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Shawn Colvin's new CD page 17

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Are gay rights human rights?

Amnesty International excludes gays from its mission statement as rights violations continue worldwide

by LAURA BROWN
Special to the Houston Voice

Mariana Cetiner, a prisoner serving three years in Romania's Tigrisor Prison, had a large bruise on her right thigh and bandaged knee when visited by human rights investigators in 1997. She said an officer beat her and reported being deprived of food and water on a train when she was transferred from another jail. A doctor in the prison clinic downplayed her injuries by describing Cetiner as "a difficult person, perverse,



Sydney Levy

not at all normal."

Her alleged crime? Making sexual advances to her female roommate, a violation of Romania's Article 200, which criminalizes homosexual acts "committed in public or causing public scandal," and also forbids "inciting or encouraging a person to practice sexual relations between persons of the same sex, as well as propaganda or association or any act of

See AMNESTY/ page 11

Perot may yank benefits

Same-gender spouses could lose health insurance

by TERRY MURPHY

HOUSTON—In an interview with *Business Week* magazine, right-wing presidential would-be and computer business magnate Ross Perot said he may rescind his company's year-old policy of granting health insurance benefits to domestic partners. If that happens, Perot Systems Corp. would be the first American corporation to rescind such a policy.

In a Jan. 12 edition article on Perot, *Business Week's* Dallas bureau chief Wendy Zellner wrote: Perot "admits he's reconsidering the health benefits for same-sex partners Perot Systems introduced a year ago."

The article was prompted by Perot's return in November to the position of "tem-

porary CEO" of the Dallas-based computer services firm that he founded in 1987. He had relinquished day-to-day control of the company in 1992 to launch his third-party runs at the White House. While he was gone, the firm instituted a policy of extending health insurance benefits to same-gender domestic partners of employees under ex-CEO James Cannavino, who resigned abruptly in July.

A company spokesman would offer no comment on whether or not Perot would follow through on the threat, nor when such a policy change might happen.

The spokesperson also would not confirm how many of the firm's 5,600 employ-



ees in offices around the world had signed up their partners. The current policy applies only to PCS employees with same-gender partners. In the United States, PCS has large offices in Dallas, Cambridge, Mass. and the Washington, D.C. suburbs.

Zellner told the *Houston Voice* that during her interview with Perot on Dec. 22, the former two-time presidential hopeful said he was aware of only "about four" of his employees who had signed up their partners. The issue was one of "fairness," Perot told Zellner.

See PEROT/ page 12

HIV-positive Medicaid patients shift to HMO

New policy places all in managed care by March 1

by ELLA TYLER

HOUSTON—"It sounds too good to be true", said Rita Harrell, about her new health care plan.

Harrell, who has AIDS, has had her treatment covered by federal Medicaid insurance. However, that situation, which is familiar to many AIDS patients in Harris County, will end forever on March 1.

By that date, all HIV-positive Harris County residents who are covered by Medicaid insurance will become members of one of three HMOs (health management organizations). Every patient so affected has until March 1 to choose which of the three they want to join, or the government will randomly make that decision for them. The three Harris County HMOs that will

treat all Medicaid AIDS patients are: ACCESS Health Plan, Americaid Community Care and HMO Blue.



Rita Harrell (right) chats with Sonia Villalobos of ACCESS Health Plan, one of three HMOs not available to HIV-positive Medicaid patients.

Harrell read the materials sent to her about each of the three HMOs and selected the one that her doctor is affiliated with. "He's a good doctor", she said. She had been a patient at one of the hospitals on this HMO's list and liked the staff there. "They were nice and go out of their way to be sure you are comfortable."

HMOs provide what is called managed care. They enter into contracts with some doctors and some hospitals to care for the patients in their HMO. The term HMOs use for doctors and hospitals is provider (because they provide care, unlike the HMO which manages and pays for care). They do not pay for services except from those doctors and hospitals that are on their "provider list". Some doctors and hospitals

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INTERNET REPORT

Onward Christian Lacroix!

Ex-fundamentalist Miss Poppy Dixon skewers religious conservatives in her popular web-zine

by ROBERT DI GIACOMO

For former fundamentalist Christian Miss Poppy Dixon, the plain truth from the Bible can be as enlightening about fashion or facials as it is about the care of the soul.

Miss Poppy's Adult Christianity web-zine (www.postfun.com) showcases her offbeat and funny take on fundamentalism.

She answers reader questions like "Which Religion Is Right for Your Complexion?" and keeps a watchful eye on the web writ-

ings of Chuck Colson, former Nixon White House special counsel-turned Watergate felon-turned born-again minister. She even uses the out-of-context method of Biblical interpretation, made famous by religious conservatives, to construct her own, Biblically-inspired "The Week in Fashion Prophecy."

Under the theme, "Home of the Avant-God: Where The Valley of the Dolls Meets Christianity," the site, part of Miss Poppy's PostFundamentalist Press, is meant as a well-aimed spoof of conservative religion.

As Miss Poppy says, "Onward Christian Lacroix!"

"I was raised fundamentalist, and it took me ages to get out of it," explained Miss Poppy, via a recent series of e-mail chats, about her site's genesis.

"The fear that it instilled in you as a child is so tangible and so destructive, I had to study the Bible in detail to find a way out. PostFundamentalist Press is the result of those studies. I hope that it helps others to find their way out of fundamentalism and

See POPPY/ page 10

Sailor's career in hands of judge

Tricked into outing member, AOL says Navy broke the law

WASHINGTON—A federal judge is considering whether to save the career of a veteran sailor facing expulsion for homosexuality based on evidence the Navy gathered from a computer on-line service.

Arguing the case Jan. 21 before U.S. District Judge Stanley Sporkin, attorneys for the government and for Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh sparred over whether the Navy breached McVeigh's privacy by obtaining confidential information from America Online, Inc. A decision by Judge Sporkin on whether to grant a further delay of McVeigh's discharge is expected Friday, Jan. 24.

McVeigh is the subject of military discharge proceedings because he used the word "gay" to describe his marital status on his America Online user profile. An

See McVEIGH/ page 21



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Imperial Court coronation installs new reign

The Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star (The Court) held its 14th annual Coronation at the Braeswood Hotel Saturday, Jan. 17.



Newly elected Empress XIV Jennifer Ellsworth and Regent Emperor XIV Buddy Thompson.

About 350 well-coifed attendees marched in with the pomp and circumstance for which the Court is so justly famous. The Court's coronation begins a new year of fund-raising for the organization, which collected more than \$30,000 during 1997 (Reign XIII). The funds are distributed to a various of local charities, primarily HIV/AIDS and women's health organizations.

Empress XIII Anita Mann and Emperor XIII Jerel McNeil stepped down during the ceremony to make room on the dais for newly elected Empress XIV Jennifer Ellsworth and Regent Emperor XIV Buddy Thompson.

Paivi Lee Love received the Founder's Award, Norm Seguire received the Tom Martin Memorial Award, and Jim Roberts was given the Ricky Maldando Love and Friendship Award.

Miss Barbara Walker was named into the Hall of Fame and also received the Pink Ribbon Achievement Award. Larry Sprigs was voted the most outstanding Male Line Member Award, and Lexie Bowen walked away with the Most Improved Female Line Member Award.

The late Mike Geinzer was in recipient of the Community Spirit Award. Sorely missed for this festive occasion was the late Emperor IX Giovanni.

The Court was chartered in Houston in 1984 by Laura Lee Love. The second oldest Court in the state of Texas, it has more than 70 members. The first Imperial Court (lovingly referred to as the 'Mother Court') formed was in San Francisco more than 35 years ago. The Court is a social organization that recognizes no gender restrictions and it dedicates itself to community service through raising money for HIV/AIDS charities and women's health issues. Generally this money is raised dollar bill by dollar bill in tips given to performers during fund-raising shows or events. The talents of Court members include lip-sync, live vocals, dancing, and everything from drag to leather. Members donate their time, talent and energy.

On Saturday, March 7, the Court will hold its PR Ball, during which funds collected during Reign XIII will be given to the various charities.

Regular court meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month. For more information, call (713) 224-4288.

Houston MCCR tops \$300,000 in building fund

With a boost of \$145,000 raised in just 100 days, the Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) new facilities task force is investigating several properties as potential candidates for a new

church, according to pastor Dwayne Johnson.

"We were so encouraged by our recent Share the Miracle campaign in which we raised about \$145,000 in less than 100 days that we have accelerated our search efforts," he said. "We now have well over twice that amount of cash in our building fund, and our current property is debt-free."

The church, which caters to a predominantly gay and lesbian congregation of about 500, hopes to have exciting news regarding the project in time for its big 25th anniversary celebration, which is timed to co-incide with Pride festivities in April.

Special anniversary/Pride events will feature a banquet with Rev. Elder Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the United Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). Rev. Perry was recently invited twice to meet in the White House with President Clinton. Other events will feature the participation of all surviving for-

mer MCCR pastors.

According to assistant pastor Ralph Lasher, the MCCR church is bursting at the seams, with weekly attendance averaging 700. It's 11 a.m. Sunday service routinely fills the current church beyond capacity and the 9 a.m. service is also rapidly increasing in numbers, Lasher said.

With equity of \$1 million or more in its current church (purchased in 1979), and more than \$300,000 in cash, the church is looking to buy or build a church that will accommodate 2,000 for a service, with parking for up to 800 cars, Lasher said. The location of the new church if, of course, dependent upon what is available. "Naturally, we'd like to be at the corner of Montrose and Westheimer, since that seems to be the crossroads of the community. But that is unlikely," Lasher said. "But we do intend to be inside the loop."

Meanwhile, with its congregants coming from all over the region, MCCR is forming

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MCCR/ from page 3

small cells, called H.O.M.E. (Homes Open For Ministry and Encouragement) Groups, throughout the Houston metropolitan area, Lasher said. "We already have two groups in the Montrose, one of which serves the leather community; three in the near north-west, two of which primarily serve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered parents; one on Beltway 8 near Bellaire serving male couples; one in Pearland; and one in the 610/290 area.

"New groups are being formed in the Magnolia/Tomball/Conroe, Deer Park/Pasadena, Heights, Galveston, and Town and Country areas. We know that it isn't possible to minister to all of the spiritual needs of a large sanctuary filled with peo-

ple, so we have adopted the model of the early Christian church and are also ministering to small groups meeting in homes. We are interested in forming groups which serve all segments of the community. MCCR is also planning to offer a variety of educational programs to the community, including ones for persons coming out, parents and persons interested in having or adopting children, and scripture and sexuality."

"Our modest facility has greatly limited us in the past, but soon that will no longer prevent us from becoming one of the largest and most influential congregations in the world serving persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered"

For more information, call the church at (713) 861-9149.



Showing the colors

The Houston Pride Committee kicked off its organizing for the city's second night-time parade this April with a reception Sat., Jan. 17 hosted by Houston Pride co-chair Julie Siska and San Francisco Pride's Teddy Witherington, who serve as co-presidents of IALGPC (International Association of Gay and Lesbian Pride Coordinators. Pictured above (l. to r.) are Houston Pride 1998 Treasurer Gary Masse; Witherington, Siska, and Chris Noessel, the artist who designed Houston Pride's new logo.

OBITUARY

Mike Geinzer



A well-known and popular member of Houston's leather community, Mike Geinzer, died Jan. 12.

He is survived by partner, Neil Thompson, mother Barbra Geinzer, several brothers and sisters and innumerable friends around the country and the world.

Mike was a member of the National Leather Association-Houston since 1993, and president from 1994-97. He was also an independent member of the Texas Conference of Clubs and most recently member of the Royal, Sovereign & Imperial Court of the Single Star. Texas Riders, Houston and Leather Knights of Dallas counted him as an associate member, but whether he was a member of a club or organization or not, he supported the many educational and charitable activities held throughout the year.

He also was involved in the activities of The Houston Pride committee, the Bering Methodist Church and its many HIV/AIDS service charities, as well as the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago, Illinois. Mike's respected status as a leather master and aficionado of the leather/SM lifestyle lead him to be in demand as an educator at such events as NLA: International's Living in Leather X & XI (held in Portland, Oregon), NLA: Austin's Texas Leather Pride Weekend, NLA: Dallas' Beyond Vanilla and, of course, many of NLA: Houston's workshops and seminars.

Most recently Mike's great sense of humor (and dry wit) led him to form the House of Glade, a well-intended poke of fun and jest toward the Imperial Court system, a camp drag organization responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars

raised throughout the country and Canada mainly to benefit HIV/AIDS and women's health.

To the surprise of some, the jest was accepted as an "official" House in the Court. Last spring with Emperor XII and Empress XII, Jerald and Anita Mann, of the Imperial Court present, Michael I, Patriarch, and Ida I, Matriarch of the House of Glade, hosted Investiture I at the Venture-N and raised more than \$1,000 for charity. Mike, a long time leatherman was honored to be associated with the Court System and held titles with the Imperial Court in Houston and the Alaskan Court in Anchorage.

"It will be Mike's abounding humor and honesty which will be forever missed. His mother, Barbra, has asked that each of us who were touched by that humor or honesty his kindness, his help and charity and his friendship pass it on to others. By passing on the very acts he held in the highest esteem he will continue on in our hearts memories."

"Many a tear has been shed, many a heart broken over our loss. And whether one walked miles with him or just a few feet, that person will be better for it. He was a man who made a difference in everyone's life he came in contact with. He was loved as a friend and respected by all who knew him."



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San Antonio lesbians challenge prom ban

SAN ANTONIO—Same-gender couple who were forbidden from attending a high school prom will be allowed to go following a challenge by two lesbian students.

The students at Marshall High School asked principal John Bordano last week if same-gender partners could attend the senior prom together and were told only opposite-gender partners were allowed at the dance.

The policy of selling couple tickets only for heterosexual pairs came about after the school had a problem with groups of boys going to the prom and flirting with the female dates of other boys, Bordano said. School officials also worried about gang activity if large groups attended the function together.

In response to the girls' complaints, Bordano met with student leaders Jan. 20, and agreed that each senior could buy two tickets to the prom and take whomever they choose.

Fire hits gay bar in Abilene

ABILENE—Arson is suspected in a fire that severely damaged an Abilene gay bar, according to a story in the Dallas Voice.

Fire ripped through the Just Friends nightclub in the early morning hours of Dec. 30, according to the paper. The building was for many years the home of Charlie Blanks Nite Club, which first opened in 1937.

"We found some physical evidence that might show a flammable liquid was poured on the floor," said Fire Lt. Randy Doan. Firefighters took about 90 minutes to bring in the blaze under control, and they said damage was confined to the building's second story.

"From what [firefighters] told me, the second floor was fully involved when they arrived," assistant fire marshal Henry Davila said. "All three rooms [on the second floor] are a total loss. The roof collapsed over all three." Water caused additional damage to the first floor, though firefighters managed to save stereo equipment, tables and chairs and the dance floor lights.

A Just Friends employee, who asked not be identified, said "The fire department did an excellent job to save it. They responded very fast. They saved us tons and tons of money. We're going to do everything we can

to get it up and running again.

According to the Dallas Voice, the late Charlie Blanks was the first to operate a night club in that location when the building opened in 1937. The club almost immediately acquired a racy reputation. The bar was reputed to serve liquor when Abilene was a dry town, and prostitutes were said to work in nearby cottages in the 1930s.

Dallas MCC raises \$6.2 million for new church

The world's largest predominantly gay and lesbian church, the Cathedral of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Dallas, has raised \$6.2 million for a \$25 million cathedral it intends to build.

According to the Rev. Troy D. Perry, founder and moderator of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), "members in Dallas have once again demonstrated those qualities that continue to make UFMCC one of the world's fastest growing religious bodies: commitment and sacrifice."

With a membership of 2,000, the Cathedral of Hope MCC is the largest of the 300 MCC congregations found in 15 countries. Its new building is expected to seat 2,500 for services.

Log Cabin Republicans to hire lobbyist

AUSTIN—The Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, a group of gay and lesbian Republicans, will hire a lobbyist "who will reach out to Republican lawmakers" during next year's state legislative session, according to the group's president.

Log Cabin State President Dale Carpenter, a Houston attorney, said in a press release that Log Cabin is taking the action because "current efforts...fail to reach Republicans effectively."

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas currently has been the major gay rights lobby in Austin to date.

Carpenter criticized LGRL's efforts, noting that LGRL "does not have a single Republican on its 20-member board...We simply cannot afford anymore to sit back and hope that the liberal gay lobbyists in Austin will get the job done."

Gay attorney enters GOP run for Dallas judgeship

DALLAS—Gay attorney Robert R. Wightman of Dallas has entered a four-way race in the Republican primary for the 193rd District Court judgeship.

According to an article in the Jan. 16 issue of Dallas Voice, he will face David Brooks, who is the sitting judge in the 191st District Court; County Court Judge Dave Evans and attorney Ron Hines.

Wightman told the paper that his primary issue in the campaign will be eradicating what he said was widespread corruption in Dallas County. "The way it is right now, if you have a case in a judge's court, and you know that judge or have contributed to his campaigns, you win the case. That's it. No two ways about it," he told the paper.

"That's not the way our judicial system is supposed to work, and I want to change that."

"I believe that it would empower the community to know that an openly gay person can be elected to public office," he said, adding that he is running in the Republican primary because "we cannot change the Republican party unless gays and lesbians are elected in the Republican Party. Once we run for office as gay and lesbian Republicans and win, then we have a voice in the party's politics, at the local, state and even national level."

"As an elected official, I will have the voice to speak out against anti-gay rhetoric in the Republican Party. It will give us a chance to educate the people in the Republican Party. We can't win the battle by being strictly Democrats. We need to be vigilant in both parties."



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AUSTIN AREA UPDATE

by STEVE LABINSKI

Out in Austin

Log Cabin Republicans of Austin meet on January 29 at the Tres Amigos Restaurant at 38th & Medical at 7 p.m. They will recognize volunteers with the Precinct Initiative strategy and elect new officers. Guests and new faces welcome. For info call 512-371-3585.

Prime Timers Austin meets on January 25 at the Austin History Center, 810 Guadalupe at 2 p.m. Featured speakers are Dianne Hardy-Garcia with the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby and Alan Baker with the Austin Gay/Lesbian Political Caucus. 512-477-7035.

The Austin Lesbian/Gay Political Caucus will hold its candidate forum and endorsement meeting to select candidates in the March 10 primary elections. The Caucus will recommend its endorsed candidates to the gay and lesbian community on Feb. 3rd at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the AFL/CIO building at 1106 Lavaca. Endorsed candidates are also eligible for support from the group's Political Action Committee.

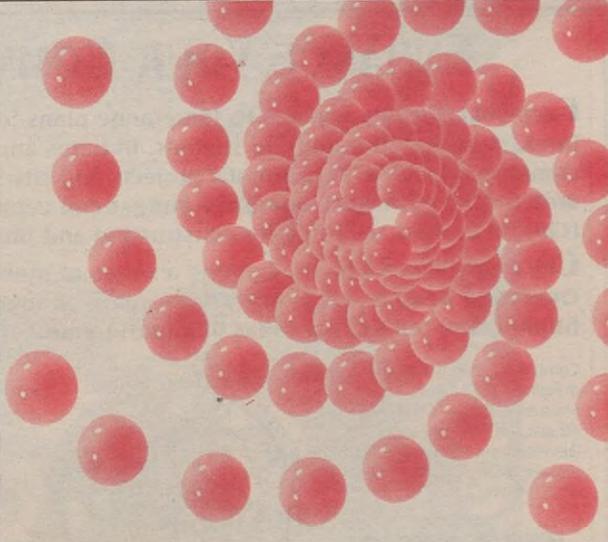
Art Scene

The Murals of Austin, a photo exhibit by BJ Smiley Goins is on view at the Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd. until January 28. Admission is free.

Blues In The Night, a selection of jazz and blues songs, will be presented at the Zachary Scott Theatre through Feb. 22. Call 512-476-0541.

The 1926 version of Ben Hur will play at the Paramount Theatre with a live orchestral accompaniment on January 24. Return to the glory days of the silent film with MGM's version of the epic tale. For info call 512-469-SHOW.

The Phantom of the Opera plays in Austin from January 21 to February 21 at the Bass Concert Hall. For tickets, call (512) 477-6060. Visit Austin's official PHANTOM website at <http://www.austin360.com>.



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30 walk out to protest gay priests

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—About 30 people attending a weekend ordination ceremony walked out to protest the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan's decision to allow two men involved in homosexual relationships to become priests.

Before walking out of the Jan. 17 ceremony at Kalamazoo's Cathedral of Christ the King, protesters had presented a formal objection to Bishop Edward Lee, who rejected the plea. "The ordinands who stand in our midst today have been duly called, evaluated, judged, endorsed and approved in accordance with the constitutional canons of the Episcopal Church at this time," Lee said. Thomas Brown, one of the two gay priests, said it was right for those whose "faith cannot abide the way in which God has called me to live" to speak out, and that their objection did not bother him.

Dr. Kevorkian present at death of transsexual

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Dr. Jack Kevorkian was present when a transsexual woman with AIDS committed suicide Jan. 18 at a motel, his lawyer said.

Carrie Hunter, 35, of San Francisco suffered from AIDS-related complications, said Kevorkian lawyer Michael Schwartz. Kevorkian and Dr. Georges Reding - a Kalamazoo psychiatrist who has said he is doing a "fellowship" in assisted suicide with Kevorkian - were present for the woman's death, Schwartz said.

Ms. Hunter, who began her life as a man and had an operation to change her sex, had uncontrollable nausea, an enlarged spleen and trouble controlling her bowels. She also had lesions in her lungs and indications of a form of pneumonia found in AIDS patients

that is often fatal.

Kevorkian, 69, has refused to disclose the exact number of suicides he has attended. But at a Dec. 31 news conference, he put the number at "somewhere between 80 and 100."

Suspended Neb. pastor vows to continue gay marriages

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The suspended pastor at First United Methodist Church in Omaha said he wants to get back in the pulpit, but he will continue fighting for the right to perform marriage-like ceremonies for homosexuals.

"It's not possible for me to work on reconciliation (with members of the church) while I'm not connected with the congregation," the Rev. Jimmy Creech said, after being suspended last week by Bishop Joel Martinez until a committee investigating Creech's officiating at a lesbian-union ceremony completes its work.

Creech performed the lesbian "covenanting" ceremony on Sept. 16, after Martinez told him not to. Creech said he felt the church's prohibition on such unions was "discriminatory and unjust" and "because I felt it was my responsibility as a pastor to support the couple."

Church member Mel Semrad, who was head of the finance committee when Creech was hired, said he believes most members welcome people regardless of sexual orientation. "But we also believe we should follow the guidelines of the General Conference" that prohibit sexual unions, he said.

If the investigation determines Creech acted wrongly, either in violation of the church's rules or because he failed to obey Martinez' order, Creech said he is ready to appeal to the United Methodist Judicial Council, which acts as a supreme court for the denomination.

Creech said he believes a statement in the church's Social Principles adopted in 1996 that prohibits homosexual union ceremonies is contrary to the biblical teachings of Christ.

Creech performed more than a dozen such ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples while a pastor at Fairmont United Methodist Church in Raleigh, N.C. All those ceremonies occurred several years before the 1996 General Conference of the UMC passed the ban, he said.

Creech said he and his wife, Chris Weedy, married in 1992 in a courthouse marriage ceremony followed by a covenant ceremony in the church that did not include marriage vows as a statement of solidarity to what homosexuals face. "We did it to be in solidarity with gay men and lesbians who are denied the right to have their relationship recognized as legal," he said.

In part because of his activism on gay issues, Creech lost his position at Fairmont UMC, was unemployed for six months, then served as a social lobbyist for the North Carolina Council of Churches for five years before coming to Nebraska.

Two Texas lesbians battle for custody

DENTON, Texas (AP) — A jury will decide next week on a custody battle between two women over a 5-year-old girl, and its verdict could set a Texas precedent.

Sharon Baughman, 38, became pregnant with the child by artificial insemination. Her former lover, 37-year-old Sylvia Benavides, 37, took part in the conception. The couple raised the girl for four years before separating in November 1996. Now, each woman claims rights to the girl.

Ms. Baughman is asking Judge Phillip Vick to take visitation rights from Ms. Benavides. Ms. Benavides, in turn, is asking for full custody of the child.

If the woman who loses the case appeals to a higher court—which is likely—the appellate decision will make Texas case law. It would be the only case law in any state that addresses the issues of the lawsuit.

Salt Lake mayor won't reinstate protection of gay employees

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Mayor Deedee Corradini will not veto the City Council's repeal of a month-old ordinance prohibiting discrimination against gay city employees.

"We haven't seen any evidence that we needed that law in the first place," Ken Connaughton, the mayor's spokesman, said. "This is a policy issue. The council deals with policy. The mayor is comfortable leaving that decision up to the council."

The mayor has 15 days to sign the council's repeal, reverse it or let it take effect without her signature. A two-thirds—or at least 5-2—council vote would be required to overturn a veto. The repeal passed Jan. 20 by a 4-3 margin.

Two days later, Salt Lake County Commissioner Randy Horiuchi joined those urging Corradini to reconsider, saying a similar statute enacted by the county in 1992 had proved "helpful to our personnel and management functions." "It also has been welcomed by employees as a permanent safeguard relating to their employment."

David Nelson, a gay activist, said it was "premature at this point to focus on anything beyond the mayor's duty to let this repeal take effect or veto it. She's charged with protecting the integrity of the work environment for her employees. She has a responsibility. I hope she takes it seriously."

The four councilmen who voted to repeal the law say they intend to replace it with a generic ordinance that protects all employees equally. They asked city attorneys to draft the law in the next 60 days.

W.Va. court hears same-gender harassment case

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — A former Wal-Mart employee who says he was harassed by a male supervisor asked the state Supreme Court Jan. 21 to recognize a claim of same-gender sexual harassment.

The employee, who worked at the Beckley store, filed a lawsuit alleging the supervisor made numerous "lewd and unwanted" comments that the employee considered sexual in nature.

The case was in U.S. District Court when Judge Charles Haden determined West Virginia's Supreme Court had never ruled on this issue. Haden remanded the case to the state Supreme Court because the case involves state issues.

The Supreme Court accepted the case and is obligated to rule.

Although some sexual harassment guidelines exist, there have been no rulings con-

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February 2
Scarborough High School
4141 Costa Rica

District B - Michael Yarbrough
February 3
Former City Council Chambers
Public Level, City Hall Annex
900 Bagby

District C - Martha Wong
February 5
Braeswood Assembly of God
10611 Fondren
February 10
Temple Emanu El
1500 Sunset

District D - Jew Don Boney, Jr.
February 23
Museum of Fine Arts
1001 Bissonnet

District E - Rob Todd
January 26
Dobie High School
11111 Beamer

February 11
Creekwood Middle School
3603 W. Lake Houston Parkway

District F - Ray Driscoll
February 9
Sharpstown Recreation Center
6600 Harbor Town

District G - Jean Kelley
January 29
Frostwood Elementary School
12214 Memorial Drive

District H - Felix Fraga
February 4
Heights Fire Station
12th and Yale

District I - John Castillo
February 12, 6:30-8:30 pm
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cerning same-sex harassment under the West Virginia Human Rights Act, said attorney Sharon Iskra, who represented the employee.

"We believe the court should determine our case as a same-sex case and the same standards that apply in a sexual harassment case should be implemented in this case," Iskra said.

Despite the "same-sex" designation, the lawsuit is intended to specifically address behavior of supervisors toward employees and does not allege the supervisor or employee are homosexual, she said.

The Wal-Mart supervisor was the target of a separate sexual harassment lawsuit by a female employee. Following an in-house investigation, the supervisor was fired by Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart, based in Bentonville, Ark., is contesting the same-sex civil action, but not on behalf of the supervisor.

"We do not believe an action is necessarily sexual harassment just because the action might be sexual in nature," said Wal-Mart attorney Kelley Mount.

"We have to tell our rank-and-file what they can and cannot do, and what constitutes sexual harassment."

New Orleans district attorney to attack hate crimes

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Louisiana's homosexual community has found a powerful ally to lobby the state's district attorneys and push proposed legislation.

Orleans Parish District Attorney Harry Connick said last week he will convene a task force of leaders from the New Orleans gay and lesbian community and top city officials.

In a press release, Connick also committed to helping homosexual groups lobby the Louisiana District Attorneys Association and help find sponsors for proposed legislation arising from the task force meetings.

"My office stands for the fair and equal treatment of all our citizens, regardless of their race, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion or national origin," Connick said in the release.

Connick also pledged to continue sensitivity training for his staffers.

Vt. couples takes gay marriage ban to state Supreme Court

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — The issue of same-gender marriages is going to the state Supreme Court.

Three Chittenden County same-gender couples filed an appeal of a December Superior Court ruling dismissing a lawsuit in which they sought the right to marry.

Judge Linda Levitt had agreed with the couples on several areas, but disagreed on the overriding issue.

"While all of the (couples') arguments claiming the state's public purpose is invalid are clear and sensible, none is persuasive enough for this court to determine that the Legislature is unjustified in using the marriage statutes to further the link between procreation and child rearing," Levitt said.

Three couples — Stan Baker and Peter Harrigan of Shelburne, Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles of South Burlington, and Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh of Milton — sued last summer when their town clerks refused to grant them marriage licenses.

Wash. Senate ponders legal medical marijuana

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — A Senate panel took up the issue of medicinal marijuana last week but the committee chairman warned that a bill to legalize such use of the substance was going nowhere.

Voters rejected a measure to permit medicinal use of marijuana just two months ago. "I don't intend to move the bill out of this committee," Senate Health and Longterm Care Committee chairman Alex Deccio, R-Yakima, said before opening testimony on SB6271.

Saying he was sympathetic to the bill's aim—to make marijuana legally available to sick people who benefit from it—Deccio said he nevertheless believed his colleagues "must be educated" about the drug's value before trying to get a bill out of the Legislature.

"This is not the year to do it," he said.

The measure, which drew strong testimony for and against, is far narrower than Initiative 685, which was defeated by voters last November. The initiative also would have legalized medicinal use of heroin and LSD.

The current proposal, sponsored by Sen. Jeanne Kohl, D-Seattle, would provide legal immunity to patients who use marijuana, physicians who recommend it and pharmacists who provide it. The bill also would create a campaign to inform youth that marijuana use is illegal, except in cases involving authorized use by seriously ill people under a physician's care.

Mom may lose kids over lesbian abuse charges

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Authorities filed a petition to take permanent custody of two children from a woman and her ex-husband after the teens alleged they were abused by their mother's lesbian lover.

"This is one of the most horrendous cases of child abuse I've seen in my nine years with this office," Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Lisa Tomko said. "It's devastated these kids. It's awful what they have suffered through. Our position is that the mother knew about it and did nothing to protect them."

In the petition filed with Circuit Judge Gene Schnelz, prosecutors and the state Family Independence Agency asked that Lorraine Pigott and her ex-husband Patrick relinquish custody of their 14-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter. Schnelz also asked police to step up their investigation of Vicky Nichols about the May 1996 death of the Pigotts' 9-year-old son at a Gratiot County motel.

Ms. Nichols, who lived with Pigott for about eight years, has not been charged with

any crime. But she disappeared after the older children told Pontiac school authorities that she abused them, according to court records.

Gratiot County authorities are reviewing toxicological reports from the autopsy of Shawn Pigott, 9, who died while Ms. Pigott, Ms. Nichols and the other children were in the area.

The boy reportedly suffered from epileptic seizures, but initial reports indicated an unusual amount of sedatives in his body in addition to his medication, said Detective Sgt. Bill Bushy of the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department.

The older children both said they saw Ms. Nichols forcing Shawn to take sleeping pills on the day he died. They also said Ms. Nichols forced them to take sleeping pills and physically abused them, court records said.

Ms. Pigott told Schnelz she was unaware of the abuse until recently, when she ordered Ms. Nichols to leave her home. She told authorities that Ms. Nichols physically abused her.

"Nichols did horrible things to these children, but I'm convinced the mother knew nothing about it," said Ms. Pigott's attorney, Daniel Bagdade.



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EDITORIAL

The Navy asked, AOL told, and gays are the losers (again)

by CHRIS CRAIN

The case of the other Timothy McVeigh is making national headlines and illustrates yet again the absurdity and false promise behind President Clinton's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays in the military. Senior Chief Petty Officer McVeigh, a decorated 17-year veteran three years shy of his pension, sent an e-mail to a Navy civilian worker with whom he was planning a charity event. Tipped off by his America Online screen name, "Boysrch2," the civilian worker alerted the Navy that it might have a homosexual in its midst.

Suspicious thus aroused, a Naval investigator called AOL and, in a rarity for the technically-plagued on-line service, got a straight answer out of the technical support staffer who answered the phone. Without a warrant or a subpoena, the Navy asked, and AOL told. McVeigh, whose "user profile" identified him as gay, was processed for discharge. Only a federal lawsuit and a six-day delay in his discharge, put in place by a worried Secretary of the Navy John Dalton, stand between McVeigh and the end of his Naval career.

At the time President Clinton accepted former Sen. Sam Nunn's (D-Ga.) "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" proposal, many moderates defended the policy as a reasonable compromise to an intractable, controversial problem, and even argued that it represented a significant advance in gay rights. No more would the Pentagon view homosexuality as "incompatible" with military service. Gay men and lesbians could serve with distinction, so long as they did not reveal their sexual orientation, interfering with "unit cohesion" and the privacy of other servicemembers.

Of course, both justifications are red herrings: "Unit cohesion" is Pentagon-speak for catering to the prejudices of heterosexual servicemembers, who apparently don't mind serving with gay comrades, but can't handle knowing which platoon-mate is queer. Even more pretextual is the privacy concern. If heterosexual servicemembers are truly concerned about leering by gay servicemembers,

then isn't an outright ban on gays the only rational answer? Is "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" a compromise that solves the problem?

Closeted soldiers, permitted to serve under "DADT," have a much better opportunity to leer at the straight guy in the next shower stall than an openly gay servicemember. Can you imagine an openly gay servicemember in a shower with a straight platoon-mate aware of his orientation? Talk about blinders! The poor homosexual would be afraid to look at anything but the soap!

Four years into implementation of "DADT," the record is clear. Discharges for homosexuality are on the rise. Documented stories of witch hunts abound. Women servicemembers have been especially targeted for "DADT" scrutiny, particularly those women who dare to turn down advances

Suspicious aroused, a Naval investigator called AOL and, in a rarity for the technically-plagued on-line service, got a straight answer out of technical support. Without a warrant or a subpoena, the Navy asked, and AOL told.

from straight male soldiers so convinced of their irresistibility that any women not finding them attractive must be a lesbian. (That same male ego also has them worried that they would inevitably be the sexual object of gay male servicemembers, apparently.)

The recent Pentagon commission report on sexual harassment, which recommended that male and female servicemembers receive separate basic training, also caters to the principle that servicemembers, especially

men, are incapable of restraining themselves sexually. If accepted, the commission report could spell doom for any hopes that "DADT" will be rethought this century. Obviously, no similarly designed training program would work for gay servicemembers, who can't be trained without being among those of the same gender (to which they're attracted).

Now comes the case of SCPO McVeigh, which highlights the continued misuse by the Pentagon of "DADT," and the very real privacy concerns of the hundreds of thousands of gay customers of America Online.

Thus far, the Navy and AOL have defended the indefensible. A Naval investigation based solely upon "suspicion," which even the author of "DADT," Dr. Charles Mokros, has said is a violation of the policy. In a radio call-in show last week, Mokros admitted that the "pightheadedness" of the military has "inadvertently undermined 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'" And how.

McVeigh served exactly as expected to under "DADT." He didn't tell. AOL did tell, and in response to a telephone inquiry that was not backed up by either search warrant or subpoena, in apparent violation of the federal Electronic Privacy Act of 1986.

As thousands and thousands of gay customers consider whether McVeigh's betrayal is the last straw for much-maligned AOL, the on-line service would be well-served to immediately implement protections that ensure the privacy of its users—gay or straight.

A quick glance at the AOL chat rooms reserved for gay users would confirm two important points: First, there are a whole lot of gay people, especially gay men, who are devoted users of AOL. Second, most are acting in a way that would make revealing their identity a very disturbing prospect.

As AOL is burdened with that double-whammy, and as the Pentagon reels from a clear abuse of its own bigoted policy on gays in the military, the coming days should prove entertaining ones indeed.

OPINION

Stop calling it barebacking; start calling it irresponsible

by MUBARAK S. DAHIR

In the past few years, an alarming phenomenon has been on the rise in the gay male community: it is commonly known as "barebacking."

Barebacking is one of those horrible euphemisms like "ethnic cleansing," terms that the general public have been duped and co-opted into using simply because they cannot—or choose not to—face the responsibility that less sugar-coated language imparts.

We made the collective decision to accept the term "ethnic cleansing," rather than "genocide," to describe the events in Bosnia, because it assuaged the guilt of our inaction there.

In the same way, gay leaders and AIDS leaders have been wheedled into using the term "barebacking" because we somehow don't want to face the ugly truth of what is once again on the increase in our community.

I'm sick and tired of hearing the word barebacking. It should be banished from the vocabulary of any person who truly cares about the direction of the AIDS epidemic. Gay men, along with those who work in and run AIDS agencies, have a particular responsibility to stand up to the lethal seduction of this idiotic euphemism. We all need to stop calling it barebacking, and start calling it what it is: unprotected, unsafe anal intercourse.

If you must substitute a phrase for it, use a fair one that tells the facts about what is going on. Call it "death by stupidity." Call it "I'm going to throw away my life because I refuse to think of the consequences of my actions." Call it what it is. Call it irresponsible.

Oops! There I go, I said what has become

a dirty word in the politically-correct police state of gay and AIDS dogma.

Right now, AIDS apologists are shaking their heads and wagging their fingers at my harsh words. "You're being judgmental," they are saying, their chins dragging the ground as they gape in amazement.

You're damn right I am. If it is judgmental to say that continuing to have unsafe anal sex, that putting your life and the life of your partner at risk, that refusing to use the simple and easy and proven HIV prevention rule of using a condom is irresponsible, then I am being judgmental. Guilty as charged.

I would rather be guilty of saying the unpopular truth than helping to cover up its ugliness. And that's exactly what happens every time someone uses the deceitful euphemism "barebacking."

Whether we admit it or not, every time we use that word, we reinforce the absurd notion that the action of unsafe anal sex is not so bad. We reinforce the fallacy that the condom code is out of date, that what is going on is somehow not as tragic, not as dangerous, not as foolish, not as angering, not as heartbreaking, not as frightening, not as needless, not as risky as it really is. After all, if it was, would we be making it sound as innocuous as a horse-back riding lesson?

It amazes—and saddens—me that at the end of nearly two decades of death, after the loss of tens of thousands of lives of gay men, after too many funerals and memorial services, it has become unacceptable to talk about personal responsibility.

Isn't it amazing that after all we have been

through as a community battling this killer virus, you are branded a bigot if you say the obvious truth: Gay men need to stop having unsafe anal sex.

But we don't want to come out and say things that plain and simple. We might be called insensitive. We might be called conservatives. We might be called "sex negative." We might be called traitors to the gay cause. Never mind if you are none of them. Never mind that you don't have to be a right-wing zealot to recognize unprotected anal sex is killing gay men. The threat of stigma is enough to keep us quiet, to shepherd us into doublespeak collusion.

I understand where the fears come from. From the very beginning, people with AIDS—especially gay men—have been branded as "guilty victims" who "deserve" their fate.

We must not allow that to happen. People with HIV and AIDS must always be treated compassionately and lovingly. Discrimination and prejudice against people with AIDS must always be confronted, never tolerated.

But to do so doesn't mean we have to deny the plain truth that the increasing practice of unsafe anal sex is causing a rising rate of new HIV infections among gay men, and it should be stopped.

If we do that, we become nothing less than accomplices to death.

Mubarak S. Dahir is a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News and is the Philadelphia reporter for Time Magazine.



VIEWPOINT

Titanic issues sink first date

by VICKIE SHAW

I went to see the movie "Titanic," just like everyone else in the world (or so it seemed by all the people in the theater). Especially all of the people that just want to talk and review the movie as you watch, which by the way is a whole other column.

Anyway, I went on a date... first date mind you... to a romantic movie. Which probably isn't the best thing to do. The reason? My girlfriend and I recently broke up. You know one of those messy dyke drama kind of break ups. She was a nightmare. I, of course, can say that because I'm writing the column. That's one of the perks...OK, fine... I have issues. So sue me!

Anyway, we go to the movie, and I of course like to make a good impression. So I, being the verbally adept, standup comic that I am, proceed to engage in witty, intelligent repartee.

"Vickie, isn't that a unfathomably huge ship?" my date whispers.

"Not as big as my ex-girlfriends butt!" I say not too quietly. I didn't mean to, it just slipped out. Probably not something to say on a date, I agree.

"SHHH!" she says.

"O.K. fine, it wasn't that big, actually it was a great butt, it was one of the things I

liked about her." I said.

"Be, quiet!" she says.

As the movie continued, my date says later, as she romantically leans into my arm, ever so slightly, "That fiancée of hers is such a control freak, I would never try to control anyone I was involved with."

"Control freak... I can tell you about control freaks. My ex-girlfriend was a control freak. She's Saddam Hussein, she's Atilla the Hun, she's Martha Stewart of the lesbian world. I was on the road for a month, mind you, and when I got home she didn't say 'nice to see you' or 'OK, now I've seen you, go home' but she takes me into her kitchen and says 'I've moved the cumin. It is now on this spice carousel.' Control freak..."

"Vickie, Shut up!" my date says, in not too nice of tone, I might add... The nerve.

"Isn't that just so very tragic...the way they had the third-class passengers locked in. They didn't have a chance. That just breaks my heart," my date says quietly into my ear, with just a hint of lip ever so slightly touching my skin.

"Locked in! I'll tell you about locked. My ex-girlfriend changed the lock on the post office box so I couldn't get my mail! My tax information, my bills, my Victoria's Secret

Catalogue! Can you believe that? And they don't forward! I am just up a creek without a paddle. The vindictiveness and spite of some people is just unbelievable!" I exclaim.

By then several rows had joined my date in saying, "SHUT UP!"

I don't know why, but I then stood up and yelled, "All right, y'all, I agree, I was extremely lax in my communication during our relationship. I did not deal effectively with my baggage, and I had an affair...but that is no reason to be so spiteful!"

At this point, everyone in the center section got up and moved to the aisles.

As we were leaving, actually being escorted out of the theater, people kept giving me dirty looks. Geez, some people!

All in all I think the date was a success. The movie was great, but when we left the theater I think my date was getting a little PMS. She seemed pissy. Go figure!

Well, I need a nap! Just thinking about my ex-girlfriend sucking the life out of me makes me tired. And I do need my energy for my new social life...I am such a good date!

Vickie Shaw is a Houston-based stand-up comedian.



VIEWPOINT

Confessions of a women's hoop lover

by BEREN DE MOTIER

I have discovered a new identity for myself. In addition to being a wife, mom, artist, writer, lesbian and dog owner (with a capital "D" for "Disaster"), I'm now also a basketball fan. That is, when the players are women, and pros at that.

In our neck of the woods, I'm talking about the ABL (American Basketball League), and the Portland (Ore.) Power in particular.

Let's address the heart of the issue. These women play some mean ball. They have incredible skills, show great sportsmanship and are role models for countless kids, including our neighbors' son across the way (a soon-to-be sports great himself, I predict) whose mom and dad send him to the women's games because they want him to see some "real basketball."

However, I know that all the lesbians I'm sitting with aren't going to see the game. The women we sit with spend large amounts of time regaling the musculature of our star player and marveling at the way she seems to saunter, panther-like, across the court while simultaneously scoring more points than you can fit on all your fingers and toes. In the first half.

Why is it so easy to objectify athletes? All my feminist education becomes meaningless the minute I hit the stands. My mind drifts toward sexist scenarios involving the sinewy, sweaty torsos of these sports s-heroes and large amounts of rope. And I know I'm not the only one.

I've always liked jocks, in a secret, Twinkie-loving sort of way. Having been raised by intellectual snobs to whom athletes were a lower life form, my relationship to the sports-inclined is like the rich boy who scurries off to the bad part of town and finds true love, and a wonderful way to rebel, all in one fell swoop. Had I but known in high school that the whole hetero-phase bit could have been skipped with a little physical coordination and the opportunity to spend time in the girl's locker room, I might have applied myself with fervor—and saved one heap of trouble.

However, once in college and safely ensconced in the women's studies program (and therefore receiving college credit for my lesbian transformation), I discovered jocks. My college had a fabulous women's basketball team (as well as an infamous women's rowing team made up entirely of women who could shame Arnold Schwarzenegger into doing a couple of push-ups), and there was a lot of team support. Largely by what is now being called by the press; "unmarried, professional women."

The lesbian ball players called them "Marvanas." At that time, the college women were playing their last games, they figured. There was a dream they shared called women's professional basketball, but it was only a dream. And now it's come true.

The wife and I jumped right on the bandwagon the first year. We share season tickets with our neighboring lesbian moms. We trade off, one couple watches three kids and gets drooled on, the other couple goes to the game and drools. I think we get the better deal I'm afraid, since we have two kids and a dog the size of Godzilla and they have one small angelic toddler and a fish. Our friends emerge bleary-eyed and in a need of a dose of Prozac after a spell among our breed. However, we are grateful and gleefully let them do it again.

The women's basketball phenomenon is fascinating for two reasons, well, three but I've already spent time extolling the virtues of the players. First, with the ABL at least, there's finally some recognition of the lesbian fan base. At one of the last games we went to there was an announcement at the beginning of the game of a dance at the Lesbian Community Center. The vendors go around saying "lemonade, lemonade, one lemonade, two straws" to all the passing female couples. There was even a headline article recently in a mainstream paper about our presence at the games which estimated that attendance was 40 percent lesbian. That's a pretty big bunch of positive stuff, right?

And yet, second, I don't think there's a woman there who would identify any of the players as gay except among the closest of friends. You don't see signs saying "Lulabelle, the local dykes on bikes loves you", or even "Lulabelle, you're number one", despite there being some definite favorites among the marvanas in the audience.

You hear rumors, there's the usual gossip about who's going out with whom, or what player's got wheat-for-brains but who cares with a bod' like that. But there is a strict unwritten code that no one is going to blow the ride for any one of these women we so admire for their strength, skill, agility and 10-status on a rating scale. And I think there's a general understanding, whether or not it's true, that being all the way out of the closet would be the end of a player's game.

So the fans ride the edge. They are ardent, enthused, and devoted, but also extremely protective of this new field that's been opened up for women. And it's important. The existence of the league—being able to actually sit in the stands and see women play good ball and get paid for it—revitalizes the hoop dreams of generations. From retired collegiate stars who remember packing up their high tops and saying good-bye to sports, to the many young daughters watching ABL games with their dads, their eyes light up with competitive spirit.

And what better arena for mingling, gay, straight or who cares, than in athletic stadiums where for once we are not the minority, nor blending at that. Instead, we're a loud, shouting, excitable majority that won't pipe down even while living in peaceful coexistence with equally exuberant straight fans in the next seat.

It's a beautiful thing.

Beren deMotier is a freelance writer and self-identified "lesbian housewife" who lives in Portland, Oregon with her spouse, two children and a rabbit named William.

POPPY/ from page 1

into constructive faith, if that's what you want."

Miss Poppy, who happily owns up to relationships with men and women, says she's very much a part of the queer community, although she officially identifies as straight, "for lack of a better term."

"I've been accused of being a dyke, a drag queen, bi, gay and I never bother to deny it—I take it as a compliment," said Miss Poppy, a San Francisco-based Web designer and graphics teacher. "Adult Christianity is very pro-sex and pro-queer. It just wouldn't be heaven without practicing queers, though I prefer accomplished queers myself."

The site's themes for 1998 further illustrate Miss Poppy's decidedly original take on Christianity. For example, she's starting off

the year with January's "Christian Truckers, Bikers and Tattoos," while March will feature her "Objects, Icons and Indulgences" issue, at the center of which will be an interactive program called "Hello Jesus."

"It's similar to a digital pet and it takes 33 days to play," Miss Poppy explained. "You have to check in daily and feed and interact with your Jesus. If you don't take care of him, you'll kill him. It's a test to see how much you really love him."

"Each day equals one year. So, for example, the first three days, you click on a breast icon to feed him. I don't know what the consequences of breast-feeding him more than three days will be, but it could pose a problem."

The site isn't just for laughs—Miss Poppy also uses it as a form of outreach to other fundamentalists.

"It's the best part of the job," she said of her e-mails from other recovering Christians. "People who have lived through intense religious experiences tend to be very interesting, passionate people." Miss Poppy also hears often from fundamentalists for whom her site is just plain blasphemous.

"There's a constant stream of homophobes quoting Leviticus at me," she said. "I ask them if they eat pork chops, shave or wear polyester blends, all forbidden under Levitical law, and that's the last I hear from them."

The Chuck Colson Watch, which monitors the born-again Watergate figure's intolérant rants on the web, has also brought in the e-mail, including an angry letter from Colson's cousin. (He's since been converted to a Miss Poppy fan.)

The watch has its roots in Miss Poppy's

childhood. Her mother, a "rabid Republican," would dress her up in red, white and blue satin, or Nixon paper dresses and have her pass out buttons at Republican rallies.

"It nauseated me when Colson declared he was a Christian," she said. "The religious right describes him as 'Christian statesman.' They simply do not understand the duties and responsibilities of a celebrity spokesperson."

Lucky for her cyber fans, Miss Poppy understands how best to wield her own power. She takes credit for her Colson Watch having a dampening effect on his web presence, and for her site eliciting the desired level of outrage from other so-called Christians.

"I've been ordered to flee from the Internet in the name of Christ several times," she said. "And if I had a nickel for every time, I've been told I was going to burn in hell...."

"I try to remember that I had to go through all that nonsense before I was able to get out of it. So hopefully, writing to me is a step in the right direction. One man wrote that he'd just been baptized and felt compelled to tell me all about the tortures I would face in hell. I don't think they held him under long enough."

Robert DiGiacomo is a Philadelphia-based freelance writer. Send comments to drag-netp@comcast.net.

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Begin It Now.

HMO/ from page 1

may be listed with all three HMOs.

The experience of a doctor and a hospital in caring for AIDS patients makes a significant difference in the quality of care, according to Harry Livesay, Director of the Bering Community Services Foundation's Advocacy Project. He encourages patients to find out who the providers before making a decision about an HMO.

Before Harrell signed up with the HMO, she "had a friend go first," she said. His experience was positive, so she selected the same one.

She was pleased that the HMOs in the program do not limit the number of drugs they will supply, if the drug is medically necessary. Medicaid paid for only three prescriptions per month, and, Harrell says, "Sometimes my doctor would prescribe something, and it would be two weeks before I could get it." She hesitated to use other resources because she was afraid she would be cut off from services because "they think I get sick too much."

Harrell attended a special Jan. 21 "Enrollment Event" at Thomas Street Clinic, where she is a volunteer, to find out more about the "value added services" offered by her HMO. These are services, such as dental care, that Medicaid did not cover. A slightly different package of services are provided by each HMO.

Will the move to managed care for Medicaid patients mean better care for a person with AIDS? It's too early to tell, Livesay said, but Harrell is optimistic. She said she thinks the nurse-staffed 24-hour hotlines offered by each HMO will be helpful. Both of her roommates also have AIDS, she said, and Harrell recalled a time when one of them began running a high fever: "We couldn't reach the doctor and didn't know what to do."

The enrollment event featured displays, giveaways and representatives from two of the three HMOs as well as displays from community service groups. It was a novelty for Harrell to meet people who wanted her business. "Before, she said 'you'd always have to find out if they took Medicaid,'" she said.

The event was organized by the Livesay and seven other groups. "There are a lot of questions and a lot of confusing information about this change", said Livesay. "But we can tell you the questions to ask before you chose a plan."

The other organizers of the event were: The Center for AIDS, AIDS Foundation Houston, WAM Foundation, PWA Coalition, AVES, Montrose Counseling Center and Montrose Clinic.

AMNESTY/

from page 1
proselytism."

To most organizations battling discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gay rights are "human rights"—gay groups like the national Human Rights Campaign even use the phrase in their names. But Amnesty International, the world's premier "human rights" organization, still refuses to explicitly make that connection.

When the group took up Cetiner's case, she became the first lesbian ever adopted as an official Amnesty prisoner of conscience, according to the non-profit International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. A proposed measure adding "sexual orientation" to Amnesty's mission statement was considered but never brought to a vote at the organization's December international meeting in Capetown, South Africa, drawing strong criticism from IGLHRC.

"Amnesty International goes all the way to South Africa, which is the only country that has sexual orientation in its constitution, and says that we cannot put sexual orientation in our constitution," said Sydney Levy, IGLHRC research and advocacy director. "That is certainly ironic if you think about it."

Amnesty's current mission statement opposes "the imprisonment, detention or other physical restrictions imposed on any person by reason of his or her political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs or by reason of his or her ethnic origin, sex, color, language, national or social origin, economic status, birth or other status, provided that he or she has not used or advocated violence."

Instead of changing the statement, Amnesty International's conference voted to simply "increase the visibility" of their work on human rights violations based on sexual orientation. The move echoes a 1991 resolution, achieved after two decades of public debate, in which Amnesty chose to "inter-

pret" their mission to include "sexual orientation," but not change the actual statement. And in 1995, Amnesty designated its work on sexual orientation as "low priority," a status that has never been officially changed.

The 1991 "interpretation" vote "was an important first step and we were all very happy about it, and Amnesty has actually done some work on the issue, but that first step is just not enough," Levy said. "Even the next step they took in December is still not enough to really put us on the same level as other human rights violations."

But Cynthia Rothschild, co-chair of Amnesty International members for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, said she disagrees with Levy's interpretation that the most recent move to include sexual orientation in Amnesty's mission "was shelved by its authors fearing defeat and doesn't send a very good signal."

Instead, she said the move's sponsor, Amnesty International UK, agreed to send the measure to Amnesty's executive committee "for analysis and recommendations." The decision was made because of concerns that "in certain countries, Amnesty as an organization would lose its legal status if sexual orientation was added to the mission. In other words, they would lose their credibility as an organization and not be able to do human rights organizing."

More important, Rothschild said, were two resolutions sponsored by Amnesty International USA in conjunction with AIMLGC, which gained approval from the international council thanks to "a small miracle": a resolution to support an international meeting of Amnesty's gay and lesbian chapters, and the resolution calling for "greater visibility" of sexual orientation work in Amnesty's publications and action alerts. Pushing the mandate issue could have "ruptured the international coalition" that supported the visibility resolution, she added.

"This resolution could really motivate the Amnesty community to make this work hap-

pen, and it puts it in the face of the movement to grapple with the issue of sexual orientation," Rothschild said.

Still, Levy said the visibility resolution doesn't go nearly far enough, and concerns about upsetting some countries by including sexual orientation in the mandate constitute "a bogus argument."

"Visibility is good, and more visibility is better than less visibility, but we need Amnesty International to roll up its sleeves and do the ground work," he said. "The only way that you can document human rights violations is to have people to go there and investigate, and that's something that we as a small organization with a limited budget try to do, but on a small scale. Amnesty International has far greater resources, and we can just imagine what they would be able to unearth if they would make up their mind to do it."

As far as upsetting "certain countries" by including sexual orientation, Levy said that Amnesty doesn't "edit their mission statement and say we won't do work on the death penalty, because in Saudi Arabia or the United States they have the death penalty."

"We do not say, for example, that we don't want to do violations based on gender because there are countries that are sexist and we don't want to offend them, or it would be difficult to work in those countries. Precisely because it is difficult shows us that there is work to be done."

Amnesty's gay concerns group has used the death penalty argument internally to pressure Amnesty International for a more outspoken stance on gay issues for years, Rothschild said.

According to Amnesty's Rothschild, "including sexual orientation in the mandate is extremely important, but it is a symbolic goal. A more important question is whether we are doing the work that can save people's lives."

As evidence of Amnesty's efforts, she said two people oppressed because of sexual orientation will be included in an upcoming

worldwide Amnesty mailing, and sexual orientation issues will be included in Amnesty's campaign for the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Levy said that IGLHRC "applauds" the work Amnesty has done on cases like Cetiner's in Romania, but "what we have found is that precisely because Amnesty has yet to really roll up its sleeves and do the work, that most of their work really comes from Amnesty International making requests for documentation from us."

IGLHRC investigated Cetiner's case with Human Rights Watch, another human rights organization, and "it would have been much better if Amnesty had done the work themselves and put their money where their mouth is," he said. Amnesty's attention "will hopefully help Cetiner get out of detention, but we also need to locate the other people who are in detention, and that is the work that is not being done."

Amnesty's Rothschild, meanwhile, acknowledged that there is a lot of work left to do on violations of gay and lesbian human rights, but said the responsibility doesn't fall just on Amnesty International. "There's no question in my mind that we are not where we need to be within Amnesty and within the human rights movement overall," she said. "I would also add that organizations dealing with l/g/b/t issues have not made a strong commitment to worldwide human rights violations."

"That is our organization's role within Amnesty: to push the organization to consistently pay attention to the links between human rights violations and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered experience," she explained.

About 17 of Amnesty's approximately 70 member countries now have chapters addressing lesbian and gay concerns; the United States chapter receives a budget and staff resources from Amnesty International USA and has about 500 members, Rothschild said.

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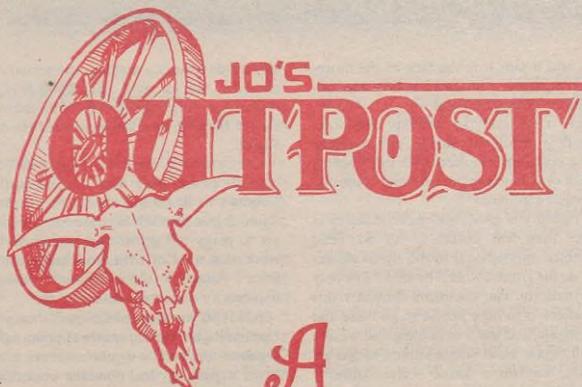
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PEROT/

from page 1

During the interview, Perot cited the example of "two fine young ladies who are living together. They are not homosexuals. One of them works for us; the other is between jobs." Zellner said his point was that since the firm grants benefits to same-gender partners, it would only be fair to grant them to these "two fine young ladies" and other non-gay roommates and domestic partners. "And that starts getting expensive," said Perot in the interview, according to Zellner's notes.

Ring the same fairness note, Perot told Zellner, "I don't think you could ever find a single person who can say we had discriminated against them because they are gay... We judge people by their performance."

Nonetheless, in the end, Zellner said Perot told her "we're taking a close look at [the same sex benefits] and whether or not to continue them."

According to David Smith, spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, the move would be unprecedented in American business, and a stark departure from the trend of more and more American corporations offering employee benefits to the partners of its gay and lesbian employees.

"Corporations large and small have been implementing these policies," Smith said. "Their cost-effectiveness has been established and the fairness of these policies stands on its own. If this policy is rescinded, there could be no other convincing explanation other than anti-gay bias, for which Mr. Perot would need to be held accountable."

During debates between the three presidential candidates in the 1992 election, Perot said he would not support ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would outlaw job bias based on sexual orientation for all American firms with more than 15 employees. The ENDA bill, which was introduced twice in Congress, failed passing the U.S. Senate by one vote last year. It has never come up for a vote in the House.

According to the *Business Week* article,

while Perot named himself "temporary CEO" after ousting Cannavino, "nobody around the company's Dallas headquarters is questioning who's in charge. Since Nov. 10, the steely-eyed onetime Presidential candidate has been walking the halls, spouting his management bromides, poring over expenses, and reconsidering everything from the corporate structure to recruiting tactics."

Since his return, six of the firm's managers have left, though Perot told the magazine only one was fired, and he has re-instituted drug testing for job applicants.

While revenues at the firm were expected to total \$780 million for 1997, up from \$600 million from the previous year, the *Business Week* article attributed Perot's return and ouster of Cannavino to his dissatisfaction with escalating expenses.

Perot has been known to run a tight corporate ship since he left his job as a salesman for IBM in 1962 to found Electronic Data Systems Corp., in Plano. That pioneering computer services firm won lucrative government contracts to computerize data used to administer federal government entitlement programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. Famously, he ran the firm according to his staunchly conservative beliefs that included a strict dress code. He also told male employees to keep their hair cut short and not grow beards.

Perot became a billionaire when he sold the company to General Motors in 1984. The auto giant has since spun off the company. Coincidentally, the EDS corporate culture loosened up considerably after Perot sold it. That firm began offering domestic partner benefits in 1996.

After selling EDS, Perot founded Perot Systems Corp. and went into competition with his old firm. In June 1992, he relinquished control of PSC to his long-time right-hand man, former EDS President Morton Meyerson—freeing himself to appear frequently on "Larry King Live" and to manage his third-party candidacy for the presidency. Meyerson stepped down in September 1996 in favor of Cannavino, who earned his business fame by heading up IBM's personal computer business.

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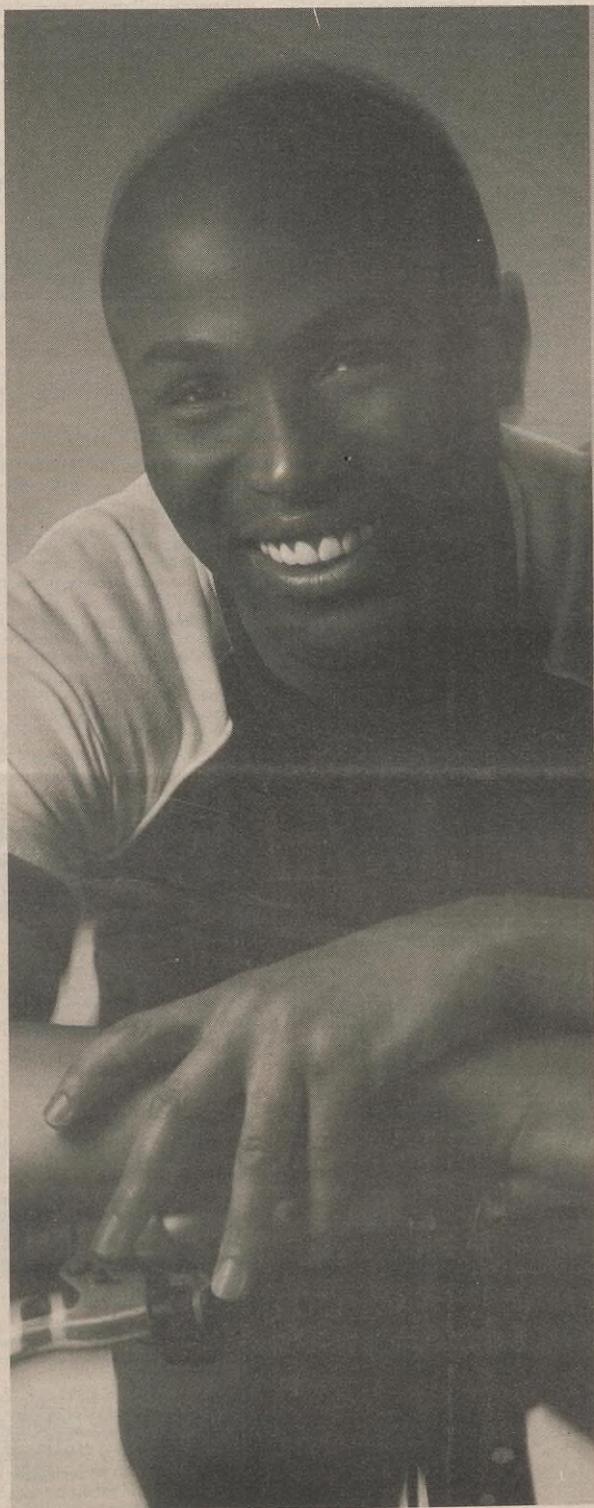
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Tenn. research focuses on HIV-masking protein

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Researchers are trying to find a natural protein that may conceal the AIDS virus from anti-AIDS drugs, boost the effectiveness — and lower the cost of — anti-AIDS drug therapy, researchers at Vanderbilt University Medical Center said.

"We're not saying this is the way to a cure," says Dr. Richard B. Kim, assistant professor of medicine and pharmacology who led the research team. "But it may be an important way to further eliminate the virus."

The Vanderbilt study was published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, a medical journal.

P-glycoprotein generally is good for the body by protecting it from toxic substances. But Kim and his colleagues have found evidence in mice that P-glycoprotein may prevent protease inhibitors from reaching HIV in the blood and in the brain — thus creating "sanctuaries" for the virus to hide out.

Other Vanderbilt researchers are trying to find out if the same thing occurs in humans. If so, patients could be given drugs that block the action of the protein and get rid of the hideouts for HIV.

Anti-AIDS drugs cannot shut down HIV reproduction unless they can reach and get into the cells that HIV infects. "We're suggesting that this transport molecule (P-glycoprotein) seems to act as a barrier to prevent entry of these drugs into the cell," Kim said.

Esquire examines anti-HIV sex aid

Is Erogel the miracle substance that will free us from HIV and every other sexually transmitted disease?

Most definitely, wrote Rene Chun in an article in the current issue of Esquire magazine — that is, according to retired United Methodist Rev. Ted McLivenna, who is the savant behind Erogel, a chemical product with a goo-like substance developed to be used topically to prevent HIV-STD transmission. Erogel's active ingredient is nonoxonyl.

McLivenna is the founder and president of the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, a fully accredited graduate school in San Francisco that awards academic

degrees in sexology. According to Dr. Jack Summers, a urologist and the president of the Ohio State Medical Association, McLivenna is the country's foremost authority on sex.

"In over 10 years of testing and recommending Erogel, I haven't had a single case of a person testing positive for a sexually transmitted disease."

Chemoprophylaxis — the use of various substances, applied topically to the genital area, to prevent HIV-STD transmission — is not new. But recently it has become the topic on the STD front as the battle intensifies between prevention and cure.

Nonoxonyl-9 was not originally created to save mankind. AIDS researchers at the National Institutes of Health did not discover its properties. It was, rather, developed more than 40 years ago as a superdetergent used to scour the bottoms of swimming pools.

McLivenna's Erogel is made with nonoxonyl-15, a similar compound, with a slightly different molecular composition. Nonoxonyl has long been efficacious as a spermicide. For the past few years, it has been used to coat condoms, though in concentrations too small to be of much use.

The turning point for nonoxonyl came in 1985, when research showed it effectively killed HIV in a test tube. But there was just one problem. The substance can be caustic when applied to human genitalia, and can, in turn, increase the risk of HIV infection.

Enter Erogel. The secret is McLivenna's special homeopathic extract of green oats called avena sativa. It is this ingredient that acts as a buffer, lowering the acidity of the gel and preventing irritation to sensitive tissue.

So if Erogel is so great, why haven't you heard about it? "This is a multibillion-dollar business," McLivenna growls, "They're never going to let me in without a fight." If every-body had Erogel, McLivenna says, "condom sales would plummet, the lucrative AIDS-drug market would have no reason to exist after a while because no one would test positive for HIV, and the AIDS-drug companies would not be able to recoup their research-and-development costs."

Researchers find new gene that helps some AIDS patients

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some people infected with the AIDS virus remain healthy and alive for years after their infection. Now, researchers have found an altered gene that helps explain it.

In a study to be published in the journal Science, researchers at the National Cancer Institute said that alteration of a gene called SDF1 apparently helps the body defend itself against HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The conclusion is based on the genetic analysis of specimens from about 3,000 HIV patients who have been followed over many years.

Hawaii reports drop in AIDS cases

HONOLULU (AP) — The number of new AIDS cases has fallen to its lowest level in 10 years in Hawaii.

Hawaii had 97 new AIDS cases last year, raising the total number of AIDS cases in the state to 2,077, according to the state Department of Health. The number of new AIDS cases has been declining since 1993.

Peter Whiticar of the state health department's Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS Prevention Branch estimates between 2,300 and 3,200 Hawaii residents have HIV.

AIDS is a reportable disease but HIV isn't, he said. Whiticar would like to change that in Hawaii to help keep resources current with needs.

Whiticar said he will convene a task force with representatives from Healy's group, AIDS service organizations, state government and physicians to look into the HIV reporting system.

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ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES
Study A455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 200 cells/mm³ who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing <60 kg, and 50 mg BID for those weighing >60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg BID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm³ (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm³), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 23 weeks (range: 11 to 556 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline. 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic. Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

	ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	14.1%
18 months	18.3%	23.3%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

*Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS
ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or to any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS
The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,764 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two doses of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients
Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may exacerbate peripheral neuropathy.

Carriers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be advised that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests
Mild to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with contrast therapy.

Contraception, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility
Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, E. coli reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/ml, without metabolic activation).
*The parallel track program (STUDY A455-001) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C₅₀) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category C—Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C₅₀) up to 399 and 163 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected (at approximately 135 times the human exposure). A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 113 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean peak absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.1 L. The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.008 to 0.105 µg/ml, at times ranging from 2 to 3 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 16% to 125% (mean ± SD of 59% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The mean terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 94 mL/min. The mean ± SD apparent clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min. The percent of the dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 34.5% after oral administration. The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).
*Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Most elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

	Study A455-019		Parallel Track Program	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID)	zidovudine (200 mg BID)	ZERIT (40 mg BID)	zidovudine (20 mg BID)
Grade 1/2	3	20	4	17
Grade 3/4	2	1	4	2
Total	13	4	24	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Adverse Events	ZERIT (40 mg BID)	zidovudine (200 mg BID)
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	33	44
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Insomnia	29	28
Anorexia	19	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pancreatitis	1	1

*This event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.
*Includes all clinical complaints.
*Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Lab Tests (units)	ZERIT (40 mg BID)	zidovudine (200 mg BID)
AST (SGOT) (<5.0 x ULN)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (<5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Bilirubin (<5.0 x ULN)	2	2
Anemia (<8.0 g/dL)	3	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3
Amylase (<1.4 x ULN)	14	13

*This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.
*Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.
*Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.
*ULN = upper limit of normal.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by renal dialysis or hemodialysis.

HOW SUPPLIED

ZERIT (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures:

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NDC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark brown	BMS 1964 15	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965 20	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966 30	60	0003-1966-01
30 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967 40	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label. ZERIT for Oral Solution is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water (NDC No. 0003-1968-01). US Patent No. 4,978,655.

Storage: ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

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Adapted from: PA577-94
Revised October 1996

Friday-January 23

- Low impact aerobics at Community Gospel done to Christian music for body, soul, and spirit. 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 713-880-9235 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-January 24

- 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-January 25

- Church of the XII Apostles Anglican Rite Old Catholic Church; Holy Communion 11am at 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 Service at 11 am.
- MCCR Worship services 9:00 & 11:00 am 861-9149.
- Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 am Worship Service at 10:30 am 528-3269.
- First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 am and 11:30 am 526-5200.
- Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872.
- Community Gospel Praise and Worship service at 11:00 am Sunday School for children. Evening Service at 7 pm. (A Study in the Book of Genesis.) 4305 Lillian 880-9235. Catch them at 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-January 26

- Low impact aerobics done to Christian Music for body, soul, and spirit at Community Gospel; 6:30 pm, \$2. Certified instructor. 880-9235 or www.communitygospel.org.

Tuesday-January 27

- 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.
- "Eve" by Jeri Pfister-Spiritual Director as well as a professional storyteller. At the Kolbe Project. 861-1800.

Wednesday-January 28

- 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-January 29

- 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.
- Choir Practice at 6:30 pm. 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 Carolyn Roberts at 529-8490 by 12 Noon Mondays.

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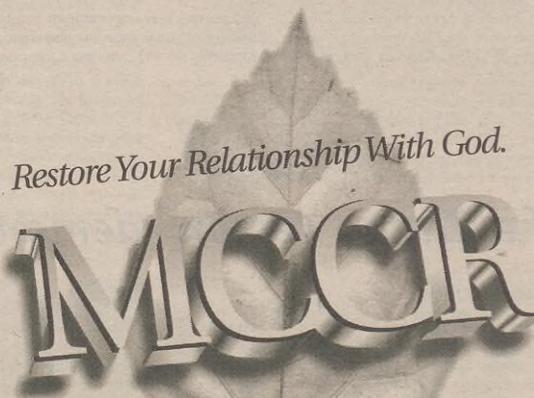
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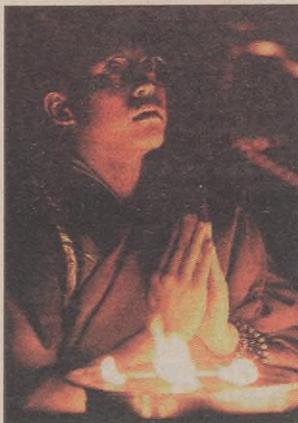
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Kundun documents China's controversial history in Tibet

Scorsese and Harrison Ford check in with their take on Hollywood's Buddhist chic.

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Director Martin Scorsese takes a giant leap of faith in "Kundun," the true-life story of the 14th incarnation of the Buddha of Compassion, the Dalai Lama. Discovering his divinity at age 2, Tibetan monks whisk the toddler away for grooming and enlightenment. After transcending the playful mischief expected of any kid, Kundun—a reli-



Tenzin Thuthob Tsarong stars as the adult Dalai Lama.

gious nickname for the Dalai Lama that means "oceans of wisdom"—exercises his temporal responsibilities and keeps the peace.

But Red China has different plans for Tibet: China alleges that Tibet is a lost province and plans to reclaim it. The People's Liberation Army rolled into Tibet in 1950 and when the PLA crushes a popular uprising in 1959, Kundun escapes to

India to prevent a purported assassination.

"Kundun" has all the makings of a messianic epic: a revered religious figure, mysterious and intriguing ceremonies, and majestically inspiring scenery. Moreover, Scorsese has the distinct advantage of having a living protagonist for source material. The real Dalai Lama assisted with the script, correcting star Harrison Ford as he read the draft prepared by his wife, Melissa Mathison.

Scorsese's objective vacillates somewhere between history lesson and mystic tale. The Chinese atrocities against Tibet are undeniable, but does that really make a good film? And does Scorsese have a broader political agenda? Is "Kundun" a film which hopes to right the wrongs against Tibet or is it merely another picture exhibiting Hollywood's fascination with trendy Buddhist chic?

Scorsese, I think, knows that Buddhism is a pretty safe bet. It is certainly less controversial than "The Last Temptation of Christ," in which he infuriated Catholics and Christian fundamentalists. "Kundun," a polite biopic about a man dedicated to non-violence and personal enlightenment, is an unlikely candidate for raging Buddhist furor.

But it is hard to ignore the political overtones inherent in "Kundun." In the film, the adult Dalai Lama (Tenzin Thuthob Tsarong) meets with Mao (Robert Lin) to discuss China's occupation of Tibet. Mao coolly counsels him on the Marxist philosophic doctrine, concluding that "religion is the opiate of people." Mao clearly outlines his intentions for Tibet: The nation will be assimilated and its socio-religious "superstitions" dismantled. Mao assumes that Tibet wants liberation from its ancient customs. Scorsese makes sure we know that it does not.

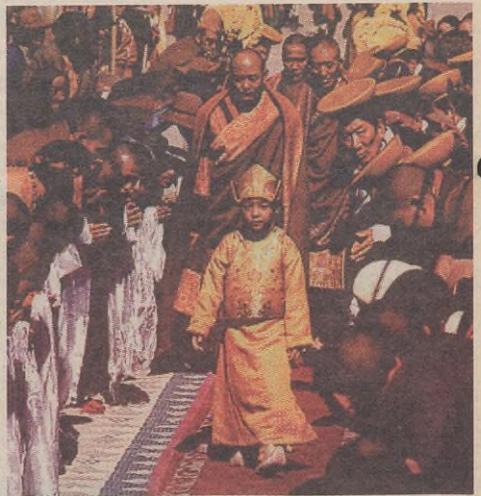
Moreover, it is impossible to ignore the duplicity of the communist liberators, who promised a smooth, reverential transition on

the one hand, but maimed and slaughtered tens of thousands on the other. Scorsese highlights the appalling conduct of the People's Liberation Army—hardly the people's and hardly liberating.

Perhaps less intentional, but nonetheless obvious, is the lack of divine intervention on the behalf of the Dalai Lama or the Tibetan people. One could hardly expect a parting of the seas in a modern biopic. But if the Dalai Lama is an incarnation of the grandest auspices of the Buddha and gifted with the divine mind of God, then why has the Divine seemingly abandoned the cause of Tibet? And if Mao is an antithesis of "divine" Buddhist axioms, is it not disturbing that the People's Liberation Army still occupies Tibet today?

Unfortunately, Scorsese does not have the same luxury that he had with "The Last Temptation Of Christ." That film was a mutation of popular Christian myth and lacks the inconvenient historical limitations of 20th Century modernity. No movie news films exist of Christ's mission or any supposed tinkering with adultery. "Kundun," however, cannot escape its historic environs—chiefly, its post-WWII annexation by China and the lingering suspicion that Mao may have had a point.

When "Kundun" was in production, Scorsese and Disney had to deal with attempts by China's government to censor the movie. The government expressed its extreme displeasure, complaining that the Dalai Lama instigates civil unrest. Disney went ahead with production and distribution, but the decision might affect Disney's



ability to expand sales of its products in Asia—especially China.

Martin Scorsese, however, is not a man careless about his own legacy. His depiction of Mao was fair-handed and respectful. Let the Chinese fume a bit, he may have reasoned, but they'll get over it eventually. But Scorsese certainly had another possibility in mind: if the 14th Dalai Lama gets his second coming, he might be first in line to direct a sequel.

That, perhaps, might be the greatest leap of faith of all.

HOUSTON VOICE RATING: ****

Rated: PG-13

Time: 128 minutes

Genre: Biopic

Director: Martin Scorsese

Cast: As the Dalai Lama: At age 2, Tenzin Yeshi Paichang; age 5 Tulku Jamyang Kunga Tenzin; age 12, Gyurme Tethong; adult age, Tenzin Thuthob Tsarong; Tencho Gyalpo, Tsewang Migyur Khangsar, Geshi Yeshi Gyatso, Sonam Phuntsok, Lobsang Samten, Gyatso Lukhang, Tsewang Jigme Tsarong, Tenzin Trinley, and Robert Lin

Theaters: Angelica Film Center, Tinseltown 290, Cineplex Odeon 9 - Augusta, AMC Gulfpointe, Meyerland Cinema 8

"The Tango Lesson" demonstrates that it does take two...

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

Sally Potter's film "The Tango Lesson" is a gentle yet stimulating film autobiography which interprets complex but traditional interpersonal themes through the tango, a dance born in the bars and barrios of Argentina. As the film's



Sally (Sally Potter) and Pablo (Pablo Veron) tango to "12 Steps to a Better You."

writer, director and protagonist, Potter develops the plot through the lens of post-modern feminism. The result? A unique, sexually charged, fully clothed expose of control and compromise.

In the film, Sally (Sally Potter) is mesmerized by Pablo (Pablo Veron), a swank and sexy tango dancer whom she hires as a dance teacher. For

Sally to learn the tango she must be willing to follow—that's not an easy thing to do, for Sally prefers to lead. And there is another problem: the tango is about *machismo*—it's Pablo's way of expressing his Latin compassion and control without sex. Moreover, bowing to Sally's independence is not his style.

Sally and Pablo never have sex. In fact, they hardly kiss. The tango's eroticism begs the dance to end with wild, passionate lovemaking. Those intimate looks, those swerving hips, those turns and dips—it makes you wish one of the two would jump the other's bones! Veron appears a few years Potter's junior. But Potter, thin and dainty, is highly attractive and her expressions register what's in her heart: she is falling in love with Pablo. But the pseudo-sexual overtones of the dance sequences lead you to the end of the rainbow, only to find an empty pot.

Meanwhile, Sally and Pablo agree to keep the relationship professional. When Pablo asks Sally to accompany him to a competition, catfights break out during rehearsal. Pablo is self-absorbed, self-centered and hopelessly narcissistic. At the competition, the tango is restrained, tense and restrictive. Pablo is furious despite the roaring approval of the crowd. In the dressing room, he whines about the lack of attention to his lead. Sally, on the other hand, complains about his

inattentiveness to her. Sally decides she has had enough and breaks up the relationship over the phone.

Yet Sally cannot get Pablo or the tango out of her mind. She mentally scripts a fantasy of what the perfect Pablo would be. Sally alternates between image and reality, preferring the delusion. Why? Because in her fantasy, she is in control.

Later, Sally gets Pablo back by promising him a part in a movie. Innocent enough, perhaps, but there's a catch: Pablo must learn to take orders from her. Pablo plays along for a while until Sally reveals that Hollywood producers may not fund the film. When will the film be made? "When someone believes in me the way I believe in you," she answers. Unfortunately, Pablo fails to reciprocate Sally's faith. He see-saws between maintaining control and entertaining her complaints.

Sally and Pablo wig-wag through some interesting tango sequences: one while preparing din-



Old-time machismo meets post-modern feminism.

ner; another spontaneously exiting a cab to tango in the rain. Potter's petite silhouette effortlessly conforms to Pablo's lead—when she follows. His charm and style are magnetizing and the tango mystically

incarnates the paradoxes of life.

But don't expect any unique psychological revelations beyond filmmaker-falls-in-love-with-tango-dancer. The plot is rather predictable in some places and a little flat in others. However, Potter's handling of the erotic tango scenes is intriguing and invigorating. And you can see most if it in glorious black and white.

HOUSTON VOICE RATING: ***

Rated: PG

Time: 101 minutes

Genre: Autobiopic

Director: Sally Potter

Cast: Sally Potter and Pablo Veron

Theaters: exclusive at the Greenway Plaza 3

NEW MUSIC

Shawn Colvin's "Few Small Repairs" needs no fixin'

by STEPHEN R. UNDERWOOD

"I don't go into writing a song thinking I'm gonna speak for anyone other than myself," says Austin songwriter Shawn Colvin. That attitude is synonymous with the capital city's ambiance and its "austintatious" flair for independence and individualism. But Shawn knows her matter-of-fact view deserves a flip of the coin. "People have told me how much they can relate to what's happening in these songs, so I think some experiences are shared ones."

Those experiences are the ones which Colvin shares on her release "A Few Small Repairs." A single from the album "Nothin' On Me" is programmed as the theme music for the NBC sitcom "Suddenly Susan," starring Brooke Shields.

Once an obscure and unnoticed contender, Colvin's career came front and center when her debut album "Steady On" won a Grammy for best contemporary folk performance in 1989. "A Few Small Repairs" racked up three Grammy nominations this year, including Record Of The Year, Song Of The Year, and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance.

Colvin's trek to notoriety has been anything but easy. At age 42, Colvin competes with a clique of young and potent super-

stars like Fiona Apple, Alanis Morissette, and Celine Dion. And MTV? No help there. The mega-music channel writes her off as a "VH-1" artist.

How does Colvin feel about her "I think I can" approach into the limelight?

"To have a big success right out of the box is atypical. R.E.M. wasn't huge until their fifth record," she says. "There's always die-hard, devoted fans who wonder why this didn't happen sooner, and sometimes there's good reason. But I think it's typical—it takes a while."

Hard work and perseverance are nothing new for Colvin, who struggled with boyfriends, depression and alcohol abuse. And becoming a Grammy award winning songwriter didn't happen overnight.

"I had been making a living performing for 15 years before I even made my first album, so writing and recording was a very new and intimidating experience for me," she says. "It's taken a lot of time to build up enough confidence to establish myself as a front person."

But Colvin had no problem fronting last summer with Sarah McLachlan, Jill Sobule and others during the Lilith Fair, a nationwide girl-power tour.

"I think the [all-female] idea was something people were maybe afraid to do in the past," remembers Colvin. "This tour sent a commercial message to radio and promoters out there that this concept and the music will succeed, that not everyone is interested in just another Lollapalooza or punk or rap festival."

Colvin's "A Few Repairs" reveals a life rich in triumphs and tragedies. Beautiful allegories like "Witchita Skyline" activate the mind's eye: "I rode on the airstream across the great lonesome afternoon/I wished hard enough to hurt, drove fast enough to catch the moon." In "84,000 Delusions," Colvin's darkside laments "Go look at the lake, please/go look at the sky/go look at a baby/we're all gonna die." On a brighter note, "Sunny Come Home" explores a metaphysical wonderland: "She says days go by I don't know why/I'm walking on a wire/I close my eyes and fly out of my mind/Into the fire."

For aspiring artists frustrated with obscurity, Shawn Colvin should be an emblematic paradigm for success. And besides, she's proved at least one thing: Do what you love and the money [and fame] will follow.



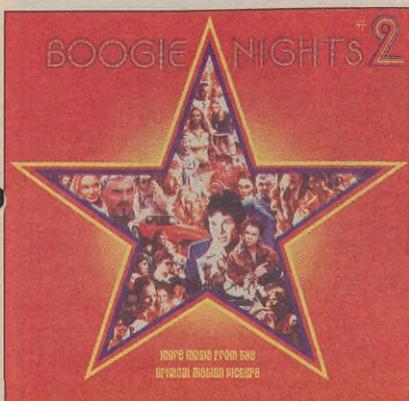
QUICK CUTS

SOUNDTRACK

Soundtrack #2 from the Motion Picture "Boogie Nights"

Various Artists
Capitol Records

When I popped this CD into my ROM drive, it jammed up my computer. Then one of those irritating "Illegal Operation" warnings from Windows shut me down. "What the hell," I thought. My second try was successful. This time the CD took over my PC—a logo from the movie formed on my screen and gave me the oh-so-delicious option of going directly to the movie's web site—NOT! I just wanted to listen to the music! Well, the music finally started and when it did, I wondered why I really needed to listen to it in the first place. First of all, it's a compilation of '70s classics—not disco. I can remember playing marching band versions of most of



the songs during football season when I was a freshman in high school. But that's not a complaint—it's just a flashback to the days when I didn't have to worry about rent. I can remember cheerleaders bouncing pom-poms to "Driver's Seat" by Sniff 'n' The Bears, homecoming queens losing their virginity to Elvin Bishop's "Fooled Around and Fell in Love," and wall flowers lamenting to Rick Springfield's "Jessie's Girl" during prom. The music's fun, but what's so different about this compilation when you compare it to the ones you can buy from MTV or K-Tel? Not a darn thing. So, go figure.—Stephen Underwood

COMEDY

Always Forward, Never Straight Georgia Ragsdale

Rising Star Productions

With the popularity of "Ellen," lesbianism is all the rage in the entertainment world, mainly because marketers see a buck to be made. Record companies are clueing in to the fact that gay money works just as good as anybody's when it goes in the bank. Now meet Texas lesbian comedian Georgia Ragsdale. Georgia is no stranger to Houston. She frequently loosens things up a bit at the Laff Stop in River Oaks. She is, of course, one of those "lip stick" lesbians—you know, that coterie of cover girl *savoir-faire*. Her fantasia on the inner-workings of lesbian culture is an absolute rage! Take for instance, the lesbian adoration of Jodie Foster. Georgia explores her fantasy—with a rousing response from the crowd. Then Georgia points out what's wrong with lesbians in the ads in gay men's magazines: their fingernails are too



long. And Georgia has lots to say about lesbian bar culture—like don't knock those quarters off the pool table. Since everybody can use a good laugh, get some for yourself with this forward-looking release from a hip community jester.—Stephen Underwood

DANCE

Liquid Groove Various Artists

Twisted Records

Compilations are always a great way to enjoy dance music. For one thing, you get a lot more for your money. For another, they're great to pop in anytime you have a party at home. And nothing gets the party goin' like Twisted Record's new release, "Liquid Groove." Liquid Groove was an independent dance label which pressed some of the underground's biggest hits, like H2O's "Take Me Higher" and "Nobody's Business." And you might remember songs like Lovebeats' "This is the Only Way" and "Aquarius" by Saucer men, if you frequent Club Some after hours. If you have a preference



for songs heavy on the vocals, there are a few here. "Liquid Groove" is really meant for the trendy and sophisticated. It's a trip you can't get off once you get on, so bouncing from song to song doesn't make sense. But if you look at the CD like a symphonic orchestration with various movements, it makes perfect sense. Treat yourself to another great release from the foremost leader in house music today.—Stephen Underwood

How to protect yourself while on-line

by BOB ROEHR

WASHINGTON—The Navy witch hunt that snared petty officer Timothy McVeigh through an on-line profile containing the word "gay" has raised concerns about privacy on the internet. Just how private are your screen names, real names and addresses, and other account information? Some on-line veterans offer advice on what precautions you should take.

"Any electronic communication you make should be regarded as if you had just told (gossip columnist) Cindy Adams a secret, and asked her not to say anything," says Clinton D. Fein. His company manages the web site for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund.

"While most communications are not likely to be intercepted, the possibility always exists. It is much smarter to avoid transmitting really private information, such as attorney-client privileged information" unless it is encrypted, he said.

"Use common sense and good judgment," says Tom Reilly, co-founder of Digital Queers and head of PlanetOut which has a presence on both America Online and the Web. "People should be very careful with their alternate screen names or mail accounts with suggestive names." Those are just red flags attracting the curious and people with an ax to grind.

Make sure you know the policy of your employer if you surf the web from work. Many companies monitor on-line records. Fein says, "The rights of employers tend to supersede privacy rights in this area."

That is especially true with the military, Reilly reminds us. "The safest thing to assume is that the military is very much pur-

suing gay enlisted personnel."

Child pornography is a big source of investigative concern on the internet. "Ask people to clarify that they are of legal age before you engage in any sexual conversations or meetings," Fein continues. This may not offer full legal protection but it certainly will help.

The most privacy conscious might want to take these steps offered by QUIRK, president of onQ, an independently managed gay content section on America Online. Secure a credit card using only your last name and first initial, for example J. Smith, and use that in paying for your on-line service. Having your billing information sent to a post office box. Add another layer of privacy by renting the box as a business.

"Should your account information be illegally accessed, the inquisitor will receive neither confirmation of your full name, nor your address, nor anything you may have typed in your member profile," she says.

Reilly believes that the adverse publicity and legal liability will make AOL "very careful in the future." But because they are so huge, 10 million subscribers and 80 million pieces of e-mail a day, mistakes are inevitable. He is "even more worried about the small internet providers who have no policies in place" concerning privacy and how to handle inquiries.

"Remember that wherever you go on-line, your activity can be traced back to you," says Fein. "But don't be so paranoid that you don't enjoy this wonderful technology. You should be street smart in the real world and cybersmart on-line."

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Gay mysteries live up to genre

The Burning Plain
Michael Nava
Putnam, 305 pages, \$23.95

Revision of Justice
John Morgan Wilson
Doubleday 341 pages, \$21.95

by ELLA TYLER

I loved Joseph Hanson's mystery series featuring the gay detective, Dave Branstetter. This series, beginning in 1970 with "Fadeout", was the first mystery series from a major publisher with a realistic gay character. Ever since Hanson killed-off Branstetter and quit writing mysteries, in the early '90s, I've been waiting for a replacement.

Now, I've found two: Henry Rios, Michael Nava's character and Benjamin Justice, John Morgan Wilson's character. I still miss Branstetter and Hanson, but Nava's and Wilson's books are worthy objects of my literary affections. Each of Nava's five earlier mysteries have won Lambda Literary Awards. Wilson's first book won an Edgar Allen Poe award for best first novel from the Mystery Writers of America.

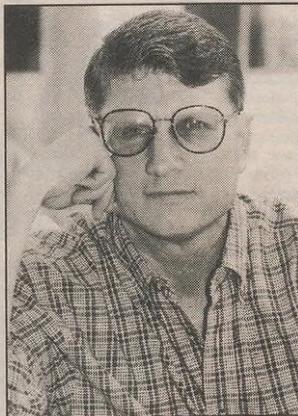
"The Burning Plain," by Michael Nava is the first of his books I've read. Nava and his protagonist Henry Rios are both gay, Hispanic lawyers, and I have an aversion to lawyer books. Too often, they don't resemble real life. However, Nava, who also co-authored "Created Equal: Why Gay Rights Matter in America," has used his experience to add authenticity to a complex plot that otherwise skirts the edge of credibility.

The book opens with a gut wrenching court room scene resolving the dispute between Rios and his late lover's parents about the disposal of his body. Soon after this, Rios is asked to defend a gay man charged with trespass by an award-winning movie producer. The case is complicated by

too good to be true.

As I said, the plot is complicated. Is the Los Angeles Sheriff's department trying to hide a serial murderer in its own ranks? What is the owner of the movie studio trying to hide? Is it really scheduled for a takeover by a right wing religious group, as Rios' friend Richie, who got him into this mess, claims? What does Agatha Christie have to do with the whole thing?

Christie is important to the resolution of the mystery, but the book owes a much larger debt to her. Christie originated the "cozy" school of mysteries, in which understanding the emotions, pasts and secrets of the char-



John Morgan Wilson, author of "Revision of Justice"

acters leads to resolving the mystery. Although this book is in no way a "cozy", these characters wrestle with complex emotional issues surrounding their gayness. The detailing of the emotional issues, combined with the precision and quality of Nava's writing elevates this book into the category of a literary work.

"Revision of Justice," by John Morgan Wilson, is set wholly in the film industry. Benjamin Justice, a former journalist, has been spiraling downhill since his lover died seven years ago, but he has been dragged out of his shell by his former editor. Benjamin accompanies Alexandra Templeton, a young journalist, to a networking open house hosted by a writer whose success comes not from his own screenplays, but from telling others how to write a screenplay.

The victim is reputedly a Hollywood deal maker, but too many of the guests at the party are angry at him for this to be true. However, it is his roommate, Danny, a young man with terminal AIDS, who the police soon chose for the prime suspect. The motive? Revenge for transmitting AIDS.

Justice befriends Danny, impelled by a mixture of attraction and sympathy. As the police case against Danny mounts, Justice keeps digging through the tangled relationships involving the victim. He finds many people with motives to kill him. As he meets a young hustler, an elderly screenwriter and a crazy old lady who collects bottles, he finds shreds of evidence that may clear Danny. As a fire rages through the canyons of Los Angeles, Justice finally confronts the real killer.

Justice has remained true to the spirit of the classic California detective novel. Benjamin Justice is a complex man who keeps trying to fight and drink his way past this own private demons. The book's cynical look at the movie business is no small part of its attraction.

Which one should you read? Try them both. Although they plots seem similar, they are very different books, sharing only the quality of the writing.

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Michael Nava, author of "The Death of Friends"

the fact that he was carrying a gun, but Rios gets probation for his client because he had been a recent victim of a gay bashing.

Rios is obsessed by the ex-client because he looks like his late lover. He works up his courage to invite the now-former client out. He then discovers that the man is a hustler, but accepts the man's offer of free sex. Soon after leaving Rios' house, the man is murdered. Rios is arrested and held as a suspect. His lawyer, an old friend named Inez Montoya who is preparing to run for mayor, manages to get him released. However, his name is leaked as a suspect.

Later, two other gay men are murdered and Rios is cleared. He is hired by a movie studio to represent one of their employees, a new suspect in the murders. This client dies, in circumstances that suggest suicide, just before he is arrested. The case is closed, but Rios thinks the evidence against this client is



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Stages opens hopeful AIDS play

As part of its world-premiere presentation of "Ascendancy," (which opens Fri., Jan. 24), Stages Repertory Theatre presents a series of



Stages Artistic Director Rob Bundy (left) and "Ascendancy" playwright Gary Bonasorte.

AIDS education and discussion programs. Based on playwright Gary Bonasorte's experiences as co-founder of a New York City AIDS treatment clinic, the play will be produced in New York later this year.

According to Stages Artistic Director Rob Bundy, "Ascendancy" celebrates the spirituality that emerges as a group of friends in an AIDS treatment center becomes family.

During the play's run, which continues through Feb. 15, Stages will host a variety of AIDS education programs featuring presentations by prominent authorities. These events, which are free and open to the public, include "Latest Advances in AIDS Treatment" at 4 p.m. Sat., Jan. 24; "Psychology of AIDS" at 2 p.m. Sun., Jan. 25; "Culture of HIV/AIDS" at 6:15 p.m. Wed., Jan. 28; "Politics of AIDS" at 6:15 p.m. Wed. Feb. 4; and "Adolescents and AIDS" at 6:15 p.m. Wed., Feb. 11.

All events will be held at the theater, 3201 Allen Pkwy at Waugh Drive.

For tickets to the show (which is not free), call (713) 52-STAGE.

Community architect chosen to design Home Show centerpiece

by ELLA TYLER

Local architect R. Michael Lee has been chosen by International Expositions to design the show home that is the centerpiece of the Texas Home and Garden Show this weekend at the Brown Convention Center.

Lee's own home and garden in the Riverside area have been pictured in national magazines and a book about lattice gardening.

Lee, who is well known in Houston's gay community for his garden architecture, said the building site was a challenge. "Usually", he said, "I integrate the home and garden design by adding an outdoor structure like a pergola, but there isn't a garden here." His solution to the problem: "the home has a concave form. It's a very organic form." The house has a wide corridor and all the rooms look through the corridor to a courtyard." Lee did add an arbor, for shade, to the courtyard.

The house is nicknamed the 'Twisted House', because, according to Lee: "It looks like a part of a DNA molecule." He explained, "The rooms are like cells curving out from the wide corridor." The corridor was designed to handle the 20,000 people who are expected to view the home

this weekend. The 7,500 square-foot house will be fully furnished for the show.

The house is spare and contemporary. Will the design ever be reproduced in the real world? "I think so", Lee said. "One of my clients who is building in the Woodlands really likes the design"

Lee has a private practice and also teaches a short course in Garden Architecture for the Houston Community College's Owner/Builder Center.

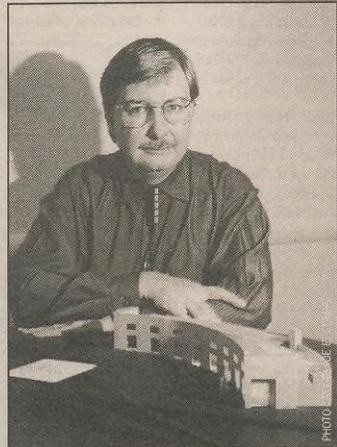
Lee is modest about why he was chosen to design the house. "The American Institute of Architect's Residential Committee was

interested in having an architect instead of a designer plan the house," he said. "Since I wrote International Expositions for the committee, they chose me."

The Texas Home and Garden Show showcases more than 1,000 products for the home and garden. Many local plant societies have booth at the show. The spring floral competitions for the Allied Florists of Houston and the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs are held at the show.

It is held in conjunction with a Vacation Show and a Travel Show.

Admission for all three shows is \$7. The show opens Friday afternoon and closes Sunday.



Architect R. Michael Lee designed the centerpiece of this weekend's Texas Home and Garden Show.

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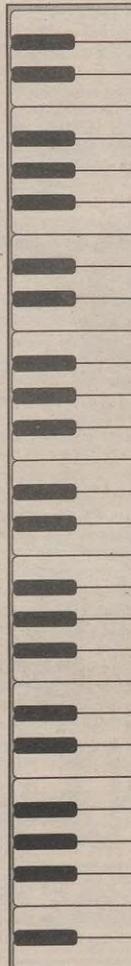
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McVEIGH/from page 1

AOL employee confirmed McVeigh's real name to a Navy investigator who called asking for the information under the guise of trying to locate a friend. The Navy used the AOL confirmation as the key evidence in a hearing that resulted in the discharge order.

McVeigh is seeking a temporary restraining order or longer-term preliminary injunction in order to remain in the Navy pending a further review of the case.

Just before the hearing, the Virginia-based on-line service released a blistering state-



Senior Chief Petty Officer Timothy R. McVeigh

ment accusing the US Navy of violating federal law.

"The Navy deliberately ignored both Federal law and well-established procedures for handling government inquiries about AOL members," the company's statement said. "The Navy investigator who telephoned AOL did not identify himself properly and did not reveal the true purpose of his call." The company has sent letters of protest to the Navy and the Department of Defense insisting they "use proper legal procedure in the future."

In its one-page statement, AOL said, "After completing our review of AOL's role in the U.S. Navy's investigation [of Senior Chief McVeigh], we have found...the Navy deliberately ignored both Federal law and well-established procedures for handling government inquiries about AOL members." AOL also reported that it has sent letters of protest to the Navy and the Department of Defense.

"This was a case of human error under very unusual circumstances," the statement went on to say in regard to the behavior of its employee. "This clearly should not have happened, and we regret it."

The case is being closely watched by the military and gay rights activists as a possible precedent on the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell," policy. It is also being watched by on-line specialists and privacy advocates concerned about the privacy of computer networks. A key issue is whether the Navy, in getting information from AOL, violated a 1986 electronic privacy law that forbids disclosure of confidential information to government officials without a warrant or court order.

"What the Navy did here is break the law," said McVeigh's attorney, Christopher Wolf.

Justice Department attorney David Glass argued that the 1986 law restricts on-line services from giving up confidential information but contains no limits on how investigators can go about seeking information.

Sporkin closely questioned Glass about the don't-ask, don't-tell policy. "You're saying once somebody in an electronic instrument says that they're gay, that that's enough for the Navy to go out and start these (discharge) proceedings," Sporkin said. "That's correct," Glass replied. He said the Navy investigator who called AOL "was entirely within the bounds of the statutes."

The case may hinge on whether

McVeigh's on-line communications, none of which contained his full name, represented an open, public statement of sexuality. McVeigh has denied he is gay and told the Navy he had once been engaged and attends social events with women.

McVeigh, 36, is a highly decorated senior enlisted man with 17 years in the service—three years shy of the 20 needed to retire with a pension. He is no relation to the convicted Oklahoma City bomber.

"I don't have any bitterness against the Navy at all," McVeigh said outside U.S. District Court. "My only regret is that the Navy is unwilling to follow regulations."

McVeigh's honorable discharge is to take effect at midnight Jan. 24. But Sporkin told Glass, "I assume you'll keep him on while I decide this case."

The author of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" policy, professor Charles Moskos of Northwestern University, issued a highly critical declaration on the McVeigh controversy. "I have reviewed the facts of the McVeigh case and in my opinion, if the Navy violated the Electronic Communications Privacy Act by seeking confidential information from an on-line service provider illegally, the case against McVeigh should be dropped, Moskos stated. "It should be axiomatic that the Navy must abide by the law in conducting its investigations under the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue' policy."

C. Dixon Osburn, Co-Executive Director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said after the federal court hearing, "Senior Chief McVeigh has served our country with distinction for 17 years fighting to uphold the laws of the land. He stands to lose everything including his pension because the Navy broke two laws: the Electronic Communications Privacy Act and 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue.' We look forward to Judge Sporkin's ruling and hope that the court will right this terrible wrong."

—Compiled from Associated Press and wire reports



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THUR 1/29

Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos

Friday, January 23

- 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.
- Recovery and Beyond-relationship group meets at 8 pm. 713-333-9092.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 713-861-1800.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- Houston Chain Gang Cycling Club meets for dinner. 768-8793.
- Spay-Neuter Assistance Program. 713-522-2337.
- Opening of "A Freindly Haven," by AFH. For info, call 623-6796.

Saturday, January 24

- 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.
- Spay-Neuter Assistance Program. 713-522-2337.

Sunday, January 25

- 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.

Monday, January 26

- 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; 713-861-1800.
- AIDS Foundation Houston offers free creative writing class. 3:00 pm. 713-623-6796.
- FrontRunners meets at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- Cancer Support Group meets at 6:30 pm. 713-681-1309
- Log Cabin Republicans meet at 7 pm. 713-529-9100.
- Gay and Lesbian Readers Group meets at Barnes and Noble. 713-349-0050.

Tuesday, January 27

- 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. 713-861-1800.
- 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; 713-861-1800.
- Project Ceasar at AFH. 713-623-6796.
- AIDS Equity League meets at noon. 713-910-2900.
- HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer at 7 pm. 713-527-8219.
- Love, Lust and Intimacy at 7 pm. 713-524-2374.

Wednesday, January 28

- 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; 713-861-1800.

- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Rainbow Ranglers auditions at 8 pm at the BRB.
- Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8 pm. 281-933-5818.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness at 7 pm. 623-6796.

Thursday, January 29

- 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.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Frontrunners run at 6:30 pm. 713-522-8021.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Houston Outdoor Group meets at 7:30 pm. 713-KAMPOUT

GALAXY GAZZER A Houston Voice Exclusive
Your Horoscope for the week of January 26 thru 30

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)Just when you were on a roll, your momentum slows down and everything sputters to a snail's pace. Plan a few outings to spice things up. If you've been holding your feelings back, don't go to the other extreme and express affections intensely.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)You may feel on top of the world, both physically and emotionally - don't take unnecessary risks. Use a close friend as a sounding board for those ideas that have been churning within you for some time. If practical, your ideas will be good.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)Just being yourself will be a big asset in the workplace and at home. Your personal finance situation is rosy, be aware of get rich quick schemes, and make sure to think things through completely. Adjust to whatever it is that is bothering you.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)Doors will open which will lead to wonderful family, property or household developments. Start the week with your eye fixed on an important target. If you don't concentrate and stick to your resolve, a number of possible distractions will send you off course.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23)Your romantic prospects are likely to enjoy a lively upswing during the weeks ahead, as well as life in general. You will no doubt have more free time for pleasures. The romance theme will continue for some time, but you now have a more realistic view about love.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)A brighter future, concerning career activities, will now be in plain view. Many actions will be related to your income, so plan carefully. There is a fortunate accent on your home and property interests this week, and your personal aims are supported by all.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)Don't push your luck concerning a job or career opportunity. Confidence is good, but what you may be banking on now is not a sure thing. Your efficiency on the job

will be noted by a superior. You will receive answers to some questions today

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22)Caution is the keyword. Try not to sound off in the heat of the moment; you will no doubt say things you will later regret. Be careful regarding any transportation plans. You have ideas which will eventually come to fruition, but be practical.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21)Love and marriage is definitely in the air. If you are already married, you and your partner will share and communicate even more, which will strengthen the rapport within your relationship. If you are presently on the sidelines, you may soon fall in love!

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)This week may seem long and unduly drawn out. There is trouble everywhere you look, so be aware of what you say and what you do; others may be overly sensitive. Concentrate on doing your best at work, instead of worrying about romantic uncertainties.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)Don't take on anymore tasks than you can really handle, or you may find yourself feeling totally drained. If there is a problem, you need to speak out and not let negative feelings fester inside. Work on your various friendships this week, people need to know you care.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)A family member or friend could use some of your sympathy and quiet understanding this week. You are in tune to a lover's feelings and are appreciated for this fact. Watch out for any mood swings which may cause you to overdo it with regards to spending or eating and drinking.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: You don't make it easy for other people to know you, putting up big walls between you and those around you and wondering why no one tries to get through them. Let others see your fun-loving side.

such is LIFE!

S E X

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The Houston Voice, the weekly gay newspaper for the country's fourth largest city, seeks an aggressive individual with sales experience for the position of display advertising sales representative. Position includes base salary and territory. Join the fastest-growing gay media in the country. The Houston Voice is a Window Media publication and an equal opportunity employer. Send resume (no phone calls, please) to Assoc. Publisher, Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer Rd., Suite 105, Houston, Tx 77006 or fax to 713-529-9531.

Part-Time Editorial Intern

Learn the newspaper business at the country's fastest-growing gay media company. The Houston Voice seeks a talented, aggressive individual to work as an intern in the paper's news operation. Background or strong interest in journalism is preferred. Flexible schedule. The Houston Voice is a Window Media Publication and an equal opportunity employer. Send resume (no phone calls, please) to Editor, Houston Voice, 811 Westheimer Rd., Suite 105, Houston, Tx 77006 or fax to 713-529-9531.

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This position requires extremely strong sight reading skills, ability to do some improvisation, ability to follow conductor in choral settings, ability to accompany soloist and the ability to work on a team. This part-time position pays an excellent salary. If interested please call MCCR at 713-861-9149.

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Stages Repertory Theatre

Not-for-profit professional theater seeks a financial manager to oversee an annual budget of \$750,000. Duties include budget creation of monthly financial statements, bank deposits, maintenance of bank accounts, management of accounts payable, maintenance of employee records, and pro-

duction of weekly payroll. This individual reports directly to the Managing Director and works closely with the Board of Directors' Finance Committee. Computer skills required. Knowledge of Peachtree Accounting system is preferred. Commitment to the arts is important. This is a full-time, year-round position with health insurance benefits. Salary in low to mid-twenties. Please mail cover letter and resume to: Donald Hightower, Managing Director, Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen Parkway, #101, Houston, TX 77019.

Local Agency with major insurance company seeking FT/PT in/outside commission sales/telemarketing people. Flexible hours. Learn while you earn. Bi-lingual a plus. Kirby/Richmond area. Call Edward Garcia at 713-526-5553, Mon. & Tues. - Noon to 4pm ONLY.

Help Wanted! Houston-Start the New Year Right! Join the friendly staff at Montrose's Favorite Men's Dance Bar: Pacific Street! Applications Now being accepted for Bartenders, Door & Floor positions. Recent Photo Required. Apply Mondays & Fridays Noon - 4pm. No Phone Inquires, Please.

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Call 713-522-2379 for more details.

Mary's, naturally is accepting applications for Bartenders, Barbacks & clean-up. Apply with photo Tues. - Thurs. 9am-2pm.

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Venture-N is now accepting applications at 2923 Main. Best time = Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday afternoons.

The CLUB HOUSTON now accepting applications for all positions. **Apply in person. Mon.-Thurs., 10am - 2pm 2205 Fannin**

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AIDS Emergency Housing - Montrose
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WebSites

- www.HoustonGayWeb.com
- http://www.dupontmerck.com
- www.basicbrothers.com
- www.communitygospel.org
- http://ticketmaster.com
- www.agouron.com
- www.houstonvoice.com
- www.the/clubs.com
- http://www.Roxane.com
- www.pacificstreet.com
- http://www.midtowne-spa.com/spa
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Friday, January 23

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic longnecks, \$1.25 regular schnapps 7am til 11pm Buffet at 4:00 pm.
- BriarPatch: Wayne Gray plays tonight! Blackjack tables with Bunny open at 9:30pm.
- Bricks II: Happy Hour 7am to noon \$1.25 well; \$1.25 Domestic Longnecks; \$1.75 well and domestic beer from noon to 9:00 pm
- Chances: Power Hours with \$1.75 domestic beer & well 10am to 3pm; Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Jose Cuervo. Blues Broad Susan Masar sings at 9 pm.
- Club Incognito: Ladies night.
- Cousins: 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
- 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 Sky & 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. \$1 well Vodka Juice Drinks.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tournament 6pm.
- Pacific Street: Foreplay! No Cover till 9pm. \$1.25 well; \$1.75 beer; \$3 call; \$3.50 premium; \$1.25 Schnapps; Doors open at 7pm.
- Paradise: Open 11 am; \$3.75 Call Martinis, \$2.25 well Martini All day all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jello Shots \$1 all day and all night! Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rascals: Hot Bodies Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: "Fuel" 19 and up. DJ Chris Sill and Fusion.
- 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!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Saturday, January 24

- 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.
- Cousins: 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.
- Gentry: Boy Toys at 9pm; \$3.75 Absolut cocktails open to close.
- Incognito: Alternative night. The Orbit Room!
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2.75 premium frozen drinks & premium draft beer, \$3.25 super premium draft beer.
- Lazy J: Drag show at 10:30pm.
- Mary's: Happy Hour 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Dance! Dance!
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.75 Bacardi Limonade; male dancers 9pm to 2:30am; happy hour until 10pm; After hours until 4am.
- Ms. B's: Open at 6 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Leather & Flesh Fantasy Night 9pm; no cover in erotic leather.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am. Happy Hour 11 am to 8pm \$1.50 well and domestic longnecks.

- QT's: Open at 8 am; Jagermeister and Spearmint \$2. \$1 jello shots all day and all night!
- Rascals: "Everybody Dance Night". No Cover before 11pm.
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm.
- Rich's: Doors open at 9pm, 21 and up, no cover 9-10pm. See Gorgouse 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.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. Cuervo \$2.50!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting, 355-3093.
- XTC: Open at 9 pm.

Sunday, January 25

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks & well, \$1.25 regular schnapps Noon to 7pm; Steak night 5 to 9pm \$6 14oz t-bone & fixins.
- 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
- Cousins'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.
- 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 starting at 2:00 pm.
- Mela's Tejano: Bring your own BBQ.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks: \$1.75 well drinks, \$1 vodka well drinks; Beer Bust \$2 (optional) with 25¢ refills; male dancers 9pm to 2am.
- OutPost: Happy Hour Noon to 8pm; Shuffleboard Tourney @ 1:30pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 7:00 pm \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer. \$3 call. \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 schnapps. No shirt, no cover, no kidding!
- Paradise: Doors open at noon; Happy hours noon to 8 pm \$1.75 well drinks and domestic longnecks; \$1.75 Bloody Mary all day and all night.
- QT's: Doors open at noon.
- Rascals: Super Sunday Show, 11:00pm - "Rascal's Untouchables". No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's: Trash Disco T-Dance. Doors open at 7 pm. DJ Chris Sill. Super cheap drinks!
- 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 6pm till???
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.

Monday, January 26

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 well & domestic beer, \$1.25 regular schnapps all day, all night 7am-2pm. Football on the big screen; snacks.
- BriarPatch: Auntie Richard's at the MIXOL-OGIST 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, January 27

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

Wednesday, January 28

- 611 Hyde Park Pub (upstairs): Open Bridge Game 7-11pm
- Berry Hill II: Happy Hour 6 until 10pm; Free Pool Tables..
- 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.
- 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; Slip Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight: Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am; \$1 well vodka and \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Rich's doors open at 9 pm. 18 and up.
- 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!
- Vintage Bar has nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

Thursday, January 29

- Brazos River Bottom: \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$1.75 well, \$1.25 schnapps until 11pm.
- 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.
- Cousins: 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 Sky Vodka open to close.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$3.75 top shelf liquor, \$2.25 Imported, Saint Arnold & Micro brewed beer: Star Search Gold Karaoke at 9pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; 75¢ Schnapps.
- Mela's Tejano: Happy hour all day and all night
- Midtowne Spa: 1/2 price lockers Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2.25 domestic longnecks, well, & wine; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Ms. B's: Open at 4 pm, Linda Lou with open mike 9-10:30 pm, 10:30 pm to 1 am Karaoke
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Sexx Thursdays; \$1.25 well, \$1.75 beer, \$3 call, \$3.50 premium, \$1.25 Schnapps. No cover with current gym card.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am, \$3 anything in the house.
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Classic Martini (Tanqueray or Absolut) \$3.75
- Ranch: Open at 7 pm, Pool tournament.
- Rascals: Talent Night. No Cover Before 11pm.
- Rich's Club Hedo.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 10 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 w/ \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- Vintage Bar nightly wine tasting. 355-3093.

Important Stuff

Congrats to the new Empress XIV Jennifer Ellsworth and new Regant Emperor Buddy Thompson. Good luck on your reign.
 Ms. Nevada's Tuesday Madness Show's funds raised will go to the HWFFL (Houston Women's Flag Football League) to help send them to National Competition in Key West. The touchdown is at the Brazos



Posing Pretty

River Bottom on January 27 @ 8:30pm. Last Tuesday, Ms. Nevada and her band of marauders raised \$139 to be donated to the PWA Holiday Charities! As of press time, Ms. Nevada is at Herman Hospital in CCU after an apparent heart attack. Well all send Nevada get well hugs.

Check out the remodeling going on at the Venture-N! This Friday, the FarSide is scheduled to reopen. Way more space to



What's wrong Dante?

Looking for a new place to take a date or spend a nice relaxing evening with a loved one? The Vintage Bar at 4356 Westheimer (on Mid Lane) is the place to go. They offer nightly wine tasting as well as champagne, port, delicious cheese, and pate.

Buses for Mardi Gras (in Galveston) are sponsored by the Ripcord and the BRB & Bricks II. Stop in the bar and get your ticket now!

Get your calendar out! There is another Slave Auction, hosted by the Brotherhood of Pain, at the Ripcord on February 15. LUEY weekend is February 27, 28, and March 1. The Pride Parade is June 27.

Tuna Melt and the Casseroles raised \$1569. at the Bricks II Anniversary party last week! The money is earmarked for the PWA Holiday Charities.

Metroplex (in Shepherd Square) is NOW open on Monday nights. Neil (formerly of the Outpost) will be behind the bar this Monday, January 26. The doors open at 8



Terry and Leon at the 611

pm. There is no cover. Dress casual and get ready to party on down.

Milestones

Get well hugs to David (Ripcord). They guys miss you! Hugs to Ramon of the 611 Hyde Park Pub. Randall (JR's) Jobe's mom needs a get well hug as well!

As of this time, the "Celebration of Life" for Mike Geinzer has been rescheduled. No date has been confirmed.

Happy birthday to Jean of Charlie's, Tim (aka Mumsy), Lloyd of the Colt 45s, John Painter of the CCCC and Jim (sexy) Sorgini.



There is new Hope at the Barn

Rodent Droppings

Wow, what a week! I caught Pepper (the wonder dog) face to face (with a cage in-between) with Rascal: Rascal seemed very calm as while Pepper was very anxious to get inside the cage. Pepper really likes the fact the both of the kids throw food out of their cage. The dog's name really should be Hoover.

If you want your pet to appear in "Pet of the Week," get a photo to me. It will be returned unharmed.

The usual disclaimer is in force! Lies, trash and gossip. If you want real journalism or want to read something well written, please stick to the front page and start reading. The real writers start there.

Dog Lips (hangs at Mary's): Why were you at Miki's buying dresses?

Marlene (Chances): I've never seen you happier! I hunger for Cuervo and roasted marshmallows! And Jeff (Pacific Street) wants to thank you for giving him a "first" in a bar!



Robert, Tiffany Edwards and Don Gill help celebrate Bricks II anniversary

Doyle (new bartender at the BriarPatch): Why do they call you "Glory Hole?"

Lulu (EJ's): I hear the Fire Marshal was in the bar last week. The bar received no tickets, but you personally got one for a "flaming blouse!" And next time you dial 911 to make the cops come, take the rollers out of your hair first!

George (hangs at E/J's): No, that was not her passing gas!

Jim Roberts (Venture-N): Is that a new sling room you are building next to your office?

Jerry R.: What a pig! 21 pieces of BBQ brisket, 18 bowls of Chili, 22 BBQ chickens, 24 BBQ ribs, 21 bowls of beans. What no



A smiling Papa Del

fajaitis?

David W. (JR's): I have a message for you from some of the JR's staff: "Please, please start smoking again."

Mavis (hangs at the BRB): And I quote: "It was so moist and tender it almost fell off my bone!"

Officer Nick (Pacific Street): What were you sucking in the parking lot of PS?

Chinchilla (hangs at BRB): And I quote: "Once you pop, there is no pressure left!"

Pineapple (JR's): Take another trip again! Niblet (hangs at the 611): How is the two

income household?

What do you call a quorum at any Texas Leather Club meeting? "Sir!"

Sweet Panties is back in black at the BRB! Big Leather Man (hangs at the Ripcord): Next time you walk around the Ripcord in only a jock and harness, please turn your butt to the wall while you scratch.

Jeff (BRB): It was not a pretty picture watching you break dance last Tuesday night? Is that dance floor hard? Do you bruise easily? And is your twisted walk for real, or did you buy it at a discount house?



At the RSICSS's victory show at the Venture-N

Terry (Paradise): What is your secret on Cyber Sex?

Vanna White Lee Love (RSICSS): I hear that you were the "prettiest" at 4:30 am.

Jeff (Houston Area Bears): What is with



Party pals

the hat? Bad hair day?

Buddy (RSICSS): And I quote: "I want a drink NOW!" (Yeah, like this is new news!)

David and David (New to Houston): I'm impressed. You opened your wallet and gave it's entire contents (\$120) to Don Gill for the PWA Holiday Charities!

Who ever left their underwear at the BRB: I'm glad to know you wear designer labels. And no stains!

Crystal Rae Lee Love (RSICSS): Are you



The great Paivi Lee Love

really the only one who has slept with 2 emperors? And I quote: "I can do anything I want!"

Rick (Houston Area Bears): And I quote: "The Venture-N is NOT an S&M (stand and model) bar, it is a T&F (touchy-feely) bar.

Jackie Thorne (RSICSS): And I quote: "If you believe in the community, you have to believe in the community's choice."

Selena St. John: When was the last time you stole someone's date?

Sil (RSICSS): Did you really roll off the dais and not lose your hat?

Found in my note pad: "Because no matter what else may happen, family is paramount."



At EJ's

Michael: And I quote: "Sometimes 'Bubba' is a good thing!"

Ralph (Paradise): And I quote: "I'm perfect!"

Scott Lewis (Heaven): Bad, bad boy! Wesley (Paradise): Who did you piss off lately?

Erica Andrews (Rich's): I hear you have lots of pretty boys on Wednesday nights at Rich's!

Lexie Bowen (RSICSS): Bad girl, being a double dipper!



Lovely at the Briar Patch

Rita Charles: And I quote: "What, I have to donate?"

Eric (hangs at the BRB): Vera wanted me to tell you "Thanks!" from him.

Sissy (French Quarter): It is so hard to believe that you have been sober for this long! Keep it up and watch the pasta!

Hope (New Barn): I want a photo of you tree frog for the "Pet of the Week!"

Mikel Reaper: Oh, go do it to yourself, honey! I love ya!

BamBam (PS): And I quote: "I never knew I walked so much like Jayne Mansfield when I'm drunk."

Rodgers (New Barn): What were you scratching while your were sitting on the john at the New Barn?

Wiley (Chances): New teeth? When?



"Kimmie-ish" Pet of the week, owner Tamikia Lee of Garden Party and MCA

Talking lessons?

JoAnn (BRB): I have a message from Mario and Vera: "Congratulations!"

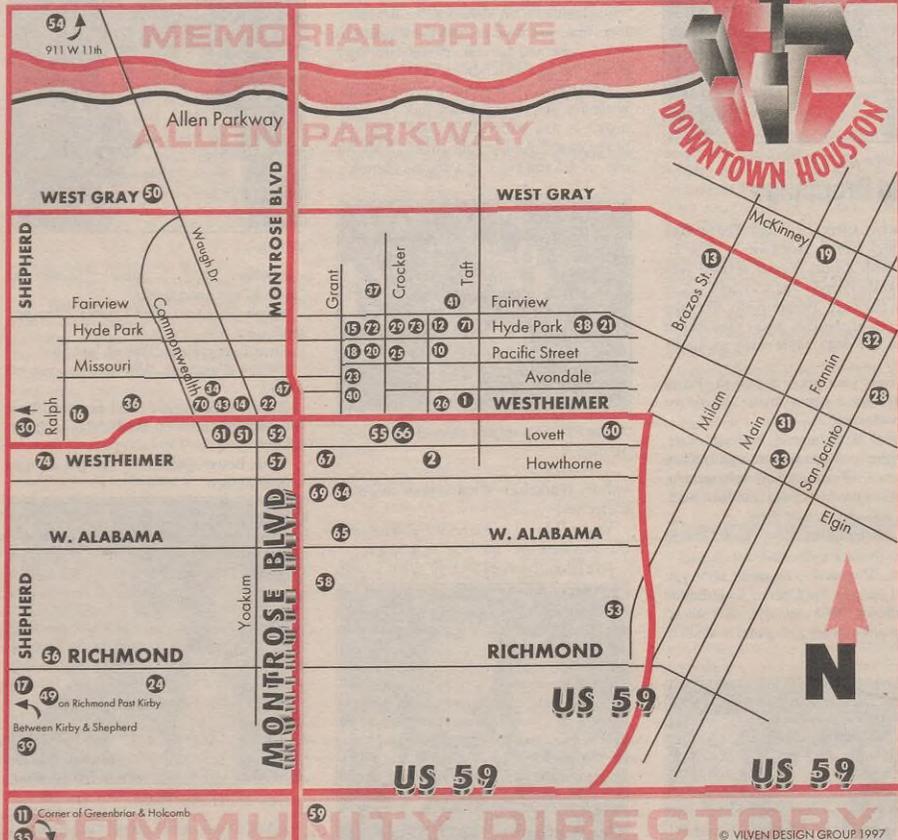
Meg (Mary's): And I quote: "I play with outdoor pussy, I play with indoor pussy... It doesn't matter."

Kip (Gentry): Why do you search for the perfect nut?

Theresa Monet: And I quote: "Nothing comes between my breast except my horse."

Overheard at Gentry: There is a lot of cowboys with cotton tails on there pussies."

Have a great week!
Cuenvolyn



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	713/526-7070	
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview	713/528-8002
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos	713/528-9192
14	Chances	100 Westheimer	713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview	713/528-9204
16	EJs	2517 Ralph	713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond	713/520-1861
18	Heaven	802 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	713/523-0232
26	QT's	534 Westheimer	713/529-8813
27	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto	713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview	713/521-2792
30	Vintage Bar	4356 Westheimer	713/555-3093
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	100 Westheimer	713/521-9533
35	PLAZA 9200:		
	Ms. B's, The Ranch & XTC	9200 Buffalo Spwy	713/666-3436
36	Rocals	1318 Westheimer	713/942-4108
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker	713/522-7366
38	Mela's Tejano Country	302 Tuam	713/523-0747
39	Metropolis on Midlane	2165 Portsmouth	713/520-5000
RESTAURANTS			
40	Baba Yega	2607 Grant	713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview	713/522-0016
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	100 Westheimer	713/522-3332
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St.	713/529-3450
BUSINESSES & SERVICES			
49	Allstate	3467 Kirby	713/526-5553
50	Cinplex-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	713/521-3389
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose	713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939-5 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
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne	713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama	713/523-2521
66	Synchronized Chiropractic	911 Westheimer	713/521-7741
67	Wolgreens	3317 Montrose	713/520-8000
69	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (AS)	713/522-7373
CLOTHING SHOPS			
70	Basic Brothers	7232 Westheimer	713/522-1626
71	Jewel's Boutique	2404 Telf	713/523-3557
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview	713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview	713/526-6940
74	Timless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer	713/529-6299

GAS LIGHT NEWS

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HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS

Women SEEKING Women



SBF 46. I enjoy sports & games. I'm looking for someone between the ages of 36-49, to spend time with, have fun & especially if you are interested in playing pinochle. 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

SWF Attractive, and professional. Seeking someone who is between ages 38-45, to explore a discreet relationship. Must be feminine. Call Ext. 5672

GWF 42, non-smoker. I'm sensitive, thoughtful & considerate. I like dining out, traveling, movies, learning how to dance Country Western. You should have similar interests, be fun-loving, spontaneous, enjoy trying new adventures & have a good sense of humor. Call Ext. 5654

1-800-461-5930

Just call and place your **FREE** ad today!

GHF Medium build, attractive, short black hair. I work & live alone. Looking for somebody for a possible relationship. Friendship at first. Someone to talk to, listen to music with, going out & to the beaches. Call Ext. 5666

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

Men SEEKING Men

We are a gay, White male couple, we are 57 & 44 years of age & we have a long term relationship. We are looking for similar couples for companionship. We like movies, dining out, New Orleans, cooking & lot's more. Call Ext. 5680

GBM 35, 6'1", 240 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair. I'm a competitive body builder. I'm looking for very muscular men, gym rats or athletes, who are interested in extracurricular activities. I do have a partner & I'm looking to hook up with guys for fun. You have to be very muscular, body builder or a major gym rat. I'm only interested in guys like that. Call Ext. 5679

SWM 20, bisexual. Looking for a first time experience. I'm looking for other guys, maybe it's their first time or looking for their first time. Looking to get to know some people & let it go from there. Call soon. Call Ext. 5670

SWM 39, 6'1", 170 lbs., HIV-, mustache, hairy body. I live in the country. I enjoy the simple things in life. I'm honest, trustworthy, considerate, understanding, loving & hard-working. I enjoy country dancing & can either lead or follow. I drink only in moderation. Looking for a mature, masculine, romantic bottom with the same characteristics that I have. Call Ext. 5677

SWM 40, masculine, 5'10", 185 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, nice looking. I'm seeking a girl 21-45, who is really a guy & healthy like myself. I want someone to share both nights out on the town & quiet times at home together. You should be a pre-op transsexual or a feminine looking transvestite or cross dresser. A transgender guy that looks like a girl. Call Ext. 5675

SHM 35, 5'7", 150 lbs. Looking for another Hispanic or White male 23-33, who is a top for friendship & possible dating. Someone masculine & straight acting. I have a lot of interests that I would like to share with the right person. Call Ext. 5674

SHM 23, 5'10", 200 lbs., dark brown eyes, black hair, mustache, goatee, earrings, sideburns, hairy bottom. In search of tops, for friendship, dating, sex & possibly more. Age, race, looks are unimportant. Cowboy types & body hair are a plus. I've never had any complaints. Call Ext. 5363

SWM Bi, tall & slender. In search of a passive, feminine, White males 30-45, who are into cross-dressing, role playing & pleasing both men or women. Call Ext. 5366

SM 5'6", 170 lbs., brown eyes, brown hair, good looking. Looking for a couple of guys who would be interested in hanging around with a chubby guy. Must have buff bodies, be good looking & interested in giving pleasures as well as receiving. Call Ext. 5493

SM 6', brown hair, blue eyes, hairy, uncut. I like to go to the movies, live theater, dancing & the outdoors. Looking for someone who is hairy & has the same interests as me. Should be fun-loving & versatile. Call Ext. 5663

GWM Mid-40's, 5'9", 145 lbs., blue eyes, light brown hair, smooth skin, mustache, HIV+. I'm very good looking & athletic. I like fishing, mechanics, outdoors & manly work. I'm honest & lonely. Looking for someone 35-55, who has manly type actions, honest maybe for lifetime. No queens, hairy or overweight people. Call Ext. 5664

GHM 33, 155 lbs., handsome, spiritual, honest, creative, friendly. In search of a Hispanic, masculine top, who is HIV+ or HIV- for quality friendship. I love the company of a younger guy, who is willing to be himself & let me be myself. Race is unimportant, but Hispanic is a plus. Don't wait another day to respond. Call Ext. 5661

GHC 27, top & 32, bottom. We are both in good shape. We would like to meet some Black men who are versatile, to have a threesome. Call Ext. 5656

SM 5'8", brown hair, blue eyes, 155 lbs. Hi guys, please no fems or faties. I'm a bottom looking for a top. I'm very oral & I wish for you to be the same way. I like to dine out, go to movies, take long walks or staying at home having good conversations. Looking for someone 32-40 years old. I'm HIV+, so those that are, need to apply only to my ad. Call soon. Call Ext. 5669

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 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

GWM 5'11", 180 lbs., blonde hair, 18. I'm financially secure & moving to the Houston area soon. I would like to meet someone who is also HIV+ & very fit. Call Ext. 5649

GWM 43, 6', brown hair, blue eyes, hairy, HIV-. I like the theater, movies, dining out & good conversations over drinks. Looking for White men, who would like to go out & party. Should have a hairy chest but, not necessary. Call Ext. 5665

GWM 5'10", 190 lbs., 34, dark hair, green eyes, professional. Looking for someone who is older & taller than I am. Should be mature, have a good personality, good disposition & comfortable with yourself. Interested in a good friendship & maybe more. Call Ext. 5651

SBM HIV+, 6'3", 180 lbs., masculine, athletic build, mustache, goatee. I enjoy sports, riding motorcycles, horse back riding & quiet, romantic evenings. I would like to meet masculine, physically active man 28-48, for friendship & long term relationship. Call Ext. 5662

GWM 38, HIV-, 5'11", 170 lbs., green eyes, hairy chest & masculine. I'm deeply spiritual, cherishing honor above all, loyalty, duty & civility. Seeking a petite, gentle, HIV-, bottom, for walks in the parks, conversations in coffee shop's, movies & trips to the museums. Let's court each other & take it slow. Asian, Eurasian, Pakistanis is a plus. Call Ext. 5660

GHM 28, brown eyes, hairy chest, 5'5", 170 lbs. Looking for a White gay male, who is between 30-45 years old, very to medium hairy and your weight is not important. Should be versatile but, strictly tops would be considered, for a possible relationship if the guy is right. Call Ext. 5659

SWM 38, 6'1", 190 lbs., HIV-, blonde hair, blue eyes, smooth body, 30" waist. In search of a long term relationship with someone with dark hair, olive skin & a hairy chest is a plus. I enjoy cooking, movies, theaters, plays, walks on the beach, quiet evenings at home with a good man & a fine bottle of wine. Call Ext. 5655

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GWM 38, 5'10", 165 lbs., mustache/goatee. I'm easygoing, straight acting & moderately hairy. Looking for other gay White males 38-50, hairy is a big plus & should be height/weight proportionate. I'm not into the bar scenes or the gay lifestyles. Call Ext. 5653

SWM 45, 6'1", 150 lbs. I drink & smoke, nothing heavier. My 25 year old White female friend wants me to do more than kiss & tell. In search of closet, mature, transvestites or cross dressers. Discretions is assured. Call Ext. 5355

GWM 33, 5'7", 220 lbs., little overweight, hazel eyes, my hair is balding but, it is sandy-blonde hair. Would like to get know some people & go out to dinner. Call Ext. 5650

SBM 29. Looking for friends to hang out with. I'm in a long distance relationship, so I get lonely. My interests are movies, sports & working out. Looking for guys of all races 20-35 years old, to do stuff with. Call Ext. 5652

GWM 50, 6'1", 165 lbs., masculine, brown hair, blue eyes. I'm very oral. Looking for a HIV- top for natural sex. Must be height/weight proportionate. Seeking friendship, sex & a long term relationship would be great. Call Ext. 5648

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

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

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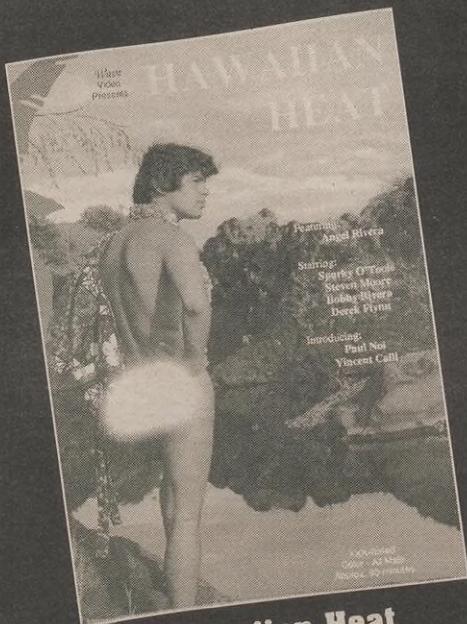
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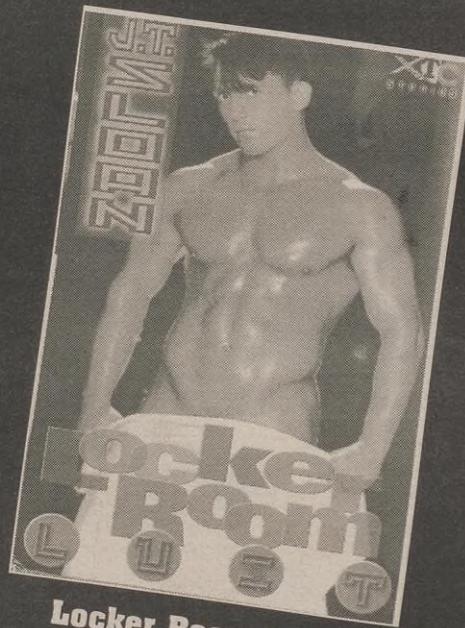
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AN OPEN LETTER TO MEDICAID PATIENTS OF THE HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION
2525 HOLLY HALL
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77054
746-5400

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS
2525 HOLLY HALL
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77054
746-5855

SERVICE CENTER
5656 KELLY
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77026
636-5650



BEN TAUB HOSPITAL
1504 TAUB LOOP
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030
793-2000

LYNDON B. JOHNSON GENERAL HOSPITAL
5666 KELLY
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77026
636-5000

QUENTIN MEASE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
MARTIN LUTHER KING CLINIC
3601 N. MACGREGOR WAY
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004
525-4700

P.O. BOX 66769 - HOUSTON, TEXAS 77266

Dear Patients:

The Texas Medicaid managed care programs, called STAR and STAR+PLUS, have begun in Harris County. If you or your children are on Texas Medicaid and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), you must enroll in the STAR program. If you qualify for Medicaid because of SSI or need a nursing facility, you must enroll in the STAR+PLUS program.

In the next few weeks you will be getting a packet of information from Texas Medicaid about these changes. If you qualify for the STAR program your packet will have information about six health plans. If you qualify for STAR+PLUS, your packet will contain information about four health plans. You will be asked to choose a primary care provider (PCP) and a health plan.

Harris County Hospital District participates in the following health plan networks:

STAR PROGRAM

Community Health Choice
TDH Star Healthplan
Access
Americaid
AmeriHealth First
Methodist Care

STAR PLUS PROGRAM

HMO Blue
Access PLUS
Americaid
TDH STAR Healthplan

Listed below are the Harris County Hospital District's providers and their clinic locations. If you wish to continue receiving services at the Harris County Hospital District you need to pick one of these plans and name one of the Harris County Hospital District clinics and physicians as your PCP.

Northwest Health Center

1100 West 34th Street
Houston, TX 77088
(713) 861-3939
M-F 7:00 - 8:00

Family Practice

Diana Blicharski, M.D.

(Also Practice OB/GYN Services)

William Huang, M.D.
Hacson Lee, M.D.
Camille Leugers, M.D.
Huyen Nguyen, M.D.
Sarah Noorbaksh, M.D.
Mallika Rai, M.D.
Nagwa Sabonghy, M.D.
James Schindler, M.D.
Denise Turner, M.D.

Certified Nurse Midwives

Betty Carter
Monica Harden
Debbie Sharp
Cynthia Wade
Susan Wentz

Thomas Street Clinic

2015 Thomas Street
Houston, TX 77009
(713) 793-4000
M-F 8:00 - 4:00

Family Practice

Shannon Schrader, M.D.

Internal Medicine

Monica Barrett, M.D.
Thomas Cate, M.D.
James Garner, M.D.
Hunter Hammil, MD.
Penny Jaffe, M.D.
Michael H. Kroll, M.D.
John, D. Reville, M.D.
Shannon Schrader, M.D.
Wayne Shandera, M.D.
A. Clinton White, M.D.

If you have any questions about the STAR program or if you need to enroll, call the STAR Helpline at 1-800-964-2777.

I hope this information is helpful to you and thank you for allowing us to care for your family.

Sincerely,

Lois J. Moore
President and Chief Executive Officer