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Saturday
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Clinton supports expanding definition of hate crimes



by Sonya Ross
Associated Press

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Noting an alarming rise in hate crimes in the United States, President Bill Clinton called Monday for broader laws to penalize acts of violence based on gender, dis-

ability or sexual orientation. A once-vetoed Arizona law strengthening penalties for hate crimes drew President Clinton's praise as he urged expansion of federal hate-crime laws.

"Anybody who thinks ... that he or she can hide from the kind of poison that we see in various places in our country is living in a dream world," Clinton said earlier this week in urging that federal laws include more potential victims, stiffer penalties and better reporting. Whether we like it or not, our futures are bound together, and it is time we acted like it," he told the first White House Conference on Hate Crimes.

Arizona's law was passed this year and signed by then-Gov. Fife Symington, who had vetoed similar legislation in 1996. Arizona's first hate-crimes bill, passed in 1991, allowed gathering statistics, and 49 such crimes were reported that year. The number rose to 248 in 1996.

Though so far unused, the new law provides that targeting victims because of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender, national origin or disability can be an aggravating factor warranting harsher sentences in non-death penalty crimes.

Arizona Attorney General Grant Woods was a member of the panel for which Clinton was chairman. "In the early 1990s, Arizona had a very negative national image on civil rights," Woods said in noting Clinton's current praise. "That was really a misrepresentation of where the people stand."

Clinton said Americans can no longer ignore "what happens when racial or ethnic or religious animosity joins with lawlessness." He announced measures that include 50 extra FBI agents and federal prosecutors assigned to enforcing hate crime laws, a network of federal, state and local officials to share information about enforcing hate crimes, and tougher penalties for housing-related hate crime.

The president also endorsed a plan by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa., to expand current hate crime laws to make it illegal to injure someone because he or she is gay, disabled or a member of the opposite sex.

"All Americans deserve protection from hate," Clinton said. "We should make our current laws tougher to include all hate crimes that cause physical harm."

Inside the conference, Jews, Latinos, See CLINTON page 9

Mayoral, City Council run-off races stir debate

by Curt Morrison

In contrast to the low-key campaigns culminated with the city wide election, the run-off elections appear to be anything but. If the past week is any indication of what Houstonians are in store for during the next few weeks prior to the December 6 run-off elections, voters will be inundated with a bevy of mud slinging from the candidates in an attempt to gain their support.

Mayoral candidate Rob Mosbacher initiated the tone of the campaign immediately after the November 4 election when he released FBI crime statistics compiled while Lee Brown, his opponent, was police chief.

Mosbacher claims that if Brown is going to run on his record as former police chief of New York, Atlanta and Houston and Drug Czar in the Clinton administration, then his record should be an issue in the campaign.

The race between Brown and Mosbacher in the mayoral race is fast becoming, if it isn't already, a race between a Democrat (Brown)

and a Republican (Mosbacher), despite the fact that the race is non-partisan. Neither candidate is clandestine about their political affiliation and it is well known that the party's are supporting their respective candidates.

In recent developments, the candidates have sparred over allegedly deceptive political advertisements. Mosbacher is upset over an ad the Brown campaign was running featuring a Houston policewoman who claims she served under Brown during his tenure as police chief.

"I served under Chief Brown. I saw him take command of a police force in crisis and restore public confidence," Officer Andrea Burke says in the ad. According to news reports, Burke did not officially serve under Brown. An investigation into the matter is pending by the HPD. At issue is whether or not Burke was wearing an "official" HPD uniform in the advertisement, which is against HPD policy. According to the *Houston Chronicle*, Browns campaign main-

See RACE page 24

CPS employee allegedly demoted for removing child from lesbian couple

DALLAS - A Child Protective Services employee has filed a grievance with the agency, saying she was demoted from her job as a supervisor for removing a foster child from the home of a lesbian couple. In the grievance, Rebecca Bledsoe said she told caseworkers to remove the infant boy because "homosexual conduct is against the law in Texas."

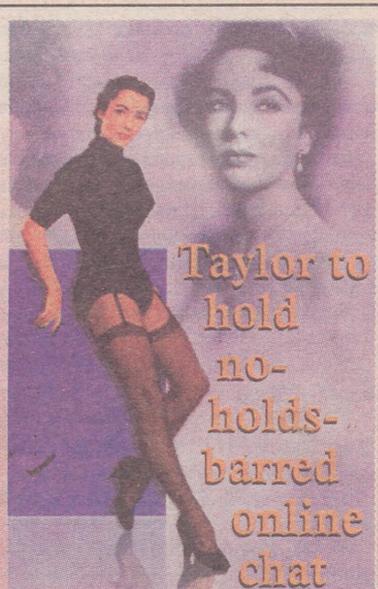
"Just as you wouldn't put a child into a family where there were known shoplifters or worse, you shouldn't put them into a place where they are expressly violating the law," said Ms. Bledsoe's attorney, Roger Evans.

A Texas law, which has been challenged, makes "homosexual conduct" a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500. In addition, Ms. See CUSTODY page 20

Cops accused of beating suspect may have been exposed to AIDS

DENVER (AP) - Three Denver policemen accused of beating a Denver man during a Halloween night arrest may have been exposed to the AIDS virus during the incident. The suspect, Robert Daniel Murphy, had AIDS, medical records and Murphy's family members confirmed Tuesday. Murphy died in a hospital four days after his arrest.

The district attorney and the Denver Police Department are investigating allegations of police brutality in the Murphy case. The officers confronted Murphy after See COPS page 20



Taylor to hold no-holds-barred online chat

CALIFORNIA - So what would you ask Elizabeth Taylor?

The actress participates in a no-holds-barred online chat at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 19 in honor of the 10th anniversary of her Passion fragrance line.

Miss Taylor said she will answer questions from her fans about any topic. The chat could be lively.

Miss Taylor's romantic failures (eight marriages) and physical trials (near-death bouts of pneumonia and a brain tumor) have long been tabloid fodder and overshadowed professional accomplishments (Oscars for *Butterfield 8* and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*).

"Who could guess that I'd be able to talk to so many new friends around the country - from the comfort of my own home?" Miss Taylor said in a statement released Tuesday.

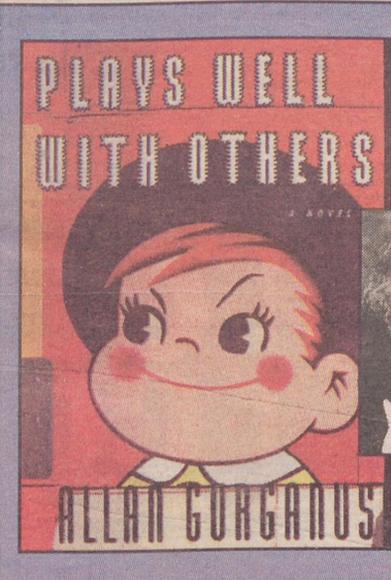
The chat will take place on America OnLine's "AOL Live" in conjunction with the Elizabeth Taylor/Passion website. As the largest retailer carrying the Passion fragrance, J.C. Penney will contain the Elizabeth Taylor/Passion site within its corporate website www.jcpenney.com.

"Passion is my very first fragrance, and I can't believe my baby is already 10 years old. They call it a classic, and to me, that is very special," Miss Taylor said.

Higher Ground



Streisand's New Album-see page 21 for review.



Allan Gurganus, author of the just released, 'Plays Well With Others,' will be appearing at Crossroads Market on Friday November 21 at 7 pm to read from, and sign copies of his latest tome. Gurganus is a prize winning author whose last book, 'Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All,' was a national best seller.

Resurrecting Anita Bryant

Angie and Debbie Winans' album 'Bold' preaches intolerance under the guise of Christian ministry

by Steve Underwood

Oddly enough, I find myself presenting not a review, but a warning—**DON'T BUY THIS ALBUM.** I know many in the gay community have a fond respect for Cece and Bebe Winans, for their talent is truly remarkable. But what we have here is two other Winans siblings blatantly condemning homosexuality under the guise of "Christian ministry."

The controversy centers around the first release from their new album, *Bold*, entitled *It's Not Natural*. The Christo-divas, perplexed by the fashionableness of sitcoms like *Ellen* and the "rising popularity" of homosexuality, feel a necessity to "help emancipate people from the sinful bondage of homosexuality." Oh really?

An excerpt of the lyrics from *It's Not Natural* go like this:

*I was chilling on the couch one night
Looking at my screen TV
There were people celebrating and congratulating
The new addition to the Gay Community [Ellen]
I was vexed in spirit
And began to write this song
It may be cold, but let the truth be told*

*It's not natural
No, that's not the way it goes
It's not natural
Just because it's popular, doesn't mean it's cool
It's not natural
No, that's not the way God planned
It's time for the world to understand*

This type of propaganda gives so much credence to that infamous bumper sticker floating around town which says, "Jesus, Protect Me From Your Followers." I don't know about most of you, but I've known my sexual orientation since as long as I've had memory. And it seems to me that my orientation is quite natural: I'm not embarrassed one bit by the fact that I adore men.

On the other hand, my preference is quite a different thing — sure, I prefer certain types of men. But why should anyone condemn and torment himself or herself under the guise of religious dogma for a state of their being which, in my view, comes from God?

It is unfortunate that most of the "Christian" world has chosen to follow such dogmatic beliefs chiefly engineered by Hebraic law and Paul, not Jesus. I find Paul wrong on so many other things. For instance, do most women recall the admonition where Paul says your salvation depends on your child-bearing ability? One can only wonder what happened to salvation through Christ!

But I take comfort in the intuition welling up from the depths of my soul that Jesus would find most Churches and "Christo-divas" of this world "none of his." Karl Marx declared, "I am not a Marxist," when he observed the perversion of his thesis known popularly as communism. Likewise, I would suspect that Jesus would say, "I am not a Christian," in response to attempts such as the *Bold* album to "minister" in His name.

Bishop Carl Bean is a presiding founder of the Los Angeles-based Unity Fellowship Church Movement, a nationwide network of nine churches with predominantly black gay congregations. Bishop Bean also disagrees that homosexuality is unnatural and he asserts that all individuals must seek and find their own truth.

"I have accepted who I am and find freedom in that and have family, friends, and a God who loves me," Bean says. "We've got to be brave enough to start saying that and feeling good about declaring our uniqueness in creation."

This world is truly on the verge of uniting, assisted by an ecumenical spirituality that unshackles the chains imposed upon it by useless religious dogma. Moreover, it seems to me that God intends to unite all his creation — including homosexuals — and to incarnate all truth into matter.

When misguided crusaders such as Angie and Debbie Winans are enlightened with this fact, then we shall all truly know what a friend we have in Jesus. And besides — why give someone your money to tell you how "bad" you are when you can get that for free.

(Steve Underwood, a DJ at Heaven and JR's, is Music Editor for the Houston Voice. Please feel free to send your comments and suggestions to SteveUH@aol.com. or feedback@houstonvoice.com - Ed.)

AUSTIN AREA UPDATE

Briefs....

The Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce meets on Tuesday, November 18 at La Madeleine French Cafe at 3418 North Lamar Blvd. at 6 p.m. Barry Izsak will be talking to the group about his businesses "Arranging It All" and "Corporate Solutions" and the organizing industry in general. The importance of becoming and staying organized will be addressed along with specific strategies for achieving this and better time management. Guests are always welcome. Call 472-8299 for more information....

The Log Cabin Republicans of Austin has its Thanksgiving Social/Mixer this Thursday, Nov. 20 at Louie's 106 at 106 E Sixth St. from 6PM to 8 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided, attire is casual/after work. The event is \$5 for non-members and free for members. Call 512-371-3585 for more information....

Out Youth/Austin's drop-in center for gay and lesbian youth is open from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. every night. Youth support groups meet every Wednesday and Sunday at 6:30 p.m. OutYouth/Austin is looking for volunteers for the drop-in center and for the help line. The group has a Volunteer

Orientation event on Tues., December 2 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Help Line Training on Dec. 8th and Dec. 15th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Out Youth's support line receives over 1000 calls a month from all over the country, and new volunteers are needed to help meet the forecast growth in calls. For more information call the business office at 512-708-1234. OutYouth's confidential help line for youths is 512-477-HELP, or 800-96YOUTH nationwide. The line is open from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. every night....

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays meets this Tuesday, Nov. 18th, 7 p.m., at Grace United Methodist Church, 205 E. Monroe St., in the Travis Heights neighborhood. For more information call 302-FLAG or send e-mail to Sally McIntosh, President at sallymc@mail.utexas.edu

Editors Note: The Austin Bureau of the *Houston Voice* has just opened! If you would like for us to publicize your organization or event, fax announcements to 512-236-1614 or e-mail them to austin@houstonvoice.com. This debut of the Austin Area Update column will be a weekly feature compiled by *Houston Voice* Austin Bureau Chief Steve Labinski.

Check us out online at...
www.houstonvoice.com

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Puzzle Solution
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Dr. McNamara to speak at Milam House annual Founders' Dinner

Milam House will be hosting their annual Founders' Dinner heralding the theme 'Come Home to Milam House,' Saturday, November 22, 1997 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 2005 West Alabama. The keynote speaker for this event will be Patrick McNamara, M.D., a well known and highly respected medical professional in the Bayou City. He will address the current state of HIV/AIDS treatment.



Patrick McNamara

PHOTO CREDIT: WORK OF ART PHOTOGRAPHY

A home-style holiday dinner will be served with a musical performance to follow in honor of Milam House according to Executive Program Director, Viktoria Botting. The performance will be presented by the Young Artists of St. Stephen's Episcopal School. There will also be a silent auction.

Tickets for the event are \$35 in advance or at the door. Tables of eight are \$280 and must be prepaid. Benefactor tables with preferred seating are \$400. For more information, call Milam House at (713) 649-6035.

Center for AIDS to present community forum on 'Immune Restoration'

The Center for AIDS, an HIV/AIDS treatment information center, will present a community forum titled "Immune Restoration," Wednesday, November 19 at the Crowne

Plaza Hotel's Main Ballroom, located at 222 West Loop South from 7 to 9 p.m.

During the past two years, important developments in the treatment of individuals with HIV infection have occurred, however, new, more powerful drugs and better disease monitoring have emerged for those infected with HIV/AIDS which have provided patients a semblance of hope, says the organization. However, the Center maintains that for patients with advanced disease, the treatment revolution is incomplete.

"Suppressing HIV is only half the battle," the organization said. "Now parts of the medical research community are beginning to focus on repairing the damaged immune system. 'Immune Restoration' will report on some of the latest and most advanced research in this area."

The panel of speakers will include: Carl June, M.D., of the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland; Clifford Lane, M.D., of the National Institutes of Health; Annemarie Mosley, Ph.D., a geneticist; and Brenda Lien from Project Inform in San Francisco and the Executive Director of Project Immune Restoration, a national think tank that meets regularly to discuss this issue.

The forum will cover a wide range of topics including treatments to boost the immune system, gene therapy in advanced HIV infection, and the clinical use of Interleukin 2 (a protein with various immunologic functions). For more information, contact Paul Simmons or Michael Peranteau at (713) 527-8219.

MCCR: Thanksgiving dinner open to community

The Metropolitan Community church of the Resurrection (MCCR) invites members of the community to worship and share dinner with them as their guests Thanksgiving Day. The service will be held at 11 a.m., followed by a traditional Thanksgiving turkey dinner at noon.

MCCR is a Christian church with a primary outreach to the "lesbian/gay, bisexual, and

transgender" community which believes it has been called by God to demonstrate his unconditional love to all people through Christian action.

For more information about MCCR or to inquire about the Thanksgiving dinner, contact the church at (713) 861-9149.

PFLAG to present 'Fathers & Sons' at Men's Network

The Montrose Counseling Center Men's Network will host a presentation by Parents, Family, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). The group will offer a panel of fathers and their gay sons at the Men's Network, Tuesday, November 25, 1997 at the Counseling Center.

With the holidays approaching, many gay men will be spending time with their fathers. In fact, some may even be contemplating "coming out" to their Dad. The panel will address the issue from their own personal experience about coming out and its impact on their families.

The Men's Network provides a safe and supportive environment for gay and bisexual men to meet others, learn and share about issues. A donation of \$3 to \$5 is requested, though all are welcome regardless of their ability to pay. For more information, contact Michael Migura at (713) 529-0037.

Bering Care Center to host 'Art Show & Sale'

The Bering Care Center, an adult health care center for persons living with HIV/AIDS, will be hosting an Art Show and Sale, Saturday, November 22, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Bering Care Center, 1440 Harold.

The show and sale will feature the client's art projects, including canvas paintings, ceramics, and Christmas items, such as ornaments, wreaths, and table arrangements. Items displayed will be available for purchase

directly from the artists.

The Care Center is a licensed adult day care facility that provides a comprehensive environment to meet the physical, medical, social, and spiritual needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Services the organization provide include nursing care, physical therapy, nutritional counseling and assessment, art and educational programs, support groups and the opportunity for healthy social interaction. For more information, contact Pam Poole at (713) 520-7070, ext. 145.

Briefs...

The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, a non-profit, all volunteer information and referral line of the Houston area is looking for volunteers for its Switchboard Volunteer Team. Callers to the Switchboard may be going through the coming out process, may be new to Houston, or may need information about community activities and services. No experience is required. A training session will be held Friday, November 21. For more information, contact James Janik at (713) 529-3211 or the message line at (713) 529-9615....

Scriptwriters/Houston will present three original one-act plays by Houston writers at Actors Workshop, 1009 Chartres, at 8 p.m., November 21 through 22 and 28 through 29. The playwrights are David Bell, Tommy Gothard and Melrose Fougere. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (713) 707-5194....

Finally, dos chicas productions (sic) will present *The Hothouse* by Harold Pinter, a British black comedy about a government penal institution for the criminally insane. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to Steven's House, an intermediate care residence for people with HIV/AIDS. The production will run Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m., November 14 through December 6, 1997 at the Zocalo Theater, 5223 Feagan. Tickets are \$8 or \$7 with a non-perishable food donation. For more information, call (713) 862-1626.

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Sex-offender registrations rise after law passed

DALLAS - A new law requiring sex offenders convicted since 1970 to register with local law enforcement has increased the number of registrations, perhaps as much as tripling it, officials said.

The number is up, "but as to how many more, I really don't have a clue," said Paul Jordan, who oversees the sex-offender rolls for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The law mandating retroactive registration became effective on Sept. 1. The DPS will calculate the number of new offenders on the books when the pace slows in a few months, Jordan said.

Previously, sex-offender registration applied only to parolees and probationers convicted since September 1991.

HGO to preset 'Plazacast' of Maurice Sendak's production of Hanzel and Gretel

HOUSTON - The Houston Grand Opera will present a free, outdoor screen presentation of the company's new production of *Hanzel and Gretel*, according to General Director David Gockley. The "Plazacast" will take place during the final performance of *Hanzel and Gretel*, Saturday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m.

The audience will sit in the Wortham Theater Center's Fish Plaza (thus "Plazacast") and see the opera on a 22' by 30' screen mounted on the Wortham's main arch. The critically-acclaimed production features sets and costumes designed by renowned author/illustrator Maurice Sendak.

"Ever since the *Cinderella* 'Plazacast,' we have sought to repeat the success of that

occasion," said Gockley. "Now through the generosity of the Shell Oil company foundation, and utilizing Houston-based video expertise, we can bring Sendak's *Hanzel* to thousands assembled on Fish Plaza."

Shell Oil Company has pledged \$60,000 to make this event possible. "Shell Oil Company Foundation, on behalf of the employees of Shell Oil Company, is pleased to make this outstanding 'Plazacast' of Houston Grand Opera's *Hanzel and Gretel* available free to the people of Houston," said Philip J. Carroll, President and CEO of Shell Oil Company.

The outdoor screen presentation of Humperdinck's much-loved opera will be modeled on the popular event that featured Cecilia Bartoli in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (*Cinderella*), in November 1995. That marked the first time an American opera company had presented an outdoor screen presentation of a live performance, and HGO remains the only U.S. company to have done so.

Houston Symphony prepares for future without Maestro Eschenbach; Exxon commits \$300,000

HOUSTON - The Board of Directors of the Houston Symphony society today pledged their firm commitment to move forward into another period of artistic and financial growth of the internationally acclaimed Houston Symphony orchestra.

"While we are disappointed that Maestro Christoph Eschenbach will not be with us as we move ahead into the next millennium, we are grateful for his superb work in bringing the orchestra to its current state of prominence," said Barry Burkholder, President of the Symphony Society. "[Eschenbach] has decided he is ready to explore new artistic challenges. Our orches-

tra is ready to continue its climb to the pinnacle of musical recognition. We will do everything possible to assure that achievement."

Maestro Christoph Eschenbach announced earlier this month that he will be leaving his post as Music Director of the Houston Symphony at the end of the 1998-99 season. In his farewell letter to the Symphony's musicians, Eschenbach paid tribute to their musicianship and their orchestral cohesiveness, calling on them to continue their artistic growth after his departure. He informed the musicians that while they may have reached their stature under his leadership, they were fully capable of achieving even greater success in the years ahead.

David Wax, executive director of the symphony, said that a search committee, with members drawn from the Board, the musicians of the orchestra, and the Symphony staff, would immediately begin the intensive process of searching for a new music director.

"Replacing someone of Christoph's unique talent will not be easy," said Wax, "but we have the luxury of having him with us to continue our orchestra's extraordinary improvement for the remainder of this season and another full year as the search goes on."

Eschenbach became music director of the Houston Symphony September 1, 1988. Under his direction, the Houston Symphony has been widely acclaimed as one of the top orchestras in the United States. He has led the Symphony on triumphant national and international tours, enriched the musical repertoire by commissioning new music, expanded the Symphony's recordings, and created the Houston Symphony Chamber Players.

Meanwhile, Exxon has committed \$300,000 to the Houston Symphony over the next five years to ensure the artistic excellence of the orchestra. Additionally, \$200,000 will be provided as part of the Exxon Challenge, a program designed to encourage others in the corporate community to support the Houston Symphony in a similar manner. For any corporation making a pledge over \$300,000 by the end of 1999, Exxon will match on a dollar-for-dollar basis the excess over \$300,000, up to a total of \$200,000.

"Exxon's support has been exemplary in setting a standard for others in Houston's corporate community," said Burkholder. "Their generous gift and challenge recognize the important role the Houston Symphony plays in defining Houston's high quality of life, as well as in retaining and attracting business to Houston." Exxon's history of support for the symphony dates back to 1945.

"The Symphony is a jewel which brings pleasure to many Exxon employees," said James R. Lowe, vice president of Exxon Chemical Company, and a member of the Symphony's board of directors. "It helps make Houston such a good place to work and live, and helps us attract highly-qualified potential employees from across the country. All of us at Exxon take great pride in being the Symphony's leading corporate sponsor."

Briefs...

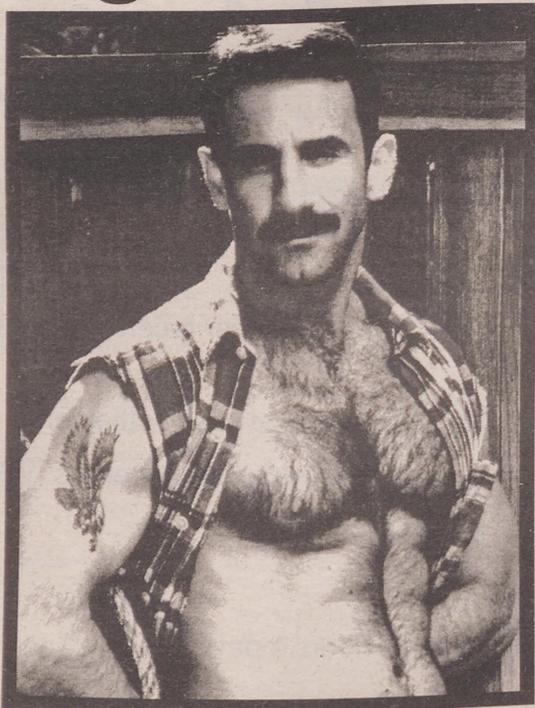
Gay rights activist and Human Rights Campaign spokeswoman Candace Gingrich will be the keynote speaker at the next general meeting of LiB, a women's empowerment group. Gingrich, sister of Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, will appear at the groups November 21 meeting at 7 p.m. at Bering United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. For more information, call the LiB information line at (713) 529-0077....

Sue Schechter kicked off her campaign for Harris County Democrat Party Chair at the Moose Cafe earlier this week on her birthday. The capacity filled crowd enthusiastically embraced her candidacy and the event drew some of the biggest names in local Democrat politics. Schechter vows she would lead the party back to number one in Houston. She stressed the importance of putting interparty differences behind and focusing efforts on taking back control of Harris County....

The Houston Steering Committee of the Human Rights Campaign launched a "We Love Mickey" campaign earlier this month as a celebration of corporate America's move to acknowledge the diversity of the communities they service. The group sees the campaign as an opportunity to show support for Walt Disney for creating an environment of acceptance and appreciation for all its employees and customers. The group asks that people donate Walt Disney toys and cash to be distributed to children at local organizations and hospitals in and around the Houston area on World AIDS Day - December 1, 1997. Drop locations are Basic Brothers (1232 Westheimer) and Custom Valet Cleaners (1900 S. Shepherd). For more information, contact Harold Schultz at (713) 665-7221....

Finally, the Houston HIV Forum, an Ad-Hoc Committee that gather opinions on pressing issues of the HIV community, will be holding its monthly meeting, November 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. at HIV Services (2223 South Loop West) in The Walnut Room (Suite 416). The focus of this month's meeting is the Ryan White Planning Council, who will be presenting topics for further involvement in gathering of opinions related to HIV issues. For more information, contact Lalo Hernandez at (281) 646-1242.

STEVE KELSO @ LOBO



Saturday, November 15
2pm-4pm

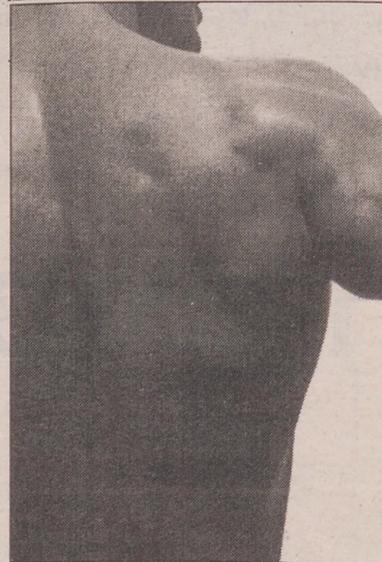
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Clinton speaks to gays but ducks public embrace of 'Ellen'

by Sandra Sobieraj

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - In a nod to the budding political clout of the gay-rights movement, President Clinton addressed a fund-raiser for the nation's largest gay and lesbian group.

Clinton's sold-out dinner speech Saturday to the Human Rights Campaign, which was greeted by a sustained standing ovation inside and pickets outside, made him the first sitting president to publicly address a gay and lesbian civil rights organization.

Keeping to relatively non-controversial territory, he steered clear of the TV show *Ellen*, which features a lesbian main character, and was being honored by the group Saturday night. Instead, he urged Congress to pass legislation protecting homosexuals from job discrimination and confirm Bill Lann Lee, his nominee as assistant attorney general for civil rights.

"When we deny opportunity because of ancestry or religion, race or gender, disability or sexual orientation, we break the compact. It is wrong and it should be illegal." He told the audience of about 1,500 that people who "aren't comfortable yet with you" need to learn to see lesbians and gays as fellow Americans committed to freedom and equality.

"Should we change the law? You bet. Should we keep fighting discrimination? Absolutely," Clinton said.

White House officials billed the event as a "community outreach" gesture not unlike his recent participation in the National Italian American Foundation dinner.

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of Human Rights Campaign, called Clinton's record "completely in sync" with her group's nondiscrimination agenda. "His presence is a powerful affirmation of the shared dream of equality for every American," she said.

Christian conservatives voiced disgust at what Andrea Sheldon, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition, called "an American president kissing up to the wealthiest extremists of the amoral left."

The other featured guest at the black-tie dinner, expected to raise \$300,000 for the campaign's political activities, was TV actress Ellen DeGeneres, who was accompanied by her partner, Anne Heche. With great fanfare, DeGeneres revealed last spring that both she and her title character on the ABC sitcom *Ellen* are gay.

While anti-gay demonstrators and AIDS protesters unhappy with Clinton's record picketed the dinner at a downtown Washington hotel, White House officials played down any controversy. White House press secretary Mike McCurry preemptively dashed speculation that Clinton would follow Vice President Al Gore's lead and embrace TV's *Ellen* for its bold plot line.

"That's not an area that he wants to particularly highlight," McCurry said. Clinton left the dinner before its program turned to DeGeneres, who, along with her mother

and Heche, met the president back stage and out of view.

Gore rankled conservatives - and surprised even some Democrats - when in a Hollywood speech last month he praised *Ellen* for forcing Americans to "look at sexual orientation in a more open light."

Human Rights Campaign's Birch claimed an independent exit poll showed that votes from self-identified homosexual voters amounted to 7 percent of Clinton's total support in 1996. Birch estimates that gay donors gave \$3.2 million to Democrats last year.

Police Chief says officers must be held to higher standard

by Ken Kusmer

INDIANA - Thirty police officers suspended for watching a lesbian sex act at a bachelor party must be held to a higher standard than others in the community, Anderson police chief said Thursday.

Two officers who organized the Sept. 11 party received two-day suspensions without pay and 28 others, including the officer preparing to marry, received one-day suspensions without pay, Chief Ed Leonard said during a news conference.

The suspensions, which the officers have five days to appeal, will be served over the next month or so as staffing in the department allows, Leonard said. Nearly a quarter of the department's 132 officers, from rookies to 20-year veterans, face the discipline. All were off-duty at the time.

"This had a lot of public opinion in our community. This made the headlines for a couple of weeks in our community, and certainly I believe the image of the Anderson Police Department has been tarnished," Leonard said.

The women danced naked during the performances at a Fraternal Order of Police lodge, and at one point performed oral sex on each other, according to the findings of an internal investigation released Wednesday. Madison County Prosecutor Rodney Cummings said no criminal charges will be filed. "There was no indication the officers paid for any sort of inappropriate sexual activity," he said.

Even though no laws were broken, watching the sex act violated the department's code of conduct, Chief Leonard said. Officers who left the party by that point were not disciplined. "There's nothing fair about being a police officer," Leonard said, saying officers will always be criticized and second-guessed by the courts, the public and those they arrest.

"It's a self-rewarding job of service and commitment to your community. ... And it's a commitment to something that we want to do ourselves. And by making that commitment to our community, we have to watch every aspect of our lives. Because we are role models, we are scrutinized in our private lives, our professional lives," Leonard said.

Leonard said the party was brought to his attention after it occurred and ordered the inquiry. Patrolman Scott Calhoun, presi-

dent of the Fraternal Order of Police lodge where the party was held, agreed with Leonard.

"I think action had to be taken on his part. I think whatever action was taken was appropriate," said Calhoun, who will serve a one-day suspension. Calhoun said the party was private and not sanctioned by the FOP. "This was the same bachelor party that everybody else has," Calhoun said. "The dancers went beyond what we expected. The only thing done wrong on the officers' part was not stopping it."

The city of about 60,000 residents is 40 miles northeast of Indianapolis.

First 700 HIV tests in Chautauqua County show one was positive

by Carolyn Thompson

NEW YORK - A single positive result amid a flurry of HIV testing has left Chautauqua County optimistic that an outbreak of the AIDS virus linked to one man may not be as widespread as initially feared.

Of the first 700 county residents tested in the two weeks after Nushawn Williams was accused of knowingly infecting several women, all but one tested negative, state Health Commissioner Barbara DeBuono said Wednesday.

Dr. DeBuono could not confirm whether the person who tested positive had any sexual contact with the 21-year-old New York City drifter or his partners. "It is good news because penetration of the virus in this community may not be what we thought it might," Dr. DeBuono said of the results.

However, no one yet knows how Williams may have affected other communities where he lived. Authorities have identified 32 former sexual partners of Williams in New York City and four in Monroe County. The results of their HIV tests were unknown, the commissioner said.

Health officials announced two weeks ago that Williams had transmitted the HIV virus

to nine of 28 women with whom he was known to have had sexual contact in Chautauqua County, and that one of the women had subsequently infected a man.

When Williams' partners in turn identified dozens of their sexual partners, fear spread that hundreds of people may have been infected through direct or indirect contact. The HIV virus usually can be detected within the first six weeks of contact, Dr. DeBuono said. Williams has not lived in the county for several months.

While the initial test results were hopeful, Dr. DeBuono warned against adopting a false sense of safety, especially among young people. "Whether they may have skirted HIV this time, they may not may be so lucky next time," she said. "This reminds us we have to redouble our efforts to empower youngsters to make the right choices," she said.

Dr. DeBuono said the state would provide a total of \$1.15 million to communities throughout the state to help them develop programs to address adolescent HIV prevention. Chautauqua County was to receive \$150,000 immediately to help pay for the expense of the Williams case.

County Health Commissioner Robert Berke said the county would expand peer counseling programs with the hope that teen-agers will take warnings about HIV and AIDS more seriously if they hear them from people their own age.

American Indian AIDS-HIV housing project wins design award

by Karren Mills

MINNESOTA - Clusters of buildings with modern octagonal-shaped roofs come to a point against the urban skyline, reminiscent of more pricey condos along the shores of Lake Superior.

But this development has risen from the American Indian culture and isn't for See NAT'L page 6



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tourists. It will provide affordable homes for Indians with AIDS or HIV. The project, named Maynidoowahdak Odena, on Friday won the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's design award.

The project was designed by architect Larry Opelt and his colleagues at the Minneapolis architectural firm of Dovolis, Johnson and Ruggieri with input from the Indian community and American Indian architect Douglas Cardinal. Opelt said he tried to meet cultural and physical needs of residents in designing the community building and 14 living units.

"The architecture was designed to reflect the Native American culture," said Opelt, the lead architect. "I believe it has worked. It has the look of the Native American community but yet it's not so specific that it could not house other cultures or people."

He said he believed it is one of the first culturally specific housing projects in the nation for people with AIDS or who are HIV positive. Most of the bedrooms face east so residents can see the sun rising.

The circle, symbolic of the American Indian view that life is a never-ending journey, is reflected in the octagonal shape of the buildings. Illness is just one obstacle residents will face to test their spiritual, emotional, physical and mental well-being during the journey.

The \$1.5 million project is being funded by government agencies and private donations. The first residents will move in Jan. 1, said Sharon Day, director of the American Indian AIDS Task Force. In the community building, which includes a unit for guests, the central open space is three stories high with windows facing in all directions to accommodate ceremonies. The residential units have handicapped-accessible bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens on the ground floor.

"The first-floor bedrooms have double French doors that open into the living area so if a person is bedridden they can still feel a part of the family, they are not isolated,"

Opelt said. "It's going to be a very supportive and nurturing environment. That was one of the design criteria," he said. "One of the reasons for creating the project was so people living there would have support from within the community."

Senator Reid to take Clinton's lead, address gay and lesbian group

NEVADA - Following the lead of President Clinton, Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., will speak to a gay and lesbian organization this month. Reid is scheduled to speak Nov. 24 to the 130-member Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Southern Nevada.

Clinton made news Saturday when he became the first sitting president to address a gay and lesbian civil rights organization, the Human Rights Campaign.

The Nevada group sought Reid as a speaker because of his support in Congress for gay rights. "He's been a very good friend of the gay community," said Tyrone Smith, co-founder of the organization. "He has a 100 percent voting record on AIDS issues."

Reid said he has been asked to address employment discrimination. "I am a supporter of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which states that someone cannot be fired on the basis of sexual orientation," Reid said.

Smith said he doesn't expect a voter backlash against Reid, despite the state's politically conservative bent. Reid is expected to run next year for a third six-year term. "Nevada is a live-and-let-live sort of state," Smith said. "Nevada became a state because people from Utah wanted to get away from religious persecution." Smith's Utah reference was to the Mormon Church, of which Reid is a member.

Janine Hansen, president of Nevada Eagle Forum, which promotes conservative issues, said Reid is "catering to... the homosexual movement." Hansen said she sees "Harry Reid as abandoning his base, the ordinary family in Nevada that has support-

ed him in the past."

Revision allows elderly gay men to pull names from sex registry

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Men branded as sex offenders decades ago for consensual homosexual acts with other adults can now remove their names from a list used to compile a public registry of rapists and molesters. The revised version of Megan's Law went into effect over the weekend.

"Gay men no longer must face the indignity of having to undergo the annual registration as sex offenders," said Elizabeth Schroeder, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. "This law is long overdue."

California's Megan's Law, originally passed in 1995, requires that dangerous sex criminals register and allows the public to see their names and whereabouts. The law was named for a New Jersey girl killed by a molester paroled in her neighborhood.

But when the state Department of Justice compiled a list of 64,000 criminals covered by the law, it included people convicted as far back as 1944 - a time when gays were prosecuted for consensual acts between adults.

Some elderly gay men were brought to police stations and warned that failing to register was a felony. State officials said the men's names would not have been shown up on the publicly accessible registry because their crimes were not severe enough.

But ACLU officials said a study due out in July 1998 should reveal how many gay men's names made it to the public registry. The amended law allows sex offenders to appeal to the Department of Justice and in court, if necessary.

HIV tests decline in Durham after anonymous testing ends

NORTH CAROLINA - The number of people seeking HIV tests in Durham County dropped in the four months after the state ended anonymous testing at health departments in North Carolina. Durham County has the highest rate of AIDS among the state's 10 most populated counties.

Twenty-three percent fewer people were tested in the four months after anonymous testing ended in May compared to the four months before that. Anonymous tests were replaced with confidential tests, which require a name and address. The person's identity is protected by federal and state laws. Under anonymous testing, no identifying information was required.

Dr. Ron Levine, the state health director, said four months was not enough time to draw definite conclusions. "There will be individual dips and peaks by months," said Levine, who pushed to end anonymous testing. It will be 18 months to two years before HIV-testing data reveal the impact of the change, he said.

Statewide, 35,744 tests were performed from May through August, compared with 37,732 tests from January through April.

That's a 5 percent decline. In Durham County, 1,210 tests were performed from May through August, compared with 1,567 tests from January through April. Workers first saw a decline in the number of people coming in for AIDS tests, but the number appears to be rising, one Durham County Health Department official said.

"They are starting to get used to it," said Detra Talley, who oversees the department's testing service. "A lot of people who complain about not having anonymous testing, once we explain what confidentiality means... they tend to be more at ease."

State health officials decided in 1991 to do away with anonymous HIV testing. That move led to a six-year battle with ACT-UP Triangle, a Durham-based AIDS activist group. The fight bounced between the state's court system and the panel that sets state health policy. It ended in April with a ruling from the state Supreme Court that said ending anonymous testing did not violate patients' constitutional rights to privacy. The state ended anonymous testing May 1.

The identifying information is necessary to fight AIDS because it allows health workers to contact more people who may have been infected by someone who tested positive for the disease, state officials said. "It gives us much greater opportunity to prevent further spread of the virus," he said.

But Gretchen Durham, an ACT-UP member, said the state can't help people who won't get tested. "What I'm hearing is there are still a lot of folks who don't understand how they can become infected and when they do understand the importance of testing, they are not willing to give someone their name," she said.

Government says landlord discriminated

ARKANSAS - The federal government is suing a Little Rock apartment owner for allegedly discriminating against individuals because of race and HIV status. The suit was filed Thursday after a Department of Housing and Urban Development investigation.

The suit claims that Betty Egner of Little Rock, forced an HIV-positive tenant, Patrick Kent Patton, to change apartments because another tenant feared catching AIDS from him. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. The complaint says she told him to move in May.

Patton was later told that he could not have black friends in his apartment and that he had to ask his friends to leave, the complaint says. Patton was given an eviction notice on July 11, but was later told he could stay as long as he agreed to no longer invite blacks to the apartment, the document says. The complaint also alleges that Ms. Egner refused to rent an apartment to another person because he is black.

Patrick O'Brien, Ms. Egner's lawyer, said he had not seen the complaint but that his client is an 80-year-old woman, bedridden with cancer, who rented homes for more than two decades. "Over time, she's rented to just about everybody," O'Brien said. "It's been odd to see how the full force of the federal government could come down on her."

The lawsuit, assigned to U.S. District Judge Bill Wilson, seeks a declaration that Ms. Egner's practices violate the federal Fair Housing Act, an injunction preventing Ms. Egner or any of her employees from discriminating on the basis of race or disability, and compensatory and punitive damages on behalf of Patton, Cooper and the Arkansas Fair Housing Council.

Emma Thompson, Sean Penn add Spice to upcoming Ellen episode

What does lesbian parenting, internalized homophobia, Emma Thompson and an evolving romantic life have to do with the other. All are in store for Ellen Morgan on *Ellen* during the November sweeps month on ABC. Sweeps periods determine a network's revenue base for the next fiscal quarter, so the networks pull out all the stunts for boffo ratings.

See NAT'L page 7

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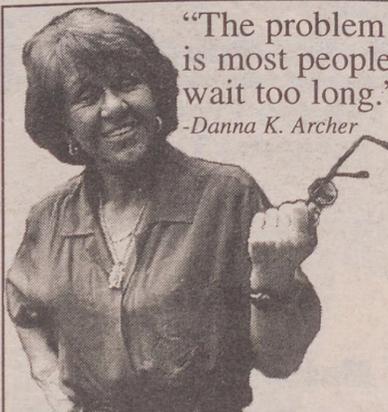
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During the November 12 episode, Ellen deals with her won internalized homophobia when she meets her new girlfriend Laurie's daughter. While Ellen feels like she needs to dance around her sexual orientation and her relationship to the girl's mother, the girl sees things very differently.

On the November 19 episode, shades of the original star-studded coming out episode return as Academy Award-winning Actress Emma Thompson and Sean Penn guest star to lend their support of the show and its innovative storylines. In the program, Thompson plays herself, but as a lesbian. Penn also does a comedic turn.

Meanwhile, the November 26 episode is the one with the controversial scene with Ellen and Laurie shown walking into Ellen's bedroom. Will ABC put an 'adult advisory' disclaimer at the beginning of the show? Stay tuned.

Survey shows gays welcome on BYU campus

UTAH - Fifty-six percent of Brigham Young University students believe gay students should be allowed to attend the Mormon Church-owned school if they obey the honor code, a survey said. And another survey found about one-third of BYU women would consider trying to change the sexual orientation of a gay man if he were romantically and sexually attracted to them.

The findings were presented during separate sessions at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, which was meeting in San Diego over the weekend. The presentations were reported in *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

In the first study, BYU student Samuel Clayton, with the help of several faculty members, gave questionnaires anonymously to 420 students in randomly selected classes. Clayton, who said he is gay, acknowledged his motive for the survey is to prove to BYU's administration that there would be student support for a club of same-sex-

oriented people.

While Mormon doctrine considers homosexuality a sin, school policy dictates that gay students who obey the honor code, which includes being chaste, can attend BYU. Clayton said the findings show him that there is a strong "progressive" segment of students at BYU, as well as a clear "conservative" voice.

Forty-two percent of those surveyed said students with a same-sex orientation should not be allowed to attend BYU. Clayton also found that 69 percent know someone who is same-sex oriented; 12 percent have a family member who is same-sex oriented; and 24 percent would avoid befriending a same-sex-oriented student.

Clayton, who said his research has been approved by the school's honors department, is now working on a survey of gay and lesbian students and staff members to evaluate their experience.

In the second survey, Larry Jensen of BYU's family studies department, along with Jeffery Rowe, Steve Davis, and Trevor Hickey, surveyed 243 LDS women of varying ages and marital status to "measure their willingness to accept as marriage partners a hypothetical person with same-sex attraction."

The results found that 33 percent would work with a gay man who was attracted to them to "develop his romantic and sexual feelings" before deciding whether to marry. Eleven percent would decline his proposal if after one year the man's attraction to males didn't change, but he promised never to have sex outside of marriage.

"These results were encouraging," Jensen said. "For those men who do, in fact, have a same-sex attraction and who would like to initiate and continue in a heterosexual relationship, there is a contingent of women who would be willing to help them."

Jensen also presented the scenario to 12 gay Mormon men. Sixty-six percent said it would be possible to increase their romantic attraction toward a woman, and 73 percent said their attraction could increase to the point of having sex with her. Although 66

percent said they could abstain from sex outside or marriage, not one of the respondents felt that their same-sex attraction could be eliminated.

Gay medical benefits considered in school contract

WISCONSIN - Contract talks between a union and the Madison School District include major disagreement over what it would cost to extend teachers' health insurance to their gay and lesbian partners.

Under a proposal made public earlier this month, the district offers to let its employees designate an unmarried partner as a spouse for insurance purposes, beginning Oct. 1, 1998. The Milwaukee Common Council rejected a similar idea 14-3 for municipal employees Oct. 14 after aldermen questioned the cost.

The Madison school board has estimated it would increase the district's annual insurance premium by \$300,000. Madison Teachers Inc. (MTI) says it would be less expense, perhaps \$20,000. If the provision is included in the contract, the Madison School District could become Wisconsin's first public employer to extend family medical insurance benefits to unmarried employees' live-ins.

Students and employees at the University of Wisconsin's Madison campus have lobbied unsuccessfully for years for similar benefits. The similar provision is a topic of contract talks between the city and its police union. MTI said the issue involves fairness for same-sex couples who cannot be married under Wisconsin law.

Madison parents who dislike the idea of subsidizing family benefits for unwed people include Linda Johnson: "I personally think it is something that will be taken advantage of."

"By allowing for defining family in a broader way, that's a value the school board is adopting and it would then penetrate into the school system," parent Janine

Bessenecker said.

In Milwaukee, a Common Council committee that reviewed the proposal Oct. 8 was told the expanded coverage would cost the city \$600,000 a year. While the committee weighed the issue, several protesters gathered outside City Hall with placards decrying "gay sex" and alluding to "sodomites and fornicators." Some carried a sign reading: "No taxation for perversion."

Questions in the Madison contract talks include how to define a domestic partner and whether to pay for the higher insurance premiums by giving teachers smaller salary increases. Wisconsin Physicians Service and Group Health Cooperative, which cover teachers, have said they would assess domestic partners at the same rate as spouses.

The contract currently allows teachers to take leaves of absence if a registered "family partner" is ill, or if a partner's relative dies. Nationally, more than 500 public and private employers offer the benefit, Ilse de Veer, a consultant with a benefits counseling service, said.

Few of them are in Wisconsin. Some national employers with operations in Madison offer domestic partner coverage, including Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Borders Book Shop, The Gap, International Business Machines, the Nature Conservancy, Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI), TCI Cablevision of Wisconsin and Whole Foods Market.

The city of Madison has an ordinance allowing coverage but it is not available as long as the city gets its insurance through the state employee insurance fund. State laws governing the fund do not recognize domestic partners.

School officials rescind students' suspensions

COLORADO - School officials have rescinded the suspensions of 22 Eaton High School students who were disciplined for participating in alternative events during

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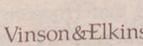
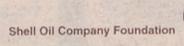
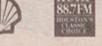
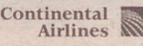
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Parker, Clinton and the media

by Larry Lingle

Not wanting to rehash the recent "Au Pair" (who knew the term before this trial?) case, I do want to vent a couple of thoughts regarding the ever vigilant press. I happened to watch Channel Eleven news Monday night after the case's judge reduced the sentence.

The overly intense anchors first implied that heated English anger to the original verdict affected the Judge's decision and then they cut to local interviews with persons on the street, so to speak, for a reaction. Now there is qualified legal opinions. As Judge Hiller Zobel himself noted in his reversal of the jury's verdict "in this country, we do not administer justice by plebiscite."

These two television anchors showed about as much sensitivity to the law as they usually bring to most of their stories - none. The big story of the trial itself was the decision by the defense to spurn the manslaughter verdict which the judge was compelled by the law to superimpose over the jury's finding. The press continues to state that this was a gamble taken by the au pair, Louise Woodward, in hopes of forcing a not guilty verdict.

Only *Newsweek* magazine bluntly pointed out that her lawyers, Barry Sheck and the others, were all working for the company which brought Woodward to this country as an au pair. Had the jury found for manslaughter - which requires no intent - this company would be civilly liable, whereas a murder conviction - which does require intent by the perpetrator - would allow the company to avoid such liability.

It was also *Newsweek* which pointed out that Woodward's attorneys proposed the strategy to her with the argument that it would be the best road to acquittal. There is perhaps greater justice that appears on the surface with Judge Zobel's reversal. Stay

tuned for the victim's family to file a major civil action against the represented company. And, it would come as little surprise if

tion. Recently Senator Charles E. Grassley, a Republican, and Senator Ron Wyden, a Democrat, attempted to end this practice

Such monumental moments in history as the President of the United States addressing a major gay function will remain just that, a brief moment in history, unless we, as a community, translate that into action on a local level. Annise Parker is our entry to a place at the table. ... Life is about seizing opportunities, and this is our best shot to date. In any election post mortum let it not be said that Houston's diverse gay and lesbian community could not find the commitment needed on a day of judgment."

Barry Sheck is retained to defend the company.

On an entirely different subject, if you follow the arcane United States Senate you are perhaps aware that the old-boy school of representation has a rule which allows any senator, without his or her name being disclosed, to put a hold on any piece of legisla-

with a rider on an appropriations bill.

Surprise, some unnamed senator killed the rule change. No reason given, none required. The extremity of this abuse was seen recently when, from October 1995 until February 1996, various Republican senators, unnamed, repeatedly put holds on legislation which would make health insurance

more readily available to persons who either lost or changed jobs. When a vote was finally taken the measure passed by 98 to 0 in the Senate. Who were the culprits? You certainly wouldn't know from the "no" votes, now would you.

Some time ago I gave up on David Letterman as a source of humor, maybe being in second place (actually third, also behind *Nightline*) he seems to have gotten desperate. But having suffered through the aforementioned Channel 11 news, I stayed tuned for Letterman's opening which included his take on President Clinton's groundbreaking appearance before the Human Rights Campaign dinner in Washington last weekend.

Letterman, who always seen a skirt behind every Clinton move, made repeated jokes about Clinton appearing before a roomful of 1500 lesbians. Well, certainly there were lesbians at that dinner. And yes, the organization has a lesbian director, and the other major guest was a lesbian comic, but clearly neither Letterman nor his writers actually watched C-SPAN or they would have realized that it was not an exclusively lesbian audience. But then Letterman could not make his usual Clinton skirt-chasing jokes. Well, at least Letterman has refused to kick his old friend, Marv Albert, with jokes about hair pieces, dog collars or dressing in drag.

And while I'm about it, how about that HRC dinner? Only a few years ago we had a president who could not even say "AIDS", let alone gay and lesbian. Even longer ago, the mere hint of being gay was a quick ticket out of government service (of course that is still true if you are in the military). Here we are at the end of another century and the President of the United States is the honored speaker before a black-tie audience of gays and lesbians in a major hotel in the nation's capital.

Moreover, in the audience were some fifty of the more than one hundred gays and lesbians currently serving in the Clinton administration. In Republican days every gay or lesbian serving in government represented a corresponding closet. And, in most cases, such closeted individuals tried to out-conservative their colleagues.

Actually, last Saturday night I attended Houston's Black Tie Dinner in which Clinton's former surgeon general, Dr. Elders, delivered an impassioned speech before a sold-out crowd which included another doctor and former Cabinet official, Lee Brown, candidate for mayor. His presence, so far, has not been noted in the local press. The biggest hand of the evening, however, was reserved for our own Annise Parker who has achieved a runoff spot for a citywide council seat.

Brown's base of support, the African-American community, showed their numbers in the last election. Motivated by the affirmative action referendum, blacks turned out in numbers usually only seen in presidential elections. And there was a concerted effort in the community to translate that vote down the ticket for other black candidates. This strategy nearly thwarted Parker's well-run campaign. While receiving major black endorsements this minority's votes went to black candidates in the District 1 race.

At the same time, Montrose turnout was less than impressive. In fact, it was among the lowest in the city. Hopefully, in the runoff, those black endorsements will translate into votes. The third place finisher has already endorsed Annise. But of greater importance, the gay and lesbian vote must turn out, and in far greater numbers than voted last week.

Such monumental moments in history as the President of the United States addressing a major gay function will remain just that, a brief moment in history, unless we, as a community, translate that into action on a local level. Annise Parker is our entry to a place at the table. She has put together an effective, broad-based campaign and raised money to put her where she is today - in a runoff. Now she needs our support more than ever, and our money. Life is about seizing opportunities, and this is our best shot to date. In any election post mortum let it not be said that Houston's diverse gay and lesbian community could not find the commitment needed on a day of judgment.

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Sunday, November 16 • 9 pm
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What Choice?

by Leslie Ramsay

Now that the city elections are over and my temper has cooled, I feel calm enough to write. I was walking down the hall the other day on my way to the office, when I passed by a group of people discussing the inevitable run-off elections. I temporarily joined them.

People often gather in the hallway discussing politics in this building because the Democrat Party Headquarters is next door. Most often the conversation involves some Democratic precinct chairman from Pasadena or Galena Park trying to drop off some important papers and there is no one in the office to receive them. But that's another column all together.

So, this group of people was describing the two choices we have in the December run off election for mayor. They didn't favor either one. They described Brown in very unflattering terms. They slammed his campaign staff really hard. They were hoping that Brown would do something soon or all hope would be lost.

Then they moved on to Mosbacher. Mosbacher is "nothing but a rich boy, who has had everything handed to him on a silver platter." They commented on the fact that Mosbacher only recently moved into Houston so that he could run for mayor. They didn't bother to mention that Brown had done the exact same thing. As soon as they brought up the class issue I laughed out loud and returned to my office.

The first election was an exercise in racism, "black versus white", and the run-off will be a "rich versus poor" campaign. Brown was born to a modest income family while Mosbacher's family was stinking rich. Therefore, to the majority of people in the hallway outside of my office, Mosbacher doesn't deserve the job. He hasn't "earned it."

I am really tired of the rich versus poor argument. Mosbacher and Brown both were given at birth, the exact same thing. Their families fed and clothed them both to best of their abilities. Both men have worked in and around politics for a good part of their lives. So both of

them know how to pretend not to be politicians all the while moving in and around with the very best of them.

Whether their families drove a Mercedes or a Chevrolet to work everyday has no bearing on whether or not they can pick sewer contractors who won't flood the entire neighborhood as they are rebuilding the underground sewer system. City hall work does not require a degree from the school of hard knocks or Harvard.

I had the opportunity to speak with Lee Brown at the beginning of his campaign for mayor. He was slick, smooth and prepackaged. It was early in the campaign so his six part plans to solve the cities problems were only four part plans. I am confident that by the time he is elected his plans will be so convoluted that they will "need further study".

Brown had prepared policy decisions to placate our groups desires. He will solve our key issues and concerns with the stroke of a pen. He plans on following in his former boss's footsteps by doing everything that is the slightest bit controversial by executive order.

Executive orders are like proclamations from the sovereign. If you don't like what the King has ruled, get rid of the King and the rule no longer applies. Executive orders are only as good as the person issuing the order is in power. Laws and ordinances are much harder to change or eliminate. Popular majority is harder to override.

Mosbacher on the other hand is making no such placating or patronizing promises. He is standing firm on his see no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil ignorance. He sees no problem with saying and doing things that will hurt his gay sister, as long as he gets elected.

Mosbacher reminds me of Gary Polland. Polland is the Harris County Republican Party Chairman. He was very involved in the Jewish community before deciding to pander to the hate mongering conservative religious right gang that rules the Harris County political machine. As soon as he saw an opportunity to get elected he changed. His anti-Jewish statements were well documented during the Republican National convention in San Diego.

Wanting to be elected to public office is a very destructive thing to your own core beliefs.

CLINTON/from page 1

Asians, African-Americans, disabled people and homosexuals, such as California State Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl, vowed to work together to eliminate hate against people just because they are different. "We're all prepared to be there for each other," Kuehl said to the group of about 350.

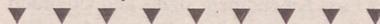
Outside the George Washington University auditorium where most of the conference took place, a group of about 10 protesters sang hymns and carried signs saying "God hates fags," and "God's hate is no crime." In addition, the conference drew at least one note of protest. The National European American Society, a private advocacy group for whites, took exception to being excluded from the conference.

Clinton also announced that the

National Crime Victimization Survey used by the Justice Department will now include questions about hate crimes. "If a crime is unreported, that gives people an excuse to ignore it," he said. The expanded survey will give a better measure of the number of hate crimes and insight into how they occur.

According to Justice Department statistics, 8,759 hate crimes were reported in 1996, compared with 7,947 reported in the previous year. White House officials said they are not sure whether the increase indicates that hate crimes are up or reporting has improved.

Race was a factor in 63 percent of all reported hate crimes, followed by religion, 13.9 percent; sexual orientation, 12 percent; and ethnic origin, 11 percent. The White House did not provide a breakdown by race.



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homecoming week. Eaton Principal Gene Huser said last week the district wanted to avoid an expensive legal fight with the American Civil Liberties Union, which had threatened to intervene on the students' behalf.

In a letter to students and parents, Huser wrote: "The district administration believes that money which might be spent defending litigation with an uncertain outcome could be much better spent on programs for the benefit of district students. Accordingly, I have directed the high school staff to expunge the suspensions."

The students were barred from the rural Weld County school after they organized events that included activities recognizing gays and promoting safe sex. The ACLU argued that suspending the students violated their First Amendment rights and Colorado law.

"As you know, students do not give up their First Amendment rights at the school-house gates ...," the ACLU's Mark Silverstein wrote to Superintendent Jerry Walseth. "Students cannot be disciplined because of their ideas," he wrote. "Nor can they be disciplined simply for silently and peacefully expressing their opinions. Yet it appears that this is precisely what happened in this case."

The ACLU also said Huser never notified parents of the suspensions as required by Colorado law. Students suspended on Oct. 16, 17 and 20 will be able to make up missed schoolwork and tests for full credit, Huser wrote. And the suspensions will not be disclosed to colleges and universities, military recruiters or employers.

Believe it or not, Ripley pulls 'The Color Purple,' other books for content

WEST VIRGINIA - Several books were removed from school libraries in Ripley because of sexually explicit language, homo-

sexual content or violent imagery, including Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, John Grisham's *The Client* and Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October*.

The Jackson County School Board ordered 16 books taken from the shelves of school libraries pending a review of whether they should be banned outright. But the board decided not to bother reviewing the *The Color Purple*, which it ordered banned.

The novel, about the growth of a Southern black family during the first half of the century, touches on incest and lesbianism and presents a harsh picture of racism and family brutality. The book was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1983.

"It could lead to different sex games and violence and other things we have seen in past," board member Bernard King said of the decision to ban the book. Also among the books taken out of circulation Thursday was *100 Q & A About AIDS*, said Ripley High School Principal Jack Wiseman.

Most of the books "are classics or will be," said Wiseman, who disagreed with the board's action, spurred by a complaint from the mother of two students. "This lady wants to shield all students from homosexuality and apparently there's some of that in some of these books," he said.

Kelly Rose, a senior, said most students were opposed to the board's decision. "All the things I have read I have been exposed to (already) and I think many other students have too," she said.

Central students rally for gay professor

IOWA - Students at Central College led a rally in support of professor Bob Schanke, after the openly homosexual theater professor received two threatening letters over the weekend. Schanke admitted the incident rattled him.

About 300 faculty and students turned out Thursday to rally behind him. "I was just thrilled and warmed and buoyed by it," Schanke said after the rally. "It was very

reassuring that people will not tolerate harassment of any kind."

Central is affiliated with the Reformed Church in America. The college and town have a conservative reputation, but Schanke said he had encountered little harassment. Faculty and administration at Central supported him, including financing his research on gays and lesbians in American theater history, he said.

Central spokesman Rob Dillard said the school is investigating the letters thoroughly.

Two police officials investigated for remark about colleagues

GEORGIA - Two top-ranking officers in the Chatham County Police Department are accused of using an offensive term to refer to female co-workers. An internal affairs investigation is under way, but Maj. Billy Freeman and Capt. Doug Burkhalter have not been suspended, county officials said.

The *Savannah Morning News* reported last week that Freeman and Burkhalter are accused of referring to a female officer and a police secretary as "dykes," a derogatory term for lesbians.

Freeman and Burkhalter were unaware that a police radio was broadcasting their comments as they sat in a county-owned car, the newspaper said. The conversation was taped by police dispatchers and turned over to a supervisor.

William Bell, an attorney for one of the women, said she and her family have been devastated by the remark. "The statements that were made were false - they have no basis in fact. She's married and has a family," he said. Freeman and Burkhalter declined comment.

Fifth-grade students share needle in science project

OHIO - At least 18 fifth-graders used the same needle to take their own blood during a science class experiment, according to a published report. Several diseases can be transmitted through the shared use of needles, including hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that can be fatal, and the virus that causes AIDS.

The students at Western Reserve Middle School took the samples so they could examine their blood under a microscope, the *Norwalk Reflector* reported Monday. The needle was disinfected with alcohol, but the Western Reserve School District later found out that may not have been enough to stop the possible spread of disease, Superintendent Dennis Bahmer said.

Parents have been notified of the experiment and will decide if their children should be given blood tests to check for disease, he said. Telephone messages seeking additional comment were left for Bahmer this week. The experiment was conducted about three weeks ago.

Bahmer declined to identify the science teacher at the school, which is in this village about 10 miles east of Norwalk. There was no word whether any disciplinary action would be taken against the teacher. The newspaper said it found out about the experiment from two parents who were upset about the procedure.

New York case recalls 'AIDS as Weapon' convictions in Oregon

OREGON - A man facing possible assault charges in New York for allegedly having unprotected sex with women while infected with the virus that causes AIDS could have been in worse trouble in Oregon.

Nushawn Williams, 20, has admitted to having unprotected sex with at least 80 women, one as young as 13, in exchange for drugs. He likely will be charged with assault and endangerment in New York. Prosecutors in Oregon, however, already have gotten two convictions for attempted

murder against men who knowingly passed along HIV. A similar case will go to trial next month in Newberg.

The first case was in Multnomah County, where a conviction drew praise from people who said it encourages responsible sexual behavior. But critics said the county was on a witch hunt for people with HIV.

Multnomah County has not charged anyone with attempted murder for knowingly passing on HIV since 1994. Prosecutors say they are no less vigilant, but that the cases simply haven't come up. "We didn't mean to be leading the country," said James McIntyre, senior deputy district attorney and head of the county's Violent Crimes Unit.

McIntyre said the county never was targeting people with HIV, but simply was considering HIV as a weapon, the same as a knife or gun. "A lot of people are under the misapprehension that if someone has AIDS and unprotected sex, they would be criminally prosecuted," McIntyre said. "There has to be criminal intent," which is difficult to prove, he added.

In Oregon, an attempted murder case will be heard Dec. 2 in Yamhill County. Prosecutors say Andrew Lee Boyer, 35, of Newberg knew he was infected with HIV but forced an 18-year-old mentally handicapped man to have sex with him.

About half the states have made it a crime for anyone knowingly infected with HIV or AIDS to have unprotected sex without informing their partner, said Lawrence Gostin, author of a 1996 report on AIDS litigation.

Oregon has a statute against willfully causing the spread of any communicable disease, but it rarely is used in AIDS cases, prosecutors said. Instead, they rely on assault and attempted murder laws. Across the country, charges of attempted murder in such cases are rare.

Laws that outlaw intentionally exposing another person to HIV have been upheld as constitutional, and prosecutors have obtained convictions for behavior including spitting, biting and blood splattering, according to Gostin. Dr. Sophia Chang, director of HIV programs for the Kaiser Family Foundation near San Francisco, said public health officials are leery of laws that may breach the confidentiality of AIDS patients.

There are 1,642 reported cases of AIDS in Oregon. Between 4,000 and 8,500 people in Oregon are HIV-positive, according to the state Health Division. Since 1981, 2,474 Oregon residents have died of AIDS.

The laws protect people who are irresponsible and don't get tested while unfairly targeting people who do get tested, said Catherine Hansenns, director of the AIDS project at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York.

"What they're really criminalizing is the knowledge of HIV," Hansenns said. "It's undermining efforts to get people tested and get them to behave safely."

James Hormel nomination stalls in Senate

CALIFORNIA - President Clinton's nomination of James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg - and the first openly gay ambassador in U.S. history - has been stalled by two conservative Republican senators. Sens. James Inhofe, R-Okla., and Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., have placed "holds" on the nomination, blocking a Senate floor vote on Hormel's confirmation, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Tuesday.

With a congressional recess upcoming, the vote almost certainly will be delayed until next year, the newspaper said. Hormel, a businessman and an heir to the Hormel Meat Co. fortune, is on the board of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's leading gay-rights organization. He has contributed at least \$120,000 to Democratic candidates and causes since 1995.

Ironically, he encountered no difficulty before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., a vocal opponent of gay rights. The

See NAT'L page 11

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committee recommended his confirmation at a hearing last month.

Gary Hoitsma, a spokesman for Inhofe, said Monday the Oklahoma senator was "concerned that the nominee has a long background of promoting the gay-rights agenda and might use this post to promote this agenda."

"We're under no illusion that we're going to be able to stop this nomination," Hoitsma said. "We just don't want the Senate's agreement to this nomination to be seen as agreement to a pro-gay rights agenda, such as same-sex marriages and quotas and preferences in hiring."

Susan Kennedy, spokeswoman for Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said Feinstein doesn't know exactly what concerns Inhofe and Hutchinson have, "but we will try to address them and move this nomination forward."

Minority publishers complain about lack of federal ad dollars

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Publishers of newspapers aimed at minorities want a bigger slice of the federal government advertising budget.

"We're not getting a share of the pie. ... We would like to have the federal government let us know the reason why," Eddie Escobedo, president of the National Association of Hispanic Publications said Monday at a news conference.

"It disturbs me to no end that we have been slighted," added Dorothy Leavell, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, which represents black-owned newspapers. Leavell said the groups have written to President Clinton about what she said is a longstanding problem. "We are going to give the president a chance to correct this," she said.

If Clinton fails to act, Leavell said, the groups will take their complaint to the Federal Trade Commission, contending that the advertising agencies that handle government accounts are violating antitrust laws by ignoring their publications. Neither the White House nor officials of the American Association of Advertising Agencies returned calls seeking comment.

To pursue their effort, the two groups, along with the National Asian Pacific Publishers Association, have formed the Coalition of Minority Owned Publications. In their letter to Clinton, the groups complained that minority publications received less than 1 percent of the \$670 million spent on advertising by federal agencies in 1996.

Of the total, \$117.5 million went to magazines and newspapers, according to *Advertising Age*. Andres Tobar of the National Association of Hispanic Publications said federal ad spending in minority newspapers totaled \$3.35 million. Of the largest spending agencies, only the Department of Housing and Urban Development places ads in minority publications regularly, the minority group representatives complained. Leavell is publisher of the *Crusader* newspapers in Chicago and Gary, Ind. Escobedo publishes *El Mundo* in Las Vegas.

Ypsilanti prepares for citizen input on discrimination policy

MICHIGAN - A City Council committee has completed work on a proposed non-discrimination ordinance. Gay activists say they are pleased, but bracing for a fight.

The ordinance, which will be open to public comment at a town meeting Nov. 18, bars discrimination based on characteristics including sex, age, national origin, disability, income, height, weight and sexual orientation. Those violating the ordinance could be fined up to \$500. The policy refers to discrimination in housing and employment as well as public spaces, such as restaurants.

Gay rights organizations, including

Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project and Ypsilanti Citizens for Community, had fought for inclusion in the policy. Both groups issued statements praising the ordinance. But activist Charles Duty, a member of both organizations, said he believes the groups will still have to convince some Ypsilanti residents to include sexual orientation in the ordinance.

In particular, Duty said a group called Citizens Opposed to Special Treatment is taking aim at passages of the ordinance that protect homosexuals. That group's spokesman, Kelvin Taylor, could not be reached for comment at press time.

Ex-YMCA director pleads guilty to 209 sex counts

KENTUCKY - A former executive director of the Frankfort YMCA on Monday admitted he had sexually molested boys. Mike Kennedy pleaded guilty to all 209 counts of a felony indictment for unlawful transaction with a minor or use of a minor in a sexual performance. In return, Assistant Franklin County Commonwealth's Attorney Larry Cleveland said he would recommend a 60-year prison sentence.

Franklin Circuit Judge Roger L. Crittenden scheduled sentencing Dec. 5. If Crittenden imposed the recommended sentence, Kennedy could be considered for parole after eight years. Kennedy was taken Monday to the jail in neighboring Shelby County.

When Kennedy was indicted April 30, Frankfort police said five boys, 11 to 17 years old at the time, were molested from 1988 through 1996. Four worked at the YMCA and a fifth was a friend of an employee. Police said many of the sex acts occurred in Kennedy's office at the YMCA or at local motels. Prosecutors said alcohol and overnight trips were involved.

Six weeks before the indictment, Kennedy was cited for molesting a teen-age boy who first came forth with allegations. Kennedy resigned from the YMCA a week later. Cleveland said a plea agreement was offered in part to spare victims from having to testify.

Inmates say state covered up prison rapes

UTAH - Utah Corrections officials are challenging claims by their predecessors last year to accreditation authorities that no prison sexual assaults had occurred in the previous two years, a newspaper reported.

"We didn't write this (accreditation report), and I disagree with it," says Dale Schipaanboord, the prison's clinical services administrator. "I remember (the claim of no sexual assaults) being an issue - raising eyebrows within our own department." He was quoted in a copyright story published Sunday in *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

Recently appointed Corrections director H.L. Haun said he also finds it difficult to believe no prisoner was sexually assaulted over that time period. He said he would investigate the matter. The review by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care culminated in the first-ever accreditation of Utah's prison medical system and came months after legislators required national accreditation.

Sexual assaults are one factor considered in accreditation. Commission standards in that area alone would not have prevented accreditation. From 1994 to 1996, the number of Utah inmates grew from about 3,400 to nearly 4,500. State officials told the commission's team that during that period not a single inmate had been raped, sodomized or forced to engage in sexual activity.

But documents obtained under the Utah Government Records Access and Management Act show that from 1992 to 1995, allegations of sexual assault were investigated at the prison about 10 times each year. And in 1996, the Corrections Investigations Bureau investigated about 15 sexual assaults at Draper and Gunnison, according to Corrections' annual report to the Legislature.

Inmate Ricardo Rodriguez was convicted of forcible sexual abuse in March 1996 and was sentenced to up to 15 additional years in prison. Corrections officials did not include this 1996 sexual attack in their report to the accreditation commission.

"The whole system is set up for guys to get you," said Rodriguez's victim, Edward Boyd, who was paroled in August. "You never know what's coming, and then there it is, bop, somebody's raping you." Statements to investigators described an environment where some inmates are sold as prostitutes in a system ruled by a few prisoners who deal in drugs, gambling and sex.

The prison's medical director at the time of the review, Dr. Robert Jones, said he doesn't find it difficult to believe the unblemished record. Jones was part of the Utah team that assisted the NCCHC tour and review. At the time, he also worked part-time for NCCHC analyzing other state prison hospitals seeking or renewing accreditation. "During the time they did their check, I believe that is the case," he said, acknowledging that most inmates probably fear the consequences of reporting assaults.

The review involves interviews with inmates and a sampling of medical records. Schipaanboord said it is possible that a com-

puter search missed rapes at the prison because most cases are referred to University of Utah Medical Center.

Salt Lake attorney Ross Anderson said the oversight fits in a longstanding pattern of prison officials attempting to avoid legal liability by denying a problem exists. "They absolutely are lying," Anderson said. "They don't want the public to know what's going on in the prison."

Briefs...

Gay activist Jim Mangia, who has served as Interim Secretary for the National Reform Party since January, was elected overwhelmingly to serve a full, two-year term as one of four top party officers....

The San Diego Gay Men's Chorus will perform at this year's Superbowl in January at Qualcomm Stadium. This marks the first time an openly gay group or performer has performed for an NFL sponsored event....

Finally, President Clinton will honor Troy Perry, the founder of the largest gay and lesbian church denomination in the world, along with 120 other religious leaders at a White House ceremony November 20, according to the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

COURT WATCH

Killer sues Daily News, probation department for saying he has AIDS

by Samuel Maull

NEW YORK - Serial killer Joel Rifkin has filed a lawsuit alleging that the *Daily News* and the state Probation Department illegally reported that he has the AIDS virus and caused him to be beaten in jail.

Rifkin, who admits he killed 17 women, says in court papers that after the article was published on Jan. 23, 1996, he became a fre-

quent target for physical attacks by other inmates at Rikers Island. The article says Rifkin explained his murder spree by telling probation officers "a prostitute infected him with AIDS. Contracting the deadly disease fueled his hatred of women ..."

Rifkin's court papers, written in his own hand, say he believes the article was responsible for the beatings because they started Jan. 24 and ended Feb. 7, when he was transferred to state custody. Rifkin's papers also complain that city Correction Department officials failed to protect him in jail, but that agency is not named as a defendant.

A hearing on Rifkin's lawsuit is scheduled See COURT page 12

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COURT/ from page 11

for Dec. 23. The suit asks for monetary damages but does not say how much. Rifkin, 38, is now in protective custody at the Attica Correctional Facility, doing several life sentences for a two-year, metro-area killing spree.

Police arrested him in June 1993 after stopping his pickup truck for a missing license plate and finding a dead woman in the back. Rifkin told authorities he picked up most of 17 victims in Manhattan, had sex with them, killed them and dumped their bodies on Long Island and in various areas of New York City.

During his trial in Nassau County in 1994, Rifkin said he feared he had AIDS because he had sex with so many prostitutes. After his conviction at that trial, Rifkin pleaded guilty in Suffolk County, Queens, the Bronx and Brooklyn, and was given life sentences in each murder case.

Rifkin's suit, filed last week in Manhattan's State Supreme Court, says he believes it was a violation of state law for the *Daily News* to publish "confidential and protected information." Eve Burton, vice president and general counsel of the *Daily News*, said, "I haven't seen the papers. But any allegation that the *Daily News* is not entitled to publish information it got legally is entirely incorrect."

In court papers, Rifkin says the article suggests that probation officers provided the information about him. He says it is a violation of state law for public officials to disclose that a person has AIDS. Jack Ryan, spokesman for the Department of Probation, said his agency had not been served with court papers and therefore he could not comment.

The article also says authorities were skeptical of Rifkin's claim that he had AIDS because he had offered other reasons for the killings. Kathleen Trum, Rifkin's lawyer in his Queens and Brooklyn cases, said, "As of the last time I had any contact with him on this issue, he had tested negative for AIDS."

She said this was shortly after he arrived at Attica.

Rifkin acknowledges that he might be filing his suit too late to beat the statute of limitations. He asked the court to make an exception for him if necessary because any delay was caused by his imprisonment.

Judge gives woman right to visit children of her former partner

NEW JERSEY - A Superior Court judge has given a woman the right to visit the children of her former partner while awaiting a custody and visitation trial.

Judge Philip Cummis ruled in Newark earlier this week that visitation can continue until the trial in March.

Some say the case could eventually set a precedent for gay and lesbian couples in New Jersey, who can not marry and are not protected by domestic partnership agreements. "It's unfair to the kids to cut off visitation if I find she's a working part of the family," Cummis said.

The two women, whose names were not released, lived together, bought a house together and committed to each other in a religious ceremony after one had twins in 1995, *The Star-Ledger of Newark* reported. The women raised the children together in Maplewood until they broke up in August 1996.

The biological mother, identified only by the initials M.B., is arguing that her former partner doesn't have visitation rights or legal standing to seek joint custody of the three-year olds. Cummis did not make a formal ruling on the issue of visitation.

He ruled that the woman, identified by the initials V.C., can continue visiting the twins every other Saturday. After the ruling V.C. said: "This is right. We are a family, we have been a family every since they were born ... I'm just as much a mother to them. I'm a mother to them with all of my heart."

Mark Biel, the lawyer representing the biological mother, said V.C. should have no parental rights. "We are dealing with a third party," Biel said, "not a biological or adoptive person."

Gay rights activists and the American Civil Liberties Union say the case is an example of problems faced by gays and lesbians who can't marry in New Jersey. "You're talking about no legal status with these women," Gina Reiss, president of the New Jersey Lesbian & Gay Coalition, told the newspaper. "Under the law they're strangers to each other."

David Rocah, a lawyer for the ACLU of New Jersey, said if the judge eventually issues a written opinion it could influence other cases regarding lesbian and gay visitation rights.

State seeks to dismiss gay marriage lawsuit

VERMONT - The attorney general's office asked a Superior Court judge to dismiss a lawsuit seeking to legalize gay and lesbian marriages. Restricting marriage to unions between a man and a woman, contained in a variety of Vermont laws, is not unconstitutional because it furthers legitimate state interests, the attorney general's office said on Monday.

"Every time these statutes employ gender-

based words they demonstrate the legislative intent to treat marriage as a state into which only opposite-sex couples are eligible to enter," the state said. "Neither the text of the Vermont Constitution, nor Vermont history support finding a fundamental right (to same-sex marriage) in this case."

Monday was the deadline for the state to respond to a lawsuit filed this summer by a gay couple and two lesbian couples. They demanded the right to marry, arguing their constitutional rights were violated when their town clerks refused to issue them marriage licenses, citing a 1975 opinion by the attorney general.

In its filing Monday, Attorney General William Sorrell's staff said nothing had changed that would construe Vermont's laws to permit marriages between two men or two women. If such a change were to be made, Sorrell's office said, it would have to come from the Legislature, not the courts.

"The social policy debate of whether to allow same-sex couples to marry should be addressed to the state's most democratic institution: the Legislature," the state said. "That body is uniquely suited to assess the appropriateness of social change through legislative hearings and debate," it continued. "It has the capacity to examine the hundreds of laws relating to marriage, marital status, child custody and family issues and determine which would be affected by an expansion of the definition of marriage."

GLOBAL NEWS

Kenya's AIDS-resistant prostitutes offer hope for vaccine

by Karin Davies

MAJENGO, Kenya - The two cousins have a lot in common. Divorced and desperately poor, both work as prostitutes out of their tiny, tin-roofed huts in a no-hope slum to feed their children.

They share intimacies, child-care duties, and meals and money when one needs a hand the other can give.

Hawa Chelangat, 34, and Hadija Chemutai, 31, also share what to them is a blessing in their otherwise cursed lives - they are apparently immune to the deadly AIDS virus.

"Because my blood has remained clean, I just feel it is God who has been good to me," said Chelangat, a devout Muslim. "It's luck, and God has been so good." As a prostitute for 14 years on a continent where more than half the world's 23 million HIV-infected people live, she is, indeed, lucky to be free of the AIDS virus.

Since AIDS appeared in Kenya in the early 1980s, the sexually transmitted disease has infected 95 percent of the prostitutes who work in the Majengo slum on the outskirts of Nairobi. The cousins are among just 60 women out of 1,864 who have visited the Majengo clinic for prostitutes since 1985 and remained HIV-negative for three or

more years.

"We think they are immune to HIV," said Dr. Frank Plummer, a University of Manitoba physician who is principal researcher at the clinic. "We are calling it resistant - we are not calling it immune - but we have a lot of evidence that their immune systems are able to recognize and kill HIV."

If the source of the prostitutes' protection can be identified, it could yield new clues for creating a vaccine against AIDS, Plummer and researchers not involved with the clinic said. That Chelangat and Chemutai are cousins is important. Researchers have strong evidence HIV-resistance clusters in families.

"We think there's something fundamentally different about their immune systems that is mediated by genetics, and we're trying hard to track it down," Plummer said. It isn't just safe sex that has kept the prostitutes HIV-free, he insisted.

They, too, sometimes contract other sexually transmitted diseases, such as gonorrhea or syphilis, a sign that they don't always use condoms. Women in the study for a decade, including the cousins, would have experienced about 500 unprotected exposures to the AIDS virus, Plummer said.

To feed their families, the cousins entertain about five men a day each for the going rate of 20 Kenyan shillings, about 30 cents. That is the price of a loaf bread, not enough to buy a cold Coke. The cheap price is what makes the prostitutes of Majengo so popular.

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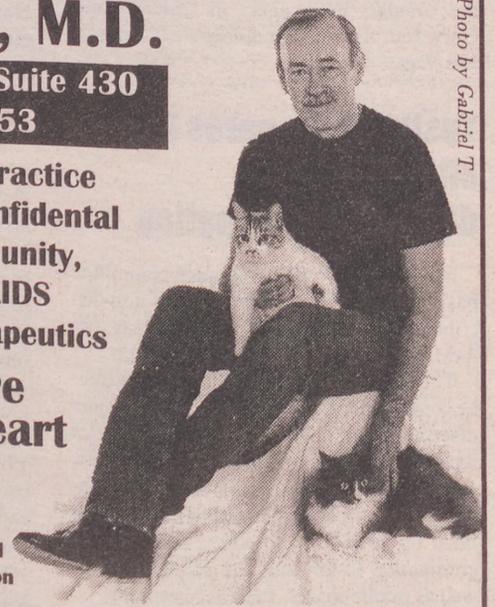


Photo by Gabriel T.

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Men come by for a few minutes on the way to work or at lunchtime. Women like Chelangat and Chemutai are just another commodity in the rundown, square-mile market town within sight of the towers of downtown Nairobi.

People come to Majengo from all over the country to buy secondhand clothes and shoes donated from abroad, mosquito nets, sheets, food - "everything, even a human head," a clinic nurse said, exaggerating the array.

The slum is so poor that shriveled bulbs of garlic are sold by the clove. Seventeen families crowd into 17 rooms at the warren Chemutai calls home. Women carefully wash tattered rags that are Sunday best and hang them on clotheslines crisscrossing muddy yards.

Amid the poverty, Chelangat and Chemutai are working mothers struggling to provide for their families. They are self-employed - there are no brothels, no pimps in Majengo. They work during the day while their children are at school.

Chelangat didn't have many customers in October. Schools were closed by a teachers strike, and rain kept the two youngest of her five children indoors on bunk beds pressed against the double bed where she usually works. "When the children have gone to school, I just work here in my house. But if a client comes, and the children are here, then I ask him to go out and look for lodging for the sake of privacy," Chelangat said.

Chemutai, too, tries to keep her work from the children, shooing them away when she has customer for the lower deck of her bunk bed. "We try to keep our business as private as we can. We are looked down upon," she said, hoop earrings bobbing rhythmically to her soft-spoken words.

Both women turned to prostitution - Chelangat in 1983 and Chemutai in 1987 - because divorces left them with no incomes and children to support. Chemutai said she was cast out of Kericho in central Kenya because "it is taboo for a divorced woman to stay in the village."

Chelangat's easy smile and lineless face framed by a scarf cheerfully festooned with blue peacocks belie her hard-scrabble life. "I was left alone to care for these children, having to work like this to provide for them. It has not been easy."

One of bright spots in the cousins' lives is their friendship. "I am so grateful to be next to my cousin. We can visit each other, share ideas, help each other as family," Chemutai said.

Although her unusual status as HIV-resistant might be good for business, Chelangat said she doesn't tell customers. They probably wouldn't believe her anyway. Besides, she doesn't want to give them an excuse not to use condoms. "They don't know that my blood is clean. They just come," she said.

Chemutai said she is afraid her luck will run out. "It has been so difficult for me because we see people around us who go down with HIV and AIDS and die. It's a natural fear that maybe one day my blood will turn positive and I will die," she said.

Experts: AIDS may be No. 1 killer of young Latin American men by 2000

by Michael Astor

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) - AIDS should overtake automobile accidents as the leading cause of death among young men in Latin America and the Caribbean region by the year 2000, according to AIDS experts.

By the year 2000 the number AIDS deaths for men between the ages of 15 and 44 should reach 72.2 per 100,000 compared to 45.7 per 100,000 deaths in automobile accidents, said Dr. Daniel Tarantola, chairman of the Monitoring AIDS the Pandemic (MAP) Network and director of the International AIDS program at the Harvard School of Public Health. And while AIDS in Latin America is still largely limited to homosexuals and intravenous drug users, the epidemic's spread was especially threat-

ening to the region's impoverished populations.

These were among the conclusions reached by more than 40 experts from three continents at a two-day seminar on AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean region sponsored by the MAP network. "It is imperative for governments to take action and focus on these neglected groups," Tarantola said Thursday.

For Latin America and most of the Caribbean region, where an estimated 1.6 million people live with AIDS, the epidemic is still in its initial stages and does not appear on the brink of a catastrophic spread into the general population, Tarantola said.

One reason for this is that, aside from Rio de Janeiro and the Brazilian port city of Santos, the incidence of heterosexual transmission from prostitutes is still relatively low. But that does not mean that public policy makers should let down their guard.

"Because the epidemic is not yet mature, there is the potential to intervene in a way no longer possible in other parts of the world. But there is there is no time to waste, because this opportunity will not last more than a few years," said Dr. Luiz Lourdes UNAIDS team leader for Latin America.

Doctors called for increased understanding of behavior patterns among the risk groups and a system to track people with HIV, the

virus that causes AIDS, and not just those who have died of AIDS. A major problem in mapping the disease's spread in Latin America is the lack of such a system. "A system like this is only a question of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it would be invaluable, especially if one day a vaccine is developed," Tarantola said.

Dr. Peter Lamptey director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's AIDS Control and Prevention project stressed the cost effectiveness of investing in such a system as well as other preventative measures. "It costs between \$10 and \$20 to prevent HIV per case, while treatment costs between \$6,000 and \$10,000," Lamptey said.

The doctors also called for increased AIDS education in the region with a special focus on the young and the disadvantaged.

AIDS death brings panic and prejudice for Indian village

by Donna Bryson

CHOCHI, India (AP) - What the villagers of Chochi know about AIDS, they learned in fear and humiliation. And the lesson, vil-

lage head man Azar Singh says, is simple: "It's a very dangerous disease - and it's a shameful disease."

There is not one telephone in all of Chochi, and the trip west from New Delhi, though only about 40 miles, takes two hours along narrow, rutted roads. But when a bus driver from Chochi reportedly died of AIDS earlier this year, the obscure village of 5,000 people was suddenly thrust into a harsh national spotlight, raising questions about how the government deals with AIDS patients and educates people about the deadly disease.

Experts say HIV infections are rising alarmingly in South Asia, and Indian officials fear AIDS will have a devastating effect on the desperately poor nation of nearly 1 billion people. An estimated 2.5 million Indians have been infected with the AIDS virus, the World Health Organization says. Yet educational campaigns to combat ignorance about AIDS are limited, and there are few counseling centers even in cities, let alone rural areas - problems that became apparent in the case of Ranbir Singh.

Singh, who drove a bus in New Delhi to supplement the farming income of his family in Chochi, had been losing weight and strength for weeks when he finally went to the public hospital near his village last

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spring. Doctors held him overnight for tests, then discharged him after telling him he had tested positive for HIV and advising him to go to the main public hospital in New Delhi. Singh, who was not related to his village head man, Azar Singh, died two days later.

A few weeks later, a local newspaper, quoting district health officials, reported that not only did Singh die of AIDS, but that he had been receiving injections of bogus medicine from a village healer who may have passed the virus to dozens of Chochi residents with re-used needles. Within days, the village head man recalled, a team from the district hospital descended on Chochi, going door-to-door with flip charts explaining how AIDS is spread and advising everyone to be tested.

Reporters from New Delhi's national newspapers came next, followed by televi-

sion cameras. Chochi was suddenly a parish. Gyanendra Singh, a Chochi native who works as a technician at a pharmaceutical plant in Chandigarh, a city 120 miles away, said co-workers who knew his hometown suddenly stopped chatting with him. "As soon as they read the newspapers, everyone was sure each and every house in Chochi had AIDS," he said during a recent visit home.

Chochi blamed the outsiders, and demanded the hospital withdraw its team of AIDS educators. "Our honor was at stake. We didn't need information," Azar Singh said. As the head man spoke at his home, four villagers sat behind him on a string cot, interjecting supportive hums every sentence or so.

Renuka Chowdhury, India's health minister, said the district hospital should not have discharged Ranbir Singh without doing more tests. And if they confirmed the initial diagnosis, they should have counseled him

about the implications of being HIV positive, she said.

Chowdhury also said that officials should not have released Singh's name to reporters and that Chochi residents should have been dealt with more sensitively. She said India's AIDS campaign, financed by a five-year, \$84 million World Bank grant that runs out this year, needs more of everything.

New Delhi, the national capital with an estimated 12 million residents, has only four AIDS counseling centers. Most rural areas have none at all. Educational programs using posters, skits and radio and TV ads have to be increased to reach isolated pockets like Chochi and should focus as much on living with AIDS as avoiding it, Chowdhury said. "Every era has seen a disease that isolated and stigmatized," she said. "One day, society will treat people with AIDS just like people with TB. They won't be shunned."

Purushothaman Mulloli, a social worker from New Delhi who has virtually adopted Chochi, said India's AIDS system is flawed. Education focuses too much on high-risk groups like intravenous drug users and prostitutes, giving other Indians the impression they need not worry about AIDS, he said. Chowdhury agreed. "AIDS has permeated all sectors of society ... and that is because we went into denial. Now we are informing everyone."

But Chochi residents are no longer listening. When they do speak to reporters now, it is to deny that Ranbir Singh, or anyone in Chochi, had AIDS. His widow, Kaushalya, will say little more than "it's a lie," when asked about what has happened to her family and her village. His father, Mange Ram, insists his son died of tuberculosis and worries he'll never be able to find husbands for his three young granddaughters.

"We still feel ashamed of this whole episode," Azar Singh, the head man, said. "That is the outcome, nothing more than that. Our village has been branded."

Teachers' Federation funding court challenge

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) -

The British Columbia Teachers Federation is donating \$40,000 toward a court challenge of the Surrey school board's ban of three books dealing with homosexuality. At its representative assembly Friday, about 160 federation members agreed to donate the money to court costs estimated at about \$90,000.

The challenge was sparked by the Surrey school board's decision last spring to ban the three books, written for kindergarten and first-grade students, because each features same-sex parents. The books are *Asha's Mums*, *Belinda's Bouquet*, and *One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads*.

A Surrey kindergarten teacher, a Surrey mother and others took up the cause to fight the ban on the grounds that it violates the Charter rights of gays and lesbians. Teachers federation president Kit Krieger says the contribution is meant to support the court challenge and "combat homophobia and sexism in the schools. The thrust of the case to protect the members of the Surrey teachers association and students against sexism and prejudice is a sound one," he said.

The federation support is a huge gain for the petitioners, said lawyer Joe Arvay. "It's an important development because it demonstrates this case is not only of importance to the gay and lesbian community, but ... to everyone who cares not only about the quality of education but the equality of education," he said.

The Surrey school board is disappointed, but not disheartened by the federation decision, said chairman Robert Pickering. "It's unfortunate that they would donate to such a political cause," he said. "But I still feel the board was jurisdictionally correct and that the decisions the board made about this whole issue were correct and not discriminatory."

Several trustees, including Pickering, have said they don't want the books or anything else in schools that portrays "the lifestyle" of gays and lesbians as normal, because that may violate the beliefs of some parents.

A pre-hearing on the case is scheduled for Dec. 3, and Arvay predicted it will go before the B.C. Supreme Court early next year.

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Alleged pedophile captured in Honduras, extradition begins

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - An Australian accused of mass child abuse has been arrested in Honduras and proceedings begun to return him to Australia to face trial, officials said Tuesday. New South Wales state Police Minister Paul Whelan said proceedings were underway to extradite 56-year-old Robert "Dolly" Dunn, who is facing 91 charges in Australia mostly relating to sexual abuse of children.

Dunn, who has been on the run since being exposed as an alleged pedophile at a major inquiry into police corruption and protection of child abusers, was tracked down in the Honduran capital Tegucigalpa after police learned of his whereabouts about two weeks ago.

"He (Dunn) was arrested in Honduras this morning. In conjunction with Australian federal authorities extradition proceedings are now underway to return Robert Dunn to Sydney," Whelan told state Parliament. Dunn earlier eluded police investigators after being traced to Indonesia about 18 months ago.

State Police Commissioner Peter Ryan said Dunn was arrested at 4 a.m. (1700 GMT) with the help of local police, Interpol, the Australian Federal Police, the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and the FBI after a lengthy investigation by the NSW Police Child Protection Enforcement Agency.

Dunn would be taken into the custody of United States officials to facilitate his extradition to Australia. Honduras police captain Danilo Orellana said Dunn, who owns a home in Tegucigalpa's east end, was arrested at an up market hotel in the capital and offered no resistance. The extradition is not guaranteed because Australia and Honduras do not have an extradition agreement. Federal Justice Minister Amanda Vanstone said she understood Honduran authorities had ordered Dunn's deportation.

Holiday home videos shot by Dunn and an adult male friend, named only as "Jedda," were shown to the public as the Wood Royal Commission into police corruption opened its inquiry into pedophiles in March, 1996. Explicit still photographs from Dunn's collection, which featured adult men and children, were shown in con-

fidence to media covering the inquiry, but not the general public.

Swiss report says new drugs reduce AIDS death risk dramatically

BERN, Switzerland (AP) - HIV-infected people in Switzerland have two-thirds less risk of dying than they did two years ago, according to a study published Friday in the *British Medical Journal*. The Swiss team who carried out the study, led by Dr. Matthias Egger of Bristol University, attributed the improvement to the efficiency of new "anti-retroviral combination therapies" involving a cocktail of drugs.

According to Egger, the Swiss study is unique because of the breadth of patients covered. "These are the first results that show that combination therapies are highly efficient in a representative and unselected group of HIV-infected people," said Dr. Manuel Battegay of Basel University Clinic, co-leader of the study.

Many experts recommend treating people with new anti-viral drugs as soon as they are diagnosed with an AIDS infection. Over 5,000 men and women took part in the study from September 1988 to February 1997 at seven Swiss HIV units. The report analyzed patients' progression and death rates.

The findings for 1995-96, the first year that the new therapies were used, show a "marked reduction in progression rates," says the team's report. In addition, the risk of both a first AIDS-related illness and of death were reduced by more than half.

Compared with patients studied between 1988 and 1990, the risk of developing full-blown AIDS was down 73 percent and the risk of death fell by 62 percent. The figures contrast with progressive but limited declines in previous years. The report said the reductions were similar for men and women and for different age and transmission groups.

Patients studied had been infected in a variety of different ways and were allowed to join the study regardless of what stage of HIV/AIDS infection they had reached. The report is hopeful but cautious about further reduction in AIDS death rates thanks to the new drugs. Many doctors worry that the combination drugs will lose their potency as the virus develops resistance to them.



sion comes in a soft gelatin capsule that delivers more drug through the body than Invirase, the FDA said.

One study showed that after 16 weeks of treatment, twice as many patients who took Fortovase had undetectable levels of the HIV virus in their blood as did patients who took Invirase, the FDA said. The reason? The original hard capsule of Invirase took so long to dissolve in the digestive tract that enzymes had a chance to degrade it, leaving less to enter the bloodstream and fight HIV.

The soft formula combines the drug with an oil-like substance that is rapidly digested, so more medicine can get to the bloodstream, Roche said. The FDA said Friday that Fortovase's side effects are similar to those of Invirase, including diarrhea, nausea and abdominal discomfort.

Roche will continue to sell the older Invirase for six months, giving the 40,000 Americans now taking Invirase time to switch to the new formula. The company recommended that patients consult their physicians to determine if and when to switch.

"We're hoping that most people will switch," said Roche's Dr. Sandy Pallega. "There are many patients doing well on the current formulation. ... Those patients would have a more durable effect" on Fortovase. But Roche pledged to make limited amounts of Invirase available if some doctors decide not to change their patients' medicines.

AIDS experts recommend that most patients take combinations of drugs that generally include one protease inhibitor with two other types of anti-HIV medications. The dosage of Fortovase is 1,200 milligrams taken three times a day with meals.

Health commissioner warns against home HIV tests

NEW YORK - The county health commissioner has warned people not to use

home HIV-tests given away free in the wake of publicity surrounding a man accused of knowingly infecting at least 10 women with the virus.

"The intention is good, and the tests are accurate," Chautauqua County Health Commissioner Robert Berke said Thursday. But he urged pharmacies to send people to the health department for tests so they can receive counseling.

Three Rite Aid drugstores and the Home Access Health Corp., which markets the kits, organized the give-away. Berke said people may prefer using the kits, which provide the results by mail, because they fear that their names will be made public if they go to the county health department.

The name of Nushawn Williams, accused of knowingly spreading the virus, was released last week after prosecutors obtained a court order. Prosecutors considered him a public health threat. However, Berke said the health department normally adheres to the confidentiality laws, which prohibit the release of names of people who have the virus that causes AIDS. "That information is strictly confidential, and we protect it. It is sacrosanct," he said.

More than 900 people have gone to the county health department for HIV tests since last week. Berke said none of those people reported having direct contact with Williams.

Hundreds of dubious health claims found on Internet

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Hundreds of potentially false or deceptive claims concerning treatments for diseases such as AIDS and cancer have been discovered on the Internet.

The Federal Trade Commission said the claims were found during North American Health Claims Surf Day, split between Sept.

See HEALTH page 16

FDA approves more potent version of AIDS drug

by Laurai Neergaard

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a more powerful version of the AIDS drug saquinavir, setting the stage for thousands of AIDS patients to switch their medicine.

Hoffman-La Roche's Fortovase, the improved version of the protease inhibitor saquinavir, will be on pharmacy shelves the week of Nov. 17. The company said it will cost the same as Invirase, the old brand of saquinavir - about \$5,700 a year wholesale.

Saquinavir was the first of a powerful new class of AIDS drugs called protease inhibitors to hit the market, in December 1995. But at the time, the FDA cautioned that saquinavir was the weakest of these new drugs, and Roche immediately began strengthening it. The new Fortovase ver-

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29 and 30, by the FTC and public health agencies and consumer protection groups from Canada, Mexico and the United States.

Surfers found more than 400 World Wide Web sites and numerous Usenet newsgroups that contain promotions for products and services claiming to help cure, treat or prevent AIDS, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and multiple sclerosis.

As a result, the FTC sent hundreds of e-mail messages to Web sites and newsgroups pointing out that advertisers must have evidence to support their claims. It plans to revisit the sites in coming weeks to determine whether changes were made.

Health officials defend city's AIDS rates

MISSISSIPPI - Health officials are taking issue with a report that Vicksburg has an unusually high number of AIDS and HIV cases.

Kearney Waites, one of the social workers who runs Vicksburg's 807 Clinic for AIDS patients, told *U.S. News & World Report* that the clinic's 61 patients represent only a tenth of the people infected in Vicksburg and Warren County.

"AIDS is so prevalent that police officers carry as many rubber gloves as they do bullets," the magazine quotes Waites as saying in its November 10 edition.

The issue cites Vicksburg as an example of a rural area where the AIDS epidemic is growing rapidly because of drugs, poverty and risky sex. The city is featured in a report on a Jamestown (Chautauqua County), N.Y., man accused of infecting dozens of people with the AIDS virus.

Waites said Wednesday that he provided the magazine with only an estimate of

the number of people he suspects of being unknowing victims. "More than 10 percent don't have a clue," he said. "They won't until they get tested."

The state Department of Health, which tracks AIDS cases across the state, reports that Warren County had 48 AIDS and 92 HIV cases in October, said Craig Thompson, director of the department's STD/HIV division.

Thompson said the figures show the state and county following a national three-year trend of declining AIDS cases. So far this year, Mississippi has had 19 AIDS-related deaths; 75 in all of 1996 and 171 in all of 1995.

"To say that Vicksburg is having an epidemic is hogwash," Waites told *The Vicksburg Post*. "We are doing nothing different than in the past to spread it any faster. Vicksburg is no different from any other town like it."

The magazine also reported that Vicksburg had its own version of Jamestown because an HIV-positive man had been named by 52 women as the sexual contact who is believed to have given them syphilis or gonorrhea. A dozen of the women, ages 14 to 20, also tested positive for HIV, the article says. The carrier would not visit the clinic for fear Waites would tell people he was positive, according to the article.

"I honestly don't know where they got it," said Marie Woodrick, a nurse at the 807 Clinic who also is quoted in the article. She said Wednesday that the allegation came from another patient. Salena Greenlee, Warren County Health Department nursing coordinator, said she also was unfamiliar with the allegation.

"To compare this with what happened at Chautauqua is not right," Thompson said. "The circumstances are totally different. It would be very irresponsible to say that it could not happen, but it is extremely unlikely," he said.

Browser Wars

by Steve Labinski
Austin Bureau Chief

The 1980's brought us the "Cola Wars" of Pepsi and Coca Cola. Today, we witness the Browser Wars between Netscape and Microsoft. Web browser's, the software that allows people to read web pages on the Internet, represent the latest frontier in computer software. Both companies last month released the

4.0 versions of their browser software to much publicity, including news of Microsoft receiving legal action from the US Department of Justice. Let's see what the latest volley in the browser wars means to users at home, and to businesses using them in the workplace.

First, if you are a novice, perhaps about to buy your first computer this Christmas, don't worry. Both Netscape and Internet Explorer are outstanding, full-featured products. Both allow the user to visit websites and view the pages using the latest standards.

Netscape capitalized on the quick, sudden growth of the Internet several years ago, and it soon became the de facto web browser. Consequently, thousands of people are dedicated fans of the software which has served them well over time. Today, Netscape enjoys a large majority of the browser market.

However, Microsoft has relentlessly been improving and honing its browser product. Its latest release, Internet Explorer 4.0 (or IE 4.0), attests to the fact that they fully intend to dominate the browser market as soon as possible.

As a Netscape veteran starting with version 2.1, I found Netscape 4.0 to continue as the most highly usable, and fully functional web browser on the market. The dull gray screen icons have been replaced by sharp 3-D buttons. It also has a customizable toolbar, which can include bookmarks to frequently visited sites. You can now drag-and-drop the current page into your bookmarks folder. The menu bars are collapsible, to

make more room for website viewing on the screen. Most of the new features in Netscape 4.0

improve its functional use as well as enhance the program's overall look and feel.

Microsoft's Internet Explorer originally debuted with Windows 95, and at the time clearly appeared to have been rushed through as an afterthought, simply to get into the market. Subsequent releases have ramped the program up significantly. IE 4.0 shows that Microsoft is no longer content with simply matching Netscape's features. They can smell blood, and have added a number of useful features in its browser.

IE's most significant new feature, and controversial, is the Active Desktop. It literally turns your desktop screen into a web page. Installing IE 4.0 appears more like upgrading to a new version of Windows 95 then adding a piece of software. All the Windows menu toolbars and your desktop folders are integrated into the web browser. Everything can be dragged-and-dropped into each other.

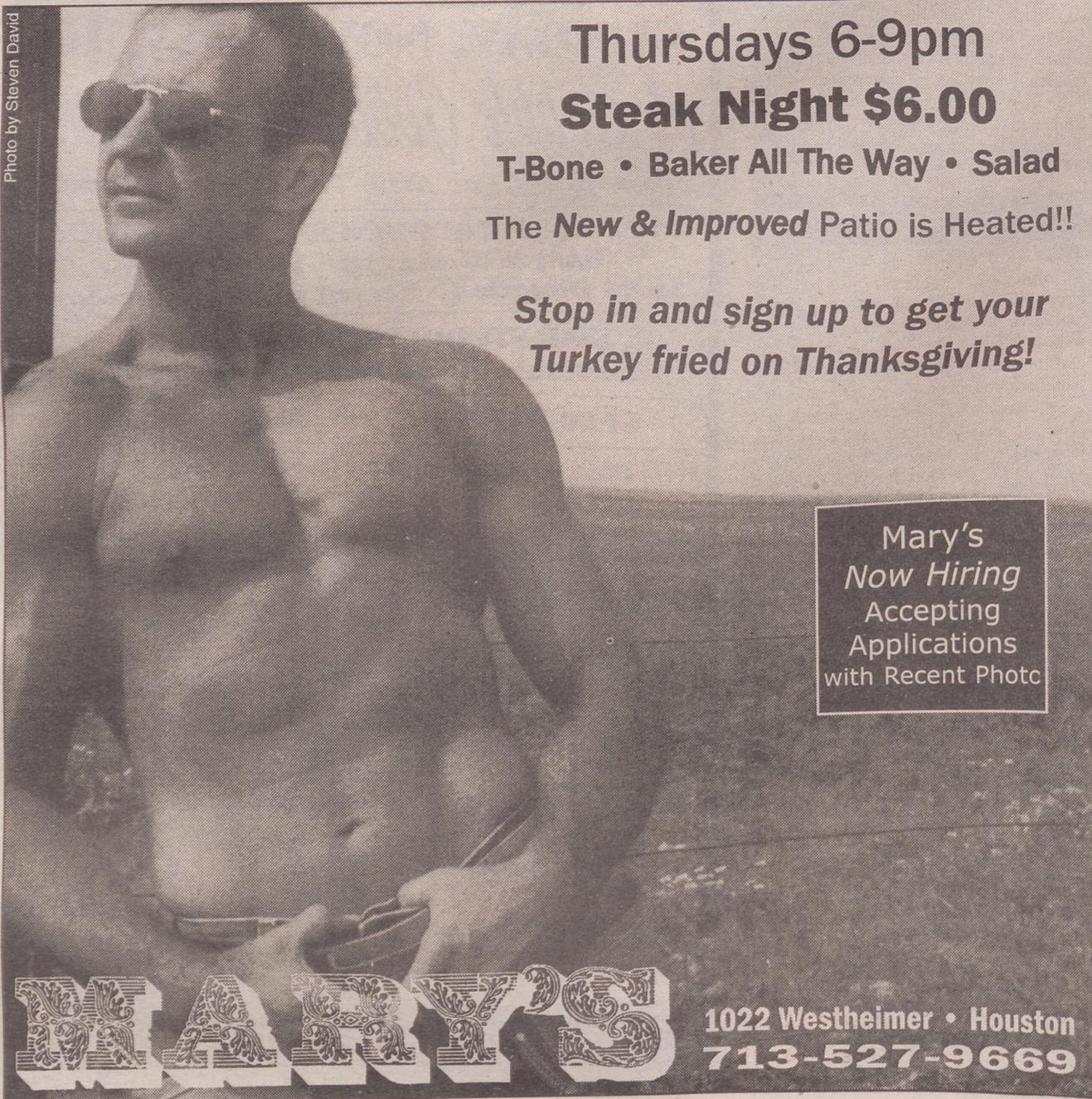
This is a substantial change, and if you are happy with the look of your Windows 95 desktop, you may dislike IE 4.0. People's reactions to the new interface will be polar - either they love it or they hate it.

IE 4.0 includes a great e-mail program called Outlook Express. It handles multiple users and mailboxes, filters-out unwanted messages, and allows me spell check my messages before sending them. Businesses can use Outlook Express to send secure, encrypted e-mail - increasingly important as more business and similar sensitive information moves online. I have used Eudora as my "old reliable" e-mail client for years, but intend to finally mothball it for one of the clients built into IE or Netscape.

Push Broadcasting

Probably the latest browser feature that is the most talked-about is "push technology". Users are able to subscribe to "channels", special web sites that send information to the
See POP TECH page 17

Photo by Steven David



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POP TECH/from page 16

user throughout the day. For example, you can add a channel to broadcast the stock prices from your portfolio every 15 minutes to your desktop. Or perhaps have sports scores and related news appear as they happen throughout the day.

Netscape 4.0 includes Netcaster, which allows the user to subscribe to a set of content channels. Current Netcaster channel providers include Wired, CNNfn, ABCNews.com, Yahoo!, and ESPN Sports Zone. Netscape periodically gets new information in the background, while you work on your computer. Serious content is under development and will not be available for several months.

Some will find the content channels provide lots of useless information, and prefer the old-fashioned "pull technology" of going to a website and finding the information they want when the need it. I found the available channels to be little more than flashy websites, and not worth the trouble of going through the setup. IE 4.0's Active Channels aren't much the same. People have questioned whether push technology can deliver information in a useful way. Since it is certainly not going to go away, it will be

interesting to see how it is developed in the next generation of browsers. 1998 will be the year "push-technology" finds a need, and an audience.

The 4.0 releases from both companies are actually interim releases to stay competitive with their opponent. IE 5.0 will be included in every copy of Windows 98, Windows NT 5.0, and the next version of the Microsoft Network. Netscape 5.0 intends to also farther integrate the web browser into the desktop and introduce significant new features, as well as continue enhancing push technology.

Netscape's strength has always been in its great web browser. Netscape continues this trend in their latest release. IE 4.0 comes very close in matching Netscape's web browser features, and also includes the top-notch Outlook Express e-mail program. Considering that anyone can download IE 4.0 from Microsoft free with no strings attached, Netscape is certainly going to have its work cut out over the few years in staying on top.

(Steve Labinski is an Internet consultant living in Austin, TX. He can be reached via e-mail at labinski@houstonvoice.com)

ANALYSIS

Trade debate bred unlikely alliances

by Steve Labinski
Austin Bureau Chief

Lowering tariffs could lower the price of an international call by 80%. However, lower prices takes a backseat in the debate over free trade, which intensified this month as President Clinton toured South America advocating the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and Congress prepared to debate the issue of free trade agreements.

Labor unions and environmental groups launched an aggressive campaign opposing the legislation and Clinton was unable to muster much Democratic support in the House. Consequently, the vote was postponed in what is considered to be a major blunder of the Clinton era.

Houston Republican Rep. Bill Archer, a lead supporter of the issue, says that Clinton needed to find 70 Democrat votes in order for the Export Expansion and Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act of 1997 to pass the House. Clinton was barely able to muster 40 votes from his own party.

Texas Democrats Charles Stenholm of

Waco and Ruben Hinojosa of Mercedes have declared support for the bill. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Houston was on the Administration's list of targeted yes votes. Jackson-Lee received strong support from Houston's business community in her 1994 election by supporting three issues important to the Texas economy: NAFTA, the superconducting super collider and the space station. John Brennan, Press Secretary for Jackson-Lee told the *Houston Voice* last week, "She is undecided."

Former Republican presidential candidate Pat Buchanan, who opposed the North American Free

Trade Agreement, said he thought the fast-track bill would be defeated in the House. "We could win this. We could win this," he said at a news conference. His side did, decisively so.

Fast Track Authority

The Trade Act of 1974 established special "fast track" procedures to allow for the effective negotiation of international trade agreements. The granting of fast track authority is essentially a provisional delegation of authority from Congress to the executive branch, with precise negotiating objectives and requirements for continuous congressional consultation and oversight.

Under fast track, the US Congress agrees to consider legislation implementing a completed trade agreement on an expedited basis, with only an up-or-down vote and no amendments. These procedures can be revoked or amended at any time by the US Congress.

Clinton used fast track to win approval of NAFTA, the free trade agreement with Mexico in 1993 and wanted to proceed with new deals to create a hemisphere-wide free trade area with the rest of Latin America by 2005.

However, he faced major objections from members of his own party, who were under pressure from organized labor to vote against fast track

on the grounds that free trade deals with more developing countries would only expose Americans to unfair competition from low-wage nations.

The AFL-CIO is strongly opposed to Clinton's proposal. The labor union even opened a web site titled the "Stop Fast Track Action Site - A working families' guide to putting America's trade deals on the right track — not the fast track. Because America can't afford any more NAFTAs!"

The union found little good in NAFTA or for future free trade agreements in its February, 1997 report on expanding trade: "Over the last dozen years, the trade deficit has totaled more than \$1 trillion, and helped turn the United States from being the world's largest creditor nation to the world's largest debtor. During this period, the AFL-CIO maintains that the nation has experienced falling wages, increased job insecurity, declining incomes for the majority of American families, increasing inequality and poverty, and a disastrous decline in jobs in the manufacturing sector."

Protectionism From The Right

Conservative right groups such as Eagle Forum opposed NAFTA, and any future trade agreements with countries in Latin America or Asia. The March 1996 issue of the Phyllis Schlafly Report headlined a quote from Republican President Theodore Roosevelt who said "Thank God I am not a free-trader."

"Free trade' has traditionally been Democratic Party policy and is the chief reason the Democrats

lost so many presidential elections during the period of America's great growth and expansion," said Schlafly.

Schlafly proceeded to enumerate a number of reasons why the United States should not enter into free trade agreements with countries in Latin America and Asia. "We

See ANALYSIS page 20

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WED 11/19	Granny's Burgers!
THUR 11/20	Amateur/Talent Night at 11 pm with Roxanne Lee Love & Granny's Tacos

Steve Kelso will be appearing at Lobo promoting his 1998 calendar Saturday, November 14 from 2 to 4 pm. Kelso will be taking pictures with fans for \$10, a portion of which will benefit H.A.T.C.H.



Mark Payne

Internationally renowned cabaret singer and Houston native, Mark Payne, will be performing live at Ovations in the Village on Sunday, November 16. Call for details.

Just plain weird...

by Leslie Ramsay

Sony Pictures Classics is releasing *Fast, Cheap & Out of Control* to the Landmark's River Oaks Theatre this weekend. Art film lovers do not bother to read any further. Just go to the theatre and search for the "inner meaning" or "underlying concept" on your own. For the rest of us, this film is 82 minutes long but felt more like 182.

They looked very old and tired. One lion had cataracts.

George Mendonça is a Topiary Gardener. He has shaped hedges into a plethora of amusing animals over the last few decades. He is a very patient man. One storm could ruin years of work in a moment's time. His story is pretty sad. Who will take of the garden when he is gone?

Ray Mendez is the mole-rat specialist.



The film is a, dare I say it, documentary. The film maker, Errol Morris (*Gates of Heaven, The Thin Blue Line*) weaves the stories, as told by the participants, of four very obsessed men in with circus imagery and old black and white movie clips.

Dave Hoover describes his life as a Wild Animal Trainer with great pride. He is quite a guy. His comb over dyed jet-black hairstyle is entertaining on it's own. The fact that he carries a loaded pistol, a whip, and a chair into a locked cage to face a pride of hungry lions is not lost on the audience. Most of the preview audience was commenting on the condition of the poor lions.

This guy is pretty creepy. His obsession with the very unattractive mole-rat is odd. He seems to enjoy describing how destructive the creatures are a little too much.

Rodney Brooks is a robot scientist. Out of all of these guys, this one scares me the most. Brooks believes that maybe robots are the replacements or ultimate evolution of mankind. I hate break it to him but unless he knows how to merge human DNA with his little robot microchips, all robots are really big erector sets that move.

Go see *Fast, Cheap & Out of Control* if you must. I think *Shall We Dance* is still playing... (just a suggestion.)

Sometimes a Little is Just Enough

by Leslie Ramsay

Warner Bros. brings us the retro-hit of the holiday season. In the same category as *Austin Powers* and the classic *Pink Panther* series; *The Man Who Knew Too Little* is a "laugh riot".

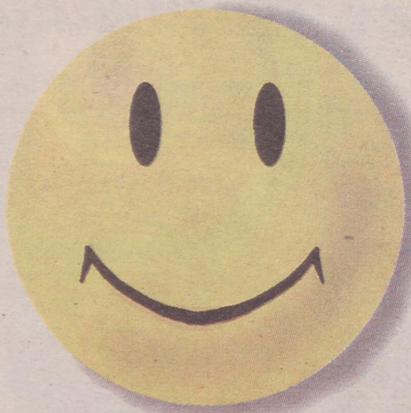
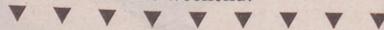
Bill Murray (*Ghostbusters, Groundhog Day*) plays a hapless Blockbuster video employee from Des Moines who decides to visit his successful brother in England to celebrate his birthday. Little did he know that his banker brother was entertaining business clients in his home the same night.

The talented and gorgeous Peter Gallagher (*Bob Roberts, Malice*) plays the brother. Gallagher's character needs to ditch his brother so he can impress his boss and the out of town guests from Germany. He sends his brother out on the town to participate in an experimental theatre production called "The Theatre of Life."

As the main character, Wallace, reads himself for a night of live participatory theater, he stumbles into a plot concocted by the Russian Secret Police and British Intelligence to recreate the Cold War between the two countries. Apparently, not all aspects of the spy community are happy with the peace process. The spies are out of work and are itching to get back to the business of espionage, murder and blackmail.

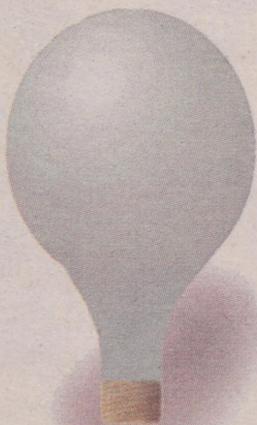
Joanne Whalley (*To Kill a Priest, Willow*) plays the love interest. Richard Wilson (*Prick Up Your Ears, How to Get Ahead in Advertising*) plays the head spy in the British Intelligence agency.

The Man Who Knew Too Little is described as a screwball comedy by Warner Bros. and it is indeed that. If you are looking for an escape type movie that doesn't involve giant space bugs or silent slapstick weirdoes this is your ticket for the weekend.



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by Ella Tyler

This is the time of year that curling up with a good book sounds really attractive. If your taste runs to mysteries, there's enough new books with gay or lesbian characters or writers for a reading orgy.

Martina Navratilova and Liz Nickles have written "Killer Instinct" the third of a series featuring Jordan Myles, a star tennis player whose career was cut short by a rock climbing accident. Jordan is now a partner in a sports rehabilitation center and is being pressured by her partner and on-and-off lover (a guy) to endorse a new sports drink. Unfortunately, it seems to be connected to several deaths. The mystery is interesting because of the authentic seeming glimpses of life for professional athletes and the big money world of sports marketing and endorsements.

Simple Justice, by John Morgan Wilson, is now available in paper. It won the Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America for Best First Novel. It is set in West Hollywood and features a gay reporter who is dragged out of his alcoholic fog to assist with the reporting about a murder of a beautiful young man, from a rich family. The murder occurred outside a gay bar in a Hispanic neighborhood and a teen-aged boy from the area has confessed. Our reporter, Benjamin Justice, suspects there is more to the story than gay bashing. This book is a perfect example of classic detective fiction from the hard-boiled California school.

Katherine V. Forrest's new book, Apparition Alley, is a great read. Kate Delafield, a LAPD officer, is shot and wounded during a drug raid. The bullet came from a fellow officer. Was it an accident, or, as alleged by a cop who is charged with shooting an unarmed civilian, a plot against gay officers? Kate is known to be a lesbian only by her closest friends in the department. Is the other cop, whose gay partner was shot just before he was reput-

edly planning to out other members of the force, paranoid or is someone really out to get him and Kate? Forrest has written five other books in this series, two of which have won the Lambda literary award.

Tony Fennelly, whose controversial "The Glory Hole Murders" was the first gay themed mystery to be nominated for an Edgar (in 1987), has abandoned her violent themes and written "Dial 900-Dead". This features the murder of a psychic who performs and owns a hot line. It is a fun mystery set in New Orleans featuring a variety of gay and straight characters, emphasis on characters.

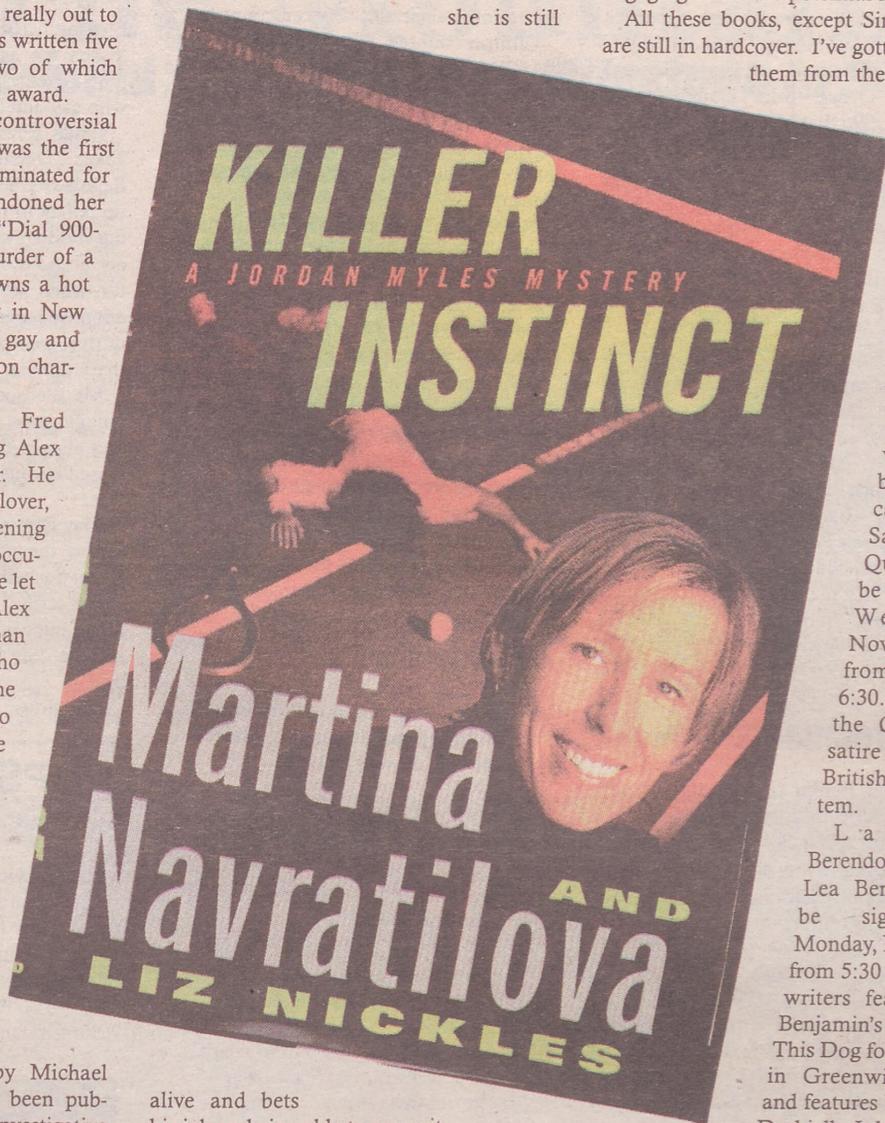
"Government Gay" by Fred Hunter is a mystery featuring Alex Reynolds, a free-lance writer. He lives with his mother and his lover, and goes to a gay bar one evening when they are both otherwise occupied. Some boys just can not be let out of the house alone, and Alex is one. He is accosted by a man with a thick Russian accent who does not appear to fit in at the bar, and then is attacked by two men who demand what the stranger gave him. Alex did not get anything from him but when the stranger is found dead, Alex and his mom get tangled up with fake and real CIA men, mysterious thugs, and her ex-boyfriend, a cop. Its a lightweight, but fun, read.

The folks at Murder by the Book sent me off with an proof of "Flight Dreams" by Michael Craft, but the book has now been published. It is the story of an investigative journalist who has been fascinated by the seven year long disappearance of a wealthy woman. As the court is preparing to declare her dead so her estate can be distributed, Mark Manning makes the rash

statement that he believes she is still

engaging. There is potential here.

All these books, except Simple Justice, are still in hardcover. I've gotten several of them from the library.



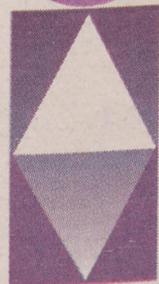
There will be two fun book signings at Murder by the Book next week. Dorothea Cannell, whose new book is called "God Save the Queen" will be there on Wednesday, November 19 from 5:30 to 6:30. God Save the Queen is a satire of the British class system.

Laurien Berendon and Carol Lea Benjamin will be signing on Monday, November 17 from 5:30 to 7. These writers feature dogs. Benjamin's first book, This Dog for Hire, is set in Greenwich Village and features her pit bull, Dashiell. It has just won a Shamus Award. The

new book is called "The Dog Who Knew Too Much". I frequently give signed copies of books as gifts. Murder by the Book is at 2342 Bissonnet.

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ANALYSIS/from page 17

are fools to seek 'free trade' with countries that counterfeit our money," said Schlafly.

Schlafly explained, "The General Accounting Office told Congress on February 27, 1996 that Middle East counterfeiters are flooding overseas markets with 'the highest quality of counterfeit \$100 U.S. bills Treasury officials have ever seen. Our government is sure that a foreign government supports the printers.

"This situation is not new. The House Republican Research Committee's Task Force on Terrorism

and Unconventional Warfare declared four years ago that billions of 'superdollars' are being produced on 'high-tech, state-owned presses with paper only acquired by governments,'" listed Schlafly in her case against free trade agreements.

The Eagle Forum wields strong influence in the Republican Party apparatus in Texas and around the country. The 1996 Texas Republican Party platform supports protectionism, urging "modification of GATT, WTO, and NAFTA to insure equal opportunity for U.S. products."

Side Agreements

Reps. David Bonior (D-MI) and Barney Frank (D-MA) introduced H.R.1079 this year to require the inclusion of provisions relating to worker rights and environmental standards in any trade agreement entered into under any future trade negotiating authority.

"...such linkages are used by protectionist's to block free trade," explained John P. Sweeney, a trade expert with the Heritage Foundation in the think-tank's free trade report last February.

"Raising labor standards worldwide and preserving the global environment are important and legitimate concerns, but they should not be linked to trade agreements because more appropriate avenues exist for dealing with labor and environmental issues,

such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the negotiation of environmental treaties between countries."

Clinton wanted fast track to expand NAFTA to first include Chile and later on to negotiate market-opening agreements with Asia and Latin America. He also wanted it as a tool to negotiate open markets in a number of business sectors, including agriculture.

"Globalism is irreversible," Clinton said visiting the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo. "Protectionism will only make things worse." He appealed to the Americans in the audience to help him lobby Congress for passage of fast-track authority this year.

Whether or not the public lobbied Congress is unknown. What is certain, however, is that 'fast track' is off of the burner for this year amid speculation it will be brought before the house next year. That seems highly unlikely considering it will be an election year and Democrats running for office will not be willing to risk the wrath of labor unions. For now, 'fast track' is dead.

Trade Facts

Latin America and the Caribbean were the fastest growing market for U.S. exports in 1996

It will exceed the European Union as a destination for U.S. exports by the year 2000, and exceed Japan and the European Union combined by the year 2010.

It is also the second fastest growing region in the world

Trade is now equivalent to nearly 30 percent of GDP, up from 13 percent in 1970.

Exports over the last four years have generated roughly one quarter of our economic growth.

CUSTODY/from page 1

Bledsoe, a 10-year employee, has threatened to sue the agency if it doesn't change its practice of allowing children to be placed with gay and lesbian couples.

Linda Edwards, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services in Austin, said there is no policy to prohibit the agency from placing children with single gays or lesbians who are licensed foster parents. "What we look for when we evaluate potential foster or adoptive parents is their ability to protect, to nurture and parent a child. That's our primary criteria," Ms. Edwards said.

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

The demoted CPS employee also questioned the practicality of placing a black infant boy with two white lesbian caretakers, Evans said. "The idea of having homosexual conduct modeled for a boy as he grows up, she didn't think was the best thing," he said.

Ms. Edwards said Ms. Bledsoe's supervi-

sors did not agree with her assessment of the situation. She said they demoted Ms. Bledsoe not over philosophical disagreements but because she failed to follow the rules in abruptly moving the infant to another foster home.

"She's been reassigned with no change in pay because she violated policies regarding the procedures that must be followed when you move a child from a home," Ms. Edwards said. "These procedures are set up to prevent a child from suffering emotionally, as can often happen when they're moved from one place to another."

The baby boy, who was removed from the home in August, was returned to the two women soon after Ms. Bledsoe's decision was overruled, Edwards said. The couple got a favorable report during a home study. It was noted that the woman licensed to be a foster parent works as a child-care teacher.

The lesbian couple intends to adopt the baby, though technically only one of the women can be the legal parent because Texas law forbids unmarried couples from adopting children, Ms. Edwards said. CPS children can be adopted by single parents and married heterosexual couples, she said.

COPS/from page 1

responding to a report of a suspicious vehicle.

Two witnesses have said they saw Murphy struggling with officers. They said one officer beat Murphy. Police have said Murphy choked to death on wads of drugs he tried to swallow. Officers said they performed CPR and fished items out of Murphy's throat and mouth to clear his air-

way. Witnesses also said there was blood at the scene.

One officer used leather gloves and another used rubber gloves when they reached into Murphy's mouth and throat, Denver police Chief David Michaud said. In addition, the officers performed CPR using a plastic shield over Murphy's mouth, Michaud said. The officers will go through a series of tests for six months to see if they have contracted the AIDS virus

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Tell It On The Mountain: Streisand's New Album Higher Ground Proves Another Milestone In Style

by Steve Underwood

With an unparalleled music and film career spanning over three decades, who can compare to the dynamic Barbra Streisand? Fans have the chance once again to relish in her thirty-year trek to perfection with *Higher Ground*, Barbra's newest release in three years.

Paradoxically, Barbra's inspiration for *Higher Ground* came from Janice Sojstrand's performance of *On Holy Ground* at the January 1994 funeral of Virginia Clinton Kelley, the mother of President Clinton. Barbra dedicates *Higher Ground* in memory of the President's mother.

Higher Ground is an album full of songs about faith, hope, and love. Some fans may recall the Frankie Laine hit *I Believe*, but most are sure to recognize Barbra's interpretation of *You'll Never Walk Alone*, the immortal melody from Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Carousel*.

Still true to her Hebraic roots, Barbra includes *Avinu Malkeinu*, a song of supplication sung to God during Rosh Ha' Shanah (the Jewish New Year). Most of the other songs with religious overtones seem more ecumenical, such as *The Water Is Wide*, originally sung by Johnny Mathis.

Barbra includes her own interpretation of *On Higher Ground*. In addition, Barbra's friends, Marvin Hamlisch and Alan and Marilyn Bergman, created a new song for the album entitled, *Leading With Your Heart*. The song shares the same title as an autobiography written about Virginia Clinton Kelley.

But if you haven't bought the album yet, you're in for an even bigger surprise! Perhaps one of the most recognizable songs on the album to the gay community will be the effervescent *If I Could*, the emotional anthem from the highly acclaimed *Passion* album of diva-goddess Regina Belle! Barbra masterly stays true to the original

while still garnishing the melodies with her trademark sound.

Columbia Records began the traditional promotion campaign by first releasing the single and video for *Tell Him*, a diva marathon duet with Sony label-mate Celine Dion. You can catch the video on VH1. Tonight, November 14th, set your VCRs to ABC for a special one-on-one interview on 20/20.

Another exciting feature of the album's promotional campaign is the extensive website maintained by Columbia Records. Dial into to check out lyrics, photos, and thirty-second song samples via Real Audio. Similarly, an exhaustive "unofficial" database for hardcore fans can be located on American Online at <http://members.aol.com/markjayeve/bjsfaq/index.html>.

I would like to share with you what Barbra thinks about *Higher Ground*



Barbra Streisand



I read that in the Houston Voice last week!



At the Houston Voice late breaking news is our specialty... The news you want to read - every Friday, without fail.

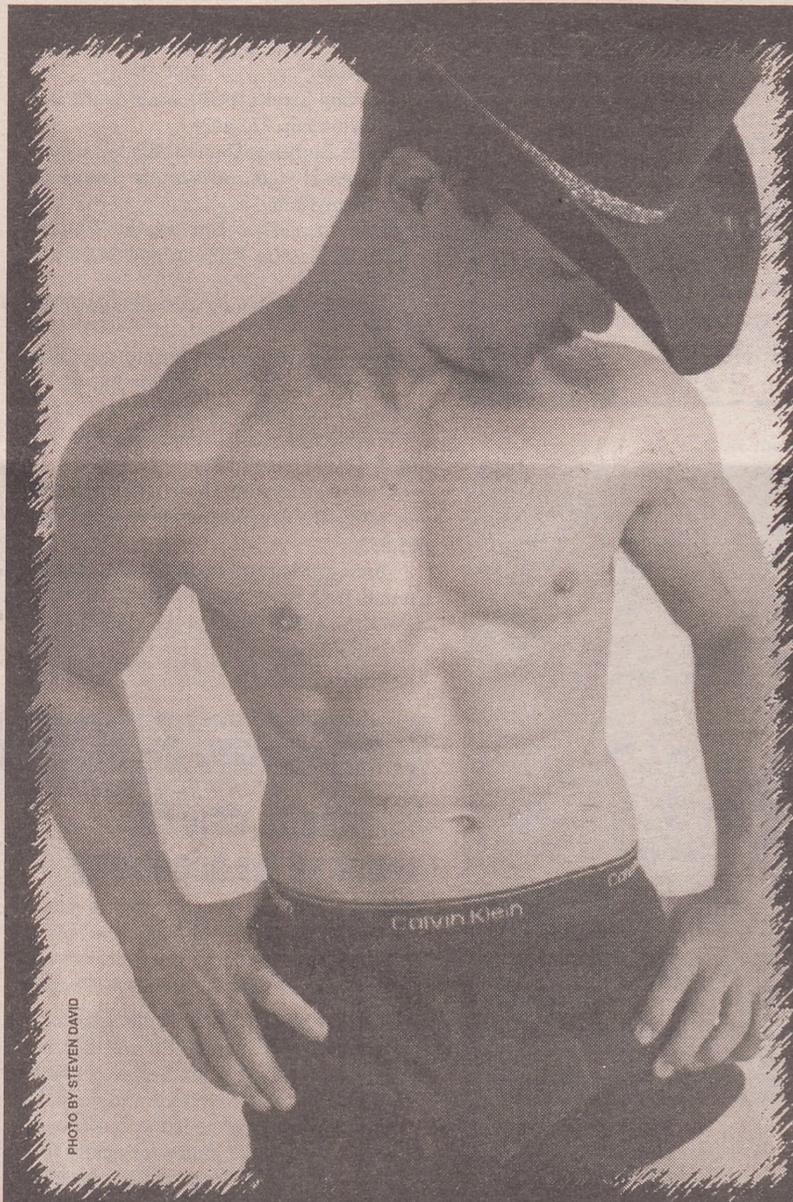


PHOTO BY STEVEN DAVID

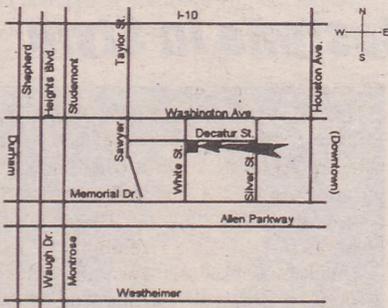
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Friday-November 14

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

Saturday-November 15

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

Sunday-November 16

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

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

Monday-November 17

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

Tuesday-November 18

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

Wednesday-November 19

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

Thursday-November 20

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

RELIGION

**Mennonite Church
shunned for accepting
gays**

by Tom Ragan

PENNSYLVANIA - Joe Miller joined the Germantown Mennonite Church because he heard the congregation accepted homosexuals and he wanted to return to the same religious environment he left as a teen-ager. A former Mennonite pastor for nearly four years in central Kansas, John Linscheid sought sanctuary at Germantown after he was stripped of his title when he admitted he was gay.

Tony Chiango joined the Germantown congregation from afar. Raised a Roman Catholic, he was dying of AIDS in California and his sister told him about the congregation's unconditional acceptance. "The Catholic Church was never there for him when he was dying in the '80s," his sister, Angel, told the Mennonite congregation Sunday. "He wanted to be a part of the unconditional love. And after he joined this church, his spirit grew as his body failed. I want to thank you."

That unconditional love has had consequences. The congregation, the oldest Mennonite Church in the country, learned two weeks ago that delegates voted 178-40 to expel the church from the regional conference beginning next year. The congregation will no longer be able to vote on the critical issues of faith and practice that affect

the 50 congregations in southeastern Pennsylvania.

The pastor, Richard Lichty, has been stripped of his credentials, beginning next year. While he will remain pastor for three years, he will not be recognized by the conference. "It hurts," said the 57-year-old Lichty, a heterosexual. "This is my church of birth, my church of choice. But the church for a long time has been a follower of the general culture's fear of sexuality and this just plays into it."

The issue has caused controversy in most of the country's major denominations. In 1996, the United Methodist Council of Bishops declared homosexuality incompatible with church teaching. The issue also dominated last summer's meeting of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Albuquerque - just as it has during every national gathering in the last generation of the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Catholic Church has for years taught that homosexual activity is morally wrong. In recent years, the church has said that while homosexual sex is immoral because it occurs outside marriage, homosexual orientation is not freely chosen and therefore not sinful.

The Mennonite Church's official policy, passed in 1987, allows congregations to accept only celibate homosexuals, said Jim Lapp, conference pastor for the regional conference. "The Germantown church has received people into membership who are living in covenanted relationships, and that

See RELIGION page 23

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RELIGION/from page 22

became a point of disagreement with the membership of our conference," Lapp said.

Congregants, both gay and straight, consider the policy hypocritical. "Sure, we could have one of those situations where the homosexuals could come but never tell - and we would never ask or be open about it," said George Hatzfeld, a member who is a heterosexual. "Sure, we could just assume that they're celibate. But the problem is we'd never make those requirements of heterosexual couples."

The Mennonite church has served as a refuge for homosexuals for a decade. "I learned a long time ago growing up as a Mennonite that I could either be a Mennonite or I could either be gay, but that I damn well couldn't be both," Miller said, emphasizing the vulgarity. "But this church accepted me for who I was and that's why I came here."

A soft-spoken man who was reared in Lancaster County, Miller said he and other gays have already shed their anger over the banishment. But the controversy will continue confronting the church. "They're going to have to keep on dealing with the issue at other congregations," he said.

Lapp said it's already happening - in conferences in Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota and Iowa. "All of this is the result of a long process and dialogue," he said. "It's the mood of our society, the way in which the issue is headlined. It's in the public consciousness. Many more people are becoming aware of it because homosexuals are more active and outspoken about their rights."

Some churches bar straight marriages to protest gay wedding ban

by Vicki Brown

TENNESSEE - Suzanne Prince married Hunter Allen at a friend's home. That wasn't the plan, but the couple had no choice because their church - Edgell United Methodist - doesn't allow marriage ceremonies.

The Edgell congregation decided that until the United Methodist Church allows gay marriages, no marriage ceremonies of any kind will be performed in their chapel. "If the United Methodist Church wasn't going to allow gay people to get married in the church, I agree that straight people shouldn't either," said Prince, who's been married nine months.

The Rev. Jan Nunley, rector at St. Peter's and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Providence, R.I., will preside over church weddings for straight couples. But she won't sign marriage licenses for them. "I was in considerable anguish over the fact that I can create a legal relationship for mixed-gender couples, but couldn't do that for same-gender couples who've lived together for 25 years," she said. She complies with her bishop's wishes by conducting gay weddings off church property.

The National Council of Churches has no information on how many individual churches perform gay marriage ceremonies, or refuse to allow traditional marriages to protest bans on gay marriages. Southern Baptist Convention spokesman Herb Hollinger said he knows of no Southern Baptist churches that recognize gay unions or have refused to allow traditional weddings.

Theology is left to local churches, but convention principals prohibit promoting or affirming homosexuality, he said. The United Church of Christ allows individual churches to set their doctrines, so gay marriages can be performed. But any church that opposes such unions may bar them, said Hans Holznagel, a public relations officer for the church.

The Roman Catholic Church does not allow priests to perform gay marriages, while the Episcopal Church general convention hasn't clearly spoken on the issue, so the policy varies from diocese to diocese. The Rev. Robert Warren Cromey of Trinity Episcopal Church in San Francisco performs gay weddings, though his bishop opposes them.

"I don't obey a bad law," he said. "Allowing an immoral law to dictate the

conscious of the clergy is going right along with the rest of society in discriminating against gay people."

The United Methodist Church bars its ministers from performing gay weddings, and they can face discipline if they do not comply. Edgell's policy was drafted when a pastor in Atlanta was disciplined for blessing a homosexual couple's wedding, said Kathryn Mitchem, who chaired Edgell's Administrative Council that adopted the policy. "We didn't feel we were taking something away, more that we were making a public witness to the denomination," she said.

Deen Thompson, a gay congregant at Edgell, said it makes gay members feel supported by fellow parishioners. "It's a feeling that the church is making a statement about a wrong within the church," he said.

Before 1996, some Methodist ministers conducted weddings for gay members. But the 1996 church general conference adopted a prohibition against ministers conducting same-sex unions in Methodist churches.

"By every standard we know, marriage is a union of male and female, made valid in the sight of God by blessing in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," said the Rev. Riley Case, pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Kokomo, Ind.

Case is a member of the United Methodist Church Good News, a group that supports traditional scriptural views. "If your primary loyalty is to the gay and lesbian agenda and not to the scripture or the care of persons who want marriage ... I would question if they should call themselves Christians," he said.

The Rev. Jeanne Knepper of Portland, Ore., a spokesperson for Affirmation, a United Methodist ministry of outreach to homosexuals, disagrees with the church's policy on gay marriages. But she does not believe individual churches should bar all marriages as a protest. "My sense would be not to take from those who can, but to give to those who can't," she said.

Prince said she believes a change in United Methodist Church policy will come only if straight people demand it. "I think it's time for us as straight people to put our money where our mouth is," she said. "That sacrifice is how we're going to change the world."

Bishop: Reach out to victims abused by Catholic ministers

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - The president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops wants his peers to reach out to people who have been hurt by members of the church, particularly those who have been sexually abused.

"We have tried to say, with both word and action, how deeply we grieve with those who have been victimized," said Anthony Pilla, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Clearly, we need regularly to renew our message."

In a speech opening the organization's fall conference Monday, Pilla said he and other bishops especially regret harm that is inflicted on youth and carried on to adulthood. "For those who wish to accept it, we offer them our pastoral care and concern," he said. "And, for the sake of their peace of mind and that of all Catholics, we pledge our continuing and constant vigilance in preventing such abuse in the future."

Pilla is bishop of the Roman Catholic diocese in Cleveland. His call for fellow bishops to reach out to people who have been harmed was part of broader speech that focused on reconciliation and unity within the church.

He said reconciliation is an act of acceptance and a request for acceptance, but it does not come without personal cost. "It is a confession of fault and an attempt to understand the fault of others," he said. "It offers trust where previously there may have been only mistrust."

Priest's farewell draws emotion, applause

KENTUCKY - A Catholic priest who resigned from his parish on the heels of a

controversy urged his congregation during his farewell Mass to have faith that all will turn out according to God's plan. The Rev. Kenneth Waibel had been pastor of St. Mark Catholic Church and the Newman Center at Eastern Kentucky University.

Waibel told a crowd of about 500 people Saturday night that he did not want the parishes to suffer from the controversy that led to his resignation. "The divine director will make it all work out," Waibel said. "We know that to be true. We have to hold on to that truth."

Waibel, 37, resigned after a Catholic newspaper published a story about a speech he delivered at a conference of the National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries. Waibel claimed he had been misquoted and defended his participation in the conference.

The story, however, became a catalyst for non-supporters who also opposed some recent changes at St. Mark. Waibel said he stepped down because he did not think he could effectively lead the parish anymore. Some parishioners cried during the service. Gifts were piled on a table, next to a bank with a sign reading "Going-away money for Fr. Ken."

Waibel, who plans to take a four-month sabbatical, used his sermon to make a request of the crowd. "What I'd like you to give me as a going-away present is a promise that you will not leave this parish," he said. Many of those present responded with applause and a standing ovation.

Waibel, who appeared to wipe away tears at some points during the service, also directed some remarks to the young men in the room, urging them to consider entering the priesthood. "Do not be afraid of the priesthood," Waibel said. "It's the greatest thing I've ever done, and I can't imagine doing anything else with my life other than being a priest."

Pastor suspended for two months with pay

NEBRASKA - An Omaha pastor who

performed a lesbian marriage ceremony in defiance of Methodist church law has been suspended for two months with pay. The Rev. Jimmy Creech said Tuesday his suspension was not punitive, but was taken to provide a "cooling down" period for his 1,900-member congregation, many of whom opposed the ceremony.

Nebraska United Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez imposed the suspension. "He (Martinez) said he hopes it would be a time of prayer, dialogue and reflection for the congregation," Creech said. "It's intended to be a way of facilitating resolution."

The Rev. Don Bredthauer, the church's associate pastor, will be acting senior pastor. Creech's 60-day suspension begins Monday. More than 400 members of the congregation went public in their opposition to the "lesbian commitment service" Creech performed on Sept. 14.

The ceremony was prohibited by church rules. Some members of the congregation have withheld their weekly financial offerings, and an Ogallala lawyer has organized a protest movement within the church in Nebraska.

Creech said the suspension means he won't perform any pastoral duties such as sermons or hospital visits. He will continue to receive his salary and benefits. Methodist church officials are looking into the situation.

Priest who stole parish funds to quiet male lover gets 15 years probation

FLORIDA - A former Roman Catholic priest who stole more than \$200,000 from his own church to hush up a male lover has been sentenced to 15 years' probation and two years' community control. He must also pay back the money.

In sentencing Simeon Gardner, Hillsborough Circuit Judge Barbara Fleischer admonished the former priest at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lutz, a suburban

See RELGION page 24

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RELIGION/from page 23

community near Tampa, for taking advantage of his parishioners' trust.

"I believe the better part of your life you were a good priest," Fleischer said before sentencing Gardner Monday. "But most significant to me is that you abused not just your authority, your status, but most of all the trust these parishioners placed in you."

The 71-year-old retired priest, who faced up to three years in prison, stood in silence through most of his sentencing hearing. When he spoke, it was only of his guilt. "I don't know how many days are left for me," Gardner said, "but I do know until my dying days I will repent and have remorse."

Last May, Gardner pleaded guilty to a grand theft charge, for stealing \$213,852 from his parish. Prosecutors said the priest stole the money to silence Joseph Mondeau about their sexual relationship. Last month, Mondeau pleaded no contest to one extortion count. The 37-year-old former bait shop owner could face up to 15 years' probation when he's sentenced Wednesday.

Before the judge sentenced Gardner, defense attorney Eddie Suarez of Tampa, recalled that, before the theft, his client had been a priest for more than 40 years without any scandal. "It wasn't his desire to live a lavish lifestyle, but it was an act of poor judgment and desperation," Suarez said of Gardner.

Farmington Priest faces another sex charge

NEW HAMPSHIRE - A Roman Catholic Priest already facing sexual assault charges has been arrested again. The latest charge against the Rev. Roger A. Fortier is felonious sexual assault.

The victim told police he was assaulted some time in the last five years while Fortier served at St. Peter's Church in Farmington. The victim was a teen-ager at the time but is now an adult, police said. Fortier, 51, has

been on administrative leave since Oct. 28, when he was charged with sexually assaulting a teen-age boy at his rectory residence.

Police say the boy often spent weekend evenings at the rectory with Fortier. The boy told authorities he and Fortier had sex during the visits. Police seized child pornography during a search of Fortier's residence, according to court documents. He was arrested on the new charge on Friday. The most recent court records in the case have been sealed.

The Diocese of Manchester has said it never received complaints about Fortier. Fortier is not allowed to function as a priest until his legal situation is resolved, said Diocesan spokesman Matthew McSorley. Fortier has served at six other parishes in Manchester, Nashua, Plaistow and Rochester since being ordained in 1980.

Catholic church removes priest for misconduct involving adult

INDIANA - Roman Catholic Church officials have removed a priest from its Lafayette diocese, the latest blow to a parish still reeling from newspaper reports that detailed sexual misconduct among its priests.

The Rev. Anthony Levi, known as Father Tony at St. Thomas Aquinas Center in West Lafayette, was placed on indefinite leave for actions "involving an adult inconsistent with the behavior standards for members of the clergy."

Lafayette diocese officials declined to elaborate Monday on a statement that was read to St. Thomas parishioners during masses over the weekend, saying only that Levi's leave was effective Nov. 1 and that he would not be returning to the parish.

The details of Levi's act, the persons involved and whether it was of a sexual or criminal nature were not disclosed. "Because of the need to protect the privacy of the people involved, specific details of the

situation cannot be discussed," the diocese's statement read.

Bishop William Higi, the diocese's spiritual leader, was in Washington D.C. on Monday, attending the National Conference of Bishops. Vicar General Robert Sell said Monday that he was not at liberty to disclose the whereabouts of Levi, a 36-year-old Anderson native who was ordained in June 1993 and began at St. Thomas that same summer.

Sell explained that Levi will undergo an evaluative and counseling process, after which he may or may not get another ministry assignment. Sell said Higi would make that decision at an unspecified date, based on recommendations from experts in the diocese.

The Rev. Pat Click, lead pastor at St. Thomas, said he went to Sell immediately after Levi told him about the misconduct. But Click would not say when that happened, noting, "I'm trying to protect the privacy of all the individuals that may be involved."

RACE/from 1

tains that "Burke's badge and other details of the uniform seen in the ad are not official HPD items."

Similarly, a Mosbacher commercial has also raised the ire of some. The ad in question has Mosbacher appearing in front of the Red Cross Headquarters giving an impression that he was endorsed by the organization.

This weeks debate clearly demonstrates that both candidates are focusing on attacking the others prior records or achievement or lack thereof. Unfortunately, the voters are left wondering specifically what either candidate stands for other than disdain for his opponent.

The *Houston Chronicle* reported this week that Lee Brown made a trip to Japan back in 1991 that has created a series of ethics controversies surrounding offerings of cash from the hosts. According to the report Brown was

Click said he was sad about the incident, and that Levi is considered "a good man" at the parish near the Purdue University campus whose flock numbers about 8,500. "I'm sure they are shocked and disappointed and probably angry, and all the feelings that anyone could feel to hear something like that," Click said of the parishioners.

This latest case of alleged misconduct caps a difficult year for the diocese. In February, an investigative series by *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis News* rocked the diocese, which covers most of north-central Indiana. The report identified 16 cases of sexual misconduct among the priests in the diocese - a rate several times higher than the national average. Another case of misconduct came to light after the series.

The newspapers claimed that the diocese and Higi handled the cases of sexual misconduct improperly, often dealing with them internally and not reporting them to authorities.

"not accused of violating any ethics laws for attending the dedication of a Buddhist temple" and that he "gave back a cash gift that totaled \$12,123." At the time Brown was New York City police commissioner and president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

What does any of this have to do with the race for mayor? To date nothing. Campaigns that are perceived as negative to voters have a tendency to disenfranchise voters from the political process and therefore negate going to the polls on election day. From a political standpoint that could be devastating to both candidates. Clearly, most pundits assert, the candidate who wins this contest will be the candidate who can compel his supporters to go to the polls in large numbers.

Brown, who has been endorsed by the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Political Action Committee, will most likely

See RACE page 27

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**Gaslight News
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Houston, Texas**

by Ella Tyler

I have not forsaken gardening for politics, but the political news has been more immediate. I got the ranunculus and anemones planted and the perennials divided, and took a few weeks away from the garden.

I've planted some pansies and bluebonnet seeds. Pansies like sun and are otherwise easy to grow. Keep the flowers picked so they will continue to bloom.

Bluebonnets prefer soil that is a bit alkaline and require good drainage. I have a brick planter that I hope will be perfect for them. The seed coats are very hard, so I soaked the seeds first. I had intended to soak them overnight then scarify them by rubbing them between coarse sandpaper, but forgot them for a week. By then, some had sprouted, so I decided to skip the sandpaper part.

You can buy plants in 4" pots and not worry about seed germination. Don't wait too late to put these in, they need a period of cold to bloom. I want sweetpeas this spring, so I need to plant seed or buy plants now.

I'll plant narcissus this weekend. They can be planted from now through the end of the month. Other bulbs, amaryllis, crocus,



Crocuses

daffodils, and freesias shouldn't be planted outside until Thanksgiving. They need cooler weather. Wait til the end of December for tulips.

The Smith and Hawkins catalog is so tempting, that I'm contemplating growing some bulbs inside. Amaryllis bloom about six weeks after planting, so if you want to give them as Christmas presents, get a wiggle on.

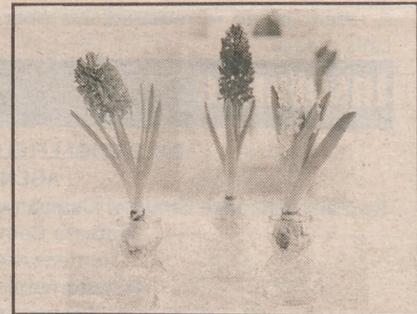
Use a pot that is only a bit larger than the bulb and plant it so about 2/3 of the bulb is in the soil. If it doesn't have a leaf, keep it away from light until a leaf appears. Water lightly but regularly. Then move it into a light, but cool area, away from drafts. After

it blooms feed it. This late in the year, many bulbs you see will have leaves already. That is ok as long as the leaf is not broken.

True bulbs like amaryllis, narcissus and hyacinths can be grown in water in clear vases because the food the plant needs to bloom is stored in the bulb. If you don't think the roots are interesting, you might as well use dirt, it's easier.

The bulb needs some support to keep it out of the water or it will rot. A specially shaped glass or gravel or marble chips will do. Find an elegant looking, waterproof container with sides that are deep enough to support the roots and bulb. Narcissus need a container that is at least 4" tall. Add 1 to 2 tablespoons of agricultural charcoal. This is the kind you use in fish tank filters, not the kind you cook with. Add a two inch layer of washed gravel or marble chips, place the bulb, then add enough gravel to support the bulb. Don't let the bulbs touch each other or the side of the glass. I don't know why, that's what the directions say. Add water to just below the bulb. The roots will grow to the water. Keep it away from light until there are roots and about 6" of stem. Then bring into the light gradually. Water with a weak liquid fertilizer like super bloom and give it about 2 to 3 tablespoons of gin per cup of water once a week. These directions, including the gin, are per the Garden Club of Houston from the booklet I got at the Bulb Mart. Maybe that's why they have so much fun at garden club meetings. I do not know if it needs to be good gin, or if vodka will do.

I spent some time at the Rose Society convention a few weeks ago and had fun. You should consider joining a plant society if you really like a specific plant. Houston has quite a range of plant clubs, many of which meet at the Garden Center. The Houston Parks Department lists these meetings in their monthly calendar. I get it at the library. I learn a lot about growing roses from the Rose Society meetings and enjoy the people. Who else can you complain about blackspot



Hyacinths in forcing jars.



Amaryllis

to or debate with about whether the new St. Patrick's rose is really too green.

We may have freezing weather earlier than usual. Always water everything when

a freeze is predicted. It is the best defense against freeze damage. It is important to pay attention to water at this time of the year. Plant roots are still growing and cold air is very dry. So is wind. You don't need to water as much, but if a plant is looking wilted or dry water it.

Only the tropicals need to be covered, and only if the temperature is going to be less than 32. Do not use plastic next to the plant. Cover with cloth and then, if the plant is fragile, plastic. This keeps the cloth dry so it doesn't become too heavy. I bought mattress pads at the resale shop. They are big, light, and have a bit of insulation. Besides, the garden looks less ratty with matching plant covers. Clear, cold days are very dangerous for plants because heat gets sucked up into the upper atmosphere very quickly. Some tropicals, particularly Chinese evergreen, are damaged by cold. They should be kept above 50.



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

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RACE/from 24

receive the support of the gay and lesbian community. The HGLPC-PAC endorsement was contingent upon a signed pledge which Brown submitted last week. The gay community overwhelmingly supported George Greanias according to precinct reports. However, there are some in the community who supported Brown and Mosbacher.

Conventional wisdom dictates that most of George Greanias' support will go to Brown in the run-off, primarily because 70% of the gay populace generally supports Democrats. Moreover, Mosbacher's gay baiting campaign literature and refusal to support domestic partners benefits for city employee's has not enhanced his standing in the gay community.

Ironically, the gay community had one of the lowest turnouts at the polls in recent memory. This is surprising to many, considering the candidacy of openly gay candidate for City Council At-Large, Position 1, Annise Parker. The low turnout by gays and lesbians has a bigger effect on gay civil rights than most people realize. If it is perceived that the gay community is unable to deliver the votes, candidates will not be willing to align themselves with our constituency. As a community, gays and lesbians are in a precarious political situation and the outcome will be based on their actions.

In other developments concerning run-off races, Chris Bell has accused his opponent, Richard Johnson, of playing the race card in the race for City Council At-Large, Position 4. Bell told the *Houston Chronicle* that Johnson was trying to make race an issue in the campaign by assisting in the production of a card touting a slate of Black candidates for municipal offices. Bell accused Johnson of engaging in the "worst form of racial politics." Bell was referring to Johnson's suggestion that the Position 4 seat should be reserved for an African-American representative.

The slate card in question listed seven African-American city council candidates and encouraged opposition to Proposition A

(Affirmative Action). It was distributed at various polling places prior to the November 4 election. It did not reveal its origin or source of funding, purportedly a violation of law. Bell told the *Chronicle* he was informed that Johnson was partially responsible for the card's creation and distribution.

Dionne L. Roberts, one of the candidates listed on the slate, told the paper that she engaged in discussions concerning a unified African-American political effort but that the idea was abandoned primarily because of its potential divisiveness and the lack of a political action organization to back the effort. Roberts' also told the paper that if Bell contends "that any candidate on this piece of paper is playing the race card, then I think it's the other way around," she said. "I think Chris Bell is playing the race card. This is not a racist ploy. I know Richard Johnson, and he's not a racist person."

Bell insists he is not about divisiveness, nor has he ever been. "That's not something that I want to bring to City Council," he told the *Chronicle*. "If anybody looks at the way I've conducted myself, they'll tell you that I'm a bridge-builder." Bell, a longtime supporter of gay and lesbian equality, has been endorsed by the HGLPC-PAC and Log Cabin Republicans of Houston. Roberts' also was endorsed by the HGLPC-PAC.

There have been some positive moments in the campaign to date. Lloyd Kelley made amends with Sylvia Garcia and escorted her to Wednesday's city council meeting. The pair appeared to have mended fences and seemed very cordial together. Garcia defeated the incumbent City Controller in the November 4 election, in what was, arguably, one of the years most combative races.

One candidate who has remained above the fray and stuck to issues is Annise Parker. In fact, Parker has been appearing at nearly every function in the city touting her record of accomplishments and her plans for the city. According to campaign manager Grant Martin, the Parker campaign is in dire need of funds to compete successfully. An HGLPC-PAC fund-raiser will be held for Parker at the Moose Cafe, Monday, November 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Important Stuff

The Texas Gay Rodeo Association had a wrangler of a round up this past weekend. The Houston Voice will be reporting on all the facts next week.



Yo Cowboy!

Norman (the Montrose legend and great artist) is hanging his works this Friday at 2316 Caroline. The show is from 6 to 9 pm. Stop by and take a look. I have a "Norman" piece hanging in my living room. He gave me this piece (named "The Gift") for my 32nd birthday. I treasure it. Go and take a look. You will want to buy atleast one .

Did you notice the Venture-N ad in this week's issue of the Houston Voice? Please call (713-727-3624) me and tell me if you liked the photo!

The Houston Voice and the BriarPatch are giving away tickets to see, hear, and meet Michael Feinstein for his performance here in Houston on Nov. 16. Register to win at the



Is it love?

BriarPatch before Nov. 14.

Oh, look, we are doing it again! The Houston Voice and Chances are giving away tickets to see Ani Defranco. Stop by Chances and drop your name in the hat. The drawing will be on Nov. 14 @ 10 pm.

Go to Gentry! Please buy one of the "cards" hanging from the ceiling. These cards represent a Thanksgiving Dinner for a wanting family. Do it. It will make you feel good!

Speaking of Thanksgiving, Mary's, naturally will be frying turkeys for you on Thanksgiving day. Call 713-527-9669 to reserve your hot turkey!

The Misfits hosted a wacky show to benefit LUEY 25 this past Sunday at the Venture-N! Over \$600 was raised! Quite a show!

Belated Congrats to the Brotherhood of Pain on their "Slave Auction" back on October 24. A whipping \$1,071 was "beaten" out of the crowd at the Ripcord to benefit the Colt 45's Stone Soup!

More belated Congrats! Marlene and the gang at Chances, Charlie's, and the New Barn raised \$1025 during the street fest! This cash is earmarked for the Women's Clinic Outreach Program at the Montrose Clinic!

JR's Video Bar should be reopening this Friday! I've had a sneak peak and the place looks great!



I found this hunk serving Military Ball Soldiers at the BRB.

Milestones

A belated happy 21 anniversary to Lee and Cliff!

A happy birthday to the wonderful Miss Alabama of the BRB!

A swanky birthday to Tiffany Swanger! So you are having fundraiser at Chances for your birthday on Nov. 20! Party on, girl!

Happy belated birthdays to Mary Garcia, Joyce's Tinkerbelle, Boots, and Jeanette!

Happy birthday to Donny Shepherd! How does it feel to be only 32 years old?

Happy birthday to Roe of E/J's.



Lovely at Cousin's

Happy birthday to Cristina of the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages.

Happy belated birthday to Laura of the Gay and Lesbian Yellow Pages.

Get back on your feet well wishes to Don (Mr. Wonderful) Gill.

Rodent Droppings

Well, I got way too many complaints last week! Where are the rodent droppings? Where is the dish? Where is the dirt? The list continues. I (yes, me Cuervolyn) had to make a choice. A full page (in full color) of Halloween pic-



Jailbird at Heaven.

tures or type my column. I chose the photos! It was easier! So, as you will read, I have made up for it 2 page fold!

My little Harvey has become a "stalker!" He will walk around my feet. He will look at my calves. He will start licking my calves. He is primping them for the teeth! He will do a little bite. Never braking skin, but, enough to make me start hopping! And as Harvey sees it, the more the feet move, the more he wants to nibble. Ferrets will be ferrets.



I'm at GEntry...come see me!

On with the droppings:

LIES! GOSSIP! No truth! This part of the Houston Voice is nothing but lies, gossip, and trash! If you would like to read real news, please turn the page!

B. Outlaw (hangs at the 611): Which side of that fence do you reside?

George (JR's): Are your back problems from bowling or all that remodeling?

Terry F. (611): Spearmint! Spearmint! Spearmint!

Lulu (E/J's): I have a message for you: "So nice to see you again. Hope to see you later. Love, Reno."

Chester: So what is in all those boxes you have been receiving? New dirt? Old dirt? Dirt, dirt, who's got the dirt? Pictures to follow!

Drew (Venture-N): Cuervo-dar? You pour a good one! Thanks for letting me blow off steam this past Wednesday! I really appreciate the time you gave to me. Thank you.

Connie (Houston Voice): Yes, too much "cherry" air cleaner is like being trapped in a low rider!

Yolanda (Rich's): Better etiquette calls for calling a person before you



Is this really a Houston Area Bear squirming on the Venture-N's stage?...YES!

show up "drunk as a skunk" on their doorstep at 9 am on Sunday morning!

Eugene (Big City): You must be psychic!

Jody (Montrose Mining Company): How far can a bottle fly?

Paivi Lee Love: Good luck!

Gary (Ripcord): So just how did the Misfits fit in at the Ripcord on Sunday night? Dress code violation warning are in order!



Pacific's Street's manager, Jeff and owner Jay celebrate PS's Sixth Anniversary.

Phoebe (Stop and Go): You are always so nice to me and all your shoppers. Your boss ought to give you a raise! Thanks for being nice, polite, and ever so efficient at your job. We appreciate you.

Rod (Basic Brothers): Please keep your cute butt out of my face! And, how did you master 5th grade? With a hard one?

Don Dowden: And I quote: "I had to do candy this morning! I have to do Bill



Jimmy Dale tells it all at Bricks II.

Havard in the morning!" And another quote: "I'm growing it back!" Don, what did you cut off?

Lee (Doorman at the BRB): Don't let Lady Lee take away your title of "Bubbling Betty" away!

TR (Hangs at Bricks II): Who is Pearl? Does "Pearl" have foreskin? Did a mutual trick get the excess from "Pearl?"

Tom S. (now at the BRB formerly of Bricks II and the Ripcord): I hear that you do not gag and you have great suction!

Jim (hangs at Mary's): Have you been forced to sleep with you man-pillow and dog again?

Ben (hangs at Chances): I hear you have had to purchase 4 rings! How is Taurus? Don't loose it again or your mom will be very mad!

Damion (Club Houston): The older we get, the longer our hair grows!

Zack (Charlie's): I know someone who has a big-time crush on you! He thinks you have beautiful eyes and kissable lips! Wanna know who? Call me! I'll tell you who it is and why they call him Thumper!

Thumper Knight Leigh: I hear you are redecorating your bedroom. A "Queen Ann's Cross" by Martha



611 Party Pals.



Come see me at Mela's!

Stewart! Can I see this in "to scale" form before your do it?

Rudy (from NJ): and Rich A.: Sometimes my phone messages get jumbled. This is the message: Rudy (NJ): "I've gone back to NJ, but I've left my heart in Houston. I'll be back." I hope this makes sense to you two!

Barbara Velour (Midtown Spa): Departing for Austin? Or evading the law? Which is it? AND I quote: "After 18 drinks, people think I look like Sharon Stone!"

Bruce (BRB): Why were you carrying on like a yard-dog in the "men's room" of Bricks II?

Susan Maser: Thank the gods! You are back singing at Chances! Your voice is like silk and your heart is gold! We missed you! I'll hear you on Friday, 11-14! PS: Are we still engaged?



Ed at the Ripcord!

Ron Souix (Cousin's): Call me! Please call me!

Armand (hangs everywhere and has a great car for sale): When you pulled the grapefruit out, did you squirt yourself in the eye?



At EJ's.



Some of the best of our community.

Marsha (hangs at Mary's) Brady: When you are playing bartender, use a jigger, NOT a measuring cup!

Ken (hangs everywhere like a Blind Blue Haired Old Lady): Two Saturdays ago, you were drop dead gorgeous! Was it trick or treat?

Coleman (hangs at Mary's): Please keep the Buick off the sidewalk!

Darla K. (Gentry): Seems like old times? Way too many years!

Dave (Bricks II): Thanks for the kiss!

David Montgomery (Brotherhood of Pain): Congrats on your new "colors!"

Keith (TGRA): So how do you get drunk tricks for \$10?

Chris (hangs at the Ripcord): How did your butt plug get to the Outpost? Why was it wearing a hat?



Is it Wolpack members or the Bud Light Girls?

Reno (JR's): How is it being a floor whore?

Don Woods (Pacific Street): And I quote: "I have something that will blow for hours!"

Taylor (Heaven): Thanks for the 1800! Cuervo by any other name is still Cuervo! I hope you find Houston as wonderful as your time from the city by the bay! PS, I hear you are excellent at rimming!



Lovely at the Briar Patch.

Lynn Blanton (hangs at the BriarPatch): Blanton... real name? NOT! How was your trip to Alvin?

Bob (Real Estate Tycoon) Ryan: OK, I deleted what I had originally written here! Bob, you owe me one!

Jeremy (Pacific Street): And I quote: "I lost my penis!"

Rabbit (Rich's): Rumor has it that you are suffering from mange!

MudBug (hangs at the BriarPatch):

Yes, dear, we all know "WORK" is a four letter word! Can you even say it?

Jay (hangs at the 611): I understand you have been having trouble walking. Face first in to a pole? Driving? Please stop for "Stop" signs, after, please pass out in the Jeep!

Byron R. and Robert (Bricks II): I have a message for you two! "Keisha (from PS) says "Hello" and "Don't you wish you could be me!" Don't shoot me, I'm just the messenger!



I'm Miguel...I work nights at the Venture-N!

Robert (Houston Area Bears): What is this I hear about you having phone sex with your mother? Sick...sick puppy!

Chuck (Ripcord): GWM doesn't mean "Good With Make-up!"

Keisha (Pacific Street): Error! Error!



Next time girlfriend, wear vertical stripes!

Tom (Pacific Street): I hear that PS has gotten rid of all the glassware because of you! Care to tell me why?

Jeff and Walter: How is the gas problem at your apartment complex? I hear it is to die for!

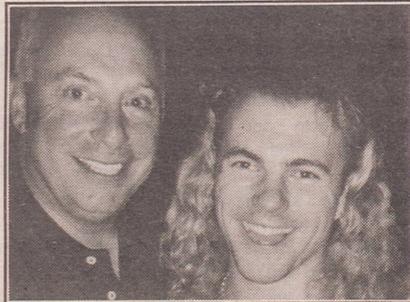
Stan (Farmer's Insurance): Why do you have a mirror on your desk?

Bruce (Farmer's Insurance): Nice to meet you too!

Jeff C. (Pacific Street): What did you buy at Kroger for \$249?

Stan (Bootblack): And I quote: "I'm rubbing soldiers not boots!"

Craig (Bricks II): Why were you "bashing" at the Ripcord? How is Chuck?



Naughty,naughty!

Thanks for the 2 shots of Cuervo that bribed me not to print what you said! Next time it will be 3 shots!

Pooh Bear (Older than dirt): I hope you are doing well after your eye surgery! Maybe now you will be able to see clear!

Well, kids, that is two week's worth of droppings!

Cuervolyn

I can be bought!

Exclusive advertising space available on this page.

Call Carolyn at 713-529-8490

Friday, November 14

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

Saturday, November 15

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

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

Sunday, November 16

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

Monday, November 17

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

- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; Martinis & Muscles! \$3.75 top shelf Martinis, \$2.25 domestic longnecks, frozen Margaritas \$1.75; "Pump" male dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1 Longnecks 8-11pm; \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks 7am to 9pm; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm.
- Midtowne Spa: Half-Price night room/video rooms Noon to Midnight.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$3.50 double well drinks, \$1.75 well, \$2 domestic longnecks; Pool tournament at 8:30pm; male dancers 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- Outpost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Doors open at 9pm. No cover with pass. Lowest regular drink prices in town.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11am. All top shelf \$3.50 all day and all night!
- QT's: Killer Bee, Shots \$2. Well vodka \$1.50 8 am to 2 pm.
- Ripcord: Happy Hour 1 to 8pm; \$2 domestic beer all night; free pizza.
- 611 Hyde Park Pub: Open Pool Table.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; Shuffleboard Tourney at 7pm. \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!

Tuesday, November 18

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

Wednesday, November 19

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

- 9pm.
- E/J's: Happy Hour 7am to 9pm; \$1.40 well 4 to 7pm; \$1.50 Vodka 7am to 6pm. Mug club 7am to 10pm; Burger night.
- Gentry: Happy Hour 2 to 8pm: Boy Toys dance at 7pm; \$1.25 Schnapps open to close; Male Strip contest hosted by Dyan Michaels at 11pm.
- Heaven: \$1 well, \$1.75 Budweiser & 75¢ Miller on tap; DJ Michael DeGrace: Doors open 9pm.
- J.R.'s: Texas Pride Happy Hour 4 to 7pm \$2.25 well, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut Martinis & \$4.50 doubles; \$2 domestic longnecks, \$2.75 Bacardi Limonade, \$2.75 Desert Long Island Tea: Joe Boxer dance contest at 11pm.
- Mary's: \$1.75 well drinks & longnecks all day & nite; \$1.50 Well vodka drinks 7am to 2pm; Slop Shot Pool at 1pm hosted by Don Dowden.
- Mela's Tejano: Amateur Talent Night.
- Midtowne Spa: Half Price Rooms (regular and video) Noon to Midnight: Amateur Strip at 10 pm.
- Montrose Mining Company: \$2 domestic longnecks & well drinks, \$4 doubles; Male dancers at 9pm; Happy hour until 10pm.
- OutPost: Happy Hour 11am to 8pm.
- Pacific Street: Ecstasy! Best in Dance & Videos. Doors open at 9pm.
- Paradise: Doors open at 11 am; \$1 well vodka and \$1.50 domestic longnecks all day and all night!
- QT's: Open at 8 am; Honey Dew Me \$2.
- Rascals: Ladies' Night. Doors Open at 10:00pm. No Cover before 11pm.
- Ripcord: \$2 well & domestic beer all day/all night.
- The New Barn: Happy Hour 3 to 8pm with \$2.25 domestic beer & \$2.75 well cocktails; \$2 Cuervo.
- Venture-N: \$2 well, beer, & wine noon until 7pm. \$2.50 Cuervo!
- XTC: \$3 Pitchers, \$1.75 well drinks.

Thursday, November 20

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

Friday, November 14

- Movie Time: Free Les/bi/gay film showing at Kolbe House, 7:30pm to 9:30pm, 1509 Fairview, FYI 713-522-8182.
- AIDS Mastery Workshop. 861-6453.
- HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- "Out of the Closet: Cinema" group meets 822-8511.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams for HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Lesbian Avengers meet at Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama @ 7pm.
- Q-Patrol Meets to walk the streets at 10:30pm. 528-SAFE.
- Free Spay & Neutering (SNAP) 522-2337.
- Lesbian Love Letters at DiverseWorks. 228-0914.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Hospital Visitation. 522-8182.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- Garden and Yard Society meets. 713-520-1066.
- The Houston Outdoor Group goes camping. 713-864-0082.
- Astro Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf meets at 7 pm. 713-869-8182.
- Gulf Coast Transgender Community meets. 713-780-4282.

Saturday, November 15

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

Sunday, November 16

- The Women's Group meets 10:45am, FYI Iris at 713-529-8571.
- HATCH meets. 942-7002.
- Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 713-863-1860.

- 1860
- Rainbow Riders; A bicycle club for women. 713-869-1686.
- FrontRunners meet at 9:00 am. 713-522-8021.
- Houston Tennis Club meets at 9:00 am. 713-868-5039
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at the Galleria at 5:00 pm. 713-629-1432.
- Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF) meets at 2 pm. 713-661-1482.
- P-Flag Galveston meets at 2 pm. 713-867-9020.
- Affician American Lesbian Alliance meets at 5:30 pm. 713-864-2242.
- Aware (SW Bell's Gay and Lesbian Group) meets at 6 pm. 713-235-7929.

Monday, November 17

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

Tuesday, November 18

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

- Youth-Rap at 6:30pm. 822-8511.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7pm. 488-4492.
- Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.
- PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7pm. 520-7870.
- Free HIV testing by Montrose Clinic; Club Body Center 8pm to Midnite.
- Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30pm. 529-0037.
- Survivors of Loss support group meets at 8:30pm. 778-2677.
- Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Projects' Park Plaza Visitation; 522-8182.
- Project Ceaser at AFH. 713-623-6796.

Wednesday, November 19

- Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic; Mary's 4-8pm; Ripcord 8 pm to midnight, Bricks II 9 pm to midnight.
- Frost Eye Clinic: Free eye exams to HIV+ people. 520-2000.
- Houston Pride Band practices at Dignity Houston. 524-0218.
- GLOBAL (Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Alliance at the U of H) meets at 4pm . 473-7539.
- Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees at 7pm. 867-9581.
- Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7pm. 529-0037.
- Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037/
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5 to 8pm. Call 520-2000.
- BiNet of Houston meets at 7pm. 861-9149.
- AVES offers free HIV testing from 10am to 5pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.
- Cancer Dialogue Support Group meets at noon at Park Plaza Hospital. 1/800-611-CARE.
- Free Spay & Neuter Assistance (SNAP) 713-522-2337.
- Kolbe Project's Hospital Visitation; 522-8182.
- Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-

- 802-1248.
- Thomas Street Health Center Council meets at 2 pm. 713-902-2231.
- Healing and Happiness Through Wellness by AFH. 713-623-6796.
- OutVote meets at 7 pm. 713-520-VOTE.
- Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Firm meets. 713-779-8620.
- Gay, Lesbian and Stright Teachers Network meets. 713-942-7002.

Thursday, November 20

- Art Labs at The Art League at 1pm. 713-225-9411.
- Gay Men's Chorus of Houston open rehearsal at 7pm. 521-7464.
- Twentysomething meets at 7:30pm. 315-6786.
- KPFT Lesbian & Gay Voices airs from 8 to 10pm. 866-6505.
- Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Groups. 622-7250.
- Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main . 8pm. 528-3704.
- HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15pm. 529-0037.
- Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2pm. 529-0037.
- Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6pm. 529-0037.
- Women's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center, 5:30pm. 529-0037.
- Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7pm. 942-0923.
- HIV Affected at CASA. 7pm. 796-2272.
- HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7pm. 782-4050.
- Women's Social Group meets at 7:30pm. 822-8511.
- Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30pm. 738-RACE.
- The Center for AIDS forum meets. 527-8219.
- Free Spay/Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Free HIV Testing by Montrose Clinic; Venture-N 4-8pm.
- HIV Art Course Program; 1-4pm. Patrick Palmer at 526-1118.
- HIV Prevention Community Planning Group meets at 9 am. 713-794-9251.
- Kolbe Project outreach at 7 pm. 713-522-8182.
- Montrose Ice Picks skate at 8 pm. 713-629-1432.
- NOW meets at 6:30 pm. 713-665-8NOW.

GALAXY GAUZER A Houston Voice Exclusive
Your Horoscope for the week of November 16 - November 22

ARIES: (March 21-April 20) Your ideas and information could make the difference, be sure you inform those who can get the wheels turning. Self- sacrifice for the sake of loved ones is a joyful gift. But there are those who might want to take exception to your plans.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21) Clear communication will be very important. Follow up as soon as possible on all correspondence. You are set to make things happen and now have all you need at your disposal to do so. Changes need to be made at home - the suggestions won't be met with enthusiasm.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21) An unexpected money gift will give you the chance to try something new. You feel like you're walking off the edge of your usual routine, and the feeling is exhilarating. Take care of your own needs, which may include taking some time for yourself. Be prudent.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23) Always remember that change is the only constant - for your idea of self may be a bit shaken up now. Attitude is everything when dealing with situations and people out of the norm. There are a few relationships important to you that need attention; be sure to state your needs clearly.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23) Something important you have been looking forward to is about to appear. Don't let your ego get the best of you and induce you to do something really risky. You're looking for a leadership role, but the time isn't right. Wait for the perfect moment to make your bid.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23) All seems quite well this week. In fact, you are probably sitting on top of the world. This satisfaction can come from several areas. Perhaps your love life is improving, or you may have just accomplished something at work. Pay very close attention to all you hear now.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23) Although you are an easy going character, you may easily offend someone if you are not at your diplomatic best. Spiritual inspiration comes in the company of like-minded friends. There is a real opportunity for success, but only

if you're willing to change.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22) Continue to insist on quality and honesty in all your dealings, especially when issues are in the spotlight. It may be the best time to examine how to best use your talents and abilities, and whether or not you need to shift gears where a job is concerned.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21) The darker side of family members' personalities may emerge if you are dealing with money. Remember that you can only do so much when someone else controls the situation. A requirement of personal interaction must be that you will be treated as an equal. No need to divulge secrets.

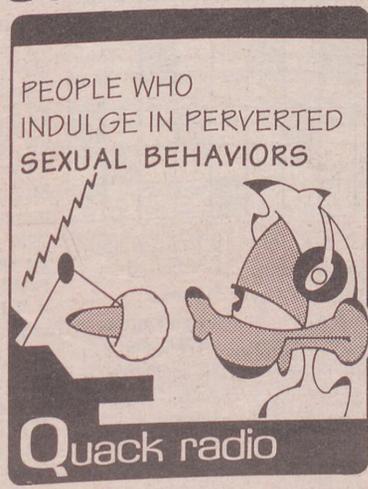
CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20) You are in danger of being seduced by something that has an attractive outer appearance, but won't hold up under close scrutiny. If greed is a part of your motivation, put a stop to it immediately. Don't criticize another unless it is done with the compassion.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19) Your energy level is at top speed - slow down and be a bit more cautious. It's time to talk about your need for a great deal of independence in relationships, so there are no uncomfortable surprises later. Clarify your point of view and assure others no offense was meant.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20) Romance is in the picture, but be aware of jealous behavior. Point out that you are no one's possession. Words of love may get an immediate response, but be assured that you are appreciated. Your primary relationship will distract you from your work if you don't get a grip.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: Your daily grind may now become more frantic and all-consuming, which may lead to depleted health. Rest and relaxation are definitely in order for the next several months - to rejuvenate your frazzled energies. Make sure all communications are crystal clear; messages may get easily confused.

such is LIFE!



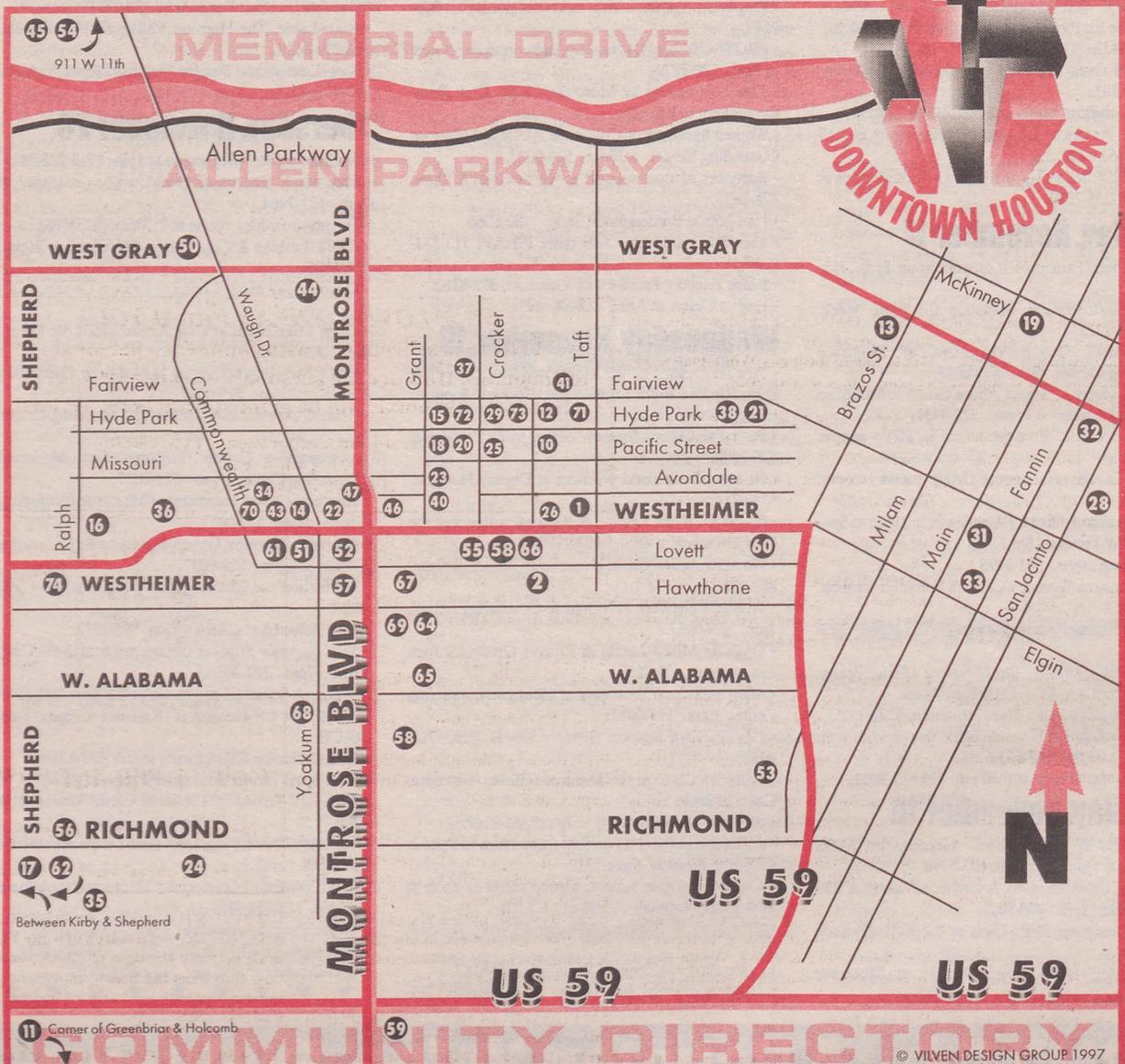
HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITY!!!



BUT YOU HETEROSEXUALS HAVE TO LIVE SOMEWHERE!



INTERNET: [HTTP://WWW.GAYWIRED.COM/QUACK/SUCHLIFE.HTM](http://www.gaywired.com/quack/suchlife.htm) E-MAIL: QUACKATEER@AOL.COM



ACCOMMODATIONS

1	Montrose Inn	408 Avondale	713/520-0206
2	The Lovett Inn	501 Lovett Blvd	713/522-5224

BARS & CLUBS

10	611 Hyde Park	611 Hyde Park	713/526-7070
11	The Briar Patch	2294 Holcombe	713/665-9678
12	Bricks II	617 Fairview	713/528-8102
13	Brazos River Bottom	2400 Brazos	713/528-9192
14	Chances	1100 Westheimer	713/523-7217
15	Cousins	817 Fairview	713/528-9204
16	EJs	2517 Ralph	713/527-9071
17	Gentry	2303 Richmond	713/520-1861
18	Heaven	812 Pacific	713/521-9123
19	Incognito	2524 McKinney	713/237-9431
20	JR's	808 Pacific	713/521-2519
21	Lazy J	312 Tuam	713/528-9343
22	Mary's	1022 Westheimer	713/527-9669
23	Montrose Mining Co.	805 Pacific	713/529-7488
24	Oulpost	1419 Richmond	713/520-8446
25	Pacific Street	710 Pacific	713/523-0213
26	QT's	534 Westheimer	713/529-8813
28	Rich's	2401 San Jacinto	713/759-9606
29	Ripcord	715 Fairview	713/521-2792
31	Venture N	2923 Main	713/522-0000
32	The Club Houston	2205 Fannin	713/659-4998
33	Midtowne Spa	3100 Fannin	713/522-2379
34	The New Barn	1100 Westheimer	713/521-9533
35	VooDoo Lounge	2151 Richmond	713/520-8636
36	Racals	1318 Westheimer	713/942-CLUB
37	Paradise	2312 Crocker	713/522-7366
38	Mela's Tejano Country	302 Tuam	713/523-0747

RESTAURANTS

40	Baba Yega	2607 Grant	713/522-0042
41	Barnaby's Cafe	604 Fairview	713/522-0106
43	Charlie's Coffee Shop	1100 Westheimer	713/522-3332
44	Christy Donuts	1100 W Gray	713/524-4005
45	Java Java Cafe	911 W 11th	713/862-2683
46	Ming's Cafe	2703 Montrose	713/529-7888
47	Riva's Italian Restaurant	1117 Missouri St.	713/529-3450

BUSINESSES & SERVICES

50	Cineplex-Odeon	1450 W Gray	713/524-8781
51	Crossroads Market	1111 Westheimer	713/942-0147
52	Eckerd Drugs	1007 Westheimer	713/524-9229
53	Fitness Exchange	4040 Milam	713/524-9932
54	Heights Above Florist	911 W 11th	713/862-2683
55	Houston Voice	811 Westheimer	713/529-8490
56	Inklings Bookstore	1846 Richmond	713/521-3369
57	Kroger Grocery	3300 Montrose	713/526-7865
58	Lobo Books & Video	3939-S Montrose	713/522-5156
59	Main St. Theatre	4617 Montrose	713/524-6706
60	Montrose Clinic	215 Westheimer	713/520-2000
61	Four Star Hair Productions	1201 Westheimer	713/524-7785
62	CreADive Unlimited	811 Westheimer(102)	713/526-5190
64	Vilven Design Group	807 Hawthorne	713/526-3212
65	House of Coleman	901 W Alabama	713/523-2521
66	Synchronized Chiropractic	811 Westheimer	713/521-7741
67	Walgreens	3317 Montrose	713/520-8000
68	KAD Computer, Inc.	1437 W. Alabama	713/522-7813
69	STAT Script Pharmacy	3407 Montrose (A5)	713/522-7373

CLOTHING SHOPS

70	Basic Brothers	1232 Westheimer	713/522-1626
71	Jewel's Boutique	2404 Taft	713/523-3557
72	Leather By Boots	807 Fairview	713/526-2668
73	Leather Forever	711 Fairview	713/526-6940
74	Timeless Taffeta	1657 Westheimer	713/529-6299

On Your Next Visit to Houston...

What you get at the motel on the highway & what you get at the Montrose Inn

- Motel: Heterosexuals with kids fighting next door. Montrose Inn: Gay men next door. Only gay men. Nothing but gay men.
- Motel: Several miles to the gay bars. Montrose Inn: 5 tiny blocks to the gay bars.
- Motel: Drive to the gay bars & pay \$5 to park. Or take a \$15 cab. Montrose Inn: Walk to the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.
- Motel: Drive back from the gay bars and risk the cops making you walk the straight line. Or take a \$15 cab. Montrose Inn: Walk back from the gay bars. Or take a \$3 cab.
- Motel: Rooms start at around \$50. Montrose Inn: Rooms start at around \$50.
- Motel: Eat in their restaurant. Food for the masses. Pay plenty. \$1 soft drink machine. Montrose Inn: Complimentary late night sandwiches & full breakfast the next day. Free soft drinks, juices, coffee 24 hours.
- Motel: Cruise the parking lot? Whoa! You're taking chances. Montrose Inn: Meet our other guests. Please!
- Motel: The receptionist sneers at you. Montrose Inn: The receptionist winks at you.
- Motel: Washing machine? Ironing board? Hair dryer? Refrigerator? Stove? Microwave? VCR & gay movies? Are you kidding? Montrose Inn: All of the above. Free to use.
- Motel: Full size bed, plastic flowers. Montrose Inn: Queen size bed, fresh flowers.
- Motel: Maid knocking 8 a.m., you moan but she's coming in anyway. Checkout 11 a.m. Montrose Inn: Handsome man next door knocking 11 a.m. to join him for breakfast. Checkout 1 p.m.

Reservations requested. 1-800-357-1228. The house at 408 Avondale.

The Montrose Inn is NOT a motel. We're NOT a hotel. We're a Bed & Breakfast. (And we're Basic & Butch. We're the B&B that's B&B.) We're completely different!

Wild Oscar's Happy Puzzle

"Man is a rational animal who always loses his temper when called upon to act in accordance with the dictates of reason."—19th century Irish wit Oscar Wilde

ACROSS

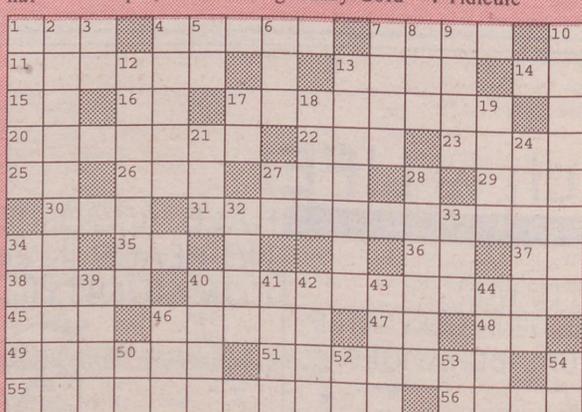
- 1 time zone
- 7 Harvey
- 11 expressed verbally
- 13 defeat narrowly
- 14 early 20th century American author & actor Rogers, initials ("Broad-minded is just another way of saying a fellow's too lazy to form an opinion.")
- 15 chemical symbol for gold
- 16 ultraviolet abbr.
- 17 national gay mag turned 30 years Oct. '97
- 20 unfeeling
- 22 inquire
- 23 a Slavic-speaking person
- 25 4th day of the work

- 26 Scottish for one
- 27 small social insect
- 29 one that excels
- 30 newspaper advice columnist Landers
- 31 NYC's cruise areas of the late 70s
- 34 popular vacation spot, northern
- 35 U.S. gov't top lawyer's position, initials
- 36 U.S. west Pacific unincorporated territory, abbr.
- 37 very conservative Beehive State, abbr.
- 38 brown singing bird

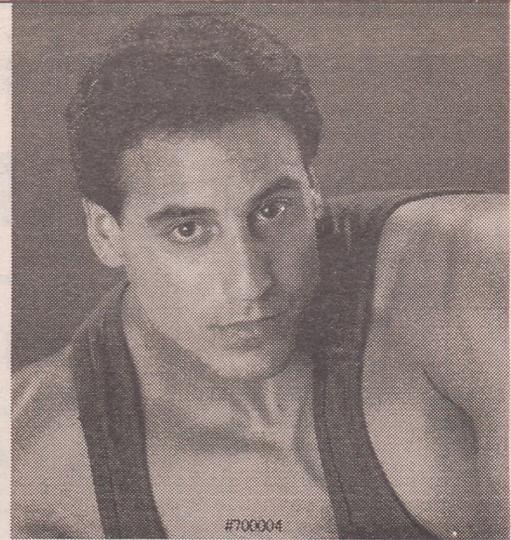
- 40 national holiday that is the same day as Coming Out Day, 2 words
- 45 petroleum
- 46 lively dance of the 19th century
- 47 German-born American theoretical physicist Einstein, initials
- 48 state of the legendary Gold
- 49 visual
- 51 hunted with dogs
- 55 S. Calif. gay resort in the desert, 2 words
- 56 famed Calif. photographer specializing in beefy men
- DOWN
- 1 nautical term to stop

- 2 African country with pro-gay constitution, 2 words
- 3 7th tone of diatonic scale
- 4 handsome actor Bacon
- 5 19th century American poetess Dickinson, initials ("Beauty is not caused. It is.")
- 6 cable & film mogul Turner
- 7 ridicule
- 8 Biblical abbr. for Isaiah
- 9 leases
- 10 ridiculous distortion
- 12 serial killer Andrew, was subject of nationwide man-hunt in 1997
- 13 questionable medicine
- 17 an affirmative vote, one spell-

- 18 wind direction device
- 19 enthusiasm; liveliness
- 21 short for Lewis
- 24 really existing
- 27 positioned
- 28 disagrees verbally
- 32 absent without leave
- 33 adjective suffix for having the qualities of
- 34 make a fast diving attack (I'll just over there and grab that hunk.)
- 39 12th month of Hebrew calendar
- 40 find fault at; freshwater fish
- 41 places
- 42 on
- 43 most popular gay social hangouts
- 44 a caper or prank
- 46 vapor
- 50 lumen, a measurement of light flux, abbr.
- 52 18th U.S. President, Civil War general, initials
- 53 South American country with Quito as capital, abbr.
- 54 Constitution State, abbr. Solution elsewhere this issue



HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women SEEKING Women

SF Professional, 34, 5'5", 150 lbs., height/weight proportionate. Looking for a friend. I like to listen to music, read, take walks in the park & camp. Call Ext. 5643

SBF Bi sexual, 18, dark brown hair, brown eyes & medium build. Looking for single female age, race is unimportant. If you would like to get together to have some fun, then give me a call. Call Ext. 5641

SF Bi racial, 5'4", 110 lbs., curly golden blonde hair, big blue eyes, height/weight proportionate & feminine. I'm secure & independent. Looking to meet Black or Hispanic females, must be height/weight proportionate & be feminine only. I love to go out & have fun. Call Ext. 5640

SBF Looking for an attractive, single Black female. Someone who I can spend my time with. Should be very caring, loving & willing to share different things with. Call Ext. 5579

SBF 46. I enjoy sports & games. I'm looking for someone 36-49, to spend time with, have fun & especially if you are interested in playing pinochle. Call Ext. 5637

SF 29, blonde hair, brown eyes, feminine. I'm interested in meeting new people to go out & enjoy movies & dancing. Call Ext. 5634

SBF Tall, height/weight proportionate. I'm seeking an attractive, single Black female to spend time with. Call Ext. 5626

SF 5'4", 125 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, professional, non-smoker. I like to go to movies, dancing, music & feeding the birds at the park. I'm looking for a friend, companion & a lover who is honest & won't play games. Call Ext. 5621

SF Bi curious. I am looking for a woman, for a friendship, should go slow and possibly more in the future. Call Ext. 5615

I'm an attractive SBF, 38, 5'6", professional. Seeking an attractive bisexual SBF, 30-39 to explore the possibility of a discreet friendship. She must be professional, financially independent, healthy, light smoker ok, in good shape, weight and height proportionate. Call Ext. 5609

SF 5'7", light brown hair & 18. Looking for a feminine female 18-22. Leave me a message. Call Ext. 5603

SBF Professional, gay, 40, 5'4" with an athletic build. I enjoy sports, running & working out. New to Houston. Looking to date a single gay female, who is a non-smoker, non-drinker & a non-drug user. Should be soft butched or butched, professional & preferably 37-50. Call Ext. 5602

SBF 5'10", attractive. I love the outdoors, sports & exercise. Would like to get know someone who is pretty much the same as me. Should be height/weight proportionate & seeking a deep, loving, caring friendship. Call Ext. 5578

SBF Tall, height/weight proportionate, attractive, mysterious & fun. Interested in a bi sexual or gay female, should be tall, for friendship & possibly for things to develop later. Call Ext. 5577

SF 23, 5'7", full figured & reddish hair. Bi sexual or gay females that is in the South-west part of Houston, who is open-minded and outgoing. Must not be in a relationship at this time. Call Ext. 5574

SF 47, brown eye & shoulder length black hair. I enjoy dining out, going to the movies, staying home and watching TV. Interested in meeting someone that is honest, caring, very stable & know what you want out of life. Call Ext. 5312

SWF 24, 5'2", 120 lbs., short blonde hair. I'm in good shape. Looking to meet educated, professional woman to go out dancing with, have coffee, go to movies & basically just hang out. Call Ext. 5569

Men SEEKING Men

SWM 6'1", 155 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, mustache/goatee, one piercing & one tattoo. Looking for a versatile gay or bi male, married is all right. Should like to role play, cross dress & want a little extra something in her life. Call Ext. 5647

SBM 29, 5'6", 166 lbs. attractive, HIV+ but, very healthy. My interests are sports, fishing, fast cars, movies & dining out. Seeking a White male 24-32, with the same interests for friendship & maybe more. Call Ext. 5646

SGM 50, HIV+, healthy, brown eyes, brown hair, 5'8", 165 lbs. I work out to improve the body. I'm a non-smoker & a non-drinker, but I tolerate moderation. Looking for someone to share my life with & really good at being in love. Call Ext. 5642

SGM 26, 6', 155 lbs., pretty, but have a classical masculine look. Seeking a long lasting relationship with a happy, sincere, generous business man. I'm sensitive, athletic & disease free. Call Ext. 5639

SWM 44, 5'6", 160 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes, hairy chest. Are you a good looking, young Italian, Mexican or Puerto Rican? Are you passionate, loving, caring & HIV negative? Are you looking for someone to love & be loved by. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5496

GHM 5'11", 185 lbs., new to Houston, professional. I'm looking for a dominate, hairy, gay White male, who is about the same height/weight as I am. I'm looking for a good friend to show me around & have some good times with. Call Ext. 5623

GHM 23, 5'10", 200 lbs., mustache, goatee, dark brown eyes, black hair. I am a hairy bottom. I am seeking a top, any race or age for a good time & or friendship. Call Ext. 5633

SM 6'1", 185 lbs., hazel eyes, attractive, Indian/Black origin. Looking to have a good time. Call Ext. 5628

GWM 29, dark brown hair, brown eyes, 5'8", 140 lbs., & 30" waist. My interests include hiking, biking, going to the beach & stay at home with someone special. Looking for somebody around my age or younger, who is interested in getting together & forming a friendship, hopefully something that will lead to a long term relationship. Call Ext. 5627

GWM 36, 6'2", 185 lbs., blue eyes & HIV-. Seeking someone the same 25-36, for friendship or possibly more here in Houston. Give me a call back. Call Ext. 5625

GWM 38, short dark brown hair & hazel-green eyes. I have a muscular, smooth body & I'm HIV+. Looking for a man who is 5'8" or taller, who enjoys being on the top, has a rugged look with body and facial hair. Should be mature, 32-45 & good looking. Call Ext. 5524

GHM 42, 150 lbs., lean build, slightly long black hair, goatee, brown eyes & HIV+. Would like to meet gay White males, 30-44 years old. Call Ext. 5624

SM 6'2", black hair, blue eyes. I enjoy bowling. Interested in a Hispanic or a White male, 18-29 years of age. I love to be with boys a lot. Leave me your name. Call Ext. 5622

SWM Way beyond bi curious, 6'1", 150 lbs. Experienced bi White male in search of same. Experiences in variety, bottoms, submissive, TV's, tops, domination. Discretion is assured & preferred. Married men are welcomed if uninhibited Call Ext. 5355

GWC My partner is a gay White male, 5'9", 49, 173 lbs., blue eyes, salt 'n' pepper hair & very healthy, but HIV+. I'm 5'11", 189 lbs., blue eyes, blonde with graying hair, 56 & very healthy, but also HIV+. We are looking for friends who are gay White males, 45 or older. Should enjoy swimming, long walks, cooking out, dining out, animals & country living. Please be height/weight proportionate & masculine. Call Ext. 5620

SM 180 lbs., 5'10", height/weight proportionate. Interested in meeting mature, gray haired men, 40's & above. Would like to meet someone who is fairly wealthy, I don't want to take care of anybody else. Call Ext. 5586

SWM 45, 5'7", 147 lbs., handsome, masculine & hairy chest. Seeking a single gay male between 25-45, who is interested in friendship. Body hair is a plus. Call Ext. 5616

SM 33, 5'10", 185 lbs., black hair, black eyes, very hairy & muscular. I'm bottom & HIV positive. I'm looking for top White, Hispanic or Black men for a good time. Call Ext. 5617

GHM 21, 5'6", light complexion & hazel eyes. I like to go out a lot. I'm outgoing & a nice person. Looking for anybody, any race & 18-30. Call Ext. 5613

SWM 6'1", 165 lbs., slender build, 39, salt 'n' pepper hair, green eyes, mustache & goatee. I'm down-to-earth. Looking for a Latin or a Latino male, 25-45 & I'll respond to anybody. Call Ext. 5612

SWM Mature, 5'10", 175 lbs. I'm greek active, french passive, well-endowed, a non-smoker, non-drug user & HIV-. If you are HIV-, a non-smoker, 5'10" or shorter, call me. Call Ext. 5610

GHM 33, 167 lbs., 30". Looking for a good time & someone to spend some time with. Call Ext. 5607

GHM 33, HIV-, 5'7", 135 lbs. Looking for a gay White or Hispanic male, preferably 33 years old & plus. Call Ext. 5604

GWM 26, 6', black hair, green eyes. Seeking a GBM 26 and older, 6' or more. Wanting a dominant, masculine guy who's HIV+. I enjoy the outdoors, sports, movies, getting together with friends and having a good time. If interested, leave me a number. Call Ext. 5601

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Must be 18 or older. Touchtone phone required.

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SWM 190 lbs., 6'. Seeking a top black man HIV+. Like the outdoors, movies, sports. Just looking to get together. Seeking a friend or maybe a relationship. Let's see what happens. Call Ext. 5600

GWM 35, 5'11", 195 lbs. & financially stable. In search of a gay White male 30-45, country boy, that likes the beach, movies or just hanging out. Call Ext. 5581

Professional White male looking for male Hispanic top. If you're out there, give me a call. Call Ext. 5598

GWM 5'10", 185 lbs., 44, HIV+. Have dark hair, blue eyes, a mustache. Looking for a tall, husky or muscular cowboy, Levis, leather top man, age 35-45, who is financially stable and interested in home repair and improvement, landscaping, movies, long weekends at home and Sundays by the pool. Call Ext. 5596

SM Bi sexual. In search of feminine bi men, into transvestites and cross-dressing. Discretion is assured. Must be height/weight proportionate, almost passive & very versatile. Call Ext. 5528

GBM 29, 5'4", 128 lbs., brown eyes, mustache & well endowed. Looking for friendship, you must be height/weight proportionate, open-minded, uninhibited, with a healthy appetite for giving and receiving cream, from both ends. Call Ext. 5592

SM 36, 6'2", masculine with a muscular build. I'm sincere, down-to-earth & if my life would have been different, I would have been a cowboy in a different life. Looking to meet men for a possibly long term relationship if we hit it off well. I'm a non-drug user & you should be to. Must be able to carry on a good conversation. Call Ext. 5591

GWM 45, HIV+, A symptomatic for 11 years, 5'7", 145 lbs. I'm attractive & affectionate. My interests are classic autos, theater & board games. Looking for other HIV+, gay males, 30-45 young, for friendship. Call Ext. 5590

GWC Handsome, versatile, HIV+. In search of another gay third man 25-45, for long term relationship. We take pride in being very down-to-earth, open-minded, open hearted & honest. We are romantic and extremely passionate. We have a wide variety of interests indoors and outdoors. Should be versatile, financially, emotionally secure & handsome. One stands 6', 190 lbs., 34" waist, short brown hair, hazel eyes, mustache and goatee. The other stands 5'10", 175 lbs., 33" waist, short blonde hair, blue eyes, mustache & goatee. Call Ext. 5555

SM Would like to meet other masculine guys, for friendship or more. Should be handsome, over 22, height/weight proportionate & med. - dark brown a plus. Must enjoy reading, writing, music & dancing. Call Ext. 5584

SAM Mid-30's, attractive, intelligent & successful. Looking for very submissive, 60-older, White male for fun, friendship and more. Must be very clean, discreet & HIV-. Call Ext. 5576

GWM 35, 5'11", 190 lbs., financially stable & in good shape. In search of a gay White male between the ages of 30-45, country boy, that likes the beach, movies or just hanging out with each other. Must be HIV. Call Ext. 5580

SWM 50, HIV+, 5'11", 160 lbs. & I'm extremely healthy. Leave your number & we can get together. Call Ext. 5573

SWM 37, 5'10", 160 lbs., brown hair & blue eyes. I'm country, versatile & love to cuddle. Looking for a hairy, handsome White male 35-45, height/weight proportionate. Should have no personal baggage. Call Ext. 5589

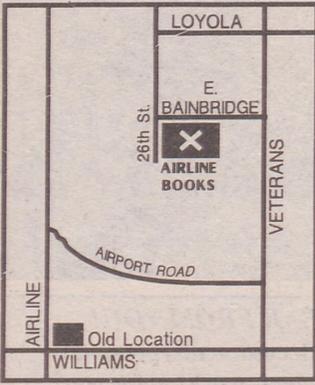
GWM 44, HIV+, 5'7", 147 lbs., dark beard & mustache. I'm handsome, masculine, educated & considerate of others. Seeking other males who are also HIV+, who are in need of attention, affection & romance in their lives. Call Ext. 5575

SWM 47, 6', dark blonde hair, hazel eyes & very hairy. Looking for a White or Hispanic male, 35-50, to go to garage sales, movies & out to eat. Must be clean, honest, outgoing & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5568



HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM - Dear Reader: Enjoy reading the ads in the category of your choice, highlighting the ones you'd like to respond to. Then call 1-900-772-3085 (\$1.69/min.*) and follow the instructions. Ads are kept 8 weeks, replies kept 7 days and then erased. If you need help using the system, call Customer Service at 1-360-636-9267 (Longview, WA). What you see here is only a small portion of the ads currently on our Voice Personals system, so you might wish to call and browse through the newest ads. To record your own FREE voice personal, call 1-800-461-5930. You'll automatically be assigned a voice box number. Remember, we screen our ads daily, but we are not responsible for the advertisers. We urge you to screen people yourself. Talk by phone, and meet first in a public place. Publisher reserves the right to review, revise or refuse any ads. Must be 18 or older to use this system. Touchtone phone required. *Average length of call is 3 minutes, total cost determined by caller. Have fun and good luck! (Houston Voice, Houston, TX)

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Origin Communications

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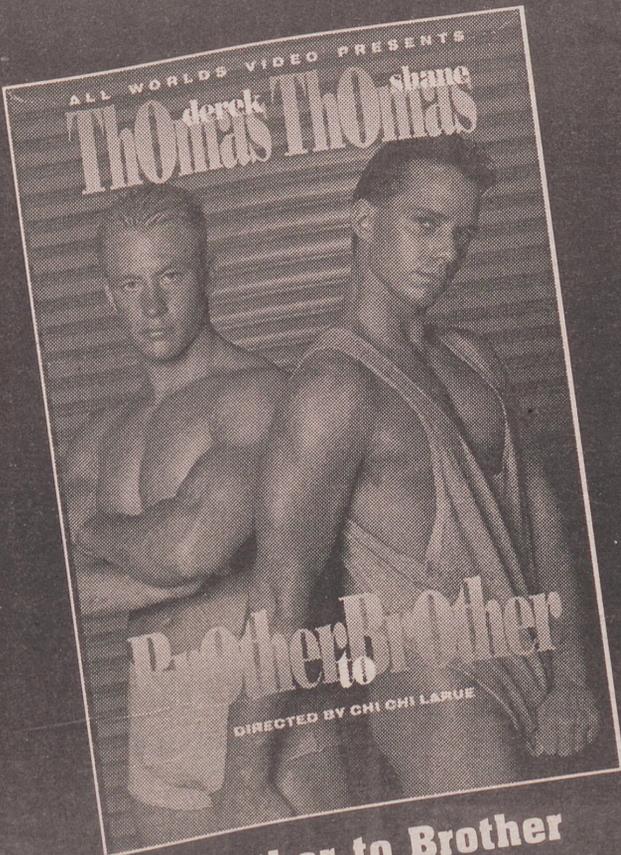
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Midnight til Closing
Admission \$4
with Membership

FRENCH QUARTER

713-527-0782 • 3201 Louisiana • Houston

All Male Cinema
presents

Thursday
Matinee
\$4 All Day
with
Membership



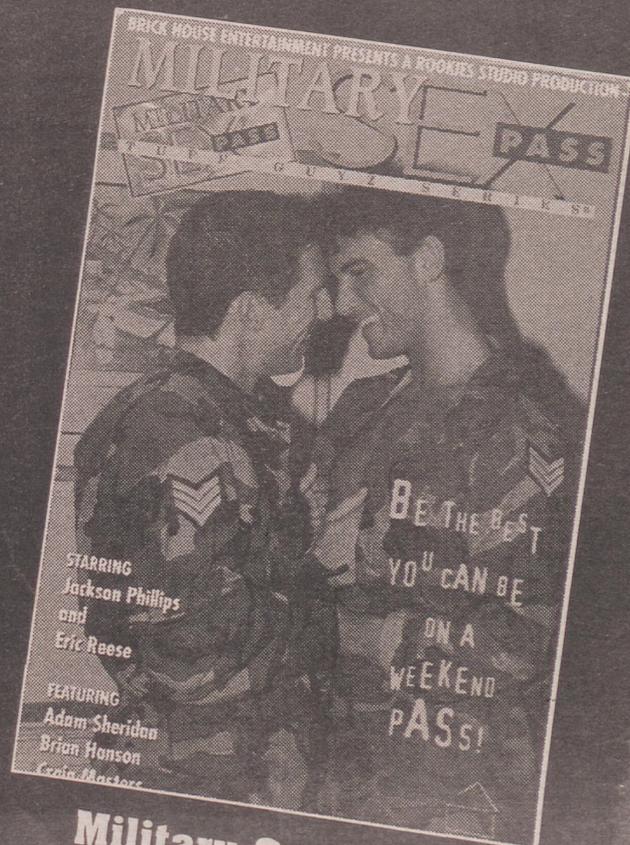
Brother to Brother



**Friday & Saturday
11am-3am**

**Monday
thru Thursday
11am-1am**

**Sunday
1pm-1am**



Military Sex Pass

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SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking
Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

RED KAMEL ORIGINALS: 16 mg. "tar", 1.1 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette by FTC method.



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