

JULY 19, 1996 ■ ISSUE 821



Closing Ceremony of XI International AIDS Conference (Dorothy Millman in white blazer).

Houston Leaders Respond to DOMA

Jackson Lee Seeks to Attach ENDA

Washington - Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee offered a motion during the House debate of the Defense of Marriage Act to attach the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to the legislation. Jackson Lee fought for this long awaited bill to extend federal employment discrimination protection to include sexual orientation. Opponents raised a point of order that the motion was not germane to the pending debate on the Defense of Marriage Act and blocked the motion.

"The Defense of Marriage Act is not the kind of legislation that belongs on the Floor of the United States House of Representatives. Religious leaders can decide how to define marriage, not politicians. The federal government does not belong in matters of family. There are no federal marriage or divorce laws. This has and continues to be the role of the states as it has been for the past 200 years."

"It is beyond the responsibility of the federal government to impose a definition of marriage on the states. But, if we do move ahead on this kind of legislation then Congress should consider ending discrimination of sexual orientation in the workplace. Equal protection under the law should be extended to all Americans against basic employment discrimination. This is a fundamental right protected under federal law. Clearly, job performance and skills should be the sole criteria in the workplace."

"I respect the rights of all my constituents. They all should have the right to seek human dignity. I will continue to be accessible, accountable and responsible to all of the voters in the 18th Congressional District."

"My 'present' vote was one of protest. This bill was exposed for what it really is - a way to divide the electorate and bash gays. It reeks of political pandering in the worst sense."

Statement from Houston GLPC President Pat Gandy

The cynical attempt by Bob Dole and the Republican Party leadership in Congress to whip up anti-gay feeling in this country has partially succeeded. The American public supports ENDA (job protection for gays and lesbians) by about 75% but does not approve of Gay or Lesbian marriages by about the same 67%.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted last Friday, July 12 by a 342-67 margin to pass DOMA the infamous Republican initiated Defense of Marriage Act which certainly does not defend marriage in any way. It only discriminates against Gays and Lesbians by defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. Then it says heterosexual marriage is the only kind of marriage that can exist. That bill is clearly unconstitutional. The Senate must now consider the matter and plans are afoot to add ENDA to DOMA as an amendment and if the Senate Republican

(Continued on page 14)

One World, One Hope

Eleventh International Conference on AIDS

By Ray West

Special for the Houston Voice

"One World. One Hope" was the theme for the XI International Conference on AIDS held in Vancouver, British Columbia this past week. As I prepared for the journey to Vancouver, I tried to remain cautious about my expectations of hope as I remembered the doom and gloom of all the "inconclusive" results of unpromising studies presented at the conference in Berlin three years ago. Yet with the recent breakthroughs regarding protease inhibitors, I was anxious to hear assurance that true long-term HIV/AIDS management was a reality.

I am truly grateful and felt privileged to be able to participate in this international forum of 15,000 as a Person Living with HIV/AIDS from our community. I was able to attend this conference due to the generous support from Dr. Adan Rios and ONCOL Medical Associates, the People With AIDS Coalition Houston, personal friends in the community and the Houston Voice. Coupled with the

she discussed her HIV infected son, their common struggles and the mutual desire for solidarity in the global HIV/AIDS community.

It was Eric Sawyer, founder of ACTUP New York, who brought us all back to reality with his "wake-up call" that "the cure is not here". He accused the drug companies of AIDS profiteering, genocide and human rights violations for not providing access to protease inhibitors at a reasonable cost and excluding developing countries from their study focus. In addition, he called for a unified effort that would include Persons Living With HIV/AIDS, the drug companies, the broader business community and especially governments to make available to everyone treatment and prophylaxis for our three biggest killers, TB, PCP and diarrheal diseases. It would be these comments that would set the backdrop for a week of activist demonstrations. For the duration of the conference, drug access was kept alongside the other important discussion topics of protease inhibitors, viral load importance and the pursuit of an HIV vaccine.

The protease inhibitor discussions were quite interesting. I am currently on a 2 drug cocktail of Indinavir (Crixivan) and 3TC so



Houstonians at Conference (l-r) Dr. Scott Sawyer, Joel Martinez, Eileen Hager, and Barry Mandel (Photo by David Goetz)

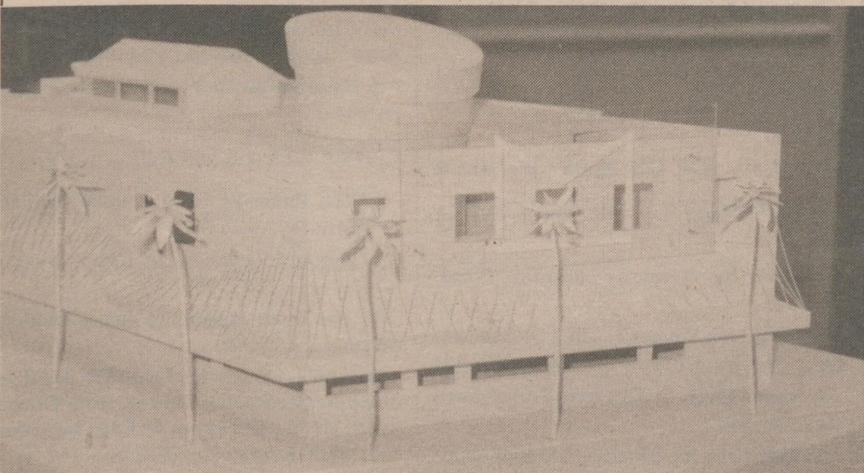
feelings of excitement and gratitude, however, was also a feeling of sadness as I learned of the death of Mark Siegworth, my friend at Body Positive, and another source of inspiration to many in the Houston HIV/AIDS advocacy movement. I dedicate my Vancouver journey to Mark's memory and also to all of our other friends who weren't able to attend the conference, other than in spirit.

From the moment the conference opened, I had the distinct feeling that indeed this conference was going to be different. The delegates cheered, laughed and at times cried, as Doreen Millman a 63 year old grandmother with HIV opened the conference. Millman sat in the middle of the stage, illuminated by a single spotlight and said, "My name is Doreen Millman. I have AIDS," she began. "You might ask, 'How did a 63-year old grandmother from North Vancouver become exposed to HIV?'" she said. "The answer is simple. It just doesn't matter." Her compelling words of welcome set one of the tones for the weeks debates as

I was particularly glad to be able to get more information about how the drugs work in relation to my own HIV management regimen. Discussions at the conference for the most part can be quite clinical. A criticism of AIDS conference planners has been consistently that information presented is not always available at a level of understanding for consumers. Understanding terms like reverse transcriptase (rt) and protease inhibitor drug therapy can be quite challenging for someone with limited clinical background. The whole process is really quite simple when the scientific and technical terms are translated. The rt drugs attack the HIV after it infects the cell. While the protease inhibitor affects the ability of the infected cell to mature and replicate. Combination therapies are important because they attack the virus at different points within an infected cell.

Questions regarding the use of protease

(Continued on page 14)



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Poor Super Man playwright at Houston Booksigning

Theater LaB Houston is pleased to announce that award-winning Canadian playwright Brad Fraser will be in Houston on Saturday, July 27th. Crossroads Market Bookstore and Cafe will host a reception and book signing event with Mr. Fraser on Saturday, July 27th from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m.

Currently playing at Theater LaB Houston is the critically acclaimed production of Mr. Fraser's drama/comedy POOR SUPER MAN (a play with captions). Theater LaB Houston is pleased to be one of the first theaters in the country to be granted production rights.

Mr. Fraser is also the author of Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love which had its Houston premiere at TLH in Sept. 1993 and played to standing room only audiences. This production was cited as one of the BEST theatrical events of that year.

Brad Fraser, born in Edmonton in 1959, began winning Alberta Cultural Playwriting competitions when he was a seventeen-year-old student in theater arts at Victoria Composite High School. In

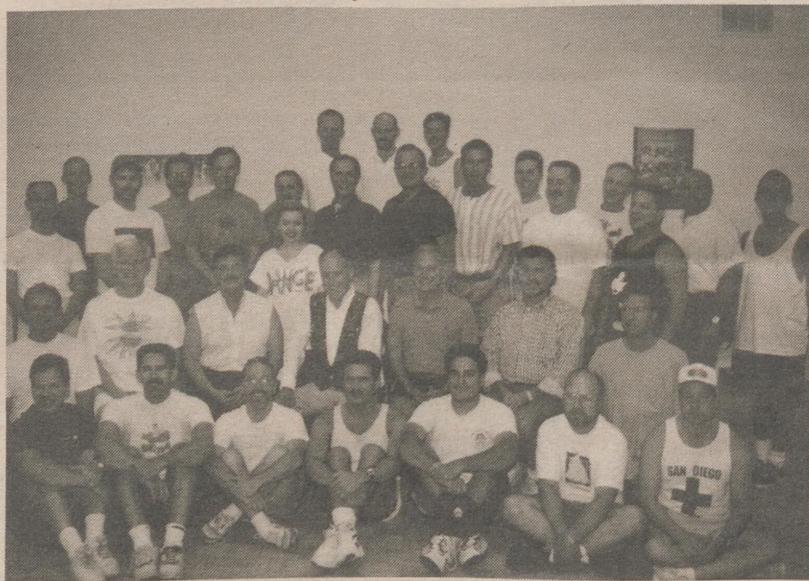
1986, he became resident playwright at Edmonton's Workshop West Theater. There he began working on Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love, which premiered in Calgary in 1989. With this play Fraser achieved national and international recognition. He then adapted the movie version which was directed by Denys Arcand and released in 1994. Mr. Fraser's screenplay went on to win a Genie Award.

A five time winner of the Alberta Playwriting Competition, he is also a recipient of Toronto's Floyd S. Chalmers Award and numerous other awards. Other produced plays include Mutants, Wolfboy, Chainsaw Love and The Ugly Man.

Mr. Fraser will be signing copies of POOR SUPER MAN and Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love. Crossroads Market Bookstore and Cafe is located at 1111 Westheimer at Waugh, (713) 942-0147.

This event is generously underwritten by *The Houston Voice* and Crossroads Market Bookstore and Cafe.

Rehearsals begins



The Cast of "Miss Camp"

The cast of the Miss Camp America Foundation starts three day a week practice prior to the Sept. 14th event.

This year marks the 28th Annual Pageant at the Houston Music Hall. Call 940-STAR for Ticket Information.

Hot Summer Titles

Non-Fiction

1. Love Between Men, by Rik Isensee (Alyson, \$12.95)
2. Choices, by Judy Hill Nelson (Birch Lane, \$21.95)
3. Finding True Love in a Man-Eat-Man World, by Craig Nelson (Delta, \$12.95)
4. Roberts Rules of Lesbian Living, by Shelly Roberts (Spinsters Ink, \$5.95)
5. What the Bible Really says About Homosexuality, by Daniel Helminiak (Alamo Square, \$9.95)

Fiction By Or For Women

1. Side Tracks, by Teresa Stores (Naiad, \$10.95)
2. Never Say Never, by Linda Hill (Naiad, \$10.95)
3. Women on Women 3, edited by Joan Nestle & Naomi Holoch (Plume, \$12.95)
4. Venus Envy, by Rita Mae Brown (Bantam, \$5.99)
5. Lets Face the Music, by Sandra Scop-

pettone (Little, Brown, \$21.95).

Fiction By Or For Men

1. Like People in History, by Felice-Picano (Plume, \$12.95)
2. My First Time, edited by Jack Hart (Alyson, \$9.95)
3. One For the Gods, by Gordon Merrick (Alyson, \$9.95)
4. The Golden Age of Promiscuity, by Brad Gooch (Knopf, \$24.00)
5. Nature in the Raw, edited by Gerry Kroll (Alyson, \$11.95)

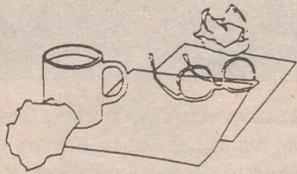
General-Interest

1. The Runaway Jury, by John Grisham (Doubleday, \$26.95)
2. Bad As I Wanna Be, by Dennis Rodman (Delacorte, \$22.95)
3. The Tenth Insight, by James Redfield (Warner, \$19.95)

Best-selling books for June 1996 based on computerized sales reports from Crossroads Market Bookstore & Cafe located at 1111 Westheimer in Houston.

In My Own Voice

by Deborah Bell



No Where Is Safe

Urban dwellers, especially female ones get into a habit of being aware of their surroundings as a safety precaution. We've been taught from childhood to avoid dark streets, to lock our doors, to observe who else is around, to have our keys ready, that there is safety in numbers and to always have a plan to deal with the risk of being attacked. Our fear is mostly of being raped, although we may fall victim to a mugging or car-jacking, what really keeps our guard up is that we are potential victims of sexual assault. Hate crimes against women are more likely to be acts of sexual aggression. Most men, including Gay men, don't have these concerns as they move about in the world. The Gay bashing and hate crimes directed toward some Gay men has made them a bit more aware of "the fear" women live with everyday.

Two women were found murdered on June 1 in the Shenandoah National Park on the Appalachian Trail. They were experienced hikers and campers. They set up a primitive campsite, a half a mile from the trail, not too far from the famed Skyland Lodge. The cause of death according to the medical examiner was "an incised wound to the neck." While there has not been confirmation if a sexual assault was involved, there is no evidence of any other crime being committed. Julianne Williams was 24 years old and her lover Lollie Winans was 26. At least the women were believed to have been partners and the investigation of this being a hate-crime is being seriously investigated. Attorney General Janet Reno has been contacted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force urging that anti-gay bias be viewed as a possible motive for this crime. The FBI is involved in the investigation, working with the National Park Service and the Virginia State Police. There had been some fears that the authorities had too quickly dismissed the possibility of a hate crime motive. Reno assured via letter that the crime was motivated by the sexual orientation of the victims is being seriously considered,

along with exhaustive examination of all evidence. No arrest has been made and no suspect has been identified as of this date.

Rebecca Wright was murdered in 1988 on the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. Her lover, Claudia Brenner was injured in the attack by a lone gunman, Stephen R. Carr who is serving a life sentence for the crime. Claudia, herself shot and bleeding tried to carry Rebecca out of the woods to safety, but could not save her. Carr stalked her the whole way out, but she was able to reach help. Two other women were killed, their throats cut while on federal property called The Colonial Parkway near Williamsburg, VA in 1986. A reported 59 Gay or Lesbian people were victims of hate crimes in 1994 in national parks.

Recently in her "Breaking Silence" column in The Advocate, Janis Ian talks about a camping trip with her lover. Apparently Janis shares my aversion to being without indoor plumbing, but she was "getting into roughing it." However, at one point she jokes that she asks her lover "if she brought the gun because she thinks she hears that 'guy from Deliverance.'" In light of these most recent murders, that isn't very funny. That guy IS out there.

One woman described going into the woods for sanctuary. Many Lesbians are campers and hikers, and even those of us who don't participate in these activities on a regular basis have times when we "get away from it all" and might find ourselves in an isolated place either with our partner or alone. I once spent over an hour myself walking in the Houston Arboretum without seeing another person (thank goodness I didn't). The sad reality is we may not be alone and there is no getting away from it all. We have to take our survival skills with us wherever we go.

May you always go safely and in peace.

Gay Men at Risk

NEW YORK, NY (April 25)—Hepatitis B is a major health threat to sexually active homosexual men. One out of 16 men (6%) in this group has chronic hepatitis B, 15.8 times the rate of infection (0.38%) in the general United States population. Further, from 35% to 80% of sexually active gay men have some indication of hepatitis B, whether they currently have the infection or have recovered from it. These figures, from 1990, are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and are the most recent available.

Hepatitis, or inflammation of the liver, can be caused by various viruses. Of the five major viruses causing hepatitis—designated A, B, C, D and E—the hepatitis B and C viruses are the most dangerous because they can cause chronic infection. Homosexual men are not at increased risk for contracting hepatitis C compared with the population at large. Chronic hepatitis can lead to permanent liver damage such as scarring of the liver (cirrhosis), liver cancer and liver failure. In fact, viral hepatitis is the No. 1 reason for liver transplantation in this country, and each year, about 15,000 people die from complications of hepatitis B and C contaminated needles, sharing needles during intravenous drug use, unprotected sex with multiple partners and blood transfusions prior to 1990 (for hepatitis C) or 1972 (for hepatitis B). Both hepatitis B and C are transmitted via blood, and

both infections have the potential to become chronic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 10% of acute hepatitis B cases and as many as 80% of acute hepatitis C cases develop into chronic infections. Chronic hepatitis can cause cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) and liver cancer, and an estimated 15,000 people die from complications of chronic hepatitis B and C infection each year.

Because people with chronic hepatitis usually experience no symptoms, they may not be aware that they are carrying the virus and are capable of infecting others. In fact, HBV is 100 times more infectious than HIV, which causes AIDS.

Hepatitis B can be prevented through vaccination, and those at high risk should be vaccinated. For most people, the vaccine provides protection for at least seven years. Currently, there is no vaccine for hepatitis C.

Prison inmates who are at increased risk of infection should inquire about a blood test to diagnose chronic hepatitis. In many cases, chronic hepatitis B and C can be treated, and individuals diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B or C should discuss their eligibility for treatment with a health professional. Further information on hepatitis is available by calling the American Liver Foundation at their toll-free number, (800) 223-0179.

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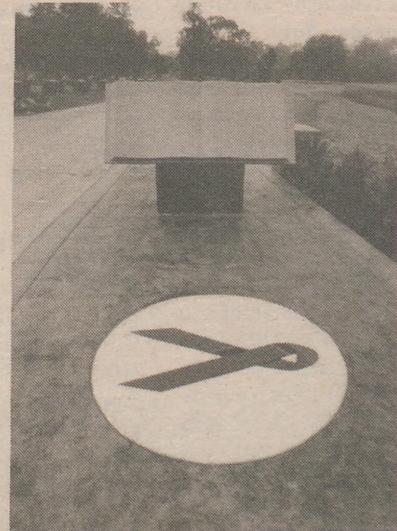
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In Loving Memory

BILLY WAYNE CASTLEBERRY

Born: January 10, 1960
Died: July 6, 1996

Billy is survived by his family in Waco and Temple, Texas and his many friends in Houston, Texas.

Billy was an active member of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association and also the Colt 45's of Houston. He was very dedicated person and worked tirelessly on numerous fundraising activities. He was determined to raise funds to help in the fight against HIV & AIDS.

All his friends from TGRA and Colt 45's will miss him much. We will see you soon, Billy. Now you're an angel, we love you. A memorial service was held in Temple, Texas last week.

If you wish to remember Billy, please make donations to any HIV or AIDS related charity of your choice.

GREG REXFORD GORMAN

Born: June 24, 1956
Died: July 7, 1996

A true friend who will be missed greatly. He

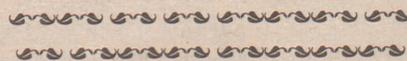


is survived by his partner Geoffrey M.; his father, Rex Gorman; mother, Gleta Gorman; two sisters, Kim and Kay; two nephews, all from Missouri; and too many friends to mention.

Till we meet again Gregory.

Love and miss you.

Geoffrey, James, Louis, Dale, Mario, Pennzoil friends



COMMUNITY

Rainbow Ranglers

The Rainbow Ranglers Dance club announces the beginning of its third performing season. The Ranglers Performing Team is being expanded to include couple showcase dancers and backup dancers for variety and novelty performances.

The Rainbow Ranglers in their second season raised or helped other organizations raise over \$20,000 for the community and are winners of the 1996 Houston Scholarship Competition and also the first gay team in the nation to dance same sex partners for a UCWDC competition, the Texas Classic.

Open auditions will be held Wednesday July 24 from 8 until 10:00 p.m. and July 31 from 7 to 8:00 p.m. at the Brazos River Bottom. No partner or dance experience is required. Call 880-0670 for more information.

The first of the Ranglers Summer Two step series will be taught by a visiting professional Wednesday July 31 from 8 till 10:00 p.m. at the BRB. The session will be an introduction to two step spins and is open to the public. A \$5 donation is requested of non-members.

TGRA Carwash

The cowboys and cowgirls of Houston's chapter of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA) will make your vehicle look like it never has before. In the parking lot of Gentry's, 2303 Richmond, from 11:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m., Saturday July 20, \$5 will get your car washed and dried and for \$2 more, vacuumed inside.

Proceeds from the car wash will go to TGRA to put on the Texas Gay Rodeo, which takes place Nov. 8-10 in Dallas. Proceeds from the Rodeo are returned to Gay/Lesbian and AIDS related charities throughout the State of Texas. Pre-wash tickets will be available Thursday and Friday (July 18 & 19) from 5 till 7:00 p.m. at Gentry's and at Jo's Outpost from 4 till 8:00 p.m. The new TGRA T-shirts will be available at the car wash.

Through fundraising events like car washes, garage sales, concession stands at the Astrodome and variety shows provided by supporters of TGRA, the Houston chapter of TGRA has exceeded all goals by raising more than \$28,000 in the first six months of the year. At approximately 140% of the yearly budget, chapter members along with friends from Colt 45's, Rainbow Wranglers, Jo's Outpost and many others have showed their pride and dedication to this positive lifestyle. Thanks for your continued support.

What You Need To Know

A free workshop/seminar entitled "How to use your health insurance for HIV medical care," part of a continuing series, is planned for Friday July 26 at Oncol Medical Associates, 4140 Southwest Freeway, 4th Floor, from 6 to 8:00 p.m. Seating is limited, please telephone 961-7100 to reserve a seat.

Attorney Mitchell Katine and social worker Roseann Houseman have teamed up to help the community by offering a series of free workshops on various topics. The workshops range from how to go on disability, to selling life insurance to organizing legally. The meeting happen monthly and generally have a "how to" theme.

Dog Neutering

The Fund for Animals spay and neuter clinic located at 1603 Shepherd Drive will neuter any male dog, regardless of size, for \$20 during the month of July. Appointments for neutering surgery are required and can be made by telephoning 863-0010.

Neutering male dogs is a safe surgical procedure that prevents reproduction by removing both testicles of the animal. The procedure is performed by licensed veterinarians using sterile techniques while the patient is under general anesthesia. There are minimal post-surgical concerns with a male dog neuter and animals return to normal activity just several days after surgery.

DC Effectiveness

A forum will be held Thursday July 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway, to bring HIV/AIDS providers and community leaders together to hear and discuss how Houston can better represent itself in Washington, DC, and bring more federal dollars to Houston for HIV/AIDS services.

Speakers for the forum include representatives of Congressional leaders Sheila Jackson Lee and Kenneth E. Bentsen, Jr., and AIDS Action, which is the only national organization solely dedicated to shaping federal policy for people living with HIV.

The hosts for the forum are the American Red Cross, AVES, Bering Community Service Foundation, and WAM Foundation. The public is encouraged to attend.

Free ESL Training

Literacy Advance of Houston is holding a two-part training workshop Sat., July 27 and Aug. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Interfaith Ministries, 3217 Montrose (@Westheimer).

Designed to teach volunteers how to teach English as a second language to non-English speakers, the course has no fee. You do not have to be bi-lingual or need previous teaching experience. To register or for more information, please call 266-8777.

Professional Men and Biz Lesbians To Eat

The July Mid-month social will be Saturday 20th July. 6:30-10 p.m. Joint potluck supper with 'Lesbians in Business.' Supper served at the home of HPMA Facilitator, Mark Sykes. (Galleria area). Call 266-5510 for address, directions or more information. New members welcome. Plan to bring a dish &/or drinks.

Over-the-Rainbow Exclusively for Gay-Lesbian Travelers

CHICAGO, Ill., July 8, 1996—The most complete on-line travel resource exclusively for Gay and Lesbian travelers, Over the Rainbow, debuts on America Online (AOL) in September.

The cyberspace newsletter is being produced by Remy Publishing Company, publishers of Passport Newsletter and creators of AOL's Passport Newsletter Online.

Travelers interested in locating Gay/Lesbian-friendly neighborhoods, establishments, attractions, activities and more will be able to get instantaneous, up-to-date information on the specific destinations they intend to visit. From restaurants and accommodations to tourist sites and nightlife, Over the Rainbow will provide infor-

mation from the perspective of gay men and lesbians.

The on-line newsletter will include evaluative reviews, feature stories and up-to-the-minute news briefs about places of particular interest to gay travelers, including popular destinations such as Key West and Amsterdam, as well as more off-the-beaten-path and exotic locales. Featured will be a guide to cities around the world, from hotspots to hometowns.

Listings will be continuously updated to assure the latest information—no more searching for a bar described in a recently published guidebook only to find that it is no longer in business. In addition, Over the Rainbow will include a complete travel cal-

endar, providing information about major events around the world—Mardi Gras in Australia, the White Party in Palm Springs and the International Mr. Leather Contest in Chicago, for example. The calendar will cover the coming twelve months, so plans can be made well in advance.

Over the Rainbow is produced by the travel experts at Passport Newsletter, a private report for upscale travelers published for more than 30 years. Working with the Passport staff are gay writers and editors experienced in covering the gay community.

For information contact the Editor, Over the Rainbow, 350 W. Hubbard St. #440, Chicago, IL 60610, E-mail address: DLM629@AOL.com.

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811 Westheimer, Suite 105
Houston, Texas 77006

(713) 529-8490

(800) 729-8490

Fax: (713) 529-9531

E-mail: HouVoice@AOL.com

Contents copyright 1996

Office Hours: 9am-5:30pm
weekdays

PUBLISHER
Crad Duren

EDITOR
Deborah Moncrief Bell

PRODUCTION MANAGER/
ART DIRECTOR
Matthew Pennington

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
J.C. Michalek/editorial assistant

STAFF WRITERS:
B.R. McDonald, Carolyn Roberts,
Javier Tamez (Theatre Review)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
Jon Anthony (Entertainment Editor)
Andrew Edmonson, Larry Lingle,
Curt Morrison, Jazz Paz, Glen Webber

CARTOONISTS
David Brady, Scotty, Earl Storm

PHOTOGRAPHERS
David Goetz, Kim Thompson,
Steven David

OFFICE MANAGER
Jack Leonard

ADVERTISING SALES DEPARTMENT
Lee Davis, Benjamin Diaz,
J.C. Michalek, Carolyn A. Roberts

CLASSIFIEDS & PERSONALS
Maggie Bralick

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Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Talking To The Folks

Before we get started, I would like to tell all you hearing impaired readers that Bering Wednesday Night Support Group now has ASL signers for you. If you feel a support group would be an important part of your life, we would be honored for you to be part of our group. We have covered dish suppers at 6:30 p.m. and group starts an hour later. Bering Church is located at 1400 Harold at Mulberry.

As you know, I've talked a lot about my parents. They are very supportive of me and have not let my having AIDS stop their love for me. The following is an interview I did with them over the Fourth of July weekend. If I may, I would like to share it with you.

Glen: What was your first reaction to me having AIDS ?

Dad: I wasn't surprised because we suspected. You had been sick a while and we knew it was something.

Mom: I didn't suspect it but I knew it could happen. I was hoping it wouldn't happen.

Glen: What was the first thing you did to learn about AIDS ?

Dad: We called the AIDS Hotline and listened to television reports. We've also been reading books about it.

Glen: How do you feel about cremation ?

Mom: I'm against it.

Dad: I'm for it, but I don't know about scattering your ashes on the tomato plants. I don't know how the tomatoes would taste.

Glen: What were your first thoughts about the Bering Wednesday night support group ?

Dad: I was impressed with the closeness of the group. I like the fact that they operated under a cloud of happiness, not doom and gloom.

Mom: We really learned a lot from our two visits. Because all the parents there have been through it, it made it so easy to talk about.

Glen: How do you feel now ?

Mom: We are better informed now than since before we found out. We were told that when a patient was near death, to call the doctor, not EMS, since their job is to keep people alive.

Dad: I just accept things the way they are. Que Sera Sera. As parents, we are very supportive of you. We refused to condemn you. The reason we support you, son, we love you and felt we could not change the situation. We love you very much and we are proud how you've handled everything.

The reason I told my parents about my AIDS was because they have a right to know. If either of them was sick, I would want to know, so turnabout is fair play. It doesn't matter how I got AIDS. It would be nice if I had someone to yell at, but what would the point be. Que Sera Sera. That is an appropriate saying for this situation.

It was a hard decision on my part. Telling your loved ones you have a terminal illness is rough, and the best way to tell them is to just come out and tell them. Now I know that many of you do not have good relations with your parents, and I am so sorry for that, but they should know. It is also very important that you have all your legal documents done, so your belongings will go to who you want them to.

The Quilt display in Washington, DC in October is getting closer and I think it will be the most important event in our community. Your presence make it more important because it is your family. If you can't go, pray for those who will be there.

I would like to thank a true gentleman, Carl Hudson (who is a realtor) for helping me with my car trouble. He was nice to offer and made sure I was all right.

(Editor's Note: Glen expressed a desire to have his ashes scattered in the tomato plants in a previous Gay Today column. It probably would make the tomatoes extra yummy—db)

Glen Webber is a person living with AIDS in Houston, making the most of each and every day.

Texans Honored at Transgen '96

It's Time, Texas! is pleased to announce that Ted Switzer, owner/editor of the San Antonio Marquise newspaper has been awarded the "Transgender Inclusion Award." This award is given annually to an organization or individual working in the political arena or in the media who consistently displays dedication to transgender inclusion. Sarah DePalma, National Director of It's Time, America! presented the award to Mr. Switzer at the banquet held in conjunction with the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy on July 6, 1996, in Houston, Texas.

According to Ms. DePalma, "Ted Switzer has shown uncommon determination to provide fair, even handed coverage to the transgender rights movement. In addition, he has turned his words into deeds through his work in the San Antonio political arena. The board of It's Time, Texas! was unanimous in its selection of Mr. Switzer and I can't think of a person more deserving of this award."

Jimmy Carper of KPFT radio in Houston received the first Transgender Inclusion Award last year.

In another matter, Sarah DePalma has

been unanimously elected to her first full term as National Director of It's Time, America! She had previously been serving as acting director of the national organization in addition to her duties as Chair of It's Time, Texas!. Ms. DePalma will retain the state position until a suitable replacement can be found.

Additionally, Ms. DePalma, and Jessica Xavier of It's Time, Maryland! were awarded separate Transgender Pioneer Awards by Phyllis Frye, Executive Director of the Transgender Law Conference. The awards were given in recognition of significant transgender legal gains in their respective states brought about by a non-attorney transgendered individual.

It's Time, America! is a legal and political rights activist organization representing transgendered of all colors and sexual orientations. The national organization was begun in August 1994. It's Time, Texas was begun in October of the same year. It's Time, America! currently has chapters in numerous states. It's Time, Texas! is the largest chapter both in physical size and state wide participation.

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'96 MSL Officers at Awards Banquet

Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



It Ain't Over Till It's Over

For the first time in several years the news is encouraging, exhilarating even, from the International Conference on AIDS. From Vancouver, British Columbia hails the tidings that a new class of drugs called protease inhibitors stops the AIDS virus from multiplying in the body—and get this! —even removing all detectable evidence of HIV from the patient's blood! Could this be The Cure we have all been praying for?

It certainly gives hope where there was none. Dr. Scott M. Hammer, Director of the Research Virology Laboratory of Deaconess Hospital in Boston believes that now "eradication of the virus is potentially feasible, a concept that perhaps six months ago would have been deemed much too far reaching, "not dismissed as ludicrous."

But this hope comes with a price: The new drugs cost between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per year, and must be taken with other prescriptions that can expand the bill up to \$16,000 annually, for years or even for life. Treatment also includes a strict daily schedule of taking the 14 to 20 or so pills, as well as some dietary controls. The side effects of the new medications are so severe that 11 of the first 32 patients were made too ill by them to continue their trial.

Hammer also noted that the Achilles' heel of protease inhibitors is the development of resistance: many researchers fear that suspending the therapy for even a few days may generate ruinous new drug-resistant strains. As AIDS spreads vicious as vultures among the inner city's poorest and least educated populations of homeless and IV drug abusers, just insuring that patients comply with their regime adds exponentially to a costly public health quandary.

Wafaa El-Sadr, director of infectious diseases at Harlem Hospital in New York City concurs. "We have many patients

who can and will benefit right now," he said, "But many others whose lives are in too much turmoil to prescribe them the therapy." He also expressed concern of the virus reemerging in patients who not follow their prescriptions faithfully. "From a public health point of view, for the larger community, that would be disastrous. There is anecdotal evidence that this is happening now. Sheldon Julius is a volunteer at the Harlem Hospital AIDS Clinic. He is HIV positive and recovering from a 30 year drug addiction. He is "deeply disturbed" because a friend of his sold her new supply of protease inhibitors to "street drug broker" for \$75, money she wanted to buy narcotics with.

But even those patients whose health care providers deem worthy and responsible enough to be trusted with life-saving treatment may be thwarted. Although many insurers and managed care organizations are currently including protease inhibitors in their coverage, some are restricting their use to people in the advanced stages of AIDS. And despite President Clinton's "commitment to get these drugs to everyone who needs them" (as recently reported by Patricia Fleming, the White House's National AIDS Policy Director) not everyone who needs them will receive them. Medicaid has begun limiting its guidelines for eligibility for the new therapy. The drug companies are offering free supplies to some patients who are not insured and who meet certain income specifications, but emphasize that it is a temporary assist, and that they believe it is the responsibility of the government and employers to reimburse people dependent on their medications.

The news from the 11th International Conference on AIDS is exciting. But don't quit praying yet.

Jazz has worked as an AIDS Specialty nurse since 1984. Her brother Matt died of AIDS in 1986.

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Waiter with AIDS Wins Case

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Justice announced a settlement last week with an Illinois restaurant that allegedly fired a waiter because he has AIDS. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with HIV and AIDS are protected as "individuals with disabilities."

According to the agreement, the Decatur Illinois Park District, operators of the Main Hangar Restaurant in Decatur will implement a policy to educate its workers about the ADA, which prohibits discrimination against people who have AIDS or HIV. The park district will also pay compensatory damages to the fired waiter.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found no evidence indicating that AIDS can be transmitted in connection with the preparation of food or beverages. AIDS can only be transmitted by sexual contact with an infected individual, exposure to infected blood or blood products, and from an infected mother to the infant.

"The Justice Department is committed to protecting the rights of people with HIV and AIDS," said Deval L. Patrick, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. "There is no medical or legal justification to exclude individuals with AIDS or HIV as food service workers."

In 1994, the man filed a complaint with

the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC) alleging that he was terminated from his position as a waiter at the Main Hangar Restaurant because he had the AIDS virus. He began his job Feb. 1, 1994, informed the restaurant of his condition on Feb. 16 and was terminated from his position on Feb. 22.

Under the agreement the park district will: sponsor a training program to educate food service employees about the requirements of the ADA with respect to individuals with HIV/AIDS; publish an HIV/AIDS non-discrimination policy in employee handbooks; and pay compensatory damages of \$17,500 to the complainant.

The EEOC currently has more than 1000 charges filed against employers alleged to have discriminated against individuals with HIV or AIDS. Some of the charges were brought by food handlers and several private lawsuits have also been filed alleging HIV related discrimination in food service settings.

The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disabilities in employment, public services, and public accommodations. As part of its public education campaign, the Justice Department has created a public service announcement advertising a toll-free ADA hotline. The telephone number is 800-514-0301 or (TDD) 800-514-0303.



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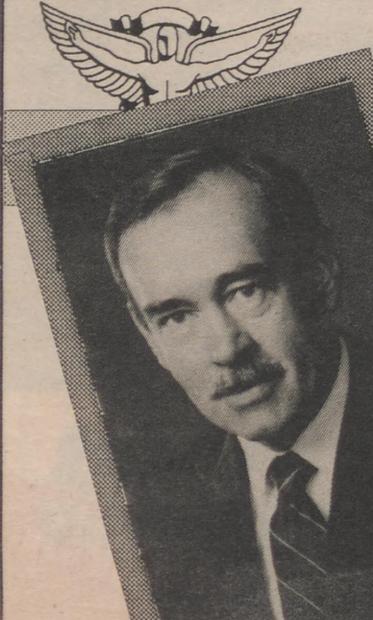
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THE OUTsider

by Carl Morrison

Stop the Insanity

The legitimacy of using animals as subjects in scientific research has caused dissension in the gay and lesbian community and threatens to pit AIDS activists and Animal Rights advocates in a war of words and debate. At issue is the need for animals to conduct proper research in the fight against AIDS. The National Alliance for Animals and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) claim there is no need for using animals, while ACT-UP claims otherwise.

Interestingly, one of the ironies of the situation is that ACT-UP has chosen to align themselves with the scientific community in this matter. For a group who has castigated scientists and politicians alike, this is quite astounding. Nevertheless, the group has joined ranks with their adversaries concerning this issue and for good reason.

Animal rights activists contend that using animal testing for AIDS research is ineffectual. For example, they claim that animal research is painful and unnecessary and believe that the research could be conducted on humans, computers and tissue samples to the same effect, i.e. achieving the same breakthroughs. Having a dog and cat myself, I love animals as much as the next person, however, the idea of placing animals on a higher plane than humans is a bit extreme in my opinion.

The fact of the matter is that of all the scientific research conducted on animals, only 1 percent involves dogs or cats and 0.3% involve primates. One would not come to that conclusion watching the animal rights movement or in listening to their rhetoric. They constantly parade dogs, cats and monkeys at their rallies and in their literature as though it was a scientific sport to dissect these precious companions. In fact, of all research surrounding animals, 85-90% is conducted on mice and rodents. Additionally, a study by the U.S. Agricultural Dept. confirms that 54% of animals used in medical experiments suffer no pain whatsoever. Of the remaining 46% who did suffer pain, 35% of the animals were relieved of their pain through anesthesia. The other 11%, who did suffer from pain, did so only because "alleviation of that pain would have compromised the data."

What has frustrated and infuriated most AIDS activists is that the animal rights movement's actions have in their opinion hindered the already dilatory pace of AIDS research. Steve Michael, head of the Washington chapter of ACT-UP, has decided to take them to task. Michael does not do anything half baked. Known for his obnoxious style, Michael catapulted to notoriety when he poured a bottle of Rolling Rock beer over the head of Rep. Steve Gunderson because he was a closeted Republican. During last month's five-day animal Awareness Week in Washington, Michael was a constant thorn during the festivities creating havoc wherever he could, according to the Weekly Standard.

The requisite witty ripostes that ensued during the gala event went as follows: "What's your stand on fur, hunting, pigeon shoots?" asked Bill Dollinger of Friends of Animals. "What about the people with AIDS you've murdered by supporting the Animal Liberation Front, that evil organization that burns down labs and destroys human lives?" retorted Michael. "The common enemy is the

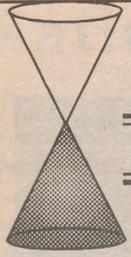
AIDS profiteers who profit from our plight in order to carry on needless animal experiments," reasoned gay PETA activist Steve Simmons. Michael's response: "You are Operation Rescue! You're the same people that kill abortion doctors! You're just as vile and evil as everything else on America's extreme!" When Dollinger reminded Michael that he had seen him attack a person with AIDS and call him a wimpy faggot while hitting him, Michael replied: "You are a wimpy faggot yourself, selling out to a heterosexual organization that marginalizes the lives of people with AIDS!" While the repartee was interesting, it did not create any consensus or resolution to the underlying seriousness of the debate.

Michael seemed more interested in getting arrested than having any meaningful discussion over the legitimacy of AIDS research. Instead of discussing his viewpoints to the media with some rationale, he chose to procure advice on the art of protesting. As a result, Michael succeeded in getting arrested but not much else. That is typical of ACT-UP's style. It is based on confrontation. Unfortunately, confrontation of this sort does not provide benefit to the overall community. In my opinion, it does nothing to gain support for our causes. Our adversaries will not be swayed and those who are on the brink of supporting our goals will teeter away if they perceive our community as provocateurs without any semblance of reason and maturity. Granted we need to be vocal when necessary; however, there is a way to be vocal and simultaneously maintain a level of sophistication.

AIDS is a serious illness that has placed a tremendous burden, both emotionally and physically, on our community. It should not be taken lightly. If animals are required for research that transcends into a cure for the millions of sufferers, then the use of such techniques should continue. Cruelty to animals should never be propagated. By the same token, using animals for medical research to annihilate an illness that afflicts millions of people worldwide should not be construed as cruel. Although, I agree with ACT-UP in principle, I cannot condone their methods. Equally, the animal rights activists have taken their position to a level of absurdity. Extremism is not healthy in either case and the end result accomplishes nothing.

What is most troublesome about the entire confrontation between PETA and ACT-UP is the fact that two groups who have been allies for so long have allowed this issue to become the catalyst for dissension. Both organizations need an elixir for the purpose of common sense. AIDS is a disease that has killed millions of people and we need to focus on obtaining a cure to the best of our abilities. Nothing less will suffice. If PETA and its members are so concerned about animals, why do many of their members wear snake skin shoes, carry leather purses or for that matter wear leather regalia. I am not a fan of either organization primarily because of their methods blatant extremism. These organizations would accomplish much more if they focused on the facts, debated the merits and came to an agreement on the best possible method of protecting unnecessary cruelty to animals and maintain the valiant fight against AIDS. That is not likely to happen as long as publicity, fund-raising and creating havoc are their primary objectives.

The opinions expressed in this column, as in all opinion columns and guest commentaries that appear in this newspaper are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, publisher or management of the Houston Voice.



PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

The final history of the AIDS epidemic, obviously, cannot be written until there is some resolution. But, whenever that glorious time should arrive, one of the keystones of such a history will be the annual AIDS conference, the eleventh in the series having just ended in Vancouver. As a footnote, the historian's residue of minutiae, it took AIDS researchers five years to mount the first conference.

These eleven conferences also reflect a range of optimism and despair when early hope and AZT gave way to desperation as HIV proved the most mutating virus yet known and endlessly defied every attempt of man's science to control, let alone destroy, this deadly bug. Vancouver was historic for two reasons: for the first time researchers and doctors talked of controlling, even perhaps curing AIDS, and the conference itself has evolved from one of protest and cries of activists to this year's trade show extravaganza with the drug companies footing much of the bill as well as building elaborate booths such as Merck's two story affair, topped by a coffee house.

First of all, for those like myself that become confused by some of the terms today—AZT, ddC, ddt, d4T and the most effective, 3TC are known as nucleoside analogues. The new class of drugs, saquinavir, zalcitabine and didanosine are protease inhibitors which are currently in trials.

Now if you are wondering, and doubtless you are not, how Merck could afford its lavish display at Vancouver, its NET profit for the first quarter of 1996 (January through March) was \$864 million on sales of \$4.53 billion. Not a bad return on pretty healthy sales to the sick and dying.

As noted by Larry Kramer in last Sunday's New York Times Magazine, George Merck, son of the founder, back in the 1940s gave up his company's patent on streptomycin so that as much of the drug as possible could reach the public and put an end to tuberculosis.

There is perhaps another lesson from that epidemic, as well as the earlier experience with penicillin in overcoming syphilis and gonorrhea. All viruses mutate. And all humans are human. You announce a cure and caution goes to the wind. Venereal diseases and TB have rebounded from these earlier defeats. The HIV virus is the best mutator of all.

Already government studies have discovered that minorities and younger gay men are beginning to ignore the rules of prevention for HIV, and the curve of incidents is once more rising. Add in headlines featuring the word "cure" and you have the ingredients for disaster.

If the early studies described at Vancouver prove true and these new combinations of drugs are as successful as we all hope, there is yet another word of caution: Cost. Glaxo Wellcome, the largest drug company in the world—and not American owned—with patents on AZT and d4T,

has refused to lower the cost of supplying AZT to the poor countries of Africa or the latest site of spreading disaster, India.

And the protease inhibitors, the basis for these latest hopeful pronouncements, costs from \$6,000 to \$8,000 a year, not counting the cost of the doctors or the drugs which are recommended in combination. The big three of protease inhibitors, Hoffman-La Roche, Abbott and Merck, are particularly noted for financially supporting Republican office holders. And wonder of wonders, certain Republicans in congress are now joining the Democratic minority in pushing for more federal dollars to pay for these new drugs.

Another lurking danger of the protease inhibitors in these drug cocktails (usually a combination of at least three drugs) is that if not taken in exactly the right manner it provides a window of opportunity for the HIV virus to mutate in such a fashion that even reverting to the proper dosage is too late to restore its effectiveness. Considering the cost involved, doctors must also evaluate a patient's ability—always with the possibility that the disease itself will intervene—to remember the dosage.

Also misleading are early reports suggesting a 'cure' because in one trial the drug combination seemed to eradicate the HIV virus. Just because the virus seemed to disappear researchers know all too well that it can hide, often in the brain where their tests cannot find it... At best as reported by Marilyn Chase in the Wall Street Journal, we are talking remission, not cure. Although, granted remission should not be underrated.

Even if these early optimistic reports prove valid two major dangers remain: It could encourage greater disregard for safe sex, and it further divides those with the virus, the few, the white, the insured, and the American, from the many, the minorities, and the vast infected Third World. This, unfortunately, has always been the picture of AIDS: Those who, through insurance and or connections, have access to the latest drugs and information, and the greater majority who often die through ignorance and neglect.

Dr. Lawrence K. Altman, The New York Times AIDS expert, summarized the epidemic and Vancouver by quoting another doctor, Josef Decosas, an international health expert from Montreal: "If the cure for AIDS was one clean glass of water, most people in the world today would not have access to treatment."

Or, in the words of Kramer, "finally there are drugs that may allow people to live longer, but here's the punch line: Few can afford them." And, by the bye, have any of the candidates for President of these United States been discussing this life-and-death issue. Clinton is defending his backside, Dole is protecting his tobacco friends, Perot is well, Perot.

The *Houston Voice* welcomes well-written, insightful and to-the-point commentaries for our opinion/editorial pages. We also welcome "counterpoint" articles that represent a different view on the issues approached in articles we have already run. We reserve the right to edit for length, format and clarity. The views expressed in guest commentaries and letters to the editor published in the *Houston Voice* are those of the writers. We seek to provide a broad-based forum which reflects the varying points of view of our rich and diverse community. Selection for publication is at our discretion. Send articles to: The *Houston Voice*, Attn.: Editor, 811 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713-529-9531.

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Sapphire to read from *Push*

By DEBORAH BELL

DiverseWorks presents the writer and performance artist, Sapphire reading from her first novel, *Push* on Thursday, July 25 at 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by the independent Houston bookstores Brazos, Crossroads Market Bookstore, Inklings and Nia Gallery and Bookshop, the reading is free and open to the public.

Push is a captivating first-person narrative of 16 year Claireece "Precious" Jones. Still in junior high, barely able to read and write and pregnant once again by her own father, Precious struggles to find and maintain her personal dignity and self-esteem. She pushes forth life, but also pushes her to bring herself up from the lowest depths of despair.

Critical praise for the book has been widespread. *The New York Times* writes: "Sapphire has created an affecting and impassioned work that sails on the strength of pure, stirring feeling from a girl who should long ago have had all the feeling knocked out of her. We fairly feel her breath in our ears." *Interview*: "Sapphire doesn't play preacher, politician, or social anthropologist; she writes with a poet's ear for rhythms, in a voice that pushes her story relentlessly into your brain." *The Village Voice*

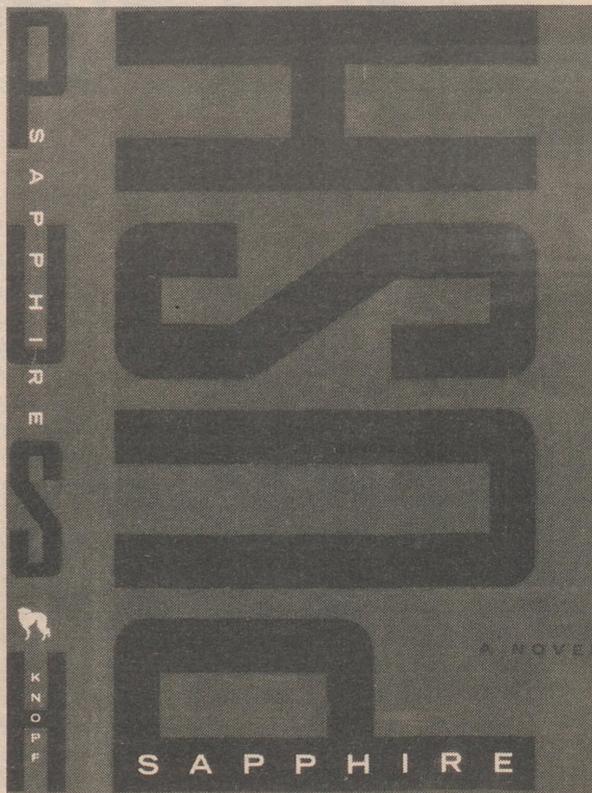
praise the book's "surprising rewards, its lovely faith in the word." *Newsweek* called it "brutal and redemptive," adding: "Maybe you never thought you'd tear through a novel about abuse, literacy, and welfare, but you just can't take your eyes off Precious Jones."

As a recent reader of the book, there is nothing new for me to say. I have to agree with all the comments about the impact of this book. I was caught up in the first page, as many other reviewer's have expressed of their experience with this powerful, little book (177 pages). I wept for, cheered on, and admired this beautiful, young, black woman as she told her story. Most women who weigh over 200 pounds are not considered beautiful in any traditional sense, and certainly not with the personality Precious exhibits at first, but her beauty, like all true beauty is revealed by being far deeper than what is on the surface. The terror of incest, abuse and poverty is graphically expressed and I had to be thankful that it is not a world I have ever known personally.

Sapphire was born Ramona Lofton in 1950 and grew up in California, Pennsylvania, and Texas. She graduated from City College in New York and received an MFA from Brooklyn College. Sapphire has been described as

"pushing the envelope" as a Black, Lesbian, incest survivor, artist and writer with her own life providing the intense emotional background for the book. The story is not autobiographical however, but based on her observations of over ten years of watching various teenage girls she met while teaching remedial reading in Harlem and the Bronx in the late 80s and early 90s. She says she feels like *Push* will effect change and will influence how people think about young women on welfare. That is her dream she confesses.

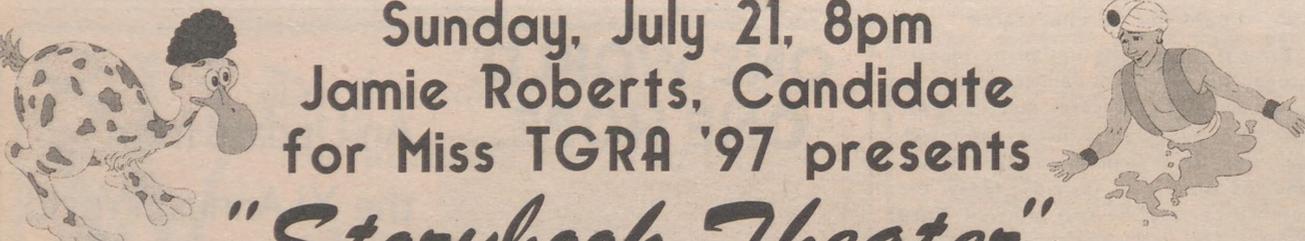
American Dreams, her book of poetry is now available in paperback.



Sapphire will read at DiverseWorks from her first novel *Push*.



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National DIFFA begins second decade

DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) has weathered a financial crisis on a national level and is beginning its second decade with a goal of increasing support by 50% to the 30 million dollar level.

As the nation's oldest fundraising organization for AIDS care, support and educational programs, DIFFA raised almost 20 million dollars in its first decade, and found itself comfortably operating on promised and anticipated revenues. During 1994 New York City was consumed with celebrations, from the 25th Anniversary of Stonewall to the Gay Games and DIFFA (amongst others) anticipated a fund-raising bonanza which never materialized. Instead disaster almost materialized.

Now, as DIFFA closes the books on the current fiscal year (June 30), just two years after the significant revenue shortfall, the foundation has not only weathered its crisis but, utilizing valuable human resources and sheer will power, has come back stronger than ever—repaying all of its debts, funding all of its grants and establishing a new set of fund-

raising, administrative, and grant-making guidelines.

David Sheppard, recently appointed Executive Director of DIFFA, inherited problems left by a decade of short-term financial policy decisions. "Since DIFFA was founded in 1984, we have been responding to an emergency of untold dimensions and have been committed to getting dollars to AIDS service organizations and people living with AIDS as fast as possible," he said. "DIFFA had been granting projected revenue to address the overwhelming need without the benefit of long-term strategic planning. There was no perceived need to plan ahead as everyone was certain that a cure was on the horizon," Sheppard added.

Now things are different. Several new policies have been implemented to insure a healthy organization including: setting performance standards with a maximum expense ratio; committing to grants based on accumulated net proceeds, not anticipated; maintenance of prudent reserves for operations; requiring full underwriting prior to begin-

ning special projects; hiring staff specifically for projects, rather than hiring full-time staff in anticipation; and requiring full administrative underwriting for donor directed funds.

Additionally, reduction of expenses related to leased office space, reduction in staffing and elimination of projects not fully underwritten or with administrative costs exceeding a standard, had further streamlined the organization and contribute to its overall well-being.

Local DIFFA Grants \$50,000

DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) Houston has announced recipients for its first funding cycle for 1996 which includes six organizations receiving a total of more than \$50,000. DIFFA's mission is to raise funds that support grant-making to organizations engaged in HIV/AIDS related activities.

This year's Spring/Summer funding cycle is dedicated to slowing HIV infection, especially among women,

minorities, and adolescents, including gay and bisexual adolescents. Also considered were preventive-education projects related to HIV/AIDS, TB, hepatitis, or other contagious illnesses for which care givers and agency staff are at risk.

This is the first funding cycle using the newly established national guidelines dictating that monies granted to agencies be monies already 'in the bank' not monies yet to be raised, as was the practice in the past. (see related story)

Agencies named grant recipients are: Amigos Volunteers in Education & Service (AVES), \$9,992, for work in HIV prevention for high risk youth; the AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, \$10,000, for education and testing of youth; the Gulf Coast Center, \$2,750, for education at the Quilt Display; AIDS Foundation Houston, \$8,530, for AIDS-Talk volunteer education; the Sand Dollar, \$10,000, intake specialists for homeless adolescents; and the HOPE Project, \$9,900, for HIV information, testing and counseling for homeless women.

Real Rights and Responsibilities

FROM NGLTF RELEASE

Nowhere in the United States do Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual couples receive the same recognition or benefits that married couples do. In fact, they face tremendous discrimination. Lesbians and Gay men who have been their partner's primary caretaker are often turned away at the hospital when there has been an accident or illness; refused "family" health coverage, taxation, and inheritance rights; and even denied protection in cases where the relationship ends. Sometimes they see their role as parents denied and their children taken away and placed in "traditional" heterosexual families.

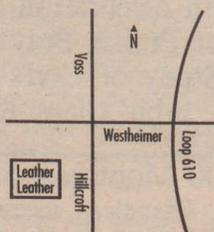
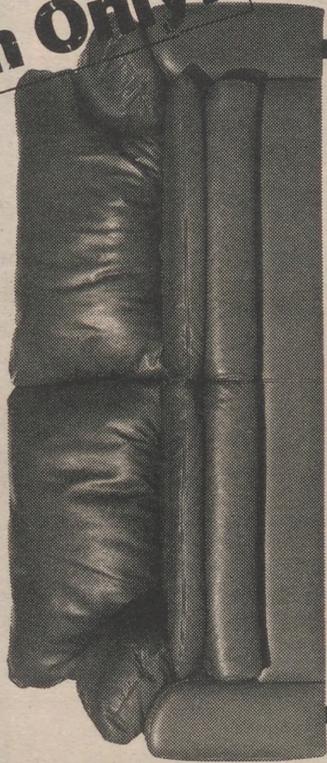
If legally married, we would have a greater ability to care for and protect our families, including the option to:

- File joint tax returns; have access to joint insurance policies for home, auto and health; inherit from our partner automatically in the absence of a will, including jointly-owned real and personal property through the right of survivorship; secure workplace and other benefits such as annuities, pension plans, Social Security and Medicare; obtain veteran's discounts on medical care, education, and home loans; enter jointly into leases and other contracts and maintain renewal rights; raise children together including joint adoption, custody and visitation rights; secure wrongful death benefits for a surviving partner and children; take bereavement leave when a partner or child or 'in-laws' die; handle post-mortem decisions involving deceased partners, including where and how they are buried; receive crime victim's recovery benefits; secure domestic violence protections such as community property and child support; establish next-of-kin status for hospital visits and medical decisions where one partner is too ill to be competent; qualify to apply for permanent residency for an immigrant partner.

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CHURCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY - 7/19

- * "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. Kingdom Community Church. 862-7533.
- * Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. Kolbe Project. 522-8182

SATURDAY - 7/20

- * Services at 7:30 p.m. Dignity Church, 1307 Yale. 880-2872

SUNDAY - 7/21

- * 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 a.m. Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 a.m. Maranatha Fellowship. 528-6756.
- * MCCR worship services with Rev. Jim Burns. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 861-9149.
- * Service, 11 a.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship, (713) 773-4429.
- * Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 10:30am.
- * First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30a.m. and 11:30a.m.. 526-5200.
- * Services at 5:30 p.m. Dignity Church, 880-2872
- * Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. 880-9235.
- * Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 a.m. 529-8225.
- * Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. 862-7533. "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 a.m.
- * Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15. 526-8095.
- * Covenant Baptist Church. Worship service - 1:30 p.m. and education hour at 3:00 p.m. 668-8830.

- * Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Seekers class 9:15 a.m. 526-1017.

MONDAY - 7/22

- * Catholic Mass at 7:30 p.m. Kolbe Project, 522-8182
- * MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m., 861-9149.

TUESDAY - 7/23

- * MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. 861-9149.
- * PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- * Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 p.m.. These groups are open to all people. Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

WEDNESDAY - 7/24

- * MCCR Bible Study "Giving in the New Testament Miracles", 7:30 p.m. 861-9149.
- * Service, 7:30 p.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship, (713) 773-4429.
- * MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 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 p.m. 862-7533.
- * Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 p.m. 526-8095.
- * Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 p.m.. These groups are open to all people. Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

THURSDAY - 7/25

- * Bible Study, 7 p.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship, (713) 773-4429.
- * Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. 880-9235.

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ASK THE PASTOR


 Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "I am a gay person, but I am also a Christian. Why is it that our gayness seems to take precedence over our being a Christian? Are we not a child of God first, with everything of and about us following behind?"

A: We all seem to have ways of identifying who we are. Some of us look at our professions as our identity. An example would be, "I'm a social worker." "I am a teacher." If we build our entire lives around our profession, then our profession may become our primary identity. Our world tends to focus on what a person 'does' rather than who they are. What would you say if someone walked up to you today and asked, "Who are you?" A lot of people would probably be uncomfortable with the question. Many people would probably respond by saying what they do for a living. They would tip toe around the question, answering with a human "doing" response instead of a human "being" response.

Many times our answer will be how we perceive ourselves, or else, how we want others to perceive us. If I identify primarily with being a child of God, rather than being a gay person, then my answer would be, "I am a child of God." If a person is very focused on being gay and they view that as their primary identity, then their answer would be, "I am gay." We all have many different descriptions of who we are.

Unfortunately, being gay and Christian has been a controversial subject. Many people, especially gay people, deal with tremendous homophobia. If a person has had religious teaching that says that a person cannot be gay and Christian, then there is great inner turmoil. This person may feel as if a big "G" (for Gay) is engraved on their forehead and that God does not love them as they are. For this individual, being gay may be their primary identity. They are unable to identify with being a Christian. A person may even tell others that they cannot be gay and Christian at the same time.

For a person to be able to say, "I am a child of God" as their primary identity would take a good self image, an assurance of a relationship with Christ, and acceptance of God's love for them just the way they are. We all strive to be able to give this answer to anyone who would ask us, "Who are you?" If we are not able to give this answer, then keep searching for the real "you" to surface. You will find yourself when you connect with the One who made you! It's like the Potter telling the clay what their design and purpose is in being created. You will learn that there are many ways you will function in life. But it's not so much what you do that matters as much as who you are. The most critical thing to learn is who loves you just the way you are, regardless of what you do. Then you know you've arrived at your true identity!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANATHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932

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Houston Trip Success for Church Founder

By Michael Rometry
For the Houston Voice

Often we hear of triumph over adversity. Adversity though is not a word often associated with Reverend Elder Troy D. Perry. Nearly 28 years ago Rev. Perry started the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) with a service of twelve people in meeting in his home. That denomination now numbers over 42,000 members. In the years since Troy turned a vision into reality, he has had numerous opportunities to speak to Congress, Presidents, and leaders of state. But on January 17, 1994 the Church was hit with the tragedy when an earthquake struck the Los Angeles area.

MCC Los Angeles has had 18 moves in the 28 years since their first meeting in Rev. Perry's home. MCC Los Angeles, which had been under reconstruction, was almost totally demolished by the earthquake. Raising funds for new buildings for both the UFMCC headquarters and for MCC Los Angeles began almost immediately. The original fund-raising drive, called Fortune 500, began with some moderate success. As efforts gained steam church leaders attempted to formulate a vision help solidify greater success in the fund-raising campaigns. Two campaigns were then developed. One, called "Building the Dream," is focused in the Los Angeles area. The other became "... For The Next Generation" capital campaign focusing on the fellowship headquarters and donations coming from around the world.

As Rev. Perry preached Sunday he gave a 'guided tour' of his vision for the new fellowship headquarters. Troy clearly is setting out to build a 'mecca' for our community. It is apparent from his sermon, Troy has a recent fascination with computers and he intends to make the ever-growing availability of computer technology a foundation of the denomination's future. Rev. Perry explained he wrote his latest book, *Ten Spiritual Truths for the Gay and Lesbian Community (and Everybody Else too!)* on his first computer, a laptop he received just two years ago.

Rev. Perry's guided tour comes complete with a gay or lesbian tour guide showing a changing gallery of historical events tied to the fellowship. And also showing the day to day operations of communication and technology centers at work maintaining



Rev. Elder Troy Perry visits the Houston Flock

information exchange between the global network of churches. Tourists may also visit the MCC Los Angeles next door and enjoy the beautifully landscaped surroundings. Rev. Perry may have critics of his vision, but the fellowship has already raised \$1.4 million of the total \$3.8 million for the two buildings and \$1.8 million in renovations and other furnishings. The fellowship has actually already closed on the property. The new headquarters is located on Santa Monica Blvd. in the heart of West Hollywood, CA. As Troy puts it: "According to the Census Bureau it [West Hollywood] has 81% singles. You figure that any way you want!"

MCC of the Resurrection (MCCR) was Rev. Perry's last stop of a four day tour in Texas. He began in San Antonio, then Corpus Christi and Denton. Houston's MCCR was Rev. Perry's 63rd church to visit in the capital campaign. Rev. Perry has stated he will go to any church where he is invited, so he may not be done in Texas yet. He was traveling with Rev. David Farrell, Senior Pastor of MCC San Diego, who is the Co-Chair of the campaign. MCCR had a large showing with total attendance of 494 for the two morning services. The total offering for the campaign totaled \$48,000, the highest offering ever taken at MCCR. Combined with the 9am service totals and other contributions came to a grand total of \$68,000.

Uncommon Legacy

The Uncommon Legacy Foundation, Inc., (ULF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to funding Lesbian specific projects ranging from medical research to television productions and provides an opportunity for lesbians to contribute to their own self-interest without having to 'come out' where they may face severe discrimination.

In its first full year as a national foundation, ULF has awarded more than \$134,000 in grants, with money going to New York's Hetrick-Martin Institute, the National Center for Lesbian Rights; the Audre Lorde Health Clinic in Los Angeles and the Lesbian Research Network and Woman Vision Video, among others. Additionally, in 1994 the foundation instituted its scholarship program, and awarded a total of thirty \$1,000 scholarships to 'out' lesbians attending colleges and universities.

A Houston chapter is under development at this time. Women who are interested need to apply as the organization is making an

aggressive effort to seek potential recipients. The ULF is calling for grant and scholarship applications at this time from the Houston area. For more information about the foundation and grant and scholarship information please write a note to An Uncommon Legacy Foundation, Inc., PO Box 667052, Houston, TX 77266.

A "Texas Weekend" featuring Rita Mae Brown is planned for August with events in Dallas and Houston. The Houston event will be a brunch on August 11 at 11:30am at the Four Seasons Hotel, 1300 Lamar St. Crossroads Market is hosting a book signing for Ms. Brown. Vickie Shaw, local comedian will provide entertainment and Sydney Seaward will emcee. Half of the net proceeds from the events will remain in Texas. Watch the Houston Voice for more information. Lesbian groups are urged to apply for the grant and scholarship monies.

The Foundation was founded by Vivian Shapiro of East Hampton, Long Island, New York, in 1990 and incorporated in 1993.

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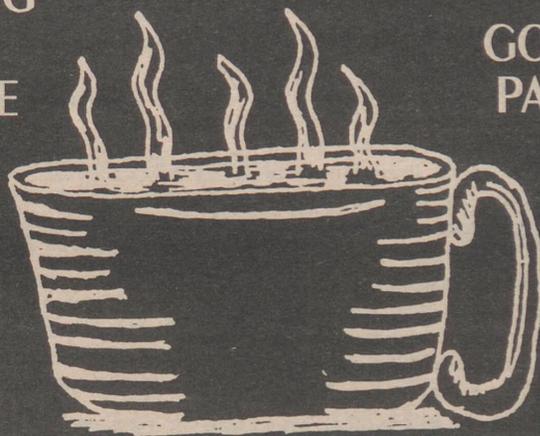
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AIDS Conference continued...

(Continued from page 1)

inhibitors seemed to focus on when to use them, and in combination with what drugs. The three and four drug cocktails, including Invirase, Indinavir or Ritonavir, in combination with AZT, 3TC and DDI or DDC seemed to have considerable support for use in our HIV happy hour regimen. Of all the protease inhibitors, it seems that Indinavir may have the least side effects. According to the pharmaceutical representatives from Abbott (makers of Ritonavir), after the initial induction period of thirty days, results from Ritonavir use is also promising. Adverse reactions that may be experienced during the induction period include nausea, diarrhea and headaches. Clinical trial studies of most of the protease inhibitors claim to be effective at preventing new or recurring disease, and also slow the progression rate to advanced disease or death.

There are still lots of questions that remain about the use of the new combination

Zimbabwe who became hospitalized at the conference and insisted that she be temporarily released to participate in her plenary presentation.

It is incredible to learn that 90% of all HIV infections are outside the United States and Canada. Our HIV/AIDS support systems seem to be more advanced in growth and stability than our counterparts in the developing countries. Watching the empowering presentations of Persons Living With HIV/AIDS from developing countries also gave me a certain sense of déjà vu. From a sense of urgency and need, individuals in resource poor areas are bonding, organizing and offering support to their peers. These grass roots efforts are reminiscent of our own community mobilizations and the ongoing struggles we continually face. Funding, access to treatment, HIV/AIDS prevention and education, and the pursuit of even basic human rights are just a few of our mutual plights.

Entering a new era in HIV/AIDS treatment,



Act-up 'Acts up' in Protest of Roche Labs.

therapies. While viral loads (the amount of virus in your system) seem to decrease with consistent use of protease inhibitors, there remains a question if the virus could possibly be hiding somewhere in the lymph system. In addition, there is the potential that if not used as directed, the virus could develop an immunity to the whole class of protease inhibitors. There are also the unresolved issues concerning long-term effects. Universal access to the drug therapies was also a really volatile topic. The fear being that AIDS survival would depend on your ability to afford treatment. In speaking with representatives from the drug companies, they said that most companies have drug access programs of some kind. However, all these programs are not widely publicized. If you think you may qualify for such a program, I encourage you to contact the drug company of your prescribed treatment directly to apply.

The participation of Persons Living With HIV/AIDS at the Vancouver conference was incredible, something lacking in previous conferences. We were allowed to participate at every level of the conference program, from plenary sessions to poster discussions. It was amazing to see their energy and be a part of their empowering presentations. A moment that will remain with most of us will be the 23 year old mother of two from

we are cautioned that we are not out of the dark yet, but at least we are seeing some light. However, there is still so much work to be done in terms of disease management. The rate of infection for women and youth is still occurring at an alarming level. Globally it was reported that, in some countries, entire generations could be wiped out by 2010, with the average age at death being 33 years. Breaking down cultural and economic barriers is a major task in HIV/AIDS care and prevention.

These are the same barriers we face in our own community as well. Understanding cultural differences and attributes can only enhance our ability to serve our community. Collaboration between agencies, governmental and non, and our unified commitment to education and empowerment is crucial in our efforts for improving quality of life.

Leaving Vancouver after the conference, I have a greater sense of commitment, responsibility, energy and most of all, Hope. Persons Living with HIV/AIDS have more treatment options available than ever before and our voices are being heard. The cure may not be here, but we may now be able to live positive lives. One World. One Hope. One day at a time.

Ray West is President of the People with

Conference Summary Points

1. There is still not a cure -- but there is hope for the first time in 15 years.
2. People attended this conference who were not expected to be there, thanks to the new therapies.
3. The viral loads and protease inhibitors may make AIDS a chronic, long-term manageable disease.
4. Each HIV+ person must be a responsible consumer, working in partnership with their doctors and demanding that they get the care they need.
5. Hit early and hit hard - start the required meds as early as possible (before antibodies have a chance to develop is the improbable advice).
6. HIV+ persons must make a commitment to their drug regime and therapies (take their meds when and how they are suppose to).
7. Drug accessibility & affordability are still

at issue.

8. People in developing countries and living in poverty (or homeless) in the United States do not have the access to the medicines and care they need. This conference is meaningless to more than 90% of the HIV infected population of the world.

9. AIDS is a signature disease, meaning each person is faced with dealing with it as it effect them individually - what is right for one person may not be right for another. A lot is not known as far as how the virus may mutate and if it will become resistant to the new drugs. Toxicity and side effects are still concerns.

10. A cure is still needed - ultimately AIDS will have to be eradicated from the planet, otherwise the virus will always be an ember ready to ignite an epidemic.

DOMA continued...

(Continued from page 1)

leadership still insists on DOMA they will have to consider ENDA. We have a good chance of getting ENDA attached but it is by no means a "lead pipe cinch." Our lobbyists at the Human Rights Campaign are busy now trying to get that done.

No Texas member of Congress voted against DOMA. Even Sheila Jackson Lee voted Present but not voting. The rest all voted for passage of DOMA. The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus regrets that many of our Representatives who are normally with us on other votes did not feel that the political climate allowed them to support us on this vote. With many Southerners the issue of Sodomy and Gay Marriage are religious issues. We may not believe they are but that is how the rank and file public

regards these issues. Texas is still a "Bible Belt" state and we can be sure that the Republican party will exploit those sorts of issues to try to gain adherents.

Whatever the Senate does we must use this issue as an opportunity to educate the public about the issue. Only then will politicians feel they have the political cover to vote with us. Congress has never passed a law which made serious social change without a consensus in the American public. It will be so with us. We need to get busy educating.

The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus has a Marriage Task Force and we welcome inquiries regarding becoming a member of this Task Force. If you really want to do something, JOIN US NOW IN THIS PROJECT. Anger not directed toward change is misdirected energy. Call 521-1000 to add your name to the growing list of people joining or rejoining the caucus.

DOMA Passes House

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN RELEASE

The Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, while across the Capitol, the House of Representatives hit a new low in gay-bashing when it passed the anti-marriage bill by a vote of 342-67, with 2 members voting present. Amendments offered by Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass, which would have preserved federal benefits in states that might allow same-sex marriages in the future, were defeated 103-311.

Both events were characterized by bitter rhetoric. "The House committed an ugly, cowardly and unconstitutional act by passing this bill, and history will remember it as such," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. "It is nothing more than gratuitous election-year gay-bashing and the Human Rights Campaign intends to hold every member of Congress accountable for this vote." Birch charged proponents of the bill with wasting time on a non-existent "problem," and hotly disputed that the Hawaii case is anywhere near resolution.

"A gay person can't get married in any of the 50 states today, and that's not likely to change for a least another two years," Birch said. "Yet Gay people can be fired from their jobs in 41 states merely because of their sexual orientation. Congress should quit wasting time on legislation to outlaw an institution that doesn't exist and pass a bill to end discrimination that does."

Sens. James Jeffords, R-Vt., Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Edward Kennedy D-Mass., announced a plan to attach the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill to outlaw employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, as an amendment to the Defense of Marriage Act if it reaches the Senate floor. Birch said the Human Rights Campaign will focus on passing the ENDA amendment in the Senate and believes it has a solid chance of passing. ENDA, reintroduced in June, 1995, currently has 30 co-sponsors in the Senate and is supported by Govs. William Weld, R-Mass., and Christine Todd Whitman, R-N.J.

Administration officials also told HRC that President Clinton supports the plan to attach ENDA as an amendment to the marriage bill. "The president strongly opposes discrimination against any group of Americans, including Gay and Lesbian individuals, and he supports legislation to outlaw such discrimination in the workplace," the administration said in a statement to Congress.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national Lesbian and Gay political organization, with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that Lesbian and Gay Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

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Post Conference AIDS Updates

Houston, TX—Plans for post-conference updates following the XI International AIDS Conference held in Vancouver, BC July 7-12 are underway in Houston.

Two update conferences have been scheduled. One is co-sponsored by the Annual Houston Conference on AIDS in America, the Center for AIDS, the Montrose Clinic and the Clinical Research Network and is scheduled for tomorrow (July 20)—please refer to ad on back page. The other conference is co-sponsored by Park Plaza Hospital and Therapeutic Concepts, P.A and is scheduled for Saturday, August 10—please see ad on page nine.

Both update conferences are open to the public and health care professionals and neither will be charging a fee to attend.

Dr. Joseph C. Gathe Jr., specializing in the treatment of HIV/AIDS and Judith G. Novak, CEO of Park Plaza Hospital, jointly announced the day-long HIV/AIDS Post-conference update scheduled for Saturday, August 10 at the Ramada Inn Astrodome/Medical Center. Dr. Adan Rios, M.D., will be the conference director at the conference tomorrow.

"I expect this to a comprehensive update," said Dr. Gathe, "because we are having input from the community, including patients, politicians and medical professionals."

Physicians, persons with AIDS, and other health care professionals will

bring the most current news back to the Houston community in a wrap-up.

General topic plenary sessions will be held in the morning covering a variety of HIV-related medical topics from ophthalmology to gynecology.

"Reflective of changes in the epidemiology of HIV in Houston, women, people of color, children, adolescents, and the heterosexual HIV community will be an integral part of the conference," said Judith Novak. "Traditionally, women's healthcare issues have sat on the back burner, with HIV, tradition could be fatal. We need to provide women with HIV information about their specific needs... so we are actively asking this population to tell us what issues they want to see addressed at this event."

Concurrent afternoon sessions will address a wide range of topics such as: women's issues, finances/disability, accessing medical care, the impact of HIV on our society, government's role, research/pharmaceutical issues, media's influence, and world issues, as well as education and prevention. The update will close with a question and answer session.

The public is invited to attend. Registration is requested but there is no charge to attend. Six Vancouver Conference Abstract Posters will be on display, and booths will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Contact Ms. Novak at Park Plaza 713/527-5000, Sande Olson at 527-5353 or Linda Singleton at 527-5385.

The Seven Deadly Virtues

Bering & Friends To Benefit The Bering Support Network

Join Bering & Friends as they stage THE SEVEN DEADLY VIRTUES, a divine comedy spiced with musical devilry, at Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Pkwy. Proceeds benefit the Bering Support Network, offering counseling and other resources for people touched by HIV/AIDS.



"A Simple Little System" from *Bells are Ringing* —part of Bering and Friend's Seven Deadly Virtues

Performances are at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, August 2 at 2:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 3 and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 4. General seating tickets for these performances are \$15, \$12 for seniors. Advance tickets for these shows are available at Basic Brothers Clothing, 1232 Westheimer and Uniglobe First Choice Travel, 2236 W. Holcombe; by calling 526-5846 or through the e-mail address beringtix@aol.com. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

The run kicks-off with an opening night Black Tie Gala on Thursday, August 1. Festivities include champagne and hors d'oeuvres at 7:00 p.m., curtain at 8:30 p.m., a dessert selection during intermission, and a private party with the cast after the show. Tickets for the Black Tie Gala are \$50 each, and are available only by calling 526-5846.

Featuring song and dance numbers from many well-loved Broadway musicals and Hollywood movies including *Les Miserables*, *Beauty and the Beast*,

Dick Tracy, *Man of La Mancha* and *Camelot*, THE SEVEN DEADLY VIRTUES offers a rousing and robust new look at the forces of good versus evil. In it God and Lucifer, frequent dinner pals and game aficionados, decide to raise their usual stakes and gamble for the ultimate prize: the souls of humankind. They each line up their teams—Lucifer's Seven Deadly Sins and God's Seven Virtues—but the players ultimately sort out their own destinies and teach Lucifer a valuable lesson about the human spirit.

The fourth production of Bering & Friends, this year's features a cast of about 30 people affiliated with Bering Memorial United Methodist Church and the Bering Community Service Foundation, their friends, and other professional and semi-professional performers from the Houston area.

THE SEVEN DEADLY VIRTUES is directed by Judy Frow, a professional actor, musician, director and choreographer. She co-wrote the play with her husband, musician and writer Gene Smith.

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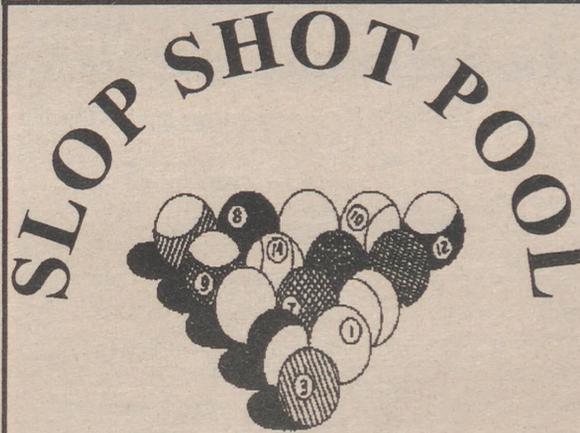
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HOUSTON VOICE - (713) 529-8490 (Issue 821)

Political and Cultural Gathering of Old Lesbians

Focus On Age Discrimination, Homophobia

All lesbians 60 and over are invited to an Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC) conference, August 15-18, 1996, at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. The event, with its theme: Examining Our Lives, Confronting Our Challenges, Celebrating Our Strengths, promises to be the largest ever gathering of old lesbians.

Representative of the hundreds of old lesbians expected to attend are: Eunice Samuels, a 69-year-old African American lesbian activist and breast cancer survivor from Manhattan's East Village.

Arden Eversmeyer, 64, and Charlotte Avery, 65, lifelong lesbians and dedicated OLOC volunteers from Houston, Texas.

Sara Davis, 72, a retired Navy officer, Peace Corps volunteer and gold-medal winning competitive swimmer from San Francisco.

Vera Martin, 72, an African American great-grandmother and National OLOC Coordinator from Apache Junction, Arizona.

Kore Mountain, 63, a long-time activist in the fields of sexual abuse, battered women and addictions from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Annalee Stewart, 68, a retired Social Work professor from the University of Minnesota, and life-long lesbian who raised an adopted son and is now a grandmother.

The gathering is also expected to attract some of the leading figures in the old lesbian community, including Keynote speaker Barbara McDonald, internationally acclaimed co-author of *Look Me in the Eye*. She will set the tone for the conference with her commentary on ageism in our own communities and in the world: where we were and where we are now.

Authors Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon, whose sensible book entitled *Lesbian Woman eased coming-out pains for count-*

less women, will contribute a unique perspective to relationship issues. Having celebrated their 43rd anniversary, and the updated 20th anniversary edition of their ground-breaking book, the two continue in activist roles from their San Francisco home base. They were delegates at last year's White House Conference on Aging, and will share information on that important forum.

Writer/artist/activist Joan Catiover of Florida sums up the spirit of the gathering: "We are leaping out of our closets and off our rocking chairs to challenge ageist stereotypes in society at large and in the Gay and Lesbian Communities, and to confront homophobia everywhere."

Plenary sessions will be held on the subjects of *Our Community—What Unites Us and What Divides Us: Confronting Our Challenges; Living Our Lives; and Creating Change.*

The Gathering planners, OLOC, and local community groups are planning an all-ages all-women's banquet and dance at the University Radisson Hotel on Friday, August 16, featuring top notch entertainment by lesbians over 60. In addition, old lesbians will celebrate their talents by an exciting display of arts and crafts.

The modest registration fee of \$175 (for early registration) to \$200 includes registration, 3 nights lodging at the University dorm, and 3 meals daily, including the Friday night banquet. Scholarships and community housing are available for economically disadvantaged women. Vegetarian meal options will be provided.

Since only lesbians 60 and over (and their partners who may be under 60) are eligible to attend, all others can support this historic event by placing ads and greetings in the Souvenir Program Journal.

The conference will be wheelchair accessible, fragrance-free and will have ASL interpreters. For brochure and registration form, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: OLOC, P.O. Box 980422, Houston, TX 77098. For more information, call 602-983-6462.

Greeks, Olympics & Classic Values

By BILL AGOSTO

The Olympics open in Atlanta today (Friday July 19) and this marks the centennial of the top ranking international athletic event. The games were revived in 1896 in Athens, Greece after a 1500 year shutdown, initiated by Roman Emperor Theodosius I.

The ancient Olympic Games date back to 776 BC in Olympia, Greece and were held every four years for eleven centuries. The games were so popular the Greeks measured their history in olympiads, i.e. four year intervals much like we note decades. And the interest has hardly lessened. An estimated 3 billion viewers watched the opening ceremonies of the 1992 Summer Olympics on television.

But classical Greek culture left us more than athletics (athlon is Greek for prize). Most of our daily activities in business, technology, economics, politics, science, and the arts got started in ancient Greece. Drama is a Greek word, mathema is Greek for knowledge from which we get mathematics.

Everybody thinks western culture is fundamentally homophobic, but that's not strictly true. The Greek part of our her-

itage took all sexuality, including homosexuality, in stride. It is primarily the Judeo-Christian part of our heritage that introduced anti-sexual attitudes, both straight and gay.

This past spring I presented a course in classical Greek contributions to world culture, called "It's Greek to Me." The course summarized our ancient Greek heritage in politics, the arts, commerce, athletics, ethics, science, technology and philosophy in a straightforward entertaining format. While it wasn't the focus of the course, classical Greek acceptance of the natural variations of human sexuality became obvious.

In an interview with Jim Lehrer a couple of months ago, Hillary Rodman Clinton deplored the decline of civility in today's society. The Greek classics are the major source of Western civility, and the widespread distaste for barbaric trends of greed, slander, and violence in today's society may account for a world-wide revival of interest in the classics.

"It's Greek to Me" addresses that remedy. The course will be offered again this fall. If you are interested call 409/849-1855.

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SPORTS NOTES

MSL Calls It "A Wrap"

The Montrose Softball League (MSL) held its Annual Awards Banquet on Sunday, July 12, 1996, at Mesa Restaurant. With over 125 people in attendance and bodacious buffets, or is that bodacious people and 125 buffets?, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Commissioner Lee Davis started the awards with the Charity Checks. The Assistance Fund and Colt 45s were each given \$500 checks. Pet Patrol and Soiree Aubergine both received \$1,000 checks.

Awards were then given to teams and their members. In the A Division, First Place trophies were given to the Ripcord coached by Jerry Chaffin. Second Place was awarded to Russel Garrison of the Briar Patch team and Third Place was given to Hyde Park Gallery, coached by Tim Shirilla. In the B Division, First Place was awarded to JR's Fighting Flamingos. Second Place through Tenth Place were given in the following order: Rich's Prime coached by Tony Cruz; Chances via Stephen Haddock and Pacific Street coached by Brett Griswold tied for 3rd place; Past Time Packers led by Greg Adams; Gentry GAPS coached by Lee Davis; Nowling Mortgage Loan Rangers coached by Carol Clark; Positively Venture-N led by Michael York; Inergy coached by Tish Ortega, and Rich's Boy's Club coached by Robert Noack.

Individual awards were presented to the following: in the A Division, Rookie of the Year went to Floyd Rose of the Hyde Park Gallery, Most Improved Player to Charlie Grigg from Briar Patch, and Most Valuable Player went to Mike Crowe from Ripcord. Ripcord also received awards for Coach of the Year to Jerry Chaffin and the Spirit Award. In the B Division, Rookie of the Year went to Karen Nation from Past Time; Most Improved Player to P.J. Vassantachart of Pacific Street; and Most Valuable Player to Julie Hays of Chances. Gentry GAPS won the Spirit Award for the second year in a row.

The Jerry Award, given in recognition of

going above and beyond the normal expectations of an MSL member, was given to Herb "Jerry-Boom" Muenchow Jr., a cheerleader for the Gentry GAPS.

The annual season of Fall League will begin on Sunday, Sept. 15. The time and place of play will be announced later. Remember, you do not need any experience to play in the MSL. For information, please call our voice mail at 867-3913.

Bowling Notes

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports Division A standing in first, second, and third are A Frickin Fairy Tale, Eight Balls and Hot Dogs, Nice Buns. Division B is headed by The Meat to Beat, Fighting Nuns, and Ms Dee-Dee & DoDahs. High scratch game of 254 was bowled by Richard Nickerson and series of 639 was bowled by Jody Dunivant. For more information call Gardy at 641-5424. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 9:00 p.m. Mondays.

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening league reports Faster Pussycats in 1st, Tough & Tight in 2nd and Boyish Looks, Girlish Figures in 3rd. For the men Gardy Harvey bowled high scratch game of 264 and Chris Bennett series of 680. For the women Linda Dees bowled high scratch game of 222 and Peri Cain series of 598. For more info call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 7:00 p.m. Sundays.

The Wednesday Night Mixers reports 1st place is taken by 1 Gal & 3 Guys, 2nd by Charlie's Tunas, and 3rd by Rump Rangers. Roy Rainwater bowled high scratch game of 221 and Richard Dauchy series of 580 for the men. For the women Lynn Kelley bowled high scratch game of 188 and series of 532. For more information call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

The Monday Night Women's League reports first place team is Half & Half followed by Walking Wounded, and M Power. Fourth place is taken by Festive Foursome. For more info call Pat at 437-6218. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:15 p.m. on Mondays.

The monthly No-Tap Candlelight Doubles is this Saturday, July 20 at 8:00 p.m. with registration beginning at 7:00 p.m. Join us for an evening of fun—bring a friend or make a new one. The action is at Palace Lanes on Bellaire Blvd. just inside the Loop. For more information call Tom at 522-9612.

Chain Gang Ride and Swim

The Chain Gang Cycling Club has planned an easy ride in the FM1960 area prior to a pool party and BBQ at Pam's house Saturday July 13 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Pam will be BBQing and asks that guests bring a side dish as well as their swim suits. RSVP to Pam at 537-0804. The ride will be 12 miles and is rated easy.

Another easy ride is scheduled for Sunday July 28 in the Woodlands area.

Be An Athletic Supporter

A variety of fundraisers are scheduled to help offset some of the costs associated with sending the Briar Patch Softball Team to represent the Montrose Softball League at the 1996 Gay World Series in Minneapolis August 20 to August 25.

The players are seeking support for their August 3 Garage Sale. Items are needed to make this fundraiser a successful one. "If you need space, We need items," says the players, so call 553-1533 and pledge your support. Any and all items are accepted and the players will gladly pickup at your convenience.

Also scheduled are a Lasagna dinner at the Briar Patch from 6 until 8:00 p.m. tonight (July 19), car washes Saturday July 20 and August 10 at 1318 Westheimer (next to McDonalds) and a variety show at the Briar Patch Sunday July 28 from 8 to 10:00 p.m.

Jocks of all ages are encouraged to join the winning lineup and become an athletic supporter. Good luck Patch and bring home that trophy.

Lambda Rollers

The Lambda Rollerskating Club holds its next Skate Night Wednesday July 24 from 8 until 10:00 p.m. at the Starlight Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road. Admission is \$5 and skate rental (if necessary) adds \$1. Everyone is welcome to skate and a variety of events will be scheduled along with door prizes.

This is a fundraising skate for the Woman's Division of The Montrose Clinic which is being hosted by the Royal Imperial Court of the Single Star. The following Wednesday, July 31, will be a benefit skate for the PWA Coalition of Houston.

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please contact Lambda at 787-0625 or electronically at gay-skate1@aol.com or visit the WEB Page site, <http://members.aol.com/com/gayskate1/lambda.htm>.

HMBL Standings

After 25 weeks of play, the Houston Metropolitan Billiards League, Inc. has the team Coalition leading the league with a won match average of .870 followed by Jackson 5 at .783 and J.R.'s Cue Crew at .750. The team Coalition has won 232 games and lost 113 for a won games average of .676.

The Fourth of July tournament was won by Keith Fussell while Chip Kine took second and Carlos Romero placed third. The monthly meeting is set for Sunday the 21st, at 2:00 p.m. at Lazy J at which time officers will be elected and a vote taken on party bids. Remember, July 30 is the last night of play and Cousins will be providing a food buffet.

The thought of the week is "The top three substitute players who have played at least 1/2 of the season will qualify for an individual award."

This & That!

by Jon Anthony

Anjelica Huston's controversial directorial debut *Bastard Out of Carolina*, about an 11 year old girl's encounters of sexual abuse circa 1950, has been acquired by Showtime. Initially developed for TNT, the project appeared in limbo after **Ted Turner** decided to pass on the film due to its explicit content. *Bastard* is an intense movie adaptation of **Dorothy Ellison's** autobiographical novel. At press time, Showtime still had not determined the films airdate.... Early screenings of *Evita!*



starring **Madonna** have received positive buzz. *You Must Love Me*, the first single from the films soundtrack will be released early to create advance publicity. *Evita!* is slated for a Christmas release date.... HBO launches their new comedy series, *Arli\$\$*, starring **Robert Wuhl** Aug. 11. *Arli\$\$* is about a flamboyant sports agent's view of the high stakes world of sports. The show has already snared the likes of **Shaquille O'Neal**, **Scottie Pippen**, **Barry Bonds** and **Bob Costas** in cameo appearances for authenticity. HBO will also debut a companion comedy for the highly successful series *The Larry Sanders Show*. Produced by **David Letterman**, *The High Life* is described as "comedy noir," in so far that it is an offbeat buddy sitcom set in Pittsburgh during the 1950's and filmed in black and white.... **Alison La Placa** won't be back on *The John Larroquette Show* next season. La Placa was not pleased with the direction planned for her character next season.... The Disney Channel will begin airing movies only during prime-time next season. First up: *The Lion King*.... The six principle cast members of NBC's hit comedy *Friends* have banded together and threatened to go on strike, according to TIME magazine. At issue: \$\$\$\$.

Not content with their current emoluments, a paltry sum of \$22,500 per cast member per episode, they are seeking an increase to the tune of \$100,000 per episode each plus a percentage of the profits. No comment from Warner Bros., who produces the show, however, considering the series lucrative syndication profits, odds are the studio will probably reach an agreement with the cast in the near future. With 'Friends' like these, NBC should consider changing their promo from 'Must See TV' to a more apt 'Must Pay TV'.... Former Miss America and veteran television star **Lee Meriwether** returns to the small screen as the new matriarch on ABC's highly rated serial *All My Children*. Meriwether replaced **Julie Newmar** as Catwoman on the Batman series and was known to millions as Barnaby Jones secretary Betty on the hit crime drama of yesteryear.... **Richard Gere** arrived for jury duty in New York as summoned last week only to be excused three hours later.... **Judd Hirsch** is currently starring in *A Thousand Clowns* at Broadway's Roundabout Theater. Hirsch of TAXI fame also stars in this summers hottest film, *Independence Day*.... MTV plans to launch another spin-off channel, *M2*, this August. The new channel will consist of 24 hours of music and target older skewing viewers, i.e. the aging baby boomer generation.... A big screen live action adaptation of *Gargoyles*, a highly successful syndicated Saturday morning cartoon, is in the works. *Independence Day* producer/co-writer **Dean Devlin** will helm the production according to Daily Variety.... A remake of the 1966 comedy, *The Trouble With Angels*, starring **Hayley Mills** and **Rosalind Russell** will be forthcoming from Jim Henson Pictures and released by Columbia Pictures. A cast has yet to be assembled for the film about unruly

teenagers at a convent boarding school.... **Whoopi Goldberg** is the latest comedian to compose a book of comedic fodder on life's trials and travails. The as yet untitled tome will be released in the fall of 1997 by publishing giant William Morrow & Co. Should be an instant success considering Whoopi's track record.... With the publics appetite for science fiction at its highest level in years, a new syndicated series titled *The Cape* will debut this fall. For authenticity, producers have tapped Astronaut **Buzz Aldrin** as a technical consultant.... **Blair Underwood** (L.A. Law) joins the cast of ABC's critically acclaimed but low-rated police drama *High Incident*.... **Bay Buchanan**, sister of you know who, has been named as the replacement for **Mary Matalin** on CNBC's *Equal Time*.... *Hawaii Five-O* is the latest television classic that will receive the big screen treatment. *Hawaii*, starring **Jack Lord**, was a huge ratings hit when it aired during the 1970's. Filming begins next spring.... **Fabio** has written a romance novel. From the excerpts I have read, suffice it to say he is about as good a writer as he is an actor. Figure it out. At any rate, the name of his book is *Dangerous* and it is published by Pinnacle. Fabio will be promoting the book on a tour of Wal-Mart stores in the next several months. That alone should tell you something.... **Ricki Lake's** daytime gabfest will be revamped for next fall. Lake will get a new set and eliminate the trash stigma she has been associated with. Lake will address more serious and palatable issues running the gamut from current events to viewer participation. Lake wants to her show to be considered in the same vein as **Oprah** and **Rosie O'Donnell**. No doubt Lake wants their ratings as well.... The tragic life of



tobacco heiress **Doris Duke** will be parlayed onto the big screen via Paramount Pictures. **Sharon Stone** is being heavily considered to portray Duke in the film.... **Prince** is the latest celeb to don a milk mustache in an upcoming ad.... **Making the Rounds:** On July 22, **Zsa Zsa Gabor** visits **Rosie O'Donnell** at 9am and **Melanie Griffith** chats with **Geraldo** at 4pm, both on Channel 13. Later that evening, **Fran Lebowitz** talks to **Tom Snyder** at midnight on Channel 11 and **Joan Collins** checks in with Snyder July 23 at the same time and place. **Greg Louganis** is interviewed on *Good Morning America* Friday July 26 at 7am on Channel 13 and **Ellen DeGeneres** guest on *Oprah* that afternoon at 4pm on Channel 11. **Top of the Charts:** *Independence Day* remained at the top of the box office raking in \$36 million over the weekend. Since its eruption on the big-screen, *ID* continues to break box office records and has grossed an impressive \$161 million in its first 12 days. **John Travolta's** *Phenomenon* was second at \$13.1 million and *Courage Under Fire* with **Denzel Washington** and **Meg Ryan** opened third with \$12.8 million. *Seinfeld* was the top rated television show according to the Nielsens. Finally there is some new material at the top of the musical charts. **2Pac's** *California Love* is the hottest song in the country and *It Was Written* by **NAS** is the top selling album according to Billboard magazine. **John Grisham's** *The Runaway Jury* is the #1 selling fiction title and **Vincent Bugliosi's** *Outrage* knocks **Dennis Rodman** out of the top spot on the non-fiction list according to The New York Times. **Scott Adams' The Dilbert Principle**, based on his popular comic strip - a wry assessment of office bureaucracy, makes a strong showing in the #2 position.... **Quote of the Week:** "I always tell my husband, 'Be careful, because you know murder is legal in this neighborhood.'" - **Teri Garr**, a resident of Brentwood and neighbor of **O.J. Simpson**, on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*.



We LePhants would like to welcome LaWanda Jackson home from LaCage.

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TUES	7/23 Amateur/Talent Night 11pm w/ PAIVI
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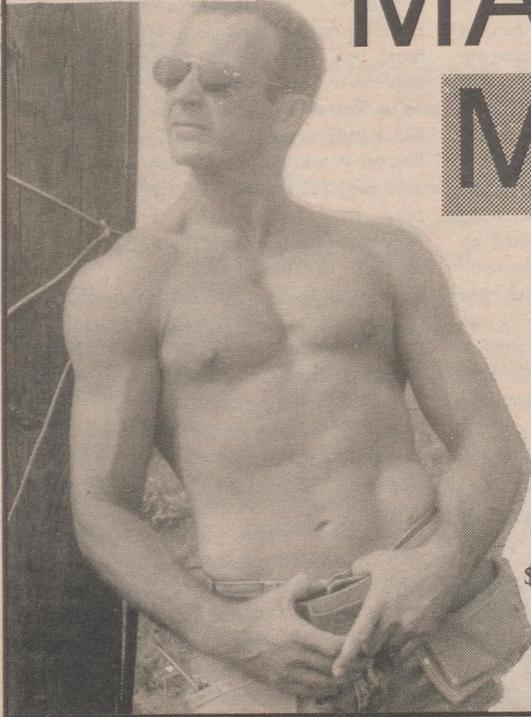
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Motel: Cruise the parking lot and get threatened.
Montrose Inn: Cruise the hallways. Please!

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.
Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, hardwood floors, hardly any plastic.

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'Think of me as your friend...'

A Conversation With Melissa Manchester

By JON ANTHONY

Melissa Manchester is one of contemporary music's most sought after stars. And rightfully so. Renowned worldwide for her impeccable vocal range and musical interpretation, she will be performing in Houston for a week long engagement of Andrew Lloyd Weber—*Music of the Night*. The gala event will consist of Manchester renditions of Weber's most popular scores.

Besides being a phenomenal vocalist, Manchester is an accomplished songwriter with many classic hits to her credit. She began her career singing back-up for The Divine Miss M, Bette Midler, and received her own recording contract shortly thereafter. Known to millions for her mega-hits like the number one billboard hits *Midnight Blue* and *Don't Cry Out Loud*, Manchester has branched out into other avenues of the entertainment arena with success. She received raves for her performance in the Bette Midler feature film *For the Boys* and her stint on the NBC comedy series *Blossom* as the title character's mom garnered the attention of network executives.

In a recent conversation with the *Houston Voice*, Manchester talked about her career and her relationship with the Gay and Lesbian community. Manchester attributes her acceptance by our community as "good taste on their part" and because she considers herself to be a showoff. "I get to wear the most gorgeous gowns. I'm the ultimate DIVA!" boasts Manchester about the wardrobe she dons in *Music of the Night*. She defines a DIVA as "Does Intense Very Admirably." Manchester claims she was "very touched" when she appeared by invitation at an AIDS Benefit and was very welcomed by the community.

Music of the Night does not mark the first time that Manchester has collaborated with Andrew Lloyd Weber. Melissa starred in the national tour of Weber's *Song and Dance* back in 1987. The mother of two children (a boy and a girl) ages 8 and 10, Manchester chose to participate in this latest venture because it allowed her children to travel with her since it was a summer tour. Having met with Garth Drebinski of Liveevent to negotiate the terms, Melissa agreed to be a part of this musical extravaganza. With Manchester at the helm, it prom-

ises to be an evening of enchantment.

From music to song-writing to feature films to television, Manchester has mastered it all. Very few artists can maintain a level of success in one genre, yet alone the entire entertainment spectrum. Somehow, she has managed to beat the odds. "One of the things that I find most successful is my ability to reinvent new energy and insight," she confides. Manchester believes that collaborating is an iffy proposition. "It's like going out on a date, you know real soon whether its pleasant or not." She has collaborated with some of the industries brightest and most gifted talents such as Carole Bayer Sager and Kenny Loggins, with whom she co-wrote the hit single *Whenever I Call You Friend*. Her collaborations with Sager came out of "long conversations" that she indicates were deep and reflective. What is evident is the success that she has garnered as a result. In 1980, Manchester became the first recording artist in the history of the Academy Awards to have two nominated movie themes in a given year: *Ice Castles* and *The Promise*. In 1982, she went on to receive a Grammy Award for Best Female Vocalist. Her album titled *Tribute* is a classic in the gay community and by far the most impressive recording in her repertoire, to date. Manchester's latest release, *If My Heart Had Wings*, released by Atlantic Records has not received much publicity. In fact, the Diva feels that Atlantic "abandoned" the record and expressed dismay at the way it was marketed. A copy of the album has been requested from Atlantic by yours truly and a review will be forthcoming.

In one of the more candid parts of our conversation, Manchester recalled how she learned to drink tequila in Houston. A local promoter took her to Theodore's which she billed as a Bar/Antique Store. "The more you drank, the more you bought," she laughed.

In addition to her summer tour in *Music of the Night*, Melissa is currently composing the score for Walt Disney's next animated feature, *Lady and the Tramp, Part II*. She has also adapted the novel *I Sent a Letter to My Love* into a musical which is slated to premiere in early 1997. Considering her track record, it will undoubtedly be successful. Manchester appears in Andrew Lloyd Weber—*Music of the Night* from July 23 to July 28 at the Brown Theater. For information call 629-3700.

Final Regional Meeting of NAMES Project

The final Central Regional DC 96 host chairperson meeting was held in Houston this last weekend. Chairs of the finance, fundraising, volunteer, outreach, education, media, merchandise, ceremonies and logistics met with National NAMES Project representatives from San Francisco at a two day conference at the Houston Hobby Hilton Hotel.

The Quilt Display volunteer count increased greatly over the weekend as Southwest Airlines cut the round-trip air fare to \$106.00, however the Central Region is still in need of 500 additional volunteers to cover the many duties for the three day event in Wash-

ington from Oct. 11-13.

Four Houston organizations have now been selected by the national NAMES Project Foundation to serve as quilt unfolders in Washington. The new additions, The NAMES Project Houston, captained by Lisa Gutierrez and The University of Houston Clear Lake, captained by Christy Burchette, join The Bering Community Service Foundation, captained by its Director of Development and Outreach Stacie Cokinos and the PWA Coalition of Houston's Volunteer Program at the Thomas Street Clinic, captained by PWACH Executive President Raymond West.

HOUSTON

VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Fired Waiter Says He Didn't Write Letter

FROM DEAN MONROE

Regarding the 'Charlie's Controversy,' I am not trying to add fuel to the fire, but rather am trying to end it. I did not write the letter to the Voice that was printed in the July 5th issue, but many people believe that I did. I have lost my job, feel that I was slandered, and have been badly hurt as a result.

I ask that the person who is responsible to come forward. That will let the public and my accusers know that I was not the author.

AFH Thanks Krewe

FROM SARA SPEER SELBER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. would like to publicly acknowledge The Krewe of Olympus Texas, Inc., The Diana Foundation and The Four Seasons Club for their generosity in purchasing a new van for Stone Soup.

Stone Soup, AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.'s food pantry, usually receives donations of food, toiletries and household supplies. On June 29th, however, Stone Soup received a new cargo van thanks to a generous donation from three charitable organizations. The van was "dedicated" on June 29, 1996 at Stone Soup (608 Westheimer) with

members from all three organizations taking part in the ceremony.

The primary goal of Stone Soup Food Assistance Program is to provide non-perishable and perishable food items as well as toiletry items to HIV symptomatic individuals. Thanks in a large part to the generosity of Houstonians, Stone Soup is able to provide no cost food and toiletry items to over 1000 qualified clients on a regular basis throughout the year.

Once again, a sincere thank you to The Krewe of Olympus Texas, Inc., The Diana Foundation and The Four Seasons Club for their tremendous support.

Voting Libertarian

FROM JAMES PARTSCH-GALVAN

I will be voting Libertarian come November, and I urge everyone to do the same. Every Libertarian vote sends a message to Washington that we demand equal marriage rights.

Iceland recently became the 4th European country to legalize Gay marriages. Why is the USA so far behind? Because we have allowed the Democrats and Republicans to take our votes for granted. They are not the only game in town anymore as the age of the two-party system is over. Everyone should support true liberty in November by voting Libertarian.

Personal Outlook

Why Can't We Get Along?

By MISSY GAY

It's hard enough having to deal with ignorance and discrimination from society without having to deal with a gay man's dislike of Lesbians. I'm also aware that not all gay men show such a resistance to lesbians. Still, I suspect I'll receive negative feedback from a large number of gay men, but I'm approaching this issue in a respectable and rational way; therefore, I deserve to have my opinion heard and taken into consideration.

I hope gay men will, at least, try to understand my point of view.

This regards to the constant pangs caused by an ignorant society's discrimination. It's important for all gay men and women to unite and help each other continue to survive the hatred. The discrimination is devastating, but it's even more devastating when our own "family" members have taken actions against us.

As a young, newly-out lesbian, I'm incredibly disappointed in men who make women feel unwanted in gay clubs and facilities. My girlfriend and I recently encountered rude and uninviting service from a desk clerk at a local inn. When we asked for directions to the inn, the clerk responded with an annoyed sarcasm, "For gay men only." The clerk could have merely explained that the inn was for gay men only in a respectable manner rather than reply so distasteful and inconsiderate.

Gay men may outnumber the women, but our suffrage and need for gay-friendly environments are the same. A gay male only inn implies that gay women are not seen equally by gay men. This inequality can be seen and felt by Lesbians in other places, too.

One popular bar has seldom visits by lesbians; I can attest to this simply because on my several visits, I've only seen less than a handful of women. Other women agree that the atmosphere is unwelcoming to women especially when men

give stern looks and gestures towards us.

At another club I frequently visit, I've experienced the negative tension between gay men and women. Because the restrooms are unisex, I thought it was appropriate for me to use the men's restrooms since men always use the women's restroom. Men who lacked the courage to approach me face to face, commented while I was in the stall, with sassy tones, "Damn fish."

The obvious answer to this problem would be not to go to these places, but I enjoy being in environments where I can be open. This feeling is the reason the bars and clubs are opened in the first place. If I can't go to a gay-friendly club and feel welcomed, then the idea of gay-friendly loses its value.

I've often wondered why gay men show little tolerance to women. Although I have theories about why, I have no definite answers. Gay men should not feel threatened when a woman enters a men's restroom because the need for the facility isn't to interfere in what they're doing. They also shouldn't feel intolerant to women when they enter a bar or club because women aren't a threat of competition for any of their prospects.

We as homosexuals, try to become a part of society, we isolate ourselves just the same. Gay men want to be in "their" group. Gay women want to be in their group as well. Homosexuals, men and women, should be more inclusive rather than destructive of their own community members.

The Pride Parade was a celebration for all members of the community. We were celebrating our independence and survival in a society that breeds hatred. If we can't tolerate each other than we should not expect bigots and racists to do so either.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Missy Gay is a pseudonym for the author of this article. The Houston Voice wants to know your Personal Outlook. Submissions may be sent to 811 Westheimer #105, Houston, TX 77006.

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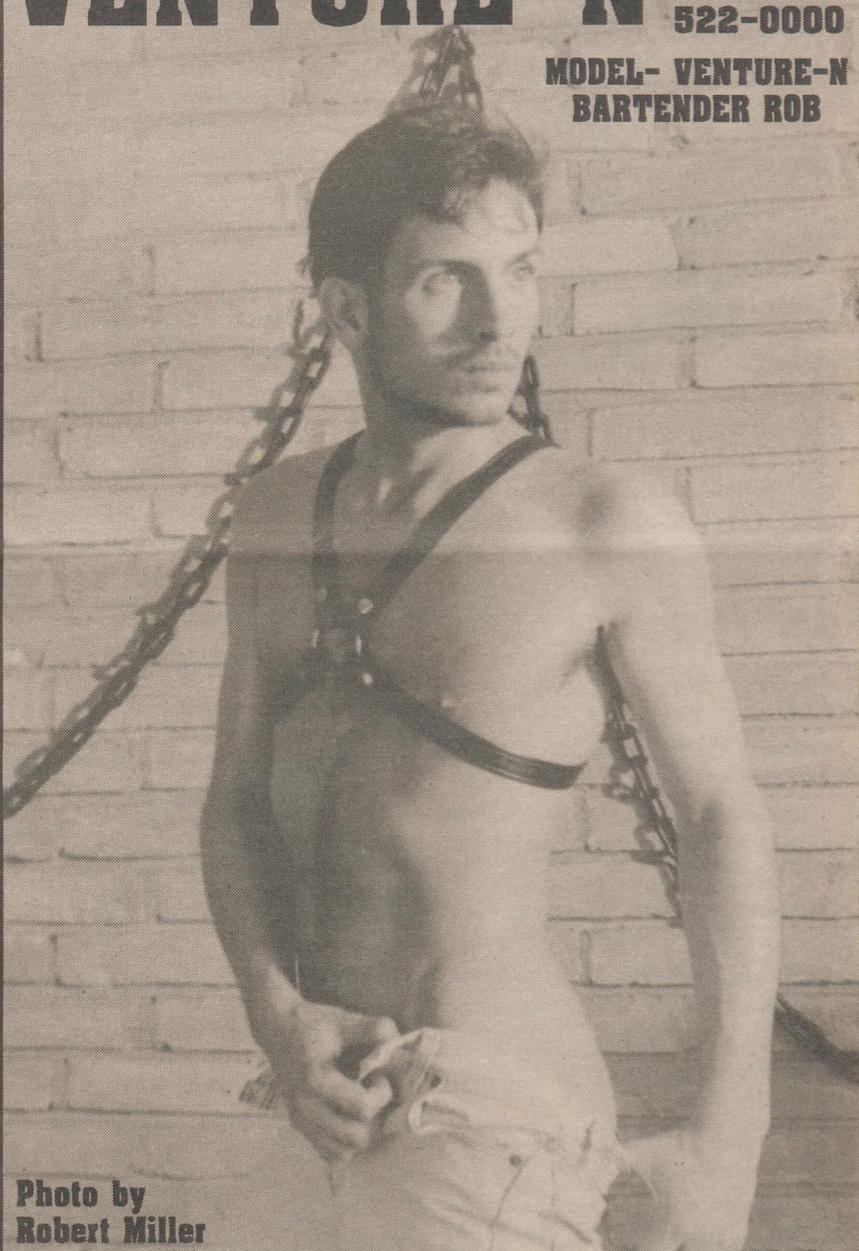


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Houston Area Bears - 5:00pm till ??

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, July 19

* 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 p.m. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Art Classes at AIDS Foundation Houston at 1:00 p.m. 526-1118.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. 527-1348.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. 528-SAFE.

* Free spaying and neutering at 612 E. Canion. 522-2337

* Dog show at Astro Hall. 1-800-884-2443.

* LiB (Lesbians in Business) meets at 6:00 p.m. 529-0077.

* Beehive, the 60s Musical Sensation at Miller Outdoor. 520-3290.

* Holistic Solutions for AIDS, Cancer, or Chronic Fatigue at 7:30 p.m. 492-6077.

Saturday, July 20

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

* After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.

* Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. 780-4282.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. 528-SAFE.

* Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 a.m. 583-8408.

* Bondage workshop by the National Leather Association: Houston at 2:00 p.m. 528-2850.

* Houston Happy Hikers walk the Med Center. 665-2663.

* Beehive, the 60s Musical Sensation at Miller Outdoor. 520-3290.

* Book signing-Tim Hemlin and Richard Barre at Murder by the Book. 1:00 p.m. 524-8597.

* Free HIV testing at Rich's 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

* International Vancouver Conference on AIDS Updates. 961-7100.

Sunday, July 21

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

* The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. 529-8571.

* FrontRunners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. 522-8021.

* HATCH meets. 942-7002.

* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. 522-9612.

* Rainbow Riders go for a ride. 869-1686.

* Out in Ft. Bend meets. 344-0638.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 a.m. 537-1348.

* Houston Area Bears' monthly meeting at the BRB at 4:00 p.m. 867-9123.

* Houston Outdoor Group's social and pool party. 529-2691.

* LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty) meets at 2:00 p.m. 661-1482.

* African American Lesbian Gay Alliance meets at 5:30 p.m. 864-2242.

* Beehive, the 60s Musical Sensation at Miller Outdoor. 520-3290.

* MWMT-Minority & White Men Together's 1st mixer. 867-9511.

Monday, July 22

* Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 p.m.

* Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. 861-6181.

* HeartSong open rehearsal at the First Unitarian Church at 7:00 p.m. 947-1488.

* Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. 529-1223.

* Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. 539-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. 529-0037.

* Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. 529-0037.

* Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* AIDS Foundation Houston's Creative Writing Class meets at 3:00 p.m. 623-6796.

* Log Cabin Republicans meet at 7:00 p.m. 529-9100.

* Beehive, the 60s Musical Sensation at Miller Outdoor. 520-3290.

Tuesday, July 23

* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 p.m. 495-8009.

* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.

* Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 p.m. 488-4492.

* Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.

* PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7:00 p.m. 520-7870.

* Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Center. 8:00 p.m. 520-2083.

* Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Survivors of loss support group meets at 8:30 p.m. 778-2677.

* FrontRunners meet at 6:30 p.m. 522-8021.

* Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.

* Free spaying and neutering at 170 Heights. 522-2337.

* AIDS Equity League meets at noon at Charlie's. 529-9966.

* Beehive, the 60s Musical Sensation at Miller Outdoor. 520-3290.

Wednesday, July 24

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 p.m.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 p.m. 537-1348.

* Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.

* GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. 743-7539.

* Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees. 7:00 p.m. 867-9581.

* Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. 537-1348.

* Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 p.m. 933-5818.

* Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250

* Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Women's Action Coalition (WAC) meets at 7:00 p.m. 867-9581.

* HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m. 782-4050.

* AVES offers free HIV testing at 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Bi-Net of Houston meets at 7:00 p.m. 467-4380.

* Beehive, the 60s Musical Sensation at Miller Outdoor. 520-3290.

* Ask the Experts About Asset Allocation seminar at 5:30 p.m. 869-1144.

Thursday, July 25

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Venture-N. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

* Art Labs at The Art League. 1:00 p.m. 225-9411

* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. 522-8021.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. 521-7464.

* Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. 531-9396.

* KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. 866-6505.

* Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. 622-7250.

* Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 p.m. 528-3704.

* HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. 529-0037.

* Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 p.m. 942-0923.

* HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 p.m. 796-2272.

* Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. 782-4050

* Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 738-RACE.

* Book collection seminar at Murder by the Book. 6:00 p.m. 467-4280.

* Eating Right for the Health of It workshop at 7:00 p.m. 623-6796.

* Dollars and Sense: Money and Other Matters at 7:00 p.m. 524-2374.

* Houston Outdoor Group's monthly meeting. KAM-POUT.

* Safer Sex for Lesbians at Ms. B's at 9:30 p.m. 666-3464.

* Beehive, the 60s Musical Sensation at Miller Outdoor. 520-3290.

**Ever bungee jump
off a bar stool?**



**Experience the hot, then cool taste
of After Shock™ at your favorite bars.**

An inside look at M-Bar

By DEBORAH BELL

The neon clock with hands frozen at 12:30 has come down from the building formerly known as Tila's at the corner of Westheimer and Crocker. The Montrose Civic Association has a welcoming sign hung down the street in what will be one of the parking lots used by the new M-Bar. The architectural model is on display and licenses and permits have been secured. So what is all the fuss about? General Manager Lonnie Allsbrooks and owner Ken McIntyre sure would like to know the answer to that one. Last week The Houston Voice reported on the protest brought before City Council by members of The Avondale Association, this week we hear from the representatives of M-Bar.

Lonnie Allsbrooks, who manages Rich's and who will also be the manager of the new bar commented on the City Council Meeting. "First of all, in answer to the charges that they were not notified prior to the permits being issued is simply not true," Lonnie states in a somewhat baffled tone. "Ken (McIntyre) met with members of the association (Avondale) a good three months ago to review the plans, including association President Michael Thomas and Ed Gonzales. At that time, upon review of the plans by architect Sander Steinberg, the group indicated their support for the project. Yet they charged at the city council meeting that the liquor license was obtained improperly, when in fact a law firm was hired to handle the whole process to make sure every matter was handled as it should be," he explains. He addressed several points in response to the charges that have been made, they include:

The building in question has been vacant for seven years and the plans for the renovation essentially make it a new building; They expect the same high clientele for M-bar as they have at Rich's. There will in fact be a shuttle provided between the two clubs; This has been a carefully planned business endeavor which includes paved parking lots, proper lighting and consideration for safety and noise levels.

In response to neighborhood concerns regarding litter and broken glass McIntyre explains that Rich's crew does a clean-up of the area around the bar after closing and M-Bar's staff will be expected to have a trash pick-up nightly as well.

Charges that there would be "rooftop dancing" are ludicrous on two counts—there will be no access to the roof and no dance floor for the bar is planned, as it will be a video bar. There will be an enclosed "patio" area overlooking Westheimer. There will not be go-go dancers or porn stars as implied by the protesters.

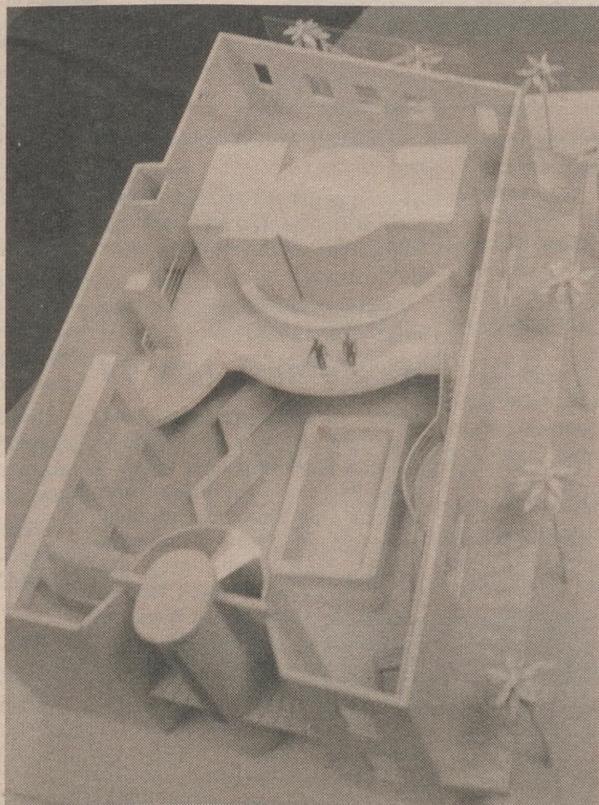
Just as Rich's has been a venue for community charity fundraisers, so too will be M-Bar. Allsbrook emphasizes that "We

intend to be good neighbors."

Other businesses that serve alcohol that have or will open along Westheimer have not met with the same level of neighborhood concern. The old Houston Sign Co. was transformed into Slick Willie's Pool Hall and the former Studio 13 is slated to open as a new bar "Rascals." Of course these establishments don't border Avondale. One of the claims made at the council meeting was that the city might lose tax revenues because Avondale properties were in the \$300,000 range and the bar would jeopardize (lower) property values. The city might want to check to make sure the tax assessments are in line with the \$300,000 claim to ensure that all the properties are taxed at that level.

When asked if other business owners might be instigators of the protests due to fear of competition, Allsbrooks responds, "Not everyone understands what is going on, or who is behind these protests and it makes one think that there is something more to it, but we feel like we have at least 80% of the area residents and businesses with us." He said he has heard that some people think there is something behind the protests that isn't readily being brought to the fore. He adds that they are set to take the contract bids for the construction phase with the club slated to open in the Fall. Originally, a Spring of 1996 opening was planned. The protests may cause delays but "If they think we are going to stop, they're wrong," he promises.

"It really should enhance the area," says owner Ken McIntyre as he proudly displays the scale model of what the building will look like after renovation. A serious financial investment is being made which he claims is also in the best interest of the community. Rumors have it that the city is planning to make a major investment (\$22 Million) in the revitalizing of the "Lower Westheimer Museum District" as part of the overall plan to make sure the city is competitive in keeping current and drawing more large conventions. The plans for M-Bar are in line with the proposed plans.



Patrons will enter through a 2 story "tower" to enjoy M-Bar. Palm Trees will line Westheimer and Crocker Streets.

WE TAKE TIPS!

Your HOUSTON VOICE appreciates your news lead or feature story ideas. Call us (best time: Thursday or Friday) at 529-8490 (Fax: 529-9531).

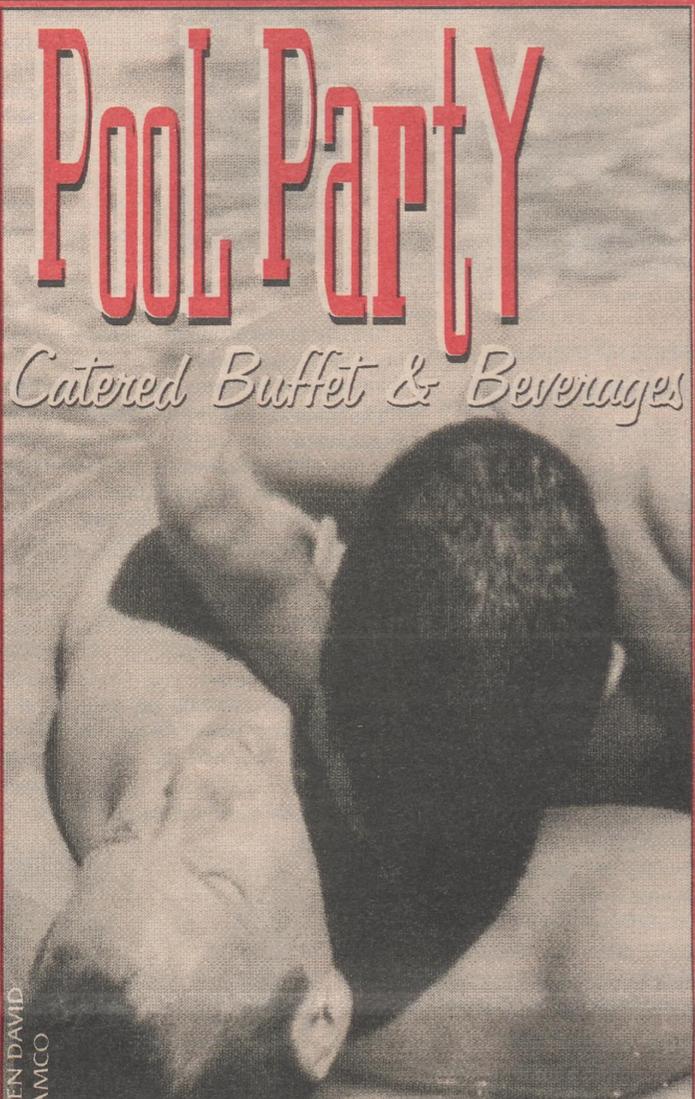
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photo by: STEVEN DAVID
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Christmas in July?



The organizers of Christmas Carnival in July at the BRB

Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS
Past Events

Congrats to the gang that put on the Christmas Carnival in July this past Sunday at the Brazos River Bottom. Over \$1,100 was raised to be donated to the LVL PWA Holiday Fund. Keep in mind that this fundraiser continues all month at participating bars that are hanging holiday thoughts for a dollar.

Rich's was full of the holiday spirit for the Christmas in July party this past Sunday! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Over 300 people went thru the doors of Martin's Gallery this past Saturday for the opening of "Introducing." Stop in the gallery and check out this show!

The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star has moved their home bar to Chances!

Friday, July 19

The guys and gals of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star are guest bartending tonight "top" side at the Venture-N. They sash up the stairs starting at 9:00 pm.

Miss Zack, Kara Dion, and Mark-Mr. Cousin's '94 are on the stage of Cousin's tonight! The curtain rises at 11:00 pm.

Friday fore play feels frisky at Pacific Street. The doors open at 7:00 pm with no cover until 9:00 pm. Pacific Street, where real men still dance.

There is a league member's only 8-ball tournament tonight at the Lazy J.

Another zany show for charity is tonight at Chances. Empress Ruby Stone and Emperor Jim Halbert are doing it again! "Heaven Help Us!" prays on stage at 9:00 pm.

Saturday, July 20

Krewe of Olympus Party presents its Second Annual Bastille Day Party "Let 'em Eat Cake," 4527 West Alabama-\$10 donation-Cash Bar-hors d'oeuvres-deserts, 7:00 pm -10:00 pm. Benefits Krewe of Olympus & its charities.



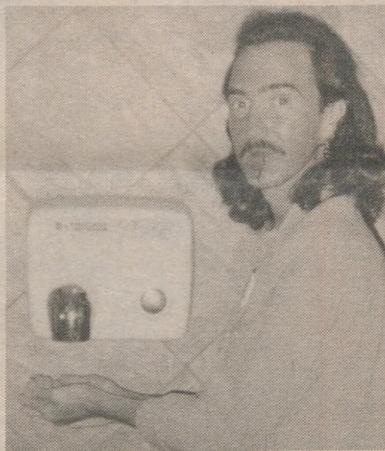
Marlene (Chances) and grandbaby Danni

The PastTime Packers are having a garage sale at Chances today starting at 8:00 am.

The Brotherhood of Pain and the Ripcord invite you to a demonstration. "Explploring the SM Lifestyle" is on the back patio of the Ripcord tonight at 10:00 pm.

To hell with your lawn! Don't spend the afternoon washing your car! Head to Gentry for the TGRA car wash from 11:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Chill out at Gentry this afternoon with \$1.50 well cocktails and \$1.75 domestic beers until 7:00 pm. Want to get hot? Stick around for the Boy Toy dancers. They take the stage at 9:00 p.m.

Work out, lay out or just hang out at



At least this bathroom has soap

the Club Houston. Today and tomorrow afternoon from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, you can enjoy a catered pool side buffet with refreshing beverages!

Scrub-a-Stud! This once a month fundraiser at the Venture-N is always good clean fun! This is a fund raiser for the Colt 45s Stone Soup!

Hostess Patsi Kline takes the stage tonight at the Lazy J. Join Patsi and her special guest Diane Jackson for this 10:30 pm show. There might even be a few surprise guests who show up!

The star studded super show at E/J's tonight features MC Tara Dion and her guests Black Velvet, Brandon, LaWanda Jackson, and the winner from the talent night contest. The spotlight shines at 11:00 pm.

Midtowne Spa is having a "Garage: an Evening of Leather and Levis" party tonight starting at 10:00 pm. There will be a fully equipped dungeon and tons of other stuff to play with. Rooms for that night will be \$16, lockers \$11, and video rooms are \$21.

Is it true that Bacchus II has nearly naked women dancers on Saturday nights? I better check this out!

Head out to the Trading Post Ice House and beat the heat with \$1 draft and \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night! Bring your own darts, or

use a house set!

Join Miss Zack, Kara Dion, Erica Lane, and Debbie Delicious tonight at Cousin's. The show starts at 11:00 pm.

Sunday, July 21

There is a "Bear Auction" tonight at the Venture-N. The Houston Area Bears will be guest bartending at 5:00 pm, then at 8:00 pm, MC Anita Mann takes the stage to find homes for some "Bears."

The Brazos River Bottom's Sunday shows are always full of talented entertainers. This week Jamie Roberts, candidate for Miss TGRA '97, is presenting "Storybook Theater," benefiting the Loving Arms Foundation. Show time is 8:00 pm, but go early and hungry for those hot hunks o' beef steaks on the patio grill from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

Res Erection Sunday at Heaven will be a religious experience when the infamous Tommie Ross takes the stage. Join Tommie and MCs Kofi and Kourtney Van Wales for this show! Eighteen and up are always welcome at Heaven!

Spend your Sundays at the Montrose Mining Company! Enjoy the double bust (beer or Ritas) and listen to heart pounding trash disco! The men, the music, the Mine!

The "Chocolate Covered Cherries" band rocks and rolls the stage at Chances this afternoon at 4:00



Guarding the door at Rich's for Christmas in July

Monday madness at BerryHill II! Join in the Karaoke contest and maybe you might win \$50!

Tuesday, July 23

Who will be the new Mr. Houston All-American '96? Join host Brian Keever and his guests Mr. Houston All-American '95 Allen Gibson and Mr. Texas All-American '96 David Ponton for this 9:00 pm contest at Pacific Street.

On the corner of Westheimer and Waugh

There's a bar where you'll drop your jaw

\$2 Cuervo all day and all night
Drink more than 10 and you'll loose

Karaoke, too! The spotlight shines at 9:30 pm.

11:00 pm! Gentry! Male Strip! Fall in love with the "Two of Hearts" tonight at BerryHill II. The band takes the stage at 8:00 pm.

Wednesdays at Mela's Tejano Country feature the talents of Susan Maser. There is a \$2 cover charge starting at 7:00 p.m.

Professional women meet at Bacchus II this and every Wednesday night for a free buffet at 6:00 pm and drink specials that last all night long!

Thursday, July 25

There is free and confidential HIV testing and counseling tonight at the Venture-N. This is done by the staff of the Montrose Clinic.

Nancy (Bite Me!) Ford is on the stage of Ms. B's tonight with her ever so strange comedy act. Stop in and you will find your self rolling on the floor laughing!

It is burger night on the patio of the Brazos River Bottom. The grill is lit from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. You can also take free C&W dance lessons starting at 9:30 pm. They also have really cheap drink prices until 11:00 pm. The BRB, your "Montrose Country" home!

Steaks and such are on the menu tonight at the 611 Hyde Park Pub. The grill glows from 6:00 pm to 9:00 p.m.

Marilyn "Flauta" Marx brings the stage to life tonight at E/J's. Join Marilyn and her guests Paivi Lee Love, Lana Blake, Blanca DeBris, and Susan Maser for this 11:00 pm show.

It is Ladies' night at Incognito! Some of Houston's hottest female entertainers are on the stage starting at 11:00 pm.

Something different for lunch today! Stop in the Trading Post Ice House and CJ will make you up one of her yummy sandwiches!

What is going on at the Outpost tonight? Stop in and find out!

Have a new act? Try it out at Cousin's tonight! You might win the \$50 cash prize!



Jeff (HAB) in his favorite position



Party Pals

Head down to Incognito tonight for their super Sunday show. MC Cookie LaCook and her guests as they light up the stage. The door to Incognito open at 6:00 pm. There is no cover with a canned goods donation and 75¢ well cocktails before 10:00 pm. The show starts promptly at 11:00 pm.

Sundays are for drag at Cousin's. Miss Zack, Tara Dion, Leah Halston, and Sivi Ross grace the stage starting at 11:00 pm.

Monday, July 22

Cruise into Gentry after work and enjoy "Social Club" prices until 7:00 pm. The Boy Toy dancers heat up the place starting at 9:00 pm.

Domestic longnecks are only a buck tonight at Mary's, naturally from 8:00 pm to 11:00 p.m.

Paivi Lee Love welcomes Jamie Lennox back from LaCage tonight at the 11:00 pm male strip contest at E/J's.

Did you know that the Briar-Patch's Clint really is a good singer as well as piano player? He sure has been smiling lots lately. I hear he has been trading piano lessons for Cuervo lessons! Move over, Wayne!

The Club Houston has 1/2 price lockers today from noon until midnight. So for just \$5.50 you can use the entire facility! This special is also good on Thursdays! What a bargain!

your sight

And forget what you did and you saw

It is time for the "Chat-n-Chew" party at Gentry. The pizza is hot at 7:00 pm and the Boy Toys are hotter at 9:00 pm.

Twister Video Tuesdays are truly twisted at the Ripcord!

Wednesday, July 24

There's no tunes like show tunes. This and every Wednesday join in the show tunes sing along at J.R.'s Video Bar. Enjoy the thrill of your favorite sing along numbers and camp classics from Broadway, movies, television, plus see rarely seen video footage. You can suck down \$1.50 frozen Ritas and \$1.50 Miller products!

"Drink 'till He is Cute" Wednesdays continue at Mary's, naturally with drink specials that run all day and all night. If you have not yet been tested for HIV, you can get free and anonymous testing by the Montrose Clinic today from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

The Brazos River Bottom has \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day and all night this and every Wednesday! Scoot down and have a cold one at the BRB!

Sheila Lennon draws a crowd at Chances this and every Wednesday night! You can join in the fun with

Ice Cold Sponges in MY face!



Jason and James party at Rich's

Other Important Stuff

We welcome Affresco Restaurant and Bar to our family of advertisers. They are located in the old Dream Merchant location. Lunch starts at \$4.95 and dinner from \$7.95. I've eaten there twice and love it. They have several items on the menu for non-meat eaters like me! Stop in and tell them you saw their ad in the Houston Voice. It is on page 6.

Check this out! There is a new Web site (WWW.USA.GAYNET.COM) on line. They are working on a new Gay soap opera called "Fatal Beauty." They are having a model search at E/J's on Aug. 4. These models will have their face/bodies associated with the characters in the soap opera. Gaynet is looking for 7 males, of average looks, (this is NOT a beauty contest) for this show. They are also working on another soap opera to be released later this year. If you are interested, contact them at the above Web site, or call Ken at 781-3122 or 1-888-2GAYNET. Good luck!

More fun things will be happening at E/J's. On August 10, the Miss Gay Bayou City US of A Pageant and on August 11, the world premier of "Maria Montez, a Legend in her Own Mind" takes the stage. This show stars Ruth Aguliar! More details at a later date.

It is almost here! 800 Pacific is Garden Party central! The party starts early with 99¢ well Vodka juice drinks from noon until 11:00 pm at J.R.'s Video Bar which offers a bird's eye view as Heaven rolls out the red carpet to welcome Garden Party 21-The Hooker's Ball. This benefits the Colt 45s Stone Soup Fund and their AIDS Trouble Fund. Advance tickets are available at Basic Brothers (\$25) and at the door (\$30). Additionally, non-perishable food donations for AFH's Stone Soup food pantry will be graciously accepted at the door! If you would like more info, call 524-1188.

From Hoes to Hoe-Down? Basic Brothers has your Garden Party and Denim Party supplies! Check out the showroom at 1232 Westheimer.

Need a wig or gown for Garden Party? Head over to Jewel's. She is located next to TNT T-shirts on the corner of Taft and Fairview. Tell her you heard about her in the Houston Voice.

The Denim Party is also (as usual) on (the same day at the Garden Party) July 28. Get an invitation from a host member. This annual not-to-be-missed party at the Brazos River Bottom is always a hoot! If you would like more info, call 528-9192.

The reigning Daddy of Montrose, Ken

Claude, is kicking off his candidacy for next years Mr. Prime Choice. He is having a "Nearly Naked" car wash on August 10, 10:00 am. in front of the Ripcord! This is a benefit for Steven's House.

The Montrose Clinic is now offering a women's health clinic every Wednesday, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The fee is \$40, but no one will be turned away. Visits include a complete examination by a Gynecologist, lab work, medication, and referral if needed. For more info and appointments, call 520-2000.

You can get a professional video of this year's Pride Parade. Call 902-2231. It is only \$19.96 and the sale benefits the Pride Committee and the AIDS Housing Coalition.

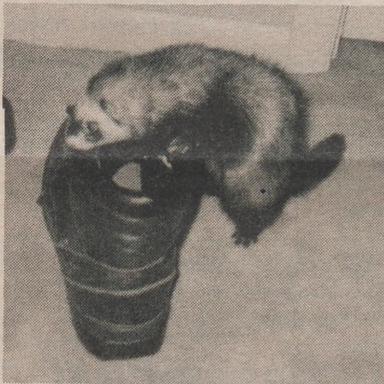
The Houston Area Bears are having a weekend party August 9, 10, and 11. Call the Bear line at 867-9123 for more info.

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Forbidden Love" and "Dick Undercover."

The BriarPatch has been hopping all summer. Good drinks and a great atmosphere make the BriarPatch the place where extraordinary friendships begin!

Mark your calendar for July 26! The 800 Pacific presents k.d.lang night! See k.d.'s videos and register to win one of 15 pairs of tickets to see her at the Woodlands on July 29. You can register at any of the 800 Pacific clubs. There will be hourly drawings from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am at J.R.'s and midnight drawings at Heaven and the Montrose Mining Company.

Poor Super Man



Ratrat attacks one of Lazer Wizard's size 13 EEEE boots!

You better hurry! This weekend is sold out, and there are only a few remaining tickets for next weekend! This is a must see play at Theater Lab! Call 868-7516! Do it NOW!

Birthday Corner

A happy whipped birthday to Steve Chaison.

A happy warm and fuzzy birthdays to David T. and Jon M. of the Houston Area Bears.

A happy birthday to JoAnne of the BRB.

A happy swizzle stick birthday to Sean of Gentry.

Sponges In My Face!

I would like to thank the participants at the Christmas Carnival in July who took their hard earned money and spent it to pay little ol' me back! Special icy cold hugs to Mark,

Thomas, Dan, Norm, Gale of the Colt 45s, Don Dowden, Diane of TGRA, Jim, Barbara (I can't hit the broad side of a barn) Walker, Steve Chaison of NLA:H, Charles of Bacchus II, Rick of HAB, and finally to Jeff of HAB! The first 5 or 6 sponges in the face were not that bad, but Jeff's (HAB) enthusiasm for this particular sport was overwhelming. Special thanks to those sponge tossers that purchased me my favorite refreshing beverages to help ease the torture! The things "We" do for charity!

Rodent Droppings

I went to my first Houston Ferret Owners Association meet this past Saturday! Boy, did I learn a lot! I did not know that Ratrat had tattooed ears! I just thought it was weird! Also, it is absolutely impossible for a ferret and a possum to mate, so now I don't know what kind a ferret Harvey is! He is way too big to be just a ferret, and with his coloring, we may never know! I will be switching vets! They all loved the photos of Ratrat in his little sailor hat! It was a real mix of people, all races, ages, etc. When I mentioned that I work for a local newspaper, the woman I was talking to (Margaret the originator of the club. See ad on page 18), who lives in the Woodlands immediately knew the type of newspaper I work for and admitted to picking up a copy every time she goes to Whole Foods! Boy, was I shocked! Who says the Woodlands is not gay friendly!

Lots of scooping from the litter box this week! Disclaimer is in force, like you did not know!

Brandon (The Club): So you are Princess Miss Marks-a-lot, Little Miss Can't be Wrong! It was sure nice to meet you!



Ice cold sponge on its way to MY face!

Jayne (hangs at Chances): Or is it Kimberly?

Michael Gates (TGRA): And I quote: "I have a big hole, so don't move!"

Wiley (Montrose Clinic & Chances): So, you will do anything to be in a bar where men are drinking? And I hear that when you shave your beard off you look like a honeydew melon with eyebrows!

John Holland: I have a special message from Rickydon! "Thank-you and I love you!"

Lady Victoria Lust, Wendy Chicago, Tommie Sue Ellen (BRB), and Kody (Chances): You all went to the barber on the same day! Love the new dos!

Ron (Venture-N): Do you have an off switch? And I hear you shave your private parts so you don't feel like peach fuzz!

Rickydon (Chances): Welcome to Chances!

Papa Del (Gentry): Understand you had a long way to go from the stage to the floor.

JT (BRB): Why is the staff of the BRB calling you "Spudly?" Is it because you are like meat and potatoes, a full meal deal?

Miss Montrose: Are you really a drag queen, or just an old queen who has been dragged, dragged, dragged by her heels over a very rough road?

Overheard at Chances: "I'm just like the golden arches, I have "Over One Billion Served" knotted on my headboard!"

Jessica Van Shelton: How much does it cost to mail 4 manila envelopes each stuffed with 100 votes for "Entertainer of the Year?"

Jeriel (The Club): I hear that you like receiving oral sex from a pierced tongue!



Tiffany and David

Michael (Venture-N): When do you get the Nancy Sinatra white go-go boots to go with your Barbie outfit?

Darla K. (hangs at Gentry): Why hasn't John called? Is it because he is in school or because you've been holding school with Matt?

Shelby St. John and Day Leigh Edwards: Did I hear right? You two are going to get your nipples pierced? My, my! Won't they show through the evening gowns you wear?

Woody (BRB): I hear you have a new boyfriend. Someone mailed you to a hand puppet!

Dave (hangs at Gentry): The measurements were 36-26-?? When do we get that third number?

Diva Damion Deluxe (The Club Houston): What? No dirt on you this week?

Big Mike (BRB): Is it true that you owe your magnificent figure to Frederick's "Wonder Butt" foundation garment?

Michael M. (hangs everywhere, as handsome as you are): So, you will wait in line for the Ladies' room only if someone tells you too!

Eric (Gentry): There will be rings on certain appendages if it is for real!

Ray M. (hangs everywhere): I hear that you brought a new addition into your stable; and this one has his own candy suckers!

Lady Lee (hangs everywhere): I hear someone (Larry Wayne) bought you a house warming present-toilet articles. Maybe now you can get a trick!

Spike (hangs at the Mine): Vera misses you! Have you reinforced your bar stool suction cup yet?

Vera (BRB): I understand that you had a 3-way! You, your hand, and the remote!

Vanna (RSICSS): And I quote: "Power tools and I don't get along!"

Animal (BRB): You and Tommie Sue Ellen (BRB) were sucking what at Gentry? Did you give Molly (BRB) some?

Vicki (hangs at Chances): I stand corrected, you are sleeping double in a queen size bed!

Rene Monroe: Be careful of how many buttons you pop on a man's jeans. We do have nudity laws here in Houston!

Monkey Man: I have a message for you from Kitty: "I Love you!"

TTFN

Cuervolyn



Sean of Gentry dilates to accommodate



Montrose Softball League donates \$1000 to Soiree Aubergine

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pressure of a fast-paced, customer oriented deli in the historic Heights. We provide excellent hours and working atmosphere. Call Doug Scott at 864-3354 for an appointment. **CARTER & COOLEY COMPANY.**

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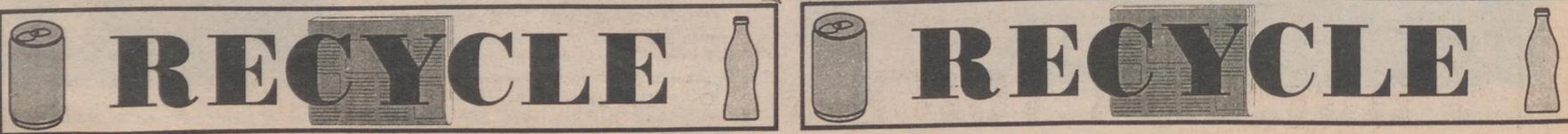
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MediAlert

By Al Kielwasser

The Not Ready For Prime Time Players

On June 28, MTV broke new broadcast ground when the network included same-sex couples on its popular dating game show, "Singled Out." As with other media milestones, however, this advance was marked by a simultaneous retreat. MTV canceled the show's usual prime-time broadcast. Instead, the program was shown four hours later—at 11:00 p.m. Moreover, the broadcast was a one-time deal. Whereas regular (heterosexual) episodes of "Singled Out" are repeated several times during the week, the homosexual episode was aired only once.

In an interview for the Associated Press (June 27), MTV spokesperson Tina Exarhos attempted to explain the network's extraordinary scheduling. "There was some content we felt should air at a later time," Exarhos said. "It has absolutely nothing to do with outside pressure from any group. We're proud to present the show, and we're doing it during Gay Pride week." Of course, by "some content" Exarhos meant "homosexual content"—any homosexual content. The episode did not, after all, differ in any other way from previous

broadcasts of "Singled Out."

Privately, MTV staff have challenged the network's official explanation. According to one employee, the 7:00 p.m. broadcast was actually preempted because several "advertisers, led by McDonald's, backed out." A spokesperson for NAYA bottled water—one of "Singled Out's" regular sponsors—publicly took exception to MTV's preemptive strike, however. "It looks like censorship, and you don't expect that from MTV," said Steve Wasik, NAYA's vice president and general manager.

Of course, relegating Lesbian and Gay subjects to fringe time slots is hardly without precedent in other mainstream media. Most recently, ABC booted an episode of "Roseanne," simply because it contained a gay wedding scene. According to ABC's (double) standards and practices department, such "adult content" was not suitable for young viewers.

MTV's decision is especially discouraging, though. As Wasik suggested, this network has made more of an effort than most to include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender content. Queer themes have not only appeared in MTV's music video rotations, but also in the network's "Sex in the 90's" documentaries, "MTV News" reports, and every incarnation of "The

Real World." (See "Real Sex," below).

In deciding to relocate the Lesbian and Gay episode of "Singled Out," MTV capitulated to one of the most regressive programming assumptions. In the dominant entertainment media, queers are consistently (if not exclusively) presumed to be something of "special interest." Often, homosexual subjects are treated as if they can (or should) appeal ONLY to homosexuals. Clearly, this was MTV's assumption.

Most of the promotional energy for "Singled Out's" Lesbian and Gay episode was spent pitching the broadcast to a Lesbian and Gay audience. MTV placed ads for the show in "Out" magazine, which subsequently purchased airtime on MTV. "Out" was conspicuously advertised during the episode, appearing as the irregular sponsor for an irregular broadcast.

Yet, in a pluralistic society, the mass media ought to reflect diverse communities to each other—not only to themselves. Homosexuality is a television "taboo" precisely because the networks systematically treat such themes as essential controversies—"mature subject matter" that "should air at a later time." In the broadcast industry, such heterosexist expectations—of viewer disinterest or disgust—become self-fulfilling prophecies. The networks do not sim-

ply appease an audience of homophobes—they cultivate it. As long as they continue to sequester "general audiences" from homosexuality, the producers of popular entertainment abet a taste for hate.

Real Sex: The latest version of MTV's popular series, "The Real World," premiered on July 10 and features a queer roomie once again. This season, the youthful cast is joined by a gay man from Kansas—Dan—whose sexual orientation is identified in the first episode. In previous seasons, "Real World" casts have included Lesbian, Bisexual and HIV-positive roommates. Real, live queers are also featured in the eighth and most-recent installment of MTV's periodic documentary series—"Sex In The 90's." "Sex In The 90's VIII: Living Together" debuted on July 1, and explores "the complications that arise when couples live together" ("Entertainment Wire," June 25). Included in the mix are Amy and Therese—a young, "chaos free" lesbian couple who live in San Francisco.

ACTION/OPTIONS: The first step in cultivating a general audience for prime-time diversity is simple. *Give it to them.* And don't hide it away. In the past, MTV has demonstrated a capacity (and even the desire) to do better in this regard; the network should be reminded to do so now. Contact: Judy McGrath, President, MTV Networks Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 212-258-8712 or 212-258-8000, fax 212-258-8718, e-mail feedback@mtv.com. MTV is owned by Viacom International; copy your correspondence to Sumner M. Redstone, Viacom International Inc., 1515 Broadway, New York, NY 10036, 212-258-6000.

Briefs

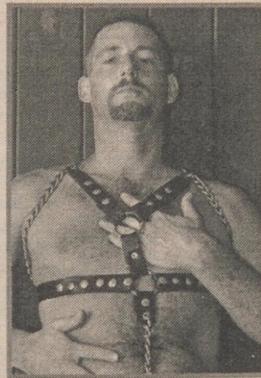
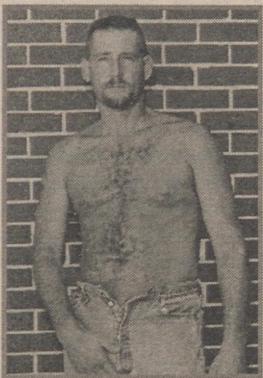
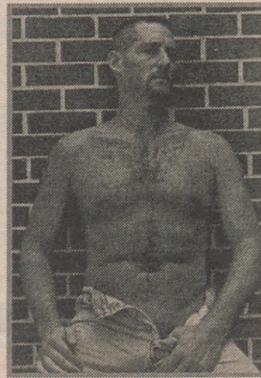
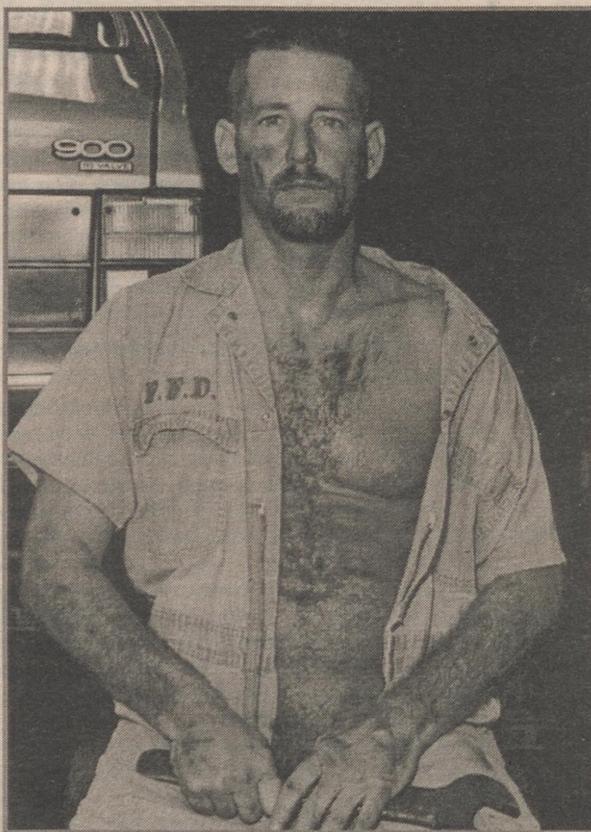
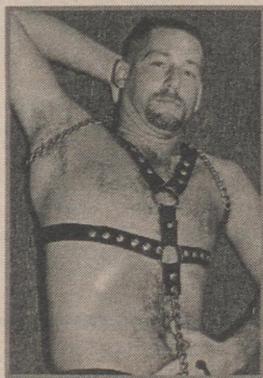
Taking Count: The notion that lesbian and gay teens are "three-times more likely" to attempt suicide (and account for "30 percent of completed suicides each year") has become one of the most frequently *Misquoted* statistics regarding homosexual youth. Journalists—in both the queer and mainstream media—have reported these figures ad nauseam, without regard for the vagaries of statistical research or survey design. While suicide among lesbian and gay youth is not uncommon (and even one death would be one too many), the statistical profiles used to document a high rate of suicide are problematic. Random samples of homosexual youth are difficult—if not impossible—to generate. Most studies of lesbian and gay youth suicide are based on convenience samples of adolescents already involved in various counseling, suicide prevention, and delinquency abatement programs. Certainly, teen suicide (and other consequences of homophobia) deserves the nation's undivided attention. However, it is also possible that—in both popular and academic media—a historic emphasis on the psychosocial problems faced by lesbian and gay youth has frequently obscured any systematic consideration of their particular talents.

We are survivors, after all. Most lesbian and gay adolescents move willfully into adulthood, by virtue of an extraordinarily powerful and creative resilience. At least one psychologist, Gregory Herek, has suggested the need for a shift in the research agenda—to include studies of homosexual youth as *gifted children*. Contact: The "three times more likely" and "30 percent" figures so often cited were originally drawn from a literature review, compiled in 1989 under the auspices of a federal task force (Paul Gibson, "Gay Male and Lesbian Youth Suicide," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office).

Net Notes: "The Internet: What It Can and Can't Do for Activists" is a new resource distributed by Social Justice Connections. For \$4.50, the 12-page booklet promises to "provide perspective beyond the hype." Contact: Social Justice Connections, Dept. 7, P.O. Box 4090, Arlington, VA 22204.

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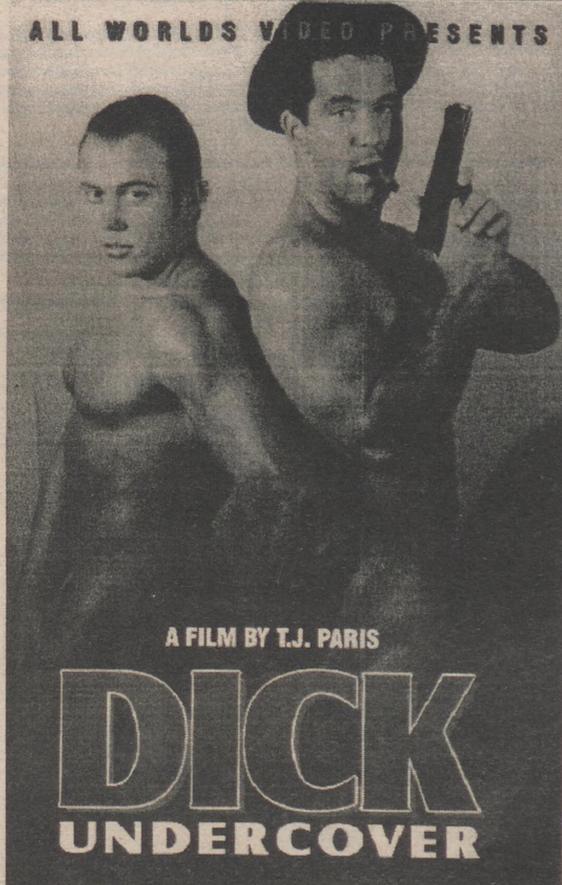
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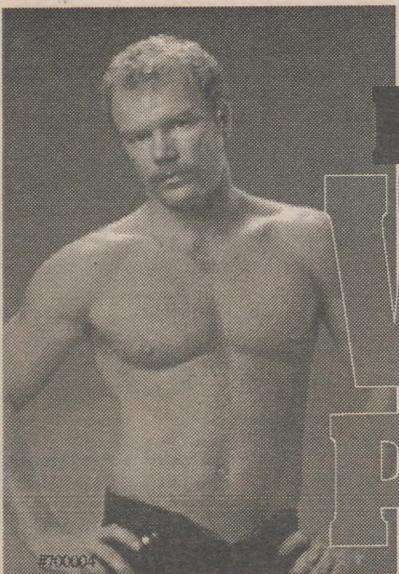
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SF 44, 5'11", 120 lbs. I love animals, gardening, reading & trying new things. I'd like to meet some women, 30-45, in the Houston area, for friendship, hanging out & a possible long-term relationship. No smokers, drugs or heavy drinkers. Call Ext. 5138

SWF I'm 5'3", with blonde hair & brown eyes. I'm a professional in the health care field. I enjoy the beach, the woods, the theater, movies & different restaurants. I'm a soft butch. I'd like to meet some new friends. I enjoy the company of a feminine woman. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & smoke-free. Call Ext. 5119

SF I'm sexy, 21, 5'6" & 152 lbs. I'm bi curious & in search of a sexy, bisexual female of any race. She should be 120-170 lbs, big-breasted & very elegant. Call Ext. 5117

SWF I'm 40. I'm looking for someone who is butch & romantic. I'd like to make a friend or more. Call Ext. 5114

SF Do you like dumpster diving, junking, camping or biking? I'm gainfully employed & looking for the same. She should be 35-50 & a non-smoker. No drugs. Call Ext. 5108

SBF I'm bi curious & I've had all of the satisfaction I can get from a man. I'm 5'7" & 162 lbs. I have big lips & a small waist. I'm looking for a woman of the same build who has blonde or brunette hair, for a night of fun. Call Ext. 5105

SBF I'm lonely, 34 & 5'4". I have short, black, curly hair. I enjoy outdoor sports, biking, swimming & fishing. I play the drums. I'm looking for a single, feminine Black female who is serious about life. She should have career goals. Call Ext. 5092

SF I'm from England. I'm 5'2" & 32. I'm new to Houston. I'm looking for friends to hang out & spend time with. I enjoy the theater, films & more. I'm open-minded. If I'm lucky, I hope to find someone who is more than a friend. Call Ext. 5062

SF I'm a short 5'2" brunette who is very active. I enjoy traveling, dining out, the outdoors, bike riding, etc. I'm looking for friendship & to have a lot of fun with people. Call Ext. 5025

SF I'm 23, 5'2" & 93 lbs. I have very short brown hair & blue eyes. So, if you're looking for a cute GQ-looking little boy, it's me. Call Ext. 5048

SBF Kidnap me. Take me on a hot air balloon ride. Seeking a female. Race & age are not important. Call Ext. 5037

SF I am 36, 5'4" & 115 lbs. I have gray hair & hazel eyes. I like outdoor activities, camping, kayaking, canoeing, walking in the country & riding my motorcycle. I love animals. I like all music, except rap & hard rock. I'd like to meet someone 35-45, for friendship or dating. I'm not looking for a hard butch, but for a soft butch, androgynous or feminine woman. I would prefer to meet a non-smoker. No drugs, please. Light drinking is okay. Call Ext. 5020

SHM 5'8", 175 lbs. I have dimples & a pretty smile. Looking for someone who has a good personality. Looks are not important. Call Ext. 5141

SWM Late 30's, cute. Looking to meet an athletic Black guy who knows what he wants. Call me for more information. Call Ext. 5145

SHM 34, attractive, bottom. Looking for masculine guys for friendship, romance or simple encounters. I like guys who are taller than 5'7". Race is not important. Positive attitude is a plus. I'm discreet & friendly. Please be over the age of 25 & confident of your own needs. Call Ext. 5143

SAM 21, 5'6", 135 lbs. I'm very cute. I enjoy movies, dinner & occasionally going to bars. Looking for a gay White male, 22-28, who is handsome. Call Ext. 5140

SWM 39, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 170 lbs., hairy chest. I'm romantic, loyal, sincere & gentle, yet strong. I'm outgoing, with a quiet side. I love music, art & life in general. I'm HIV- & seeking a younger gay male who is Asian, Hispanic or White. Looking for fun & a relationship. Call Ext. 5137

SWM 38, 6'2", 180 lbs., salt-and-pepper hair, mustache, goatee. I have a smooth body & I'm in good shape. I'm HIV+. Looking for a Hispanic top who is HIV+ & interested in trying to develop a relationship. Call Ext. 5135

SM 31, blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a good time. Call me. Call Ext. 5133

SWM 29, 6'2", nice-looking. I have long hair. I enjoy alternative music. In search of a Hispanic male, between the ages of 18-29 years old, who likes the same things. Please call soon. Call Ext. 5131

SWM 5'9", 200 lbs., 60. Looking for a masculine male who is loving, caring & trusting. I like movies, good food & quiet times together. Looking for friendship with someone 35-50. Call Ext. 5130

SWM 36, 5'9", 148 lbs. Looking for a drug-free, slender, gay White male. He should not be into the bar scene. Call Ext. 5128

SWM 40, red hair, blue eyes. I'm a gay transvestite looking for some young transsexuals to have get-togethers with, dressing & undressing. If you need a place to dress or you need clothes & make-up, give me a call. I love to get all dressed up. Looking for a playmate. Call Ext. 5126

SM 5'8", 150 lbs., smooth, muscular, tan, light-brown hair, hazel eyes. Looking for a masculine man who would like to get-together for casual encounters & good times. Possible dating. I prefer men who have a larger, stockier build. I prefer men who enjoy being tops. Call Ext. 5123

SM I'm 40, 5'6" & 155 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a mustache & a hairy chest. I'm a loving & caring, but demanding guy. My son must be young, handsome, healthy & masculine. He must be intelligent, self-supporting & willing to satisfy my every need. If you are interested, leave me a message. Call Ext. 5083

SM If you are a man between the ages of 32-48 years old, well-built, attractive, comfortable with being a man, aggressive, playful & passionate, give me a call. You must enjoy being with a very attractive, well-built man. Call Ext. 5123

SBM I'm a professional. I'm 36, 5'11" & 165 lbs. I'm looking for someone to spend some time with. I enjoy movies, listening to music, cooking & quiet nights at home. Call Ext. 5124

SM I'm a smooth, tan, muscular & good-looking 32-year-old. I'm 5'8" & 150 lbs. I have brown hair & hazel eyes. I'm healthy & active. I like sports, cars & outdoor activities. I'd like to meet a larger man who has a hunky, hairy physique. He should enjoy being a top. He should want a handsome, rear-submissive man. Call Ext. 5123

SM I'm 6'2" & 210 lbs. I'm looking for a hairy-chested top who would be interested in a lot of anal intercourse. Call Ext. 5115

SM I'm 27, 5'7", 155 lbs. & from Spain. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm looking for friends. I'd like to meet a blonde guy who is under 30. I'd prefer to meet a bottom. Must be straight-acting. Call Ext. 5113

SM I'm 5'6". I have blue eyes & blonde hair. I'm looking for a guy who is a jock. I like to give blow jobs. I enjoy anal sex, kissing & hugging. Call Ext. 5104

SM I'm 28, 5'6" & 128 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I enjoy music, cooking, wine tasting, walking on the beach & quiet nights at home. I'm an accounting professional seeking someone 30-40. A beard & a mustache are a plus. I'm hairless. I have a slight mustache. Call Ext. 5110

SBM I'm 26. Race is not important to me if it is not a problem to you. Give me a call if you are interested. Call Ext. 5087

SWM I'm 25, 5'11" & 198 lbs. I have masculine build, brown eyes, a military cut & a goatee. I'm straight-acting, with a good sense of humor. I enjoy working out, movies, reading & self-improvement. I'm in search of a stockily-built man who is masculine, with a goatee. He should enjoy being a top & be 25-35. Call Ext. 5103

SM I'm 5'9" & 160 lbs. I have dark hair & blue eyes. I'm a physical education teacher. I enjoy all sports. I'm looking for a masculine man who enjoys sports. Call Ext. 5118

SHM I'm 5'4" & 130 lbs. I have light skin, brown hair & hazel eyes. I have a semi-muscular build. I like playing tennis, movies & working out. I'm looking for a single White male 20-35 who has a semi-muscular build. Call Ext. 5075

SM I'm 25 & straight-acting. I'm ready to experiment with the bottom since I have been on the top. Give me a call. I'm looking for well-endowed Black men to have a good time with. Call Ext. 5116

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 137 lbs. I have black hair & brown eyes. I'm very cute. I like dining out, movies, walking on the beach, jogging & going to the gym. Looking for a gay White male between the ages of 20-38 years old who is height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5049

SAM I'm 32, 5'4" & 140 lbs. I'm looking for a single White male for a possible long-term, monogamous relationship. I would prefer to meet someone who is straight-acting. I'm outgoing & looking for the same. I'm organized, flexible, romantic & loving, with a strong personality. Call Ext. 5106

SM I'm 5'8" & height/weight proportionate. I'm in my 40's & relatively new to Houston. I have brown hair & blue eyes. I'm interested in meeting other guys who are my age. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5102

SHM I'm 31, 5'11" & 240 lbs. I'm seeking an older White male who is 55+, for discreet encounters. I'm disease & drug-free. I have nice legs. I like to kiss. Call Ext. 5085

SM I'm 43, 5'10" & 175 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm a professional man in the administrative field. I enjoy a quiet lifestyle. I enjoy movies & dining out, to name a few things. I'm nice-looking, drug-free & disease-free. I'd like to meet someone between the ages of 30-45 years old, who is masculine, with dark hair. Call Ext. 5101

SM I'm 50, 6' & 180 lbs. I can walk & talk normally. I'm looking for other tops who are normal & who would want to meet me. Please leave me your phone number. Call Ext. 5078

SM I'm 32 & 200 lbs. I'm a bottom. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5095

SM Please give me a call. Call Ext. 5097

SWM I'm a professional in my 40's. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & eyes. I'm darkly tanned & nicely shaped. I enjoy movies, cars, music & dining out. I'm in search of a younger Hispanic, Latin or Asian for dating which could lead to a monogamous relationship. I'm a social drinker & a non-smoker. I prefer the same. I have a lot to offer. Call Ext. 5099

SWM I'm 35. I'm looking for a bottom. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5096

SM I'm 5'9" & 130 lbs. I'm masculine & outgoing. I'm looking for a Black man who would be interested in different cultures, since I come from Europe. He must be masculine & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5094

SM If you know how to follow orders & you want to discuss possibilities, you can call me. Call Ext. 5018

SHM I'm seeking a 35-50-year-old White male. I would like to share ideas & more. I'm 35, 5'10" & 167 lbs. I have a mustache, black hair & brown eyes. If you are this White man, call me. Call Ext. 5066

SWM I'm 45, 6' & 160 lbs. I'm healthy, down-to-earth & HIV-. I'm seeking an older Black male who is a non-smoker, for friendship. Call Ext. 5089

SM Where are you? If you are like me, you are getting tired of driving to the bars every Friday night to meet guys. I would like to meet some nice guys from this area. Call Ext. 5082

SM I'm a hot, hunky bear cub looking for aggressive & demanding men who can satisfy me. If you are looking for a 220 lb. linebacker-type who is 6' & ready to serve you, give me a call. I will worship you. Call Ext. 5063

SM Can a high-grade guy like me, 6' & 182 lbs., find a super guy around here? I would like to find a friend & a top lover. You must be professional, sincere & normal. Must act straight & talk straight. I would prefer to meet someone between the ages of 38-50 years old. If you are out there, give me a call. Call Ext. 5080

SWM I'm 6' & 150 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & brown eyes. I'm 38. I'm looking for guys who are into bare-bottom spanking. Call Ext. 5079

SM I'm 31, 5'10" & 155 lbs. I'm seeking someone who is interested in having fun. I'm looking for someone who is not a bodybuilder, but who works out on a regular basis. He should be 5'10" or taller. A sense of humor & a sense of adventure would be great. Call Ext. 5072

SM I'm 19, 5'7" & 190 lbs. I'm looking for other guys who are between the ages of 18-30 years old. I'm a college student. I have brown hair & brown eyes. Call Ext. 5069

SM I'm 50, 5'9" & 190 lbs. I'm looking for someone who likes to cuddle. I would like to meet someone who lives in the Waco or Houston area. Call Ext. 5054

SM I'm looking for a masculine man who is height/weight proportionate & between the ages of 40-50 years old, for a possible relationship. I'm 34, 5'11" & 145 lbs. I have brown hair & green eyes. I'm easygoing, energetic & new to Houston. I would like to walk on a moonlit beach with someone special. Call Ext. 5067

SHM I'm seeking a one-on-one, monogamous relationship with a male who is older than I am. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have a swimmer's build. I work out on a weekly basis. I have short brown hair & medium-brown skin. I enjoy dancing, going out, staying home & cuddling. I'm a bottom. I'm seeking a 100% pure top. I'm seeking a 25-35-year-old male who is masculine. He must have a nice body & a nice personality. Call Ext. 5065

SM I'm 25 & 5'6". I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a gymnast's build. I'm looking for someone 25-35, for a long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5064

SBM I'm 5'11" & 185 lbs. I'm looking for a Black male between the ages of 20-30 years old. Looking for a possible long-term relationship. I like going out & bowling. I also enjoy spending quality time at home. Call Ext. 5038

SBM I'm middle-aged, 6'1" & 190 lbs. I'm interested in meeting a height/weight proportionate, middle-aged White male 35+. He should want to get together for fun & a possible friendship. I'm not looking for a relationship. I'm looking for pure indulgence. I'm versatile. If you are healthy & masculine, give me a call. I would prefer to meet a versatile man, but at least someone who is capable of being a top. Call Ext. 5057

SM There is a memory that lives & flows through my veins. I'm looking for an attractive & muscular bottom. Can you help me? Call Ext. 5036

SM I'm a 39-year-old native Houstonian. I like dancing & 70's disco. I love hanging out & walking. I love art & writing. I also love festivals & politics. I'm a libertarian who is interested in global topics. I'm a Virgo & I'm really looking for a Taurus. Age is not important to me. I'm 5'5" & 120 lbs. Everyone says that I look about 10 years younger than my age. I can speak Spanish. I love French, German & other languages. Call Ext. 5052

SWM I'm 37, 5'8" & 160 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm in good shape. I play tennis & golf. I also enjoy watching basketball. I'm looking for a guy 30-45, who enjoys sports, movies, dining out & the theater. He must be employed & have direction in his life. Call Ext. 5060

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 135 lbs. I have brown eyes & black hair. I'm looking for a White male 24-30 who is handsome. Call Ext. 5051

SWM I'm 40. Seeking submissive men. Call Ext. 5050

SWM I'm a muscular, professional, endowed man. I'm 39, 5'10" & HIV negative. I enjoy bodybuilding, sports, the arts & romance. I'm seeking a long-term, monogamous relationship with someone who is honest, passionate, endowed & HIV negative. Please, no bar flies, smokers or one-nighters. A Black male is a plus. Call Ext. 5045

SM I'm a snowbird in Houston, Texas. I'm a snowbird in search of Texas cowboy snowballs who are gay White males, gay Hispanic males, between the ages of 21-41 years old, non-smokers, drug & disease free & masculine. I'm looking for someone to share love & life with. I'm a gay White male who is 45, 5'9", 191 lbs., a non-smoker & disease free. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm an honest, caring & loving man. I enjoy movies, theater, country-western music, dining out & quiet evenings. Let's melt our lives together as soon as possible. Call Ext. 5039

SM I'm told that Houston has the fourth largest population living with HIV. Okay, you guys, where are you? Why don't you give me a call? What do you have to lose? I'm in my mid-30's, caring, funny & good-looking. Give it a shot, maybe you'll like what you find. Call Ext. 5032

SHM I'm 30-year-old, HIV+, single Hispanic male. I'm very healthy & active. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs., with a 29" waist. I have brown hair, dark eyes, long eyelashes, a goatee & a tan line. I'm looking for an honest & sincere Black top man who is 6' or taller & HIV+, preferably. I enjoy the outdoors, picnics in the park, walks along the beach, the indoors, watching movies, etc. Call Ext. 5044

SM I'm 35, stocky & 200 lbs. I have a goatee & brown eyes. I enjoy quiet dinners, movies & occasional nights at bars. I would like to meet someone who has a nice personality & who is fun to be with. Call Ext. 5041

SM I'm 6'4". I have brown hair, blue eyes & a mustache. I'm nice-looking & masculine, with a football-player's build. I'm interested in meeting other guys who are 40 or younger, for a good time. Call Ext. 5056

SWM I'm a masculine White male who is 40, 5'6", 140 lbs. & HIV-. I'm looking for Black males who are preferably feminine. Call Ext. 5035

SWM I'm 40, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. I'm looking for a Hispanic or Black male who is 35-50, over 6' tall & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5034

SM I am 5'10" & 185 lbs. I am well-built & good-looking. I'm looking for men who are between the ages of 30-45 years old. Call if you are interested. Call Ext. 5016

SM I'm 5'7", 140 lbs., Latin & fair-skinned. I'm interested in a Black or Hispanic man who wants to hang out a bit & have some fun. Call Ext. 5033

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HOUSTON VOICE *Personals*

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

Mid 30's, professional, healthy, sincere, good sense of humor. Seeking other HIV+ men for friendship but I'm primarily interested in entering a serious relationship with an honest, caring and loving man. Ad 25632

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

GWM, 33, 6'1", 285, christian, professional with big heart. I'm nice looking, short brown hair and mustache. Seeking that special someone with lots of love to give for monogamous relationship. Interests include movies, intimate evenings, helping people in need, yard sales, flea markets, and my church. Ad 25708

ATTENTION -NUDIST

GWM, 45, 5'6", 142#, br/hazel with salt and pepper beard, DDF, smoker and a nudist. This nudist would like to get together for social non-sexual encounters. Just the enjoyment of viewing each other's bodies. Ad 25772

NO STRINGS -NO RINGS

GWM, 31, 5'10", 155. Seeking someone who doesn't want or desperately need to be married but would like to just have fun. I would prefer someone who isn't necessarily a bodybuilder, but at least works out on a regular basis as I do. If you have a positive attitude and a sense of humor, I would like to hear from you. Written responses with phone number preferred. Ad 25768

EUROPEAN GUY

I am 27 years old, 5'7", 132, brown hair and brown eyes, healthy (HIV-), warm and caring. I enjoy movies (foreign), music, animals, cars, etc. I'm looking for a compatible, masculine, professional man who is single, smart, funny and charming. Ad 25715

LET ME MAKE YOUR HEART SMILE

I'm 5'10", 165 lbs, extra nice legs, warm smile, big heart with lots of love to offer if our chemistry is right. I'm open to all inquiries, but prefer 25-35 bottom with smooth skin as I have a hairy chest. Now please note I'm also HIV+, but very healthy, active & loving. Please give me a chance & I promise you won't be disappointed. Prefer mail response. Ad 25754

TOPS LOOKING FOR SEX TOY

Two GWM lovers, both tops, one 42, one 26, trim, HWP, seeking a rear end submissive bottom for three way - just plain trashy fun. Mail responses preferred or phone. Ad 25709

POSITIVE MIND, BODY & SOUL

Extremely handsome Gay Latin Male, 34, 5'6", 165#, bk/brw, mustache is currently seeking special friend. Me: Financially stable, very healthy, swimmers build, smooth body, versatile bottom, romantic, honest, passionate with high pos. attitude & self esteem, easy going man with great sense of humor & sensitivity. You: GWM 28-45, 5'8" plus, HWP, good looking, financially stable & healthy versatile top. If you've been searching for a man above average, with similar values & sincerity, here's your chance! No feds or druggies. Letters preferred, photo requested. Ad 25748

WANTED: BOY

For long-term monogamous relationship with "gifted" GWM in early 40s. I am 6', 170#, auburn/hazel, w/moustache. A true "daddy". I am healthy and HIV-. You should be younger, attractive, masculine and DDF. Letter only w/photo and phone #. Ad 25719

LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL PERSON

GWF, early 30's, non-smoker, looking for GWF, 30-45. I enjoy movies, intimate dinners & the outdoors. Ad 25730

BOYISH & SMOOTH

GWM, 28, HIV+ seeks GM over 30 for friendship, dating, and more. Interests include boating, bicycling, video games. Prefer large, endowed, hairy men. Photo please. Ad 25771

FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

Affectionate older GWM seeks a young man for discreet and safe fun. I like to please young men, especially if they are slender, boyish and smooth. DDF please. Ad 25693

WANTED: MASCULINE WHITE MALE COMPANION

HIV-Negative, 18-45, not overweight, to play dominoes, cards, ETC. 10am-2pm, weekdays, in my home. I am divorced masculine WM, 5'11", 155# ("skinny"), 40+ short brown hair, receding hair line, brown eyes, glasses, clean-shaven, smooth. Will exchange (revealing) photos. I have a Polaroid. Mail responses preferred. Immediate reply. Ad 25766

I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED EXCEPT YOU!!!

GWM executive, 40, 5'10", 170, attractive, seeks special guy for serious dating relationship. Enjoy movies, theater, travel, dining out, quiet romantic evenings. Prefer mature younger guy, 24-30, who needs that special person to make their life complete. If you think you deserve the best, call. Humble/Kingwood area a plus! Ad 25741

SLIM/SKINNY BOTTOM WANTED

Older, straight acting GWM, slim/smooth 5'9", 127lbs, DDF/HIV-, ISO straight acting, employed GWM 18-26, DDF/HIV-, 145lbs or less, friendly, caring personality, smooth/fair. Versatile or exclusive bottom. Average looks ok. Evening or weekend times for companionship, exploration. Letters preferred. Ad 25778

UNCLE SEEKS NEPHEW

GWM, 60, 5'8", 300, br/bl bearded, BOTTOM seeks 20s-40s any race TOP nephew-friend. Honest-sincerity prime factor rather than physical attributes. Let's share respect, love, active physical-social relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, shopping, travel, beaches, cooking, dining in/out and the company of an affectionate nephew or chubby chaser. Letters preferred (photo appreciated). Ad 25775

FEMALES IN SEARCH OF TROUBLE ...

are searching for you. All female SM/BD/fetish social group. We might have the answers to your questions. Ad 25736

SPECIAL BOTTOMS, GIVE ME A CALL

Submissive? Provide dedicated service and do it right? Take instructions and behave obediently? Boy/slave in need of bindings and discipline? Enjoy it all and more? Need put in your place with a demanding top? If serious GM, 25-40, fit, clean, easy going, nice guy, you call now! Ad 25653

AFTERNOON DELIGHT

Professional GWM, 49, blonde-blue, clean shaven, 6', 165, swimmers body. I.S.O. part-time play buddy. You are good-looking, 30 to 50, HWP, drug free, without hangups. CALLS ONLY. Ad 25704

GHM, 31, 5'11", 170, BLACK HAIR/BROWN EYES

My interests are cooking, working out, jogging, sports, the outdoors and gardening. I would like to spend time with that special man. Oh, by the way, it's so hard to meet men in Houston who are honest and sincere. I am seeking GWM for friendship and possibly a long-term relationship. I have a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25763

SOUL/LIFE MATE WANTED

GWM, 51, 5'10", 205 lbs, stocky weightlifter, HIV-, professional demeanor, active Christian, conservative straight lifestyle, seeks brawny, bunk, line-backer, beefy hunk/chunk with similar attributes. Physically challenged encouraged to reply. Thanks! Ad 25727

EAST SIDE GWM SEEKS FRIENDS/POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP

I am 35, 5'8", 145, brown hair, blue eyes, healthy, HIV-, happy, well built, attractive, masculine, and successful with strong work ethic. Interested in movies, music, plants, pets, dance, intimate evenings, versatile "top." Seeking HIV-honest, sincere, attractive, healthy, financially stable GM with strong work ethic for friendships and possibly loyal, long term monogamous relationship. Not looking for someone well endowed, just intelligent with a kind heart. Send photo -mail responses preferred. Ad 25750

SUBMISSIVE MEN

I am seeking men who know how to follow orders and who enjoy being of service. I am 51, 5'9", 190, hairy, aggressive and demanding. Ad 25673

WANTED: BLACK MAN

GWM, 29, 5'5", well proportioned, hazel eyes/dark blond hair, and big smile. I love outdoors, cooking, walking, movies, novels, and working out. Most of all I love to spend quality time with someone special. I am honest, caring and sincere. I would like to meet a GBM, 29-45, who is single, funny and charming, but most of all has a sense of humor. If you would like to talk or possibly meet give me a call. Maybe you can add a little laughter to my life. Ad 25770

WANTED: WHITE MALE

Indian male, 30, attractive, very shy and not into an active gay lifestyle, DDF, enjoys hiking, sports, long drives in the country, quiet evenings at home, interesting conversation and an overall active lifestyle. ISO white male over 35 with similar interests for long term monogamous relationship. Looks not important. Let's exchange letters and photo. Ad 25752

GO FOR IT!

GWM wishes to meet man of any race. Honesty & truth are important, no games or one night stands. Will answer all responses. Ad 25692

SOMEONE TO SHARE LIFE

Looking for someone to share life with me. A home, pets and comfortable closeness. Would like monogamous, almost platonic relationship. Tired of dinner alone? Respond. Maybe we can both finally "exhale." Please be over 30 years. Photo will get mine. Ad 25757

GORGEOUS EUROPEAN ISO AMERICAN STUD

Very handsome European, 5'10", 165 lbs, nice body, HIV-, masculine, very sexy & hot, seeks good looking bima-les for fun times & more. You must be good looking, nice body & "big", dominant, straight acting, age 20-40. I'm looking for American honky-tonk, corn-fed type. I'm 29 yrs. old & ready to satisfy. Ad 25760

DAD WANTED (FOR REAL)

Loving, professional, attractive white lesbian couple seeking a willing, loving, giving GWM or couple who wants to share and enjoy the gift of parenthood. Joint custody or custody to the lesbian couple with visitation rights for the male frequently. We love children and want to bring one into this world. Share in the joy! Ad 25765

GALVESTON: LOOKING FOR SEXUAL BUD-DIES

I'm in my 40's, married, 5'10", 160lbs, average looks, DDF, clean, top-cut-discreet. Ad 25598.

GENTLE LEATHER "DAD" SEEKS NOVICE "BOY"

Attractive GWM physician, 35, 5'10", 160, new in town, seeks boy 18-24 with interest in light S/M, B/D. Very understanding and patient. If you ever thought of getting into "leather" with a gentle but firm master, give me a call. Ad 25744

"NOT ONLY ON WEEKENDS"

Single, black, female romantic seeks friend for possible relationship. Seeks woman who is certain of herself; her wants and desires. Interests include: movies, parks, special getaways, moonlit nights. Quality time very important; also hand-holding, good conversation, and a sense of humor. Must be stable, sincere and spiritually motivated. Ad 25740

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

I.S.O.: Masculine, hairy, H.W.P., HIV-, well endowed GWM for safe fun. No strings. Pure indulgence. ME: 40 yr., HIV-, 5'7", 160 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, w/S & P beard. Average guy. No hangups. Photo w/letter for response. Ad 25724

THE RIGHT STUFF

is right here, right now and ready for romance! This GWM, 38, 6'1", 175, brown/blue, HIV-, has everything I want except you! I'm a happy, healthy, well adjusted, professionally employed Heights guy with a great life that would be even better shared with a special gentleman. Respond today...you won't be disappointed. Ad 25720

HISPANIC WANTED

GWM 34, black hair/brown eyes, 180 lbs, attractive masculine looking, great sense of humor, down to earth, enjoys dancing, movies - a true romantic ISO a very cute hispanic male who has a smooth swimmers build, great personality and who is looking for a best friend first and lasting relationship later. Ad 25769

Mature GM, French active, HIV-, ISO other M, HIV-for your enjoyment. Ad 25762

SERIOUS & SINCERE ONLY

Tall/Handsome/ GWM. Loves to look, dance, & shop. Former LSU student turned paraprofessional. I.S.O. spontaneous, intellectual, politically incorrect friends. You must keep up w/fashion, latest dance music, and me! HWP & DDF. Ad 25702

LONELY GHM

31, 5'7", 135#, seeks GW or GHM for lifemate, monogamous relationship. Must be honest, sincere, 32+ year of age. I'm HIV-, short black hair. Enjoy travelling, being adventurous. You must be the same and versatile. No games. Photo please. Physical must be terrific. Ad 25739

GWM PROFESSIONAL

40's, 5'11", 165 lbs, good looks, nice tanned body (HIV-). Enjoy movies, sports, cars, the beach, music & dining in & out. ISO younger HWP hispanic for dating. Desire monogamous relationship. Be DDF. I've a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25705

AFFECTIONATE TEDDY BEAR WANTS CUDDLY CUB

GWM, 56, 6'2", 285, big bear, professional, clean cut seeks loving cub for companion, fun, and a devoted monogamous relationship. I want what I am: sincere, loyal, sense of humor, honest, masculine, caring, sensitive, trusting, lots of T.L.C., respect, genuine and unlimited passion. Interests: Movies, art galleries/museums, dining out, quiet evenings at home, and lots of candlelight conversation and sharing. Discreet, NS, and DDF. U B 2. If you can relate, please respond. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25745

SWEET AND SPICY LOOKING FOR YOU!

SBF seeking healthy happy woman. I am looking for a loving friendship. Enjoy dancing, candlelight, music, laughing and a Southern Lady. Put a little spice in your life! I do want truth in all correspondence. Ad 25731

Attractive male, 32, 5'9", 145#, sincere professional. Seeking monogamous relationship with someone who is sincere, HWP, non-smoker, and values family life. Interests: museums, traveling, dining out, and quiet conversation. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25722

LISTEN TO THE WIND BLOW

WATCH THE SUN RISE. GWM, good looking and professional seeking soul mate. Come out of hiding and enjoy the good life! Two males together can form a synergism and conquer the world. What are you waiting for? Ad 25761

SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

New to the gay scene. Recently divorced. Looking to make new friends/acquaintances. I am a WM early 50's but people say I look 40, DDF, non-smoker, permanently employed. I am average looking, tall and slim, hazel eyes, blond hair. I like quiet evenings, enjoy cooking, gardening, country and western music, the beach, and the outdoors. If interested, respond to Ad 25674.

CARING FUNNY & GOOD-LOOKING

Attractive & muscular, GWM, 38, 5'8", 175, HIV+, masculine, smooth skin, and clean shaven with dark brown hair and green eyes. I am romantic, very healthy, active, and love the outdoors. I'm a versatile bottom and prefer a masculine, lean or muscular, top with a hairy chest, mustache or beard a plus. Prefer mail response. Ad 25767

KIDNAP ME

Take me to your playroom. Bind me, use me, then release me in a couple of days. My captor(s): attractive, HWP, HIV-, serious master(s) and/or mistress(es). I am a successful intelligent WBiM, handsome, nice body & highly sensual, HIV-, HWP, with a weakness for the smell of leather who desires to be totally dominated. Ad 25711

FURTHER INVESTIGATION NECESSARY

I can't be defined in a personal ad. It's merely an introduction. You must listen to my voice, look into my eyes, feel the gentle touch of my hand to truly get to know me. I am a man who enjoys being with a man. I'm 31 GBM who sports goatee and short hair. I'm employed, have several other interests and there's a bit more to me than meets the eye. Want to find out how much more, drop me a detailed letter. My only request is that you are attractive, sexy, intelligent and compassionate. I have a slight preference to fuzzy navels and goatees. C'mon, cross over. Ad 25755

LOOKING FOR A TALL GUY

Well built GWM, over 6', HWP, DDF/NS, 40's seeks aggressive G/B/H/M of similar size. You are HIV-, HWP, 35-50, employed professional and know what you want. I'm discreet, masculine, well-dressed, stable and employed. Also romantic, versatile and attractive. Brown/brown/mustache. Inside the loop home owner. All responses answered promptly. Ad 25759

TOO DAMN CLOSE TO PERFECTION

GBM, 27, extremely out, assertive (borderline on dominant), muscular and bilingual (Spanish) ISO a passive, intelligent, attractive and confident GM (any race) 24-35, for dating and eventual monogamous relationship. Non-smokers and light drinkers only. Ad 25779

GIVING MY HEART

GHM attractive, spiritual, realistic, looking for new contacts for friendship and future romance. Discover within this loving heart the great chances of meeting, talking, and sharing with me the magnificent gift of all times LOVE. Respond soon, letters are greatly appreciated. Ad 25756

FULL SERVICE BOTTOM WANTED

Should be compulsive GM whose needs can only be met by one-to-one relationship with mature, stable GWM top. Prefer slim, quiet type, but am not racist or ageist. I am 6'2", 175, brown hair & eyes, DDF, mature, stable and like quiet times with compulsive bottom rather than bars. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25773

GENTLY DOMINANT

GWM, 39, 5'6", 168lbs, HIV-, dark hair, blue eyes, hairy chest. Seeking younger GA/H/W or Native American who's HWP and fun loving for long term. I'm romantic, honest, easy going and loyal with a sense of humor. I appreciate music, movies, culture tennis and soccer. Take a chance. Write or call. Ad 25777

PASADENA: 3 CAN BE GOOD COMPANY

And lot's of fun! GWC, barely 30's, one's versatile, one's top only. Both well endowed, HWP, DDF, tired of bars. You: GWM, 18-30, HWP, DDF, versatile or bottom. For: Safe 3-Way Fun, Friendship and Companionship. Ad 25695

TWICE THE FUN!

Two good looking masculine guys, 25 & 30, interested in meeting business professional (25-45) for occasional hot, safe, discreet fun. Must be successful, masculine and in shape. Prefer mail responses, letter/photo. Ad 25721

TICKLE-BONDAGE

Do you want to play? Reciprocation okay. You: Masculine white, oriental, or hispanic. Average or above average looks, HWP. Ages 18 through 45. Sex not necessary so non-gays welcome. Me: Handsome GWM, masculine, HWP, 185#, 5'11", good body, 42" chest, 32" waist, nice legs, brown hair, med.body/chest hair. Nice arms. Strong hands, creative mind, good sense of humor. Mail preferred. Ad 25776

July 20, 1996

Edwin Hornberger Conference Center of the Texas Medical Center
(Formerly the Shamrock Hilton)



XI INTERNATIONAL VANCOUVER CONFERENCE ON AIDS UPDATE

2151 W. Holcombe Houston, TX 77030

This Conference is open to both healthcare professionals and the general public

Conference Director:

Adan Rios, M.D.

Organizing Committee:

Gary Brewton, M.D.
Gordon Crofoot, M.D.
Jorge Quesada, M.D.
James Reuben, Ph.D.
Sandy Hendricks, R.N.

Conference Coordinators:

Lynne K. Tiras, CMP
Karen Schmitt

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PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1996

8:00 LABORATORY MARKERS of HIV DISEASE
A.M. JAMES REUBEN, Ph.D.
M.D. ANDERSON HOSPITAL and TUMOR
INSTITUTE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

8:30 HIV INFECTION IN CHILDREN
A.M. CELINE HANSON, M.D.
TEXAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL,
HOUSTON, TEXAS

9:00 TREATMENT of HIV DISEASE
A.M. PATRICIA SALVATO, M.D.
PRIVATE PRACTICE,
HOUSTON, TEXAS

10:00 A.M. BREAK

10:15 THE PROPHYLAXIS of
A.M. OPPORTUNISTIC INFECTIONS IN
PATIENTS with HIV DISEASE
GARY BREWTON, M.D.
ONCOL MEDICAL ASSOCIATES, P.A.
HOUSTON, TEXAS

10:30 THE OPHTHAMOLOGIST
A.M. and HIV DISEASE
SCOTT SAWYER, M.D.
PRIVATE PRACTICE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

11:00 WOMEN and HIV DISEASE
A.M. PATRICIA SALVATO, M.D.
PRIVATE PRACTICE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

12:00 OPTIMISM and AIDS
NOON L. JOEL MARTINEZ
THE CENTER for AIDS
HOUSTON, TEXAS

12:30 - 1:00 P.M. QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

FREE
Conference Update
and Parking