainbow Fishing Club at 713-523-6831 for reservations or more info.

Sometime soon, the existing board of the Rainbow Fishing Club will hold their first meeting (remember...they're new), along with anyone who is interested in serving on the board. If this description fits you, call John at 713-523-6831 for the details.

Pool Stats

The **Independent Billiard League of Houston** reports Week 18 standings with Si Como No (Outpost), Yo Mama's (Outpost), Nellie Times 3 (Cousins), Underdogs (E/J's) and Full Throttle (Mining Co.) in the top five positions. The top five players for the week are Richard Chew (Mining Co.), Billy Lea (Outpost), Carlos Romero (Pastime), Joel Reyes (Outpost) and Jeff Minks (E/J's).

There will be a special meeting held at Chances this Saturday at 2pm where the members will vote on new team jackets for the top five teams. The awards banquet will be held at the 611 on Jan. 11 from 2-5pm. Any help setting up & decorating for the banquet will be appreciated. There will be an end of season tournament for the IBL league at the Ripcord on Dec. 14. Registration is \$5 and will begin at 12:30 with play starting at 1pm.

Lanes & Gutters

The **Montrose Monday Night Men's League** reports Division I Standings in 1st, 2nd & 3rd places with Dog Tired, Beat the Meat Again and Pinheads. In Division II, Spank My Feet, Intelligent Wife-forms & Five Easy Pieces occupy the top spots. High Scratch game of 255 & High Handicapped game was bowled by Marty Rutherford. High Scratch Series of 683 was bowled by Bob Roberts & High Handicapped Series was bowled by Paul Oldenburg. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 9pm on Monday. Call Tom at 522-9612.

The **Inner Loop Sunday Evening League** reports a perfect 300 game bowled by Tom O'Dell. League standings are Please Don't Eat The Daisy in 1st, We Go There Too in 2nd and The Four Tops in 3rd. High Scratch Game of 300, Series of 705 and Handicapped Game & Series was bowled by Tom O'Dell. For the women, Linda Dees bowled High Scratch Game of 218 & series of 569. Dorothy Covington bowled High Handicapped Game & Lisa McDougald series. For info call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is a Palace Lanes at 7pm on Sunday.

The **Wednesday Night Mixers** reports Gutter Bumper in 1st with Party Line in 2nd and We Come When You Call in 3rd. For the men, High Scratch Game of 220 was bowled by Richard Gay & series of 577 was bowled by Don Burken. Richard also bowled High Handicapped Game while Michael Crabtree bowled High Handicapped Series. For the women, Terry Shannon bowled High Scratch Game of 213, series of

558 & High Handicapped Series. Kristin Hess bowled High Handicapped Game. Call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

The **Monday Night Women's League** bowls at 6:15pm at AMF Southway on Mondays. Balls R Out is in 1st with TAZ Club in 2nd, Marks A Lot in 3rd and Sappho Strikers in 4th. For info call Pat at 437-6218.

Gift For Golfers

The perfect gift for the golfer is being offered by **Prevent Blindness**. The 10th Annual "Golf Fore Sight" card is now available and allows your favorite golfer to play & waive green fees at 23 local golf courses. You can purchase one card for \$35 or two cards for \$60.

Wrap them as a gift with balls & tees or tuck them into stocking. Call not place an order at 713-526-2559. Prevent Blindness accepts cash, check & visa/mastercard. Your contribution is tax deductible. They are located at 3211 W. Dallas in Houston.

Skiing With Pride

Tired of fumbling with your trail map? Hard time taking off your ski gloves to go through pockets and locate that trail map? No longer!! The **SkierSleeve Trail Map Holder** is made for you—now offered in a rainbow version just in time for the upcoming Gay Ski Week.

With the SkierSleeve, open your trail map, fold it, insert it into the sleeve pocket, wrap it around your arm and go! At the same time, let everyone know your pride by sporting the rainbow colors. For info call 800-322-2930.

HMBL Pool

The **Houston Metropolitan Billiards League, Inc. (HMBL)** announces the weekly standings for Week 6. The top five teams are, respectively, Oui Cousins, Ripcord Maniacs, Jackson 5, J.R.'s Cue Crew and Chupacabra.

The top five players are John Bowen, Larry Lentz, Gary Wood, Troy Ristow and Ken Bailey. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8 at J.R.'s beginning at 2pm.

Jingle Bell Run

It's time again for the **Enron Jingle Bell Run** supporting the Downtown YMCA's Youth & Urban Services Programs. On Sunday, Dec. 15, you can expect over 10,000 people enrolled in various categories at the YMCA on Louisiana. The cost is \$17 for adults until Dec. 11 when tickets go up to \$20.

The 5-mile wheelchair race begins at 2:30pm along with the 3.2-mile Inline Skate Race. The Adult 5-mile run starts at 3:05pm and the 3.2-mile Family Fitness Walk begins at 3:15pm. The after race-party begins at 4pm with the costume parade at 4:40pm.

Make checks payable to "The Enron Jingle Bell Run" and mail or drop off your entry forms to the Downtown YMCA, 1600 Louisiana, Houston 77002, or fax entry form with credit card info to 713-758-9210.

All entrants receive an official 1996 Enron Jingle Bell Run long-sleeve 100% cotton t-shirt & jingle bells. The first 10,000 entrants will receive a commemorative gym bag or children's backpack. All finishers will receive a souvenir race cup.

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'Gay Couples Plan Four-Way Parenting for Baby

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Two gay couples are pushing the envelope a bit further in the non-traditional family revolution—the four have decided to have and raise a child together. The two couples—gay men Leland Traiman and Stewart Blandon, and lesbians Bridget Lawhon and Dolores Trevino—are looking for a house to share after the baby is born. "We are stepping into an unknown, and that can be very scary," says Lawhon, 40, an Oakland neonatal nurse who will be the baby's biological mother. "But there is so much promise, and that outweighs the fears. Four parents is good. There is more love and respect and attention to creating an environment for a child to grow in and be nourished in." The four co-parents have already hammered out some issues that all families face, including religion. If the parents can't find a suitable joint home, the baby will spend equal time in both the gay and lesbian households. And they agree on their basic child-rearing philosophy. This future child will not be spanked. And will not be a whiner.

But what will baby call his or her new parents? Traiman will be called Papa and Blandon will be Dad, they have decided. Lawhon and Trevino are still mulling over that issue. Artificial insemination begins next month. Hinging on faith and luck-and highly detailed, non-binding contracts-gay and lesbian couples are increasingly shedding the notion they must remain childless.

The resulting patchwork families are grounded as much in hope as in pledges between parents who share not necessarily love for each other but devotion to their child. In the San Francisco Bay Area, the cornerstone for much of this movement is a little known but thriving organization, Prospective Queer Parents (PQP). Informally dubbed the "sperm and egg mixer," the group is now celebrating its fifth anniversary. "This is not social experimentation with child-

ren," says Traiman, 44, a nurse who founded the group that to date has given birth to four babies. "Lesbians and gay men talk for months, if not years, about having a child before they go about conceiving," says Traiman, who lives in San Mateo with Blandon. "These kids are the most planned, the most wanted children in the world. It's the heterosexuals who are having children by accident. They've been doing that for millennia, and frankly, they haven't been doing a very good job."

For more than a decade, lesbians have been routinely becoming mothers, often through the services of a sperm bank. But the process is still difficult. Many of the PQP meetings are centered around finding the right partner. "A lot of this is pioneering, even in the gay community," says David Gordon, 43, a San Francisco resident who joined the parenting group a few years ago in hopes of finding a female match. "I always wanted to have children, but it never entered my mind that it might be possible without getting married," says Gordon, a San Francisco printer on permanent disability with nerve damage in his legs. While conception for most straight couples is imbued with romantic overtones, baby-making in this group inevitably becomes blunt business. Before insemination—invariably through artificial means—members of PQP engage in exhaustive negotiations about money, education, tax credits, day care, medical care, every imaginable aspect of life over the next two decades. "It's not about a union, it's about a baby deal," says Avner Lapovsky, 43, a designer showroom owner in San Francisco. But he adds, "I've never accepted the limits imposed on a gay life. Who says that just because I'm not living a traditional life I'm not qualified to be a father? It's not in the Bible. It's not in the Constitution. Our whole motivation here is love. And that is why you should have a child."

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HOUSTON VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Texas Commerce World AIDS Day Display

By HAROLD SHULTZ

Texas Commerce Bank has placed a small display in the lobby for World AIDS Day. I invite you to visit this display and rejoice in the fact that a corporation our size is sending a very strong and powerful message. I hope that each year this display will continue to grow and have meaning until

the time it is no longer needed.

A memorial tree is placed on both sides of the display for people to place the name of a loved one that died of AIDS. This ornament will be laminated and returned to the individual. They place the memorial name on the front and the persons name and address on the back for whom they wish the ornament to be returned.

I would like to THANK Paula Andries and Charles Schoellkopf for dedicating their weekend for me to set up this display.

George Mason Students Will Ask Governor To Intervene

Fairfax (AP)—The student government at George Mason University may ask for Gov. George Allen's help in its fight for a center for gay students. The state-funded university's board of visitors voted last week not to appropriate the \$15,000 needed to create the center. The board instead approved combining gay counseling with an existing office serving minority students, but appropriated no additional funds for the new service.

Student leaders, who cited an increase in on-campus hate crimes against gays in seeking the center, will meet Thursday and try to pass a vote of no confidence in rector Marvin R. Murray, chairperson of the board of visitors. If the resolution passes, students will then ask Allen to take punitive action against Murray and board member Joann DiGennaro, who chairs the Student Affairs Committee that recommended the center not be funded.

Bryan Hubbard, chairperson of the student senate, said he knows Allen will not yield to the students, but "the voting public here in northern Virginia needs to know what kind of people are trying to run the university." Some students protested the creation of the center, arguing that no particular group should be singled out to receive school funds, especially at a time when George Mason is trying to bring its budget under control.

The board cited financial constraints in voting 6-5 not to fund the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Resource Center. The funding would have paid to hire a part-time staffer to run the office, and had the support of school president Alan Merten, the student government and faculty Senate. Murray, a Republican appointed to the board by Allen, cast the deciding vote. Mrs. DiGennaro said she would reconsider funding if the office of minority student affairs proves unable to help homosexuals.

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Where...What...and When!

Friday, Dec. 6

- * Heaven: \$1 well and \$1.75 Miller. Doors open at 9:00 pm.
 - * Brazos River Bottom: Houston Area Bears guest bartend on the patio at 9:30 pm; Drink specials until 9:00 pm; Buffet at 5:00 pm.
 - * Cousin's: Drag show at 11:00 pm.
 - * Midtowne Spa: Shower dancers.
 - * BriarPatch: Steve plays for Happy Hour; Wayne Gray tickles the rest of the night! Blackjack tables open at 9:30 pm.
 - * Rascals: Free hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm; \$1 Schnapps; Video Post Office.
 - * Gentry: Bad Boys dance at 6:00 pm: \$2 Kamikazes.
 - * Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Mad Man Justice Band with Stevie on vocals at 9:00 pm.
 - * Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
 - * Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10:00 pm; male dancers 8:00 pm to 2:30 am; After hours until 4:00 am.
 - * J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli: hard body male dancers.
 - * Club Incognito: Boyz night out.
 - * Venture-N: \$1.75 well, beer, and wine from noon until 9:00 pm. The Court guest bartends starting at 9:00 pm.
 - * BerryHill II: Happy Hour until 10:00 pm.
 - * E/J's: Happy Hours 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Male Strip Contest at 11:00 pm.
 - * Pacific Street: Friday Foreplay; \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 schnapps; Doors open at 7:00 pm. No cover until 9:00 pm.
 - * 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9:00 pm.
 - * Ripcord: Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; After Hours until 4:00 am.
 - * OutPost: Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.
 - * Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
 - * Rich's: Fizz Fridays! 18+ welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call; Doors open at 9:00 pm.
 - * Ms. B's: Mary Hall performs at 9:00 pm.
- ## Saturday, Dec. 7
- * Pacific Street: Leather and Flesh; Doors open at 9:00 pm.
 - * OutPost: Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.
 - * Brazos River Bottom: Drink specials until 9:00 pm.
 - * Cousin's: Drag show at 11:00 pm.
 - * Heaven: \$1 well 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm; \$1.50 domestic longnecks 10:30 pm to 11:00 pm; \$1.25 schnapps; Doors open at 9:00 pm.
 - * BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories tonight.
 - * Gentry: Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3.50 Absolut-ly anything; Mr. and Miss Gentry contest at 9:00 pm.
 - * Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30 p.m.
 - * 800 Pacific block party: \$1 well and \$1.75 domestic longnecks! 9:00 to 9:30 pm at Santa Fe Bar and Patio, 9:30 to 10:00 pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10:00 to 10:30 pm at J.R.'s Bar and Grill, and 11:00 pm to 11:30 pm at Heaven.
 - * Venture-N: \$1.75 well, beer, and wine from noon until 9:00 pm. Lancers Motorcycle Club celebrates their 19th anniversary starting at 9:00 pm.
 - * Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. After Hours until 4:00 am.
 - * J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; Martinis and Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis. \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11:00 pm.
 - * Pacific Street \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps; No cover until 11:00 pm.
 - * Club Houston: Half price lockers from noon to midnight.
 - * Venture-N: \$1.75 well, beer, and wine

- * Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9:00 pm to 2:30 am; happy hour until 10:00 pm; After hours until 4:00 am.
- * Rich's: 21 and up tonight! No cover before 10:00 pm; \$1 well drinks 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm; Doors open at 9:00 pm.
- * Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- * BerryHill II: Happy Hour until 10:00 pm.
- * Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Shiela Lennon on stage at 9:00 pm.
- * BriarPatch: Wayne Gray and others play live.
- * E/J's: \$1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- * PastTime: \$1.25 Vodka eye-Openers 7:00 am to 11:00 am.

Sunday, Dec. 8

- * Venture-N: \$1.75 well, beer, and wine from noon until 9:00 pm; Cook-out on the "Far Side" and the Texas Riders guest bartend at 5:00 pm.
 - * J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11:00 pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6:00 pm; Male Swim wear strip contest at 11:00 pm.
 - * BriarPatch: Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Open pool tables.
 - * Club Incognito: Super Sunday Show at 11:00 pm. No cover before 10:00 pm.
 - * Brazos River Bottom: Drink specials until 5:00 pm; Steak night from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm; 10th annual LVL PWA Christmas show at 6:30 pm.
 - * Mary's: 50¢ draft beer; \$1.75 Well drinks and longnecks from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Tree Lighting at 6:00 pm and Customer Appreciation party at 7:00 pm.
 - * Gentry: Pool tournament, Bad Boys dance at 5:00 pm; \$2 Kool-Aids; Mr. & Miss Gentry Contest at 9:00 pm.
 - * BerryHill II: Happy Hour until 10:00 pm.
 - * OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8:00 pm.
 - * Pacific Street: Male Overload! Doors open at 7:00 pm; No shirt, no cover! \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps.
 - * Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from noon to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
 - * Rascal's: \$2 Mimosas and \$1.75 well drinks; Tea Dance; Best Basket and Buns Contest 10:00 pm.
 - * Rich's: 18 and up welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call, Klub Kamp with Simply Divine and Lana Blake at 10:30 pm; Doors open at 8:00 pm.
 - * 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
 - * Ripcord: \$1.50 well and domestic beer all day/all night.
- ## Monday, Dec. 9
- * Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
 - * Outpost: Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.
 - * E/J's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Male Strip 11:00 pm.
 - * Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
 - * J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; Martinis and Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis. \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11:00 pm.
 - * Pacific Street \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps; No cover until 11:00 pm.
 - * Club Houston: Half price lockers from noon to midnight.
 - * Venture-N: \$1.75 well, beer, and wine

- from noon until 9:00 pm.
- * Gentry: Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3.50 Crown Royal.
- * BriarPatch: Wheel of Fortune and Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Clint plays topless; Open pool tables.
- * Rascal's: Monday night football on the big screen; free pizza; Miller Lite products for \$1.50; Cuervo shots \$2.
- * Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; \$1 longnecks at 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm.
- * Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well and domestic beer.
- * Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night.
- * 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Tables.
- * Ripcord: Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza.
- * Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30 pm; male dancers 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm.
- * Four Star Hair Productions: \$2 off haircut and free beer. 524-7785.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

- * Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Houston. 8:00 pm. 520-2083.
 - * BerryHill II: Happy Hour until 10:00 pm; Female Dancers at 10:30 pm.
 - * J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$2 well, wine, domestic longnecks and frozen Margaritas; Jockey shorts contest at 11:00 pm; Grab for Cash at midnight.
 - * OutPost: Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.
 - * Pacific Street. Executive Night No cover with your personal business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9:00 pm.
 - * Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
 - * Gentry: Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$2 Windex shots.
 - * Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; \$2 Cuervo.
 - * E/J's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Mug Club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Amateur talent contest at 11:00 pm.
 - * Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well 7:00 am to 11:00 pm; \$1 domestic longnecks.
 - * Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 longnecks, \$2.50 well, \$3 any drink in the house; male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm.
 - * Rascals: \$1.75 well drinks and \$1.50 domestic longnecks.
 - * Club Houston: Half price lockers, rooms and video rooms from noon to midnight.
 - * Ripcord: Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
 - * The Ranch: C & W dance lessons at 8:00 pm.
- ## Wednesday, Dec. 11
- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
 - * BriarPatch: Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour; Saloon singer Beverly Sisco tickles the ivories.
 - * Gentry: Bad Boys dance at 7:00 pm; Male Strip Contest with Dyan Michaels at 11:00 pm; \$1.25 Schnapps.
 - * J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade. \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea; Joe Boxer dance contest at 11:00 pm.
 - * Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm.

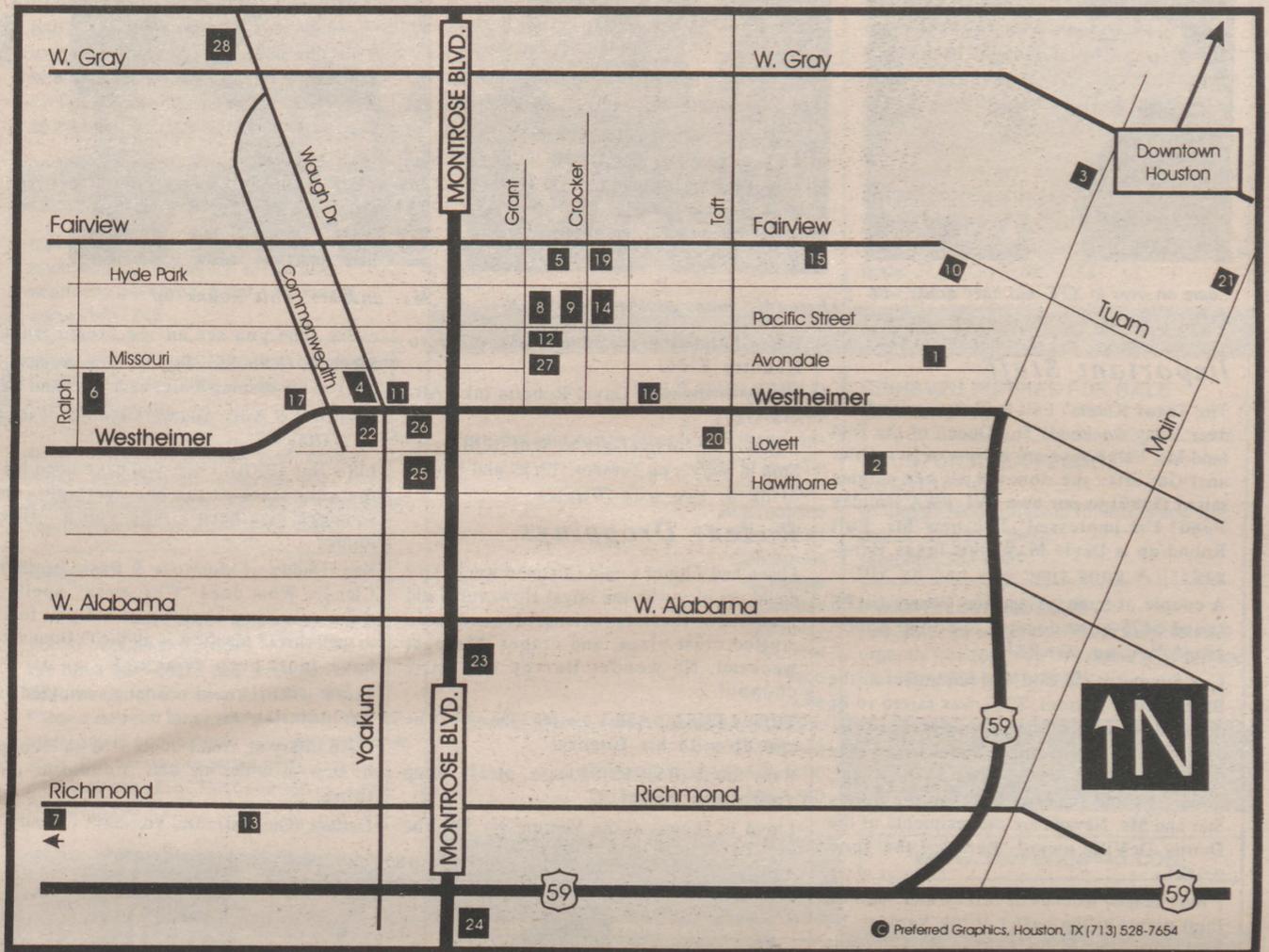
- * Rascals: \$1.50 domestic longnecks; Lil' Rascals strip contest at 10:00 pm; Free happy hour buffet.
- * Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- * Venture-N: \$1.75 well, beer, and wine from noon until 9:00 pm.
- * Pacific Street. No cover with a "Be My Guest" pass. Doors open at 9:00 pm.
- * Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; Drink specials all day and all night.
- * Brazos River Bottom: Drink specials until 9:00 pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks.
- * Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night and shower dancers.
- * BerryHill II: Happy Hour until 10:00 pm; Free Pool Tables.
- * E/J's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.40 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Mug club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Burger night.
- * Ripcord: \$2 well and domestic beer all day/all night.
- * OutPost: Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- * XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.
- * Heaven: \$1 well, \$1.75 Budweiser and 75¢ Miller on tap; DJ Michael DeGrace takes you to the Edge: Doors open at 9:00 pm.

Thursday, Dec. 12

- * Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and at Rich's from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am.
- * 611 Hyde Park Pub: Burger Night.
- * BerryHill II: Happy Hour until 10:00 pm; Male Dancers at 10:30 pm.
- * E/J's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm; \$1.50 vodka 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Mug club 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; Tacos on the patio.
- * Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- * Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, and video rooms from noon to midnight.
- * Gentry: Bad Boys dance at 9:00 pm; \$3 Skyy vodka.
- * Rascals: Retro Rewind; \$1.50 vodka drinks.
- * Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks and longnecks from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm; 75¢ Schnapps.
- * Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, and wine; Male dancers at 9:00 pm; Happy hour until 10:00 pm.
- * Venture-N: \$1.75 well, beer, and wine from noon until 9:00 pm.
- * Brazos River Bottom: Drink specials until 11:00 pm; Burgers on the patio from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; dance lessons at 9:00 pm.
- * Ripcord: Happy Hour 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm; Classic Rock night.
- * OutPost: Happy Hour 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- * J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis and \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold and Micro brewed beer; Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9:00 pm.
- * Nancy Ford at Ms. B's at 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm, open mike and karaoke 10:30 pm to 1:00 am.
- * Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer and well from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer and \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- * BriarPatch: Drawing for Dollars at Happy Hour: Wayne Gray, Laurie Gage and new to the BriarPatch Edith Head perform live.
- * PastTime: Pool league meets!
- * Cousin's: 11th Anniversary party and Mr. Cousin's contest at 10:00 pm benefits the Pet Patrol. Talent contest at 11:00 pm.

Where Am I?

Accommodations		
1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale 520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd. 522-5224
Bars/Clubs		
3	BRB	2400 Brazos 528-9192
4	Chances	1100 Westheimer 523-7217
5	Cousins	817 Fairview 528-9204
6	E/J's	2517 Ralph 527-9071
7	Gentry	2303 Richmond 520-1861
8	Heaven	812 Pacific 521-9123
9	JR's	808 Pacific 521-2519
10	Lazy J	312 Tuam 528-9343
11	Mary's	1022 Westheimer 527-9669
12	M Mining Co	805 Pacific 529-7488
13	Outpost	1419 Richmond 520-8446
14	Pacific Street	710 Pacific 523-0213
15	Past Time	617 Fairview 528-8102
16	QT's	534 Westheimer 529-8813
17	Rascal's	1318 Westheimer 942-2582
18	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto 759-9606
19	Ripcord	715 Fairview 521-2792
20	Steam	402 Lovett 521-1450
21	Venture-N	2923 Main 522-0000
Others		
22	Crossroads Bookstore / Cafe	1111 Westheimer 942-0147
23	Lobo Books & Video	3939-S Montrose 522-5156
24	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose 524-6706
25	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose 526-7865
26	Eckerds	1007 Westheimer 524-9229
27	Baba Yega Rest	2607 Grant 522-0042
28	RiverOaks Cineplex-Odeon Theaters	



12/7 **Star Studded Saturday Show** * 11:00pm *

Hostess



Roxanne Lee Love

Dynasty
Robert Rodriguez
Shanice Love
and Talent Night Winner

Fa La La La La I'm warming up!

No! The Gay Men's Chorus Dec. 14 & 15 Concert

For what... a trick?

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FRI	12/6	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11:00pm with Paivi
SAT	12/7	SATURDAY SHOW at 11:00pm with Roxanne
SUN	12/8	\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day All Night
MON	12/9	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11:00pm with Paivi
TUE	12/10	Amateur/Talent Night at 11:00pm with Dyan Michaels
WED	12/11	Granny's Burgers



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- \$3.75 Pitchers & \$1.75 Mugs

SOUTH OF THE BORDER NIGHT THURS. DEC. 12 11:00PM

Hostess



Rashelle Stevens

PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS
WIN CDs, HATS & TICKETS
GUESTS: LANA BLAKE, SHELBY ST. JOHN, DIANE JACKSON & GINA MALONE

ALSO GRANNY'S TACOS!

Important Stuff and Gossip!



Come on over to XTC and have drinks with us!



Friendly faces at the Venture-N



Ms. and Mr. Fall Round-up

Important Stuff

The Texas Riders' Fall Round-up was held over T-day weekend! The Queen of the Run (and Ms. Fall Round-up) is Nina of New Orleans! Get this, she donated all her monies raised (\$389) to our own LVL PWA Holiday Fund! I'm impressed! The new Mr. Fall Round-up is David M. of the Texas Renegades! A good time was had by all!

A couple of Sundays ago the Gentry GAPS raised \$475 to be donated to Soiree Aubergine! You go, GAPS!

Last Sunday at the Colt 45s fundraiser at the Brazos River Bottom, \$307 was raised to be donated to the Colt 45s General Charities Fund. Congrats to Anita Mann for receiving the Entertainer of the Year award. The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star and Ms. Nevada are the recipients of the Danny DeVilla award. Keep up the good work!

PWAs heaped mounds of turkey and such on their plates at the buffet at the Venture-N, hosted by Anita Mann. Later, over \$200 was raised to be donated to the Steven's House! Way to go!

Check this out! Four Star Hair Productions has a coupon on page 4! Get the latest haircut for the holidays at Four Star!

Stop in Rascals on Fridays and play Video Post Office! I hear you can even seal it with a kiss!

Don't forget the "Holiday Thoughts" can be purchased at many of our local area nite spots and retail outlets! The "Holiday Thoughts" are a great way to send a message to friends and raise money for the LVL PWA Holiday Fund, too! If you would like to get involved with this fund raising campaign, call Don Gill at 521-0911.

Just in time for the holidays, Basic Brothers is your one-stop shopping headquarters for the special one on your shopping list. Also just in time for Christmas, all Y.M.L.A. fashion and active wear is 25% off! Great gifts ARE in store at Basic Brothers.

The Lancers Motorcycle Club is hosting their 19th anniversary run on Saturday, Dec. 7, starting at 7:00 pm at Mary's, naturally for cocktails. At 9:00 pm, the run runs to the Venture-N for more cocktails and awards! Congrats to the Lancers for keeping it going for 19 years!

The Ripcord will be celebrating their 14 year anniversary on Monday, Dec. 9, 9:00 pm to 2:00 am! I can taste the shrimp already!

The annual Montrose Community Christmas tree lighting will be at Mary's, naturally on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 6:00 pm. Be sure and dash inside afterwards for the Mary's customer appreciation buffet and party!

Cousin's celebrates their 11th anniversary on Thurs., Dec. 12! The Mr. Cousin's contest at 10:00 pm benefits the Pet Patrol! Congrats to Ron Sioux and staff for providing for our community for 11 years!

The Court invites you to get you (and your pet, friend, lover, brother, sister, whatever) a photo with Santa! Here are the dates and times: 12/6 @ 9pm-Venture-N; 12/7 @ 2pm-Mary's; 12/8 @ 5pm-BRB; 12/11 @ 6pm-E/J's; 12/13 @ 7pm-Chances; 12/14 @ 10pm-Ripcord; 12/15 @ 7pm-Gentry!

The Mr. and Miss Gentry contest is Sat., Dec. 7 @ 9:00 pm! See ya there!

Milestones

Happy birthdays to Houston Area Bears Butchie J., David R., and Jerry D. Happy belated birthday to Jessica Van Shelton!

Happy birthday to the Houston Voice's own Kountry Kidd!

Happy birthday to David Roberts (aka Alicia Day).

Happy 13th anniversary to Will of Mary's. Stop in Mary's on Tuesday, 12/10 and have a drink or two with Wilma!

Rodent Droppings

I have had a bit of a cold this past week, so I could not play with the boys! However, I did feed them their favorites; avocados, stuffed crust pizza, and crepes this past weekend. No wonder Harvey is a little chubby!

Tiffany (FIST): And I quote: "Oh, what he can do with his fingers!"

Ruby Stone (RSICSS): Please, please, keep your dress down!

Lloyd W. (hangs at the Venture-N): Oh, the

every time you see an ice cream truck? Steve C. (RSICSS): Daddy is in Nashville and you are running loose, with a sash no less!

Dean W. (NLA:H): You were warned, it snows in Dallas!

Little Don (BRB): I hear you have been leaving your truck at the bar overnight. Has someone else been giving you a "ride" home?

Ken (Daddy of Montrose & Basic Brothers) Claude: What does "Christmsa" spell? Is this a new "gay" holiday or did you forget to spell check? Maybe it is all the O'Doul's you have (not) been drinking!

Don P. (BRB): There is a long, wrinkled finger pointing at you!

Gaye (Mary's): And I quote: "With a couple of Dewars under my belt, I could do anything!"

Darlene (Outpost): Did you have "Sandy on



The Gentry Staff at Turn-About

things you do with your mother's dresses!

Neil T. (NLA:H): Witnesses saw you blowing on a huge banana at Chances.

Jim H. (RSICSS): Nice try, but everyone knows you are not hung THAT well!

Doug L. (NLA:H): You really did not need that spleen after all did you? Get well soon!

Tom (Ripcord): Is it true you went home wearing someone else's clothes and no underwear?

Sam (BRB): I hear you had the same situation that Tom (Ripcord) had, found yourself at your own home early in the morning wearing someone else's clothes and no undies! Is this the latest fad?

Mark M. (NLA:H): Who was that fuzzy daddy we saw you with a couple of Wednesday nights ago?

Miss Molly (BRB): Why do you break-dance

the Barbee" last week? Doesn't that give "down under" a new meaning!

Oscar (Basic Brothers): I hear you know how to stretch it out! It let you know you could leave home and not starve!

Bill (Core Systems): I hear that bar hopping is not your best sport!

Samantha (hangs at E/J's): Victoria's Secret is having a bra sale! Hint, hint!

Daisy Duke (611): I hear you were showing your "business" in those short shorts!

Dyan Michaels: I hear you were having a "Merry" Christmas a little early!

Matt (BRB): Why were you at Home Depot Sunday morning buying sheet rock? Talk about rough trade!

Shelby St. John: Is it true your neighbors learn your music before you do?

Devon Devasquez: Girl, it is about your lips

last Saturday night!

Day Leigh Edwards: Have you taken up needle point? We never see you out anymore!

Steven Baker: The Mr. BRB contest is in January! Get your calendar out and mark the date!

Nicole Blake: Do you think you're special or what? Showing up late for a show with a cute, smiling Hispanic man carrying your bags!

Stacy Grummer: I have some advice! If you are going to run for Ms. TGRA, might I suggest you take "Politics 101."

Terry (611): Why are they calling you the "Tumbling Terry?"

John (Chills): So, you are the Raspberry man! Tart and tasty!

Rodney (hangs at the Venture-N): Leave it to you to get a BWI, that is Biking While Intoxicated!

John (Chances): Next time you loan your bicycle out, please do a sobriety test first!

Mama Doug (hangs at the Outpost): So, now you are the king of "goodies?"

Rodent Rooter: Hon, I was only teasing! No one in their right mind would want to do this trash every week! Yes, I did miss you! Yes, I love gossip, too! Hope you had a great trip!

Judy (BRB): How much stock do you own in Miracle Grow?

Jay Allen (Pacific Street): Hope you had a great vacation! Welcome home!

Rick (hangs at the Outpost): Have you heard of tooth-bonding? Good suggestion!

Wesley (Rascals): A chauffeur, a maid, what is next? Can you say American Express Platinum card?

Binky (Bicknell Plumbing): You name dropper! What is sore?

Verna Rae (hangs at the Outpost): And I quote: "Lobster, hell, she was so nice to me I'll give her the whole farm! Where is my hairbrush?"

Black Velvet (Gentry): I hear you are into thumb-sucking!

Miss Alabama (BRB): Is it true you still sleep with Vera's (BRB) old set of false teeth under your pillow? Waiting for the tooth fairy?

Pumpkin (Pacific Street): I bet you are glad the "Pumpkin carving" season is over!

Dot (RSICSS): I'm glad you are home from the hospital! Get well, soon!

Kip (Gentry): Did you get "stuffed" over the T-day holiday?

Charlie (BriarPatch): How is that long distance bill of yours? Is it bigger than your bar bill?

Don Dowden: Thank-you so much for the silver gravy boat and butter dish! My T-day table was beautiful thanks to you!

Laura (Gay/Lesbian Yellow Pages): Congrats on your latest Houston issue! I can't wait to see it! Also, what is the octagon?

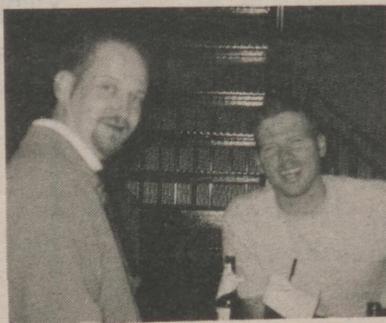
Earl (Gay/Lesbian Yellow Pages): I hear you are "greased lighting" in New Orleans!

Steve (Chances) Is it true that you and JD Lee Love spent the night together last Monday night?

Fred (hangs at Chances): Stop the presses! I saw you leave the bar early! Trying to be a "good girl?"

Will the person that "borrowed" JD Lee Love's green pager please return it! Have a great week!

Cuervolyn



Wesley and Butt Boy of Rascals



Anita Mann needs a man!



I feel pretty!

CLASSIFIEDS

To advertise in the Houston Voice Classifieds call (713) 529-8490 or (800) 729-8490 if not in Houston. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

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

GENTRY is accepting applications for *door, barbacks and bartenders*. Please apply in person at 2303 Richmond Ave. from 2 pm to 6 pm. A recent photo is required. No telephone calls please.

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.**

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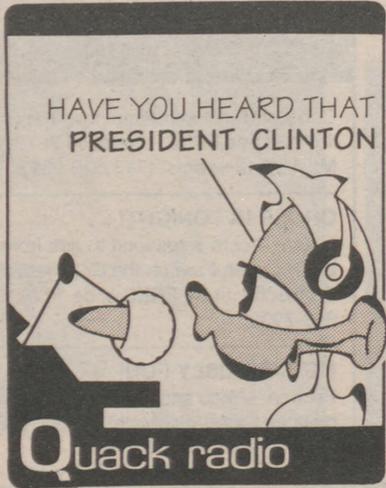
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Volunteers of The Week

This week's VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK is not one but the 187 Houston members of the "DC '96 team that volunteered in Washington for the massive AIDS Memorial Quilt Display.

An estimated two million people came to the Quilt display, the largest display of the Quilt and the largest AIDS event ever. More than 30 AIDS-focused events took place in Washington, DC in conjunction with the Quilt showing and our volunteers were there as quilt monitors, roving site guides, readers, educators, unfolders, merchandise salesmen, first aid, emotional support, information guides, new panel check in and media representatives.

For the first time since it was started nine years ago, a United States President and Vice President visited the

Quilt. Stretching from the Washington Monument to the grounds of the U.S. Capitol Building, the Quilt occupied an area equal to 24 football fields and weighed more than 50 tons. Some 2500 new panels were added to the Quilt, putting the total number of panels displayed in Washington at more than 44,000.

The Houston NAMES Chapter is proud to nominate as VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK, it's many hard working Washington DC '96 Volunteers:

Michael Alexander, Rita Alvarado, Jennifer Alvarado, Reed Anderson, Jo Anne Banker, William Barteloni, Charles Beough, RamonaFae Benton, Ronnie Blissit, Romanita Botelli, Brad Bowden, Audry Boyle, Todd Brady, Debbie Brimlow, Don Browning, Douglas Bruce, William Bulcher, Denise Callegari, Sylvia

Campbell, Jason Carroll, Daniel Chanis, Thomas Chelena, Marc Cohen, Dennis Cole, Collette Cole, Bill Comeaux, Ken Council, David Crank, Kieth Crawford, Albert Critz, Dan DiDonato, Ann Ditmar, Perrie Dolph, Walt Duffey, Carol East, Jackie Eill, Ruth Ann Ethridge, Vernon Facundo, David Fagan, Leora Feldman, Norman Feldman, Barbara Ferer, Clay Fischer, Ron Foster, Julie Fowler, Richard Franz, Charles Gammill, Liz Gammill, Joanie Glendenning, Mary Grasso, Robert Grayson, William Green, Michael Griswold, Mary Griffiths, Randall Gurgess, Daniel Gutierrez, Lisa Gutierrez, Theresa Haak, M.M. Hall, Duane Harney, Billie Harris, Orbie Harris, Bob Hergenroeder, Barry Hewitt, Jackson Hicks, Scott Hilton, Ella Hines, Mike Hodges, Johnny Hooks, Terry House, Esther Houser, Carl Howell, David Jackson, Veronica Jacobs, John Janco, Jon Jennings, Randall Jobe, James John, Vivian John, Glynnis Jones, Renata Jordan, Barbara Joseph, Brian Keever, Tom Kessler, Lee Kinal, Cindy Kistenberg, Mary Kochenderfer, George Konar, Bill Kopitzke, Jim Kreiling, Joel Laser, Charles Lehder, Tom Lehman, Nikki Lively, Peter Lloyd, Sheila Makan, Daniel Malachowski, Barry Mandel, W.J. Maniord, Diane Marks, Pete Martinez, Mary Lou Matamoros, Robert Moore, Bert McAulay, Adam McClosky, Jason McLawchlin, Mary Helen Merzbacher, Robert Meyer, Shelly Meyer, Ann Miller, Paul Miller, Ray Miller, Amy Minitte, Ruben Molina, Vicky Murphy, Shawn Murray, David Nastasi, David Norman, Ronald Oglesbee, Judy Olin, Lynn Pannill, Donna Pashalidis, Judy Peplinski, Scott Pott, Jan Prescott, Ray Price, Mitchel Rainey, Samantha Rainman, Elizabeth Ream, Alison Ream, Sibly Ream, Aaron Richard, John Rickett, Bert Ritvo, Paula Rocha, Ricardo Rojas, Peggy Roush, Amy Russell, Lisa Ryan, Arnold Sachs, John Sahn, Scott Sawyer, Mike Salavarrria, Kami Schiffman, Rob Schmerler, David Schwartz, Sara Speer Selber, Eric Shamban, Ann Sharon, Greg Sharon, Kym Sherwood, James Shinn, Ben Smith, Henry Smith, Alec Smoke, Amy Sommer, Barbara Sommer, Shannon Sommer, Barbara Sorensen, Donna Sullivan, Derrick Taylor, Roberta Torbett, Matt VanDine, W.K. Vandygriff, Alfred Villamil, Terry Ward, Jim Walker, Allen Wayne, Joan Wayne, Jackie Wear, Christi Wells, Rebecca Wells, Susan Wertheim, Ray West, Lew Wiggs, Linda Williams, Greg Willis, Becky Wocken, Tom Wocken, Kevin Woodruff, Trey Yates, Angelina Young, Mabel Zakuma, Yvonne Zeigmann Lee Zosa

Ralin Resigns as AIDS Information Director

DENVER (AP)—Peter Ralin was one of the first gay men in Colorado to be tested for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. More than a decade later, after losing his partner to the disease, Ralin looks back on hours of effort educating the public about the epidemic. Now, Ralin is calling it quits as AIDS Information Director for the Denver Public Health Department. While it means the end of alarm clocks and 50 to 60 hour work weeks for Ralin, it doesn't mean the end to his concern.

Colorado's first AIDS case was diagnosed in May 1982, and since then Ralin has been intertwined with efforts surrounding the education, prevention and eradication of the disease. "It's hard to be very much involved in this state's response to the epidemic and not cross paths with him at some point," said Merilou Johnson, co-director of the Colorado AIDS Education and Training Center.

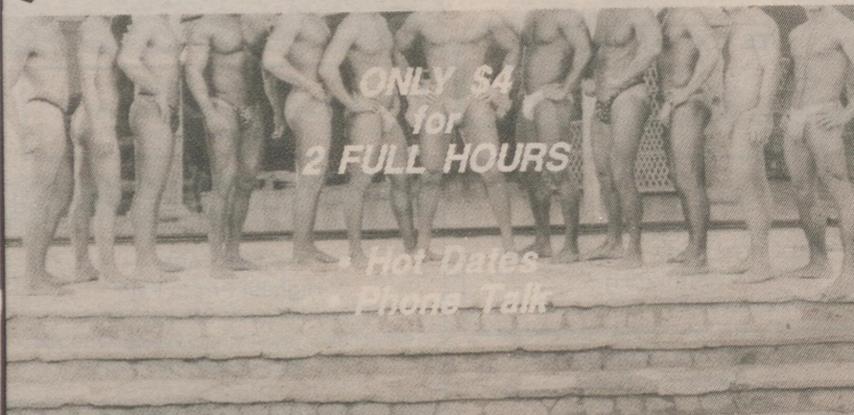
Ralin's partner died of AIDS-related respiratory failure on Nov. 5, 1984. Shortly after that, Ralin was diagnosed as HIV-positive. He figures he was infected in 1980. In 1990, the infection progressed to AIDS. In Colorado, 5,611 people have been diagnosed with AIDS and of those 2202 are still alive. The peak came in 1993 when 730 cases were diagnosed. Through Sept. 30 of this year, 284 AIDS cases have been diagnosed. It's the people and their personal battles that have kept Ralin writing grants for research projects, sitting on committees to determine how scanty AIDS funds are spent and finding ways to stop one more person from being infected and dying. "I've wanted to give more than I've taken," Ralin said.

Dr. Frank Judson, Denver's public health director, remembers Ralin's reaction during the initial stages of the outbreak. "Peter just stepped up to the line early. He never made any attempt to protect his privacy," Judson said. "He didn't view the AIDS epidemic as a civil liberties disease or a conspiracy as it was sometimes painted." "He saw it as a deadly viral epidemic in a long train of human communicable disease misery, a little worse than some, and certainly affecting gay men more," he continued. "Beyond that, Peter could never see why we shouldn't be applying every scientific advance we could and every public health approach that had been proven with other diseases at other times."

Ralin plans to continue being active in a number of AIDS-related organizations, including the Denver Mayor's Office of HIV Resources Coordination, which helps identify how to use the more than \$4 million in Ryan White ACT money that the city and county of Denver receives.

Denver Public Health's commitment to AIDS treatment has grown from a one-room clinic with just a few patients each week in 1982 to today's broad array of the most up-to-date treatment, prevention and related research with 13,000 patient visits each year. "I get the biggest high off of just training and educating people," Ralin said. "Now I won't have to go back to the office and write a report about it."

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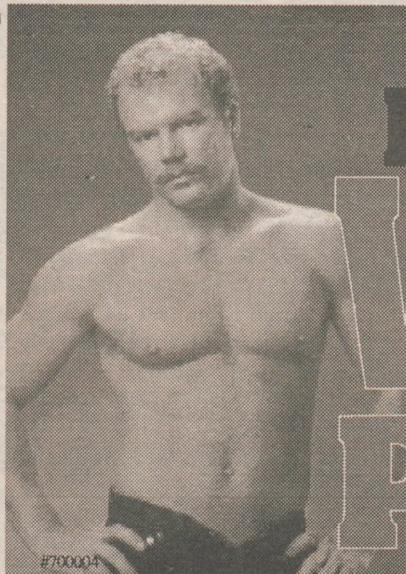
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SFW 18, 125 lbs., bisexual. I'm considered very attractive. I would like to meet an older, dominant lesbian or bisexual female to become friends with or much more. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm very oral. Looking to meet someone soon. Call Ext. 5276

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SFW 35. In search of a single White female, 30-45, for companionship & possibly more. Call Ext. 5248

SFW 45, 160 lbs., 5'5", professional. Seeking companionship & friendship, possibly more. I'd like to meet a non-smoker. Seeking a Hispanic or White female. I enjoy the beach, going out, traveling & dancing. I'm a non-drinker. Call Ext. 5256

SF 37, butch. I have a soft, romantic streak on the inside. I'm honest, intelligent, sincere & passionate about life. I'm looking for a butch top who is honest, upfront & trustworthy for fun & friendship. Maybe we can get together. Call Ext. 5251

DF Bisexual. I need a woman. When I was married, I had a great relationship with my husband & our girlfriend. She got into drugs, so I had to let her go. I need a woman & I know how to treat one. Blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'4", 130 lbs., large breasts. I'm so sensuous. I'm a stand-up comic & a poet. I want to get to know you. Call Ext. 5245

SFW Late 40's. Looking for a White female to help me come out. I like fishing, hunting, dancing & boating. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5237

SFW 30, 5'3", blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a female, 28-40, who is a soft butch. Wanting to date or hang-out. Like going to movies, boating, fishing, etc. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & a non-smoker. Call Ext. 5215

SFW 43, non-smoker. Enjoy cooking, the mall & parks. Looking for love. Should be interesting & White or biracial. Call Ext. 5208

SFW 5'7", 130 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, 20. Looking for a beautiful, feminine woman who is preferably the same as me. Wanting to share life, should like going to the beach, the movies & anywhere our hearts desire. I'm very attractive, so you must be also. No jokes or running around. Please leave a message. Call Ext. 5207

SF Looking for a feminine Black female to have a relationship with. I would like for her to be gay, height/weight proportionate & in her mid-40's. I'm available for a long-term relationship & friendship. Please call. Call Ext. 5197

SBF 45, 6'. Looking for companionship & romance. I like sex. I'd like to meet some interesting people. I like music & I live on the west side of town. Looking for a woman, no butch. Call Ext. 5194

SFW My hobbies are playing pool, shooting darts, dancing & clubbing. Looking for a female in the age group of 25-40. I'm 190 lbs., 5'11" & a security guard. Call Ext. 5173

SBF I'm a 21-year-old, horny, Black female. If you want to know more, call & leave me a message. Call Ext. 5164

Men SEEKING Men

SM 5'10", 200 lbs., 8". I love sex, drugs & having a good time. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5283

SWM 35, 5'6", 160 lbs., clean & discreet. I am very aggressive & demanding. Looking for a submissive, older White male for a possible long-term relationship. Let's fulfill both of our fantasies. Call Ext. 5282

SWM 38, handsome, muscular, dark brown hair, hazel-green eyes. I would like to meet a guy in his late 30's or 40's who enjoys being an aggressive, loving top. Seeking someone who wants to start a monogamous relationship. I'm HIV+, healthy & attractive. Call Ext. 5190

SWM 46, 6', 210 lbs., dark blonde hair. Searching for that special person. A White or Hispanic male, 30-50, who is sincere. Seeking a friendship or a relationship. I like doing simple things that people can do together. Call Ext. 5281

SHM 42, HIV+, healthy. I enjoy life & quiet evenings at home. Looking for friendship & possibly more. Call Ext. 5273

SHM 29, 6'1", 220 lbs., HIV+, healthy. I'm financially secure. I like going out & having quiet, romantic dinners at home. Call Ext. 5275

SM 20, 6'1", 200 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes. Like to sing, dance, go out & have quiet times at home. Looking for a relationship. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5272

SM Muscular, handsome, sexy man, HIV+, late 30's. Would like to meet a man in his late 30's or 40's. Should be attractive, masculine & enjoy being a top. I enjoy being a bottom. Call Ext. 5271

You've got it & I want it. You're Hispanic or Latin, dark-complected, a smoker, drug & alcohol-free, height/weight proportionate, mature. I'm a gay White male, 158-160 lbs., 5'8", brown hair, blue eyes, considered attractive, work out daily, very fit, mature, HIV- & a top. Interested in mature bottoms, no games. Interested in simple encounters, possibly more. Discretion is needed & will be given. Call Ext. 5267

SM 46, 6', bi curious. I have one or two experiences that were not satisfactory. I would like to meet someone to help me investigate it more. Contact me. Call Ext. 5266

SBM 33, 6', slender, smooth, HIV+, very healthy & active. I love music, sports, dining in, dining out & cuddling. I'm very flexible & willing to try other things. Looking for Black males for friendship & a possible relationship. I'm honest, sincere & trustworthy. Must like to have fun. Call Ext. 5265

SWM 36, HIV+, 6'2", 160 lbs. Looking for love in all the wrong places. I'm fun-loving, humorous & open-minded. I'm a light drinker & smoker. I'm somewhat Bohemian with an appreciation for the finer things in life. I enjoy quiet evenings at home with an occasional night out on the town. Call Ext. 5264

SWM Handsome, 37, 5'8", 172 lbs. I work out frequently & I'm muscular. I'd like to meet a guy in his late 30's to mid-40's who is good-looking. Must like to have a lot of fun. He should enjoy being a real top guy. If you want to play with my nice, smooth muscular body, give me a call. Call Ext. 5201

SWM Attractive, 5'11", 180 lbs. Would like to meet a female impersonator. Call Ext. 5261

SM Looking to meet some interesting & uninhibited guys to get together & have some versatile fun with. I like to give, as well as receive. Although, giving is my greatest joy in life. I consider it my duty in life to give pleasure to men. Call Ext. 5259

SM I'm a sexy bottom boy looking for a daddy. If you are interested, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5156

SM Top man who is demanding, sane & safe. Looking for specially skilled bottom boys who like to serve & take what's coming to them. Should be 26-40. No training is necessary. I will take care of that myself. Call me quickly. Call Ext. 5257

SM 37, 5'8", 165 lbs., attractive, brown hair, dark-complected. I'd like to meet a guy my age or older who is in good shape & attractive. Should prefer to be a top. Seeking a fairly active guy. If you have a good sense of humor & you like to have fun, give me a call. Call Ext. 5123

SWM Attractive, early 40's, 5'10", 175 lbs. Seeks femme-looking cross dresser or transsexual, 21-45, for dating, fun or a possible long-term relationship. Please respond. Call Ext. 5258

SHM Attractive, outgoing, 34. Searching for a special friend. Someone who is willing to understand my living with HIV for 10 years. Call Ext. 5255

SWM 20, bi, brown hair, hazel eyes. I enjoy camping, fishing & more. Looking for someone who has a sense of humor who likes to party. If you think you are the one, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5236

SM Leave me a message & I will call you as soon as I can. Call Ext. 5233

SWM 38, 190 lbs., 6', HIV+, healthy, active. I enjoy the arts & having laid-back fun. I'm retired & enjoying life. Looking for friendship & possibly more. Call Ext. 5253

SWM 31, 5'5", 145 lbs. I'm very boyish-looking. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male, 21-32, who likes sports, rock music, cars, traveling & casinos. Call Ext. 5252

SWM 5'7", brown hair, brown eyes, 43. I like music, arts, opera, the theater, museums & quiet dinners at home. I also enjoy kissing, cuddling & touching. I'm open to new & varied interests. I'm a laid-back, sensitive & down-to-earth person. I'd like to meet Hispanic, White or Asian males who are 25-50. Call Ext. 5240

SWM I'm a very young 43-year-old, sailing skipper looking for a sailing captain. I'm a 6', 220 lb. teddy bear. I'm considered stocky, beefy & a linebacker build. I have red, strawberry-blonde hair, hazel-green eyes, a mustache & a hairy chest. Looking for guys with similar qualities, or those who are attracted to my qualities. Also looking for a gay sailing club & interested in forming one if one is not out there. Call Ext. 5212

SHM 5'7", 170 lbs. Looking for Black males, 23-35, who want to have fun. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5218

SWM 31, muscular, tan, smooth, 156 lbs. Like to meet a man who is stockier than I am. Not looking for a chubby guy. Would like to meet a top. If I sound attractive, leave a message. Call Ext. 5175

SWM 44, 5'9", 165 lbs. I'm a bottom, with brown hair & brown eyes. I'm clean-shaven, with short hair. I'm straight-acting & discreet. I enjoy giving blow jobs & receiving anal action. Looking for a White male who is a top man. Someone who is taller than me. Must be muscular, with above-average endowment. Smokers & light drinkers are okay. Call Ext. 5244

SBM Handsome, 26, new to Texas. I hear things grow big in Texas. I'm very straight-acting & looking. In search of a 20-30-year-old who is straight-acting & appearing. Race is unimportant. Must be in shape. Call Ext. 5242

SM Asian. In search of a Married White cop who needs to relieve the stress of work & family life. If you want some mid-day encounters, give me a call. Call Ext. 5189

SWM 29, 6', 160 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth chest, tan body. I'm a construction worker from Louisiana. Looking for a gay, White or Hispanic male to show me around, in more ways than one. Friends first, possibly more. No games. No chubbies or above. If you are 21-35, a brunette & 5'4" or taller, call me. I will bring you there. Call Ext. 5238

SWM Brown hair, very blue eyes, 5'9", 180 lbs., very muscular, 34. Looking for a very sensuous, feminine TV or TS. Let's have a really good time & see where it goes. Call Ext. 5232

SWM 27, 6'3", 195 lbs., in very good shape. Looking for a gay White man who is 27 or older, tall & masculine, to have fun with. Call Ext. 5231

SBM 22, 5'11", 143 lbs. In search of a single White male, 18-30, who is pretty masculine, handsome & not into games. Call Ext. 5229

I'm a married man, 40's, 5'9", 165 lbs., clean, discreet & HIV-. Looking for sexual buddies who are the same & want to go out & have fun. Call Ext. 5228

White male, 38, blonde hair, blue eyes, athletic. I'm wealthy, married & bored. You must be young, hot & a little wild. I'm a healthy, imaginative top. Call Ext. 5227

SWM 40, 5'11", 230 lbs., football player build, professional, HIV+, excellent health. Looking for someone 30-50, for friendship & a possible relationship. Enjoy traveling, the theater, cooking & quiet evenings at home. Prefer a non-smoker, non-drug user who can enjoy life to the fullest. Call Ext. 5223

SM 5'11", 190 lbs., goatee, blue eyes, salt 'n pepper hair, hairy body. Like to have fun with friends. Interested in Hispanics. Leave a message. Call Ext. 5219

SBM Well-hung. Looking for someone to have a good time with. Call Ext. 5216

SWM 6'1", green eyes, mustache, goatee, 39, tall, smooth body. I'd like to meet White or Hispanic guys. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5221

SWM Gay, 41, 5'5", green eyes, reddish-blonde hair. Enjoy quiet evenings at home, movies, rock 'n roll music & playing board games on occasion. Looking for a White or Hispanic male to spend some time with. Call Ext. 5220

SM I'm a cross-dressing transvestite. Looking for other transvestites who enjoy conversations, getting together, being sisters & having girl talk. I enjoy dressing up, going out, having drinks & pajama parties. Looking for a sister or close friend. Call Ext. 5203

#5178 - Would like to get in contact with you. Call my box. Call Ext. 5204

SWM 50, 6', 190 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm HIV+ & a top daddy only. I prefer a single White male who is over 40 & less than 5'10". Must be a non-smoker. No drugs or femmes. Seeking someone who enjoys quiet life, movies, theaters & sci-fi. Call Ext. 5200

SM 6'2", 190 lbs. Looking for football player build type of guys who are under 40. Call Ext. 5196

Gay male, 23, 6'1", 172 lbs., dark hair, dark eyes, well-toned, smooth. Looking for bodybuilders to have good times with. I'll call you back. Call Ext. 5195

SM 46, 6', 280 lbs., graying hair. Seeking a gay White, Asian or Hispanic male, 25-50, who is drug & disease-free. He should be slim-to-medium-built, with fuzzy legs. I enjoy friends, music & honesty. I'm compassionate & affectionate. Call Ext. 5192

SWM 60, 5'8", 290 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes. I'm a bottom. Looking for guys in their 20's or 40's. Race is not important. Honesty & sincerity are prime factors. Let's share respect, love & an active physical relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, dancing, traveling, the beach, dining in, dining out & the company of an affectionate friend. Call Ext. 5187

SWM 34, 6'1", 275 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. I own my own business. I enjoy movies, dining in, dining out & intimacy. I have a lot of love to give. Looking for someone to love & get to know. Possible long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5186

SWM Attractive, 38, HIV+, long brown hair, brown eyes, mustache & beard. I'm straight-acting & appearing. I like to enjoy life, concerts, movies, traveling & good friends. I'm retired, healthy & financially secure. Looking for that special friend who is also straight-acting & appearing, with similar interests. Looking for someone who wants to get out & enjoy life. Call Ext. 5178

SM 6'1", 200 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, Cuban/French. Interested in guys who are versatile & 20-30. Race is not important. Looking for someone to really have a good time with. Sex would be great! Let's get good & nasty. Call Ext. 5177

SWM I'm 5'9", 130 lbs. & masculine. Looking for a Black brother who is the same. Someone who is 18-28, self-assured, masculine & not into games. Call Ext. 5094



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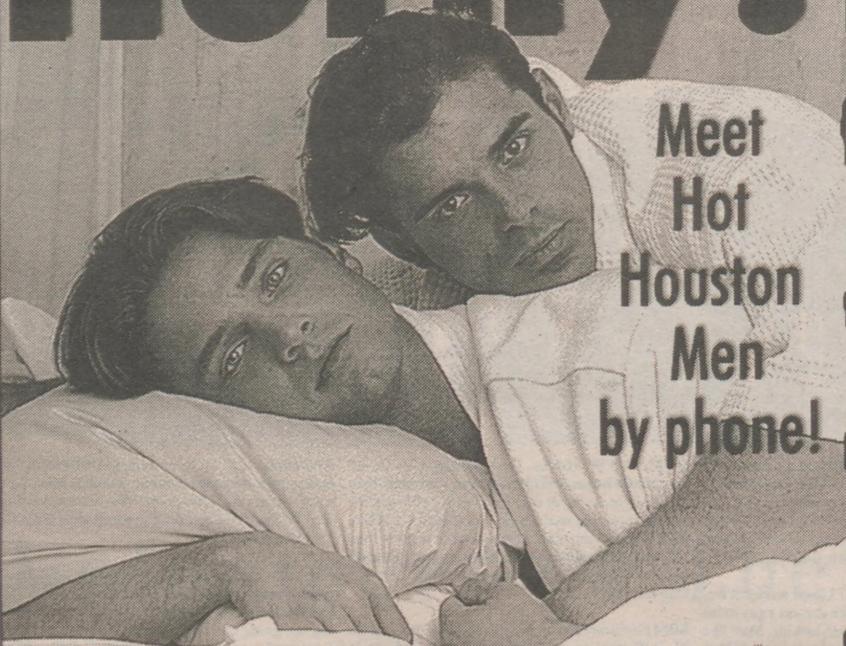
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Controversy Abounds in Belgium

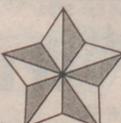
Belgium's gay Deputy Prime Minister Elio DiRupo was confronted this week with allegations that he'd had sex with teenage boys below the country's age of consent of 16. He completely denies the allegations. They might never have come to light except that Belgium right now faces a crisis of confidence in its government and police, and is particularly focused on pedophilia after the August discovery of the kidnapping sex murders of several young girls by a gang of men.

The allegations against DiRupo were leaked to the press, however, which in the current climate forced police and prosecutors to mount an investigation. Under Belgian law, a Member of Parliament can only be prosecuted, searched or forced to testify if a majority of the Parliament votes to lift his immunity. In DiRupo's case, such a vote would not only certainly mean the end of his career, it

could conceivably also bring down the coalition government, in which he represents the Francophone Socialists.

A Parliamentary commission was established to review the evidence, and found it too weak to recommend lifting DiRupo's immunity. In fact the allegations are little more than the extremely inconsistent and unsupported testimony of an individual who was arrested for suspicion of theft and brought to the attention of police by a paid informant. The Parliament voted by a more than 5 to 1 margin to retain DiRupo's immunity, although the opposition attacked the Prime Minister for not forcing DiRupo to step down. However, the commission also asked for the investigations to continue, and for a report to be made to them by Dec. 9. Ironically, DiRupo has been in charge of Belgium's efforts to keep child pornography off the Internet.

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HOROSCOPE FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 6 - 12, 1996



IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Find clever and creative ways to express your feelings towards a loved one; making sure the message comes across exactly as you intended. Plan for an escape retreat to relax and enjoy all around you, and you will be surprised at how quickly your energy is rejuvenated.

ARIES (March 21-April 20) Don't believe everything thing you hear, and make sure to check your sources and facts. If you find yourself in a tense and confining situation, call a time out, thinking about the best approach to take. Make a connection to your past and pieces will fall into place.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21) Use your intellect to solve a particular problem. Keeping your perspective will help you to hold your temper and avoid any unnecessary blowups about trivial matters. Relationships are present on your mind, don't deny any emotional turmoil that's brewing.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Use your imagination and ingenuity to make the right impression with those around you, especially in the workplace. Love is not only on your mind, but present all around. You may be in the middle of an intensely new relationship, or an old flame may reappear.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Your craving for something different, which could have a negative effect on something or someone dear to you. Someone is likely to hurt your delicate feelings during the week - telling you to not be so sensitive is like telling you not to breathe ... try to relax.

LEO (July 24- August 23) Two very opposite qualities need to be combined into a whole, something which will work best for you. You've got your work cut out for you, considerable energy and thought is required to solve the problem. Stick with what you know, it makes you comfortable.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23) Don't use your energies in ways that create a destructive end, no matter how tempting. It might be for the best to take time out from a relationship which seems to be going nowhere. Do something extra special for a family member who is having a tough time.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23) Consider all things which are truly of value to you, and put your long term investing is probably your best bet. Attend to all to all financial details now, and it will save you time and money later.

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22) You value honesty and openness in relationships, and letting others know this will enhance any bonding which occurs. You are long overdue for a dose of relaxation and pampering - maybe a specially planned weekend away will do the trick. Tamper any criticism.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21) Take any changes in stride and you will see that something new suits your purposes better than you would have ever expected. Look to positive long-term plans in order to subdue your anxieties. Make creative ideas attractive by gearing them to the needs of others.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20) Both compassion and flexibility are necessary throughout the week. Someone close is going through a rough time and may be wallowing in self pity, there is little you can do about it. Try to overcome any nervousness you may feel, your support will no doubt turn the tide.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19) Your assertive approach at work will win you more friends than enemies. If the information coming to you seems confusing and excessive, take your time and review everything before making decisions. Keep a close watch on activities at home to insure a positive outcome.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20) It is very important to recognize your own limitations, and not take on something for which you are not equipped. If a spat occurred between you and a loved one - find common ground where both of you can get what you need most now. Listen to others' ideas and broaden your perspective.

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

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Montrose Inn: Cruise the hallways. 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, everything else is plastic.
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Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m.
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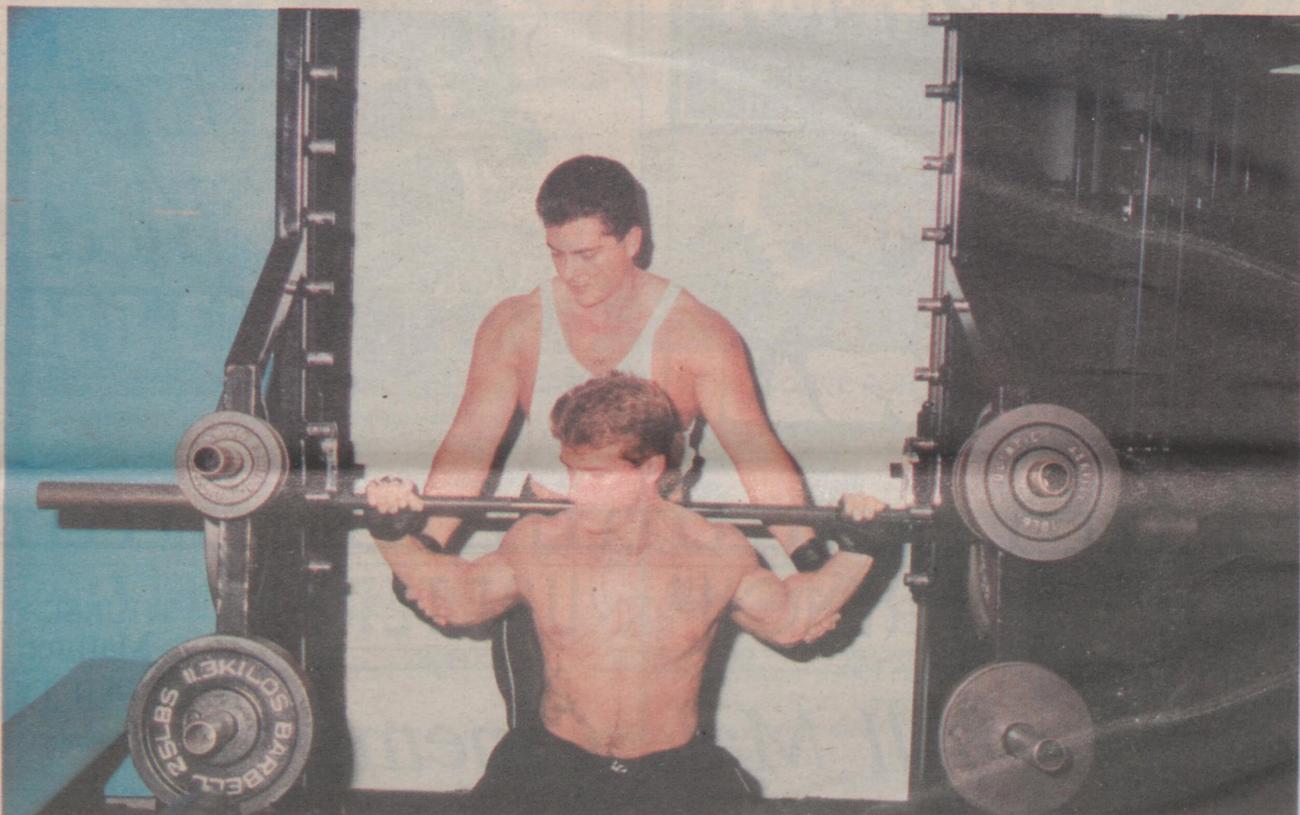
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