

HOUSTON

VOICE

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Cyndi Lauper
interview
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Vice President Gore to stump for Brown in Houston

HOUSTON - Vice President Al Gore will be in Houston, Monday, November 24 for a fundraising reception for mayoral candidate Lee Brown.

Brown, a Democrat, faces a run-off election against Rob Mosbacher, a Republican, Saturday, December 6, 1997. Although the race for mayor is officially non-partisan, partisan politics has played a big role in the current race to fill the seat of Bob Lanier who is leaving the post as a result of term limits.

Gore's appearance is expected to raise significant amounts of money for the Brown campaign. Speculation has been



circling that former President George Bush may campaign in the Bayou City to help out his friend Rob Mosbacher. Mosbacher's father served in the Bush administration.

The reception is open to the general public. The event will take place at the Four Seasons Hotel, 1300 Lamar. A VIP reception will partake from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Tickets to the VIP reception are \$5,000.00.

A General reception will follow from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tickets for the General Reception will be significantly less - \$1,000.00. For ticket information, call (713) 861-0902.

AIDS will leave 40 million without parents by 2010

by Barry Schweid

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a sobering account of the worldwide impact of AIDS, the U.S. Agency for International Development said Wednesday that 40 million children in developing countries will be without one or both parents by 2010.

With a population explosion of young people, especially in poor countries, "it is a crisis of staggering proportion," Dr. Nils Daulaire, senior adviser on children and women's health issues, said at a news conference.

A report will be released on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1. According to the report, "Children on the Brink," the AIDS epidemic now apparent in sub-Saharan Africa will be repeated in the next decade in Asia and Latin America.

"That is going to affect not only the future of these countries, it is going to affect the entire global network of trade, diplomacy and development," Daulaire said. "The world has always had orphans," he said.

Historically, about 2 percent of all children have lost one or both parents. But, Daulaire said, "what we are talking about here is some-

thing that has never been seen before, which is countries with one-sixth to one-quarter of all children without one or both parents. It means that those countries would be permanently crippled in terms of their own ability to grow, to integrate with the global society, and to make their countries work."

The 40 million children in 23 countries, with their poverty and lack of education, he said, will be "wreaking havoc on the social structure of their countries and on the economic future of their entire regions."

In a series of recommendations, the report urged countries to provide more economic protection for women and children, health services at home and child nutrition programs. "Government leadership is also needed to encourage all elements of society to collaborate in developing realistic strategies to meet the needs of children and families affected by HIV/AIDS," the report said.

The study concentrated on countries in regions where AIDS is most prevalent. Not covered were some of the most populous nations, such as India, China and Indonesia, where the disease only recently took hold.

U.S. Rep. Kolbe, Dallas City Councilman Loza address gay GOP group

Van Ooteghem, Counts and Houston Voice among award recipients at Log Cabin gala

HOUSTON - Congressman Jim Kolbe, R-AZ, Dallas city councilman John Loza, local gay rights leader Gary Van Ooteghem, Tیره B. Counts and the *Houston Voice* received awards at the 3rd Annual Elegant Elephant gala held Friday, November 14 at the Houston Center Club. Elegant Elephant is the annual fund-raising event benefitting Log Cabin Republicans of Houston.

Van Ooteghem received the organizations first Gary Van Ooteghem Humanitarian Award, which will be given to an individual each year that has demonstrated tireless effort and commitment to the advancement of gay and lesbian equality. According to LCR-H President Ben Whittle, the board unanimously felt that Van Ooteghem's lifelong commitment to gay civil rights should be acknowledged. Van Ooteghem has been an advocate for the gay community for

more than two decades.

"I was overwhelmed," enthused Van Ooteghem. "In fact, I was speechless, which is rare for me. It is an honor to have an award named after you. I appreciate being recognized for what I've accomplished and I'm not finished yet."

Kolbe, the only openly gay Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives, was the keynote speaker at the event which was well attended. Kolbe remarks encompassed being gay and Republican in the nations capital and the impact it has had personally and professionally. Loza, the first openly gay Republican elected in Texas, also addressed the group about his candidacy and its effect. Both received awards from the organization for their courage and coming out in championing the cause of equality for gays.

Kolbe told the enthusiastic group that the gay



Arizona Congressman Jim Kolbe, flanked by (from left to right) Marion E. Coleman, Log Cabin Houston President Ben Whittle, and Gary Van Ooteghem.

left does not speak for all gay people. He said it was time for gay moderates and conservatives to show America a more politically diverse face. Kolbe's remarks were also critical of the reli-

gious right element of the Republican party. Kolbe is being targeted for defeat by the religious right in the March primary in Arizona. Log

See LOG CABIN page 21

Eisner: accusations by Disney boycotters are 'ridiculous'

by David Buader

NEW YORK (AP) - Disney chairman Michael Eisner called charges that his company promotes an anti-Christian agenda "ridiculous" and said a boycott by Southern Baptists hasn't shaken Disney's bottom line.

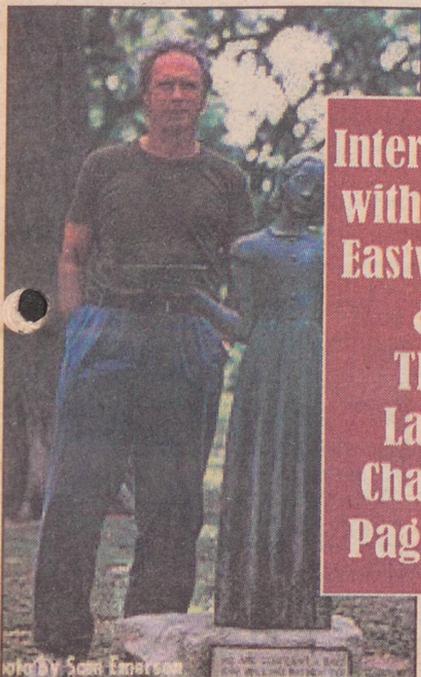
"It hasn't had a financial effect," Eisner said in an interview to air on 60 Minutes this Sunday.

Portions of the interview were made available Wednesday.

Leaders of the 15 million-member Protestant denomination voted in May to organize a boycott against Disney's "anti-Christian and anti-family direction."

"That's ridiculous. We're not pushing any

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Interviews with Clint Eastwood & The Lady Chablis Page 25



Jeff Stryker Interview page 22

Miss Camp Delivers

by Lynn Pannill
Executive Director
PWA Coalition

On behalf of the Clients, Board of Directors and Staff of the People With AIDS Coalition, I would like to express our sincere thanks to all those associated with the Miss Camp America Pageant. The \$14,400 in proceeds from this year's pageant is one of the largest donations the Coalition has ever received.

[The organizations] support of our Warehouse Program makes it possible for us to provide free furniture and other household items to more than 1,200 indigent People with AIDS in the Houston area each year. Many of these individuals and families would literally have no furniture, no beds, no appliances, linens of kitchen items without this program. And the program could not function without the support of the foundation.

To the members of Miss camp America Foundation, your generosity continues to help thousands of People with AIDS... We are extremely honored to have been chosen a beneficiary of this event.

Gray Party contribution allows for improvements

by Jim Griffith
Executive Director
Steven's House

On behalf of the residents, the Board and those connected with Steven's House, I want to publicly thank the members of the Gray Party hosting a great event and for their generous contribution to Steven's House.

We are grateful to have received a sizable donation to assist with improvements on Steven's House. One of the furnaces was converted to gas during renovations. For the sake of energy and expense we can now convert the other to gas as well.

We are most thankful to the Gray Party for offering the community a great opportunity to celebrate and to share with those in need at the same time.

Thanks to the hosts and guests for sharing their time, talent and treasure to make the party a memorable one for us, the Names Project and the community. Keep up the good work.

Let the Fundraising Begin

by Al Critz
Chairperson
Miss Camp America Foundation

As chairperson for the selection of Beneficiaries (charities) for Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc., I am excited to announce that the Foundation is beginning its fundraising campaign for 1998. Funds raised during the campaign will benefit local charitable organizations that provide services to persons in the greater Houston metropolitan area affected by HIV/AIDS.

It is the tradition of Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc. to provide financial assistance to non-profit 501(c) (3) organizations whose programs, philosophies, and ideas reflect a unique or innovative approach to the HIV/AIDS problem. Charitable organizations that provide HIV/AIDS - related

programs of direct care, clinical, social and mental health services, public policy, advocacy, housing, financial aid, education/prevention programs, and support services are eligible.

Funds granted by Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc. must be used to support all costs associated with projects and programs as described in the organization's grant application.

Grant applications for the 1998 fundraising campaign are now being accepted. December 12, 1997 is the deadline for submitting grant applications. Applications received after the deadline (postmarked after midnight December 13, 1997) will not be considered.

Applications should be submitted in the form of a packet containing the organization's letter of intent, information that describes the organization and its mission, financial statement and operating budget, and evidence of the organization's 501 9 (c) (3) tax exempt status. Applications should be mailed to the following address: Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc. Attn: Al Critz, 3912 Garrot Street, Houston, Texas, 77006.

Since 1992, Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc. has enjoyed the pleasure of awarding over a total of \$300,000 in grants to various charitable HIV/AIDS related organizations. We hope 1998 will be a record-breaking year for us.

A 'Toast' from the heart

by Don Gill
Chairman/President
PWA Holiday Charities

In our community, there are countless people who continue to have an impact on others because they are always willing to extend a helping hand to those in need. One of these caring people I have known for eight years and during this time he has always been there to help when he was asked, to volunteer when he saw a need and to lend advice when he saw a way to accomplish a certain goal.

In addition to being the President of the TGRA Houston chapter for the last three years, this person has been TGRA's State Vice-President, legal counsel for the Colt 45's and PWA Holiday Charities, the 1997 TGRA Rodeo Director, a member of the board of directors of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and volunteer counsel for the Lawyers AIDS Committee, as well as receiving three awards from the Colt 45's.

During his presidency, TGRA Houston distributed \$93,453.19 to various charities throughout our community. Please help us honor this remarkable man by joining us for A "Toast" From the Heart for Mr. Michael Gaitz, 9 p.m. Saturday, December 6 at The Venture-N, 2923 Main Street.

The evening's performers will be members of the organizations that have received funds from TGRA during the last three years while Michael was President. The majority of these people are not regular performers, they are workers within our community, so I'm sure that their performances will make for an evening of outrageous, off-the-wall entertainment.

This event will also be a fund-raiser for TGRA Houston with the moneys being distributed to local charities next spring at their President's Show. Thank you for your support.



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Puzzle Solution
© 1997 GULF FEATURES, Puzzle GAY26
Initial name: Fred Rogers,
Orson Welles, Abraham Lincoln

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by Steve Labinski
Austin Bureau Chief

Out Youth Offers Thanksgiving Lunch for Gay and Lesbian Youth

The holiday season can be very stressful for many people, but it can be especially stressful for young people isolated or rejected by their families. 40% of sexual minority youth have been assaulted by their family members or peers, and 80% are severely isolated. In order to make the Thanksgiving holiday easier for these young people, Out Youth will offer a free Thanksgiving pot luck lunch for gay and lesbian youth.

"Often, sexual minority youth are not welcome or do not feel comfortable at gatherings of their immediate families," said Steve Seifert, Executive Director of Out Youth. "This Thanksgiving, we'll provide a safe, welcoming environment for youth to gather and celebrate the holiday."

Youth do not have to bring a dish to the pot luck in order to participate. Numerous local businesses have contributed to the meal, including HEB South Congress, Upper Crust Bakery, The Bitter End, Momma's Diner, Eastside Cafe, Little City Espresso Bar and Cafe, Lone Star Produce, Sysco Food Services,

Katz's Deli and Bar, and Hill Country Dairies.

Both adult and youth volunteers are still needed to help set up and stage the meal, Seifert said. Anyone interested in helping with - or attending - the pot luck is encouraged to call Out Youth at 512-708-1234.

The Thanksgiving pot luck will be held in the Cornerstone Community Center at 1117 Red River on the corner of 12th and Red

River on Thanksgiving Day, November 27 at 2PM.

(Hungry? Check Out Texas Cooking! <http://www.texascooking.com/> Grandma's Cookbook features over 200 delicious down-home recipes. E-Mail: labinski@labnet.com Phone: 512-482-8064).

Capital City Men's Chorus presents Handel, the Grinch, and more.

The Capital City Men's Chorus presents a superb evening of Christmas music called "Season of Renewal - For The Child In All Of Us!" Come renew a beloved friendship or renew your sense of joy in this special season with the finest male chorus in Central Texas. Highlights include the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from the Messiah and a blast from your television past, a rendition of "How The Grinch Stole Christmas."

Chorus singer Dan Lyons said, "One piece alone is more than worth the price of admission: Adolphe Adam's Christmas song 'O Holy Night', arranged by our conductor for 8-part men's chorus and mezzo-soprano soloist. Our choir has sung it before with the same soloist, and words cannot express the way I feel singing (and listening to) such a rich arrangement of this divinely beautiful piece."

The event is Saturday December 6, 1997 at 8:00pm and Sunday December 7, 1997 at 4:00pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. Tickets can be purchased by calling The Box Office at (512) 454-TIXS (8497) \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For more information call the chorus hotline at (512) 477-SING (7464).

"You will definitely want to bring the whole family to this event!", said Lyons.

clinic's efforts Planet Hollywood will be providing complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. For more information or to RSVP, call (713) 830-3015.

Miss Camp America bestows \$80,000 to local charities

The newly elected officers and Trustees of the Miss Camp America Foundation, Inc. presented the funds raised through the 1996-1997 year to their designated charities last Sunday, November 16, 1997. The Video Party event, which featured a viewing of the groups 1997 Pageant, Under the Big Top, took place at Rich's Houston.

This year's organizational beneficiaries received \$80,000 cumulatively. They were as follows: Colt 45 AIDS Trouble Fund (\$8,000.00); Montrose Clinic Frost Eye Clinic (\$8,000.00); PWA Coalition (\$14,400.00); Assistance Fund (\$17,600.00); and Bering Dental Clinic (\$32,000.00).

Since 1992, the organization has awarded a total more than \$300,000 in grants to various charitable HIV/AIDS-related organizations. The group hopes to break records again in 1998. The organization is currently seeking new members. Interested parties should contact Les Armos, Vice President of Membership at (713) 529-9756.

Theater LaB Houston and AFH to co-sponsor Day Without Art Benefit

Theater LaB Houston and AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc. will co-sponsor a special benefit performance of short plays, Monday, December 1 at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the performances will benefit AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH).

Day Without Art is the 9th International Day of Action and Mourning in Response to the AIDS Crisis. Organized by Visual AIDS and thousands of other cultural insti-

tutions, Day Without Art's goal is to increase AIDS awareness and education, mourn the community's losses, acknowledge AIDS caregivers and activists and initiate action to care for people living with AIDS.

Under its banner, New Visions/New Works (which spotlights Houston playwrights), Theater LaB Houston presents Houston playwrights' response to the AIDS epidemic in four 10 minute playlets. Among this year's events are: *Willy and the Bean* by Gary Laird; *Lust, Bodies and Soul* by Gregg Rodriguez; *Wrapped*, performed by members of the local art troupe QuAC; and an original choreographed dance piece by Houston Ballet's Sean Kelly entitled *Duet* performed by the Houston Ballet Company members Nicholas Leschke and Christopher Vecjovic.

Tickets are \$25.00, and are available by calling (713) 629-9255. Theater LaB Houston is located at 1706 Alamo, off the 2100 block of Houston Avenue. Secure parking is provided, and the theater is handicap accessible.

PWA Coalition Warehouse Program in need of donations

The PWA Coalition is asking for community assistance. The organization operates a warehouse program which supplies more than 1,200 indigent clients and their families with furniture and other household items each year. Demand has been particularly high and as a result, donations are needed.

According to the Coalition, the following categories are in very short supply: Blankets, sheets, towels, small appliances, silverware, dishes, pots and pans, lamps, tables, chairs, and dressers/bureaus. All items are furnished to clients at no charge.

"Anyone who has used items to donate to this program can drop them off at our office or call us to pick up large or multiple donations," said Dora Lomeli, Program Director.

See MONTROSE page 4

Montrose Clinic lands at Planet Hollywood World AIDS Day 1997

In recognition of the tenth annual World AIDS Day, Montrose Clinic will be holding a reception with special guest Frank Billingsley, News 2 Houston Chief Meteorologist, at Planet Hollywood from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday, December 1, 1997.

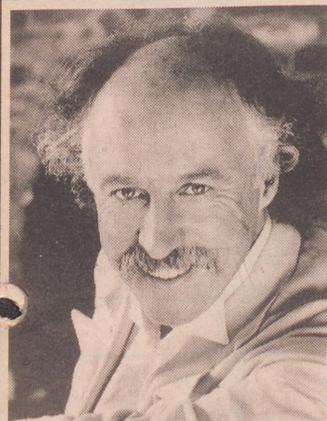
The Clinic will unveil plans for the "Wall of Hope" recognizing the many people who help support their efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS while kicking off their Annual Fund Drive. Guests will be provided an opportunity to sign names to a banner of

remembrance for those they have lost to HIV/AIDS. This banner will be displayed at the clinic throughout the month of December.

World AIDS Day was observed for the first time on December 1, 1988, after a summit of health ministers from around the world called for a spirit of social tolerance and a greater exchange of information on HIV/AIDS. World AIDS Day, observed annually on December 1, serves to strengthen the global effort to face the challenges of the AIDS pandemic, which continues to spread in all regions of the world.

The Clinic's effort is designed to encourage public support for programs to prevent the spread of HIV infection and to provide education and awareness of issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. To help support the

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Allan Gurganus

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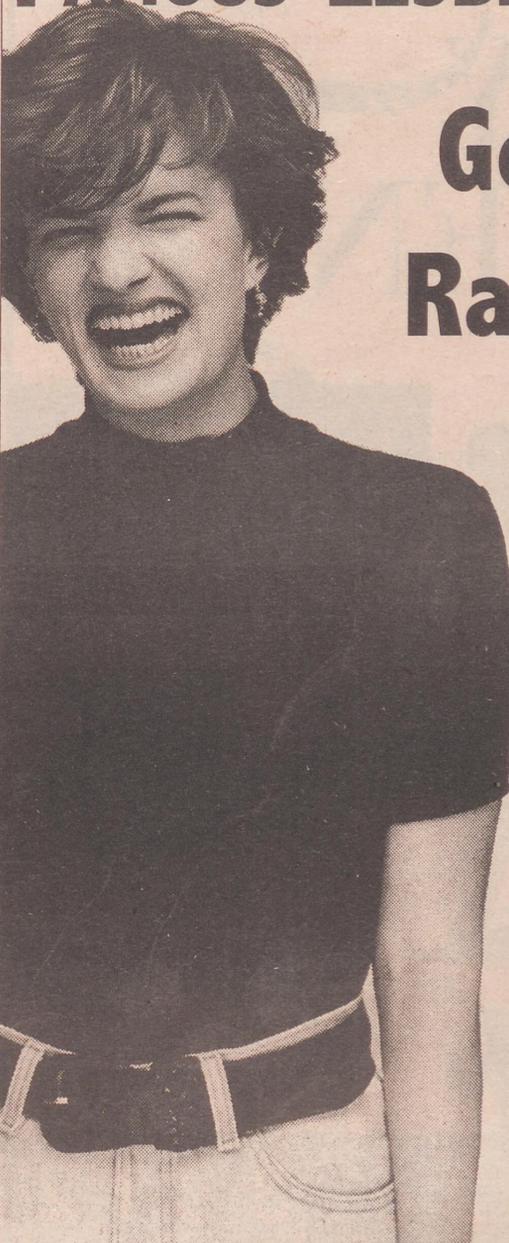
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Houston, TX

MONTROSE/from page 3

"We maintain a waiting list for large furniture items, but we usually have small items on hand. We are very low in all categories right now."

Donations are accepted during business hours. The Coalition is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Pick up of large furniture items can be scheduled by calling Lomeli at (713) 522-5428.

"The majority of the clients served through this program live on less than \$500 per month, and the items they receive through the warehouse enable them to live decently and independently," said Executive Directory Lynn Pannill. "None could afford to buy them."

Behind the Scenes' gala to benefit Stages

Backstage: An Evening Behind the Scenes, a gala benefit for Stages Repertory Theater, will offer participants a rare glimpse into the backstage workings of one of Houston's rich cultural scenes. Stages is renowned for its innovative and daring main stage season. The event will be held Thursday, November 20 at Stages Repertory Theater, 3201 Allen Parkway.

According to Chairperson Mary Faye Way, the event will be held in the theater's facility in the newly renovated Houston Center for the Arts. The gala begins at 7 p.m. with cocktails in the theater lobby. Participants will be provided the opportunity to tour the Arena and Thrust Theaters, as well as the scene and costume shops and resident crafts people and artisans will be on hand to explain and demonstrate how the various production elements come together. Dinner will be provided by Houston Gourmet.

"Mary Faye Way has done a remarkable job of translating the entire facility at Stages Theater into a large arena for a dazzling benefit," said Stages Board President Mary Jane

Taegel. "It's a brilliant theme. After all, backstage is where all the action begins, why not open it up for a party? Mary Faye has done just that: successfully creating the perfect evening for, in and about Stages."

Artistic Director Rob Bundy is excited about having the gala at the theater. "It's wonderful that guests will be able to experience the magic of theater as they actively support it. This event highlights the work we do here and shows off the renovations we have made in partnership with the City of Houston." For more information, call (713) 527-0220.

MCCR present Christmas season performance of Handel's 'Messiah'

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) will be presenting a special Christmas season performance of the Handel's *Messiah*, Sunday, December 14, 1997 at 3 and 7 p.m.

The performance will be presented by MCCR's fifty-five member sanctuary choir, four internationally renowned soloists from the Houston Grand Opera, and a fifteen piece orchestra. Featured soloists from the Houston Grand Opera are Tiffany Jackson, soprano; Stephanie Novacek, mezzo soprano; Chad Shelton, tenor; and Scott Hendricks, baritone.

Tickets are complimentary and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis at the church bookstore Sunday mornings starting Sunday, November 30 or at the church office Monday, December 1. Reservations for tickets will also be accepted via phone at (713) 861-9149.

Muscle Mechanics teams with Bering to 'Celebrate Life'

Muscle Mechanics and Bering Community Service Foundation have teamed up to develop a fun way to celebrate

the Holiday Season while raising funds for Bering. The collaborative effort is billed as a "game" that's fun, simple and provides the opportunity to win great prizes just for doing healthy things throughout the holiday.

Here's how it works. For a minimum donation of \$15, you'll receive an attractive gift package containing a heart healthy holiday recipe pack filled with 60 delicious low-fat recipes and menus for every holiday occasion, including Thanksgiving and New Year's.

The participant also receives a holiday handout designed to give you tips on how to make the most of your health this season and the a Celebrate Game Card that will instruct how to win great prizes like free massages, wellness packages, romantic dinners, gym memberships, even free personal training! Sounds like the perfect stocking stuffer.

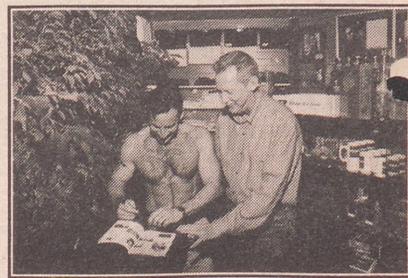
All proceeds benefit the Bering Community Service Foundation. For more information, contact John-Aaron at (713) 523-5330.

Briefs....

Milam House will host their annual Founders Dinner, Saturday, November 22, 1997 at the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 West Alabama (at Woodhead) in Houston. The event begins at 7 p.m. Dr. Patrick McNamara, a renowned AIDS expert in the Bayou City, will be the keynote speaker. Milam House is a non-profit organization that provides housing and access to services to persons with HIV/AIDS who are facing homelessness. For more information, call (713) 649-6035....

Allan Gurganus will appear at Crossroads Market tonight for a book signing and reading from his new tome *Plays Well with Others*. Gurganus is the author of the bestselling *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*. The signing takes place at 7 p.m. For more information, call (713) 942-0147....

Calendar model Steve Kelso drew a capacity crowd at Lobo's last week for his live appearance. *Houston Voice* principle photographer Dalton DeHart was on hand to monitor the activity. (Pictured). If you missed the event, Kelso's calendar's are still available....



Gay theme television in Houston? That's correct. *Hanging 10 on the GayNet* is a 30 minute introduction to the 'pink' side of the Internet, according to the programs instructor "Mr." Kelly Lauren. Lauren takes you through e-mail, newsgroups, websites, chat rooms and more. Producer Kevin White has included a very diverse group from our community to help shed some light on the Internet from a "lesbian/gay/bi/trans-gendered" perspective. The program can be seen on Access Houston Community Television. Warner Cable channel 17, Phonoscope channel 72, Optel channel 8 and TCI (check local listings)....

Finally, Mary's Lounge and the Westheimer Street Festival present Christmas in Montrose, December 14 at Mary's Lounge, naturally. Participants will gather at 5 p.m., preferably in dickens style costumes, to carol around the Montrose area. At 7 p.m., the lighting of the Montrose Community Christmas Tree on the roof of Mary's Lounge takes place. City Council candidate Annise Parker will light this years tree. And, yes, Santa will be on Mary's patio for anyone who would like to take their picture with him.

REGIONAL NEWS

CPS defends use of gays as foster parents

DALLAS - There is no bias in the Child Protective Services agency favoring gay parents in the adoption of abandoned, abused or neglected children, a spokeswoman says. But neither is there anything to prohibit the agency from placing children with gay couples, single gays or lesbians who are licensed foster parents, Linda Edwards said in a news conference Monday.

Her remarks came in response to a threatened lawsuit by an employee who says she was demoted from her job as a CPS supervisor because she removed a child from the home of two lesbians. "What we look for when we evaluate potential foster or adoptive parents is their ability to protect, to nurture and parent a child. That's our primary criteria," Ms. Edwards said.

Rebecca Bledsoe, a 10-year employee, has threatened to sue the agency if it doesn't change its practice of allowing children to be placed with gay and lesbian couples. Ms. Bledsoe filed a grievance with the agency concerning her Nov. 1 demotion. She

claims she was sanctioned for going against CPS support of "gay culture" and alleged that some CPS supervisors are biased because of their own sexual orientation.

Writer on homelessness homeless again

AUSTIN - Lars Eighner spent three years without a home, sleeping under bridges from Austin to Southern California, digging through trash for food, always accompanied by his dog, Lizbeth.

The book he wrote about it, *Travels with Lizbeth*, brought him national acclaim - but not enough money to keep him off the streets. So local writers are working together to help him set up house.

Being homeless becomes harder with age, Eighner said. "I'm another 10 years older and 10 years more decrepit," he said. He has published a novel; wrote reviews, magazine essays, gay erotica; and made appearances at book events. Nothing provided a dependable income.

Soon, Eighner, 48, could no longer afford the rent on his Austin bungalow, so last year, See REGION page 6

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The Pentecostal Family of Montrose

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

See Church Calendar for Weekly Events

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www.communitygospel.org

REGION/ from page 4

he moved into a San Antonio apartment. Two weeks ago, he returned to Austin and homelessness, pitching a tent near a creek bridge.

Travels with Lizbeth was named one of the top books of 1993 by *The New York Times*, which gave it a rave review on the front page of its Sunday Book Review section.

"I like Lars and think he's a really wonderful writer. I can't stand the idea of his living on the streets. And Lizbeth. I can't stand the idea of her living on the streets," said mystery writer Mary Willis Walker.

Texas Observer editor Louis Dubose on Monday moved Eighner, the author's companion and Lizbeth into a room in his house. A committee of local writers plan to create a rescue fund to help Eighner pay rent on an apartment.

"The dream I'm holding out for is if somebody has a barn or a gatehouse or something in the country with potable water. Perhaps a little caretaking - feed the horses or something," Eighner said.

Atwood: Songfest to Celebrate Tenth Anniversary

If anything can animate Houston legend Jerry Atwood, it is Songfest. Just mention the name and Atwood will inform you of its history and continued success. To say Songfest is his "labor of love" is putting it mildly. A professional engineer, Atwood is an accomplished pianist with an album credit to his name. In fact, he's currently in the studio working on a collaborative project with one of Houston's Diva's Sharon Montgomery.

In 1973 Atwood threw a Christmas party completely unaware of the fact that it would transform itself into an annual event that has become one of the largest fundraisers of the year for the gay community. By 1985, Atwood's party's had grown to big so he decided not to hold one the following year,

raising the ire of many in the community. However, in 1987 at a fundraising event for Omega House, Atwood concocted the concept for Songfest. In 1988, Songfest was born. The rest, as they say, is history.

Songfest is a spectacular gala that draws more than 1,000 participants each year.

Unlike most Christmas sing-alongs, Songfest is quite a boisterous event. This year's event promises to be the biggest ever. Chaired by Ed Inderwish and Deb Gebhardt, the annual gala - the organization's 11th - will take place Sunday, December 7, at the Edwin Hornberger Conference Center. It's their 10th Anniversary and their 11th event.

KPRC-TV Channel 2 newsanchor Linda Lorrelle will emcee the event. Rickey Comeaux, who has collaborated with Atwood on Songfest from its inception and recorded the album with him titled *Silent Voices*, will be among the musical guests including Cindy Harrelson, Tommie Lee Jackson, Sharon Montgomery, Terry Pierce, the Houston Boy Choir, Atwood and, you.

That's right, you. According to Atwood, individuals and groups are encouraged to sign up and sing Christmas songs with lyrics and hymn. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit The Bering Dental Clinic and the Montrose Clinic. Last year's event raised enabled the group to disburse \$48,000 to the beneficiaries. To date the organization has raised nearly \$300,000, a figure which will undoubtedly rise after this year's event.

The Bering Dental Clinic, now in its 10th year, has pioneered HIV related dental and oral pathology research. The clinic treats an average of 970 patients each month and is dedicated to the care of the indignant HIV/AIDS population. Montrose Clinic, founded in 1982, is a community based non-profit agency established to serve people in



Jerry Atwood

the greater Houston area by providing low-cost or no-cost medical, social, educational, and clinical research services. "Both organizations do excellent work," said Atwood. "They provide more services than ever and serve more clients than ever."

The organization's biggest beneficiary to date has been Omega House, who again will be one of the beneficiary in 1998, according to Atwood. "They are near and dear to our hearts," says Atwood. "They do merciful work and often thankless work, as part of their daily routine."

This year's theme will be A Traditional Christmas and will include all of the perennials: a silent auction, a sumptuous holiday dinner buffet and an open bar. Dr. Robert Awe will be the organizations honoree. The event is open to the public. Tickets are \$50.00 per person at the door. Table prices range from \$400.00 to \$800.00. For reservations or more information, contact Ed Inderwish at (713) 683-0485.

HGLPC PAC to host fund-raiser for Parker; urges early voting

HOUSTON - Houston City Council Candidate Annise Parker will be the focus of a fundraising reception hosted by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m., Monday, November 24. The reception will be held at The Moose Cafe at 1340 West Gray Avenue at Waugh Drive.

"Annise Parker represents mainstream Houston voters; she is the only candidate who does," said HGLPC PAC Board Chair Clarence Bagby. "Her broad range of endorsements illustrate that fact. And while there has been a flood of Caucus volunteers and others step forward to work in Annise's campaign, more are still needed in order to win on December 6."

Parker's endorsements include the HGLPC PAC, the Houston Chronicle, Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, Harris County AFL-CIO Council, Harris County Council

of Organizations, Harris County Democrats, Houston Association of Realtors, Houston Latino Political Caucus, Houston Police Officers Union, Jewish Herald-Voice, and the Log Cabin Republicans of Houston.

In addition, Alfonso Delaney, one of Parker's opponents in the November 4 election, has endorsed her for the runoff. Delaney received 18 percent of the vote and also screened with the HGLPC PAC. The runoff is set for Saturday, December 6.

Parker's elected official endorsements include United States Representative Sheila Jackson Lee and State Senators Rodney Ellis and John Whitmire as well as State Representatives Garnet Coleman, Debra Danburg, Scott Hochberg, Sylvester Turner and Ken Yarbrough. She has also been endorsed by Harris County Constable Jack Abercia, former City Controller George Greanias, former City Councilmember Eleanor Tinsley and former Harris County Treasurer Katy Caldwell.

"The momentum is building for the Parker Campaign's runoff election and it's truly exciting to be a part of this chapter of Houston history," said HGLPC PAC Co-Chair Jay Seegers. "Annise's experience in solving neighborhood and community issues in the numerous positions in which she has served and her work with equality issues with the Police Department make her the best candidate," Seegers added. "She will serve the city well when she is elected."

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served with a cash bar available. The general public is invited. A suggested \$25 donation is requested. Parker's campaign phone number is 713-521-7338 and the campaign headquarters is located at 2615 Montrose Boulevard at the offices of Hubbard Financial Services. The Caucus PAC phone number is 713-521-1000.

In related news, the Caucus also urged all citizens to take advantage of the Early Voting Program and vote early at one of the seventeen early voting locations across the city.

See REGION page 6



A Christmas Songfest

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A Traditional Christmas

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An evening of caroling and festivities benefiting

Bering Dental Clinic
Montrose Clinic

The Bering Dental Clinic, now in its 10th year, has pioneered HIV related dental and oral pathology research. The clinic treats an average of 970 patients each month and is dedicated to the care of the indignant HIV/AIDS population.

The Montrose Clinic, founded in 1982, is a community based non-profit agency established to serve people in the greater Houston area by providing low-cost or no-cost medical, social, educational, and clinical research services. The Montrose Clinic specializes in identifying the unmet needs and gaps in health related services.

Celebrity Mistress of Ceremony
Ms. Linda Lorelle of KPRC-TV CH 2

Event Co-Chairs
Deb Gebhardt • Ed Inderwish

Music by
Jerry Atwood • Rickey Comeaux • Cindy Harrelson • Houston Boy Choir
Tommie Lee Jackson • Sharon Montgomery • Terry Pierce
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Table Reservations: Ed Inderwish
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December 7, 1997

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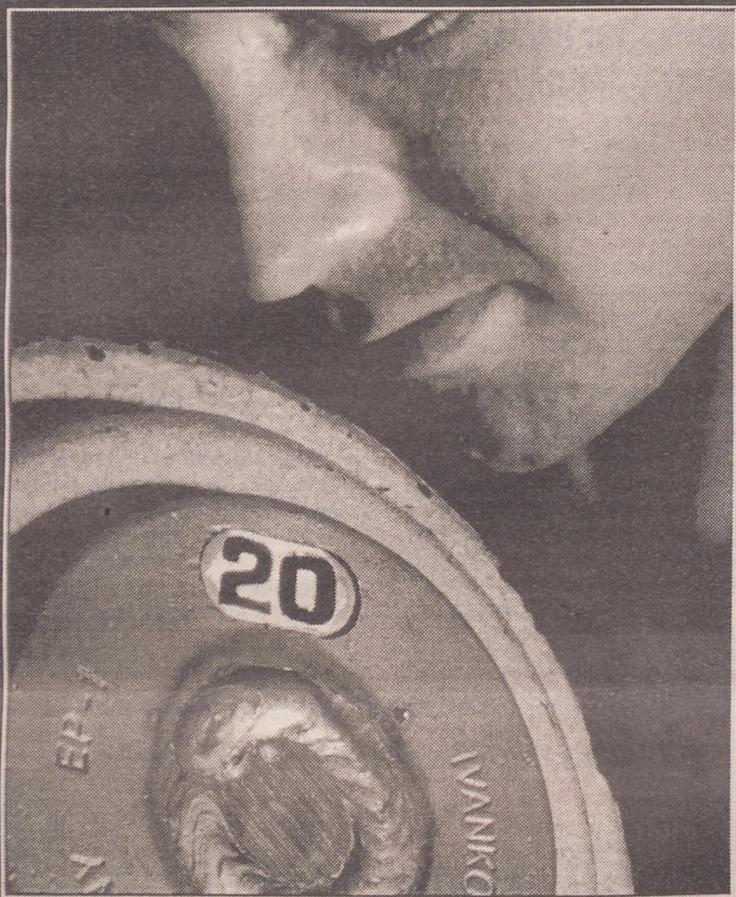




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REGION/

from page 5
"The Early Voting Program is designed to make voting more convenient and we should all consider taking advantage of it," said HGLPC Board Chair Clarence Bagby. "It is the best way to ensure nothing comes up to prevent you from voting."

Early voting began at 8 a.m. Wednesday, November 19 and ends at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 2. The locations are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday hours are from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m. Early voting locations will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Thursday, November 27 through Sunday, November 30.

Inner-city locations include the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray Avenue and the K-Mart at 8230 Kirby Drive at O.S.T. and Main Street. Call 713-755-6411 for other early voting locations.

Rocket's owners gives \$250,000 donation to The Fund for Animals

HOUSTON - The Fund for Animals has received a \$250,000 gift from Houston Rocket's owners Les and Nanci Alexander earmarked to help local animals through expansion of the Houston operations.

The organizations Spay and Neuter Clinic, located at 1603 Shepherd Drive, exists to eliminate the tragedy of dog and cat overpopulation by providing reduced cost spay and neuter surgeries to prevent homeless animals from being born. Statistics show that more than 100,000 homeless dogs and cats end up in local shelters each year, most of which are laid to rest.

The moneys from Les and Nanci Alexander will be used to continue operations for the Spay-Neuter Assistance Program, or SNAP, in Houston. The clinic will expand its schedule from four to five days effective immediately.

The organization also travels into financially challenged neighborhoods around the Bayou City to provide their free spaying, neutering, vaccinations and licenses to dogs and cats in qualifying families. A \$35,000 gift from the Alexanders helped start the mobile clinic project in 1994. For more information, call the clinic at (713) 863-0010.

AFH, Alley Theatre to host Annual Red Ribbon Toy Drive

AIDS Foundation Houston, The Alley Theatre, Texas Children's Hospital and The University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center have teamed up to make this holiday season brighter for children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Beginning Monday, November 24, the group is asking all Houstonians to not be a "Scrooge" and share the holiday spirit by bringing new unwrapped toys to the Alley Box Office, 615 Texas Avenue, to receive a 20% discount for up to four tickets to select performances (December 1-12) of the Alley's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Additional drop-off sites are: AIDS Foundation Houston, 3202 Wesleyan; Evan Thayer Studios, 2643 Colquitt; or Giovanni, 4444 Montrose.

Last year's Toy Drive provided toys for 635 children and gave them a chance to enjoy the season to its fullest. This year's annual (third) Red Ribbon Toy Drive, hopes to serve more than 750 HIV infected and affected children who range in age from birth to 12.

"For more than nine years now, the Alley Theatre has brought *A Christmas Carol* and the spirit of the holidays to thousands of children in Houston. We are familiar with how their faces light up in delight with even the smallest holiday momento," said Alley Theatre Managing Director Paul Tetreault. "Our holiday wish is that the children - those with AIDS-related burdens - who receive the gifts from the Red Ribbon Toy Drive - will find peace and joy with their families this holiday season."

It is estimated that 1 in every 90

Houstonians is HIV positive without regard to age, race, or gender. Two Americans under the age of 20 become infected with HIV every hour of every day. Youth 13-24 are at the highest risk of HIV infection. For more information, call the Alley at (713) 228-8421 or The Red Ribbon Toy Drive event line at (713) 629-9255.

Briefs...

Elton John will bring his *Big Picture Tour* to Houston, January 30 at the Compaq Center. John, who has sold more than 150 million albums, is one of the most popular and successful recording artists of all time. His tribute to Princess Diana, *Goodbye England's Rose* recently became the biggest selling single in history netting the beneficiaries \$34 million. All proceeds go to Princess Diana's favorite charities. Tickets go on sale Saturday, November 22 at 10 a.m. at all TicketMaster outlets (Blockbuster, Fiesta, Randalls, Drug Emporium) or charge by phone (713) 629-3700....

State Senator's Rodney Ellis and John Whitmire endorsed Annise Parker for City Council Wednesday. Parker has amassed more endorsement for her race than her competitor Don Fitch....

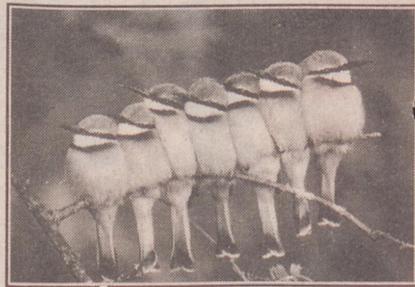
State Representative Debra Danburg is sponsoring a block-walking rally for Parker, as well as for mayoral candidate Lee Brown and council candidates Chris Bell and Carroll Robinson. Interested parties should meet at 811 Westheimer, Suite 208 at 10:40 a.m. for a rally with the candidates and several hours of walking. For more information, call (713) 52-DEBRA....

Former mayoral candidate and outgoing city councilwoman Gracie Saenz has endorsed businessman Rob Mosbacher in the run-off election. Saenz, a Democrat, cited Mosbacher's "extensive experience in business, but also (his) compassion for people and their families." Saenz made the endorsement despite heavy lobbying to the contrary from party officials, including Mayor Lanier and Vice President Al Gore. The other two major candidates in the mayoral race who did not make the run-off have yet to endorse. Councilwoman Helen Huey said Wednesday that she would not endorse any candidates. At press time, George Greanias has not indicated whether he will endorse or not....

The Houston Police Manager's Association decided not to make an endorsement in the mayoral run-off between Lee Brown and Rob Mosbacher. Both candidates screened with the association. Earlier in the week, Mosbacher received the endorsement of the Houston Police Patrolmen's Union. Brown has received the endorsement of the Houston Police Officers Union....

Democrat Land Commissioner Gary Mauro entered the race for governor of Texas this week. Mauro will most likely face popular incumbent George W. Bush. Current polls show Bush with a 52 percentage lead over Mauro; 68% would vote for Bush, 16% for Mauro and 14% were undecided. To date Mauro is the only Democrat to enter the race or publicly declare their desire to challenge Bush....

Finally, come face-to-face with wildlife and marvel at the beauty and wonder of the natural world at the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The exhibit is open through February 15, 1998. Included in the exhibition are 150 of the best wildlife pictures taken by photographers world-wide. *Seven little bee-eaters* by British



photographer Peter Blackwell (pictured) is a highly commended image from the competition. For more information, call (713) 639-IMAX.

Gay nominee to meet with senator blocking confirmation

by Slobodan Lekic

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - James Hormel, the first openly gay person to be nominated to a U.S. ambassadorship, will meet next month with one of the two lawmakers blocking his confirmation.

Sen. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., "wants to spend some time considering his background and getting some information on Mr. Hormel," the senator's spokeswoman, Susan Hensley, said Tuesday. Hutchinson and fellow Republican James Inhofe of Oklahoma placed "holds" on the nomination, thus blocking a vote on Hormel's confirmation along with other ambassadorial nominees just before Congress recessed last week.

In an effort to overcome the deadlock, Hutchinson will meet with Hormel in mid-December, Hensley said, adding that the senator was not implacably opposed to the nomination. "The senator wanted to make sure this didn't get pushed through at the last minute," she said. "He definitely has concerns about Mr. Hormel's activism."

Gary Hoitsima, a spokesman for Inhofe, said he did not expect any movement on the issue before Congress returns in January. "At that point it's up to the leadership, and if they decide they want a roll-call vote, we'll accept it," he said.

Hormel, a businessman and an heir to the Hormel Meat Co. fortune, is on the board of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's leading gay-rights organization. He has contributed at least \$120,000 to Democratic candidates and causes since 1995.

Perhaps surprisingly, he encountered no significant difficulty before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Sen. Jesse Helms, a vocal opponent of gay rights. The committee recommended Hormel's confirmation at a hearing last

month, but it was stalled by Inhofe's and Hutchinson's action.

The move has sparked accusations from gay organizations and other critics who see it as another attempt by Republicans to block Clinton administration nominations over issues they oppose, such as abortion, minority-preference programs, or gay rights.

Second-grade wedding ceremony draws protests by parents

by Todd Spangler

DELAWARE - A mock marriage ceremony that paired second-grade pupils of the same sex has drawn protests from some parents, including one family who now plans to home-school their son. Many others supported the teacher who developed the "wedding of friends," and a school curriculum panel recommended 9-2 Monday that the district not change the class at Star Hill Elementary outside Dover.

Teacher Ede Outten told the panel that the ceremony a few weeks ago was a creative way to get pupils to promise to care for each other as friends. The lesson went along with readings from *Carry, Go, Bring and Come* - a story about a West Indian wedding. She likened it to the television show *Barney*, where children sing "I love you, you love me."

"Even Barney's intentions would be suspect in Dover, Del.," said Mrs. Outten. A local educators' group submitted 350 signatures in support of the teacher. But some of the 150 people at the public meeting voiced doubts about the ceremony.

Tiffany Kelty said it condoned homosexuality and that she now planned to teach her son Steven at home. She said the committee was filled with teachers and administrators and had made up its mind before the public testimony. "I think it was one-sided," she said.

Another resident, Richard Hamme, worried the ceremony might send mixed mes-

sages to children. "They might look back on it and it could cause some confusion later," he said.

Larry Snead said he told his son Xavier that he could stay out of the ceremony if it made him feel uncomfortable to exchange vows, even of friendship, with another boy.

Sandy Ward said she watched with no problems as her daughter exchanged those same vows with another girl in the class. The 7- and 8-year-old children promised to share with each other and to play nice, Ms. Ward said. "This ceremony was about friendship and friendship only," she said.

Mrs. Outten said she would probably use the ceremony again, although the district superintendent has the final say.

Arizona governor calls for policy on homosexuals as foster parents

by Kate Hunger

ARIZONA - Talyne Corlyn is a married woman. She has an adult daughter, and she fondly remembers serving as a foster mother in Alaska several years ago. Corlyn is also bisexual. So when she heard that some Arizona lawmakers want to stop all unmarried couples - heterosexual or homosexual - from acting as foster parents, she got mad.

"That's the most stupid thing I ever heard of," Corlyn said. "We have babies turning up in Dumpsters."

In Arizona, homosexual couples are allowed to be foster parents. Unmarried heterosexual couples are not.

Some state lawmakers have a problem with current policy that - while upholding state laws against cohabitation - leaves the door open for homosexual couples to qualify as foster parents.

In a radio appearance Wednesday, Gov. Jane Hull said the Legislature needs to clarify the policy. Although she did not say homosexuals should be precluded from providing foster care, she described the best environment as one with a husband, wife

and other children.

The controversy boils down to a legal technicality: foster parents can't be law-breakers, and according to state law unmarried couples who live together are just that.

Corlyn, co-chair of Bi-Net AZ, an Phoenix advocacy and support group for bisexuals, said she agrees with Hull that the policy should be clear. But from Corlyn's perspective, the only fair policy would be one that opens foster parenting up to all responsible people, regardless of sexual orientation.

"The implication is that they are more concerned with the morality than with the health and welfare of the children," Corlyn said.

Furthermore, an administrative hearing officer ruled a few years ago in a case involving the Department of Economic Security, which oversees foster placements, that the law only applies when a man and woman live together, said Christine Powell, an assistant state attorney general. "There clearly are homes licensed as foster care providers where the providers are homosexual," Powell said.

Rep. Karen Johnson, R-Mesa, said she wants Child Protective Services, an arm of DES, to issue a specific policy banning cohabitating couples - homosexual or heterosexual - from becoming foster parents. If not, she said she will sponsor legislation to do it.

Johnson said children need a traditional family atmosphere in an unstable world. "Give them the sort of role models that build society up instead of decimating it," Johnson said.

Francie Noyes, the governor's spokeswoman, said Mrs. Hull was responding to Johnson's concerns when she commented on the policy and that she would be willing to consider a legislative proposal. Mrs. Hull has not decided whether to form a committee to look into the issue or to wait for a bill, Noyes said.

Jim Hart, assistant director of DES, said the agency is following state law and that

See NAT'L page 10

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Aspects of a Pandemic

by Larry Lingle

Having read most, if not all, of the obligatory AIDS novels of the past decade and a half, I occasionally prefer to pick up something lighter or more distracting. However, last week as I prepared for a sojourn to New York, I was confronted with immediately facing a book signing at my store there. So, being a true merchant, I decided to read that author's book. Thusly, as Continental 620 took off from George R. Bush Intercontinental Airport I opened Alan Gurganus' *Plays Well With Others*.

By the time I made my way to Christopher Street, I had also managed about half the book, which I felt sufficient to throw a few allusions to textual facts from the book to impress Gurganus with actually being a reader of same. As he and an agent from his publisher, Knopf, swept into tiny Oscar Wilde I was duly introduced as the absent owner up from Texas. After establishing my verbal recall of the past few hours, the author settled into his post to sign countless copies of his latest.

The rest of my time in the Big Apple was devoured with shopping and theater and Kim, my manager/hostess/best friend, kept pace which only ended when I boarded the return flight. Only then did I read the *New York Times* Book Review which contained Robert Plunkett's review of Gurganus' latest.

It was not a kind review. Not only did Plunkett throw Knopf's ill-advised slug line, "he has created the pandemic's long-awaited great novel", in Gurganus' face - as if authors have any control over publishers' hype - but concluded that Gurganus had written the book more as a career move than an artistic endeavor.

Well, with damning by very faint praise I could not wait to finish the second half of the book. This I did with a half hour to spare (this time limit equally corresponds to the added length of the non-stop return trip).

I'm here to tell you that it is not a pretty sight for an over sixty queer to be in such a public place as a full flight to Houston and crying over a book.

While not helpful that my trip roughly fell on the second anniversary of losing my better half to this same pandemic, this was not

"Well, with damning by very faint praise I could not wait to finish the second half of the book. This I did with a half hour to spare (this time limit equally corresponds to the added length of the non-stop return trip). I'm here to tell you that it is not a pretty sight for an over sixty queer to be in such a public place as a full flight to Houston and crying over a book."

intentional and the first half of the book gave no indication of the pathos to follow. It is not about the loss to AIDS but the loss of a parent - also a somewhat recent issue for me.

And Plunkett's review left me feeling reasonable safe that the book, being a "career move", could hardly invoke so personal a

response as that which I experienced.

While I would hedge the publisher's hype, Gurganus' book fails Plunkett's reading as a career move if simply because the raw emotions displayed within his writing speaks too directly to this, and other, readers. Plunkett was correct that "Plays Well With Others",

as Alabama Byrnes is his Sally, and bisexual beauty Robert Christian Gustafson equally seems borne of "Berlin Stories".

Like Gurganus, his main character does go home again - Thomas Wolfe to the contrary (and Carolina bound). Whether the reader shares such longing is beside the point: this side struggle with family is another gay struggle as pertinent as the pandemic itself.

Plunkett concludes his review with a comparison of "Plays Well With Others" to Edmund White's "The Farewell Symphony" and Andrew Holleran's "The Beauty of Men". While granted both were more "gay", they dealt with different worlds within New York in the '80s. White's book, probably still the best of the lot, expresses more the wonderment of survival on the field of devastation; Holleran, on the other hand, remains the embittered survivor. Whereas White removed to Paris where the pandemic also raged, Holleran sought solace in a university town in Florida where rest stops replace bath houses.

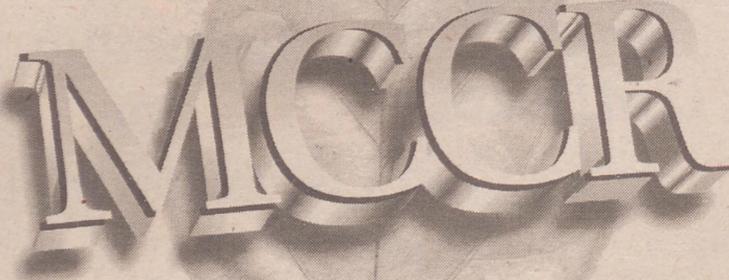
Gurganus perhaps remains more the artist. After all, his best seller, "Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All", established him as a writer first, only later to become a gay writer. Hopefully, the world of gay literature has room for all.

"Plays Well With Others" offers as a hero Hartley Sims Jr. who parallels Gurganus, including his return to North Carolina to live. The composer Gustafson is also the sought-after beauty of the party circuit, seemed so real a character of his time that I asked Gurganus his true identity. Like any patient author, he replied that the character was a composite of several friends. To me, he remained an intriguing single personage.

There probably will be no single novel which will capture all aspects of the pandemic which has no end, but Gurganus has provided his personal prowess as an author in a manner which can only advance our appreciation of what will probably prove to be the most important epic in gay history. For that, alone, he is to be thanked, and read.

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ENTRE NOUS

Why Is My Partner Always Yelling At Me?

by Dr. Charles C. Perroncel

There are Expressive people who believe in talking about everything ... and sometimes shouting about them. AND there are reserved people who tend to be very quiet and to "show" what they feel rather than talk about it. On the principle that opposites attract, it should be no surprise that these two often find a powerful attraction to each other.

The quiet one enjoys the excitement the other brings to the relationship, the expressive one cherishes the stillness and solidity of the quiet partner Then All Hell Breaks Loose. The Expressive one becomes

"volcanic" and "nagging" and the steady one becomes "withholding" and "boring". What's to be done? Can they ever learn to get along and restore the happiness of their "In-Love" time?

Of course they can ... If they Both are willing to

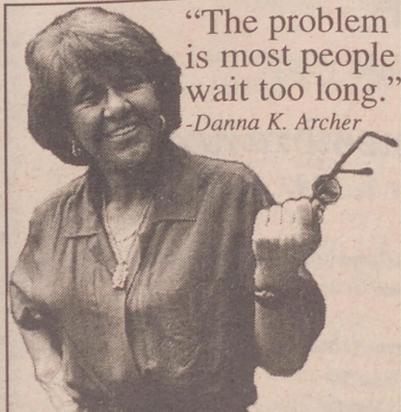
work at it. Last column we gave some hints for the Noisy Partner. This time there's help for the Quiet One.

First off, There are people who are quiet by temperament. It can actually be measured and predicted at birth whether you'll be better at sales or at library science. Delivery Room Personnel use the "drop test" - holding the newborn in one hand and suddenly lowering it - and noting how much it squirms, screams or just lies there and enjoys the ride.

The last group usually grow up to be Quiet Partners. However, some of the screaming bunch can be badgered into becoming quiet too. They are simply scared quiet by years of repressive upbringing at home, school and/or church.

In either case, a quiet partner can contribute as much trouble to a relationship as a noisy one. It's just less apparent. So here are some tips for minimizing your contributions to the problems and increasing your pleasure in living with that boisterous, badgering, bombastic partner of yours.

- Buy time to think about what you want to say by suggesting: "I need a little time to think about that". Then be sure to come back to the subject as soon as possible.
- Write your ideas down before your conversation so that you won't become muddled while talking.
- Ask for understanding. Make it clear that you are trying to answer, but are hampered if your partner won't be quite so that you get a thought clear and clearly stated.
- Write a note about the issue if you find it just too threatening to talk about it. Ask your partner to write back.
- Get into an Assertiveness Training Class or see a qualified relationship therapist to coach you in the art of fearless conversation.



"The problem is most people wait too long."
-Danna K. Archer

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(Charles C. Perroncel, D.Min. is a clinical pastoral counselor who practices in Houston; offering Intentional Therapy for individuals, couples, families and groups. He is a CT lic'd. MFT (relationship therapist). He will answer readers' questions addressed to ENTRE NOUS, The Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer, Suite 105; or Emailed directly to dr.c.perroncel@therapist.net)

Mud? Who's throwing mud?

by Leslie Ramsay

Now the mainstream press is telling the story of mudslinging by the mayoral candidates. They are defining the Mosbacher television advertisements as mudslinging. I actually have seen this particular ad. I believe that what Mosbacher is reporting are pretty much documented facts about the illustrious political career of Lee P. Brown.

The Lee P. Brown advertisement on the other hand is dubious in its factual basis. The young policewoman featured in the advertisement was not even on the police force when Brown was top cop in Houston yet she touts his strong leadership skills and crime reduction efforts...The crime rate in Houston went up during his watch. The juvenile gang situation we have in the city currently began under his "strong" leadership.

But what does truth in advertising mean to political ads?

The Clinton/Gore team ran advertisements continuously throughout the last political cycle that were complete lies. The AFL-CIO union boys ran advertisements about how the Republican "Contract with America" was going to throw old people out into the streets. The majority of the Contract items have made their way into policy or law and my grandparents are still living in their

home...

The law that requires companies to verify the truthfulness of their claims about their products does apply to politicians. Politicians, who already have a tendency to stretch the truth, are allowed to say whatever they feel like about themselves and their opponents. Political advertising is considered "political speech." The judicial branch

of our government has defined lies, fabrications, bigotry and mudslinging as sacred "political speech."

Is this little spat on the TV news going to change the minds of the voters? No. Lee P. Brown will be made out to be the victim. More of his supporters will show up at the polls to "get back at that rich white guy from West University". Race and class will again be the only reason to vote in the run-off.

If the Mosbacher campaign would show a little latitude on who he really is as a person, he might pick up a few votes in the gay community. How much handling does he really need? During Mosbacher's "power

brunch" with the Houston Gay and Lesbian Caucus, he was skewered by some of the more hardcore socialists that regularly attend their functions.

I wouldn't blame him if he were a little gun shy around "gays" in this town. Remember folks, no one elected the people over at the Houston Gay and Lesbian Caucus to represent you. They are representing you to the "straight" community because you choose not to be politically active.

I wouldn't blame him if he were a little gun shy around "gays" in this town. Remember folks, no one elected the people over at the Houston Gay and Lesbian Caucus to represent you. They are representing you to the "straight" community because you choose not to be politically active.

EISNER/from page 1

agenda," Eisner told CBS' Lesley Stahl.

The Baptists were angry about Disney's policy of giving health benefits to same-sex partners of employees, allowing "Gay Days" at its theme parks and permitting the star of the ABC show *Ellen* to come out as a homosexual. ABC is owned by Disney. They also objected to Disney's *Pocahontas* because it did not deal with the historical character's conversion to Christianity.

"When somebody says Pocahontas is anti-Christian or anti-Jewish or anti-black or anti-Native American, I say inside deep down, 'They're nuts.' They really are," the Disney chairman said. "She didn't become a Christian in the legend until after our story ended," he said. "(Pocahontas) is one of the most pro-social movies made in the 75 years of the history of the Disney Company."

As for *Ellen*, Eisner said he thought the show's homosexual story line has been very well done. He said a recent advisory placed at the beginning of an *Ellen* episode where the star, Ellen DeGeneres, kisses another woman was in no way a response to the boycott. The advisory so angered DeGeneres that she briefly threatened to quit.

Eisner said the advisory was used to forewarn viewers who might be uncomfortable and parents who don't want their children watching something that is against what they believe in. And the "gay day" at Disney World was arranged by the homosexual community, Eisner said, adding, "I think it would be a tragedy for us to exclude anybody."

It's almost impossible to keep track of the interest groups angered by the sprawling Disney Co. A Catholic group is urging a boycott of the ABC show about a conflicted priest, *Nothing Sacred*, while the National Federation of the Blind objects to Disney making the live-action movie, *Mr. Magoo*, saying the bumbling nearsighted cartoon character is offensive to the blind.

A spokesman for the Southern Baptists said Eisner's comments were no surprise, but that the boycott may particularly be felt during the holiday shopping season. "If I were Michael Eisner and I were the head of that company, I would say (the boycott) didn't have any effect. That's to be expected," said spokesman Dwayne Hastings.

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any change in the program should come through legislation. Hart said the department examines the lifestyle and background of all inhabitants of a potential foster home.

Advocacy groups for gays and lesbians said barring homosexuals from providing foster care would be a slap in the face.

"I think this is part of a demonization of lesbian and gay men that is based on a lot of myths about how lesbian and gay men act," said Jon Davidson, supervising attorney for the western regional office of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc.

Emory University trustees permit some gay marriages

by Steve Visser

GEORGIA - Methodist-affiliated Emory University will allow gay couples to say "marriage" or commitment vows in its chapels under strictly limited circumstances that effectively exclude most campus homosexuals, including Methodists.

The policy, approved last week by the board of trustees, requires that a religious leader from one of the 24 religious groups on campus perform such ceremonies, chaplain Susan Henry-Crowe said. Of those groups, only the Reformed Jewish leader and the United Church of Christ leader now perform ceremonies for gay couples, she said, acknowledging that gays of other faiths who want to use campus chapels are out of luck.

Lindsey G. Davis, bishop of the North Georgia United Methodist Conference, said he was pleased that Emory's new policy "makes it unlikely that same-sex ceremonies will be conducted in the university chapels." But Ms. Henry-Crowe, a Methodist minister, denied the new policy is designed to dodge a church-university controversy by making the issue largely moot.

The board, which includes five Methodist

bishops, approved the policy without dissent, said board chairman Bradley Currey Jr. "I am a Christian, happen to belong to the Episcopal Church, and I believe the actions that have been taken by the board today are completely consistent with my religious faith," Currey said.

The only gay commitment ceremony ever performed at an Emory chapel was in 1995, Ms. Henry-Crowe said. Emory became the center of a controversy over whether the private university should permit exchanges of vows after the dean of Emory's Oxford College, a satellite campus 30 miles south-east of Atlanta, denied permission for a gay ceremony in May.

Oxford dean William Murdy cited church policy, Georgia law and community standards when he canceled the chapel reservation of Chris Hamilton, who was then director of student development at Oxford, and his partner, Jack Hamilton.

University President William M. Chace said the dean violated Emory's nondiscrimination policy in banning the ceremony. North Georgia United Methodists disagreed and asked the school trustees to study the matter.

Gay-straight alliance gives students supportive environment

by Julie Swensen
Corvallis Gazette-Times

OREGON - They're treading into an area where some people don't want them to go. But it's a step toward acceptance for some local high school students who meet in the Gay/Straight Alliance, a twice-monthly gathering that has attracted up to 40 students to a French classroom emptied for the lunch hour at Corvallis High School.

Inside that room, gay students are insulated from harassment and gain strength from peers - gay and straight - who accept who they are. Once the students get there, unoffi-

cial adviser Julie Williams said, the students aren't asked what their sexual orientation is. It doesn't matter.

"There's 50 minutes twice a month that those kids are in an environment that's completely supportive," Williams said. For some of those students, she said, it's support they can't find at home.

Some people say gay issues shouldn't be discussed in schools, but others say it's an issue that can no longer be ignored. Not all students at Corvallis High School are supportive of the club. When senior Paul Miller, 17, puts up flyers advertising the group's meetings, the flyers don't always stay there for long.

On the flyers with the rainbow-colored triangle, his peers have written "Fags go to hell," "Fags must die," and worse. Sometimes the flyers are spit on, torn to shreds, or put in the garbage. One time, the triangle was covered with a penis shaped out of clay.

"So many people don't know what the club is," said Miller, who came out of the closet his junior year. "They just hear the word gay and they get upset."

The club, students said at a recent meeting, is a place a person can go and not be isolated and where people have an open mind. It's also a place to talk about harassment, such as the carefree use of the word "faggot" by peers. It's a place where students can talk about being gay without being told it's a phase, as one student recalled his mother saying about his sister.

"I think it just shows people at CHS are having a more relaxed attitude about homosexuality," said Kate Dickinson, a 15-year-old sophomore who, like many others in the group, are straight. Those who support the group and aren't gay face harassment, also.

"Their view of the world is if you tolerate homosexuality, you must be a homosexual," a 15-year-old boy said. Many don't realize there is harassment or even that there are gay students at school.

Miller recalled his introduction to high school three years ago. The first week,

somebody came up to him and said, "I'm going to kill you, you ... little faggot." Since then, he's been followed in the hallways, surrounded by people who demanded money, and been called a variety of hateful names.

One time while he was walking, a car full of students veered toward him as if they were going to hit him, then drove away with the students laughing. Miller said he's taken several different routes home from school so no one knows where he lives. Transferring to a private school has crossed his mind.

Besides forming the Gay/Straight Alliance, Miller has been a panelist for the "Opening Doors" conference at Oregon State University, which is designed to help teachers and others who work with kids gain a better understanding of the issues facing gay youth. Miller also hands out flyers for "Out N About," a group of gay youths that meets weekly at the First United Methodist Church.

"I think he's a very courageous young man," said Steve Locey, dean of students at Corvallis High. "He may not realize it, but I think he's helped a lot of people, and not just high school kids."

Establishing the Gay/Straight Alliance last spring was frightening for some, Williams said. Some parents were concerned it would recruit children into the "gay lifestyle." Students criticize the administration for not being more supportive of the group.

Locey acknowledged that school officials were nervous about the alliance, fearing the meetings would be disrupted after inappropriate comments were made by students and non-students alike. Students say action often doesn't come until a situation escalates to violence.

Last month, a bisexual student became involved in a melee near school during which students cursed and spat upon him. According to the high school newspaper, the *High-O-Scope*, one of the aggressors justified his actions by saying the bisexual student was "flirting" with him. "If God can kill a bunch of faggots, so can I," the 15-year-old student was quoted as saying.

The students realize that change doesn't happen overnight. Miller and the others intend to persevere, putting up their posters, handing out flyers, and supporting each other. "I do not want this to end when I leave," Miller said of the Gay/Straight Alliance. "I want this to stay."

Bill would allow chemical castration for sexual offenders

by Heidi Russell

PENNSYLVANIA - Judges and parole boards could require convicted sexual offenders to take drugs to suppress their sexual appetites, under legislation House lawmakers considered Tuesday. But at least one expert on sexual predators warned the House Subcommittee on Crime and Corrections that the treatment should not be considered a cure-all.

"If anger accompanied the predatory sexual behavior, if the offender exhibited anti-social personality traits, and if the offender trawled for the opportunity to violently assault another victim, then an ... injection of hormones is not going to stop him," said Toni Dupont-Morales of Penn State University, who has treated sexual offenders for about 20 years.

Pennsylvania is one of several states considering "chemical castration," in which the offender receives a testosterone-lowering drug, such as Depo-Provera, a birth control pill for women. California and Georgia have already adopted similar laws that require child molesters to get hormone shots after they get out of prison.

Proponents of the Pennsylvania bills said the legislation is long overdue, but offered limited statistics to back up the claim. According to Pennsylvania State Police statistics provided by the bills' sponsor, Rep. Stan Saylor, R-York, 2,856 rapes were reported in the state last year.

A study done six years earlier by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency that tracked convicted rapists

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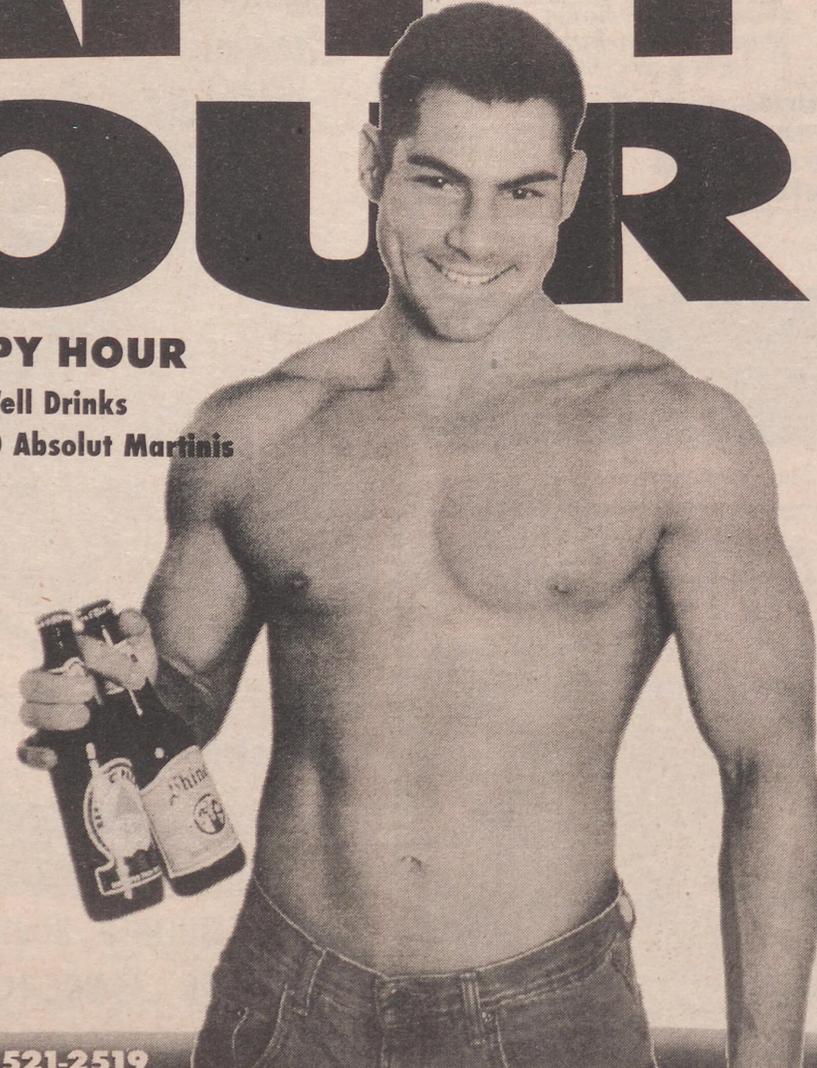
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for three years after their release from prison showed 22 percent were convicted or charged with subsequent sex offenses.

Under the bills, the courts and the Board of Probation and Parole would have the authority to require that sex offenders undergo drug treatment in conjunction with psychiatric therapy. Chemical treatment could also be required as a condition of parole, and eligible offenders would not be released from prison unless they volunteered for the treatment.

The American Civil Liberties Union contends that defendants should have a right to a hearing before the parole board if they object to the drug therapy being imposed as a condition of their parole. ACLU spokesman David Jaros also warned that the use of such drugs could prevent offenders from having children of their own, which he said could raise constitutional questions.

Ms. Dupont-Morales, who has treated predators in several other states since the 1970s, warned that if the offender is an unwilling participant, the drug therapy would fail. And the success rate is not 100 percent even among those who are willing, she said.

"If these people are psychopaths, they're suave and will tell you whatever you want to know," she said.

Initial treatment could cost about \$4,000 to \$5,000 more than the cost of incarceration, but the cost in the long run would be less if the treatment results in fewer sexual assaults, Ms. Dupont-Morales said.

Commission urged to toughen laws on sex offenders, hate crimes

by Larry O'Dell

VIRGINIA - A man who sexually assaulted a 10-year-old girl in a church office and later molested his own 4-year-old grand-

daughter served less than a year in prison before quietly moving back into his old neighborhood.

Nobody notified residents that a convicted child molester was in their midst - information the older victim's mother says should have been available so parents could protect their kids.

"We just want others to know who to avoid when it comes to the safety of our precious children," the 45-year-old New Kent County woman told the State Crime Commission on Tuesday. The woman testified at a public hearing on the commission's proposed version of Megan's Law, which would require residents to be notified when a convicted sex offender moves into their neighborhood.

Similar laws have been adopted or are being considered in more than 40 other states. The first was New Jersey, where 7-year-old Megan Kanka was abducted, raped and strangled in 1994 by a twice-convicted sex offender who lived next door.

The New Kent County woman said notification of neighbors is crucial because "there are no one-time pedophiles," and the damage they cause is immense. "If you rob a child of their innocence, they never get that back," she said. (The Associated Press does not publish names of sexual assault victims or information, such as a parent's name, that would make them easily identifiable).

The Crime Commission is considering a two-tiered system, based on criminal history, for spreading word about the release of convicted sex offenders. An offender who used threats against a victim within the last five years would be classified as a low risk.

Release of such an offender would trigger notification of the local police department, but no one else. Local schools, child-care centers, domestic violence shelters and scouting programs would be told when a worse sex offender is released, and they would be free to tell anyone else.

People also would be able to check on all sex offenders in their neighborhood by

checking a list provided by local police departments. The state already keeps a sex-offender registry, but it is used for law enforcement and is not available to the general public.

The New Kent County woman said she is not sure the measures being considered by the commission go far enough. She said that when the man who assaulted her daughter was released, "I was appalled they weren't going to go around the subdivision and say he's back."

Carolyn Herring of the National Organization of Women said the law should require police to verify sex offenders' addresses. She told about an offender in another state who gave authorities a relative's address, but moved elsewhere unbeknownst to his new neighbors.

The commission's recommendation will go the General Assembly, which convenes in January. Speakers at the public hearing also urged legislators to expand the state's hate crimes law to cover assaults precipitated by anti-gay or anti-woman bias. The law already provides enhanced punishment for assaults based on racial or religious motives.

"It's illogical to exclude crimes against gays and lesbians and gender-based crimes," said Elizabeth Cramer, a social work professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. "The perpetrators have similar motives, and the victims experience similar physical and emotional effects."

Riordan vetoes city council's approval of gay sex club

CALIFORNIA - Los Angeles mayor Richard Riordan, sensitive to burgeoning secession movements, vetoed a City Council decision allowing a gay sex club to operate in a Hollywood neighborhood near an elementary school.

In his veto message to the City Council, Riordan said he was rejecting the variance for the Santa Monica Boulevard business

because it operates fewer than 500 feet from a residential neighborhood.

"The community was opposed to this," Riordan said. "As officials, we have an obligation to listen to what the community wants if we want to overcome the drives for secession." Josh Kaplan, an attorney for the The Barracks club, did not immediately comment.

Riordan stressed the decision was not influenced by the fact that the club is a center for gay sexual encounters. He said other organizations - including homes for the mentally ill and an Orthodox Jewish synagogue - have been denied zoning variances identical to the one being sought by The Barracks.

The mayor's action Friday was rare. Usually, when he opposes the council's apparent consensus on an issue, he typically expresses his opposition to council members in writing, sparing a possible override and a nasty public battle with the lawmakers. But this issue struck a chord with the mayor, his aides said.

"Let the message be clear. Quality of life is my No. 1 priority," Riordan told a meeting of San Fernando Valley business leaders at a Woodland Hills conference sponsored by the Valley Industry and Commerce Association.

"Whether it means making Los Angeles safer, bringing jobs to our residents or standing up for neighborhoods, I will do what it takes to make sure that Los Angeles is a good place for people to live, work and visit," Riordan said.

The Barracks had been operating illegally since January, but the police have not cited its owners. Neighbors say they have complained about parking problems, used condoms on streets, and cruising.

Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg, who authored the variance, said she would not attempt to override the veto, an action that would require 10 votes. Riordan said it would be up to the police to see that the club is shut down. Don Schultz, of Van Nuys

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Homeowners Association, praised the mayor's action, calling it a victory for the east Hollywood residents.

"They made the mayor recognize it was a quality-of-life issue," Schultz said. "But for those of us moving ahead with studies for secession, this is an example of why it's needed. The community was opposed to this and the City Council was nonresponsive. Everything was in place for denial, yet it got approved."

Gay survivor of Holocaust tells his story at Harvard

MASSACHUSETTES - Stefan Kossinsky is warmed by the memory of an old love, and chilled by a haunting uncertainty. What happened to Kossinsky's lover - a German soldier - all those years ago?

Kossinsky was a teen-ager when he fell in love with a Nazi soldier in 1941, after Germans seized his Polish town of Torun. Kossinsky told a group of Harvard students last week. The 72-year-old Kossinsky, on campus to attend the sold-out play, *Angels in America*, which was dedicated to him, said the young men met in an abandoned shed for nearly six months.

But then the soldier was sent to the Russian front. Kossinsky was caught trying to send a letter, was tortured by the Gestapo and sent to a prison camp for five years. "It was my greatest love, my first one," *The Boston Globe* quoted Kossinsky as saying.

Fearing that he had sealed his lover's fate with his hastily-launched letter, Kossinsky began a frantic search for the soldier. He examined archives in Germany, Poland, and Austria, but found no trace of the man. One of the most difficult things for Kossinsky, aside from having to live without his lover, has been having to live with the gnawing uncertainty of what happened to him and the torturous guilt of possibly having contributed to his demise.

The Holocaust devoured millions for their

ethnicity, politics, and religion. But it is estimated that as many as 15,000 were put to death for homosexuality. Kossinsky is one of only seven gay Holocaust survivors to be located by the Shoah Visual History Foundation in Los Angeles, which documents Holocaust survivor stories.

Kossinsky went back to Poland after the war, worked as an economist and lived a secret life as a gay man. Kossinsky wrote an award-winning book about his affair with the soldier in 1991. A group in Vermont that teaches high school students about the Holocaust is making a movie based on the book, which is titled *Damned Strong Love*.

"It's an extremely compelling love story that happens to be about gay men," filmmaker William Stetson, president of the Vermont Film Commission, told the *Globe*. In Nazi Germany, homosexuality was punishable by up to 10 years in prison, and love letters could be considered evidence. Homosexuality among German police officers was punishable by death.

Kossinsky read the letter to the Harvard students, part of which read: "I pray every day that you will come back safe. I'm just true to you and will remain so for my whole life."

Cammermeyer sends in filing papers, opens campaign office

WASHINGTON - Retired Army Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer has mailed her filing papers to the secretary of state and opened a campaign office to take on Rep. Jack Metcalf in Washington's 2nd congressional district.

Cammermeyer, 55, drew national attention by successfully fighting to stay in the Washington National Guard despite the military's policy of discharging homosexuals. Cammermeyer, a Democrat, said Monday she had opened her campaign headquarters in Langley, the Whidbey Island town where she lives.

The 2nd District includes Western Washington from Everett to the Canadian border. Her early campaign entry against Republican Metcalf gives her time to raise cash and drum up support in a race bound to receive national attention, party activists said.

"We've got the 'L' word in this race, and we're not talking about liberal," Paul Fournier, an Island County Democratic activist, told *The Seattle Times*.

Cammermeyer recently retired as chief nurse of the Washington Army National Guard. She had been fired in 1992, three years after telling an investigator she was a lesbian. But a federal judge ordered her reinstated in 1994, and the government dropped its appeal of that ruling. Her battle resulted in a best-selling book and a made-for-TV movie starring Glenn Close.

Metcalf, 69, has won twice in the nominally Democratic district. Before that, he spent years in the state Legislature. He is a retired history teacher, and he and his wife operate a bed-and-breakfast inn on Whidbey Island.

Metcalf has said he considers Cammermeyer "a substantive candidate" and will take her seriously if she wins the nomination next year.

Detroit city council considers benefits for domestic partners

MICHIGAN - The City Council is considering legislation that would allow benefits for domestic partners.

"This does indicate movement forward on this issue," Jeffrey Montgomery, president of the gay rights advocacy group Triangle Foundation, told the *Detroit Free Press*. "We look forward to going through the process. It's very encouraging."

The legislation, submitted by Councilman Clyde Cleveland, would allow any committed adult couple to register with the city as a family. It also would enable nonunion city employees to declare their partners as dependents so they could collect life and health insurance benefits, the paper said in a story Tuesday.

If adopted, Detroit's ordinances would be in line with those found in at least 20 other cities - including Ann Arbor - which already recognize domestic partnerships. None of the council members would comment on the legislation Monday. Mayor Dennis Archer would not say whether he will support it.

"He's not going to deal with that measure until it's presented to him by the City Council," Anthony Neely, Archer's press secretary, told the *Free Press*. The council likely will vote on the ordinances in January.

Print shop owners say they will continue to refuse service to gays

MICHIGAN - Owners of a print shop say they will continue to reject business from gays and lesbians even if the city adopts an ordinance making it illegal to discriminate on such grounds.

"Ordinance or no ordinance, we are going to continue to do business and to reserve the right to say no," Carole Hansen, who owns and operates Standard Printing with her husband, told *The Detroit News* in a story Monday. The Hansens said they oppose printing gay and lesbian literature because of their Christian beliefs.

The proposed ordinance - which, in part, stipulates protecting everyone regardless of "race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, having a disability, familial status, educational association, source of income, height or weight" - will be discussed during a City Council hearing Tuesday.

Members of the Ypsilanti Campaign for Equality say the Hansens have violated the rights of gays and lesbians by refusing to print brochures and social notices.

"The ordinance can't make people be anything they are not. But it sends a message that Ypsilanti won't tolerate discrimination and that Ypsilanti accepts and welcomes

everybody," said Beth Bashert, a member of the group.

Opponents say the ordinance is unnecessary.

"All this is is a smoke screen to get sexual orientation protection in the city," said Cevin Taylor, a member of Citizens Opposing Special Treatment (COST). "What you've got are a bunch of homosexual militants trying to get their lifestyles protected."

SUNY chancellor gives New Paltz campus president vote of confidence

NEW YORK - The chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY) said he has confidence in the embattled president of the system's New Paltz campus. SUNY-New Paltz President Roger Bowen is under criticism for allowing a conference to be held on campus on Nov. 1 that included explicit materials about sadomasochism, lesbianism and sex toys.

Gov. George Pataki directed Chancellor John Ryan to conduct a review of conference, which was sponsored by SUNY-New Paltz women's studies department. Pataki wanted Ryan to report back to him this week, but the chancellor indicated Thursday that the "impartial" review being conducted by his staff will probably take longer.

In a statement prepared to be read at a meeting Thursday of SUNY-New Paltz's college council, Ryan said, "I want to advise you that Roger Bowen ... from the time of his appointment to the present has had the continuing confidence of this chancellor just as every other president in the State University system.

"Now is the time for reasoned voices and views to be expressed and considered," Ryan said. "Some say that freedom of speech and academic freedom are under attack from within the university. That is not the case."

Bowen said he did not like some of the presentations at the conference, but that he refused to prohibit workshops he found offensive because that would have violated participants' constitutional rights. Less than \$1,000 in public funds were used to stage the conference, according to organizers.

The conservative anti-tax group Change-New York has called for Bowen's dismissal. Change-New York spokesman Brian Backstrom said he was not disappointed with Ryan for expressing confidence in Bowen at this point.

"Once all of the sordid details that exist have been exposed, Bowen should be fired," Backstrom said. "I think the chancellor's comments clearly reflect a wait-and-see position. We at Change-New York have seen and we are not waiting."

SUNY Trustee Candace de Russy called for Bowen's resignation following the conference, which she attended. She said she would press her case when SUNY's Board of Trustees meets on Tuesday in Rochester.

School Board is urged by opposing sides to take a moral stand

UTAH - The Nebo School Board was entreated at a public meeting to take a high moral stand in the issue of lesbian teacher Wendy Weaver. The speakers had quite different views on what constituted the moral stand. The board took no action.

Last summer, Spanish Fork High School and district officials ordered Weaver not to tell people she was a lesbian and said she would not be allowed to continue as the girls volleyball coach. She remains a psychology teacher at the school.

Weaver, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, has filed a federal civil-rights lawsuit asking that the gag order be ruled unconstitutional and that it be pulled from her work file.

"We believe our children were given to us by God," Matthew Hilton, the head of the Nebo Citizens for Moral and Legal Values,

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After His Adjustment, Ron Said He Felt Better and Could Breathe Easier.

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PHOTO BY STEVEN DAVID

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told the board Wednesday night. "What parents work for can be destroyed by public role models who undermine what is taught in the home. We support the school district's efforts to uphold these standards. This is a moral issue. It will not go away," he said.

Hilton presented the board with a petition signed by 2,678 adult residents of the school district. The petition asks the board to require district employees to observe "moral, legal and healthful values."

Parent Laraine Sands said, "The moral issue I'm concerned about here is the example we're setting for our own children regarding respect and tolerance for those whose beliefs and choices are different from ours."

Kaylene Kidman, a self-described "volleyball mom" said the problem is a result of "scared and misinformed parents. I was devastated to have a great coach removed from the volleyball program. There are so many untruths flying around."

Mapleton resident Sam Curtis called Weaver supporters "a small minority (that) is wagging the tail of the whole dog." He said he doesn't agree that he should send his children to a school "where the moral values are so different than the majority of the community."

A group spearheaded by Utah Valley Community College English teacher Laurie Wood has a letter of support for Weaver that bears more than 180 signatures. "We the undersigned believe that a public school should reflect the diversity of the community which it serves, including its races, religions, sexual orientations and political persuasions," the letter said.

"Consequently, we believe that Wendy Weaver should retain her position as teacher and coach at Spanish Fork High School. We also believe that the community should cease badgering, censoring and threatening her."

Louisville schools committee reject parents' requests to ban books

KENTUCKY - Answering a show of strong support from students, a Jefferson County School District committee Wednesday night rejected some parents' requests that the district ban three novels by a prominent gay author.

"I just don't think we can have a controlled, censored classroom," said Manual High student Stacy Riger, 17, one of about two dozen people who spoke at the meeting.

"We definitely can't hide these different lifestyles from our young people by pretending they don't exist."

The novels by E. Lynn Harris are part of Central High School English teacher Dee Hawkins' classroom collection that her students, in grades 9-12, are allowed to check out to fulfill class reading requirements.

But the books contain some sexually explicit material that led to complaints from some parents and to a vote by the district committee on Oct. 15 to have the books removed until the committee could decide on the value of their content for high school students.

The committee on Wednesday voted to allow the books back in the classroom, but said students must first get written permission from their parents. That recommendation will be sent to Jefferson County Superintendent Stephen Daeschner, who will review it and then make his recommendation to the school's site-based decision making council. The council will have the final say.

"How can she offer a 14-year-old a rated-R book when they can't go see rated-R movies on their own?" asked Angela Williams, who complained about the books after her 14-year-old daughter, Tiffany, told her they were available in class.

Hawkins said she required parents' permission for students to check out books with mature scenes, but she trusted her students and didn't require signed approval. The books in question are titled *Invisible Life, Just As I Am* and *This Too Shall Pass*. Hawkins said she explained to her students that they have "realistic language and mature scenes."

"It's not pornographic," Hawkins said. "Unfortunately, some of our students have to deal with these issues. Our students have to deal with AIDS ... unwanted pregnancies, with alcoholism, drug abuse, rape, racism, sexism, and all of that is in these three books."

The kind of topics that Harris addresses in his books - race, violence, religion, sexuality - will always be controversial, said Everett Hoffman, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky said.

He said the school district's committee should be "very hesitant to overrule the judgment of a teacher in the classroom about the appropriateness of a book. Unless it's a very clear case, it should not ban a book from a public school classroom."

John DeCamillis, an attorney for one of the parents who complained, said the case is clear. He wrote in a letter to the district that a cursory review of *Invisible Life*, would lead one to believe that it was excerpted from an X-rated paperback novel - certainly not from a literary work distributed to high school

students under the guise of educational reading material."

In Jefferson County, each school is allowed to make its own book selections. The district requires the materials to be factual and appropriate for the students' developmental stage and to have aesthetic, literary or social value.

Lisa Gunterman, an adult facilitator for the Louisville Youth Group, an organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people under age 21, said Harris' work is appropriate for the youth at the school. Much of his writing focuses race, class and homophobia in the black community, and many of his characters are successful, professional African Americans.

If parents want to prevent their children from reading the books, Gunterman said, that's fine. "But I don't think they have the right to decide that for all Jefferson County children," she said.

Sandwich Teacher fired after showing film with nudity to class

MASSACHUSETTS - A seventh-grade teacher was fired Tuesday for allegedly showing his Spanish class a film that included nudity and sex scenes. Edward Pasko, a 14-year veteran of Sandwich, Massachusetts schools, also may face criminal charges. Police said they were conducting an investigation.

Pasko allegedly showed a film called *A*

Very Old Man With Enormous Wings to his class at the Henry T. Wing School last week. The Colombian film, in Spanish with English subtitles, is based on a book by Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez and shows nudity and sex acts.

"For 11 years my husband and I guided our son. We worked to keep him innocent," one mother of a student told the *Cape Cod Times*. "It only took this one class to wipe all that away."

Pasko was fired Tuesday, Principal Matthew Bridges said. He said school policy requires that all audio-visual material be approved by him, but he was never shown the film. Pasko's telephone is unlisted and he could not be located for comment. Sandwich Police Detective Michael Miller said an investigation of the incident was under way.

Forty parents were invited to the school to see the 90-minute film for themselves. "It is more than just obscene. It's trash," said Marie Hutchinson, whose 12-year-old daughter saw the film. Some parents also objected to the film's depiction of the Catholic church.

Former Scout leader charged with two more rapes

ARKANSAS - A former Lonoke Boy Scout leader was arraigned Tuesday on two

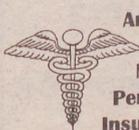
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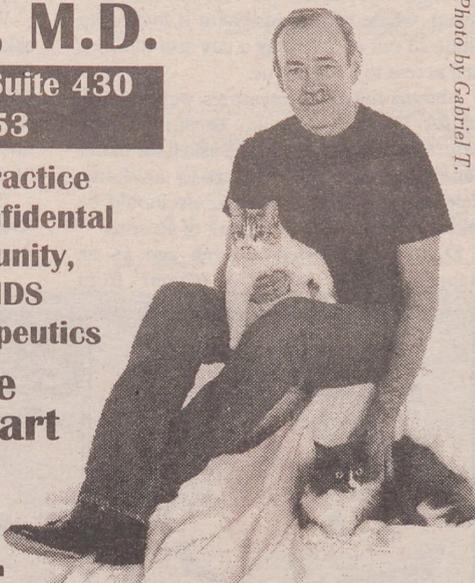


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additional charges of raping boys.

Dozens of supporters of the alleged victims wore yellow ribbons during the court proceedings of Charles Jack Walls III, who is accused of raping about a half-dozen boys over several years. Walls pleaded innocent to the two rape charges Tuesday, and a jury trial was set for April 1, with pre-trial proceedings a day earlier, said a court clerk.

Walls faces a separate trial on four other counts of rape, two counts of violation of a minor, and two counts of solicitation to commit murder. He also has pleaded innocent to those charges. He is being held in lieu of \$1 million bond in the Lonoke County jail.

Prosecutor Betty Dickey of Pine Bluff accused Walls of continually raping the boys beginning in 1986. She said all the boys were younger than 14 when the rapes occurred. The solicitation charge stems from Walls' alleged effort to have a boy and his father. The father had for years accused Walls of soliciting his son for sex.

Walls was an assistant scoutmaster of Troop 103 in Lonoke. His father, Jack Walls Jr., was a Lonoke County circuit-chancery judge.

Australian facing child sex crimes will fight extradition

FLORIDA - A lawyer for an Australian wanted in his homeland on child-sex charges promised Tuesday to fight extradition, saying U.S. federal courts have no jurisdiction in the case.

Robert "Dolly" Dunn, wearing blue jail garb and sneakers, sat quietly through the hearing before U.S. Magistrate Judge Peter Palermo.

The 56-year-old former Marist Brothers lay teacher from Sydney, Australia, is jailed without bond and could delay his return to Australia for six months or more by fighting extradition. Palermo set an extradition hearing for Jan. 6.

Dunn's lawyer, Assistant U.S. Public Defender Stewart Abrams, asked Palermo to dismiss the arrest warrant against Dunn because the court proceeding "was an accommodation for Australia." Abrams charged his client was "abducted from Honduras and brought to the United States" illegally.

He noted Honduras and Australia have no extradition treaty, but the United States and Australia do have one. "He was arrested by Interpol and Honduras authorities, clapped into handcuffs and put aboard a plane for the United States and arrested when he got here," Abrams said. He also complained about conditions at the federal detention center, where he said his client is locked up alone 23 out of 24 hours a day and has limited access to a telephone.

Abrams noted the measures were intended for Dunn's protection because of the nature of the charges, but he asked for better conditions and more access to a phone. Palermo said the jail complaints should be taken up with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

Dunn was arrested a week ago as he stepped off a flight to Miami from

Honduras, the latest stop on his round-the-globe flight from prosecution. Once Honduran authorities determined that Dunn had overstayed a one-year visa, they put him on a plane to Miami, his previous port of call, and gave his flight number to U.S. authorities.

The 91 charges Dunn faces in Australia include 85 counts of sexual assault "committed against male children," one count of pornography and five counts of distributing drugs to minors in the Australian state of New South Wales between 1979 and 1995, according to arrest records.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Hirsch, who represents the Australian government in the case, said the arguments about jurisdiction were not relevant and argued against the dismissal. Palermo did not immediately rule on the dismissal request and said he would schedule another court session on the jurisdiction question before the extradition hearing.

Man charged in murder of Illinois man who spread HIV recants

MISSOURI - The man accused of killing Darnell "Boss Man" McGee, who is believed to have infected at least 30 people in Missouri and Illinois with the AIDS virus, now says he didn't pull the trigger.

Montrell Worthy says he believes the killing was committed by a gunman enraged because McGee infected a girlfriend with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* reported Friday. McGee was shot in the heart on Jan. 15 as he sat in his car on a street in St. Louis.

Worthy, 24, had earlier confessed to police that he killed McGee during a robbery. His first-degree murder trial was scheduled for Dec. 15, but it probably will be pushed into next year, the circuit attorney's office said. Police initially said they suspected McGee was killed as part of a revenge plot.

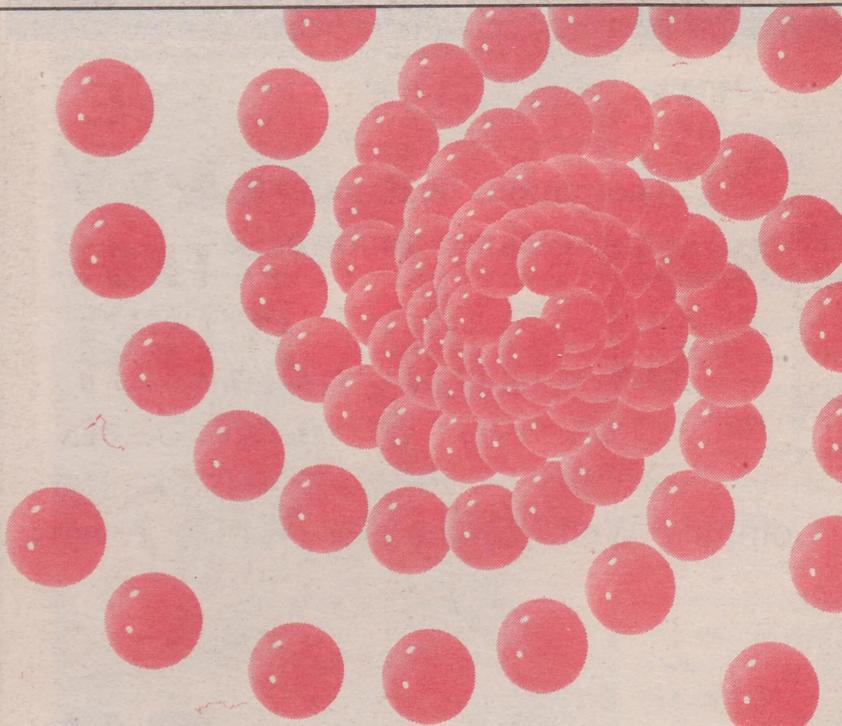
McGee, 28, of East St. Louis, Ill., preyed on scores of young girls, seducing them by telling them they were pretty, police said. He didn't tell them he was a carrier of HIV, though. More than 100 young women and girls, some as young as 12, have reported to health officials throughout the St. Louis area that they had unprotected sex with McGee since 1992, when he learned he was HIV-positive.

Health officials say at least 30 or more people have been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. At least one of those women delivered an HIV-positive baby. That is what prompted someone to kill McGee, Worthy told the *Post-Dispatch*, although he acknowledged that he does not know who the killer is.

Worthy, who remains jailed in St. Louis, asked if he could speak to the *Post-Dispatch* "to state my innocence to the world that I, Montrell Worthy, don't know nothing about nothing. Most everyone knew Boss Man had lots of girls - and AIDS," Worthy said. "I don't know why I'm in here."

But two veteran St. Louis homicide detectives said Worthy told them he killed McGee during a robbery after luring him to the spot

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with a 15-year-old girl. The girl has not been charged. Worthy told police that he needed money. The girl had met McGee earlier in the day. She told Worthy that McGee drove Cadillacs and looked rich, police said.

Detectives said neither Worthy nor the girl knew anything about McGee spreading HIV. But Worthy seemed almost proud of the fact that he might be known as McGee's killer, the detectives said. Worthy denied the police account. He said he never needed money because he earned about \$500 a night selling heroin and crack. His wife's welfare checks also helped, he said.

Worthy said he was shopping for shirts when McGee was shot. Worthy also said he was confused - possibly even high on drugs - when police questioned him. He said he liked the police because they gave him cigarettes, Coca-Cola and Snickers and Milky Way bars.

"I didn't understand their questions," Worthy said. "I can't remember things."

Former assistant sues Montel Williams for sexual harassment

NEW YORK - Talk show host Montel Williams is being sued for sexual harassment by his former executive assistant, a homosexual who claims Williams subjected him to "sexually offensive conduct."

The suit, filed Friday by Ernesto Medina, claimed that Williams ridiculed the employee over his sexual orientation, gave him embarrassing "sex toys" and grabbed his buttocks. Medina worked for Williams for seven months in 1994-95.

A Williams spokesman, Sean Cassidy, said the syndicated talk-show host "vehemently denied" the charges.

Medina's lawyer, W. Randolph Kraft, filed a federal lawsuit in New Jersey last year on behalf of female employees who charged that they were groped by Williams and sub-

jected to his lascivious comments.

Two women later withdrew from that suit, and a judge dismissed the claims of two others.

"Mr. Kraft has filed lawsuit after lawsuit against Montel Williams," Cassidy said.

Talk show slaying may end up as made-for-TV movie

MICHIGAN - A Beverly Hills, Calif. psychiatrist is negotiating a deal to turn her book about the so-called Jenny Jones murder case into a made-for-television movie.

Dr. Carol Lieberman is writing a book about Jonathan Schmitz, the Lake Orion man serving 25 years in prison for the March 9, 1995 shooting death of Scott Amedure - three days after both appeared on a taping of the Jenny Jones talk show.

Schmitz told police he was humiliated when Amedure, who was gay, confessed to having a crush on Schmitz during the taping. The book, *Descent Into Madness*, isn't finished, Lieberman said in a story Tuesday in *The Detroit News*. But she's already negotiating for movie rights.

"It could be a movie-of-the-week," Lieberman, who's been a film consultant, told the paper. "It's not only Jon's descent into madness, but the descent of society. People can't have trust anymore in their parents, the judicial system or the media."

Lieberman testified on Schmitz's behalf as an expert witness. She has visited Schmitz at prison. Meanwhile, Jones is busy promoting her new book, *Autobiography of Jenny Jones*, in which Jones says heR show has nothing to do with the slaying.

Soap opera actor tells college students he is HIV positive

FLORIDA - A soap opera actor who played a character with HIV on the *Guiding*

Light warned an audience of college students about the dangers of practicing unsafe sex.

Scott Fried, who played Bart on the soap opera two years ago, told students at Broward Community College last week that he contracted the AIDS virus from a partner almost a decade ago. That partner died 3 1/2 years ago.

"I got infected the first time I had unsafe sex," said Fried, who lives in New York. "If that scares you, good." Since 1992, Fried has been traveling around the country talking about AIDS. He told the students to care about themselves.

"I'm paying the price for something I wanted to do, that felt good at the time," he said. "You have to say, 'I am worth more than this.' It's your life. No one is going to protect you, but you."

Actress wants to make it clear: she's not ABC-TV's resident lesbian

CALIFORNIA - Actress Lisa Darr wants to make it perfectly clear: She's not ABC-TV's resident lesbian. It's understandable that the first question of interviewers is, "Are you gay?"

After all, Darr portrayed the lover of Officer Abby Sullivan on the network's *NYPD Blue* and she's currently playing the significant other of Ellen Morgan on ABC's *Ellen*.

Darr says she's a single heterosexual with a boyfriend and that her casting on the two series is "a complete coincidence." She is savoring the attention, however, after a decade of steady but obscure work in such failed series as *Crime & Punishment* and *The Office*.

"Playing characters like this is a non-issue for me, and I really don't think about it at all," she told the *Los Angeles Times* in Wednesday's editions. "These are two women that just happen to be gay. Their sexuality is not the focus of who they are. I'm really proud to be able to bring this to the forefront. It's a part of life and should be accepted as such."

Residents, visitors have 'Midnight' madness as screening nears

GEORGIA - Loretta Deschamp couldn't get enough of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. First she bought the book. Then she stood outside this week's benefit screening of the movie, hoping to catch a glimpse of the stars.

"My family just thinks I'm crazy," the West Palm Beach, Fla., resident said Tuesday as she shelled out \$53 for *Midnight*-decorated cookie tins, pictures and T-shirts at The Book Gift Shop in Savannah. Ms. Deschamp is one of hundreds who gathered for the Savannah premiere of Clint Eastwood's film version of the John Berendt book about a notorious murder. The movie opens nationwide today. (See the Entertainment section of the *Houston Voice* for a review of the film).

Tickets to the screening cost between \$150 and \$250. The proceeds benefited the restoration of the Lucas Theatre and the Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club. Organizers rolled out the red carpet, put up Hollywood-style spotlights and set up bleachers and benches for gawkers.

Berendt's 1994 book has been on best-seller lists for three years and is six weeks away from breaking bestselling-list records. It chronicles the four murder trials and eventual acquittal of gay Savannah antiques dealer Jim Williams, who was accused of killing his young gigolo.

The book also takes readers on a tour of the quirky, scandalous nature of Savannah through some of the city's real-life characters: a black drag queen named Lady Chablis, a voodoo priestess, a piano-playing con man and the bluebloods of the Married Woman's Card Club.

"It's doing for Savannah what *Gone With the Wind* did for Atlanta," said Cale Hall, who paid the hefty ticket price and plans to

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attend the screening. "I really don't know what to expect. Savannah has never seen anything like this," said Hall, an employee at Club One, the gay nightclub that is home to Lady Chablis and is featured in the movie.

Last year, tourism in Georgia's oldest city increased by 14 percent, said Jenny Stacy, spokeswoman for Savannah's Chamber of Commerce. "The book is no small part of that ... but the movie will bring people to Savannah who would have never read the book," she said.

This is the slow season at The Book Gift Shop, but employee DeeDee Merritt says business is picking up thanks to the movie. "We're getting calls from all over the place - from people who want to know anything we can tell them about it," she said.

Meanwhile, Hall said business at the nightclub has been steady. "The tourist buses already stop by and look at us," he said. "We've added a special show just for tourists."

Eastwood directed the movie that stars John Cusack as the movie's narrator and Oscar winner Kevin Spacey as Williams. Cusack and Spacey are expected to attend the Savannah screening, said Jenni Leaderman, a spokeswoman for Warner Bros. Studios in Atlanta.

"I'm expecting the movie to be as good as the book. If it isn't, I'll ... be disappointed," Ms. Deschamp said.

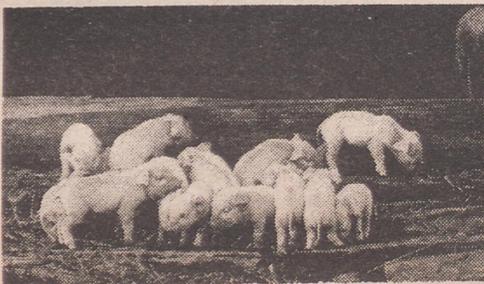
Briefs...

Hate crimes aimed at homosexuals and ethnic minorities are up on Colorado's

largest campuses, a survey of campus crime statistics revealed. Most of the hate crimes involved graffiti and threatening phone calls, campus police at the University of Colorado, Colorado State and the University of Northern Colorado said. At CSU and UNC, the hate crimes usually were directed at gays and lesbians. At CU-Boulder, the majority of hate crimes involved ethnic intimidation in pamphlets and graffiti, said police spokesman Brett Brough...

In *The Gloaming*, Christopher Reeve's directorial debut about an AIDS victim who goes home to die, took top honors at last weekend's 19th Annual CableACE Awards. *In The Gloaming* won four awards, winning an acting trophy for Glenn Close and best dramatic or theatrical special, best original score and best writing in a dramatic special or series. Other shows each winning multiple awards were Bette Midler's *Diva Las Vegas*, the prison drama, *Oz*, and *The Larry Sanders Show*, all on HBO, and TNT's miniseries *George Wallace*...

Finally, Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Arlen Specter (R-PA), and Ron Wyden (R-OR) introduced the Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 1997 last week. The bill is bi-partisan and would establish as federal crimes hate crimes against gender, sexual orientation, and disability. The legislation also expands prosecutors' ability to prosecute racially motivated violence and authorizes more funding for prevention programs and additional law enforcement to assist state and local law enforcement.



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Anchorage men want court to throw out same sex marriage ban

by Jim Clarke

ALASKA - Jay Brause and Gene Dugan have lived together for nearly two decades, maintaining a home like any married couple. Except they're not married. A state law passed in 1996 specifically bans same-sex marriages, and state policy before then has blocked it.

Now the men are asking the state court to declare the law unconstitutional and to force the state to formally recognize their relationship - something only Hawaii now does. In arguments Friday before Superior Court Judge Peter Michalski, an attorney for Brause and Dugan said the state is punishing the men by refusing to grant them a marriage license.

More than 100 state statutes provide rights or protections to married couples, but they're not available to homosexuals who live together in a long-term relationship, said attorney Robert Wagstaff. Those rights include the ability of spouses to sue for wrongful death, to share in a spouse's assets in case of death and to be included in health insurance policies.

Wagstaff argued that the Alaska Constitution forbids discrimination based on gender, and that the 1996 law banning same-sex marriage plainly violates the constitution. Still, he said he is emphasizing the negative impacts of the state's refusal to recognize the marriages, rather than the constitutional implications.

John Gaguine, an assistant attorney general, told Michalski the matter is not a constitutional one, but that even if it was, the state still shouldn't have to recognize Brause and Dugan's relationship. "There's no fundamental right at issue here," Gaguine said. "The interests here are, at best, economic interests."

He suggested that individual statutes that may discriminate against homosexual couples should be considered individually rather than by forcing the state to recognize same-sex marriages. "What the plaintiffs are requesting is largely akin to throwing the baby out with the bath water," he said.

Michalski could have ruled on the question Friday but chose not to. It's not known when he will rule. When the Legislature passed the law banning same-sex marriage, it also approved a proposal banning mandatory health coverage for unmarried partners of public employees.

That move followed a Superior Court ruling that the University of Alaska's health-care policy discriminated based on marital status. The university has appealed to the Alaska Supreme Court. The university also has offered a temporary benefits package which covers its employees' so-called "spousal equivalents."

Judge hears challenge to anti-gay rights referendum

by Francis X. Quinn

MAINE - A Superior Court judge heard oral arguments Tuesday in a lawsuit filed by defenders of Maine's gay rights law who are challenging the validity of thousands of petition signatures filed by opponents who want to repeal it.

Afterwards, Justice Roland Cole said he planned to issue a ruling Friday on half a dozen legal issues raised by the plaintiffs. Advocates for repeal of the gay rights statute maintain that the challenges are based on mere technicalities. Tuesday's hearing was the opening skirmish in what is expected to be a protracted legal battle, regardless of Cole's ultimate decision.

Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky declared on Oct. 20 that enough petition signatures had been gathered in a drive sponsored by opponents. See **COURT** page 17

Angels On Earth

*I only came to visit
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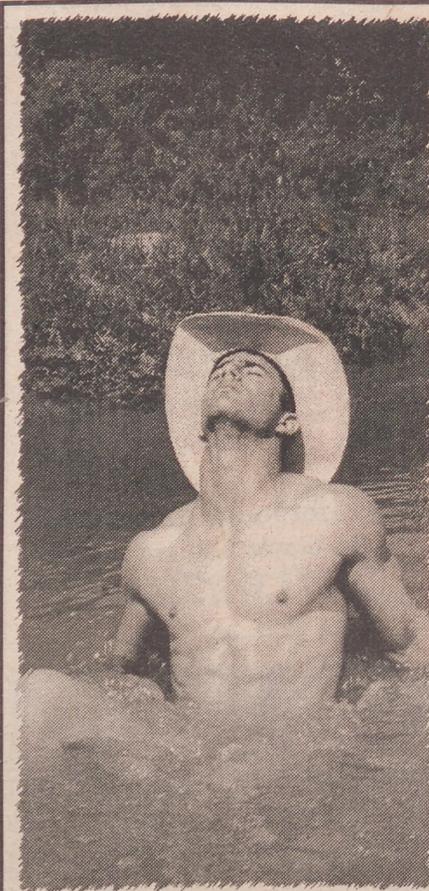
I know that you will miss me
I'll miss you too, no doubt
But now it's time for me to go
That is what loves about.

So please don't cry and mourn for me
I'm going to a place
where God's on high and angels fly
to keep me warm and safe.

I love you so and yet I know
Someday we'll meet again
With clouds so high, they touch the sky
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by Linda Owens

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sored by the Christian Coalition of Maine and the Christian Civic League of Maine to force a referendum on repeal. Gay rights advocates argue that the referendum should be cancelled because of numerous flaws in the petitions filed.

The Legislature approved the gay rights bill last spring, capping a 20-year effort by supporters, and Gov. Angus King signed it. But the law has yet to take effect, because of the referendum proposal.

Key issues presented to Cole include a complaint by defenders of the gay rights law that advocates of repeal illegally began to circulate their petitions before lawmakers who enacted the measure had adjourned for the year.

The plaintiffs also assert that more than 10,000 petition signatures should be invalidated because some of the petitions were improperly notarized. Lawyers for the plaintiffs urged Cole to shrug off suggestions that alleged missteps and irregularities in the collection of petition signatures were not substantial enough to warrant the invalidation of all or some of the signatures.

"We are not urging hypertechnicality on this court. ... That's the law," said Patricia Peard. But Assistant Attorney General Phyllis Gardiner, representing the secretary of state in defense of his decision to call for a referendum, said the pro-gay rights challengers were demanding "a standard of technical perfection" not required by the state Constitution.

Gardiner said there was no need for advocates of repeal to wait for the Legislature to adjourn before beginning to collect signatures. She also said there was no need for notaries to enter the expiration dates of their commissions on petition forms, because state elections officials could check their status themselves.

The two conservative Christian groups collected more than 65,000 signatures over the summer to block the new law from taking effect until a statewide election can be held. After reviewing the petitions, Gwadosky cleared 58,182 as valid - 7,051 more than needed.

The pending gay rights law would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in jobs, housing, credit and public accommodations.

Former student sues educators and assailant, alleging harassment

NEW JERSEY - A gay hairdresser in Sussex County claims in a federal lawsuit that his high school years were made harder because educators failed to apply their anti-harassment policies when he complained about abuse from fellow students.

Robert McDonald, who works in Newton, is seeking unspecified compensation from the Jefferson Township Board of Education, as well as several administrators and a teacher at Jefferson High School in Morris County.

The lawsuit, filed here last month, appears to be the first in New Jersey, and among only a handful in the nation, to address anti-gay harassment in public schools, according to a gay rights group, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

McDonald, 21, graduated from the school 1 1/2 years ago after enduring indignities that included from name-calling and spitting, as well as shoving incidents, according to the lawsuit. He said that in response to his clothes being stolen or scattered during gym class, school officials asked him to change in a separate bathroom. McDonald was also asked to leave classes five minutes early to avoid students who bothered him, the lawsuit said.

Among those named in the suit is Principal Robert Ross. "I've been here for 20 years as a principal, and we've always treated everybody equally," Ross told *The Star-Ledger* of Newark for Wednesday's editions. "We don't have two sets of rules."

A beating in his junior year robbed McDonald's left ear of 80 percent of its hearing, the lawsuit said. McDonald filed assault charges against student Scott Sisco

and is also suing him in state court, charging that the attack was motivated by bias. A lawyer for the Sisco family said any fight had nothing to do with McDonald's sexual orientation.

Gay couple sues nurse for criticizing their lifestyle

Connecticut - A gay AIDS patient and his partner are suing a nurse for criticizing their lifestyle when she came to their home to monitor the man's health care. Kenneth Johnson and Byron Benton claim in their federal lawsuit the nurse tried to force her religious beliefs on them and caused unnecessary distress.

Joanne Knight, a nurse supervisor for the state Department of Public Health, came to their Branford home in October 1996 to assess Johnson's care, states the lawsuit in U.S. District Court. Knight spent an hour criticizing the couple's lifestyle as contrary to the will of God, the lawsuit said. She told them they would "burn in hell" because they were not born again, according to the lawsuit filed last month.

"We didn't invite a Holy Roller into our

home," Benton said. "She's talking about freedom of speech, but how about the right to be free of someone coming into your home and telling you God won't accept you because you're a homosexual?"

The couple is seeking unspecified damages for emotional distress and anxiety. Knight was suspended in January for two weeks without pay and was reassigned after the incident. She sued the state last month, claiming her rights to free speech and free exercise of religion were violated. She is seeking restitution for the two weeks of work she missed, punitive damages and a return to her previous position.

According to her lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Hartford, the two men revealed to Knight they were homosexuals and had experienced a lack of emotional support from friends and relatives. Knight, a born-again Christian, had never before shared her beliefs with a patient but felt moved to do so in this case, her attorney said.

Families file lawsuit in dispute over blood products

LOUISIANA - Drug makers used blood

plasma collected from Louisiana State Prison inmates to make blood-clotting medicine for hemophiliacs, a practice that infected many hemophiliacs with the AIDS virus, a lawsuit claims.

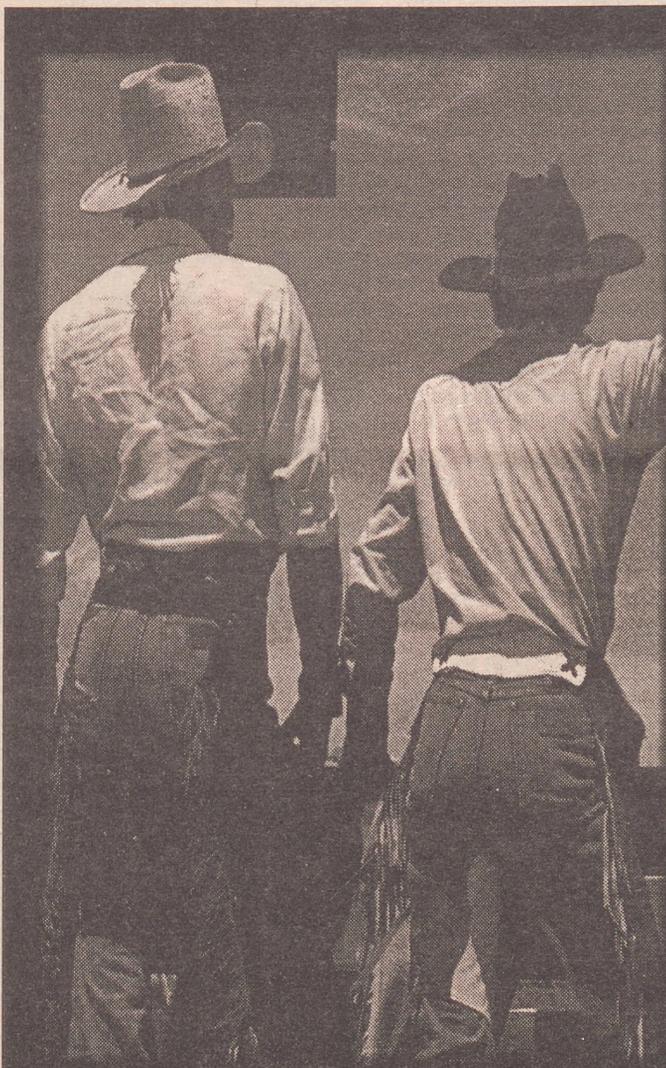
The families of 76 hemophiliacs claim in a lawsuit filed last month in state district court that the companies that made the medicine knew inmates included drug users, homosexuals and others at risk of contracting blood-borne viruses.

"The defendants' desire to acquire human blood - any human blood - for profits upon resale completely outweighed any regard they may have had for the rights of the ultimate users of products distilled from such blood and plasma," the suit says.

"As a result of this practice, virtually 100 percent of the persons with hemophilia who consumed the defendants' (anti-hemophilia) products were infected with numerous viruses, including various strains of hepatitis and HIV."

Hemophilia is a potentially lethal genetic disorder in which a person's blood doesn't clot properly because it lacks a protein normally found in blood plasma. The state is not named as a defendant. But the suit specifically points to the practice of collecting blood in Louisiana prisons, an issue that

See COURT page 20



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She's Still Unusual

by Scott Lewis
with Marc Sifuentes

Beginning professionally as a singer and composer for the New York new wave band Blue Angel, Brooklyn-born Cyndi Lauper scored massive success when she sold 9 million copies of her debut solo album *She's So Unusual*.

Few artists could match Cyndi's intimidating vocal talent nor her unique choice of material. Cyndi's latest, *Sisters of Avalon* includes Lauper herself playing an impressive array of instruments from guitar and recorder to dulcimer and zither.

An artist who is always seeking out new forms of expression through her music, Cyndi Lauper brings us a scintillating assortment of sounds and lyrics. More than a decade since her spectacular debut, she continues to prove that she is and will eternally be challenged by her art and not what the corporate industry expects of her.

I caught up with Cyndi at her New York apartment when she was waiting patiently to give birth to a little boy, due any day. She was spending the day doing phone interviews promoting her new single "Ballad of Cleo and Joe", about a man who escapes his everyday life through drag. She had canceled all interviews the previous day due to morning sickness. She was feeling all right when we spoke and we spent more than an hour on the phone.

According to Jeannie Williams, U.S.A. Today, the baby was born mid-day Wednesday (November 19) and he wasn't so little—9 pounds.

What were you like as a child?

I was a little eccentric, I guess, and a pain in the butt. I loved singing, writing poetry and drawing pictures. I have written since I was eleven. I was always either writing or creating art, so now I do a combination when I write stories or music. It's a wonderful way to have my career go.

What are the high points of performing?

I always enjoyed the multimedia aspect of this gig and that is always what I wanted to do more than anything ever. But just being the front person is a little boring. I am very happy with the fact that there was video when I first came out and that I had directors that were great teachers for me in the beginning.

How did your life change when "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" became such a hit.

I had most of my success in Europe at first and that was because they were more open and are more open to different things and different people. The record company seemed really behind me at that point. The first time that I ever appeared was in Boston. The girls were screaming over me and I had never heard that from a woman for another woman. I thought maybe they think I am a lesbian and that would have been okay except that it would have been a lie because I wasn't. Then I realized that it was a different thing, it was about having the courage to stand up and speak for people you relate to.

Back in the 80's critics said that Madonna had no talent and that Cyndi Lauper had all the potential for mega stardom . . .

I never had the need or ambition to do what Madonna did. I think that for her staying on top was more important than saying something poetic. I think that she played the game much better than I did. I hate the game. I don't like famous people.

I think that your music has matured over the years while Madonna's music is about the market.

I think that Madonna has more business savvy than I. What is important to her was not important to me. I would choke on certain lyrics (that she has sung). I was being forced to sing what would sell, but to stand up there now and have a song that wasn't eloquent . . . you have to question yourself . . . what am I singing about? I always wanted to do something extraordinary and not something that would fit in. I never did fit in and the fact that I was trying to do something that was very real and human is probably what critics responded to.

Your fashion sense has always been outrageous, how did your style evolve?

I worked in a vintage clothing shop and I adored vintage clothes. I was always trying to make what I

had on look better. I would add more stuff to make it nicer or bigger or shinier. I remember one time my hair wasn't big enough—so in my friend's shop they had crinoline tied about the head of a mannequin and I decided that would make my hair look really big. Then I took some tulle and tied some around my head and included it in my hair so it would look bigger and it worked. Because you know big hair was important at one point. I took a lot of abuse because of my clothes all my life. People were always so insulting because I was different and sometimes I had a rough time with it. I had no idea it was going to be a fashion because it was more of an anti-fashion statement.

You have a new album out, "Sisters of Avalon" that you recently toured to promote. You opened for the legendary Tina Turner. How did this come about?

I thought the bill sounded really great. Touring with her was really great because it was the right amount of time in state during pregnancy. But I kind of wish I did the Lilith Fair Tour although it seemed that they wanted performers that sounded the same. I don't know if I am like them musically. But I know that without people like me and without people like Deborah Harry and Joni Mitchell they would have had it tougher.

What did you learn from touring alongside Tina Turner?

In the beginning I was trying to play more instruments so that I wouldn't more around so much because I was worried about jumping and dancing (being pregnant). Then it grew from that into going into the audience. Leaving the stage made it more fun for me because I realized that my crowd was in the back, the riff raff. Not only that, but I've always been a bit of a riff-raffer myself so I knew those were my people and I had to get back there to them.

Speaking of your pregnancy, you are due any day. Isn't this your first child?

Yes, I am a little tired so don't mind me. I feel so serious today. I'm due November 16th, but it could happen at anytime.

Do you have a name yet?

Oh no, it's hard to pick out a good guy's name. We're going to try and wait to see what he answers to.

Songs from your new album have been remixed for dance clubs. What gave you the desire to reach out to dance clubs?

I did some work with Junior Vasquez because I was trying to mix hip hop loops and dance beats with pop music. Not making pop dance songs, but making different music. I knew that he was working with John Cougar Mellencamp on a project with John's style and so I wanted to do something with my style and the instruments that I play.

The song that intrigues me most is the title track from "Sisters of Avalon", which you wrote. What is the song about?

It's about the rites of passage for women and all of those nocturnal feelings that I get. The need to be connected to nature. That is the place that I go when I make music or when I perform music. That's the purest place for me.

Talk about "The Ballad of Cleo and Joe"

Well that is a celebration song. It started with the Gay Games when I did the "Hey Now" number with all of the drag performers. I was so captivated by them. I went on the road with ten performers in drag and it changes your perspective of drag and what you think drag queens are like. So I wanted to write something to celebrate them and to be empowering so that when people listened to it they would go on a journey.

There's a release party for the single "Cleo and Joe" here in Houston at Heaven Nightclub on Wednesday, November 26th. I understand that you will "be there" on video?

Yeah, I did a little video tape for the clubs. It's a throwback to the 80's so it's got some visuals and some lip synching. So I'll be dancing with everyone else.

(The new album is "Sister of Avalon" on Epic. The new single is remixed by Soul Solution and available on vinyl, CD and cassette. Scott Lewis's interviews can be heard unedited on the first Saturday of every month on "After Hours" on KPFT at 90.1 midnight.)

Let's Talk About Love

Celine Dion 550 Music

What's better than selling 50 million albums? Well, selling 51 million, of course! And perhaps that's just how many fans will flock to stores this week to pick up Celine's newest release unleashed in stores November 18th. Besides teaming up with Barbra Streisand for the first release *Tell Him*, Celine enlists the talents of the Bee Gees on *Immortality*, opera star Luciano Pavarotti on *Never, Never, Never*, and legendary Beatles producer Sir George Martin with *The Reason*. Having survived a stint on *Rosie O'Donnell* Wednesday, check for more Celine sitings on *CBS This Morning* next week and *The Tonight Show* December 16th. And if you must know even more, there's a very cool internet "temple" dedicated to Celine at www.celinonline.com.



The Greatest Dance Album In The World

Various Artists Epic Records

If only the greatest dance label in the world can create the greatest dance album in the world, then Epic Records isn't bragging about its newest release. Mixed by circuit DJ and Atlanta favorite Buc, this non-stop mix highlights the superstars of



The Theater At Bayou Place Begins Its Inaugural Season With A Bang!

by Steve Underwood

The (newly renovated) Theater At Bayou Place is one of the latest additions to the quickly emerging urban village at the city's core and PACE Entertainment seems determined to create a first-class multi-purpose venue deep within the heart of downtown's Theater District.

PACE is pulling out all the stops for The Theater's inaugural campaign. I've selected a few winter season highlights for your consideration:

Wednesday, November 26th: Cowboy Mouth heats up the venue for a gospel-inspired rock and roll concert Thanksgiving Eve. "The Mouth" have a lot to say with *Are You With Me?*, an album recorded during Mardi Gras in 1996.

Saturday, November 29th: British rock legends **Yes** take the stage in a concert sure to be treasured by boomers. The band's new album, *Open Your Eyes*, is the latest addition to a music history spanning over thirty years.

Tuesday, December 2nd: *Styles change, style doesn't*—or at least the electrobarbellish **Duran Duran** think so. World rockers Nick Rhodes, Warren Cuccurullo, and Simon LeBon will electrify The Theater with classic Duran Duran as well as songs from the band's new release *Medazzaland*.

Wednesday, December 3rd: Jars Of Clay are Dan Haseltine, Stephen Mason, Matt Odmark and Charlie Lowell. The band departs Nashville (leaving their Nashville Oilers at home) with a new album and new songs inspired in part by their love for ABBA, Depeche Mode, Genesis, and the

Epic's well-endowed dance vault. From Michael Jackson's *Money*, Gloria Estefan's festive anthem *Party Time*, Celine Dion's *It's All Coming Back To Me Now*, to a cool '97 version of **M People's** *Moving On Up*, *The Greatest Dance Album In The World* is absolutely out of this world! And just think,

someone you know might need some sweatin' to "newies" Christmas—so stuff some stockings with this one.

Come On Over

Shania Twain
Mercury Records

Perhaps getting a Grammy Award for best country album last year could have been enough. But maybe it wasn't—and it doesn't have

to be when your latest release debuts Number 2 on the **Billboard Top 200 Chart** and Number 1 on the **Billboard Country Music Chart**. Country fans are flocking to stores in droves for Shania's newest release, unseating country diva/goddess/legend **LeAnn Rimes** from her long held number one position in the process. But if the real battle is sales, take a breath, LeAnn, you've sent 2 million out the door! Besides, if Shania proves just a bit too much heat for your kitchen, nullify the threat by doing a duet.

Beatles.

Friday, December 5th: celebrating a musical relationship spanning over twenty-five years, Philadelphia duo **Daryl Hall and John Oates** paint the town with a *Marigold Sky*—their first album in seven years.

But **The Theater At Bayou Place** isn't limited just to live music acts. It is a theater, you know, and no Texas theater is complete without the Lone Star holiday masterpiece **A Tuna Christmas!** Yes, PACE expects a packed house for the Joe Sears and Jaston Williams classic that is a tried and true favorite of Texans everywhere.

A Tuna Christmas runs for a limited six-day engagement from **Tuesday, December 16th through Sunday, December 21st**.

With a general admission capacity of 2,900, PACE intends to schedule multiple artist formats. "We plan a very diverse range of programming at The Theater," states Rodney Eckerman, President of PACE Music Group. "We want to give Houston patrons a lot of choices."

Indeed, and with PACE's well established record of first-class programming, Theater At Bayou Place should prove a welcomed addition to downtown's economic renaissance.

You can get tickets for all events at **The Theater At Bayou Place** from Ticketmaster by calling 713-629-3700. Make your plans now—you'll be sorry if you don't!

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

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Fire is Mighty Hot!

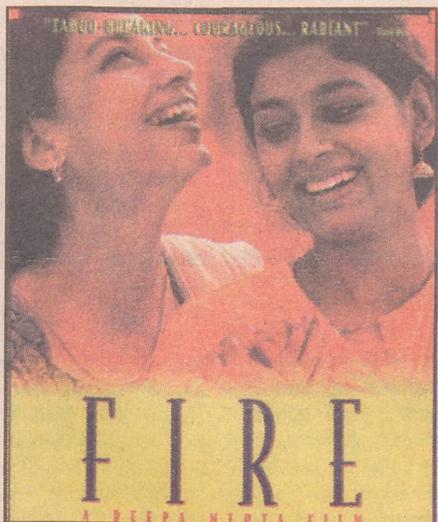
by Leslie Ramsay

Foreign film fans- this is your ticket for the weekend. *Fire* from famed film director Deepa Mehta and Zeitgeist Films is finally making its way to the Houston Greenway Theatre this weekend.

Fire is the story of a joined family in New Delhi, India. Before you automatically tune this out- the film is in English. Yes, they do get naked. Yes, they have sex. Yes, this is a gay film. Yes, there is some violence. Yes, the two main female characters are probably the best looking actresses in this type of film since *The Night is Falling*.

The film also deals with the turmoil of traditional joined family versus the modernization of the entire ancient family structure in India. When the film first appeared in India, the director, Deepa Mehta, was threatened with violence. Mehta was told by one moviegoer, "I'm going to shoot you, madam." After the police arrived the crowd calmed and she made her exit from the theater.

The story Mehta spins for the audience is wonderful. Shabana Azmi (*Madame Sousatzka*, *The Bengali Night*, *City of Joy*) plays Radha, the devoted wife and main caretaker of the family. She has lived in a sexless marriage with Ashok (Kulbushan Kharbanda) for 15 years. She has cared for his semi-paralyzed mother, Biji (Kushal Rekhi), their food takeaway business and his brother Jatin (Jaaved Jaaferi). She is the center for the entire family. Her life is basically a living



hell...

Then one day, Jatin brings home a new bride, Sita (Nandita Das). Sita's first move in the house is to throw off the traditional sari and to pull on a pair of her new husband's Levi's. She is very disillusioned by her marriage to Jatin sense he is still dating his Chinese girlfriend Julee quite openly.

Sita assists Radha in her daily activities running the business and family. She all the while is becoming quite attracted to the very beautiful Radha. As the relationship develops between the two women their terrible marriages are exposed for what they are. Ashok follows his religious leaders every word to the detriment of his physical and emotional relationship with his wife. Jatin abandons Sita more and more often to see his true love Julee. Both men are basically ignoring their wives. All the while Sita and Radha are making the most of the time they are left home alone.

The movie does have its comic moments. Ranjit Chowdhry (*Girl Six*, *Kama Sutra*) plays the masturbating video store worker that is secretly in love with Radha

and then Sita...

Fire could also be considered a political film. The plight of Indian women in modern India has not improved much in the last fifty or so years. The act of "female homosexuality" could be viewed as a political choice not necessarily just a physical attraction in this film.

The film is most definitely a must see. You will most probably learn a thing or two...

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil

by Leslie Ramsay

Warner Bros. Pictures releases the highly anticipated *Midnight in the Garden of Good*

and Evil to a multiplex near you. The best-selling hardback book by the same title is still available at your favorite bookseller. If you are one of the millions that have already read the book, I highly suggest that you keep your mental version of the story of Jim Williams and Savannah in your head.

Kevin Spacey (*The Usual Suspects*, *L.A. Confidential*) and John Cusack (*Grosse Pointe Blank*, *The Road to Wellville*) are horribly miscast as Jim Williams and John Kelso. Spacey doesn't give the role the southern opulence and decadence that the role of Mr. Jim Williams requires. He just doesn't play a deep south closet homosexual very well. He does remind me of someone I know that lives here in Houston though...

Cusack fills the role of John Kelso, a New York magazine writer, with way too naïveté. He is so awed by things that a native New Yorker would never notice i.e., an unkempt man with horse flies tied to his clothes or a man walking an empty dog leash through the square. In the book the writer takes notice of his surroundings but in the movie they amaze Kelso.

Jack Thompson (*The Sum of Us*, *Excess Baggage*) stars as Sonny Seiler, the lawyer that defends Williams for the murder of his secret lover, Billy Hanson. His Australian

accent is covered for the most part by a hit-or-miss southernesque drawl.

Alison Eastwood (*Absolute Power*, *Tightrope*) plays the love interest, Mandy Nichols, of Kelso and the rouge Joe Odom. Her movie roles are assured by her father's continued hold of the powers that be in the Hollywood film business.

Paul Hipp (*The Funeral*, *The Bad Lieutenant*) plays the role of Joe Odom.

The Lady Chablis sadly stars as herself. The director apparently is not very well versed in the area of female impersonation. He allowed way too much latitude in the adlibbing area of the film. In the scenes with Cusack, the Lady Chablis rambled on while Cusack was stumbling his lines in an attempt to catch-up. Eastwood failed

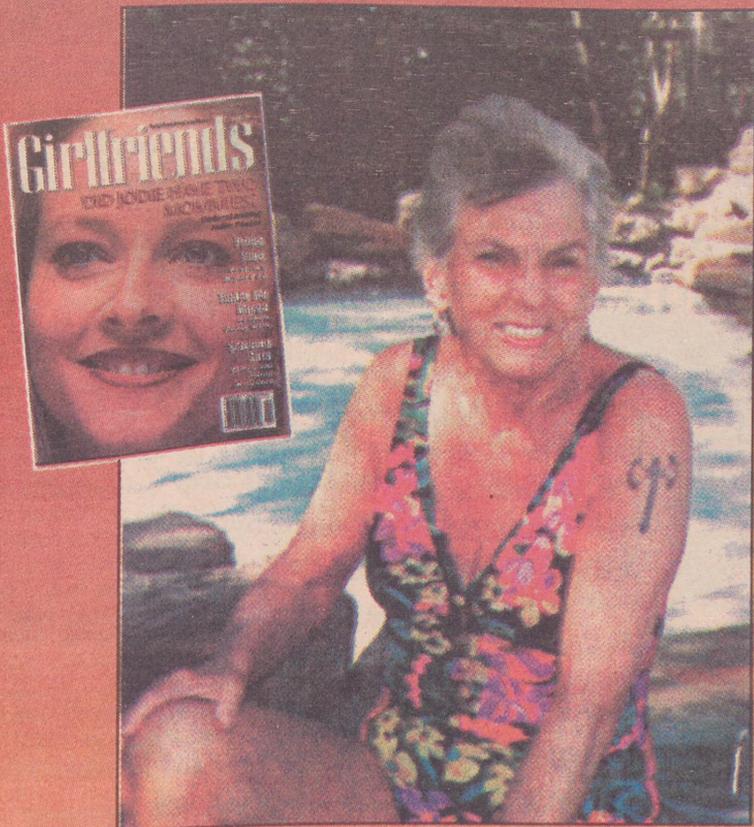
to properly prepare the Lady Chablis for the harsh and cruel lighting that filmmaking requires. He should have provided dailies for her to view and suggestions from the make-up artist on staff.

Irma P. Hall (*Soul Food*, *Nothing to Lose*) stars as the voodoo mistress, Minerva. She aptly takes on the roles with her usual excellence. She is a joy to watch on the big screen whatever the role.

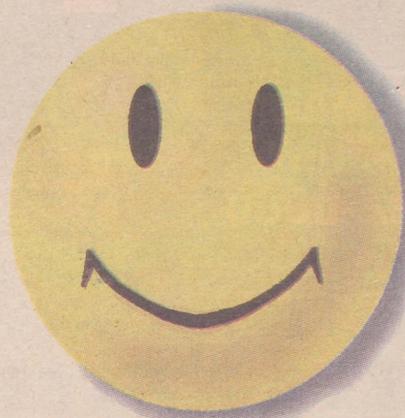
To be completely honest I left the theater angry. I sat through two and half-hours of Clint Eastwood missing the real story. The director was skimming through this wonderful story about a generation of Southern reality. He was exploiting the eccentricities without relaying any of the history, warmth, comfort or hospitality. He made Savannah into a freak show.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

Diane Portilla

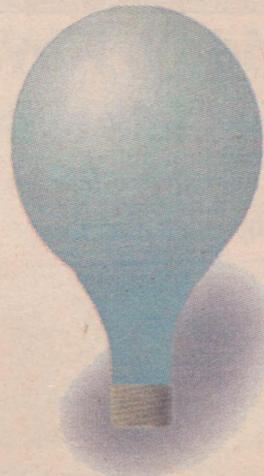


Houston's Diane Portilla has splashed onto the national scene in the November issue of *Girlfriends* magazine. Look for her upcoming Travel column in the *Houston Voice*.



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has drawn little attention in the nearly two-decade national debate over the spread of AIDS.

Defendants in the suit, including Armour Pharmaceutical Co. and Baxter Healthcare Corp., have long denied they were negligent in responding to HIV as scientists were beginning to understand it in the early 1980s.

The other defendants are Rhone-Poulenc Rorer International Inc., Centeon Bio Services Inc., Alpha Therapeutic Corp., The Green Cross Corp., Bayer Corp., Miles Inc. and the National Hemophilia Foundation.

The drug companies have insisted they moved as quickly as possible to take appropriate measures as scientists concluded a blood-borne virus causes the disease known as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

However, the makers of hemophilia medicine, including Armour and Baxter, agreed

last year to pay \$600 million to settle a class-action lawsuit filed in federal court in Chicago. Under the terms of that settlement, \$100,000 is to be paid to each hemophiliac or the family of each hemophiliac who contracted HIV, according to Frances Phares, attorney for the hemophiliacs who filed the lawsuit.

She said her firm, Mull & Mull of Covington, had about 300 clients who chose to take the settlement.

But many others decided to drop their claims in the class-action case and bring a separate action because they were not satisfied with the settlement, she said. "They didn't think it was enough money," Phares said.

As many as half of the nation's 20,000 hemophiliacs may have contracted HIV, the virus that can cause AIDS, officials have estimated. The state corrections department issued contracts to private companies to work in state prisons buying blood from

inmates from at least the late 1980s until as recently as 1994, when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration began questioning the practice, state records show.

Louisiana Biologicals Inc., one company that had that contract, halted its participation in March 1994. The company is not named as a defendant and is not mentioned in the suit. However, its involvement suggests plasma collection from prisoners was extensive.

Louisiana Biologicals paid inmate donors \$5 for each donation. The company collected an average of 4,136 donations each week from inmates in six prisons in 1991, state records show. Louisiana Biologicals then sold the plasma to other companies, state and federal records show. The suit does not identify the time period in which it believes

practices at the prison led to HIV infections among hemophiliacs.

The suit also claims the National Hemophilia Foundation, a non-profit group initially set up to help hemophiliacs, instead injured them by continuing to promote the drug makers' products when foundation officials were aware of the risks they posed.

The suit also claims that the companies had the opportunity to use treatments that would kill viruses in their blood products, but they chose not to use them immediately because the treatments cut down on the amount of hemophilia medicine that could be made from a given quantity of plasma, Phares said.

"They lost their yield when they cleaned it up," Phares said. "They concealed all of this."

GLOBAL NEWS

Oscar Wilde finally returns to Dublin in the form of a statue

by Shawn Pogatchnik

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) - Hounded to an early grave a century ago over his love of young men, Oscar Wilde has returned this month to a slouching, smirking perch atop a rock in Dublin's Merrion Square, where the playwright and wit lived half his life.

This time around, most Dubliners like what they see - a technicolor Wilde fashioned of granite, jade, porcelain and quartz. Some of his most quotable moments are reproduced in his own writing on two black columns, one crowned by a pregnant woman, the other by a naked male torso.

"Nobody could pass by this sculpture and say they had no opinion about Oscar Wilde," said Elizabeth Healy, grabbing Wilde by the shoe. "Look at him - he's daring you to have a go at him."

Indeed, in a city dotted with statues and monuments that are mostly ignored, the Wilde statue enjoys a steady stream of animated interest. Joggers pause to pick out their favorite sayings, and shoppers set aside their bags to berate or praise sculptor Danny Osborne's bold color scheme. Coarse Dublin wits already have had their way with the new Wilde.

The city gives disparaging nicknames to much of its statuary - big-busted Molly Malone on Grafton Street is universally known as "the tart with the cart" and the Anna Livia river goddess fountain on

O'Connell Street as "the floozie in the Jacuzzi." Similarly, Wilde has been christened "the quare in the square."

Wilde never recovered after being prosecuted and sentenced to two years at hard labor for his dalliances with young men. He died in 1900 in Paris at the age of 46.

"His life was very sad," said 71-year-old Maeve Casey, stopping by to inspect the statue. "To think that his two sons had to change their name - it was all an awful shame. He may have been a bit perverted, but he didn't hurt anybody."

"Typical Irish," said her friend, Mary Condon. "We begrudge anyone's success and practically force them out of the country. It's taken Dublin nearly a century to let poor old Oscar here appear in public again."

Most viewers praise the statue's originality, but some are starting to quibble. "The pose isn't studied enough," said Healy. "We don't like his expression. Too exaggerated."

"Yes, and his ankle there looks twisted," added her friend, John de Fouw. "But then so was Oscar."

Special World AIDS Day tribute for Princess Diana

LONDON (AP) - The charity National AIDS Trust said Monday it will commemorate Princess Diana's work on AIDS with a candle-lit procession and vigil on World Aids Day on Dec. 1.

Oscar-winning film producer David Puttnam will speak during the event, titled See GLOBAL page 21

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GLOBAL/from page 20

"Celebration of Life," said National AIDS Trust director Derek Bodell. "Celebration of Life" will give people a chance to look back and remember Princess Diana's life and work on AIDS, and the many lives that have been lost to the disease," Bodell said.

Diana, who died in a Paris car wreck on Aug. 31, was a former patron of the National Aids Trust and worked hard to highlight the plight of AIDS sufferers. Pictures of her sitting on their beds and shaking their hands are credited with reducing prejudice against those with the deadly virus.

The National AIDS Trust said it expects hundreds of people to gather at Green Park in central London, then march along Piccadilly, finishing at St. James's Church, where the vigil will take place.

Gerry McGrath, who is HIV-positive and met Diana at the London Lighthouse, a hospice for AIDS sufferers, will sing the haunting *I Would Be True*, sung at Diana's funeral at Westminster Abbey on Sept. 6.

China says up to 200,000 Chinese infected with AIDS virus

BEIJING (AP) - The number of official cases of HIV infection in China has climbed to 7,253, although experts say the real figure could be as high as 200,000, an official newspaper reported Thursday. The virus, first detected in China in 1985, is spreading mainly through heterosexual sex and drug use, the *China Daily* said.

Last December, China said 5,157 people were infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS. By June this year, the number was 7,253, the *China Daily* said. But "medical experts estimate that some 150,000 to 200,000 Chinese are already affected," the newspaper said.

Sexually transmitted diseases are also spreading, with 398,000 cases reported last year, an increase of 12 percent compared to the year before. A team of experts plans to tour China to deliver lectures about preventing the spread of AIDS.

Sydney wins Gay Games

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Sydney will host the 2002 Gay Games after beating four North American cities in a vote in Denver last week. Sydney beat Dallas, Long Beach, Montreal and Toronto and will hold the Games in September 2002.

The games will have more participants than the 10,000 expected at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Sailing, netball and touch rugby will be Sydney's addition to the list of official sports which includes ball-room dancing, tenpin bowling and golf.

LOG CABIN/from page 1

Cabin held a private fundraiser for Kolbe the day after his speech to assist him in his re-election.

"We are proud to have had nationally prominent openly gay congressman speak at the Log Cabin dinner two years in a row," said Log Cabin Texas President and National Board member Dale Carpenter. "This is a testament to the success that Log Cabin Houston has had in establishing itself as a political force in Houston gaining recognition for its work around the country." Last year the group hosted former Wisconsin Congressman Steve Gunderson, the first openly gay Republican in history.

Annie Parker drew thunderous applause when she addressed the group about her upcoming election. Parker, who was endorsed by the group, is in a run-off with Don Fitch for City Council At-Large, Position 1. She stressed the importance of raising enough funds to remain competitive in the race, which will require substantial television advertisements. Carpenter will be holding an invitation only fundraiser for Parker this weekend at his home. Also in attendance were Sylvia Garcia, City Controller-elect; Dalia Stokes, a judicial candidate; and State Representative Debra Danburg.

The group awarded its Presidential Award to State Log Cabin Secretary Tirey B. Counts for his significant role in last years successful Precinct Initiative. Counts was unable to attend

Events will take place in Olympic venues and mother landmarks, including the Sydney Opera House. The opening ceremony will held at the Olympic baseball stadium at Homebush.

Chairman of the Sydney 2002 Gay Games bid, Tom Seddon, said the 2002 games have a budget of U.S. \$7.35 million. "The economic impact of the event, most of it in Sydney, is expected to come in at over \$100 million," Seddon said.

The Gay Games started in 1982 with just 1,200 participants but 12,000 competed at the New York edition in 1994. Sydney's bid was criticized earlier this month by Ian Armstrong, a conservative politician and member of the board of SOCOG, the 2000 Olympics organizing body.

Armstrong said he was staggered by a request for U.S. dls 700,000 in government funding. "I predicted that this business was just a stunt to allow Sydney's homosexuals to give their overseas colleagues a cheap holiday in the harbor city," Armstrong said. "And it appears I was right."

Organizers received about \$50,000 government funding to help win the bid and were promised use of some of the venues to be used at the 2000 Olympics.

"The Olympics are for all people, and will be paid for by the community. But why should the New South Wales community have to pay for the Gay Games which by its very name is intended to cater for only a minority?" Armstrong said.

Gillian Minervini, a member of the successful bid team in Denver, said Armstrong's comments had "empowered" the team. "I think the gay and lesbian community in Sydney has a history of enormous strength and those kind of detractors are just not worth listening to anymore," Minervini said.

It was the third time Sydney has bid for the Gay Games and the first time the games will be held in the southern hemisphere.

Alarming rise in AIDS cases in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - The AIDS virus has killed 984 people in Malaysia in less than two years, the country's top health official said Friday.

Between January 1996 and September 1997, 1,236 cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome were detected and 22,899 other people were found to be infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS, Health Minister Chua Jua Ming was quoted as saying by the Bernama news agency.

HIV infection is increasing in Malaysia at a rate four times higher than the world average. Last year, the government launched a nationwide campaign to educate people about AIDS. The first four cases of AIDS in Malaysia were discovered in 1986. Last year, Chua had said 322 people had AIDS in Malaysia and some 16,000 people had tested positive for the HIV virus.



Ben Whittle, *Houston Voice* Editor J.C. Michelak (holding press award) and Marion E. Coleman.

the event due to prior commitments. The organization bestowed its Press Award to the *Houston Voice*. Editor-in-Chief J.C. Michelak, a board member, accepted the award on behalf of the *Voice*.

"This marks the second time this year the *Houston Voice* has received a press award," said *Voice* Publisher Dr. Crad Duren. "Clearly, the fact that both major gay political groups - the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus and Log Cabin Republicans of Houston - awarded the *Houston Voice* their press awards demonstrates that we have been successful in our mission to provide the gay community with a fair and balanced newspaper."

Researcher: AIDS vaccine not likely in near future

SINGAPORE (AP) - Discovery of a vaccine that could prevent AIDS infection or obstruct progress of disease is likely to take decades, one of the world's leading researchers said Monday.

"(The find) is more likely to be measured in decades rather than single years," said Dr. David Baltimore, a Nobel Prize laureate and lecturer at California's Institute of Technology. He was addressing an international gathering of molecular and cell biologists at the National University of Singapore.

Baltimore said that HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, is today "the only seriously lethal virus spread in human population. "And without a vaccine, there is no way to put (the virus) back into box," he said.

Baltimore's bleak prognosis came just days after another discouraging disclosure. Hopes that a commonly used three-drug "cocktail" may cure AIDS dimmed last week after researchers said the drugs do not eliminate the virus from certain blood cells.

Three separate teams of scientists said they found evidence that the human immunodeficiency virus hides in inactive white blood cells in patients who have been taking the drug cocktail for up to three years and seem otherwise virtually free of the virus.

Commenting on the find, Baltimore said that drugs are toxic, expensive, and not always effective. "Vaccine would be a terrific solution," he said, adding that "until we find a vaccine, AIDS is going to be a problem worldwide."

Baltimore said several approaches to finding a vaccine are being studied. He also expressed concern about experimental vaccination of humans. Several hundred volunteers in the United States were recently injected with experimental vaccine. Baltimore called the volunteers "very brave people," but said the vaccine they were injected with is "not a wholly safe preparation."

Legwork, luck, wrenching debate preceded Nushawn Williams' story

by Carolyn Thompson

NEW YORK - In the days before he announced a New York City drifter had unleashed the deadly AIDS virus in his placid community's midst, Chautauqua County Health Commissioner Robert Berke was "the loneliest person in the world."

After wrenching debate over civil rights, privacy, public health and law the likes of which his rural county had never seen, "I could no longer comprehend what was going to happen," he said.

What Berke knew was remarkable: that a 21-year-old convict named Nushawn Williams had apparently infected nine young women with HIV at least half after learning he carried the virus; that he had enticed some women with crack cocaine and marijuana; that his sex partners had been with many others since and at least one man was now infected.

Now dozens more unsuspecting people here, where rolling farms separate small cities and towns and some red brick streets are not yet covered by pavement - so far removed, in every sense, from where Williams had come - were at risk of HIV.

What is equally remarkable is what brought the country doctor and his staff of a few dozen to that knowledge - a combination of legwork and luck that in a bigger place might never have meshed. Then, a history-making court decision that would allow authorities to go public, for the first time, with the name of a living HIV-infected person.

"It's 'The Little Engine That Could' here," said Berke, who moved his family from Quebec to Chautauqua County in 1982, looking for a quiet place to raise his children. Mayville, the county seat where Berke has his office, has just 1,600 residents.

See HEALTH page 23

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Stryker Reveals all

An interview with the King of Porn

by Jon Anthony

Stryker fever has descended upon Houston this weekend. The King of Porn will be appearing in the Bayou City this weekend and his fans are salivating at the prospect. It has been more than 10 years since the icon has been to the fourth largest city in America.

The subject matter in this article is frank and within a modicum of propriety, however it is about the porn industry. If the porn industry is offensive to you, please do not continue reading. The article is intended to take the reader into an industry that is, like it or not, part of society.

Stryker is a survivor in an industry that is not known for longevity. Indeed, most porn stars are lucky to survive the business intact. An international star who is a master at marketing wizardry, Stryker has managed to defy the odds and transform his youthful looks and physical attributes into a multi-million dollar industry.

After a lengthy wooing process, the media shy adult video star agreed to be interviewed in the *Houston Voice*. Stryker was amiable, forthright and humorous. "I stay real reclusive and try not to communicate much," he said.

Stryker currently lives in California and indicated he was looking forward to returning to the Lone Star state. "I love Texas," Stryker said. "I have family that lives around the Dallas area." He said that Texas laws will dictate that his show maintain a certain decorum, however, he promised not to disappoint fans.

Texas law would not allow adult video outlets to sell his dildo. It is illegal. The product has been sold to many regardless, just not above board. "It was outlawed," says Stryker. "It scares me. I'm coming in with the master... that might be a violation there."

Stryker said he does not have a problem with his profession and does not consider it negative. In fact, he believes that the product he puts out has benefits. He is currently embarking on a world tour that includes such international cities like Paris, Rio de Janeiro and Brazil.

"I don't know, [porn] just kind of became my life, really," says Stryker. "It became who I am and what I do. Really its kind of a service. Helping people around the world." He said he doesn't care what other people think and he is just making a living. Pure and simple.

Stryker has not made that many movies during his career and manages to keep a low profile. Yet, all of his films have been huge successes. He is the highest paid adult video star in history. Insiders have said he can command up to \$100,000 per film and he is paid handsomely for his personal appearances which are strategically

rare.

Stryker is not just a gay porn star, although his popularity in the gay community is phenomenal. Many of his films are heterosexual in nature. His latest film is gay oriented and sales are brisk.

Typically the porn industry is denigrated by most people in society, even by those who secretly savor for the genre. Stryker does not concur. In fact, he claims that it is a positive for society.

"I was just recently in Amsterdam and there's like no crime at all," said Stryker. "They allow their people to do whatever they want in their own places. In the states, which is really hypocritical, that are strongest against nudity, the strongest against pornography, you can marry someone at 14. They should pull their head out of their ass and look in their own backyard before they condemn everybody."

Stryker said he was amazed to find out in North Carolina that you can marry at the age of 13. "You can marry them at 13 and 14, but they can't look at an adult magazine or see a nude body until they're 21," says Stryker. "Figure that one out. It's hypocrisy."

Stryker has never been married. He is single and intends to remain that way. "I'm married to my occupation," he says. "I don't do a lot of movies and stuff, but I feel that Jeff Stryker definitely has his purpose and place in 1997."

Stryker maintains that the product he puts on the market can save many individuals from unnecessary grief and in many cases their lives. "In these years of disease and crime and violence, it's a lot safer for somebody to stay home and masturbate or have sex watching a video than it is to go pick up a hustler, or go in a peep show booth and risk getting arrested for lewd and indecent acts.

Stryker said the porn industry makes every porn star supply a current AIDS test within 30 days of filming. "We definitely within the industry that I know of have taken [AIDS] seriously," says Stryker. "It's a life threatening matter."

Stryker's calls his latest film the *Ben Hur* of gay video. "The producer paid me a high fee to do it and he gave me an open check book," said Stryker. "In just one scene, we had 28 guys. The production value in this is really one of the highest ever. And, I went crazy. I want to put out the best product available."

Stryker said the *Advocate* has been pursuing him to write a tell all book, however, he has not committed. I asked if he was ready to tell it all. "Never," he replied laughing. "I could tell enough to keep people interested, though." Indeed.

Stryker will be appearing at Alternatives of Adult Video Megaplexxx, Saturday, November 22 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Friday-November 21

- Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
- Catholic Mass at 10:00 am; Movie Night at 7:00 pm at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Saturday-November 22

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

Sunday-November 23

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 11am at Suzanne Anderson Realty, 239 Westheimer.
- Holy Rite Eucharist I 8:00 am; Holy Rite Eucharist II 9:00 am; Choral Eucharist 11:00 am at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1805 W. Alabama. 528-6665.
- Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry at 11:00 am. Bible Studies adults and children, 10am. Nursery provided. 528-6756.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Worship Service 11:00 am at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel, Worship service at 11am & 7pm. 4305 Lillian 880-9235. www.communitygospel.org.
- Houston Mission Church Worship service at 10:30 am 529-8225.
- Covenant Baptist Church Worship service 1:30 pm and education hour at 3:00 pm 668-8830.
- Bering Memorial United Methodist Church Worship service 10:50 am. Seekers class 9:15 am 526-1017.
- Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182.

- MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149.
- Unitarian Fellowship of Galveston County, 402 Church St. in Galveston. Sunday Services at 10:30 am weekly. 409-765-8330.
- The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.

Monday-November 24

- Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Tuesday-November 25

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

Wednesday-November 26

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

Thursday-November 27

- Bible Study 7:00 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429.
 - Choir Practice at Community Gospel 6:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 - Midweek Service at Community Gospel 7:30 pm 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.
 - The Church of Good Life on the Internet; <http://www.syncretist.org/church.htm>.
- If you want an event listed in this section, please call Connie at 529-8490 by 12 Noon Mondays.

www.houstonvoice.com



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RELIGION

Diocese approves measure supporting ordaining gays

WASHINGTON (AP) - Western Washington Episcopalians have approved a resolution that says homosexuality is "morally neutral," and supports ordaining gays and lesbians. The resolution was approved Friday by delegates to the annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia by a 244-190 vote. The same measure was defeated in 1995 and was tabled last year.

Passage this year is a sign that the Episcopal Church is moving toward full inclusion of gays and lesbians, said the Very Rev. Frederick Northup, dean of St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle. Northup said he was pleased with the vote, but one of his own parishioners said she was disappointed.

Dr. Edith Lawrence said the delegates, by approving a resolution supporting gay relationships, were going against biblical teachings. Before the vote, several evangelical Christian street preachers spoke out against the measure outside the Tacoma Convention Center, where the meeting took place.

About 800 Episcopalians attended the two-day meeting, which concluded Saturday. Among the resolution's major points:

"We believe that some of us are created heterosexual and some of us are created homosexual."
Gay and lesbian clergy already are

serving the Episcopal Church "with effectiveness and integrity."

Gays and lesbians in relationships "marked by faithfulness, love and life-giving holiness" should not be excluded from becoming clergy.

Gay and lesbian relationships that are "faithful, monogamous, committed, life-giving and holy are to be honored." The statement offers "our support, our pastoral care, our prayers and our recognition" to committed gay and lesbian couples, "in whatever form is deemed appropriate."

At least four other Episcopal dioceses and 72 bishops have approved the resolution, called the "Statement of Koinonia." Bishop Vincent Warner, leader of the 34,000-member Olympia Diocese, hasn't signed the statement, but he said Friday he supported the measure.

This summer, a measure approving the blessing of same-sex unions was defeated by one vote at the church's General Convention, the national policy-making body for the 2.4 million-member denomination.

Second minister to aid Creech's church

NEBRASKA - An Omaha congregation that has been in an uproar since one of its ministers performed a forbidden lesbian ceremony will be getting outside help. The See RELIGION page 25

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713-528-6756

Cesar's choice for news...
TheHoustonVoice

HEALTH/from page 21

The county's biggest city, Jamestown, has 34,000.

In all the years Berke had been in the county, less than 50 cases of AIDS had been recorded. "This is a small health department trying to balance ... all these lofty issues," he said, "issues that are significantly far beyond what we normally deal with."

The story started to unfold in March. A 16-year-old girl tested positive for HIV and gave counselors a list of her partners so they could be warned. Counselors found all but one of the men. The rest tested negative.

Six weeks later, another young woman turned up positive. Again, counselors found all but one of the men on her list. They, too, tested negative. Then came another case. Another mystery name. A description of what he looked like.

By July, there were five cases of HIV and five lists of partners with no common name. "There was nothing in common except there was always one person we couldn't find," Berke said.

Then a 13-year-old gave a name counselors had heard before. Soon, another HIV victim, and another familiar name. It was then, in late August, the staff began to realize that the men they had been looking for known as Face, Shoe, Shyteek, and other names, were one in the same.

"The key is we were a small enough county and small enough department that this collection of women stood out," Berke said.

Then came this realization: the man they suspected was someone whom they had counseled a year earlier about his HIV status, someone whom they'd taught how to avoid spreading the virus. Health workers had already found three women who had been infected by Williams, apparently before he knew he carried HIV. One man had contracted the virus from one of those women. By the time the pieces fell into place, Williams was gone.

Berke, who also has a private practice, was in the middle of delivering a baby at Westfield Memorial Hospital when he got a phone call telling him police had found Williams in Rikers Island jail. He had been arrested in the Bronx on Sept. 22 for selling crack to an undercover agent. Chautauqua County filed a charge of statutory rape in the 13-year-old's case and authorities said they would pursue first-degree assault and reckless endangerment charges.

Although Williams was off the streets, authorities still feared his HIV would spread to more unsuspecting people through his partners. But how to warn the public was no easy question; a person's HIV status is strictly confidential.

"Philosophically, there was a question of what this would do from a public health point of view, it was setting a precedent," Berke said.

And there were other issues. Williams is black and many of the girls he infected were white. At first, "that was never one of our considerations," Berke said, "But someone brought that up and we had to look at it. Each time one of these new issues was raised we had to look back and explore it."

In the end, all agreed Williams' threat to the community overshadowed all else. "We had to get him off the streets. He was creating havoc," Berke said, "We had a community in shambles." A judge agreed and allowed release of Williams' identity, ruling there was "imminent danger" to the community, even though he was behind bars.

Williams had been in trouble before. He was acquitted two years ago of a 1994 murder charge. During his stay in Jamestown, he was arrested twice: once in January 1996 for grand larceny and again in September on mug and petit larceny charges. Both cases are pending.

Berke said his office considered releasing just Williams' name but worried with so many aliases, not all of his partners would recognize him. They decided a photo was necessary and pulled a mug shot from his grand larceny arrest.

Berke called community, health and political leaders to warn them about his plans. Anticipating a call for HIV testing, the decision was made to announce the outbreak on a Monday. On Oct. 27, in a basement con-

ference room of a modest county office building, with a dozen satellite trucks parked outside, health and law enforcement officials held up the photo to a crowd of waiting reporters.

The picture also circulated on posters tacked in restaurant and store windows, warning anyone who had sex with Williams that they were at risk for HIV. Williams, with braided hair, a bullet in his leg and a stabbing scar behind his ear, was described as a "scorekeeper" who kept careful count of his sexual encounters. He had spent time in Chautauqua County, New York City and Monroe County, authorities said.

"I hadn't slept in two weeks," Berke said of his condition before the announcement. "I was once removed from everybody, wandering around consumed by this."

There was little relief in the days that followed. Beseiged by requests for interviews and the need to address the problem, sleep came a few hours at a time. He is bothered by criticism the department waited too long to go public.

"Sure, we knew in late August or early September who he was," but to publicly announce his name would have been impossible, he said.

In the two weeks after the announcement

to a horrified public, more than 1,100 people rushed to county clinics to see if they, too, had been caught in the HIV web being spun around them. Of the first 1,116 test results to come back, all but one were negative, state health officials said. It was unknown whether the one person who tested positive for HIV had had sexual contact with Williams or one of his partners.

Williams reportedly said he didn't believe health workers when they told him he was HIV positive. His family said he believed he was being run out of town because he was a young black man having sex with white women. Williams' attorney, William Cember, had no comment on the reports.

Care center undergoes AIDS training

INDIANA - Workers at a Morgan County care center are now better prepared to deal with AIDS and other infectious diseases after completing a specialized training program.

"We didn't want to wake up one morning and say, 'Wait a second, we have to make some changes to provide that care,'" said Edward Fisher, director of the Kennedy Living Center.

The center is one of six long-term care facilities in the country to be awarded a training

grant from the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation. More than 300 nursing facilities throughout the United States applied for the training. The 5-day extensive training experience took place in September at an AIDS treatment center in Cleveland.

Fisher and three other key staff members from the Kennedy Living Center attended the multidisciplinary training. They learned how to prepare a facility and its staff, residents, families and surrounding community for the acceptance of HIV/AIDS patients.

"We received a very wide variety of training experiences that we would not otherwise have had an opportunity to have access to," Fisher said.

Each facility in the training program will be expected to train other nursing facilities about the care of HIV/AIDS patients. A major emphasis of the program dealt with how to integrate people with HIV/AIDS into the general population of the facility and not create a sense of isolation.

"This will be very useful to us in treating and caring for folks with all kinds of infectious diseases in the future," Fisher said. "They might not have any other place to turn." The retirement and skilled nursing care center is home to 175 residents with an average age of 94.



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SUN	11/23	\$1 Budweiser & Bud Light All Day and All Night
MON	11/24	MALE STRIP CONTEST at 11 pm with Paivi
TUE	11/25	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Dyan Michaels
WED	11/26	Granny's Burgers!
THUR	11/27	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos

The Lady Chablis Unwrapped

An interview with the Drag Diva

by Tim Nasson

The last time I conversed with The Lady Chablis (yes, her legal first, middle and last names), it was on the telephone. She in her apartment in South Carolina, (was in while she was taking a bubble bath as I recall?). At the time, nearly a year ago, she was proud to be a fledgling author. *Hiding My Candy*, a spin-off, if you will, of the three years and counting New York Times best-selling non-fiction book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

In *Midnight...*, gay author John Berendt chronicled Chablis' (even her eighty-seven year old grandmother calls her by the name — "She'd get out of breath calling me 'The Lady Chablis'") life as a drag queen, or 'female impersonator' as she likes to be labeled, in Savannah during the early eighties.

Like a small fish in an ocean, Chablis quickly found herself in a body of water that was very intimidating, with a lot of big fish trying to get close to her. One of the biggest fish happened to be Clint Eastwood who took Chablis' comment of wanting to work on the film version of *Midnight...* very seriously.

"Listen child," she said to me, arriving to do the interview over forty minutes (fashionably?) late. "First of all, forgive me for keeping you waiting. I had to walk over here from my hotel since there weren't enough rooms for me here at this one. The 'Doll' is just not used to walking". Or getting up at the ungodly hour of noon on a Saturday in New York City.

"People think that I lobbied for the part in the movie. I couldn't have cared less if I was in the movie to be honest with you. I am happy the way things turned out and that Clint decided on using me to play myself, but the whole story of how I became involved in the film was misinterpreted from the very beginning," she says, sipping from her tea with honey, still recovering from the food poisoning that caused her to get to NYC three days late.

"What I HAD said to Clint when I knew he was ready to begin casting the film was, 'If you want the film to win an Academy Award, you best cast me as myself,'" she added, with the bravado that has made her one of the most sought after performers in the south.

That comment would obviously lead to the question of how much she enjoyed playing herself in the film and what she thought of her performance.

"I have not even seen the film yet," she said, "I am waiting for the right opportunity to see it. I missed the first screening of it that you saw the other night. I may go to the premiere in Hollywood, but honestly, I think I may stay home and wait for it to open so I can see it with my friends. That is more important to me, seeing it with friends."

Not the answer that many would expect the 'Doll' to utter. "Working on the film was a unique experience," she said, "It was scary at first, but Clint made me feel very comfortable and made the task so much easier for me."

Chablis' own book is on the way to being adapted for the big screen, but she (who went off on Liz Smith for referring to her as he/she in a recent column, "I am a she," Chablis reiterates, "What if I called her she/he?" undoubtedly referring to Smith's reported lesbianism) has no big desire to step into her own shoes again in front of the camera. "I don't know if I have what it takes to do this again. I never set out to be an 'actress'. All I know for sure is that I am getting paid nicely for the film to be made into a movie."

Chablis (who states her age is forty, has been comfortably adorning herself with woman's attire since fourteen) spends a lot of her time in the southern United States doing her show which has lately been attracting a large heterosexual audience.

"I think that I am proof that straight people now respect gays more. I don't mind that they laugh at me on stage. That is what I am there to make them do. I think that is where the laughter stops thankfully. I don't find or hear that many straight people laugh behind my back about me. For the ones that do, I just have this to say,

"Two tears in a bucket. Mother-fuck it." Or, for the comedically challenged, 'Get over it'.

"I decided to move to South Carolina, because I felt that living in Savannah all year long, I had no privacy. It made it hard to do a show there if people saw me everywhere I went. I couldn't even go to Piggly Wiggly inconspicuously. That is out of costume for the white people who wouldn't understand that," she says. "I love performing in Savannah though. In fact the city takes in over \$100 million a year in tourist revenue. The number one reason people go there is to see Mercer House. The second reason is to see me, child."

Chablis is not used to the sudden movie fame, which really hasn't even begun with the public yet. "Usually when I am the talk of the town, I am doing all the talking".

Talking about an Academy Award nomination many in Hollywood and the press are doing after having seen her performance. And hers is not the only gay one destined to snag a nomination this year. Rupert Everett is a shoo-in for *My Best Friend's Wedding*, but there is also Greg Kinnear for his role as an AIDS patient in *As Good As It Gets* opposite Jack Nicholson this Christmas and Robert Downey Jr. for the same type of role, in *One Night Stand* who could get nods.

Whether Chablis decides to jump in front of the camera again to play herself again or later on down the line in another role remains to be seen. She does have someone in mind to play herself though if she decides not to.

"I admire Whoopi Goldberg. She actually called and expressed interest in playing me in *Midnight...* I thought to myself, 'She would be good except for the fact that she doesn't look good in red lipstick and the 'Doll' only wears red."

A Review

Hiding My Candy

The Lady Chablis Pocket Books, \$14.00

by Ella Tyler

Lady Chablis is the black female impersonator who upstaged most of the other characters in the book "Midnight In The Garden of Good and Evil" and played herself in the newly released movie based on the book. *Hiding My Candy* is her autobiography. Its stream of consciousness, in-your-face monologues are difficult to read except in small doses.

However, read a few pages at a time, it's a fascinating and amusing book. The Lady talks about her childhood, resolving her gender issues, the power of estrogen, her fight with meth., and of course costumes and contests. The book has plenty of fun pictures of the Lady all dressed up for the book, but I wish there had been more pictures of her performing.

I love books about drag, probably because I never could manage the look (my hair is too fine to tease) but this book tries too hard to be campy — and misses. The fashion tips and recipes add nothing to the book except pages. I would have liked the book better if it had treated The Lady more like the serious performer she is..

Eastwood on 'Good and Evil'

An interview with Hollywood's tough guy

by Tim Nasson

Special to the *Houston Voice*

Clint Eastwood, the Academy Award winning director of "Unforgiven," seemed a little out of place planted in the middle of a suite at the Hotel Nikko in New York City, (actually he seemed out of place in the city altogether) on a recent afternoon. He was in New York to promote his latest achievement as a director, the film version of John Berendt's best selling (over three years on the *NY Times* hard-cover non-fiction list) book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

One would probably think Eastwood would best be suited in Hollywood in front of or behind a camera, maybe even on a ranch riding or taming a horse, but certainly not in the city of the United States furthest removed from the one that made him an acting, (and now directing) icon, gabbing about one of the most talked about films of 1997.

Maybe some of it had to do with his intense passion for the project, a passion he eloquently expounded upon. "Dramatizing non-fiction so that it will appeal to a movie-going audience, yet trying to get the same story across, is a hard thing to do. Several people may visualize the story in a different way, but I needed to go with the way that I and the screen-writer thought was best".

It is not often that an author gives his complete stamp of approval to a director and then accompanies him while promoting a film. "I think a lot can be said of the quality of the film version of "Midnight..." since John Berendt decided to come along and promote it. That means a lot to me."

There is a wide spectrum of attitudes from authors towards filmmakers, most resigning themselves to just collecting the check from the studio for rights; John Grisham, and those who sell the rights and make a federal case out of the way their book was butchered; Anne Rice.

Eastwood who got his start in acting (on television's "Rawhide") made a name for himself as a quasi-action star. The films he was best known for in the sixties and seventies were ones in which he played gruff and tough characters like *Dirty Harry* and *The Outlaw Josey Wales*.

"I think I am over my 'violent film' craze," he says, picking up a bottle of Evian. "I think people including actors were so used to seeing me in violent films that even when *Unforgiven* came around, there was hesitancy with Gene Hackman. He told me he really wasn't interested in it until I convinced him that it had a story to tell and wasn't a slice em' dice em' film. If a film has violent elements in it but has something important to say, then that is great, but senseless violence in films is something that is unnecessary today."

Eastwood was able to show the world exactly how far he had come as an actor and director with his last film, *The Bridges of Madison County*. Playing a sexy leading man who falls in love with his co-star garnered him a lot of credit in

Hollywood as an actor and director capable of versatility.

"I don't think that my social views have ever been portrayed by the media, but I base every project that I attach myself to on the quality of the story," Eastwood adds. "I have also always considered myself tolerant of other people's lifestyles whatever they may be. I find it fun to tell the people stories that they may not have known anything about or quite understood."

He has taken it a step further with *Midnight...* Directing a film which tells the story of a homosexual (Kevin Spacey) indicted for murdering his hustler/boyfriend (Jude Law), Eastwood clearly shows he is open to all sorts of stories and is not a 'tough guy' intent on delivering testosterone charged scripts.

In fact, *Midnight...* is an estrogen charged film, with The Lady Chablis playing herself in the film. The drag queen was featured prominently in the book and is one of the characters that is not chopped to bits in the film.

"The Lady Chablis has the good fortune to be living out what she does all the time. She lives her life dressed as a woman, [though technically a man] and is very successful as a performer. Movies are much more difficult than drag shows, but with a little help and patience on everyone's part in the crew, she did a fantastic job playing herself in the movie," says Eastwood about the diva who is destined to become a new household name.

One most amazing thing that Eastwood's two most current films have in common is that both have been based on the top selling book - fiction and non-fiction respectively - of this era.

"*Midnight...* was not something that I had always intended on directing," says Eastwood. "In fact, I read the screenplay before I read the book. When I found out that the studio had not started production on it, I took the ball and ran."

One of the 'evil' things about the making of the film is that the story is so complex that Eastwood would have loved to include more. "I would have needed four hours to tell the story the whole way I felt it should be told, but I don't think audiences or the studio would have gone for that," he says with a grin. As it is, the film runs just over two and a half hours.

The story, in addition to the eccentric characters, has something to it that most others don't. "Almost any city in the world has its quirks. You just need a good person to delve into them. And John Berendt couldn't have written a better story about the town that has many people thinking that it is something out of this world," he says.

Midnight... marks only the third time in over twenty that Eastwood has not acted in a film that he has directed. "I didn't cast myself because I couldn't have possibly done a better job than anyone else who is in the film."

Not just a film maker and lover, Eastwood is also a loving father of Francesca a toddler and Alison, his twenty-five year old who stars as Mandy in *Midnight...* opposite John Cusack, who plays author Berendt's character.

Eastwood is currently eyeing two projects. One an acting job, the other a directing stint. Who knows? Maybe he'll find the time to fit both in.

"I certainly am going to keep on working," says the sixty-eight year old icon who can still turn the heads of young ladies (and men). "In fact, I have passed my social security checks on to someone else," he says, in a humorous tone, evident throughout much of the interview. What's next? A comedy?

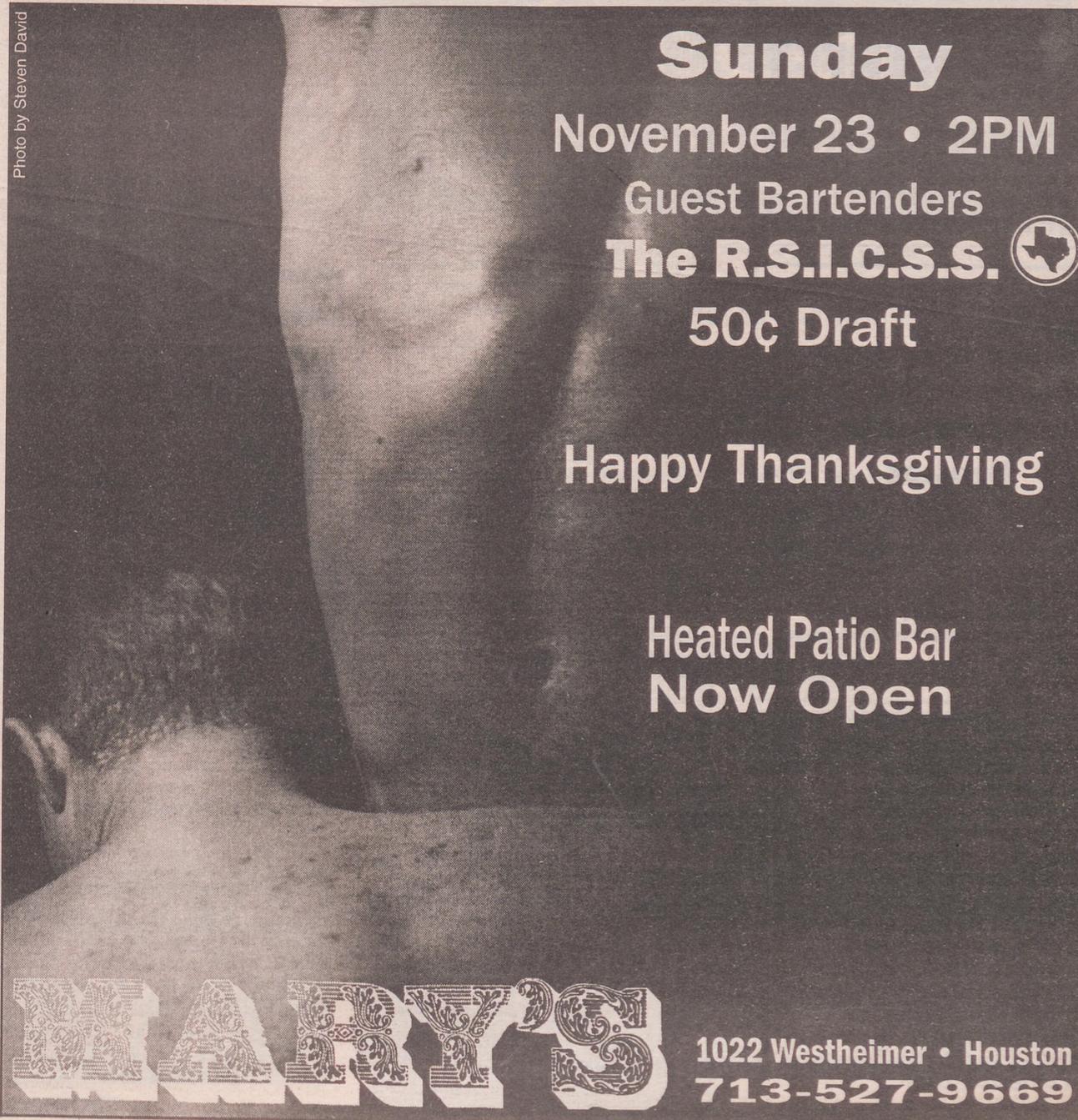


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RELIGION/ from page 22

United Methodist bishop of Nebraska, Joel Martinez, has brought in reinforcements to help supervise Omaha's First United Methodist Church.

The Rev. Marvin Koelling, superintendent of the Northeast District in Norfolk, will help Omaha District Superintendent the Rev. Susan Davies oversee the church's 1,900-member congregation.

The congregation has been in an uproar since its senior pastor, the Rev. Jimmy Creech, performed a union ceremony for a lesbian couple at the church in September. Martinez suspended Creech for 60 days.

Creech's opponents have questioned whether the Rev. Davies could be impartial in working with the congregation because she was one of 15 pastors who distributed a statement nationwide calling for such union ceremonies as well as the ordination of homosexuals. She also recruited Creech for the First United Methodist pulpit.

Martinez said he decided to assign Koelling to the duties because he thought it would be helpfully for him in working with the church at this time.

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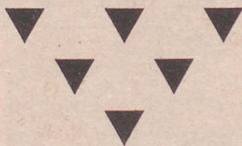
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The winner of the Houston Voice and Chances tickets to see Ani DiFranco.

Congrats to the new "Closet Ball" winners Linda Owens, Norm (Colt 45's) and Pat A. A whopping \$2086.04 was raised to benefit the Montrose Clinic's Women's Clinic!

Mary's patio will reopen this weekend! Check it out, you can now stay warm in there, too! The Court will be guest bartending there on Nov. 23 @ 2 pm.

Be afraid, be very afraid! The switch is on! The BRB and Bricks II are doing the switch on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 7 am to 7 pm. There will be a shuttle bus for you and all your friends!



Hi Sailor, new in town?

This Friday, Nov. 21 @ 10 pm, you can "Talk to the Animals" at the Venture-N. Crystal Rae Lee Love and Bob Bouton Lee Love are hosting a stuffed animal drive to benefit the Loving Arms Foundation kids!

Way to go! The fundraiser held at Gentry this past Sunday raised \$2275 to benefit AVES!

Who will it be? The new Miss Lazy J will be crowned on Saturday, Nov. 22. The pageant starts at 10 pm. For more info, call Erica Lane at 713-524-3173.

Jeff Stryker will be in Houston this weekend. You can catch him at Rich's on Nov. 21 and at the Adult Megaplexxx on Nov. 22.

Dyan Michaels hosts the make strip contest at Gentry this and every Wednesday! Boys butt and beauty!

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Suck what?



Winners with Wayne Gray at the Briar Patch.

down to Pacific Street and dance, dance, dance!

Barbara Velour-Tywon Onn-Cherry Tart are aliases for David Richardson. He is hosting his fond farewell gathering at the Venture-N on Nov. 22 at 8 pm. We are going to miss ya honey!

JR's Happy Hour is one of the happiest in town! Check out their newly remodeled bar and have happy hours!

The drag shows at Cousin's bring in some of the best of Houston's performers! Stop in



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Milestones

Belated Happy Anniversary hugs to Mark and Nathan!

Happy birthday to Taylor of Heaven!

Happy 28th anniversary to Ronnie and Dan!

Happy belated birthday to my dear friend Buzz Davis.

Happy anniversary to John and Lloyd!

Happy heavenly birthday to my dear little Ratrat.

Rodent Droppings

Pesky little rodents! They get into everything! Rascal has taken to crawling under

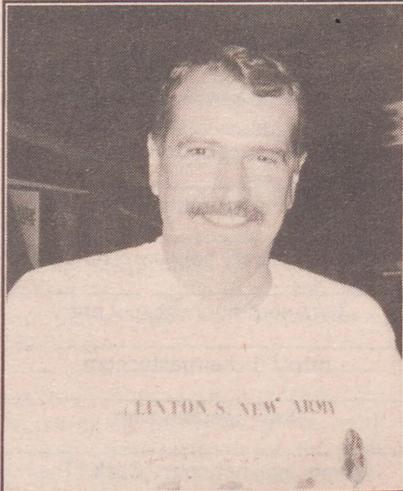
this pile of floor pillows and falling asleep with just her little head sticking out! It is way cute!

Lies! Gossip! The usual disclaimer is in force!

Marlene (Chances/New Barn): Your very first Macy's Parade! You will have a great time!

Yolanda (Rich's): It was great to see you!

Boots (Chances): And I quote: "I sleep with it, I have sex with it, I need to buy bat-



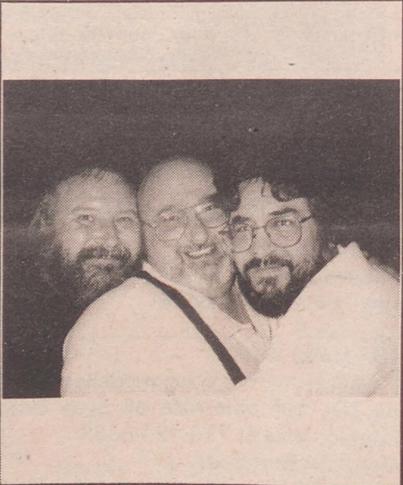
Tommie Sue serves them up at the BRB.

teries!"

Hunter: It was nice to meet you! Good luck and study hard!

Michelle (Gentry): So, just how can you feed your children on \$70.65?

Donnie (QT's): How much is the minimum wage these days? And quit drooling over the pretty liquor bottles!



A Big Bear Hug.

Henry (Montrose Inn): You popped Elvira at Mary's on Monday! We all heard it! Was it good for you? Were you a little tipsy? Do you remember? I have witnesses!

Gary S. (hangs at Mary's): Don't you find it odd that you are the only person that can use the 5-3 rule? Have you ever heard of a bridge?

Dante (PS): Eating off the bathroom floor



Scary at Mary's.

is NEVER a good idea!

Jerel (RSICSS): So you finally found that last piece in the jigsaw puzzle!

Eric (Gentry): What is the cost of a room in New Orleans? And how many times did you throw-up?

Jayne (PS): What is the difference between "X" and "Z"? Why?

Bart (611): Where there is smoke, there is not necessarily fire! And Let's go Krogering...the happy way to shop!

Kenny (Gentry): Is New Orleans's con-



At Gentry raising money for A.V.E.S.

crete colder than Houston concrete?

Gary (Heaven): When you stand-up your teammates, your average and integrity decreases!

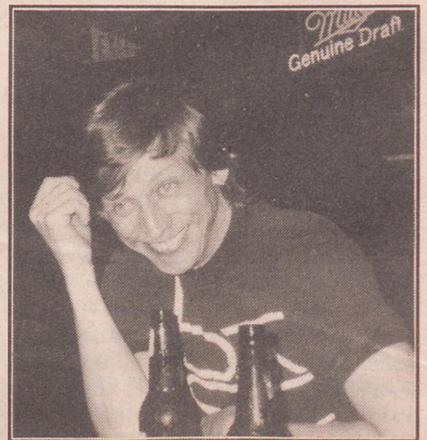
Darla K. (Gentry): Get over this hairy butt fetish!

Chester (hangs at the 611): How is business at Pauline's Pastries?

Tom Sawyer (BRB): What kind of dark places do your ferrets crawl into?

Wendy Chicago: You, playing pool? I wish I had gotten a photo of that!

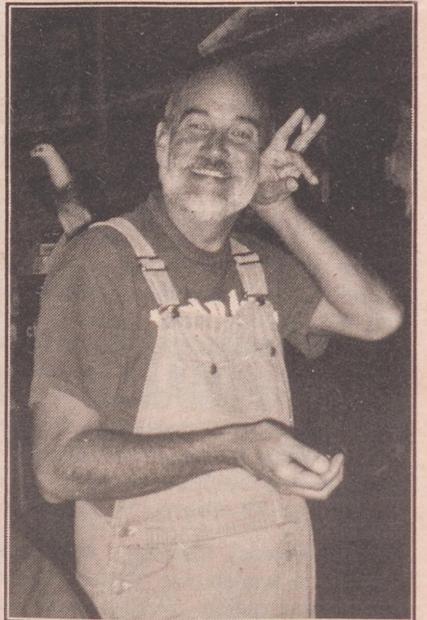
Buddy Thompson (RSICSS): At the Pearl Harbor Day show at the BRB, who will you be bombing from the air?



What?!

Damita Jo (RSICSS): What is this I hear about you and a rabbit coat?

Chad (Gentry): When are you going to show us your weenie? Brag! Brag! Brag!



Little Bunny foo foo...

Craig (Bricks II): That is quite a wedding ring! I hope you remove it before you have sex!

Ken Burd (OutSmart): Welcome to the club!

Wilma (Mary's): Have you been ordering your customers to behave lately?

Jeriel (CBC): And I quote: "After four years working at the Club, I must love insanity!"

Have a great holiday
Everyone!

Cuenvolyn

Alternatives of Adult Video

MEGAPLEXXX

See Jeff Stryker perform at the Miss Galaxy Pageant Friday, November 21st at Rich's or meet Jeff Stryker in person for a private autograph session at Adult Video Megaplexxx Saturday, November 22nd from 2-6PM • 8100 N. I-45



Laura Lee Love
Miss Greater Galaxy 1997



Jill Jordan
Miss Galaxy 1997



Lauren Brach
Miss Texas USA 1986



Monique Johnson
Miss Houston US of A



Tara Dion
Miss Houston 1998

1998 Miss Galaxy Pageant,
f.f.i.
\$3,000 in cash & prizes



Kara Dion
Miss Houston 1997

Friday, November 21st
10:00 PM

Friday, November 21

- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Buffet at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well; \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Cousin's: Super Friday Night Drag show with fabulous performers at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hours 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toys dance at 6pm; \$2.25 Kamikazes open to close.
- Lazy J: Pool tournament
- Heaven: \$1 well & \$1.75 Miller. Doors open at 9pm.
- Incognito: Ladies night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles. \$3.75 Skyy & Stoli: hard body male dancers.
- Lazy J: 8-ball tournament.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 premium vodkas; Happy hour until 10pm: male dancers 8pm to 2:30am; After hours until 4am.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Klub Kamp..a comedy drag review 9pm doors open, 11:30pm show—Retro Modern Hits by D.J. Chris Sill, \$1, \$2, \$3 drinks..
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; After Hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Pizza Buffet at 5:30 pm; dancers at 9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails, \$2 Cuervo. 9:00
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; Guest Bartenders 9:00 pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Saturday, November 22

- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 9pm. Joanne in the afternoons!
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray tickles the ivories; Bunny deals Blackjack at 9:30pm
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Incognito: Ladies' Night.
- Cousin's: Super Saturday night Drag show with top Houston talent at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Super Show at 11pm.
- 800 Pacific block party: \$1 well & \$1.75 domestic longnecks! 9 to 9:30pm at Santa Fe Bar & Patio, 9:30 to 10pm at the Montrose Mining Company, 10 to 10:30pm at J.R.'s Bar & Grill, & 10:30 to 11pm at Heaven.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Heaven: \$1 well 9 to 11pm; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 9pm.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am.

- QT's: Open at 8 am.; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm, See Gorgeous Men from All Over Texas Dancing to the Grooves of the Billboard.; D.J. J.D. Arnold.
- Ripcord: After hours until 4am.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Dancers @ 9pm; free munchies all the time.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 12 to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. DJ Bridgitt Tucker spins.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. Cuervo \$2.50!

Sunday, November 23

- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; Steak night 5 to 9pm \$6 14oz t-bone & fix-ins..
- BriarPatch: Wayne plays your favorites.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 12 Noon to 9pm; \$1.75 well; \$1.75 Domestic Longnecks; Sign Language Classes 3-4pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Cousin's: Sinful Sunday Drag Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: \$1 Bud & Bud Light All Day & Night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toy Dancers 7 to 11pm; Pool tournament at 6pm; Male Strip Contest at 11pm; \$2.25 Kool Aid shots open to close; Male Strip Frenzy Hosted by Black Velvet.
- Heaven: \$1 well drinks \$2. domestic longnecks; \$3.00 Anything in the house; (excluding multiple liquor drinks and champagne) Video Classifieds 9:30-1:30. Doors open at 8.
- J.R.'s: 99¢ well vodka juice drinks noon until 11pm, \$2.75 Shiner Bock: SRO Karaoke at 6pm: Male Swim wear strip contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 Well drinks & longnecks 10am to 2pm. 50¢ draft on the patio with guest bartending starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks: \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tourney @ 1:30pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No shirt, no cover, no kidding!
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; \$1.50 Mimosas, Bloody Bulls, Bull Shots, Belinis; \$1 well Vodka juice drinks all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: 18 & up welcome; \$1 well, \$2 beer, \$3 call, Deja Vu "Phat Grooves & Cheap Drinks", doors open at 9pm, 90's Retro House Disco with D.J. Chris Sill.
- Ripcord: \$1.50 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Brunch at noon.
- The New Barn: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well noon to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm; \$2.50 Cuervo; snacks on the "Far Side" & guest Bartenders bartend 6pm till???

Monday, November 24

- BerryHill II: Free pool.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all nite 7am-2pm. Football on the big screen; snacks.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOLOGIST Table. Open Pool Table.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic Longnecks; 7:00 am to noon, \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half price lockers noon to midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm: Male Strip 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm; Boy Toy Dancers 9pm to 1am; \$3.25 Cuervo Gold open to close; Free Pool Table.
- Incognito: Male Strip night!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm

- \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Outpost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am. All top shelf \$3.50 all day and all night!
- QT's: Killer Bee Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Tuesday, November 25

- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1 well drinks 7am-11pm, \$1.25 regular schnapps until 11pm; \$1 domestic longnecks all day & nite. \$1 Burgers on the patio 5 to 9pm; Variety Show with Ms. Nevada at 8 pm.
- BriarPatch: Marcie has em as Sweet MAMA Cotton.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hour with \$1.75 well & domestic 10:00 am to 3:000 pm; Happy Hour 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well; \$2 Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon until midnight.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm; Mug Club 7am to 10pm; Amateur/Talent Night at 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.75 Finlandia; Free Pool Table.
- J.R.'s: 2 for Tuesdays! \$2 domestic longnecks, well drinks, frozen Ritas & wine; Jockey short contest at 11pm; grab for cash at midnight.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; \$2 Cuervo.
- Mela's Tejano: Free Hot dogs and \$1.75 beer.
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight. 18-22 year olds get free locker!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$1.75 domestic longnecks; \$2.50 well drinks; \$3 any other drink in the house! Happy hour until 10pm; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Executive Night. No cover with your personalized business card. \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. Doors open at 9pm. No cover for Club Members in Club Colours.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am; \$1.50 well and \$2 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am. Colorado Bulldogs (Kamora) \$3.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon to 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- VooDoo Lounge. Doors open 9:00 pm. \$2 well, domestic, and special drinks 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Male Strip at 11:00 pm.

Wednesday, November 26

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Free Pool Tables. FACES plays at 9pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well, \$1.25 regular schnapps til 9pm; \$1.75 domestic longnecks all day & nite 7am-2pm .
- BriarPatch: Wayne & Beverly play together.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks noon to 9:00 pm. Cash Pool tournament at 7:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo; Sheila: Lennon's Karaoke night at 9pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club

- 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- Heaven: \$1 well, \$1.75 Budweiser & 75¢ Miller on tap; DJ Michael DeGrace: Doors open 9pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea: Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & nite; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight: Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am; \$1 well vodka and \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

Thursday, November 27

- BerryHill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Male Dancers at 10:30pm.
- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm. Party with Sam and Bruce. Turkey Buffet from 2-6 pm.
- BriarPatch: Edith Head plays in a number of disguises.
- Bricks II: \$1.25 well & domestic longnecks 7:00 am to noon; \$1.75 well & domestic noon to 9:00 pm.
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo.
- Club Houston: Half-price lockers, rooms, & video rooms noon to midnight.
- Cousin's: Show at 11pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well 4pm to 7pm; \$1.50 vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Tacos on the patio; Amateur Talent contest @ 11pm.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 9pm; \$3.25 Skyy Vodka open to close.
- Heaven: \$1.25 Frozen "Ritas, \$1.00 well drinks. Amateur Strip Contest at 11pm hosted by Kofi. \$200 in Cash Prizes.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold & Micro brewed beer: Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm. Turkey Buffet at 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; 75¢ Schnapps.
- Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueray or Absolut) \$3.75
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; StarTrek on the big screen at 8 & 9pm; Classic Rock night.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: \$1 Burger Night 6-9pm.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo! Turkey Buffet at 7:00 pm.



Please Note: Some events may be canceled due to the Holiday. Please call first.

Friday, November 21

- Movie Time: Free Les/bi/gay film showing at Kolbe House, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 1509 Fairview, FYI 713-522-8182.
- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Tootpee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Free Spay & Neutering (SNAP) 522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 522-8182.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.

Saturday, November 22

- AIDS Housing Coalition Houston: A 90 day gay positive emergency house for PWA's in transition, 10am to 12pm, 117 Tuam Ave. @ Helena, FYI 713-521-1613.
- After Hours on KPFT 12am to 3am. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.
- Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Visual Art Alliance meets at 10am. 583-8408.
- Rainbow Fishing Club meets, 713-526-7070.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.
- The Therapy Sisters perform at Tootpee's. 731-522-7662.

Sunday, November 23

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 9:00 am. 713-868-

- 5039
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- 5th Annual Warehouse Art Crawl. 713-228-0635

Monday, November 24

- Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8pm. 713-861-6181.
- Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7pm. 529-1223.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15pm. 529-0037.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- AIDS Caregiver's Support Group meets at 6pm. 732-4300.
- AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Ste 1717.
- HeartSong meets. 541-3495.
- Houston Area Women's Center's Volunteer training. 535-6363.
- Texas Medical Center Lambda Group meets. 523-5539.
- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Brazos River Bottom 4 to 8pm; QT's 8pm-12am.
- Kolbe Project's Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- Log Cabin Republicans meet at 7 pm. 713-529-9100.
- AIDS Equity League meets at noon. 713-910-2900.
- HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer at 7 pm. 7130527-8219.
- Gay and Lesbian Readers Group meets at Barnes and Noble. 713-349-0050.
- FREE B.I.A. Testing at StatScript Pharmacy. 713-522-7373

Tuesday, November 25

- Sex, Lies & Video Tapes workshop by AIDS Foundation Houston 7-9pm 623-6796.
- Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8pm. 495-8009.
- Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.
- Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30pm. 529-0037.
- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.

- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Club Body Center 8pm to Midnite.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30pm. 778-2677.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- Project Ceaser at AFH. 713-623-6796.
- FREE B.I.A. testing at Statscript Pharmacy. 713-522-7373.

Wednesday, November 26

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Bricks II 9 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4pm . 473-7539.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Tootpees at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.

- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 522-8182.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness by AFH. 713-623-6796.
- "Aladdin" and "Jasmine" skate at the Miracle on Main Street. 713-660-3022.

Thursday, November 27

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main . 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Kolbe Project outreach at 7 pm. 713-522-8182.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Houston Outdoor Group meets at 7:30 pm. 713-KAMPOUT.
- Safer Sex for Lesbians by Nancy Ford at Ms. B's. 713-666-3464.

GALAXY GAZZER A Houston Voice Exclusive
Your Horoscope for the week of November 23 - November 29

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

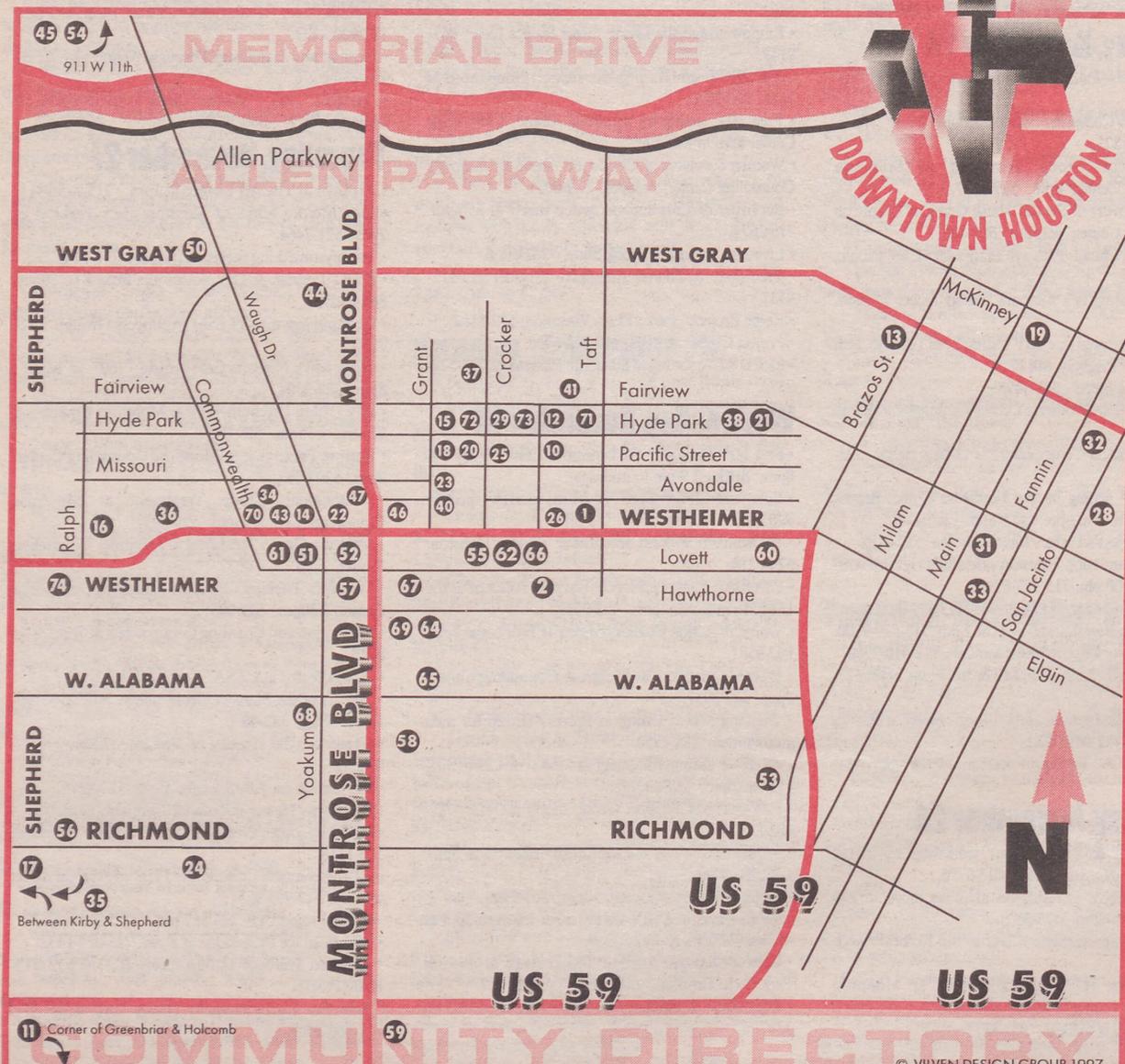
PISCES: (February 20 - March 20) It is very important to recognize your own limitations, and not take on something for which you are not equipped. If a spat occurred between you and a loved one - find common ground where both of you can get what you need most now. Listen to others' ideas and broaden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

such is LIFE!

E=MC²
LIFE IS RELATIVE!

THAT'S THE LAST THING I NEED..... MORE RELATIVES!

INTERNET: [HTTP://WWW.GAYWIRED.COM/QUACK/SUCHLIFE.HTM](http://www.gaywired.com/quack/suchlife.htm) E-MAIL: QUACKATEER@AOL.COM



- ACCOMMODATIONS**
- 1 Montrose Inn 408 Avondale 713/520-0206
 - 2 The Lovett Inn 501 Lovett Blvd 713/522-5224
- BARS & CLUBS**
- 10 611 Hyde Park 611 Hyde Park 713/526-7070
 - 11 The Briar Patch 2294 Holcombe 713/665-9678
 - 12 Bricks II 617 Fairview 713/528-8102
 - 13 Brazos River Bottom 2400 Brazos 713/528-9192
 - 14 Chances 1100 Westheimer 713/523-7217
 - 15 Cousins 817 Fairview 713/528-9204
 - 16 Els 2517 Ralph 713/527-9071
 - 17 Gentry 2303 Richmond 713/520-1861
 - 18 Heaven 812 Pacific 713/521-9123
 - 19 Incognito 2524 McKinney 713/237-9431
 - 20 JR's 808 Pacific 713/521-2519
 - 21 Lazy J 312 Tuam 713/528-9343
 - 22 Mary's 1022 Westheimer 713/527-9669
 - 23 Montrose Mining Co. 805 Pacific 713/529-7488
 - 24 Outpost 1419 Richmond 713/520-8446
 - 25 Pacific Street 710 Pacific 713/523-0213
 - 26 QT's 534 Westheimer 713/529-8813
 - 28 Rich's 2401 San Jacinto 713/759-9606
 - 29 Ripcord 715 Fairview 713/521-2792
 - 31 Venture N 2923 Main 713/522-0000
 - 32 The Club Houston 2205 Fannin 713/659-4998
 - 33 Midtown Spa 3100 Fannin 713/522-2379
 - 34 The New Barn 1100 Westheimer 713/521-9533
 - 35 VooDoo Lounge 2151 Richmond 713/520-8636
 - 36 Rascals 1318 Westheimer 713/942-CLUB
 - 37 Paradise 2312 Crocker 713/522-7366
 - 38 Mela's Tejano Country 302 Tuam 713/523-0747
- RESTAURANTS**
- 40 Baba Yega 2607 Grant 713/522-0042
 - 41 Barnaby's Cafe 604 Fairview 713/522-0106
 - 43 Charlie's Coffee Shop 1100 Westheimer 713/522-3332
 - 44 Christy Donuts 1103 W Gray 713/524-4005
 - 45 Java Java Cafe 911 W 11th 713/862-2683
 - 46 Ming's Cafe 2703 Montrose 713/529-7888
 - 47 Riva's Italian Restaurant 1117 Missouri St. 713/529-3450
- BUSINESSES & SERVICES**
- 50 Cineplex-Odeon 1450 W Gray 713/524-8781
 - 51 Crossroads Market 1111 Westheimer 713/942-0147
 - 52 Eckerd Drugs 1007 Westheimer 713/524-9229
 - 53 Fitness Exchange 4040 Milam 713/524-9932
 - 54 Heights Above Florist 911 W 11th 713/862-2683
 - 55 Houston Voice 811 Westheimer 713/529-8490
 - 56 Inklings Bookstore 1846 Richmond 713/521-3369
 - 57 Kroger Grocery 3300 Montrose 713/526-7865
 - 58 Lobo Books & Video 3939-S Montrose 713/522-5156
 - 59 Main St. Theatre 4617 Montrose 713/524-6706
 - 60 Montrose Clinic 215 Westheimer 713/520-2000
 - 61 Four Star Hair Productions 1201 Westheimer 713/524-7785
 - 62 CreADive Unlimited 811 Westheimer(102) 713/526-5190
 - 64 Viven Design Group 807 Hawthorne 713/526-3212
 - 65 House of Coleman 901 W Alabama 713/523-2521
 - 66 Synchronized Chiropractic 811 Westheimer 713/521-7741
 - 67 Walgreens 3317 Montrose 713/520-8000
 - 68 KAD Computer, Inc. 1437 W. Alabama 713/522-7813
 - 69 STAT Script Pharmacy 3407 Montrose (A5) 713/522-7373
- CLOTHING SHOPS**
- 70 Basic Brothers 1232 Westheimer 713/522-1626
 - 71 Jewel's Boutique 2404 Taft 713/523-3557
 - 72 Leather By Boots 807 Fairview 713/526-2668
 - 73 Leather Forever 711 Fairview 713/526-6940
 - 74 Timeless Taffeta 1657 Westheimer 713/529-6299

Wild Oscar's Happy Puzzle

"Vulgarity is the conduct of other people, just as falsehoods are the truths of other people."—19th century Irish wit Oscar Wilde

ACROSS

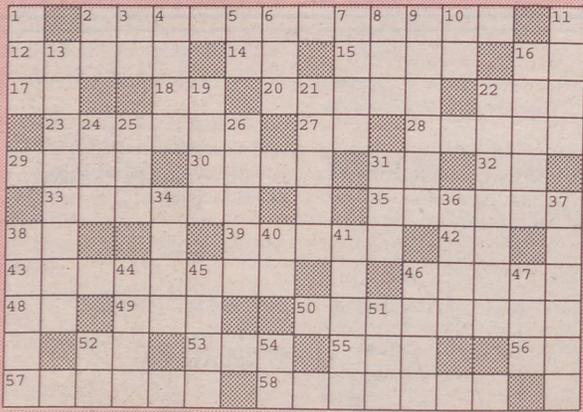
- 2 international AIDS awareness day every Dec. 1, 3 words
- 12 pointed writing tools
- 14 1000 watts, abbr.
- 15 dimensions of color
- 16 host of "Won't you be my friend" Mr. Rogers Neighborhood, initials
- 17 archaic spelling of woe
- 18 abbr. for Greek
- 20 figure of speech
- 22 Roman numeral 151
- 23 ex-orange juice queen Anita who led anti-gay crusade in late 70s
- 27 American actor Welles with same initials as namesake of this puzzle ("I don't say we all ought to misbehave, but we ought to look as if we could.")
- 28 national group of par-

- ents (& others) of gay people
- 29 small European fish; North American minnow
- 30 people originally from the Arabian peninsula
- 31 Spanish for 'the'
- 32 I am, contraction
- 33 S.F. gay area
- 35 selected to

- make some nouns plural
- 49 have an obligation to pay
- 50 departed sitcom host will become new talk-show host
- 52 United Kingdom abbr.
- 53 no
- 55 short for Vietnam
- 56 16th U.S.

- to South Beach, abbr.
- 2 Equality State, abbr.
- 3 a version of 'ole'
- 4 inlet (gulf) of the Baltic; city of Latvia
- 5 abbr. for dark, deck & dock
- 6 TWA in a mirror

- 21 Batman's 'Boy Wonder'
- 22 1st sitting President to address gay rights event
- 24 conglomerate that once owned NBC but was taken over itself by GE
- 25 as you say, it is agreed
- 26 freshwater game fish
- 31 noun suffix for 'female' (poet to poet...)
- 34 WATT in a mirror
- 36 factual information
- 37 bumpkins
- 38 in the front
- 40 state that hosts Mardi Gras, abbr.
- 41 forth
- 44 Norse god of discord
- 45 very rare goose of the Hawaiian Islands
- 46 prefix for partial
- 47 body acid
- 51 Spanish adjective for holy (as in ... Francisco)
- 52 ultraviolet abbr.
- 54 about 9-tenths of a meter, abbr.



- host Gay Games VI in 2002
- 38 type of electric current, abbr.
- 39 inner bones of the forearm
- 42 positioned
- 43 Atlanta's annual August gay river expo
- 46 large wading bird
- 48 suffix to

- president, assassinated, initials ("Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history.")
- 57 gay diva that was star of 'Pink Flamingos'
- 58 group of gay & lesbian Catholics

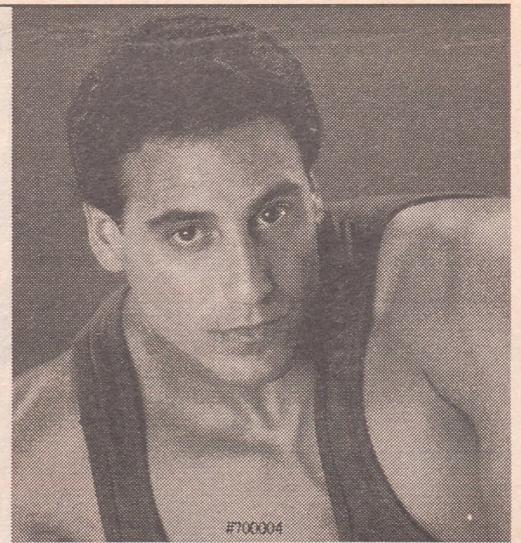
- 7 lateen-rigged Arabian vessel
- 8 eat the evening meal
- 9 profoundly; intensively
- 10 equally
- 11 prude
- 13 broad-leaved herbs that people smoke
- 16 sweetheart
- 19 tree knot

On Your Next Visit to Houston...

What you get at the motel on the highway & what you get at the Montrose Inn

- Motel: Heterosexuals with kids fighting next door.
 - Montrose Inn: Gay men next door. Only gay men. Nothing but gay men.
-
- Motel: Several miles to the gay bars.
 - Montrose Inn: 5 tiny blocks to the gay bars.
-
- Motel: Drive to the gay bars & pay \$5 to park. Or take a \$15 cab.
 - Montrose Inn: Walk to the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.
-
- Motel: Drive back from the gay bars and risk the cops making you walk the straight line. Or take a \$15 cab.
 - Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.
-
- Motel: Rooms start at around \$50.
 - Montrose Inn: Rooms start at around \$50.
-
- Motel: Eat in their restaurant. Food for the masses. Pay plenty. \$1 soft drink machine.
 - Montrose Inn: Complimentary late night sandwiches & full breakfast the next day. Free soft drinks, juices, coffee 24 hours.
-
- Motel: Cruise the parking lot? Whoa! You're taking chances.
 - Montrose Inn: Meet our other guests. Please!
-
- Motel: The receptionist sneers at you.
 - Montrose Inn: The receptionist winks at you.
-
- Motel: Washing machine? Ironing board? Hair dryer? Refrigerator? Stove? Microwave? VCR & gay movies? Are you kidding?
 - Montrose Inn: All of the above. Free to use.
-
- Motel: Full size bed, plastic flowers.
 - Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, fresh flowers.
-
- Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m.
 - Montrose Inn: Handsome man next door knocking 11 a.m. to join him for breakfast. Checkout 1 p.m.
-
- Reservations requested. 1-800-357-1228. The house at 408 Avondale.**
- The Montrose Inn is NOT a motel. We're NOT a hotel. We're a Bed & Breakfast. (And we're Basic & Butch. We're the B&B that's B&B.) We're completely different!

HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women SEEKING Women

SF Professional, 34, 5'5", 150 lbs., height/weight proportionate. Looking for a friend. I like to listen to music, read, take walks in the park & camp. Call Ext. 5643

SBF Bi sexual, 18, dark brown hair, brown eyes & medium build. Looking for single female age, race is unimportant. If you would like to get together to have some fun, then give me a call. Call Ext. 5641

SF Bi racial, 5'4", 110 lbs., curly golden blonde hair, big blue eyes, height/weight proportionate & feminine. I'm secure & independent. Looking to meet Black or Hispanic females, must be height/weight proportionate & be feminine only. I love to go out & have fun. Call Ext. 5640

SBF Looking for an attractive, single Black female. Someone who I can spend my time with. Should be very caring, loving & willing to share different things with. Call Ext. 5579

SBF 46. I enjoy sports & games. I'm looking for someone 36-49, to spend time with, have fun & especially if you are interested in playing pinocle. Call Ext. 5637

SF 29, blonde hair, brown eyes, feminine. I'm interested in meeting new people to go out & enjoy movies & dancing. Call Ext. 5634

SBF Tall, height/weight proportionate. I'm seeking an attractive, single Black female to spend time with. Call Ext. 5626

SF 5'4", 125 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, professional, non-smoker. I like to go to movies, dancing, music & feeding the birds at the park. I'm looking for a friend, companion & a lover who is honest & won't play games. Call Ext. 5621

SF Bi curious. I am looking for a woman, for a friendship, should go slow and possibly more in the future. Call Ext. 5615

I'm an attractive SBF, 38, 5'6", professional. Seeking an attractive bisexual SBF, 30-39 to explore the possibility of a discreet friendship. She must be professional, financially independent, healthy, light smoker OK, in good shape, weight and height proportionate. Call Ext. 5609

SF 5'7", light brown hair & 18. Looking for a feminine female 18-22. Leave me a message. Call Ext. 5603

SBF Professional, gay, 40, 5'4" with an athletic build. I enjoy sports, running & working out. New to Houston. Looking to date a single gay female, who is a non-smoker, non-drinker & a non-drug user. Should be soft butched or butched, professional & preferably 37-50. Call Ext. 5602

SBF 5'10", attractive. I love the outdoors, sports & exercise. Would like to get know someone who is pretty much the same as me. Should be height/weight proportionate & seeking a deep, loving, caring friendship. Call Ext. 5578

SBF Tall, height/weight proportionate, attractive, mysterious & fun. Interested in a bi sexual or gay female, should be tall, for friendship & possibly for things to develop later. Call Ext. 5577

SF 23, 5'7", full figured & reddish hair. Bi sexual or gay females that is in the Southwest part of Houston, who is open-minded and outgoing. Must not be in a relationship at this time. Call Ext. 5574

SF 47, brown eye & shoulder length black hair. I enjoy dining out, going to the movies, staying home and watching TV. Interested in meeting someone that is honest, caring, very stable & know what you want out of life. Call Ext. 5312

SWF 24, 5'2", 120 lbs., short blonde hair. I'm in good shape. Looking to meet educated, professional woman to go out dancing with, have coffee, go to movies & basically just hang out. Call Ext. 5569

Men SEEKING Men

GWM 50, HIV+, 5'10", 150 lbs., gray hair, mustache. Seeking someone 45 or older for a long term relationship. Leave me a message & I'll give you a call. Call Ext. 5573

SWM 6'1", 155 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache/goatee, one piercing & one tattoo. Looking for a versatile gay or bi male, married is all right. Should like to role play, cross dress & want a little extra something in her life. Call Ext. 5647

SBM 29, 5'6", 166 lbs. attractive, HIV+ but, very healthy. My interests are sports, fishing, fast cars, movies & dining out. Seeking a White male 24-32, with the same interests for friendship & maybe more. Call Ext. 5646

SGM 50, HIV+, healthy, brown eyes, brown hair, 5'8", 165 lbs. I work out to improve the body. I'm a non-smoker & a non-drinker, but I tolerate moderation. Looking for someone to share my life with & really good at being in love. Call Ext. 5642

SGM 26, 6', 155 lbs., pretty, but have a classical masculine look. Seeking a long lasting relationship with a happy, sincere, generous business man. I'm sensitive, athletic & disease free. Call Ext. 5639

SWM 44, 5'6", 160 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, hairy chest. Are you a good looking, young Italian, Mexican or Puerto Rican? Are you passionate, loving, caring & HIV negative? Are you looking for someone to love & be loved by. Call Ext. 5496

GHM 5'11", 185 lbs., new to Houston, professional. I'm looking for a dominate, hairy, gay White male, who is about the same height/weight as I am. I'm looking for a good friend to show me around & have some good times with. Call Ext. 5623

GHM 23, 5'10", 200 lbs., mustache, goatee, dark brown eyes, black hair. I am a hairy bottom. I am seeking a top, any race or age for a good time & or friendship. Call Ext. 5633

SM 6'1", 185 lbs., hazel eyes, attractive, Indian/Black origin. Looking to have a good time. Call Ext. 5628

GWM 29, dark brown hair, brown eyes, 5'8", 140 lbs., & 30" waist. My interests include hiking, biking, going to the beach & stay at home with someone special. Looking for somebody around my age or younger, who is interested in getting together & forming a friendship, hopefully something that will lead to a long term relationship. Call Ext. 5627

GWM 36, 6'2", 185 lbs., blue eyes & have HIV-. Seeking someone the same 25-36, for friendship or possibly more here in Houston. Give me a call back. Call Ext. 5625

GHM 33, 167 lbs., 30". Looking for a good time & someone to spend some time with. Call Ext. 5607

GWM 38, short dark brown hair & hazel-green eyes. I have a muscular, smooth body & I'm HIV+. Looking for a man who is 5'8" or taller, who enjoys being on the top, has a rugged look with body and facial hair. Should be mature, 32-45 & good looking. Call Ext. 5524

GHM 42, 150 lbs., lean build, slightly long black hair, goatee, brown eyes & HIV+. Would like to meet gay White males, 30-44 years old. Call Ext. 5624

SM 6'2", black hair, blue eyes. I enjoy bowling. Interested in a Hispanic or a White male, 18-29 years of age. I love to be with boys a lot. Leave me your name. Call Ext. 5622

SWM Way beyond bi curious, 6'1", 150 lbs. Experienced bi White male in search of same. Experiences in variety, bottoms, submissive, TV's, tops, domination. Discretion is assured & preferred. Married men are welcomed if uninhibited Call Ext. 5355

GWC My partner is a gay White male, 5'9", 49, 173 lbs., blue eyes, salt 'n' pepper hair & very healthy, but HIV+. I'm 5'11", 189 lbs., blue eyes, blonde with graying hair, 56 & very healthy, but also HIV+. We are looking for friends who are gay White males, 45 or older. Should enjoy swimming, long walks, cooking out, dining out, animals & country living. Please be height/weight proportionate & masculine. Call Ext. 5620

SM 180 lbs., 5'10", height/weight proportionate. Interested in meeting mature, gray haired men, 40's & above. Would like to meet someone who is fairly wealthy, I don't want to take care of anybody else. Call Ext. 5586

SWM 45, 5'7", 147 lbs., handsome, masculine & hairy chest. Seeking a single gay male between 25-45, who is interested in friendship. Body hair is a plus. Call Ext. 5616

SM 33, 5'10", 185 lbs., black hair, black eyes, very hairy & muscular. I'm bottom & HIV positive. I'm looking for top White, Hispanic or Black men for a good time. Call Ext. 5617

GHM 21, 5'6", light complexion & hazel eyes. I like to go out a lot. I'm outgoing & a nice person. Looking for anybody, any race & 18-30. Call Ext. 5613

SWM 6'1", 165 lbs., slender build, 39, salt 'n' pepper hair, green eyes, mustache & goatee. I'm down-to-earth. Looking for a Latin or a Latino male, 25-45 & I'll respond to anybody. Call Ext. 5612

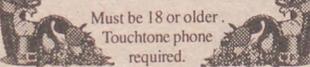
SWM Mature, 5'10", 175 lbs. I'm greek active, french passive, well-endowed, a non-smoker, non-drug user & HIV-. If you are HIV-, a non-smoker, 5'10" or shorter, call me. Call Ext. 5610

GHM 33, HIV-, 5'7", 135 lbs. Looking for a gay White or Hispanic male, preferably 33 years old & plus. Call Ext. 5604

Professional White male looking for male Hispanic top. If you're out there, give me a call. Call Ext. 5598

Don't miss your chance to find that special someone. Call today!

1-800-461-5930



Must be 18 or older. Touchtone phone required.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We'd like to hear from you with comments, personal testimonials. How are the personals working for you? Any true testimonials will be printed right here! Write to:

BureauCom Corporation ATTN: SHERI
921 14th Ave.,
Longview, WA 98632

GWM 26, 6', black hair, green eyes. Seeking a GBM 26 and older, 6' or more. Wanting a dominant, masculine guy who's HIV+. I enjoy the outdoors, sports, movies, getting together with friends and having a good time. If interested, leave me a number. Call Ext. 5601

SWM 190 lbs., 6'. Seeking a top black man HIV+. Like the outdoors, movies, sports. Just looking to get together. Seeking a friend or maybe a relationship. Let's see what happens. Call Ext. 5600

GWM 35, 5'11", 195 lbs. & financially stable. In search of a gay White male 30-45, country boy, that likes the beach, movies or just hanging out. Call Ext. 5581

GWM 5'10", 185 lbs., 44, HIV+. Have dark hair, blue eyes, a mustache. Looking for a tall, husky or muscular cowboy, Levis, leather top man, age 35-45, who is financially stable and interested in home repair and improvement, landscaping, movies, long weekends at home and Sundays by the pool. Call Ext. 5596

SM Bi sexual. In search of feminine bi men, into transvestites and cross-dressing. Discretion is assured. Must be height/weight proportionate, almost passive & very versatile. Call Ext. 5528

GBM 29, 5'4", 128 lbs., brown eyes, mustache & well endowed. Looking for friendship, you must be height/weight proportionate, open-minded, uninhibited, with a healthy appetite for giving and receiving cream, from both ends. Please leave a message. Call Ext. 5592

SM 36, 6'2", masculine with a muscular build. I'm sincere, down-to-earth & if my life would have been different, I would have been a cowboy in a different life. Looking to meet men for a possibly long term relationship if we hit it off well. I'm a non-drug user & you should be to. Must be able to carry on a good conversation. Call Ext. 5591

GWM 45, HIV+, A symptomatic for 11 years, 5'7", 145 lbs. I'm attractive & affectionate. My interests are classic autos, theater & board games. Looking for other HIV+, gay males, between the ages of 30-45 young, for friendship. Please call soon. Call Ext. 5590

GWC Handsome, versatile, HIV+. In search of another gay third man 25-45, for long term relationship. We take pride in being very down-to-earth, open-minded, open hearted & honest. We are romantic and extremely passionate. We have a wide variety of interests indoors and outdoors. Should be versatile, financially, emotionally secure & handsome. One stands 6', 190 lbs., 34" waist, short brown hair, hazel eyes, mustache and goatee. The other stands 5'10", 175 lbs., 33" waist, short blonde hair, blue eyes, mustache & goatee. Call Ext. 5555

SM Would like to meet other masculine guys, for friendship or more. Should be handsome, over 22, height/weight proportionate & med. - dark brown a plus. Must enjoy reading, writing, music & dancing. Call Ext. 5584



Place your free ad today and also get your ad on the internet for FREE.

Call... 1-800-461-5930

To view ads on the WEB page, use this internet address from your browser:
<http://www.bureaucom.com/houstonv>

SAM Mid-30's, attractive, intelligent & successful. Looking for very submissive, 60-older, White male for fun, friendship and more. Must be very clean, discreet & HIV-. Call Ext. 5576

GWM 35, 5'11", 190 lbs., financially stable & in good shape. In search of a gay White male between the ages of 30-45, country boy, that likes the beach, movies or just hanging out with each other. Must be HIV. Call Ext. 5580

SWM 50, HIV+, 5'11", 160 lbs. & I'm extremely healthy. Leave your number & we can get together. Call Ext. 5573

SWM 37, 5'10", 160 lbs., brown hair & blue eyes. I'm country, versatile & love to cuddle. Looking for a hairy, handsome White male 35-45, height/weight proportionate. Should have no personal baggage. Call Ext. 5589

GWM 44, HIV+, 5'7", 147 lbs., dark beard & mustache. I'm handsome, masculine, educated & considerate of others. Seeking other males who are also HIV+, who are in need of attention, affection & romance in their lives. Call Ext. 5575

SWM 47, 6', dark blonde hair, hazel eyes & very hairy. Looking for a White or Hispanic male, 35-50, to go to garage sales, movies & out to eat. Must be clean, honest, outgoing & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5568



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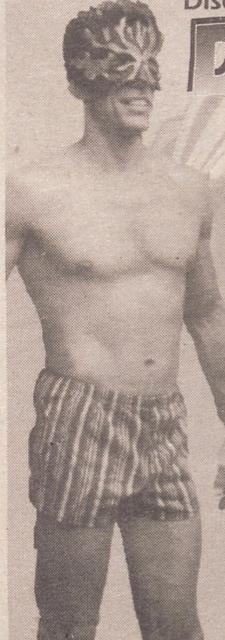
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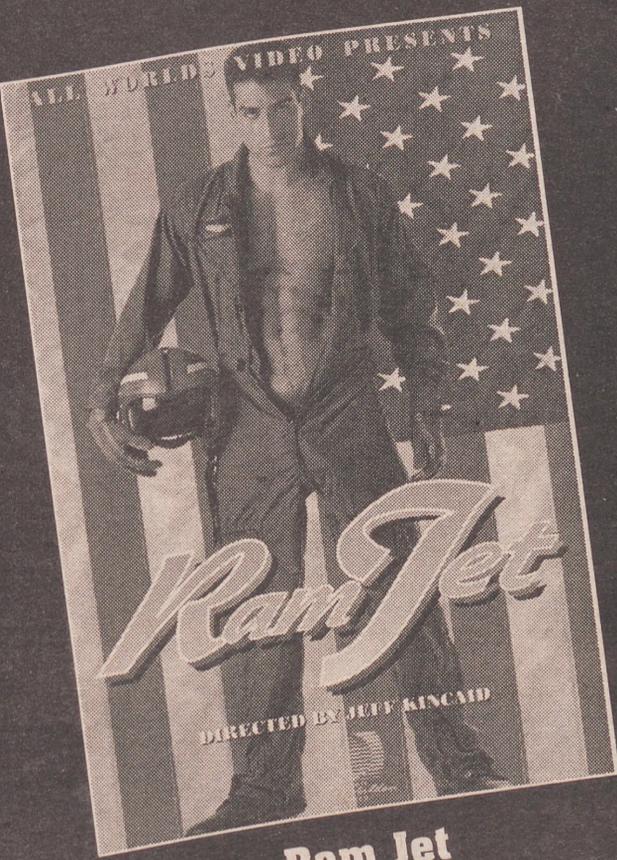
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