



### INSIDE



Tommy Murphy and Justin Frazier were crowned Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals prom king and queen last year. H.A.T.C.H. is seeking sponsors for this year's prom, slated for May 4.

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Activist Luz Guerra, above, was the keynote speaker at the 14th annual Texas Lesbian Conference held last weekend in San Antonio. Lesbian filmmaker Kelli Herd, who wrote and directed the film 'It's In The Water,' showed TLC attendees out takes from the movie's lesbian love scene.

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Kate Revnell-Smith, Greg Gorden and Foster Davis star in the Actors Theatre of Houston's production of the haunting fantasy and dark comedy of 'Baltimore Waltz.' The play runs through April 28.

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# HIV 'reinfection' doesn't slow barebackers

Researchers say there's a possibility an HIV-positive person could be 'reinfected' with a drug-resistant strain of the virus, but absent proof, many are taking the risk

by ERIC ERICKSON

The disturbing news came from a hospital in Ottawa, Canada: A gay man already infected with HIV had contracted a second strain of the disease. Maybe.

Some public health advocates are relying on the Ottawa case and the theory of "reinfection" to warn HIV-positive men not to have unsafe sex, even with others infected with the virus. The advice challenges what appears at least a more visible trend toward "barebacking"—as unprotected anal intercourse is called—when both partners are already HIV-positive.

Infectious disease specialist Dr. Jonathan Angel pre-  
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GRAPHIC BY JOHN NAIL

Some researchers argue that HIV-positive men who bareback are risking reinfection or superinfection. But that hasn't slowed the popularity or variety of Web sites to find willing partners. Some sites, like one in the U.K., allow users to click on a map to find barebacking parties in their neighborhood.

# Brown reaffirms commitment to gay community

Mayor holds breakfast meeting, touts non-discrimination policy effort, pitches for third term

by TROY CHRISTENSEN

About 110 leaders of Houston's gay community gathered at the Allen Park Inn last Saturday for a breakfast hosted by Houston Mayor Lee Brown.

Janine Brunjes, Brown's liaison to the gay community, invited individuals representing a variety of community organizations and constituencies so they could hear what the mayor and his allies on City Council are doing to pass a city employment non-discrimination policy, as well as his pitch for re-election to a third term.

"I came to Houston in 1984 and never in that time have we had a mayor hosting a breakfast for the GLBT community," Brunjes said. Other Brown firsts Brunjes mentioned included issuing an executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in city employment, appointing a community liaison and an openly gay municipal court judge, creating a hate-crimes division at the Houston Police Department, testifying in Austin in favor of gay-inclusive hate-crimes legislation and riding in the 2000 Houston

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DALTON DEHART

Mayor Lee P. Brown held a breakfast meeting with more than 100 members of Houston's gay community last Saturday at Allen Park Inn. Brown took the opportunity to solicit votes for a third term as mayor and to remind attendees of his efforts to pass a gay-inclusive non-discrimination policy for the city.



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# Med Center equipped to deal with gay youth

## Texas Children's, Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital address sexual orientation of patients

by ROBERT B. HENDERSON

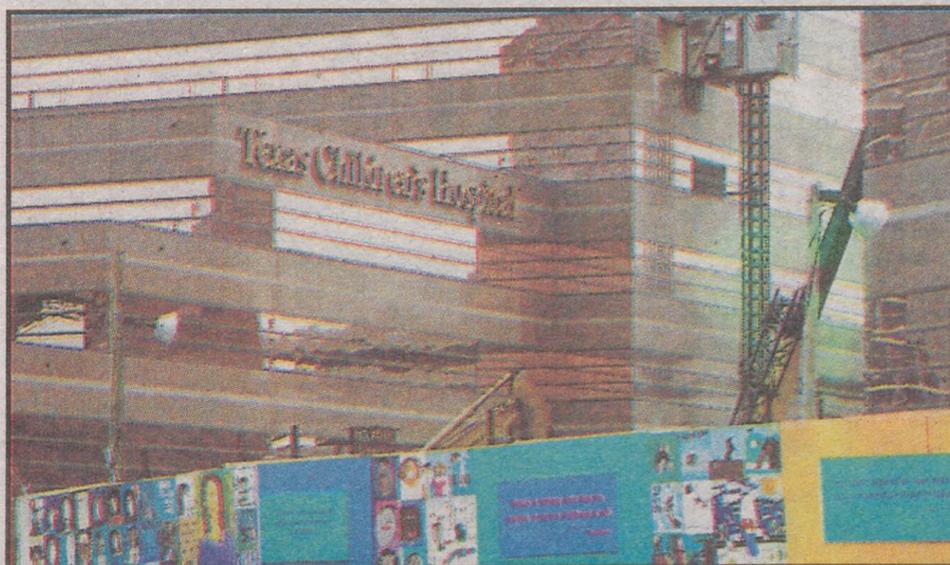
When a teenager begins their pilgrimage through their sexual awakening, it is troubling to wake up and find the object of their affection is a person of the same sex.

Two of the hospitals of Houston's Texas Medical Center—Texas Children's Hospital and Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital—focus their treatment on youth from infancy through the 17th year, but they go beyond the age of majority where continuity of care is desirable. They also offer care to youth whose sexual orientation is not "standard issue."

Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D., is the chief of psychiatry at Texas Children's Hospital. He said they do their work with children and families of all ages. As it works out the psychiatry service therapists may work with an adult as well as working with younger children. As therapists work with families and children they encounter youth who are same-sex oriented.

Perry was unaware of any statistics with regard to teenage suicide relating to sexual orientation. A 1995 survey of 4,167 Massachusetts public high school students resulted in a total of 3,365 students responding to both suicide and sexual orientation questions.

The results indicated gay, lesbian, bisexual and "not sure" youth were nearly three-and-a-half times more likely to attempt suicide than their fellow "straight" students. The results were published in the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine. The



DALTON DEHART

Texas Children's Hospital, above, and Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital both treat adolescents dealing with issues of same-sex orientation. Both hospitals emphasize treating youths with acceptance and understanding as the teens struggle with their sexual orientation.

abstract of the article dealing with the results of the survey may be read on-line at [www.ama-assn.org/sci-pubs/journals/archive/ajdc/vol\\_153/no\\_5/poa8293a.htm](http://www.ama-assn.org/sci-pubs/journals/archive/ajdc/vol_153/no_5/poa8293a.htm).

"One of the things we run into frequently is an adolescent who is getting an emerging sense of their sexuality and it causes them conflict," Perry said.

"I do know when kids feel hopeless and there are no other options and to some degree have some self-loathing, it increases their risk of doing self destructive things."

While teenagers are discovering their same-sex orientation, they may also find themselves in a place removed from the mainstream of peer norms, but Perry commented in his experience, adolescents are much less judgmental than they might have been just 15 years ago.

"The further you get up in the generations, in age, the more likely you are to see

more overtly expressed biases," Perry said.

But in many families, tolerance isn't tested until confronted with the issue of homosexuality first-hand, Perry said.

"I do think even people who will say they're tolerant, when the issue confronts them in their own family, that belief is challenged pretty often. Sometimes they come out doing fine, other times it may be an issue they really haven't thought much about."

He said many families have had a history with an "old maid," "confirmed bachelor" or may have had an experience with someone who was explicit about their sexual orientation.

How the family handled the situation will be a guidepost to the adolescent concerning how they will be handled, perceived and treated in the family. If the adolescent sees a history of poor treatment by

> Continued on Page 12

## TLC speaker encourages sense of community

### Activist Luz Guerra discusses diversity at annual convention

by D.L. MURPHY



D.L. MURPHY

Activist Luz Guerra was the keynote speaker at the 14th annual Texas Lesbian Conference held last weekend in San Antonio.

The fourteenth annual Texas Lesbian Conference took place in San Antonio last weekend, with approximately 120 women in attendance, about the same number as attended last year's conference in Houston.

The conference opened Friday evening with a reception given by the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. Participants used this time to renew old acquaintances, confirm the conference's agenda, and preview goods offered by the various vendors. Sharon Bousquet provided entertainment.

Saturday morning began with a showing of "One Fine Day." This powerful video retrospective of women's lives over time

moved many of the audience members to tears. This video was designed as a reminder of how much women have gained over the past 100 years as well as how much is at stake given the current political climate.

Luz Guerra was the keynote speaker. Guerra, a longtime community activist from San Antonio, discussed the idea that this year's conference theme "Rainbows on the River" is really a theme about building bridges in our lives.

"I don't believe we are safe from being gathered up and imprisoned. The old hatreds still exist," Guerra said. "We are the bridge between the things we don't want to remember and the future we could be. I want us to bridge all the divides that come between us and come together as a community of women."

Guerra addressed what she referred to

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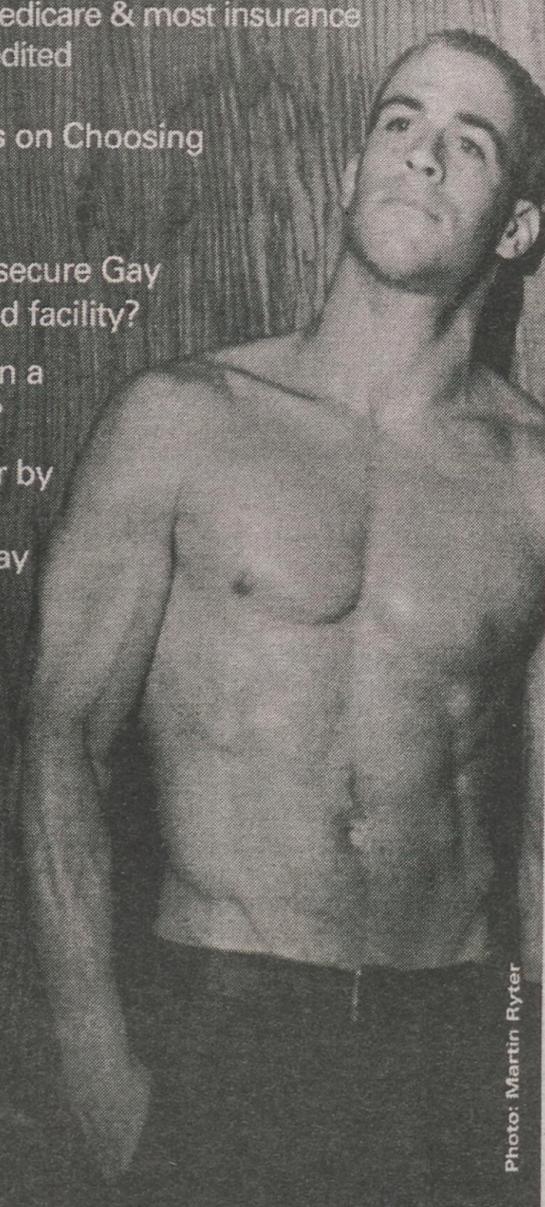


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## around the nation

### Trans dancers in NY sue club after being replaced with 'real girls'

NEW YORK (AP)—Two transsexuals say they were fired from their go-go dancing jobs at a Chelsea nightclub because the club decided they wanted to hire "real girls." Amanda Lepore and Sophia LaMar, both post-operative transsexuals, have filed a \$100,000 discrimination lawsuit against Twilo, charging they were wrongfully terminated and suffered "emotional distress, humiliation... and damage to reputation and career." Lepore started at the club in 1995; LaMar joined in 1997. On Feb. 2, 2000, LaMar received a call from club manager Mike Bindra telling her she and Lepore were being fired because they wanted "real girls" or "biological girls." "It made me feel like a dog that's been given a lot of love to and then gets given back to the shelter," LaMar said. Twilo's lawyer, Peter Sullivan, called the suit "unfortunate" and said Twilo was very supportive of transsexuals. "It's like having a gay person suing a gay bathhouse for discrimination," he said.

### Liberace Museum in NV won't use the 'G' word in describing singer

LAS VEGAS—At the Liberace Museum, visitors can see the entertainer's costumes, pianos and vintage cars, but the subject of Liberace's homosexuality is still taboo, Reuters reported. "Look at the way Elton John and other rock stars dressed: pure Liberace," said Brian Alvarez, the museum collections manager, about the entertainer's cultural influence. But on the topic of the star's sexual orientation, Alvarez said that "the official position of the museum, if asked, is that he died of HIV and he was probably gay. And that's it." In 1959, Liberace won a libel suit against the *Daily Mirror* for calling him, among other things, a "deadly, winking, sniggering... quivering, giggling, fruit-flavored, mincing, ice-covered heap of mother love." In that court case, Liberace denied that he had ever engaged in gay sex, and won \$22,000, the largest British libel settlement to date. In 1985, he also settled a palimony suit with former chauffeur Scott Thorson. He died two years later. But the lack of an official coming out doesn't fool many people—notoriously anti-gay Rev. Fred Phelps picketed in front of the museum earlier this month.



Liberace's cultural influence lives on, but even 14 years after his death, the Liberace Museum will only allow that the piano player 'was probably gay.'

### Gays back lawsuit over Internet filter law, concerns on free speech

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Civil liberties groups and a library association filed lawsuits March 20 seeking to halt a new law that would require public schools and libraries to install Internet "filtering software" or lose federal funding. Critics of the Children's Internet Protection Act said the legislation would censor constitutionally protected information, and pointed out that the software, which blocks access to online material deemed "obscene," "harmful to minors" or "child pornography," often ends up filtering out the sites of gay support groups or sites that provide medical information. "The law has a resounding name, but the truth is that it offers no guarantee for children," said Elliot Minchberg of People for the American Way, which sued along with the American Library Association. The same groups successfully filed suit in the same court in 1996 and 1999 against other federal laws that sought to shield children from online pornography.

### FL judge says school system can't ban Scouts from its buildings

MIAMI—A federal judge has found that Broward County school officials cannot ban the Boy Scouts of America from meeting in its school buildings, the *Miami Herald* reported. U.S. District Judge Donald M. Middlebrooks said the school district has the right to end an agreement that allowed the Scouts to meet in public schools without charge, but that "[i]n expressing its own message and setting its example for students to follow, the school board cannot punish another group for its own message." School officials had hoped to end the Scouts' use of public school buildings by March 30, charging the group's ban on gay scoutmasters violates the district's anti-discrimination policy.

### Supreme Court rules against gay man in arbitration case with employer

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has used a case in which a gay man signed away his rights to sue for harassment to rule that workers can be forced to take related disputes to arbitration by their employers. The case involves Saint Clair Adams, a gay man who signed an arbitration document in which he agreed to arbitrate employment disputes when he went to work at a Circuit City in Santa Rosa. In 1997, Adams sued Circuit City in California state court, and argued that he resigned after being repeatedly harassed at work because he is gay. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco found that Adams could sue in spite of the arbitration agreement, but by a 5-4 margin, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed that decision. The high court ruled that the lower court's legal reasoning would only lead to more lawsuits instead of limiting them. Justice John Paul Stevens wrote a dissenting opinion in which he accused the majority of "playing ostrich" to the legislative and historical context of the arbitration law and its consequences.

—From staff and wire reports



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# police beat

## NY hate crimes law used to charge teen for harassing AOL message

SUFFOLK, N.Y.—A high school student was arrested by Suffolk police March 20, some three months after he allegedly sent an anti-gay instant message to a schoolmate while on America Online. James Ford III, 18, has been charged with second-degree aggravated harassment for allegedly sending the threatening message that appeared to indicate he knew the victim's residence, police said. Det. Sergeant Robert Reeks, commanding officer of the Bias Crimes Bureau, said America Online was "very cooperative" but it still took considerable time to track down the message sent on Dec. 8. Ford is the second person to be charged under New York's new hate crimes law.

## MI man alleges trans girlfriend confessed to killing uncle for cash

TROY, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan man testified he didn't know that his girlfriend was a pre-operative transsexual until the night she allegedly confessed to her uncle's murder. Danny Chahine, 40, said that while he was dating Vonlee Nicole Titlow, she had resisted sexual intimacy by recalling stories of past rape and cancer. Titlow also told him that her aunt,



Billie Jean Rogers, would pay \$25,000 to get rid of her husband, Donald. When Titlow told Chahine Aug. 14 that Donald Rogers had died the night before, Chahine asked, "What did you guys do?" He said that Titlow then allegedly said that her aunt wanted Rogers cremated so police wouldn't find any evidence. That night, Titlow told Chahine that she was born Harry Titlow, and that her aunt had promised her money for gender-reassignment surgery. Titlow and Rogers are accused of killing Donald Rogers by force-feeding him alcohol and smothering him. The testimony came during a preliminary hearing last week.

Vonlee Nicole Titlow, born as Harry V. Titlow, is charged in the murder of her uncle, who police said was killed so Vonlee Titlow could get funds needed for a sex-change operation.

## PA brothers, parents charged in gay panic case that left victim in coma

MIDDLEBURG, Pa. (AP)—Two brothers were ordered to stand trial in a Pennsylvania court, accused of stomping and punching a man who one of them alleges made a sexual advance. Todd J. Clinger, 18, and Troy L. Clinger, 20, are charged with attempted murder in the March 6 attack on Michael Auker. Both of the brothers and Auker were drinking at Todd Clinger's trailer prior to the incident, police said. After the attack, the two men allegedly carried Auker to his trailer, where he was found two days later in a coma. Auker remains in what authorities called a "permanent comatose" state. Nicki Lee White, Troy Clinger's fiancé, said the brothers planned to lure Auker out to the deck of their trailer so they could "beat him up, kill him." The parents of the brothers also face charges in the incident. Police said the teens' father, Gary Clinger, helped move Auker to his trailer.

## VA man gets 9-year prison sentence for attacking gay teen with pipe

FREDRICKSBURG, Va.—A Virginia teen was ordered to serve nearly nine years in prison for an unprovoked attack that left a boy critically injured, the *Fredricksburg Free Lance-Star* reported. Thomas J. Rivers, now 18, was convicted of striking a 15-year-old boy with a metal pipe, and received a sentence of 26 years, with 16 years and four months of the sentence suspended. The victim never said anything to Rivers, but the man pushed and spit on the boy eight months earlier because someone told him the teen said Rivers was attractive, according to court records. When Rivers saw him walking across the street, he pulled over and attacked the boy. "We're here today because Tommy Rivers hates gay people," Prosecutor Eric Olsen said during the sentencing hearing. Rivers' attorney had argued that his client suffers from post traumatic stress disorder as the result of sexual abuse.

## Police launch undercover stings to crack down on gay sex in VA parks

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP)—Complaints from tourists about public sex along the George Washington Memorial Parkway have prompted U.S. Park Police to step up enforcement. Since February 2000, 293 people have been charged with indecent exposure and "indecent acts" at sites that include the Iwo Jima Memorial Park and Turkey Run Park and others listed on Internet directories of gay male cruising spots. "We have a real problem here. You have some of the nation's most prominent parks that are sites for everyone to enjoy, and you go into a restroom and find" sex acts, Assistant U.S. Attorney Rosanne Haney said. U.S. Magistrate Judge Theresa C. Buchanan said in court that she has decided to hand out significantly more jail time. "By this conduct, the park is no longer available to others, to tourists," she said. The judge sent three first offenders to jail for 48 hours and ordered them to pay \$1,010 in fines and fees. She sent another man, who had a prior conviction for the same offense, to jail for two weeks. The continuing arrests show the undercover enforcement effort is not working and argue that uniformed officers would be a greater deterrent, defense attorneys said.



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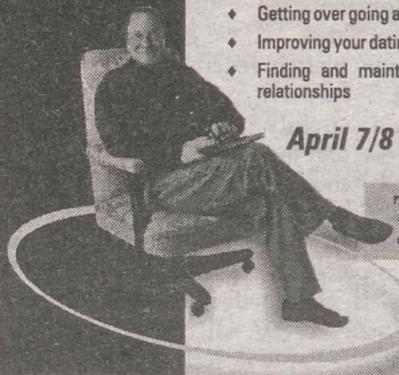
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## EDITORIAL

# 'T' time at the Human Rights Campaign

by CHRIS CRAIN

After years of criticism from transgender activists and other gay rights groups, the Human Rights Campaign announced last week that it was officially changing its mission to include advocacy for "L," "G," "B" and "T."

Officials with HRC, the country's biggest gay rights lobby, insisted the mission creep only reflected work the group was already doing on behalf of transgendered Americans. That must be the case because HRC still refuses to add "gender identity" protection to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the group's signature piece of federal legislation.

And rightly so. With Congress and the White House in GOP hands, adding "gender identity" to ENDA would also add years to the time it would take to pass ENDA. When the public is better educated on trans issues, ENDA will be ripe for amendment to include gender identity. Better that lesbians and gay men get some protection in the meantime.

You won't hear trans activists admit it, but it is also the case that transgendered folks would be protected by federal workplace protections in most cases anyway, either through existing laws covering sex discrimination, or through ENDA's addition of sexual orientation.

That's because most bigots don't take the time to parse the difference between gender and "gender identity." A male-to-female trans worker fired for "acting like a woman" is most likely a victim of sex-based dis-

crimination and can already sue today. A female-to-male trans worker who misses a promotion because her bosses decide she must be a "butch dyke" would be able to sue under ENDA.

In how many cases would the Neanderthals who do the discriminating decide to fire someone for the narrowly defined motivation of bias against their "gender identity"?

Transgender activists will undoubtedly continue to press HRC leaders to mend their "LGB" ways on ENDA, but let's hope the agency at least gets some credit for the spirit of inclusiveness that surely motivated the mission statement amendment.

Trans folks have been part of the gay rights movement since its beginning in 1969, when drag queens helped lead the Stonewall Riots. And since the days when AIDS first struck gay men, drag queens have done far more than their share to raise funds to fight the epidemic.

More and more transsexuals, pre and post-operative, have also stepped out of the closet and into the greater gay community, at least in larger cities. Though their number remains very small, they often are among the few who commit to active leadership in community organizations.

For all those reasons, and the spirit of inclusiveness they engender, HRC should be commended by trans activists for adding their cause to its mission.

At the same time, it's critically important that HRC and other national gay groups do not allow our allied status to blur the lines of "LGBT" so

much so that we forget the important differences between sexual orientation and gender identity.

After all, a movement for equal rights based upon sexual orientation is by no means the same thing as a movement for equal treatment based on gender identity or the many other issues important to trans activists.

not allow that central message to be obscured or confused with this battle over GID as a "reformed" mental disorder.

On an even more fundamental level, there is a very vocal element within the trans movement that advocates our liberation from gender altogether, attacking "male" and "female" labels as arbitrary social constructs.

## Inclusiveness is a good thing, but the gay rights alphabet shouldn't stop at 'T.'

The experience of the other big national gay rights group is instructive here. The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force proudly proclaims a mission to "eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people."

But the NGLTF leaders considered themselves so wed to fighting for trans rights and gay rights simultaneously that they actually withdrew their support from ENDA because HRC and the bill's Congressional sponsors would not add gender identity.

The Task Force decision was no doubt well-intentioned, but the gay rights movement can ill afford such myopic vision when keeping our eyes on the prize.

NGLTF has also worked hard to change views about Gender Identity Disorder, and whether that diagnosis should be removed from the American Psychiatric Association's list of mental disorders.

Sound like a fight similar to the one gays fought back in the '70s? It's not.

The Task Force position, backed by the major trans rights organizations, has been for "reform" not "removal" of GID from the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. That's because "some transgender people use a GID diagnosis to qualify for hormone treatment, surgery and, in limited cases, anti-discrimination protections based on disability."

Tenet number one in the gay rights movement, since its founding, has been that sexual orientation is not a mental disorder. It is very important that HRC and other gay groups adding the "T" to their mission

Most lesbians and gay men do not wish for such liberation. They realize that the elimination of gender is also the elimination of sexual orientation. We can't love someone of the same gender if there is no such thing.

Many gay men and lesbians struggle all their lives to correct the impression that their sexual orientation is somehow a rejection of their biological gender, or at least a discomfort with it. Of course, that rejection forms the core of being transgendered.

And being liberated from their gender doesn't make the Gay Hot 100 of activism goals. The cause of gay civil rights would be hopelessly confused by arguments for gender liberation and for excising "he" and "she" from the language, as many trans activists demand.

Gender Identity Disorder and gender liberation are only two examples. The trans movement is as inclusive as it gets: male-to-female and female-to-male, pre-op, post-op, and non-op, transsexuals, transgenderists, drag queens, transvestites, the intersexed, hermaphrodites and heterosexual cross dressers.

The trans movement is so inclusive that some of the groups it claims want no part of it. Some cross gender lines based upon how they self-identify, some do it for sexual kicks, and some do it to entertain.

The gay and lesbian community may be just as diverse, but the message about sexual orientation is so much more concise: Our freedom and civil rights should not be curtailed based upon who we love.

Let us hope that message does not get lost in the alphabet soup of LGBT inclusiveness.





VIEWPOINT

# Descent into the lions' den with 'Concerned Women'

by SUE NULL

The Web site invitation from Concerned Women for America (cwfa.org) to a breakfast to learn about current issues in the Texas legislature sounded innocuous, but oh God, what a downer!

I went, and it was gruesome. Even though I realized from their Web site that there didn't appear to be a single issue on which I could agree with these people, after years of being an outspoken P-FLAG parent, I still wasn't prepared for their fear and negativity.

Apart from a brief mention of redistricting, Medicaid and a few other issues, the two speakers focused on the bills that affected gays and lesbians. Evidently, the passage or destruction of these bills [in their minds] are the clue to making a better Texas in the future.

Charlie Howard, a state legislator, and Teresa Collett, law professor at South Texas College of Law, lamented that the Texas Defense of Marriage Act appears to be tied up in committee. The 50 some good conservative Christian Republican women and a few men (no visible minorities of any kind) in attendance wanted to know what they could do to get it out of committee and to preserve Texas' morality from the frightful homosexual agenda.

Collett identified herself as one of the few female Christian Republican law professors in the country. She was relieved to see that the Texas 14th Court of Appeals had upheld the sodomy law because in

her mind, not doing so would be the first crucial step to same-sex marriage.

Next would be the passage of a civil unions law without identifying the "signature sex act" that defines the "union." This "signature sex act" was repeated like a mantra throughout the morning; it was important whether it produced children or not and gay and lesbian unions couldn't possibly do the same.

She admitted that gay men and women could have strong "friendships," but that the state shouldn't be expected to license friendships. She also said that a practical secular reason for opposing domestic partner benefits is that because of the inherent instability in gay relationships, and the constant changing of partners, there is increased cost in administering such a program.

Then, of course, she made it clear that none of her objections were homophobic in nature, and that if she should suffer the tragedy of having a child in the gay "lifestyle," she could continue loving that child while expecting him/her to be celibate.

The audience fretted over the dire possibilities of gay teachers in the schools, gay adoption and possibility of domestic partner benefits becoming enacted in Houston sometime in the future. It was ironic to watch them revel in their photographs taken at their lobby day against DOMA on Feb. 14 in Austin when I was planning to lobby two days later for the very same bill they were fighting against.

At the end, I was able to get a few words in edgewise at the mike. I told the assembly that while they were so con-

cerned about protecting the family, they were leaving my family out in the cold. My gay and lesbian children were no threat to them, and sexual minority people were already in the schools, in their churches, in their workplaces, functioning as responsible people.

The Texas DOMA was pointless and hurtful, and there were so many real problems in Texas to deal with; why were they expending so much time and energy on denying my children equal rights?

Their answer, obviously, was to "love the sinner, hate the sin." God, what a tiresome excuse for thinking! A visiting lesbian came up and thanked me for speaking. So did an older CWA woman who recounted the story of how she had been cast out of acceptable society because she had a schizophrenic child.

One young woman allowed as how maybe one of her three kids might turn out to be gay and she needed to learn how to understand that.

But others spoke of the predictable: the benefits of prayer, the possibilities of "change," and their discomfort with homosexuals' being in their face with demands for acceptance.

One woman kindly handed me a Family Research Council Documentary video, which I guess is supposed to fix my kids—or me. Another demanded to know what church I was from and derisively assumed it must be Unitarian; actually, that's true, but I didn't want to acknowledge that she was right, so I simply said that my church supported the

"inherent worth and dignity of every individual."

All these lovely CWA women were sweet and gracious and kind and smiling, but scary with their utter confidence in their righteousness and with their zeal to achieve their ends; are we in the GLBT community going to work hard enough to be able to derail them?

Sue Null is an active member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.



## Let us know what you think!

Send the editor your letters (400 words maximum) or op-ed submissions (800 words maximum). Include a name and phone number for verification.

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fax: 713-529-9531  
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## The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by eric orner

**Heartbreak Hotel**  
(a floor plan)

**The Lobby:**  
Where you get stood up.

I'M JUST WAITING FOR MY BOYFRIEND.. SURE YOU IZ MAC, THEY ALL IZ.. NO REALLY.. YUP YUP YUP YUP

**The Front Desk:**  
Where your humiliation is compounded.

OH MISTER GREEN, HELLO! I SAW THAT YOUR BOYFRIEND CHECKED OUT THIS MORNING. GUESSED THAT QUEEN SIZED MATTRESS MIGHT GET A BIT CHILLY, BOOKED YOU INTO A COZY SINGLE IN THE BASEMENT. LUCKY TO HAVE IT! WE'RE FULL UP TONITE—HATED TO THINK OF YOU SLEEPING ON A COT IN THE HALLWAY. WELL, YOU HAVE A NICE STAY SIR, HAPPY TO HAVE YOU WITH US AGAIN.. MY KEY SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED WORKING.

**The Mezzanine:**  
Where you try and get your mind off him by partaking in a variety of boring activities.

OPPOSE THE NEW EATERIE'S LIQUOR LICENSE & OTHER ISSUES ONLY PEOPLE WHO AREN'T GETTING SEX CATE ABOUT. LEARN CERAMICS. NEIGHBORHOOD POTLUCK! GAY SINGLE TORCH STUBS

**The Bar:**  
Where you dread having to return to.

These BOOTS WUZ MADE FOR WALKIN'! GROAN. RANDOM HOTEL BIFFLY

**The Health Club:**  
Where you doubly dread having to return to.

MOAN. ETHAN GREEN JUST WALKED IN.. HIS BOYFRIEND DUMPED HIM... I HEARD. PGM. RANDOM HOTEL GYM BUNNIES

**The 13<sup>th</sup> floor:**  
Where you are the recipient of bad advice from your idiot best friend.

HONEY, WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IS GO UP TO THE "SPA" AND GET LAID.. I GUESS NO ONE MENTIONED THAT TO THE VALET PARKING GUY.. BUCKY, THIS IS HEARTBREAK HOTEL. IT'S ABOUT ANGST. NOT GETTING OFF.

**The Pool-Spa:**  
Where you get chased around by other guests who resent your disinterest & don't mind telling you so.

WHAZZA MATTER MAC, AM I TOO MUCH MAN FOR YOU? YOU BETCHA I AM MAC. WAY TOO MUCH. YESIR..

# Bareback chatters face Net resistance

> Continued from Page 1

sented information on the Ottawa case at last year's Conference on Retroviruses in San Francisco. Since then, the possibility of reinfection or superinfection, being infected with a second and different strain of HIV resistant to certain drug therapies, has sparked controversy.

"[The patient] started on therapy and therapy was not effective. Presumably he was complying with his therapy," Angel said in an interview. "Those two things, kind of the sudden change in his course of HIV infection and lack of response to therapy prompted the clinician who was looking after the patient to pry a little more into his history."

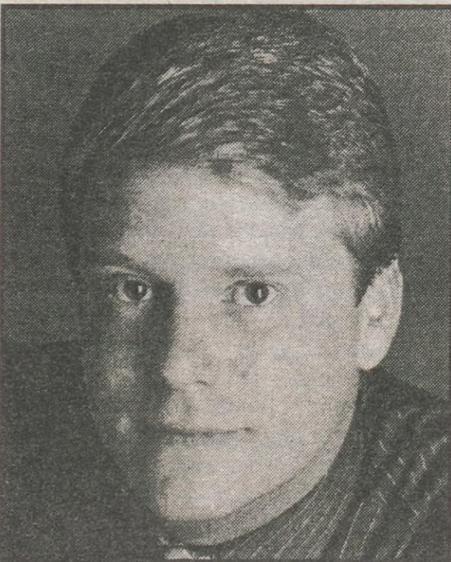
When the doctors pried into the patient's past, they discovered his partner had a more advanced level of HIV, resistant to many drug therapies. HIV researchers wondered if the patient received the more-resistant strain from his HIV-positive partner.

There is no test for reinfection or superinfection, but Angel stands by his hypothesis in the Ottawa case.

"He had been fine for 10 years, gets infected with another drug-resistant virus and that's the explanation for his progression or the change in his course and the lack of response to therapy," he said. "[Research] suggested there were some similarities between those genes in the index patient and the source patient, his partner."

If Angel is right and reinfection is more than just a medical theory, the results could have a major impact on the decisions made by HIV-positive couples, as well as HIV-positive men who engage in sex with other men who carry the virus.

But even Angel admits his hypothesis is just that, an unproven theory. More than a year after the case emerged, doctors still



Longtime AIDS activist Mark King says the risk of possibility of reinfection seems too low to give up unprotected sex, and the risk of other STDs makes him 'feel nostalgic.'

can't prove superinfection. The case is suggestive, not conclusive.

That's why Mark King isn't worried. The longtime AIDS activist from Atlanta said he will continue to have unsafe sex with his positive partner.

"The AIDS prevention establishment is terrified of allowing there to be even any discussion that maybe [two positive men barebacking] might be okay," King said. "Because all you'll be able to get from researchers is, 'Well, we think that that's a risk. We think there's that possibility. ...'"

"Well that's not quite good enough for those of us who have stopped using condoms and don't feel as if we have everything to lose. We've already lost our negative HIV status, that's the worst step that can happen to you."

King, who left AID Atlanta in 1999 after four years as the agency's education director and 12 years in AIDS activism, said he has many positive friends who simply won't have sex with someone who is HIV-negative. Not only do they not want to be responsible for a new infection, but if their partner is positive, it's a green light for unprotected sex.

"It's not even so much a dialogue as it has become a culture of HIV-positive men who are having unprotected sex with one another," King said, adding that one case in Ottawa isn't enough reason for many people to change their sexual habits.

"It's almost gotten to the point where we stopped having the conversation, because we've all come to a similar conclusion and that is: 'I guess it's not bad for us because we're all still walking and talking and fucking.' And so the conversation isn't so much about it's become a foregone conclusion," King said.

"I say I'm positive, you say you're positive. You know what that means to both of us: We're not using condoms. There's not even a conversation. It's an assumption."

Web designers at the popular site Gay.com were aware of this subculture of HIV-positive men engaging in bareback sex, so the Web designers created chat rooms specifically for men who wanted to have sex without a condom.

"The requests were made in the interest of creating a space where barebackers could go and not interfere in the other chat spaces," said Elizabeth Kennedy, Gay.com's director of community and member care.

Despite the popularity of the bareback chat rooms, Gay.com pulled them off the site earlier this month and trumpeted the decision to the gay press.

"The decision was made working with leading health experts in San Francisco and across the country," said Kennedy. She said superinfection was one of several issues discussed when making the decision to eliminate the bareback rooms.

# PVA, Fair Houston planning fund-raisers

> Continued from Page 1

Lesbian & Gay Pride Parade.

"At election time, don't forget what we didn't have," Brunjes said.

Houston City Councilmember Annise Parker said that the November election will be truly remarkable because the gay vote is not only being courted by a sitting mayor, but also by a Brown opponent, City Councilmember Chris Bell. She quickly added that Brown deserves the community vote in the November mayor's race.

"I tried slowing him down on gay issues until after the election, but there is no stopping him," Parker said.

Brown said he is not a "johnny-come-lately" on gay issues, citing problems he solved between police and the gay community as police chief in Atlanta and then in Houston.

However, most of Brown's speech focused on improvements to Houston as a whole that have come about under his watch, such as decreased crime, an improved economy and downtown development.

More specifically, gay election issues were addressed by Grant Martin, founder of Progressive Voters in Action and campaign manager for People for a Fair Houston, a new political action committee that will work hand-in-hand with PVA.

Martin said the two groups will lead the effort on three different election issues,



Among the speakers at last week's breakfast meeting between Mayor Lee P. Brown and members of the gay community were Councilwoman Annise Parker, right, and Progressive Voters in Action founder Grant Martin, left. Both encouraged attendees to volunteer time and money to fight two pending anti-gay ballot measures regarding non-discrimination and domestic partner benefits.

including two anti-gay ballot measures. One, promoted by David Wilson of Houstonians for Family Values, seeks to change the city charter to forbid City Council from providing benefits to domestic partners of gay and lesbian city employees or from passing a gay-inclusive non-discrimination policy.

Wilson's group is currently obtaining signatures to put the measure on the ballot. Martin said that the measure is extremely divisive in conservative circles and Wilson has opposition from many conservative leaders who say it will alienate moderates. However, he also said that the national religious-right organization Focus on the

Family supports the measure and has named Houston its "next battleground."

"Just having this measure on the ballot is dangerous," Martin said.

The second possible anti-gay measure will be a referendum on a city employment non-discrimination policy that Martin said will be introduced and will likely be passed by City Council this spring. He said that the issue's history prevented him from giving a more detailed timeline.

Brown's original non-discrimination executive order is currently tied up in court thanks to a preventative lawsuit brought by City Councilmember Rob Todd, and Martin said the mayor and Parker would like that issue to be resolved prior to introducing the non-discrimination bill to Council.

He said they also want to ensure that the wording of the new policy is precise and they are working with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and other cities with non-discrimination policies to write it.

Martin said that the third specifically gay election issue this year will be Parker's reelection. Conservatives may run an opponent against Parker to weaken the community's effort against the anti-gay ballot measures, he said.

The two organizations that will lead the gay community effort on these election issues, PVA and People for a Fair Houston, will require a combined budget of over \$1 million, Martin said.

# National Hispanic group doesn't 'condone' gays

Gay Latino organization demands apology from National Council of La Raza

by ERIN O'BRIANT

A representative of the National Council of La Raza, a leading Latino civil rights group, said last week his group does not "condone Latinos that are lesbian or gay," prompting the National Latina/o Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender Organization (LLEGO) to demand a public apology.

Meanwhile, as recently released U.S. Census figures show Hispanics will soon be the largest minority group in the United States, gay Latinos say their cause is gaining influence within the mainstream gay and lesbian rights movement.

But mainstream Hispanic civil rights groups may be divided over how to deal with gay issues.

John Ximenez, a media specialist at La Raza, told *Southern Voice* the group does not "condone" gays, and that "to us sexual preference is not an issue. We do support Latinos in general. ... Sexual preference is none of our business."

Ximenez said La Raza does focus on "AIDS prevention and stuff like that," but added that the group does not work on issues specific to gay and lesbian rights.

He also said La Raza has worked "in partnership with gay and lesbian organizations before. So it's not something that we do directly, but we might support, say, another organization."

The spokesman said he did not know whether La Raza's stance on gay issues would change in the future, but indicated that the group would be likely to pursue health issues.

LLEGO Executive Director Martin Ornelas-Quintero called Ximenez's remarks "unacceptable."

"An apology by Ximenez needs to be given, because gays have nothing to be

overlooked, or forgiven," Ornelas-Quintero said. "It's an insult to the mission that the National Council of La Raza stands for. As a member of the National Council of La Raza, this is a tremendous insult and a protest.

"I specifically have met with the president and CEO of La Raza, where we have discussed the issue of preference and orientation," Ornelas-Quintero continued. "Apparently Mr. Ximenez is uneducated about the subject."

He added that La Raza has endorsed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, federal legislation that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Ximenez later confirmed that La Raza has worked in partnership with LLEGO. "We support all groups. We don't discriminate based on sexual orientation. ... I apologize if it came off that way," he said.

The president and CEO of La Raza, Raul Yzaguirre, did not return phone calls about the matter by press time.

## Census numbers mean more clout

Hispanics are soon to emerge as the largest minority group in the United States, according to new numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau. Latino activists say that means more clout for them within the gay rights movement.

Census reports show that the Hispanic population reached 35.3 million in 2000, a 58 percent increase since 1990, while African-Americans and other blacks total 36.4 million. Hispanics are expected to become the largest minority population in the United States in the near future.

"[The population growth] will have a number of effects," said Ornelas-Quintero. "First and foremost... the hope would be that those numbers also translate to political empowerment and involvement as Latino LGBTs. It also poses additional opportunities to educate our growing community within the Latino community and continue to assert ourselves within mainstream society."

Ornelas-Quintero said a larger population of gay Latinos is "a stronger force to build bridges with." He also noted that "it places a tremendous responsibility [on us], that we are representative of the growing communities."

Activists at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, a nationwide gay rights organization, said the growing Hispanic population means an opportunity to reconsider the priorities of the mainstream gay rights movement.

"It's not just that you suddenly have more people involved and represented in the population, it's that you really have to do a re-tooling and understanding from the ground up of what's going on in GLBT Latino communities, and Latino communities in general, for our movement to continue to be relevant in this country," said NGLTF's Jason Riggs.



Martin Ornelas-Quintero, executive director of LLEGO, demanded a public apology last week after a National Council of La Raza representative told *Southern Voice* the prominent Hispanic civil rights group doesn't 'condone' gays.

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## local news

### H.A.T.C.H. plans prom

Sponsors sought for annual fund-raising dance

by ELLA TYLER

The Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals is seeking sponsors for Prom 2001, it's eighth annual prom for gay, lesbian bisexual and transgendered teens.

The prom will be held May 4 at the Magnolia Ballroom in downtown Houston.

Prom Night allows gay youth to enjoy an event otherwise denied them because of their sexual orientation. Teens decorate for the event and arrange the entertainment. The fete is open to the public. Sponsors and teens are admitted free. Admission for other adults will be \$25.

"It is a fun evening for all," said Gordon Bayless, a H.A.T.C.H. volunteer. "Lots of people have told me that they wished there was something like this when they were growing up."

The prom is H.A.T.C.H.'s major fund-raiser for its general programming. A donation of \$5,000 names the contributor as the U.S. Department of Education Director and a \$1,000 donation names the contributor as the Superintendent. Smaller donations are named Principal, Teacher or Chaperone.

H.A.T.C.H. provides safe social environments for gay youth and offers role models and peer support. Activities included Friday



Tommy Murphy and Justin Frazier were crowned Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals prom king and queen last year. H.A.T.C.H. is seeking sponsors for this year's prom, slated for May 4.

and Sunday evening programs, the Prom and the Pride parade.

A.J. Harlow, a psychology student at University of Houston, has been hired as a program assistant, joining Carol Petrucci, program director, on the H.A.T.C.H. staff. Harlow has been a volunteer youth facilitator.

H.A.T.C.H.'s Spring Fling, a fund-raiser for the P-FLAG/H.A.T.C.H. scholarship program, will be held tonight at the Park Plaza Warwick. Tickets for the dinner are \$75.

The scholarship program began in 1997 and gave \$58,000 in scholarships last year.

INFO

#### H.A.T.C.H.

713) 942-7002.

Checks may be sent to Prom Night  
2001, H.A.T.C.H., P.O. Box 667053,  
Houston TX 77266-7053

## Obituary

### Pete Martinez

Pedro "Pete" Martinez, Jr., born June 16, 1946 in Houston, passed into the hands of the Lord on Saturday, March 17, 2001, at his home after a short and courageous battle with liver cancer.

He was preceded in death by his father Pedro Martinez, Sr., nephews Joel Salazar and Daniel Duran, Jr. and maternal grandmother Guadalupe Sanchez. He is survived by his mother Dora S. Martinez; sisters Mary Martinez, Dora Alice Torres and husband Sam, Helen Cortez and husband Richard, Deloris Castillo; brothers Raymond Martinez, David Martinez and wife Omega; numerous nieces and nephews; and a multitude of friends.

A longtime Houston resident, Pete was employed with various local companies, including Stouffer's Greenway Plaza Hotel where he was banquet manager. In 1988, Pete's focus changed, as he became involved with The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. He was one of the founding members of the NAMES Project Houston that year.

He continued volunteering his services

for 12 years—seven of those years as a board member of Friends of the Quilt (Houston), Inc., the governing body for the NPH. As workshop/office manager, he welcomed all who came, and he assisted many friends, lovers, parents and family members in making panels for their loved ones lost to AIDS.

A memorial service for Pete will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday March 31, 2001, at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold Street, with senior pastor Marilyn Meeker-Williams and Rev. Troy Plummer officiating. Honorary pallbearers are David Martinez, Jr.; Ronnie Martinez; Daniel Martinez; and Stephen Torres. A reception will immediately follow the service at workshop/offices of The NAMES Project Houston, 4617 Montrose Blvd. #C-140.

In lieu of flowers, it was Pete's wish that donations be made to either The NAMES Project Houston, P.O. Box 66595, Houston, 77266-6595; or DIFFA Houston, 3815 Garrott Street, Houston, 77006.

Interment to be conducted Sunday, April 1, 2001 at Austwell-Tivoli Cemetery in Austwell, Texas.

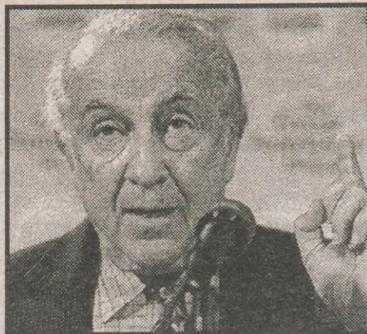
# health news

## HIV educators examine ways to curb infection rates among gay blacks

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—In the wake of soaring HIV statistics on the nation's black gay men, a panel of educators came together last week to admit their failures and discuss strategies to help curb the rate of infection. "These people are coming to us to get HIV testing or to get screened for [sexually transmitted diseases]. They are in our offices. They're in our clinics. We are even counseling them. What's going on?" said Lucia Torian, from the New York City health department. Susan Kegeles, of the University of San Francisco's Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, spoke on the panel, part of the 13th National HIV/AIDS Update Conference, about ideas for a program to attract the demographic. She heads the Mpowerment Project, which uses peer groups in various cities to create a dialogue and a safe place for men to talk about sex. Kegeles said the gay black community hasn't been studied sufficiently, and it needs to be examined more closely because black gay men do not necessarily frequent mainstream gay bars and other venues. Leniere Miley, assistant coordinator at the House of Latex Project in New York, said it's important to seek out black gay men and educate them about the risks of unsafe sex in a message that appeals to them.

## American Heart Association warns against high-protein, low-carb diets

ORLANDO—The American Heart Association has drafted an advisory paper warning the public about what it says are the dangers of high-protein, low-carb diets, like the Atkins diet, the Zone, Protein Power, Sugar Busters and the Stillman diet, CNN reported. "They put people at risk for heart disease and we're really concerned about that," said Dr. Robert H. Eckel, senior author of the paper. Proponents of the diets promote them as a way of helping people lose weight and lower their cholesterol while letting them eat unlimited amounts of red meat and dairy products. Colette Heimowitz, director of education & research for Atkins Health and Medical Information Services, said if cholesterol increases after weight loss on the Atkins diet, it is because people aren't following the diet correctly. She also said the Atkins diet doesn't advocate eating only red meat and dairy products—it also tells people to eat chicken, fish and tofu, too. Critics of high-protein diets acknowledge that people do indeed lose weight and cholesterol does drop, but they say the results are temporary.



Low-carb, high-protein diets, like the popular Atkins diet from Robert C. Atkins, has come under fire from a new study that said the long-term effect of the diets is high cholesterol.

## Vaccine with live HIV virus could do more harm than healing, study says

WASHINGTON—AIDS researchers fear that the use of a weakened strain of live virus in mass vaccination campaigns could actually increase AIDS death rates in many countries, Reuters reported. A research team headed by a University of California at Los Angeles scientist created a mathematical model to predict the outcome of future vaccination efforts using an AIDS vaccine made from a weakened form of live HIV. To their surprise, the model found that such a vaccine would increase death rates in countries where the AIDS epidemic was either low or moderate, like Thailand, while the same vaccine would reduce greatly the death rates in nations where AIDS was rampant, such as Zimbabwe. "If you use such a vaccine, for example, in the United States, you would definitely make things much, much worse," said Dr. Sally Blower, one of the UCLA researchers.

## AIDS cocktail without protease inhibitor finds success, study says

CHICAGO (AP)—An AIDS drug cocktail that doesn't include a protease inhibitor appears to suppress the virus just as well as one that does, according to a recent study. Results in patients treated with a standard AIDS cocktail containing a protease inhibitor were compared to those treated with a combination of three medicines known as nucleoside analogs. The research found that patients treated with a nucleoside cocktail containing Ziagen, made by Glaxo Wellcome, which funded the study, fared as well as those treated with a combination of two nucleosides plus a protease inhibitor. Dr. Jeffrey Laurence called the study "a reasonable piece of information, something to think about if you're concerned about inducing resistance to protease inhibitors and want to keep something in reserve."

## Supreme Court to hear challenge to medical marijuana, federal drug laws

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The U.S. Supreme Court was scheduled to hear argument Wednesday in a California case over the use of marijuana for medical purposes. The case involves a U.S. Justice Department lawsuit against the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, which was shut down after the state's passage of Proposition 215, the voter-enacted initiative that allowed doctors to prescribe marijuana for patients. A federal judge shuttered the club, but an appellate court reversed the decision. Justice Department lawyers have argued that allowing clubs to distribute marijuana compromises the government's ability to enforce federal drug laws. It's unclear whether the Supreme Court will rule on marijuana as medicine in general or limit their decision to a narrower look at judicial proceedings in the case.

—From staff and wire reports

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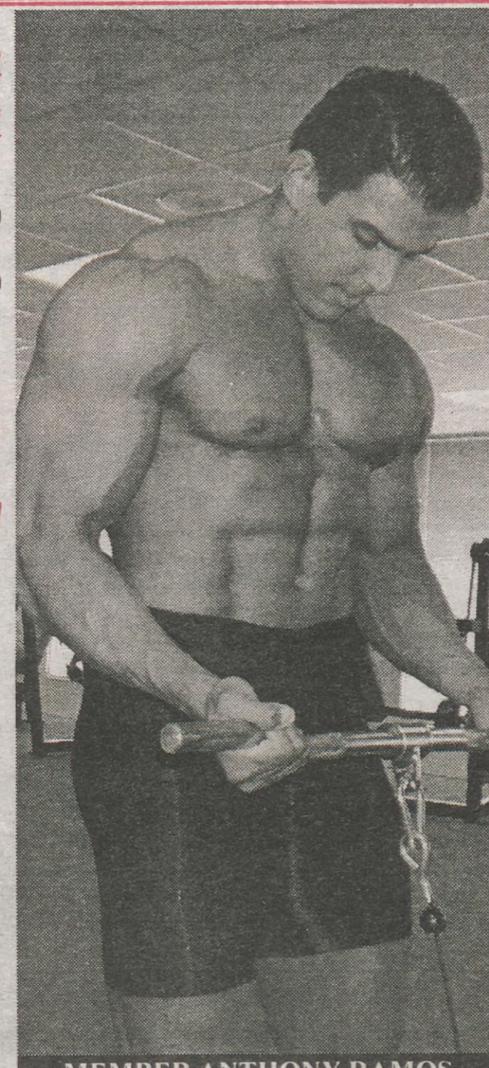
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# Gay youth at Med Center often referred to H.A.T.C.H.

> Continued from Page 3

the family, they are more likely to be anxious about being open and feel judged more often.

Perry said he had not seen any trends relating to religious conviction. He said he saw religion as a secondary issue after the adolescents have sorted through the way the family will respond and react. He said he had only worked with a couple of youth where there was tremendous guilt related to the family's strong religious belief.

"The families where there is a history of tolerance, encouragement, love and support—those kids have fewer problems bringing something that's controversial to the family," Perry said.

"The kids who felt judged from the start—their grades weren't good enough, they didn't cut their hair the right way—if they're in a judgmental environment, they're much less comfortable bringing out this relatively controversial thing in the family. That forces a lot of them to actually stay in the closet and hide it until they're out of the family and far enough away where they feel safe."

He said his department and Texas Children's Hospital has no policy regarding dealing with children who have issues relating to their sexuality. The department treats it like they would treat many other "life challenges." They seek to take each case on an individual basis, rather than by classifications.

Sometimes the real issue is dealing with their parents, while at other times it may be directed to their sexuality even though their parents may be accepting.

"We don't treat a child for homosexuality, anymore than you treat someone for heterosexuality. It's not something that needs

to be 'treated.' It's a sexual preference. If that sexual preference is associated with increasing complexity in their family life and their emotional life, then that's what we deal with," Perry said.

He said psychology defines what "pathology" is. Adolescents are in a constant struggle of what is "normal" and what is "abnormal." He cited the example of attention deficit disorder—what may appear to the observer as having the characteristics of ADD, may, when the underlying causes are explored, be the natural expression of where the particular child is in their development.

Will Risser, M.D., Ph.D., is a professor of pediatrics and director of the Division of Adolescent Medicine at the University of Texas Houston Medical School and attending physician at Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital. He deals exclusively with adolescents.



Dr. Will Risser

"What we try to do with our teenagers is, step one, trying to identify those people who are gay or concerned that they're gay. It involves several things—talking to them by themselves, making it clear to them what they say is confidential, being willing without embarrassment when taking a history to actually ask them if they have a sexual preference or if they are concerned about their sexual preference or if they ever thought they were gay," Risser said.

"Some of them may or may not level

We don't treat a child for homosexuality, anymore than you treat someone for heterosexuality. It's not something that needs to be 'treated.'

—Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D.,  
chief of psychiatry at  
Texas Children's Hospital

with you the first time or they may be at a point in their psychic evolution where they don't really know yet. It becomes an issue later.

"If they don't have a sense you're willing to deal with the information, in part made clear by the fact you're willing to ask about it without stammering too badly, as if it's routine information; then they may gain confidence they can talk about it with you.

"If they begin to talk about it, I think you have to clarify exactly what they're talking about. There's some same-sex experimentation early in adolescence and some of them get a little shook up about whether they're gay or not. You need to get a feeling if that's what it is or if they really have realized they feel different and their fantasies are about same-sex relationships rather than heterosexual relationships.

"Once you've gotten that clear, then you have to find out how they're functioning and how they're doing, where they're at with this, whether they're trying to deny it, if it's affecting their mental health. How they're doing in the important areas of their

life—have they begun to discuss this with their family. Have other people begun to realize they're apparently gay."

Risser said though many youth begin to understand this in their early teens, 12- or 13-years-old, many are not prepared to admit it to themselves and deal with it until they are in their later adolescence.

Once communication has been established and the youths are identifying themselves as gay, it is important to realize it is often extremely lonely for teenagers. They may need some help in identifying social support systems, according to Risser.

The teens should have an opportunity to talk to other people like themselves developing a peer group in a safe sort of way. He said the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals is one of the principle groups his department recommends. He also said some national "hotlines" may be helpful.

Risser said the hospital does not deal with gay youth as though they have a disease. He said it is not a disease, it's a fact of personality. Without a non-judgmental attitude, he said it is hard to give "appropriate" care.

"Appropriate" means helping them deal with their insights, helping them get social support and them not suffer too much as they gain a gay identity as well as making sure they are protected from dangerous health behaviors. They also assist in dealing with families and develop strategies for problems at school.

Risser said, in addition to resources such as H.A.T.C.H., both of the medical schools in the Texas Medical Center have adolescent medicine divisions. They are knowledgeable and very willing to help those who are gay and need mental health help, social support help or medical help.

## Filmmaker Kelli Herd shows out takes of 'Water' at TLC

> Continued from Page 3

as forgotten segments of the community and encouraged participants to honor these women.

"Women in other countries, who do not have the freedom to gather... Women in triple jeopardy; women who are lesbian, poor and who are women of color... the women all over the world who literally touch us, provide us with goods every day... the women who work as prostitutes...the women who don't even know that such as thing as the TLC exists."

Conference participants then headed off to the workshops.

The conference organizers tried to ensure that there was at least one workshop that would appeal to everyone. Topics included coming out, flirting, women's health, leadership, spiritual growth and development, family legal issues, anger management, domestic violence and using

our own eroticism to claim personal power.

Lunch featured entertainment provided by the San Antonio Women's Chorus, followed by a presentation by Kelli Herd.

Herd, a former Junior Leaguer turned lesbian filmmaker, is the writer and director responsible for the film "It's In The Water." The moral of Herd's talk was "don't be mean to me and I won't make a movie about you."

The highlight of Herd's speech was a screening of out takes from the movie's lesbian love scene.

Part of the evening's scheduled entertainment, comedian Karen Williams, canceled at the last minute due to illness. The Austin Poetry Slam performed as scheduled. The conference organizers were able to persuade The Trigger Happy Jacks, an Austin based-comedy group and Sharon Bridgforth, a local writer, to fill in for Williams.

Sunday morning featured workshops

dealing with homosexuality and Christianity. These workshops were followed by brunch.

Guerra offered the closing remarks. She exhorted the audience to "unlearn the habit of lying to one another and to unlearn the habit of lying to ourselves."

She reminded the participants "it is a fragile thing, this creation of a rainbow. It is born of water, light and air. It comes to us only after a storm. If we are to capture this rainbow, we are going to have to capture the spaces between the rays of light...each moment of truth reveals another piece of the prism."

Guerra reminded participants they are part of a larger community of humanity.

"I want a world where you defend my truth as I defend yours." The audience responded to this by standing and cheering.

The organizers spoke briefly of plans for next year's conference, which will commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the TLC.

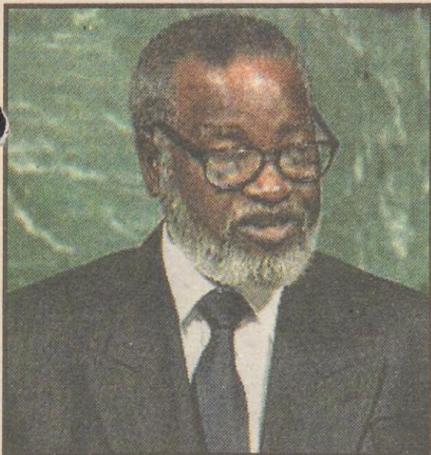


DL MURPHY

Lesbian filmmaker Kelli Herd, who wrote and directed the film 'It's In The Water,' showed Texas Lesbian Conference attendees out takes from the movie's lesbian love scene.

# around the world

**Namibian president lashes out at gays, calls for arrest, deportation**



Namibian President Sam Nujoma called for the arrest and deportation of gays in the country as a way to stymie rising HIV infection rates.

WINDHOEK, Namibia—In an outburst he said is related to the country's explosive HIV infection rate, Namibian president Sam Nujoma told police to "arrest, deport and imprison" gays in his country, according to the *Electronic Telegraph*. "We do not allow homosexuality or lesbianism here. Police are ordered to arrest you and deport you and imprison you, too," Nujoma said. He blamed "foreign influences" for homosexuality in the country, which he said threatened to destroy the nation. Ian Swartz, coordinator of the Rainbow Project, Namibia's only gay rights group, said his office had been swamped with inquiries about emigration to neighboring South Africa. "We would like to know whether the president has made arrangements with the prison authorities to accommodate some 10 percent of the population," Swartz told the *Daily Dispatch*.

**Leader of anti-gay Orthodox Church in Romania is gay, secret files say**

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Files from the Romanian secret police that indicate the country's 87-year-old Orthodox patriarch is gay were leaked to the media last week. The files also reveal that Patriarch Teoctist was a member of a pro-Nazi and anti-Semitic group and took part in a 1941 rampage at a Bucharest synagogue. The Orthodox Church has been vehemently anti-gay in the last several years, opposing attempts to liberalize anti-gay laws to improve Romania's chances of entering the European Union. The previous Romanian government, which was pro-European Union, began the process of releasing information from the Securitate files. The current government, which is more supportive of Romanian's Communist past, objected to the release of the information. "A person who has reached the age of 87 deserves some respect," said President Ion Iliescu, adding that the disclosure showed "a lack of decency."

**Israeli high court ruling allows reunion of lesbian couple, children**

JERUSALEM—Israel's High Court of Justice ruled March 19 that two rabbinical courts were unauthorized to decide on a man's request to prohibit his ex-wife from letting their children spend time with her lesbian partner, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. The decision, which overturns decisions by rabbinical courts in Haifa and Jerusalem, paved the way for the two divorced women and their children to legally reunite for the first time since May 1999. "I feel that I am beginning to live my life freely, the way everyone is supposed to live in this country, without anyone interfering in my private affairs," said one of women, who were not identified. In 1998, the man had asked to have his child support payments reduced and to keep his child away from his ex-wife's partner. The first rabbinical court found that it did not have jurisdiction over the child support case, and then ruled on the second issue. The High Court found that the rabbinical court should have disqualified itself from hearing the visitation issue.

**U.K.'s leading toy stores reject Eminem doll over 'visual impact'**

LONDON—Two of Britain's largest toy retailers have said they won't sell a doll of rapper Eminem, Reuters reported. Woolworths said the doll features the singer's trademark chainsaw, tattoos and the words "cut here" scrawled on his neck. "We were offered the Eminem doll but decided not to stock it. The visual impact didn't fit with our family environment and having it around a Barbie doll, for example, didn't feel right," Woolworths' spokesperson Nicole Lander said. Britain's most famous toy retailer, Hamleys, also said it would not stock the doll. Eminem, criticized for his homophobic and misogynistic lyrics, but championed for producing a definitive rap style, performed a sold-out tour of Britain last month. Woolworths said it would continue selling Eminem's albums because they were aimed at older shoppers and were not visually controversial.

**Anniversary event for Israeli gay group sparks fallout in Knesset**

JERUSALEM—The marking of the 25th anniversary of the first gay rights group in Israel was marred by denunciation from Orthodox Jewish members of the Knesset, the *Jerusalem Post* reported. Ten Knesset members attended the event honoring the Association of Homosexuals & Lesbians, with Labor Knesset Member Yael Dayan sitting underneath a Pride flag and serving as host. Outside the room, Knesset member Nissim Ze'ev, an ultra-Orthodox Jewish legislator, called homosexuality "a disease." Gay activist Adir Steiner shouted back, "You're an embarrassment to this institution." Earlier in the week, gays had also been denounced in the national media by popular Israeli singer Ariel Zilber. Michal Eden, an openly gay member of the Tel Aviv City Council, said Ze'ev's comments are dangerous, because they can cause gay youths to consider suicide, and that his ideas were better suited to Iran.



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—From staff and wire reports

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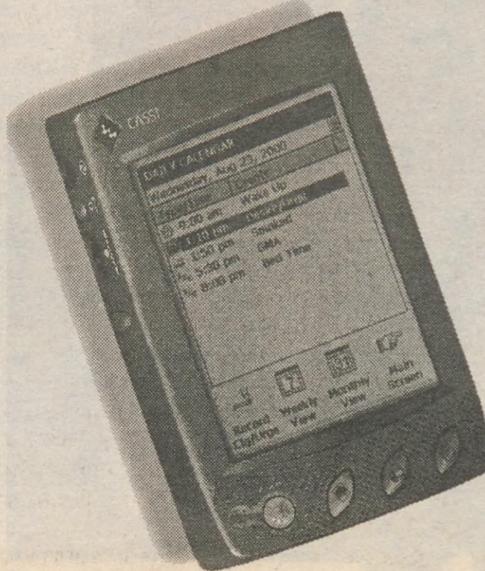
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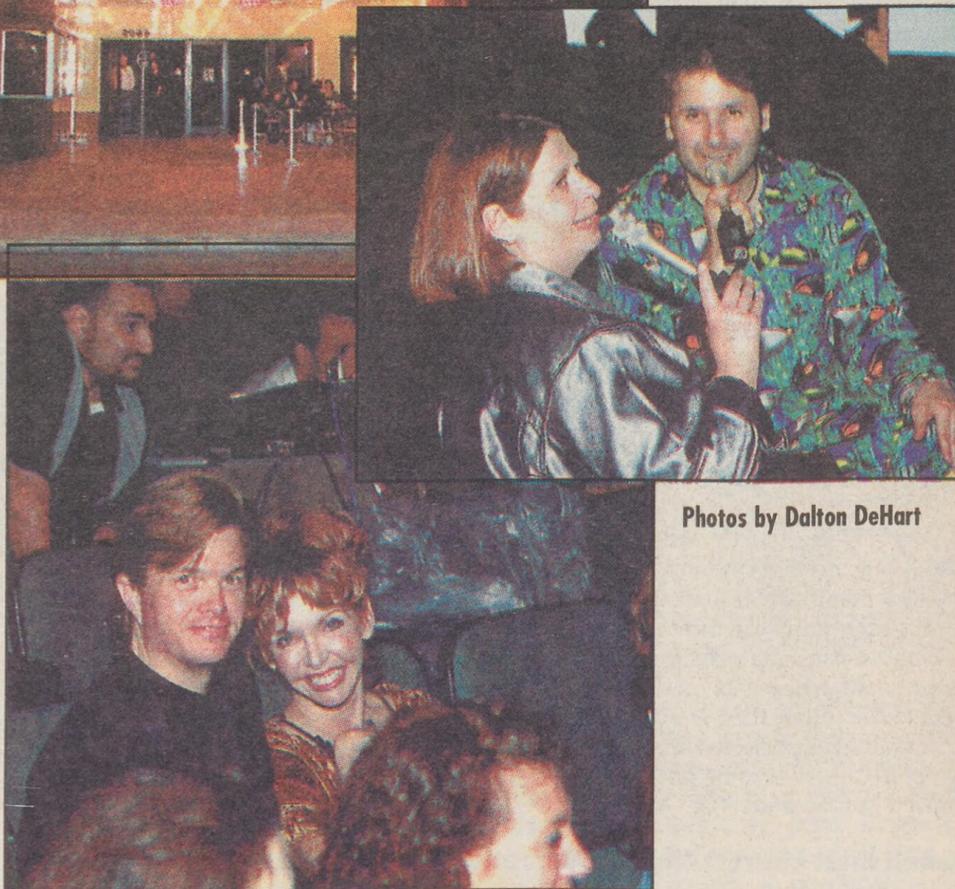
# softball league



A variety of activities took place last weekend, including the opening of the Montrose Softball League on March 25. Houston City Councilwoman Annise Parker threw out the first pitch, while teams such as the one sponsored by Rich's nightclub participated in the season openers. Members of Houston's transgender community celebrated their annual Unity Banquet March 24 at the Westchase Hilton. Also on March 24, a Progressive Dinner benefiting AssistHers and An Uncommon Legacy had diners boarding chartered buses to travel from course to course for the meal. On March 25, Oscar viewing parties were held at the Angelika theater downtown and at the Landmark River Oaks theater, where KUHT's Ernie Manouse and the Texas Triangle's Nancy Ford shared hosting duties.



# oscar night

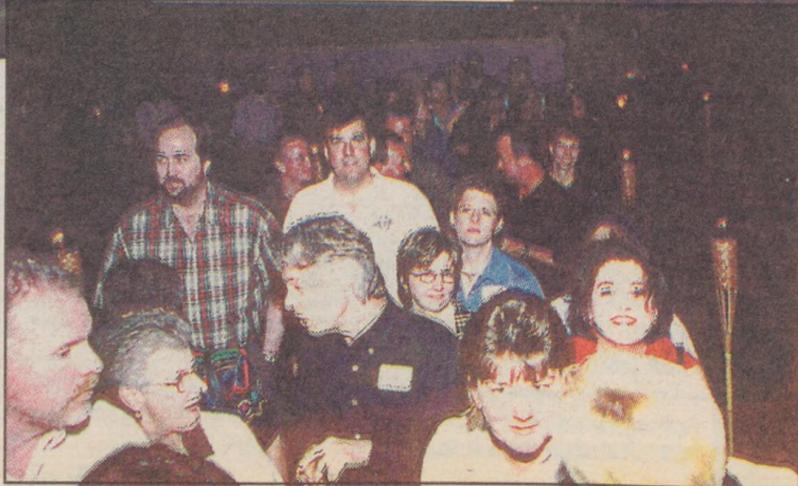


Photos by Dalton DeHart

# unity banquet



# progressive dinner



# Out on the Bayou

A guide for your leisure time



HOUSTON VOICE • MARCH 30, 2001

## RESURRECTION

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### DISCO CRAZE IS BACK WITH A VENGEANCE, THIS TIME SANS BELL-BOTTOMS AND PLATFORMS

by D.L. GROOVER

You may think that last week's death of Glenn Hughes, the hirsute leatherman from the Village People, signaled the end of an era. Or when iconographic disco bunny from "Saturday Night Fever," Tony Manero, a.k.a. John Travolta, hung up his polyester dance suit and sported a sweatshirt emblazoned with "Scientology Rules," that would have been the death knell.

Perhaps, when the karma chameleon himself, Boy George, who had dropped off the pop radar for what seemed like decades, resurfaced and set his career sights on becoming a London DJ, the mirrored ball finally stopped spinning.

But, no, the '70s disco craze is alive and well, if somewhat altered, from those prehistoric days of bell bottoms, platform shoes and mind-bending chemicals. And it's back where it all started: the gay club scene.

In his brief and breathless history of disco, "Hot Stuff," author John-Manuel Andriote chronicles the incredibly short span when disco ruled the earth. Ushered in by the L.A.-based soul group, the Hues Corporation, and their "Rock the Boat" in 1974, this amalgam of black and Latin music with its insatiable rhythm, heavy beat and textured orchestration crossed over into the white gay clubs, and then spread with a vengeance into the straight hangouts.

It's pace was so incredibly fast and all-encompassing that six of the Top 10 records of 1976 were "disco-flavored."

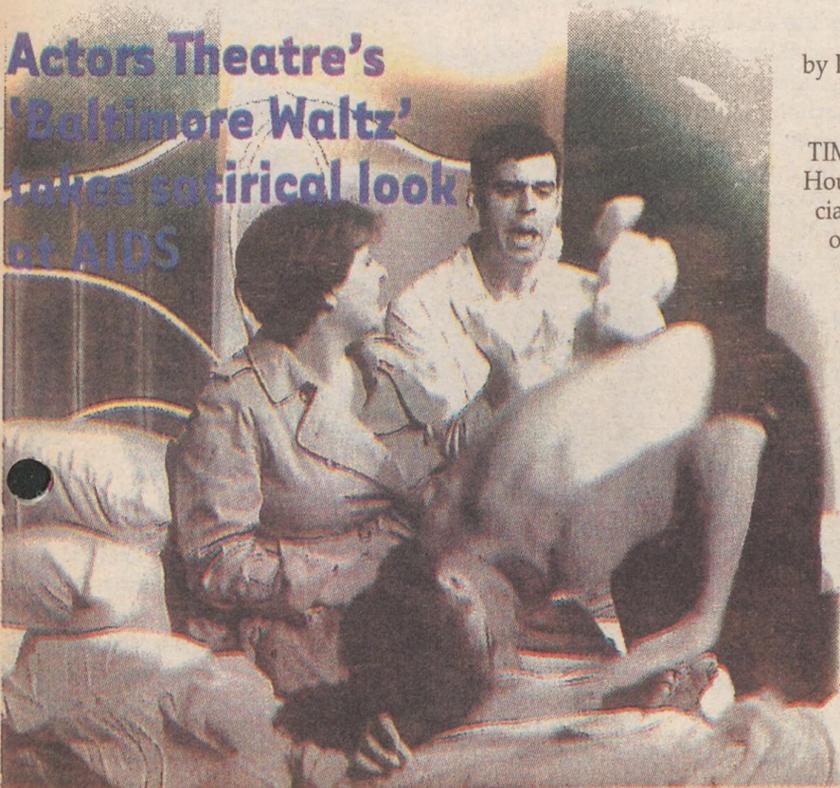
Disco's two seminal events occurred almost simultaneously in 1977: the release of the movie "Saturday Night Fever" with its Bee Gee's double LP soundtrack that immediately went Number One and was named Album of the Year; and in NYC, Ian Schrager and Steve Rubell opened what was to become, overnight, the mother of all hedonistic palaces—Studio 54.

> Continued on Page 16

Disc jockey J.D. Arnold opened Rich's, and he's still here on Thursdays and Saturdays. A highly successful DJ/sound mixer in England, who worked at the legendary London gay disco Heaven, as well as venues in Amsterdam and Germany, this Brighton native moved to Houston in 1981 and stayed. Disc jockey J.D. Arnold opened Rich's, and he's still here on Thursdays and Saturdays. A highly successful DJ/sound mixer in England, who worked at the legendary London gay disco Heaven, as well as venues in Amsterdam and Germany, this Brighton native moved to Houston in 1981 and stayed.

## Dance of death... with pratfalls

Actors Theatre's  
'Baltimore Waltz'  
takes satirical look  
at AIDS



by D.L. GROOVER

Paula Vogel's swingin' fantasia on AIDS, BALTIMORE WALTZ, arrives in its Actors Theatre of Houston's incarnation with high-stepping insouciance overlaid with a haunting rhythm right out of the human heart.

A distant cousin to Kushner's epic rumination, "Angels in America," Vogel's Obie-award winning comedy/drama is mercifully shorter, wildly funnier, yet just as cathartic.

Filled with her trademark linguistic curlicues, brief cinematic scenes, Marx Brothers' zaniness, and theatrical flourishes, "Waltz" is a satiric look at the utter devastation of AIDS, the hopelessness of the afflicted and the survivors, filtered through a crazy quilt of gay sensibility.

With shocking irreverence, she makes us laugh out loud at this disease with its obtuse doctors who talk in arcane phrases, with their bizarre science-fiction cures, with the futility of it all. She makes us believe that laughter is the cure; that it's the

only way to face this, to make us whole again.

Unmarried, of a certain age, and an elementary school teacher, Anna (Kate Revnell-Smith) has been infected by the dark, dreaded malady of "her kind," ATD: acquired toilet disease. Which one of her ugly little students did this to her, she cries out.

Not wanting anyone to know of her affliction, she is abetted by her newly unemployed, beloved brother Carl (Greg Gorden) who drags her off to Europe to find the cutting-edge Viennese doctor who may have the cure.

While still able to feel and function, Anna goes on a sex bender with any male in sight: a French waiter, a Munich virgin bellboy, the ancient and paunchy Little Dutch Boy, a radical student activist; while Carl, carrying his stuffed bunny rabbit, plays like a film noire cold war spy attempting to reconnoiter with the mysterious Dr. Todosrochein (played, as are all the former characters, by Foster Davis).

Through the low-comedy situations and the high-comedy writing, we gradually discern what Vogel is up to. The realization slaps us when Carl gives a slideshow of their overseas trip. What he describes as Gothic

> Continued on Page 16

# DISCO CRAZE ORIGINATED IN GAY CLUBS

> Continued from Page 15

It was a temple to dance, to drugs, to sex, and for a time was the hottest spot on earth.

Disco's fusion music arrived when it was most needed, argues Andriote. The turbulent '60s dissolved into the divisive Vietnam war, Kent State, stagflation, world-wide oil shortages, and the political disheartening Watergate scandal. Suddenly, self-absorption ruled; the Me Decade was in full personal swagger.

Abetted by the endless profusion of designer drugs, people wanted an escape from guilt, limits, and restraint. What better way to let it all hang out than on the dance floor. Preferably, one with lights embedded in it, a retro mirrored ball twirling over it, banks of artificial fog clouding the view, and a decibel-shattering sound system to thump those drugs through your brain.

Dancing, unlike its earlier days, became much more than a metaphor for sex. It became sex. Cocaine with a popper chaser. Gay and straight discos flourished.

But even though Gloria Gaynor earned her Grammy award for her Number One platinum hit, "I Will Survive," and the Village People were relishing their hit disco anthems, "Y.M.C.A." and "In the Navy," all in 1979, the disco fog was dissipating.

In Chicago in July of that year, radio shock jock Steve Dahl held his "Disco Demolition Night" in Comiskey Park where anti-disco agitators actually stopped the

double-header by hurtling their 12-inch dance singles into Dahl's planned center field inferno.

In November that same year, Studio 54 crashed and burned in a highly publicized tax evasion scandal. The world-wide pop cultural phenomenon, even at 142 beats per minute, went up in smoke.

According to Andriote, the hedonism and narcissism of disco culture, tied to the distinctive monotony in its music, doomed it.

The crassness and mass production—everyone recorded a disco album, from Sinatra to Ethel Merman—heaped excess baggage upon the fragile and fun times, until it all collapsed under its own weight.

But a cultural pandemic that permitted grannies to do the hustle couldn't disappear entirely. Like everything else, disco's distinctive style successfully morphed into the ubiquitous "dance music" still heard today. The gay clubs kept the beat alive.

Houston had its discotheques, of course, but it wasn't until 1983 with the opening of Rich's that the alternative lifestyle came into its own dance rhythm.

Billed as the largest dance floor in Texas, this gay dance palace with its floor to ceiling video screen, blazing techno light shows, and state-of-the-art sound system rivaled

even the fabled Studio 54 in its patrons' pursuit of pleasure. Naturally, it had an immense spiked mirrored ball and fog machinery that the Weather Channel would envy.

Disc jockey J.D. Arnold opened Rich's, and he's still here on Thursdays and Saturdays, "designing the night" for the club kids. A highly successful DJ/sound mixer in England, who worked at the legendary London gay disco Heaven, as well as venues in Amsterdam and Germany, this Brighton native moved to Houston in 1981 and stayed. On Fridays he also hosts a club dance music program on KRTX 100.7 FM from 1 until 4 a.m.

"The scene's more like it was when I actually moved here, which was even before Rich's opened," J.D. explained as he prepared for the evening's rush.

In the high-tech sound booth overlooking the dance floor, he's surrounded by a dozen brushed-aluminum boxes holding his extensive collection of dance records and CDs. The mixing console resembles a high-end film studio's.

"It's become very much a big party scene, bigger than it was in the early days," recalls J.D. "Maybe because the new generation didn't go through what we went through, and they're ready to party. It was a different attitude out there then, and now they're ready to go out and have a good

time again. Houston's very much a party town.

"On the straight scene, I'm kind of specialized because I'm known as a house DJ, but here on a Saturday night I play what they call a circuit sound. It's a very different sound. It's almost gone back to the heyday of disco.

"On the gay scene, it's much more about anthems, songs that people can relate to. They want to hear the words, they want it to be uplifting. They don't want it to be down. The gay's have more fun."

He designs the songs for the night's revelers through musical instincts honed over years. He starts by playing a few numbers for himself, experimenting with those he's not sure of, then moves into a more commercial set to get the crowd with him. It's rare when he'll take a request. It's his show, after all, and he's proud of his work.

Once he has the opening out of the way and can accurately judge the mood of the dancers, he's ready to take them where he wants to go.

It's a feeling thing, not a thinking thing, just following the energy. It's not something I really analyze very often.

"I think the dance changes and it's always progressing," J.D. explains, "but I don't think it's remarkably different. I think the biggest difference in the music from those days is that it used to be about the artists and the producers, and now it's about the remix DJ."



## Actors Theatre gives 'Waltz' appropriately sparse treatment

> Continued from Page 15

cathedrals and Italianate piazzas are nothing more than views of Baltimore and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

It's a visual coup de theatre worthy of an angel smashing through the skylight. Anna's flights of fantasy crash and burn. Carl is dead, and we've never left the hospital lounge at all. We've been inside the labyrinth of Anna's brain all this time.

She repeats what she said at the beginning of the play, "there's nothing I can do." But there is. She can remember. The lights blaze, Carl returns in "Student Prince" uniform, a Strauss waltz plays, and brother and sister whirl around the stage, united in memory.

"Baltimore Waltz" is Vogel's memento mori for her brother Carl who died of AIDS in 1988, and her tribute is given a most loving production at Actors Theatre. With a dexterous hand, director/designer George Brock invests this haunting fantasy with sparse, imaginative vignettes that have the smooth logic of a dream.

The lighting is especially fine, fixing the actors in harsh pin spots like entomology specimens or washing the medical scenes in sulphurous glow.

Kate Revnell-Smith brings Anna to

life with salty believability. Angry, confused, scared to death, or relishing the body of her next idle conquest, she conveys the down-to-earth humanity and hollowness of what it's like to be stricken with a fatal disease.

In a great comic riff, she runs through the seven classic stages of the terminally ill, from denial and bargaining through depression and lust, almost in one breath. Her love of life is palpable and heart-wrenching.

Last seen in the show-stopping role of fey fashion photographer Russell Paxton in Main Street Theatre's exquisite semi-concert version of "Lady in the Dark," Greg Gorden seems destined to stop this show, also, with his life-affirming, very gay reading as Carl. Prodding, probing, goading his sister to keep going when all looks dismal, Gorden is immensely appealing with his giddy, goofy take on the world.

Lurking around corners, waiting for the black marketeer by waving his stuffed rabbit as decoy, or teaching the children's reading class how to give the finger to his supervisor when he's fired from his job, he is the sweetest of young men.

He'll do anything for his sister, and it shows winningly.

All other characters, including an

omniscient narrator, are played by Foster Davis with great comic flair, including his dead-on imitation of Peter Sellers' Dr. Strangelove, and a bizarre over-the-hill Little Dutch Boy retelling for tourists his hilarious, yet poignant, story about saving Holland by plugging the hole in the dike, even though he didn't mean to.

In a letter Carl wrote to his playwright sister while he was dying of pneumonia, he left playful instructions as to his funeral. "I want a good show, even though my role has been reduced involuntarily from player to prop. Do stop by for a visit from year to year. And feel free to chat. You'll find me a good listener."

It's Carl's irrepressible irreverence when faced with death that Vogel captures with such striking accuracy, and that Actors Theatre plays so convincingly. It breaks our heart, but leaves us laughing.



Kate Revnell-Smith, Greg Gorden and Foster Davis star in the Actors Theatre of Houston's production of the haunting fantasy and dark comedy of 'Baltimore Waltz.' The play runs through April 28.

INFO

### 'Baltimore Waltz'

Through April 28  
Actors Theatre of Houston, 2506  
South Blvd.  
713-529-6606

# Bayou Calendar

## Cheesecake & Sausage

Leave it to the cutting-edge Commerce St. Art Warehouse to combine an erotic art exhibition with a fashion show. Hey, why not? The buff and beautiful models will sashay through the dirty pictures by such artists as Max Boyd Harrison, Susan Paul, Julia Kolomina, Dune Patten and Lyle Glass. Afterward, you can dance around the room if you can pry yourself away from the walls. I bet you won't be looking at your feet. The party ends at midnight, but the exhibit remains on view through Sunday.

March 31, 6 p.m. to midnight; fashion show at 8

April 1, 3 a.m. (!) to 8 p.m.

Commerce Street Art Warehouse, 2315 Commerce Street  
713-237-0467

## Bed Boys & Beyond

Alfredo Alvarez and Jeff Dobbins' very gay musical revue, "Bed, Boys and Beyond," begins its two-month run with a special benefit preview performance for Houston Buyers Club. Cheese and wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be the curtain raiser until the boys come out singing about the life and times of being gay in NYC. Tickets for the special



evening are \$25. Call Fred at 713-520-5288, or the theater's box office, 713-394-0464. The revue runs until May 26.

April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Theatre New West, 1415 California  
713-394-0464

## Chesapeake

Take one bi-sexual performance artist, with problems of his own, lock him in a room with a hard rightwing Senator who's out to slash his arts funding, and you've got a dandy little cocktail that defines the term strange bedfellows. Lee Blessing's stinging contemporary fantasy hits all the right notes: the Bible, sex,

parents, comic books, and Lassie. In the Houston premiere, Todd Porter plays all the above.

Weekends through April 21

Theater LaB Houston, 1706 Alamo  
713-868-7516

## Chicago

If you like your cynicism served with a capital C, if you like your Broadway show produced with sizzling attitude, then Kander & Ebb & Fosse's musical vaudeville version of the life and times of Roxie Hart, the 1920's murderess cum media darling, is just your cup of tea, laced with strychnine. In this era of crashing chandeliers, flying helicopters, and singing lions, you will discover an exhilaration and joy in watching the "razzle dazzle" of performers, who at one point, merely sit in two chairs and croon a song. Bleak, misanthropic, and gleefully smug.

March 30, 8 p.m.; March 31, 2 & 8 p.m.; April 1, 2 p.m.

The Grand 1894 Opera House, Galveston Island  
1-800-821-1894

## The American Plan

Fragile daughters vs. uncompromising mothers is the theme of this serio-comedy set in a Catskills resort, where all the guests and visitors have secrets to tell and hidden agendas. No one is quite whom they seem to be in Richard Greenberg's dissection of the power of memory, revenge, and love.

April 2 to 30

Little Room Downstairs, 2332 Bissonnet  
713-522-5737

## Dinner With Friends

With his play about modern marriage and friendship, enlightened with many fine riffs on food, Donald Margulies won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for drama. Gabe and Karen, two married baby boomers, much to their chagrin must re-examine their life together when their best friends separate. The realities of life, the simple things, are dissected with comic, yet distressing, proportions. Life's not a cabaret, but a soufflé: enjoy every mouthful, before it deflates.

April 6 to May 5

Alley Theater, 615 Texas  
713-228-8421

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Brad Gooch

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# Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEW

## Vegetarian dream

Udupi knows value, purpose of meatless dishes

by TRAYCE DISKIN

For this food-loving vegetarian, the phrase "imitation-veggie" conjures images of strange, rubbery dishes thrown together for strictly cosmetic effect.

Therefore, I was happily surprised to discover that **UDUPI**, a new vegetarian Indian restaurant in the doomed Shepard Plaza, knows the value and purpose of delicious food.

What's truly magical about Udupi Cafe is that unlike other strictly veggie places, they don't try to make up for their meatless universe by inventing imitations. Rather, they rely on what lovers of Indian food already know—it's the delicate combination of spices and flavors that make the dish.

Although some dishes can be a little heavy on the clarified butter, or ghee and thus a tad too greasy, Udupi packs an overwhelming amount of flavor into each dish.

The appetizers are a mouth-watering case in point. The tennis ball-sized Samosas (\$2.50) pack a hearty mixture of potatoes, peas and coriander behind their crisp exterior. It's worth savoring every bite just to dip and double-dip into the three accompanying sauces. Along with the tamarind chutney and light, milky padachi, thin yogurt with shredded carrots and cucumbers, the cilantro/mint dip is nearly addictive, as I found myself adding more than a dollop to the extra rice.

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The Medhu Vada (\$2.95), described as "fried lentil donuts," but more akin to fried onion rings in appearance, are best avoided, as the sponge-like texture soaks up more grease than flavoring.

The Mysore Bonda (\$2.95) transforms the shape of these into dumplings, but unfortunately, not the grease content.

Better to head straight for the deliciously piquant curries, which go easy on the butter and splurge on spices, veggies and flavor. The Aloo Gobi (\$6.95) features tender, beautifully steamed cauliflower with chunks of potatoes,

## Udupi Cafe

2121 Richmond  
713.521.3939

**FOOD FILE**  
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

tomatoes and fried onions. The tomato curry took on a deep, gorgeous brick color, which only enhanced this delicious choice.

The Palak Paneer (\$7.95), is always a favorite of mine in and Udupi's rivals any I've had in Houston's more established Indian restaurants. The spinach base stews in tomatoes, onions and curry spices for a silky, grassy effect. The blocks of homemade cheese have the pillowy consistency and texture of tofu, but with a sharper bite. In fact, a few more cheese cubes would have please this greedy diner even more.

The Chana Masala (\$6.95) is, literally, another golden choice. Plump, moist chickpeas simmer in a stew of tomato, ginger and garlic and the mingling of spices and veggies are exquisite.

Udupi specializes in a wide variety of Dosa—rice crepes and Uthappam, Indian-style pancakes—two dishes often hard to find in other restaurants. The Tomato and Peas Uthappam (\$5.99) was disappointingly tough and featured more papery tomato skins than the thick, juicy tomatoes in other dishes. The Dosai, however, were outstanding, if a little greasy.

Try the Mysore Masala (\$6.25) with hot chutney, potatoes and onions, or the Rava Masala with chilies, potatoes and onions.

Almost as delightful as many of the dishes, are the prices. The Royalty dinners offer diners a sampling of many dishes, for \$11-14. Creamy soups, such as mushroom, tomato and lentil, run below \$3.50 and the specialties, such as the wonderful Mushroom Karavali, chopped fresh mushrooms simmered in coconut milk will cost you no more than \$7.95.

Although the dining room is spacious, clean and the staff friendly and welcoming, the ambiance is a bit clinical and cold. A stunning, but completely out-of-place chandelier hangs above the tile floor, beside the exposed pipes and ducts, painted a ruthless black in an otherwise mauve room. A muted carpet would make all the difference, one friend suggested.

Nevertheless, Udupi is an essential addition to the array of Indian choices in the loop and both carnivores and vegetarians are sure to welcome it with open mouths and arms.

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# "quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCKNER

"Love is love, whether you're gay or straight. The gay character that I play is non-stereotypical when one thinks about how many gay men are portrayed in films. That is why I took the role. It is one of the best gay roles I have seen in film. His sexuality is not really even brought into the picture until he eyes someone in a bar and Julia Roberts' character asks him point blank if he is gay since he is staring at the guy. When it is brought up, it is done in a very tasteful way."

—"Sopranos" actor James Gandolfini (right) on his role in the new film "The Mexican," to Boston's *Bay Windows*, March 9



"[The new gay sitcom] 'Some of My Best Friends' isn't terrible enough to hate, but it's not promising either. The premise is restricting, narrow and, oddly or not, inhibiting. One can hardly expect an audience to want to spend time with these people each week when they act as if they have no desire to spend time with one another."

—*Washington Post* TV critic Tom Shales, Feb. 28, about the new sitcom based upon the movie "Kiss Me Guido"



"Yes, I'm a homosexual. Perhaps I'm underestimating the consequences of the discussion we are having today, but I'm 48 years old. ... I must live with my convictions, ... and my career has never been the most important thing to me."

—Newly elected Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë (left) in a 1998 TV interview

"With an openly gay mayor [and] gays and lesbians dancing to 'I Will Survive' under a rainbow flag in front of City Hall, ... some are having a hard time believing their eyes and ears. ... Sunday night was a taste of something never seen before."

—Gay.com France Editor Olivier Monnot in a March 19 article

"Rosie O'Donnell... regularly regales her viewers with personal tidbits about her children and her home—she once even installed a camera in her nursery—but she never mentions the woman who shares both her life and her home. That, of course, is her prerogative, but are the media really compelled to play along? When Jack Nicholson shows up at a Lakers game with a date, the columns report it the next day. But when O'Donnell's blonde friend accompanies her week after week to her box at WNBA games, she turns invisible."

—Maer Roshan writing in *New York* magazine, March 5

"Rosie O'Donnell is out of the closet—and happy about it. The big-hearted talk-show titan has never made a secret of her sexuality, say pals, but she's never shouted that she's a lesbian from the rooftops, either. Now, Rosie has been outed officially by *New York* magazine and she's saying 'What's the big deal?' to pals."

—*The Globe* tabloid, March 20



"After carefully witnessing the Eminem and Elton duet, telecast on the Grammy Awards, I can honestly say that I'm far more concerned with the growing list of acceptable closet cases (Rosie O'Donnell, Ricky Martin, Sean Hayes, Kevin Spacey and Barry Diller among them) than I am with the teaming of the 'unacceptable' (not my word) Homo and the Homophobe."

—Michael Kearns writing in *Los Angeles' Fab*, March 16

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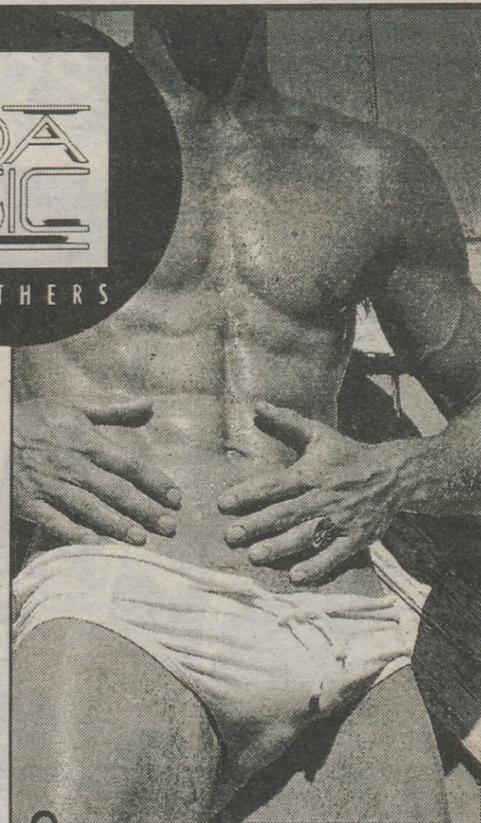


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# out in music

by ERIN O'BRIANT

## Sobule heads South.

Jill Sobule calls her new compilation CD a 'taster'

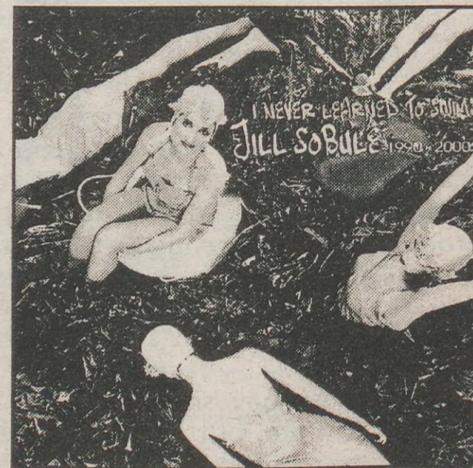
Everyone who's been out for a few years remembers when JILL SOBULE's song "I Kissed a Girl" hit the air waves in 1995. The pop-inspired tune, which gleefully describes a spontaneous make-out session between two semi-straight women, was banned in parts of the South. But that didn't stop it from being what Sobule calls "half a hit"—that is, in the queer universe it was a really big deal. And it gained some mainstream popularity before it disappeared.

But now "I Kissed a Girl" is back, along with several other fun songs on Sobule's latest CD, "I Never Learned to Swim." The compilation features Sobule's favorite tunes from the past 10 years. She calls it a "beginning career perspective."

Sobule wasn't keen on releasing a compilation CD at first. "The compilation was the label's idea," she explains. "I felt kind of funny about it. But then I went along with it as a taster for people. I'm proud of these records." The CD also includes two new songs, "Big Shoes" and "Smoke Dreams."

Sobule chose the intriguing title since, "I wasn't going to call it 'The Greatest Super Mega Hits,'" she laughs. "Originally, but they didn't go for it, I wanted to have my mom on the cover and call it 'Songs My Mother Thought Should Be Hits.'" Sobule says the title "I Never Learned to Swim" seemed appropriate, too.

"First of all, I don't know how to swim



and it could be a metaphor for being in the industry. I haven't quite figured out how to win the game here," she says.

Never mind. Sobule's still working as a critically acclaimed musician. "I might not have reached super-stardom, but maybe it's all for the better," she says. "I'm still alive and I'm feeling more vibrant than ever as far as performing all the time and recording."

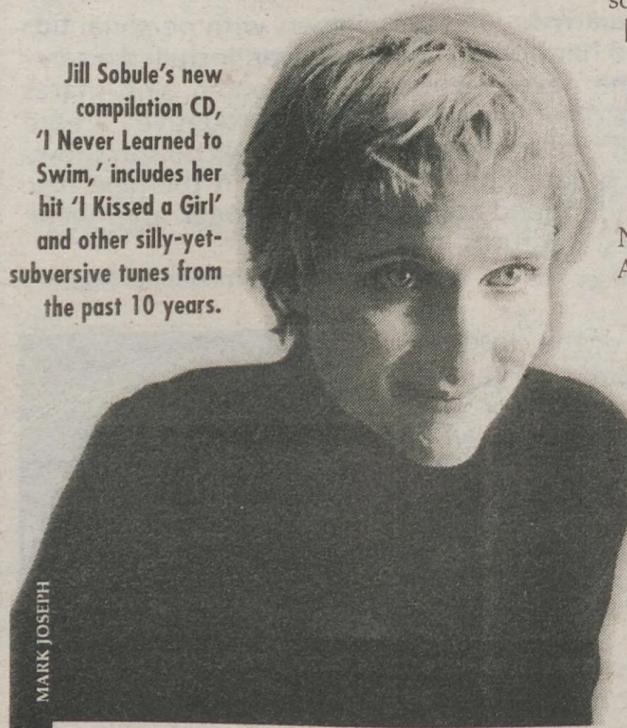
Sobule, who is openly bisexual, hasn't stopped singing about queer life, either. "I'm sure every album has [gay] references, though not as blatant," she says. "You have to look at some of the lyrics. There's some gender-free stuff going on there."

Sobule also sings about an imaginary affair with Kathie Lee Gifford. She likes to perform it when she opens for Don Henley. "I come onstage and open up and these people don't even know 'I Kissed a Girl' and I do this Kathie Lee song and song about Dr. Laura [Schlessinger] and I have a song about ex-gay ministries and they don't know what to think of me!" Sobule says. "But it's great; everyone's very embracing."

Sobule performed in Nashville last week and will be in Atlanta and Tallahassee, Fla., soon. She's looking forward to it. "You know, I find a smarter audience [in the South] than, say, the Midwest," she says. "There's stations in the South that play me more than in the heartland." The South, Sobule points out, is "not people with no teeth that go to NASCAR shows."

When asked what she wants to say to *Southern Voice* readers, Sobule doesn't even pause.

"Tell people to come to the show," she says. "It's fun!"



MARK JOSEPH

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# on screen

FILM, VIDEO & TV REVIEWS

by STEVE WARREN

## Spies and survivors on the big screen

After three months of dumb and dumber comedies, be grateful for a witty satire of international affairs and a prophetic view of where "reality television" is headed.

Though based on a John le Carre novel **THE TAILOR OF PANAMA** is much closer to "Our Man in Havana" than "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold."

Pierce Brosnan plays washed-up British agent Andy Osnard, who's sent to Panama for screwing up (and around) in Spain. There's a lot of uncertainty in this potential trouble spot since the U.S. returned the Panama Canal to its host country.

Given carte blanche to establish a network of informants Andy finds his man in Panama, Harry Pendel (Geoffrey Rush), a British tailor who knows everyone and has a vivid imagination—his clothes and gossip are both spun from whole cloth.

Before this windfall Harry's on the verge of losing the farm he bought with the inheritance of his American wife Louisa (Jamie Lee Curtis). His fables about a rebel force, "the Silent Opposition," and an international bidding war for the canal are good for Andy's career but eventually advance the situation to the brink of war—and possibly beyond.

The men build their tailor-client relationship into a friendship, yet act unnecessarily cloak-and-daggerish, meeting in a hotel frequented by prostitutes and a gay bar (Andy leads when they dance). Even Louisa, on meeting Andy, says, "If I didn't know [Harry] better I'd swear the two of you are gay."

Director John Boorman, whose sense of humor has not previously been his long suit, builds a subtle air of tension, in part by showing the violence of the past to suggest the possibility of more in the future. The script by Andrew Davies, le Carre and



Pierce Brosnan (right) and Jamie Lee Curtis (left) star in 'The Tailor of Panama.'

Boorman is mostly fresh and clever.

Harry calls Panama "Casablanca without heroes," and in a way "The Tailor of Panama" is "Casablanca" without heroes—with what passes for heroes today: men who are charming but whose loyalty doesn't extend beyond the boundaries of their own bodies.

**SERIES 7: THE CONTENDERS** was conceived and shot before the American version of "Survivor." Being released during the run of "Survivor 2" it looks as if it was intended as a spoof of that series and the genre it triggered.

While "Series 7" can be viewed that way—it's actually a satire on the conditions that spawned the competitive "reality" shows. By

Glenn Fitzgerald plays ex-gay artist and pacifist Jeff in 'Series 7: The Contenders.'



the time it reaches television it may appear prophetic, if life imitates art and follows the current trend to its illogical extreme.

It's essentially "Survivor" with guns: the competitors don't vote each other out, they take each other out. They're not volunteers but are picked in a national lottery.

Each series pits five new challengers against the reigning champion. A champion who wins three times gets to retire from the competition.

Dawn (Brooke Smith), who happens to be eight months pregnant, is going for her third and final win. The location for Series 7 is the Connecticut hometown she left 15 years ago without looking back.

The scene where she visits her mother and sister suggests that had Divine lived, this is another Dawn he could have played.

The other Contenders range in age from 18 to 72 but one, Jeff (Glenn Fitzgerald), was Dawn's high school sweetheart.

This was when Jeff was pre-gay. Now he's "ex-gay," married to Doria (Angelina Phillips) and not happy about being "outed in front of millions of people."

He also has testicular cancer and doesn't expect to live long, whatever the outcome of Series 7.

Writer-director Daniel Minahan has a background in television that serves him well when it comes to aping the style of the medium in this compressed "marathon" showing of the entire series. Shot in documentary style, "Series 7" looks like "The Blair Witch Project" but with talent on both sides of the camera.

Of two "Survivor" junkies I asked, one loved "Series 7: The Contenders," the other thought it was stupid. Well, duh—like, "Survivor" is a PhD thesis? I didn't love it, but I liked it enough to call it an example of bad television being turned into good cinema.

### 'The Tailor of Panama'

★★★

Directed by John Boorman

Starring Pierce Brosnan, Geoffrey Rush, Jamie Lee Curtis

**Queer Quotient:** Although they're not queer the scene where Brosnan and Rush dance in a gay bar is worth the price of admission.

### 'Series 7: The Contenders'

★★★

Directed by Daniel Minahan

Starring Brooke Smith, Glenn Fitzgerald, Marylouise Burke

**Queer Quotient:** One of the main characters sees the light (in ?QAF? terms), which makes for some good digs at the ex-gay movement.

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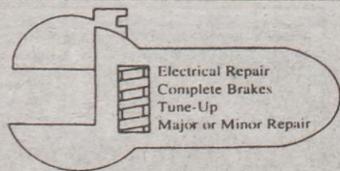


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Q-Patrol walks the streets 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.  
Dignity mass. 7:30 p.m. for gay Catholics. 713-880-2872.  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Rosary 8 a.m. 1805 W. Alabama. 713-528-6665.  
Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club. Call for ride locations. 713-863-1860.  
Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club. 9:30 p.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 hours noon to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

### sunday, april 1

Blessed Sacrament Liberal Catholic Church. Study Group 11:30 a.m. Mass 12:30 p.m. www.blessed-sacrament.net. 713-476-9776  
Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals meets. 713-942-7002.  
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 a.m. 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 a.m. & 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: Bisexuality. 1:30 p.m. 713-526-5200. church@firstuu.org.  
Houston Tennis Club. 9 a.m. Memorial Park at the Tennis Center. 713-692-2703.  
Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center Drop-in hours 2 to 4 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.  
Anarchist Black Cross Federation/Anarchist Reading Group. 1 p.m. www.houstonabc.org. 713-595-2103 X7585.  
PFLAG-Houston. Meeting. 2 p.m. 713-867-9020.

### monday, april 2

Gay Fathers/Fathers First. Support group. 8 p.m. www.GayFathers-Houston.org or 281-505-1788.  
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.  
HIV testing. STD Exams & treatment. Free. AVES. 1 p.m. 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.  
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours from 6 to 9 p.m. Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

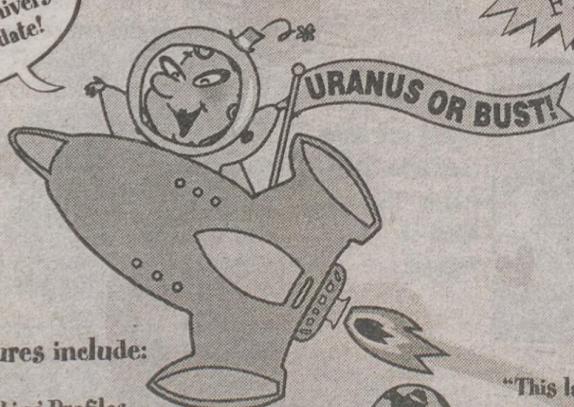
### tuesday, april 3

For Mature Audiences Only. Support group. 7 p.m. Bering Memorial UMC. 713-526-1017.  
Free HIV Testing by the 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.

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# calendar

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.

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

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • Lesbian Coming Out Group. 7 p.m. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

GLBT Chamber of Commerce. Sinner meeting. 6 p.m. 713-523-7576.

Lesbian Health Initiative. Meeting. 713-603-0023.

## wednesday, april 4

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

STD Exams & treatment. HIV Testing. Free. AVES. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mary's, Venture-N & E's. 713-830-3000.

BiNet Houston. 7:30 p.m. Women's Social. 713-467-4380

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 open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 936-441-1614.

Project: Caesar. Workshops. AFH. 3203 Wesleyan. 713-623-6796. Out Skate Rollerskating Club. 8 to 10 p.m. 8075 Cook Road. 281-933-5818.

Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 713-880-0670.

Study. Noon & 6:30 p.m. St. Stephen's Episcopal. 713-526-6005.

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 to 4 p.m. Lunch provided. 713-523-9530.

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

Lesbian Literature Discussion Group. 7 p.m. 713-523-3037.

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.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic 6 to 9 p.m. • 713-524-3818. Classic Chassis Car Club. Dinner meeting. 7 p.m. 713-797-8615.

## thursday, april 5

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal. 7 p.m. 4807 San Felipe. 713-521-7464.

Rainbow Ranglers free C&W dance lessons. Brazos River Bottom. 7 p.m. 713-880-0670.

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 open. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 281-633-2555.

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

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

HIV Art Course Program. 1 to 4 p.m. Kermit Eisenhut. 713-524-9530.

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

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

HIV Testing. Free. AVES. 713-626-2837.

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

Gulf Coast Transgender Community. Meeting. 713-780-4282.

## friday, april 6

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

Free HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Rich's. 713-830-3000.

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

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. 713-861-1800.

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

Positive Art Workshop. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer. 713-526-1118.

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

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center drop-in hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Positive Art Workshop Photography exhibition. • 803 Hawthorne. 713-524-3818.

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

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**MARANATHA MCC'S  
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When: April 27 at 7:30pm

Where: Kim Son Grand Ballroom, 1503 St. Emanuel

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6:30pm Sunday Evenings

April 1<sup>st</sup>

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Rev. Janet Parker

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For more info...  
713-528-6756 or email  
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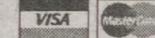
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# Classifieds

## Announcements

### PROJECT L.E.A.P.

The PWA Coalition-Houston announces the start of Project LEAP, an intensive training program for HIV positive individuals and others who want to be advocated for HIV/AIDS related services and funding. A 100 hour, 6 month program begins in April and will teach you all you need to know. For more info call Rich Arenschieldt at 713.522.5428 ext 28 or 1.800.999.0325

Gay & Lesbian Breakfast Club now forming. Walk Memorial Park 8:00 AM every Saturday morning. 3 Mile track. then head to breakfast at Java Java Cafe at 911 11th Street. Call 713.861.9149 or see our website: <http://members.aol.com/morningclub/index.htm>

Youth Empowerment Advocates of Houston, an outreach center for homeless youth, is seeking the following donations: clothing, hygiene supplies, towels, books, videos and backpacks. Call Andrea 713.523.9324

The Spay & Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP) will provide FREE spaying, neutering, rabies vaccination and Houston city license for animals belonging to qualifying low income dog & cat guardians. Call 713.522.2337 for qualifications, locations or more information.

### QUIT SMOKING!

Volunteers needed for research study using hand-held computer at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Free nicotine patches! Call 713-792-2265

### BAY AREA GAYS

Is a new social group in the greater Clear Lake area for "young-ish" gay men (ages 20-40). Call 281.488.0537

### PARTY RENTAL HALL

Parties, meeting, ceremonies, fundraising. Montrose location. Big laser/fog dance floor. Mahogany bar. Walk-in cooler. Game room. Free parking. Security. DJ included. Rental proceeds donated to local AIDS charity. 713.521.1613

## Employment

### CLUB NSOMNIA

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### 800 PACIFIC

Houston's top gay nightclubs are now accepting applications for managers, management trainees, bartenders door and floor staff. Offering Houston's best benefits package, including group health insurance.

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### PACIFIC STREET

Now accepting applications for all positions. Apply in person at 710 Pacific. Monday-Friday, 11am-3pm. Recent photo required. No phone calls please

### EJ's

Now accepting applications for Bartenders, Barbacks, Clean-Up and Door Security. Applications accepted Monday through Friday, 2:00-4:00 pm only. Recent photo helpful. Absolutely no phone calls, please. Apply in person at 2517 Ralph

### Retail Sales Opportunity

Salesperson needed for Lady's & Man's Resale Shop. 14020 Memorial Drive. Apply in person Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm. No phone calls, please

Project CAESAR is looking for a P/T Outreach Educator. Bilingual a plus, and minorities are encouraged to apply. Experience in HIV/AIDS education preferred but not necessary. TDH grant funded position, up to 30 hours per week. Great job for student. Fax or mail resumes to: Director of Education, AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc., 3202 Wesleyan Annex, Hou, TX 77027. FAX 713.623.4029. No phone calls please

### MIDTOWN SPA HOUSTON

Apply in person. Start at \$6.50 per hour

### CHANCE OF A LIFETIME SOUTH BEACH

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Nightingale ADC offers free employment assistance to HIV+ individuals. Including job preparedness training, resume development, job search assistance. For more information call 713.981.1543

The Club Houston is now accepting applications for Certified Personal Trainers. Apply in person at 2205 Fannin or at [www.the-clubs.com](http://www.the-clubs.com)

### FULL TIME RECEPTIONIST

Candidate must be well-organized, detail oriented, computer literate, have a courteous phone demeanor and be able to work in a fast-paced service company. Knowledge of QuickBooks and MSWord is essential. Smoke free environment. Please fax resume to 713.524.2643. Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm

### RESIDENTIAL CLEANING SERVICE

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### GALVESTON CONDO

Islander East 6th Floor Highrise Condo. On the beach with gorgeous panoramic views of both the beach and the gulf! For sale by owner with possible owner finance. \$42,000. Call 409.763.2915 or 409.770.9286

### Roommates

Housemate wanted. \$500/mo, all bills paid. No lease. Nice home near Med Center & universities. References required. 713.303.4238

### MONTROSE /MIDTOWN

New 2/2/2 townhome, 3 levels. Want professional male, gay or straight. \$650/mo + 1/2 utilities. 713.989.4635

GWM wants same to share 2/1 apartment in Montrose. \$450 + 1/2 bills. Laundry room, private pool, deck. 281-831-8291

### SPRING

Need roommate to share large 3 bedroom house with many amenities, private backyard, off street parking. \$425/mo + shared utilities. Avail. 4/1/01. I'm temporarily in Connecticut please call 860.229.1588. 860.402.8889

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### WILLOWBROOK AREA

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Easygoing, responsible, professional male wants same to share 2/2 apartment in Inner Loop. 713.986.8316 leave msg

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# Occasions

## Birthdays

Classic Chassis Car Club members Bill J. (3/31), Fred B. (4/6) and Randy L. (4/6) ride in a birthday this week.

The *Houston Voice's* editor Wendy Mohon edits her birthday wish list on April 3.

Club Houston guru and handsome as can be Jerel sneaks in a birthday on April 3.

Local artist and crazy guy Larry Crawford paints his birthday canvas on April 3.

Al K. of Mary's, naturally, is having a birthday on April 4, and looking for his AARP card in the mail.

There is going to be big Houston Area Bear birthday hugs to members Larry B. (3/31), Roger F. (4/2), Randy L. (4/3) and Michael T. (4/6).

## Pets of the Week



Six adorable kittens seek loving human(s) for long-term relationship. Turn-ons include eating, sleeping, playing and having their bellies rubbed. All six are litter-box trained and dog-friendly (...well, dog "tolerant"). Call Angela at 832.545.6708 to arrange to adopt one or all of them.

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# My Stars!

by JILL DEARMAN



YOUR WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

March 30 - April 5

## ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 20)

You need to answer to your higher self, darling, and not just apply mundane, everyday rules to an important decision. Mercury in your soft and empathic twelfth house means that gentleness gets you further than roughness.

## TAURUS (APRIL 21—MAY 20)

Apply as much energy to a concrete project as you can during early April. Mars is encouraging you to work out your work issues in a politically savvy and discreet manner. Don't play the role of the rebel; it's just not you, dear. Let a Pisces enact your mischievous fantasies for you.

## GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

Growth and positive results from the efforts you put forth in January could come to you now. Be ready to make some money, honey. As the Sun and Venus travel through your house of friends and groups, you are able to call everyone a "friend." Just keep it light and open with an Aries.

## CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

This is a good time for you to change your perspective from grim to graceful. Your romantic side is working overtime, and a Gemini is highly receptive to your sexiness. However, you really do need to concentrate on making your dreams of a Utopian world a reality. That means focus on your work with all the passion you can muster.

## LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

It's time to initiate change in your life in a just and ethical way. That means even though someone has screwed you over, you don't have to screw him or her back. For once you don't have to work so hard; you just have to do what brings you pleasure and intellectual thrills. An Aquarius brings you both.

## VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

Focus on something you do have control over instead of a disappointment from the past that you can do nothing about. Stop waiting for someone else to take charge. Let the top in you come out in your career, while the bottom in you bends over in your personal life (for a Sag).

## LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 22)

Jupiter is pushing you to take a trip, publish a book, study an obscure fascinating subject—anything to jump start your mind. Venus (your ruler) is creating minor havoc in the daily minutiae of your life. Prioritize! A Leo will help you to forget the small stuff.

## SCORPIO (OCT. 23—NOV. 21)

Take it easy on yourself, doll. There are so many little, beautiful things to celebrate during early April. Try to tap into what your soul really needs, not just your hot body and overactive imagination. You and a Pisces can groove on the spiritual plane as well as on the dance floor.

## SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

You may make errors now if you base your decisions and judgments on fears. Stop acting like your parents! If you've bitten off more than you can chew, now is the time to spit something out and focus on what you really want. A Libra is very drawn to your dirty side. So please, let those rough edges show.

## CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

If you're afraid of taking a stand or speaking up for yourself, ask yourself why. In reality you have more power to change your career life than your silly boss and colleagues do. Don't bother trying to figure out a moody Cancer. Figure yourself out instead. You've got till July!

## AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

If you are ultra-creative and ambitious now, you will receive rewards to match. When you accept your own assets as well as your flaws, people will want to do great things for you. And that's exactly what you deserve. A Capricorn has the inside scoop for you.

## PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Your creative or humanitarian abilities are worth developing in early April as Mercury in Pisces brings you fresh insights. It's time to let an up-and-down confusing situation come to a head. If you stand in the way of what's meant to be you'll regret it. Then you can relax with a Sag.

Jill Dearman is the author of "Queer Astrology for Men" and "Queer Astrology for Women." For information on charts and consultations, call 212-841-0177 or e-mail QScopes@aol.com.

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