



Journalists Deb Price and Joyce Murdoch, over the past three years, have become one of mainstream America's best known lesbian couples... Story, Page 13

Clinical trials and tribulations

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE
Houston Voice Editor

Last December, the Montrose Clinic moved into a sparkling new, 13,500 square-foot facility at 215 Westheimer and started its much heralded, long awaited new lease on life.

Six months later, an internal storm that has been quietly brewing for over a year threatens to break with potentially devastating force over one of the oldest and most respected service providers with roots in Houston's gay and lesbian community.

At the core of the turmoil appears to be a fierce administrative battle over the future direction and soul of the 15-year-old clinic, which has a long and rich history as a part of the community—and which has changed tremendously and

steadily since its founding, with the assistance of the city and state health departments, in 1978 as a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) clinic targeting gay men.

In recent months and perhaps especially since the agency's move into the new building, current officials and the Clinic board, led by chair and chief executive officer John Nix, have hinged their view of the Montrose Clinic's future and directed the keenest public relations and development efforts to the Houston Clinical Research Network, the clinic's research wing which conducts clinical trials of AIDS drugs. The shift, while welcomed by local research advocates and the American Foundation for AIDS Research, was resisted fiercely by a core of long-time workers who viewed the changes as an attempt to steer the Clinic away from its historic role as a community service provider...and into more potentially profitable relationships with private physicians, private health care groups, and pharmaceutical companies involved in drug testing.

Critics of the change point out that the type of trials in which community-based groups like HCRN are usually involved are drug studies for drug companies—while basic, cutting edge

"research"—what the general public associated with the word—is generally the realm of universities and private physicians. Advocates claim the organization has outgrown its original focus and must change to keep pace with changing client and community needs and to move forward into the future.

As the conflict has escalated, part of the fallout has been extensive staff surgery.

At least a half dozen former management-level staff persons, and several of their immediate subordinates, have claimed that they were terminated under questionable circumstances and disallowed standard grievance procedures since the summer of 1994. More significantly, some in the group—which includes the clinic's former president, vice presidents of administration and finance, controller, directors of development and case management, and a registered nurse who had supervised clinic sessions—claim the current administration is losing sight of the clinic's role as a community-based, non-profit agency and is deliberately drifting away from programs and services geared specifically to indigent HIV-positive clients.

(Continued on Page 3)

Judge rejects change of venue in Tyler hate crime case

TYLER, Texas (AP)—A judge has ruled that the capital murder trial of a defendant in a gay man's slaying does not have to be moved, although the case has drawn national media coverage.

Visiting District Judge Charles Campbell on Friday rejected a defense request to move the trial because extensive "inflammatory" publicity has tainted the case of Henry E. Dunn Jr.

Although noting examples of "biased" reporting in some national reports, Campbell said local coverage—which he said was more pertinent to the change of venue issue—would not adversely affect Dunn's trial.

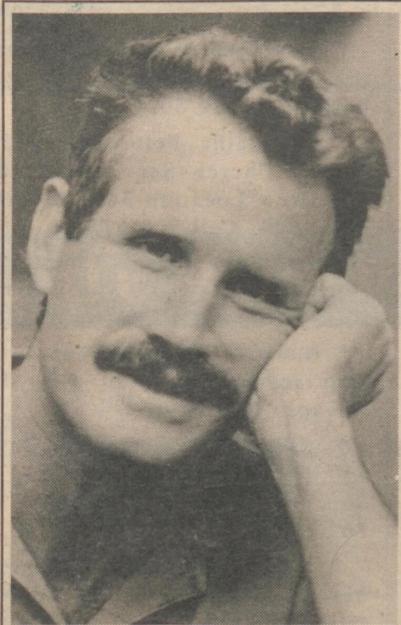
His ruling ended a two-day hearing in which defense attorney Melvin Thompson attempted to prove potential Smith County jurors already may have been prejudiced by extensive publicity in the case. Chief felony prosecutor David Dobbs argued the change of venue is unnecessary.

Dunn, 20, is scheduled to go on trial in August in connection with the Nov. 1993 slaying of Nicolas West, a Tyler medical records clerk.

The victim was abducted from a park and taken to a clay pit, where he was forced to strip before he was shot. His attackers took the pickup he had been driving and some of his personal belongings.

A co-defendant in the case, Donald Aldrich of Tyler, was convicted last year and sentenced to die for the slaying. His trial was held in Kerrville because of extensive publicity. A third suspect is still awaiting a trial date.

Campbell is a former justice on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.



Chris Glaser, noted gay author of several spiritual best-sellers, is scheduled to conduct several workshops in Houston... Story, Page 20

Gay in the military, 1995

A Personal Perspective

By GLEN WEBBER

Houston Voice/Houston

He is young, handsome, gay, and in the military. He is stationed at Fort Hood. I can't reveal his name or his job description, but he is very well respected for the excellent job he does. In a recent interview, he discussed being gay in the military and how it affects him and his possible long term career. I'll use the initials BM to refer to him in this article.

BM joined the military to get away from home, a small town in the midwest. He was already out and his family was not as accepting as he would have liked. They were concerned mostly about what other people would think. The parents' religious upbringing also played a part in the lack of acceptance of BM's being gay.

Although he was never "out" in the military, early in his career he did confide to several people he was gay. When a dispute arose between himself and a superior officer, that superior started the paperwork to discharge him, BM said.

He added, "The sergeant asked if I wanted to stay in and I said yes. That was the last I heard of it. They did, however, transfer me to another unit for my own safety. There is a real cohesiveness in a unit, and when that close bond is broken, for whatever reason, it can effect the running of the unit. I was glad to stay in the military, and continue my career."

Asked about the "Don't ask, Don't Tell policy," BM replied, "They don't want to know if you're gay. Part of the policy is no sexual contact. You can be gay, but you must be celibate."

"If you are a good worker, the military wants to keep you. After spending thousands of dollars in training, they don't want to let you go. I've heard of straight men coming out, claiming they are gay to be discharged from the military. On one occasion, here at Ft. Hood, a straight man wanted (to get) out by saying he was gay, and the sergeant told him he would have to prove he was gay. The sergeant knew someone this man would have to be with to prove it. The straight man declined."

BM says that if a pass is made at him in a business environment, he will generally ignore it. If it is on his own time, he may acknowledge it, depending where he is at the time.

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Community Calendar

by Carolyn Roberts

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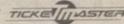


Friday, July 28 • 8:00 PM

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Four-time Tony Award-nominated actress Bernadette Peters counts among her Broadway credits *On the Town*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Song & Dance*, *Into the Woods* and *The Goodbye Girl*. This celebrated performer, whose work also ranges from films to popular recordings, will join forces with the Houston Symphony for an evening of contemporary music.

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Tickets subject to availability, not valid with any other offer of previously sold tickets.

If you would like an event listed in this section, please feel free to call me at 529-8490 or fax the facts to me at 529-9531.

Friday, July 07

* Borders Book Store Gay/Lesbian Book Club meets at the Espresso Bar at 9634 Westheimer. Call 782-6066.

* HIV Art classes at the Art League. Call 225-9411.

* Lesbian/Gay Voices on KPFT 90.1 FM 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.

* CODA meets at MCCR at 7:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

* Film at MFA "Ashes of Time" 8:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.

Saturday, July 8

* Krewe of Olympus-Texas, Inc. Bastille Day Party. 8:00 p.m. 933 Fisher. Call 729-4197.

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. Call 520-1809. * After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. Call 526-5738.

* Midnight showing of "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" at the River Oaks 3. Call 524-2175.

* Dignity Houston meets for liturgy and social hour. Mass at 7:30 p.m. 1307 Yale. Call 880-2872.

* TGRA Bartend on the patio at the Brazos River Bottom. * Houston Area Bears Social at the Venture-N 8:00 p.m. Call 867-9123.

* Texas Association of Lesbian and Gay Elected and Appointed Officials meets at 10:00 a.m., 6671 SW Freeway, 3rd floor. Call 981-9595.

* Film at MFA "Before Sunrise" 8:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.

Sunday, July 9

* Houston Area Bears General Meeting. Call 867-9123.

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. Call 520-1809.

* Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection worship services. 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

* Front Runners meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Tennis center in Memorial Park. Call 522-8021.

* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services at 10:00 a.m. New Location 3400 Montrose Suite 600. Call 528-6756.

* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9235.

* Houston Mission Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. 1505 Nevada. Call 529-8225.

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m., Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Call 862-7533.

* Dignity Houston Communion Service at 5:30 p.m. 1307 H Yale. Call 880-2872.

* Film at MFA "Before Sunrise" 7:00 p.m. Call 639-7300.

* HATCH meets. Call 942-7002.

* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. Call 522-9612.

* "Come out of the Heat"—A fundraiser for the LVL PWA Holiday Fund and the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard. Call 521-0911.

Monday, July 10

* AFH Creative Writing Class. 3:00 p.m. Call 623-6796.

* Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group. 8:00 p.m. Call 861-6181.

* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. 1919 Decatur. Call 861-9149.

* Pool Tournament at the Ripcord. 8:00 p.m.

* Sign Language classes at the Brazos River Bottom. Free. 7:00 p.m.

* TMC Lambda Network meets at 5:00 p.m. Call 990-1980.

Tuesday, July 11

* MCCR: CODA Support group meets at 7:00 p.m., Empowerment for Living support group and pot luck dinner at 6:00 p.m., Gloryland Singers at 8:00 p.m., The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 p.m. Call 861-9149.

* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.

* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. Call 520-7870.

* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 1509 Fairview. 8:00 p.m. Call 495-8009.

* Basic Elements of a Winning Grant Proposal—Seminar Call 861-4338.

Wednesday, July 12

* Shiela Lennon performs at Chances. 9:00 p.m. Call 523-7217.

* MCCR: BiNet Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m., Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 p.m., Midweek uplift service at 7:00 p.m., Bible Study, Lecture Series and Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p.m. 1919 Decatur. 861-9149.

* Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. Call 524-0218.

* GLOBAL meets at 4:00 p.m. Call 743-7539.

* Theater Under the Stars 28th Season previews "Will Rogers Follies" 8:30 p.m. Call 520-3292.

* "A Course in Miracles" at Kingdom Community Church, 7:30 p.m. Call 862-7533.

Thursday, July 13

* Theater Under the Stars 28th Season previews "Will Rogers Follies" 8:30 p.m. Call 520-3292.

* Biggers Lecture Series: "Origins and Early Years," 7:30 p.m. At MFA. Call 639-7300.

* Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria. 8:00 P.M. Call 629-1432. Meet at Chili's at 6:30 for dinner before the skate. RSVP 523-6381.

* Broadway Showtunes at J.R.'s. 9:00 p.m. Call 521-2519.

* Community Gospel Church worship service. 7:30 p.m. 501 E. 18th. Call 880-9325.

* Art Classes sponsored by AFH. The Art League. 1:00 P.M. Call 526-1118.

* Front Runners meet at Memorial Park. 6:30 p.m. Call 522-8021.

* Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7:00 p.m. Call 521-7464.

* Computer Nerd Session. 7:00 p.m. 529-1223.

* En*Light*en Up meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 528-6174.

* Twentysomething meets at 7:30 p.m. Call 531-9396.

LOCAL/STATE

Divisions, dismissals shadow changes at the Montrose Clinic

(Continued from Page 1)

As well, at least two current employees of the Clinic and a physician's assistant who has worked there as a volunteer claim that the quality of service has declined despite the move into the expensive and professionally equipped new building. They also describe an unsettling environment in which questionable policies and practices—including sexist and racist attitudes—are condoned, and where those who question administrative decisions for any reason risk losing their own job or position.

Clinic officials, in turn, say the staff changes were forced by non-productive "old guard" resistance to progressive and necessary changes at the agency. "I think, honestly, it was about being stuck in the past," said current Clinic President Eileen Hegar. And it is in that past, according to Hegar, that the quality of care at the clinic raised concerns. "We were providing services in a setting that was less than professional. It was absolutely necessary to change."

The string of dismissals came about because of some staff

members' inability to be "team-players" and to focus on the clients rather than personalities, according to Hegar. "Whenever there is a change of administration, and a change of goals...there will be some people who will resist those changes."

The Montrose Clinic's new Westheimer address represented the fulfillment of a dream for those who had watched the agency grow from its rough beginnings and original purposes into a broad-based cluster of services with an outreach far beyond gay men, STDs and HIV testing, which came to dominate activities in the 1980's. Programs that had previously been spread over several locations—the STD/HIV clinic, HCRN, a nationally acclaimed outreach project for the deaf and hearing impaired, case management and administrative offices, and educational projects such as Next Step—could now be brought together under one roof. But long before the physical move was made, it was clear that not all of these elements would be able to share the site. The question of which project would remain in the outlands strained the already deteriorating unity

among the principals.

The central power conflict drew its battle line between the chair of the Clinic's board of directors, John Nix, and president (previously executive director), Ralph Lasher.

Nix and Lasher made no secret of their mutually intense distrust for one another, at times using almost identical deprecations to describe each other's management style. Nix, said Lasher, is a "con artist" with "an agenda" who controls the clinic board through "manipulation and deception" and by not providing board members with all of the information. Lasher, according to Nix, is "conducting his own agenda;" and it was Lasher's management, he contended that caused many of the problems faced by the clinic. "Ralph once said he believed you have to manage out of chaos, because that way people are off guard," Nix claimed.

Lasher, fired as Clinic President in August, 1994 after six years at the agency, said the months leading up to his dismissal had become "a daily battle" with Nix over decision making for the Clinic. But Nix, he claimed, had already effec-

tively stripped him of his powers, by setting himself up as chair and chief executive officer in new bylaws adopted by the board in 1993.

According to Lasher, under Nix's control, the Clinic's resources were increasingly poured into HCRN. As well, he claimed, HCRN was adding staff at a time when the Clinic's general funding was dropping. While many of the research staff positions are funded by grants from AmFAR, Lasher claimed that other full time positions were dedicated to tasks that could have been performed by volunteers and that the department's expenses were "outrageous" in light of the Clinic's then-budget. Overall, he said, the Network and its extensive promotion became a drain on other services.

The research concentration also brought in money—from pharmaceutical companies financing clinical trials of AIDS drugs.

But Lasher charged that individuals, not the Montrose Clinic, were the primary beneficiaries of the arrangement. The agency, had become "a profit making venture" for private physicians, phy-

sician groups and health care groups with close ties to HCRN principals and Clinic board members.

Lasher's assessments were echoed closely by the Clinic's former vice president of finance, Randy Weaver and controller, Reed Hunsdorfer, both fired by Hegar early this year, along with Larry Woolman, vice president of administration (originally operations).

Woolman, until his firing in February of this year, had the distinction of being the Montrose Clinic's longest-term salaried employee. The former vice president of administration at the Clinic had been there "just two weeks short of nine years," he says, adding that up to the day he was terminated, he had never had anything negative documented in his file. Like several other senior staff members who were let go in succession following the firing of Ralph Lasher, Woolman claims he was fired on "trumped up charges."

"The real reason is that I let it be known I wouldn't put up with the garbage that was going on (at the Clinic)," he said.

(Continued on Page 15)

OutVote targets unregistered Montrose voters

Quick Notes

OutVote, the new voter registration group, continues to make dents in the 40% figure for unregistered Montrose voters, representatives reported this week. The group increased its visibility in the community with booths at recent gay and lesbian pride

events, and registration efforts at several Montrose locations are ongoing.

Volunteers will register voters at these locations in July:

*3:00-9:00 p.m., July 11 and 14, Kroger's on Montrose.

*9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m., July 14, at J.R.'s.

The group plans to step up reg-

istration activities in the fall before the Nov. 7 city council elections.

OutVote meets at 7:00 p.m. the third Wednesday (July 19) at 2700 Albany #304 (GLPC office). Its Marketing and Advertising committee is meeting almost weekly to design ads appearing in the Houston Voice and to develop a

new media/promotional campaign to make voting "cool."

The board voted recently not to award the \$300 prize in the poster contest. Although some of the entries were beautiful and clever, the board felt that none of the entries could motivate large numbers of people to vote.

OutVote was organized to

register gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people, educate them about the importance of voting, and motivate them to vote in each election. The group is filing for 501 (c)(3) federal tax-exempt status in early July.

For more information or to volunteer, call 522-9837.

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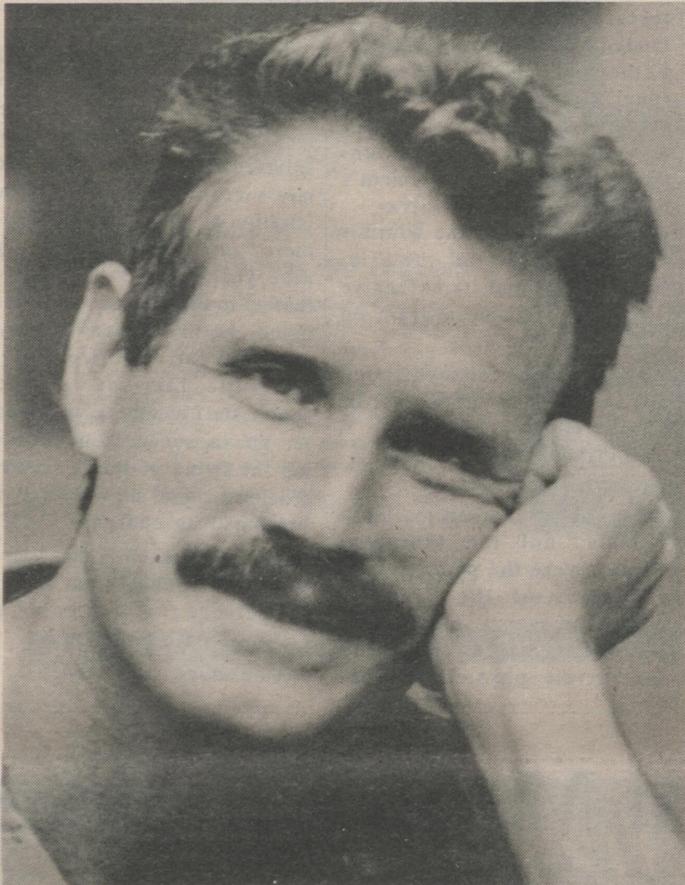
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Saturday, July 15, 1995 10 A.M.

Uncommon Callings

Why did God make us gay? lesbian? bisexual? transgendered? Who we are has shaped our spirituality. What is our unique purpose in life - our own "uncommon callings"--as individuals, as couples, as a community? Let's explore together what God calls us to be through short talks, spiritual exercises, and group conversation.

Saturday, July 15, 1995 3 P.M.

Coming Out to God

Through Moses, God told Pharaoh to "let my people go," delivering the ancient Hebrews from Egyptian bondage. The reason? So that they might "celebrate a festival" unto God in the wilderness. The Hebrews "came out" of oppression so that, in turn, God could "come out" to them on Mount Sinai. Even so, God meets us in the "wilderness" experience of coming out. We, too, may "celebrate a festival," dancing with the prophetess Miriam in the joy of our liberation. Join us as we consider our bondage, our freedom, and our festival in the wilderness.

Sunday, July 16, 1995 1 P.M.

Chris Glaser book sale and autograph party. Crossroads Market will be at Kingdom Community Church to sale the latest books by Chris Glaser. The author will be available to autograph your personal copy.

Sunday, July 16, 1995 2 P.M.

Coming Home - Reclaiming Christian Spirituality

It's time to let go of former understandings of our faith so we may look at it again as if for the first time. As we come home to Jesus, he embraces us with two arms: scripture and tradition. In those arms several millennia of spiritual experience are available to us, experience that enables our homecoming to God as well as guides our journeys of faith. The Bible is about people like us: moving out of oppression, looking for Gods commonwealth, seeking justice, and on a spiritual quest for life's meaning. Brief talks, spiritual exercises, and dialogue will offer new truths about Christian faith.

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Gays under 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell': an update from the inside

(Continued from Page 1)

"Being in the military is an environment synonymous with being in prison," he said. "There is only man to man contact. Many heterosexual men will engage in homosexual acts without acknowledging they are homosexuals. Many are married and do live off base."

Gay sex, BM said, in fact was once "so rampant on base that cameras were installed in some of the restrooms. Most of those arrested were married. Some were officers. Many were disciplined. Several men were discharged and a busted to a lower rank and fined a portion of their pay. Things have calmed down a lot now. Military laws states that only acts of sodomy can result in explosion. If that law were really enforced, half the military would be kicked out."

BM added, "Right now 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is not official policy. The disposition of many cases will determine the final policy outcome. But the bottom line is the military wants to keep its trained personnel in the service."

This more optimistic outlook seems to apply to both gay men and lesbians, according to BM. "There are several women (on base) I believe are lesbian. They are very respected for the jobs they do and the seriousness for which they take their jobs. I'm sure most of their co-workers know they are lesbians, but don't feel threatened in the least. Some of them are a little uncomfortable off base, but they have had no problems that I know of. The Army is glad to have such

smart women on the job and their superiors do go out of their way to protect these women. If they have any harrasment problems, they can get them resolved quickly. I don't know if it is like that on other bases, but here, we all have jobs to do, and must do them with a minimum of distraction."

BM has had two relationships since joining the military. The first one was with someone who worked on base. All meetings were done off base and on both men's off-time. Although the relationship was very discreet, BM was concerned someone might find out. After his first scare of being threatened with discharge, BM didn't want to take any chances. He explained, "The relationship was getting very serious and we were spending a lot of time together. While none of my on base friends said anything, I was becoming concerned that people were noticing. The situation ended when he received his transfer papers. He asked me to go with him but I said no. I explained I couldn't leave the job I had, as it was a specialty job I was highly trained for. He understood, and now he is happy in a new relationship."

So is BM, who travels to a large Texas city to visit his new boyfriend. They also meet in the Hill Country to go camping. This gives BM a great deal of privacy and a sense of security in making this relationship work. He adds, "This new relationship is great. The quality time we spend while together makes a big difference. I'm grateful to be involved with someone who understands and respects my position in the military."

Community Organizations Bulletin Board

LiB presents 'Art Of Visibility'

Lesbians in Business presents "The Art of Visibility" with guest speaker Nancy Ford, popular local lesbian entertainer and writer, at its next meeting on July 21 at Innova, 20 Greenway Plaza. Networking starts at 6:00 p.m.; the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Ford is scheduled to talk about the importance of visibility and how it effects lesbian lives in the work place. As one of the founders of Outsmart magazine, she will also discuss the inspiration leading to the startup of the magazine. A recipient of the Pride Award (Female Entertainer of the Year) for promoting pride in Houston's gay and lesbian community, Nancy Ford has performed original comedy and music since 1986 and is known as a master at commenting on lesbian and gay issues while keeping audiences laughing. In 1994, she was voted "Best Comic" by Houston Press Readers' Poll. She is often featured as a guest host on KPFT-FM radio's Lesbian & Gay Voices.

For more information, call the LiB Line at 529-0077.

Wellness Workshops

The POSITIVE CHOICES Wellness Program will feature a week full of free seminars that encourage planning and empowerment to fight HIV/AIDS. Beginning on Tuesday, July 11, the program will focus on the important legal issues and crises that may face people living with

HIV/AIDS. The "Legal Planning Workshop" features a distinguished panel of legal specialists from many fields to guide participants through potentially critical areas.

Then on Wednesday, July 12, Bart Loeser, coordinator of the program, will teach a class on building the immune system without drugs: "Finding Happiness Through Wellness." And on Thursday, July 13, the program will present a panel of various experts to discuss "HIV Alternative and Supplemental Treatments," including the issues of vitamins, herbal medicines, acupuncture, and other alternative methods for keeping healthy and building the immune system. All of these free workshops will be located at the Metropolitan Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Free door prizes will be distributed to encourage participation and pre-registration for these classes is encouraged, but not required. For more information about these or other wellness programs call Scott Clark at Body Positive/Houston, (713) 524-2374.

And finally, there is still some availability for a 2-evening course in "Self-Hypnosis," scheduled to begin on Thursday, July 13. The mini-course is taught by renowned hypnotherapist T.C. LeNormand. Registration is required for this free course in which participant learn techniques for stress reduction, behavior modification, and general relaxation. Call T.C. at (713) 789-0713 to register.

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Houston risks losing millions, even if Ryan White reauthorized

Guest Commentary

By **BOB HERGENROEDER**

For the Houston Voice

Houston AIDS & Dollars politics are reaching a new height of dangerous consequences. Years of antagonisms and mistrust on the political level are once again gaining the center spotlight—and this time, federal officials are looking more closely and seeing things more clearly than ever before possible in the five years of Houston's Ryan White funding.

Only this most recent funding cycle did federal officials begin to enforce that our inability to plan and collaborate and our inability to secure outreach to minority communities would definitely lead to less than maximum funding. The dangerous consequences are in what Ryan White CARE Act calls supplemental funds, the money added to the formula funds. Formula dollars are dispersed relative to the number of AIDS cases in the area. Supplemental dollars are dispersed relative to the quality of local planning and the quality of service provision, particularly to those persons most in need. In the recent 1995 allocation, Houston received 5.8 million in formula dollars and 4.4 million in supplemental dollars. Again, it is Houston's future supplemental dollars that are currently in danger.

On June 5, 1995, the Human Resource Service Administration (HRSA) held a Reverse Site Visit of Houston.

Instead of sending an investigator to Houston, five Houstonians were invited to HRSA to spend the day with various HIV division chiefs and members of their respective staffs. From Houston were myself, Bob Hergenroeder (HIV Community Caucus), Audrey Gassama (Minority Caucus), Michael Springer (Resource Group), King Hillier (Ryan White Planning Council), and Sue Cooper (Harris County HIV Services Division).

HRSA's priorities were: 1) Local Planning for the next 3-5 years; 2) Quality of Services; 3) Securing dollars to the communities most in need; and 4) PWA and minority participation in local decision making. The Reverse Site Visit made it clear that: 1) the local 3-5 year plan which is due by late summer is seriously delayed with the Comprehensive Planning Committee unable to move forward; 2) Quality of services are not guaranteed through existing procedures; 3) Minority agencies in minority communities are receiving less money; and 4) direct representation of infected and/or affected persons is seriously absent from decision making bodies. To say the least HRSA is not pleased.

As was intended, the Reverse Site Visit was partially an opportunity to openly discuss accomplishments, struggles, expectations, hopes, signs of progress, community concerns, and the availability of HRSA technical assistance. What it also became was a long, embar-

assing, frustrating, and depressing exhibit of Houston's deep divisions and mistrust, an environment which requires all of us to expend excessive quantities of energy and time at the expense of increased funding and greater quality services to persons living with HIV. The meeting's initial attitudes of hope and progress despite all obstacles became closing remarks of "I feel sorry for Houston's people with HIV" and "We've got other cities where our efforts can be better spent if Houston can't resolve its divisions." At the day's closing, we five Houstonians agreed to speak with our respective constituencies, propose solutions to resolve the divisions, and report back to HRSA via conference call on June 23.

On June 21, the conference call was canceled. Between June 5 and June 21, while the HIV Community Caucus, minority Caucus, and the local Comprehensive Planning Committee were working on proposals for positive change, Sue Cooper was busy convincing Harris County Judge Eckels that the Reverse Site Visit was completely erroneous in its tone, content, focus, and conclusions. Clearly, Sue Cooper fears that proposals for positive change include recommendations for change in her administration, changes she will not allow. Unfortunately, Judge Eckels decided to only hear Sue Cooper's version of HRSA events and to fully accept Sue Cooper's version as the truth. On June 17, Judge Eckels wrote a letter to HRSA expressing "extremely

serious concerns" regarding the Site Visit's tone, incorrect information, focus on personality rather than service delivery, and participants misinforming HRSA on issues related to funding of minority targeted services.

In my opinion, we are all once again reminded of our community's powerlessness in the face of Harris County officials and administrators. In my opinion, another new moment and opportunity for open discussion and resolution of our differences has been lost. The values of collaboration, PWA & minority participation, and positive change have all been again discarded. The status quo of absolute control on the part of Harris County has again been declared as permanent and inflexible. In my opinion, Sue Cooper and Judge Eckels have made it publicly clear that Harris County control of Ryan White CARE Act funds and the permanence of the current structure of the HIV Services Division are more important than the maximization of available Ryan White dollars for Houston.

What do we do? We tell Judge Eckels (755-6666) that we want him to talk with and listen to all of us in addition to his HIV Service Division staff. We tell Judge Eckels that the services we receive from the Ryan White CARE Act are more important than the permanence of his current administrative structures. We tell him today! AND ... We work to make sure that Congress passes the Ryan White CARE Act of 1995 (S. 641).



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Gay Today

by Glen Webber



Coming Out, Part 2

Last week, after my column on coming to terms with being gay was published, I was stopped in the gym by a man I didn't know. He read this particular column and said he was going through the process of accepting his being gay. He still hasn't come to terms with it. He has been seeing a therapist, who has been guiding him to the moment when he can say to himself, and others, "I'm Gay." But its mainly to himself he needs to say it. His family knows he's gay, but they don't discuss it. His co-workers know he's gay, but they don't discuss it. And like other gay men I know, he would probably change his sexual orientation if he could. He has never been able to explore his feelings, or face his fears. And none of his closest friends are gay. He is living a lifestyle that he doesn't want, and doesn't know how to live the lifestyle he wants to have.

He said his biggest fear is discovering who he really might be inside, and the fear of rejection from others. I understand. The process of coming out and accepting one's sexual orientation is difficult. With so many negative messages being given out, many gay men and women would rather stay in their own little closet, safe from any real or imaginary consequences of coming out. They would rather risk nothing than gain everything their life could offer.

How do you accept that you are gay? First, realize that you are gay, and you can't change it. Learn to like yourself for who you are. Explore and challenge your feelings. The best way to get to know yourself is to find a gay group that shares an interest similar to yours. By associating with gay men and women who share a common interest, you find yourself learning things about yourself that you may not know already.

Second, get to know the issues facing your community. Learn who your community's friends are. Learn who your

enemies are, and what they are doing to take away your civil rights. Then register to vote. Your vote could make the difference when the difference is needed.

Third, volunteer at least three to five hours a week for an AIDS related group, whether it is in fund raising such as Colt 45's, direct patient care through a hospice or AIDS Foundation, or a group with a specific interest, such as Pet Patrol. It will open a whole new wonderful world for you, and give you different insights into your community that you can't see now. It will enrich your life more than I could say. It really will.

Fourth, get rid of the negative people in your life. Get rid of people who can't accept your being gay for whatever reason. Surround yourself with people who love you and don't judge you for your lifestyle. But keep in mind you must not judge others for their lifestyle. Those people want your love as well. The less judgmental you are about other facets of gay society and the more accepting you are of other gay men and women's views, the better you can accept the community for its rich diversity and strength of character.

And fifth, please drop whatever baggage of family, religion, and/or society is holding you down. You have control of who you are, how you think, and what you feel. Take control, and don't ever give that control up to others.

Finally, many of you are looking for and not finding relationships. You want a monogamous, long-term relationship that is meaningful and passionate, that is filled with love and respect, and that propels you towards the best you both can be. I'm no expert, but I will say this...never settle for less. Don't get involved with someone just because you're lonely. Don't get involved with someone because your low opinion of yourself makes you settle for less. Set your standards high, them keep them there. You deserve the best life has to offer.

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Letters to the Editor

Fan of Voice Amusements

FROM ROY MCCARTHY

Houston, Texas

For a long time I've been enjoying "Recipes by the Kuntry Kidd" and "The Texas Puzzle." Do you think that you and "The Powers That Be" behind those two features could get together and publish a "Kuntry Kidd Kook Book," and a "Texas Puzzle Book?" The Kidd's recipes are real good and "The Texas Puzzle" has taught me much about Texas—not just gay Texas. I know I'd buy them and I bet others would too!

(We'll pass the word along!—Ed.)

Transgenders Need 'Own Boat'

FROM DARYL HYATT

Houston, Texas

I am a gay male who strongly supports the rejection of transgendered people (being included in) the gay and lesbian movement! Ask these people (the transgendered) if they are homosexual and of course you will get a "no" for an answer. So why are they trying to squeeze under our umbrella? Because they need emotional and financial support, as well as the little political clout the gay and lesbian community has left. Once they have their sex change then they want to leave our umbrella, and fit in the heterosexual umbrella, and deny us.

Gay & lesbian resources are all strained to the max. All the life boats are full so the transgendered must sink or swim on their own. Since Stonewall, we have fought many battles by ourselves and many life boats have sunk without any help from the transgendered. They need to get their own little boat and paddle it themselves and stop trying to take the easy way by claiming they have space in our boat. Dale Carpenter is right!

Fox Hunt in Reverse

FROM DAVID RAFFIELD

Houston, Texas

A few weeks after the Oklahoma City terrorist tragedy, the ATF (and especially FBI officials) publicly admitted that they are continuing to concentrate on and worry about liberal, leftist, feminist, minority and gay groups (like ACT-UP). Some of these officials claim that they have received information from confidential informants that gay activists plan to toss AIDS infected

blood at police and counter-protesters during upcoming protests.

During a recent visit to the White House for a meeting with the president, a group of 50 openly gay elected officials and activists had their bags and briefcases searched by Secret Service agents wearing rubber medical gloves. Clinton did issue a public apology for this incident a few days later.

With such supposed bright thinking and preparedness (continuing AIDS paranoia, etc.) coming from our government and law enforcement officials, I am quite sure that we will be hearing from radical right-wing fundamentalist terrorist individuals and groups in the future. This will involve so-called citizen militia members, the big time criminal element, Ku Klux Klan, White Supremacists, Aryan Nationals, National Rifle Association (NRA) and etc. carrying out much bigger acts with more violence than their Oklahoma City deed.

I was not surprised or shocked at all when radicals of such ilk began their lawlessness, violence and murders at abortion clinics.

It has become almost impossible to get many heinous crimes and activities involving people in the radical right investigated, prosecuted and/or exposed. This is because many Clinton administration, Justice Department, CIA, FBI, ATF and law enforcement officials and agents nationwide have radical right affiliations, connections, agendas and/or views. They are sabotaging and covering up many cases and massive information and evidence that would be very damaging to the radical right (especially at the ballot box). These officials and agents probably wear white sheets with eyeholes when they are not on duty.

This situation was finally exposed during a recent NBC "Dateline" program. They interviewed a former FBI agent who supports and sides with citizen militia members (of the radical right) and their paranoid/power-hungry government conspiracy and cover-up theories. This is how and why the radical right (with its increasing hoard of Republican allies) might eventually succeed in their effort to take over or overthrow the government.

We clearly have a situation of the fox guarding the key to the henhouse.

CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION

In last week's issue (#766, Friday, June 30) of the Houston Voice, an article about the Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade reported that no elected officials participated in the parade. While there were no officials riding in the parade, State Rep. Debra Danburg served as a parade judge. Also serving as judges were former Harris County Treasurer Katy Caldwell, Clarence Bagby (as a staff representative for U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee) and Tom Case (staff representative of Justice of the Peace David Patronella). The judges were asked to serve in that capacity by the Pride Committee of Houston prior to the parade.

HOUSTON

VOICE MAIL

Letters to the Editor

Open Letter To The Community

FROM ALAN BOURGEOIS

Director, Spectrum '95

A lot has been said about Spectrum '95 and I feel it is up to me to properly clarify some points while at the same time giving some facts for all to read.

I would like to thank "The Texas Triangle," "TWT," the "Houston Voice" and "Male-Man" for reporting in their opinion what had happened at Spectrum '95. Many of them wanted to give a positive view of the event, knowing that many, like Larry Lingle of Houston, would only want to point out the negative. Each reporter was given information directly from me, and how they chose to report it is an editorial decision between them and the publisher of their respective paper.

The facts are very simple. Town Meeting, Inc., the producers of the event, lost \$72,000. There are a lot of reasons, which knowing this community they will be discussing for years to come. The main reason for the loss is the lack of support from the community, and those people within the community who are more concerned about their status than they are about the community.

As it has been reported over the past year, I gave up a great deal of personal items and freedom to create an event that was the first of

its kind. No where in the United States has any group combined business, art, entertainment and politics into one event like Spectrum '95. Yes, there have been many business expos over the past year catering the gay and lesbian community, with a small amount of entertainment on a side stage, most of which have failed tremendously.

It must be made clear to everyone in our community that Spectrum '95 may have been a financial failure, but the exposure to Houston's community and economics has been tremendous. I personally have received many calls from other communities wanting an event like ours, because of the success that we experienced. These requests are from people who traveled to Houston personally just for the event.

It is my goal and personal commitment to have our debt paid off within one or two years, while at the same time creating and implementing plans for Spectrum '96.

I would also like to thank Charles McKenzie, Clay Howell, Up & Out Communications and Greg Jeu for giving us loans and donations totaling \$40,000 to help offset our bills. \$32,000 is left on our bills and each one of us at Town Meeting, Inc. is committed to paying the bills off within a short period as possible.

The critics were telling people that I couldn't pull off Spectrum '95. Rest assured, Spectrum '96 will happen.



*Out with the old...in with the new.
See page 18 for details*

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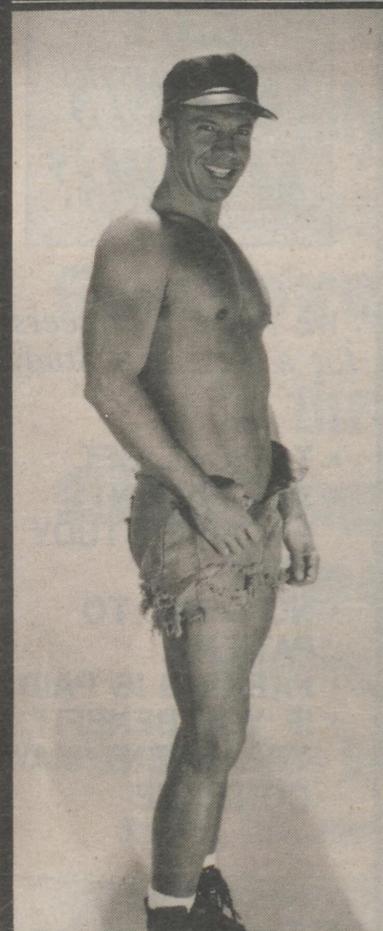
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The Voice Reader



Studying a Complex Issue

By CHRIS LAMBERT

For the Houston Voice

(SCHOOLS OUT by Dan Woog, \$11.95 paperback, Alyson Publications, 1995)

"You have to wonder why the people who are experts on this subject haven't done more..." page 347

If, as everybody seems to agree, "children are our future," what is the community doing about the future? There is PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays) and certainly there are organizations for the homeless, the runaways, the children and young adults who have come out. Out of school, that is. For the one place the community's rainbow never arcs is the schools. Maybe we've bought into the religious right's contention that homosexuality is a choice and can only be perpetuated by "recruiting." We seem to be paralyzed by the contention that "Gay = child molester." Perhaps we're not ready for a struggle that makes the military debate look small. For make no mistake about it, the battle, as our opponents know, is to be won or lost in that old blackboard jungle.

All of which is to introduce Dan Woog's book which is the first chronicle I know of the developing battle in the classrooms. This book is not light, casual literature. This is a real life adventure as old Wait used to say. It is factual. There is data, lots of data. But the book is not a dull history text either. Mr. Woog has done his very best to make this book readable. The book is largely anecdotal, based on interviews with hundreds of people in the education field. The book is divided into three sections, labeled PEOPLE, PLACES and PROGRAMS. All parts are interesting, but the people section is perhaps the most interesting. The struggle, internal and external, that these people went through and continue to face is extraordinary. The opposition is great. These are heroes and their victories, personal and programmatic, are lovingly detailed.

The author is relentlessly upbeat. You can tell that he is personally excited by the first glimmerings of hope. Everything is presented as positively as possible. He is ecstatic when "almost half" of those sent information respond. Only one horror story is told in any detail. That story is about a student in Texas.

In support of his thesis that the revolution is "coming to a school near you" the author tries VERY hard to spread his tales geographically across the country. Unfortunately,

he cannot hide the fact that the revolution is happening in Massachusetts, Connecticut, selected parts of California, and the rare island of bravery somewhere in between. About page 300 I began to ask myself why I live in Houston. Massachusetts sounds so nice, and yet even in that bastion of freedom Mr. Woog's sources admit that the vast, overwhelming majority of gay educators and students are in the closet. Afraid.

The program section, the last and longest section, is in many ways the most important. Schools are bureaucracies. Schools are reports, curricula and programs. Individual courage, the occasional point of light, does not in the end conquer such systems. Programs do. And this book makes very clear that the real source of homophobia is ignorance. Students never meet. never see, never hear anybody they know is gay. The whole problem is that gays are, to the heterosexual majority, a distant topic, sort of like massacres in Rwanda. Why shouldn't they believe what's yelled in the halls and snickered in the cafeteria? God knows, schools cover everything else. They don't cover this area, except in one field, AIDS. Dr. Lipkin, a Harvard expert in the field is quoted, "The only place that anything gay enters the curriculum today with any regularity is AIDS courses... But that limits discussion of homosexuality to sexual topics." So, the only time schools mention us is in health classes when referring to sex, promiscuity, death and dying. Neat.

This book can be read as entertainment. This book can also be read for information on things done and doing. But, at least for me, the real value of this book is as a call to the gay community to address problems.

One rather obvious problem is that of the gay teacher. In Texas, the phrase gay teacher is an oxymoron. If it is officially known you are gay, you are a former teacher. Yet everybody knows there are enormous numbers of gay teachers. You may not live near a military base where people live in fear of discovery, but I assure you that you live near a school where the same is true. To do their jobs, to live the career they love, they have to live the lie. Honesty in education? Get real. And teaching, at its best, is a very personal relationship. How can a teacher dare be intimate, personal with a student when any personal relationship will be taken in the worst possible light if the great secret becomes known? The issue is not just that secrecy cripples the teacher in his/her personal life. It also restricts their ability to teach.

(Continued on following page)

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Book is optimistic first look at issues of gay teachers, students

(Continued from preceding page)

The second problem is the double one of the students. The heterosexual majority needs to be educated. Ignorance engenders fear. Over and over again the book cites straight students who, when exposed to gay programs basically say "Gosh, these guys are real people. I thought..."

Equally important, and much more heartbreaking, is the problem of gay students or those who are confused as to their orientation. It is astonishing to read in this book where well meaning principals and school board types say again and again that teaching about gay issues is nice and all that but hardly necessary (budget restraints, you know) because there are no gay students in their school! They know there are no gay students because, well, no students have said they are gay. Denial is so deep. Students have no information. They are scared to ask. Indeed, who can they ask? The guidance counselor who doesn't want THIS problem, and who probably has no information anyway? A straight teacher? Yeah, right. A supposedly gay teacher? Does that teacher want to keep her/his job? Your best friend, soon to be your ex-best friend? Ah, high school, where social interaction is much more important than trig or history. Remember the cage of peer pressure? Perhaps some drugs or alcohol will kill the pain, ease the confusion.

A lot of people say that their carefree high school years were the best of their life. How many gays would agree? Did you really enjoy the prom?

School's Out

The Impact of Gay and Lesbian Issues on America's Schools



by Dan Woog

The comic "Funky Winkerbean" has been covering the issue of teen suicide, and in consequence, the Houston Chronicle ran a fairly large article last week on teen suicide and what is being done to prevent this tragedy. Several causes of suicide are listed. Being gay was NOT listed, although Mr. Woog's book maintains that gay teens are perhaps the group most at risk of suicide. A conspiracy of silence or honest

ignorance? To the dead, does it matter? But this holocaust goes on, and those our community loses, to death, or the slower death of drugs, or just psychosis, well, again, who knows? But it became clear to me somewhere in this book that we'll never have a healthy community until we make the lives of our young less of a hell. Which brings me back to my original quote at the start to this piece. We are the experts. Why aren't we involved? Are we so scared of Phil Gramm that we'll give up the future?

To return to the book. This book is important and should be read. At first I was depressed. There is so much to do. The beginning is so fragile, so new, so limited. But I believe after all Mr. Woog's optimism is right. Things are beginning.

Finally, a book reviewer's whine. The Alyson Press is a very important source of so much gay writing. Why in God's name can't they get a proofreader!? If I read one more sentence fragment or subject-verb disagreement...

Anyway, try this book. It kept me up nights, thinking.

OUTRAGE

OUTRAGE, an annual AIDS fundraiser, began in 1985. It was originally organized as a social function when Vernon Kahanek and a group of friends organized an annual Halloween party that was held in the back yard of one of the hosts. Recognizing the attack of HIV/AIDS on our community, the **OUTRAGE** organizers decided to turn their annual party into an annual fundraiser for local HIV/AIDS charities. The party is underwritten by the hosts and all proceeds from the guests go directly to the charities selected as beneficiaries by the **OUTRAGE** host committee. Over the last several years, the **OUTRAGE** parties have donated in excess of \$50,000 to local HIV/AIDS charities.

OUTRAGE participated in the 1995 Gay/Lesbian Pride parade for the first time, and was awarded the "Houston" Trophy for best non-professional float in the parade.

With the desire to better serve the community on a year-round basis, the **OUTRAGE** organizers are proud to announce the pursuit of 501 (c) 3 status. This pursuit will be done with the spirits of the original organizers of **OUTRAGE** (many of whom are now deceased).

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Appeals court says Portland demonstrators illegally strip-searched

SAN FRANCISCO, Saturday, July 1 (AP)—Lawyers for AIDS demonstrators who were strip-searched after a 1989 protest in Portland say a new federal appeals court ruling should curb excessive police searches.

"The Constitution does not permit non-violent protesters to be intimidated by strip searches," attorney Suzanne B. Goldberg said after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that 10 demonstrators had been searched illegally.

The 10 were part of a protest by the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power, or ACT UP, at a U.S. Food and Drug Administration office in Feb. 1989. Chanting loudly, they attacked the FDA for

not approving several experimental AIDS drugs.

The six men and four women were taken to the federal courthouse and strip-searched by marshals before being booked into jail. The men said they were forced to disrobe and subjected to full-body searches in front of other male prisoners.

Their suit for damages against the marshals and the government was dismissed by U.S. District Judge Malcolm Marsh, who ruled that the officers could have reasonably believed they had grounds for the searches. The appeals court disagreed in a 3-0 ruling, issued last week.

"No reasonable officer could have thought the searches were lawful," said Judges Cyn-

thia Holcomb Hall, Diarmuid O'Scannlain and Edward Leavy.

They said legal rules in 1989 allowed strip searches after minor arrests only if the officer has a reasonable suspicion that the person is carrying contraband.

The officer who ordered the searches had heard a report that an officer driving the demonstrators to the courthouse thought his tires had been slashed. But the court said the officers had no reason to suspect any individual demonstrator was carrying a knife or other contraband.

If the deputy who ordered the searches had asked about the demonstrators' conduct, he

might have learned that they were taken to the van in cuffs and could not have punctured the tires, the court said.

The court also said the fact that the demonstrators were wearing bulky winter clothing and acted in a confrontational manner at the protest did not give officers grounds to suspect that they were carrying contraband. Likewise, security concerns about other prisoners did not justify the strip searches, the court said.

"The mere possibility that the (demonstrators), if they had been concealing anything, might have been able to pass those things to other federal prisoners does not free the marshals to conduct strip

searches at will," the court said.

The court said a trial was needed to determine the amount of damages from the search, and whether the search of the men in the presence of other prisoners justified additional damages.

"This ruling reminds law enforcement officials that they will be held accountable when they exceed the bounds of what is reasonable and violate a person's civil rights," said Goldberg, of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Justice Department lawyer Barbara Biddle could not be reached for comment.

Court says FBI discriminated against HIV-positive doctor

By BOB EGELKO

FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

SAN FRANCISCO, Saturday, July 1 (AP)—A federal appeals court changed its mind and ruled that the FBI must pay damages to the estate of a doctor whose examinations of agents were halted after he refused to tell the FBI whether he had AIDS.

The agents were in no significant danger of infection, but the FBI showed little interest in the extent of the danger or methods to prevent it, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Friday. Instead, the court said, the FBI seemed interested only in getting the doctor to confirm that he had AIDS, so that he could be replaced.

In a 2-1 decision, the court said the FBI discriminated against Dr. James Cul-

len of San Francisco because of a physical handicap—contrary to two previous rulings by the same panel in the case.

"If you have an employee with a disability, whether they're a bricklayer or a medical doctor, the appropriate question to ask (under the law) is not, 'What is this person's disability?' but what precautions are necessary," said Cullen's lawyer, Matthew Coles of the American Civil Liberties Union.

He said the case also reaffirms the widely accepted scientific view that "doctors with HIV (the AIDS virus) doing routine medical procedures, and for that matter virtually all procedures, simply don't pose any risk."

A government lawyer in the case could not be reached for comment.

Cullen, who died of AIDS in 1992, performed all physical examinations on local FBI agents and applicants, starting in Dec. 1984, under an FBI contract with Davies Medical Center.

In August 1988, someone told local FBI chief Richard Held that Cullen had an AIDS-related illness. Questioned by an FBI agent, Cullen refused to confirm that he or anyone else at the hospital had AIDS. But he and other hospital staff members told the FBI that an AIDS-infected staffer would pose no risk to patients because the hospital followed standard infection-control procedures.

Held then stopped sending agents to Cullen for examinations. After Cullen disclosed his illness in the lawsuit, a federal judge prohibited the

FBI from cutting off the contract, but allowed Held to give agents a choice of hospitals. Few chose to go to Cullen after learning of his condition.

In a non-jury trial, U.S. District Judge Charles Legge ruled that the FBI was justified in refusing to send its agents to Cullen. The appeals court agreed in a 3-0 ruling last August, saying Cullen's "evasive answers" had prevented the FBI from determining the extent of the risk. The court reaffirmed its conclusion in a modified ruling this January.

But on Friday, in response to another request for reconsideration from Cullen's estate, the court majority said Cullen had not been evasive on the only legally relevant question—whether agents were at risk.



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Lesbians on the coffee table

By SHERI COHEN DARBONNE

Houston Voice Editor

As creator of a precedent-setting column, written from a gay perspective for publication in mainstream daily newspapers, Deb Price has often been described as a trailblazer, a bold activist in her field. When she first conceived the idea for the

column, however, with her partner Joyce Murdoch, Price admits she was "terrified to ask for it...I was afraid it would mean the end of my career."

She knew what she wanted to do, and she knew there was a desperate need for an identifiable gay voice in the mainstream press, Price says now. "I just didn't know if I was strong enough to deal with the ups and downs," and to handle what had to follow from that initial decision.

At the time, Price and Murdoch were both working for mainstream newspapers. Price was the Washington correspondent for the Detroit News, a traditionally conservative daily whose publisher had recently expressed an interest in building on the diversity of voices on its pages.

"I felt like the time was right. I felt



like this was a moment when history could be made," said Price.

The issue of coverage in the mainstream media of gay and lesbian people and the events that shape their lives had already been a topic of many discussions between the two veteran journalists. Both agreed some progress was being made—albeit slowly—especially since AIDS

forced reporters and editors to ask themselves how much homophobia was coloring their news coverage. But more was needed. The women discussed the invisibility of lesbians and gay men in new reports, and the fact that few publications truly "mainstreamed" gays—including them as just another aspect of society, without sensationalism.

So Deb Price decided to speak up. And on May 8, 1992, the landscape of mainstream journalism changed dramatically.

Today, Price and Murdoch are the lesbians on the coffee table: lives opened up to anyone with access to the daily news, bridging the communication gap between gay and heterosexual communities everywhere.

(Continued on following page)

D.C. Appeals Court says gay couple may adopt child

By SUSAN LANGENHENNIG
FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Friday, June 30 (AP)—A gay couple may legally adopt a child under District of Columbia law as long as the adoption is in the child's best interest, a three-judge panel of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals ruled Friday.

"We conclude that unmarried couples living together in a committed personal relationship, whether of the same sex or of opposite sexes, are eligible to petition the court for a decree of adoption," Associate Appellate Judge John Ferren wrote in the opinion.

District law "expressly authorizes adoptions by any person without limitations," the opinion said. "Nothing in the legislative history can be said to exclude adoptions by unmarried couples."

Bruce M., a gay man, began adoption proceedings for Hillary shortly after

her birth in August 1991. At the time of the adoption, Bruce had been living with his male partner, Mark D., for nearly five years.

The couple had reached an agreement with Hillary's natural mother to allow her regular visitation rights even after the adoption was finalized. But the mother later accused Bruce of denying her access to Hillary and sought to reverse the adoption, the opinion said.

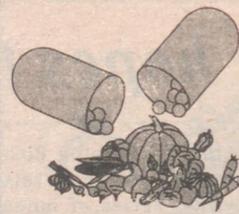
After several court hearings, the mother and Bruce reached another agreement. The woman decided to waive her rights to the child, and the court signed a final decree of adoption in favor of Bruce.

However, the couple then petitioned the court to adopt Hillary together. But the trial court ruled that the district's adoption laws did not permit Mark to join in Bruce's adoption.

Bruce and Mark appealed the court's decision.

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Columnist Deb Price hopes to bridge gap, inspire dialogue

(Continued from preceding page)

Price and Murdoch passed through Houston recently on a tour to promote their new book, "And Say Hi To Joyce," a joint project that combines the first 18 months of Price's column with Murdoch's account of the story behind the column and its impact—on journalism, on the people and places it has touched, and on the couple's personal lives. It's a fascinating, upbeat account that cites numerous examples of the overwhelmingly positive reactions the pair say they've received in written and personal interaction with the readers.

The book's title alludes to a frequent closure in letters received by Price from readers of the column—telling in its own right, because it points up the fact that the mainstream audience largely has accepted the women as a couple. The name is also an aside to the new role that has fallen to Joyce as "wife of" the well-known columnist—which, if she has any qualms whatsoever about, Murdoch doesn't show. "The column has been great for our relationship," she quips. "Deb can't dump me—she'd never hear the end of it!"

The couple met while both were work-

ing as editors at the Washington Post, according to Murdoch, and their relationship began with a series of innocuous—but-flirty messages tacked on to on-the-job communications via their respective computer terminals. Murdoch, clinging to an assumption that the long-haired, soft-mannered Price was probably not a lesbian, says she at first was confused by the flirtations. Price counters that she knew exactly what she was doing.

By the time Price proposed the gay column to Detroit News publisher Bob Giles, she and Murdoch had already shared a committed relationship for several years. And, since the column made its debut, heralded by a front-page editorial in the Detroit paper, it has brought this gay couple and their lives and issues into millions of households all over America, including the homes of people who believe they have never known anyone gay.

Price's column—and to an extent, Giles' decision to run and support it—changed the dynamic of inclusion. Other talented columnists, including Houston's Juan Palomo, have had to grapple with censorship for even bringing up that fact that they were gay,

and unenlightened editors continue to question the need to bring up what they consider an "irrelevant" aspect of a writer's life. Price's column has enjoyed a surprising level of acceptance and success.

Price writes about the positive and personal aspects of a gay life, and also brought a new dimension to more controversial issues. Of course, as Price and Murdoch expected, the column itself has also at times been the subject of controversy.

Support in those battles, say Price and Murdoch, has sometimes come from unexpected corners. They cite a flier campaign in the "conservative, closeted community" of Niagara Falls, to keep the column running in a newspaper there.

As well, say Murdoch and Price, working on and living with the column has given them other reasons for an inspiring, hopeful attitude. The research she has had to do, say Price, to write about what she describes as a civil rights movement that has barely been visible in the mainstream press has given her a window to a broader perspective. The gay and lesbian rights movement, Price claims, is following in a

solid, set course that other movements have navigated—and is approaching a turning point. "For us, it's been a real crash course in social justice history...I've really come to believe (gays and lesbians) will achieve full equality in my lifetime," she asserts.

While they say they want to play an active on the edge of those changes, the women are all too aware of the inequality that exists today. When Murdoch took a leave of absence to work on the book, for example, the couple was forced to pick up \$250 a month in payments to continue her health insurance. Had they been "legally married," Price could have added her spouse to her own policy, she noted.

Murdoch adds that, in celebration of their recent 10th anniversary, the couple went to apply for a marriage license. As they expected, they were turned down; Murdoch says she told the clerk: "The law will be changed, and we'll be back."

The couple did receive "Our first anniversary card, ever," this year, according to Price. The card was sent by a heterosexual housewife in San Jose, Calif.

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Former employees, volunteers at clinic raise questions

(Continued from Page 3)

All four say they were concerned with an apparent conflict of interest in the appointment of Dr. Wayne Bockman as medical director of the Clinic, and with decisions made by HCRN as to who would get to be principal investigators for drug studies conducted by the Network. Bockman is the life partner of Chris Jimmerson, former director of HCRN and current director of operations for the Montrose Clinic. "I thought it was the most unethical thing I'd ever seen in my life," said Woolman.

According to Hunsdorfer, as much as 30 percent of HCRN's incoming revenue is paid to physicians serving as principal investigators in drug trials.

The group also questioned the relationship between the Clinic and Caremark, formerly the nation's home health care company and recently the subject of a federal investigation and several high-profile media reports, for allegedly paying kickbacks to physicians in return for patient referrals. Caremark, since bought out by another company, made a substantial cash donation to the Clinic, and a former employee of the company is a member of the Clinic's board of directors, they said.

According to Lasher and Woolman, Bockman was written into the AmFAR grant as the clinic's medical director (a time percentage position paid in the grant); he and fellow members of the group practice Southhampton Medical Associates, also were the most frequent principle investigators of HCRN studies. (He has since resigned the medical directorship, reportedly for health reasons).

"I have no objection whatsoever concerning a for-profit entity—including doctors, dentists, hospitals, home nursing agencies, etcetera—making a profit. I do, however, object if they are or appear to me to be using a non-profit entity to enhance their profits," said Lasher. "A non-profit entity exists to provide services to persons who cannot themselves afford these services, not to benefit for-profit entities."

Hegar, who was elected Clinic president in March after serving as interim president since Lasher's departure, denied the ethical conflict charges regarding Bockman's appointment. The medical director, she noted, responded to the president—herself—and not to Jimmerson. And Bockman, she said, "went above and beyond the call of duty, because he believes in what we're doing, and he believes in hope for tomorrow."

The Clinic, Hegar insisted, is changing for the better. Clinic services are expanding, not deteriorating, she said, noting new additions including the Frost Eye Clinic and a dermatology clinic. "The best part of the new building is that we're able to provide more services. Our primary focus is the clients."

The cost of increased attention to research, she said, is "covered by AmFAR and the pharmaceutical companies," and HCRN has earned much-deserved national prestige as one of only 12 sites nation wide con-

ducting community-based clinical trials for AmFAR.

"I think probably everyone has their own perspective," she said of the former staff members, who she characterized as loyal to Lasher's leadership perspective and disgruntled over the loss of their own jobs.

Some say, however, that the real problems transcend and are actually far detached from any dispute over who's in charge or what's in the spotlight.

In individual interviews, a dozen former and current employees and volunteers profess serious concerns about continuing conditions and practices at the Montrose Clinic that they believe threaten the future and reputation of the Clinic, as well as the clients and the community at large. Among the charges, most of which came up more than once:

—While Clinic officials have boasted of reducing a dependence on volunteers and a building up of "trained, professional staff," in fact many of the staff changes have been cosmetic and in some cases, staff members with more medical or other appropriate degrees or training have been replaced with less qualified persons as public relation and "image" projection has become more important than educational background. As well, some staff persons have deliberately misrepresented their medical credentials in public and in Clinic dealings and documents.

—The Clinic is currently the subject of two complaints filed with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission alleging racism. The two current employees of the clinic, who spoke with the Voice on condition of anonymity, said that an African American female was terminated for no understandable reason, after being asked to train a less qualified Anglo replacement.

—Among the volunteers whose visibility has waned are the physicians and their assistants who volunteered their services at the Clinic—in part because of strange new rules imposed by Clinic officials purportedly to comply with insurance, according to the employees.

—P.A.s working under the licenses of area physicians have been disallowed from performing certain procedures which they are legally permitted to do. Meanwhile, according to one P.A. and former volunteer, Chester Dickerson, person's unqualified to perform certain procedures on clients have been frequently required to do so—including a female cashier (albeit one with some medical training) who performed vaginal exams on female STD clinic patients.

—A male registered nurse, who works at HCRN but who has at times been called in to see STD Clinic patients, has made it common knowledge among clinic employees and volunteers that he will examine only male patients. A male licensed vocational nurse who supervises sessions in the clinic similarly refuses to examinations on female patients, leading to the scenario above. (The clinic has since hired a female LVN who performs the procedures).

(Continued on Page 23)



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Don Woods is new Mr. Texas Drummer; Tranae Chardon to sing at E-J's



Tina and Oscar, hanging out at Chances

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

A new Mr. Texas Drummer was sashed this past Sunday. Congrats to Don Woods! He had a super sexy fantasy and great stage presence. Comic and leather woman Shann Carr kept the crowd in stitches.

What a good idea! Daddy Dan and Tim had a 4th of July party at their home and asked everyone to B.Y.O.P. ...that is paper goods for Stone Soup! There were piles and piles of paper products donated!

Friday, July 7

The ToyBox has their infamous Country Cookin' Mini-Buffer tonight around 5:30 p.m. Stop in for a cold beer and tasty treats.

Rack 'em up tonight at the Lazy J. There is an 8-ball tournament tonight for league members only.

The New 611 has male dancers tonight from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Tonight at Heaven there is a "Des'ree Video Party," with CD's, singles, and a chance to win 2 tickets for her concert at the Woodlands. Don't miss this chance!

"Celebrit-tease" tonight at Club 403. Reba McEntire, Diana Ross and Diane Jackson will tease you and delight you starting at 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 8

Lots of talent tonight at E/J's. Britany Paige hosts the Super Saturday Show. This week she has lined up Rochelle Stevens, Heather Lauzon, "Miss Peoples," and direct from DPIC's recording studio—Tranae Chardon. This should be one heck of a show.

Tonight at the Lazy J. Erica's Showcase features the talents of Brandi Houston, Black Velvet, Dyan Jack-

son and Candace Welch. Erica Lane takes the stage at 10:00 p.m.

Mary's your one stop bar for everyone. Saturdays offer a movie at 3:30 p.m., steaks-n-stuff for only \$4.50, and 50¢ draft beer.

The Names Project is having a garage sale today and tomorrow. Stop in at 2410 Woodhead and shop!

TGRA's State Dance Finals are tonight at the Brazos River Bottom. The contest is at 6:00 p.m. After the contest, scoot out to the patio and visit with the TGRA members as they guest bartend from 9:30 until ???

PastTime has 2 pool tournaments tonight.

The Club Houston is having a pool party this afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be free BBQ and beverages will help you make it through the heat! The Club Houston is that special place you can go to work on NOT getting a tan line!

The Krewe of Olympus-Texas, Inc. is hosting it's first annual Bastille Day party tonight, starting at 8:00 p.m. The party will be at 933 Fisher, located between Ella Blvd. and Shepherd off 610 North. Call 729-4197 if you would like further info or directions.

Sunday, July 9

"Sizzling Summer Special" is the theme of the Sambvca Sister's show this afternoon at the ToyBox. This is a fundraiser benefiting the Omega House. Be there by 5:00 p.m. and bring lots of single dollar bills.

Christopher, Oscar, and Thomas will be scrubbing dirt off your car/truck this afternoon at Basic Brothers from 10:00 p.m. until ??? They are raising money to help pay expenses accrued for the Mr. All-American Contest.

Mr. Virgil Burke, candidate for Mr. IGRA '96, presents "A Country Night of Ropers and Wranglers." This is a benefit for the Houston chapter of TGRA. Show time is 8:00 p.m. Be sure to get there early and enjoy steak night on the patio!

Temple Rises at 9:00 p.m.

"Come Out Of The Heat..." a benefit show for the LVL PWA Holiday Fund and the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard will be tonight at the New 611. Don Gill and Shelby St. John will MC this showing, featuring the talents of Queen Olympus 25, Andrew Flores, Regina Dane, Mark Press, Catia Lee Love and Mr. Gulf Coast



Opening soon...

Drummer. Show time is 4:00 p.m.

"Sunday Overload" tonight at Pacific street. No shirt, no cover, no kidding! The doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Mary's opens at 10:00 a.m. today, with happy hour from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and beer bust from noon until 6:00 p.m. with 50¢ cups of draft beer!

The hot men of the Mine cool off with a beer bust today! It is only \$2 to buy-in and 25¢ refills of Miller Lite Draft, OR you can purchase a domestic longneck for only \$1. Such a deal!

"Love Muscle," Houston's ultimate Sunday T at Heaven has 50¢ well drinks, \$1.50 domestic longnecks and frozen Rita's from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Hal and Jim! Good Food! Venture-N! 5:00 p.m. Need I say more?

Monday, July 10

The Ripcord has a pool tournament tonight at 8:00 p.m. The balls are racked for a \$3 buy-in and the bar matches the pot!

Over at the Montrose Mining Company tonight are Texas-sized doubles for only \$3.50. There is also a pool tournament at 8:00 p.m.

It is "Ab Fab" at J.R.'s Bar and Grill tonight. The Britcom is shown at 7:30 p.m. and again at 10:30 p.m.!

Honky Tonk nights at Gentry! They have free pool, free juke box, and almost free Miller Lite longnecks. This special runs all day and all night today and tomorrow!

The Club Houston offers half-price lockers tonight!

Club 403 has a dart tournament tonight at 8:00 p.m. There is a \$4 entry fee and the bar matches the pot!

Tuesday, July 11

It is Finals night at E/J's. This 8 week long search for talent concludes tonight at 11:00 p.m.

Stop in Mary's for 2 reasons today! 2-fer-Tuesday features \$2 Cuervo Shots and Mark serves hamburgers on the patio starting at 11:00 p.m. This sounds like a great way to spend your lunch hour!

Wednesday, July 12

Beef, spuds, and rabbit food are on the menu at E/J's tonight. Don't miss this opportunity to have a great dinner with your friends at E/J's. The grill is lit at 6:00 p.m.

Hump it! Happy Humppy Hour prices all day and all night at Mary's!

The Weekly Wednesday Weinie Waivers War wiggles on this week at Gentry! Catia is the General. Bombs away at 11:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 13

"Chat and Chew" tonight at Gentry! Chew starts at 7:00 p.m., and the Boy Toys tantalize and tease you starting at 9:00 p.m.

Kad's is hosting a kick-off party for Spectrum '96 this afternoon from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be CD's, t-shirts, and "Concert of the Stars" available. There is a \$10 suggested donation. Kad's is located 1512 W. Alabama.

The Kolbe House offers a Healing Service with Anointing tonight at 7:00 p.m. The Kolbe House is located at 1509 Fairview.

Club Hedo opens its doors tonight at 9:00 p.m. Check out the place where the Club Kids party!

Steak night at the New 611 is the place to be tonight if you are thirsty and hungry. Big ol' hunks-o-beef, potato, and salad for a mere pittance. Don't forget that they can still serve dinner when it is raining.

There is good sex at Pacific Street tonight. Arousal begins at 9:00 p.m. See the towel boys, have a "cum shot," or just hang around and watch. Pacific Street will always fulfill your every need!

This is really scary! The "Dynamic Duo," "Dueling Divas" host the amateur strip contest tonight at Heaven. Kofi and Lindsay FILL the stage as they look for new talent. \$200 cash prizes to the winners. 11:00 p.m.

(Continued on following page)



NLA:H presents flags at the Mr. Texas drummer contest, held at P.S.



Oh, Shelby...

More upcoming events and other stuff; scraping the cage bottom, again



"Jocks in Dresses" benefit at Heaven



Skate Night, with Lambda

Houston Soap, Part 2

Randy Jobe hosts the weekly "Broadway" night at J.R.'s Bar and Grill.

There is a free seminar by Patrick J. Vachon, LMSW-ACP, about "Striving to Get The Love You Want." A lecture based on Imago Relationship therapy. Please call 529-1913, etc. 4 for more info.

The weekly talent search at Club 403 features the talents of Miss Bacchus II. If you would like to be in the contest, get to the bar at 10:00 p.m. for the 10:30 p.m. show!

Other Important Stuff

Some friends and I had lunch at El Palacio this past week. Of course we clipped the coupon out of the Voice. I was impressed by the selection of vegetarian items on the menu and the quantity of food you get! Clip the coupon and see this for yourself.

Speaking of coupons, I cut a bunch of Ean's coupons out of last week's issue of the Voice, and a bunch of us had "Girl's Night Out." The place was packed and the dancers were, shall I say, very uninhibited! Check out Ean's on a Saturday night for their "Femme de Femme" night!

The "Miss Kitty Litter '95" contest will be at E/J's on July 16th. This is a fundraiser for the Pet Patrol. If you would like more info, call Brittany Paige at 710-4343.

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Cyber Sex" and "Big City Men."

Midtown Spa his doing something special these day! I'd tell you more, but you better check it with your own

eyes!

"Miss Saigon" tickets are still available. Call 629-3700.

Planning to redo your place? Stop in Outrageous at 9000 Richmond and check out their unusual furniture and accessories.

Bernadette Peters and the Pops will

petting zoo than a bar!

David Roberts: So, you received the "Susan Lucci" Bear of the Month award! Poor baby! Also, remember that I am the only Mrs. Roberts.

Lady Victoria Lust: I saw you at Pacific Street! What's wrong, honey, did Mary's run out of your favorite Gin?



Nina & friends looking for phone sex.

be at the Woodlands on July 28. Call 363-3300 for ticket info.

If you haven't used the coupon in this issue for Bistro 224, hurry, it expires 7/31/95.

Big Bear Cleaning Service will clean your den... office, home, or apartment for a reasonable rate. Call Big Bear at 524-3094.

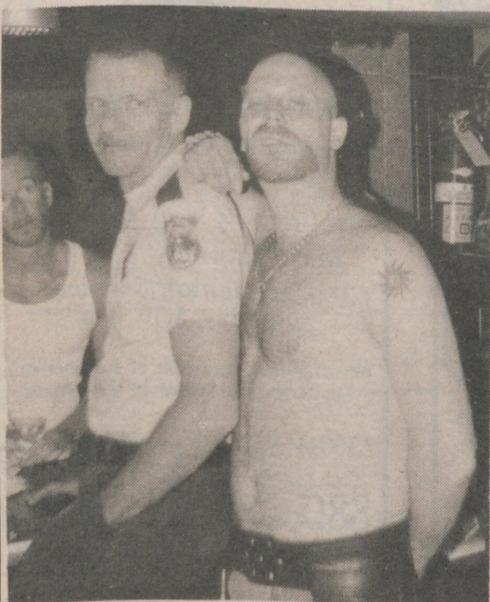
If you are interested in helping with "Christmas in July," call Don Gill (521-0911) to reserve a booth, or Mike at the Brazos River Bottom (526-9192) if you would like to perform in the show.

The Company OnStage presents "The Fantastics," on stage until July 29. Call 726-1219 for ticket info.

Rodent Droppings

Ratrat is such a brave little rodent. The other morning, he jumped up on the table and stole a biscuit right off my plate, dragging it across the table, dripping gravy all the way to his cage! It was like I wasn't even sitting there! Well, I searched the bottom of his cage and found...

Dennis (Owner 611): You have a Rabbitt, Spot, and a Hogg working for you.. sounds more like a



David, why the snarl?

Gary Y. (Hangs at the 611): So your new nickname is "Delila?" Who is "Sampson?" Can he be Spot-ed in Montrose?

Tommie Sue (BRB): What is this I hear about you having a daytime shift and falling in love with a pooh bear! When will colors for the wedding be announced?

Rowdy Girls: Still being rowdy?

Lang (611): I got a news flash! You have been sober for how many days? Enquiring minds don't believe it!

Randy (PS): Does this phrase sound familiar: "Oh, Baby, I put the music in me"?

Del (Gentry): What do you mean... it is a Vañilla week? Vanilla is not my favorite flavor!

Larry Crawford (Hyde Park Gallery): Is that white hair on your chest or did your sunshade fall on your chest while you were asleep?

Marlene (Chances): So, you were late for your own birthday party!

Tom (Ripcord): So, Tom, What does it take to get a free t-shirt from you... throw-up on your bar?

Don Dowden (Schnauzer):

Who was this out-of-town-trick you had this past week? Did you remember to take plenty of Nitro?

Erotica (Jeff @ ToyBox "Sister") Nice visit to Houston, huh? But, really, tossing your cookies at 3 out of 4 bars does not make the best impression!

Matt (Houston Voice): When will you learn that you can't drink like us pros! But, really, running up an \$86 bar tab with \$1 beers is just a bit much! You better thank your friends for taking away your credit card and ID so you could not have any more!

Gary (Ripcord): Just be nice to Jack (Houston Voice) when his time comes!

Bill Havard (BRB): "Lust in the Dust" and you want to dick-er-over it?

Walt (OutPost): Having a heart attack just to get a ride in a ambulance?

Linda Marshall: Girl, you never quit! I hear you have been nominated to the TGRA Executive Board. Good luck! Hopefully you can cheer up some of the "not-to-pleased" members!

I have a message from JoAnn (BRB) to all the guys at HMBL! Thanks for the great time last Saturday! You guys really made my day!!

I have a special message to the dirty low-life that smashed in the Colt 45's Troublefund box at the Venture-N and stole all the donations. If you needed money that bad, it better have been for food, housing or medicine and not cocktails or drugs! There are many organizations that can help you if you are in that predicament. But, stealing from the Colt 45's troublefund! Just remember, what comes around, goes around, and in my opinion, the bad stuff gets back to you 10-fold!

Have a great week
Huggs and kisses,
Cuervolyn



What a cute couple

RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY

Noted author Chris Glaser to conduct seminars at Houston churches

Chris Glaser, noted author of four spiritual best sellers will be in Houston the weekend of July 14 through 16 to conduct workshops at Kingdom Community Church, 4404 Blossom at Snover, lead the worship service, and autograph his books. He will also conduct a seminar for Crossroads, an organization for gay and lesbian clergy and others involved in church work, in the Fellowship Hall of Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur. The Crossroads seminar will include a light lunch and cover the topic "Ministry Within the Gay Community."

Glaser believes he must get "the word" out to the many gay men and lesbians who may wish to rekindle the faith they were raised on but who, like himself, may be uncomfortable with the religion of their families.

Chris Glaser received his Master's of Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School in 1977. He served on the Presbyterian Task Force to Study Homosexuality from 1976-78 as its only openly gay member. He served as the national Coordinator of Presbyterians for Lesbian & Gay Concerns, and later edited More Light, the organization's newsletter.

From 1977 to 1987, Glaser was director of the Lazarus Project, a ministry of reconciliation between the church and the lesbian/gay/bisexual community at the West Hollywood Presbyterian Church in California, the first such ministry

Since then, he has written four best-selling books about being gay and Christian: "Uncommon Calling," "Come Home!," "Coming Out to God," and most recently, a 365-day meditation book entitled "The Word Is Out—the Bible Reclaimed for Lesbians and Gay Men."

He is a much sought after speaker, preacher, and leader of workshops and retreats throughout North America and in Europe. He makes his home in Atlanta with Mark King, an HIV/AIDS community educator, and their dog, Calvin. The schedule of appearances by Chris Glaser in Houston is as follows:

Friday, July 14

* **MINISTRY WITHIN THE GAY COMMUNITY:** a workshop to explore how the church may reach out with integrity and receive a positive response within the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community in the face of alienation and "church phobia" within this community. 11:30 A.M., sponsored by Crossroads, in the Fellowship Hall at MCCR, 1919 Decatur. Lunch \$5; no admission charge. Please call 862-7533 for information and registration. For more information about the Crossroads organization, call Rev. Johnny Peden at 681-9082. (While most meetings are closed, this special meeting is open to the public).

* **THE DANCE OF SPIRITUALITY AND SEXUALITY:** How well does our spirituality and sexuality dance together? Many of us have been mistakenly taught that to embrace our sexual-

ity meant rejecting our spirituality. But both sexuality and spirituality drink from the same well of Eros, that love that passionately draws us to another, whether that "other" is a lover or God. Through brief presentations, spiritual exercises, and group dialogue, noted author Chris Glaser will lead us as we explore the "dance." 7:00 p.m., Kingdom Community Church, 4404 Blossom.

Saturday, July 15

* **UNCOMMON CALLINGS:** Why did God make us gay? lesbian? bisexual? transgendered? Who we are has shaped our spirituality. What is our unique purpose in life—our own "uncommon callings"—as individuals, as couples, as a community? Noted author, Chris Glaser will lead us as we explore together what God calls us to be through short talks, spiritual exercises, and group conversation. 10:00 a.m., Kingdom Community Church.

* **COMING OUT TO GOD:** Through Moses, God told Pharaoh to "let my people go," delivering the ancient Hebrews from Egyptian bondage. The reason? So that they might "celebrate a festival" unto God in the wilderness. The Hebrews "came out" of oppression so that, in turn, God could "come out" to them on Mount Sinai. Even so, God meets us in the "wilderness" experience of coming out. We, too, may "celebrate a festival," dancing with the prophetess Miriam in the joy of our liberation. Join noted author Chris Glaser as we consider our bondage, our

freedom, and our festival in the wilderness. 3:00 p.m., Kingdom Community Church.

Sunday, July 16

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. with Chris Glaser, M. Div. preaching. Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.

* Chris Glaser book sale and autograph party. Crossroads Market will be at Kingdom Community Church, 4404 Blossom for sale of "Coming Out to God and The Word is Out." The author will be available to autograph your personal copy.

* **COMING HOME—RECLAIMING CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY:** It's time to let go of former understandings of our faith so we may look at it again—as if for the first time. As we come home to Jesus, he embraces us with two arms: scripture and tradition. In those arms several millennia of spiritual experience are available to us, experience that enables our homecoming to God as well as guides our journeys of faith. The Bible is about people like us: moving out of oppression, looking for God's commonwealth, seeking justice, and on a spiritual quest for life's meaning. Brief talks, spiritual exercises, and dialogue led by noted author Chris Glaser will offer new truths about Christian faith. 2:00 p.m. Kingdom Community Church.

Call K.C.C. at 862-7533 to reserve a seat for the seminars you wish to attend.

(Paid Advertisement)

ASK THE PASTOR



Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "I'm hearing a lot about "signs and wonders." What significance do these works have?"

A: Bible prophecy tells us that in the last days (just before Christ returns) "God will pour out the Holy Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old people will dream dreams, your young people will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth... And everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved." (Joel 2:28-32)

Jesus spoke of the Galileans who only wanted to see signs and wonders simply for the amazement of it. To them He said, "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders, you will never believe."

The Holy Spirit has been poured out upon the earth for all to receive. It is the working of the Spirit of God that enables people to believe in Jesus, the Christ. The purpose of signs and wonders is for people to come to the knowledge that Christ has died to set them free. As the prophet Joel said, "Everyone who calls upon the name of Yahweh will be saved (set free)."

Many of us know that for some, even signs and wonders will not lead them to Christ. Jesus knew that the greatest miracle was the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. He demonstrated this with the paralytic. The religious legalists of the day were standing around watching to see what Jesus would do with this man. They were expecting to see (visibly) a physical healing. Instead, Jesus spoke to the paralytic man and said, "Take heart, son, your sins are forgiven." The people thought this was blasphemy because only a person of godly authority could forgive sin. Jesus used a physical (outward) sign of healing to demonstrate his (inward) godly authority and power. He not only healed his physical body, but healed his spirit as well. To Jesus, the inner healing was the most significant and eternal kind of healing.

God has poured out the Holy Spirit on all flesh today for a specific reason. The signs and wonders are being made visible in our lives today so that some would come to know Jesus personally. We have been given inward authority as believer's in Christ to give us assurance, confidence, and peace as to who we are. Many people in this world do not know what tomorrow holds for them. Many people are full of fear and worry and doubt. As Christians we have this beautiful treasure of God's mighty power living in us. It has been housed within us to demonstrate how great God is.

A Christian who lets their light shine glorifies God and makes God look good! Our human weaknesses and frailties reflect what a great and mighty God we serve. You might say it is like living in a Clark Kent body but having Superman/Wonder Woman resident within you. God has given us great power not to glory in our strength, but to glory in what God can do with a yielded vessel. The power is made visible to all so that we might win some to Christ!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE PASTOR A QUESTION, WRITE: REV. JANET PARKER, MARANANTHA FELLOWSHIP MCC, P.O. BOX 667032, HOUSTON, TX. 77266-7932

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SPORTS NOTES

TIT's Tenth

The Tenth Annual Texas Invitational Bowling Tournament has concluded and was the most successful to date. One Hundred and ninety-two gay and lesbian bowlers from all across America gathered to celebrate sports and unity. \$5,000 was raised and donated to Casa De Esperanza, The Milam House, The Lesbian Health Initiative and the PWA Coalition.

Houston bowler Jim Crary won the singles event. Jim Putnam from Dallas came in second and Chris Giddens from Oklahoma City placed third. Marcie Shaw from Dallas came in fourth and Catherine Taylor from Austin placed fifth. First place doubles was won by Houston bowlers Kenny Harmon and Del Fullen with Jim Crary and Scott Garrison placing second. Third place was won by Rick Hufler from Dallas and Ross Nagata from Hawaii. Peri Cain and Dana Kring placed fourth (Houston) and Jesse Negrette and Branch Knieff placed fifth (Ft. Worth). Houston Teams swept the Team event with First place going to "It's Too Early"—Loriann Bender, Jenny Bouska, Dwayne Pavelka and Dan Jackson. Second place was taken by "Duck Sausage"—Ron Bayer, Bob Warren, Don Housen and Bob Davidson. Third place went to "Positive Ions in Search of Plastic Fish"—Lyn Vannoy, Randy Gooch, Tom O'Dell and Terry Long (currently from Billings, Mont.). The top three All Events was taken by Houston bowlers Jim Crary, George Walker and Judy Hatfield. Catherine Taylor of Austin and Ross Nagata of Hawaii took forth and fifth.

The Awards banquet was held at the Marriott West Loop hotel and the donations were made to the charities at that time. Tournament Co-Directors, Andrea Black and Tom O'Dell, praised their committee members for exceeding all goals and expectations and everybody is looking forward to beginning work on T.I.T. 96—the Eleventh!

That's A Wrap!

The Montrose Softball League (MSL) ended its season play on Sunday, June 18 and 25 with a lot of rain and unpredicted results.

In the Competitive Division, the Houston Voice defeated the Briar Patch 7-5, placing them and the Montrose Inn in the loser's bracket, having lost to the Montrose Mining Company Texans 9-7. The Texans also defeated the Voice 15-7. Briar Patch then defeated the Inn 4-1 and beat the Voice to set up a final game between them and the Texans. Briar Patch won the first game by forfeit, but lost to the Texans in the second game 8-1. The final standings for the Competitive Division are as follows:

- * 1st Place-Montrose Mining Company Texans
- * 2nd Place-Briar Patch
- * 3rd Place-Houston Voice
- * 4th Place Montrose Inn

In Recreational Division I, Pacific Street beat J.R.'s Fighting Flamigos 1-1 to secure 1st place in their division. A home run by T. Goodman helped Pacific Street's cause with excellent hitting by the entire team. J.R.'s put a stronghold on 2nd Place as they came back to defeat the Travelers 1-7. The Travelers also lost to Rich's Prime 1-2 but held on to 3rd Place as Rich's settled for 4th. Recreational Division II had only one game played as the heavens opened up and the rains fell in buckets. The Montrose Counseling Center Auntie Depressants defeated Positively Brazos River Bottom to finish their division in 1st Place. Gentry GAPS finished in 2nd, with Positively BRB and Chez E.J.'s ended their seasons in 3rd and 4th place, respectively. Representing MSL in Seattle at the World Series in August will be the Texans in Division A, the Houston Voice in Division B and J.R.'s in Division C. Best of luck to all of our players as we know you'll all make us proud!

If you desire more information concerning MSL, please call the league's voice mail at 867-3913.

Gay Ice Skating

The next monthly Montrose Ice Picks ice skating night is Thursday, July 13 at the Galleria Ice Rink, 5015 Westheimer. The cost is \$5 plus \$2 for skates and the session runs from 8:00-10:00 p.m. For more information, or to get on the free mailing list, call Angel at 629-1432.



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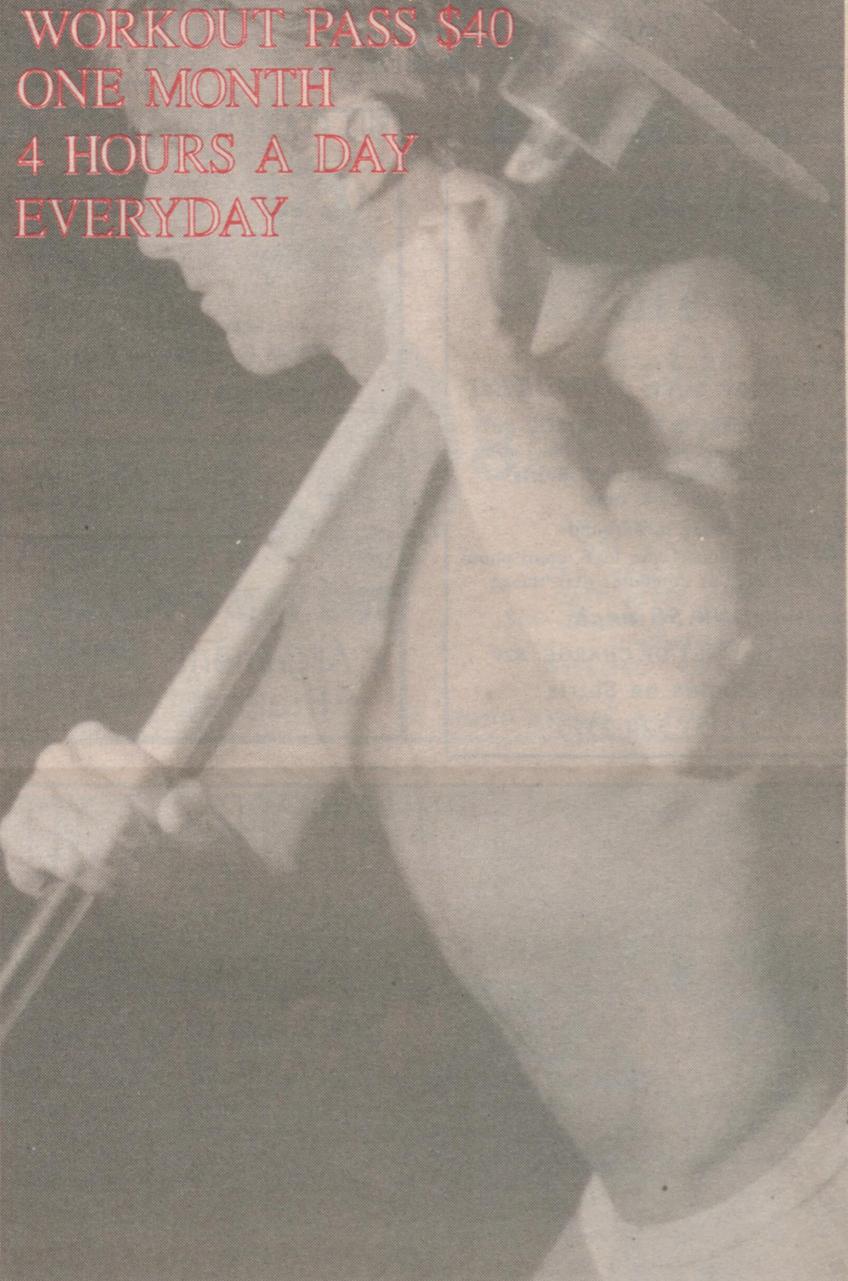


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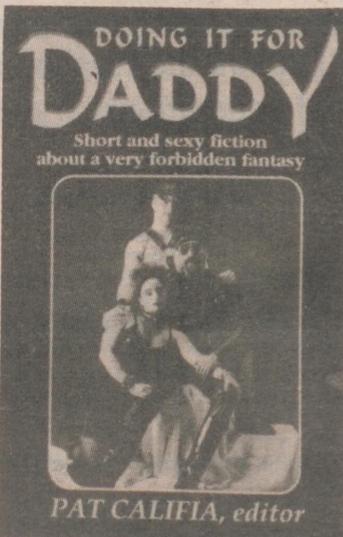
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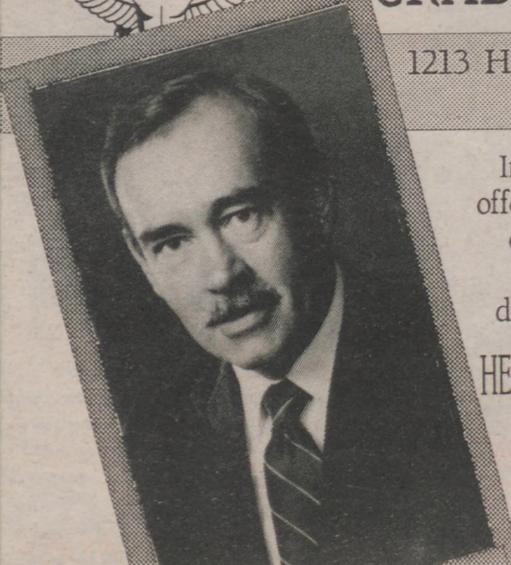

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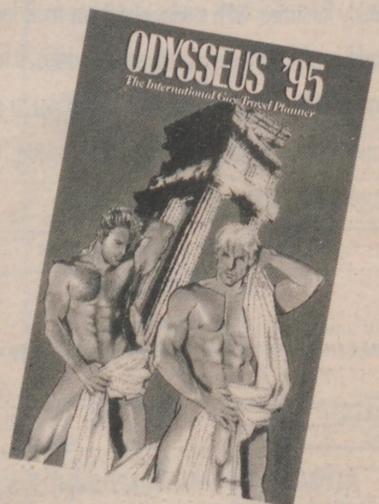
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Workers, others say 'power politics' at agency disruptive

(Continued from Page 15)

—People who complain about things to their supervisors about things they believe are not quite right with the clinic and its administration have been summarily terminated. People who have fired from paid staff positions are not allowed to volunteer with the Clinic, even if they have done so for many years.

—While some new services have been added at the Clinic, others have been dropped, among them, the pharmacy program that was touted as an alternative to the pharmacy at the Harris County Hospital Clinic's Thomas Street Health Center.

—Clients have come into the clinic, paid a \$40 fee, then been referred to a private physician's office for procedures available at the clinic, because no one was available to perform the procedure.

Jimi Dunn, a five-year employee who before that had developed a long history as a clinic volunteer, said he still isn't sure exactly why he was fired after a promotion moved him to the research wing last year. Dunn, who started working for the agency in 1990, worked in STD screening and, later, the Next Step education program, where he hoped to move up to instructor. He said the move to research took him away from working with the patients, which he enjoyed, but resulted from a promotion that he had asked for. So he welcomed and adapted to his new job as a database supervisor at HCRN, collecting information for AmFAR about patient monitoring.

In the spring of 1994, Dunn said he was asked to set up an audit program matching records in doctors' offices to those patient records in the computer. In July, 1994, he was asked by his supervisor to intensify the effort. Dunn said he found numerous discrepancies, which he corrected and reported on form. But he noticed something else, as well. "After I started the audit program, I would notice every now and then that something I had corrected had been changed back to the mistake." For each mistake, he said he followed the required procedure and turned in a report form. "I was doing exactly what I was told I was to do."

In late July, he was fired. "They said there were too many mistakes."

After he was terminated, Dunn volunteered to work at night in the clinic as an STD screener. He was allowed to by the STD staff, but later, his former supervisor, James Harrison, told the staff that a fired employee could not volunteer.

Dickerson, a physician's assistant who works for Dr. Patsy Salvato, a member of the board and volunteer

physician at the Montrose Clinic, said he was told that he could no longer see patients at the Clinic, after volunteering his services there for five years. Dickerson said Harrison told him that the agency's malpractice insurance required that only licensed physicians perform some of the functions he previously had done.

Dickerson said it is common practice for physician's assistants to volunteer their services at clinics, as they work under the license of their physician employer. And the Clinic, he added, often now is left to operate without a physician, registered nurse or physician's assistant available at all.

As well, Dickerson said he has received complaints from patients about cold, impersonal service at the clinic, long waits for those without (recently implemented) appointments or having to return on another day after waiting. "I've had some of our patients tell me they'd almost rather go to the Thomas Street Clinic...now that's pretty bad!"

Diane Fort, a registered nurse who had been in charge of supervising clinic sessions until she was fired last month, said local doctors' interest in volunteering at the clinic has dwindled since the problems surfaced—mostly, according to Fort, since the move to the new building. "When I first started there, there was a physician there almost every night," she said. By the time she left, Fort said she observed that volunteers, in general, appeared to be getting "burnt out."

So, she said, were the staff, as seemingly less and less attention was paid to the evening clinic sessions and as employees were transferred out of the floor clinic into other areas.

The two staff members still employed by the Clinic said a shortage of qualified staff has led to a diminishing of the quality of client care at the clinic. "There are several people who are upset, but they are all keeping very quiet" for fear of losing their own jobs, they said.

The employees said they were more concerned about the Clinic's reputation than the personalities or politics involved in the terminations. Some of the firings, said one, could conceivably have been justified for reasons not related to the administrative disputes.

Still, they said, the "power politics" they claim now overwhelm the clinic's existence have led to real problems. "There are things that need to be corrected," said one. "In my opinion, we are moving away from what the Clinic was set up to be. We are no longer the great community-based service that Thomas Audette envisioned."

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Task force: offer companies incentives to rescue new AIDS drugs

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

FOR THE HOUSTON VOICE

WASHINGTON, Friday, June 30 (AP)—Drug companies need tax credits and protection against competition if they're going to jump-start development of new medicines for AIDS, a federal task force says.

The industry anticipates so few profits that they're rapidly abandoning research on new AIDS drugs, the National Task Force on AIDS Drug Development concluded Thursday. Beyond a new class of drugs called protease inhibitors that now are in clinical trials, the pipeline is mostly bare, it said.

"This is a major threat," said Peter Staley of the activist Treatment Action Group. Not just cash-strapped small firms, but "larger companies simply are dropping AIDS when they do economic calculations of what research to pursue," he said.

Companies can't spend millions researching AIDS drugs that don't make a big profit when both federal and Wall Street drug investment is plummeting, said Dr. Daniel Hoth of Cell Genesys Inc.

Beyond protease inhibitors, "the future appears considerably more uncertain," Hoth told the task force. "The investment environment is chilly to hostile with respect to investing in AIDS drugs."

The task force, composed of patients, drug makers and government and private scientists, spent a year studying how to speed development of new AIDS drugs. Currently, there are only four.

Thursday, the panel forwarded recommendations to the Clinton administration. Topping the list:—Offer a 50 percent tax credit for all clinical research into potential HIV-AIDS drugs.—Give several years of market exclusivity to all HIV and AIDS treatments. AIDS drugs once automatically got seven years of exclusivity under a law that pushes treatments for rare diseases, but too many Americans now have AIDS for those drugs to qualify any longer as "orphan disease" therapies.—Add an extra six months of exclusivity for drugs that are prepared in special infant formulations and are proved safe. Most AIDS drugs have a "lousy" track record of being studied for their effects in children, said Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David Kessler.—Also offer a 50 percent tax credit for studying additional uses for approved AIDS drugs, something manufacturers rarely do because doctors on their own prescribe drugs in new, unapproved ways.

That means, for example, that a drug approved as a last hope for patients who have failed all other alternatives eventually is used as a first-line treatment, without proof that it's good enough to replace standard therapy.

The financial incentives would require legislation to enact. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala will decide whether to pursue them.

The task force also won a pledge from the FDA to put in writing exactly when it will approve a drug based on just one test in humans.

The agency normally requires more data, but has made exceptions for drugs to treat life-threatening diseases. But so few companies know this exception exists—and consequently spend valuable time pursuing more trials—that the FDA promised to issue guidelines.

"We can commit certainly to ... one trial for serious and life-threatening diseases," Kessler said. "But I'm not sure I'm ready to commit to do it for everything."

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Cutting violent crime against gays

By **STEVE CHRYSLER**
For the Houston Voice

In spite of a small dip between 1992 and 1993, violent crimes in the USA against gays and lesbians are up 90% since 1989. While some cities have seen a decrease in such crimes, others have seen a dramatic increase in violent crimes committed against Gays and Lesbians. The attacks primarily are happening at night and to lone individuals leaving gay businesses or in gay-identified parts of town.

How To Avoid Violence

The police encourage people to avoid situations that lead to violence. "Be alert when you are out on the street, the time to relax is when you are at home or other safe environment," one gay-friendly officer explained, "be aware of surroundings, and suspicious behavior, maintain distance from suspicious groups when in a deserted area, or get out of that area." He suggested that everyone call in suspicious behavior, such as loitering groups that are mis-matched to the area, or hate yelled from vehicles. "Often these same people will later commit a bashing, this gives us a lead to follow."

Most frequently, hate crimes are committed by a group of two or more males under 25 years of age. These criminals hunt for victims, then watch or even talk to their victims first. They might pretend to cruise or approach the victim with funny conversation and then attack. They like to attack in quiet isolated areas, or deserted areas that usually have a lot of foot traffic-most other times.

Not Always Strangers

The New York City Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project's report states that much anti-gay violence occurs from people the victims already knows and often already been attacked by. One common situation is from hostile neighbors. James McElroy, an attorney who handles hate-crime and has won multi-million dollar settlements for victims, encourages people in such situations to get restraining orders. They might ignore the restraining order, but once they do, they can be sent to jail. After one aggressively hateful midwest family ignored a restraining order, the Judge gave them the choice to go to jail or sell their house and move in 30 days.

If approached and attacked, most experts agree the best thing to do is to try to escape. If you can't escape, get angry, make noise, watch for weapons, near-by other attackers, and fight back. Try not to fall to the ground, as chances are you'll be much more seriously injured there. If you have been attacked, most experts encourage you to report it the attack to the police and a community group, get counseling for yourself, and push for a civil suit.

Another Way To Fight Back

Criminal prosecution can be difficult. McElroy explained that, "Civil prosecution, can be much more effective. Some guys wear criminal prosecution as a badge of courage, BUT civil judgment against them in some states is good for 20 years. They might be some out-of-work skin head now, but you can garnish their wages anytime in the next 20 years. They can't bankrupt out of an intentional malicious act either."

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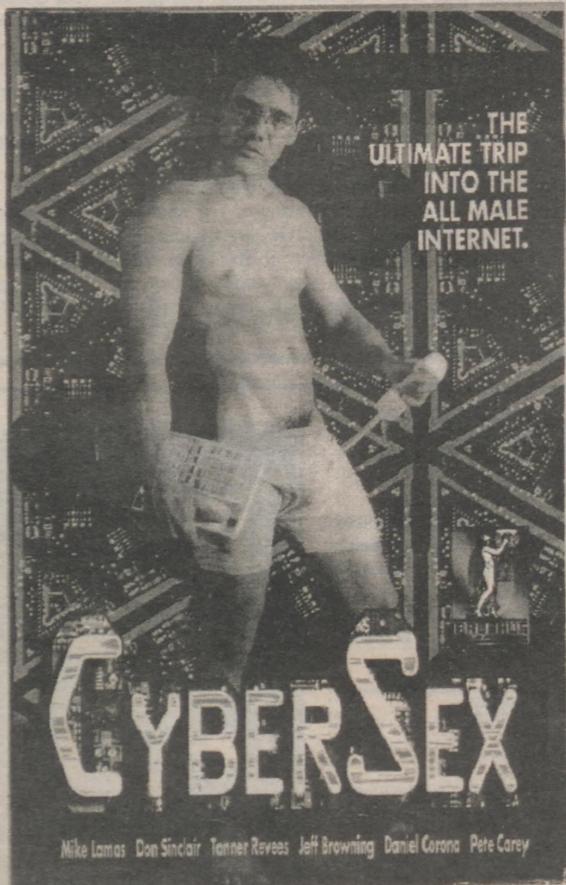
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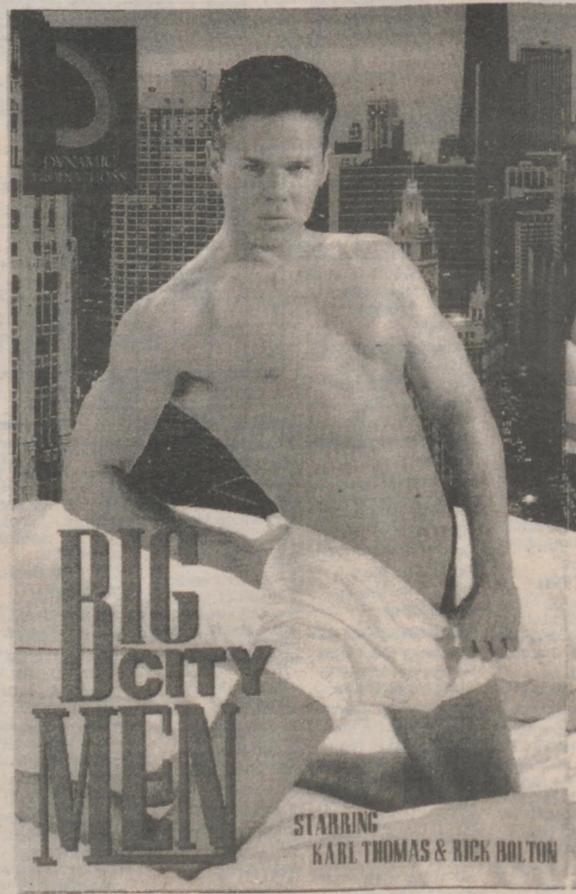
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Michigan congresswoman accused of firing staffer over AIDS fear

DETROIT, Thursday, June 29 (AP)—A former staffer of Rep. Barbara-Rose Collins, D-Mich., has filed a complaint claiming Collins fired him because she feared he had AIDS.

Bruce Taylor was fired two days after his gay partner died of the disease. In a complaint filed with the Office of Fair Employment Practices, Taylor said he was fired in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act last December.

In a hearing held by the House personnel grievance office, Collins said Taylor was fired as part of an office restructuring.

The Detroit News said today it reviewed transcripts of a hearing held between May 25 and June 22. In the hearing, Collins and

her chief of staff, Meredith Cooper, said Collins wanted to restructure the office in anticipation of Republicans taking control of Congress. They said Taylor's firing was part of that.

Taylor, 31, worked in Collins' Washington office for eight months last year, and previously worked for another congressman and the National Minority AIDS Council.

He said he wasn't fired as part of staff restructuring. He claims Collins had already given him assignments for the next session, and had praised his work openly at a staff party and a meeting several days before he was fired by Cooper.

Taylor said Collins asked him in August 1994 the "real reason" he had left the

office after he had surgery for colon cancer. She knew his partner had AIDS, Taylor said. He said Collins asked if he was HIV positive or had AIDS.

Taylor said he told Collins he had neither. He said Cooper asked him similar questions in November.

Collins and Cooper said during the grievance hearing they never asked Taylor such questions.

Taylor said his partner, Brian Walters, died Dec. 7 of AIDS, and he was fired Dec. 9 after being notified he had been docked 11 days pay and confronting Cooper. He said Cooper told him he needed to be more honest about his health, then fired him.

Cooper testified Taylor's health was not discussed in the meeting in

which he was fired.

But the News said at least one staffer testified to overhearing Cooper telling Taylor when he was fired that Collins wanted someone who was going to be "accessible." Other staffers testified Collins had praised Taylor's work.

"You're not supposed to get fired for it, even if I had HIV," Taylor said. "I did my work. They can't fire you, they can't violate ADA, it applies to them (lawmakers), too."

Taylor is seeking back pay on his \$40,000-a-year job, \$50,000 damages and attorney's fees. A hearing officer has until July 22 to issue a decision.

Lillian German, an aide at Collins' office, said today there would be no comment

before a decision from the Office of Fair Employment Practices.

"That she (Collins) would kiss me on Dec. 5, and hug me, and tell me that she loved me and that I was like her baby brother, and then she would turn around on Dec. 9 and I would be terminated—it just amazes me," Taylor said.

The House counsel assigned to the case, Michael Murray, said House rules prohibit any discussion of the matter.

The Americans With Disabilities Act prohibits employers from, among other things, discriminating against individuals with AIDS or the virus that leads to it or against "persons who do not have HIV but are erroneously assumed to have HIV or AIDS."

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