



INSIDE



Michael Milliken, president of Texas Stonewall Democrats, applauds a recent Democratic Party decision to include gays on a state panel.

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Lesbian Houston City Council member Annise Parker readies for her third term after Tuesday's elections.

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Theatre New West's 'Boy Meets Boy' offers its charm for audiences only two more weekends.

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Anti-gay Prop. 2 passes

Gay activists struggle to see positive side of narrow loss on city charter amendment, may go to court

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON—Gay civil rights advocates waged an intense campaign against the anti-gay City Proposition 2 and lost that effort Tuesday, but now may consider legal action to fight the measure.

By a slim margin of 52 percent to 48 percent, Houston voters approved the proposal, which prevents the city from offering health insurance and other benefits to same-sex domestic partners of its employees.

Obviously unhappy with the defeat, gay activists still see "hopeful signs" in the campaign waged to nix City Prop. 2.

"We've got this insidious little thing festering in our charter," said gay political consultant Grant Martin, one of the leaders in the "No on City Prop. 2" campaign. "[But this week], 120,000 people voted to protect the rights of gay and lesbian families. I think

it's pretty impressive that for the first time in Houston we had an open discussion about gay and lesbian families.

"[There are] hopeful signs," he added. "[But] it still doesn't make losing fun."

The proposal was put on the Nov. 6 ballot through a petition drive by the conservative Houstonians For Family Values, led by Dave Wilson, who has continuously stated that he is not anti-gay, but is pro-family.

"We are very pleased at the outcome," Wilson said.

In most areas of the city, voting showed that neighbors were as equally divided as the entire metropolitan area. Some areas showed sharp divisions, however, according to unofficial results from the city clerk.

In the heavily gay Montrose neighborhood, 30.8 percent of registered voters cast

> Continued on Page 8



Gay political activist Grant Martin speaks to opponents of City Prop. 2 on Election Night at Riva's in the heavily gay Montrose neighborhood.

Who's the best, legally speaking?



An analysis of laws that affect gays in all 50 states and the District of Columbia shows that eight of the 12 most inhospitable states for gays are in the South. Georgia, with its State Capitol in Atlanta (pictured), ranked 37. Texas came in at 24.

Several of the worst states in which to live for gays are in the South, based on a state-by-state analysis of laws on the books

by LISA KEEN

When it comes to the best state for gay men and lesbians to live, it might not come as a surprise — Vermont.

The worst? Oklahoma.

The rankings come from a Houston Voice analysis of laws that concern gays in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For gays across the South, the rankings show a bleak picture: Eight of the 12 worst states in which to live, based on the newspaper's analysis, are in this region.

If you're gay and live in the Northeast, legally speaking, you're in more comfortable territory, as seven of the top 10 most hospitable states are located there.

"Vermont is the hands-down winner," said Lorri Jean, executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. "It's more than the sentimental favorite because of the civil unions law. Vermont has been way ahead for years."

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Montrose Clinic honors its volunteers, including Dr. Wayne Bockman. See Out on the Bayou, page 13

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houston voice

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State Democrats include gay members

Texas Stonewall Democrats given pair of seats on executive committee

AUSTIN — State-level Democratic Party officials have offered new positions of leadership to gay men and lesbians.

According to Michael Milliken, president of Texas Stonewall Democrats, the State Democratic Executive Committee recently voted overwhelmingly to add two seats to the committee for representatives of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus.

Milliken called the move a "monumental decision" that was the culmination of several years of action by many individuals, both from Stonewall Democrats and from their allies and friends.

"By bringing us to the table, the leadership of the Texas Democratic Party has demonstrated their recognition and respect for the contributions in time, energy and resources by the GLBT community of our great state," said Milliken. "It further shows the differences between the two major parties in Texas on our concerns and issues."

Several current members of the state panel gave praise to the many decades of the work and dedication that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people have given to the Party.

"The Stonewall Democrats are hard working, dedicated activists," said Texas Democratic Party Chair Molly Beth Malcolm. "The Texas Democratic Party's leadership reflects our state's rich diversity now more than ever with the addition of the Stonewall Democrats to the SDEC. They are a great example of the Democratic Party's belief in fairness and opportunity."

The State Democratic Executive Committee is the governing body of the state party and handles Party activities for state conventions. The Committee consists of two people — a man and a woman — elected from each of the 31 Senatorial districts in Texas and additional members from such groups as the Texas Young Democrats, the Texas Democratic Women, Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, Tejano Democrats, and now Texas Stonewall



Shannon Bailey, State Democratic Executive Committee member from Senate District 16 (Dallas); Michael Milliken, president of Texas Stonewall Democrats; Molly Beth Malcolm, chair of Texas Democratic Party; and Texas state Rep. Glen Maxey gathered recently to mark the inclusion of Stonewall Democrats on the State Democratic Executive Committee.

Democrats.

The Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus is the official Democratic Party GLBT caucus and is an umbrella organization to foster and promote local gay Democratic clubs in Texas. Its officers and board are elected at the Texas Democratic Party convention every two years.

—From staff reports

INFO

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Democratic Caucus
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Parker enters third term on Council

Sole lesbian City Council member re-elected; other gay-friendly candidates in runoffs

by PENNY WEAVER

HOUSTON — Voters across the city on Tuesday re-elected the only openly gay City Council member to serve a third term.

But Annise Parker said after the election that her opposition to the anti-gay City Prop. 2 did damage at the polls.

"My very public involvement with Prop. 2 hurt my re-election," Parker said.

Still, she said she is "relieved" to be on Council for another two years. Parker received 114,657 votes or 51 percent of voter support. Her opponents, James Neal and Sylvia Ayres, received 62,762 votes or 28 percent and 48,903 or 22 percent, respectively.

Parker's 51 percent margin allowed her to avoid a runoff, which is automatic in the city if one candidate does not get at least 50 percent of voter support.

"I squeaked in," she said.

The next step for Parker is to support incumbent Mayor Lee Brown in his runoff election against former City Council member Orlando Sanchez, whom Parker called "overtly anti-gay."

She also said she is looking ahead to how her political career may change after this last term on the Council, which allows can-



Annise Parker, Houston City Council's only openly gay member, won a third term in elections Tuesday by a margin strong enough to avoid a runoff.

didates to serve a maximum of three terms.

"I am planning on running for controller in two years," Parker noted.

In the mayor's race, longtime gay rights supporter Brown earned 43 percent of the vote to Sanchez's 40 percent. Former City Council member Chris Bell, who also expressed pro-gay stances on several issues, earned 16 percent of the vote.

That puts Brown and Sanchez into a runoff election in four weeks. While Brown

supported a city measure that prevents discrimination against gays, Sanchez voted against the ordinance. Also, Brown was vocal in his opposition to Tuesday's City Prop. 2, while Sanchez did not address the issue.

In other City Council races:

District D candidates will face a runoff also. Gay rights supporter Ada Edwards earned 39 percent of the vote, with opponent Gerald Womack earning 32 percent. Edwards was endorsed by the Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Causus, voiced support for the city's nondiscrimination ordinance and opposed City Prop. 2.

That district includes the heavily gay Montrose area.

Openly gay Mike Rogers was in competition for the District E seat but earned only 9 percent of the vote. In that area, Addie Wiseman, Bill Jones and Bernard Maristany will compete in a runoff. Wiseman earned 42 percent of the vote Tuesday, while Jones and Maristany both earned 16 percent.

Also notable for gay voters, incumbent Carroll Robinson faced openly gay candidate James Galvan for At Large Position 5. Robinson won a solid victory, earning 64 percent of the vote to Galvan's 36 percent.

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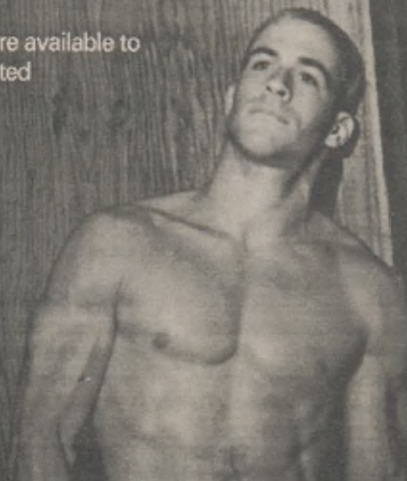


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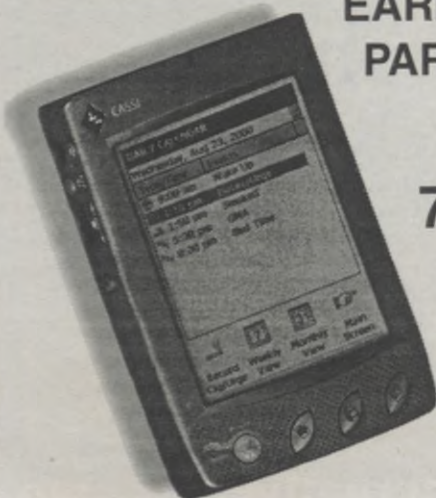
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Salvation Army to provide DP benefits in 13 states*

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Western Corporation of the Salvation Army announced it will start providing domestic partner benefits. "Health care is a universal good and the only way to access it is through employment," said San Francisco Division Commander Richard Love. Currently Salvation Army employees and their spouses in the western states receive full health care benefits. Now domestic partners — straight or gay — as well as any adult member of the employee household will also be able to apply for health care access. The Western Corporation of the Salvation Army covers 13 states plus Guam, Micronesia and Pacific Islands. The agency changed its policy after being cut off from local government funding because it did not comply with San Francisco's Equal Benefits Ordinance, which requires city contractors to offer their employees with domestic partners the same benefits as their married co-workers.

Wash. high court says gays may have inheritance rights

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Gays may be entitled to the estates of partners who die without wills, the Washington Supreme Court ruled Nov. 1. The justices reversed a lower court ruling, ordering a new trial for Frank Vasquez, who is claiming the \$230,000 estate of his longtime partner. A lower court had found the claim invalid because same-sex marriage is illegal in Washington. "Equitable claims are not dependent on the 'legality' of the relationship between the parties, nor are they limited by the gender or sexual orientation of the parties," Justice Charles Johnson wrote in the unanimous decision. "It's a tremendous affirmation of one of the most basic principles," said Jenny Pizer of the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a gay civil rights organization. Vasquez, 64, shared a house, business and financial assets with Robert Schwerzler, who died without a will in 1995. Vasquez claimed the estate, which consisted mainly of the house, and was challenged by Schwerzler's siblings. The siblings called Vasquez a housekeeper.

Lawmaker in Mass. softens criticism of gay colleague

BOSTON — Massachusetts Rep. Scott Brown has rescinded disparaging remarks he made recently about state Sen. Cheryl Jacques and her partner, Jennifer Chrisler, for deciding to have children, the Boston Globe reported. Brown said it was "not normal" for two women to have a baby and dismissed Jacques' role in the relationship as her "alleged family responsibilities." Although Brown has not publicly apologized to Jacques, he said, "Tolerance is something I've been practicing my whole life. Getting away from the 'normal' phraseology, 'nontraditional' is the more accurate term. ... I made the wrong choice of a word that is probably going to crucify me," he told the newspaper. He said he was caught off guard during the original Globe interview; the Globe contends that Brown raised the issue himself during an interview. Brown, speaking of Jacques and Chrisler, said, "I don't know what their relationship is. They're certainly not married. There's a difference of philosophy there. Are there two mothers there? Are they husband and wife? ... It's unusual for two women having a baby. It's just not normal."



Massachusetts state Sen. Cheryl Jacques, a lesbian, was criticized by state Rep. Scott Brown for having children with her partner. He has since tried to clarify his remarks.

around the nation

Surgeon General to leave office early next year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Surgeon General David Satcher, a Clinton appointee who drew the anger of the Bush White House last summer with a medical report on sexuality, said he will leave the government in February. "My term ends on Feb. 13 and I don't plan to stay on," Satcher said. Asked if he would like to stay on, Satcher said, "That's not an issue for me." Satcher, a former president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., rankled the White House last summer when his office released a report that found there was no evidence showing that teaching sexual abstinence in schools was successful. The report also found that there was no evidence that a gay person could become heterosexual. The report drew a sharp rebuke from the White House and demands from political conservatives for Satcher's resignation. Satcher became the 16th U.S. surgeon general in 1998 after confirmation opposition led in the Senate by then-Sen. John Ashcroft (R-Mo.), who is now Bush's attorney general.

Calif. high school picks lesbian as homecoming queen

UNION CITY, Calif. — A 17-year-old lesbian at Sweetwater High School was named the school's homecoming queen Nov. 2 during the annual homecoming football game, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported. Jennifer Jay, with crewcut-length hair dyed red on the left and black on the right and sporting a pierced lip, tongue, and eyebrow, was the only homecoming queen candidate during a pre-election assembly to appear in a tuxedo vest and black slacks, according to the newspaper. During the assembly, she shouted "I love you" to her girlfriend. Jay, openly gay since her sophomore year, was up against a student government commissioner, two cheerleaders and a leader in a school human relations club. After claiming the tiara, Jay said, "I felt like I won the lottery for a second — without the money."

—From staff and wire reports



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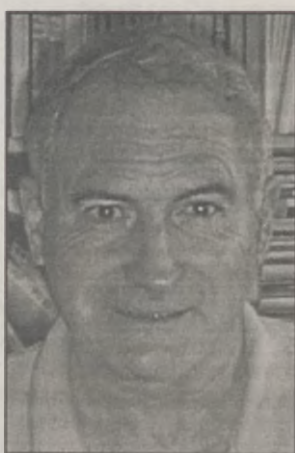
Tennis tourney features players from around the world

HOUSTON — The 21st annual HOUTEX Tennis Tournament, sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance and hosted by the Houston Tennis Club, will be held Saturday through Monday, Nov. 10-12. Nearly 150 players from around the world will be participating, according to Houston Tennis Club officials. The weekend activities will commence Friday night with a welcome party at the Santa Fe Patio of JR's Bar & Grill from 7-10 p.m. Play will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday at Lee LeClear Tennis Center and will run through Monday afternoon. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit The Assistance Fund, formed in 1988 to assist those diagnosed with HIV/AIDS by paying healthcare insurance premiums. In addition, The Assistance Fund currently serves approximately 600 clients monthly in a medication program for those whose insurance does not cover these needs. The Houston Tennis Club was formed in 1980, designed for the enjoyment of tennis and social activities.

INFO

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Noted Houston political expert Dr. Richard Murray will speak at the Nov. 15 meeting of Montrose Area Democrats.

Montrose group to host UH political science professor, author at meeting

HOUSTON — Noted and oft-quoted University of Houston political science professor Richard Murray will be the guest speaker at next general meeting of the Montrose Area Democrats. Murray will analyze the outcome of the recent Houston city elections for mayor and all City Council seats, according to Montrose Area Democrats leaders. He also will address the city charter amendment on same-sex partnership benefits for city employees, the amendments on Metro light rail, the state, county and city bond issues and the state constitutional amendments on the ballot. The public is welcome to attend. Montrose Area Democrats meet the third Thursday of every month.

INFO

Dr. Richard Murray

Montrose Area Democrats
7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15
Bibas One's A Meal Restaurant
607 West Gray
713-523-8432

Event benefits group that focuses on lesbian health care

HOUSTON — Pacific Street in Houston will host a Military Ball from 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday as a fund-raiser for AssistHers, which helps lesbians with a variety of health issues. The Executive & Professional Association of Houston is presenting the ball, which includes a USO show at 7 p.m. and free commemorative dog-tags to the first 100 people to attend. Participants are encouraged to dress according to the military and patriotic theme, and a cash bar will be available. The cost to attend is a \$10 donation.

—Penny Weaver

INFO

Military Ball/USO Show

5-9 p.m. Sunday, Veterans Day
Pacific Street
710 Pacific
713-523-0213

Funds for a good cause

Misty Burciaga and her 'Blue Crew,' a group that gathers to hold various fund-raisers for local HIV/AIDS causes, recently raised \$4,500 from a garage sale to benefit the Center for AIDS. The crew presented a check for that amount to Center for AIDS leaders.



around houston

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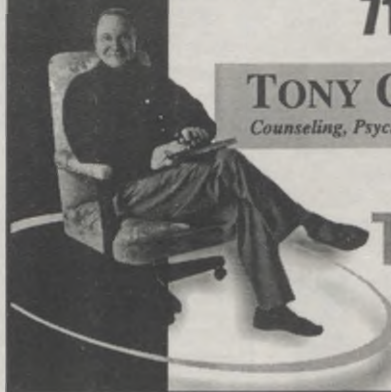
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Malaysian leader says he will oust gay visitors

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Nov. 1 that if a gay British Cabinet minister visited Malaysia with his boyfriend, both would be expelled. Mahathir, Asia's longest-serving leader, made the remarks in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp., explaining that he had planned to step down from power a few years ago but could not after he found out that his deputy was gay. Malaysia, a predominantly Muslim country in Southeast Asia, would not accept a gay leader, Mahathir said. "It's a difference of values," Mahathir said. "British people accept homosexual ministers, but if they ever come here, bringing their boyfriend along, we'll throw them out." In 1998, Mahathir fired his popular heir-apparent, Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, after he said he learned that Anwar was gay.



Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said if a gay British Cabinet minister visited Malaysia with his boyfriend, they would be expelled.

Alberta gets extension on changing inheritance law

EDMONTON, Canada — Canadian courts have given the province of Alberta more time to change a law that discriminates against same-sex partners, the Canadian Press reported. A Court of Queen's Bench judge ruled last April that the Intestate Succession Act was unconstitutional for excluding gays from inheriting if a partner dies without a will; the judge ordered the province to change the law within nine months. On Nov. 2, the judge agreed to give the government a five-month extension. According to a Justice Department memo, the government wants input from the public before changing the law. "Should the law be extended to all conjugal or marriage, like relationships, or should the law be extended further to persons who have a personal relationship of interdependency, but are not in a conjugal relationship?" the Canadian Press quotes the memo as asking. "This is the fundamental issue which must be assessed both through public consultation ... and legal assessment." Brent Johnson of Edmonton challenged the law after he was cut out of the estate of his gay partner, the Canadian Press reported.

Zambia mulls outlawing knowingly infecting with HIV

LUSAKA, Zambia — The Zambian government has proposed a bill that would make it illegal to knowingly infect another person with the AIDS virus, according to the Associate Press. Anyone found guilty of violating the law would automatically be imprisoned under the proposed bill. In introducing the bill, Vice President Enock Kavindele told Parliament it was important for Zambians to get tested to know whether they were infected and to help the government understand how to deal with the disease. The law would apply to people who know they have HIV, yet continue behavior that could infect someone else with the disease. A million Zambians are known to be living with HIV. Also in Zambia, a German tourist was recently sentenced to six years in jail with hard labor after pleading guilty to having oral sex, Reuters reported. Wolfgang Seifarth was expected to appeal the sentence. According to court records, a 22-year-old Zambian woman, Pumulo Mbangweta, who performed the sex act on him in a bush near Mazabuka, was not charged, Reuters reported.

British government mulls gay couple registry

LONDON — The British government is exploring the possible introduction of a register for same sex couples, BBC Online News reported. Baroness Sally Morgan, an official in the Cabinet Office's Equality Unit, said the government is exploring the same-sex partner registry established in London by Mayor Ken Livingstone. Ministers say there are no plans to legalize gay marriages. "There is an increasing public debate on rights for same sex partnerships," the BBC reported Morgan as saying. "I think it's one that the government is watching with interest because there are clearly areas where most people would recognize that at the moment there is some unfairness." But, Morgan added, "There's no suggestion whatsoever that the government would move on the issue of marriage. We are very clear that marriage remains as it is and there would be no change in that."

South Africa to spend more fighting AIDS

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — South Africa plans to boost spending to fight the AIDS pandemic over the next three years, Finance Minister Trevor Manuel told Parliament. The provincial government spent about \$430 million this year on the fight against the AIDS virus, which infects an estimated 4.7 million South Africans. That spending will increase over the next three years, Manuel said, though he gave no specific figures. Manuel also promised enough money to hire 6,000 extra police officers, upgrade the police computer and communications systems, and modernize the vehicle fleet. More money will be given to the justice system to hire new personnel to improve the efficiency of the courts, according to the plan.

—From staff and wire reports



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Organizers proud of efforts to unite gays

> Continued from Page 1

ballots, with 22.6 percent of those taking an anti-gay stance, for City Prop. 2, and 77.4 percent against the proposal.

The Heights neighborhood also is home to many gay men and lesbians, and with 32.9 percent of voters punching in, 33.1 percent voted for the proposition, while 66.9 percent voted against it. The areas of Meyerland, Rice/Braeswood and Riverside/MacGregor also had strong showings against the measure.

Kingwood went the opposite way, with 36.1 percent turnout and 68.6 percent voting for City Prop. 2 and 31.4 percent against. Outer Westheimer showed similar results: 35.7 percent turnout and, of those voters, 61.9 percent for the proposal and 38.1 percent against it. In addition, Sagemont, Sharpstown and Spring Branch all showed more voters for the proposition.

Efforts to defeat City Prop. 2 were led by organizers of Progressive Voters in Action and People for a Fair Houston. A political consultant, Martin is heavily involved in both groups.

National groups also participated in the "No on City Prop. 2" campaign. The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force contributed both funds and staffers to the local cause.

Clarence Bagby, Houston board member for NGLTF, pointed out the positive side of the loss for gay men and lesbians.

"While the passage of City Proposition 2 is a crushing disappointment to advocates for equality, it's important to remember two things: one, we've moved public opinion over 30 points in our direction since the ill-fated 1985 Houston referendum on a non-discrimination law for city employees, and two, thanks to Mayor Lee Brown and Councilmember Annise Parker, we now have a city ordinance banning city employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender

identity," Bagby said.

The '85 measure was defeated by more than 80 percent of voters who cast ballots, soundly stomping the effort in favor of equal rights for gays. Activists point out that this week's loss still is progress past that mark.

This time, they note, the city was almost equally divided on gay civil rights.

"On the good side, it means that we have improved our performance by 60 percentage points," Martin said. "In 1985 we lost by 60 percentage points [but] we lost this by 4 percentage points [and] this is a much more contentious issue."

As Bagby noted and Martin pointed out, earlier this year, the Houston City Council approved a measure that bans discrimination against gay men and lesbians in city employment. That ordinance essentially did what voters in 1985 solidly rejected.

So while that is a plus for gay civil rights, Martin said the results of this week's election also point out there is more progress to be made.

"I think what it shows is how much work as a community we still have to do," Martin said. "Even if we had won ... you'd still have roughly half the people in Houston that don't believe that gay and lesbian families deserve health insurance."

"I would have preferred to have won, but I would still have had the same reaction: We have to do a lot more education," he added.

The next step for gay civil rights advocates may be to take their case to court. Martin confirmed that leaders who campaigned to defeat City Prop. 2 are considering legal options to fight the measure.

"We're going to meet with our advisers, our attorneys, and see what our options are," Martin said. "We just need a little time to analyze this."



Gay rights supporters spent Election Night at Riva's in the heavily gay Montrose neighborhood. Above: Youth who participated in 'No on City Prop. 2' were interviewed by television media. Left: Councilwoman Annise Parker and gay political consultant Grant Martin spoke to those gathered at the restaurant. Below: Supporters filled the business to watch election returns.

DALTON DEHART



Gays win election battles across the nation

Gay candidates do well, anti-gay measures defeated in two cities, despite Houston defeat

by ERIC ERICKSON

Voters in four cities across the country supported gay civil rights on Tuesday, despite the victory for anti-gay conservatives in Houston with the passage of a ban on domestic partner benefits for city employees.

Openly-gay elected officials also did well on Tuesday: Cathy Woolard, a City Council member in Atlanta, forced a run-off in the race for City Council president; Annise Parker, City Council member in Houston, was elected to a third term.

And in North Carolina, Carrboro Mayor Michael Nelson won a fourth term.

In Michigan, voters in two cities rejected amendments

that would have prevented passage of gay-friendly measures.

In Kalamazoo, 54 percent of voters opposed an amendment to the city's charter that would grant gays "protected" status; 46 percent favored it.

In the Detroit suburb of Huntington Woods, the margin was even wider. Some 69 percent of voters opted to uphold an ordinance approved by city commissioners earlier this year banning anti-discrimination; 31 percent opposed it.

In Florida, Miami Beach voters approved domestic partner benefits for city employees. Nearly 66 percent of voters OK'd the measure while 34 percent opposed it.

"It's a fabulous victory for GLBT people," said Betsy Gressler, public affairs director for the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. "The ballot measures in all of these cases passed by significant margins and in some cases they were by greater margins than we've ever seen."

Gressler said gay activists in Michigan and Florida have been working on gaining support for their cause for nearly

five years, highlighting why she said there is an important lesson to be learned from Tuesday's votes.

"The right wing has been using ballot measures as a tool for many years and what we're proving is that they're winnable," Gressler said. "The message that comes out of it is that when we do the work early and often and identify the voters, that we have a much better chance of winning and as we saw last night, we can win by large margins."

In Carrboro, N.C., Nelson won his fourth term in office. He became the first openly gay mayor in the state when he took office in 1989 in the town of about 16,000 residents near Chapel Hill.

"I like to think I've worked hard for the last four years and the voters appreciated the work I've put in and the direction I've tried to lead the town in," Nelson said. "It's important to have different perspectives involved in the decision making process, African Americans, women, Latinos and gay people. I think having the gay perspective in the decision making is healthy for the entire community."

Rankings may not reflect progress in states

> Continued from Page 1

Across the South, Texas ranks 24, Louisiana at 40, Alabama 48, South Carolina 43 and Georgia 37.

The District of Columbia (2), Connecticut (3), New Jersey (4) and Rhode Island (5) rank among the top for states in the Northeast, and the entire nation.

New York ranked 16, Maryland at 18 and Virginia at 49.

The best and the worst

Vermont, which scored a 97, ranked at the top of the list. In addition to having the nation's first and only law giving comprehensive recognition of same-sex relationships — through passage of its landmark "civil unions" legislation — the state has a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations, credit and union practices.

Vermont was among the first of the few states to recognize second-parent adoptions by gay couples.

Oklahoma scored a -92, putting it dead last in the rankings, based on the newspaper's analysis.

The Sooner State has no statewide laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or recognizing gay relationships or families; and it has a law that makes sodomy a felony for same-sex couples, while not penalizing heterosexual couples.

Oklahoma also excludes sexual orientation from its hate crime law and has a law prohibiting recognition of same-sex marriages.

A broader picture

While the analysis provides an easy way to gauge states and their legal approach to gays, the rankings also provide a sense of legal protections across the country.

For instance, while only 11 states and D.C. have enacted civil rights laws prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination, the 11 states and D.C. total 24 percent of the U. S. population, suggesting that almost one-in-four people live in states covered by such laws.

Of the remaining 39 states without gay-friendly statewide civil rights laws, 26 have at least some cities and counties which have local ordinances prohibiting bias based on sexual orientation, like Atlanta and New Orleans.

Adding in the populations that those local laws cover, nearly 47 percent of the U.S. population lives in areas where sexual orientation discrimination is prohibited.

Thirteen states have neither statewide nor local laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, according to the newspaper's analysis.

Fourteen states still have laws prohibiting sodomy for same-sex couples. Although, in a few of those states, the enforceability of the sodomy laws is in question or under active

Rank	State	Score
1	Vermont	(97)
2	District of Columbia	(92)
3	Connecticut	(81)
4	New Jersey	(70)
5	Rhode Island	(68)
6	New Hampshire	(66)
7	Massachusetts	(64)
8	Wisconsin	(60)
9	California	(54)
10	Hawaii	(42)
11	Oregon	(34)
12	Minnesota	(24)
13	New Mexico	(11)
14	Washington	(9)
15	Nevada	(8)
16	New York	(6)
17	Wyoming	(5)
18	Maryland	(4)
19	Maine	(2)
20	Ohio	(-4)
21	Illinois	(-5)
22	Delaware	(-10)
23	Iowa	(-11)
24	Texas	(-18)
25	Michigan	(-19)
26	Indiana	(-20)
27	Kentucky	(-22)
28	Arizona	(-25)
29	Nebraska	(-27)
30	Tennessee	(-30)
31	Pennsylvania	(-33)
32	Colorado	(-35)
33	West Virginia	(-35)
34	North Dakota	(-35)
35	South Dakota	(-37)
36	Montana	(-37)
37	Georgia	(-39)
38	Missouri	(-40)
39	Alaska	(-40)
40	Louisiana	(-61)
41	Arkansas	(-65)
42	Florida	(-67)
43	South Carolina	(-70)
44	Utah	(-77)
45	North Carolina	(-80)
46	Idaho	(-80)
47	Kansas	(-82)
48	Alabama	(-82)
49	Virginia	(-87)
50	Mississippi	(-90)
51	Oklahoma	(-92)

challenge, the laws are still on the books for about 32 percent of the U.S. population.

And by averaging the scores of the 50 states and D.C., the U.S. would come in with a score of -12.9, without taking into account federal laws that affect gays.

That score suggests that Iowa, with a score of -11, comes the closest to representing the general legal climate today for gays in the U.S.

Beyond the numbers

But even the rankings can be deceiving, according to gay activists in states both at the top and bottom of the scale.

Vermont, while ranked first, still could do more for gays, said Virginia Renfrew, co-liaison of the Vermont Coalition of Lesbian & Gay Rights.

"I do think that Vermont is one of the best

states to live in for gays and lesbians," Renfrew said. "We still have work to do for our youth. The schools are not all safe for them."

"[T]here is homophobia in our state and police do not always recognize a hate crime against gays and lesbians," said Renfrew. "We have much work left to do for the transgender community. They have no laws protecting them."

But, she added, "Legally, I believe that we have all the laws we need from gay rights to adoption to civil unions."

Only three states have anti-discrimination laws prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity — Rhode Island, California and Minnesota, according to the newspaper's analysis.

Across the South, which includes 8 of the 12 worst states in which to be gay, legally speaking, the scores don't always reflect the positive changes being made, according to Jo Wyrick, executive director of Equality North Carolina.

The legal climate for gays in North Carolina is "improving," Wyrick said.

While the state is one of few remaining with a sodomy law, which treats the act as a felony, the law "isn't enforced in some areas," she said, but "it is in others, which creates a real imbalance within the state."

Wyrick said that family issues, like custody, visitation, and adoption, are left to judges to decide what is in the best interest of the child. "We have family courts in some parts of the state that make very LGBT-friendly decisions, and others that don't," she said.

The rankings also fail to show to what extent gay activists have been successful in fending off anti-gay legislation and defending gay-friendly laws.

Florida, for instance, does not have a statewide civil rights law protecting gays, but 41 percent of its population is covered through its local ordinances, many of which have been defended against numerous attacks.

The state ranked 42 in the newspaper's analysis.

"As a state, we've won a number of battles to pass and keep human rights ordinances and domestic partner policies at the local level," said Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida.

Recently, anti-gay opponents failed to garner enough signatures to force a repeal vote on a gay ordinance in Broward County, she said. Miami continues to defend its ordinance as well, Smith added.

But the laws of Florida "as a state, continue to be among the worst in the country," she said.

Because New York City and so many of the state's large cities and counties have local ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, 72 percent of the state's population is covered under the laws.

But, despite this success at the local level, the state, which ranked 16 in the analysis, still does not have a statewide law.

"Our progress at the state law level continues to be thwarted by the Republican/Conservative parties' majority in the state senate," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda. "Gerrymandering by both parties has essentially guaranteed that the status quo will not change for the foreseeable future."

And while Foreman said a proposed statewide gay civil rights bill might be "close at hand," he predicted movement on significant family recognition legislation will be "extremely difficult."

In Montana, which ranked 36, the environment for gays is "outright hostile," said Karl Olson, executive director, of Montana's PRIDE organization.

During the last session of the legislature, the GOP leader in the state House tried to rescind an executive order from former Gov. Marc Racicot that protected gay state workers.

While that effort "blew up" in the lawmaker's face, Olson said, "we pay very dearly for even the smallest of victories."

"We do have a few champions, but not enough yet to tip the balance," he said.

How the analysis was conducted

The 50 states and the District of Columbia were ranked on a system that assigned points for gay-friendly and anti-gay laws in each.

Points for each state ranged from -100 to 100.

Positive points were awarded to states with pro-gay laws, including statewide laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and other arenas, laws recognizing same-sex relationships or enabling gay couples to share domestic partnership benefits, hate crime laws, and laws and court rulings recognizing parental rights and other family concerns.

Negative points were assigned to states with anti-gay laws in force, including sodomy laws, laws to prevent any recognition of same-sex marriages, and laws or court rulings that prevented recognition of gay parental rights or adoption.

A sodomy law that prohibited only same-sex conduct was scored with more negative

points than a law that prohibited both same-sex and heterosexual sodomy. A felony sodomy law deducted more points than a misdemeanor.

And a constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage recognition cost a state more points than a law barring such recognition.

Variables were structured in to give weight to certain protections and penalties that did not fit any of the specific laws examined.

For instance, if a state did not have a law prohibiting discrimination in employment, but its governor did issue an executive order protecting state employees from discrimination (and that executive order was still in force), then the state won an additional allotment of points.

In the instance of a tie, the ranking was refined based on protections afforded by local ordinances and on the current governor's record of support on gay-related matters.

houston voice

STAFF

Executive Editor
Chris Crain

Editor
Penny Weaver
editor@houstonvoice.com

Production
Graphic Designer-Scooter Workinger

Contributors
Rich Arenschioldt, Kay Y. Dayus, Trayce Diskin, Earl Dittman, Laura Douglas-Brown, Erik Erickson, Mike Fleming, D.L. Groover, Robert B. Henderson, Matthew A. Hennie, Kathreen Lee, Erin O'Brian, Gip Plaster, Ella Tyler

Webmaster: Douglas Wright

Photographers
Dalton DeHart, Kimberly Thompson

Advertising Sales
Wanda Faulkner
wfaulkner@houstonvoice.com

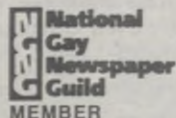
Jim Nixon
jnixon@houstonvoice.com

Administration & Sales Support
Carolyn A. Roberts
croberts@houstonvoice.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
212-242-6863

A WindowMedia Publication

Publisher- Window Media LLC
President- William Waybourn
Editorial Director- Chris Crain
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EDITORIAL

'House poor' HRC can't lead movement

by CHRIS CRAIN

The terrorists behind the Sept. 11 attacks would probably consider it a nice bonus that, in addition to the World Trade Centers and a section of the Pentagon, their evil plot also destroyed plans for a permanent headquarters for the nation's largest gay rights lobby.

Until that fateful day, the Human Rights Campaign had invested a significant amount of time and money toward purchasing land on Rhode Island Avenue in Washington, D.C., where the group was set to construct a building to serve as its permanent headquarters. Unforeseen problems with the site, combined with unforeseen world events, have scuttled that \$25 million plan.

The ambitious and inventive idea to build a permanent headquarters is a welcome reminder of why HRC has risen so quickly to its leadership position in the movement for gay civil rights. Even in responding to the events of Sept. 11, HRC combined political savvy with quick action, setting up a fund to benefit gays who lost loved ones in the attacks, and who won't receive equal assistance from private and public charities.

But the same cannot be said for HRC's handling of its own victimized construction plans, or in the group's headstrong plan to go forward with an aggressive capital campaign at a time when other gay and AIDS groups are struggling to meet scaled back budgets.

A solid foundation

Since the group's founding, and certainly since Elizabeth Birch became executive director in January 1995, the Human Rights Campaign has successfully molded civil rights activism with entrepreneurial vision and political and business savvy.

Other activists may chafe at the marketing tactics, plastering equal symbols on everything from bumper stickers to dog collars, but Birch and her braintrust have reaped the same benefit from that market strategy as would an aggressive for-profit business: Busy gay consumers, many of whom could care less about politics, have found a way to connect to the gay rights movement — and they have forked over dollars. If they couldn't get excited about crunching granola at a Creating Change conference, they could at least buy an HRC T-shirt and hob nob with demi-celebrities at a black-tie dinner.

The plan to build a permanent headquarters showed some of that same skill and cunning. Anyone paying rent down a black hole appreciates the benefit of owning your own home; HRC estimated that owning its own home would save the organization some \$15 million in 15 years.

The initial location, on Rhode Island Avenue in northwest Washington, carried an \$8 million price tag, and the group planned a \$25 million capital campaign to

fund the purchase of land, as well as the design and construction of the building.

But like many a would-be homeowner, HRC found its dream property turning into a money pit, and as construction estimates rose, the group responsibly reconsidered its plans. Even though the group had put down a presumably hefty deposit on the real estate contract, there was enough interest from a hotel developer in the same property that HRC saw a safe escape hatch should plans run awry.

Bad reaction to a bad blow

Then came Sept. 11. In three fell swoops, Islamic fundamentalists knocked down the World Trade Centers, smashed into the Pentagon, and hobbled the thriving tourism industry that had encouraged hotel development in our nation's capital.

When the hotel developer lost interest on the Rhode Island Ave. property, HRC lost its escape hatch, and risked losing some or all of its initial deposit, which could range around \$400,000 or more if it is within the customary percentage.

It was just one of countless examples of unforeseen and unforeseeable fallout from the terrorist attacks, and HRC's solid plan started to look more like a risky gamble. But in responding to that bad news, the Human Rights Campaign has made things much worse, exhibiting some of the same arrogance and myopia that have been the persistent downside to the agency's rise to prominence in the last five years.

HRC is not the only cause important to gay men and lesbians that has been negatively impacted by the Sept. 11 attacks. Most gay Americans responded much like their fellow citizens to that horrible tragedy, giving millions to the American Red Cross and other charities that promised assistance to the victims and their loved ones.

But those spontaneous donations, along with a weakening economy, have combined to threaten the operating budgets of many gay rights groups and AIDS service organizations. Already, AIDS Walks in Washington and Atlanta raised lower funds than expected, with the D.C. walk coming in more than 75 percent less than last year's total.

In that fund-raising climate, it is irresponsible for HRC to go forward as announced with a multi-million capital campaign, in addition to the aggressive marketing that feeds the group's hungry \$18.6 million annual budget. Putting aside the very real question whether HRC can still raise that kind of money, the movement would be well-served if HRC's leadership asked themselves another, probably brand new question: Is now the time to be raising lots of money?

HRC does not owe it to other gay and AIDS groups to bail them out in time of need, but the group's leadership ought to recognize that now is the wrong time to go forward with a monumentally expensive project that is tangential to its core mission.

If HRC persists in its capital campaign, squeezing out other causes important to

our community, it will remind many activists of earlier embarrassing HRC missteps, in the initial announcement of plans to march on Washington in 2000 and boycott Exxon-Mobil in 2001.

In both cases, HRC disregarded the input of others, going forward with plans without any serious effort to build consensus and support. In both cases, Birch responded to criticism by belatedly seeking cooperation and backing from other organizations and activists, but the damage had been done.

In both cases, good ideas were unnecessarily handicapped by insular thinking and exclusionary planning. Apparently that painful lesson still hasn't been learned, and the organization is poised to repeat the error again and again, to the detriment of the cause.

Coming clean to donors

To make matters worse, HRC has played fast and loose with letting its constituents know about the scuttled plans. In an early October interview with the *Washington Blade*, the man at the helm of HRC's effort to build the headquarters downplayed the bad news, indicating continued interest in the Rhode Island Avenue property.

"We have a contract to purchase it but haven't closed on the property yet," said Jeff Sachse, who is heading up HRC's capital campaign, in an interview with the *Blade*. "It is still possible we could proceed with that location. A final decision has not been made."

But weeks earlier, on the day after the terrorist attack, HRC wrote to inform the D.C. Zoning Commission that construction bids for the project were "significantly higher than previous estimates and made the project financially infeasible for HRC." HRC was not "proceeding with that location" and a "final decision" had been made.

Anytime a non-profit announces plans to raise millions of dollars, more even than its annual budget, for a major project, donors and constituents are owed absolute honesty and transparency in the effort. That's not what Sachse has delivered to date.

Even more troubling is the refusal by Sachse and HRC to tell donors and constituents just how much money was lost on the deposit, on ruined architectural plans, and other initial investments in the Rhode Island Ave. site. When asked, Sachse points to ongoing negotiations to recover the deposit and acquire an alternate site as reasons not to be forthcoming.

But the parties already know the figure, and any plans right now to go forward with another property are irresponsible and insensitive to the plight of other gay and AIDS organizations. It is not too late for HRC to extract itself from this money pit, and do the right thing by its own members, and the community it claims to serve.

Chris Crain is executive editor of the *Houston Voice* and can be reached at ccrain@window-media.com.



VIEWPOINT

To give or not to give — there is no question

by RICH ARENSCHIELDT

The events of Sept. 11 have left most of us paralyzed but functioning minimally. It seems as though the television images that were force-fed caused a toxic syndrome that rendered parts of our brains useless. Driving along Westheimer through tawny Highland Village, I saw the first vestiges of Yuletide cheer, the ubiquitous twinkle-lit palm trees. Under normal circumstances I would have experienced my annual fit of irksome discontent at their pre-Halloween appearance, admitting that I was a victim of the Madison Avenue marketing machine. Instead, I was utterly unmoved and somewhat nonplused.

Suddenly I make the connection between street-side lighting and the impending holidays. "Oh no! Travel, food, gifts — am I ready for all of that?" I shove the question aside to a "deal with this later" part of my mind, and then, just as quickly realize that I have to deal with it now. In addition to the normal holiday associations, the period from Thanksgiving to New Year's is strongly linked to many philanthropic activities. From recent discussions with others who work in the non-profit world, several agencies and their donors seem to be blinded by smoke and covered with the dust of the fallen twin towers.

In my mind's eye I visualize a foundation's board of directors sitting at its mid-September allocation review meeting. Three days earlier, fire has engulfed New York City. A large portion of America's wealth has vaporized with the resulting stock market slide. The agenda for this well-meaning and savvy group of funders has changed. The main question is: "In light of recent events, how should we respond locally to a global act?"

Similar meetings take place; these happen in the less opulent conference rooms of "Shoestring Agency Incorporated," a local non-profit. Their question is more fundamental: "Can we keep the services we offer avail-

able until New Year's Day, 2002?" Both questions are vitally important. In the midst of "bombs bursting in air" and anthrax everywhere, it's crucial to separate fact from fear.

One common misconception is that foundations and Fortune 500 companies fuel the charitable engine in America. News flash: Of the estimated \$203 billion given to charity in 2000, individuals contributed 83 percent of the total. Of those "mom and pop" donations, most totaled less than \$200 per gift. In America, the little guy has the deep pockets.

Three things are happening simultaneously — the economy is contracting, the country is at war and the needs of those who access charity are increasing.

In a study by the University of Indiana's Center for Philanthropy, 13 separate significant economic and military events spanning the period 1940-2000 were analyzed as to their impact on charitable contributions. Examples included Pearl Harbor, the Kennedy assassination, the Arab oil embargo, and, most recently, the Oklahoma City bombing. In the 12-month period following each event, individual charitable giving increased and the stock markets rebounded in every case but one.

People are concerned about the prospect of personal wealth. Unemployment is up, corporate profits are down, and investment portfolios are greatly diminished. Durable goods orders and Gross National Product numbers tell us that everyone is spending less for refrigerators and the food that goes in them. Many of us seem to

be prepared for a winter of economic hibernation. Three things are happening simultaneously — the economy is contracting, the country is at war and the needs of those who access charity are increasing.

What should the government do? American political involvement throughout history consists of two principal activities: protection from threat and assistance during calamity. Aside from some bi-partisan squabbling over details, our governance system has fulfilled these purposes admirably. The machinery of Washington D.C. is well equipped to transport billions of dollars and millions of men to faraway places instantaneously. What they are unable to do is to clean up the trash on the streets three blocks from the White House.

For many in the non-profit sector, Sept. 11 was no different than Sept. 10. Moms, dads and kids still appeared needing diapers, food and money for rent and utilities. People called needing referrals and information. Patients still went to their medical appointments. Direct assistance has always been provided and funded by those with a specific and personal interest in a particular cause. Whether it's chamber music or breast cancer prevention, individuals are at the heart of any philanthropic endeavor.

As we enter this "season of spending," it behooves us to remember that many charitable organizations receive 30 percent or more of their annual budgets during the last eight weeks of the year. Most of this comes from individual donors, not from philanthropic houses of power, many of whom have held tight to their original funding vision to support local agencies in spite of recent events.

The needs of the needy haven't changed — our fear of the economic unknown should not cripple others whose economics status has been tenuous at best.

Rich Arenschioldt is a freelance writer for Houston Voice and works at the Center for AIDS in Houston. He may be reached through this newspaper at editor@houstonvoice.com.

The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner

Panel 1: A circular sign reads "Gay Bars on Mars". Ethan is meditating in a room.

Panel 2: Ethan is meditating in a room. A sign on the wall reads "MERDOW TROUTSTREAM WARM RADIATOR ON A CHILLY DAY".

Panel 3: Ethan is at a bar. A sign on the wall reads "ASTRAL PROJECTION MUST NOT BE USED FOR TRAVEL TO DISTANT CRUISE BARS".

Panel 4: Ethan is on a spaceship. A sign on the wall reads "MARS CITY".

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PO Box 130158, Houston, TX 77219

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"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER and staff reports



Ellen DeGeneres

"What would bother the Taliban more than seeing a gay woman in a suit surrounded by Jews?"

— Ellen DeGeneres, hosting the Emmys on Nov. 4

"Anne Heche won't be here, but I like Annie. She's a very good friend of mine, even though she does sometimes speak in tongues. Actually, that was one of the things Ellen misses."

—Joan Rivers, in her annual pre-Emmy broadcast, Nov. 4

"AIDS No Longer a Deterrent for Homosexuals"

—Headline of an Oct. 29 story on the Christian News Service (CNSNews.com) reporting that a higher incidence of syphilis confirms "homosexual men are no longer constrained by the fear of contracting AIDS"

"I think they ought to be treated equally. Period."

—Former President Gerald Ford, when asked whether gay couples should get the same Social Security, tax and other federal benefits as married couples, in an interview with syndicated lesbian columnist Deb Price



Gerald Ford

"I wrote him a note thanking him. ... As far as I was concerned, I had done the right thing and the matter was ended. I didn't learn until sometime later — I can't remember when — he was gay. I don't know where anyone got the crazy idea I was prejudiced and wanted to exclude gays."

—Former President Ford, when asked by Price why he never personally thanked Oliver Sipple, who thwarted an assassination attempt against the president but later committed suicide after his family rejected him when the media reported he was gay

"While it would be going too far to say that we have reached the end of sexual identity — reports of the ends of anything, like history or money or Cher, tend to be highly exaggerated — it seems that something different is emerging on the street these days, a new music coming out of the cultural radio. It is composed of, and heard by, ordinary women and men of all varieties who sleep with, fall in love with, live with and break up with both women and men over the courses of their lives, the current of desire flowing easily over the gender divide and leading them where it may."

—Stacey D'Erasmus writing in the New York Times, Oct. 14

"The British people accept homosexual ministers. But if they ever come here bringing their boyfriend along, we will throw them out. We will not accept them."

—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad, in an Oct. 31 interview with BBC radio. British Prime Minister Tony Blair has had three gay cabinet members, Culture Minister Chris Smith, Agriculture Minister Nick Brown and former cabinet minister Peter Mandelson



Mahatir Mohamad

"I had planned to step down in 1998 and unfortunately I had a problem with my deputy. We cannot have a deputy who is homosexual — not in this country. We don't accept it. In other countries they can have ministers who are homosexual. That's OK — but not here."

—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad, defending against international criticism the 1998 arrest and conviction of Anwar Ibrahim, former finance minister and Mohamad's groomed successor. Ibrahim, who is married with children, is serving a 15-year jail term for sodomy and abuse of power.



Anwar Ibrahim

Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE • NOVEMBER 9, 2001

Two decades of caring

20

After 20 years, Montrose Clinic has changed its services to match community needs

by ELLA TYLER

Montrose Clinic celebrated its 20th birthday this week by presenting its first set of lifetime service awards to Sylvia Suhrlund, Dr. Wayne Bockman and the Colt 45s.

Suhrlund, who received the volunteer service award, began volunteering in the clinic's lab in 1987. She later became an HIV counselor - a septuagenarian who amazed her clients with her ability to talk with them frankly and effectively about HIV prevention and how to properly use a condom.

"The love and devotion she has given the clinic and its clients for all these years is immeasurable. She has done more for us than any other volunteer," says Katy Caldwell, executive director of the facility. "She retired last year, but still drops in every now and then."

The professional service award was given to Bockman, a volunteer doctor for the clinic. Bockman began offering his time at the clinic in the mid '80s. He is retired from the Southampton Medical Group but spends about 20 hours a week at the clinic.

"I volunteer because I love medicine," he says. "I am a very lucky person in that I found work that I love and find very fulfilling."

"In addition to his medical skill, Wayne has the ability to discern the need for a service in the community and find a way to fill that need," Caldwell says. "He helped to start Houston Clinical Research Network and Body Positive, which became a part of the clinic last year."

The Colt 45s, the recipient of the community service award, started as a social group in 1976. In 1981, the organization began raising money and providing AIDS-

Continued on Page 14 >

DALTON DEHART



Dr. Wayne Bockman this week received one of three lifetime service awards given by Montrose Clinic as part of its 20th anniversary celebration this week.

appts.



Jessica Ferrarone and Don Gunther star in 'Sylvia,' now playing at Theatre Southwest.

ongoing

Theatre Southwest presents "Sylvia" by A.R. Gurney, a comedy about a dog who comes between two people. Greg's career is winding down, but his wife Kate's is winding up, when along comes Sylvia. Performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Nov. 24, with a Nov. 11 performance at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$14 or \$12 for seniors and students. Theatre Southwest, 8944A Clarkcrest. 713-661-9505.

saturday, nov. 10

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center celebrates Texas Recycles Day with events themed around "Too Good to Throw Away" Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities stress reduce, reuse, recycle and rebuy and include a recycling relay race and an interactive game to inform participants about environmentally friendly ways to shop. Children's activities are included. Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Drive. 713-681-8433.

Da Camera of Houston's 2001-2003 jazz series continues with the Nicholas Payton Armstrong Centennial Celebration. Trumpeter Nicholas Payton leads an 11-piece band that includes a number of well-known musicians. The event also is named for Louis Armstrong, remembered as one of the greatest jazz musicians of all time. Cullen Theater of the Wortham Theater Center, 500 Texas, 8 p.m. For tickets: 713-524-5050.

sunday, nov. 11

Houston Metropolitan Dance Co. presents its fall 2001 concert including pieces by choreographers such as Liz Imperio, Jason Parsons, Dorrell Martin and Kourtney Owens. The performance presents the variety of contemporary dance for the enjoyment of both experienced and novice dance audiences of all ages. Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$35. 2 p.m. Wortham Theater Center, the Lillie & Roy Cullen Theater. 713-522-6375.

tuesday, nov. 13

The first performance in the newly formed, all-female stand-up comedy showcase, Lip Schtick Donnas (LSD), is set for this seasoned troupe of comedienne. LSD will offer performances Nov. 27, Dec. 11 and Jan. 1 as well. Tickets are \$5 in advance or at the door. Rudyard's Upstairs, 2010 Waugh. 713-528-7839.



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Clinic volunteers a valuable resource for local patients

Continued from Page 13 >

related services to the community.

"Over the past 20 years the Colts have donated more than \$35,000 and countless volunteer hours to the clinic," relates Caldwell. "They also provide direct services to people with AIDS through the Trouble Fund and have the Stone Soup Fund which provides produce and meat for the Stone Soup Food Pantry.

Jim Vokoun, a clinic patient and a member of the board of directors, has high praise for the clinic's staff and services.

"It is a lifeline for me. I have AIDS and get all my primary care here. I couldn't live without it," Vokoun says gratefully.

He became a patient of the clinic three years ago when Dr. Gordon Crofoot began practicing there.

The clinic began in 1978 as a facility for testing for sexually transmitted diseases, but wasn't incorporated until 1981, according to Caldwell.

"The Montrose Clinic has served the LGBT community through some incredible times," she recalls.

In 1985, the clinic began providing free and confidential HIV testing and counseling services through a grant from the City of Houston. Since then, Caldwell says, the clinic has HIV counseled and tested more than 81,000 people and treated more than 36,000 patients in its Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Clinic.

"We have grown from a small STD clinic in a private physicians' office to a multifaceted facility with its own building that serves over 20,000 patients annually. We have 70 employees and a budget of more than \$4 million," Caldwell says proudly.

"I remember the panic that we all felt when HIV/AIDS first began to take our friends and families away from us in the early '80s," she says. "There were no experts; there was no place to go."

Bockman adds, "Fifteen years ago, we knew very little about HIV. Now it's a different world. We know more about the disease and have medications to treat it."

Patients, too, see the differences.

"It used to be that when you found out that you had AIDS, you got ready to die and that's what I did 10 years ago. I sold my insurance and cashed in my 401K, so now I'm broke," Vokoun says. "With the new drugs, we focus on how to live with the disease, management of side effects, and healthy living.

"However," Vokoun cautions, "the new drugs are so successful, and the media has played that up so much that people forget that this is an incurable and fatal disease. I hear from a lot of teenagers who think AIDS is this disease that gay men in their 40s have, but that they'll never get."

Vokoun is the chair of the clinic's program committee.

"We have 10 very worthwhile programs, including several which people don't know much about, such as our women's clinic. So many people think of the clinic only as the place to get treatment for a STD," he says.

The clinic's services include primary care for people with HIV; testing and counseling for HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and Hepatitis C; eye and dermatological care for people with HIV; Body Positive Wellness Center; community outreach; medical case management and a Women's Health Program. The clinic accepts Medicare, Medicaid or private payment.

"So few of our friends that helped found the clinic are still living. I am certain that they would be astounded to see the level of care that is provided by the clinic today," Caldwell says.

INFO

Montrose Clinic

215 Westheimer

713-830-3000

www.montroseclinic.org

9 a.m.-8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays

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out on the aisle

THEATER CALENDAR

'Boy Meets Boy' a delight

Theatre New West's ongoing production offers plenty of charm

by GEORGE JONTE

Considering the recent events that have, once again, put our country into the historical forefront, an evening of sheet entertainment is what we all are in serious need of. And sheer entertainment is exactly what you'll find at Theatre New West with the troupe's latest outing, "Boy Meets Boy."

For starters, it's a musical. It may be short on substance — with no fabulous story line or book to speak of — but it is jam-packed with songs that have clever lyrics, a cast that is winning and a mounting that is full of top-notch theatrical values.

Thankfully, there are no political issues to think about — although there is a very clever song about being a Boy Scout which is certainly relevant today. But other than that, there are no health, gender identity or social justice issues to deal with. You can sit back, relax, have a drink (you can take your drinks from the bar into the theater) and forget about anything that is worrying you.

I won't bore you with the storyline — it's typical boy meets boy, boy gets boy, boy loses boy, and gets him back. Set in the 1930s, it is very Noel Cowardish in its staging and style, very reminiscent of those great plays of the late British playwright — full of wry humor and sophisticated stylish costumes. This is all blended with Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers-esque filmdom by the use of slide projections against the back wall.

The real standout in a well-blended cast of characters are the two leads: Casey and Guy Rose, played by David Brett and Christopher Wright, respectively. Brett commands a presence rarely seen by an ingenue actor on Houston stages these days. A fine actor, a fine singing voice and a winning smile — what more could you ask for?

Wright is likewise adroitly suited to his role. I won't let one of the show's big secrets be told here, but the transformation you will see in this character is fairly awesome. A pleasant singing voice for the ballads and a nice sense of comedic timing combine to make his performance a winner as well.

The supporting cast does well enough, especially Craig Bushey as Clarence and Dorothy Edwards in the dual role as Guy's mother and aunt.

The music is incredibly difficult at times



Houstonians have two more weekends to catch 'Boy Meets Boy'

— maybe not in a Sondheim vein — but certainly with close harmonies, and the ensemble was still experiencing some difficulties during early performances. These, with the able music direction of Charles Baker (you'll remember his splendid musical acumen from "Dirty Little Show Tunes" last season) surely have smoothed out in more recent performances.

Director Joe Watts has moved the cast through its paces with his usual expertise, paying attention to subtle details that make the whole evening one to be enjoyed by all. The set, designed by Gary Lyons, adds a touch of panache: not too obtrusive but providing eye pleasing support to the overall concept.

One interesting note, and I hope it won't keep anyone away: No one is nude in this outing. Nudity is something that has come to be expected by audiences when they attend a gay-themed play in this town. There is some eye candy (complete with very attractive male bodies), but I won't tell you any more than that.

You'll just have to go see it — and see it you should! It is a show well worth any theater-lover's time. Don't miss this one before it closes late next week.

INFO

"Boy Meets Boy"

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eating out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Distinction in dining

Texadelphia offers good standard menu items, but one-of-a-kind atmosphere

by KATHREEN LEE

On Sunday afternoons during the fall football season, small but formidable packs of meaty thick-necked post-adolescent boys sporting backward caps and Abercrombie & Fitch T's flock to the cramped corridors of Texadelphia sandwich shops in Austin, Dallas, Houston and College Station to cheer on their favored team with wild hoots, intoxicated laughter and table-pounding loyal fervor.

Guttural groans, exasperated cries and countertop smacks, periodically staccatoed by roaring cheers, oscillate between the devout fans of opposing camps lamenting over their beloved team's latest fumble, incompleteness or failed defensive line. These agitated and excited fans, capable of leaping bar stools in a single bound and guzzling beer in obscene gulps, can only be interrupted from their single-minded absorption to the game by the service of food.

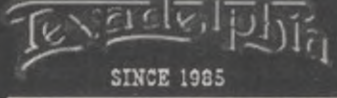
Just as other major cities hail signature foods, like pizza from New York, barbecue from Kansas City, toasted ravioli from St. Louis — yes, I said toasted ravioli — and buffalo wings from Buffalo, Houston is now on the culinary map after appropriating Philadelphia's hallmark — the cheese steak — and creating Texadelphia.

With various locations in Texas' most popular college football towns, Texadelphia offers its patrons a small variety of sandwiches and snacks to go along with the televised sporting event. Featuring an all-day Sunday happy hour with \$1.50 domestic beers and 75-cents off imports, football fans can congregate, eat, drink and cheer from noon to nine.

Two of the most popular fares at Texadelphia are the standard cheese steak and the chicken cheese steak sandwiches (\$4.99). In order to maintain the sequoia necks of the strapping athletes, Texadelphia crams thin slices of sautéed sirloin or chicken breast into a soft hearth-baked roll. The lean and juicy meat, seasoned with sautéed onions and melted mozzarella, oozes onto the soft torta-like bread.

Each sandwich can be topped off with homemade sauces including Red Italian Marinara, a "secret" mustard blend, ranch, picante, or sweet hickory barbecue. Don't mistake "homemade" as just-whipped-up-by-mama-in-the-kitchen "homemade," but rather as produced-and-distributed-by-franchise-and-heated-at-local-outlet "homemade," a la Subway's breads.

For those slightly more health conscious, Texadelphia also offers a veggie sandwich (\$4.29), smoked turkey sandwich (\$4.69), and even a house (\$3.49) and grilled chicken salad (\$5.49). In addition, the standard fare of hamburger (\$4.29), grilled chicken sandwich (\$5.19), and Italian Sub (\$4.69) are available. All sandwiches are served with tortilla chips



FOOD FILE

Texadelphia
 2420 Rice Blvd.
 Houston, TX 77005
www.texadelphia.com
 713-522-8588

Food: ●●●●●●●●
 Service: ●●●●●●●●
 Value: ●●●●●●●●
 Scene: ●●●●●●●●

●● Opt for bread, water at home
 ●●●● OK, if you really must
 ●●●●●● Fine for most
 ●●●●●●●● Worth the drive, so live a little
 ●●●●●●●●●● As good as it gets


and homemade salsa, which tastes just like Tostito's salsa. In addition, all homemade sauces and dressings are available by the jar (\$3.50), in case you feel the urge to recreate the Texadelphia experience at home.

However, the true Texadelphia experience is not necessarily found in its low prices, cheese steak sandwiches, or signature condiments. For the most part, the sandwiches taste familiarly like your standard but good fare of hamburgers and grilled chicken sandwiches found elsewhere. Even the homemade sauces, like the Red Italian marinara, which tastes similar to bottled pasta sauce, possess nothing particularly distinctive. A friend did remark, however, that the "secret" mustard blend stands out from the rest with its piquant flavor and is the preferred dipping sauce for the tortilla chips over the "homemade" salsa.

Texadelphia's distinction, actually, lies in its dining experience. Imagine yourself surrounded by the victorious howls and defeated wails of a horde of mildly inebriated robust and hearty college lads whose very soulful existence depends on the success of the next blitzkrieg. Yes, not quite my personal preferred demographic, either. But, as one sits in Texadelphia's cramped quarters engulfed by the ebullience and energy of the crowd, one cannot help but to also become personally involved in the outcome of the game.

While enjoying my chicken cheese steak with picante, I found myself absorbed in each momentous play. When the crowd groaned at a missed pass, I, too, twitched in reaction. When the crowd roared at an interception, I, too, silently reveled. While I would have quickly clicked past these games at home, I found myself embracing the verve of the collective dining crowd and enjoying something I would not have elsewhere.

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 Saturday* 3/23/02 3 p.m. at Bering
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<p>Saturday • Nov 10 Breakfast 9:30am</p>	<p>Monday • Nov 19 Eucharist 7:30pm</p>
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Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 a.m. 281-437-0636.

Houston Wrestling Club. Practice. 1:30 p.m. 713-453-7406.

Rainbow Fishing Club. Meeting. 713-526-7070. 713-880-9235.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. Drop-in noon-4 p.m. • Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston volunteer appreciation reception, 1-4 p.m. • Texas Association for Transsexual Support, 3 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Asians & Friends Houston. Bar night at Guava Lamp. 713-626-6300. www.AsiansAndFriendsHouston.com.

Houston Outdoor Group. November social. 5109 DeMilo. 713-290-0220.

AssistHers. Meeting. 713-521-4628.

sunday, nov 11

Rainbow Riders. A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.

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

Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church. Service. 6:30 p.m. 713-528-6756.

Resurrection MCC. Services. 9 and 11 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10 a.m. Youth Sunday School 11:15 a.m. Handbell Choir rehearsal 1:30 p.m. 713-861-9149.

Grace Lutheran Church. Sunday school for all ages 9 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-528-3269.

Community Gospel. Service at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Sunday School for children 10 a.m. 713-880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Houston Mission Church. Service 10:30 a.m. 713-529-8225.

Covenant Church, Ecumenical, Liberal Baptist. Service 9:30 a.m. & education hour 11 a.m. 713-668-8830.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Services at 8:30 & 10:50 a.m. Sunday school 9:45 a.m. 713-526-1017.

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

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

First Congregational Church (Memorial). Service at 10 a.m. Christian Education. 11:30 p.m. 713-468-9543 or fcc-houston.org.

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

Gay Catholics of St. Anne's-Houston. 5 p.m. worship service. Dinner and social. alexcam@wt.net. 713-623-0930

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

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Services at 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Brunch available 10:30 a.m. Panel Discussion. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.

Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. to noon. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

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

monday, nov 12

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 713-782-5414.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.

Kolbe Project. Eucharist 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.

Lesbian & Gay Voices Radio Show. 8 to 10 p.m. KPFT 90.1. 713-529-1223.

AIDS Mastery. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Grief & Divorce Support Groups. 7 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 208.

gayDAR. Wellness Community. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsals. 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

tuesday, nov 13

HTGA. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-520-0439.

Free HIV Testing. Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Club Houston. 713-830-3000.

Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. Support group. 7 p.m. 713-524-0439.

Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.

Gay Men's Process Group. 7 p.m. 3316 Mt. Vernon. 713-526-8390.

Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. Two-hour free dance workshops. No partner needed. Beginner. 2 Step, Waltz, Shuffle & Swing. Drop in anytime. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

CPR Classes. 3 p.m. 713-607-7700.

Bi-Net Houston. Men's Social. 7 p.m. 713-467-4380.

Mpowerment. New program for young gay males, ages 18-29. 7 p.m. 614 Avondale. 713-533-9786.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Coming-Out Group, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

PFLAG-Houston. Meeting. 713-867-9020.

wednesday, nov 14

Free HIV Testing. Thomas Street Clinic. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2015 Thomas Street 713-793-4026.

Women's Network. Montrose Counseling Center discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual women. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Bible Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6665.

Spiritual Uplift service. 7 p.m. Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Resurrection MCC. 713-861-9149.

Freelance Art Classes. By Kermit Eisenhut for HIV+ individuals. 1-4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Meets every other Wednesday. 713-383-6738.

Houston Pride Band. Open rehearsal. 1307 Yale. 713-527-0931. www.houstonprideband.org.

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Various Support Groups 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.

Blessed Sacrament Church. Workshop Series for Christian Faith and Ecumenical Old Catholicism. 713-476-9776.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Free HIV testing, counseling, 6-9 p.m. • Houston Committee for People's Radio, 6:30 p.m. • Bi-Net Houston. 7:30 p.m. 713-524-3818.

thursday, nov 15

Rainbow Ranglers. Free C&W dance lessons. Two hours free line dance instruction. No partner required. Drop in anytime. Brazos River Bottom. 8:30 p.m. 713-528-9192.

Hep C Recovery. Support group. 6:30 p.m. Bering. 713-526-1017, Ext. 211.

STD exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

Free HIV Testing. By the Montrose Clinic. 8 p.m. to midnight. Toyz Disco. 713-830-3000.

Northwoods AIDS Coalition Food Pantry. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

Lambda Skating Club. 8 p.m. Tradewinds. Skating Rink. www.lambdaroll.org. 713-410-7215.

FrontRunners. Running club. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.

HIV Art Therapy Program. 1-4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-523-9530.

Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3000.

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

Gay Houston. New social group for all ages. 7 p.m. 713-526-9318.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop in 6-9 p.m. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Bi-Net Houston. Mixed gender gathering. 713-467-4380.

Gulf Coast Archives & Museum. Meeting. 713-227-5973.

friday, nov 16

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) Meeting. 713-942-7002.

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.

Q-Patrol. Walks the streets. 9 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.

Kolbe Project. Morning prayer. 10 a.m. • Movie night, "Much Ado About Nothing." 7 p.m. 713-861-1800.

Houston Tennis Club. 7:30-9 p.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. houstontennisclub@aol.com

Lesbian & Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM. 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.

Govinda Yoga Club. Free yoga classes at 3115 West Loop South, No. 21. 713-439-0455.

Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center. Drop-in 6-9 p.m. • Lesbian Film Night, 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

To list an event, call 713-529-8490, fax at 713-529-9531, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m.

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houston classifieds

Houston Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

OCCASIONS

John Sims, DJ extraordinaire spins his birthday fun on Nov 6.

GLYP's star Cristina celebrates her birthday on Nov 22.

Happy birthdays to Asians and Friends members Chin W. (11/09) and Carl H. (11/13).

CCCC member Nicholas F. celebrates his birthday on Nov 16.

big Bear Birthday hugs to HAB members JJ (11/09), Robert B. (11/10) and Joe H. (11/15).

The one and only Tiffany Penn gives out birthday spankings on Nov 13.

Can it be true? Miss Alabama has a birthday on Nov 12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUTCH-FEM

Starting Butch-Fem group for Lesbians • If interested call 713-917-8987 Press 4 to leave a message for us.

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COUNTER HELP DELI

Gay owner and operated deli in the Heights seeks counter help. Call Doug @ 713-864-3354

SOUTH BEACH JR'S MINE 800 PACIFIC AVE

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PWA COALITION PART-TIME

Warehouse Assistant • Clean driving record required • Fax resume to 713-522-2674

MONTROSE

House help wanted • Yard • House • Pool • Maintenance work • 713-529-5993

STEVEN'S HOUSE

Seeking cook • Responsible for preparation of nutritional meals for program participants • Meal planning • Prepare grocery list • Clean kitchen and utensils after use • Call Taylor @ 713-522-5757

Home repair helper needed • Montrose • \$10 per hour • 713-521-3359

STEVEN'S HOUSE

Seeking caregiver for HIV+ adults • Part-time overnight and weekend staff • Minimum requirements include high school diploma and at least 3 years prior work experience in caregiving • Light duties include cooking, cleaning, administration of medications and crisis intervention • Call Taylor @ 713-522-5757

Resurrection MCC is seeking a maintenance specialist/caretaker • Individual will clean and maintain interior and exterior of church properties • Qualification: High School diploma/equivalent • Salary & benefits • Send cover letter with resume to: Resurrection MCC • 2025 West 11th Street • Houston, Texas 77008 • Attn: Maintenance/Caretaker

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OFFICE FOR RENT

Second floor office available at Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center • 803 Hawthorne • 14' X 12'6" • Nonprofit GLBT organizations preferred as tenant partners, but all inquiries welcomed. Call Tim Brookover @ 713-524-3818

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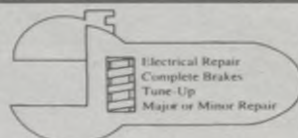
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YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

Nov. 9-15



ARIES (March 21 to April 20)

Be choosy about whom you attach yourself to during this key period. Use your brains and your instincts, babe, and for a couple of weeks (during mid-November) try to not be so impulsive.



TAURUS (April 21 to May 20)

The new moon on Nov. 15 falls in your house of love and could bring you a romantic partner who is totally different from the normal idiots you go out with. If you are already involved, your partner could get reinvented in a shocking (and delicious) way. Pay attention to a Leo.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

You have every reason to feel confident about your sex appeal, sweetie. Just don't push it in the face of everyone. There's a line between confident and cocky. A Capricorn can't help but want to ride that line with you.



CANCER (June 22 to July 22)

The drama called your so-called life continues in mid-November. You need to be on call for impromptu auditions (for new organizations and love interests) and standing-room-only performances (for an Aquarius).



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22)

It's easy for you to get what you want during this cycle if you are nurturing and kind to the people around you. Since you are such a sweetie, that shouldn't be hard. Just refrain from going into "bossy Leo" mode while the Sun and new moon are squaring you.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)

Someone from your past can help hook you up with an influential new partner. You're ready to change your spots, so start by breaking a tedious old romantic pattern today. A Gemini wants to tame you, you animal.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)

You may have to push the limits of your own courage when it comes to finances, dear. The new moon falls in your house of money on Nov. 15. That's the perfect time to ask yourself: "What kind of lifestyle do I want in 2002?" Plan ahead. A Leo awaits — with an offer you can't refuse.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)

Be a force of good for yourself and the world during the new moon in your sign on Nov. 15. You can do amazing things if you believe, baby. Cynicism has no place here. Talk to a Sag for inspiration.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)

You are your own best press agent when it comes to your love life, baby. Let a new love (or an old one) know what your hopes and dreams are. You come off as more nonchalant than you think you do. Spell it out for a Cancer. Don't be afraid of the "L" word.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)

The new moon on Nov. 15 falls in your house of friends, which means that you need to make ten wishes on behalf of your pals. You can do it, you latent altruist, you. Be a guardian angel for an Aries, who can bring out the sexy devil in you.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)

You are reaching a real peak when it comes to your career, sweetie. The new moon on Nov. 15 hits the top of your chart, and brings you closer to a position of power that you've been seeking for a long time. Remember: for you power equals freedom. A Libra plays a key role.



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20)

There's definitely a melancholy vibe surrounding you now, dear, and that's okay. Allow yourself to feel everything, without censoring yourself. A Libra is more unshockable than you think.

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

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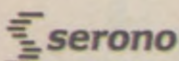
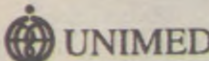


World AIDS Day
HEALTH FAIR

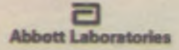
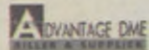
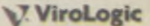
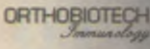
Saturday December 1, 2001 • 9:30 am–2:30 pm
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church | 1440 Harold

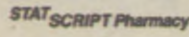

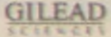
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