



HOUSTON

# VOICE

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Courts  
Ponder  
Right to  
Lie  
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DECEMBER 5TH 1997 • www.houstonvoice.com • ISSUE 893

## ELECTION '97 The Choice is Yours

### Straight Talk with Lee Brown

Former Houston Police Chief Lee Brown, 59, is clearly the favorite of the majority of Houston's gay community. Brown has garnered the endorsement of the South's oldest gay and lesbian civil rights organization, the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

As the chief of the HPD from 1982 until 1990 under Mayor Kathy Whitmire, Brown launched neighborhood-oriented policing program that became the model for community policing across the country and is a key component of the country's national anti-crime strategy.

Following his stint in Houston, Brown went on to serve as Police Commissioner in New York City from 1990 to 1992. In 1993 President Clinton appointed Brown to the cabinet level position of Director of National Drug Control Policy, a.k.a. Drug Czar.

The son of farm workers, Chief Brown worked his way through college and obtained two masters and a doctorate degree while working in law enforcement.

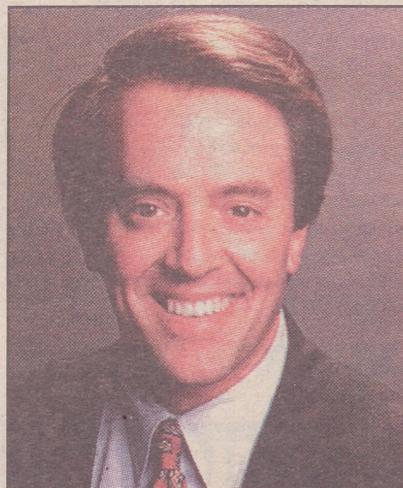


He is married and has five children and nine grandchildren in all. Four of his children were from a previous marriage to Yvonne Brown who died in 1992.

Brown, a professor at Rice University, did

See **BROWN** page 31

### Mosbacher says he's not anti-gay



HOUSTON - In a community where clearly 70% of its electorate is throwing its support to Lee Brown in the mayoral race, it would stand to reason that candidate Rob Mosbacher would have nothing to gain from speaking to the gay press. Not so.

Mosbacher was not the least bit hesitant when approached about being interviewed in the *Houston Voice*.

A native of Houston, Rob Mosbacher is making his third attempt at public office. He has run unsuccessfully for U.S. Senate in 1984 and lieutenant governor in 1990 after winning the Republican primaries for both to represent the party in the general election.

Sitting in his office at Mosbacher Energy overlooking the city, Mosbacher spoke with confidence about his positions on the issues, his opponents record and gay and lesbian issues. One thing is certain, Mosbacher does not mince words.

Mosbacher is president of Mosbacher Energy Co., a company his father, former Bush Administration U.S. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher Sr., founded nearly 50 years ago. Mosbacher Sr., who chaired Bush's 1992 campaign, still serves as chairman of the board for Mosbacher Energy.

Mosbacher has long been active in GOP

See **MOSBACHER** page 31

## Court seems ready to allow same-sex harassment cases

by Richard Carelli  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON - In an extraordinary session of graphic talk, the Supreme Court appeared ready Wednesday to rule that a law against sex harassment applies even when the harasser and victim are the same sex.

Six of the court's nine justices criticized a ruling that barred a federal lawsuit by a Louisiana oil rig worker who said he was sexually pursued and harassed by his male supervisor.

A lower court ruled that a federal law banning on-the-job discrimination never applies to same-sex harassment, but Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist said at one point, "I don't see how we could possibly sustain the ruling."

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David H. Souter, John Paul Stevens, Antonin Scalia and Stephen G. Breyer also voiced grave doubts about ruling that the federal law, known as Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, cannot apply to same-sex harassment.

In the ornate courtroom, where arguments usually are dominated by references

to legal fine points, justices spoke on Wednesday of employers who might pat their workers "on the fanny" and of the "disgusting" sexual allegations made by the oil worker. But the gender of alleged assailants and victims was irrelevant, many justices suggested.

"A Jew could discriminate against a Jew," Breyer said. "An African-American against an African-American, an Italian against an Italian. Why isn't it possible that a homosexual ... could discriminate?" he asked.

The highest court's decision could have enormous importance for American busi-

ness. Gay rights groups are watching closely, too, though there is nothing in the court papers to indicate that the worker, his supervisor or two other alleged assailants is homosexual.

If the court should rule that same-sex harassment never violates Title VII, victims of homosexual harassment would be left without a federal remedy. Comments and questions from Justices Anthony M. Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor were more difficult to categorize.

Justice Clarence Thomas, a former Equal

See **SAME SEX** page 30

### Case of lesbian foster couple raises issue of agency policy

by Melissa Williams

DALLAS - Carol Montgomery and her lesbian partner, Margaret, have gone to great lengths to provide male role models for their adopted daughters, ages 3 1/2 and 10 months. Two men the girls know as "Poppy" and "Daddy" are a homosexual couple with whom the children spend one night a week and celebrate family outings and holidays.

"It's not like the children will not have a father," said Margaret, who did not want her last name revealed. "These are men that have been very close to us for the last eight years."

Depending on one's view, the unusual arrangement either demonstrates that any loving couple can provide a balanced perspective for children - or tacitly acknowledges the primacy of the traditional mother-father household. The tension between those views is at the heart of a grievance filed this month by a state child welfare worker who was demoted for removing a foster child from the home of another lesbian couple.

Rebecca Bledsoe has asked to be returned to her job as a supervisor with the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services in Austin, the agency that oversees Child Protective Services. She also wants the

department to clarify its policy on placing children with homosexuals either as foster or adoptive parents, and to remove all children from foster and adoptive homes where there is known homosexual conduct.

"How many men do you know who would choose to have been raised by two women rather than a father and a mother?" asks Ms. Bledsoe. "I don't know too many men who would choose that." On Aug. 5, after learning of the then-3-month-old boy's placement with the lesbian couple, Ms. Bledsoe ordered his emergency removal and placed him with another foster mother.

According to her grievance, she reasoned that "homosexual conduct is against the law in Texas." But she said later she also believes children are better off with married couples and single people rather than homosexual couples.

Ms. Bledsoe's lawyer, Roger Evans of Dallas, said her stance is consistent with the mission of Child Protective Services. "This is not an anti-homosexual kind of thing," he said. "It's about what's best for the child, not doing what's best for two warm, loving and caring lesbians. That's not the goal of this agency."

See **POLICY** page 30

# Linda Eder

## See review on page 23



Houston's perennial AIDS Gala, A Christmas Songfest, will take place Sunday, December 7, 1997 at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center at 6 pm. For ticket information 713-683-0485

**Just Another Landmark**

by George Greanias

Before we officially close the books on the campaign, I want to thank you for everything you did on behalf of my race for mayor. From the day I announced, the *Voice* gave me full and fair coverage, and you yourself were an encouraging and supportive part of my effort.

I wish of course that the election had turned out differently. But I am proud of the race we ran, the issues we raised, the solutions we proposed, and the way we reached out to all parts of the community. I would hope that our stand on that last point sent a message to everyone in the community that as a city we have matured to the point where we won't tolerate playing one group of Houstonians against another.

I also believe that whoever becomes the next mayor, the positive effects of our good work will continue to be felt throughout Houston for the next six years, and beyond.

Important as the election was, I also regard it as just another landmark in my history of involvement with Houston; I'm sure there will be more such landmarks, and I look forward to working together again. meantime, Elizabeth joins me in sending you our thanks for what you did. We deeply appreciate it all, and won't forget it.

**Public thanks and good wishes**

by Jack Leonard

This week past, a major Victorian home/landmark disappeared from Fannin

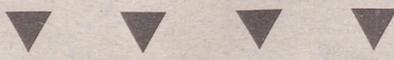
Street in Houston. I would like to publicly thank Damion Sondergarrd for his extensive and protracted efforts to insure survival of this wonderful demonstration of times past.

As manager of The Club, Damion had ample justification and rationalization to pursue immediate removal of the architectural marvel, after all, a bigger club would mean bigger profits. But his sense of history and his artistic sensitivity caused him to take the more difficult path, a path which if successful, would have given generously to all who would have continued to enjoy the 'house'.

For more than four years he worked long and hard and with much frustration to save the rare building and on occasion thought he found a buyer who would move and preserve the big yellow house. Success was very close on occasion, despite the daunting nature of such a move. Then there was fire. And the city condemned the yellow Victorian beauty. Now the house is gone. A part of our past is gone. We can only look to the future.

I would now like to restate our appreciation to Damion and the owners of The Club for their patience and efforts on everyone's behalf to save the house, and to add very special good wishes for the future expansion that can now proceed.

In our effort in life we don't always get what we want, but, I think, it's the efforts we make to achieve our goals, that truly define our selves. Damion, you tried very hard, thank you. And now, may the future materialize your next set of dreams.



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HOUSTON  
**VOICE**  
One Community! One Voice!  
ISSUE 893  
DECEMBER 5, 1997

Established 1974 as the Montrose Star, reestablished 1980 as the Houston Montrose Star, Changed name to The Houston Voice in 1991 incorporating the New Orleans Crescent City Star, Reestablished as the Houston Voice by Thomas Nelson in 1993  
811 Westheimer, Suite 105  
Houston, Texas 77006  
(713) 529-8490  
(800) 729-8490  
Fax: (713) 529-9531  
Email: editor@houstonvoice.com  
feedback@houstonvoice.com  
Contents copyright 1997  
Office hours: 9:00am-5:30pm weekdays

**Publisher**  
Crad Duren

**Editor**  
J.C. Michelak

**Austin Bureau**  
Steve Labinski

**Houston Bureau  
Editorial Department**  
Leslie Ramsay - **Entertainment Editor**  
Carolyn Roberts - **Society Editor**  
Steve Underwood - **Music Director**

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Larry Lingle, Stephanie McGhee,  
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Steven David, Dalton DeHart

**Production**  
CreADtive Unlimited® - Victor Perea  
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**Format Metamorphosis**  
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**Advertising Sales Department**  
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Connie Marmolejo

**National Advertising Representative**  
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P.O. Box 518, Westfield, NJ 908-232-2021

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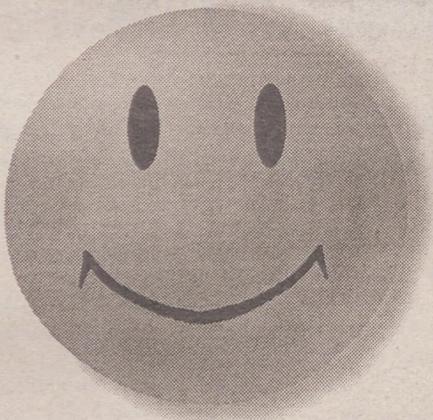
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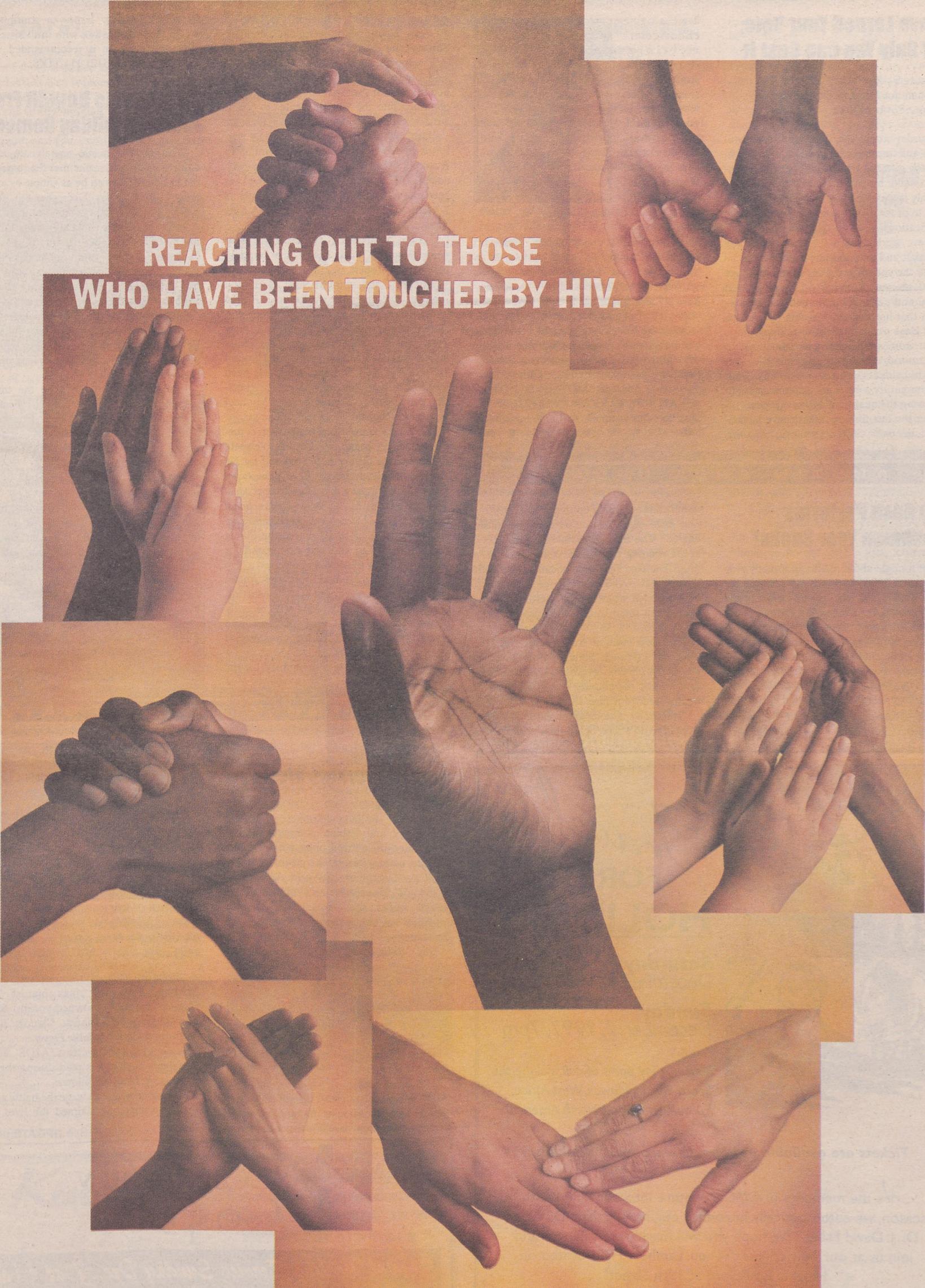
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**REACHING OUT TO THOSE  
WHO HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY HIV.**

Reaching out to those in need is important, especially to those in our community who are living and coping with HIV. As a company involved in the discovery and development of new treatments for HIV, we understand that meeting the needs of people living with HIV includes patient support as well as medical therapy. We want to join with other companies, caregivers and the community in...

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## I Have Earned Your Vote; But Only You Can Cast It

by Annise Parker  
Candidate for Houston City Council,  
At-Large Position One

Saturday marks the close of a long campaign and the beginning of a new era in Houston government. And it has the potential to make history for our community — but only if we vote. I have sought in my campaign to prove that Houston is a place where qualifications count and diversity matters.

I have worked hard — both during the campaign and over the last twenty years — to earn the vote of every Houstonian: I have earned the endorsement of every elected official and every community-based organization that has endorsed in this race. I have raised close to a quarter of a million dollars — not from special interests who want to make money off city government — but from individual Houstonians, many from our community, who share a commitment to improving the quality of life in our city.

Over the last nine months I have participated in over 500 screenings, forums,

debates, endorsement meetings, fundraisers, strategy sessions, interviews, receptions and rallies in every conceivable corner of Houston. And over the last twenty years I have worked

as a volunteer and community leader on issues as dramatic as police harassment in our community and as mundane as potholes on our neighborhood streets — and they have all been important to me. I have earned your vote. But I cannot cast it.

After the last twenty years of community and public service, after the last nine months of a grueling campaign, it comes down to one simple, respectful request. Please cast your vote for me this Saturday. Thank you. ANNISE PARKER CAMPAIGN For Houston City Council, At-Large Position.



Annise Parker

growing up in high school in the 1980's," explains Nash, who personally attended Strake Jesuit Prep school in Houston.

The show's opening night in Austin was sold out to an audience of Bowie High School honor students. 102 students crammed into the 90-seat theater to see it, who overwhelmingly received it.

Nash, who lives in Los Angeles, performed *Freshmen Year Sucks!* last Summer in Austin. Since then, new scenes have been added and director, Gregory Gunter has been brought aboard. Gregory Gunter is Director of Playwright Outreach at A.S.K. Theater Projects in Los Angeles.

Gunter collaborated as dramaturg with Anne Bogart, Chuck Mee, Tina Landau, Jose Rivera, Robert

Woodruff and with Michael Greif and Jonathan Larson on the workshop of *Rent* in its pre-Broadway days while he was dramaturg and Literary Manager for both New York Theatre Workshop and La Jolla Playhouse. He has also taught at Harvard and UCSD. His directing work has been seen in Chicago, Boston and he also directed the World Premiere of Michael McClung's *Natural Child* in San Diego.

Rob is best known for his stand-up comedy which he began at Austin's Velveeta Room and the former Laff Stop and for his previous serial solo trilogy, *The Dysfunctional Family Saga* (*12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional You*, *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas*, and *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family. Part III*). Part III played the Planet two summers ago and was nominated for Best Road Show of 1996 and received a Top Ten Theatre Events nod from the Austin Chronicle's Adrienne Martini. *Dysfunctional Family, Part III* recently played Highways in Los Angeles and marked Nash's New York debut this August as a part of FringeNYC.

Nash is working on a screenplay for the

show, and eagerly hopes to continue the series. Tickets are \$12 with limited seating. Advance purchase is recommended. Call the box office at (512) 454-TIXS.

## Out Youth to Benefit From Night of Holiday Comedy

With all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, sometimes the remedy for the holiday blues can be as simple as a good laugh. On Monday, December 8th, several premiere merry makers gather at the Capital City Comedy Club to stage *Holiday Ha Ha*, a night of hilarity to benefit Out Youth.

Headlining the evening of entertainment will be the aforementioned Rob Nash. Nash will be joined at the Capital City Comedy Club by comic Steven Crabtree. A local favorite, Crabtree spent the last three years as one of the writers and stars of Esther's Follies. He now resides in Dallas, where he packs the crowds every Wednesday night at the Hideaway Club.

Opening the show will be the musical comedy of The Therapy Sisters. Featuring the melodic talents of Lisa Rogers and Maurine McLean. The Therapy Sisters tour extensively with their brand of off-beat humorous humor.

Thanks to a generous donation of merchandise by the Calender Club, Out Youth will be able to help revelers with last minute shopping during the *Holiday Ha Ha*. The organization will feature a Gift Boutique before and after the show, with gift merchandise at very reasonable prices.

Curtain time for *Holiday Ha Ha* is 8PM on Monday, December 8th. Tickets are only \$10 per person and can be reserved by calling the Out Youth offices at 708-1234. The Capitol City Comedy Club is located at 8120 Research Blvd., just north of the 183 and Lamar Blvd. intersection.

## Rob Nash Performs 'Freshman Year Sucks!'

Ever thought about making a comedy play about your life in high school? Expatriate Texan Rob Nash shares his version this month with his one-man play *Freshman Year Sucks!* at the Vortex Repertory Company.

"It's an 80's High School Flick with 1 guy playing all 26 characters," explains Nash.

*Freshman Year Sucks!* is officially the first part of Nash's latest serial solo work *The Class of '85 Series*. The setting: It's 1981. Ronald Reagan presides over the worst unemployment since the Depression.

Americans are lining up to see *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. *Bette Davis Eyes* tops the music charts. The new pay cable station, HBO, keeps running that damn *Nostradamus*, *The Man Who Saw Tomorrow* documentary with Orson Wells. And Ben, George and Johnny have no idea what totally awesome adventures await them in their first year at Holy Cross Prep.

The show runs in Austin until Dec. 14, Thursdays through Sundays at 8:00PM at the Planet Theatre. *Freshman Year Sucks!* will tour around the country next year, and run in Houston from June 18 to July 12.

"It's pretty autobiographical. I always wanted to do a screenplay about four friends

## Community Commemorates World AIDS DAY

The gay and lesbian community commemorated their loved ones, past and present, in several emotional ceremonies last Monday, December 1, World AIDS Day. Many of Houston's arts organizations joined forces with area AIDS service providers to commemorate the day with dedications.

Day Without Art drew standing room only crowds as thousands of people participated during its day long activities which drew such dignitaries as Houston Symphony Conductor-in-Residence Stephen Stein, State Rep. Debra Danburg and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. *Houston Chronicle* columnist Maxine Messinger did not attend as scheduled due to illness.

The event presented pages for the 1997 AIDS Memorial Book. This year's presentations went to Michael Ballard, an actor; James Bettison, an visual artist; Ross Perry,



Montrose Clinic Executive Director, Katy Caldwell and Channel 2 News Chief Meteorologist Frank Billingsley at Planet Hollywood.

a director and choreographer; dancer Michael Wasmund; jazz pianist David Catney. Locally renowned vocalist Sharon Montgomery and pianist Claudia Burson performed Catney's *Little Prayer*.

A letter from actress/AIDS activist Elizabeth Taylor was read during the ceremonies. It reads as follows:

"As we continue to wage the battle against the virus that has claimed the lives of so

See UPDATE page 5



# Travel

## FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**Saturday, December 6, 1997, 8pm**  
**Sunday, December 7, 1997, 7pm**

Your holiday ports of call include the South Pacific, Hawaii, West Africa, Europe, Israel and North America!

Tickets are available at Lobo, Crossroads and Inklings.

As the members of GMCH venture into our nineteenth season, we enthusiastically introduce our new Artistic Director, Dr. J. David Faber. We hope you will mark your calendar and join us at our new concert venue, Lambert Hall, located on Heights Boulevard at 17th Street!



**gmch**  
Gay Men's Chorus of Houston  
Dr. J. David Faber, Artistic Director

GMCH is a 501(c) 3 non-profit arts organization incorporated in Texas as the Montrose Singers d.b.a. Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Visit our Web Site at <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/1349>



# Community Gospel

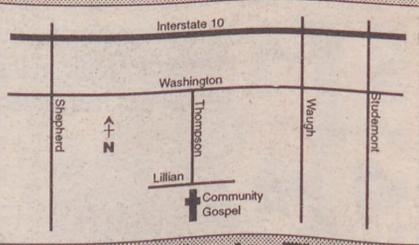
## Special Healing Service Sunday Dec. 7 at 11am

Pastor Chris Chiles

### The Pentecostal Family of Montrose

Sun	11am	Praise & Worship
	7pm	Evening Service
Thur	7:30pm	Midweek Services

See Church Calendar for Weekly Events



**4305 Lillian, Houston, TX 77007**  
**713-880-9235**  
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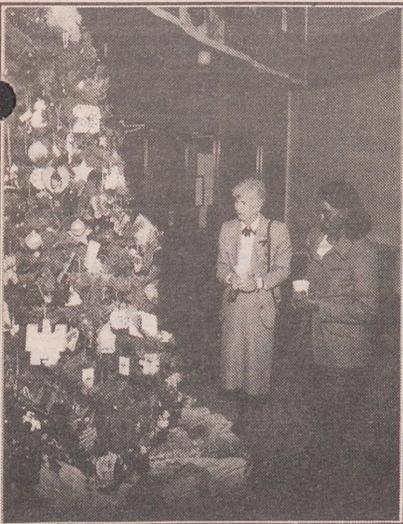
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many of our best and brightest, it is vital that we stand together, and your project on World AIDS Day is indeed a shining example of that effort.

"Your work continues to affirm the commitment to life that is every human being's birthright, and your continued dedication to this fight underscores your strength and compassion.



Rep. Shiela Jackson Lee flanked by participants at Day Without Art.



Tree of Remembrance Ceremony.

"I am so proud of the work that people all over the world have done to help so many others. However, I continue to ask for your help, not only on World AIDS Day, but all year through. I call upon you to draw from the depths of your being to prove that we are a human race.

"To prove that our love outweighs our need to hate, that our compassion is more compelling than our need to blame. That our sensitivity to those in need is stronger than our greed. That our ability to reason overcomes our fear. And that at the end of each of our lives, we can look back and be proud. That we have treated others with the kindness, dignity, and respect that every human being deserves.

"For your responsibility, your caring, and all of your hard work, I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Several other events took place later that evening. The *Tree of Remembrance* ceremony took place at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center. The ceremony was co-sponsored by the Houston NAMES Project, the City of Houston and the Garden Party.

And, across town at Planet Hollywood, Montrose Clinic commemorated the tenth

annual World AIDS Day with a gala featuring News 2 Houston Chief meteorologist. The Clinic unveiled plans for a Wall of Hope recognizing the many individuals who help support their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

**Omega House a recipient of Macy's West Passport Fund on World AIDS Day**

In commemoration of World AIDS Day, Macy's West, in conjunction with the Federated Department Stores Foundation, awarded \$400,000 in grants to 44 organizations in six states dedicated HIV/AIDS treatment, education and care.

A Houston HIV/AIDS agency - Omega House - has been selected to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Passport Fund. Omega House offers residential care for medically indigent people with AIDS in the terminal stages of their illness.

Their grant will support patient care at the residence as well as support the psychological and spiritual services provided. Omega House was also a recipient of the 1996 Passport Fund.

The fund is endowed by Macy's annual Passport fall fashion show, a highly successful HIV/AIDS fund-raiser held in San Francisco and Los Angeles in September. To date the fund has contributed \$6.2 million to the cause. This year alone, Passport '97, "Fusion," chaired by Elizabeth Taylor and Earvin "Magic" Johnson, raised a record breaking \$2 million.

The fund makes individual grants to additional HIV/AIDS non-profits in California and other Macy's West trading areas, including Arizona, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas. The Federated Department Stores Foundation generously matches Macy's contribution to eligible HIV/AIDS organization benefiting from the Passport Fund.

"The Passport Fund committee looks for agency programs and projects where the grant making will have a significant impact on their services. We were impressed by the breadth of the proposals we received, including many agencies dealing with the changing trends in the epidemic," said Delia Ehrlich, community relations manager for Macy's West.

In all, 60 organizations submitted proposals for grants, which were reviewed by a diverse committee of community leaders involved in the HIV/AIDS epidemic and grantmakers from corporate and foundation sectors.



Incoming Body Positive Board President, Anthony Bianchi presenting fellow board member Nelson Vergel with a surprise award.

**Body Positive Celebrates Ninth Anniversary; Honors Nelson Vergel**

The Board of Body Positive/Houston held their 9th Anniversary Celebration last week at Stages Repertory Theatre. The capacity filled gala drew a who's who of Houston's gay community leaders and activists.

The evenings festivities included a catered dinner and awards presentation as well as a keynote address by Dr. Shannon Schraeder of the Southampton Medical Group. Current Board president Gary Rod emceed the event with aplomb.

Awards were bestowed upon Sausalitos Seafood & Pasta (Corporate) for their contributions to the community on many fronts; DIFFA (Civic Organization) for their efforts in the fight against AIDS; Houston Buyers Club (Community Service) for their success in reducing the cost of health foods for cash-strapped HIV/AIDS patients, an idea brought to fruition by Fred Walters; Ken LeBlanc (Volunteer) and Phil Lacy (Individual) who received a standing ovation for his efforts on behalf of the community for many years.

In a surprise presentation, the organizations Board gave an award to Nelson Vergel, executive director of Program for Wellness Restoration (P.O.W.E.R.). Presented by incoming board member Anthony Bianchi, their was not a dry eye in the house during his poignant presentation. Bianchi shared a poignant story about a hospital visit with an AIDS patient that he accompanied Vergel too some years ago.

Vergel was genuinely surprised. He thanked the board and volunteers of Body Positive and said none of his work could have been accomplished without the 25 people sitting behind him. Vergel has been HIV-positive for more than a decade. He is the driving force behind the organizations Wellness Center and its creation.

The Body Positive Wellness Center is due

to open in the first quarter of 1998. A collaborative effort of Body Positive/Houston, PoWeR, Houston Buyers Club, and the Women's HIV Coalition, the center is designed to offer a suite of services that include resistance weight training, nutritional counseling, low cost nutritional supplements, massage therapy, peer counseling, informational seminars and a variety of other classes for stress and tension relief.

**Montrose Counseling Center to Host Open House, Workshops**

Montrose Counseling Center will be hosting its annual Open House on Sunday, December 7, 1997, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 701 Richmond Avenue. The celebration will be open to the community.

"There will be refreshments, tours of the building, and the opportunity to learn more about MCC and its vital work," enthused MCC Developing and Marketing Manager Brian J. Tognotti

The program will consist of a special ceremony honoring the organizations co-founders and original Board members who helped launch MCC in 1978, including William A. Scott, Stuart R. Phelps, Ted R. Hewes, Judith A. Newsome, John H. O'Donnell, Marion E. Coleman, James Kuhn, Bert Hollister, and Steve Norvell.

The organization also plans to announce the recipients of the Kenneth Vance Employee Award for the most outstanding employee of the year; the Margaret DiJacklin Student Award honoring the best student intern; and the Stella Scott Community Service Award, given to the year's most outstanding volunteer. For more information, contact Tognotti at (713) 529-0037.

In related news, "Sharing the Holidays" will be the topic of discussion at the Center's Women's Network, Wednesday, December 10, 1997 from 7 to 9 p.m. The forum is open to any woman who is sensitive to, and com-

See UPDATE page 6

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**UPDATE/** from page 5

fortable with, lesbians.

According to Women's Network facilitator Sue Long, LMSW-ACP, the holidays can be a lonely time for some. The evening will offer an opportunity to share ideas for transforming this often stressful experience into one of meaningful connection, Long said.

Meanwhile, 'Sex and Intimacy' will be the subject of discussion at the Center's Men's Network, Tuesday, December 9 from 7:15 to 9 p.m. According to facilitator Michael Migura, the group will engage in a discussion focusing on the sex we want versus the sex we get, how we value sex in our lives, and how we discuss sex with or friends and partners.

Both the Women and Men Network groups request a three to five dollar donation, however, everyone is welcome regardless of their ability to pay. For more information, contact the Migura or Long at the Center.

**Kolbe Project appoints new director**

The Board of Directors of the Kolbe Project have appointed a new director, Thomas Nitschke. The board had been looking for a replacement when former director, Rev. Ralph Lasher, resigned to take a position at the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection.

Nitschke has a Masters of Divinity from St. Meinrad's Seminary in St. Menrad, Indiana. He also has some roots here in Houston graduating from the University of St. Thomas, Houston with an undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts with minors in Theology and Philosophy.

"This opportunity comes to me at an appropriate time and is ideal way for me to contribute to the gay and lesbian community," said Nitschke.

The Kolbe Project, named after St. Maximilian Kolbe who was known for his unwavering love of neighbor and Franciscan

hospitality, offers peace and reconciliation to those who have been alienated from family and/or Church. For more information, call (713) 861-1800.

**"Unframed" at Hyde Park Gallery**

The Hyde Park Gallery will present *Unframed: A One-Man Show* featuring new works by Larry Crawford from December 5, 1997 to January 1, 1998. The Gallery is located at 711 Hyde Park.



A work by Larry Crawford, one of many to be unveiled at his One-Man show.

Critics have hailed Crawford's approach to his art as a modern form of today's art movement. He has earned a reputation for keeping the viewer's mind occupied with an individual subject while simultaneously presenting other plausible views.

Crawford maintains that the subjective view is colored by personal involvement and accentuated with emotions. The objective view is simple and logical. The image on the canvas or photo is intense with emotion and classical romanticism.

Known to provide his paintings and photo's with a direction that has been described as "striking and bold," Crawford presents his images as desirable and with

deep emotion. "With his brilliant colors to his basic black and whites, he brings the viewer into total spectrum of his art," said one critic.

This will be Crawford's first one-man-show in two years. His works have appeared however in group showings, many of which have been donated to charity. An artist reception will be held Friday, December 5, from 7 to 10 p.m., with a portion of the proceeds benefiting charity.

**Briefs....**

The Houston based performance art group QuAC: The Queer Artist Collective presents the latest episode in its hot new open mic (sic) spoken word series "speak OUT, freak OUT," Monday, December 8 at 8 p.m. at Toopee's Coffee

company located at 1830 West Alabama....

The Houston Area Women's Center offers free support groups for friends and families of survivors of domestic violence the first three Wednesdays of every month at 6:30 p.m. All support groups are completely confidential according to Mitzi Vorachek at the Center. For more information, call the center at (713) 528-2121....

Finally, the cellos and French horns of the Houston symphony return to Milam House, Tuesday, December 9, for their second annual holiday concert. The concert celebrates persons living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers. The sounds of the season will be heard from 5 to 6 p.m. For more information, call Milam House at (713) 520-9248.



**REGIONAL NEWS**

**Brown picks up endorsements in mayoral race**

by Terri Langford

HOUSTON - Former political foes Bob Lanier and Kathy Whitmire put aside differences Tuesday in endorsing Lee Brown in Saturday's Houston mayoral runoff against businessman Rob Mosbacher.

"I believe him to be a man of integrity, strength and mature judgment," Lanier, Houston's outgoing two-term mayor, said of Brown. Whitmire, who selected Brown to



Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, (left) Lee Brown (center), and Annise Parker (right) on the campaign trail. Webb was in town stumping for Brown.

be Houston's police chief in 1982, also announced her support.

"It's something I was more than willing to do," said Whitmire, the five-time Houston mayor defeated in 1991 by Lanier. "I was always impressed with the commitment that he made to Houston and to his people and to the neighborhoods. I was impressed with the way he was able to bring people together."

The dual endorsements come a day after radio ads began airing in which President Bill Clinton urges Houstonians to vote for Brown, calling the 60-year-old lifetime public servant a "remarkable man."

Mosbacher, who counts former President George Bush and wife Barbara among his supporters, said Lanier's announcement was not unexpected. "I respect Bob Lanier," Mosbacher said. "We've had our differences on some issues. But if people are

looking for a can-do businessman to succeed the one we have today, I am that candidate."

Mosbacher and Brown were the top two finishers in the Nov. 4 election out of a field of eight candidates. Brown led Mosbacher 41 to 29 percent. Term limits prevent Lanier from running again. Although participating in a nonpartisan race, both candidates have tapped party ranks for help. Vice President Al Gore stumped for Brown last week. Mrs. Bush appears in a Mosbacher television commercial.

**Parker leading in tight race for city council**

Annise Parker has taken the lead in the runoff election for Houston City Council, At-Large Position One. A *Houston Chronicle/KHOU-TV* poll released Thursday showed Parker at 26 percent, and her opponent Don Fitch, a wealthy garbage company lobbyist, at 19.4 percent. The poll of 727 city voters indicated that 54 percent are still undecided or support neither candidate.

"I've never doubted that Houstonians will decide this race based on qualifications," said Parker, who has received every endorsement made by elected officials and community-based organizations. "But the large number of undecided voters shows that we have our work cut out for us." Parker commented that she has an aggressive field operation in place for Saturday's election, and is actively seeking to expand her "army of volunteers."

Parker's campaign manager Grant Martin said Thursday that anti-gay attacks have surfaced in the tight contest. "We know from a very reliable source that the Fitch campaign is dropping a 50,000 piece, anti-gay hit mailing into the African-American community, and that's just one we know of for sure. I definitely expect more," said Martin.

Fitch, who appeared Tuesday morning on KPRC's Dan Patrick radio show, stated that he had "learned recently that many people are interested in finding out" about Parker's sexual orientation.

Martin, who has had previous experience in campaigns for openly gay and lesbian candidates on the West coast, was not surprised. See REGION page 7

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**REGION/**from page 6

prised. "We have expected and prepared for this all along, by positioning Annise as the most qualified candidate in the race without regard to sexual orientation. We have a strong Election Day program in place, and I think voters will reject Fitch's negative tactics just like they did Lloyd Kelley's."

Just in case, added Martin, the Parker campaign began airing radio commercials Thursday on stations with predominately African American listeners. The spots feature Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee



Rob Mosbacher



Chris Bell

urging voters to ignore the smear campaign waged by Parker's opponent.

"The ultimate weapon against such attacks," said Martin, "is a huge voter turnout by our community. There is no excuse — absolutely no excuse — for anyone with a commitment to human rights not to vote this Saturday."

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Saturday. Martin welcomed anyone to call the Parker Campaign at 713-521-7338 to find out where to vote or to volunteer.

**Chronicle Poll shows Brown has big lead, City Council races are close**

A *Houston Chronicle*/KHOU-TV Poll released earlier this week shows that former Police Chief Lee Brown is leading businessman Rob Mosbacher by approximately 10 points. The poll shows Brown with 47.9% of the vote to Mosbacher's 38.5%. The remaining 13.6% were either undecided or did not care for either candidate. Brown has been endorsed by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

According to the article in the *Chronicle* written by political reporter Alan Bernstein, the survey showed that the only way Mosbacher erase Brown's lead is if "white voters - the core of Mosbacher's support - show up for Saturday's runoff election in larger numbers than they did Nov. 4."

Other results from the poll indicate white voters favor Mosbacher 62.5% to 26.1% for Brown. Black voters support Brown almost unanimously, said the *Chronicle*. Among Hispanics, 41.3% supported Brown, 33.3% back Mosbacher and the rest were undecided. Among undecided voters, 15.3% are leaning towards backing Brown, 16.5% Mosbacher. A poll release early Thursday morning from Channel 2 Houston had different results, however, showing Brown with 43% of the vote, Mosbacher with 40% and 10% of the voters undecided.

The *Chronicle* poll revealed the following results with respect to the following city council races. In At-Large Position 1, Parker leads Don Fitch by 26% to 19.4%, while 54% were undecided or did not like either candidate. Parker has been endorsed by both gay political groups, HGLPC and Log Cabin Republicans of Houston.

In At-Large Position 4, incumbent Chris Bell is favored by 32.2%, his opponent Richard Johnson by 16.6%. Again, the not sure/don't like vote was at 51%. Bell has also received the support of both gay political groups. In At-Large Position 5, Carroll Robinson has 26.7% support, while his opponent Elizabeth Spates has 21.4% and 52% were undecided. Robinson was endorsed by the HGLPC, Spates by Log Cabin.

**Up 50 points, Bush promising to run hard**

AUSTIN (AP) - Up 50 percentage points on his opponent and sporting the endorsement of the state's top elected Democrat, Republican Gov. George W. Bush vows to be

a tireless campaigner in the re-election bid he begins Wednesday.

I know the polls look good. But that will not deter me from working as hard as I possibly can," Bush said Tuesday. "I'll take nothing for granted, and I intend to win."

Bush, who's increasingly the subject of presidential speculation, is formally launching his campaign with a six-day, 24-city tour of the state starting in Midland. Only the second Republican governor in 120 years, he seeks to become the first to be re-elected since Dolph Briscoe in 1974 and the first ever to win back-to-back four-year terms.

Underlying this race is talk of a possible Bush bid for the White House in 2000, a subject the governor steadfastly declines to discuss. "I'm not concerned about it. What people are going to hear from me is here I need to lead (the state)," Bush said.

The latest Texas Poll, published last month, gave Bush 68 percent support to 16 percent for the only announced Democratic candidate, four-term Land Commissioner Garry Mauro. And the week Mauro announced, Bush was endorsed by Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock. But Democrats are taking their shots.

Democratic Party Chairman Bill White said people need to "take another look" at the Bush record, which he says has done nothing for the average Texan. "George W. Bush is a nice man. But if you take a look behind the image - and at the record - he has failed to deliver on key promises in education, insurance and crime," White said.

Mauro said Bush failed to give Texans the significant property tax rollback he promised before this year's Legislature. The Legislature rejected Bush's \$3 billion plan, opting instead for a more modest \$1 billion cut. And indications are that many of the state's largest school districts are raising property tax rates this year.

"If Gov. Bush thinks he's cut property taxes, he's spent too much time listening to Austin insiders and not enough time talking to Texas families," Mauro said. Responding, Bush said flatly, "We delivered the largest tax cut in the state's history."

Bush, who has amassed more than \$12 million for his campaign, is confident his record will carry him to another term. He points to tougher juvenile crime laws, more local control for schools, and requirements that welfare recipients work or get training to obtain benefits. The state's crime rate is down, and paroles are at the lowest rate in two decades. Thanks to a huge prison construction program begun in the early 1990s, more prisoners are serving longer sentences.

"I'm proudly going to run on my record. It's a good record. It's a strong record. It's a record that has united the state of Texas," Bush said.

The governor hopes his message will be heard statewide. But he's also focusing on fast-growing suburban areas as fertile ground that might produce more Republican votes than in 1994, when he ousted popular Democratic Gov. Ann Richards.

Texas Democrats have been struggling. On Tuesday, the party's most widely recognized incumbent - Attorney General Dan Morales - announced he wouldn't seek reelection. Last year, for the first time, the GOP won every statewide race on the ballot.

Republicans hope Bush's coattails can help their 1998 ticket. The governor sought this week to downplay any expectations about his vote-pulling power. "I've got one race in mind - and that's mine," he said. "One more vote than my opponent (and) they'll be calling me governor."

**Teen confesses to killing man who paid him for sex**

BROWNSVILLE - A teen-ager was arraigned on murder charges Tuesday after confessing to killing a 69-year-old man who allegedly paid him for sex. Jaime Valdez, 18, of Brownsville was jailed in lieu of \$100,000 bond in the slaying of Robert Scott.

Valdez told Cameron County sheriff's deputies he stabbed Scott once in the stomach and once in the back to avoid being raped Saturday night. Valdez was arrested Monday after his father called authorities.

There were hundreds of pornographic

pictures and about two dozen sexually explicit videos of boys and men in Scott's trailer home when authorities found his body Sunday, said Sheriff's Maj. Gus Reyna. One of the videos showed Valdez performing a sex act on Scott moments before the killing, Reyna said. The tape was still in a hand-held video recorder.

According to Reyna, Valdez told authorities Scott had paid him for sexual favors in the past, but the deal turned violent this time as Scott tried to force himself on the younger man. A next-door neighbor phoned police Sunday morning after seeing blood smeared on Scott's front door.

Scott's neighbors said they did not believe he had pornography in the trailer and expressed shock that anyone would kill the man. In the eight years Scott lived in the trailer park, he had made no enemies, said neighbor Leroy Miller.

Another neighbor, Blanca De La Garza, said she had known Scott for about six years

and could not guess at a reason for the murder. "He would always help everybody around here," Ms. De La Garza said. "Whatever you needed."

**Bush taps his lawyer for secretary of state**

AUSTIN (AP) - Gov. George W. Bush's search for a new secretary of state ended not far from his Capitol office. Bush picked his lawyer, Alberto R. Gonzales, for the job. Gonzales, 42, replaces Tony Garza, who resigned last month to seek the GOP nomination for land commissioner.

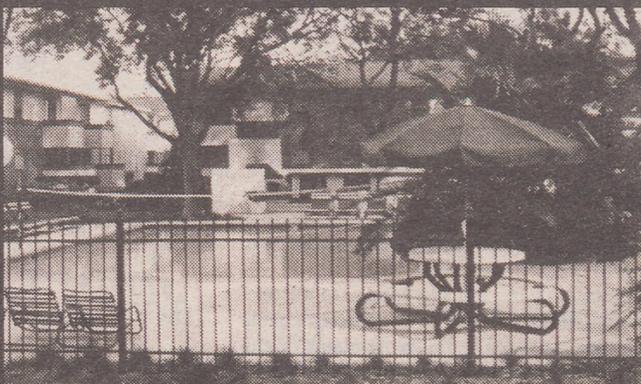
Bush announced the appointment Tuesday, saying Gonzales will continue Garza's work in promoting fair elections and improving relations between Texas and Mexico. "He is committed, as I am, to free and fair elections in our state, and he is committed to maintaining our close working

See REGION page 10

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## Hanging In, Hanging On

by Larry Lingle

Like many of you, I often wonder what I am doing here, week after week, exposing both you the reader and myself to glimpses of my aging psyche. Particularly in view of my slow alienation from even the gay mainstream. This growing distance, no doubt, occasioned by advancing years and the death of nearly all those to whom I have been close in recent years.

There was a time, long ago, when I could have spun an entire column around my opposing columnist's rash diatribe over Al Gore's campaigning for one of Houston's mayoral candidates. What fodder would have fed my response when sweetheart (not) Barbara Bush appeared, via television, to push another Junior for office.

Of course, in both Gore's and Bush's cases, it was as much political payback as partisan spirit which motivated their endorsements. And not to be overlooked, Gore was fishing for those ever-loving dollars for presidential year 2000 and Babs certainly knew it would not hurt to have a friendly Houston mayor no matter what destiny beckons her Junior.

But this is not the stuff which moves my arthritic hands to the typewriter. Any hope for real movement in city government was lost in third place on November 4. Now it is all form and motion. Oh sure, Annise Parker could make a difference in City Council. And that thought alone, will drive me to the polls for this runoff.

I certainly did not stay hinged to the television with the vision of some Iowa couple proving once again the fertile plains of the Middle West. While the birth of septuplets is a thing for Ripley's Believe It or Not, the hoopla only reflects the desperate - and well-known - straits of American journalism.

As the nation embarks on what will undoubtedly prove a lifetime experience (for myself, thank God, I should have to endure this for far fewer years), these seven little

babies will probably never know a normal day in their lives. Already the media is playing fast and loose when a national magazine feels compelled to doctor the mother's oth-

poke fun at the mayor in signs spread across the entire sides of city transit buses. Is there no shame? I think that magazine and the rest of New York should leave it to Rudy to

*“And how about that Lady Chablis? From minor character in a book filled with choice characters this drag queen goes from fictionalized nonfiction to real life in the most brazen scene stealing since John Gielgud (it takes a queen)”*

erwise broken and crooked teeth. After all, someone who has just borne a litter should offer a perfect smile to the waiting world.

I would prefer to focus on more momentous topics. For instance, I side with New York Mayor Giuliani in his anger with *New York Magazine* which had the effrontery to

present himself in his own comical way, like appearing in drag on Saturday Night Live. At least J. Edgar Hoover had the decency to restrict his cross-dressing to his quarters and the halls of the Plaza Hotel.

And what about that movie version of everyone's favorite book, *Midnight in the*

*Garden of Good and Evil!* This is clearly a case of Clint Eastwood's ego gone amok. When I read the book, back in about the 97th week on the best seller list, I recall assuming the unnamed narrator was gay. Or was this because I knew the author was gay. In any case there was no love interest. But thanks to Clint's nepotism, the movie serves up the minor talent of his daughter in one of film's most unspectacular romances, concluding with the hero being reluctantly drawn into those inexpressive arms.

And how about that Lady Chablis? From minor character in a book filled with choice characters this drag queen goes from fictionalized nonfiction to real life in the most brazen scene stealing since John Gielgud (it takes a queen). And I love how all these Australian actors (in this case the juicy role of defense attorney) are taking on diverse American accents (a double dose in *LA Confidential*), as if to make up for all the years of Hollywood's mauling the tongue Down Under (see Robert Mitchum and Deborah Kerr).

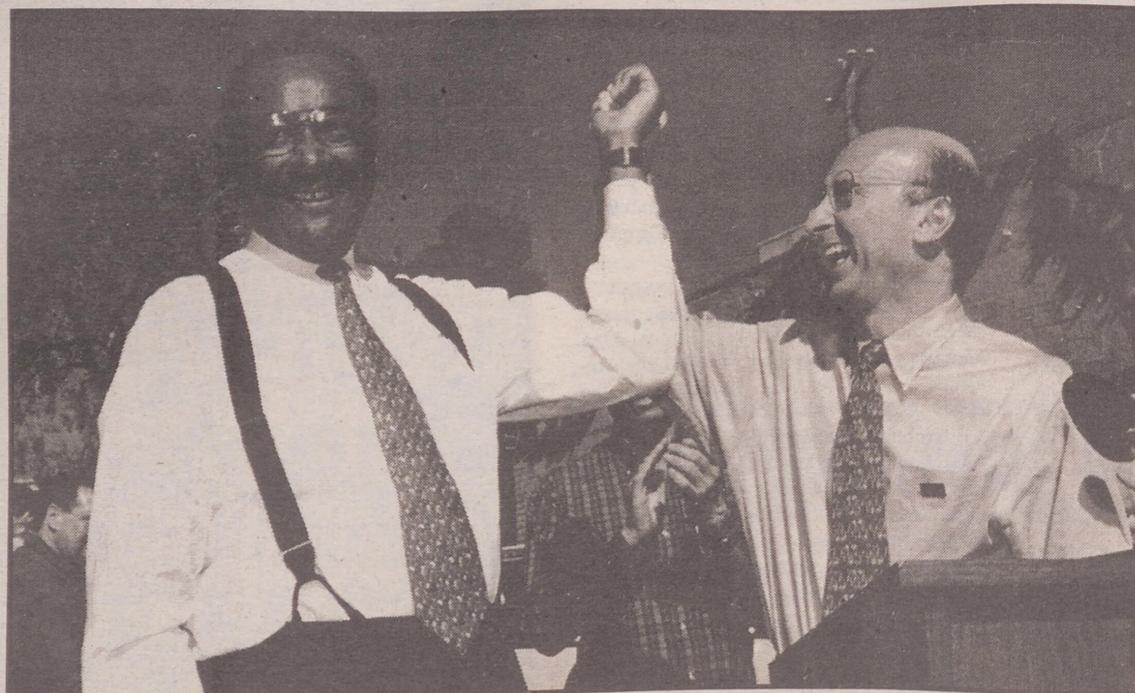
As a longtime foe of guns (ever since I killed a sparrow with a BB gun at the age of nine) I could easily rail against the increasing availability of weapons on the hands of children, resulting in such incidents as Tennessee this week where a youth fired into a crowd of praying students. Guns, like prayers, should be kept in the home.

But the point of all this, if there is one covered by the scatter-gun of my mind, is that it is more and more difficult, for me at least, to become impassioned on any one subject. As with Thanksgiving and Christmas, I do not involve myself with World AIDS Day. I can neither reclaim my loss nor revisit the past.

So, dear readers (those who have not gone on to tea), consider this my holiday column and take it in the spirit it is intended - namely, hang onto your idealism while you can as life's experiences and time's toll might well bring you to this same juncture as yours truly - and a happy holiday to you all.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

# By George!



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## How Bad Do They Really Want the Job?

by Leslie Ramsay

Last week I predicted the ad in this week's Houston Voice from the Lee P. Brown campaign. It plainly states that if you voted for George Greanias then you are to immediately run down to the polls without consideration of the other candidate and punch your card for Lee P. Brown.

Lee P. Brown's advertising campaign has been the most racist and condescending I have ever seen. The campaign staff that put these ads together is pushing the notion that by using the color "brown" underneath the word "all" in the slogan that if elected Lee P. Brown will represent the minority community as if previous administrations had failed to do so. The vote on the Houston Civil Rights Initiative should dispel that notion.

Before all of you pick up the phone to call the paper to explain his advertising campaign's usage of color to me, I do realize that the man's name is Brown. The psychology of color usage in advertising is well documented and integral to the first year's advertising college student's curriculum.

I have a higher regard for the intelligence of the advertising agency behind his campaign than what they have for the intelligence of the voting public. I say this even after attempting to contact his headquarters on multiple occasions where I was hung up on, transferred to nobody, transferred to the wrong party, and left on hold for more than ten minutes. His campaign headquarters gives the impression of being extremely disorganized.

The advertising agency is also assuming that because Lee P. Brown is a man of color that all minorities will jump at the chance to vote for him. Just as they are assuming that because Greanias has endorsed Brown that all gay people will vote for Lee P. Brown.

The phones have been ringing off the hooks here at the paper. People have been stopping by on a daily basis to pressure members of the staff to go easy on Mr. Lee P. Brown. I wouldn't use the term "threaten" but "strongly suggest" is the term that describes these "friendly" little visits from various members of the community. When they weren't explaining how Lee P. Brown was the future savior of this city, they were extolling on the virtues of Annise Parker.

Now, voting for Annise Parker, a "lesbian feminist", as the shock jock radio talk show hosts are calling her, seems like a no brainer for the gay community. She has been on the front lines of the Houston gay right's movement for as long as I can remember.

Do we vote for someone simply because they are gay? If you look at Annise Parker's community involvement over the last few years, you see that she has been very involved on many levels.

What are her politics though? The job of city councilman involves filling potholes, fixing streetlights, digging ditches, and fixing sewer lines.

Is this the best place for a gay rights activist? Does Annise Parker have the coalition building talents that will be needed to come up with the eight votes that are needed to push forward any meaningful city ordinances that pertain to the gay community?

*Looking at the current city council's voting history, anything meaningful coming before the council as far as gay rights is concerned is extremely unlikely. Just because a gay person is on the city council does not mean that the agenda of filling potholes, digging ditches, and fixing sewer lines will change.*

Will this even be Annise Parker's agenda once she is elected?

Looking at the current city council's voting history, anything meaningful coming before the council as far as gay rights is concerned is extremely unlikely. Just because a gay person is on the city council does not mean that the agenda of filling potholes, digging ditches, and fixing sewer lines will change. It is very likely that Annise Parker will spend two years on city council and will never have an opportunity to push forward publicly anything for the gay community.

Where does Annise Parker stand on annexation of communities in the county? Where does Annise Parker stand on zoning? Where does Annise Parker stand on downtown baseball stadiums? Where does Annise Parker stand on using city money to hire religiously affiliated groups (Nation of Islam) as security guards in housing projects? Where does Annise Parker stand on buying band uniforms for children in Fort Bend County with City of Houston tax dollars? All of these are questions that I am sure that she has answered privately, publicly, and at great length on multiple occasions but the only thing I am hearing as to why we should vote for her is because she is gay. How sad.

As for Mr. Brown's politics, his grand fifty point plans on how to solve everything that ails the City of Houston are swirling into a whirlpool of "needing further study".

Ask the same questions of Lee P. Brown that you ask of Annise Parker. Attempt to pin him down for a definitive answer. I dare you.

I listened to the debate on 740 AM KTRH this past week and a particular example of Lee P. Brown's version of circulation avoidance of

response comes to mind. Someone from the Alley Theatre asked something to the effect about how Lee P. Brown would utilize, improve, and support the extraordinary arts community in Houston. His response was to repeat the question, praise the arts community and basically tell the gentleman that he would go on a goodwill tour to tell the people of the world about the Houston arts community.

When Rob Mosbacher was asked the very same question, he praised the arts community and addressed some specific and unique problems that the downtown theatre district faces. He clearly stated that he would work towards removing the \$5,000,000 cap on the hotel tax that was imposed by a previous administration. He addressed the problems that the theatre district faces with the public works department tearing up the streets on opening night. He said that he would coordinate the public works department scheduling with the arts community's scheduling as to not interrupt opening night or special events.

Saturday the choice is yours again. You must decide on whom you want to represent you to the world.

Lee P. Brown will talk about the City of Houston with everyone he meets while he is on his worldwide promotional tours.

Rob Mosbacher is addressing specific concerns with real solutions for all of Houston. I have yet to hear him speak of a worldwide public relations trip.

Don Fitch, Annise Parker's opponent, has publicly stated that he plans on playing a lot of golf in-between city council sessions if elected.



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**REGION/** from page 7

relationship and friendship with Mexico," Bush said.

Gonzales praised Garza's work in both those areas and pledged to continue it. But he said he wanted to further study the initiative Garza began last summer in challenging part of the federal Voting Rights Act.

Garza urged Congress to free Texas from the part of the law called Section 5, which requires prior Justice Department approval of election law changes made in eight Southern states and Alaska, plus some counties and townships in seven more states. "I haven't made up my mind," Gonzales said of that push.

For the past three years, Gonzales has been the governor's general counsel and given legal advice on many issues, including death penalty cases. He came to the Bush administration from the Houston law firm of Vinson & Elkins, where he was a partner.

Gonzales will be the 100th secretary of state, a job that traditionally has served as a political springboard.

Bush said that in many ways, "Al embodies the Texas and American dream."

"He grew up in Houston in a two-bedroom house with his parents and seven brothers and sisters. He graduated from Texas public schools, he attended the Air Force Academy, graduated from Rice (University) and went on to get his law degree at Harvard," Bush said.

**University of Texas fraternity accused of racism**

AUSTIN - A former Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity member has accused his University of Texas chapter of denying a student membership because of his race. Spencer Prou filed a racial-discrimination complaint with the university this month, claiming his friend, David Moss, was rejected because he is part black. Moss is of

Korean and African ancestry.

"From the beginning it was a race issue," Prou told the *Austin American-Statesman*. "I was even told we should wait until we're a 100-man chapter before we let a black person in." Prou said he has tapes of some of the fraternity's chapter meetings where Moss' race was discussed. He claims one fraternity member said, "There are people who don't want him because of his race. The fact is he won't be welcome."

Lee Simpson, the fraternity's former vice president, denies the chapter discriminated against Moss and said the freshman was rejected for other reasons. "Our constitution forbids and condemns discrimination," Simpson said. Moss said he isn't so sure.

"At first, I did not want to believe that my race had anything to do with this," he said. "But the more I thought about it, it just made sense. Some brothers just didn't want to talk to me, and they didn't know anything about me, except what I looked like." Moss said it was the chapter's diversity which first attracted him to the house.

The Lambda Chi house includes students of Mexican-American and Asian-American descent. Five of the chapter's 20 members are minorities. None are black. Some fear the incident might further tarnish the school's image following an appeals court ruling, which bans affirmative action from admissions decisions throughout the fifth circuit.

Others such as Interfraternity Council president Mike Lavigne fear the incident could reinforce a campus stereotype pegging fraternities as elitist social groups for mostly rich white men, the paper reported. "We're a far cry from the stereotype," Lavigne said. "Racial tension has not been a problem in the Greek system, and this one incident shouldn't be interpreted as representing all fraternities."

Moss said he doesn't want the issue to hurt minority recruitment. "But I just can't ignore the fact that there are racial problems, not just here. Society is filled with them," he said. "And they aren't going to go away until

we talk about them."

If found guilty of racial discrimination, the fraternity faces punishments ranging from requiring members to take diversity-awareness courses to losing its status as a campus organization.

**Teacher draws 8-year term for fondling student**

BROWNSVILLE - A former elementary teacher has been sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to charges of fondling a fifth-grade student in a classroom. Joseph Michael McCarthy, 41, pleaded guilty to one count of indecency with a child.

According to court documents, McCarthy lied to school officials to get his teaching job at Reynaldo Garza Elementary School, claiming he had a valid teacher's certificate. The certificate had been revoked in 1987. McCarthy taught in the school's special education program.

A school counselor said three children reported being molested by McCarthy. Cameron County prosecutor Bill Hagen on Wednesday called the crimes "despicable." McCarthy could have received 20 years in prison but drew only an eight-year term because it was his first offense, Hagen said.

Teachers at the school had twice reported seeing McCarthy in a classroom with his pants down, according to prosecutors. And several of his male students had increasingly shunned being around him, Hagen said. "There is a lot of speculation about why those boys don't want to be around him, but just the one witness articulated an offense," Hagen said.

Before teaching at Brownsville, McCarthy was a teacher in Laredo and Rio Grande City and in Massachusetts. Although McCarthy told school officials here and in the other cities that he had completed graduate degrees, prosecutors were unable to confirm that he had successfully completed any of the programs he had enrolled in.

Hagen said state officials revoked

McCarthy's teaching certificate 10 years ago because he lied about his qualifications and education.

**Candidates begin filing for 1998 elections**

AUSTIN - Candidates began filing Wednesday for the 1998 elections, opening a process that will shape a general election ballot on which no Democratic incumbent will be seeking re-election to any of the top six statewide offices.

The filing period runs through Jan. 2, at which time the Republican and Democratic fields will be set for the March 10 primary elections. Runoffs will be April 14. As Republican Gov. George W. Bush kicked off his re-election campaign in Midland, Democrats were assessing the impact of Attorney General Dan Morales' surprise decision to call it quits.

Morales was a draw with Hispanic voters and in a recent survey enjoyed the second-highest name recognition among Texas politicians, behind only Bush. Morales' retirement decision followed that of the state's top-ranking Democrat, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who hadn't missed an election since 1974.

The other two Democrats in statewide office - Land Commissioner Garry Mauro and Comptroller John Sharp - have their eyes on different prizes: governor for Mauro and lieutenant governor for Sharp, who filed Wednesday. That leaves Bush as the only one of the big six who wants to keep his current job. Morales' departure kicked off waves of speculation about who else might run.

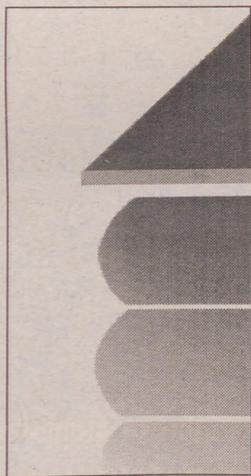
Three Republicans have announced for attorney general - Railroad Commissioner Barry Williamson, former state GOP chairman Tom Pauken and former Texas Supreme Court Justice John Cornyn.

On the Democratic side, only Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Morris Overstreet was challenging Morales.

See REGION page 11

**VOTE FOR FREEDOM!**

Log Cabin Republicans of Houston endorses the following candidates in the City's upcoming **December 6** election run-offs:



- Annise Parker** City Council At-Large, Position 1
- Chris Bell** City Council At-Large, Position 4
- Elizabeth Spates** City Council At-Large, Position 5

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS - HOUSTON

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Now, names are flying. They include: former attorney general Jim Mattox, state Rep. Paul Sadler of Henderson, Houston Mayor Bob Lanier and state Sen. John Whitmire of Houston. Overstreet said anyone jumping in now would be a Johnny-come-lately.

"Now that Morales has dropped out of the race, I would not find it surprising if others announced to run against me. The people of Texas should really question the sincerity of anyone who announces now," Overstreet said as he filed.

Also filing for the Democratic attorney general nomination Wednesday was Gene Kelly of Universal City.

Other key races being decided next year are those for the Texas Legislature. Republicans won 17 of the 31 Senate seats last year, giving them control of that law-making chamber for the first time since Reconstruction. Now their eyes are on the 150-member House, where Democrats hold an 83-67 edge.

Gay Chamber Honors Members

Houston - The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce held their annual Christmas Party and Holiday meeting December 1st. The meeting was held at the Wyndham Warwick with the Madrigal Singers from the High School for the Visual and Performing Arts providing the musical entertainment.



From left to right are Anita Renteria-1998 GHGLCC president, Sandra Wilkins-1997 vice-president, Coy Tow-1997 president, Debbie Phinney-Empower'97 co-chair, and Scott Garrison-1997 co-membership chairman.

Out going President Coy Tow recognized the hard work of the various committee chairmen with Certificates of Appreciation. Tow also awarded Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney with the coveted Chamber Member of the Year award for their extraordinary effort in putting the Empower '97

business expo together.

The President's Award went to Sandra Wilkins the out going Vice President of the GHGLCC for all of her hard work and dedication to the chamber. Coy Tow also presented the H.A.T.C.H. group with a \$500 contribution for their efforts in working with gay and lesbian youth in the community.

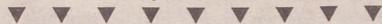
The new leadership of the GHGLCC was announced. The 1998 officers are Anita Renteria-President, Richard Wiederholt-Vice-president, Dan DiDonato-Secretary, and Bill Green-Treasurer. For membership information contact the GHGLCC at 713/523-7576. (Written by Leslie Ramsay).

Briefs....

Debbie Allen, a Houston native, returns to the Bayou City to attend a special invitation-only screening of *Amistad*, DreamWorks Pictures' new film which Allen produced. The screening will take place Saturday, December 6 at 8 p.m. at the General Cinema Meyerland Plaza, and an exciting evening is in store for those attending the gala. The film hits theater's nationwide December 12. Allen endured a 14-year struggle to bring the story of the *Amistad* to the big screen....

Former *M\*A\*S\*H* star Loretta Swit will showcase her line of jewelry at Paula Ridkin Designs, 2534 Amherst (in Rice Village). Swit has been designing and crafting jewelry since appearing in the musical, *Song of Singapore*, three years ago. Swit, known for her television roles on *M\*A\*S\*H* and *Those Incredible Animals*, has devoted much of her time to the Humane Community, and twice been named "Woman of the Year" by the Animal Protection Institute and by the International Fund for Animal Welfare. There is no cost to attend the open house, however, reservations are required....

Finally, "There are only two weeks left in the Courts' Amnesty program which will allow citizens with outstanding criminal warrants to have their warrants canceled when they voluntarily pay fines on delinquent tickets," says Judge Sylvia Garcia, Presiding Judge of Municipal Courts and city controller-elect. "We simply want to remind everyone that the time to come clear up your obligations is now and avoid long lines," she added. The special Amnesty has been in effect from 12:01 a.m., Monday, November 17, 1997 and ends 12 midnight Monday, December 15, 1997, and will apply only to warrants issued prior to November 17, 1997 on unadjudicated cases.



Clinton advises youth: save yourself from AIDS

by Slobodan Lekic

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Warning that AIDS is claiming a growing toll among young people around the world, President Clinton reminded America's youth that "only you have the power to keep yourselves safe."

"Every hour of every day, two more Americans under the age of 21 become infected with AIDS," Clinton said in a statement Monday marking World AIDS Day.

Later, in brief remarks to Democratic donors Monday night, the president outlined his record on AIDS and declared, "I still believe that we will be able to find a cure within the next few years if we continue to intensify our efforts."

The Clinton administration organized

events at several government agencies as part of the worldwide observance. At the Justice Department, Attorney General Janet Reno and Jim Graham, head of the Whitman-Walker AIDS clinics in the Washington area, led a ceremony attended by 6-year-old Precious Thomas, who was infected with AIDS by her birth mother.

Wearing ribbons in her hair and a bright red dress, the girl read a poem and a brief statement to standing ovations. "AIDS can affect everyone but so can ignorance," she said. "Get educated before you hurt someone who is infected."

And at the State Department, Kate Shindle, the current Miss America, presented youth public service awards for AIDS-related work. In a videotaped message to participants in a ceremony at the National Theater organized by the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Clinton said the battle against AIDS has shown some

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signs of success recently, with powerful new treatments helping people with AIDS live longer and healthier lives.

"Still, HIV is affecting more and more young people," Clinton said. "So this year let me send a special message to young Americans: Only you have the power to keep yourselves safe."

At the ceremony, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton cautioned that while the overall number of AIDS cases is falling in the United States, there has been no comparable drop elsewhere in the world. "We should be concerned that by the year 2010, it is estimated that as many as 40 million children will have lost their parents worldwide to AIDS," she said.

Concern about exploding infection rates in Africa and Asia was echoed at a Washington conference on the impact of AIDS on developing nations organized by the United Nations, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the World Bank and several other groups.

"Life expectancy, which has been steadily on the rise for about three decades, will drop to 40 years or less in nine sub-Saharan countries by the year 2010 mainly because of this disease," said USAID administrator Brian Atwood.

**Program marks 25 years on campus amid tempest over lesbianism**

by Jay Reeves

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Rebecca Baggett is a liberal heterosexual feminist, yet she felt oddly out of place in the women's studies department at the University of Alabama. A native of Birmingham, Ms. Baggett said she suddenly found herself immersed in a sea of lesbian thought. Sex and gender were

often part of lively classroom debates over literature.

"I was probably the most 'mainstream' person in there," said Ms. Baggett, 29. "The program made me realize I was probably a little more conservative than the average feminist."

Women's studies marks its 25th anniversary at Alabama this school year with lectures and an alumni reunion. The department always has existed quietly, seeking and receiving little attention off campus. But a legislator who describes himself as one of the few state officials familiar with the program contends a quarter-century is too long for Bible Belt taxpayers to fund women's studies at Alabama.

"They are promoting sex between women," said state Sen. Bill Armistead. "There is a vulnerability with young women going off to college and trying to find an identity."

Armistead intends to make the department's \$155,452 budget an issue in the Legislature unless administrators address his concerns over the program, which uses texts that include explicit references to lesbianism.

"To have the most vulgar, nastiest descriptions of two women or more in bed with each other describing their body parts is not what academics should be about," said Armistead.

Women's studies chairwoman Carol J. Pierman denies any undue emphasis on sexuality - gay or straight - by the three full-time professors or the six adjunct teachers. Graduates of the master's program have gone to doctoral programs and taught, while others work in university women's centers, social service agencies and private business, she said.

The department, small by university standards, offers courses on topics like women in the workplace, women and law, and women in the civil rights movement. "There's a focus on gender, how people perceive gender. But so much of what we do is read nov-

els or poetry and discuss it. It's pretty mundane," said Ms. Pierman.

But there is plenty in the curriculum to offend conservative attitudes in the Deep South. Students enrolled in the class "Women in Contemporary Culture" last spring were required to read *Outlaw Culture*, which opens with a discussion of pop singer Madonna and homoeroticism. The title of Chapter 1 includes vulgar terms for genitalia. A feminist theory course included *The Straight Mind* by lesbian writer Monique Wittig as a required text. The book portrays heterosexuality as a political system oppressing women.

Ms. Baggett, who worked as a graduate assistant before receiving her master's degree in women's studies in 1994, said the introductory course she taught was nicknamed "Dyke 101" by students. "The program has a reputation of being sort of a lesbian program," she said.

More than 600 schools nationwide have women's studies programs or departments, and many have faced questions over a perceived lesbian influence, said the head of the National Women's Studies Association. "There's a lot of conservative backlash that's going on in many places," said association president Barbara W. Gerber. "It's like death and taxes. It's been with us forever."

Best known for football, Alabama also is well known for its women's studies department, said Patricia DelRey, director of women's studies at the University of Georgia. "We've referred students there. They are strong in literature," she said.

But the department has been the subject of campus snickering for years at Alabama. A graduate course is commonly called "Queer Theory," and there are constant jokes about the department's location: Manly Hall. While a few men are among the 250 undergraduates and 10 graduate students who take women's studies courses each quarter, the department has never had a male graduate, Ms. Pierman said.

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education was concerned about segregation of the sexes in 1987, when it approved the program as the South's first women's studies department to offer a master's degree. "The question from ACHE was, 'Do you want to ghettoize women, put them in a department?'" said Rhoda Johnson, a former department chair who still teaches. "We showed them we interacted with other department more than anyone else at the university."

Indeed, the star of women's studies at Alabama is only a part-time teacher in the department. English professor Elizabeth Meese is known among feminist scholars for her literary analysis, which includes the critical review of lesbian writing. Her book *(Semi)Erotics*, which includes sexually explicit passages, was written in part on a university grant of \$2,500 in 1989.

"She has an international reputation as a scholar," said Mike Wilson, a women's studies professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Ms. Meese, the first full-time chair of the department in the mid-70s, "made me think in more ways than I ever knew I could," said 1991 graduate Kathy Sokol, now coordinator for women's studies

at Cleveland State University in Ohio.

But Ms. Meese also is caught up in questioning of the program. A federal trial over a sexual harassment claim last spring revealed a lesbian affair between women's studies professor Alice Parker and former graduate student Dale Gray, who filed the suit.

The case was dismissed, but not before questions about lesbianism in the women's studies program were raised in a public trial. Afterward, President Andrew Sorensen received a few letters complaining about Ms. Meese and women's studies in general. He has discussed some of the concerns with faculty, said Ms. Pierman, the chair. "Amazingly, the university was very supportive," said Ms. Parker.

But provocative excerpts from Ms. Meese's writings also were sent anonymously to Sen. Armistead, a point man for conservative Christians in Alabama. Sorensen did not return phone calls seeking comment. But he defended the program in a letter to one critic, saying that authoring books about feminist theory "does not constitute the advocacy of a personal lifestyle."

The state senator disagrees. "If (Sorensen) endorses this program the next step would be a very serious meeting with legislative leaders," Armistead said. "This crosses way over the line of academic freedom."

**UN group kicks off AIDS education program for teens**

by Chris Olert

NEW YORK (AP) - A campaign to encourage teen-agers to educate other young people about sex and AIDS kicked off on World AIDS Day last Monday.

Armed with a logo created by Calvin Klein designers, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV-AIDS (UNAIDS) hopes its slogan - "Awake Beyond Awareness" - will remind adolescents that, though they may be aware of AIDS, they must also be alert and awake to their decisions.

"Our goal is to reach young people worldwide with the message that AIDS has not been cured, and that risky sexual behaviors still have the potential to kill you," said Dr. Jose Llados, manager of UNAIDS.

Catherine Hanssens, director of the AIDS Project for the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said the new UNAIDS slogan promotes accurate AIDS education. She cited an earlier UNAIDS study that proved "when you talk to adolescents about sexual health and prevention, generally it means that they will have sex at a later age and they will be safer when they do have it."

UNAIDS was one of several programs and people getting an "A" grade from Lambda's World AIDS Day report card. Also getting high marks were White House AIDS czar Sandy Thurman, Miss America Katherine Shindler, the television show "413 Hope Street" and its creator Damon Waylon.

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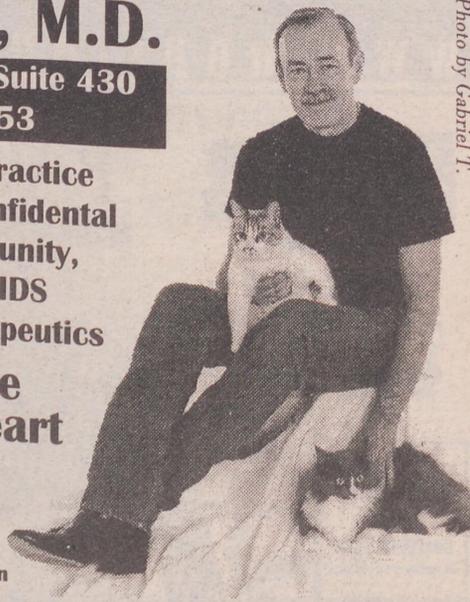


Photo by Gabriel T.

**NAT'L** from page 12

Lambda gave failing grades to syndicated columnist William F. Buckley for reviving his suggestion that people with HIV should be tattooed and quarantined, and to talk show hosts Geraldo Rivera and Montel Williams for exploiting young women in Chataqua County, N.Y., who had sex with an HIV-positive man.

"One of the things that was extraordinary about AIDS coverage was the amount of sensational coverage at the expense of a really close and careful examination of important issues," Ms. Hansens said. Buckley was not available for comment on Sunday. Neither Rivera nor Williams returned telephone calls.

"Despite incredible progress in treatment, this year has seen harsh and damaging reactions from both the government and the media," said Kevin Cathcart, executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund based here.

Several events were planned today in New York City for World AIDS Day. Among them are the Gay Men's Health Crisis' annual "Wrap and Rap" drive at Barnes & Noble stores to talk to shoppers about HIV and AIDS.

A collection called "Dear Death," consisting of letters written by children and others that show the impact of AIDS deaths, is on view at the United Nations General Assembly public lobby.

**Actor Alec Baldwin prepares for next role: candidate**

by Frank Eltman

NEW YORK - Every eye is on Alec Baldwin, smartly dressed in a dark blue jacket and turtleneck, as he bounds to the stage clutching a leather satchel. Taking a seat, he begins feverishly scribbling notes for a speech. He's only a few blocks from Broadway, but Baldwin's not acting in a play.

"We are now positioned," he tells his audience at the midtown YWCA, "to have truly great and well-examined and meaningful campaign finance reform."

The 15-minute speech to the City Women's Club was part of a stream of recent political appearances by Baldwin. In one whirlwind week, he campaigned for Democratic candidates, played host at a benefit for breast cancer research, and urged that a leaking nuclear reactor be closed near his home in the posh Hamptons on eastern Long Island.

Baldwin is president of the Creative Coalition, a celebrity activist group. This is the role the blue-eyed, 39-year-old actor may have been born to play: liberal activist, social conscience and - some say - future politician. "Mother said he'd be president," his sister Beth recently told *Time* magazine.

Baldwin, who has been coy about a future in politics, declined to be interviewed for this story. His publicist, Lisa Kasteller, said he was busy preparing for an upcoming

movie. But he certainly toys with the idea of running for office.

"I've thought about it," he told *New York* magazine. "Is it something that I want to do? Yes. Is this something that I believe is possible? I doubt it." Some of his colleagues would love to see him try.

"The more I think about it, Reagan got elected, so why not Alec?" said Scott Cullen, legal coordinator of the STAR Foundation, which wants to shut down the damaged reactor at Brookhaven National Laboratory. "Alec's a lot more intelligent."

Cullen, who met Baldwin this summer, said he was initially skeptical about whether the actor was just a famous person dabbling in a cause. "The more I've learned about him, about his interest in campaign finance reform and this issue, I've put to rest my doubts," Cullen said.

Such doubts have followed many actors who give up the greasepaint for politics - and Baldwin would be far from the first. Fred Thompson, who acted with him in *The Hunt for Red October*, is now a senator from Tennessee.

There's been Sen. George Murphy; Mayor Clint Eastwood; Rep. Fred Grandy of TV's *Love Boat* fame, and Congressman Sonny Bono, former husband and recording partner of singer/actress Cher - not to mention the most successful actor-turned-politician, President Reagan.

Democratic consultant Hank Morris believes that Baldwin could play a major role on the Democratic political scene in the next few years. "One of his major advantages is his instantaneous name recognition, especially in a state where it can be very expensive to develop that," Morris said.

Baldwin confessed to *New York* magazine which job he'd want: "I'd say Senate. Governor. I'd love to be governor of New York." But he said he wouldn't consider such a run "with no political background. Where do you get the background and experience to be able to ramp up to that kind of thing? If someone could help me figure out a way, I might do it."

There is already a galaxy of well-known Democrats whose names are tossed about as possible challengers to the GOP's Gov. George Pataki and Sen. Alphonse D'Amato in New York. Judith Hope, who heads the state Democratic Party, mentioned John F. Kennedy Jr., Robert Kennedy Jr., former presidential adviser George Stephanopolous, and former vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro.

But Hope said Baldwin could have "a very promising future" if he chose. "He's very articulate, intelligent and committed to the right causes," she said. Baldwin campaigned for Democrats around the state this fall, Hope said. "He has assured me that he has no immediate plans for public office. Frankly, his career is much too successful," said Hope, adding tongue-in-cheek, "Maybe I should stop going to his movies."

Baldwin - the oldest of four acting brothers - has made no secret over the years of his antipathy for the business of Hollywood. And his prickly reputation there has some questioning how he would do in politics.

In 1995, when he and his wife, actress Kim Basinger, were taking their first baby

home from the hospital in California, Baldwin scuffled with a photographer. The actor said he feared the photographer was a stalker, and he was acquitted of misdemeanor battery charges.

Baldwin's acting career began with a series of smaller roles on television and movies such as *Working Girl* and *Married to the Mob*, and his stock soared in 1990 with *The Hunt for Red October*, when he starred opposite Sean Connery. After a mixed run of leading roles, his most recent film was *The Edge*, with Anthony Hopkins. Baldwin also starred on Broadway in *Prelude to a Kiss* and a revival of *A Streetcar Named Desire*. A television version of *Streetcar* earned him an Emmy nomination.

Michael Maffetone, chief executive officer of Stony Brook Medical Center, praises the Baldwin family's commitment to breast cancer research. Maffetone is president of the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund, named for Alec's mother, a cancer survivor. His father, Alexander, died of cancer.

"These boys said they would do anything to help," Maffetone said of Alec and brothers Daniel, Billy and Stephen. "This was significant because there are not too many visible men who are concerned about breast cancer." He called the Baldwins "real, genuine, down-to-earth people."

James Bruscia, schools chief in the Baldwins' home town of Massapequa, presided over the recent dedication of Massapequa High School's new Alexander Baldwin Auditorium, named for the actors' father. Alec donated \$50,000 to the \$200,000 project.

Bruscia thinks the actor inherited his social conscience from his father, who was a social studies teacher and coach. "I imagine

that the family had some very spirited discussions over the dinner table about world events and political situations as they were growing up," Bruscia said.

**Defying odds, gay Republican wins seat in DC**

WASHINGTON - Against all conventional wisdom in a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans by a 9-1 margin, David Catania, a 29 year-old openly gay Republican, made history as the first Republican to win a head-to-head election against a Democrat in the city's history, and the first openly gay candidate to be elected to the D.C. Council. The victory capped off a string of Republican victories nationwide this year where gay and lesbian voters were a major factor at the polls.

"David ran an excellent campaign of ideas, solutions and reform, and the entire city will greatly benefit from his leadership on the D.C. Council," said Richard Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans.

"We're doubly proud that a gay Republican rounded out the GOP sweep of 1997. It is another illustration of how gay and lesbian voters cannot be ignored by the Republican Party if we want to be a majority party nationwide."

With the strong backing of the Capital Area Log Cabin Club, Catania defeated Democrat Arrington Dixon, who had previously served on the Council from 1974 to 1982, including one term as Council Chairman.

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**NAT'L** from page 13

The *Washington Times* called Catania's victory "a stunning setback for the city's Democratic Party establishment," while the *Washington Post*, which had endorsed Catania, said he had "defied overwhelming odds" in defeating Dixon. Catania won 43% of the vote, with Dixon taking 37%.

The upset victory was the final chapter of the Republican sweep in the 1997 elections nationwide, with Republican Mayors Rudolph Giuliani of New York and Richard Riordan of Los Angeles winning re-election by large margins, and Governor Christine Todd Whitman (R) winning re-election in New Jersey.

Like all of these previous races, gay and lesbian voters played a major role in Catania's victory. Election results indicate Catania captured over 70% of the vote in heavily gay and lesbian precincts, making up a substantial part of his margin of victory. In November, gay leaders in New Jersey pointed to heavy gay and lesbian support for Whitman, who won re-election by a razor-thin 1% margin.

Both Riordan and Giuliani significantly increased their share of the gay vote over their first races in 1993 by aggressively courting the gay community throughout their terms in office.

"1997 was the year of the pro-gay Republican," Tafel said. "The majority of all the Republican victories this year went to fiscally conservative, socially inclusive candidates who stuck by their support of the gay and lesbian community and won."

"David Catania's victory is another example of how a message of fiscal conservatism, fighting crime and reforming education combined with tolerance and respect for individual rights for all citizens is winning elections for Republicans all around the country."

The D.C. Republican Party worked aggressively to turn out Republican voters in the city. DC Republican Committee Chairman Julie Finley led an unprecedented

GOP get-out-the-vote effort in the District, with mailings, phone banks and leafleting directed at capturing the seat.

In the city's Ward 3, where GOP registration is most concentrated, voter turn-out was nearly twice the rate of the turn-out citywide. RNC Chairman Jim Nicholson and former RNC Chairman Haley Barbour both contributed financially to Catania's campaign. The RNC sent out e-mails and faxes to Republicans in

the District reminding them of the special election and urging them to go to the polls.

Catania is the latest openly gay Republican in the nation to hold elected office, joining Congressman Jim Kolbe (AZ), State Representative Chuck Carpenter (OR), Mayor Neil Giuliano of Tempe, Arizona, and Councilman John Loza of Dallas, Texas. All have had the strong support of Log Cabin Republicans and some, such as Loza and Catania, won in overwhelmingly Democratic areas.

**Fired deputy fighting to get her job back**

VENTURA, Calif. - Ventura County sheriff's Deputy Carol Ryan said she kept illegal contact with a female inmate for two years because she feared the prisoner would disclose her homosexuality to department superiors, risking her career, her attorney said.

Now Ryan is fighting to regain her job after a dismissal in June for her correspondence with Nancy Vasquez, which included letters, telephone calls and sending money and clothes - a violation of department policy, authorities said.

Ryan, who joined the department in 1993, is in the middle of a Civil Service Commission hearing to be reinstated to her job. The five-member panel has heard 14 days of testimony with proceedings scheduled to resume Jan. 6.

Ryan doesn't deny making contact with Vasquez but claims she was coerced because

Vasquez threatened to disclose the deputy's sexual orientation, said Ken Yuwiler, Ryan's attorney. "There are no allegations that Deputy Ryan broke any law or had intimate contact with Ms. Vasquez while she was in custody," he said.

Officials would not discuss the case, but department spokesman Capt. Keith Parks said the Sheriff's Department doesn't discriminate against homosexuals. "We've had quite a bit of sensitivity training and education at all ranks ensuring that the workplace is not hostile to homosexuals," Parks said. "We don't tolerate harassment."

Sheriff's Department rules prohibit fraternization between inmates and the deputies who guard them. Ryan violated that rule when she gave her phone number while both were at the county's Ojai Honor Farm in 1995; when Ryan was questioned about her association with Vasquez, the deputy denied it, Parks said.

Ryan also violated policy for continuing the association when Vasquez was sent to Chowchilla State Prison for probation violation. "There are rules prohibiting personal relationships with those involved with criminal activity or a reputation for criminal activity," assistant county counsel Leroy Smith said.

The relationship between the two women was discovered in January when Vasquez was arrested and authorities found a photograph of Ryan in her pocket, Smith said. An internal affairs investigation uncovered phone calls and copies of letters.

**Man accused of posing as doctor, assaulting boy**

ALBUQUERQUE - An Albuquerque man has pleaded innocent to accusations that he posed as a doctor and sexually assaulted a 12-year-old boy.

Michael Wayne Ervin, 37, was arraigned this week before state District Judge W.C. Smith on charges of criminal sexual penetration of a minor, kidnapping and bribing

or threatening a witness. An arrest warrant affidavit alleged Ervin and another man represented themselves to the boy as physicians and told him his mother knew about and approved of what they were doing.

The affidavit alleges the then-12-year-old boy was sexually assaulted at least nine times between May 1992 and August 1993. Ervin was arrested earlier this month in Omaha, Neb. Lawyers in the case said the second man is believed to be a fugitive in Canada.

The affidavit said that in the course of the investigation, Bernalillo County sheriff's detective Robert Ray discovered Ervin had been convicted in Vermont in 1993 of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old boy. The document said Ervin never registered as a sex offender, as required, when he moved to Bernalillo County.

**Gay-rights group might boycott grand strand developer**

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. - Gay-rights leaders are considering a boycott against prominent Grand Strand developer if the company does not soften its opposition to next spring's gay-pride festival.

Burroughs & Chapin Co. Inc., the region's biggest developer east of the Intracoastal Waterway, is being targeted by the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement for allegedly pressuring tenants to withdraw support.

"This is what a pride march is all about," said Tony Snell, co-chairman of the South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement. "We run into this homophobia. It just gives us more resolve." A decision on a boycott would be made at a December GLPM board meeting, he said.

Burroughs & Chapin sponsors events for bikers, welcomes rowdy golfers and built its own nightclub district at Broadway at the

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Beach. But the company reportedly is urging two of its tenant restaurants, the All-Star Cafe and Planet Hollywood, not to support the festival because it promotes a lifestyle the developer opposes.

"It's a very different viewpoint when you come here on a mission," spokeswoman Nancy Reynolds said. That mission conflicts with the "wholesome, family environment" of Broadway at the Beach, she said. A spokesman for the restaurants, which are under the same ownership, did not return repeated telephone calls Wednesday. A message to the company's corporate office also went unanswered.

The staunch opposition could force a showdown at the April 30-May 3 event. Gay organizations might sponsor a boycott during the festival and try to dissuade big companies from doing business with Burroughs & Chapin. "If they don't change their thinking, then the dollars may change it," Snell said.

To indicate the potential economic damage, Snell cited a list of companies with policies that prohibit discrimination against gays. At least five are major Burroughs & Chapin tenants. Increased publicity also could generate more interest and bring more people to the march, Snell said. In addition to the Broadway at the Beach shopping and entertainment complex, Burroughs & Chapin owns the Myrtle Beach Pavilion amusement park and several other Grand Strand attractions.

At least one company is welcoming the event. The House of Blues, which has no connection with Burroughs & Chapin, plans to host a VIP Social and concert. House of Blues spokeswoman Kathy Bishop said the theme restaurant's support squares with its theme of "unity in diversity."

**Sailor says navy trying to kick him out for allegedly being gay**

HONOLULU - A Pearl Harbor sailor says the Navy's effort to discharge him for allegedly being gay is a violation of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy McVeigh, a crewman aboard the nuclear submarine USS Chicago, said he has been charged with sodomy and indecent acts based solely on an ambiguous America Online user profile.

McVeigh, who declined to say if he is gay, said the Navy has never substantiated the

charge against him.

He said that following an administrative hearing on Nov. 7, the Navy recommended that he be separated and granted an honorable discharge. That recommendation was forwarded to the Bureau of Naval Personnel in Arlington, Va., for final action.

A Pacific Fleet spokeswoman declined to comment because the case is still pending. McVeigh, 35, is a 17-year submarine veteran.

**Sex offender suggests charitable fund for boy he molested**

ST. PAUL - A sex offender who admitted sexually abusing a 15-year-old boy said he wants to create a charitable fund for the teen. But Ramsey County District Judge Lawrence Cohen said David P. Weiss' idea disgusted him and sentenced the 45-year-old Monday to seven years and two months in prison.

"Don't expect that this hogwash you're giving us today is going to be bought by this judge," Cohen said. "Leave him alone," he thundered at Weiss. "Don't raise money." The best thing Weiss could do for the boy, Cohen advised sharply, is to get out of his life.

After sentencing, Weiss' attorney, Richard Malacko, said no fund would be established. The judge followed a plea agreement and also ordered Weiss to pay a \$12,000 fine on the first-degree criminal sexual conduct conviction.

Weiss, a paramedic and first-aid instructor, previously admitted molesting the 15-year-old boy over an 11-month period at Weiss' home. The boy considered him a mentor. In court Monday, Weiss repeatedly apologized, saying, "I will never forgive myself."

Assistant Ramsey County Attorney Al Zdrzil said police continue to review hundreds of videotapes found in Weiss' home to determine if they can identify any other victims.

**Date set for referendum on gay rights law**

AUGUSTA, Maine - Gov. Angus King on Wednesday proclaimed Feb. 10 as the date of a statewide referendum on Maine's gay rights law. The governor acted after backers of the suspended statute said they will not appeal a judge's decision upholding the validity of the "people's veto" petitions that

forced the special election.

"We've been waiting for the date," said Michael Heath, executive director of the Christian Civic League of Maine, a leader of the referendum push. "We're glad to have it and we're ready to go with our campaign."

King, a gay rights supporter, said that with the court challenge resolved, "I have decided to call the election as soon as possible to give Maine people the opportunity to settle this issue."

The law, enacted in June and signed by the governor, would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in jobs, housing, credit and public accommodations. Seeking to block the law, the Christian Civic League and the Christian Coalition of Maine collected more than 65,000 signatures over the summer.

After reviewing the petitions, the state found that 58,182 - or 7,052 more than needed - were valid. The total number of

signatures invalidated as a result of the lawsuit was 284. Maine Won't Discriminate, which challenged the petitions in court, said it decided not to ask the Supreme Judicial Court to reverse Superior Court Justice Roland Cole's ruling on the issue.

Pat Peard, one of the lawyers involved in the legal challenge, said the group had no regrets about taking the case to court. "We raised important legal issues that made it clear how the standards that are applied to this process must be consistent and fair. So in that sense, we were successful," she said.

Gay rights supporters expressed confidence that they would prevail in the referendum. "Mainers aren't going to allow themselves to be the only state in New England that allows discrimination," Peard said.

The civic league's Heath stopped short of predicting the outcome but said his organization was prepared to take its case before the people. By law, the election must be held

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**Sunday December 14 • 10:30pm**

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**Saturday December 20 • 10:30pm**

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no sooner than 60 days and no later than six months from when the petitions were validated, a provision that barred King from scheduling the vote at the same time as the June primary.

Heath said the governor could have settled on any date prior to April 20. "From a weather standpoint, the chances of avoiding bitterly cold weather and snow would obviously have been better the closer you get to April 20th," Heath said.

While suggesting that a primary consideration would be to maximize the voter turnout, Heath said he was not finding fault with the date King selected. "We're not bitter about it, and we're not complaining," he said. "We're just making an observation."

Peard said her group had no problem with Feb. 10. "We're ready to go on any date the governor has set," she said. "I think weather is always a factor in any election."

**Race-bike coach accused of molestation**

MIAMI - A businessman who acted as a bicycle racing coach faces molestation charges. Don Caruso, 31, has been charged with lewd behavior and sexual assault involving four boys, ages 10 to 13.

"The parents of these minors trusted him enough to let their sons stay overnight at his house at times," Metro-Dade Police spokesman Rudy Espinosa said Monday. "He met them at fields where bicycle racing competitions go on, obstacle courses and the like."

Caruso, who owns an audio store in Miami, is accused of fondling all four in a lascivious manner and of making lewd suggestions to at least one of them. He is charged with 10 criminal counts stemming from the alleged incidents at his home over

the past several months, police said.

One 12-year-old alleged victim "advised that on several occasions the defendant has asked him to swim in the nude, 'skinny dip,' and has paraded around in his underwear when they are alone in the defendant's residence."

Caruso agreed Friday to give a statement to police about the incidents. He was arrested, sent to Dade County Jail and then released on bond.

**Faith, education hold the keys to combatting AIDS**

POCATELLO, Idaho - Faith in God's healing power and educating children about AIDS offer hope that humanity can someday overcome the deadly illness. Those were key sentiments expressed Monday night at a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of World AIDS Day.

"These people have a chronic disease," said Carolyn Chaney, an AIDS caseworker with the Department of Health and Welfare. "We need to care about them and support them."

Combinations of new drugs are adding years to the lives of people who carry the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes the immune system-destroying disease. They work by reducing the amount of virus in the body.

But at roughly \$15,000 per patient per year, the drug therapies are expensive. And although most insurance companies will pay for the drugs, many infected southeast Idahoans don't have insurance, Chaney said. Part of Chaney's job is helping uninsured patients qualify for assistance programs. This year's World AIDS Day theme was "Give Children Hope in a World With AIDS."

Idaho State University microbiologist Larry Farrell said one way to give children hope is by teaching them how to avoid contracting AIDS. The virus is transmitted mainly through sexual contact with an infected person. Another leading cause is when intravenous drug users share contaminated needles.

A United Nations-commissioned study of the effects of sexual health education concluded that schools can teach responsible and safe behavior, Farrell said. Most HIV infections worldwide occur in people between 15 and 24 years of age, with 75-80 percent infected through unprotected sexual intercourse. Heterosexual intercourse accounts for more than 70 percent of all HIV transmissions worldwide.

"It is obvious that children desperately need clear, specific sexual health education to protect themselves and their communities from HIV," Farrell said.

Overcoming the epidemic will require committed collective work by children, parents, teachers, religious and community leaders, businesses and policy makers, Farrell said.

**Lawmaker urges university to offer benefits like UC**

SACRAMENTO - California State University should follow the lead of the University of California and offer domestic partner benefits to faculty and staff, a state legislator said Wednesday. Assemblywoman Carole Migden, D-San Francisco, sent a letter to CSU Chancellor Charles Reed urging him to offer such benefits for employees of the university's 20 campuses.

The UC plan, approved in a 13-12 vote last Friday, extends health care coverage to domestic partners of the same sex who have lived together for at least a year and also domestic partners who can't marry, such as a single parent caring for an adult child.

A CSU official said the issue will be considered when the university begins collective bargaining with faculty and staff unions in January, but noted state law must be changed to allow such benefits.

Migden, who chairs the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is one of two openly lesbian state lawmakers, said UC

was the 76th college or university system nationwide to offer domestic partner benefits in some form. "California universities need to offer domestic partner benefits in order to recruit and retain top-notch faculty and staff," she said.

Supporters said it was an issue of equality and noted that competing institutions such as Stanford and Harvard already offer such benefits. Opponents, led by Gov. Pete Wilson, said the benefits would devalue marriage and would condone gay lifestyles. Migden's letter noted that more than 350 companies, including many based in California, have opted to offer domestic partner benefits.

"Government and business entities have realized that offering domestic partner benefits is a low-cost, high-benefit proposition in addition to being a matter of equity and fairness," she wrote. "The sudden explosion in people offering these benefits is a response to a decade of positive experiences from those implementing such policies."

Sam Strafaci, CSU's interim director of human resources, said the issue of domestic partner benefits would be discussed in collective bargaining with faculty and staff unions beginning in January. "It is on the table. We're going to explore all the ramifications of making any change in our current status quo," he said Wednesday.

But he noted that the Legislature must change state law to allow CSU to include domestic partners. "We can't just do it at the bargaining table," he said.

**State lawmaker wants homosexual couples banned as foster parents**

PHOENIX - A state lawmaker said she'll introduce legislation to close a loophole that allows homosexuals to become foster parents but bars unmarried heterosexual couples. Rep. Karen Johnson, R-Mesa, said her legislation will require foster parents to be legally married - those who, she says, "live a normal life."

The legislation could pose a serious problem for the state's foster care program. A third of foster parents licensed in Arizona are single, officials said. The controversy boils down to a legal technicality: foster parents can't be lawbreakers, and according to state law unmarried couples who live together are just that.

A ruling on the regulations of Child Protective Services, the branch of the Department of Economic Security that handles foster placements, found that the law applies only to heterosexuals and allows homosexuals to be foster parents.

Gov. Jane Hull earlier this month called on the Legislature to clarify the policy. Although she did not say homosexuals should be precluded from providing foster care, she described the best environment as one with a husband, wife and other children.

If Johnson's proposal becomes law, it would exclude about a third of the foster families now licensed in Arizona, said Mary Ault, an administrator with DES' division of children, youth and families.

**AIDS activist, former state legislator Alphonse Plourde dies at 51**

CONCORD, N.H. - A former state legislator and AIDS activist who died over the weekend was remembered at ceremonies marking World AIDS Day on Monday. Alphonse Plourde died Sunday of complications related to the disease. He had been hospitalized for a week at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon. He was 51.

Carolyn Virtue, a fellow member of the Granite State AIDS Consortium, an umbrella group for AIDS organizations, remembered that even as Plourde weakened from the disease, he always appeared at important events.

"Even when he was very, very sick, he had this magical reserve of energy and he would

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pull himself together and get dressed up to the nines - as he always did - and go out to public functions and seem like nothing was wrong," she said. "When I was standing there with him ... as he was dying, I was really in awe of his will. The spirit of the man was just so incredible," Virtue said.

Plourde was diagnosed with the virus that causes AIDS in 1988, but did not reveal his illness until 1994, after completing his term in the House. At the time, he said he had kept his illness secret because he didn't want to be seen as a single-issue lawmaker.

In the first month of his two-year term, Plourde created a 22-person AIDS task force. Although his fight for a program that would let drug users trade in dirty needles for clean ones was unsuccessful during that session, the Legislature passed a measure this year authorizing a needle exchange program.

Plourde served on the boards of several AIDS groups, including the AIDS Consortium and the New Hampshire AIDS Foundation. Last year, he was invited to attend the White House Conference on AIDS and HIV, the virus that causes the disease.

Plourde was born in Pittsfield and later lived in Florida. He left home at 16, eschewing a high school diploma for a life on the road. During a stint in Chicago, when he was 23, Plourde was shot in the head during a robbery at the restaurant where he worked. After a year of therapy, Plourde returned to restaurant work, this time in New York as restaurant manager of the United Nations hotel and conference center.

In 1985, Plourde suffered a second head injury in a freak accident in Epsom and, a short time later, became addicted to painkillers. Plourde said in a 1995 interview that it was after his second head injury that he became infected with HIV because he used dirty needles to inject intravenous drugs.

After he was diagnosed with HIV, he again set out on the road, traveling across the country and camping in national parks along the way. By the time he came home, his mission was clear. "When he was diagnosed with HIV, he found out what he was supposed to do," said his sister, Cheryl Baxter.

He settled in Manchester, where he established a restaurant consulting business, worked on President Clinton's campaign and became a leader in the AIDS Foundation and an active member of the Manchester Democratic Committee.

Even when prospects looked grim for AIDS legislation, Plourde was known for keeping his even temper. "He was never deterred by adversity. It just seemed to give him more energy for the good fight," said Sen. Burt Cohen, D-New Castle.

In 1994, as his illness worsened, Plourde moved to Warner to live with his sister. He put his name on the ballot there in 1994 and 1996, but failed to win in the heavily Republican district. Plourde was to be honored as part of a World AIDS Day ceremony at St. Paul's Church.

**State wants names of people with HIV**

PORTLAND, Ore. - State health officials want the names of people infected with the virus that causes AIDS to be included in Oregon's system of disease reporting. Under the proposal by the Oregon Health Division, residents who test positive for HIV would have their names added to the state's database, *The Oregonian* reported.

Oregon, like every other state, keeps confidential records on people who have AIDS. But in the past few years, powerful new drugs appear to have converted AIDS, the end-stage of HIV infection, into a chronic, treatable disease for many people - and that has altered the reporting system.

"Now we basically have uncoupled AIDS cases from new HIV infections in the state," said Dr. David Fleming, Oregon state epidemiologist. "But that does not mean, unfortunately, that the number of new infections is going down. What it does mean is that we are now blind."

Statistics from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed the first nationwide drop in new AIDS cases this year: 56,730 Americans were diagnosed with AIDS in 1996, down 6 percent from the 60,620 new cases reported in 1995. In Oregon in 1996, 468 people were reported with AIDS, and 209 died of the disease. Another 3,800 to 8,600 in the state are estimated to be HIV-infected.

With the number of AIDS cases going down and the number of HIV infections continuing to rise, health authorities are losing their ability to provide medial and preventive services to HIV-infected people. The lack of data also is weakening officials' ability to identify new groups affected so that resources can be fairly allocated.

Currently, Oregonians can go to local health departments and be tested for HIV anonymously - without giving their names. Or they can choose to be tested confidentially, meaning their names are protected by Oregon law. If a person gets a test in the private sector, certain information, such as gender, race and age, is reported to the Health Division, but not the person's name.

Now health authorities say they'd like the names of all HIV-infected people reported confidentially in order to monitor the epidemic more efficiently and to ensure that newly infected people get promising new medical therapies as early as possible.

The proposal, which raises issues of strict confidentiality and privacy rights, is under discussion by the HIV committee of the Conference of Local Health Officials, from county health departments, and by representatives of community-based HIV/AIDS organizations. While critics of the proposal support better surveillance and prevention, they oppose registering names.

"There is considerable fear that there will be continued violations of confidence," said Jack Cox, spokesman for the HIV Advocacy Council of Oregon and Southwest Washington, an organization of people living with HIV. "There have been violations in counties already," he said. "It isn't neces-

sarily malevolent that it happens. It is just that some people don't use discretion and just blab."

Further, critics think some of the proposal's provisions would be a deterrent to HIV testing or would keep HIV-infected people from seeking help. Specifically, critics think potential clients would be suspicious of the proposal's call for case investigations.

Dr. Anthony A. Marfin, medical epidemiologist of the state's HIV/STD program, said the purpose of such investigations would be to ensure that each person was getting the best anti-HIV treatment available.

"I don't know how many people out there are not receiving care, and that is exactly why we are talking about the need for improved surveillance," Marfin said. "We don't know how many Oregonians are infected."

Currently, 30 states have confidential reporting of HIV cases, and 28 of those states record the names. Two states, Maryland and Texas, use a unique identifier code that includes information such as four digits of a person's Social Security number, birthdate, race and gender, but no name.

Under the new proposal for Oregon, anonymous HIV testing would continue to be available at a limited number of test sites, even though health officials would not get all the essential surveillance information they need to combat the disease.

Home testing has thrown an additional glitch into the reporting system. The Health Division has no idea how many people test HIV-positive with home tests or how many then decide to get retested in the state's system. Those using Oregon's anonymous testing option could get tested over and over, making surveillance unreliable.

**Developer may squelch 'Village People' concert during gay festival**

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. - A Village People concert is scheduled for next spring's

gay rights festival, and the Official All-Star Cafe will serve as registration headquarters for the ninth annual gathering. Festival organizer Linda Robertson said the Hard Rock Cafe also confirmed a commitment to host a silent auction during the April 30-May 3 festival.

Both restaurants are tenants of Burroughs & Chapin Co. Inc., which has expressed opposition to the festival, saying its image conflicts with traditional family values. Last week the developer asked both businesses, along with the House of Blues, to cancel their planned participation.

The House of Blues, which is not on Burroughs & Chapin land, never wavered, saying the restaurant's support squares with the theme "unity in diversity."

Now the developer wants nightclubs in Celebrity Square in the Broadway at the Beach complex to cancel the Village People concert. Spokeswoman Nancy Reynolds says the company would not approve of the '70s disco band's performing there during the gay festival.

Club managers said Burroughs & Chapin President and CEO Doug Wendel has the final say on outdoor concerts. At press time, a decision has not been rendered.

**State to fight Oakland over same-sex health benefits**

SAN FRANCISCO - A state agency has announced plans to sue the city of Oakland over domestic partner benefits that cover only same-sex couples, a case with implications for the University of California.

State Labor Commissioner José Millan will file suit in Alameda County Superior Court to enforce his order requiring Oakland to pay for health insurance for all city employees with registered domestic partners, including heterosexual partners, spokesman Rick Rice said Tuesday.

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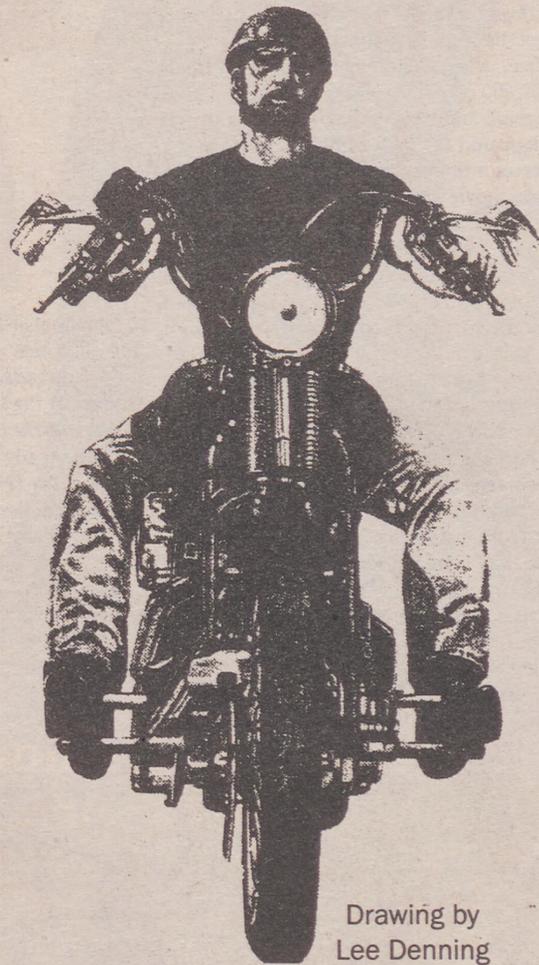
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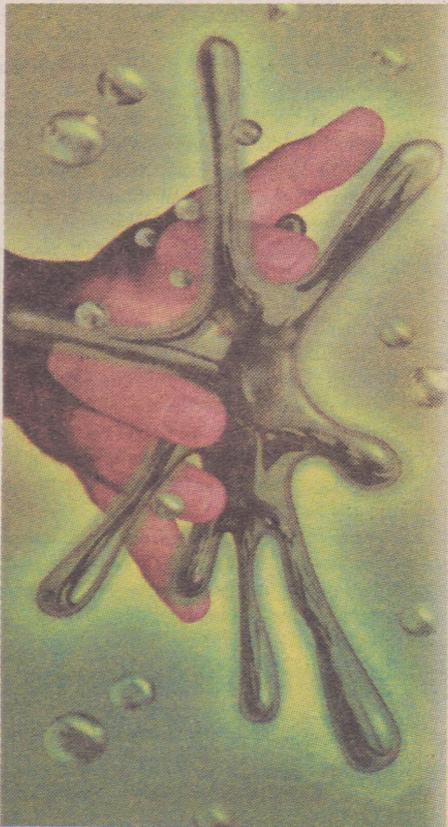


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# Flubber is Flubberific!



by Leslie Ramsay

Walt Disney Pictures' live-action comedy *Flubber* opened with a bang over the holiday weekend. I have seen the film twice already. It is great fun for children of all ages. It was a refreshing break after a blood and guts filled summer film season.

Robin Williams (*The Birdcage*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*) brings the absent-minded but brilliant, Professor Brainard, character back to the big screen. His usual unchecked, unleashed and out of control performance was not visible in this film. The director, Les Mayfield (*Encino Man*, *Miracle on 34th Street*), did a really fine job of reigning in Robin's flamboyant comedic style without diminishing his obvious exuberance for the role.

The story is about a small town private college science professor that is so absent minded that he even forgets to marry his long time fiancée on two previous occasions. This time is different. His fiancée, Sara as played by Marcia Gay Harden (*The First Wives Club*, *Crimes of the Heart*), plans an elaborate church wedding so that he will be forced to remember.

Little did she know that he was in the process of inventing a new polymer substance that will save the Medfield College from certain foreclosure! Just as the first

guest are giving up and going home, Professor Brainard is blowing up his laboratory/basement. His discovery is some sort of green gooey stuff that when applied to the surface of golf balls, bowling balls, basketballs, shoes, hands and just about everything else, they have the ability to fly through the air at tremendous speeds. The rubber like substance's ability to fly through the air is the reason for the name *Flubber*.

The professor has a house full of robots. His schedule is kept by WEEBO. WEEBO is of course in love with him. Her own attachment to the professor may have been the cause of a few of those missed dates with Sara at the altar.

Flubber is adorable. The little rubber guy is just the cutest thing. He shape shifts, twists, bounces, and dances. He even wears a dress whenever called upon. He performs a dance routine that is reminiscent of the grand MGM musical days.

The special effects crew at Industrial Light and Magic is fantastic. The work on the scenes between Robin and Flubber is flawless. The Academy Award people need to take note of all the extra effort that went into the behind the scenes action on this film.

If you like lighthearted comedies then this is a flick not to miss.



Houston's own famed actress/choreographer, Debbie Allen, will be in town this weekend for the "by invitation only" premier of her new film *Amistad* from Dreamworks SKG. Lifetime Television for Women is also premiering *Intimate Portrait: Debbie Allen* this Sunday, December 7 from 9-10 PM CT. Through interviews with Gene Anthony Ray (Fame) Steven Spielberg, Phylicia Rashad and many others her life traced from her early childhood in Texas, to her early years in show business, to her success as a producer. Whoopi Goldberg narrates the hour-long profile.

# Pseudo-Anastasia ala Fox

by Leslie Ramsay

20th Century Fox released it's first animated film, *Anastasia*, to theatres this past weekend. The production of *Anastasia* began way back in 1994. Don Bluth and Gary Goldman of *The Land Before Time* and *All Dogs Go to Heaven* fame, produce and direct the studio's first major project.

*Anastasia* is a culmination of more than 3,000,000 computer files, 350,000 animation drawings, and 1,350 hand painted layout and background scenes. Fox's effort alone deserves a thumbs up. The family and children's movie going public is starving for quality entertainment. The success of the re-issue of *Little Mermaid* from Disney proves that when families have an option they will flock to the multi-plex near them rather than rent another tired copy of *Barney* from Blockbuster.

As far as the story goes, it is as far away from true fact as you can fantasize.

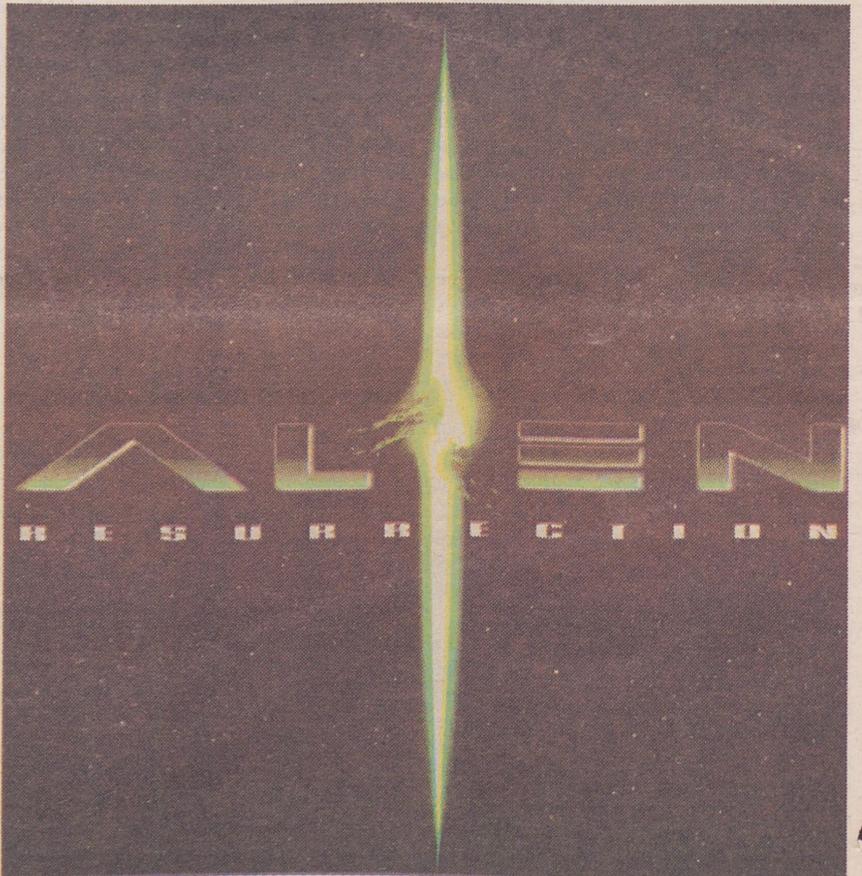
The film is filled with the beloved grandmother: the Dowager Empress Marie, the evil sorcerer Rasputin, a courageous kitchen boy named Dimitri, the side kick toady Bartok the bat, and a band of ghostly minions. The fantasy game of "what if" that has long surrounded the legend of the Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaevna is taken to the extreme in this film.

Meg Ryan (*Addicted to Love*, *Courage Under Fire*) provides the voice for Anastasia. John Cusack (*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, *Bob Roberts*) is the voice of Dimitri.



Christopher Lloyd (*The Adams Family*, *Taxi*) is the voice of Rasputin. Angela Lansbury (*The Manchurian Candidate*, *Mame*) is the voice of the Dowager Empress Marie. Hank Azaria (*The Bird Cage*, *Quiz Show*) is the voice of the toady Bartok, the albino bat. Kelsey Grammer (*Frasier*, *Cheers*) voices the role of Vladimir. Bernadette Peters (*The Jerk*, *Pennies from Heaven*) is the voice of Sophie.

As you can see from the cast of prominent stars, 20th Century Fox spared no expense with their first effort onto the battlefield against the mega giant Disney. Disney and Fox should realize that the family market is big enough to support all of the animation they decide to produce and then some...if it is quality.



# Icky Ooh

by Leslie Ramsay

Lesbian heartthrobs Sigourney Weaver and Winona Ryder heat up the screen in the 20th Century Fox release, *Alien Resurrection*. The subtle gay overtones are about as subtle as the ones in the Xena television series so if that is what you are looking for by all means plunk down that \$7.50 to see it. If the thought of sitting through two hours of icky stuff to see the "if only they would go ahead and do it" scenes is just not enough incentive to shell out \$7.50, I suggest you wait the three months or so before it hits your local Blockbuster.

As far as *Alien* fans go, you might find this a little different from the last three films in the franchise. The director Jean-Pierre Jeunet (*Delicatessen*, *The City of Lost Children*) deftly lays his European hands on the beloved *Alien* franchise. He brought along his favorite cast members Ron Perlman (*The Name of the Rose*, *The Last Supper*) and Dominique Pinon (*Diva*, *The Return of*

*Martin Guerre*) to play supporting cast roles opposite the divas: Weaver and Ryder. He finished out his version of *Alien* with Darius Khondji as the director of photography and Herve Schneid as the editor. He had worked with both Khondji and Schneid on *Delicatessen* and *The City of Lost Children*. Together they have made some very unique and unusually visual films.

Sigourney Weaver (*The Year of Living Dangerously*, *Gorillas in the Mist*, *Copycat*) returns from the dead as Ripley. She is reborn scientifically i.e. cloned. She is stronger and freer than ever before. Ripley has been there and done that. Weaver still gets your pulse racing after all these years.

Winona Ryder (*Heathers*, *How to Make an American Quilt*) climbs on the *Alien* bandwagon in a pretty big way as Annalee Call: Girl mechanic. She adds the doe eyed petite cerebral visual contrast to Weaver's larger than life character. She can hold her own in the *Alien* world.

The special effects are cool. The graphic horror is pretty graphic and horrific. Go figure...

Catch it before it dives into the Dollar Theater if you dare.



**NAT'L** from page 17

In October, Millan ruled that the city's same-sex policy, which took effect in January, violated California law because it discriminated on the basis of sexual orientation. His decision was upheld Nov. 14 by John Duncan, acting director of the Department of Industrial Relations.

Oakland rejected the order, which can be enforced only if the state wins its lawsuit. The city says its policy, which may be unique among local governments in California, does not discriminate based on sexual orientation but provides benefits only to intimate partners who cannot legally marry.

"People with opposite-sex partners are not in the same position. They always have the option to marry," Deputy City Attorney Wendy Rouder said Tuesday. "The city's practice ... remedies discrimination rather than creates it," the city said in papers filed with Millan. But the labor commissioner said the city provided "no legitimate explanation for offering certain employment benefits to some domestic partners and not others."

"The fact that (Oakland) enacted the policy in order to address historic discrimination against gay and lesbian workers, while laudable, has no bearing on the question of whether the policy ... does in itself discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation," Millan wrote.

Thomas F. Coleman, lawyer for an Oakland city engineer who challenged the policy, said all other California cities and counties that offer domestic partner benefits - including San Francisco, Los Angeles city and County, Sacramento and San Diego - cover opposite-sex as well as same-sex couples.

Same-sex-only policies have been passed in Baltimore, Chicago, New Orleans and Denver, Coleman said. But he said the only other public agency in California with such a policy is the University of California, which approved benefits last month in a 13-12 vote of the Board of Regents.

Gov. Pete Wilson, who fought the UC benefits with his own vote and those of three last-minute regents appointees, argued against them on two grounds: that they were discriminatory, as shown by Millan's opinion in the Oakland case, and that they devalued marriage.

Duncan and Millan, who ordered Oakland to extend domestic partner benefits to opposite-sex couples, are both Wilson appointees. But Wilson spokesman Sean Walsh said Tuesday the governor still opposes all domestic partner benefits because of "the special status set aside in the law for married couples."

Oakland began its same-sex policy for general health benefits this year. Previously, starting in February 1993, the city paid for optical and dental insurance for any city employee's domestic partner if the couple had lived together at least six months and shared responsibility for living expenses. Rouder, the city's lawyer, said about seven employees have signed up for health benefits for same-sex partners.

Coleman's client, Majid Ayyoub, a public works engineer for the city, filed a domestic partner declaration in 1995 for the woman he lived with, making her eligible for vision and dental benefits. He sought general health benefits for her this April but was turned down under the new policy.

Millan's order would require Oakland to reimburse Ayyoub and his partner \$868 for insurance premiums and medical expenses they have had to pay because of the denial of coverage. Coleman, who supports health benefits for same-sex couples, said denying the same benefits to opposite-sex domestic partners discriminates on the basis of gender as well as sexual orientation.

"The city has imposed greater burdens on an opposite-sex couple than it has on a same-sex couple," he said, referring to the legal obligations of marriage, ranging from a license and blood test to a potential lifelong duty of support, as well as community property and divorce laws. "That is sex discrimination."

No court has ruled yet on a challenge to same-sex domestic partner benefits,

Coleman said.

**Doctor calls AIDS policy "biggest public-health blunder"**

LOS ANGELES - A Ventura infectious-disease specialist is condemning the way America is handling the AIDS epidemic - and is drawing the ire of many AIDS activists in the process.

Dr. Cary Savitch's book, which he paid to have published, begins: "No person or pill will save you. Every god has been approached. Every prayer has gone unanswered."

In speeches that Savitch makes to churches, schools and medical groups, he makes no bones about calling the American AIDS policy the "biggest public-health blunder." He advocates that everyone be subject to periodic mandatory testing and that all HIV infections be reported to local health officials. He also supports Cuba's practice of quarantining people with HIV.

"Placing political ideology aside, Cuba has behaved more responsibly than most other nations ... It is more than just a Communist idea; it is a humane gesture to

prevent needless suffering and death," he said in a recent speech.

A United Nations agency released a study last week ahead of Monday's World AIDS Day that found if current infection rates hold steady, there will be 40 million people around the globe infected with HIV in two years.

Savitch says some HIV-positive people are spreading the disease through sexual contact without telling their partners of the risk. Ten to 15 percent of his practice is comprised of HIV-positive patients. "Most of my patients are honorable but a few have killed more people than Jeffrey Dahmer," he said. His views have drawn fire from many AIDS activists, who say his comments are divisive and hurt efforts to find a cure.

"He's taken the trauma that comes with this tragedy and amplified it," said Doug Halter, who consulted Savitch when he learned he was HIV-positive about 10 years ago. "If it was his family or friends dying, he wouldn't dare say that we'd never find a cure." Savitch argues that this approach would save lives and limit the spread of the disease.

"If I had TB (tuberculosis), the health department would be all over me," Savitch said. "But they don't do that with AIDS. We have yet to practice the infection control

measures I was taught as a medical student."

Twenty-eight states have policies in which HIV infections are reported to local health officials by medical providers, but in many cases the names of the patients are withheld. In the 22 other states, including California, the disease is not reported until a person has AIDS. Some 36 other diseases, such as gonorrhea, must be reported immediately.

"Why is AIDS an exception?" Savitch said. "We're contributing to the stigma by making it different. Yes, we have to make sure people don't lose their jobs because they have AIDS. Yes, we have to make sure they don't lose their insurance. But how many more people have to die at the altar of privacy?"

An aggressive public health campaign would make the lives of the infected even worse and universal testing would be impractical, Savitch's opponents say. "It's disingenuous for people to call for universal testing unless they also call for universal health care, with universal access to very expensive drugs," said Dough Green of AIDS Care.

Still, those active in AIDS issues know something has to be done. "People are wondering whether more emphasis should be placed on treating and identifying new

See NAT'L page 23

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**DANCE**

**Show Me Love**

Robyn *RCA Records*

Don't mistake this slammin' house remix for the other Robin - S. Nope, this is Sweden's export Robyn, and she re-sang the vocals for these beefy remixes courtesy of Andy & The Lamboy and Paul Andrews. Great reaction brewing on dance floors now. Radio, anyone? Get this - you won't be disappointed! - *Steve Underwood*

**It's Over Love**

Todd Terry Presents Shannon  
*Logic Records*

Todd Terry is enjoying the limelight right now with his full-length album project *Ready For A New Day*. Terry teams up with Shannon of *Let The Music Play* fame, resulting in a kickin' house line and incredible vocal delivery! Expect this single early next January.



*Steve Underwood*

**Something To Believe In**

Linda Eder  
*Atlantic Records*



Linda's first dance record arrives just in time for the holidays and it is certainly a work of art.

Frank Wildhorn, the mastermind behind the music and lyrics of *Jeckyll and Hyde*, wrote the piece and the Fitch Brothers remix lends the song a rather Hi NRG feel. I expect this song to catch on rather well all over town and I even suspect it will be a favorite on the party circuit. Absolutely a must-have! - *Steve Underwood*

**POP/ROCK**

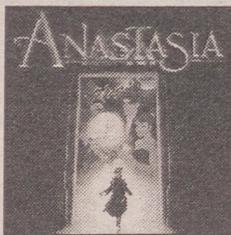
**Growing Pains**

Billie Myers *Universal Records*

Incorporating a wide variety of very human emotions, from lust to love and back again, this pop-oriented album is a synthesis of the various influences on Myers' method. Folk-ballads give way to dance pop and I find the album extremely interesting and spiritually instructive. Myers handles the prickly subject of relationships with class and realism. - *Steve Underwood*



**SOUNDTRACK**



**Music From The Motion Picture Anastasia**

*Atlantic Records*

The Fox Pictures smash *Anastasia* comes with a smash soundtrack highlighting some of today's most popular artists. The title

track *At the Beginning* is a duet performed by Richard Marx and Donna Lewis and the chart-topping Aaliyah joins in with *Journey to the Past*. Deana Carter, the 1997 Country Music Association Award-winner, comes center-stage with *Once Upon A December* and Latina superstar Thalia delivers a Spanish version of *Journey to the Past*. - *Steve Underwood*

**COMEDY**

**Hung Like A Fly**

Marga Gomez *Uproar Entertainment*

What do you get when you cross a Cuban comedian with a Puerto Rican exotic dancer? You get Marga Gomez! Tackling a variety of very gay-oriented themes, Marga delivers a hilarious commentary on everything from dental dams to online lesbian chatroom names. Believe me, you can't go wrong if you need the laughs with this genuine but comedic look at gay culture. - *Steve Underwood*



Maestro Maximiano Valdes, music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic, conducts the Houston Symphony's Spanish-flavored program Saturday, January 17th through Monday, January 19th. The program works include *Concierto de Aranjuez*, *Variaciones Concertantes*, and *Vers, L'arc-en-ciel*, *Palma* for Guitar and Oboe d'amore. Cuban guitarist Manuel Barrueco joins Houston Symphony principle oboist Robert Atherholt for the latter selection. You can get tickets by calling 713-227-ARTS.

Here is a list of upcoming tours and concerts to the Bayou City. Please contact the venue for ticket prices and information

Enrique Iglesias	12/6	Compaq Center
Puff Daddy	12/11	Compaq Center
Amy Grant	12/12	Compaq Center
A Tuna Christmas	12/16-21	Bayou Theater
Regina Belle	12/27	Arena Theater
Crystal Gayle	1/2-4	Jones Hall
Jimmy Vaughan	1/2	Bayou Theater
Elton John	1/30	Compaq Center

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NAT'L/ from page 19

patients - although what I fear is there might be more interest in identifying than treating them," said Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Los Angeles.

**Atlantan continues family service tradition as AIDS czar**

ATLANTA - When Sandra Lyne Thurman saw friends dying of AIDS, she took a family tradition of service and political activism into helping those afflicted with the disease. That was 15 years ago, and her efforts have become a crusade. Last Monday - World AIDS Day - Ms. Thurman marked eight months as President Clinton's AIDS czar.

"I have been on the front lines. I have taken care of patients. I have been with mothers when children died in their arms. I have been at more death beds than I can ever count. I never forget that," Ms. Thurman said in a recent interview.

About a month after Ms. Thurman took over as director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, she had a major success when President Clinton announced a \$150-million federal initiative to find a vaccine. But Ms. Thurman's efforts to restore a government needle exchange program have stalled, mired in political controversy. Congress has imposed a six-month moratorium on needle swaps.

"We can't stand by and indulge ourselves in petty politics when people are dying," Ms. Thurman responded. Studies show that providing free clean needles can reduce HIV infection in drug addicts and their sexual partners, which account for one-third of HIV infections.

Ms. Thurman's priorities also include linking local groups to national policy-making and giving AIDS a strong voice at the White House. Soon after her appointment, some groups complained that the post had once again gone to someone whose experience was politics, not science. But others disagreed.

"I want my doctor to know medicine and my White House person to know politics, and that's what I got," said Mike Shriver, deputy executive director for policy at the National Organization of People with AIDS.

"We've seen the highest levels of federal funding for care, prevention, research and housing ever this year, and Sandy helped to fuel that success," said Daniel Zingale, executive director of the national AIDS organization.

Ms. Thurman - raised in a family with a tradition of public service - spent 10 years at AID Atlanta, steering it from the brink of collapse to the largest AIDS service provider in the Southeast. Georgia Rep. Jim Martin, D-Atlanta, knew Ms. Thurman's parents and said she is carrying on their custom.

"What's so effective about Sandy is that she realizes the issues of the AIDS epidemic aren't new issues," Martin said. "Her commitment is a long commitment to human rights and human dignity, and people who are sick with AIDS are the latest group to be discriminated against."

Last week, the United Nations reported that HIV infections worldwide are much higher than had been thought. There are up to 30.6 million HIV infections around the globe, most in developing nations. In the face of disheartening news, Ms. Thurman's energy is not diminished. "I'll do this as long as I can humanly stand it - or get fired, whichever comes first," she said.

**Reid expresses support for gay rights bill**

NEVADA - Sen. Harry Reid says he is co-sponsoring a federal bill on gay rights because it's fundamentally fair. The bill outlaws hiring, firing or promoting employees based on sexual orientation.

Reid told about 180 gay and lesbian business leaders Monday night that sexual orientation is not a disability. See NAT'L page 26

Linda Eder

*It's Time To Un-Hyde An American Icon*

by Steve Underwood

I can remember my parents reminiscing about some of their favorite music artists when I was a kid and I could never figure out why my folks stayed so loyal to the wonderful music that was a part of their early adulthood. Now that's I'm in my early adulthood, I can begin to sense that great music will be a vital and necessary part of our lives forever. And after listening to Linda Eder's debut CD *It's Time* on Atlantic Records, I now know why beautiful music and a beautiful voice lasts a lifetime.

Linda Eder - even the name vibrates with a sense of sophistication - is currently starring in *Jekyll & Hyde*, now playing on the Great White Way, where she is quickly winning the hearts and minds of thousands. If you're planning a trip to New York City soon, you can catch Linda at the Plymouth Theater at 236 W. 45th St, between Broadway and Eighth Ave. Call 212-239-6200 to obtain ticket information about *Jekyll & Hyde*.

Where did Linda's trek to stardom begin? Well, Linda dominated TV's *Star Search* for

12 weeks, eliminating all her competition. While in Los Angeles, Linda was introduced to Frank Wilhorn, the composer of the music for *Jekyll & Hyde*. Linda toured 35 cities with *Jekyll & Hyde* before anchoring at Broadway's Plymouth Theater. Atlantic released two CDs, *Jekyll & Hyde: Romantic Highlights* and *The Complete Work: Jekyll & Hyde - The Gothic Musical Thriller*, and Linda Eder's name became synonymous with the show.

Linda's debut CD *It's Time* is like a communion with the Divine. The CD is a musical panorama of Linda's remarkable capabilities.

Linda's debut CD *It's Time* is like a communion with the Divine. The CD is a musical panorama of Linda's remarkable capabilities. From the racy jazz-infused *I Want More*, the classic *Over The Rainbow*, the energetic *Man Of La Mancha*, and the heart-throbbing ballad *Someone Like You*, I can't help but wonder if there is anything Linda Eder can't do!

About two weeks ago, Atlantic Records released a dance remix of *Something To Believe In*, a ballad from the debut CD receiv-



ing the house treatment from ace remixer the Fitch Brothers.

And just in time for the holidays, you can get Linda's marvelous interpretation of *Oh Holy Night*.

If you're the kind of person who appreciates the best out of life, don't cheat your heart and soul from Linda's moving, emotional music.

"This kind of music never really dies," says Linda. "It's part of America and who we are."

Well, Linda, keep up the wonderful work and you'll soon be a part of what we are.

- Steve Underwood, a DJ at Heaven and JR's, is Music Editor for the Houston Voice. Please feel free to send your comments to SteveUH@aol.com.

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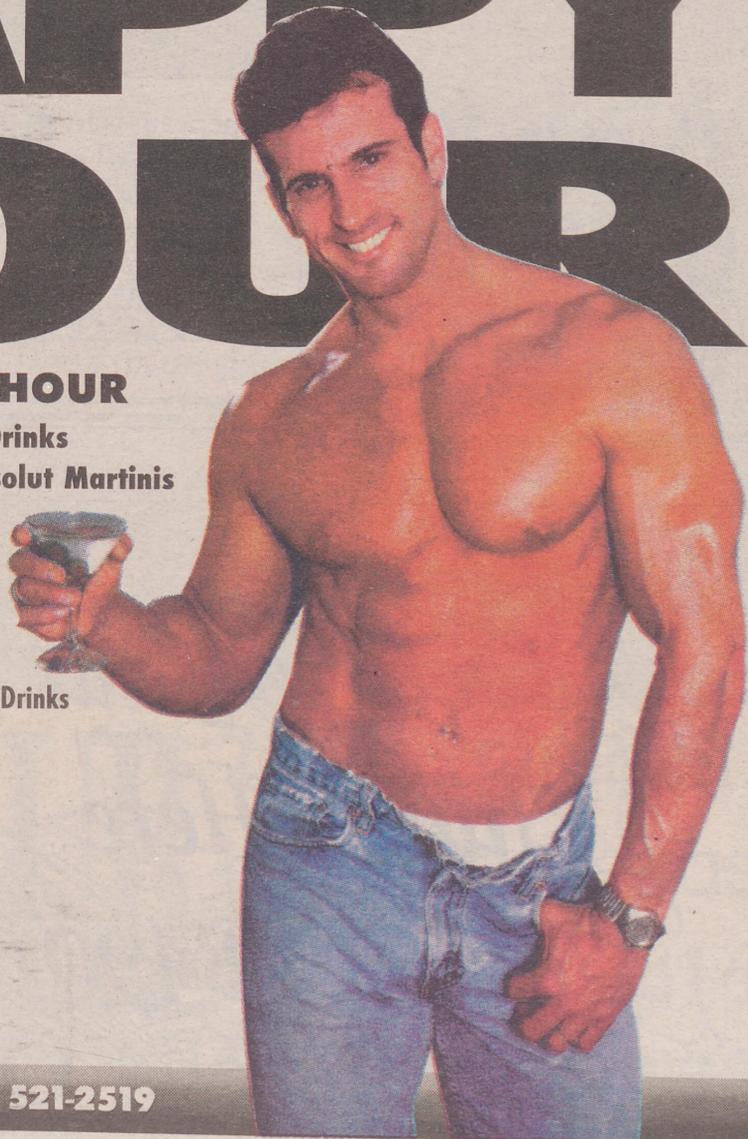


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## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Friday-December 5

- Low impact aerobics, certified instructor, done to christian music at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).
- Kolbe Project Communion Service at 10:00 am. 522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

### Saturday-December 6

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

### Sunday-December 7

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 11am at Suzanne Anderson Realty, 239 Westheimer.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Join us for the coming of The Advent Season and the celebration of Peace. 528-6756. **12/24 Special Christmas Eve Celebration.**
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel, Sunday 11am. Study the book of Genesis 7pm. 4305 Lilian 880-9235. [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.
- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston

County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.

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

### Monday-December 8

- Low impact aerobics, certified instructor, done to christian music at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or [www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org).

### Tuesday-December 9

- MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149.
- PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.
- Maranatha Fellowship MCC has groups that meet in each others home for a time of fellowship, sharing God's word, and prayer. Call for the location in your area 528-6756. **12/24 Special Christmas Eve Celebration**
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

### Wednesday-December 10

- Holy Eucharist Rite II 12 Noon at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- MCCR Bible Study 7:30 pm 861-9149.
- Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- Catholic Mass at 8:30 am the Kolbe Project.

### Thursday-December 11

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

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



## RELIGION

### Eden woman speaks from pulpit about AIDS

EDEN, N.C. - Rosalyn Jackson walked to the pulpit and spoke from her heart as one more voice hoping to chase AIDS out of the shadows. "To me, the sickness comes from the ignorance," Jackson told the friends, family and strangers who were drawn to Antioch Church of God in Christ by the flier she had posted all over Eden during the past month. She read from a speech she had been writing for several weeks. She clasped and unclasped her hands. Then she stopped referring to her notes and began speaking. She cried at times.

Jackson is 30, and her son is 4. Both have tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, and both receive treatment at clinics at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. Jackson believes that a man she once dated infected her through sex, and she unknowingly passed the disease on to her unborn son.

She planned the service at her church Sunday to draw attention to World AIDS Day, which was Monday. It is a time meant to educate the public about ways to fight and deal with HIV, which has infected more than 22 million adults and children worldwide.

Jackson stressed the basics: People who engage in unprotected sex or inject drugs expose themselves to HIV. Before she spoke, Dr. Ken Alexander of the Duke University Medical Center in Durham held a question-and-answer session about AIDS.

Jackson focused on what it is like to live with

being HIV-positive. At first, she had nightmares in which she saw herself in a hospital bed dying. She has left those visions behind. She tells herself that AIDS will not kill her.

Four years after testing HIV-positive, the only adverse physical effect she experiences is occasional shortness of breath, she said. A large woman, she said she has yet to lose any weight. Nor has her son experienced adverse physical effects, Jackson said. The drugs that mother and son take are helping, their caregivers say.

It is the stress from secrets and ignorance about AIDS that bothers Jackson more than anything, she said. She believes that people gossip about her and her son. AIDS to her is a whispered rumor, a face quickly turned away. Her audience responded with claps, amens and shouts of "You go, Rosalyn!"

Dara Garner-Edwards, an HIV social worker at the pediatric infectious-diseases clinic at Baptist Hospital who helps Jackson's son, was at the church. In three years on her job, she is accustomed to patients telling a few family members about their illness. But she had never seen such an event as Jackson's.

"She's pretty amazing," Garner-Edwards said. "It's a big risk that she's taking. It could turn out positively for her, she could get lots of support, but it could also turn out negatively." Garner-Edwards applauds Jackson's work to fight AIDS. Jackson sees it as her duty.

"Until people realize that AIDS is real, the fight to save our children will be a never-ending battle," Jackson said.

She began attending Antioch church about  
See RELIGION page 29



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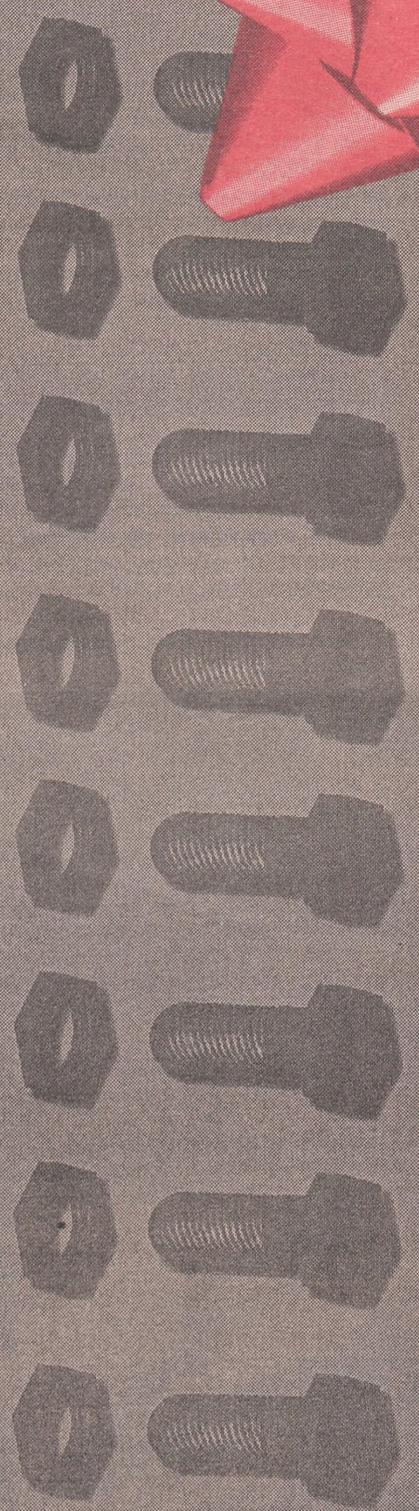
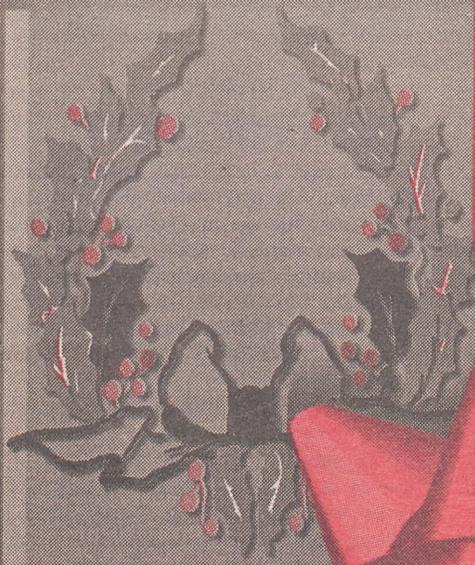
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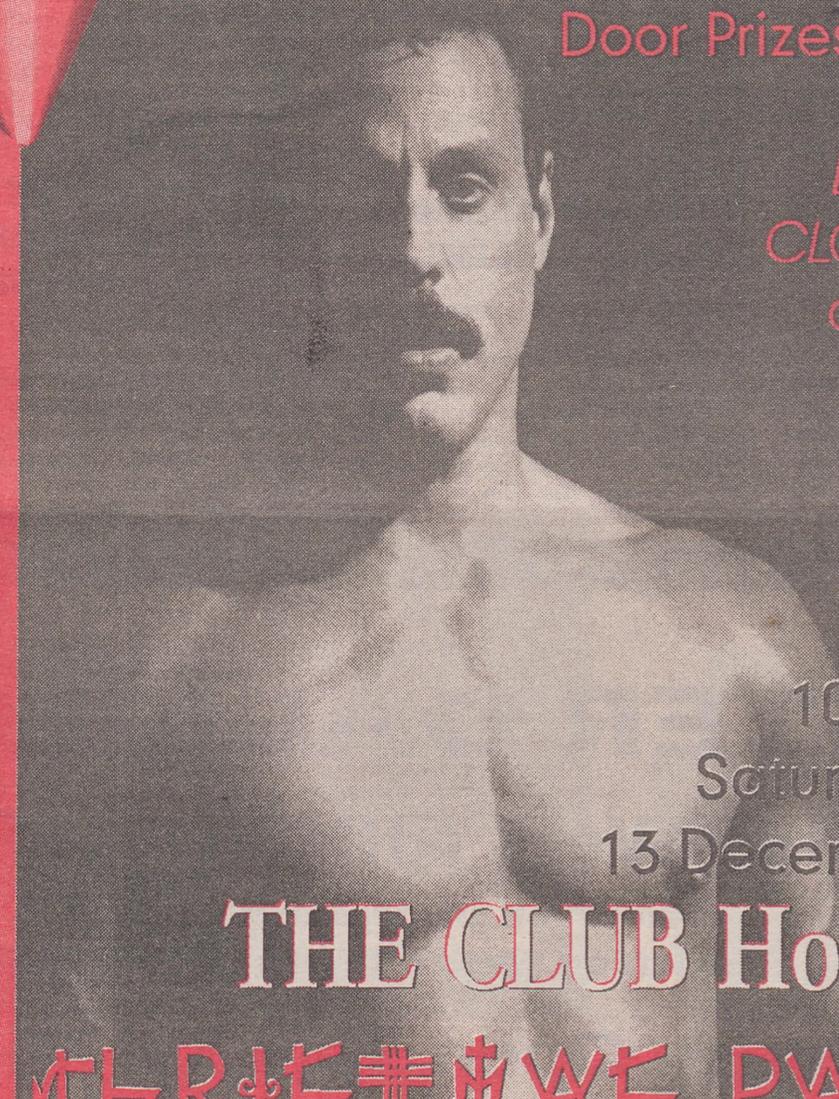
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**NAT'L** / from page 23

entation should not be a factor in hiring or firing someone. Reid, D-Nev., told the LAMBDA Business and Professional Association that the bill does not promote special rights.

"It is not a quota bill or a special treatment bill," Reid said. "It's just a fundamental call for fairness."

Rep. John Ensign, R-Nev., opposes the bill. Retired businessman Bruce James has not taken a position on the bill, known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Ensign and James are seeking the Republican nomination for the 1998 Senate race, while Reid is seeking a third term in the office.

The non-discrimination act was introduced in Congress in 1994 and has been introduced in every session since. It failed to pass in 1996 by one vote. The bill is the leading piece of legislation sought by the Human Rights Campaign, the largest national political organization for gays and lesbians. The campaign is supporting Reid's re-election effort.

Reid told the association he supports the bill because no laws exist to prohibit putting up a sign in a business that says, "We hire everybody but lesbians." He recalled the days when storefront signs stated "no blacks, Jews or Mexicans."

To discriminate in the workplace based on gender, race or religion has since become illegal. Sen. Richard Bryan, D-Nev., is also one of at least 30 co-sponsors.

Ensign said he is not convinced gays are being discriminated against economically. And he said he sees other problems with the bill. "Somebody could say they are gay, and who can say they are not?" he said.

Ensign said he thinks people would lie to win lawsuits by claiming they are gay, just as people lie about being injured to win settlements. Ensign said as a veterinarian and gaming executive he hired and promoted gays and lesbians. "I've never discriminated against gay people," the congressman said.

**Increase in Hepatitis A seen in gay, bisexual men**

MASSACHUSETTS - In response to an increase in Hepatitis A among gay and bisexual men, the state Department of Public Health is sponsoring free vaccinations in Boston and Provincetown.

Rates of Hepatitis A among gays and bisexuals have increased threefold in the Boston area and Provincetown over the last three years, said Al DeMaria, state epidemiologist and assistant commissioner of the state DPH.

Hepatitis A is a highly contagious viral infection of the liver and is easily spread by household or sexual contact with an infected person. It is also transmitted through contaminated food and water.

There are several different types of hepatitis. Both Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B can be easily spread between men through unprotected sex. Both are preventable with vaccines, said Dr. Kenneth Mayer, medical director of the Fenway Community Health Center.

Two shots of the Hepatitis A vaccine will make an unexposed person immune to the disease. State health officials hope to vaccinate at least 1,800 men who might be at risk. The vaccination campaign is being co-sponsored by the Fenway Community Health Center in Boston and Outer Cape Health Services.

**Ava Gardner museum gets Bette Davis film**

SMITHFIELD, N.C. - Sinners and liars are easily confused, as the organizers of a benefit for the Ava Gardner Museum have discovered.

The museum had planned to show *The Great Sinner*, the only Gardner film to have its premiere in Smithfield (that was in August 1949). The film was sent as

promised, but when the canister was opened it turned out to be a Bette Davis film titled *The Great Lie*.

"We're just sick," says Doris Cannon, chairman emeritus of the museum, which is sponsoring the red-carpet that was scheduled to take place Thursday. The benefit screening was an instant sellout. A second screen was added to handle the overflow crowd at the Howell Theatre.

"The fellow at Warner Bros. just sent us the wrong print," Cannon says. "He said there was only one print, and somehow it had ended up in Hungary. And we asked him how long it would take to get it back, and he said it would not be back until February."

So the museum will show one of two other early films with Gardner - *East Side, West Side* or *The Hucksters*. Officials are leaning toward *The Hucksters*, Cannon says. "It's not the best movie in the world, but it has Clark Gable," she says.

The screening begins a yearlong celebration of what would have been the Johnston County native's 75th birthday. The proceeds will go to the museum's collection of Gardner costumes, most of which need expensive care and attention.

Although unhappy about the film mix-up, Cannon says she's relieved at least that someone checked the film before showing it Thursday night. "That really would have been something," she says. "Oh, Lord, I guess if that had happened we'd just have packed up and left town never to be heard from again."

**Lab extends medical benefits to same-sex couples**

NEW MEXICO - Los Alamos National Laboratory plans to extend health care benefits to same-sex couples as a result of a decision by University of California regents, a lab spokesman said Tuesday.

In a 13-12 vote Friday, the regents approved a measure authorizing university president Richard Atkinson "to extend health care benefits to University of California employees who are competent adults over the age of 18 in a long-term, committed domestic relationship who are precluded from marriage because they are of the same sex or are incapable under California law of a valid marriage because of a family relationship."

One regent abstained in the vote. The policy would extend medical, dental, and vision benefits to homosexual couples.

Lab human resources director Mike Lucero said LANL "will take appropriate action, which could include contract modifications and policy changes, once the University of California benefits staff issues implementation guidance."

Lab spokesman John Gustafson said it's a matter of how to implement the benefits, not whether to implement them. Gustafson said the new policy "has to mesh with the Administrative Manual."

Atkinson said offering the expanded benefits would improve UC's ability to compete for staff "without significantly increasing costs to the university," a UC news release said. The university has estimated the cost of adding same-sex benefits at the university would range between \$1.9 million and \$5.6 million.

"A special enrollment period for domestic partner benefits is expected to be held in mid-to late spring, with benefits effective sometime mid-year," the UC statement says. The policy also could benefit blood relatives in some cases, such as graduate students living with their parents.

UC used eight universities for comparisons, of which six offer same-sex benefits. Those are Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Michigan and the State University of New York-Buffalo.

(Compiled by Staff from Associated Press and other Wire Reports)

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## High court ponders whether workers have right to lie

by Philip Brasher

WASHINGTON (AP) - The government tried to fire Veterans Affairs Department social worker Jeanette Walsh when she had sex with a patient and then lied about it. But an appeals board reduced the penalty to a suspension, saying she should be punished for the sex but not the lie. Supreme Court justices questioned on Tuesday whether federal workers had a right to lie.

Paul Marth, a lawyer speaking for Walsh and five other disciplined workers, said employees should be allowed to falsely deny allegations of wrongdoing without fear of facing stiffer punishment than if they told the truth. He compared it to pleading "not guilty" in a criminal case.

But Solicitor General Seth Waxman argued that allowing workers to lie to their bosses would impede investigators and remove any incentive for an employee to admit to misconduct. Lying would be "cost free," Waxman said. A government worker "would be irrational to 'fess up.'"

The Supreme Court is considering five cases, including Walsh's, where the federal Merit Systems Protection Board and a federal appeals court disallowed extra punishment based on false statements by employees.

Walsh's punishment was reduced to a 90-day suspension. She lied to the department in 1991 when questioned about an 18-month affair she had with an alcoholic patient at the VA medical center in St. Cloud, Minn., in 1988-89.

The appeals court said it was okay for an employee to deny wrongdoing but not to make up a story to cover it up. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said that would give federal workers a right "that surely does not exist for private employees."

Other Supreme Court justices said it made sense that someone would be disciplined more severely for lying about misconduct than for admitting to it. "The moral of this is don't lie," Chief Justice William Rehnquist said. "That's the moral we hope they derive," Waxman replied.

In criminal cases, covering up an offense often carries a harsher penalty than the offense itself, Justice John Paul Stevens said. Rehnquist brought up the McCarthy-era case of Alger Hiss, who was convicted of perjury rather than spying because the statute of limitations had expired on the espionage allegations. "Lying can produce an offense where there was none before. That's what Congress has said," Rehnquist said.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said she couldn't understand the distinction the appeals court drew between denying allegations and telling a false cover story. "How do you draw a line there?" she asked. A false story could pose less of an obstacle to investigators than a simple denial, because they could check out the story, Rehnquist said.

Marth, the employees' attorney, said federal workers have little choice but to lie when confronted by allegations of wrongdoing since saying nothing will bring its own punishment. "An employee does not have a right to refuse to cooperate," he said.

Waxman suggested another tactic for an accused worker: the faulty memory excuse. Walsh "could have early on said, 'I don't remember,'" Waxman said. Instead, "she gave a whole false story about a long-term relationship."

## Court turns down appeal from two gay Republicans

by Richard Carelli  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Two gay Republicans who say they unlawfully were ousted from their elected posts on a California county GOP central committee lost a Supreme Court appeal today. The justices, without

comment, let stand rulings that threw out the men's civil rights lawsuit.

Lower courts ruled that the El Dorado County Republican Central Committee and a state assemblyman accused of orchestrating the ouster did not act as government officials and therefore could not be sued over alleged violations of federal civil rights.

Paul Johnson and Kevin Wadsworth, a homosexual couple, were elected to the county GOP central committee in 1992, and re-elected in 1994. In the summer of 1994, the two rented their ranch for a fund-raiser by a Democratic congressional candidate. Neither Johnson nor Wadsworth participated in the fund-raiser, however.

The Republican committee voted to remove the two men for providing support for a Democratic candidate. The two men's lawsuit alleged that David Knowles, then a state assemblyman, used his political power and influence within the Republican Party to bring about their ouster. Knowles no longer is in the Assembly. They said he was motivated by his dislike for homosexuals.

A federal trial judge dismissed the lawsuit, and the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that ruling last May. In the appeal acted on today, Johnson and Wadsworth argued that although a political party's central committee usually is treated as a private entity an exception should be made "in the limited context of regulating their popularly elected membership."

The appeal also contended that the 9th Circuit court erroneously "downplayed Assemblyman Knowles' position and power." In response, lawyers for the county's Republican committee and Knowles said the two men were ousted for conduct "deemed injurious to party interests."

They said Johnson and Wadsworth "have articulated no theory of recovery which can be reconciled with the Constitution's constitutional guarantee of free association, which requires that the courts refrain from playing any role in the resolution of intra-party factionalism." The case is Johnson vs. Knowles, 97-503.

## Doctor infected with AIDS virus as a new intern sues Yale

by Brigitte Greenberg

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - Fresh out of medical school and only seven weeks into an internship at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Jane Doe was asked to insert a line into an AIDS patient's artery.

As blood gushed through the tube, the 25-year-old intern pulled out the line and capped it with her gloved thumb to prevent the blood from spraying around the room. At the same time, the needle, which she was also holding, punctured her glove and thumb.

Though terrified, she resumed the procedure until the line was inserted properly. Then she fled the Intensive Care Unit, removed her gloves, scrubbed her hands and tried to bleed out the wound. It was to no avail: Six weeks after she was pricked on Aug. 18, 1988, she tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS.

On Tuesday, a trial began in her lawsuit against the Yale School of Medicine. The woman, who was allowed to sue under a pseudonym, claims she was not trained or supervised on how to insert an arterial line and that the school's alleged negligence has destroyed her future.

Now 35, the woman continued her studies at Yale and is now a specialist in internal medicine at an undisclosed university. "She has had to change all of her life's plans," her attorney, Michael P. Koskoff, told the six jurors in opening arguments.

An author of a children's book, she had wanted to marry and have a family. She also dreamed of having a private practice in hematology or endocrinology. "It takes some skill, some instruction, some supervision to learn how to insert one of these things into the artery," Koskoff said. "She

See COURT page 28

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**COURT/**from page 27

was assigned the task of changing the arterial line with no supervision at all."

The woman is seeking general and punitive damages in excess of \$15,000, plus court costs and attorney's fees. In addition to treatment she receives to arrest the onset of AIDS, she has been treated for depression.

Attorney William J. Doyle, who represents Yale, said the case is a tragedy but that all health care workers face the risk of needlesticks, which he said are a common occurrence. He said carelessness may have played a role.

"Needlesticks are inevitable. There is no way to guarantee they won't happen," Doyle said. "Regardless of the skill of the health care worker, regardless of the training ... one moment of inattention is all it takes." Doyle said the intern failed to get rid of the needle when she should have. Although she had limited experience at inserting an arterial line, she had performed similar procedures hundreds of times, he said.

Koskoff said the woman was hesitant about performing the procedure that led to the needlestick. He said the University of Chicago Medical School graduate had only performed it successfully once before and wasn't confident she could do it again, but had a can-do attitude and wanted to impress her Yale supervisors.

Doyle challenged those claims. Her supervisor had described a young woman brimming with confidence, who appeared competent when asked to insert the line, Doyle said. "This tragedy, and it is a tragedy, was not caused by anything Yale did or failed to do," Doyle said.

The trial, before Judge Patty Jenkins Pittman, is expected to last about two weeks.

### Judge refuses to dismiss same-sex sexual harassment suit

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - A federal judge has refused to dismiss a sexual-harass-

ment suit filed by a woman who claims she was pursued.

U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Greene ruled this week that claims by Melanie Ann Johnson should be decided by a jury. Community Nursing Services had asked the judge to dismiss Johnson's harassment and defamation claims.

Johnson, 49, is the former clinical director of physical, speech and occupational therapy at CNS. She claims her supervisor, Nora Goicoechea, attempted to begin a sexual relationship with her in 1994 and retaliated against her when Johnson began dating a man.

CNS is a nonprofit, United Way agency that provides home health-care services, according to court documents. Last year, CNS first asked Greene to dismiss Johnson's suit, arguing federal sexual-harassment law does not cover same-sex harassment.

Greene disagreed in a May 1996 opinion. Federal appellate courts have split on the point, and the U.S. Supreme Court was scheduled to hear arguments on the issue last Wednesday in a case brought by a Louisiana offshore oil-rig worker who claims he was sexually harassed by his male supervisor.

In its second bid to dismiss Johnson's suit, CNS argued the conduct she attributed to Goicoechea was not pervasive enough to support her claim of a hostile work environment. Johnson claims Goicoechea flirted with her, called her "sexy" in front of co-workers and pressured her for a dinner date after Johnson lost a bet with her.

Johnson claims Goicoechea became abusive toward her when the supervisor learned she had ended a lesbian relationship and was dating a male CNS board member. She alleges Goicoechea yelled at her and criticized her work.

CNS attorneys argued many of the alleged comments by Goicoechea were not sexual in nature, and Johnson did not mention sexual comments when she complained to the company's human resources department.

Greene ruled the sexual comments

Goicoechea allegedly made before she discovered Johnson was dating a man should be considered along with the abusive comments she allegedly made afterward. A jury will examine the "totality of the circumstances," he said.

Greene also ruled CNS may be liable for Goicoechea's alleged harassment because Johnson contends she complained to the human resources director and President Grant Howarth. Finally, Greene said a jury should also weigh Johnson's defamation claim.

She alleges intolerable conditions forced her to resign in June 1995, and claims Goicoechea told other employees she left because she had a "borderline personality disorder."

Greene agreed the comment was conditionally privileged, as part of a legitimate conversation with employees to explain Johnson's departure. That ruling means Johnson will be required to show Goicoechea acted with malice.

### Lawyers file arguments in same-sex marriage case

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP) - Lawyers for three same-sex couples who want the state to give them marriage licenses have filed arguments in court.

The arguments, filed Tuesday in Chittenden Superior Court by attorneys for the law firm Langrock, Sperry & Wool in Middlebury, say Vermont marriage law supports all committed couples, including those of the same gender.

The papers say interpreting the law to deny the couples access to marital benefits goes against the Vermont Constitution. Two lesbian couples and a gay couple who were denied marriage licenses in their towns filed suit against the state in July.

The suit challenges a 1975 ruling by the state Attorney General concerning a same-sex marriage request in Plainfield. That ruling advised town clerks that Vermont law defined marriage as a union between a "bride and a groom," prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying.

The Attorney General's office responded to the three couples' lawsuit on Nov. 10, requesting that it be dismissed. It said the Vermont Constitution does not guarantee same-sex partners the right to marry.

In the papers filed Tuesday, the couples' lawyers said the state has not shown a "valid public purpose" to deny the couples the benefits of civil marriage. Those benefits include sick leave, inheritance rights, and being appointed guardian if a spouse becomes incapacitated.

The filing Tuesday also referred to studies showing that children raised by same-sex parents are well-adjusted and don't suffer from psychological or social development problems. The filing said the state relied on outdated roles and stereotypes of men and women in its arguments.

"Marriage is about much more than procreation," said Susan Murray, an attorney representing the couples. "It's about sharing. It's about sacrifice. It's about companionship. It's about loyalty. It's about all those sorts of things."

### Judge: Marriage to transsexual can't be annulled

ORANGE, California (AP) - The marriage between a woman and her transsexual husband cannot be annulled because California law recognizes a person's gender after a sex-change operation, a judge ruled.

The decision Tuesday by Judge Gary Ryan means the custody battle over the couple's 3-year-old daughter will likely continue. As part of the custody fight, Kristie Vecchione sought to annul her marriage to Joshua Vecchione, who was born female and had a sex change operation in

1976, on the grounds that state law does not recognize same-sex unions.

But Superior Judge Gary Ryan ruled that because state law recognizes a person's gender after a sex-change operation, the court recognizes Vecchione as a man. "The post-operative anatomy of Mr. Vecchione is male except that he is sterile and unable to conceive children," the judge said.

The ruling means that the couple will likely proceed with a custody battle over their daughter, who was conceived by artificial insemination using sperm from Vecchione's brother.

"I am thrilled by this decision. I feel like a person now," Vecchione said in a statement issued by his lawyers at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. "The court recognizes today what my little girl has known all along: that I am her daddy."

Larry Ross, a lawyer for Mrs. Vecchione, was not sure whether she would appeal. Ross also had asked the judge to void the marriage because Mrs. Vecchione said she did not know her husband had been born female when they married. Mrs. Vecchione said he told her he had been born with genitalia of both genders, which she considered a congenital defect.

"There is still the viable issue whether Joshua misrepresented himself to Kristie," Ross said. The judge has not ruled on that issue.

Vecchione, who was born Janine, countered that he had always told his wife the truth and even explained the operations in detail. The couple have been married just less than five years. If the marriage is annulled, Mrs. Vecchione will have custody of their daughter automatically, Ross said. Mrs. Vecchione is prepared to work out a visitation arrangement with her estranged husband.

### Former foster parent sentenced to 15 years for child molestation

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - A former Sioux Falls foster parent sentenced to 15 years in prison for molesting three boys used volunteering and teaching to get close to children, prosecutors said.

Robert Stuart Davidson Jr., 50, also was sentenced on Monday to two suspended 10-year prison terms and restitution for the boys' abuse counseling. Davidson had pleaded guilty to three charges of sexual contact with a child. He likely will be eligible for parole in eight to 10 years and will be under a parole officer's supervision until he is at least 75.

Prosecutors said Davidson molested a 12-year-old boy who was his temporary foster child, that boy's 13-year-old brother and a 14-year-old boy who stayed in Davidson's home as a foster child. "He made this a real art form," said State's Attorney Dave Nelson. "Finding these kids has become a real piece of work for this defendant."

Davidson was a volunteer with the Boy Scouts and taught cello lessons. He also was a member of the South Dakota Symphony. One victim wrote a letter saying he was hurt and confused and often suffers flashbacks and bad dreams. The boy said he wanted to see Davidson spend the rest of his life in jail, Nelson read from the letter.

Davidson, reading from a prepared statement, said he was sorry. He said his students and the orchestra he played in have been punished by his incarceration. "Community trust is my goal, and I will work unceasingly to that end," Davidson said, ending his statement in sobs. Davidson's lawyers said many of his former students and friends wrote letters saying Davidson was a good man who had never hurt their children.

Circuit Judge Judith Meierhenry said she needed to create a sentence that would both punish and rehabilitate Davidson. "A lot of good you've done in the past with the musical talent and your students has been wiped out," Meierhenry said.

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**RELIGION**/from page 24

three months ago and joined it soon afterwards. She told the Rev. Joe Edward Garrett Jr. about her condition as soon as she met him. During subsequent worship services, she told the congregation about her illness. They have been supportive, she said.

Garrett took the pulpit after Jackson and spoke of the importance of love for Jackson and the rest of the world. Behind Garrett, Jackson sat in a chair, holding her small son in her lap and dabbing her eyes with a tissue.

At the pastor's invitation, the crowd in the sanctuary contributed to an offering for Jackson. They walked single file up the red carpet to the front of the church and placed crumpled bills in a collection plate. Many of the donors then walked to the pulpit and hugged Jackson or kissed her on the cheek. Among those people, Jackson said, were ones who had once gossiped about her.

**Manhattan minister charged with sodomizing congregant, 14**

NEW YORK (AP) - A Manhattan minister has been arrested and charged with sexually abusing a 14-year-old boy who was a member of his congregation, police said.

Eladio Perez, 36, who lives in the Bronx and is a reverend at the Pentecostal Alliance Church in Washington Heights, was arrested Sunday morning on sodomy and child endangerment charges, police spokeswoman Carmen Melendez said.

Broadcast reports said Perez had not been ordained, but was a director of youth ministries at the church. Church officials did not immediately return messages Sunday evening seeking clarification of Perez's position.

The alleged victim told detectives Perez had sodomized him 10 times between August and November, Melendez said. She said a relative contacted police about the alleged attacks after being told of them by the boy. Perez abused the boy when he was supposed to be helping the

**minister with odd jobs, according to Melendez. AIDS memorial service held at cathedral**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - A service was held in Sioux Falls Saturday for South Dakota AIDS victims - the fourth annual AIDS Memorial Service at St. Joseph Cathedral. The church bells tolled as the names of 55 people who have died of AIDS were read.

South Dakota has the second lowest rate of AIDS cases in the nation. But speakers at the service said it's a misconception that AIDS is a disease that happens to someone else.

Brent Christensen of Presho, who has the virus that causes AIDS, said the disease won't be a major cause in South Dakota until it affects more households. "Until we let go of this denial, until it affects our children, until it hits every household in South Dakota, it won't be a pressing cause," he said.

South Dakota hasn't kept abreast of medical developments for AIDS and HIV sufferers, Christensen said. He said that public health officials told his friend to move to Minnesota because South Dakota doesn't offer the kind of programs that are needed.

In 1996, South Dakota had 24 new AIDS cases reported. Fifteen of the people had HIV and nine had AIDS. So far this year, 12 people have been diagnosed: 10 have HIV and two have AIDS.

Robert Moore, brother of opera singer and South Dakota native White Eagle, sang two songs at the service. White Eagle died of complications from AIDS in 1995. He was 43. Moore said he learned of AIDS' stigma while caring for his brother. He said White Eagle was in the performing arts, where people were more open-hearted to the disease. But South Dakotans "have a lot of learning to do," Moore said.

Before someone dies from AIDS, there is the public death - the death of one's social life, being rejected by a society afraid of the disease, Christensen said. He said that once, after he had finished a restaurant meal, a waitress threw

his plate, glass and dinnerware into the garbage while he watched.

Karen Bossman of Lennox, who lost her brother to AIDS in 1991, spoke at the service. "When there is no hope, we had one small hope to pray. There is someone there bigger for you to call," she said.

**Minister avoids more trials by pleading guilty to child rapes**

by Michelle Williams

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) - Former youth minister Don McCary decided his track record as an attorney wasn't good enough to win two remaining child molestation cases against him. So he cut his losses and pleaded guilty.

McCary, 53, was granted four retrials this year after the Tennessee Supreme Court overturned his 1992 conviction for raping and molesting boys from his congregation at Central Baptist Church of Hixson.

While in prison, McCary was certified as a paralegal through a mail-order course. He then acted as his own attorney at his first two retrials this summer. He lost both. McCary was convicted of raping and molesting two boys, 12 and 15 when the abuse occurred in 1991. He was sentenced to 34 years in prison.

On Monday, attorneys were at Coffee County Criminal Court in Manchester to select a jury to transport to Chattanooga for the third retrial. McCary instead pleaded guilty to three counts of rape and two counts of sexual assault involving boys who were 14 and 15 in 1991.

"I want to get it over with because I'm guilty and I'm asking for your mercy," McCary told Special Judge Buddy Perry. Perry sentenced McCary to 38 years in prison.

"I heard, 'I'm guilty,' but I didn't hear, 'I'm sorry,'" Perry told McCary before sentencing. The term will run concurrently with McCary's 34-year sentence for rape convictions at two earlier retrials. The new punishment is about half the 72-year sentence McCary received in 1992

when he was convicted on 13 counts of rape and molestation.

McCary is eligible for parole after serving 30 percent of the 38 years, or about 11 years. Since McCary was imprisoned for four years prior to his case being overturned, he is eligible for parole in 2004. Prosecutor Lee Davis said freedom for McCary is unlikely.

"We don't ever want Mr. McCary to have even the hope of getting out because I believe as a pedophile he's different than a murderer," Davis said. "Murder is not a mental disorder, it's a crime. Pedophilia is a recognized mental disorder and cannot be punished successfully in prison. ... (McCary) will go back to being a pedophile on his first day out of prison."

One of the boys McCary molested, now 21, testified at the sentencing hearing that he wanted the former minister behind bars forever. "If this man is let out into society again, he will strike again," the man said with a quivering voice.

Public defender Rich Heinsman, who served as an adviser to McCary during the two retrials, said the new prison sentence addresses the seriousness of the crime, but allows for future rehabilitation. "There is some home on his family's part that he will be paroled," Heinsman said of McCary's four adult children and ex-wife.

McCary's earlier convictions were overturned in part because testimony was allowed from a man who said McCary molested him for years. The man never told police. During the retrials, two of the boys testified that McCary gained their confidence with gifts, driving lessons and fast-food meals.

They said McCary started showing them pornographic magazines or videos at his church office to arouse them. He would either touch them or perform oral sex on them, sometimes after an evening service, but usually on church youth trips.

McCary will return to a state prison in Pikeville where his twin brother, Ron, also a minister, is serving time for raping a 6-year-old boy. Another McCary brother, Richard, also is a minister who served time in California for molesting children.

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## Protease inhibitors may improve AIDS-related brain disease

by Heather Lalley

CHICAGO (AP) - A devastating and progressive brain disease that attacks most AIDS patients was halted - and in some cases reversed by treatment with a powerful class of AIDS drugs, a study presented Tuesday found.

HIV-encephalopathy, which leads to a loss of mental and motor function, stabilized or improved in a majority of patients treated with protease inhibitors, a family of AIDS drugs proven to have a powerful effect on the virus, according to results presented here at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America.

Dr. Christopher Filippi, director of neuroradiology at New York City's Weiler Hospital, and researchers at Yale-New Haven Medical Center studied 16 patients with AIDS dementia. Magnetic resonance imaging scans showed that the disease stabilized or almost completely disappeared in 89 percent of the patients given protease inhibitors, Filippi said.

Bright white patches are present in the brain scans of patients with dementia. Those patches appear darker in patients treated with protease inhibitors. The disease, which affects more than two-thirds of all AIDS patients, continued to progress in 86 percent of those not given the drugs, he said.

The findings are particularly significant given the success of protease inhibitors in treating many of the physical symptoms associated with AIDS, he said. "What good is it to prolong the body when the brain goes?" Filippi asked. It is unclear how or why protease inhibitors affect the central nervous system, he said.

The drugs, which first appeared on the market in early 1996, have been shown to dramatically reduce the number of infections and deaths in AIDS patients when taken in combination with other drugs, such as AZT. Protease inhibitors work by blocking the production of protease, an enzyme crucial to the virus's survival.

"This is more evidence that strong antiretroviral therapy can result in increased immune function and reversal of some diseases which up until now have been largely untreatable," said Dr. Roy Gulick, an AIDS researcher and assistant professor at the New York University School of Medicine, who was not involved in the study. "And that's obviously good news."

But at least one researcher said he is not convinced by the new findings. Dr. David Simpson, director of the neuro-AIDS research program at New York City's Mt. Sinai Medical Center, magnetic resonance imaging is not the best way to determine the progression of dementia. "Dementia is a clinical diagnosis, based on thinking ability," Simpson said.

He also said protease inhibitors may not be effective against dementia because their large molecular weight prevents them from crossing the blood-brain barrier, a lining of tightly packed cells that keeps chemicals from entering the brain.

## Homer teens take AIDS fight to class

by Tom Kizzia  
Anchorage Daily News

HOMER - Amy Kelm has heard it said that condoms and AIDS should be discussed in the home, not the classroom. But the Homer High School senior also knows that many of her friends come from homes that might as well needlepoint the motto: "If you start talking about it, they'll start doing it."

Kelm, an 18-year-old senior, said her own family was upset last year when she got involved in a program that trains students to talk to their peers about risky behavior and the spread of HIV, the AIDS virus. They told her she'd be associating with the wrong kind of people in her small town.

"Then my mother saw the AIDS quilt panels hung at the Elks last week," Kelm said. "She was really awed by it. She just went quiet, and ever since then she's been saying, 'I'm really proud of you.'"

A frank new health-education curriculum was controversial when it was adopted by Kenai Peninsula schools in the 1980s. But its AIDS prevention component now appears well established, bolstered by a program spreading across Alaska that uses students as classroom educators.

The program, which reached Alaska through Anchorage six years ago, is called RARE-T, for Reducing AIDS Risk Effectively in Teens. Kenai Peninsula students can choose to opt out of the high school health class, but if they do, they must take a correspondence health course instead.

On Monday, marking World AIDS Day, Kelm and several other RARE-T students were expected to join health classes at Homer High to talk about the HIV virus and the kind of reckless behavior with sex, drugs and alcohol that endangers teenage lives - even in a small town like Homer.

"I think the students take it a lot more to heart because it's not just another lecture from adults," said Colleen McManus, 17, a four-year veteran of the student-to-student program.

At the end of classes, the teens will walk to the school library to view several panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the nationally recognized project that memorializes individuals who died of AIDS. Eight of the quilt's 40,000-plus panels - each containing eight individual squares - were brought to Homer for the first time this month.

Last week, Kelm noticed, the usual student chatter in the library fell silent as the quilt panels were being hung. Earlier in the week, the panels had been displayed at the Elks Hall for a fund-raiser, draped awkwardly over the bull elk antlers on the walls.

In Alaska, the latest statistics show a remarkable falling-off in AIDS deaths during the last three years. The reason: new combinations of medicines that have slowed the virus. But Kim Smith, director of the Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic and overseer of Homer's RARE-T program, said national trends show the medications have offered only

a temporary reprieve for some patients, so the numbers may be expected to rise in the future.

In the meantime, she warned, the improvement may serve to mask the continued spread of HIV. Nationally, the age group of 15-24 now comprises the majority of new adult HIV infections. The RARE-T program has become a priority in the state budget and is spreading to more communities this year through training sessions run by Anchorage students, said Sharon Vaissiere, health curriculum coordinator for the Anchorage School District.

"It's had an especially big impact on the kids directly involved in the program," Vaissiere said. "They've had to think through the message. Your credibility is nil if you talk about abstinence and alcohol and drugs if everybody in the room knows where you were on Saturday night."

Vaissiere said she was glad to hear the Homer program was now so established that Homer students serve as trainers. In small communities, she said, enthusiasm for the program sometimes dissipates when key students graduate.

Homer teenagers realize that living at the end of the road offers no safety from AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases, the RARE-T students say. If anything, the small community allows some viruses to sweep swiftly through a young, sexually active population, said Smith.

She recalls an outbreak of the sexually transmitted disease chlamydia among teens several years back, which was traced to a transient summer resident on the Homer Spit. "Summer romances - those can be the deadliest kind," Kelm said.

Smith said the AIDS curriculum has had strong support from local schools and district staff. On the Kenai Peninsula, students can even display condoms in class while discussing their role in "safer, not safe" sex. Since last year, display of condoms hasn't been allowed in Anchorage schools.

In Homer, one boy in the RARE-T program helped demystify the condom by taking off his shoe and pulling one up over his calf, said Smith. "Don't ever let boys tell you they can't fit one of these on," he told the students.

Both Homer and Anchorage administrators say they've seen students in the program sort through the risks and wind up showing new enthusiasm for sexual abstinence. "The kids on their own have moved more and more to a harder-core abstinence message even than our trainers espouse," said Vaissiere.

The school program promotes self-esteem and teaches how to say "No" firmly and assertively, said Briar Smith, 16, who took time out over the Thanksgiving holiday from rehearsing her role as Clara in Homer's *Nutcracker* ballet to discuss her involvement in AIDS education.

Homer administrators warn that schools alone won't provide the information teens need to stay safe. Because of scheduling, many students get little or no health education between seventh grade and their senior year. Churches, community organizations and families all have to talk frankly about the risks, Kim Smith said.

The classroom discussions may help prompt those discussions elsewhere, said Donna Rae Faulkner, outreach educator for Homer's family planning clinic. "We're hoping education and good discussion will spread as easily as HIV," she said.

## AIDS volunteers harder to find

by Richard Lorant

BOSTON - Men of Color Against AIDS Inc. has relied on Eddy Dykes for everything from therapy to carpentry. Dykes, a volunteer who is himself HIV positive, has led workshops, counseled peers and even flown to Los Angeles to represent the Boston-based group. But he is not above building shelves for the office.

"I don't want anyone else to walk in my shoes," said Dykes, one of 13 Massachusetts volunteers honored Monday at a World AIDS Day breakfast. But volunteers like Dykes are getting harder to find.

The illusion that the disease is in check combined with low unemployment has shrunk the pool of volunteers to promote AIDS education and help AIDS patients. At the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, the number of volunteers has dropped from 2,500 two years ago to 1,500 today.

"We used to do about 100 orientations a month for new volunteers. That's dropped by about half," said Larry Kessler, the group's executive director. Volunteers are especially needed in the black and Hispanic communities, where infection rates continue to rise. New cases are declining among American whites, especially among gays.

Speakers at the breakfast, sponsored by the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation, highlighted the uneven progress made in fighting the disease in the state and around the world. While condoms and disposable syringes have proved effective, they said, many people remain ignorant of the most basic rules of AIDS prevention in both sexual behavior and intravenous drug use.

"We know that whole populations of people have not had access to education or prevention," said Dr. Susan Pauker, a pediatrician and president of the Harvard Pilgrim foundation. Meanwhile, potent drug "cocktails" have helped control the disease in some patients. But they are hard to use, expensive and unavailable to millions around the world.

The state Department of Public Health announced a \$500,000 program Monday to help people adhere to the rigorous treatment schedules necessary to make the treatments work, said John Auerbach, director of the department's HIV/AIDS bureau.

The multi-drug treatments also encourage a false sense of security, despite high rates of failure and potentially awful side effects, Dr. Pauker said. As a result, risky behavior is increasing even among those who know better, she said.

"They're tired of the disease. They're tired of restrictions on their behavior, and they're starting to become sloppy," said Dr. Pauker, who helped develop AIDS education kits for parents and adolescent children. That concern was reflected by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, who unveiled a public education campaign aimed at backsliders. The slogan: "It ain't over yet."

## SAME SEX/ from page 1

Employment Opportunity Commission chairman whose Supreme Court confirmation hearing was marked by sensational allegations of sexual harassment, sat silently throughout the 60-minute session. He seldom comments during such sessions.

The term "harassment" does not appear in the text of Title VII but the Supreme Court ruled in 1986 that harassment amounts to discrimination if it creates a "hostile environment" in the workplace.

In subsequent rulings, the justices said a hostile environment can come about not only by overtly sexual behavior but also by "discriminatory intimidation, ridicule and insult ... sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the victim's employment." The justices will take their initial vote in the case Friday, but announcement of a final decision could take months.

While it appeared clear the court will revive John Oncale's lawsuit against his former employer, Ginsburg suggested that he might have a difficult time proving he was a victim of illegal discrimination in the all-male environment of an offshore oil rig.

"How can we know how these gross people would have treated women?" she asked. Perhaps, she added, the treatment Oncale allegedly suffered was "a disgusting way to show they didn't like him" and had nothing to do with his sex.

O'Connor sounded a similar theme by asking Clinton administration lawyer Edwin Kneeder: "Suppose an employer has the unfortunate habit of patting every single employee - both male and female - on the fanny every day. How do you show discrim-

ination?"

Kneeder, who argued that Title VII covers same-sex harassment, had to concede that an "equal-opportunity harasser" might not be violating the law. Kneeder recounted two of Oncale's allegations - that two men grabbed his genitals and one of them placed his penis against Oncale's head.

Oncale's lawyer, Nicholas Canaday III of Baton Rouge, La., also alluded to another allegation - a shower room assault involving a bar of soap. Oncale's lawsuit stems from his four months of work in 1991 as a roustabout assigned to a Gulf of Mexico oil rig with Sundowner Offshore Services.

His lawsuit against Sundowner and three men said he was sexually assaulted, battered, touched and threatened with rape by his direct supervisor, John Lyons, and a second supervisor, Danny Pippen. Another defendant, co-worker Brandon Johnson, was accused of assisting in one of the alleged incidents.

All three men named as defendants say no harassment occurred, and portray their conduct as hazing or locker-room horseplay. Oncale's lawsuit said he twice reported the situation to his employer's highest-ranking representative on the job site, but no action was taken. Oncale quit, the lawsuit said, because he feared the harassment would escalate to rape.

Houston lawyer Harry Reasoner argued for Sundowner that Congress never intended to have the 1964 law extend to "relationships between people of the same sex. ... There is no evidence that they intended to federalize the regulation of conduct between men and men," he said.

and lesbian fostering and adoption, you still need to have an accepting caseworker."

New Hampshire and Florida are the only states with statutes that specifically prohibit adoption by homosexuals. In Florida's case, the law dates to 1977, the era when singer Anita Bryant raised public fears about homosexuals having contact with children.

Sam Chavers, a state lawyer who recently fended off a legal challenge to Florida's law, argued that studies have yet to examine what happens to children adopted by homosexual couples to whom they have no biological link.

Sayward, whose organization supports gay and lesbian parents, acknowledged that oft-cited studies that found no negative effect on children adopted by homosexuals focus on children related to one of the partners. They are typically lesbians' children conceived by donor insemination and children of parents who conceived them in heterosexual marriages and later entered homosexual relationships.

The distinction is significant, contends Chavers, assistant general counsel for the Florida Department of Children and Families "Everybody thinks that (homosexual adoption of non-related children) would not be a problem, but nobody knows for sure," he said.

In Texas, spokesman Stewart Davis of the Department of Regulatory and Protective Services said married heterosexual couples are preferred for foster and adoptive homes if they are available, with single people also considered. The main question, he said, is whether prospective parents can meet a child's material and emotional needs.

In the case of unmarried heterosexual or homosexual couples, both partners are evaluated but only one becomes the licensed parent, Davis said. He rejected Ms. Bledsoe's argument that the sodomy law, which has been challenged, should prohibit placement with gays and lesbians.

"We don't know that criminal activity is ongoing in the homes where we place children," Davis said. "We would hope that it isn't, and we do everything we can to try to avoid criminal activity from happening, but we're not the police and we don't try to enforce the penal code. ... We are interested in finding people who can protect and nurture and parent abused children."

## POLICY/ from page 1

The foster couple and their lawyer, Dave Cole of Dallas, declined to comment. Ms. Bledsoe's superiors deny that she was demoted for opposing homosexuality and say she was sanctioned for violating procedures in abruptly removing the child from his home. He was returned a day later by order of CPS officials.

"We do have a very clear policy that says you don't move kids from foster, adoptive or birth homes unless there's an immediate threat to a child," said agency regional director Wayne Hairgrove. "If you want to move a child, you have to notify the caretaker and the child's attorney. That's why we took adverse action against her."

Ms. Bledsoe's grievance is working its way through the administrative process, which she must exhaust before she files her intended lawsuit against the agency. As for the baby, he apparently will not remain with his foster parents, who had expressed a desire to adopt the now-7-month-old.

An uncle, Eugene Helm of Illinois, has come forward with an offer to adopt the child if the parents' rights are terminated. Helm received national publicity last year for deferring his college education so he could care for several nieces and nephews, including the baby's older twin sisters and three cousins.

The debate over placing abused and neglected children in foster or adoptive homes with homosexual couples is not unique to Texas. Both sides draw a distinction between such cases and custody battles involving a biological parent who has come out as a homosexual and adoption of children who are not in the care of the state, such as babies from foreign countries.

According to Jenny Sayward, director of the Seattle-based Lavender Families Resource Network, most states, like Texas, lack specific policies prohibiting gays from becoming foster and adoptive parents.

That has made for a wide variation in practice.

Agencies in some states that don't bar homosexual adoption of foster children have "made it possible for some couples to have successful adoptions if they get the right caseworker," Sayward said. "In fact, even when there are policies specifically allowing gay

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**BROWN**/from page 1

not initially receive the majority of the support of the gay community." Former city controller George Greanias did. Greanias has endorsed the mayor, as has former mayor Kathy Whitmire, U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, State Rep. Debra Danburg and Mayor Lanier. If that were not enough, Brown has also garnered the endorsements of Vice President Al Gore and President Clinton.

Brown maintains that the endorsements do not make the race more partisan. In fact, Brown told Houstonians during this week's debates if anyone set a partisan tone to this race, it was his opponent Rob Mosbacher. Brown was referring to a campaign flyer that Mosbacher sent out espousing his Republican credentials and questioning Greanias' community alliances.

Brown said Vice President Gore is a former colleague and was helping out a friend. Perhaps. However, it would also serve the Vice President well during his campaign for the presidency in the year 2000 to have a Democrat sitting in the mayor's office in the fourth largest city in the country.

Like Mosbacher, Brown agreed to be interviewed by the *Houston Voice*. Brown is a towering figure. His stature and mannerism suggest he is confident in his ability and secure in his knowledge of city affairs. This is Brown's first campaign. Having served in government for many years, he has always been appointed. And to those who say he has not done a good job, he replies that if he was as ineffective as suggested, then why did he keep getting appointed to higher positions.

"Starting with my career as a public safety commissioner in Atlanta, Georgia, I inherited a city and department where there was a gulf - not just a gap but a gulf - between the police and the gay and lesbian community," Brown said when asked why the gay community should support him.

"I reached out and we worked through those issues and ended up with a good working relationship between the police and the gay and lesbian community," he said. "When I came to Houston there was the same major problem between the police and the gay and lesbian community. I made sure that I was accessible."

As a result, Brown maintains, the department under his leadership did a number of things in terms of making sure that there was equitable treatment and ensuring that new police officers entering the academy were taught about the gay and lesbian community. In so doing, Brown used representatives from the gay and lesbian community to go in and do the teaching.

"Right now, we don't have that problem in Houston because of the things that I was able to do," says Brown. "So, Based upon my track record - not what I'm saying I'm going to do - but what I've already done, it is in the best interest of the gay and lesbian community to have me as the mayor."

Brown informed the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and Log Cabin Republicans of Houston during their respective screenings that he supports the concept of domestic partners benefits. Earlier this month at a debate held at the George R. Brown Convention Center sponsored by the Heights Chamber of Commerce, Brown stated that he would find out what the consensus on the subject would be and make his decision on those findings.

"My position is essentially the same," Brown said. "I've looked at this issue and looking at it, some of the large businesses have it in their package, cities have it and it has not been an economic burden. What I said is that I think it is important that we build a consensus before we step forward on that. That's what I would do is work with the gay and lesbian community in building

that consensus."

On other issues, Brown maintains that from the hours of 3 to 6 p.m. children are not being supervised and therefore are likely to get into trouble. He would like to expand youth recreation during those hours and appoint a local "drug czar."

Both candidates have made education and crime a pivotal issue in their campaigns. Polls show those are the two most important issues to the electorate. With respect to education, Brown wants to implement a program that would ensure all children have access to library cards. He would accomplish this by having the city distribute them to students.

Brown is a proponent of the cities affirmative action program and believes that a level playing field has yet to exist, however, he would like to see a day when affirmative action is not necessary. Brown will however look at some of the problems of the current programs and refine them accordingly.

"What I will do is take the issues that were raised during this current debate before the general election and pull together a representative group of people to look at those issues," Brown said. "One of the things I know I will do immediately is to have a graduation program so that people can graduate out of the affirmative action program. I don't know at what point that should happen. I will use people who are experts in the area to advise me on that."

Brown said he thinks we need the affirmative action program and said he voted to defeat Proposition A. "I feel until we have a level playing field, which we do not have right now, that we should have the affirmative action program," he said. "It should be one that is the best we can have."

On the transportation front, Brown wants to appoint a Houstonian to the state transportation board and promises to obtain more state and federal funding. Like his opponent, he will study rail. Brown has said he will also use the federal contacts he developed as Drug Czar in the Clinton administration to negotiate a compromise on federal rules regarding pollution. He would also like to convene a regional summit on the issue.

Brown would keep the \$5 million cap on arts funding that comes from the local hotel occupancy tax. This does not bode well with the arts community who would like to see that cap removed to increase funding for the arts. The federal government has reduced art spending dramatically in the past two years which has raised the ire of many aficionados.

Brown defended his record as police chief and says that his record has been distorted by his opponent. "What is not only sad but also outrageous is when one does not tell the truth in their campaign ads," he said. Interestingly, Brown did not mention his false campaign advertisement which placed a female HPD officer in a uniform eschewing the virtues of working under Brown's administration, when in fact, she never served directly under the police chief.

Asked about criticism that he would be a Lanier crony if elected, Brown responded: "I don't think anybody with any understanding of me would ever say that I would not be my own mayor. ... You can't head three big city police departments without being your own mayor. You can't serve on the cabinet of the president - now if you understand the cabinet position, you do it, you don't go and ask the president what you want to do - you can't successfully accomplish those objectives and not be your own man. ... I think mayor Lanier has done a good job."

Brown said he would have no problem appointing a non-paying liaison to the gay and lesbian community. "When I say in my slogan, I will be a mayor for all of Houston, that's really what I mean."

abortion and other conservative positions. In fact, when Mosbacher ran against Sen. Phil Gramm, he did so as a moderate Republican, calling himself a compassionate conservative. During the campaign Mosbacher questioned some of then President Reagan's economic policies. He lost. Mosbacher did not fair better in his race against Democrat Bob Bullock for lieutenant governor when he decidedly

ran as a conservative. He changed his earlier position of support for the continuation of legalized abortion.

Now, he is running for mayor of the nation's fourth largest city. And, he believes he is the best candidate to bring Houston into the international market for new opportunities. Certainly, he has extensively traveled around the world and he contends that promoting Houston's businesses to Latin America would be a top priority. Mosbacher Energy has focused a lot of its efforts in the region and the candidate fluently speaks Spanish.

Mosbacher has also invested time and energy on a host of civic and charitable activities. This year alone he has served on 19 corporate boards, 10 civic boards and was chairman at Methodist Hospital as well as the local American Red Cross chapter.

Mosbacher attended the University of Texas from 1969 to 1971, received a BA from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. in 1973; and a JD from Southern Methodist University in 1977. He is married and has three children, one of whom is opening in Theater Under the Stars production of *Oliver* on the same night that he will be awaiting election results.

Mosbacher has been labeled anti-gay and many pundits, leaders in the community, and his opponent suggest that he would not be a mayor for all of Houston's citizens. Not so, Mosbacher told the *Houston Voice*.

"People who know me know that I am committed to public service and I am committed to serving everyone, whether they vote for me or not," he said. "There is a high likelihood that Lee is going to get the overwhelming majority, for instance, of the African American vote. Is that going to influence how I serve, as mayor, in terms of issues that affect that community. No, not a bit."

Mosbacher said regardless of whether he gets 0% of the vote of a particular community or 100%, he would do his best to be the best mayor he could be to every single person in the city.

"Anybody that knows me - and it's very tough in a political campaign for people to get to know you and who you really are - knows that my commitment is to serving everyone and that's exactly what I'll do," Mosbacher said.

"On the other hand when you take an approach where you are in fact writing off certain segments of the community in terms of your own campaigning, it doesn't look to me like you want to be the mayor of all of Houston. It looks more like you want to be the mayor of everybody that votes for you," he said. "I would encourage your readers to look at Lee's actions as well as his words. I think I can be a mayor that can bring people together and that's what I plan to do."

Many Houstonians are upset at the negative tone the campaign has taken. For his part, Mosbacher has maintained that an individual who runs a campaign on their accomplishments should not get upset when those accomplishments are questioned.

"If you're going to run on a resume, which is exactly what Lee's doing," it should be subject to review contends Mosbacher. "Lee goes through this long dissertation on every job he's ever had. The problem is he gives you the clear impression he did a great job there. And when you look at statistics, and I don't mean selectively, I mean look at overall crime statistics," that is not the case, Mosbacher says.

"In Atlanta Crime went up 6%. In Houston, crime went up 11%. Yes, murder went down, aggravated assaults went up, rapes went up, robberies went up, response time to 911 calls went up," he said. "Those are all measures of your relative effectiveness which is why the FBI said overall crime went up 11%. I have a responsibility if the media won't do it. [Brown] takes great offense at that, but the fact of the matter is he is trying to run away from his record."

Mosbacher says he did not write these reports that are critical of Brown. They were written by the FBI or in the case of the Crown Heights riots, Democrat Governor Mario Cuomo.

"I could read to [Brown] from a whole lot of reports that I didn't right," he said. "I mean, the Crown Heights analysis was done by Mario Cuomo's investigator and it was

regarded as the authoritative work on what happened."

Brown's record has been mixed at best depending on who you talk to. Earlier this week, Mosbacher's assessment of Brown's public record received support from New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. In an interview with Alan Bernstein in the *Houston Chronicle*, Giuliani informed that the period between 190 and 1992 "was a very bad period of time for the city." Brown was New York City Police Commissioner at the time.

Giuliani, a liberal Republican who won a landslide election in a city that favors Democrats 3 to 1, also told the *Chronicle* that "the time [Brown] was police commissioner would be the two highest years of murders in the city." According to the chronicle, FBI statistics show that in 1990 and 1991, recorded homicides passed the 2,000 mark, the only time in the city's history that has occurred. Last year, there were less than 1,000 homicides in the city. Giuliani also noted that the city's crime rate dropped after Brown left and new strategies were tried by his successors.

On other issues Mosbacher promises to use the practice of privatization and competitive bidding to reduce the cost of government services. He wants to base salaries on merit and promises to make education one of his administrations top priorities. With respect to affirmative action, Mosbacher wants to eliminate programs that are solely based on race and gender and focus on ways to help all small businesses develop and bid on city contracts.

Mosbacher would raise police officer's salaries 5% and award future increases on results. He stresses that this does not mean he would increase pay for issuing more traffic tickets. Mosbacher also wants to address juvenile crime and punish repeat offenders more harshly. As mayor, he would develop a new regional mobility plan including studying a long-term development of a rail system.

A supporter of the arts, Mosbacher also wants to lift the \$5 million cap on arts funding that comes from the local hotel occupancy tax to expand Houston's cultural activities. In a debate earlier this week, Mosbacher also suggested that he would try to maintain and enhance Houston's status as a art and theater Mecca in the country. Houston has more cultural art centers than any city in the U.S. except New York.

Mosbacher stated that he does not support the concept of domestic partners benefits because of economic reasons and personal reasons. On the question of an employment non-discrimination law that would exempt religious organizations and not create quotas, Mosbacher, said he would have "to look at it." Asked if he would oppose it: "No, I'd have to look at it."

Asked if the current law of being able to fire someone because of their sexual orientation was fair, Mosbacher replied: "I don't think somebody ought to be fired because of this." Mosbacher stressed that he truly will be a mayor for all of Houston's citizens and his administration would be accessible.

"As I said when I appeared before the Caucus - which was an effort to say whether I agree with you or disagree with you - I'm going to come talk," he said. "And I will listen and even ask questions and I will state where I am on the issue. And we're not going to agree on all the issues. I will be accessible to everybody in the city and I will be fair to everybody in the city."

Asked if he was anti-gay, he replied: "No, I have this issue in my family as everybody knows that has been around," Mosbacher said. "I have a very strong religious faith. What I said is it is not for me to judge people, but as a public servant you have to take positions. I'm going to be fair, I'm going to be open. I am not going to be pursuing anybody except people who are violating the law and hurting other people. I am going to be the kind of mayor - and I am absolutely sure I can prove it - that would be regarded as open and accessible."

Mosbacher also said he would be amenable to having a non-paying liaison to the gay community in his administration. "I would be happy to meet with a representative or representatives of the gay community to hear their concerns and see what we could do to find some common ground."

**MOSBACHER**/from page 1

politics. He served as chair of the Texas Department of Human Services under Gov. Bill Clements. In addition he has worked in several Republican campaigns and founded Texans for Term Limitation.

A fiscal conservative, Mosbacher has taken heat for vacillating on such social issues as

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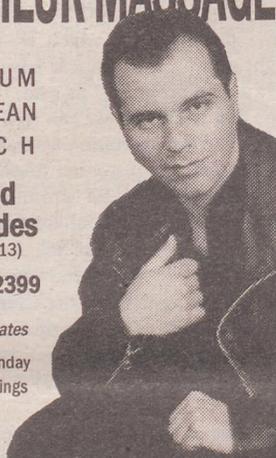
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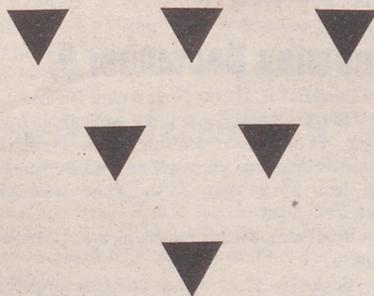
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Need an escort for the company Christmas party?  
 Check out our classified section.

**Heading off those holiday blues**

by Dr. Charles C. Perroncel

Ever wonder why the holiday season is so depressing for so many people?

Partly, the answer is simple: "seasonal depression". It comes from the reduction of light as the days get shorter. Our inner clock gets slower and we prepare for a period in our dens 'til Spring wakes us to full activity.

Unfortunately, civilization doesn't recognize this inner slow down. It not only expects us to keep up our regular pace, but it also throws festivals at us in religious and secular traditions which require that we add to our activity levels .... AND enjoy it !!!!

From Thanksgiving through the mammoth Happy Times of the secular Xmas and Chanukah, we are bombarded with a demand that we put on a happy face. It's enough to depress anyone.

In the Christian tradition the time from the first Sunday in December (or the last in November as in this year) is celebrated as Advent. This makes for a quiet time of preparation for the BIG DAY. The Christmas season doesn't start until Christmas eve and it lasts through the "Twelve Days of Christmas" until January 6th. This is a quiet time of winding down called "Christmastide".

For all the rotten things the various churches and synagogues have perpetrated against our queer communities we ought to get something good. I suspect that this is one of many good things we can appropriate. So, here are some pointers:

1. If the problem is seasonal depression, give yourself several of those

inexpensive quartz-halogen lamps that are so popular and supplement your winter light diet with an extra bright 3 or 4 hours of BRIGHT (full spectrum) light per day. It does wonders and is cheaper than Prozac.

2. If the problem is Holiday related, SLOW DOWN. Remember, you have 12 days AFTER Xmas to get the presents bought and delivered, and all that time before Xmas to be quiet and reflective. Don't get caught in the Xmas Xrazies.

3. For next year, adopt the practice of buying presents throughout the year. I try to have Christmas in the bag by August. I refuse to enter a store between Thanksgiving and Dec. 27th unless it's a life or death matter, OR I'm short of tinsel on Christmas eve.

4. If it's meaningful in your life, attend religious services associated with the holidays, not JUST THE BIGGIES, the ones leading up to and the ones following the major celebration. This will guarantee you at least one hour of quiet time each week while all around you are losing their heads and preparing for a major depression.

5. Pick one or two realistic gifts that you know you want and tell the people you want them from. Don't set yourself up for disappointment by gawking at everything that can be chosen as a gift. That's a sure way to feel cheated when you don't get ALL of them.

6. If all of this doesn't work, see a therapist EARLY in the blues period. Don't wait 'til you're ready to jump out of a basement window.

(Dr. Charles Perroncel will answer questions in this column sent to *Entre Nous*, The Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Ste. 105, Houston, TX 77006 or addressed to <dr.c.perroncel@therapist.net>. Check for past columns at [www.Instincts.com](http://www.Instincts.com))



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**Friday, December 5**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Buffet at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well; \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Blues Broad Susan Masar sings at 9 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Cousin's: Super Friday Night Drag show with fabulous performers at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm: Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm: \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Lazy J: Pool tournament
- Heaven: \$1 well & \$1.75 Miller. Doors open at 9pm.
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli: hard body male dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm. Lancers MC XXth Anniversary run.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm: male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am. \$ 1 well Vodka Juice Drinks.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Klub Kamp..a comedy drag review 9pm doors open, 11:30pm show—Retro Modern Hits by D.J. Chris Sill, \$1, \$2, \$3 drinks..
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails, \$2 Cuervo. 9:00 The Long Shots Band with becky at 9 pm.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; Guest Bartenders 9:00 pm. Show at 10 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

**Saturday, December 6**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 9pm. Joanne in the afternoons!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. "The First Annual Steel Magnolia's Miss Merry Christmas Pageant" at 10:30 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Cousin's: Super Saturday night Drag show with top Houston talent at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Super Show at 11pm.
- 800 Pacific block party: \$1 well & \$1.75 domestic longnecks! 9 to 9:30pm at Santa Fe Bar & Patio, 9:30 to 10pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10 to 10:30pm at J.R.'s Bar & Grill, & 10:30 to 11pm at Heaven.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Heaven: \$1 well 9 to 11pm; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 9pm.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi

- Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 6 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am. Happy Hours 11 am to 8 pm \$1.50 well and domestic longnecks.
- QT's: Open at 8 am.; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$ 1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm, See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard.; D.J. J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. "Spot Light on Hope II" at 9 pm.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. Cuervo \$2.50! "Roast " of TGRA's Michael Gaitz at 9 pm
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

**Sunday, December 7**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; Steak night 5 to 9pm \$6 14oz t-bone & fix-ins.. 11th Annual PWA Holiday Charities Christmas Show at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Cousin's: Sinful Sunday Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toy Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- Heaven: \$1 well drinks \$2. domestic longnecks; \$3.00 Anything in the house; (excluding multiple liquor drinks and champagne) Video Classifieds 9:30-1:30. Doors open at 8.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6pm: Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm. 50¢ draft on the patio with guest bartending starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks: \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tourney @ 1:30pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No shirt, no cover, no kidding!
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; Happy Hours noon to 8 pm \$1.75 well drinks and domestic longnecks.; \$1.75 Bloody Mary all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: 18 & up welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call, Deja Vu "Phat Grooves & Cheap Drinks", doors open at 9pm, 90's Retro House Disco with D.J. Chris Sill.
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo; snacks on the "Far Side" & guest bartenders PWA Holiday Charities 6pm till???

**Monday, December 8**

- Berry Hill II: Free pool.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all nite 7am-2pm. Football on the big screen; snacks.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLOGIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.

- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm: Male Strip 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open to close; Free Pool Table.
- Incognito: Male Strip night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Outpost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am. All top shelf \$3.50 all day and all night!
- QT's: Killer Bee Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

**Tuesday, December 9**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. \$1 Burgers on the patio 5 to 9pm; Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie has em as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:00 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Night at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2 for Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, frozen Ritas & wine; Jockey short contest at 11pm; grab for cash at midnight.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$2 Cuervo.
- Mela's Tejano: Free Hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colors.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am; \$1.50 well and \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's : Open at 8 am. Colorado Bulldogs (Kamora) \$3.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon to 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

**Wednesday, December 10**

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Free Pool Tables. FACES plays at 9pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm .
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails;

- \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- Heaven: \$1 well, \$1.75 Budweiser & 75¢ Miller on tap; DJ Michael DeGrace: Doors open 9pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea: Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & nite; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight: Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am; \$1 well vodka and \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

**Thursday, December 11**

- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Male Dancers at 10:30pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm. Party with Sam and Bruce.
- BriarPatch: Edith Head plays in a number of disguises.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
- Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Amateur Talent contest @ 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Skyy Vodka open to close.
- Heaven: \$1.25 Frozen 'Ritas, \$1.00 well drinks. Amateur Strip Contest at 11pm hosted by Kofi. \$200 in Cash Prizes.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold & Micro brewed beer: Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; 75¢ Schnapps.
- Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm, Linda Lou with open mike 9-10:30 pm, 10:30 pm to 1 am Karaoke
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueray or Absolut) \$3.75
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm, Pool tournament.
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

**Friday, December 5**

- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Free Spay & Neutering (SNAP) 522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 522-8182.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- Houston Professional Men's Association meets at 7 pm. 713-666-4557.
- "Fish and Chips" at U of H Cullen. 713-223-8346.
- "The Hothouse" a dos chicas production benefits Steven's House. 713-862-1626.

**Saturday, December 6**

- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- Houston Outdoor Group meets from breakfast at 9 am. 713-KAMPOUT.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston sings at 8 pm. 713-521-SING.
- Rainbow Fishing Club goes fishing. 713-523-6381.
- Holiday on the Brazos in College Station.
- Gulf Coast Transgender Community meets. 713-780-4282.

**Sunday, December 7**

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women.

- 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 9:00 am. 713-868-5039
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Houston Gay Men's Chorus Sings at 7 pm. 713-521-SING.
- PFLAG meets at 2 pm 713-867-9020.
- Montrose Counseling Center open house. 713-529-0037.

**Monday, December 8**

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am.
- Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- Miss Camp America monthly meeting. 713-520-STAR.
- Houston Area Women's Center volunteer training. 713-535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 713-523-5539.

**Tuesday, December 9**

- Sex, Lies & Video Tapes workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8pm. 495-8009.
- Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose

- Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Club Body Center 8pm to Midnite.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30pm. 778-2677.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- Project Ceaser at AFH. 713-623-6796.
- Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents Support Group meets at 7 pm. 713-284-4939.
- AIDS Equity League meets at noon. 713-529-9966.
- Pride Committee meets. 713-529-6979.

**Wednesday, December 10**

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Bricks II 9 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H ) meets at 4pm . 473-7539.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.

- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 522-8182.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness by AFH. 713-623-6796.

**Thursday, December 11**

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main . 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Kolbe Project outreach at 7 pm. 713-522-8182.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Rock Out with Suzanne Anderson. 713-529-8484.
- Workshop on Adopting from China at 6:30 pm. 713-249-5941



**GALAXY GAYZER A Houston Voice Exclusive**  
Your Horoscope for the week of December 7 thru 13

**ARIES:** (March 21-April 20)It's time to pull out the stops and go ahead with plans... everything you need is now in place. Your partner is annoyed at your independent nature, so resolve this conflict as soon as possible. The idea of how things are supposed to be, and reality, are different.

**TAURUS:** (April 21 - May 21)Don't jump to conclusions, if it looks great, it probably is. Look beyond appearances and check all facts. Your intuition is right on target, so play your hunches. You have alot going for you, and your energy level is high, be careful of your own strength.

**GEMINI:** (May 22 - June 21)Stop feeling sorry for yourself. Crying over spilled milk will get you nowhere. Look around you and realize how full your life truly is. Take a lesson from a friend and let their enthusiasm and upbeat nature rub off on you. Don't bite off more than you can chew.

**CANCER:** (June 22 - July 23)Check your financial dealings - you may have overlooked something that will only cause problems later. Since you are not fond of change, don't alarm when a timeless tradition unravels, do your best to roll with the punches. Don't let someone get away with what is yours.

**LEO:** (July 24- August 23)With your cool approach you have managed to accomplish a task of quite the magnitude. Congratulations. Plan time to unwind, with your significant other. Your week will fly by because your hard work will give you quite a bit of satisfaction.

**VIRGO:** (August 24 - September 23)It's time to examine your dependence on those who are normally undependable. Financial matters need juggling this week. Look at cutting your losses and moving on. Don't save your love for the perfect person, there are those around you now who would be a great partner.

**LIBRA:** (September 24 - October 23)There is good cause to keep from letting your feelings get the best of you. A cool and reasonable appearance will get you farther than roller coaster emotions. Your primary love relationship is head-

ing in a new direction. This will be beneficial to the both of you.

**SCORPIO:** (October 24 - November 22)The weight of the world seems to be on your shoulders this week. Continue doing a good job, but try not to take such a serious attitude. There may be an unexpected gift of money, use it wisely. The one who loves you best will make things easier for you.

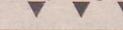
**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 23 - December 21)There is a business opportunity which may present itself and needs to be snatched up before someone else takes advantage of the situation. Things are a little slow at home - humor will remedy any ruts. Focus your attentions on working hard, there will be a reward.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 - January 20)Your energy is excellent, and this vim and vigor may be related to a new exercise program. A relationship or person in your life, which you have always considered a fortress, may be crumbling - it's a perfect opportunity to rebuild according to your own design.

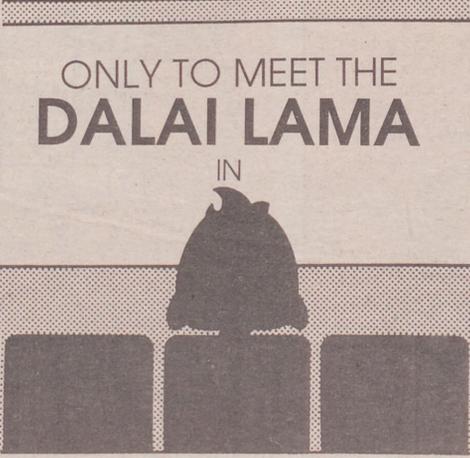
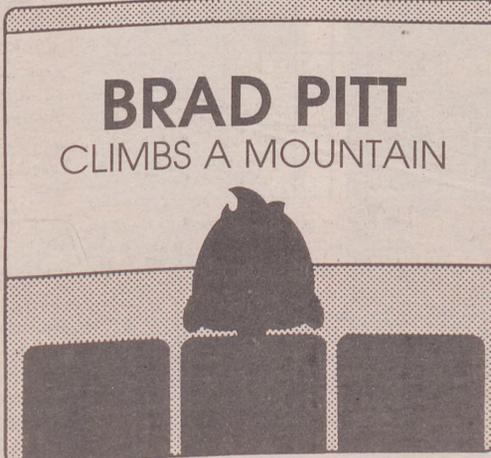
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 - February 19)All matters pertaining to legal procedures must be dealt with efficiently. Prompt action can save you from paying fines or overdue fees. Good communications cannot be stressed enough during the week. Making your home a more comfortable place may require a small investment.

**PISCES:** (February 20 - March 20)The choices you make will rest on your ability to tell the difference between what looks good and what really is in your best interest. If looking for a diplomatic solution concerning co-workers, it's best to take everyone involved into consideration. Do something nice for someone.

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK:** Extravagant spending may result from any volatile emotions and unfinished business. Resolving past problems will do absolute wonders for you, and the freer you feel emotionally, the more you will be ready to experience everything around you. Time spent with your significant other will be memorable.

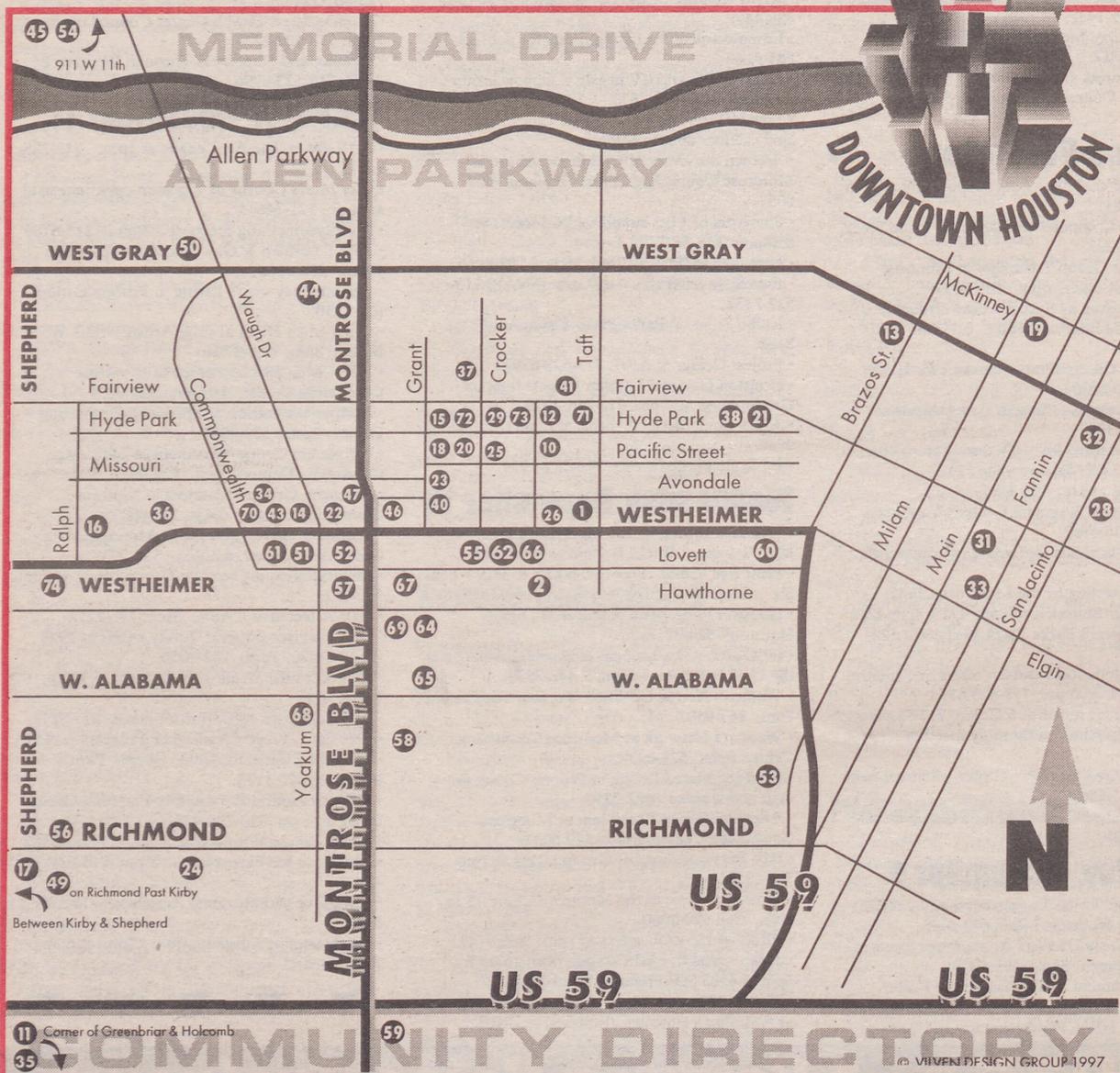


such is LIFE!



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ACCOMMODATIONS

1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale	713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd	713/522-5224

**BARS & CLUBS**

10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park	713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview	713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos	713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer	713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview	713/528-9204
16	EJ's	2517 Ralph	713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond	713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific	713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney	713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific	713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Taum	713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer	713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific	713/529-7488
24	Outpost	1419 Richmond	713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific	713/523-0213
26	QT's	534 Westheimer	713/529-8813
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto	713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview	713/521-2792
31	Venture N	2923 Main	713/659-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin	713/659-4998
33	Midtowne Spa	3100 Fannin	713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer	713/521-9533
35	PLAZA 9200:		
	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy	713/666-3436
36	Rocals	1318 Westheimer	713/942-CLUB
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker	713/522-7366
38	Mela's Tejano Country	302 Taum	713/523-0747

RESTAURANTS

40	Baba Yaga	2607 Grant	713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview	713/522-0106
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer	713/522-3332
44	Christy Donuts	1103 W Gray	713/524-4005
45	Java Java Cafe	911 W 11th	713/862-2683
46	Ming's Cafe	2703 Montrose	713/529-7888
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St.	713/529-3450

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

49	Allstate	3467 Kirby	713/526-5553
50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray	713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer	713/942-0147
52	Eckerd Drugs	1007 Westheimer	713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam	713/524-9932
54	Heights Above Florist	911 W 11th	713/862-2683
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer	713/529-8490
56	Inklings Bookstore	1846 Richmond	713/521-3369
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose	713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939-S Montrose	713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose	713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer	713/520-2000
61	Four Star Hair Productions	1201 Westheimer	713/524-7785
62	CreADrive Unlimited	811 Westheimer(102)	713/526-5190
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne	713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama	713/523-2521
66	Synchronized Chiropractic	811 Westheimer	713/521-7741
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose	713/520-8000
68	KAD Computer, Inc.	1437 W. Alabama	713/522-7813
69	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (A5)	713/522-7373

CLOTHING SHOPS

70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer	713/522-1626
71	Jewel's Boutique	2404 Taft	713/523-3557
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview	713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview	713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer	713/529-6299

On Your Next Visit to Houston...

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

- Motel: Heterosexuals with kids fighting next door. Montrose Inn: Gay men next door. Only gay men. Nothing but gay men.
- Motel: Several miles to the gay bars. Montrose Inn: 5 tiny blocks to the gay bars.
- Motel: Drive to the gay bars & pay \$5 to park. Or take a \$15 cab. Montrose Inn: Walk to the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.
- Motel: Drive back from the gay bars and risk the cops making you walk the straight line. Or take a \$15 cab. Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.
- Motel: Rooms start at around \$50. Montrose Inn: Rooms start at around \$50.
- Motel: Eat in their restaurant. Food for the masses. Pay plenty. \$1 soft drink machine. Montrose Inn: Complimentary late night sandwiches & full breakfast the next day. Free soft drinks, juices, coffee 24 hours.
- Motel: Cruise the parking lot? Whoa! You're taking chances. Montrose Inn: Meet our other guests. Please!
- Motel: The receptionist sneers at you. Montrose Inn: The receptionist winks at you.
- Motel: Washing machine? Ironing board? Hair dryer? Refrigerator? Stove? Microwave? VCR & gay movies? Are you kidding? Montrose Inn: All of the above. Free to use.
- Motel: Full size bed, plastic flowers. Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, fresh flowers.
- Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m. Montrose Inn: Handsome man next door knocking 11 a.m. to join him for breakfast. Checkout 1 p.m.

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

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Wild Oscar's Happy Puzzle

"Children begin by loving their parents. After a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them."—19th century Irish wit Oscar Wilde

ACROSS

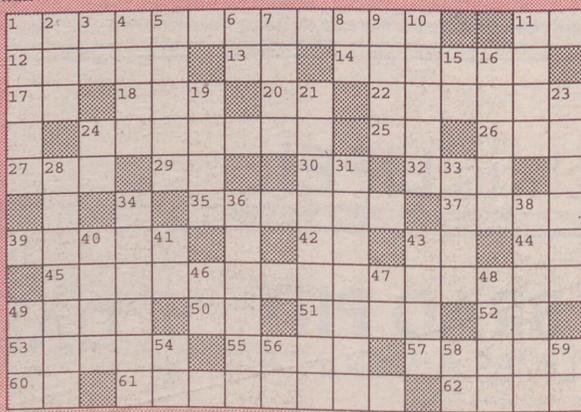
- 1 'City of Brotherly Love'
- 11 German car
- 12 senior
- 13 late Princess of Wales
- 14 participate
- 17 initials of TV news journalists Mudd & MacNeil
- 18 earlier than now
- 20 Clinton's Gore
- 22 clergyman
- 24 'Mr.' contest sponsored by hardcore gay mag with finals in Sept. in S.F.
- 25 interjection to express surprise, as in 'land...!'
- 26 Cotton State, abbr.
- 27 HAY in a mirror
- 29 suffix to make some nouns plural
- 30 I am, contraction
- 32 19th-20th century American lawyer, politician Bryan, initials ('The humblest citizen of all the land when clad in the armor of a righteous cause, is stronger than all the hosts of Error.')

- 35 Wiz: Dorothy's state
- 37 capital of Norway
- 39 TUTTY in a mirror
- 42 20th century American naval officer Nimitz, initials
- 43 Playboy publisher Hefner, initials
- 44 that one
- 45 lesbian icon Rita Mae Brown's best-selling book, 2 words

- S&L) opened in S.F. 1981; Titan who held up the heavens on his shoulders
- 60 the other Everly brother from Don, initials
- 61 inhibitors that have infused hope into HIV-positive people
- 62 nickname for Henry

DOWN

- 1 Troy ....., found-
- 5 contend in words
- 6 verb suffix used to form past participles
- 7 be alive
- 8 chemical symbol for helium
- 9 1/12th of a foot
- 10 alight
- 11 mask
- 15 German-born
- in Shakespeare's King Lear
- 5 contend in words
- 6 verb suffix used to form past participles
- 7 be alive
- 8 chemical symbol for helium
- 9 1/12th of a foot
- 10 alight
- 11 mask
- 15 German-born



- 49 metallic element used in brass & bronze
- 50 400-mile river of S.E. China
- 51 Scottish for loyal or true
- 52 1st & 3rd vowels of the alphabet
- 53 concepts
- 55 sampling of opinion
- 57 first gay-owned bank (actually, an

- er of the gay MCC church chain
- 2 20th century American editor & critic Mencken, initials ('It doesn't take a majority to make a rebellion; it takes only a few determined leaders and a sound cause.')
- 3 Gem State, abbr.
- 4 protagonist

- American theoretical physicist Einstein, initials ('Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind.')
- 16 takes with a grasp
- 19 Russian city on Irtysh River in central Asia
- 21 Australian bus and movie about drag and the

Out Back  
23 Truman ..... was frequent guest on Carson's Tonight

- Show
- 24 20th century American publisher, restaurant guide author Hines, initials
- 28 with legs on either side
- 31 fireplace shelf
- 33 Elton .... sang 'Candle in the Wind 1997,' tribute to 13 ACROSS
- 34 auto wheel covering
- 36 sudden
- 38 late actress Gish
- 40 choreographer Tommy .... has published memoirs titled 'Footnotes'
- 41 baseball's ... Cobb
- 43 Polynesian dance
- 46 in accounting, abbr. for fiscal year
- 47 2nd U.S. President Adams, initials
- 48 festive celebration
- 49 energy
- 54 senior abbr.
- 56 4th & 2nd vowels of the alphabet
- 58 4th day of the work week, abbr.
- 59 Canadian province with capital Regina, abbr. Solution elsewhere this issue c. 1997 GULF FEATURES, PUZZLE GAY28

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**Important Stuff**

The Colt 45's gave a few awards this past week! Jim Roberts, owner of the Venture-N received the "Golden Colt" award, the Garden Party received the "Organization of



New meat at the 611

of the Year" award and Regina Dane received the "Entertainer of the Year" award! Congrats to all! The show raised \$861 for the Colt 45's general charities.

Liquid's (220 Avondale) grand opening last Wednesday flowed flawlessly.

If you missed their grand opening weekend, you can stop in any day (except Monday and Tuesday) for their "Wheel of Fortune" happy hours from 5 to 7 pm. They



At the Ripcord.

have a happy hour buffet and the game starts at 6:30 pm.

Saturday night, Dec. 6, @ 9 pm, there is going to be a little "roasting" and "toasting." Michael Gaitz is stepping down as the President of TGRA. This Don Gill production includes the talents of Tuna Melt, Ms. TGRA-Nevada, Andrew Flores, the

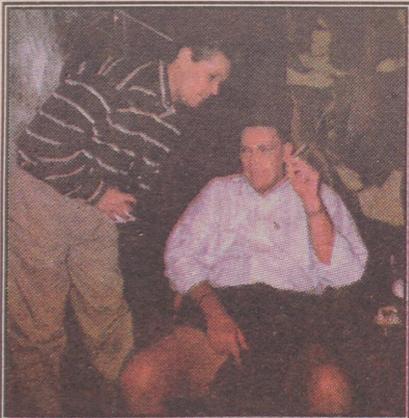


What a Jewel.

Colt 45's, the Pet Patrol, Bering Service Center, AssisHers, PWA Holiday Charities, the Pride Committee, and the Loving Arms Foundation. This is going to be a different "night of

entertainment." I can't wait! Bring your own marshmallows to the Venture-N.

Last Wednesday at the Brazos River Bottom, "Rent-a-Cowboy" raised \$750 for the PWA Holiday Charities! Congrats to Tommie Sue Ellen and Bruce Koehn for a successful event! This Sunday, Dec. 7 @ 8



Deep in thought at the Briar Patch.

pm, the "Life is a Banquet" benefit show is the 11th annual PWA Holiday Charities show! See ya there!

Larry Crawford has a new show of his works at the Hyde Park Gallery. The artists' reception is Friday, Dec. 5 from 7 to 10 pm.

Congrats to Michelle, the new Miss Lazy J 1998! She will be performing at the Lazy J this Saturday night as well as Nikitta Ross. This 10:30 pm show is hosted by the one and only Erica Lane!



At Cousin's.

The men, the music, the Mine! Drilling for fun on Mondays gets you \$1.75 well drinks and a pool tournament at 9 pm. Tuesdays you can mine \$3 anything in the house! Retro

Wednesdays with DJ John Sims and \$2 domestic longnecks! \$2 Thursdays include \$2 well and domestic longnecks! Start pumping!

Tuesdays and Thursdays at E/J's! Join in the talent competition! You could be the winner that takes home \$500! The contest finals are on Dec. 14.



Party Pals.

The Lancers MC are celebrating their 20th anniversary this weekend! The fun starts at Mary's, naturally on Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 pm.

Speaking of Mary's, they have enclosed the patio bar and it is now heated! Be sure to



At Chances.

mark your calendars for the traditional Montrose community Christmas tree lighting on Dec. 14. It is going to be quite a party!

This Friday, Dec. 5 the Blues Broad of Montrose Susan Masar will be rocking the stage at Chances. On Sat., Dec. 6 @ 10:30 pm, Jennifer Ellsworth, candidate for Empress XIV presents the First Annual Steel Magnolia's Miss Merry Christmas Pageant!

The New Barn shines the talents of the Long Shots band, with Becky on vocals this Friday, Dec. 5 @ 9 pm. On Sat. Dec. 6 @ 9 pm, the "SpotLight on Hope II," a benefit for the PWA Coalition-Houston.

The "Outrageous Holiday Show" and silent auction at Chances last Saturday raised \$1200 for the Montrose Clinic's Lesbian Outreach program! Way to go Barbara Walker!

The guys of Gentry will be "girls" this Sunday for the annual Gentry Turn About Show! It will be a night of hips, lips, fingertips, eyes, thighs and otherwise! Showtime is 9 pm.

This Thursday, Dec. 4, Demalda Lights and a cast of millions (right) take the stage at Paradise! Showtime is 10 pm.

Shrimp! Men in leather! Shrimp! Music! Shrimp! Anniversary! Shrimp! Party! Ripcord! Shrimp! Monday, Dec. 8! Shrimp! Black Leather! Shrimp! Black tie! Shrimp! Affair! Shrimp!

Stop in Bricks II for coffee in the morning!



At Ms. B's.

Cousin's has super shows on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights at 11:00 pm. They have tons of talent and tasty cocktails, too!

El Nino Wednesdays at Heaven are tak-



This photo needs no caption.

ing on by storm! House Latin music and really cheap drink prices make you want to dance the night away!

Happy hours at JR's Bar and Grille are happy, happy!

Did you know the drink prices at the Outpost have not changed since 1980?

Leather and Flesh Saturday nights at Pacific Street are hot!

QT's has drink specials every day of the week!



Venture-N Party Animals.

**Milestones**

Herman, the one and only is celebrating his 61st birthday this Sunday at the 611 Hyde Park Pub! It is going to be a Cajun birthday bash!

Happy 13th anniversary to Ron and Hugh!

Get well soon hugs to Tom (the Bubba) and Steve Nally of TWT and Ken Claude of Basic Brothers!

Happy Kountry cookin' birthday to John!

Happy new beard birthday to Steve Kerbo!

**Rodent Droppings**

Disclaimer! Lies! Trash! Harvey and Rascal are fine! Watch next week for their latest adventure.

Damion (Club Houston): And I'll huff and I puff and I'll blow your house down!

Pebbles (hangs at PS): I hear you have a new nick name "Titty Faye."



At Liquid.

Scott Lewis (Heaven): And your mouth is full of ...who? Or was that a chicken bone?

Chester (hangs at 611): Please, keep the dice on the table! You might win more!

Glenwood (Montrose Legend): Stay out of the showers at Hotel Reisner at 1 am!

Roberta (hangs at the Outpost): Who's phone number don't you have? And do any of them ever call you back?

Drew (Venture-N): We all know you have a 100 MPH mouth!



Hamin' it up at Stone Soup.

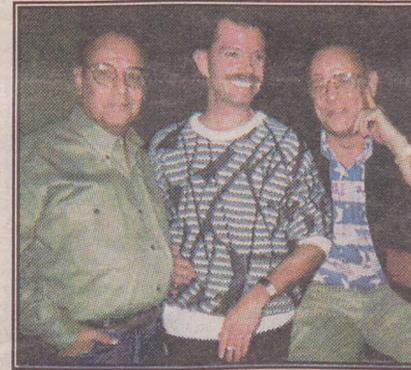
BamBam (PS): And where are you going on the second date?

Bart (611): Do you know anything about birthin' babies! And what is wrong with the alphabet? LI, OI?

Elizabeth (Leatherwomen): Talking to your plants again?

Leon (611): Are you a lady in labor?

Larry (hangs at the Outpost): You better



Party Pals at Gentry.

start working out, honey and get your truck washed!

Adam (PS): Bushman? How good is a rubber plant?

Kody (New Barn): I hear you have been a man on a mission!

Big Gary (Ripcord): I hear you have had



Hanging at Ms. B's.

your keys taken away and served a big Charlie's breakfast before you were allowed to go home! Did I miss anything?

Candace (Ms. B's): Thanks for the healthy Cuervo!

Vicci (The Ranch): This is week # 1! And I quote" I like toys!"

Well, kids, I hope you all like the pretty full color photos!

Have a great week!  
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