



Before - Ricardo was one "Sara" a homeless HIV+ transvestite.

"The Transformation" Examines the Nature of Sexual Identity

Program Airs this Saturday on Channel 8

Ricardo was once "Sara," a homeless HIV-positive transvestite prostitute living in the underbelly of Manhattan. Today, he's a churchgoing, married man "saved" by a



After - Today he is a churchgoing married man (pictured with his wife).

Log Cabin Republican Texas State President and attorney Dale Carpenter was the keynote speaker at a luncheon meeting of the Federalist Society on July 17. The speech was significant because it was the first time an openly gay man addressed the Houston Federalist Society and the first time a speaker argued in favor of gay civil rights at one of their events. The Federalist Society is a nationwide group of conservative

Dallas ministry. He has renounced his homosexuality, but is his conversion complete? THE TRANSFORMATION, a film by Susana Aikin and Carlos Aparicio, features astonishingly candid interviews with Ricardo, his friends, and members of his church, and raises provocative questions about sexual identity and self-determination. Part of P.O.V., broadcast television's only continuing forum for independent non-fiction film, THE TRANSFORMATION will air in Houston on Saturday night, July 27 at 10:30pm on Channel 8.

On his wedding day, Ricardo looks dapper in his tuxedo -- and radiantly happy. Just like any other newlyweds, he and his wife, Betty, are enthusiastic about building a life together. But theirs is no ordinary marriage. THE TRANSFORMATION incorporates haunting footage from the filmmakers' previous film, THE SALT MINES, in which Ricardo appears as Sara, a bleached blonde with a shy, flirtatious smile, who speaks wistfully of her dreams. He lives with a

(Continued on page 14)

Postcards from the Edge

By Deborah Bell

I received several postcards this week addressed to me as editor of The Houston Voice. Six cards in all, like the ones you get from the post office that are pre-stamped. There is no handwriting on any of the cards but they do have a name and address on each one. They all express disagreement and hostility concerning the story on M-Bar that appeared in the Houston Voice last week. We appreciate hearing from our readers and are always glad to print the letters we get, but there are just a few problems with these cards. First of all, there is a lot of foul language used and it is directed towards me personally (think of any number of bad words women are called and you will probably identify all the ones used). One of my favorites is addressed as being to "Deborah Bell, from hell". The other thing is that we investigated the names and return addresses and found out that the persons

whose names appear are in fact not the writer nor the sender of these cards, which has greatly upset those folks whose names were used without their permission. Other community businesses and individuals have been receiving cards like these for the last several months.

This individual is apparently upset about M-bar, the other area bars, drinking, drug use, the Westheimer Arts Festival, and is very prejudice against fat people. The sender obviously is too much of a coward to use their own name and make their case in an up front, respectable manner. Furthermore, by sending cards and using other people's names, they have committed mail fraud, a federal offense. If anyone knows who this individual might be, please call The Houston Voice at 529-8490. The postcards are being turned over to the authorities and when the individual is apprehended they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Federalist Society hears Speech by Log Cabin State President

lawyers and judges that has gained great influence in the selection of judges and law clerks. Many Reagan and Bush judicial appointees are associated with the group.

Carpenter has been a member of the Federalist Society since law school. He was introduced at the crowded meeting by Reagan appointee Judge Jerry Smith. Smith is a judge on the US Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit who recently ruled against affirmative action programs in universities. Smith's introduction of Carpenter was prepared by another conservative appellate judge, Edith Jones, for whom Carpenter served as a law clerk. Jones could not attend due to a prior commitment. Carpenter's speech focused on the recent Supreme Court decision concerning Romer vs. Evans. A question and answer session followed his prepared remarks. Carpenter granted The Houston Voice permission to print the text of his speech which offers a closer examination as to the full meaning of the Supreme Court decision in Romer v. Evans.

Matter of Equality under the Law

By Dale Carpenter

As you enter the building housing the United States Supreme Court in Washington, you pass under the words, etched in large prominent letters in the marble: "Equality Under the Law." Many gay Americans have long doubted that those words fully applied to them. To their delight, and to the dismay of many others who see homosexuality as a threat to the very fabric of American society and cultural values, the United States Supreme Court in Romer v. Evans has begun to answer the question in the

affirmative. For those of you who may not remember or may never have known, I'll offer some brief background on what brought Romer v. Evans to the Supreme Court. In 1992, the voters of Colorado passed an amendment to the state constitution. That amendment, popularly known as Amendment 2, is the subject of Romer v. Evans so it will be important to recall what the amendment said and did. Here is what it said: "Neither the state of Colorado, through any of its branches or departments, nor any of its agencies, political subdivisions, municipalities or school districts, shall enact, adopt or enforce any statute, regulation, or policy whereby homosexual, Lesbian, or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of or entitle any person or class of persons to have or claim any minority status, quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination." The effect of Amendment 2 was, at a minimum, to repeal ordinances that had been adopted in Aspen, Boulder, and Denver protecting Gays from discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations. The ordinances had protected Gays from discrimination in a broad array of contexts, including hotels, restaurants, hospitals, dental clinics, theaters, banks, common carriers, travel and insurance agencies, and any other shops or stores dealing with goods or services of any kind. All gone. The amendment also swept aside an executive order protecting state employees from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. It nullified a provision of the Colorado Insurance Code forbidding health insurance providers from determining

(Continued on page 10)



NAMES Project Regional Committee Chairs met recently in Houston to wrap-up the final plans for the Washington, DC Display in October.

Clintons Honorary Co-chairs of Quilt Display

President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the Honorary Host committee for the display of the entire AIDS Memorial

Quilt in Washington, DC which will occur October 11-13. This is the first time a U.S. President has served in such a capacity for a

(Continued on page 28)

ONE WORLD. ONE HOPE.



An Update from the XI International Conference on AIDS in Vancouver

Saturday, August 10

- 8a-9a** Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9a-11:30a** Listen to medical professionals and patient advocates share medical research news from the Vancouver Conference.
- 11:30a-1p** Visit the Vancouver Poster Display and Informational Booths
- 1p-4p** Attend Informative Sessions on:
 - Pharmaceuticals - *An open discussion with representatives on research, pricing and access issues*
 - Working with HIV - *Legal Rights & Disclosure Laws*
 - Women & HIV - *Reproductive Rights & Gynecological Issues*
 - Case Management - *Maximizing Your Health Care Benefits*
 - Living with HIV - *Protecting Your Partners & Family Support*
- 4p-5:30p** Participate in a Wrap-Up, Town Meeting and Question & Answer session with community leaders and medical professionals

presented by
Tenet HealthSystem
 Park Plaza Hospital
 Twelve Oaks Hospital
 Therapeutic Concepts, P.A.

Call for reservations or more information
1-800-527-1551

Now Playing...

Introduction

Houston is a city alive with the performing arts and keeping track of what is where and when for how long can be burdensome. This column is intended to capsule that information and present it in manageable form. This present listing is not complete, a characteristic we plan to change with experience.

Poor Superman

Underwritten by The Houston Voice and playing to sellout audiences, *Poor Super Man* continues at TheaterLab Houston, 1706 Alamo (off 2100 Houston), Friday and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 6:00 p.m. Additionally, the author, Brad Fraser, will be at Crossroads Market, 1111 Westheimer, Saturday, July 27 from noon until 2:00 p.m. The telephone number for TheaterLab is 868-7516

Beehive

Theatre Under the Stars, free outdoor theatre at Hermann Park will stage the final nights of *Beehive* Thursday, Friday and Saturday (25 to 27 July) at 8:30 p.m. at the Miller Outdoor Theatre.

Beehive, powered by a energetic all-female cast features 70 costume changes, wigs to gasp and giggle over, gallons of hair spray, and songs and music of the '60s that should bring a smile and joy to everyone.

Seats (up to four per person) for the covered amphitheater are available the day of performance from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Ample blanket and lawn chair areas are designated on the hillside flanking the amphitheater.

The Seven Deadly Virtues

Stages Repertory Theatre, 3201 Allen



Teenager of the 60s meets Connie Francis and Leslie Gore in *Beehive* -now playing and free at Miller Theatre—presented by Theatre Under the Stars

Parkway, will be the scene of "The Seven Deadly Virtues" August 2, 3 and 4, for the benefit of the Bering Support Network.

Performances Friday, 2nd will be at 8:30 p.m., the 3rd at 2:30 and 8:30 and the 4th at 2:30 p.m. General admission is \$15, \$12 for seniors, and are available at Basic Brothers, Uniglobe First Choice Travel, by calling 526-5846 or by e-mail at beringticx@aol.com. Some tickets may be available at the door.

The Nerd

To celebrate the final weekend of Alley Theatre's Summer Chills '96, tickets for the weekend showing of the comedy *The Nerd* will be available at half price if purchased after 10:00 a.m. Friday July 26. The reduced price is \$7.50.

Friday's performance is at 8:00 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 and 8:00 p.m. The Alley Theatre is located at 615 Texas Ave. and the telephone number is 228-8421.

HOW TO REACH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS & THE PRESIDENT

Call the Capitol switchboard -even if you are not sure who represents you, just ask the operator and you will be connected. Ask for their fax numbers and e-mail addresses as well:

Call: U.S. Capitol 202/224-3121 (Senators & Representatives)

Write:

The Honorable _____
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable _____
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

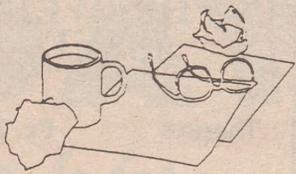
The President of the United States
 President Bill Clinton
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
 Washington, DC 20500

White House Public Comment Line: 202/456-7639
 E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Tell EVERYONE you saw it in the
HOUSTON VOICE

In My Own Voice

by Deborah Bell



Buttons And Bows

By DEBORAH BELL

I never can pass an exhibition area at a conference without thinking of my late friend, Eileen Elfant. Eileen and her husband Martin were vendors specializing in political buttons. You know the ones—those clever "sound bite" slogans that let us express our support for particular candidates or causes, much as bumper stickers do. I have a small collection of about a thousand of these (Brian Keever probably has more).

Eileen did a lot more than just sell and wear buttons. Her liberal politics were a personal matter to her which influenced her work and all who knew her. She knew that wearing buttons was not enough, that if you want to make changes in the world you have to take action. She believed you had the responsibility to make them happen.

I ran into Eileen many years ago at a Women's Career Conference and she expressed to me that she was looking for a job. In true feminist networking fashion I told her of a position I had heard about through my NOW chapter at the Vocational Guidance Service (VGS), which is now called Career Recovery Center. It so happened that Eileen's credentials were just what they were looking for. She committed herself to the work and is the person responsible for developing the very successful program known as Houston Works. Keeping her illness a secret for the most part, Eileen went off to Washington one last time to lobby the week before her death. That was the kind of person she was and why she was one of my heroes.

The yellow ribbon was once used in this country to symbolize a "welcome home" to those who were returning from the war in Viet Nam. This was a result of a popular song from the time "Tie a Yellow Ribbon (Around the Old Oak Tree)," sung by Tony Orlando and Dawn. The US involvement in "Operation Desert Storm" (a name thought up by a yuppie PR firm, obviously) brought out the yellow ribbons again. They appeared on lamp-posts, car antennas, around tress, on clothing and everywhere you would look. It was to show support for the troops, the men and women who were serving in the Middle East, but it more accurately showed support for the actions of our government and then President Bush in con-

ducting yet another military action.

That war was opposed by many citizens and it was crucial for us to voice our objections. One of the buttons Eileen sold me is one with an old peace movement saying—"If there is to be peace, let it begin with me." As a pacifist, a mother, and as a feminist, I am ethically opposed to war. I urged others who felt as I did to wear a white ribbon to show that they were ones who stood for peace.

Once the flurry of yellow ribbons had faded, the red ribbon was promoted as a symbol of AIDS awareness with quite a bit of success. The red ribbon held a unique place for sometime before the proliferation of ribbons of varying hues symbolizing various causes became epidemic. The ability to readily identify the meaning of a ribbon by its color negates the purpose of wearing it in the first place. The whole ribbon phenomenon was becoming just too tired for a while and I refused to wear one.

I think the red ribbon can endure as a worthwhile symbol, mainly because it has been successfully promoted while many of the color scheme ribbons have not been entrenched in our consciousness to the same degree. The US Postal service even used it on a stamp. Unlike many others, I don't put down those who use the red ribbon, even if all they do is wear it to an awards ceremony. My thinking is that at least that person must realize the significance of wearing the ribbon and is promoting AIDS awareness (the proposed purpose in the first place).

I do believe that wearing ribbons is not enough; no one knows that better than our community. I also think that the profits—ALL profits made from the sale of red ribbons or red ribbon products should go to direct care, education, and research for a cure. The red ribbon has become a cultural icon, much like the pink triangle, the rainbow flag, freedom rings and the lambda. The wearing of these items has become a way for us to identify ourselves to one another and to promote pride. I do not want the ribbon to lose its meaning by just being viewed as a "hip" fashion statement, as I sometimes fear it has been. If that were the case, then it is time to stop wearing them.

If there is to be awareness, let it begin with me.

Gay Today

by Glen Webber



The Gay Today column by Glen Webber is not appearing in this week's issue of the Voice. Glen had to spend a few days in the hospital due to running a high fever (103 degrees) and having hallucinations. He is out of the hospital now and doing much better. He hopes to resume his column when he gets his strength up.

The *Houston Voice* welcomes well-written, insightful and to-the-point commentaries for our opinion/editorial pages. We also welcome "counterpoint" articles that represent a different view on the issues approached in articles we have already run. We reserve the right to edit for length, format and clarity. The views expressed in guest commentaries and letters to the editor published in the *Houston Voice* are those of the writers. We seek to provide a broad-based forum which reflects the varying points of view of our rich and diverse community. Selection for publication is at our discretion. Send articles to: The *Houston Voice*, Attn.: Editor, 811 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77006, or fax to 713-529-9531.

Letter to the Community

We, Marion Coleman and Larry Lingle, are involved in a pending lawsuit. The lawsuit arose out of an article that Larry Lingle published in the July, 1994 issue of *The Texas Triangle*. The article concerned a dispute that arose within the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus in the early spring of 1994. Because of the article, Marion Coleman and her printing business, House of Coleman, Inc., sued Larry Lingle, William White and their business Lobo Book Store for defamation of her character. We know that much has been written and said about the lawsuit. We understand that, in a way, the Caucus dispute, the article, and the lawsuit reflect a common occurrence within the Houston gay and lesbian community, namely, the inability to put aside individual agendas and work together to promote and pursue matters that we can agree upon, such as the protection of the political interests of gay men and women, the education of the public about homosexuality and homosexual lifestyles, a cure for AIDS, and equality and civil rights for gay men and women and others.

After two years of in-court fighting, the main issue has not been resolved. Until now we were still battling each other in court, the Houston gay and lesbian community is still fighting among itself, and in the meantime William White has died of AIDS-related complications. We have decided to put aside our personal legal agendas, put aside our differences and to end the lawsuit with neither of us being declared "the winner." Though Marion still believes she was defamed by Larry and Larry still believes that Marion's lawsuit is unjustified, we feel the money and time we are spending fighting each other could be much better spent on causes that will help others. This is particularly important since this is a Presidential election year and there is great opportunity for our community to advance our common causes if we work together. We would also like to express our support and encourage the support of each other's business. The House of Coleman is a quality printing business, which also provides graphic art, typesetting and bindery. It has served the community and others for a quarter of a century. Likewise, the Lobo Book Store has served the community and others for many years. It is a bookstore and gift shop which also presents and provides adult items in a very tasteful manner. The Lobo Book Store recently moved and is now just a block away from the House of Coleman.

We hope that leaders in the community will follow our lead in reconciling and getting back to the important task of promoting and protecting our political interests, our equal rights and our civil rights. We have set aside our differences and hope others will join with us in doing the same.

Sincerely,

Marion E. Coleman

Marion E. Coleman
House of Coleman, Inc.

Sincerely,

Larry Lingle

Larry Lingle
Lobo Book Store

Jewel's

High Fashion for the Fashion Minded

SPECIALIZING IN WIGS & EXTENSIONS!
All types of hair!

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11 til 3

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In Loving Memory



SHAWN KEENAN GILSON 1962 - 1996

Shawn Gilson died in Denver on July 14 of liver failure. He was born in Boston, received his broadcasting degree in Colorado, and came to Houston in 1990 as news director at K.P.F.T. Pacifica Radio. He also held the position of news editor/reporter for the New Voice in 1993. Shawn moved to Denver in 1994 where he was training manager for K.G.N.U. Radio, as well as a broadcaster for Pacifica News. Shawn will be greatly missed by his friends in Houston.

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HOUSTON VOICE

The Voice of Houston's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgendered Community

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COMMUNITY

HPMA August Meeting

The Houston Professional Men's Association (HPMA) will hold its August dinner meeting Friday, August 2 starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Shiva restaurant, 2514 Times Blvd. (Rice Village).

Featuring an Indian buffet, the cost for the meeting is \$18 and includes food from the Indian sub-continent, complimentary ice tea and soft drinks, and the price includes a contribution to the HPMA coffers.

Please RSVP to Mark at 266-5510 before Wednesday, July 31. New members are always welcome.

Kolbe Potluck

The monthly potluck dinner is planned for Thursday August 1 at 7:00 p.m. at 1905 Fairview.

The community concerns speakers will be a panel from the Houston chapter of P-FLAG. They will share reflections on their bus trip earlier this year to Washington, DC when they lobbied members of Congress on the importance of passing Hate Crime Legislation.

For more information telephone 522-8182.

Self Employment

Attorney Kathy A. Biehl will conduct a seminar on the legal basics of self-employment Tuesday, August 6. The seminar will explain sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies; how to protect a business name; and critical, but often overlooked, tax and insurance issues.

The seminar is at 7:30 p.m. August 6 at the Spectrum Center, 4100 Westheimer #235. The cost is \$35, or \$30 if purchased before August 3.

Ms. Biehl, who has been self-employed since 1982 is a Houston attorney with a private solo practice. Her articles on legal and practical matters have appeared in The American Bar Association Journal and other national publications. For reservations or information telephone 524-5051.

At Risk Sex

"At Risk Sexual Behavior: A multiple discipline seminar" will be sponsored by The Bar Association for Human Rights of Greater Houston, Inc., Thurs-



Krewe of Olympus, Diana Foundation and Four Seasons Club all contributed to provide this spiffy new van to the AIDS Foundation Houston food pantry a.k.a. Stone Soup

day August 1 from 7 until 9:00 p.m. at the MCCR, 1919 Decatur.

Open to lawyers, mental health professionals and interested members of the general public, the session will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the psychological implications of at risk sexual behavior; at 7:45 the legal consequences of at risk sexual behavior; at 8:15 the topic will change to criminal liability and the evening will conclude with a panel to question.

CLE accreditation is requested and there will be no admission charged.

Rummage-A-Rama

AIDS Housing Coalition Houston (ACHC) will be holding a Rummage sale Saturday, August 3 to benefit TLC House, an emergency HIV/AIDS shelter located in East Montrose, and is requesting donations of anything that might be offered for sale in a "yard sale" setting.

According to Matt Locklin, AHCH executive director, anything that is still working and sellable is wanted. Thousands of donated items in the past have raised more than \$7,000 during previous events.

Items can be delivered to 117 Tuam where IRS donation receipt letters will be available. For more information telephone 521-1613.

Ribbon Cutting

The Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce with Lobo Bookstore will be having a ribbon cutting ceremony to formally welcome Lobo to its new location at 3939 Montrose Blvd. The ribbon will be cut Thursday, August 1 at 12 noon and everyone is invited to attend.

Grand Opening Block Party

A fun afternoon to celebrate GHG-LCC's newest member, *Memorial Video by the Park* has its grand opening with food, drink and fun all afternoon July 26 from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m., with the lesbian band New October providing entertainment at 5514 Memorial Drive near Otto's Bar-b-q. The Houston Voice says Congrats! to Lois and Ros!

How To...

The continuing series of "How to..." workshops planned for Friday, July 26 will focus on using your medical insurance for HIV medical care.

Sponsored by Oncol Medical Associates, the seminar is free and will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at 4140 Southwest Freeway, 4th floor. Please telephone 961-7100 for more information or reservations.

Corrections -- Oops!

The following are corrections the July 19 issue of The Houston Voice (issue #821). We apologize for any confusion, problems, or misunderstandings these errors may have caused. -- db

Ray West who wrote the article "One World, One Hope" should have been identified as the President of the People with AIDS Coalition of Houston.

A sentence in Plain Speaking by Larry Lingle - the end of the third paragraph should have read: The new class of drugs, saquinavir, zidovudine and indinavir, are protease inhibitors, and the next class of drugs will be integrase inhibitors which are currently in trials.

The photo of Houstonians at the International Conference was credited to David Goetz and it should not have been, the picture was provided by Ray West. David should have credit for a photo that appeared the week before, of the rainbow flagged draped building.

The Montrose Civic Association mentioned in the article "A inside look at MBar" does not exist as of yet. The sign reads "The Westheimer/Montrose Civic Association". John Flores is seeking to organize this organization to be composed of business owners in the area. The name the city seeks to call the area is not the "Lower Westheimer Museum District" as it appears in the article, it should be the "Lower Westheimer Arts District."

SUNDAY

The Happy

Hookers Contest

CASH and PRIZES AWARDED TO THE NASTIEST but HAPPIEST HOOKERS PRESENT. SHOWTIME AT 10pm FOLLOWED BY

SUNDAY FRENZY
MALE STRIP CONTEST
with BLACK VELVET

THE GENTRY SOCIAL CLUB

\$1.50 WELL COCKTAILS
\$1.75 DOMESTIC LONGNECKS
\$3.50 ABSOLUT MARTINIS

EVERYDAY UNTIL 7pm

WEDNESDAY
MALE STRIP
CONTEST with
Miss Gay Houston USofA at Large
REGINA DANE

SATURDAY AUG. 3
IMPERIAL
COURT
CAR WASH
11am TO 4pm

SUNDAY, AUG. 4
THE MISTER
LIFE
TODAY
CONTEST
9:00pm

BAD BOYS
WITH BIG
BOATS DANCE
SEVEN NIGHTS
A WEEK

Gentry

HOUSTON

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The Until There's A Cure AIDS Bracelet

NEW YORK—The Until There's A Cure Foundation is a small grassroots AIDS fundraising organization that raises money from the sale of The AIDS Bracelet. The Foundation's impact this past year has been dramatic, national media from People Magazine to ABC News have covered its story. Behind the coverage, the Foundation keeps its attention focused on the big issue ... the challenge of AIDS. Recently the Foundation unveiled the results of its latest sales efforts when it presented two \$100,000 checks to AIDS organizations committed to vital projects: education and AIDS vaccine development.

For this generation of young Americans, Until There's A Cure supports innovative education programs to encourage safer behavior, such as the STAR Initiative (Students Teaching AIDS Responsibility). In March of this year the Foundation presented a \$100,000 STAR Grant, the largest so far, to the National AIDS Fund. This grant became the primary financial support of the White House Report "Youth and HIV/AIDS: An American Agenda." The Report, which was requested by President Clinton, was written and researched by four young people (one of whom is HIV-positive). It expressed the need for innovative AIDS education programs for young people (such as peer-to-peer education) and the importance of encouraging compassion and caring for people living with AIDS. "The essence of STAR Grants is young people reaching out to other young people to prevent the spread of HIV. That is



Check presented by *Until There's A Cure* to the National AIDS Fund

exactly what the White House Report does and why Until There's A Cure recognized it as being so important' noted Patricia Dwyer, Executive Director of Until There's A Cure. The report has received universal praise and is being widely distributed by the White House Office of AIDS Policy and the Centers For Disease Control.

For future generations, the Foundation supports AIDS vaccine development, realizing that a vaccine is the best hope for reducing the transmission of this deadly virus. The Foundation recently made a \$100,000 grant to the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, a global initiative sponsored by the Rockefeller Foun-

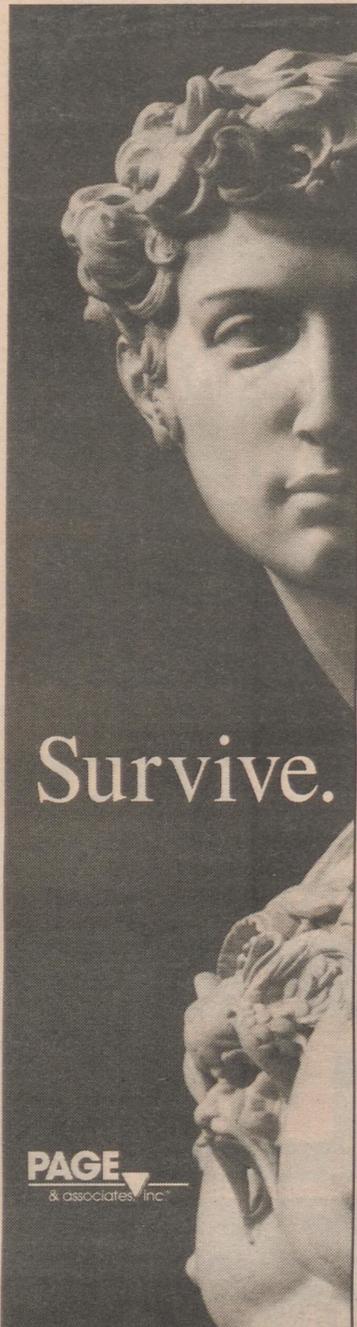
ation. The Until There's A Cure Foundation financially supported the preliminary meetings of the World AIDS Vaccine Initiative held in London and Alexandria, Virginia. These meetings, attended by scientists, policy-makers and fund representatives, provided the seed that convinced the Rockefeller Foundation to hold the first conference on worldwide AIDS vaccine development in Bellagio, Italy, in 1994, which was also supported by Until There's A Cure. As a result of these meetings, the Rockefeller Foundation officially launched the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) in Jan. 1996 to accelerate progress

toward creating an HIV vaccine suitable for use throughout the world.

With financial support from Until There's A Cure, IAVI has retained a leading vaccine expert as its Scientific Director and will assemble an advisory committee, which will create a scientific agenda and evaluate funding proposals. The Foundation presented a \$100,000 check to the Rockefeller Foundation to help sustain the program.

The Until There's A Cure Foundation was founded by Dana Cappiello and Kathleen Scutchfield after their best friend, Anthony Torrieri, died of AIDS in 1992. Both are mothers and entrepreneurs, concerned about the escalating spread of AIDS. Both serve without pay. Founded in 1993, the Foundation is dedicated to raising funds and awareness for AIDS through sales of The AIDS Bracelet. To date, the Foundation has distributed over \$750,000 to HIV/AIDS groups and vaccine development efforts.

The Bracelet is a simple yet elegant symbol reminiscent of the POW/MIA bracelets worn during the Vietnam era. The 1/4-inch cuff Bracelet, featuring a familiar small, raised AIDS ribbon, reminds people that we are all working together Until There's A Cure. The Bracelet is sold at prominent retailers throughout the United States, including Bloomingdale's, The Body Shop, Carson Pirie Scott, Kenneth Cole, Macy's Herald Square, Macy's Union Square and Virgin Megastores. To find out more about The Bracelet, call 1-800/88-UNTIL or visit your favorite retailer.



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Liz Harmon—San Diego Business Journal, April, 1994

"The final months or years of a person's life are lived with the dignity of not going broke..."

Phil Donahue—The Donahue Show, December, 1992

"...they're just as likely to give a terminally ill person a second lease on life."

William Hoffman—Small Business News, April, 1994

Family Values

by Esperanza Lavender Jazz Paz



BRING IT OUT OF THE CLOSET!

Your instrument that is.

The continuing topic of conversation among my pals is The Pride Parade (wasn't it exquisite?) and how magnificently the Houston Pride Band played. All those sweaty, marching bodies in blue jean shorts and clever uniform t-shirts, belting out their own sassy music to the thrill of the screaming, celebrating mobs lining the curve. Whether the Houston Pride Band plays in the streets or in Jones Hall, in Vancouver, British Columbia or Madison Square Garden, grateful crowds always gather to roar and wave, demanding to experience more, more, more! And the Houston Pride Band gives 'em what they came for

The Band is a proud Houston institution, being organized to lead the First National Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights March on Washington in 1979. Since then it has aligned itself with the Lesbian and Gay Bands of America and participated in the Gay Games, President Clinton's inaugural parade and the 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, as well as every local Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and the many Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies at Mary's (Naturally!).

Today the Band is smaller than it used to be and it is becoming more difficult to meet the demands of their fans. It has suffered losses of members due to AIDS, and of others too dispirited to continue. At times the Band has been without conductors, venues or enough musicians to cover all the musical parts but it has pressed on, never distracted from its mission to provide extraordinary entertainment to the audience and boisterous parties for itself after each performance.

Sometimes they don't wait for a performance to enjoy the festivities. The Band has been known to invite all friends

and players to the beach for a retreat or a gala. They occasionally take trips together out of town, or out of the country. Sometimes they sit around reminiscing about the good old days when Andy Mills, Conductor Emeritus, led seventy-five musicians and almost that many voices of the Montrose Singers in concert to swells of emotional ovations that lasted as long as the final works.

"It would be great if we had some new members," they say during those bittersweet recollections. "It would be fun to get a whole section again—of any instrument!" And they speculate among themselves why the community that admires them so extravagantly does not seek to join them. "Maybe everyone thinks you have to be a professional musician, maybe they think that they will have to audition. They might think they have to be Lesbian or Gay, or that we play difficult pieces that they haven't played since high school. Maybe they think they can't afford it or that it's too competitive (like that other community band)."

Maybe it's because the Houston Pride Band has not successfully reached out to its audience and invited people to attend a rehearsal—no obligation, no salesperson will call—on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at 1307 Yale, #H (the Dignity organization). Bring your instrument if you have one, play or not as you feel comfortable. Meet the members and they will invite you to join them at an after-practice meal or cocktail at whatever restaurant the group chooses. There are no auditions, obligatory expenses or pressure to perform. If you like it, come back and consider yourself a member. Our next concert will be in the fall. And bring your friends. It will sure do my friends good.

Jazz is the official cheerleader of the Houston Pride Band.

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Women's Vote Project

The Women's Vote Project was initiated by a coalition of 118 national women's organizations' reaction to the steady decline in women's voting participation in recent years. The goal of the project is to dramatically increase the number of women who vote in the 1996 elections, and in so doing, to ensure that the issues of greatest concern to women—across both political parties—are put at the top of our nation's and states' political agendas. The project will especially focus on reaching low and lower-middle income women who make up such a large majority of non-voting women. All efforts of the project are nonpartisan and noncandidate-based and focus on encouraging women to make their own choices at the polls based on the issues of concern to them.

The project includes a media message campaign that consists of public service announcements for television, radio, and print in English and Spanish; a voter registration campaign; and a get-out-the vote campaign. The project's media message campaign is being implemented nationally, and was officially launched in Nov. 1995 with placement of the PSA in People Magazine and on Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority buses. The project's media partners include Paramount-Viacom, People Magazine, ABC, Working Mother Magazine, Working Women Magazine, CBS Latina Style, Univision Television, Lifetime Television, Essence Magazine, Country Living, Colonial Ionics, Vista, and Pacifica

News Radio, and public transit authorities in seven major metropolitan areas. In addition to a national media message campaign, the project has identified eleven "target" states—based on research examining women's historical voting participation across the states—in which it is counting intensive registration and get-out-the-vote efforts. These states include Massachusetts, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Colorado, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Missouri. In each of these eleven Target States, the Women's Vote Project will be implemented by broad, local coalitions of women's organizations and individual women whose work will be coordinated by the project's State Coordinators. The project is also being implemented within up to ten Affiliate Sites throughout the country.

The Women's Vote Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit project, and all parts of the project adhere to the non-partisan, non-candidate based requirements of this tax status. The project is funded through the generous support of a wide variety of corporate and private foundations and labor unions. All public service announcements are placed on a pro-bono basis.

You can get more information about the project by calling the Women's Vote Project Information Line, at 1-888-WEVOTE96 or 1-202-966-6479. The information line is staffed by a team of Women's Vote Project interns.

THE OUTsider

by Curt Morrison

By CURT MORRISON

Political Umbrage

Hard to believe, but there it was: Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee voting 'present' on the House floor when the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) came to a vote. This bill was a significant issue to many in our community who laboriously contributed to her campaign and election to the seat she now holds. Our community should be outraged at the lack of conviction both Jackson Lee and President Clinton have demonstrated concerning DOMA during this election only to codify the religious factions, both left and right, of the electorate at our expense. While such behavior is typical of President Clinton, it is somewhat surprising coming from Jackson Lee.

Certainly she is not the only Democratic legislator who voted to pass this discriminatory act (a 'present' is the same thing as an absence, which in effect is a vote for the majority). Congress passed DOMA by a margin of 342-67, affirming that a majority of Democrats (who purport to be civil rights advocates) endorsed this legislation by a 2 to 1 margin. Does anyone besides myself have a problem with representatives soliciting our votes under the guise of promoting and advocating our civil liberties only to abandon them when they arise? I have more respect for someone who is honest and doesn't prevaricate their stance on an issue under the guise of appeasement in order to gain electoral advantage.

More telling however is the degree to which these politicians take our allegiance for granted and how we as a community have provided them with that comfort level. Clinton, Lee and the other Democrats who supported this misguided act did so with complete confidence that we as a community would continue to vigorously support them with the utmost veneration. If the apologist rhetoric of their defenders is any indication, their confidence has been vindicated. This is precisely why our community needs to seek adequate representation in both political parties. The alternative is empty promises followed by dubious attempts at justification.

The problem I have with Jackson Lee's vote of 'present' with respect to DOMA is the explanation she provided for voting in such a manner. "The Defense of Marriage Act is not the kind of legislation that belongs on the floor of the United States House of Representatives..." Lee exhorts. I would agree, however, that is not the issue. The fact of the matter is that the legislation is on the Floor and if she truly believed that the act was wrong, she should have voted against it. "Religious leaders can decide how to define marriage, not politicians..." This is not exactly true, marriages are sanctioned and acknowledged by a legal process and if the marriage is not recognized by the state, it is not considered valid. This remark was entirely meritless and fully constructed with the intent of placating her religious constituents during an election year.

She continues: "The federal government does not belong in matters of family. There are no federal marriage or divorce laws. This has and continues

to be the role of the states as it has been for the past 200 years. ..." True enough. Unfortunately, that is one of the few rights the state does have jurisdiction over. "It is beyond the responsibility of the federal government to impose a definition of marriage on the states..." she opines. It is absolutely amazing to me the degree of guile that politicians will proffer in defense of ignorance. It is beyond the original intent of the federal government to impose definitions of any sort (other than National Defense and Interstate Commerce) upon states, yet that seems to be irrelevant when it is an issue that Jackson Lee espouses. If it is wrong for the federal government to impose a definition of marriage on individual states, it is then equally as wrong for it to impose welfare regulations, environmental regulations, and a host of other mandates on the states.

It should be noted that Jackson Lee offered a motion during the House debate of DOMA to attach the Employment Non-Discrimination Act to the legislation. It did not pass. While Jackson Lee deserves credit for attempting to amend the legislation, it raises more questions than it answers. Would she have supported the act if the motion had passed? If so, why? If not, why bother bringing up the issue in the first place unless you were going to use it as propaganda to deflect criticism for indecisiveness on the main issue? These are questions that Ms. Lee should answer so that our community can better understand her intent.

"I respect the rights of all my constituents. They all should have the right to seek human dignity. I will continue to be accessible, accountable and responsible to all of the voters in the 18th Congressional District," concluded Lee. Voting 'present' does not demonstrate unwavering commitment to the above statement. Citing her vote as a form of protest does nothing for the Gay and Lesbian community. Our community sent Jackson Lee to Congress to stand up for our civil liberties, as promised, based on principle and conviction and she decided to protest a major issue of importance to us because of her disdain for federal involvement!? That is not leadership, nor is it proper representation.

Let me make a few things clear. I supported Sheila Jackson Lee and President Clinton during their last bids for election. Much to my chagrin, they have both been disappointments—Clinton more so than Jackson Lee. And, I am fully aware that the DOMA legislation was propagated as a wedge issue by the Republicans. It is commonplace in the Beltway for both parties to use divisive issues during election cycles. One thing it is not though, is an excuse to blame your lack of conviction upon. If you actively seek the support of certain groups, then you should have the courage to stand firm on the promises you made.

Sheila Jackson Lee is an astute politician who understands the complexities of politics and knows she faces redistricting. Her remarks were carefully worded to codify all of her constituents and her vote allowed her to defend either side of the issue precisely because she didn't go on record either way. That is called fence walking and it is politics at its worst.

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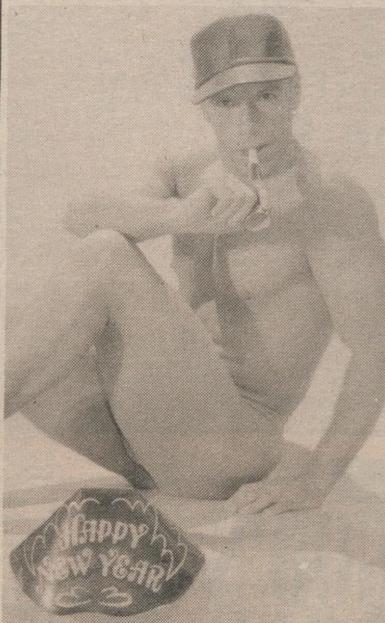
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Body Positive Responds

FROM GARY ROD

Dear Mr. Determan,

Thank you for your letter regarding the "Self Empowerment in HIV Disease" forum. We are very sorry that the information presented was not completely accessible to you and the other Deaf/Hard of Hearing attendees. In spite of extensive efforts we were unable to provide a Certified Level 3 interpreter.

As fellow HIV service providers, let us not lose sight of our common goal—the containment and eventual cure of HIV/AIDS. As non-profit organizations, we are constantly challenged to provide quality services within serious budgetary constraints to the community. Body Positive/Houston hopes this experience does not damage the excellent working relationship our agencies share as we continue towards this common goal.

Gary Rod is the President of the Board of Directors of Body Positive/Houston.

Salute To RSICSS

FROM SKIP WILLET

As a representative of West Point Lincoln Mercury it was my privilege to attend a fund-raising event held at Chances Bar last Friday night. Proceeds of this RSICSS fund-raiser will benefit the Colt 45's at the end of this year's reign. This fine organization, in my opinion, is one the hardest working groups of people to champion a cause that I have ever had the good fortune of knowing.

These people are indeed movers and shakers in the community. They do not wait for things to happen, they make it happen. They are due the respect of all.

West Point Lincoln Mercury Buick KIA, is happy to support these events. I urge everyone in our community to also give the necessary support to RSICSS and other groups who endeavor to make a change in our lives. Just for a moment, think how much difference even one dollar a week from each one of us could make in the lives of those who are in need. Peace of mind, for less than the price of a beer.

Farewell To The Gypsy Queen

FROM RICK MINSET

The Montrose community will soon say farewell to one of its unique long term personalities. Many knew her for her hearty

laughter in troubled times, some for her sage advice, and others for the quiet helping hand that was always there for others. From the "good old days" of the Brasserie and Tim's Coffee Shop to the sadder times of today, this lady (dubbed by the Voice 'Montrose's Gypsy Queen') gave of spirit, effort, and worldly goods to see others through troubled waters. Regardless of her own travail, her hand lifted many a person from the street and paved the path of multiple patients dying of AIDS with affirmation, dignity, hands-on care, and her ever present laughter.

Who else could this quiet hurricane be but the inimitable Pauline McCollum; to a few hundred of her friends in the community, just Pauline. Spangled from head to toe with boas aflutter she seemed an unlikely St. George, but the battles fought in behalf of this community seal her recognition as a dynamic force; a "straight" guardian angel who quietly lifted the gay spirit and affirmed for many their worth.

Always secretive, Pauline's acts are legendary to the long-term community at large, but few know just how unique she is. This is a lady who elevated a common profession to an art, yet left it all—including her own security—to take care of a dying AIDS patient full time when his own family rejected him. All this in the disease's early days when most, including many of our own, walked with absolute fear and ignorance. More notable still, Pauline did not even know the man. She merely heard of his plight through the "grapevine" and took the necessary humane action, cost be damned. That was just the first of all too many she escorted into the shadow while filling their hours with light.

She is just returning to her roots, far away in a little prairie town, yet with her she takes some of the legacy that instigated the positive attitudes now so in vogue. Montrose must surely acknowledge her presence, ... if only in farewell. Just as her colorful garb defined our rainbow insignia, her indomitable spirit sealed it within the souls of thousands lucky enough to be in the court of our own Gypsy Queen. From all of those you touched, Pauline, ... those you healed, lifted from the streets, or in whom you affirmed personal significance, from all knowing your bequest of laughter and humble humanity, a fond and ever loving farewell to our own little sparrow. The brazen lights of our community are now a touch dimmer.

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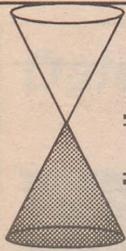
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PLAIN SPEAKING

by Larry Lingle

Eccentric Character Examined

One of the major issues of this presidential election year is "character." Is Bill Clinton really as facial as Republicans would like us to believe and is Bob Dole really the cranky old man who would be president? Historical odds favor that the truth will come out only after both men are long gone.

Who would have guessed that a wheelchair sitting president had more than one mistress or that his activist—(yet hated by some)—wife had her own women friends, as in "friends." Who would have ever guessed that the product of a small-city corrupt political machine who was viewed as the "little man" in the White House would come to be regarded among the "greats" of that residence.

Even today, despite disclosures of philandering the aura of Camelot still hangs over that martyred chief executive. Of course none of us ever thought that Ronnie Reagan had a medical condition, we just thought he was less than well lit.

The point of all this is that we all do well to know ourselves, let alone others, particularly those bathed in the limelight of power where the shadows are both numerous and distorting. In recent years I became fascinated by a certain Texas-born writer, not for his books which became increasingly mystical and obscure, but because he was gay and literary in the 1940s and '50s, the bedrock of much gay literature.

This writer, William Goyen, after two rather lengthy gay relationships, married an actress and re-entered the closet. What I found particularly intriguing about Goyen is that, in pursuit of his literary goals, he was befriended by a number of prominent writers, male and female, straight and gay, and he seemed to make the most of these contacts. I don't see this as a character flaw, but such a pattern is crucial in understanding the man as writer and artist.

I recall an incident during my graduate days, eons ago, when one of my fellow history students—he happened to be a Jesuit priest—was doing his doctoral dissertation on a prominent senator, one who had led the fight against Joe McCarthy and McCarthyism. This student had discovered that the senator, while principled and brilliant, was an alcoholic. After much debate with his professors it was decided that this fact would be left out as not material to a study of this man's life. I am sure that senator would have liked to have so easily dismissed this problem.

Actually, we probably do well if, in our lifetime, we are able to figure out ourselves, let alone others. Certainly I, like all of us, have an image of myself which, I am equally certain, is at variance with how most people see me. Recently a gay book distributor from San Francisco, with whom I do business although we had not met, was visiting in Austin and encountered one of my employees there. During their conversation the San Franciscan remarked that he understood that I was

"eccentric."

I have thought of myself as "not ordinary," but eccentric—as in odd in behavior, off center—is not a word I would readily apply to myself. But, then, I must consider that besides coming from someone who I had not met, he was in Austin for the specific purpose of giving a public demonstration of the art of fisting. Speaking of odd in behavior.

After all these years I am still startled when I encounter such diverse impressions of myself. Certainly in my formative years I probably seemed remote, perhaps standoffish—not surprising since I was preoccupied with building a facade to cover my deep, deep dark secret—my homosexuality. Over the years I have found that some people assume from the nature of my business that sex is pre-eminent in my life. I can only say that in light of the fact that I consciously have known from at least the age of eleven that I am homosexual and that I remained a virgin to gay sex until the age of thirty-seven does not denote one obsessed with sex. Not that I didn't lust in my heart and fall passionately in love with a man while married.

In truth, I have always viewed myself as an outsider. Even growing up in small town during the 1940s and '50s, I was aware that we were poorer than most of my friends, a gulf that grew when I went off to the state university. I never quite fit into the "popular boys" crowd in high school or the Greeks in college. Even today, when my life is totally within the gay community, I continue to dwell in a netherland somewhere below the fabled "A" list but not really pigeonholed somewhere else.

I have been occasionally asked, first, why I married, and then why did I stay married for eight years if I always knew I was Gay. If I had an exact answer then I probably would never have been married. I was deeply in the closet and the woman I married would have to be considered the "ideal" for my situation—undemanding and uninterested in sex. That she married another closet case is ample evidence of this.

While I have never considered myself complex I suppose the mere fact that it took a while for Bill, my late better half, to understand me explains a lot. Bill, of course, came to know me so well that our individual personalities meshed to such an extent that we usually knew what the other was thinking and how we would each react to a given situation. Ultimately, it is rare that we fully understand ourselves, and equally rare that we can comprehend another so well. I doubt that I shall be so fortunate again. And while I love my bassets and cherish my memories of Bill, I intend to continue living my life to the fullest of my own expectations. Whatever else, I have never been a retiring person and certainly not one without opinions, thank you.

Larry Lingle is the owner of Lobo Bookstore and three Basset Hounds. He shares his "unique" character weekly in this column. Despite his use of the term "outsider" he is not to be confused with Curt Morrison, *The Outsider*.

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Dale Carpenter continued...

(Continued from page 1)

insurability and premiums based on sexual orientation. Further, it repealed policies prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation such as those at state colleges, including Colorado State University and the Metropolitan State College of Denver, which prohibited school-sponsored social clubs from discriminating in membership on the basis of sexual orientation. Not satisfied with repealing all existing protections for homosexuals, it declared that no such protections could be re-enacted, short of seeking and obtaining an amendment to the state constitution. Opponents of Amendment 2 went to court to block its enforcement on the grounds that it violated the federal constitution's Equal Protection Clause. They secured an injunction, which was upheld by the Colorado Supreme Court on the grounds that Amendment 2 infringed the fundamental right of Gays and Lesbians to participate in the political process by making them seek redress and protection at a higher level of governmental decision making than others. The US Supreme Court affirmed, but on different grounds. In considering how the court reached its result, I think it's useful to recall the terms in which Justice Kennedy's majority opinion describes the effect of Amendment 2 on the legal status of Gays and Lesbians. The opinion describes Amendment 2 as "sweeping and comprehensive"; "far-reaching"; "exceptional"; "unusual"; "unprecedented" in our history and law; having "severe consequence[s]"; placing a "special," "broad and undifferentiated disability" on homosexuals; "singling out" Gays; putting Gays in a "solitary class"; making Gays "a stranger to [the state's] laws"; and ultimately, irrational.

Contrast that rather dark picture of Amendment 2 to the benign one painted by Justice Scalia, who was joined by Chief Justice Rehnquist and Justice Thomas in dissent. Scalia describes Amendment 2 as a "modest attempt by seemingly tolerant Coloradans" to protect "traditional sexual mores" against the onslaught of "politically powerful" and wealthy homosexuals demanding "special" or "preferential" treatment. Scalia says that the hostility reflected by Amendment 2 toward homosexuals is "the smallest conceivable," and concludes that Amendment 2 is "an entirely" and "eminently" "reasonable provision." This difference in description goes to the larger issue of why the Court struck down Amendment 2. In analyzing the law, the Court applied a "rational basis" test to determine whether it violated the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment. This test is the least demanding level of scrutiny the Court gives to any law that creates some classification. It simply looks at whether the law bears a rational relationship to some legitimate purpose. The Court thus looks at the means used and the end sought to determine whether the law conforms to our Constitution. At the outset, it is important to note that the Court did not address, let alone decide, the level of scrutiny to be given to laws that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. That decision awaits some future case. In the meantime, the court applied the least demanding constitutional standard -- presumably on the theory that if Amendment 2 could not pass that standard then it would not pass any higher standard. The First Reading of Romer v. Evans Justice Kennedy's opinion said that "Amendment 2 fails, indeed defies, even this conventional inquiry" for two reasons, which I'll discuss one at a time. First, the Court said, "the amendment has the peculiar property of imposing a broad and undifferentiated liability on a single named group." Note that the opinion describes the law as bringing together two types of equal protection problems: on the one hand, its prohibitions are broad and undifferentiated"; it bars a wide array of legal protections in everything from employment to insurance. On the other hand, the law targets "a single named group," homosexuals. The Court said that this combination was an "exceptional... and invalid form of legislation." That suggests that the

Court may be recognizing a category of laws that per se violate equal protection, no further analysis needed. Listen to Justice Kennedy's description of Amendment 2: "It is at once too narrow and too broad. It identifies persons by a single trait and then denies them protection across the board. The resulting disqualification of a class of persons from the right to seek specific protection from the law is unprecedented in our jurisprudence." He adds that "It is not within our constitutional tradition to enact laws of this sort." Laws of what sort? Again, those that identify a single class of people and broadly deny them legal protections. The Court calls this "a denial of equal protection of the laws in the most literal sense." That comes about as close to recognizing a class of per se equal protection violations as we have ever had. Now Justice Scalia characterizes the court's conclusion here as follows: "The central thesis of the Court's reasoning is that any group is denied equal protection when, to obtain advantage . . . it must have recourse to a more general and hence more difficult level of political decision making than others." And then in one of my favorite lines from constitutional jurisprudence he says: "The world has never heard of such a principle." He's right; the world has never heard of such a principle because that's not the principle the Court adopted in Romer v. Evans. If it were, multilevel decision making in our democracy proceeding from state constitution to state legislature to counties to cities and down to departments -- would be constitutionally unworkable since a decision made at any level above the bottom would cause a disadvantaged group to seek redress at a governmental level higher than the base. But I read the Court's opinion to mean that a broad denial of legal protections targeted at a single group is unconstitutional at whatever level of government the decision is made. So, for example, a city would not be free under this reading of Romer v. Evans to enact a sweeping

denial of legal protections to a single class even within its own narrow jurisdiction.

This reading helps to explain why the Court may have remanded a recent case in which Cincinnati ordinance barred legal protections for Gays and Lesbians from its city charter and ordered all city departments to end any non-discrimination policies covering sexual orientation they may have adopted. Less than a month ago, the Court vacated the opinion of the Sixth Circuit, which had upheld the ordinance, and remanded the case for reconsideration in light of Romer v. Evans. Justice Scalia dissented from the granting of cert, arguing that there was no reason for the Sixth Circuit to reconsider its opinion because Evans stands only for the proposition that a state cannot force homosexuals to seek protection through a state constitutional amendment. Since a city is the "lowest electoral subunit" homosexuals are at no disadvantage recognized in Evans, according to Scalia. If my reading is correct, Scalia has completely missed the point of Evans. Evans may have a broader, and different, impact on laws targeting Gays and Lesbians than he thinks. My reading also suggests an answer to Justice Scalia's widely remarked reliance on Bowers v. Hardwick, the case that upheld a state's power to criminalize homosexual sodomy. Scalia argued that it made no sense to permit a state to criminalize same-sex sexual relations, but to forbid a state from withdrawing legal protections for the group who engage in those very relations. The greater power, to make criminals of Gays, includes the lesser power, to deny them what he called "special protections." Of course, Scalia may be right and Bowers may be the next casualty of Evans. On the other hand, Bowers involved a criminal prohibition on a specific conduct, it did not involve a sweeping denial of legal protections. Although the criminal law in Bowers focused on a single class, those who engage in same-sex conduct, it did not



Dale Carpenter makes a point at The Federalist Society Luncheon.

withdraw that class from the protection of the law. Thus, Scalia may have his "greater" and "lesser" powers exactly backward. The state lacks the "greater" power to enact a sweeping denial of rights but has the "lesser" power to focus its efforts on discrete areas -- like the specific conduct at issue in Bowers. A similar response could be made to Scalia's fretting that polygamy may now be the law of the land. It's also worth noting that Bowers was a substantive due process case; it did not involve an equal protection challenge. The Court might well come to a different conclusion about the constitutionality of sodomy laws under an equal protection analysis, since equal protection analysis has always been less rooted

(Continued on following page)



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Dale Carpenter continued...

(Continued from preceding page)

in the vindication of a historically recognized rights than due process has. This distinction of Amendment 2 from the sodomy and polygamy cases also suggests that a differently drafted state constitutional amendment aimed at homosexuals or some other class of citizens might survive *Romer v. Evans*, although it might suffer some other equal protection or constitutional infirmity.

A more narrow denial of specific protections might be OK. For example, a statute which more narrowly withdrew legal protections from discrimination in housing in cases where a landlord claims some religious objection to homosexuality might well survive an *Evans* attack. Jean Dubofsky, counsel arguing against the constitutionality of Amendment 2, similarly conceded that a city's specific nondiscrimination ordinance could be repealed by the state or by the city itself. On the other hand, a statute or amendment that comprehensively withdrew civil rights protections for all classes of citizens at any level of government might well survive my reading of *Romer v. Evans*. Similarly, Dubofsky conceded that the state was constitutionally free to rearrange its process for passing civil rights protections for all classes of citizens, taking such laws altogether out of the hands of municipalities. The second constitutional infirmity with Amendment 2, according to the court, is that it was adopted because of "animosity" towards Gays and Lesbians. "If the constitutional conception of equal protection of the laws means anything," said the Court, "it must at the very least mean that a bare . . . desire to harm a politically unpopular group cannot constitute a legitimate governmental interest." The Equal Protection clause of its own force prohibits the government from pursuing certain ends that are otherwise constitutionally permissible. Thus, not only were the means chosen by Colorado unconstitutional, the inferred goal to disadvantage Gays and Lesbians was also unconstitutional. The Court noted that laws serving broad and ambitious purposes could justify the imposition of incidental disadvantages on certain groups. But that's just it: to have a constitutionally legitimate purpose, any disadvantage to a group must be incidental to the law, not the purpose of the law. How did the Court know that the purpose of Amendment 2 was to disadvantage Gays and Lesbians? No opinion polls were cited on the issue; no evidence of animus-based statements by citizens or even by the drafters of the Amendment were adduced; nothing except the law itself. Colorado itself never conceded, of course, that Amendment 2 was just an exercise in gay-bashing. Instead, Colorado said that the Amendment was meant to protect the associational rights and religious liberties of landlords or employers who have personal or religious objections to homosexuality. It also cited its desire to conserve resources to fight discrimination against other groups. But the Court found that the statute, however, was so broad in relation to these purported purposes that it is "impossible to credit them." The effect was to take a sledgehammer to a gnat, where a flyswatter would do. Instead, Amendment 2, said the Court, "is a classification of persons undertaken for its own sake." "classif[ying] homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else." Remember that the Court made that conclusion on the strength of Amendment 2

itself, not on the strength of any extrinsic evidence, despite the claims of the state that legitimate ends justified its enactment.

For reasons that I am about to explain, that conclusion may have the most lasting effect on our constitutional landscape as it regards classifications that affect gays and lesbians and leads to my second reading of *Romer v. Evans*. Baselines and the Second Reading of *Romer v. Evans* tension courses through the majority and dissenting opinions. The same tension has coursed through the political and cultural wars on the place of Gays and Lesbians in American society. That tension is on the question of whether the types of legal protections from discrimination that Gays sought in Colorado accord "special" rights, or merely give substance to the promise of equality in the law. Throughout his dissent, Justice Scalia characterizes Amendment 2 as doing nothing more than repealing "special" rights. The Court counters that the legal protections repealed by Amendment 2 are not at all "special." Now whether a given right or protection can be characterized as "special" depends on the baseline you use to distinguish a "special" right from an "equal" right; in other words, all rights given above the baseline are "special" while all those protected below it ensure simple "equality." Scalia clearly believes that all legal protections that specifically prohibit discrimination in any area on the basis of sexual orientation are "special" rights granted to homosexuals. On the other hand, the enforcement of general laws and policies that prohibit arbitrary discrimination may also prohibit discrimination on the basis of homosexual conduct, on Scalia's view, without conferring "special" benefits on homosexuals. These protections do not constitute "special treatment" and so fall below Scalia's baseline. They fall below it because they are a part of generally applicable laws. Non-discrimination policies, on his account, afford "special protection" because they single out homosexuals for protection. But that distinction is untenable. Even "generally applicable" laws must at some point draw lines around the kinds of matters they will or will not address. Take for example a law that prevented "arbitrary discrimination" by an agency of the state. For Scalia, that would be a generally applicable law and thus not a special protection for homosexuals or any other class. But at some point, the agency or a court reviewing the agency's action must determine whether discrimination against homosexuality is or is not "arbitrary discrimination." At the moment it does, it will have announced a policy protecting homosexuals from discrimination. It would then be a "special" or "preferential" right that Scalia says the state is free to withdraw. This is not an academic exercise. The courts reviewing Amendment 2 did not resolve the question whether it withdrew the protection of generally applicable laws from homosexuals. But they suggested that it might be read that way. And a finding that Amendment 2 passed constitutional muster would be short step away from finding constitutional a law that withdrew from homosexuals the protection of otherwise generally applicable laws since every generally applicable law could be recast as a special protection once it was applied to prohibit discrimination against a homosexual on the basis of sexual orientation. There is simply nothing in Scalia's analysis of Amendment 2 that would prevent this monstrous result.

Perhaps in attempt to avoid that difficulty, the Court implicitly suggested a baseline of equal

rights for Gays and Lesbians somewhat higher than Scalia's. The Amendment, said the Court, does not deprive homosexuals of "special rights." "We find nothing special in the protections Amendment 2 withholds. These are protections taken for granted by most other people either because they already have them or do not need them; these are protections against exclusions from an almost limitless number of transactions and endeavors that constitute ordinary civic life in a free society." By that statement, six justices of the United States Supreme Court effectively moved the baseline for Gays and Lesbians to a higher plane -- one that recognizes that Gays and Lesbians "need" the protections abolished by Amendment 2 simply in order to participate in ordinary civic life in our society. That recognition marks a dramatic shift in basic outlook from the Court that decided *Bowers* ten years ago. And it is a shift that surely informed the Court's judgment that Amendment 2 was based on nothing more than animus against homosexuals. Finally, it may also signal the Court's judgment that the perceived social harm of homosexuality is not a legitimate concern of government. Indeed, it's hard to see how a court that said gays "need" protection from discrimination in order simply to lead ordinary lives could conclude otherwise. This could lead to a kind of unstated heightened scrutiny of legislative purposes where classifications affecting homosexuals are concerned -- a "souped up" rationality review, as we called it at my law school. That judgment may have implications down the road for other legislative enactments that disadvantage Gays and Lesbians, such as criminal sodomy laws, the ban on Gays in the military, and even the ban on same-sex marriages. Even if these laws are reviewed only under the rational basis test, as applied in *Romer v. Evans*, they may still be judged as the legislative enactments of an impermissible purpose to disadvantage homosexuals as a class or to curb the perceived harm of homosexuality itself.

So is the sky falling? Is *Romer v. Evans* a radical class revolution favoring the Knights and the Templars against the common peasants, as Justice Scalia thinks? Can the decision be justified on any conceivable conservative principles of government or jurisprudence? I think it can. A venerable principle of conservatism, rooted in the work of Edmund Burke, T.S. Eliot, and Russell Kirk, is that we should respect tradition and history. The conservatism that I embrace prefers stability to change, continuity to experiment, the tried to the untried. America's political and legal tradition, as many conservative authors have pointed out, is centered on the protection of individual liberty and autonomy. This country, at its best, has welcomed those who do not conform to others' judgments about what they should be. And the legal expression of that legacy of tolerance has been our commitment to the equal protection of the laws. The most shameful moments in our constitutional history have been those times when we abandoned those fundamental commitments to satisfy the felt needs of momentary passion, as when we permitted states to segregate the races, or forced Jehovah's Witnesses to salute the flag, or rounded up Japanese Americans and put them in concentration camps, or denied women the right to vote, or put Gays and Lesbians into a solitary class and made that class a "stranger to our laws." The Court viewed Amendment 2 as another case where we abandoned our constitutional commitment to equality. Listen again to Justice Kennedy's opinion: "It is not within our constitutional tradition to enact laws of this sort." That is a profoundly conservative sentiment. The real radicals, the Court is saying, were the ones who would discard our commitment to equality where gay citizens are concerned. In this sense, *Romer v. Evans* was a revolution prevented, not achieved.

Riddle Me This

By CARLA WEBBLES

Here is a riddle for the nineties: A 22 year old man impregnates a neglected 13 year girl. The law, in its majesty, declares this a marriage.

Two 50 year old women, after profound and mature consideration, go to their church, and surrounded by their families and friends, celebrate their lov-

ing commitment to one another. This, we are told, is a defilement, an act so heinous that the Congress, the Senate, the President, revile it and execute laws against it. Riddle me this: who, exactly, is defiling what?

The above was sent to *The Houston Chronicle* as a letter to the editor, it is reprinted here with permission of the author. Good question Carla.

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Please bring food.
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ASK THE PASTOR



Rev. Janet Parker

Q: "I believe that God is in control and that God gives Satan the ability to work in the world in attempt to draw us into a closer and more dependent relationship with God. How can I overcome or not judge people that are always giving Satan so much power and glory, when they say and pray a lot about Satan, stating Satan's in control or interfering?"

A: While watching the Olympics recently, one thing stood out to me more than anything else about the athletes. Everyone of them has a focus and a concentration that would put most of us to shame. I am amazed at their uncanny ability to think and focus on the "gold." As Christians, we are called to focus on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. He is our "Gold." The Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 3:13, "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Jesus tells us that the enemy, Satan, has come to steal, kill and destroy... BUT I (Jesus) have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly. Who are you focusing on --- the enemy who come to steal, or Jesus who has come to give life. Our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual wickedness and forces of evil. Many times in the Old Testament God told the children of Israel not to look at the opposing forces because they would be overwhelmed at the odds. God had to continually remind them that the battle belongs to the Lord. Every time they obeyed God and focused on what God could do rather than what the enemy was threatening to do, they won the battle.

The same thing applies to us today. I'm not sure I agree that Satan is used by God to draw us closer to God. I do believe that God can turn anything around for our good even when evil was intended. Joseph told this to his brothers in the last chapter of Genesis. He was sold into slavery by his brothers. God used this situation for the good of all the people. Our view of who God is becomes critical when we are under attack by the enemy. If we focus on what is wrong with the situation rather than what God can do, then we may be defeated. Many times our own disobedience brings about consequences that we blame on God. Part of growing up and becoming mature in Christ is taking responsibility for our actions. Sure, there are times when we have done every thing right and the enemy still comes in like a flood. Job was such a man. He did nothing to deserve such punishment from Satan. God did not bring it upon him. Through it all Job kept his faith and his focus and in the end learned a lot more about who God is.

I would encourage you to keep your focus and assist your friends in working toward maturity in how they size up a situation. Move the magnifying glass from the big problem to a BIG GOD. God is greater than all our problems. It's all a matter of who you are focusing on. If we keep our eyes on Jesus, then we will get the prize. Building our faith to believe God is there in every situation takes time. We must learn to trust God, believe God, and rely upon God --- and use the authority God has given us. Once we have done it all, we are to stand and watch what God can and will do for us. The bottom line is: learning how to focus, and keeping our faith built up.

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

Church Calendar of Events

Friday-7/26

* "Your Sacred Self"—study group using the best seller by Wayne Dyer. COME learn more about your sacred self, sacred sisters & brothers, & the sacred, loving Creator God who made it so. At Kingdom Community Church 862-7533

* Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Kolbe Project 522-8182

* Musical Friday Nite at the Kolbe Project 7:00 pm 522-9192

Saturday-7/27

* Services at 7:30 pm at Dignity Church 880-2872

Sunday-7/28

* Maranatha Fellowship Metropolitan Church Services "A Study in the Gospel of Mark" and "The 'I' Factor," (How to be a positive influence on others as a witness for Christ) at 10:00 a.m. Praise and Worship, Ministry of the Word, Drama and Personal Ministry. 11:00 a.m. at Maranatha Fellowship 528-6756

* MCCR worship services 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 861-9149

* Worship Service 11:00 a.m. at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Grace Lutheran Church Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. 528-3269

* First Unitarian Universalist Church Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. 526-5200

* Services at 5:30 pm Dignity Church 880-2872

* Community Gospel Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 pm 880-9235

* Houston Mission Church worship service at 10:30 a.m. 529-8225

* Kingdom Community Church worship service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. 862-7533 "The Celestine Prophecy, An Experiential Guide" at 10:00 am

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 10:15 a.m. 526-8095

* 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 a.m. Seekers class 9:15 a.m. 526-1017

Monday-7/29

* Catholic Mass at 7:30 pm Kolbe Project 522-8182

* MCCR Handbell Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm 861-9149

Tuesday-7/30

* MCCR: Empowerment for Living support group & pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, Gloryland Singers at 8:00 pm, The Gospel Ensemble at 6:00 pm 861-9149

* PROTECT meets at Bering Church. 520-7870.

* Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 p.m. These groups are open to all people. Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

Wednesday-7/31

* MCCR Bible Study "Tithing/Giving at MCCR" 7:30 pm 861-9149

* Worship Service 7:30 pm at Faith and Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* MCCR: Jubilation Mixed Ensemble meets at 6:30 pm Midweek uplift service at 7:00 pm, Bible Study, Lecture Series & Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm 861-9149

* "A Course in Miracles"—Study Group using the book, published by the Foundation for Inner Peace, which is aimed at removing the blocks to our awareness of one's presence. Kingdom Community Church 7:30 pm 862-7533.

* Ecumenical Catholic Church Mass at 7:00 pm 526-8095

* Small home groups meet to sing, share their faith and pray for one another at 7:30 p.m. These groups are open to all people. Maranatha Fellowship at 528-6756 for location each week.

Thursday-8/1

* Bible Study 7 Pm At Faith And Hope Fellowship 773-4429

* Community Gospel Church worship service 7:30 pm 880-9325

* Pot Luck Dinner and P-Flag Panel discussion at 6:30 pm at the Kolbe Project 522-8182

If you want an event listed in this section, please call 529-8490.

KINGDOM COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Celebrating the First Thirty Years

The 1996 NOW Conference

By JEANNE SOMMERFELD

As the taxi pulled up to the Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas the huge hotel marquee came into view. It read: "Beautiful Girls!" Not necessarily the most auspicious start to the 1996 Conference for the National Organization for Women (NOW). Despite such beginnings, the conference was inspiring and successful. When NOW was founded thirty years ago, women did not enjoy some of the most basic rights we take for granted today. In many states, birth control was not available to unmarried women and abortion was illegal; employers boldly advertised "Man Wanted"; medical and law schools often denied women admission just because of their sex and marital rape and rape shield laws did not exist. After 30 years of feminist activism, we have come a very long way. We have changed our laws, our language (in most parts of the United States!) and our culture.

In the 70s, NOW fought valiantly for the Equal Rights Amendment. While our efforts were stopped just three states short of those required for ratification, NOW emerged from the struggle strong and committed to electing feminists to office. While NOW continued to recruit and elect feminist candidates during the 80s, we also stepped up our defense of abortion rights by launching the landmark NOW vs. Scheidler case and the first national abortion clinic defense program, Project Stand Up for Women. This program provided the basis for the valiant efforts of thousands of women and men who four years ago in Houston keep the clinics open during the Republican Convention and the onslaught of the religious political extremists. So far the 90s have given us cause to hope and despair. The nation sat on the edge of its seat as Anita Hill accused then-nominee for the Supreme Court, Clarence Thomas, of sexual harassment. While Hill's testimony was not enough to stop the nomination, it helped fuel the movement and contribute to the record number of congressional seats won by women in 1992. Unfortunately, the right-wing came back with a vengeance in 1994 as the radical right took control of Congress.

Some five years after Anita Hill's testimony, we find the fight against sexual harassment is far from finished. NOW's campaign to stop sexual harassment at Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing Company, where 29 women have filed a private civil suit and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed a massive federal suit alleging pervasive sexual harassment, continues with demonstrations across the country and in Japan.

From the assaults on affirmative action to the torching of African-American churches and the denial of the most basic human and civil rights for Lesbians and Gays, from Congress' cruel siege on necessary late term abortions to the attacks on women in the workplace, it is clear that

there is much work left to do. The Conference brought a personal face to these national issues. Women of Courage Awards were presented to Claudia Crown Ades, Mimi Ramsey, and Rachel Bauchman. Claudia Crown Ades, who required a late term abortion after discovering 26 weeks into her own pregnancy that she was carrying a fetus that suffered from a fatal chromosomal abnormality, spoke up against the regressive legislation which callously sought to outlaw the medical procedure known as dilation and extraction. In a moving speech, Ms. Ades described how certain she was that if she simply explained the tragic circumstances necessitating women's decisions to have a late term abortion, members of Congress would understand and vote against the legislation. Instead, she got a lesson in hardball politics where religious political extremists consider the lives of women and our ability to moral choices as nothing more than political fodder to advance their political agenda. Ms. Ades then stood with the President and told her very personal story again to the nation as he courageously vetoed the bill.

Mimi Ramsey moved the entire Conference to tears as she told her personal story of female genital mutilation, undergone in 1960 at six years of age. Ms. Ramsey immigrated to the United States in 1973 from Ethiopia. After discovering cases of FGM in the USA, Ms. Ramsey has tirelessly organized and advocated to eradicate the harmful practice of female genital mutilation. The final Woman of Courage award went to 17 year old Rachel Bauchman, a student in a public high school in Salt Lake City, Utah. Two years ago, she became the first student in Utah history to create legal precedent to prevent teachers from imposing their own religion on students. Since bringing her case, Ms. Bauchman has faced anti-semitism, threats, and other retaliation. Yet she continues to fight for justice, founding the Gay-Straight Alliance in her hometown.

The heartfelt testimony of these women provided inspiring examples of the importance of each of us taking action to challenge injustice and discrimination in our own communities. While sex discrimination is alive and on-going, NOW will continue to fight for equality and we will persevere in our pursuit of equality.

To join NOW in the pursuit of equality, call 665-8669 and attend the meetings held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. for social time, with meeting starting at 7:00 pm at the InterFaith Ministries Bldg., located at Montrose and Lovett Blvd.

Jeanne Sommerfeld is President of the Houston Area Chapter of the National Organization for Women (HANOW), she also is on the State Organizing Committee for the Texas NOW State Convention which will be held in Austin in September.

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edited by Ann Heron

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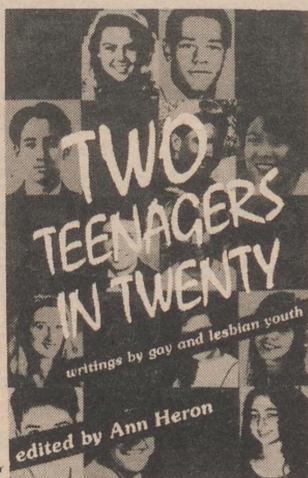
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Transformation continued....

(Continued from page 1)

group of young drag queens in a Manhattan lot where the sanitation department stores broken-down equipment and salt for de-icing slippery winter roads.

THE TRANSFORMATION opens with Terry, who works for a Dallas ministry, showing contrasting pictures of Ricardo and Sara, and speaking proudly of Ricardo's transformation. Terry has devoted his life to "saving" drag queens. He patrols Manhattan's West Side, resolutely searching for transvestites, offering them a place to stay, financial assistance, and the support of the Dallas congregation. In return, they must renounce their homosexuality and agree to participate in the church's fundraising efforts, serving as examples of homosexuals "cured" by their newfound faith. When Terry met Ricardo (then Sara), he recalls, "There was something missing. He never knew what it was to be a man."

Initially resistant to Terry's offer of "salvation," when Ricardo/Sara learned he was HIV positive, scared and weary of life on the street, he accepted. Ricardo moved to Dallas and stayed with Jim and his wife Robby, two church members eager to help. "He had a heavy desire that no one would look at him and see any kind of female mannerisms or traits. He worked at it very hard," says Robby in THE TRANSFORMATION. "I started showing him how to do things that were manly," Jim recalls. "If something needs fixing, it's generally fixed by the man.... So I started showing him how to do things, showing him how to do a little yard work, things he had never done before." To Jim and Robby, Ricardo is a needy person the Lord has saved from the devil and placed in their home for guidance.

Shortly after moving to Dallas, Ricardo met his future wife Betty, another member of the congregation. She was charmed by the new man in town. "I told her there could be nothing between us," Ricardo recalls. "Because ... I lived as a woman for many years ... I still have breasts ... and I am also HIV positive. She said, 'I know everything and I don't care,' and I said 'What?!'" To Betty, Ricardo is simply the man she loves. Ricardo speaks frankly about his new lifestyle with Hugo, one of his friends from his days on the street, who is also living in Dallas. Hugo used to be Gina, a beautiful post-op transsexual, but Terry persuaded her to join his church, and now Hugo is living as a man again. According to Terry's biblical interpretation, Hugo is neither man nor woman. He's a eunuch, a sexless person who will be rewarded in heaven.

In THE TRANSFORMATION, when Ricardo and Hugo make a recruiting trip back to New York with Terry, they find another old friend from the salt mines, Gigi, who insists that living as a man is too steep a price to pay for financial security. To Gigi, Ricardo and Hugo are kidding themselves. "How could you suppress something so strong?" he asks incredulously. The group also finds their long-lost friend Giovana, a young transvestite who now lives with his mother and sister. A former drug abuser, Giovana was living on the street until he called his sister for help. She rushed to his side, and brought him home. Accepted for who he is by his family, Giovana lives openly as a transvestite. He, too, thinks Ricardo and Hugo are repressing their true sexual orientation. "I think they just had an opportunity to better themselves," he says.

Has Terry's ministry rescued Ricardo -- or, in the face of death, forced him to make a great sacrifice? Near the end of the film, Ricardo reflects on his life and ruefully admits that if he had to do it all over again, he would choose to live as a woman. "I think there are many layers in what happened to Ricardo," says filmmaker Susana Aikin. "There was one layer where he basically transformed from a very marginal social person to an integrated social being into our mainstream society. I think also that he went through a spiritual change in the sense that he learned to appreciate himself better as a human being ... But in terms of whether he became a straight man, I think we're talking about very shifty things here, and I think the film speaks for itself." Ultimately, THE TRANSFORMATION allows viewers to draw their own conclusions about this multifaceted, complex question.

About the Filmmakers: Susana Aikin is an independent video maker and writer, working in New York since 1983. Much of her work in documentary involves the experience of Latino communities in America. Her works include: NY PIER 34; THE SALT MINES; and SAO PAULO - NEW YORK VIDEO LETTERS. In 1995 she received a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and an American Film Institute Grant.

Carlos Aparicio is an independent video maker and professional videographer, working in the U.S. since 1980. He worked with Aikin on NY PIER 34 and THE SALT MINES. His other works include: THE STATE OF BLACK AMERICA; HARLEM UNDER SIEGE; and THE MASKED. Among his awards are a 1993 Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and a 1995 American Film Institute Grant.

Personal Outlook

By WILLIAM N. ELWOOD, PHD

I write this in response to some of the comments and questions in the July 12 (issue #820) edition of the "Gay Today" column First, Webber states, "After 15 years and billions of dollars, where is it? ... I think the cure should have been found a long time ago." Everyone understands his frustration. We want a cure for AIDS. We'd like a prophylactic vaccine for HIV. We want a cure for cancer. And we want a cure for the common cold. Medical researchers have been working on the latter two for decades and have yet to find cures. In contrast, 15 years have passed since we wondered what caused "gay cancer." Since that time, we know what HIV is, how it is transmitted, how one can prevent transmission, and what some pharmaceuticals can do to retard the progress of diseases related to HIV. PWLH/As live extended lives of better quality because of treatment and because their civil rights are protected under federal law.

Much of this has occurred in the past 10 years, since the discovery of the virus. Although these results pale in comparison to popular expectations for a one-pill cure, that is remarkable progress. While Webber manages his HIV disease by taking "16 pills a day," recently-issued prescription drugs may extend people's lives even more. At present, that means taking approximately 40 pills per day—some with fatty foods, some with other foods, some on an empty stomach. Yes, the result is closer to managing HIV disease as one manages diabetes, however, to follow such a regimen likely constitutes a full-time job.

Did the money go for office furniture and trips to AIDS conferences? Yes, some money paid for equipment so researchers could interview people, collect data, analyze it, and write reports. Much of that money paid people to do the work. And some of that money was spent in travel so people working on a new and frightening epidemic could share their findings, and share feedback with one another.

Webber also states, "The thought everyone is working towards their own goals

and not toward one common goal greatly disturbs me." Every person involved in HIV/AIDS shares a common goal—a world without HIV and AIDS. We try to achieve that goal as we work to meet different objectives that include improved behavioral prevention efforts, a preventative vaccine, and a simple and comprehensive cure.

In answer to Glen's lament: "Maybe they just don't know what they're doing. Please let me know if you do." I already listed strides in HIV/AIDS research. Glen Webber is living proof because, as he says, "I take 16 pills a day ... living in Houston and making the most of today and everyday." Just a few years ago, he wouldn't have had that chance. The pills, and the precise instructions on how he should take them, have evolved by dint of HIV/AIDS researchers. Myriad research reports—let alone anytime one's sexual partner asks if the other has a condom—demonstrates that intervention has changed many people's sexual behavior.

The proceedings of the XI International AIDS Conference demonstrated that we know more about the virus, about people's behavior, and how to treat HIV disease. They also demonstrated the adage that the more we learn the more we realize what we don't know.

Glen Webber's column captures the intense feelings of many Houston PWLH/As—however, the rage should be directed appropriately and adapt the wisdom that appears on many bumper stickers in Montrose: FIGHT AIDS, NOT AIDS RESEARCHERS.

Dr. William Elwood is Senior Research Scientist at NOVA Research Company and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Behavioral Sciences at the University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health.

What is your personal outlook? The Houston Voice would like to hear from you. We seek first-person accounts of individuals and their lives or perspective concerning our community.

Gay Men's Chorus Donation



Members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston march in Tampa's Pride parade while attending the GALA Choruses Festival in July

Concert Benefits Stone Soup

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston recently donated \$2,850 to AIDS Foundation Houston's Stone Soup Pantry. The funds were raised at a benefit concert during Lesbian and Gay Pride Week.

"Thanks to the many people who bought tickets to our June 15 concert, we were able to make a sizable contribution to help ensure there will be food and other necessities on the shelves of Stone Soup Pantry for people with AIDS," said GMCH President Tony Adam.

In addition to the GMCH, the concert featured performances by The Bayou City Chorale, Acafellas (from Dallas) Turtle Creek Chorale, Jerry Atwood, Clay Howell, Randall Jobe, Denise Thorson, Jennie Welch, and Marsha Carlton, who also served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

GMCH, under the artistic direction of James Marley Winslow, is now planning activities for the 1996-97 season. In July, the chorus performed at the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses Festival in Tampa, Florida, where they also marched in Tampa's Pride Parade.

For information on how to join the chorus, please telephone 521-SING.

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Volunteers Needed

The Houston Voice has need of a number of people to work on a voluntary basis. Positions include artists, cartoonists, reporters, reviewers, proofreaders (needed on Wednesdays), help with distribution, and various other tasks as needed. We offer a progressive "Out" environment, some job training and a great group of folks to hang out with, besides it will look good on your resume some day to have this work experience. Interested? Contact the Editor, Deborah Bell at 529-8490.

Clinton, Gays & Same-Sex Marriage

By JIM MANGIA

Bill Clinton's announcement that he would sign the Republican sponsored bill that would prohibit same-sex marriages and deny federal pensions and benefits to same sex couples, was a politically calculated attack on the Lesbian and Gay community and the United States Constitution. Despite protestations to the contrary, Clinton was not simply protecting himself from a Republican "set-up." He had a number of options on how to respond to the Republican bill. Yet, our President chose the most politically and socially damaging route both for the Bill of Rights and the Lesbian and Gay community. Despite Clinton's claim that he has "done more" for the Gay community than any other president, the fact remains that he has left a trail of broken promises, from his failure to appoint an effective AIDS czar, to the gays in the military (don't ask, don't tell) fiasco, to his refusal to fight against Colorado's infamous Amendment 2, and so on. In fact, what Clinton has actually "done" in just about every move he's made with regards to our community is set us back further than the Republicans were able to do on their own!

Clinton could have played this situation differently and still gotten the result the Gay leadership claims he wanted. He could have opposed gay marriage, while pointing out that the Republican bill is a direct attack on individual freedom and involves the federal government in the direct regulation of the private lives of the American people—something most Americans, whether liberal or conservative—oppose. Furthermore, the bill violates states' rights and bolsters the authority of Big Government to intrude on the rights of the states to regulate civil ceremonies. States' rights are supposed to be a big Republican rallying cry. Thus, Clinton could have counter-attacked the Republicans for betraying their own cause. But he didn't. He chose instead to reinforce his basic message to all the traditionally liberal constituencies of the Democratic Party: You need me so much that I can do whatever I like to you and your agenda.

What is truly frightening about Clinton's move is that he is willing to undercut the U.S. Constitution for his own self-preservation. The Defense of Marriage Act would allow states to deny recogni-

tion to same-sex marriages that might be accorded full legal status in other states. According to Laurence Tribe, a professor of constitutional law at Harvard Law School, in an opinion piece in the New York Times, "Our Constitution's principal means of protecting state sovereignty is to limit the national government to certain enumerated powers—but these powers do not include the authority to invite some states to disregard the official acts of others." There is a clause in the Constitution called the "Full Faith and Credit Clause," which requires that each state recognize "the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state." For Congress and the President to pass legislation which is in direct opposition to this principle, sets up a situation that is damaging to national unity and precedent. States are not, according to Tribe, "independent foreign sovereignties, each free to ignore rights and obligations created by others." Rather they are "integral parts of a single nation in which rights established in any state are given nationwide application." The 10th amendment of the constitution sums it up best, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people." Thus, the Defense of Marriage Act is really a direct hit on the constitutional principles which limited the power of the federal government.

The Gay and Lesbian community has an opportunity, indeed an obligation, to participate in and help lead the fight to save the Bill of Rights. We must send the two parties, increasingly devoid of any adherence to Constitutional principles, our own message. We must seriously seek new options for our community and for America in 1996. The more Clinton-style bipartisan Big Government becomes expressly hostile to us, the less interest we have in maintaining it. The independent route is one that makes more sense than ever. We can't afford to continue to protect Bill Clinton and the two-party system, when protecting him means sacrificing ourselves and the Constitution.

Jim Mangia is the Secretary for the Reform Party of California and the National Secretary for the National Patriot Party. He can be reached at 213 / 694-2492 .

Special Print Program

As part of a special fiscal year-end fundraising campaign, Houston Center for Photography offers museum quality limited edition prints for sale for a short time only. Two friends of HCP are providing these fine photographic prints—available now and only through HCP. After August 31, these prints will not be available anywhere.

Dan Burkholder (San Antonio) has had photographs exhibited and published internationally and included in private and museum collections throughout the United States. Burkholder received a BA and MFA in photography from Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, CA., and now teaches photography part-time at University of Texas at San Antonio.

Placing a strong emphasis on design and technique, Burkholder's portfolio of platinum/palladium prints embraces work in the areas of pictorial and figure photography. He prints exclusively in black and white, making enlarged negatives for prints that begin as 35mm camera images. For his platinum/palladium

prints, Burkholder hand-coats a premium quality 100% cotton rag paper, adding small amounts of gold, lead and mercury to fine tune the image contrast and color. His new book, *Making Digital Negative for Contact Printing*, has become a standard reference in the field of digital fine art photography.

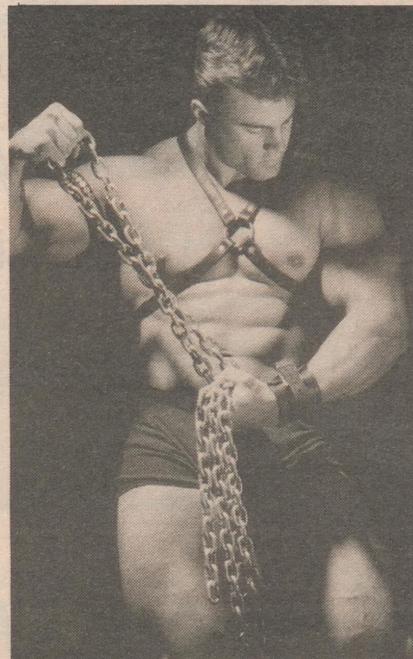
Phyllis Hand (Houston) is a photographer of society events. Hand studied at University of Texas at Austin with Garry Winogrand and at Rice University with Peter Brown. A freelance photographer since 1982, her work has been published nationally in *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, *W*, *Forbes*, *Texas Monthly*, *Esquire*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *Town & Country*, as well as in several books. Her column "Seen" was published weekly in the *Houston Post* for six years. Hand's work has been shown in one-person exhibitions at Lynn Goode Gallery in Houston, and is held in private collections and that of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Contact the Houston Center for Photography at 529-4755.

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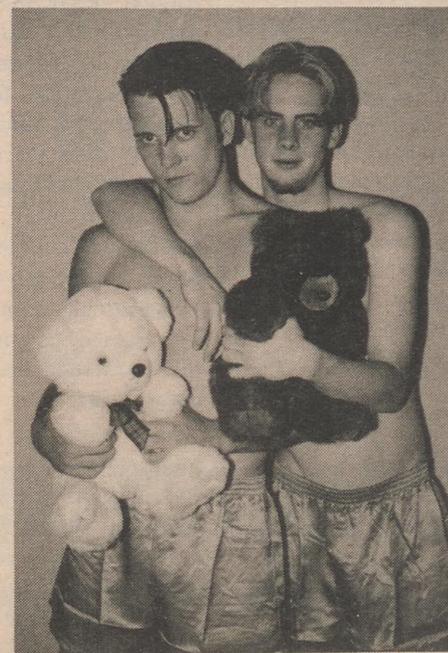
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A Look at The Venture-N

By LEE DAVIS

The adage "I'm not a native Houstonian, but I got here as soon as I could" certainly applies to Jim Roberts, owner of Venture-N located at 2923 Main. Jim was raised in Wisconsin, moved to Los Angeles, moved to San Francisco, on to New Orleans, Albuquerque, and finally, ten months ago settled here in Houston. "The people (in Houston) and their southern hospitality," Jim said, "helped make my decision to stay an easy one!"

Before purchasing the Venture-N, the oldest gay bar in Houston opening back in the '50s, Jim worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 20 years. He is very active in the community where he lives, now serving his 1st term on the Board of Directors for Steven's House. In New Orleans, Jim served on the Board of Directors for two years of the NO Aids Task Force and was Director for four years on the Board of Directors for the AIDS Food Bank.

Jim brought his community involvement with him when Houston became his home. The Venture-N is a premier fund-raising bar, primarily because of its immense size and stage. During Jim's initial three months of ownership, \$2,000 was spent to put on a fund-raiser for the Pet Patrol, which yielded over \$5,000. Venture-N has contributed liquor for fund-raisers with Omega House, Steven's House and many others. Venture-N is open to a diverse crowd... basically to anyone who is supportive or involved in our community. Any fund-raising organization is free to leave brochures or posters for distribution in the bar.

Venture-N is the Home Bar for the current Emperor of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston, Inc. (RSICSS), Jim Halbert, which hosts the "Scrub-a-Stud" fundraiser each month. Jim looks forward to opening the Venture-N to RSICSS during the campaign this Fall. The Houston Area Bears (HAB), Lancers, NLA:Houston, and the Texas Riders also call Venture-N their Home Bar. Angels Over Montrose, A Night in Black Leather (already booked for next year), and the Cherry Marchino Revue are other fund-raisers



Jim Roberts invites you to "Venture-N"

recently touted in the bar in which around \$5,000 per event was raised.

Guest bartenders for various nonprofit organizations grace the "Top" Bar (upstairs) on a regular basis as a means of raising funds. In August, RSICSS is on duty the 1st Friday, NLA:Houston the 2nd; Lancers the 3rd; and on the 4th Friday HAB pour drinks from 9:00 p.m. until ?? On the 1st Sunday, from 5:00 p.m. until ?? HAB serves you; Texas Riders on the 2nd Sunday; HAB again on the 3rd Sunday, and Females in Search of Trouble (FIST) works on the 4th Sunday. Also aiding in the donation of moneys to charities, Venture-N has sponsored a team in the Montrose Softball League for many years.

As a thank you to the community, Venture-N has 84 hours per week of special pricing on beer, well drinks and wine with no cover charged at the door!! "Major renovations are in the planning," Jim added, so look out Houston—the Venture-N is still here and making changes to accommodate you, the reason they're here!

"Lee Takes a Look" featuring behind the scenes articles about the people and businesses who are our advertisers is a new addition to the paper! We researched our files and found in the 1st Edition of *The Montrose Voice*, dated Oct. 29, 1980, an advertiser who is currently still advertising with us as *The Houston Voice*. Venture-N was the first advertiser who met this criteria. Stay tuned for the next issue to see who is next !!

Welfare 'Reform' Axes Women

LISA JENNINGS AND SARA VAN NOTE

In the 1994 elections, 54 million eligible women did not vote. Now their "representatives" are making decisions on women's futures. On August 8, 1995 a full-page ad in the New York Times warned Americans, particularly women, to "beware of welfare cuts." The ad, put out by the Women's Committee of One Hundred, asked readers to "imagine the worst": "You're laid off from your job. You lose your health insurance. Your marriage falls apart. Your young children need child care."

One segment of women this scene neglects are teenagers, girls who are not married, who were never employed, and who are students and children themselves. What is to become of young, pregnant girls who are denied access to welfare money? This is a frightening reality that many young single mothers may have to face—unless all women take their political responsibilities seriously, keep informed about issues affecting women, and VOTE!

There are many myths concerning women on welfare, particularly teenage women. One is that teenage mothers make up the largest portion of those exhausting welfare funds. In actuality, only 5% of mothers receiving AFDC benefits (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) are teenagers, and just 1% are under 18. Further, aid to ALL single mothers makes up only one percent of the federal budget.

Another myth is that young women have children in order to receive aid money. According to the research center Child Trends, welfare benefits aren't a major factor in teens deciding to have children. Teen birth rates in the U.S. have risen while benefits have fallen.

Consider the following, according to a 1988 study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, 42% of mothers between the ages of 15 and 17 were impregnated by men between the ages of 20 and 24. "On average, 15-17 year old mothers were four years younger than their baby's fathers... the younger the mother, the greater the age

difference between her and her partner." For almost 20% of children born to women ages 15-17, the father was six or more years older than the mother. In many states, such age discrepancies constitute statutory rape. Yet the "solutions" to the problem of teenage pregnancy continually focus on penalizing the teenage mother, not the older father.

These young women are at a huge disadvantage as their pregnancy disrupts their education, making them less likely to get a job with a livable wage; they often have no partner to help support the child; and further, they must cope with the day-to-day problems of parenthood, all at a very young age. Regardless of any judgments that some may make, the reality persists—these women need help.

Yet in Jan. 1995, the House of Representatives majority leadership proposed to cut off aid to unmarried mothers under 18. Their plans for "welfare reform" came out of the "Contract with America," in the form of a bill called the "Personal Responsibility Act." The bill eventually passed the House and the Senate in Dec. 1995, although with changes. The bill cut aid to unmarried mothers under 18 who did not attend high school or an equivalent program, and were not living in an adult-supervised setting. A mother could be denied aid if she did not cooperate in naming the child's father. The bill was properly vetoed by President Clinton.

All voters, and all women especially, should be informed of how their representatives in Congress are voting. Every Representative and many Senators are up for reelection this year. In Texas less than 60% of eligible women voted in the last three presidential elections, one of the ten lowest percentages in the nation, and over 15% of registered women did not vote, again among the ten worst records. Also in Texas, 14 out of 30 Representatives and both Senators voted for the welfare bill that would restrict aid to unwed teenage mothers.

Do you know how your Representative and Senators are voting?

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Hollyfield Foundation Recipients

The Board of Directors of The Hollyfield Foundation chose four non-profit organizations as recipients of monies at their June 8 meeting including the Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc., Texas Human Rights Foundation (THRF), Clark Read Civil Liberties Foundation, and Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Houston Chapter.

The Hollyfield Foundation is Jay Hollyfield's generous legacy, composed of a board of thirteen women and men from throughout Texas, and is committed to advocacy for AIDS and the equal rights of Lesbians and Gays. Alan Cranfill is the Executive Director of the foundation.

The **Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc.** receives the grant of \$5,000 to help underwrite the Nov. 1996 Houston Black Tie dinner, the proceeds from which supports women's and HIV/AIDS issues and Gay/Lesbian equal rights advocacy. The late Jay Hollyfield, who organized Houston's first Black Tie dinner in 1988 in addition to co-chairing the 1989, 1990 and 1991 dinners, was a founding board member and first Vice-President of the Black Tie Dinner, Inc., when it incorporated in 1993. Since 1994 The Hollyfield Foundation continues to be a major underwriter of the fundraising dinner. The board awarded this year's grant in honor of the late William "Bill" E. White, who served as the foundation's first president as well as a previous co-chair of the event.

A grant of \$1,175 will go to the **Texas Human Rights Foundation** to continue THRF's focus on high impact litigation on behalf of the Lesbian/Gay/HIV communities as well as maintaining a statewide AIDS legal hotline and legal educational programs. THRF has recently filed suit against the Republican Party of Texas to reverse a GOP decision preventing Log Cabin participation in the State Republican convention. The Hollyfield Foundation was also a major underwriter of the 1995 THRF Schwab Awards and THRF's Texas Equal Marriage Project.

A grant of \$1,000 will go to the **Clark Read Civil Liberties Foundation** to help underwrite the Freedom of the Press Awards Ceremony honoring individuals and organizations who have supported the rights of Gays and Lesbians against attacks by radical right groups. The Hollyfield board also wishes to recognize the Clark Read Foundation's supportive role in recent litigation which reversed a prior City of Houston decision, based on AIDS hysteria, to not fund housing for people with AIDS as proposed by Brentwood Baptist Church.

A grant of \$5,325 will go to **PFLAG** (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) to help underwrite production of a video from their recent "Moms & Dads Go To Washington" trip. The trip resulted in approximately 200 parents from 28 states going to Washington to advocate for the passage of EDNA, the Employment Non Discrimination Act, in addition to national media coverage and in-person dialogues with many members of Congress. The video is being produced to empower other PFLAG chapters and parents to stand up and speak up for their children and families.

Black Tie Dinner Announces Plans

Houston Black Tie Dinner, Inc., is proud to announce its 1996 gala. The evening, Nov. 2, will include a cocktail hour, seated dinner, speakers and a silent auction. The party will be held in the lobby of the First City Bank Building, 1021 Main St. Beneficiaries will include both national and local organizations dedicated to promoting services, education and advocacy of men's and

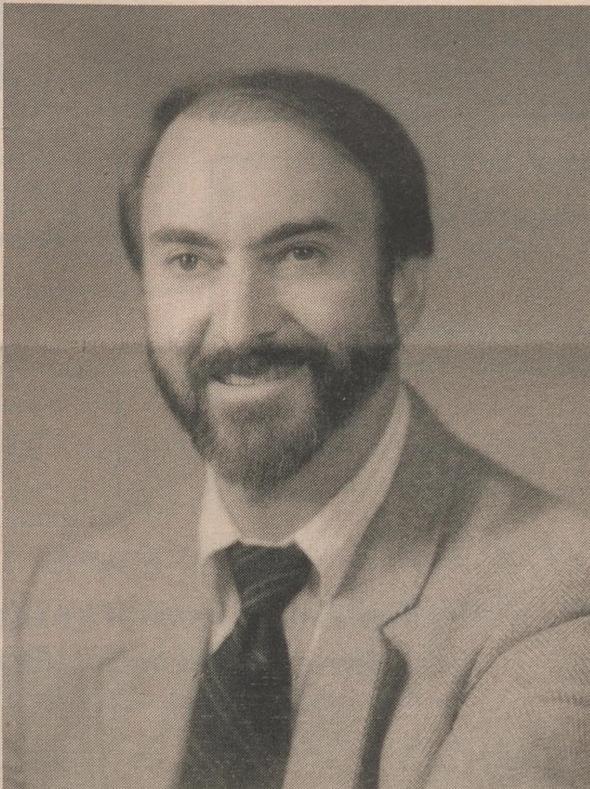
women's health issues and equal rights for Gays and Lesbians.

Last year, the dinner was attended by almost 1000 people and raised more than \$100,000 for its beneficiaries. This year, the Houston Black Tie Dinner Board is committed to making 1996 even more spectacular. Invitations will be mailed to more than 3000 people, and the Board hopes to see 1500 in attendance.

The Board for the 1996 Dinner has community service and improvement as its mission statement. The theme, "Unity, Equality, Community," crystalizes their pledge to use their best efforts to recognize, unite and forward the many facets of the Houston community.

In keeping with this theme, the 1996 dinner will fund twelve local beneficiaries and one national project. The twelve local projects are: The Assistance Fund; Bering Community Service Foundation; Body Positive-Houston; Lesbian Health Initiative; Montrose Clinic; Montrose Counseling Center; Names Project-Houston; Omega House; Texas Human Rights Foundation; Allan Calkin Fund (Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas); People with AIDS Coalition; and PFLAG Houston.

The 1996 National Beneficiary will be the Victory Fund, a national donor network of individuals committed to electing qualified openly Gay and Lesbian public officials. The Victory Fund is a bipartisan,



The Hollyfield Foundation is Legacy of the late Jay Hollyfield.

nonconnected multi-candidate federal political action committee that backs candidates for races at the city, county, state and federal levels. In deciding on the Victory Fund as beneficiary, Black Tie Dinner co-chair Phil Lacy stated, "Particularly given the current political climate with cases such as the Supreme Court's recent decision on Colorado Amendment 2, we wanted people here in Houston to have a chance to make a national statement whatever their political preference. We think supporting a quality oriented, bipartisan group like the Victory Fund is a great opportunity to do just that."

Co-chair Janine Brunjes summed up the spirit and purpose of the Black Tie Dinner in a recent interview, saying, "Houston pride is the strongest I've ever seen. Everyone I talk to is interested in supporting the community, not just for the short term, but in a way that will have significant impact in the future. The Houston Black Tie Dinner tries to combine a wonderful evening with some of the truly good causes our community believes in. With that as our goal, we're looking forward to the best year ever."

Anyone interested in attending the dinner or in serving as a volunteer can call either of the dinner co-chairs Phil Lacy or Janine Brunjes, or the Houston Black Tie Dinner office at 523-9611. The Houston Black Tie Dinner Inc., looks forward to serving our community, not only this year, but for many years to come.

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SPORTS NOTES

Bowling Results

The Montrose Monday Night Men's League reports Division A standings in first, second and third are A Frickin Fairy Tale, Eight Balls and Hot Dogs, Nice Buns. Division B is headed by The Meat to Beat, Fighting Nuns, and Four Mix Pieces. High scratch game of 269 was bowled by Chris Bennett and series of 717 was bowled by Bob Roberts. For more information call Gardy at 641-5424. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 9:00 p.m. Mondays.

The Inner Loop Alternative Sunday Evening League reports Faster Pussycats in 1st place, Tough & Tight in 2nd, and Girlish Figures in 3rd. For the men Tom O'Dell bowled high scratch game of 240 and series of 648. For the women, Linda Dees bowled high scratch game of 244 and series of 614. For more information call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at Palace Lanes at 7:00 p.m. Sundays.

The Wednesday Night Mixers reports 1st place is held by 1 Gal & 3 Guys, 2nd by Charlie's Tunas, and 3rd by Company Line. Richard Dauchy bowled high scratch game of 210 and series of 551. For more information call Tom at 522-9612. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

The Monday Night Women's League reports first place is Half and Half followed by Walking Wounded, and M Power. Fourth place is held by Festive Foursome. For more info call Pat at 437-6218. Bowling is at AMF Southway at 6:15 p.m. Mondays.

Lambda Rolling Club

The Lambda Rollerskating Club holds its next Skate Night Wednesday July 31 from 8 until 10:00 p.m. at the Starlight Roller Rink, 8075 Cook Road. Admission is \$5 and skate rental, if needed, adds an additional \$1.

This will be a fund-raising skate for the PWA Coalition of Houston. Everyone is welcome to skate, and a variety of events will be scheduled along with door prizes.

If your club or organization would like to hold a skate event, please contact us at 787-0625, e-mail at gayskate1@aol.com or visit the WEB page site at <http://members.aol.com/gayskate1/lambda.htm>.

HMBL-Billiards

The Houston Metropolitan Billiards League, Inc. (HMBL) announced that after 26 weeks of play the team Coalition is still leading the league with their .875 won match average. Jackson 5 at .792 and J.R.'s Cue Crew at .760 hold second and third place respectively. The averages for games won place the teams in the same order with percentages of .675, .631 and .619.

The last night of play will be Tuesday, 30th, and Cousin will be provide a food buffet. Players are encouraged to attend and reminded that it will be a good time to turn in the final score sheets.

With the season coming to an end, players are reminded "The choice of a jacket as an award will be limited to the top three placing teams only."

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4. Obtain veteran's discounts on medical care, education, and home loans.
5. Enter jointly into leases and other contracts and maintain renewal rights.
6. Raise children together including joint adoption, custody and visitation rights.
7. Secure wrongful death benefits for a surviving partner and children; take bereavement leave when a partner or child or 'in-laws' die.
8. Establish next-of-kin status for hospital visits and medical decisions where one partner is too ill to be competent. Handle post-mortem decisions involving deceased partners, including where and how they are buried; receive crime victim's recovery benefits.
9. Secure domestic violence protections such as community property and child support.
10. Qualify to apply for permanent residency for an immigrant partner.

TELL US HOW WE'RE DOING!

The HOUSTON VOICE is your Voice in Houston, and we value your input and suggestions. Write us at 811 Westheimer, Suite 105, Houston TX 77006 (Fax: 529-9531) to tell us what you like and don't like or to share your own creative ideas. (Please indicate if your letter is for input only, as we also receive numerous letters for publication).

This & That!

by Jon Anthony



Legendary comedian **Lily Tomlin** joins the cast of CBS' comedy stalwart *Murphy Brown*. Tomlin will portray a character nicknamed 'The Fixer', the new executive producer of FYI. The character promises to

provide fodder for Tomlin and series star **Candace Bergen** to eschew. Murphy, entering its ninth season this fall, was considered by many critics, including myself, to be waning in recent years; however, with the addition of Tomlin, the show could re-energize itself and become a fixture for several more seasons. Tomlin also has a post *Murphy Brown* development deal with the network for a series commitment of her own.... **David Letterman's** contract with CBS has been renewed through the 2001-2002 TV season.... **Toni Braxton** and **Kenny G** plan to co-headline a tour to promote their new compact discs. Braxton's latest, *Secrets*, is currently #5 on the Billboard charts and Kenny G's upcoming release is due Sept. 17. The duo hits Houston on October 13.... CBS' mid-season slate, announced at a press conference, includes the **Larry Hagman** vehicle *Orleans* with Hagman as a New Orleans judge; *Feds*, set in a Manhattan federal prosecutors office, starring **Blair Brown** as an attorney; a sitcom titled *Temporarily Your's* starring **Joanna Gleason** (*Love & War*) and **Debi Mazar** (*Civil Wars*); and a new sitcom, *Life and Stuff*, starring **Pam Dawber** and **Rick Reynolds**.... **Mario Puzo's** latest best-seller, *The Last Don*, has been purchased by CBS for adaptation into a four hour mini-series.... *Dallas* and *Knots Landing*, two highly successful CBS soaps from yesteryear, will both have reunion specials on the network this fall.... **Tom Hanks** has a deal with HBO to executive produce a dramatic anthology about

NASA titled *From the Earth to the Moon*....

Elizabeth Taylor's AIDS Foundation presented the American Foundation for AIDS Research with \$500,000 last Monday. Taylor, an avowed AIDS activist, and **Sharon Stone** will co-chair an upcoming fashion show, *Macy's*



Passport '96, to raise funds for the fight against HIV/AIDS. The festivities take place September 19 and 20. **Earvin "Magic" Johnson** will host the event.... Liz take note: **Timothy Nolen** stars in the Paul Harvey Jr. penned *Burton*, a play based on the life of **Richard Burton**. Harvey Jr. is the son of radio legend Paul Harvey who is notorious for providing listeners with 'the rest of the story'. Burton opened last Friday at the Caldwell Theater in Boca Raton, FL.... **Anonymous'** identity is no longer a mystery. **Joe Klein**, a CBS News contributor and Newsweek columnist, admitted he wrote the best-selling novel *Primary Colors*.... **Whoopi Goldberg** will host President Clinton's birthday party August 18 at Radio City Music Hall. **Jeff Margolis** is executive producing the gala event that will double as a Democratic National Committee fund-raiser. **Maya Angelou**, **Ted Danson** and **Mary Steenburgen**, **Leslie Nielsen**, **Tony Bennett** and comedian extraordinaire **Tim Conway** have all committed their presence at the festivities.... **Robin Williams** (a guest of CBS *This Morning* July 31 at 7am on Channel 11) and **Billy Crystal** are currently working on a film together. *Father's Day*, currently filming on location, is slated for release in 1997.... *Imus in the Morning*, the national morning radio show hosted by **Don Imus**, will be simulcast on the new cable news network

MSNBC, a joint venture between MicroSoft and NBC. Last week FOX announced that **Rush Limbaugh**, another controversial radio jock, will join their line-up when the all news cable channel debuts later this year.... NBC's mid-season slate includes: a drama about NYPD intelligence officers called *Prince Street*; *One L*, based on **Scott Turow's** best-selling book of the same name; ABC's reject **Jason Bateman**; *Just Shoot Me* with **George Segal**; *Bunk Bed Brothers* featuring **Billy Ragsdale**; *Fired Up*, a vehicle for NYPD Blue's **Sharon Lawrence** and a drama titled *The Center* with **Kellie Martin**. NBC also snared the rights to the broadcast premiere of Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning *Schindler's List*.... **Dennis Rodman** guests on the season premiere of NBC's bonafide hit sitcom *3rd Rock From The Sun*.... **Pauly Shore** and **Judd Reinhold** have midseason commitments from FOX for their upcoming sitcoms, *Pauly* and *Secret Service Guy*, respectively.... **Joel Grey** hosted a party on his Manhattan terrace last week to celebrate the release of **Bernadette Peters'** upcoming record, *I'll Be Your Baby Tonight*.... **Amanda Donohoe** (*LA Law's* lesbian kisser, C.J. Lamb) has been tapped to co-star with **Jim Carrey** in *Liar, Liar* at the behest of the comedian.... **Paul Reiser** will host this year's Emmy Awards September 8 on ABC. **Michael J. Fox** and **Oprah Winfrey** will assist Reiser throughout the ceremonies.... **Making the Rounds:** **Greg Louganis** reports on the Olympics for ABC's *Good Morning America* (GMA) weekdays at 7am on Channel 13. **Bette Midler** visits the set of GMA on July 29. **Tom Selleck** chats with **Tom Snyder** July 30/31 at 12:05am on CBS affiliate Channel 11. **David Frost** interviews Oscar-winning actor **Peter Ustinov** July 31 at 3am on Houston's PBS outlet Channel 8. Comic **David Brenner** stops by *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* July 31 at

9am on Channel 13 and **Penny Marshall** reunites with her K-Mart co-host August 1 at 9am. **Fran Drescher** talks to the crew over at CBS *This Morning* that date at 7am on Channel 11. **Ellen DeGeneres** checks in with David Letterman's CBS *Late Nite Show* July 31 at 10:35pm and **Placido Domingo** and **Rudolph Guilliani** chat with David August 1 at 10:35pm. **Howard Stern**, **Rush Limbaugh**, **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, **Paul Newman** and **John Wayne** are the subjects on this week's A&E *Biography* series. *Biography* airs weekly at 7pm and encores at 11pm. **Top of the Charts:** *The Olympics Opening Ceremonies* ranked #1 in the weekly ratings according to the Nielsens. *Independence Day* continued to dominate the charts as the ruler of the box office for the third week in a row. The film has grossed an astounding \$21.6 million over the weekend bringing its total to date to \$200 million. **Toni Braxton** has the hottest single in the country. *You're Makin' Me High* and *It Was Written* by NAS is the number one album according to Billboard Magazine. **Ricochet's** *Daddy's Money* tops the country charts and *Que Pena Me Das* is the hottest Latin song in the US. **Patricia Cornwell's** latest thriller *Cause of Death* kicked **John Grisham's** *The Runaway Jury* out of the top spot on the fiction bestseller's list. **Vincent Bugliosi's** *Outrage* is the hottest selling non-fiction title according to The New York Times. **Quote of the Week:** "Network executives are afraid to put [Latinos] on television...[because] they're still pissed off about the Alamo, and we have year-round tans." - **Paul Rodriguez** on Showtime's *Latino Laugh Festival*.



Opening Ceremonies ranked #1 in the weekly ratings according to the Nielsens. Independence Day continued to dominate the charts as the ruler of the box office for the third week in a row. The film has grossed an astounding \$21.6 million over the weekend bringing its total to date to \$200 million. Toni Braxton has the hottest single in the country. You're Makin' Me High and It Was Written by NAS is the number one album according to Billboard Magazine. Ricochet's Daddy's Money tops the country charts and Que Pena Me Das is the hottest Latin song in the US. Patricia Cornwell's latest thriller Cause of Death kicked John Grisham's The Runaway Jury out of the top spot on the fiction bestseller's list. Vincent Bugliosi's Outrage is the hottest selling non-fiction title according to The New York Times. Quote of the Week: "Network executives are afraid to put [Latinos] on television...[because] they're still pissed off about the Alamo, and we have year-round tans." - Paul Rodriguez on Showtime's Latino Laugh Festival.

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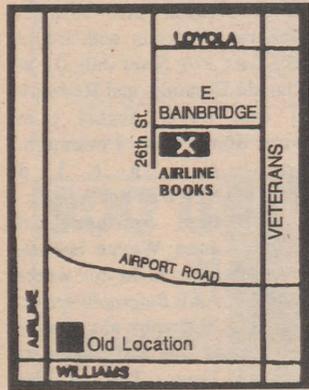
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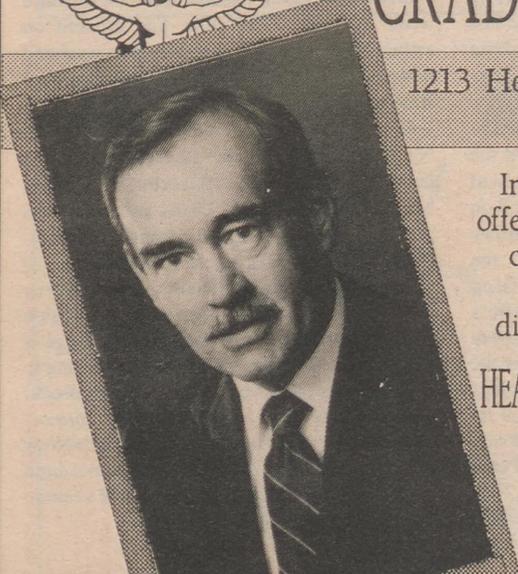
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PAST OUT

BY DAVID BIANCO

By DAVID BIANCO

What Was The "Lavender Menace"?

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, some straight feminists, most notably National Organization for Women founder Betty Friedan, worried that feminism's public image would be marred by a too-visible lesbian presence in the movement. In Friedan's choice phrase, Lesbians represented a "lavender menace" to American feminism.

It was a loaded slogan. From the perspective of the mid-1990s, it is easy to forget the mindset of the Cold War, and the hysteria linked to such phrases as the "red menace." Although Friedan later backed off and said the lesbian issue was just a "lavender herring" to divert attention from the real issues facing women, Lesbians understandably felt stung by both phrases.

Complicating Friedan's statements was evidence of actual discrimination within NOW, where Lesbians in positions of leadership were being silenced or forced out of office. A group of women from the Gay Liberation Front felt that the feminist movement needed some consciousness-raising, and planned an incident that would mark a turning point in the relationship between Lesbians and the women's movement. It would also be one of the most creative direct actions in the early history of what was then called the "gay liberation movement."

On Friday night, May 1, 1970, the lights went out on the hundreds of women gathered for the second annual Congress to Unite Women. When they came back on, twenty women in purple T-shirts which proclaimed "Lavender Menace" stood in front of the auditorium, and there were signs along the walls which read, "Take a Lesbian to Lunch" and "Is the Statue of Liberty a Lesbian?" The "Menace" demanded the microphone from the stage and accused the women's movement of internalized sexism, and of discriminating against lesbians.

The rest of the scheduled speakers were canceled, and the assembled women spent the rest of the evening listening to the concerns of Lesbians. Although the event had its angry and emotional moments (such as when some Lesbians came out publicly for the first time), for the most part the "Lavender Menace" kept a sense of humor about what they were doing, which helped relax many women present who had never been exposed to open discussions of lesbianism.

When the Lesbians who had prepared remarks finished speaking, an open microphone was declared, and one of the women who chose to come forward and talk about her struggles with her own sexuality had actually been a scheduled speaker (on another topic) for the evening. She was the well-known professor and author Kate Millett, who herself would later become a lightning rod for debates over sexuality in the women's movement.

During the rest of the weekend, the Lavender Menace put together well-attended discussions and workshops on issues related to sexual orientation and feminism. On Sunday, the Congress even passed a tongue-in-cheek Menace resolution declaring, "Be it resolved that Women's Liberation is a Lesbian plot."

The Lavender Menace action was a landmark in an ongoing struggle within the lesbian movement. Lesbi-

ans in the early 1970s were feeling increasingly like tokens or showpieces in male-dominated groups like the Gay Activists Alliance and the Gay Liberation Front. Yet at first the National Organization for Women, the Redstockings, and other groups had tried to silence lesbian issues. After the 1970 Congress to Unite Women, the women's movement was more open to lesbian concerns, and just 16 months later NOW passed a resolution declaring "the oppression of Lesbians as a legitimate concern of feminism."

It took Friedan many more years to come around to support of lesbian rights, and she is said to have told a reporter in 1973 that Lesbians in NOW had been sent there by the CIA.

As for the Lavender Menace themselves, they did not disappear after their highly public debut. They marched in that summer's first-ever New York City Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade, and (under the name Radicalesbians) published an influential essay, "The Woman-identified Woman."

What Was The First Gay-Themed TV Movie?

"That Certain Summer," which aired Nov. 1, 1972 on ABC. The movie stars Hal Holbrook, whose 14-year old son comes to spend the summer with him and discovers that Dad is in love with Martin Sheen. It appeared at a time when television was beginning to explore controversial topics—including, later that month, the decision by the title character on Maude to have an abortion.

But "That Certain Summer" was extremely tame, especially when compared to films that had recently played in the cinemas such as "The Boys in the Band" and "Sunday, Bloody Sunday." Sheen and Holbrook played the very model of an "acceptable" gay couple—they never touched, denounced open displays of affection, and wondered out loud if homosexuality was a sickness. At the end of the film, the son leaves his weeping father, and—unlike in the original script—doesn't even show any regrets.

Gay and lesbian reaction to "That Certain Summer" was mixed. Some Gays and Lesbians were thrilled to see any portrayal of their lives on television, and relished the opportunities for conversation with their families that the show—and the surrounding controversy—afforded. Others were offended, such as the man who wrote the New York Times to complain that Holbrook's character's tears at the end of the film were a "repudiation of the life he had chosen for himself."

"That Certain Summer" also provoked the usual protests from offended religious conservatives. But it was probably more important for alerting Gays and Lesbians to the power of television to shape straight perceptions of gays and lesbians. Two years later, the Gay Activists Alliance and the National Gay Task Force were protesting a homophobic episode of "Marcus Welby" before it even aired—and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) continues such activities today.

David Bianco, M.A., teaches Gay and Lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. If there's anything about the history of Gays and/or Lesbians you've always wondered about, contact him care of this newspaper or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com. "Past Out" appears twice a month.



REVIEWS By K. DAVID COCHRAN

Maybe ... Maybe Not

The 20th anniversary edition of the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in June presented the premieres of many outstanding films that are now headed to theatres in Houston; Bruce La Bruce's "Hustler White," Mark "Sex Is..." Huestis' "Another Goddam Benefit," Chris Newby's "Madagascar Skin," and, of course, Nigel Finch's extraordinary "Stonewall." The first to make the cross country trek is a import that has the distinction of being the highest grossing German film ever: Sonke Wortmann's hilarious comedy "Maybe.. Maybe Not."

The title's reference is to the film's lead character, Axel, a twenty-something heterosexual man with an over-active libido. When thrown out of his apartment after his girlfriend, Doro, finds him having sex with another woman at their job, Axel finds himself without any place to stay. He first turns to his "Straight Men's Support Group," only to find excuses why he can't stay with any of them. He does receive one taker, though. Waltraud, a gay man looking to teach these straight men what it means to be gay, offers a bed, but Axel declines.

When his leads do not pan out, Axel turns to Waltraud. Unfortunately, Waltraud is headed to a party, a drag party, but he does not tell the young man this. At the party, Axel decides to get drunk and in his drunken stupor, he tells all that he does not want to go home with Waltraud because the other man only "wants to get him into bed." He also tells them that he would rather go home with Waltraud's friend, Norbert, whom he has decided is a nice guy. As the story progresses, Axel finds his time with Norbert liberating—so much so that Doro begins to believe that the two are having an affair.

What follows is a comic romp that is as sophisticated as it is absurd, as warm as it is witty. But none of this would have been accomplished if it weren't for the splendid German cast; from the queeny Waltraud to the put upon Doro to the ever vigilante Norbert. But the standout has to be young Axel himself, played by Alex Schweiger. Schweiger (referred to as the German Brad Pitt, but is more reminiscent of a young Brad Savage) brings to Axel a sensitivity that makes you believe that he IS only a prisoner to his sex drive; a sweetness that lets you know that he is good despite of the bad that happens to him.

Already a hit in Europe, "Maybe.. Maybe Not" has all the right ingredients to make it a stateside success as well. Warning: This film is only scheduled to play one more week at Landmark's Greenway 3 although there is a possibility that it may be extended, so don't

miss it!

Trainspotting

In 1994, director Danny Boyle was introduced to American audiences with the slick and stylish, nuevo-Hitchcock "Shallow Grave." The story of three flatmates, a dead roomie and a suitcase full of money, "Shallow Grave" had the dubious distinction of being on critic's top 10 lists across the country. With what, many wondered, could this wunderkind follow this smash? The answer is unequivocally, "Trainspotting."

The act of collecting numbers from passing trains, "Trainspotting" is many things. It is the brilliantly comic tale of four wayward scottish youths. It is a how-to guide for future heroin users. It is a painful roller coaster ride through the death and decay that is life. It is a phenomenon.

"Trainspotting" came into the world as a novel by Irvine Welsh. So popular was the book that it spawned t-shirts, posters and a stage play. The film version went on to spawn a #1 charting soundtrack. There seems to be no stopping "Trainspotting."

It is true that this film is about a group of Scottish lads wandering through their lives from one high to another; whether it be sexual, chemical or financial. But there is so much more. There is a joyful zest for life that is breathtaking. There are the bonds of friendship that never fail to amuse. There are the natural frailties of being a human that bring tears to the eyes. Director Danny Boyle makes no excuse for his anti-heroes, he just presents things as they really are.

It is that realism that takes the audience to places they have never been before. One need not actually shoot up with Ewan McGregor's "Mark Renton" to feel what he is feeling; it is on the screen. When Renton sloshes in a disgusting toilet for lost drugs. When he nears death during an overdose. When he goes cold turkey. When the world whizzes past him during a post-clean out depression. It is all on the screen.

But all this praise does come with a cautionary note. "Trainspotting" is not for the faint of heart. Its gritty realism sometimes borders on the grotesque. Although played for humor, this element caused many in the screening I attended to turn away from the screen. Also, too, the accents are rather thick so an attentive ear is a must.

But these elements aside, "Trainspotting" is an amazing film, brilliant sophomore effort from a director on his way up and, most importantly, a ride you won't soon forget. "Trainspotting" opens today at the Landmark Greenway.



(L-R) JOACHIM KRÖL and TIL SCHWEIGER star in director SONKE WORTMANN's German comedy

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

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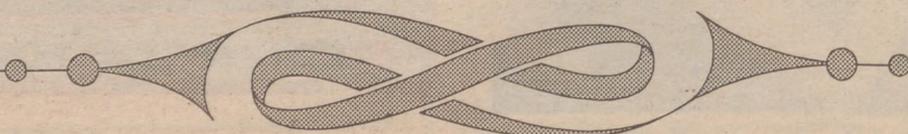
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Community Calendar by Carolyn Roberts

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

Friday, July 26

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

* HIV+ Art classes at the Art League. 523-8817

* HATCH meets. 942-7002.

* 12 step program at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Art Classes at AIDS Foundation Houston at 1:00 p.m. 526-1118.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. 527-1348.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. 528-SAFE.

* Free Spay and Neutering Clinic. Call 522-2337.

* Beehive, the 60s Musical Sensation at Miller Outdoor. 8:30 p.m. 520-3290.

* Houston Outdoor Group's Gualupe Rafting. 529-2691.

Saturday, July 27

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club rides. 863-1860.

* After Hours on KPFT 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. 90.1 FM. 526-5738.

* Gulf Coast Transgender support group meets. 780-4282.

* Q-Patrol meets to walk the streets at 10:30 p.m. 528-SAFE.

* Visual Art Alliance meets at 10:00 a.m. 583-8408.

* Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus meets. 521-1000.

* Beehive, the 60s Musical Sensation at Miller Outdoor. 8:30 p.m. 520-3290.

* Basic Aerobics at the Waist-basket. 10:30 a.m. 721-8282.

* Queer Nation meets at 2700 Albany at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 28

* Houston Chain Gang Bicycle Club meets. 863-1860.

* The Women's Group meets at 10:45 a.m. 529-8571.

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

* HATCH meets. 942-7002.

* Inner Loop Sunday Bowling League. 522-9612.

Monday, July 29

* Free HIV Testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Brazos River Bottom. 4:00 pm to 8:00 p.m.

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

* HeartSong open rehearsal at the First Unitarian Church at 7:00 p.m. 947-1488.

* Calendar/Computer workshop for Pride Week. 7:00 p.m. 529-1223.

* Positive Living Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:15 p.m. 539-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center.

6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Women and HIV/AIDS Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. 529-0037.

* Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. 529-0037.

* Lesbian Survivors of Cancer and their care givers at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Men's HIV Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* AVES sponsored free HIV testing from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm at 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* AIDS Foundation Houston's Creative Writing Class meets at 3:00 p.m. 623-6796.

* Gay and Lesbian Readers Group meets at Barnes and Noble. 7:00 p.m. 349-8152.

* Agora meets at 7:30 p.m. 623-6796.

Tuesday, July 30

* Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous meets at 239 Westheimer. 8:00 p.m. 495-8009.

* Basic Computer Skills Class at the Kolbe Project. 522-8182.

* Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 4:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area meets at 7:00 p.m. 488-4492.

* Empowerment for Living meets for pot luck. 861-9149.

* PROTECT: an HIV negative support group meets at 7:00 p.m. 520-7870.

* Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic at Club Body Center. 8:00 p.m. 520-2083.

* Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Survivors of loss support group meets at 8:30 p.m. 778-2677.

* FrontRunners meet at 6:30 p.m. 522-8021.

* Live Jazz at Borders Book Shop. 782-6066.

* Free Spay and Neutering Clinic. Call 522-2337.

* HIV/AIDS Treatment Mixer at 7:00 p.m. 527-8219.

* Love, Lust & Intimacy-discussion at 7:00 p.m. 524-2374.

Wednesday, July 31

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at Mary's. 4:00 pm to 8:00 p.m.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 10:30 p.m. 537-1348.

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

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

* Women's Action Coalition meets at Toopees. 7:00 p.m. 867-9581.

* Men's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Houston Tennis Club meets at 7:15 p.m. 537-1348.

* Lambda Rollerskating Club skates at 8:00 p.m. 933-5818.

* Women's Network at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Ongoing Mixed Living in Process Group for men and women. 622-7250 for more info.

* Living with Chronic Pain at Montrose Counseling Center. 9:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Women's Issues Process Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Women's Action Coalition (WAC) meets at 7:00 p.m. 867-9581.

* HIV Survivor Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m. 782-4050.

* Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. 5:00 pm to 8:00 p.m. Call 520-2000.

* AVES offers free HIV testing at 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. At 4125 SW Freeway, Suite 1717.

* Lesbian/Bisexual Survivors at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:30 p.m. 529-0037.

* Bi-Net of Houston meets at 7:00 p.m. 467-4380.

* Free Spay and Neutering Clinic. Call 522-2337.

Thursday, Aug. 1

* Free HIV testing and counseling by the Montrose Clinic at the Ven-

ture-N. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

* Art Labs at The Art League. 1:00 p.m. 225-9411

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

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

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

* KPFT Lesbian and Gay Voices airs at 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. 866-6505.

* Ongoing gay men's Living in Process Group. 622-7250.

* Open Mike Night at Cafe Artiste. 1601 W. Main. 8:00 p.m. 528-3704.

* HIV+ Men Psychotherapy at Montrose Counseling Center. 1:15 p.m. 529-0037.

* Relapse Prevention at Montrose Counseling Center. 2:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Outpatient Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Aftercare Group Treatment at Montrose Counseling Center. 6:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* Meditation and Chanting Group meets at 7:00 p.m. 942-0923.

* HIV Affected at CASA. 7:00 p.m. 796-2272.

* Men's Therapy Group at Montrose Counseling Center. 7:00 p.m. 529-0037.

* HIV survivor Support Group meets at 2929 Unity Drive. 7:00 p.m. 782-4050

* Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 738-RACE.

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'Hoes' to 'Ho-Down'



At the Mr. Houston All-American contest

Houston Soap

By CAROLYN ROBERTS

Past Events

Congrats to Sean Carter! He is the new Mr. Houston All-American!

In recent fundraisers held at Chances, \$1,916 was raised and donated in memory of Marion Panzer's Breast Cancer Awareness Fund! There are more fundraisers next week to contribute more to this fund!

Friday, July 26

Register to win a pair of tickets to k.d. lang's Monday, July 29 concert at the Woodlands Pavilion. J.R.'s Video Bar will be giving one pair away each hour from 9:00 pm to 1:00 pm. While you are waiting to win, sip on \$3.75 Stoli and Skyy cocktails, munch on complimentary hors d'oeuvres, and stare at seven gorgeous go-go gods from 5:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Party with your friends at J.R.'s tonight!

The Chocolate Covered Cherries Band take the stage of Chances tonight at 9:00 pm. Come on in and dance to their R&B sounds.

Miss Zack, Leah Halston, Kara Dion, and Ashlee Houston fill the stage tonight at Cousin's. The show starts at 11:00 pm.

Saturday, July 27

This week's super Saturday show at E/J's features the talents of Jade Mykels, Monique Johnson, and the winner of the Tuesday night Talent contest. MC Tara Dion takes the stage at 11:00 pm.

The 611 Hyde Park Pub offers wild male dancers tonight from 9:00 pm to 1:00 am.

There is no cover tonight at Pacific Street if you are in (or out of) erotic leather. Dance to the latest releases and cool down with the lowest regular drink prices in town! Pacific Street, where real men still dance!

The Texas Riders are hosting a "Dungeon Party" tonight from 9:00 pm to 2:00 am on the patio of Mary's, naturally!

Tonight at the Lazy J, MC Patsi Kline welcomes her guests Diane Jackson and Dynasty. There is a super secret guest



Christopher borrows my lipstick again!

also. The show starts at 10:30 pm.

Today and tomorrow you can lay out at Club Houston. You can work on your tan (with or without tan lines) and enjoy the catered buffet and refreshing beverages! Work out, lay out, or just hang out at Club Houston today and every day!

The show at Cousin's starts at 11:00 pm. Miss Zack, Brandi Houston, Frankie Lane and Sivi Ross will keep you entertained all night long.

A bunch of computer BBSSers will be meeting at the Brazos River Bottom this afternoon from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. If you would like more info, contact Fuzzy Bear at 489-0653.

There is a car wash this afternoon at Chances from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Sunday, July 28

Don't want to do your own make-up, hair, and nails for the Garden Party? Jewel's is the answer. Her store (at 2404 Taft, next to TNT T-shirts) will be open today from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Jewel has stocked her boutique to the rafters with sequined gowns, leather clothes, jewelry, and wig, wig, wigs! Call to make you appoint-



Lisa gives Chris a great backrub

ment at Jewel's @ 523-3557.

The Hooker's Ball opens its little black book today at Heaven. Garden Party 21 starts today at 3:00 pm. First, park your auto at the Brazos River Bottom. They have a free continuous shuttle (starting at 3:00 pm) to Heaven. Join hosts Mark Alford, Hezekiah Bryant, Terry Burkart, David Cleveland, Thomas Coronado, Julian Glass, Roni Hulin, Alvin Ledwig, Creath Robinson, Robert Rodriguez, Elmer Shehane and William Velez; the "Hot Lemonade Society" Richard Arduengo, Robert Harwood, Torrie Justus, Leon Perry, Larry Spriggs, and Richard Wiederholt; "The Bitch Auxiliary" Todd Enis, Mickey Frady, and Kevin Hasson and The "Ladies in Waiting" Jan Pasternak and Rene Tappe. These fine people can really throw a party. Tickets are \$30 at the door (\$25 in advance.) Pull out your "HookerDrag" and party at the Garden Party. Then take the shuttle back to the Brazos River Bottom for the 13th annual Denim Party. You must have your invitation or your Garden Party Program to get in to the Denim Party! Join hosts (way too many to list) and the staff and management of the Brazos River Bottom for free hot dogs, hamburgers and draft beer on the patio. Wear your Garden Party "outfits" or change in to leather or Levis! This is one of Montrose's most splendid day of partying!

In between the Garden Party and the Denim Party, head over to the Venture-N

for tasty cocktails served up to you by the women of FIST (Females in Search of Trouble.) Climb the stairs to "top" side starting at 5:00 pm.

Want to see the "show" of people going to the Garden party but don't want to go in? Hang out on the patio of the Montrose Mining Company this afternoon with the double bust (Miller Lite Draft Beer for 25¢ or Ritas for \$1 with a \$2 optional buy-in) and watch the parade of hookers going to the ball. The Mine will be pumping with heart-pounding trash disco! The men, the music, the Mine!

The spotlight is on Miss Zack, Kara Dion, Tara Dion, and Miss T.T. tonight at Cousin's. The curtain rises at 11:00 pm.

They are doing it again! The "Daddy Dales" are back at the BriarPatch tonight at 8:00 pm. You have heard of the Chip-pendales, well, stop in the BriarPatch to see the "boys" strut their stuff! This is a fundraiser for the BriarPatch's softball team. This is a show not to be missed!

Men! The Ripcord! Be there!

Monday, July 29

Try the Trading Post for a quick lunch today! C.J. makes sandwiches starting at \$2.50. You can have a beer or play a game of pool. The Trading Post is at 11410 S. Post Oak.

It is always cool at the BrairPatch! The drinks are tall, cold, and strong! The crowd is always festive. No Karaoke at



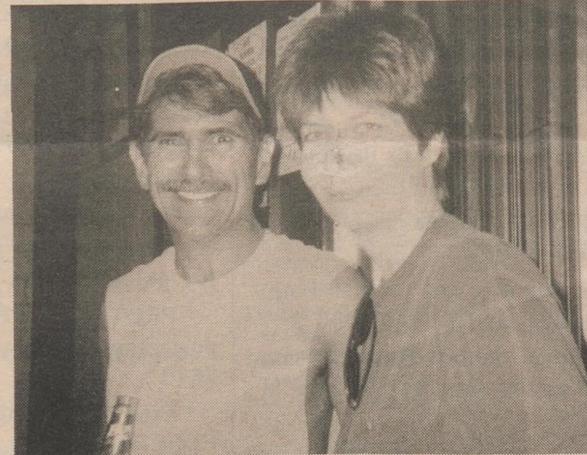
I'm so shy! NOT!

Happy New Year! In July? Leave it to Pacific Street to throw a New Year's Eve party tonight! There will be balloons dropped filled with cash, party hats, horns, and everything you need for a New Year's Eve party! The doors open at 9:00 pm and the balloons drop at midnight!

The Court and King Father Marlene invite you to please come in to Chances and join in the dart or pool tournaments. This is a fundraiser for the new Women's Unit at the Montrose Clinic! There will be trophies and prizes awarded on Sunday at 2:00 pm! This kicks off a fundraising marathon!

Fall in love with the "Two of Hearts" tonight at BerryHill II. The doors open at 6:00 pm, with happy hour until 10:00 pm. The band starts at 8:00 pm.

There are no tunes like show tunes! J.R.'s



Sammy and Maggie play at Mary's

the BriarPatch, it is always live!

Don't forget that the Gentry social club meets today and every day until 7:00 pm with \$1.50 well cocktails, \$1.75 domestic longnecks, \$3.50 Absolut martinis and \$3 Skyy Vodka martinis. The bad boys with big boats sail on the stage at 9:00 pm.

The Brazos River Bottom has all day and all night drink specials today and every Monday! Scoot down the River Bottom way and cool off with icy cold longnecks!

Tuesday, July 30

Stop the presses! The world famous Candace (from Tucson) will be stopping in Houston for one night only! You can catch her at the Ripcord tonight!

Stop in Mela's Tejano Country tonight for a \$1.50 longnecks!

What can I do today
That will be fun and gay?
I have two dollars
For Cuervo I'll holler
To get it my way!

Of course I am referring to the \$2 Jose Cuervo special this and every Tuesday at Mary's, naturally!

The Brazos River Bottom offers \$1 domestic longnecks all day and all night tonight and every Tuesday! You can have a few and learn to C&W dance, too!

Wednesday, July 31

Should old acquaintance be forgot?

Video Bar has a show tune sing along tonight and every Wednesday night starting at 10:00 pm. Enjoy the thrill of your favorite sing along numbers and camp classics from Broadway and TV, plus rarely seen video footage. J.R.'s, your party bar!

Want to shoot pool? Are you a sloppy player? Well, Mary's, naturally has slop shot pool today at 1:00 pm.

Men! Gentry is full of nearly naked men tonight. First the bad boys with big boats fill the stage starting at 7:00 pm. At 11:00 pm, hostess Regina Dane makes contestants strip down to their skivvies. A full night at Gentry!

Bacchus II is the place where professional women meet on Wednesdays! There is a 6:00 pm buffet and the party goes all night! Back to back to Bacchus II!



I feel pretty!

Rodent Droppings on the RUN!



Dancing girls at PS

Thursday, August 1

Marilyn "Sopapilla" Marx fills the stage of E/J's with the talents of Freddie, Shelby St. John, Shawna Roberts, and Tiffany Powers. South of the border night starts off with \$1.25 test tube shots of Tequila and Granny's Tacos!

The grill of the 611 Hyde Park Pub is lit from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm for steak night!

This and every Thursday, the Club Houston has \$5.50 lockers and \$8 dressing rooms. Check out this bargain!

Want to go to a sleep over? Still have a sleeping bag? This is something new and different. RockyJava is having a pajama party tonight. Before midnight there is a \$10 cover, at lock-up the cover is \$20. There will be a show at 10:00 pm and BBQ for dinner. At midnight the doors lock! This is an all nighter! A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Soiree Aubergine. If you would like more info, call 521-7095.

Poor Super Man

Hurry hurry to get your tickets for this must see play! Call Theater Lab at 868-7516!

Other Important Stuff

Incognito is the place to be on Aug. 3! There will be a "Diva Extravaganza" featuring top divas from Chicago, Dallas, and Houston. Houston diva Cookie LaCook, Chicago diva Otis Mac MC this show featuring Dallas divas Sophia McIntosh, Kara Young, and Obsession, Chicago divas Erica Rene Christian, Candy Love, Flame Monroe, Tim Bolder, and Spanky Hawkins Dupree. Also featuring the Incognito divas Chevelle Brooks, Chanel Nicole, Dominique Deveraux, Porsche Paris, Tiffany Brooks, and special guest Randy Rochelle. This star studded show starts at 10:00 pm.

A marathon of madness! The Court and King Father Marlene invite you to join in the week long marathon in memory of Marion Panzer's Breast Cancer Awareness Unit and the Montrose Clinic! On Aug. 1, join the gang at the Malibu miniature golf at 7:00 pm; Aug 2. the "Tit for Tat" show; Aug. 3 is Bowling at DelMar Lanes (1:00 pm to 5:00 pm) is 2nd anniversary party; Aug. 4 is the awards ceremony and BBQ at Chances! If you are interested in joining in, please call 523-7217.

Some fun things are coming to E/J's: on Aug. 10, Miss Gay Bayou City US of A; Aug. 11, Ruth Aguilar's one woman show; Aug. 18, Dyan Michaels; and on Aug. 4, WWW.USAGAYNET.COM will be having a model search for their on-line soap opera. They are looking for 7 models to represent the characters in their gay soap opera. This

is NOT a beauty contest! If you would like more info, use the above Web site or call 1-888-2GAYNET or 782-3122.

This week's features at the French Quarter are "Homo Erectus" and "Sex Bazaar."

Have any questions about the Garden Party? Need tickets? Call 524-1188.

Basic Brothers has your last minute shopping needs for the Denim Party and the Garden Party! Stop in and check out their supply of wigs, shoes, make-up, and such! You can also purchase your advance tickets for \$25. At the door they will be \$30.

The Houston Area Bears are hosting a "Mixer" the weekend of Aug. 9, 10, and 11. If you would like more info, call 867-9123.

There are videos available for this year's pride parade. Call Matt Locklin @ 902-2231.

Just in time for football season, the Trading Post will be open on Sundays. Stop in, have a brewski, and enjoy football on the big screen!

As a thank-you to our community, the Venture-N offers 84 hours a week of happy hour (\$1.75) prices! There is never a cover at the Venture-N!

There will be a car wash by the Court in the parking lot of Gentry on Aug. 3, and on Aug. 4, the Mr. Life Today contest fills the stage of Gentry.

Daddy of Montrose Ken Claude will be guest bartending at the Ripcord on Aug. 3 and 10! All his tips will go to charity as he is a candidate for Mr. Prime Choice '97.

Birthday Corner

A happy birthday to the Houston Voice's own Maggie Bralick!

A happy birthday to Jerry Morin!

A happy birthday to Daddy of Montrose Ken Claude!

A happy birthday to Nicole Blake!

A happy (Big 4-0) birthday to Sam of the BRB.

A happy birthday to David M. of the Houston Area Bears.

A happy (belated) birthday to Thumper Knightly!

A happy birthday to Camille!

Anniversary Corner

Lee B. and Ed are celebrating their anniversary this week!

Happy belated 3rd anniversary Cameron and Vince R.!

Just Hitched!

Congrats to Cortes Restaurant owner James Cortes and his bride Claudia Medrano. They were married on 7/20!

Disclaimer!

Really, do I need to tell it again? This part of the Houston Voice is lies, gossip, trash, things done in the darkness of the night and, well you get the picture! I take no responsibility on verifying any facts. Why would I let the truth get in the way of a good story?

Rodent Droppings

I learned so much at my Houston Ferret Owners Association (364-8822) meeting last week! I am now able to give Harvey and Rattrat their vitamins! I read the instructions and the boys wouldn't touch them. Now, I put some in my hands (it is liquid) and they just keep licking! Amazing! Anyway I cleaned out the litter box and the following rodent droppings landed on my desk:

Tommie Sue Ellen (BRB): I hear you were suckin' face all day last Monday!

Cheryl (hangs at Chances): So you think you are a little princess?

Papa Del (Gentry): And I quote: "I'm the giver, not the taker!"

Philip (hangs at the BRB): I see you are baby sitting Ray Morehead instead of Lilly! I wonder who is having more fun?

Rob (Venture-N): Why do your fellow employees call you "Sheep's Butt?"

Vera (BRB): You and Bluebell have the same motto: I drink all I can and sell the rest! Cactus juice that is!

Ben Crump (Dianas): I hear you were sipping on BriarPatch's martinis and got so sleepy you had to go outside to take a siesta!

Diane (hangs at Chances): You wanted to get your belly button pierced, and could not find a ride to the piercing studio?

Brandon (Club Houston): How did Jeriel catch your cold? Sharing a taco? I think not! What is the scoop?

Nick (hangs at the BRB): Empty the pans before you put water in them! You would never get the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval."

Miss BriarPatch and Mr. BriarPatch: Is it true, you two were smooching on the love seat at the BP?

Michael Gates (TGRA): Honey, get an appointment book! You need to keep your "dates straight!"

Albee (Lobo): So, you got a card-on?

David D. (hangs at the BRB): Is it true you are going to be attending the Political and Cultural Gathering of Old Lesbians?

Brian Keever (TWT): I hear you have become a

cyberslut!

Sam and Byron (BRB): I understand that you two have been "stumbling" around!

Tom Z. and Doug D. (The Bubbas): Did "we" have a "few" cocktails at the Christmas in July party?

Dave W. (hangs at Gentry): What do you, Craig, Papa Del, and Darla K. now have in common? Could it be QT's?

Javier Luna (TGRA): Do you have an accent when you lip sink? I hear Arman does!

Toddy (BRB): I hear you have gotten a new nickname: Tater Tot! Is that because you are old and crispy?

Sean (Gentry): No balls! No IDs!

Mike (newest BRB employee): Welcome to the family! Be afraid, be very afraid!

Victor (Gentry): How do you go from 18 to 53? Cash or credit cards?



Jeanette and Bill want to thank Houston

Dennis (Sissy): Are you really a Lesbian trapped inside a man's body?

Mike (Charlie's): Most guys give their new boyfriends something from a jewelry store, not Pick-a-Part. Is this New Age love?

Nelly Kelly (TX Riders): How is your cat? Did the cops rescue it lately?

Crystal Rae Lee Love: And I quote: "I've sucked more d**k than Liz Taylor has fingerprints on her ass. And NO, Vermouth is not this month's eau de cologne!"

Mike (Gentry): On Woody-ful for spacious thighs!

Mike Stubblefield: So, do you like having a sexually oriented business in your neighborhood?

Buddy (Owner-Lazy J): I understand that you have been chasing pussy around the pool table.

Some Nosy Person: I can relate!

Steven Baker (Mr. BRB): Are you still Mr. BRB? We haven't seen you at any shows lately.

Jessica Van Shelton: Is it true you had to walk to E/J's Saturday night 'cuz you spent all your money on stamps?

Stacy Grummer (Mrs. Bacchus II): Rumor has it you have a red dress for sale!

Richard (hangs at the Lazy J): Is it true the police were roaming your back yard? Why?

Edwin (Basic Brothers): I have heard of fetishes, but post cards? "Please 'splain.

Woodessa (BRB): Daddy always said "an ounce of pretension is worth a pound of manure."

Tina (hangs at the Lazy J): I heard you went fishing and got the "High Hook" award: five fish in fifteen minutes. Wonder who got the "Low Hook?"

Rene Monroe: A little birdie told me that you have lovely ankles!

Regina Dane: I have a message to you from your traveling circus companions: "Don't forget you pumps! We get dizzy driving in circles!"

Franki (hangs at Chances): Congrats on your promotion! And have you fallen out of any hammocks lately?

Dot (RSICSS): Rumor has it that you have not forgotten how to dance!

Karen (hangs at Pacific Street): I heard you had an idea for a new Doublemint commercial. I don't think they can show a dildo on TV!

Have a great week

Cuervolyn



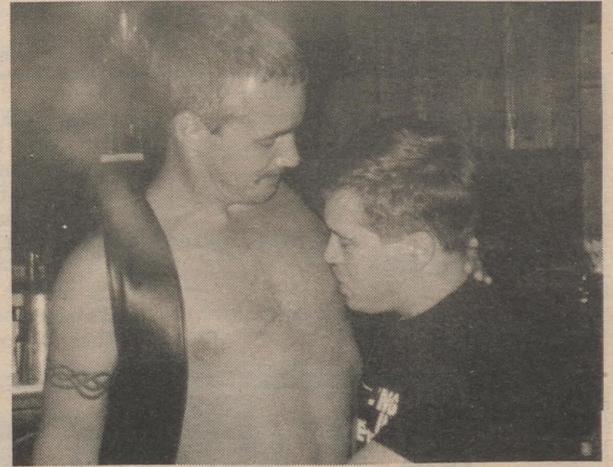
Dave plays in the "Garage" at Midtowne



Cameron!



Racy entertains some of the BRB's finest!



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Garden Party 21 Hooker's Ball



Sunday, July 28, 1996
Heaven Disco
Tickets and T-Shirts Available at Basic Brothers

Recommendations on NIH AIDS Research Efforts

Final reports and recommendations of the scientific panels reviewing AIDS research efforts at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) were released today (July 7) by Dr. William Paul, Director of the NIH Office of AIDS Research (OAR). An executive summary of the overall report was previously released in March.

The reports of the scientific review panels are available on the NIH Home Page of the internet (<http://www.nih.gov>). In addition, copies of the reports are available in print and on discs, and may be requested from the Office of AIDS Research at (301) 496-0357 or by e-mail (zc3@cu.nih.gov).

The report of the six panels and two sub-panels follows a year-long process in which distinguished nongovernmental experts reviewed every aspect of AIDS research at NIH, the most comprehensive review in the fifteen year history of the NIH AIDS research program. The review was conducted to determine whether the components of the program are appropriately designed and coordinated to provide the knowledge that will lead to more effective prevention, better treatments, and eventually a cure for AIDS.

Individual scientific panels issued recommendations in the areas of Clinical Trials, Drug Discovery, Vaccine Research and Development, Etiology and Pathogenesis, Behavioral and Social Science Research, and Natural History and Epidemiology. In addition, two sub-panels examined NIH research in the areas of Complementary and Alternative Medicines and Opportunistic Infections.

The panels were appointed in February, 1995, by Dr. Arnold Levine of Princeton University, chair of the evaluation, and Dr. Charles Carpenter of Brown University, chair of the OAR Advisory Council, who today thanked the panel members for their work and dedication to the mission of improving the focus and productivity of NIH AIDS research.

"The members of these panels included an extraordinary array of talent, including Nobel laureates, members of the National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine, internationally recognized scientists, industry leaders, and representatives of the HIV community," commented Dr. Paul. "Over 100 panel members reviewed every aspect of NIH's AIDS research program. Their recommendations will help us build upon the strengths of our programs and overcome obstacles to effective AIDS research."

The complete evaluation report provides a blueprint for restructuring the NIH AIDS research program to streamline research, strengthen high-quality programs, eliminate inadequate programs, and ensure that the American people reap the full benefits of their substantial investment in AIDS research. Dr. Paul, Dr. Harold Vartnus, Director of NIH, and the NIH Institute directors are working together to develop an implementation plan for the report.

Established in 1988, the Office of AIDS Research has primary responsibility for planning, coordinating, evaluating, and funding all NIH AIDS research, which is conducted at more than 20 institutes and centers of the NIH. The NIH AIDS research program supports basic biomedical and clinical research to identify and develop new therapeutic drugs and vaccines to prevent and treat HIV infection and its sequelae.

The NIH AIDS research program supports AIDS research in five areas: natural history and epidemiology, etiology and pathogenesis, therapeutics, vaccines, and behavioral and social sciences research.

NIH AIDS research is conducted at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland. In addition, NIH provides support for AIDS research conducted at universities, medical schools, and other institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

NAMES Quilt continued....

(Continued from page 1)

display of the entire Quilt.

"We are deeply honored that President and Mrs. Clinton are participating in this historic event," said Michael Berg, President of the NAMES Project Foundation Board of Directors. "The leadership they demonstrate through their affiliation with this display of the entire AIDS Memorial Quilt sends a message to our nation that the U.S. government has a strong, central role in helping us reach that time when the last panel will be made for this Quilt."

The Honorary Host Committee for the display includes notable American figures from the worlds of entertainment and the arts, politics, sports, religion and AIDS research. Among those participating are: U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Orrin Hatch, and Edward Kennedy; U.S. Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Gerry Studds, Steve Gunderson and Barney Frank; actors Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen; ice skater Rudy Galindo; philanthropist James Hormel; TV producer Norman Lear; actress Judith Light; Olympic diving champion Greg Louganis; Harvard AIDS Institute leader Johathan Mann, MD, MPH; country western singer Kathy Mattea; former New Republic editor Andrew Sullivan; entertainer Lily Tomlin; AIDS researcher Paul Volberding MD; The Most Rev. Edmond L. Browning, Presiding Bishop

of the Episcopal Church; and the Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco.

Since its last showing in Washington in 1992, the AIDS Memorial Quilt has doubled in size to include 40,000 individual memorial panels. More than 10,000 volunteers will participate in the three day display, and an estimated 750,000 visitors are expected. A number of organizations are staging dozens of AIDS related events in Washington to coincide with the display, including Rage Against the Dying of the Light: The 1996 National AIDS Candlelight March, The National Conference of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and a Gay Youth March on Washington.

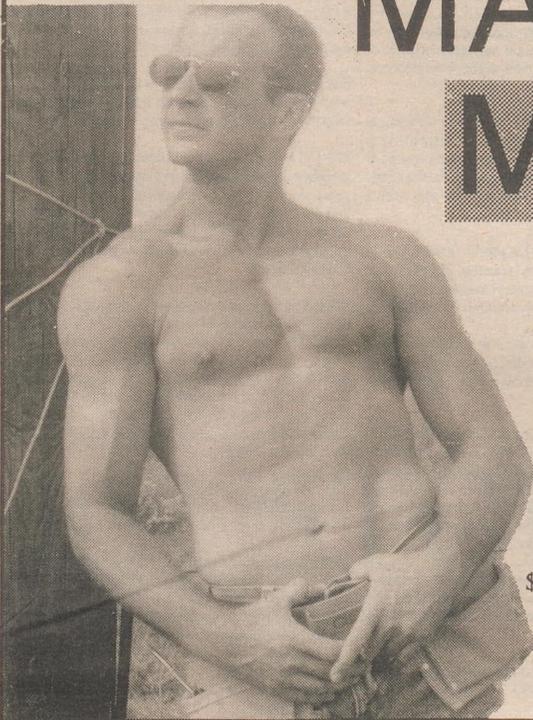
Founded in 1987, the NAMES Project Foundation sponsors and displays the AIDS Memorial Quilt to help bring an end to the AIDS epidemic. Through a network of 41 national NAMES Project chapters and 34 international affiliates, the AIDS Memorial Quilt is seen by more than one million people annually at nearly 2,000 displays. Money raised at quilt displays is granted to organizations that provide direct service to people everywhere who are living with HIV and AIDS. To date, almost seven million people have visited the AIDS Memorial Quilt. For more information on the Quilt, visit the NAMES Project worldwide web site at <http://www.aidsquilt.org>. Locally call 713/729-9662.

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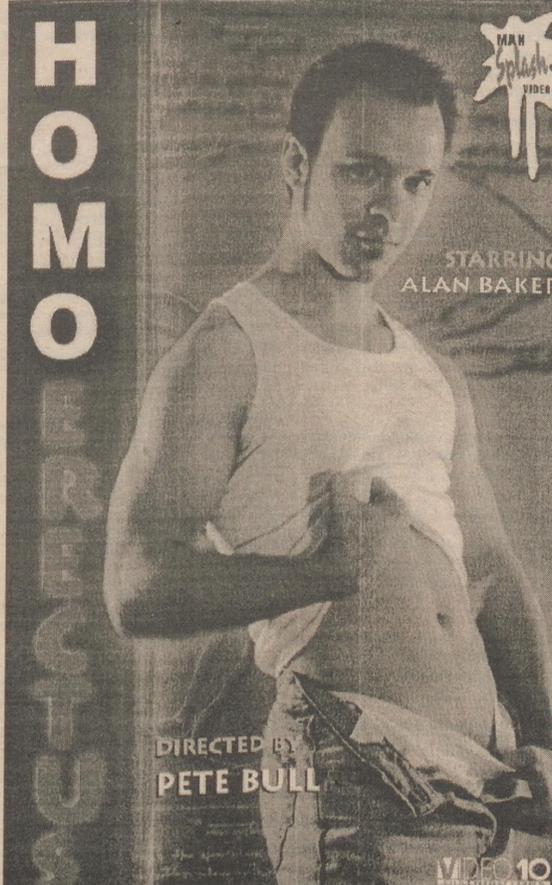
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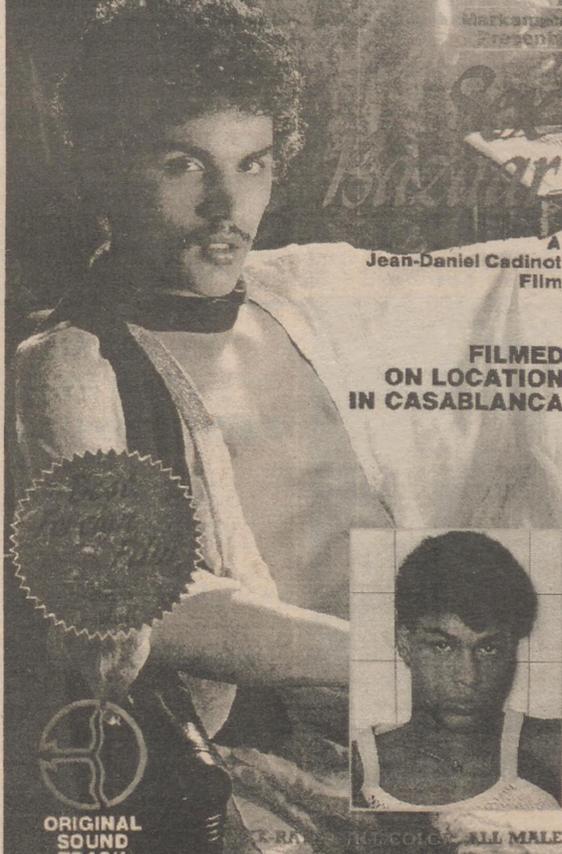
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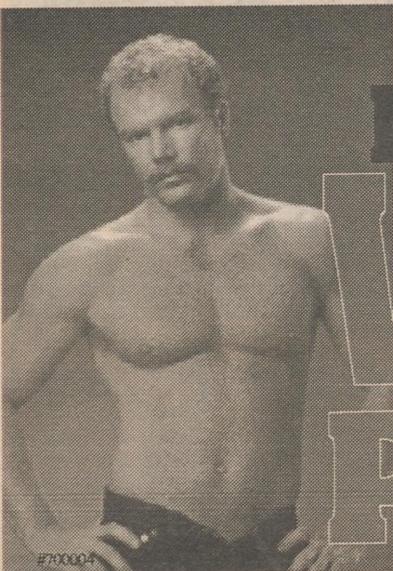
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HOUSTON VOICE PERSONALS



Women SEEKING Women

SFW 5'8", long blonde hair, deep-blue eyes. I'm straight-looking, but a soft butch inside. I'm a professional in the environmental field. I have an outgoing personality, with a compassionate soul. I'd like to meet a woman, 35-45, who is a professional, with feminine traits. Call Ext. 5148

SF 44, 5'11", 120 lbs. I love animals, gardening, reading & trying new things. I'd like to meet some women, 30-45, in the Houston area, for friendship, hanging out & a possible long-term relationship. No smokers, drugs or heavy drinkers. Call Ext. 5138

SFW I'm 5'3", with blonde hair & brown eyes. I'm a professional in the health care field. I enjoy the beach, the woods, the theater, movies & different restaurants. I'm a soft butch. I'd like to meet some new friends. I enjoy the company of a feminine woman. I'm drug-free, alcohol-free & smoke-free. Call Ext. 5119

SF I'm sexy, 21, 5'6" & 152 lbs. I'm bi curious & in search of a sexy, bisexual female of any race. She should be 120-170 lbs, big-breasted & very elegant. Call Ext. 5117

SFW I'm 40. I'm looking for someone who is butch & romantic. I'd like to make a friend or more. Call Ext. 5114

SF Do you like dumpster diving, junking, camping or biking? I'm gainfully employed & looking for the same. She should be 35-50 & a non-smoker. No drugs. Call Ext. 5108

SBF I'm bi curious & I've had all of the satisfaction I can get from a man. I'm 5'7" & 162 lbs. I have big lips & a small waist. I'm looking for a woman of the same build who has blonde or brunette hair, for a night of fun. Call Ext. 5105

SBF I'm lonely, 34 & 5'4". I have short, black, curly hair. I enjoy outdoor sports, biking, swimming & fishing. I play the drums. I'm looking for a single, feminine Black female who is serious about life. She should have career goals. Call Ext. 5092

SF I'm a short 5'2" brunette who is very active. I enjoy traveling, dining out, the outdoors, bike riding, etc. I'm looking for friendship & to have a lot of fun with people. Call Ext. 5025

SF I'm 23, 5'2" & 93 lbs. I have very short brown hair & blue eyes. So, if you're looking for a cute GQ-looking little boy, it's me. Call Ext. 5048

SBF Kidnap me. Take me on a hot air balloon ride. Seeking a female. Race & age are not important. Call Ext. 5037

SF I am 36, 5'4" & 115 lbs. I have gray hair & hazel eyes. I like outdoor activities, camping, kayaking, canoeing, walking in the country & riding my motorcycle. I love animals. I like all music, except rap & hard rock. I'd like to meet someone 35-45, for friendship or dating. I'm not looking for a hard butch, but for a soft butch, androgynous or feminine woman. I would prefer to meet a non-smoker. No drugs, please. Light drinking is okay. Call Ext. 5020

SF I'm from England. I'm 5'2" & 32. I'm new to Houston. I'm looking for friends to hang out & spend time with. I enjoy the theater, films & more. I'm open-minded. If I'm lucky, I hope to find someone who is more than a friend. Call Ext. 5062

Men SEEKING Men

SM 5'9", 430 lbs., 22. I'm a student at the University of Houston. I'm outgoing & looking for a Black brother, 18-28, who is height/weight proportionate. Must be masculine. Maybe we can get together & have some fun. Call Ext. 5094

SWM 37, 5'7", 155 lbs., well-built, muscular. I have a really good tan. I'm HIV+. I'm healthy & I feel fabulous. I'm interested in meeting a guy who is good-looking & well-built. I'm turned on by guys who have beards, mustaches & body hair. Call Ext. 5156

SWM 5'11", 155 lbs., blonde hair, bluish-green eyes. Looking for Hispanic males 18-35. I enjoy going to the beach, the gym & hanging out with friends. Call Ext. 5155

SBM In search of other masculine Black males who are 19-45. Seeking someone who is well-endowed & masculine. Call Ext. 5154

SWM I'm a certified sailing skipper. I lost my captain to the North Carolina waters. Looking for a captain with a crew. Interested in a gay sailing club. Call Ext. 5149

SHM 5'8", 175 lbs. I have dimples & a pretty smile. Looking for someone who has a good personality. Looks are not important. Call Ext. 5141

SWM Late 30's, cute. Looking to meet an athletic Black guy who knows what he wants. Call me for more information. Call Ext. 5145

SHM 34, attractive, bottom. Looking for masculine guys for friendship, romance or simple encounters. I like guys who are taller than 5'7". Race is not important. Positive attitude is a plus. I'm discreet & friendly. Please be over the age of 25 & confident of your own needs. Call Ext. 5143

SAM 21, 5'6", 135 lbs. I'm very cute. I enjoy movies, dinner & occasionally going to bars. Looking for a gay White male, 22-28, who is handsome. Call Ext. 5140

SWM 39, dark hair, blue eyes, 5'6", 170 lbs., hairy chest. I'm romantic, loyal, sincere & gentle, yet strong. I'm outgoing, with a quiet side. I love music, art & life in general. I'm HIV+ & seeking a younger gay male who is Asian, Hispanic or White. Looking for fun & a relationship. Call Ext. 5137

SWM 38, 6'2", 180 lbs., salt-and-pepper hair, mustache, goatee. I have a smooth body & I'm in good shape. I'm HIV+. Looking for a Hispanic top who is HIV+ & interested in trying to develop a relationship. Call Ext. 5135

SM 31, blonde hair, blue eyes. Looking for a good time. Call me. Call Ext. 5133

SBM I'm 26. Race is not important to me if it is not a problem to you. Give me a call if you are interested. Call Ext. 5087

SWM 29, 6'2", nice-looking. I have long hair. I enjoy alternative music. In search of a Hispanic male, between the ages of 18-29 years old, who likes the same things. Please call soon. Call Ext. 5131

SWM 5'9", 200 lbs., 60. Looking for a masculine male who is loving, caring & trusting. I like movies, good food & quiet times together. Looking for friendship with someone 35-50. Call Ext. 5130

SWM 36, 5'9", 148 lbs. Looking for a drug-free, slender, gay White male. He should not be into the bar scene. Call Ext. 5128

SWM 40, red hair, blue eyes. I'm a gay transvestite looking for some young transsexuals to have get-togethers with, dressing & undressing. If you need a place to dress or you need clothes & make-up, give me a call. I love to get all dressed up. Looking for a playmate. Call Ext. 5126

SM 5'8", 150 lbs., smooth, muscular, tan, light-brown hair, hazel eyes. Looking for a masculine man who would like to get-together for casual encounters & good times. Possible dating. I prefer men who have a larger, stockier build. I prefer men who enjoy being tops. Call Ext. 5123

SM I'm 40, 5'6" & 155 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a mustache & a hairy chest. I'm a loving & caring, but demanding guy. My son must be young, handsome, healthy & masculine. He must be intelligent, self-supporting & willing to satisfy my every need. Call Ext. 5083

SM If you are a man between the ages of 32-48 years old, well-built, attractive, comfortable with being a man, aggressive, playful & passionate, give me a call. You must enjoy being with a very attractive, well-built man. Call Ext. 5123

SBM I'm a professional. I'm 36, 5'11" & 165 lbs. I'm looking for someone to spend some time with. I enjoy movies, listening to music, cooking & quiet nights at home. Call Ext. 5124

SM I'm a smooth, tan, muscular & good-looking 32-year-old. I'm 5'8" & 150 lbs. I have brown hair & hazel eyes. I'm healthy & active. I like sports, cars & outdoor activities. I'd like to meet a larger man who has a hunky, hairy physique. He should enjoy being a top. He should want a handsome, rear-submissive man. Call Ext. 5123

SM I'm 6'2" & 210 lbs. I'm looking for a hairy-chested top who would be interested in a lot of anal intercourse. Call Ext. 5115

SM I'm 27, 5'7", 155 lbs. & from Spain. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I'm looking for friends. I'd like to meet a blonde guy who is under 30. I'd prefer to meet a bottom. Must be straight-acting. Call Ext. 5113

SM I'm 5'6". I have blue eyes & blonde hair. I'm looking for a guy who is a jock. I like to give blow jobs. I enjoy anal sex, kissing & hugging. Call Ext. 5104

SM I'm 28, 5'6" & 128 lbs. I have brown hair & brown eyes. I enjoy music, cooking, wine tasting, walking on the beach & quiet nights at home. I'm an accounting professional seeking someone 30-40. A beard & a mustache are a plus. I'm hairless. I have a slight mustache. Call Ext. 5110

SWM I'm 25, 5'11" & 198 lbs. I have masculine build, brown eyes, a military cut & a goatee. I'm straight-acting, with a good sense of humor. I enjoy working out, movies, reading & self-improvement. I'm in search of a stockily-built man who is masculine, with a goatee. He should enjoy being a top & be 25-35. Call Ext. 5103

SM I'm 5'9" & 160 lbs. I have dark hair & blue eyes. I'm a physical education teacher. I enjoy all sports. I'm looking for a masculine man who enjoys sports. Call Ext. 5118

SHM I'm 5'4" & 130 lbs. I have light skin, brown hair & hazel eyes. I have a semi-muscular build. I like playing tennis, movies & working out. I'm looking for a single White male 20-35 who has a semi-muscular build. Call Ext. 5075

SM I'm 25 & straight-acting. I'm ready to experiment with the bottom since I have been on the top. Give me a call. I'm looking for well-endowed Black men to have a good time with. Call Ext. 5116

SM I'm a hot, hunky bear cub looking for aggressive & demanding men who can satisfy me. If you are looking for a 220 lb. linebacker-type who is 6' & ready to serve you, give me a call. I will worship you. Call Ext. 5063

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 137 lbs. I have black hair & brown eyes. I'm very cute. I like dining out, movies, walking on the beach, jogging & going to the gym. Looking for a gay White male between the ages of 20-38 years old who is height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5049

SAM I'm 32, 5'4" & 140 lbs. I'm looking for a single White male for a possible long-term, monogamous relationship. I would prefer to meet someone who is straight-acting. I'm outgoing & looking for the same. I'm organized, flexible, romantic & loving, with a strong personality. Call Ext. 5106

SM I'm 5'8" & height/weight proportionate. I'm in my 40's & relatively new to Houston. I have brown hair & blue eyes. I'm interested in meeting other guys who are my age. Give me a call. Call Ext. 5102

SHM I'm 31, 5'11" & 240 lbs. I'm seeking an older White male who is 55+, for discreet encounters. I'm disease & drug-free. I have nice legs. I like to kiss. Call Ext. 5085

SM I'm 43, 5'10" & 175 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm a professional man in the administrative field. I enjoy a quiet lifestyle. I enjoy movies & dining out, to name a few things. I'm nice-looking, drug-free & disease-free. I'd like to meet someone between the ages of 30-45 years old, who is masculine, with dark hair. Call Ext. 5101

SM I'm 50, 6' & 180 lbs. I can walk & talk normally. I'm looking for other tops who are normal & who would want to meet me. Please leave me your phone number. Call Ext. 5078

SM I'm 32 & 200 lbs. I'm a bottom. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5095

SM Please give me a call. Call Ext. 5097

SWM I'm a professional in my 40's. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & eyes. I'm darkly tanned & nicely shaped. I enjoy movies, cars, music & dining out. I'm in search of a younger Hispanic, Latin or Asian for dating which could lead to a monogamous relationship. I'm a social drinker & a non-smoker. I prefer the same. I have a lot to offer. Call Ext. 5099

SWM I'm 35. I'm looking for a bottom. Call me if you are interested. Call Ext. 5096

SM I'm 5'9" & 130 lbs. I'm masculine & outgoing. I'm looking for a Black man who would be interested in different cultures, since I come from Europe. He must be masculine & height/weight proportionate. Call Ext. 5094

SM If you know how to follow orders & you want to discuss possibilities, you can call me. Call Ext. 5018

SHM I'm seeking a 35-50-year-old White male. I would like to share ideas & more. I'm 35, 5'10" & 167 lbs. I have a mustache, black hair & brown eyes. If you are this White man, call me. Call Ext. 5066

SWM I'm 45, 6' & 160 lbs. I'm healthy, down-to-earth & HIV-. I'm seeking an older Black male who is a non-smoker, for friendship. Call Ext. 5089

SM Where are you? If you are like me, you are getting tired of driving to the bars every Friday night to meet guys. I would like to meet some nice guys from this area. Call Ext. 5082

SM Can a high-grade guy like me, 6' & 182 lbs., find a super guy around here? I would like to find a friend & a top lover. You must be professional, sincere & normal. Must act straight & talk straight. I would prefer to meet someone between the ages of 38-50 years old. If you are out there, give me a call. Call Ext. 5080

SWM I'm 6' & 150 lbs. I have dark-brown hair & brown eyes. I'm 38. I'm looking for guys who are into bare-bottom spanking. Call Ext. 5079

SM I'm 31, 5'10" & 155 lbs. I'm seeking someone who is interested in having fun. I'm looking for someone who is not a bodybuilder, but who works out on a regular basis. He should be 5'10" or taller. A sense of humor & a sense of adventure would be great. Call Ext. 5072

SBM I'm 5'11" & 185 lbs. I'm looking for a Black male between the ages of 20-30 years old. Looking for a possible long-term relationship. I like going out & bowling. I also enjoy spending quality time at home. Call Ext. 5038

SM I'm 19, 5'7" & 190 lbs. I'm looking for other guys who are between the ages of 18-30 years old. I'm a college student. I have brown hair & brown eyes. Call Ext. 5069

SM I'm 50, 5'9" & 190 lbs. I would like to meet someone who lives in the Waco or Houston area. Call Ext. 5054

SM I'm looking for a masculine man who is height/weight proportionate & between the ages of 40-50 years old, for a possible relationship. I'm 34, 5'11" & 145 lbs. I have brown hair & green eyes. I'm easygoing, energetic & new to Houston. I would like to walk on a moonlit beach with someone special. Call Ext. 5067

SHM I'm seeking a one-on-one, monogamous relationship with a male who is older than I am. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs. I have a swimmer's build. I work out on a weekly basis. I have short brown hair & medium-brown skin. I enjoy dancing, going out, staying home & cuddling. I'm a bottom. I'm seeking a 100% pure top. I'm seeking a 25-35-year-old male who is masculine. He must have a nice body & a nice personality. Call Ext. 5065

SM I'm 25 & 5'6". I have brown hair & brown eyes. I have a gymnast's build. I'm looking for someone 25-35, for a long-term relationship. Call Ext. 5064

SBM I'm middle-aged, 6'1" & 190 lbs. I'm interested in meeting a height/weight proportionate, middle-aged White male 35+. He should want to get together for fun & a possible friendship. I'm not looking for a relationship. I'm looking for pure indulgence. I'm versatile. If you are healthy & masculine, give me a call. I would prefer to meet a versatile man, but at least someone who is capable of being a top. Call Ext. 5057

SM There is a memory that lives & flows through my veins. I'm looking for an attractive & muscular bottom. Can you help me? Call Ext. 5036

SM I'm a 39-year-old native Houstonian. I like dancing & 70's disco. I love hanging out & walking. I love art & writing. I also love festivals & politics. I'm a libertarian who is interested in global topics. I'm a Virgo & I'm really looking for a Taurus. Age is not important to me. I'm 5'5" & 120 lbs. Everyone says that I look about 10 years younger than my age. I can speak Spanish. I love French, German & other languages. Call Ext. 5052

SWM I'm 37, 5'8" & 160 lbs. I have blonde hair & blue eyes. I'm in good shape. I play tennis & golf. I also enjoy watching basketball. I'm looking for a guy 30-45, who enjoys sports, movies, dining out & the theater. He must be employed & have direction in his life. Call Ext. 5060

SAM I'm 20, 5'6" & 135 lbs. I have brown eyes & black hair. I'm looking for a White male 24-30 who is handsome. Call Ext. 5051

SWM I'm 40. Seeking submissive men. Call Ext. 5050

SWM I'm a muscular, professional, endowed man. I'm 39, 5'10" & HIV negative. I enjoy bodybuilding, sports, the arts & romance. I'm seeking a long-term, monogamous relationship with someone who is honest, passionate, endowed & HIV negative. Please, no bar flies, smokers or one-nighters. A Black male is a plus. Call Ext. 5045

SM I'm told that Houston has the fourth largest population living with HIV. Okay, you guys, where are you? Why don't you give me a call? What do you have to lose? I'm in my mid-30's, caring, funny & good-looking. Give it a shot, maybe you'll like what you find. Call Ext. 5032

SHM I'm 30-year-old, HIV+, single Hispanic male. I'm very healthy & active. I'm 5'10" & 165 lbs., with a 29" waist. I have brown hair, dark eyes, long eyelashes, a goatee & a tan line. I'm looking for an honest & sincere Black top man who is 6' or taller & HIV+, preferably. I enjoy the outdoors, picnics in the park, walks along the beach, the indoors, watching movies, etc. Call Ext. 5044

SM I'm 35, stocky & 200 lbs. I have a goatee & brown eyes. I enjoy quiet dinners, movies & occasional nights at bars. I would like to meet someone who has a nice personality & who is fun to be with. Call Ext. 5041

SWM I'm a masculine White male who is 40, 5'6", 140 lbs. & HIV-. I'm looking for Black males who are preferably feminine. Call Ext. 5035

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Must be 18 or older to call.

HOW TO USE THIS SYSTEM - Dear Reader: Enjoy reading all the ads in the category of your choice, highlighting the ones you'd like to respond to. Then just 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. 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)

HEALTH

Introduction

Health is a topic with complexities beyond layperson understanding. The Houston Voice receives information from a variety of sources, from academic to commercial. This column, appearing irregularly, will benefit our readers by providing them with capsulized information and provide the source for more details (if other than your physician) to those who want it.

Prostate

One in eleven men and one in nine black men will likely have prostate cancer, despite very successful early detection possibilities.

Prostate cancer can spread without pain or other symptoms which makes regular examinations vital. A rectal exam can determine if the prostate feels hard, an indication blood, urine and ultra sound testing, should be done. Other warning "flags" include: difficulty beginning or maintaining a urinary stream; frequent urination, especially at night; weak or interrupted urine flow; painful urination or ejaculation; or the presence of blood or pus in the urine or semen.

Annual exams should begin at age 40 for black men and those with a cancer history in their families and at age 50 for all other males.

Hepatitis

"Get Hip to Hepatitis" a campaign sponsored by the American Liver Foundation has a web site to provide people with information about viral hepatitis.

Located at <http://www.hep-help.com/>, the site is supported by Schering Laboratories and designed to be user friendly, providing information of Hepatitis A, B and C, including charts showing transmission, explanation of testing, precautions, and ways of spreading.

Additional information about hepatitis is available from the American Liver Foundation through its toll-free number, 1-800-223-0179, or at the web site listed above.

Homeopathic & Herbal

Board Certified Naturopath, Dr. David Bauman, N.D.; will present information about the effectiveness of herbal and homeopathic remedies Thursday, August 1 from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m. at CenterPoint, 7621 Westview.

For more information call 492-6077.

Colon Hydrotherapy

Colon hydrotherapy has benefited asthma, headache, back aches, fatigue, and insomnia sufferers and will be the topic of discussion led by Bertha M. Dark, CCH,

RMT, Wednesday August 7 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., at CenterPoint, 7621 Westview (between Wirt and Antoine). Telephone 492-6077 for more information.

Knee Injuries

Many common knee injuries can be avoided with proper conditioning which should include strength and flexibility exercises for muscles that support the knee

including the quadriceps and hamstrings and the gluteus muscles. Doing proper weight-training work and stretching of these areas will help develop the needed strength and flexibility, according to Dr. David Lintner, an orthopedic surgeon at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Get off it. Exercise.



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HOUSTON VOICE Personals

LONELY GHM

31, 5'7", 135#, seeks GW or GHM for life-mate, monogamous relationship. Must be honest, sincere, 32+ year of age. I'm HIV-, short black hair. Enjoy travelling, being adventurous. You must be the same and versatile. No games. Photo please. Physical must be terrific. Ad 25739

LOOKING FOR A TALL GUY

Well built GWM, over 6', HWP, DDF/NS, 40's seeks aggressive G/B/H/M of similar size. You are HIV-, HWP, 35-50, employed professional and know what you want. I'm discreet, masculine, well-dressed, stable and employed. Also romantic, versatile and attractive. Brown/brown/mustache. Inside the loop home owner. All responses answered promptly. Ad 25759

GORGEOUS EUROPEAN ISO AMERICAN STUD

Very handsome European, 5'10", 165 lbs, nice body, HIV-, masculine, very sexy & hot, seeks good looking bi-males for fun times & more. You must be good looking, nice body & "big", dominant, straight acting, age 20-40. I'm looking for American honky-tonk, corn-fed type. I'm 29 yrs. old & ready to satisfy. Ad 25760

HIV+ HISPANIC MALE

Mid 30's, professional, healthy, sincere, good sense of humor. Seeking other HIV+ men for friendship but I'm primarily interested in entering a serious relationship with an honest, caring and loving man. Ad 25632

LISTEN TO THE WIND BLOW

WATCH THE SUN RISE. GWM, good looking and professional seeking soul mate. Come out of hiding and enjoy the good life! Two males together can form a synergism and conquer the world. What are you waiting for? Ad 25761

SEEKING TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

New to the gay scene. Recently divorced. Looking to make new friends/acquaintances. I am a WM early 50's but people say I look 40, DDF, non-smoker, permanently employed. I am average looking, tall and slim, hazel eyes, blond hair. I like quiet evenings, enjoy cooking, gardening, country and western music, the beach, and the outdoors. If interested, respond to Ad 25674.

WANTED: BLACK MAN

GWM, 29, 5'5", well proportioned, hazel eyes/dark blond hair, and big smile. I love outdoors, cooking, walking, movies, novels, and working out. Most of all I love to spend quality time with someone special. I am honest, caring and sincere. I would like to meet a GBM, 29-45, who is single, funny and charming, but most of all has a sense of humor. If you would like to talk or possibly meet give me a call. Maybe you can add a little laughter to my life. Ad 25770

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

I.S.O.: Masculine, hairy, H.W.P., HIV-, well endowed GWM for safe fun. No strings. Pure indulgence. ME: 40 yr., HIV-, 5'7", 160 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, w/S & P beard. Average guy. No hang-ups. Photo w/letter for response. Ad 25724

SUBMISSIVE MEN

I am seeking men who know how to follow orders and who enjoy being of service. I am 51, 5'9", 190, hairy, aggressive and demanding. Ad 25673

SEEK SUBMISSIVE OLDER WHITE MEN

Oriental male looking for submissive older white men. Possible long term. I'm 34, 5'6", 160#, clean, discreet and HIV-, aggressive and demanding. Letters preferred. Phone and photos a plus. Let's fulfill both of our fantasies. Ad 25737

SPECIAL BOTTOMS, GIVE ME A CALL

Submissive? Provide dedicated service and do it right? Take instructions and behave obediently? Boy/slave in need of bindings and discipline? Enjoy it all and more? Need put in your place with a demanding top? If serious GM, 25-40, fit, clean, easy going, nice guy, you call now! Ad 25653

GHM, 31, 5'11", 170, BLACK HAIR/BROWN EYES

My interests are cooking, working out, jogging, sports, the outdoors and gardening. I would like to spend time with that special man. Oh, by the way, it's so hard to meet men in Houston who are honest and sincere. I am seeking GWM for friendship and possibly a longterm relationship. I have a lot to offer. You will be pleased you answered. Ad 25763

SOMEONE TO SHARE LIFE

Looking for someone to share life with me. A home, pets and comfortable closeness. Would like monogamous, almost platonic relationship. Tired of dinner alone? Respond. Maybe we can both finally "exhale." Please be over 30 years. Photo will get mine. Ad 25757

FULL SERVICE BOTTOM WANTED

Should be compulsive GM whose needs can only be met by one-to-one relationship with mature, stable GWM top. Prefer slim, quiet type, but am not racist or ageist. I am 6'2", 175, brown hair & eyes, DDF, mature, stable and like quiet times with compulsive bottom rather than bars. Prefer mail responses. Ad 25773

WANTED: MASCULINE WHITE MALE COMPANION

HIV-Negative, 18-45, not overweight, to play dominoes, cards, ETC. 10am-2pm, weekdays, in my home. I am divorced masculine WM, 5'11", 155# ("skinny"), 40+ short brown hair, receding hair line, brown eyes, glasses, clean-shaven, smooth. Will exchange (revealing) photos. I have a Polaroid. Mail responses preferred. Immediate reply. Ad 25766

GENTLY DOMINANT

GWM, 39, 5'6", 168lbs, HIV-, dark hair, blue eyes, hairy chest. Seeking younger G/A/H/W or Native American who's HWP and fun loving for long term. I'm romantic, honest, easy going and loyal with a sense of humor. I appreciate music, movies, culture tennis and soccer. Take a chance. Write or call. Ad 25777

HISPANIC WANTED

GWM 34, black hair/brown eyes, 180 lbs, attractive masculine looking, great sense of humor, down to earth, enjoys dancing, movies -a true romantic ISO a very cute hispanic male who has a smooth swimmers build, great personality and who is looking for a best friend first and lasting relationship later. Ad 25769

NO STRINGS -NO RINGS

GWM, 31, 5'10", 155. Seeking someone who doesn't want or desperately need to be married but would like to just have fun. I would prefer someone who isn't necessarily a bodybuilder, but at least works out on a regular basis as I do. If you have a positive attitude and a sense of humor, I would like to hear from you. Written responses with phone number preferred. Ad 25768

TICKLE-BONDAGE

Do you want to play? Reciprocation okay. You: Masculine white, oriental, or hispanic. Average or above average looks, HWP. Ages 18 through 45. Sex not necessary so non-gays welcome. Me: Handsome GWM, masculine, HWP, 185#, 5'11", good body, 42" chest, 32" waist, nice legs, brown hair, med.body/ chest hair. Nice arms. Strong hands, creative mind, good sense of humor. Mail preferred. Ad 25776

CHRISTIAN SEEKS LIFEMATE

GWM, 33, 6'1", 285, christian, professional with big heart. I'm nice looking, short brown hair and mustache. Seeking that special someone with lots of love to give for monogamous relationship. Interests include movies, intimate evenings, helping people in need, yard sales, flea markets, and my church. Ad 25708

FRIENDLY YOUNG MAN WANTED

Affectionate older GWM seeks a young man for discreet and safe fun. I like to please young men, especially if they are slender, boyish and smooth. DDF please. Ad 25693

TOO DAMN CLOSE TO PERFECTION

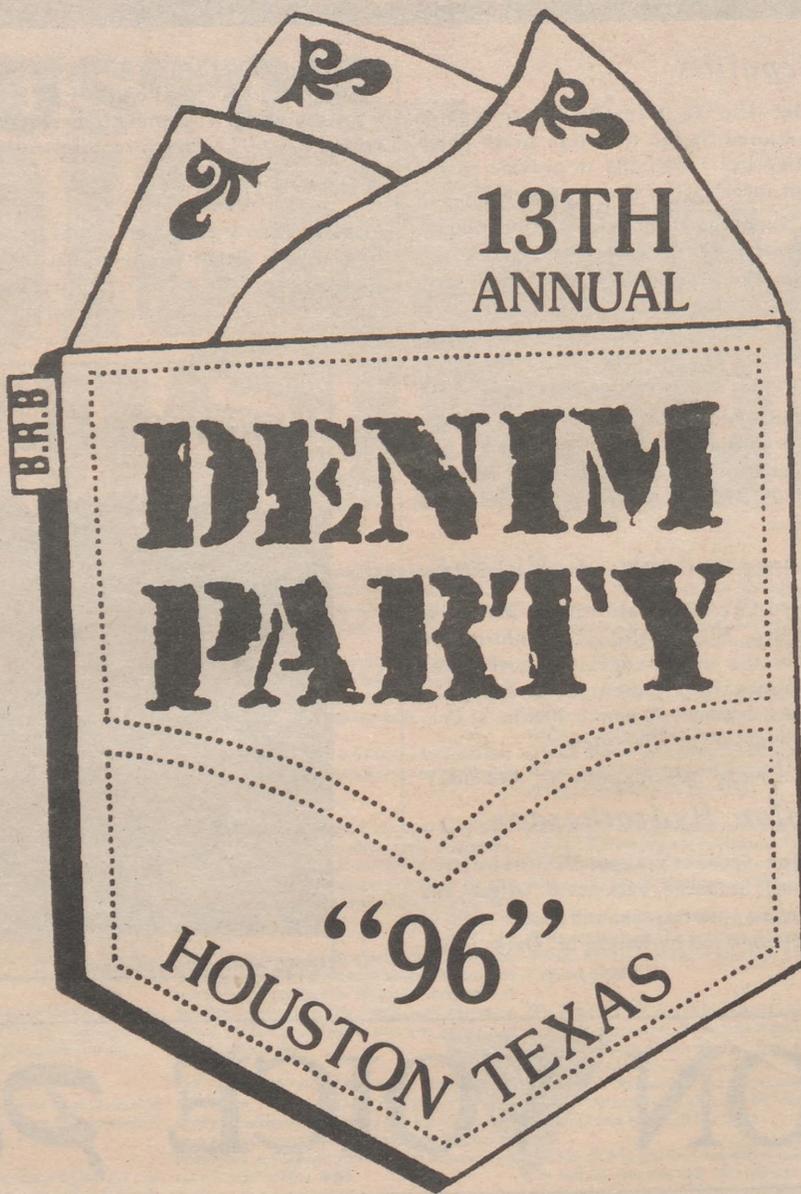
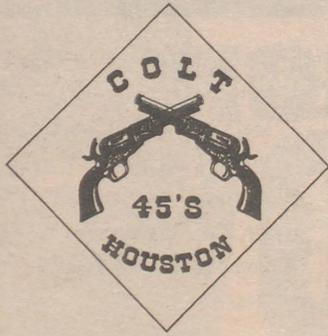
GBM, 27, extremely out, assertive (borderline on dominant), muscular and bilingual (Spanish) ISO a passive, intelligent, attractive and confident GM (any race) 24-35, for dating and eventual monogamous relationship. Non-smokers and light drinkers only. Ad 25779

DAD WANTED (FOR REAL)

Loving, professional, attractive white lesbian couple seeking a willing, loving, giving GWM or couple who wants to share and enjoy the gift of parenthood. Joint custody or custody to the lesbian couple with visitation rights for the male frequently. We love children and want to bring one into this world. Share in the joy! Ad 25765

UNCLE SEEKS NEPHEW

GWM, 60, 5'8", 300, br/bl bearded, BOTTOM seeks 20s-40s any race TOP nephew-friend. Honesty-sincerity prime factor rather than physical attributes. Let's share respect, love, active physical-social relationship. I enjoy quiet times at home, shopping, travel, beaches, cooking, dining in/out and the company of an affectionate nephew or chubby chaser. Letters preferred (photo appreciated). Ad 25775



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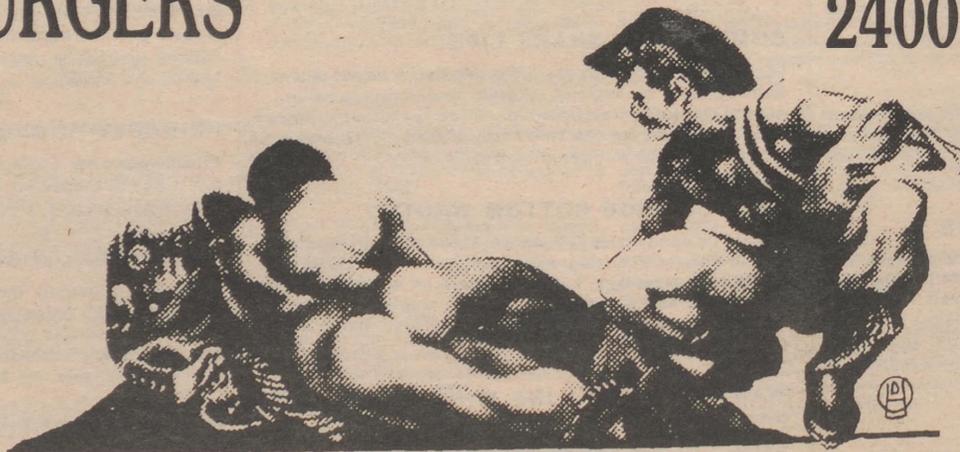
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DRAFT BEER
INVITATION REQUIRED

CASH BAR
HOT DOGS &
HAMBURGERS

JULY 28, 1996
7:00 till ?
528-9192
2400 Brazos



Courtesy Shuttle Bus Runs continuously between Heaven-Garden Party & The Brazos River Bottom starting at 3:00pm

BRAZOS RIVER BOTTOM